

Shine like stars in the world  
Philippians 2:15

# WESTERN Recorder

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WMU Kentucky Notes



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## FOR THE RECORD

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## KBC committee proposes state GCR task force

By Kristie Randolph  
Kentucky Baptist Convention

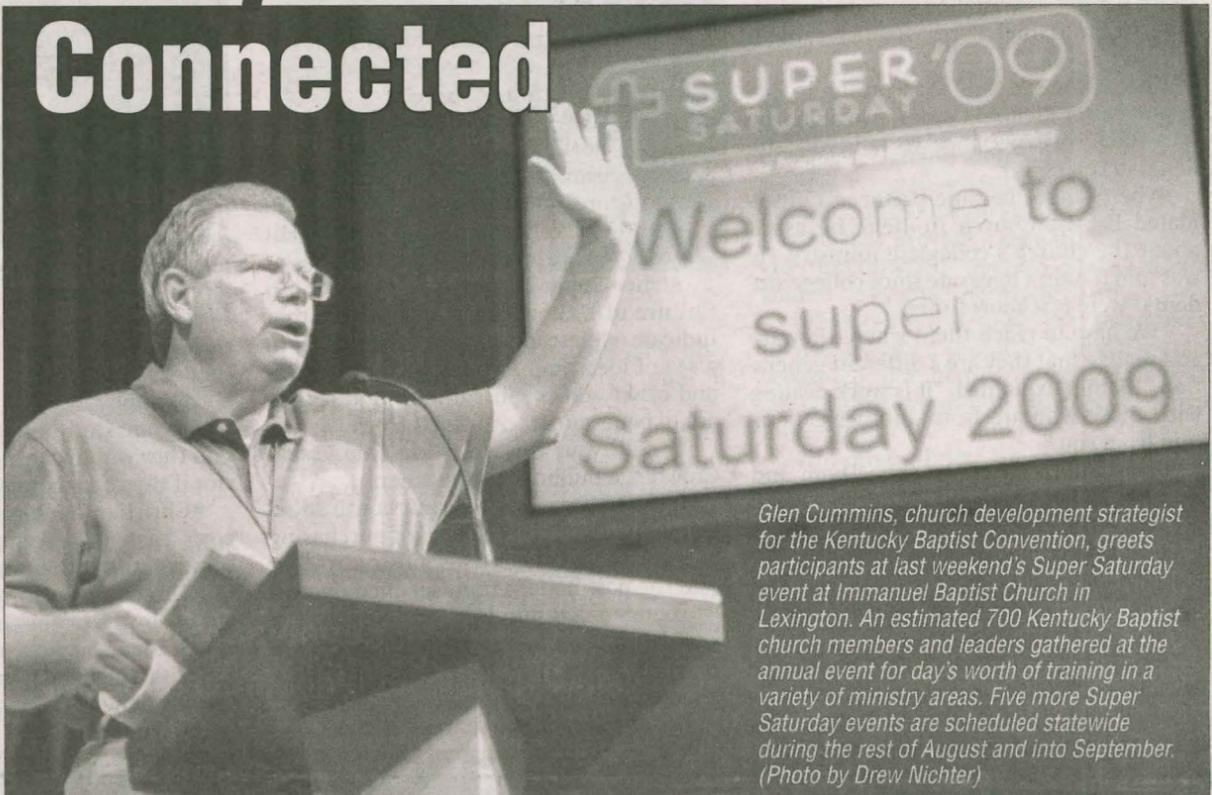
Louisville—The administrative committee of the Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board has approved a recommendation calling for the formation of a Great Commission Task Force for the KBC.

Meeting in executive session last week, the committee voted to send the recommendation to the full Mission Board for consideration at its Nov. 9 meeting. If approved, it would then go before messengers attending the KBC annual meeting at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown Nov. 10.

The task force, to be appointed by KBC President John Mark Toby, would be asked to study “how Kentucky Baptists can work more faithfully and effectively together in serving Christ through the Great Commission.” The task force would bring its report and any recommendations it might have to messengers attending the 2010 annual meeting at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington.

In a letter to Mission Board members, administrative committee Chairman Darren Gaddis said the committee’s decision was in response to action by messengers attending the Southern Baptist Convention in Louisville in June to ask SBC President Johnny Hunt to appoint a task force to examine how Southern Baptist national organizations are engaged in helping fulfill the Great Commission. That task force already  See Great Commission ... *Page 2*

## Super Connected



Glen Cummins, church development strategist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, greets participants at last weekend’s Super Saturday event at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington. An estimated 700 Kentucky Baptist church members and leaders gathered at the annual event for day’s worth of training in a variety of ministry areas. Five more Super Saturday events are scheduled statewide during the rest of August and into September. (Photo by Drew Nichter)

## Super Saturday helps Ky. Baptists ‘make vital connections’ in ministry

By Drew Nichter  
News Director

Lexington—With so many Southern Baptists these days focused on how to better accomplish God’s Great Commission, Kentucky Baptists learned more about how to do just that at last weekend’s Super Saturday in Lexington.

Church and denominational leaders gathered at Immanuel Baptist Church for the first of the Kentucky Baptist Convention’s annual training events to share ideas and resources in a variety of ministry areas. This year’s theme: Making vital connections.

Event coordinator Darryl Wilson, KBC’s adult Sunday school depart-

ment director, estimated that about 700 people showed up for the dozens of available workshops, ranging from youth ministry to finance and stewardship to deacon ministry.

In addition to the usual lineup, this year’s Super Saturday event offered conferences focused on two new tracks on which the KBC has placed an emphasis: Essential Church and Find It Here.

Essential Church refers to the book by Thom and Sam Rainer that examines the reasons for the high rate of church dropouts among the 18-22 age range.

In a video during the opening session, Sam Rainer said that studies for “Essential Church” found

that 70 percent of young adults leave the church. He suggested that solving the dropout problