

Shine like stars in the world  
Philippians 2:15

# WESTERN Recorder

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## Back-to-school ministry



Parents and children living in Covington's west end wait in line outside the Moore Activity Center to receive back-to-school assistance. For more than 30 years, South Side Baptist Church's former pastor, Harold Pike, prayed that God would provide the congregation the opportunity to purchase the Salty Dog Saloon so the property could be used for Christian ministry. Pike's prayers eventually were answered. Today, hundreds of parents and children are served through a variety of services each year. (Photo by Dannah Prather)

### Covington's inner-city students get a boost at Moore Activity Center

By Dannah Prather  
Partnerships Editor

Covington—"Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness ..."

Seven-year-old Asiago Latimore hesitates only a moment as he lists the Fruits of the Spirit described in the Apostle Paul's letter to the Galatians.

"And self-control," he adds.

His mom, Christine Dodd, smiles. Asiago and dozens of other chil-

dren explore Bible truths at the Moore Activity Center in Covington. A ministry of South Side Baptist Church and Northern Kentucky Baptist Association, the center provides a long and growing list of services to children and families in the neighborhood.

Dodd said her family has depended on South Side for years, first through the church's day care, and now through the MAC.

"I'm struggling now," Dodd, a sin-

gle mom, said. "I appreciate everything they do for us."

On a recent Saturday, volunteers fitted nearly 300 children with new shoes. Each child also received socks, a bag of school supplies, and if they wanted, a haircut in preparation for the new school year.

Director Amy Wilhelmus, the MAC's only paid staff member, said the back-to-school ministry is made possible through direct donations  
□ See Covington ministry ... Page 3

## Hammond out as president of North American Mission Board

Alpharetta, Ga.—The head of the Southern Baptist Convention's North American Mission Board and three of his top associates resigned last week during a called meeting of the agency's board of trustees.



Geoff Hammond

The board convened the special meeting Aug. 11 after board leaders identified "serious issues" about the leadership of Geoff Hammond, president of the agency since 2007.

The three NAMB staff members who also resigned were Dennis Culbreth, senior assistant to the president; Steve Reid, senior associate to the president for strategy development; and Brandon Pickett, communications team leader.

The resignations came after 54 of the board's 57 trustees met in a seven-hour executive session.

Afterward, Board Chairman Tim Patterson, pastor of Hillcrest Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla., said details of the lengthy meeting were of "a personnel matter" and would remain confidential.

In a statement, Patterson requested prayer for Hammond  
□ See NAMB president ... Page 6

## Lottie Moon shortfall leaves some missionaries on hold

By Don Graham  
International Mission Board

Richmond, Va.—They had said goodbyes to their neighbors, friends and church family. They had resigned from their jobs and sold their home and furniture. They had even given away the family dog, a miniature collie named Q-tip.

When Tim and Audrey Shepard\* decided to answer God's call to share Jesus in Asia as Southern Baptist missionaries, they knew there could be obstacles. But the couple never expected that the obstacle would be a shortfall in missions funding.

The Shepards are two of the 69 candidates in the pipeline to serve as long-term missionaries through the International Mission Board who have been told they cannot be sent to the field at this time. That's in addition to an estimated 350 short-term candidates who also have been turned away from missionary service this year.

In May, the IMB announced it would severely limit the number of missionaries sent in 2009 due to reduced giving through the Cooperative Program and a \$29-million-dollar shortfall in the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. More than half of the mission board's annual budget comes from

the Lottie Moon offering to sustain the 5,600-plus Southern Baptist missionaries serving overseas. The goal for the 2008 offering (which funds the 2009 budget) was \$170 million, but only \$141 million was received, \$9 million less than was received for the 2007 offering.

The Shepards previously served 15 years with IMB but left the field in 2004 and moved to Jacksonville, Fla., so their daughter Nora\* could attend high school in the United States. They planned to return to the mission field when she entered college and began that process in the fall of 2008. They were on track to arrive in Asia by the end of 2009 to partner with another IMB missionary couple working to spread the gospel among some of Asia's working people groups.

But all that came to a screeching halt July 27 when an IMB representative called the Shepards to explain that their missionary appointment had been put on hold because there was not enough money to send them.

Audrey said the news has left the family discouraged and confused.

"You feel sort of sorryless—we really don't know what to do now," she noted. "It's tragic that

money is holding back God's work around the world. ... There are people dying every day that are not going to have the opportunity to hear about Jesus because so many missionaries are being held up."

So far the Shepards have not been given a firm date when they will head to the mission field. Spring 2010 has been mentioned, but no promises have been made. That means the Shepards will be on hold for at least six months. Right now they do not know where they will live or what they will do. They have decided to stay temporarily in their church's mission house.

"We're ready to go to the field," Tim said. "My mind is already on ministry, and going back to secular jobs just to pay the bills doesn't excite us too much."

The Shepards say that if their delay, and the delay of 67 others in going to the mission field, helps Southern Baptists realize the importance of lost souls overseas, "so be it." "I'm happy if that's what will come of this," Audrey said. "That people wake up and realize that they need to give their money up and support missions." (BP)

\*Names changed for security reasons

## Owensboro church celebrates tornado recovery

By Karen Owen-Phelps  
State Correspondent

Owensboro—What seemed like a tragedy when a tornado smashed into a 109-year-old church turned out to be a blessing, church leaders and members here agreed.

Third Baptist Church of Owensboro celebrated the culmination of a \$7 million, 21-month restoration project Aug. 9. Members said the process did not just restore the building to its previous glory, it made it even better.

"We basically have a new sanctuary," said James Byrd, Third Baptist's pastor.

His congregation celebrated with a service of mostly music and a lot of "thank you." Services have been held in the sanctuary since Easter, but construction work there now is nearly finished, Byrd said.

A crane still blocks Allen Street in front of the church and a few odds and ends still remain to be done on the property, but visitors at "A Celebration Sunday" could not tell that a twister slammed the church's bell tower into the sanctuary Oct. 18, 2007.

"Our goal was to put it back, only better," Byrd said of the sanctuary known for its distinctive U shape and aged, curved wood and stained-glass windows. It was built for \$35,000 in 1898 and often has been compared to the Ryman Auditorium in Nashville.

Sunday sunlight made the newly refurbished windows blaze. Some of the dark woodwork and glass dividing portions of the balcony into classrooms have been removed, showing off more of one of the building's largest windows.

"It's more appealing and worship-friendly," Byrd said.

"That slate roof was something. It's amazing we could even get it today," Ted Lolley, a local engineer who oversaw the restoration process, told worshippers during the service.

No drywall was used on the repairs to preserve the room's acoustics—one of his main goals. "This is all three coats of plaster, just like it was 100 years ago," he noted, gesturing around the sanctuary.

The restoration also gave church leaders the opportunity to make other improve-



**AS GOOD AS NEW** Members of Owensboro's Third Baptist Church sing hymns during the Aug. 9 "Celebration Sunday" to dedicate the newly rebuilt sanctuary, which was damaged by a tornado in October 2007. (Photo courtesy of Third Baptist, Owensboro)

ments in the meantime. "We even have the capability for theatrical lighting we didn't have before," Byrd pointed out.

"It looks wonderful," said Jackie Peveler, a member of the celebration planning committee who has attended Third Baptist since 1948. "The restoration has been exactly right."

During Sunday's celebration, several committee members, contractors and others instrumental in returning the building to its former glory were recognized. "We haven't gotten any church members out of the work but we've got a wedding coming up," Byrd told the congregation.

Third Baptist held services in the church's gym for several months following the storm, despite a leaky roof there. Peveler recalled the pianist draping a rain coat across the baby grand piano to protect it.

The tornado damage "was heartbreaking and unbelievable," she recalled.

Byrd said he woke up at night for months following the storm, alarmed by the thought

of what could have happened to the 125 or so people in the church for a meeting of the Kentucky Council of Churches when the tornado hit. They had evacuated to the basement five to 10 minutes before impact.

Two of the witnesses returned for Sunday's re-dedication: Nancy Jo Kemper, the retired director of the Kentucky Council of Churches; and John McRaith, bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Owensboro.

"I made a little inappropriate joke," Byrd said. "The last time a bishop was in the Baptist church, the roof fell in."

The tornado and long recovery did not really affect attendance at Third, which still is running 300 to 350 people on Sunday mornings, he said.

"I think we're better for it, frankly," Byrd quipped. "We recognized we were more than the building. We never missed a beat in worship. We recognized the church is the people."

Still, "it sure is nice to have a nice building," he said.

### KBC offers training event for international mission trips

Louisville—Those who are about to lead or are interested in leading an international mission trip are invited to attend the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Team Leader Training, Sept. 18-19 at the Kentucky Baptist Building in Louisville.

Participants will learn key principles in team communication, trip strategy, building a team, funding the project, travel precautions and more.

"We are committed to helping churches increase their missions involvement, and this is one practical way we can do that," said KBC's Partnership Missions Director Scott Pittman. "We want to make sure Kentucky Baptist teams are aware of the important details surrounding mission trips."

The training will be led by Terry Sharp, mobilization strategist for the Southern Baptist Convention's International Mission Board.

Those who complete Team Leader Training are eligible for a \$500 scholarship when they lead a mission trip for the KBC, Pittman noted.

The event is open to any Kentucky Baptist interested in leading a volunteer mission team. It will run from 6:30-9 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 18, and from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 19.

There is no charge to attend, but advanced registration is required.

To register or to get more information, visit [www.KyBaptist.org/TLT](http://www.KyBaptist.org/TLT) or call the KBC's partnership missions department at (502) 489-3529, or toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3529.

### Former Jonathan Creek director, Ky. pastor Hurst dies at age 76

By Drew Nichter  
News Director

Paducah—Deward Hurst, a longtime Kentucky Baptist pastor and director of Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly, died Aug. 9 after a four-year battle with cancer. He was 76.

Hurst served 10 different churches in Western Kentucky and Southern Illinois. He also was moderator for West Union Baptist Association and served three terms on the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Executive (now Mission) Board.

From 1989-99, Hurst served as director of Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly in Marshall County. He led the camp during a time of significant transition for Kentucky Baptist camps. The ministry came under scrutiny in the mid-1990s with the decision to sell Cedarmore Baptist Assembly, Jonathan Creek's Northern Kentucky counterpart.

The Cedarmore sale later was reversed on a vote by Kentucky Baptist messengers, and Kentucky Baptist Assemblies, Inc. was formed to oversee the camps.

Hurst "was the director during the most challenging time we ever

faced at Jonathan Creek," said Rusty Ellison, pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville and former KBA president.

"He gave so much of himself personally to operate that facility because in those days he didn't have a lot of help," Ellison said of Hurst. "Deward had to do much of the ministry himself. ... He did a phenomenal job for years under the most challenging of conditions."

In 2002, KBA's board of directors voted to name a new lodge at Jonathan Creek for Hurst "to be sure that we never forgot the contribution that Deward made," Ellison noted. "He was a great example of servant leadership."

After his retirement as camp director in 1999, Hurst stayed busy as interim pastor of nine different churches until earlier this year when his health kept him away from the pulpit.

Hurst is survived by his wife, June, three children, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Aug. 12 at Zion's Cause Baptist Church in Benton, where Hurst was a member.

### Sept. 1 cut-off date again may affect CP totals

By Kristie Randolph  
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Louisville—Churches intending for their Aug. 30 Cooperative Program gifts to be counted for the 2008-09 fiscal year will need to make special arrangements to ensure their gifts are received by the Sept. 1 deadline, according to Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Bill Mackey.

Mackey said that because the last Sunday in August falls just one day before the end of the month, receipts must be postmarked prior to Aug. 30 and received by the convention office by Sept. 1 in order to be counted in a church's 2008-09 giving totals.

"We are encouraging churches to send in their Aug. 30 check early to avoid reporting confusion. To be safe, churches probably need to mail their gifts by Aug. 27," he urged.

Gifts received after Sept. 1 will be counted toward the 2009-10 fiscal year budget totals. The fiscal year runs September through August each year.

"We regret if this creates an inconvenience for churches, but this is important for the ministries that depend on funds budgeted for the current fiscal year, as well as for accurate reporting of what each church gave through CP this fiscal year," Mackey explained.

"Last year, the fiscal year ended on Sunday, Aug. 31, but because the church treasurers responded so well, August CP gifts were outstanding," he added. "Since receipts are behind last year at the end of July, we are praying for another outstanding August."

According to Mackey, August CP receipts need to be postmarked by the last business day in August every year and received by the first business day in September.

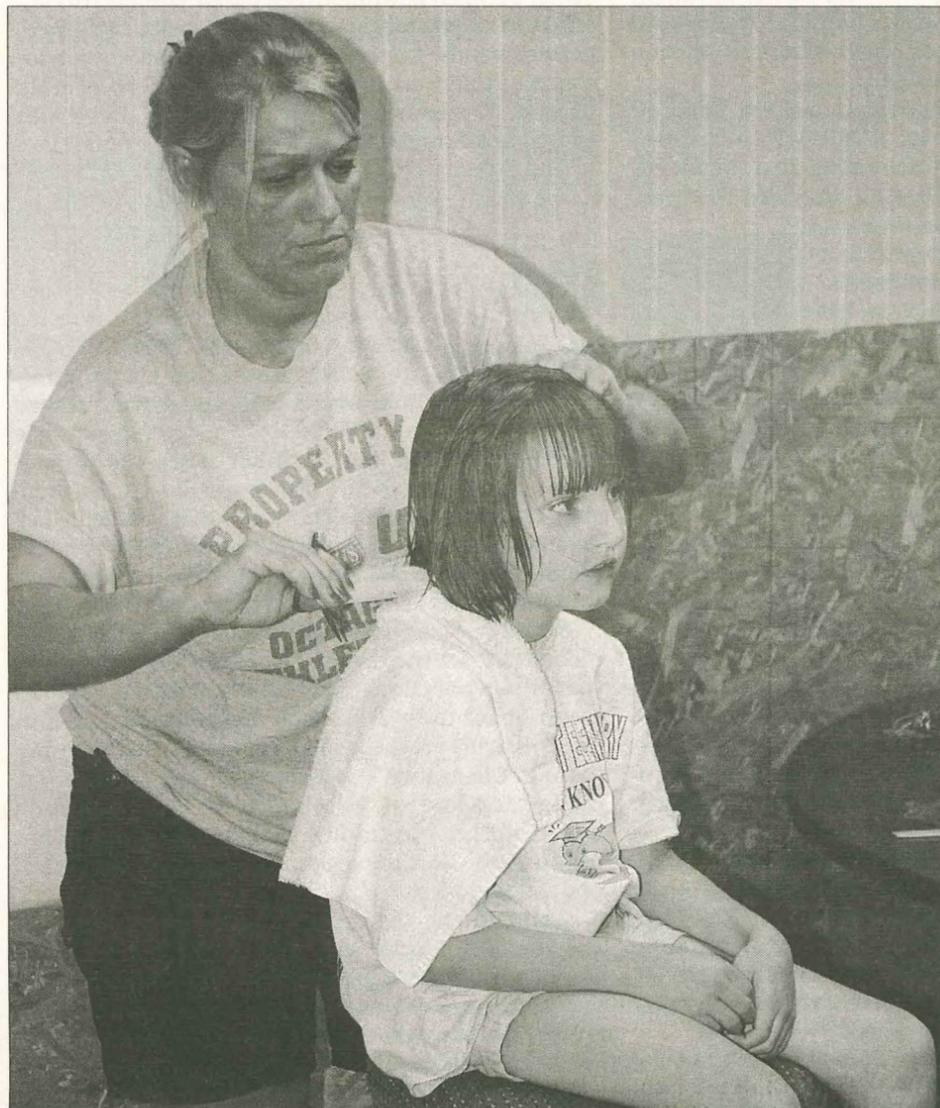
With just one month left in the 2008-09 fiscal year, Cooperative Program giving totals through July now are behind budget more than 3 percent, according to Lowell Ashby, KBC's business services team leader.

Ashby said July CP receipts totaled \$1,900,431. So far this fiscal year, churches have given a total of \$21,289,660 through the Cooperative Program, which leaves total receipts \$710,340 (3.23 percent) behind budget. CP giving also remains behind last year's pace by \$518,270 (2.4 percent)

"Kentucky Baptists have experienced a variety of challenges this year, but have kept their priority on giving through CP to missions and ministries," said Billy Compton, executive associate for Cooperative Program and resources. "We are encouraged by their faithfulness and are excited to see how God will continue to provide for us all."

Ashby noted that more than \$2.7 million is needed in August to meet budgeted projections. The budget for CP in the 2008-09 fiscal year is \$24 million.

## Covington ministry helps inner-city kids get ready for school



**NEW LOOK FOR A NEW YEAR** Bonita Hood trims Abigail Johnson's hair during the Moore Activity Center's back-to-school event. South Side Baptist Church and other congregations in the Northern Kentucky Baptist Association support the ministry center that opened in 2003. (Photos by Dannah Prather)

## Former Kentucky Baptist pastor accepts associate role at LifeWay

Nashville—Kentucky pastor Micah Carter has joined the staff at LifeWay Christian Resources, according to a news release from the Southern Baptist publishing arm.

The Aug. 7 release said Carter, who recently resigned as pastor of Mackville Baptist Church, was named as an associate to Tom Hellams, LifeWay's vice president of executive communications and relations.

In his role, Carter serves as the company's chief spokesperson and is the primary contact for all journalists, the news release noted. He also will handle social media duties for LifeWay, coordinating Twitter, Facebook and LifeWay Newsblog sites for the entity's media relations team.

In an interview with the Western Recorder, Carter, 33, said he "didn't really have any plans to leave" Mackville Baptist, where he had served as pastor for nearly five years. He said LifeWay President Thom Rainer offered him the opportunity to be part of "a different ministry context apart from the local church," and "maybe to influence a little more broadly across the churches" of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Carter said he is filling the role vacated by LifeWay's former media relations manager Chris Turner, who resigned earli-

er this year to enter the mission field.

"I'm happy to be a part of the team and contribute whatever gifts and skills the Lord's given me to bring excellence to this department," Carter said, "and certainly to proclaim the name of Jesus through our news and information I think is the ultimate goal."



Micah Carter

In addition to his time at Mackville Baptist, Carter also served on staff at Hunsinger Lane Baptist Church in Louisville and at churches in Mississippi. He also was a member of the Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board at the time of his departure and an adjunct professor at Campbellsville University. Carter is a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Last November, Carter was voted secretary/treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference. With Carter vacating the post, Pastors' Conference President Tom James, pastor of Eastwood Baptist Church in Bowling Green, said he asked Wesley Noss, pastor of New Hope Baptist Church in Versailles, who James said he learned was going to be nominated for secretary/treasurer at this year's conference, to begin serving immediately. Noss still will be officially nominated and voted on at this year's Pastors' Conference in November, James said.

Continued from page 1

and financial contributions. About 20 volunteers, some from outside the congregation, helped pull the event together—and it is just a drop in the bucket of all the MAC offers.

Tutoring, computer classes, Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, recreation, field trips, a food pantry and Bible studies for children, youth and adults are among the services. A monthly family night provides children and parents an evening of fun, such as a movie or games, at no cost.

"It's been the realization of ministry (that is) seven days a week, not just the worship aspect," said David Foley, pastor of South Side for the past six years.

The MAC opened in 2003 but the ministry began years before.

Wilhelmus' mother, Helen Cummins, became a missionary to the west Covington area in the mid-1970s.

Federal dollars helped start a day care at South Side. Cummins was hired to help prepare the two meals served daily. Through the day care, she built relationships with children and families that she extended through the church. Local children came to know her as "the woman who laughs" and "the woman who prays."

A Girls in Action ministry started with 15 children and soon grew to 85. When the boys felt left out, Cummins started a "Big A Club" with a similar format.

She was invited to speak at a Northern Kentucky Baptist Association meeting where her stories about the trials of inner-city families touched members of suburban congregations.

Support grew and soon Cummins was appointed a full-time local, inner-city missionary by South Side and the association.

Northern Kentucky churches have been "the greatest partners in the world," Foley said, noting that many congregations fund the MAC through annual budgets.

Cummins said when Amy visited her office she would sit in her mom's chair and predict, "When I get big, I'm going to be a missionary like you."

### Praying for a bar

While the future missionary grew, former South Side Pastor Harold Pike was asking God to give him a bar.

The Salty Dog Saloon at 16th and Holman streets backed up to South Side's facility. It was Pike's dream that one day the owner would sell the property to the church so it could be used for ministry.

"It'd been used by the devil for so long," Pike said. For more than 30 years he "laid hands on the building and claimed it for Jesus," praying for the opportunity to help people and glorify God through it.

After decades of prayer, Pike received

word that the owner was ready to sell. On the heels of the news, he received a letter from his niece with a check for \$100,000. She and her husband wanted to help the South Side ministry. Pike said he thought the amount on the check was an error. "I'd never held \$100,000 in my hands before."

Fast forward a few years and an additional \$100,000 in materials and hours of volunteer labor: the Moore Activity Center, named for Pike's niece and her husband, opened for ministry in 2003.

### A missionary's calling

Having graduated from Cumberland College (now University of the Cumberlands) and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, Wilhelmus was serving in Buffalo, N.Y. She said she was reluctant to return to Covington to fill the shoes of her mother.

Cummins said a less-than-subtle phone call to her daughter might have encouraged her to seek God's leading afresh. Cummins read a newspaper article to her that described a local school as one of the worst in the state, in part because of the tough inner-city environment.

"God needs you in Covington," Cummins told her daughter.

"I'm called to the inner city along the same lines as someone else is called to Africa," Wilhelmus said.

Wednesday night Bible club for the children "is their church," Wilhelmus said. "A majority of our kids don't come on Sunday because the parents don't come."

Despite that discouraging fact, volunteers persevere offering meals, Christmas presents, hair cuts, winter coats, new shoes, field trips and other services to meet critical needs and, most importantly, to build relationships with children and parents.

"They're going to want to know who your Jesus is because of the way you love them," Wilhelmus said.

Children such as Sarah Pryor, 11, probably do not realize the effort—spiritual, financial and physical—that was, and is, required to make the MAC a reality.

What Sarah does know is "my friend said it was fun," so Sarah joined her one Wednesday night. "She's been coming ever since," said her mom, Sharrie Marteney.

Sarah said before coming to the MAC, she did not know much about Jesus. She found the Bible stories she learned on Wednesday nights and during the MAC's vacation Bible school "weird and interesting," and now "I know a lot more about Him."

Marteney said she is grateful for the center because it teaches her daughter Christian values and provides a safe place for Sarah to go when she is not in school.

"I know on Wednesday evening, this is where she'll be," Marteney said.



**ON MISSION IN COVINGTON** Amy Wilhelmus (left), director of the Moore Activity Center in Covington, chats with her mother-in-law, Sharon Wildhelmus, during the recent back-to-school outreach that provided shoes, socks, school supplies and haircuts to nearly 300 boys and girls.

**KBC fiscal year ends August 31**

As the end of the 2008-2009 fiscal year approaches, I want to thank Kentucky Baptists for their support of missions through the Cooperative Program and missions offerings. I am confident that I speak for all SBC and KBC mission and ministry causes when I say thank you for your faithful giving.

**Partners in the Mission**

By Bill Mackey

I also wanted to remind church treasurers that August CP gifts can only be included in the current fiscal year if the check is postmarked by Aug. 31 and received by Sept. 1. For that to happen, gifts will need to be mailed by Aug. 27.

The challenge is that Aug. 30 is the last Sunday in August. If the CP gift is mailed after Aug. 30, it will not likely be received by Sept. 1. We regret if this creates an inconvenience for churches, but we do appreciate your help. Church treasurers responded last year to a similar challenge, and God provided a great month for CP gifts.

At the end of July, CP receipts were down \$518,270 (2.4 percent) from last year, but ahead of what was expected. Despite the deficit, our expenditures will still come under receipts since the KBC staff has continued to operate within a reduced spendable budget.

I praise God for the generosity and faithfulness of Kentucky Baptists during these challenging economic times. It was encouraging to learn that 57 churches had increased their giving by more than \$3,000 each by mid-year. Income for missions offerings was also strong, with Lottie Moon and Eliza Broadus less than 1 percent behind last year.

It is important for Kentucky Baptists to know that their gifts are stewarded in a highly accountable and transparent financial system set up and continually affirmed by Kentucky Baptists themselves. Church-approved messengers at the KBC annual meeting vote each year on the KBC budget goal, and also approve the percentages given to SBC mission causes and KBC mission causes.

KBC Mission Board members approve the amount given to KBC institutions and agencies, as well as the line item budget for Mission Board programs, as recommended by the board's Business and Finance Committee.

The Mission Board staff then carefully follows the approved budget and employs CP funds for missions and ministries throughout the year under a well-defined business and financial plan. Outside audits are regularly conducted for KBC entities and Mission Board programs, and churches receive monthly acknowledgements of their gifts.

All of these business and financial policies and practices have been approved by the KBC Mission Board, and are under continuous review by KBC staff, auditors, legal counsel, the Mission Board and its Business and Finance Committee.

As always, we welcome any questions or suggestions from Kentucky Baptists regarding these matters. We are grateful for the transparency and accountability woven into our stewardship of CP funds.

*Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.*

**Transparency missing in NAMB action**

Many Southern Baptists were no doubt caught off guard by this week's headline: "Hammond out as president of North American Mission Board." That is understandable.

At a late May trustee meeting in Jackson, Miss., all appeared to be well between NAMB staff, its trustees and their president, Geoff Hammond. In a statement, Trustee Chairman Tim Patterson described the agency's role as being "crucial to the weaving together of Southern Baptist partners to fulfill the Great Commission," countering any notion that he had seemingly advocated the creation of a "singular world missions agency" for Southern Baptists. He also affirmed Hammond's leadership, declaring that for the past two years Hammond has led the mission board with "a steady, efficient and effective hand."

Patterson further said of Hammond: "He has consistently sounded the clarion call that North America is a mission field. And he has done all this with a Christ-like attitude that I have had the privilege to witness first hand."

A portion of a statement approved then by the board reads: "As trustees, we are unified in support of our president, Dr. Geoff Hammond, who is providing exemplary, unique leadership and vision as Southern Baptists embrace the challenges of the ever changing and diverse mission field of North America."

Obviously, as one close observer aptly put it, "that statement would lead you to believe there was no greater leader on the planet." Indeed, if there was trouble afoot, it would seem that those closest to the situation genuinely believed it would not prove to be enough of a distraction as to prevent the agency from effectively accomplishing its vision.

Yet, appearances evidently were deceiving, for in a brief statement offered to press following a seven-hour-long meeting last Tuesday, Patterson announced the resignations of Hammond and his closest associates: Steve Reid, Dennis Culbreth and Brandon Pickett. He then gave the following short explanation: "Even though the subject of today's meeting has been the topic of much media speculation, it is important to remember that this is a personnel matter and we will keep the details of today's discussion confidential."

That was all Southern Baptists were told.

Patterson went on only to say trustees would continue to be in prayer for Dr. Hammond, his family and for the families of the others who have resigned. He asked Southern Baptists to continue praying for God's guidance in the days ahead.

The abrupt announcement was not completely without warning, though. Two weeks ago, the fact that troubles had reemerged became evident when an

e-mail between Bowling Green pastor Jason Pettus and other NAMB trustees apparently made its way into a reporter's hands. The e-mail outlined several leadership concerns that were to be discussed at a meeting of the trustees' 21-member executive committee, and it hinted that some might call for the president's removal.

The primary charges against Hammond, according to the e-mail, were that he had failed to meet with an executive leadership coach whom the executive committee had hired, opting instead to select his own coach; that he had hired a chief operating officer without the executive committee's approval; and that the morale among NAMB staff had reached an all-time low. (A November article in the Christian Index, news journal of the Georgia Baptist Convention, traced much of the chronic morale problems to a perceived lack of sufficient funding in NAMB's budget planning for the SBC's upcoming 10-year evangelism initiative, God's Plan for Sharing, dubbed "GPS".)

Pettus said he wrote the e-mail to his fellow board members to let them know to pray for the agency and that he was not taking sides. "I have no concerns whatsoever about those serving on our executive committee. They truly are godly men and are not out to do any harm to the agency," he assured. "I have nothing but the greatest love and admiration for them and their leadership. I can truthfully say that we, as board members, love the North American Mission Board and what God is doing there."

Commending the NAMB's disaster relief ministry and the GPS evangelism initiative as representative of what Southern Baptists should be about, Pettus—in a recent interview with the Western Recorder—expressed perhaps the prevailing sentiments of most Kentucky Baptists. "As for me and my church, we are going to support NAMB," he declared. "We believe we can partner with other churches and accomplish more together than we can alone. And we need NAMB to lead us, to show us the very best way to do evangelism, and to provide us with opportunities to reach people in North America with the gospel."

Following the resignations, Patterson sought to reassure NAMB staff and Southern Baptists that the agency was "going nowhere but forward." Yet, if that is the case—as we all desire—then Southern Baptists should not be left to rely on speculation and hearsay in matters of this import. They deserve more transparency and accountability both from their agency heads and from their elected trustees. While confidentiality should be prized, Southern Baptists and the missionaries and missions volunteers who serve them deserve a better explanation of what is transpiring at an agency they faithfully and sacrificially support.

**After Thought**

By Todd Deaton

**Got pure religion? Show love to widows**

It's right there in James 1:27a: "Pure and undefiled religion before our God and Father is this: to look after ... widows in their distress ...." Need fresh ideas for ministering to widows in your church?

**Offer friendship: Proverbs 17:17**

■ Be a friend. Seek her out at church. Call when she's absent. Program your number into her phone so she can call in an emergency. Laugh together. Cry together. Listen. Learn from her. Telephone. Text. Share Christian magazines or books. Carpool. Pray faithfully for her.

■ Include her on your guest list when you entertain. Invite her along for a family adventure or holiday celebration. Ask her to help you with a ministry project.

■ Form a group for widows and widowers for fellowship, prayer, Bi-

ble study, outings, ministry projects or mission trips.

**Show Honor: Timothy 5:3-10.**

■ Deacons might sponsor an annual banquet for widows and provide transportation, serve a meal and pray for them.

■ A women's class can sponsor a widows' "hats-required tea." Carol at her door for Christmas. Host a Christmas open house or Valentine's tea for widows at your home.

■ Teens could prepare a pre-service audio-visual with widows' photos and favorite scriptures.

**Get practical: Deuteronomy 24:19**

■ Some churches assign widows to a deacon and his wife or a church member for regular contact and help with physical, spiritual and so-

cial needs. A church may provide a grief recovery class, support group or private assistance with legal or financial needs.

■ Take her with you to the library or grocery. Offer a ride to the doctor. Teens can help with her lawn or technical needs. A children's class can "adopt" her and send cards, deliver candies and help with small projects.

■ Deacons could build wheelchair ramps and helped with repairs and emergencies. Another church did an entire room makeover for a widow in need. A youth group planned an annual garage sale for the church's widow assistance fund.

The care and treatment of widows must be important to God. It's addressed in more than 20 scriptures. How will you demonstrate "pure religion" today?

*Diana Davis is the wife of Indiana Baptists' executive director, and author of "Deacon Wives."*

**Fresh Ideas**

Diana Davis

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

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## Does being a Christian change how you handle money?

By Don Spencer

The answer is quite simple. Being a Christian should change the way you approach everything in life, especially handling finances. How we handle money reflects our life's priorities. I believe that's why the Scripture places so much emphasis on stewardship issues.



Financial planning has been defined as "the predetermined use of financial resources in order to accomplish certain goals and objectives." As a Christian, we can use the same definition with slight modification: "the prayerful, spirit-

led, predetermined use of financial resources in order to accomplish certain goals and objectives as part of one's Christian commitment."

As Christians, we need to be reminded of the different perspective we should have in dealing with financial issues. I briefly offer five perspectives regarding money that we should reflect as Christians. I emphasize "reflect" to say we believe them. It is another to put them in practice in such a way that others see the difference and it becomes a testimony of our relationship with God. Remember the old adage, "Actions speak louder than words."

- Our possessions are temporal. We all agree that you "can't take it with you." Do people see in us an attitude towards our possessions that reflects that belief (2 Peter 3:10; Luke 12:15b)?

- Our possessions are not a source for pride, power, prestige or conceit. This is the world's attitude toward money and possessions (1 Timothy 6:17).

- God owns it all. We are stewards. We should approach our possessions as managers of something that belongs to someone else, not as owners (Matthew 25:14-30; Luke 12:16-21).

- Concern for family financial support is scriptural. 1 Timothy 5:8 states, "If anyone does not provide for his family, especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than unbeliever." To do that requires a healthy concern about money. As Jonathan Swift put it, "Every man ought to have money on his mind. No man ought to have money on his heart."

- Our stewardship is an indicator of one's inner spiritual condition. Show me how someone handles their money and it tells me volumes about their relationship with God. Christianity doesn't just provide answers for 10 percent of our money any more than it only provides a way to live on Sunday.

*Don Spencer is a certified financial planner and directs the Kentucky Baptist Convention's church financial benefits department.*

## Church safety is no accident, Perkins counsels

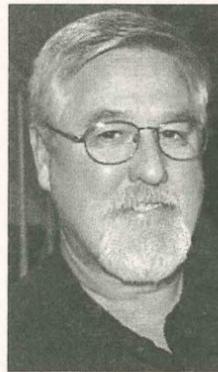
Violence from the outside world, unfortunately, encroaches upon our sanctuaries, forcing church leaders to keep a vigilant eye on the safety of members and the security of their facilities more than ever before, according to Bob Perkins, a retired law enforcement officer with more than 23 years of experience.

Citing passages such as Acts 20:28-31, Nehemiah 4:16-22 and Psalms 122:6-7, the detective for 15 years and former narcotics officer believes that it is imperative that church leaders and Christian school administrators be as prepared as possible to deal with any type of violence that may occur on their campuses. "God's word tells us that we, as leaders in our churches and schools, have an obligation to be prepared and to protect those within our environment," said Perkins.

Perkins, a security director and risk manager at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary since 2001, will lead a safety and security seminar at the Super Saturday event at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington this weekend. He also will conduct similar workshops at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, Aug. 29; First Baptist Church in Somerset, Sept. 12; and First Baptist Church in Pikeville, Sept. 19.

Super Saturdays are annual church training events sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention at six venues across the state. Two other Super Saturday events are slated for First Baptist Church in Paducah, Sept. 12, and Zion Baptist Church in Henderson, Sept. 19. These seminars cover a wide variety of ministry topics to assist church staff, teachers and volunteers in starting and strengthening their areas of service, ranging from assimilation, Sunday school, and finance and stewardship to leading men and women's ministries, preschool and children's work, and deacon teams. (For a complete listing of all the seminars offered and registration information, see the convention's Web site, [www.kybaptist.org](http://www.kybaptist.org).)

Safety should be a key area of concern for all churches, Perkins said. "We read and hear in the media when churches are attacked or when horrific violence happens," he said. "What you do not hear about are the other crimes, such as thefts, burglaries or arson," he observed.



Bob Perkins

"Many of our churches and other buildings are old and have little or no fire protection," he added. With approximately 1,300 fires each year that involve church buildings, leaders need to do a better job of protecting their church's assets."

Among the other issues that he plans to address are policies for doing personnel background checks, procedures for handling bomb threats and suspicious packages, preventing theft and other crimes, self-study guides for improving security in children's ministry programs, questionnaires for childcare providers and volunteer workers, using consent forms to authorize emergency medical and dental treatment, internal checks for recording offerings and disbursements, and conducting emergency and crisis surveys to aid in developing effective disaster plans.

Perkins also offers advice on forming security and risk management teams. "These teams can give pastors and their congregations a tremendous peace of mind when they come to worship and enjoy the fellowship we share," he said. "Teams can look at the risks within their control and recommend budgets, equipment, insurance, work with local emergency agencies, conduct training, provide physical protection, and make many other contributions," he explained.

While every church wants to keep its services and activities as open and inviting to guests as possible, Perkins believes members and visitors alike should be assured that church leaders are concerned not only about their eternal security, but also with their personal safety and well-being ... along the Way.

## Along the Way

By Todd Deaton



## Baptist contributions

The Baptist contributions to what we call the "American character" may be more substantial than has been previously recognized. In fact, they seem to have been hardly recognized at all. Vague and fleeting references to Baptist pioneers are occasionally made in sermons on historical days or by politicians trying to tap into a voting group. Otherwise, it seems that little modern historical attention has been given to colonial Baptist preachers, pastors and congregations that suffered long for the religious freedoms Americans have practiced since the First Amendment was passed.

Likewise, little attention has been given to the character and personal traits of those hardy and faithful Baptist pioneers who floated down the Ohio River in 1779 to the Falls of the Ohio and, then, onto the wilderness of central Kentucky. A perilous journey it was. Family members often lost their lives to savages on America's first frontier. Sometimes, whole families were decimated. The wilderness, alone, could win most of the battles. If this were not enough, the British army added to the peril by offering rewards for pioneer scalps.

Back in the colonies, Baptists were still being persecuted in the vilest of ways by their own government and the established church. Wilderness savagery, to some Baptists, may have seemed better than the civilized savagery.

When these Baptist pioneers finally established the first formally constituted church west of the Alleghenies on June 18, 1781, that was fundamentally outside established authority, they seemed to have pinned the notion of "individual freedom of conscience" to the civil and religious character of expanding America.

*Don and Glenda Patterson  
Elizabethtown*

## Different missions

My life has been inextricably enmeshed in SonTeams and Cedarmore Discovery Youth Camps. Since I was a camper in 1979, I have served as a SonTeamer, written camp curriculum, trained staff members and directed a SonTeam.

I was disappointed by the July 28 article. From the time I read the headline, "On the Verge of Extinction..." my heart fell. A distinction should have been drawn between the financially struggling facilities and the successful Discovery Youth Camps. The camps could not sustain the facilities because the camps were not designed to do so. The Kentucky Baptist Convention sponsored the camps using Cooperative Program funds as a ministry to churches.

I am pleased that Crossings is doing well and has been able to revitalize the facilities. However, their mission has been different. Crossings depends on support from higher camper fees and markets to churches outside

of the state.

The article also failed to recognize the incredible work that many volunteers and staff accomplished over the years. Tens of thousands of campers, hundreds of SonTeam members and many volunteers realized the same life-changing experiences. Because the camps were a ministry of the KBC, SonTeamers were not paid as they provided the relationships, mentoring and guidance many campers enjoyed. They served with only a small honorarium.

In addition, folks like Tom Smoot and Ralph Hopkins spent countless hours and made tremendous sacrifices to plan, lead and grow these programs. I was not directly involved with RA and GA camps, but I have heard similar testimonies.

I celebrate the success of the Crossings Camps and the blessings they are to this generation of young people. But, I can also tell you that lives were changed camp after camp, year after year, heart after heart before the Crossings Camp model. I am one of those lives.

*Angela Girdley  
Fountain Run*

**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.

## Bible does not support abuse

By Valerie Vincent

Abuse can be verbal, emotional, physical, sexual, or in the form of neglect. Christ is our model for relationship. Christ did not use such tactics as intimidation, threatening, raging, belittling, joking to humiliate or demean, and silence to punish. Such tactics are about control. Abuse is an attempt to control another person.

Scripture regularly emphasizes gaining and keeping control of oneself. When the intention is to gain control or the advantage over another, even with scripture, this aim is not supported by the Bible. When one tries to blame someone else for his or her own anger or actions, this is incorrect. Scripture is clear that each person is held accountable for his or her own actions.

Taking scripture verses out of their context—out of the verses that come before or after the passage, as well as the chapter and book of the Bible where the verses are found—can result in a misuse or abuse of those verses. Again, the guide becomes whether or not the verses taken out of context are intended to gain an advantage or have control of another person.

Any form of abuse needs to be taken seriously. Seek help. Go now to talk with someone at your church or a local shelter. Abuse will not stop on its own. God has provided people with the gifts and desire to help. Make use of them.

Closely tied with abuse is distorted thinking. Education through counseling, accountability and scriptural truth are needed to help the abuser make real change. Abuse is destructive and can run free when it is hidden and done in secret. The light of truth shed on any abusive situation can start the healing process. Bring the abuse into the light and allow God to bring healing.

*Valerie Vincent is a Christian counselor with Hardy Associates in Louisville.*



## NAMB acting interim Harris addresses staff, reaffirms organization's work, purpose

By Carol Pipes

North American Mission Board

Alpharetta, Ga.—“It’s a brand new day and we have an opportunity before us,” Richard Harris, newly appointed acting interim president for the North American Mission Board, told staff at their weekly prayer chapel Aug. 13.

The staff gathered just two days after a meeting of NAMB’s board of trustees ended with the resignation of the entity’s president, Geoff Hammond, and Harris of his closest associates.

Harris told staff he is a “windshield” Christian, not a “rearview mirror” Christian. “I’m going to honor the past and try to learn from the past, but every day is a new day,” he said. “I hope as we move forward that God will bind our hearts together and we would accomplish what He put us here to do.”

Harris reminded staff that the hour is urgent and that 255 million people in North America still do not have a relationship with Jesus Christ. Harris challenged staffers to go home and look in the mirror and imagine they are holding those 255 million people in their hands and to say, “God, I’m responsible. This is under our watch. What are we going to do?”

Citing Hebrews 12:1, Harris told staff that if they fix their eyes on a human, they are going to be disappointed.

“Don’t let circumstances determine your joy,” Harris said. “Our joy ought to be determined by a relationship to the Lord Jesus Christ, not by circumstances.”

“We need to lay aside everything that entangles and hinders us and let’s fix our eyes on Jesus.”

### Focus on priorities

Harris said that during the interim NAMB would continue to focus on three priorities: sharing Christ, starting churches and sending missionaries.

“There will be one special focus that will be the lead and that’s GPS—God’s Plan for Sharing.”

According to Harris, NAMB leadership is reviewing ways they can not only fulfill current funding promises for GPS, but also prioritize more resources for the effort. GPS is NAMB’s national evangelism initiative introduced at the 2008 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. Harris commended NAMB’s evangelism team for laying a solid foundation, getting the strategy in place and building consensus and ownership among state leaders.

“The members of the SLT (strategic leadership team) and I believe that this must be our priority,” he noted. “It’s our opportunity to make the greatest impact in the time that we have.”

Harris said he would continue to work with the team to make decisions guided by the Holy Spirit.

“Our goal will be to stay the course, try to stay effective and relevant, doing what God has put us here to do.”

Harris asked staff to commit to praying for the strategic leadership team, trustees, missionaries and one another.

“We’ve got to get our hearts knitted in the spirit of God, and prayer is one of the best ways to do that,” he emphasized. “That’s where we make sure we’re listening to God so we don’t make mistakes.”

“If we’re going to see an awakening in North America, it’s got to start right here in our hearts.”

Responding to the Great Commission Task Force meetings held earlier in the week, Harris said he believed Southern Baptists need two mission boards.

“Can things be done more efficiently and effectively? Absolutely, and we will certainly cooperate to that end,” Harris said.

“I want us to join our hearts, our hands and our heads and take NAMB to the next level with an intentional commitment to reach North America,” he added. “This is not a game, this is serious business, and it’s the greatest business on the earth.”

In coming days, Harris said, direct communication about changes and priorities would be made with NAMB missionaries, state executive directors, state directors of missions, state directors of evangelism and all of NAMB’s partners.

These could, Harris said, be the greatest days of impacting North America. “Not because we’re here, but because that would bring glory to Jesus. As we move forward, God is sovereign and He is on His throne.” (BP)



Richard Harris

## NAMB president Hammond resigns amid rumors of cronyism, micromanagement

Continued from page 1

and his family, as well as the others who had resigned. He also urged Southern Baptists to continue praying for the agency itself.

“We have much work left to do as we seek God’s guidance in these days,” Patterson said. “I still believe that God has great plans for the North American Mission Board and that North NAMB will play a key part in the Southern Baptist effort to reach North America for Christ.”

The following day, trustees named Richard Harris, senior strategist for missions advancement, as acting interim president until an interim president is chosen.

The meeting initially was to involve only members of NAMB’s executive committee—a smaller group within the board of trustees—but members of the whole board learned about the meeting’s agenda and succeeded in calling for a full board meeting.

Criticism of Hammond among NAMB trustees had increased in recent months. Trustees hoped hiring Hammond, a former missionary, in May 2007 would move the agency forward after his predecessor, Bob Reccord, resigned amid allegations of mismanagement the year prior.

Some said Hammond lacked the management skills to effectively run an organization as large as NAMB, which oversees more than 5,600 missionaries in the United States and Canada, more than 3,000 endorsed chaplains, 279 employees, and has a budget of \$130 million.

On July 29, Kentucky pastor Jason Pettus, a NAMB trustee, sent an e-mail to fellow board members detailing a conversation with Patterson that addressed three main concerns the executive committee had with Hammond. Pettus later stated that the e-mail was intended only for his fellow trustees and was not meant to be shared with the media.

The three issues were:

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

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

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

Pettus, pastor of Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green, wrote that Patterson told him “some on the executive committee were very ‘angry’ and ‘frustrated’” with Hammond. Pettus also expressed surprise at the trustees’ affirmation of Hammond’s leadership just three months earlier.

In May, NAMB trustees unanimously approved a statement supporting Hammond, “who is providing exemplary, unique leadership and vision as Southern Baptists embrace the challenge of the ever-changing and diverse mission field of North America.”

Last week, a story in the Nash-



**QUICK CHANGE** Former North American Mission Board president Geoff Hammond addresses new missionaries at a May 18 commissioning service in Clinton, Miss. The following day, NAMB trustees approved a resolution affirming Hammond’s leadership of the missions organization. Last week, he and three of his closest associates resigned their positions. Former trustees cited concerns of nepotism, micromanagement and low staff morale as reasons for a special called board meeting Aug. 11 that ultimately led to Hammond’s resignation. (NAMB photo)

### Trustee chair: NAMB ‘going nowhere but forward’

Alpharetta, Ga.—A day after a meeting of the board of trustees of the North American Mission Board ended with the resignation of President Geoff Hammond and three senior leaders, NAMB trustee chairman Tim Patterson expressed his confidence in the staff and assured them “NAMB is going nowhere but forward.”

NAMB staff gathered for the board-wide meeting Aug. 12, to hear directly from Patterson who, the day before, presided over a special called meeting to discuss concerns about Hammond’s leadership which led to the resignation

Patterson, pastor of Hillcrest Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla., expressed appreciation to the staff and reaffirmed the importance of their contribution to NAMB’s ministry.

Patterson told employees by the end of the day someone would be named to run NAMB’s day-to-day operations. After that, trustee leaders would begin the process of finding an interim president and a presidential search team would be established from among trustee members.

“The search will be very methodical,” Patterson said. (BP)

ville Tennessean quoted several former NAMB board members who expressed frustration over Hammond’s leadership of the missions agency.

“There’s a lot of nepotism and cronyism,” David Thompson, pastor of North Pointe Community Church in Old Hickory, Tenn., told the Tennessean. “There’s been a fair amount of that from the beginning.”

Before taking over as NAMB president, Hammond served as a church planting missionary with the Southern Baptist Conservatory of Virginia. He also served as senior associate director of the SBCV.

All three of the associates who resigned alongside Hammond had close working relationships with him before he became NAMB president. Reid and Pickett were on staff with Hammond at SBCV. Culbreth was a pastor in Chesapeake, Va., a NAMB trustee and member of the search committee that brought Hammond to the mission board.

According to the Tennessean, the newly hired administrative associate mentioned in Pettus’ e-mail was Bob Atwell, whom Hammond had a close relationship with while the two were missionaries in Brazil in the 1990s. Atwell was hired without board approval.

Thompson, a board member for 10 years until his term expired in June, also told the newspaper of low morale among staffers from “really intense micromanagement, instead

of letting people do the jobs they were hired to do.”

One staff member who spoke to Associated Baptist Press on condition of anonymity said he did not sense low morale in his department and most of the people he talked to Aug. 12 were surprised and saddened but confident in trustee leadership and optimistic about the future of NAMB.

Another staffer said he believed there was a morale problem, and most people he knows would probably feel relieved that tensions affecting their work were being addressed.

Hammond’s departure comes at a time when NAMB is embarking on GPS (God’s Plan for Sharing), an ambitious partnership with state conventions and local associations to see every SBC church planting other churches by 2020.

In an interview with the Western Recorder last week, Pettus reaffirmed both the GPS initiative and the work of NAMB.

“As for me and my church, we are going to support NAMB,” he said. “We believe we can partner with other churches and accomplish more together than we can alone. We need NAMB to lead us ... and to give us opportunities to reach people in North America with the gospel.”

Compiled from reports by Associated Baptist Press, Baptist Press, Bob Smetana of the Nashville Tennessean and Western Recorder staff

## Samford University cancels luncheon featuring Pitino

Birmingham, Ala.—Samford University has canceled an upcoming event featuring University of Louisville men's basketball coach Rick Pitino, who is at the center of a scandal involving adultery and abortion.

Philip Poole, executive director of university communication at the Baptist-affiliated school in Birmingham, Ala., said the dean of Samford's Cumberland School of Law spoke to Pitino Aug. 12. The two "mutually agreed" it would be best for all concerned to cancel a leadership luncheon featuring the coach that had been scheduled for Sept. 10.

According to media reports, Pitino, a practicing Roman Catholic, admitted to police that he had consensual sex six years ago with a woman now charged with trying to extort him, and paid for her to have an abortion.

Karen Sypher, whom Pitino says he met while drinking in a Louisville restaurant Aug. 1, 2003, was indicted in May on federal charges of extortion and making false statements to the FBI.

Sypher entered a plea of not guilty. She claims that Pitino raped her and gave her \$3,000 to have an abortion. Police have said they doubt her credibility. Prosecutors accuse her of demanding cars, a house and \$10 million from Pitino to keep quiet about the tryst.

Poole said the Pitino luncheon at Samford, arranged by some Cumberland alumni and co-sponsored by the university's business school, had not been widely publicized beyond a save-the-date e-mail sent to invitees. It became news after an e-mail from John Carroll, dean of the law school, announcing it had been canceled was leaked to the press. (ABP)

## Great Commission Resurgence

# Task force chair encouraged after first meeting

By Mark Kelly

Atlanta—The first meeting of the task force charged with helping spark a "Great Commission resurgence" among Southern Baptists held its first meeting Aug. 11-12 in Atlanta, and chairman Ronnie Floyd came away feeling both encouraged by the spirit of the gathering and burdened by the enormity of the challenge before them.

Floyd opened a noontime press conference immediately following the close of the Aug. 12 session by reading a prepared statement.

"We began with an extended period of prayer, then immediately got busy with the job that Southern Baptists had assigned to us," Floyd said. "We talked to each other. We talked seriously. Honest talk. But we were able to do that within a context of Christian kindness and friendship. I am thankful that we are already talking about these issues and looking at big questions. This is how I hoped we would begin."

Analyzing the challenges facing Southern Baptists and suggesting a course of action that will foster greater effectiveness and efficiency in taking the gospel to—and making disciples of—all nations is a daunting task, said Floyd, pastor of First Baptist Church of Springdale, Ark.

"I trust that all of us understand that we have a huge job to accomplish and a looming deadline before us," he noted, continuing to read from the prepared statement. "This much is already clear: Our great passion is the Great Commission. We yearn with all our hearts, every one of us, to see Southern Baptists be more faithful in taking the gospel to all of the nations. It is our passion. We will work long, hard and tirelessly to develop a report that will unleash a passion for the Great Commission, that

will energize Southern Baptists and prioritize our work together. We are so highly honored by this task that has been entrusted to us."

Southern Baptist Convention President Johnny Hunt, who also participated in the press conference, said he felt the diverse

**"I trust that all of us understand that we have a huge job to accomplish and a looming deadline before us. This much is already clear: Our great passion is the Great Commission."**

—Ronnie Floyd, Great Commission Task Force chairman

23-member task force made a good start on the kind of open dialogue needed to find a path forward for the 16.2-million-member convention of nearly 45,000 congregations.

"I am excited about the start. I feel like it was a very engaging time, a very challenging time. I feel like the longer we were together, the more open and honest we could be to share how we really felt," Hunt said. "Not always what we wanted to hear, but what kept the conversation flowing and could

lead to change."

Regardless of people's feelings about the committee's work, Floyd said he hoped they would visit the task force's [www.Pray4GCR.com](http://www.Pray4GCR.com) Web site and join more than 2,500 others in praying for what everyone can agree is a desperate need: a resurgence of passion for the Great Commission mandate.

"We want our people involved in the process. It doesn't really matter where they are in this perspective," Floyd noted. "Every one of our churches needs a Great Commission resurgence, beginning with my church."

Only two task force members—Ted Traylor and David Dockery—were unable to attend the first meeting, Floyd said. The second meeting, set for Aug. 26-27 in Rogers, Ark., will be preceded by an open session in which interested Southern Baptists will have an opportunity to share their concerns for the convention with task force members.

Floyd also encouraged individuals to write committee members—either by letter, e-mail or through the Web site—and voice their thoughts about how to lead the convention forward in missions commitment.

While additional meetings beyond the Rogers gathering have not yet been scheduled, Floyd said the group is studying ways technology, like Internet conferencing, could facilitate the process for members unable to travel to meeting locations.

He also declined to discuss the topics addressed in their meeting—which was closed to the public—except to say that Thom Rainier, president of LifeWay Christian Resources, had been invited to "talk about the actual, real status of the Southern Baptist Convention from a statistical analysis."

Floyd also would not discuss specific issues the task force may be addressing, such as suggestions about merging the convention's two mission boards or changing the formula for distributing missions offerings between convention entities.

"We're not really at this point talking in any of our deliberations about those kind of sensitive issues," Floyd said. "Our heart is to get more dollars and more cents to what we're greatly committed to—and that's the planting of churches in North America and, ultimately, to take the gospel to all the nations. That's our heart and obviously we want to do everything we can to get more dollars to the unreached people groups of this world."

As for funding of the task force's work, Floyd said he had received a letter from SBC Executive Committee President Morris Chapman requesting a budget that the Executive Committee would consider during its September business meeting.

In the July 23 letter, Chapman explained the budgeting process and offered to set aside funds for work completed by the task force prior to the approval of a budget, offering help with the budget and otherwise. Floyd said he "greatly appreciated" Chapman's initiative to contact him. (BP)

## Baptist men go for record-breaking breakfast

By Tobin Perry  
Crusader Magazine

Alpharetta, Ga.—Men's ministry is tough work. Just ask Dennis Herrera. After three years of working with men as a lay leader at Woodlake Baptist Church in San Antonio, Herrera knows it is often tough to get men together for anything—even for breakfast and prayer.

But last October, men showed up for a prayer breakfast at the smaller, Southern Baptist church. It was one of the biggest breakfast turnouts of the year. Although Woodlake hosts a similar men's prayer breakfast every month, this one was unique. Not only was the meal modeled around a British

breakfast—complete with British Bangers, a traditional kind of sausage—but they joined more than 3,000 other Baptist men around the world to eat, pray and worship together in a first-time event called "The Bigger Breakfast." The Baptist Men's Movement in the United Kingdom sponsored the event.

"I think the men seemed to be motivated to be a part of the event and add to the totals of the British men attending," Herrera said.

The Baptist Men's Movement had aimed to break the Guinness World Record for the largest breakfast, but fell short. This year the Brits will have more help. Southern Baptist men in the United States and Canada, along with Nigerian Baptist men, will be joining them on Oct. 10 for what could become the new world record.

But Southern Baptists helping organize the convention's involvement have a greater vision for the event than simply breaking a record.

"The sleeping giants in Baptist churches

are our laymen," said Jim Burton, team leader for missions education with the North American Mission Board. "The Bigger Breakfast is Southern Baptists' opportunity to gather our men and discover—or for many churches to rediscover—the synergy that can come from their focus on missions."

Burton said Southern Baptists will focus on missions action—both in their communities and beyond—during the breakfast. Held a day before the convention's World Hunger Day, Southern Baptist men will highlight the World Hunger Fund at the event. They also are being encouraged to invite their non-Christian friends to the breakfast.

British Baptists started The Bigger Breakfast last year in an attempt to re-ignite spiritual passion among the country's Baptist men. Phil Creighton, vice-president of the

Baptist Men's Movement in the U.K., pointed to statistics that came out a few years ago suggesting there would be virtually no men in U.K. churches by 2028.

"That's a scary prospect," said Creighton, who first came up with The Bigger Breakfast idea last year. "Obviously, we need to do something about that. We need to show men that being a follower of Jesus Christ doesn't mean you're weak, but you can be an ordinary bloke and still follow Christ."

Southern Baptists looking for help to plan the event can find information and suggestions at [www.BMen.net/Breakfast](http://www.BMen.net/Breakfast). Churches also are encouraged to register on the Web site and report their highlights and attendance after the event. These totals will be added with the British and Nigerian Baptists' numbers to determine if the existing world record has been surpassed. (BP)

## GuideStone President Hawkins reveals he has prostate cancer

Dallas—O.S. Hawkins, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's GuideStone Financial Resources, has announced he has been diagnosed with prostate cancer and will undergo surgery in September.



O.S. Hawkins

Hawkins, 62, said in an Aug. 11 statement distributed to fellow leaders of SBC entities. "For the past many months my doctors have been monitoring my PSA counts. This past Wednesday I had a biopsy and subsequently found out over the weekend that I have been diagnosed with prostate cancer. (A PSA test, one indicator of the possibility of prostate cancer, measures the level of a protein, prostate-specific antigen, in the blood.)

"We will be using these days to dig deep into the Word and learn to trust in Him even more," Hawkins continued. "Based on a recent meeting with our surgeon, we will schedule the surgery sometime after Sept. 7. The prognosis is good and hopefully we have found it early enough. We have reason to be encouraged at this point at this time."

Hawkins became president of GuideStone Financial Resources in 1997. GuideStone is the SBC entity that provides retirement, insurance and investment management products and services to churches, ministries, hospitals, educational and other institutions.

Hawkins previously was pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas for four years and First Baptist Church of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., for 15 years. (BP)



# What is it about hell that has pastors tight-lipped on the topic?

By Greg Garrison  
Birmingham (Ala.) News

**Birmingham, Ala.**—Just when it seemed to have cooled off, the topic of hell is back on the front burner—at least for pastors learning to preach about a topic most Americans would rather not talk about.

Only 59 percent of Americans believe in hell, compared with 74 percent who believe in heaven, according to recent surveys from the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life.

"I think it's such a difficult and important biblical topic," said Kurt Selles, director of the Global Center at Samford University's Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham, Ala. "There's a big change that's taken place as far as evangelicals not wanting to be as exclusive."

At the recent annual Beeson Pastors School, Selles led two workshops to discuss "Whatever happened to hell?" He asked how many of the pastors had ever preached a sermon on hell. Nobody had, he said.

"I think it's something people want to avoid," Selles speculated. "I understand why. It's a difficult topic."

Fred Johns, pastor of Brookview Wesleyan Church in Irondale, Ala., said after a workshop discussion of hell that pastors do shy away from the topic of everlasting damnation.

"It's out of fear we'll not appear relevant," he said. "It's pressure from the culture to not speak anything negative. I think we've begun to deny hell. There's an assumption that everybody's going to make it to heaven somehow."

## Bad for business?

The soft sell on hell reflects an increasingly market-conscious approach, Selles noted.

"When you're trying to market Jesus, sometimes there's a tendency to mute traditional Christian symbols," he said. "Difficult doctrines are left by the wayside. Hell is a morally repugnant doctrine. People wonder why God would send people to eternal punishment."

Speakers said the seriousness of Jesus dying for man's sins relates to the gravity of salvation vs. damnation, according to Johns. "If you don't mention God's judgment, you are missing a big part of the Christian gospel," Selles said. "Without wrath, there's no grace."

Pope John Paul II stirred up a debate in 1999 by describing hell as "the state of those who freely and definitively separate themselves from God, the source of all life and joy."

Although the pope was reflecting official Roman Catholic teaching, some U.S. evangelicals expressed misgivings about the implication that hell is an abstract separation from God rather than a literal lake of fire as described in the Book of Revelation.

The pope's comments on hell stirred up the ancient debate about whether hell

is a real place of burning fire or a state of mind reflecting a dark, cold emptiness and distance from God.

Evangelical Christians traditionally have offered a sterner view of salvation and damnation. A Southern Baptist Home (now North American) Mission Board study in 1993 estimated that 70 percent of all Americans are going to hell, based on projected numbers of those who have not had a born-again conversion experience.

## Hell's history

Human ideas about hell were still in ferment as the Bible was being written. The theological concept of hell has a rich cultural heritage, according to historian Alan Bernstein, author of "The Formation of Hell."

The ancient Hebrews focused on the afterlife following their Babylonian captivity, when they experienced the torment of ungodly enemies who seemed to have an unjustifiably good life on Earth. During the Babylonian exile, Jews were exposed to Zoroastrianism, which asserts there is an eternal struggle between good and evil, with good triumphing in the end.

The Hebrew concept of "Sheol"—the realm of the dead—also may have been influenced by the Greek mythology of Tartarus, a place of everlasting punishment

for the Titans, a race of gods defeated by Zeus, Bernstein writes.

From about 300 B.C. to 300 A.D., those influences combined with Hebrew speculation about an eventual comeuppance to the worldly wicked.

In translating the Bible from Hebrew to Greek, the Greeks used the terms Tartarus, Hades and Gehenna. In Greek thought, Hades is not a place of punishment; it is where the dead are separated from the living.

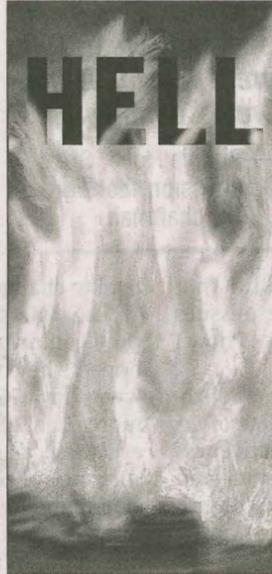
The term Gehenna (which is rendered as "hell" in many English translations) referred to a ravine outside Jerusalem that was used as a garbage dump. It once had been a place of child sacrifice and became a symbol of pain and suffering, Selles said. As a garbage dump, it probably was often a place of fire as trash was burned, emphasizing the symbolism of the flames of eternal damnation, he pointed out.

Jesus never soft-pedaled the concept of hell, Selles stressed. "It's not metaphorical in Jesus' mind; it's a real place."

The Bible contains a litany of colorful images of hell as both fire and darkness, as in the Gospel of Matthew, which refers to "the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels" and "the outer darkness" where "men will weep and gnash their teeth."

Either way, Selles said, pretending that hell does not exist, or trying to preach around it, short-circuits the Bible.

"This is a doctrine, a teaching, that's being neglected in churches," Selles emphasized. "It needs to be preached. It's part of the gospel." (RNS)



## Research indicates that gay conversion ministry has significant success rate

By Michael Foust

**Wheaton, Ill.**—In findings that seem to contradict mainstream academic thought, 53 percent of subjects in a new seven-year study reported successfully leaving homosexuality and living happily as heterosexual or celibate individuals.

The study by psychologists Stanton Jones of Wheaton College in Illinois and Mark Yarhouse of Regent University in Virginia is a follow-up to one released two years ago in book form, "Ex-Gays?" That study was called groundbreaking, and the latest set of data is no less significant, the researchers say.

The men followed 61 subjects over a span of six to seven years, recording their failures and successes in their attempts to leave homosexuality. Experts in the field call it the first attempt to follow subjects who are undergoing Christian counseling over a series of years.

Among their findings:

- Twenty-three percent reported a successful conversion to heterosexual attractions.

- Three in ten reported living a celibate life and were content with their reduction in homosexual attractions. Altogether, those latter two categories were combined for a 53 percent success rate, the researchers reported.

- More than 15 percent of subjects had modest decreases in homosexual attractions and were not satisfied with their degree of change but were committed to continuing the process.

- Seven percent had seen no decrease in homosexual attractions but had not given up trying to change.

- A quarter of the subjects were considered "failures," either because they gave up on the process and once again identified as a homosexual (20 percent), or because they had not yet embraced a homosexual identity but nevertheless had given up (5 percent).

All subjects were going through programs set

up by Exodus International, a Christian ministry that seeks to help those who want to leave homosexuality.

The latest findings were released four days after an American Psychological Association task force released a 130-page report that said "gay-to-straight" therapies are unlikely to work. That report got mixed reviews from conservatives, although APA's position on the issue is well-known: It believes homosexual attractions are "normal and positive variants" of human sexuality.

"The APA has previously asserted, with absolute clarity, that sexual orientation change is not possible—that it simply doesn't occur," Jones told Baptist Press. "The best way to test that is to study people as they're attempting change and follow them over a long period of time. Our study found that a significant portion of that population reported very significant change."

He added, "My sense is that our study is a good sample, and so I think that people can pursue the Exodus process with a cautious sense of optimism about the possibility of change—but we can't make absolute predictions."

Comparing the latest data to the initial set of data released two years ago, there was a significant increase in both the "success" and "failure" percentages and a decrease in the percentage of those who, at the time, had seen no significant change.

The percentage of those who considered themselves successful in changing increased from 38 percent to 53 percent, while the percentage of those who the researchers considered failures also went up—12 percent to 25 percent. At the same time, the percentage of those who had seen only modest change or no change, but had not given up on the effort decreased from 44 percent to 23 percent. (BP)

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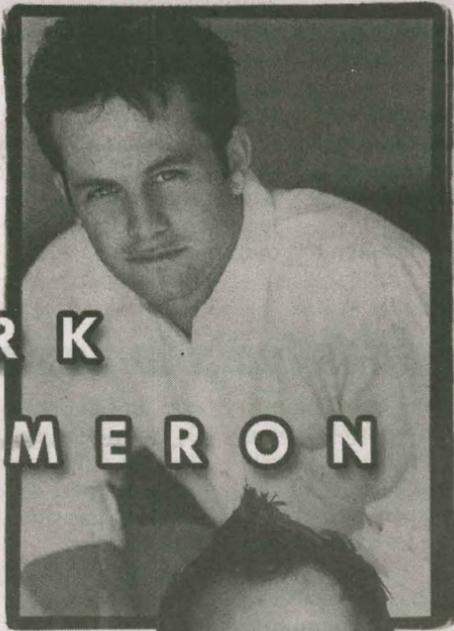
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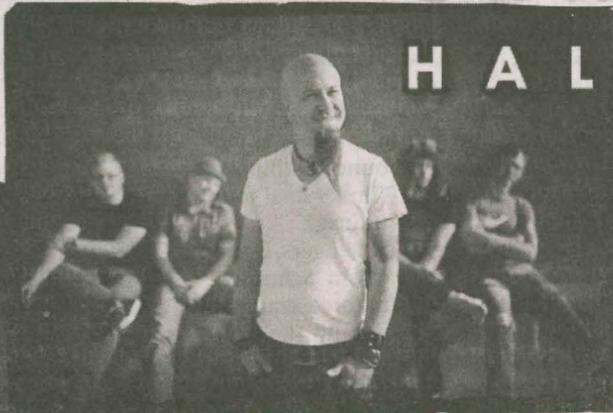
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**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2009**

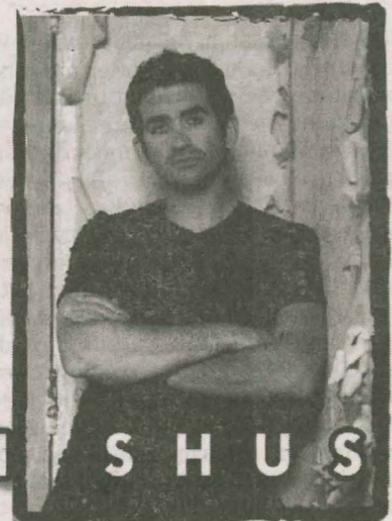
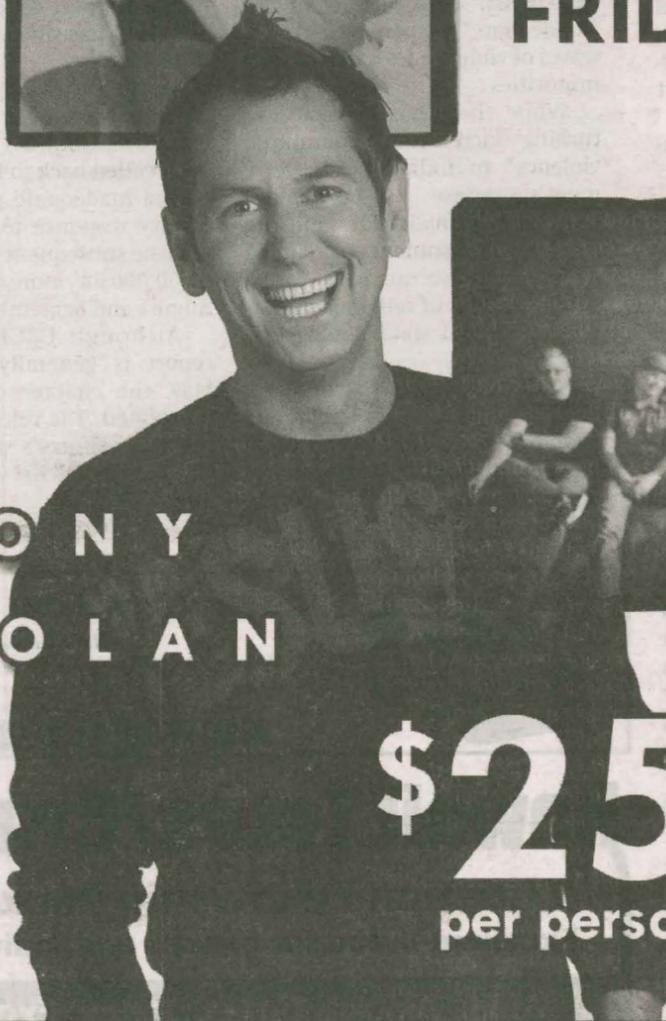
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# SBC's ethics group calls health care proposal 'dangerous'

By Tom Strode

Washington—The health care reform bill making its way through the U.S. House of Representatives “is extremely dangerous legislation to the health and wellbeing of most Americans” for a variety of reasons, the Southern Baptist Convention’s ethics entity says.

The proposal—America’s Affordable Health Choices Act—would endanger the lives of the unborn and elderly, increase taxes and health care costs, and extend government’s reach into Americans’ private lives, according to an analysis by the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

While acknowledging the measure’s 1,018 pages and voluminous citations make “it nearly impossible to figure out what everything in the bill actually means,” the ERLC said it can report “with absolute certainty” the proposal “will lead to diminished health care for most Americans, less choice, higher taxes and unprecedented government intrusion into every level and aspect of society, from business, to education, to marriage, to individual liberty.”

The commission posted the nine-page analysis on its Web site, www.ERLC.com, just as the House began a five-week recess. Three different House committees have approved the bill. Some House members returned to their districts to face combative crowds expressing their opposition to the

legislation at town-hall meetings.

Health care reform in the Senate is focused on the Finance Committee, where its chairman, Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., is leading an effort to craft a bipartisan agreement. The Senate went into recess Aug. 7.

President Obama, meanwhile, continues to urge Congress to act on the issue, one of his primary legislative initiatives.

## Primary issues

In its analysis, the ERLC cites the following among the problems it sees with the legislation:

- The bill is certain to result in mandated, federal funding of abortion.
- A program in the measure that likely would provide education about decisions near the end of life “could essentially encourage the premature death of the elderly” and could produce a “slippery slope that potentially leads to euthanasia.”
- Rationing of health care would result if the bill is enacted in its present form, and, even if the public option does not survive, rationing would be likely because of the requirements imposed on private insurance companies.
- Government officials, rather than private citizens, would determine the type of health care received by Americans under the public insurance option established by the secretary of Health and Human Ser-

vices.

■ Individuals and employers would be taxed if their private insurance plans are not acceptable to the federal government.

■ Hospitals will be penalized if patients have to be re-admitted, possibly prompting health care institutions to keep people longer than necessary or to refuse to admit them.

■ Americans would pay higher taxes to fill a public health fund.

■ Private insurers may not be able to write new policies for potential customers.

■ The government would be permitted to access citizens’ financial records, as well as their bank accounts for the transfer of electronic funds.

■ “Home visitation programs” would be established by which the government could make “voluntary” visits to families with small children or families expecting babies for the purpose of improving the “wellbeing, health and development of children.”

■ An advisory committee led by the U.S. surgeon general will recommend benefits to be received by citizens.

■ A Center for Comparative Effectiveness Research will be established, which could result in therapies and drugs being evaluated on a cost basis instead of a clinical basis, critics have claimed.

The analysis explains how an amend-

ment approved in the House Energy and Commerce Committee last month does not maintain the current policy preventing federal funds for most abortions but rather explicitly includes abortion coverage under the legislation.

“Though the amendment does not add abortion as an essential benefit, it does allow insurers to include abortion as a benefit and also allows federal money to be used for abortions,” except for Department of Health and Human Services funds, which are barred from underwriting abortions, the ERLC analysis notes.

“At this time, abortion is not explicitly defined as an essential benefit in the bill,” according to the analysis. “However, the terminology in (Section 122 of the bill) is vague enough to allow for abortion. It could easily fall under the ‘Preventive Services’ requirement. An advisory panel appointed by a pro-abortion president is certainly going to come to the conclusion that abortion should be included in the essential benefits package. And if they did not, the courts are certain to interpret this new law in conjunction with *Roe v. Wade* and mandate abortion funding from the bench.”

Congress passed the Hyde Amendment in 1976 to prohibit Medicaid funds from paying for abortions. The Supreme Court legalized abortion in its 1973 *Roe v. Wade* opinion. (BP)

## NATIONAL NOTES

**Senate confirms Collins as head of NIH**—The Senate has confirmed Francis Collins, a geneticist known for his role in decoding the human genome and dedication to bridging the gap between religion and science, as director of the National Institutes of Health. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced Aug. 7 that Collins was unanimously confirmed by the Senate. “Dr. Collins will be an outstanding leader,” Sebelius said in a statement. “Today is an exciting day for NIH and for science in this country.” Collins, an evangelical Christian, authored the best-selling book “The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief,” and established the BioLogos Foundation to promote harmony between Christian faith and scientific discovery.

**Virginia jail to stop censoring religious mail**—A Virginia jail will stop censoring religious mail after protests from civil rights organizations that clerks had turned Bible-quoting missives from an inmate’s mother into tattered strips of paper signed “Love, Mom.” Rappahannock Regional Jail authorities agreed to change the policy after receiving a letter signed by the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, the Rutherford Institute, Prison Fellowship, the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, the Friends Committee on National Legislation and the American Civil Liberties Union. Prisons may block writings that pose security threats, including hate speech and X-rated images, but must allow access to otherwise religious materials, according to several court rulings and federal law. Jail officials said the censorship was not motivated by content, but rather due to a policy that prohibits inmates from receiving swaths of computer printouts, which had been used to clog toilets and otherwise harass the guards.

**Louisiana couples shun covenant marriages**—Only about 1 percent of Louisiana couples married between 1997-2007 chose covenant marriages that require premarital counseling and make divorces harder to obtain, according to state data. The Department of Health and Hospitals said that in the 11-year period, 390,893 marriage licenses were issued but only 4,112—1.05 percent—were for covenant marriages. Louisiana was the first state to enact a covenant marriage law in 1997 and was followed by Arizona and Arkansas. The state’s covenant marriage law requires couples to receive premarital instructions and undergo counseling before they can seek a divorce. A couple in most cases must wait two years for the divorce to be final after they have been living apart, longer than the six months required for a traditional divorce.

## Four killed in crash involving tour bus carrying MercyMe

Fort Wayne, Ind.—Three teenagers and an unborn baby were killed Aug. 8 when a car collided with a tour bus carrying the band MercyMe at an intersection in Fort Wayne, Ind.

MercyMe had wrapped up a concert in Fort Wayne, and around 1:15 a.m. their bus was traveling through a green light when a car in an oncoming lane attempted a left turn in front of the bus.

The driver, 18-year-old Kara Klinker, was nine months pregnant, and her child was pronounced stillborn at a local hospital. Klinker died four days later from her injuries.

Two of the car’s passengers, Dario Boutte, 19, and Barbara Schmucker, 17, died of blunt-force trauma, according to a report by the Fort Wayne News-Sentinel.

“MercyMe would like to express their incredible heartache over this horrible accident,” Velvet Rousseau Kelm, the band’s publicist, said in a statement. “They are praying for the families of all who this will affect, and are asking others to pray as well.

“The band and crew sustained minor bumps and bruises, however their hearts are heavy,” Kelm said. “They appreciate the concern they have received from people all over the world.”

MercyMe was scheduled to perform Aug. 8 at a Six Flags theme park in St. Louis, but the show was rescheduled for Sept. 5. That day, the group posted a short message on their blog: “Please join us in praying for the families of the car that hit our bus last night. Our hearts break for their families.”

The group’s tour resumed Aug. 10 at the Wisconsin State Fair. (BP)

## USCIRF adds India to ‘watch list’

Washington—The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom has put India on its ‘watch list,’ citing the country’s “inadequate” response to recent waves of violence toward religious minorities.

While there has been a “disturbing increase in communal violence” in India, “the government’s response ... has been found to be largely inadequate and the national government has failed to take effective measures to ensure the rights of religious minorities in several states,” the commission said.

USCIRF has been particularly concerned about India’s religious tolerance since 2002, when organizations related to the Hindu Nationalist party Bharatiya Janata

were on the rise. At that time, India was designated as a “country of particular concern,”—the commission’s most condemning category—but has since been removed from that list.

With attacks against Christians in December of 2007 and into 2008, USCIRF’s attention has been called back to India. They reported inadequate police and judiciary response to the violence and the subsequent displacement of 60,000 or more Christians in August and September of 2008.

Although USCIRF’s annual report is generally released in May, the chapter on India was postponed. The release announcing the country’s placement on USCIRF’s watch list was published Aug. 13. (RNS)



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## An offertory prayer

**God can do powerful things through the money we give**

One of my devotional practices is to listen to God through the two channels through which He speaks—the gospel and life—and to formulate prayers which unite those two channels.

Here is an offertory prayer I once prayed at my church. It was based upon Michel Quoist's "Prayer Before a Twenty-Dollar Bill" in his 1963 book, "Prayers." May the reading of this prayer and Jesus' teaching in Luke 12:33-34 result in a better understanding of God's ability to take the money we give through our churches and our Kentucky Baptist-related causes and change it into His eternal life. And, may our treasure be in proper perspective, because Jesus said wherever our treasure is, there our heart will be also.

"Lord, only you know the secrets and the history of the money we give today. Because it cannot speak it will never tell all that is hidden in its creases.

"Money is frightening because it can serve or destroy. There are those who have killed to possess it for a few hours just to have through it a little pleasure. We do not know through how many

hands it has passed, Lord, nor what it has done in the course of its long, silent journey.

"It has provided food and shelter for a family and paid for the saving visit of a doctor; it has bought the book which taught a child; it has also broken the morals of the adolescent and made the adult a thief; it has bought the liquor that made the alcoholic, produced the movie unfit for our children and recorded the indecent song; and it has paid for the weapons of crime and for the wood of the coffin.

"But today, O Lord, we offer you this money with all its joyful and sorrowful mysteries. We thank you for all the life and joy it has given and ask your forgiveness for the harm it has done.

"Above all, we offer it to you as a symbol of all our labors, a symbol of indestructible money, which tomorrow will be changed into your eternal life. Amen."

Ky. Baptist Foundation



Barry Allen

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

## For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



## Preacher's Kids

David Ayers



## Bible Crosswords

By Evelyn Boyington

### Across

- 1 Iowa city
- 5 Apple variety
- 9 Thirty Years' \_\_\_\_\_
- 12 "I will bring again the captivity of \_\_\_\_\_" (Jeremiah 49:39)
- 13 Levitical city of refuge (1 Chronicles 6:73)
- 14 Samuel's mentor
- 15 Continent (abbr.)
- 16 Wired, with "on"
- 18 "They shall \_\_\_\_\_ the whirlwind: it hath no stalk" (Hosea 8:7)
- 19 "My Father giveth you the \_\_\_\_\_ bread from heaven" (John 6:32)
- 20 Where the prodigal son dined out
- 22 Live; realize one's potential
- 23 "The \_\_\_\_\_ of wisdom is above rubies" (Job 28:18)
- 25 "If the good man ... had known what hour the \_\_\_\_\_ would come" (Luke 12:39)
- 27 Deceased
- 28 Facade
- 29 Kind of number
- 32 Ember residue
- 33 Trunk "tenant"
- 34 KJV deer
- 35 Born (Fr.)
- 36 Pitchfork hazard
- 37 Winter plague
- 38 Adhere
- 40 Fish or fight
- 41 Hush!
- 43 Linking verb
- 44 "I was an hungred and ye gave me no \_\_\_\_\_" (Matthew 25:42)
- 45 \_\_\_\_\_ and Gown
- 47 Unplanned information channel (colloq.)
- 48 Son of Judah (Genesis 38)
- 50 Used to row the boat
- 51 Opera solo
- 53 "At \_\_\_\_\_" (heard at certain camps)
- 55 Meddle
- 56 Be introduced
- 57 "I am instructed ... both to abound and to suffer \_\_\_\_\_" (Philippians 4:12)

- 3 One of the Kettles
- 4 "And they shall \_\_\_\_\_ him in an hundred shekels of silver" (Deuteronomy 22:19)
- 5 "The chariots shall \_\_\_\_\_ in the streets" (Nahum 2:4)
- 6 Number of lepers in Samaria who praised God (Luke 17)
- 7 Bar Harbor state (abbr.)
- 8 Auntie \_\_\_\_\_ (L. F. Baum character)
- 9 Tiny and young
- 10 Southern state (abbr.)
- 11 Ready
- 17 "Let us not be weary ... for in \_\_\_\_\_ season we shall reap" (Galatians 6:9)
- 18 Deli staple
- 19 "Bring ye all the \_\_\_\_\_ into the storehouse" (Malachi 3:10)
- 20 Lion's portion
- 21 Horologist's concern, in a way
- 23 \_\_\_\_\_ of action
- 24 Level, as a building (Brit.)
- 25 "First, I \_\_\_\_\_ my God through Jesus Christ for you all" (Romans 1:8)
- 26 Didn't remember
- 28 \_\_\_\_\_ Islands
- 30 Dreary
- 31 "Let us not love in word ... but in \_\_\_\_\_" (1 John 3:18)

### Down

- 1 Number of lepers in Samaria who were healed by Jesus (Luke 17)
- 2 In the manner of

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
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35								37		
		38	39					40		
41	42		43			44				
45		46				47			48	49
50				51	52			53	54	
55				56					57	

- 33 Agitate
- 37 Become aware of
- 39 Ecu
- 40 The Great \_\_\_\_\_
- 41 Organ option
- 42 "As small as the \_\_\_\_\_ frost on the ground" (Exodus 16:14)
- 44 "I have \_\_\_\_\_ to eat that ye know not of" (John 4:32)
- 46 Droll
- 47 \_\_\_\_\_ low
- 48 Compass dir.
- 49 Buttons
- 51 Exist
- 52 In \_\_\_\_\_
- 54 One (Scot.)

### Last week's solution

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

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## Slain missionary's widow retires with forgiveness in her heart

By Caroline Anderson  
International Mission Board

Richmond, Va.—Instead of celebrating with flowers, chocolates and a romantic dinner, emeritus missionary Lyn Hyde spent her 43rd wedding anniversary alone. On June 12, 1966, she had vowed to love, honor and cherish her husband, Bill, until death parted them. In 2003, a terrorist's bomb at a Philippines airport did just that.

As she sat on an airplane following her husband's body back to the United States, Lyn decided she would never return to the Philippines.

But God had a different plan.

God began impressing on Lyn's heart the story of Joseph and how many trials he had to overcome.

"Even though he was sold into slavery by his brothers, he was wrongly accused by Potiphar's wife, he was thrown into prison, ... he never gave up," Lyn said. "Even though he maybe did not understand why all this was happening, he still trusted and believed in his God. And so the Lord was teaching me. I may not understand why God allowed my husband to be killed by a bomb, but God understood and I could still trust Him. And even though going back to the Philippines would not be easy, I could still trust that there was a purpose (in) going back and not to give up."

### Back to the Philippines

When Lyn returned to the mission field the following year, her new assignment was helping train Filipinos to work in closed-access countries.

It was during this time she found comfort in God's faithfulness to Joseph.

"God really used those passages in Genesis for taking me back to the Philippines

and keeping me there on some of the days when I said, 'I can't do it, God. I just can't be here,'" she recalled. "I can't do what you are asking me to do."

Ironically, it was among the Filipinos that Lyn found closure.

One Sunday evening, she attended the worship service of a partnering Baptist church. The guest speaker, before giving his life over to the Lord, had made it his mission to kill Christians. He was following a legacy passed down from family members who were imams, or Muslim leaders.

His message at church that night was about his conversion from Islam to Christianity.

Although the speaker had never met Lyn, "He just shot off that platform and came directly to me and grabbed my hands, and he said to me, 'Please forgive my people for what they did to you and to your family,'" she recalled. "I have killed Christians because I thought that was what I was supposed to do. And many of those people, I have not ever been able to go back (to their families) and ask for forgiveness."

Lyn told the man she forgave him.

That was "one of those moments I knew that's why God called me back there—not only to give me some comfort, but to release this man from the things he had done before he knew Jesus Christ," she said.

After 31 years of missionary service, Lyn Hyde retired this summer.

She and Bill had dreamed of living in the mountains someday but put that dream on hold when they moved to the Philippines. Now, however, Lyn has made a home for herself in Colorado Springs, Colo. (BP)

## Eunice Kennedy Shriver remembered for her defense of 'most vulnerable'

By Michael Foust

Hyannis, Mass.—Eunice Kennedy Shriver was a lifelong Democrat and member of a political family that largely embraced abortion rights. But on that controversial issue, she was pro-life.

Shriver died Aug. 11 at the age of 88. She is perhaps best remembered as the founder of the Special Olympics. But while she was a lifelong advocate of the intellectually disabled, she also was an abortion opponent—and she saw her two positions as being closely aligned.

More than four decades ago—before the Supreme Court issued its 1973 Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion—Shriver feared that if abortion was legalized and prenatal testing was used, then disabled unborn babies would be the target. Sadly, an estimated 90 percent of Down syndrome babies are aborted each year.

She was not quiet about her pro-life views and consistently promoted adoption. In the summer of 1992, Shriver and her husband, Sargent, joined other pro-life leaders in signing a full-page New York Times ad that argued America should not "abandon the principle of respect for human life." "We can choose to extend once again the mantle of protection to all members of the human family, including the unborn," the ad stated. It ran during the Democratic National Convention, which was held in New York.

She also is credited with helping get U.S. Catholic bishops fully on board the pro-life movement in the 1960s.

"No one more than Eunice Kennedy Shriver understood better the power held by the most vulnerable in our soci-

ety," Marjorie Dannenfelser, president of the Susan B. Anthony List, an organization for pro-life female politicians, said in a statement. Shriver once served on the group's advisory committee. "She fought for those hidden in the shadows of life, while acknowledging that they teach us far more than we could ever offer them. She was consistent in her championing of every vulnerable human life."

Shriver, the sister of former President John F. Kennedy and current Sen. Edward Kennedy, was "deeply influenced" by the fact that one of her sisters, Rosemary, was mentally disabled, according to the 1998 book "Wrath of Angels" by James Risen and Judy Thomas, which profiled the cultural battle over abortion.

"By the mid-1960s," the book states, "Shriver began to fear that the new abortion reform campaign represented a threat to the mentally retarded." It adds that Shriver saw individuals' desires to "avoid having children with serious birth defects," as "callous and cold (and) the mark of a society that believed in disposable human beings."

Shriver's husband was one of the last pro-life Democrats on a major presidential ticket, serving as vice presidential candidate in 1972 alongside Democratic nominee George McGovern, who was pro-choice.

Interestingly, Edward Kennedy—now a staunch supporter of abortion rights—was quoted in a 1971 Massachusetts Catholic Conference package of materials as being pro-life. Kennedy said he would never "support the hard society wherein a child in the womb could be victimized legally," according to Risen and Thomas. (BP)

## 'I'll never do that again'

### Despite former president's promise, OBI once again requests used clothing

Many Kentucky Baptists either personally knew or knew of former Oneida president Barkley Moore. He was bigger than life to many friends of this ministry, including myself. I have never been bashful about telling people that he was my mentor, and that I learned more about what being like Jesus meant from him than from any other person. You don't have to spend much time with anyone who knew him before the "Barkley stories" begin to fill the air.

I remember back in the early '90s when large quantities of used clothing began to arrive on our campus. When I say "large quantities," I really mean large quantities. We didn't have much storage in those days and we didn't have a place to store all the clothes. Though I often laugh about it now, it was not funny then. We had clothing everywhere. We began to wonder if it would ever stop coming.

As the mountain of clothing grew, Moore told me, "I will never write an article in the Western Recorder again about needing used clothing." He had written an article indicating our need for used clothes just a few weeks earlier.

From time to time our surplus of used clothing has gotten a little low, and I have been tempted to write an article letting our friends know that we could use more. But those words, "I will never write an article again about needing used clothing," have always haunted me. Well, in spite of my fears, I am writing about our need for used clothing.

Normally the spring, summer and fall deliveries of used clothing pretty much take care of our

needs. Our students, faculty and staff are allowed access to the used clothes free of charge. Some of our students simply need extra clothes from time to time, especially coats in the winter. Our students also are allowed to have the clothing they need free of charge. Most of our friends know that our faculty and staff serve for very modest salaries, so they are allowed to get the clothes they need for their families.

Additionally, we try to provide used clothing at a very modest price to this area and the surrounding communities. Oneida has a long history of trying to provide a used-clothing ministry to those in our area who have a need. When I was a student here back in the '60s, I remember seeing visitors on our campus nearly every day going to our used clothing store, then called the "Jot-em Down Store."

I am not sure why we have been running low on our supply of used clothing. We may have more community people needing used clothing because of the economy. Additionally, it's possible that we are receiving less clothing. This may be because much of the used clothing that normally comes to us is possibly being sold in yard sales.

So to all of our friends out there who frequently ask what you can do for Oneida, please bring us the clothes. In recent years, many of our friends also have brought used but usable household items and good used furniture. If you bring it, we will use it. Needless to say, we don't need clothing that is of very poor quality. It would not be good stewardship to waste gas and time to bring clothing or other items that no one can use.

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

### This is Oneida



W.F. Underwood

## Planning for tomorrow today

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

I am still 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

Fishing is a great sport that millions of men and women enjoy each year. What I forget many times about fishing, though, is how my success today is based on what has happened yesterday or even the past several days. It may be beautiful and sunny today, but if the last several days were full of rain, it may be impossible to fish. This doesn't affect the larger bodies of water as much, but it still makes a difference. The rivers and streams always will show the effect from the weather of a few days earlier.

This fishing truth reminds me of how important it is for me to do the right things today so I can be ready for what might happen in the future.

So many people live their lives only reacting to the situations they find themselves in. The best way to ensure the right response is preparing for the action ahead of time. If

you are fishing with the expectation of the possibility of an evening thunderstorm, you will be both prepared for it and not taken aback when it comes.

Many times in our spiritual lives we are thrown into a storm. The Bible is clear that these will come to all of our lives from time to time. Thus, we need to expect them and be prepared for them as well. We do this by knowing what the Bible says about these storms and by reading how God delivered His people in and through them. When we see how God responded then, we know how He will respond in our situation as well. And as a result, we will not be blindsided by whatever comes our way.

The biblical principle here is "you reap what you sow." If you sow into your life the truths about God now, you will reap the benefits of right reactions when you're caught in the storm later. Don't wait until you're in the storm to look for needed help—everything you need to prepare for it is available now.

### Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

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

## Southern Baptists work through BGR to break down barriers in Middle East

**Middle East**—Baptists in a Middle Eastern country\* are partnering with Southern Baptists to give their neighbors, as the old saying goes, "A hand up, not just a handout."

In 2007, believers in the country brought their neighbors' plight to the attention of Southern Baptist humanitarian workers in the region. Together they developed a strategy that would meet short-term needs while helping parents develop skills to better provide for their families over the long term.

Residents of the area struggle to survive, earning only about 40 percent of their country's normal standard of living. On a day-to-day basis, they cannot afford necessities like food, medicine and heat for their homes, and their long-term prospects are clouded by the scarcity of jobs and their lack of training. Because the country predominantly follows another world religion, Christians find themselves faced with significant obstacles in reaching out to people in need.

In consultation with Abraham Shepherd, who with his wife, Grace, directs Baptist Global Response work in the Middle East, local Baptists and Southern Baptist humanitarian workers developed a two-pronged strategy.

To meet immediate needs, they provided packets of food—including sugar, rice, oil, eggs, milk, tea and pasta—essential medicines, heaters and blankets the families could not afford. They also designed a program to train locals in skills that would enable them to improve their standards of living and help them better provide for their families.

The long-term strategy included educational centers where literacy courses, English classes and computer training are offered. Individuals also were taught how to develop their own businesses. In the component of the program that ran the first four months of this year, an estimated 800 people were helped at a cost of \$31.25 each from resources provided by Southern Baptists who gave to their World Hunger Fund.

Another benefit of the program is that while local Baptists were helping their neighbors, they also were developing their own leadership and serving skills. Because relationships are so important in the local culture, local Baptists were able to break down barriers by demonstrating God's love for their neighbors.

"The object of this project is to work through local believers to reach the poor of this nation," said the project director\*. "Our desire is for local believers to have a passion for their neighbors' needs and be able to reach out in love. As the local believers get involved in sharing, they will be encouraged by seeing what God is doing and what great things He can do."

Even a small gift to the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund sets in motion a ripple effect that touches lives for generations to come, Shepherd said.

"By their generous giving to the World Hunger Fund, Southern Baptists trigger a chain reaction of caring that reaches across oceans," he said. "It touches people in need and shapes national believers in the lesson of generosity and giving to their neighbors in need."

\*Names withheld for security reasons



**WORKING FOR A BETTER LIFE** This artisan group of women in Afghanistan makes handmade products for sale through WorldCrafts, which has launched the Set1Free campaign to help groups working to free women trapped by human trafficking and sexual exploitation. (WMU photo)

## WMU WorldCrafts ministry starts Set1Free campaign to free exploited women

**Birmingham, Ala.**—WorldCrafts SM has launched a three-year Set1Free campaign this month to actively empower WorldCrafts customers and aid artisan groups working to free women trapped by human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

Each year, by force, fraud or coercion, millions of individuals find themselves trapped in bonded labor and sexual exploitation. WorldCrafts—a ministry of Woman's Missionary Union—artisan groups are working to end these evils by providing a sustainable income to people in poverty. When earning a living wage, parents are less likely to be seduced by a sex trafficker's poison promises. And young women hoping for a better life are less likely to fall prey to criminals seeking to use and abuse the most vulnerable.

"While it can seem difficult to find an entry point in the fight against human trafficking, it is important that we keep working in every manner possible," said Christian singer/songwriter Sara Groves. "Worldcrafts provides quality products created by people around the world attempting to escape poverty."

"With their Set1Free campaign they are specifically working to aid women who have been rescued from trafficking and the organizations that work to rescue them," she added. "Purchasing gifts and goods from Worldcrafts is another great in-road to combating this exploitation of millions."

WorldCrafts will focus on this issue by highlighting some of its artisan groups that are working with women freed from sexual exploitation or women at high risk of becoming victims of human trafficking. There are several avenues of involvement through the Set1Free campaign.

- Learn more about these issues at [www.WorldCraftsVillage.com](http://www.WorldCraftsVillage.com) by reading monthly stories on artisan groups tackling the problems—spiritual, emotional and physical—at a grassroots level.

- Purchase items through WorldCrafts from its Freedom Line groups to financially support those on the front lines of this moral crisis.

- Pray for these artisan groups specifically (download the prayer guide at [WorldCraftsVillage.com](http://WorldCraftsVillage.com)).

Current WorldCrafts artisan groups on the frontlines of the battle against sexual exploitation and human trafficking are listed below:

- Frankadua Vocational Training (Ghana) provides training and assistance to women leaving the Trokosi slave system.

- ConneXions (India) works with women at risk for sexual exploitation.

- Freeset (India) offers alternative employment for those leaving prostitution in Kolkata's infamous sex district.

- Priscilla Centre (India) works with those at risk for human trafficking or exploitation.

- Second Chance (Moldova) offers fair-trade employment for young women at risk for human trafficking in Europe.

- Higher Ground (Nepal) provides viable, honorable work for women at risk for human trafficking.

- Manna Madagascar benefits women leaving the island's sex trade.

- The Well (Thailand) offers a living wage and helping hand for those leaving Thailand's notorious sex trade.

- Proverbs 31 (Uganda) provides income for women in poverty, thus lessening the risk that their young daughters will be sold into exploitative child marriages.

- Kingdom Creations (Cambodia) works with families in poverty whose daughters are at risk for child prostitution.

### Brown: Christians in England do not have to hide their faith

**Canterbury, England**—British Prime Minister Gordon Brown said Christians do not have to hide their religion in the workplace and believers should not be forced to keep their beliefs private.

Brown's comments were made in an interview with the British-based Christian radio station, Premier, and came amid concern that employees in Britain's public sector are facing punishment for practicing their religion.

"I think the role of religion and faith in what people sometimes call the public square is incredibly important," Brown said.

In June, a British nurse said she was considering legal action after she was suspended without pay for two months when she offered to pray for an elderly woman. Around that time a worker was kicked out of a professional association for allowing a girl in her care to convert to Christianity. In addition, two legal registrars claimed discrimination after they refused to perform same-sex ceremonies, saying they were forced out of their jobs.

Asked if it might be better in Britain if Christianity were privatized, the prime minister replied: "I think it's impossible because when we talk about faith, we are talking about what people believe in, we are talking about the values that underpin what they do, we are talking about the convictions that they have about how you can make for a better society." (RNS)

## Group reports more beheadings of Christian converts in Somalia

**Washington**—Four more Christians have been beheaded in Somalia, according to the Washington-based human rights organization International Christian Concern.

The four Christians had been working for a non-governmental organization that aids orphans in southern Somalia. The Islamic extremist group al Shabaab, which has ties to al-Qaida, "kidnapped and eventually beheaded the Christians after they refused to renounce their faith," International Christian Concern reported Aug. 11.

Earlier this year, seven other Somalis were beheaded, along with two sons of a village church leader.

According to Compass Direct News, a California-based organization that also reports on incidents of persecution:

- The seven Somalis were publicly beheaded July 10 in the town of Bladoa for being deemed "Christians" and "spies" by al Shabaab (which means "the Youth" in Arabic).

- The two sons of a church leader were beheaded Feb. 21. Their father, Musa Mohammed Yusuf, formerly led an underground church in the village of Yoday. He and his wife and a third son subsequently took refuge in Kenya.

Somalia's Christians comprise less than 1 percent of the African nation's 9.8 million people.

After the seven beheadings, the Associated Press reported, "Punishments such as stoning, amputations and beheadings are historically rare in Somalia, which traditionally practices moderate Sufi Islam. But a more extremist form of jihadi Salafist Islam with its roots in Saudi Arabia has taken root during the chaotic warfare of

recent years, strengthened by a recent influx of hundreds of foreign fighters."

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom urged Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to address the issue of religious freedom when she met with Somali President Sheik Sharif Ahmed in Nairobi during her recent trip to Africa.

Media outlets such as the Associated Press did not mention whether Clinton raised such issues.

However, Clinton described Ahmed's moderate Islamist transitional government as "the best hope we've had for some time," The New York Times reported. The Times described Ahmed as "a former religious teacher who rose to popularity in Somalia by helping rescue kidnapped children." Ahmed is not a warlord, one Clinton aide told The Times. "But he's shown the ability to lead. And he's shown the ability to survive."

Clinton promised Ahmed more aid, training and weaponry for battling the insurgents, but The Times noted that the challenge is daunting because the government "controls no more than a few city blocks in a country the size of Texas, with extremist Islamist groups, like the Shabaab, in charge of much of the rest."

Clinton said Al Shabaab intends for Somalia to become "a future haven for global terrorism"—"a base from which to influence and even infiltrate surrounding countries and launch attacks against countries far and near."

After Clinton's visit, the Voice of America reported Aug. 11, Islamic insurgents rejected overtures from Ahmed to stop the violence and begin peace negotiations. (BP)

## PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Pray for all those who will be participating in the Team Leader Training event for international mission trips Sept. 18-19 at the Baptist Building in Louisville. The training is open to any Kentucky Baptist who is planning to lead a mission trip or is interested in learning more about leading a trip.

■ Pray for the ongoing international missions partnership between the Kentucky Baptist Convention and the Baptist Convention of Tanzania, as well as the domestic partnership the KBC has with the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware.

■ Pray for Crestwood Baptist Church Discipleship Pastor Bill Ellis and Prayer Coordinator Clint Elliott who will be traveling to Tanzania Sept. 4-12 to conduct training.

■ Pray for KBC Partnership Missions Director Scott Pittman who is working with a Brazilian church in Salisbury, Md.

■ Pray for those from Bracken Baptist Association who will be doing missions work in Maryland/Delaware.

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

## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Saloma Church will celebrate its 58th anniversary with homecoming services Aug. 23, featuring **Sola Grace** in concert. For more information, call (270) 789-0082. **John Chowning** is pastor.

■ **CENTRAL CITY**—New Hope Church will hold homecoming services Aug. 23, 10 a.m., with **Ronnie Forrest**, pastor of Big Muddy Church in Dunbar, as guest speaker. **Shannon Bunch** will provide special music and a meal will follow the service. **Mickey McPherson** is pastor.

■ **GREENVILLE**—Second Church will hold homecoming services Aug. 23, 9:30 a.m. A potluck lunch will be held at noon. For more information, call (270) 338-6160. **Ray England** is pastor.

■ **HELLIER**—Hellier Missionary Church will hold revival services Aug. 20-22, 7 p.m.; Aug. 23, 11 a.m., with **Shannon Boyd**, associate pastor at Marrowbone Missionary Church in Elkhorn City, as evangelist. **Greg Whitetree** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Parkland Church ordained **Stephen Benzel**, **Jeff Boyer** and **Marcus Young** as deacons Aug. 16. **Tom Curry** is pastor.

## Spotlight on ...

## Salyersville



First Church will host professional angler **Clay Dyer** as guest speaker Aug. 22, 1 & 5 p.m.; Aug. 23, 11 a.m. For more information, call (606) 349-6276. **Matthew Gullion** is pastor.

St. Paul Missionary Church, an African-American congregation, will merge with Shively Heights Church, an anglo congregation, and hold their first services together Aug. 23, 11 p.m. A reception will follow the morning service. **Lincoln Bingham** and **Mark Payton** are pastors.

■ **MURRAY**—First Church will hold revival services Aug. 23, 8:30 & 10:55 a.m. & 6 p.m.; Aug. 24-26, 6:30 p.m., with **John Franklin** as evangelist.

## Campbellsville announces fall schedule for public policy forum

**Campbellsville**—Campbellsville University has announced the schedule for its Kentucky Heartland Institute on Public Policy lecture series during the upcoming fall semester.

"The fall 2009 KHIPP schedule is one of the strongest groups of speakers we've had since KHIPP's founding in 2001," said John Chowning, Campbellsville's vice president of church and external relations, and founder of KHIPP.

"We will be covering several important and emerging topics including the changing face of evangelical political engagement, creation care and earth stewardship concerns in

the Christian community, and the growing spread of genocide around the world," Chowning noted. "Our faculty, staff, students and the larger community will be challenged by the quality and variety of guest lecturers."

Chowning said KHIPP focuses attention on "facilitating public policy study and issues debate, while encouraging the involvement of Christian leaders in the public and civic arenas." He added that the forums also are committed to preparing Christian civic and political leaders for the 21st century.

The lineup of guest presenters is as follows:

■ **Sept. 15**—Ron Sider, director of the Sider Center on Ministry and Public Policy at Palmer Theological Seminary in Wynnewood, Pa., president of Evangelicals for Social Action, and contributing editor of *Christianity Today* and *Sojourners* magazines. Topic: "Roundtable on Christian Public Policy Perspectives: The Changing Face of Evangelical Christians in Politics and Public Policy Debate."

■ **Sept. 28**—Paul Prather, pastor of Bethesda Church in Mount Sterling. Topic: "Evangelical Christians: The Intersection of Faith and Public Policy."

■ **Oct. 6**—Gregory Stanton, profes-

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.

18-19 Team Leader Training, Baptist Building, Louisville.

19 Children in Action Missions Day Camp, Corinth Baptist Church, London.

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

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

■ **PHILPOT**—Karns Grove Church recently called **Larry Birkhead** as pastor.

■ **PIKEVILLE**—First Church recently called **John Lucas** as associate pastor for students and families, and **Brian Woofter** as associate pastor

for music and media. **Paul Badgett** is pastor.

■ **RUSSELL SPRINGS**—Providence Church recently called **Louis Shepherd** as pastor. He is a former director of missions for Russell County Association.

sor at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Va., president of Genocide Watch, director of the Cambodian Genocide Project, and vice president of the International Association of Genocide Scholars. Topic: "Genocide in the World Today: Countries Most at Risk."

■ **Nov. 3**—Matthew Sleeth, author of "Serve God, Save the Planet: A Christian Call to Action," and founder of Blessed Earth. Topic: "Serving God, Saving the Planet."

All forums will be held at 5 p.m. in the banquet hall on the Campbellsville University campus. They are free and open to the public.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

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Rates are available upon request.  
Call (502) 489-3428; or visit [www.WesternRecorder.org](http://www.WesternRecorder.org).  
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**SEEKING:** Full-time (preferable) or bivocational pastor for Glens Creek Baptist Church in Versailles. Please send resumé to Search Committee, Glens Creek Baptist Church, 4678 Steele Road, Versailles, KY 40383.

**SEEKING:** Part-time youth director. Please send resumé to Eatom Memorial Baptist Church, 1225 West Third St., Owensboro, KY 42301.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of Christian life activities at First Baptist Church, Bowling Green, Ky. Related experience preferable. Send resumé to: [mhopper@firstbaptistbg.org](mailto:mhopper@firstbaptistbg.org); or fax to (270) 842-8506. Deadline to receive resumé Sept. 4.

**SEEKING:** Full-time associate pastor/minister of education for First Baptist Church, Whitesburg, Ky. Seminary graduate is preferred. Send resumé to Frazier, PO Box 57, Whitesburg, KY 41858; or e-mail [janiedoug@bell.south.net](mailto:janiedoug@bell.south.net).

**SEEKING:** Youth minister for Forks of Elkhorn Baptist Church, Frankfort area. Interested individuals should contact Mark Toothaker at [forks.personnel@yahoo.com](mailto:forks.personnel@yahoo.com); or call (859) 873-1967 for an application packet. Deadline for applications is Sept. 15, 2009.

**SEEKING:** Minister of music to lead expanded blended service at Mt. Moriah Baptist Church in Lewisburg, Tenn. Position primarily will be leading the music program, but there are possible additional responsibilities related to the ministry of the church. Please send resumé to Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, PO Box 1375, Lewisburg, TN 37091. Please e-mail any questions to Paul Lucas at [tbl@bellsouth.net](mailto:tbl@bellsouth.net).

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

## Workplace chaplains care for the unchurched

*With a large percentage of U.S. workers not in church, chaplains stand in the gap*

By Erin Roach

Dallas—Most Americans do not attend church regularly, but they still have deaths in the family, marriage problems and other life crises that they cannot handle alone.

"Seventy percent of the American workforce today does not have a relationship with organized religion," said Gil Stricklin, founder of Marketplace Ministries.

"They're not atheists. They're not even agnostics, most of them. But they don't have a pastor, they don't have a priest, they don't have a rabbi," he stressed. "They have nobody that marries them and buries them."

A growing number of chaplains are finding a niche in the workplace, developing relationships with employees and guiding them through difficult life situations when they either do not have a church home or do not feel comfortable seeking help there.

Shane Satterfield, a regional director for Marketplace Chaplains USA, a division of Marketplace Ministries, told about establishing a chaplain presence at a Pilgrim's Pride poultry plant in Georgia.

A young woman who worked the night shift said to him, "I'm not real sure about this whole chaplain thing. I'm sure I'll never need you guys, but I'm glad you're here," Satterfield recalled.

"A week later, the first phone call I got—at 1 a.m.—was from her. She said, 'My mother just passed away and I don't know what to do.' I said, 'Well, do you have a pastor?' She said, 'I've never been to church in my life. I have no idea what to do.'

"I said, 'Well, I'll be there.' I jumped in the car, ran out to Carrollton, Ga., about an hour drive, met her at the hospital. She was crying, she was a little bit out of sorts, and she said, 'Listen, I don't want to hear any of this 'She's in a better place. God knows best.' I don't want to hear any God stuff from you. I just don't know what to do.'"

Satterfield stepped in to notify the woman's family of her mother's death, help plan the funeral and even perform the service.

"I said, 'When this is all over, you've still got me to talk to.' We buried her mom, and on the way out the door, she said, 'I'm going to take you up on that. I've got some questions I want to ask you. I'll call you next week,'" Satterfield said.

The woman called him in the middle of the night and said she was ready to talk, and he met with her for two weeks as she asked a number of questions.

"As a chaplain, we're trained to answer those questions in a way that hopefully settles questions in her heart about it," Satterfield noted. "The very next week, she called me back and said, 'It's time for me to make a change in my life.' I was able to lead her to Christ in a chicken plant in the nurse's office that afternoon."

Satterfield, who attends Hopewell Baptist Church in Gainesville, Ga., said that story is just a small example of what chaplains do regularly, from factory workers to company owners who are worth millions of dollars and may even go to church, but do not have people they can trust.

"I would estimate that 85 percent of the people that we deal with every day don't have a church home," Satterfield noted. "It



**ON THE JOB** Each week, thousands of workplace chaplains minister to employees who may not have a local church home or who do not feel comfortable discussing life problems with their pastor.

doesn't mean they're not believers. ... Some people know about church, they've been to church and aren't going anymore. Very few that I talk to actually say, 'I'm consistently going.'

"Life happens at a rapid rate, and when it does, I was shocked to find out how many people don't have anyone to turn to. That's why we're there. That's what we do," he said.

Chris Hobgood, who works with a similar organization, Corporate Chaplains of America, said confidentiality plays a significant role in chaplains' work. And because their work is not as high profile as local church pastors, people are not as aware of workplace chaplains.

"But so many of the times that we interact with employees in the workplace who are believers, they feel that they can't share those really ugly parts—those deep, dark secrets—with their pastor because, statistically speaking, within about 18 months if you share one of those issues with a pastor, you'll end up leaving the church just because of what I term the weirdness factor," Hobgood explained.

"Because we do have a high degree of confidentiality and anonymity, we can come alongside the church and help guide those believers and they end up staying in those churches much longer as a result, which we find to be good, said Hobgood, a member of North Metro First Baptist Church of Lawrenceville, Ga. "In some sense, we're kind of helping stabilize those congregations."

Stricklin, of Marketplace Ministries, employs about 2,500 chaplains who serve at 411 companies and care for more than 131,000 employees. During the past 25 years, the chaplains have helped lead more than 50,000 people to Christ, he noted. Also, nearly half a million dollars has been given to individuals in benevolent situations through the chaplain work.

Chaplains also are there when company employees want to get married and do not know who to ask to officiate.

"We're involved not only with the very sad things but we do weddings every week," Stricklin said. "We've done over 1,500 weddings where people come to us and want to get married. They're usually living together, so we get to share with those peo-

### Marketplace Ministries turns 25

By Erin Roach

Dallas—Marketplace Ministries, one of the largest workplace chaplaincy organizations in the U.S., is celebrating 25 years of service.

The organization—which works for more than 400 companies—has four subsidiaries: Marketplace Chaplains USA, Marketplace Chaplains International, Railroad Chaplains of America and Marketplace Ministries Foundation.

Companies hire the chaplain ministry to send in people to care for their workers, often resulting in higher workplace morale and better productivity.

"Marketplace chaplains are people that go to the workplace to do pastoral care for people that don't have that care through the local congregation or the local church—which is the great majority," said Gil Stricklin, founder of Marketplace Ministries. "The great majority of Americans do not go to church every Sunday, but they still get sick, they still need help, they still need a chaplain, they still need someone to care for them. That's what we do."

Stricklin said chaplains come alongside workers to help them through life crises, even investing large amounts of time in someone's wellbeing.

ple the reason for commitment and what that means.

"We establish a lot of new homes built on biblical principles of marriage and longevity of a family," he added.

Stricklin has been a member of First Baptist Church of Dallas for 39 years and holds two degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

"We have more than 400 chaplains who are Southern Baptist on our staff," he pointed out. "We have 81 denominations on our staff, and the largest denominational group ... is Southern Baptists."

The need for chaplains is as intense as it has ever been in the workplace, he said, especially given the difficult economy.

"We're in hospitals every day," he noted. "We've gone where a person has been in the hospital for as long as six months and then another six months in rehabilitation, and the chaplain becomes the cheerleader for that person's wellness and for that person's healing and for any advancement they make in getting back to a life of normalcy."

"The chaplain is there to cheer them on but also is there when they ask for prayer. The chaplain is there to represent God through the power of prayer, that the Great Physician would touch that person's life and heal them physically, emotionally and certainly spiritually," Stricklin added.

During the 25 years of Marketplace Ministries, Stricklin pointed out, more than 50,000 people have accepted Christ.

Marketplace Chaplains International now is in Mexico, Puerto Rico, Scotland, Wales, England and Canada.

"It is constantly amazing to me and our national and international team members how many business men and women in the marketplace are more concerned about the top line—workers and their families—than their bottom line—profit and dividends," Stricklin said. (BP)

"When people don't have anything but financial resources to lean on and that goes away, then they sense that life is over and there is nothing but despair and loneliness," Stricklin noted.

"We have seen a rise in suicides in the last 18 months because some people don't have anything else but finances, and when you lose that you've lost it all, in their minds. But those people that don't have much but they've got Jesus, they stand strong when the storm is raging and when the wind is blowing."

"And chaplains stand with them to encourage them and to share the love of God with everybody—that there is hope beyond economics," he said. (BP)

### Volunteers plant gospel seeds on Tennessee's 'Tail of the Dragon'

By Lonnie Wilkey  
Tennessee Baptist & Reflector

Maryville, Tenn.—Each year, thousands of motorcyclists travel to Tennessee to ride "The Tail of the Dragon."

"The Dragon" is a stretch of U.S. Highway 129 that runs from the intersection of Highway 72 outside Maryville, Tenn., through the Great Smoky Mountains into Deals Gap, N.C.

The 11-mile stretch of road boasts 318 curves—a motorcyclist's dream.

Last year, missions volunteers, working through Chilhowee Baptist Association's Camp Tipton in Maryville, began a ministry on that stretch of highway. Teams from Tennessee and other states passed out water or lemonade to cyclists at a scenic overlook along the route.

This year, volunteers added another element—taking photos of the motorcyclists from an overlook with a breathtaking mountain view in the background, with the goal of sharing the gospel.

"Our focus is to connect with people and allow the Holy Spirit to show us where we can present the gospel to that

person," said volunteer Kurt Bradley.

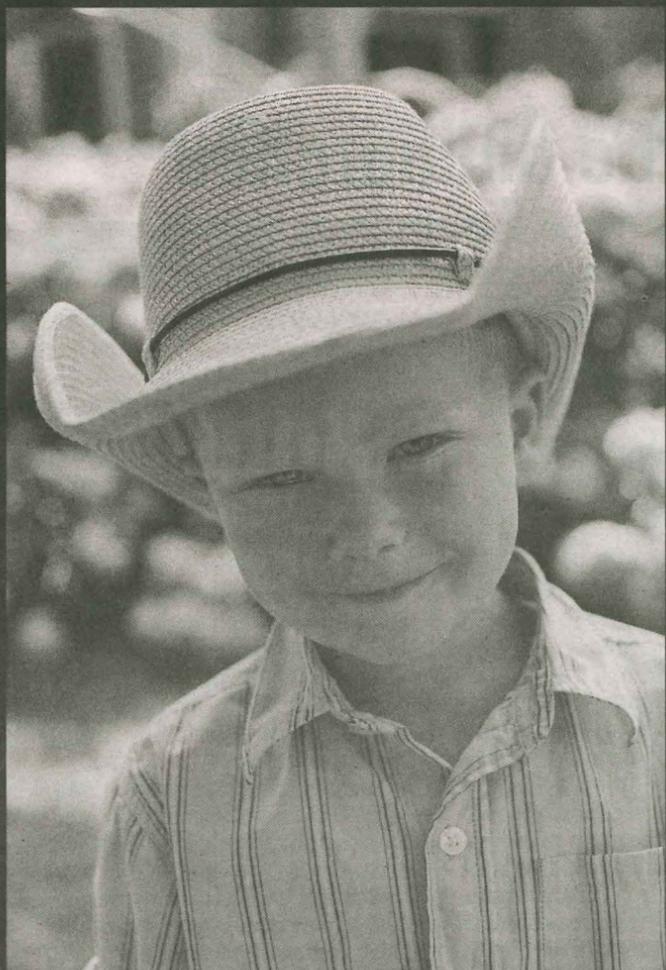
Andy Jordan, director of Camp Tipton, stresses to volunteer teams that they go to the overlook with "the frame of mind that you are going there to plant seeds."

If the opportunity to present the gospel does not happen, however, all is not lost, thanks to the photography element of the ministry. The photographs have become a key tool in reaching the motorcyclists.

Those who are photographed can go to the Camp Tipton Web site and download the photo for free, but in the process each individual hears a full presentation of the gospel via a Billy Graham video clip. It also includes a clear invitation for the individual to profess faith in Jesus Christ.

"If we don't have the opportunity to present the gospel face to face, they will have another chance to meet the Lord," Bradley said.

Both Bradley and Jordan said motorcyclists have been very receptive to the ministry at the overlook site. (BP)

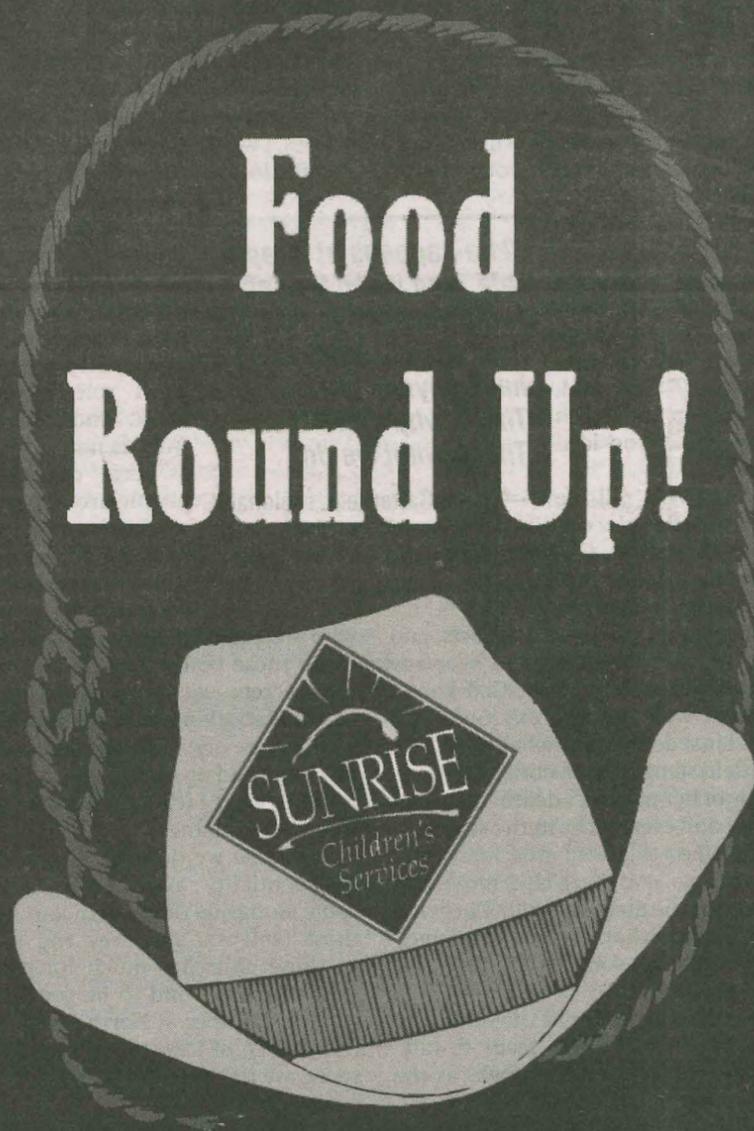


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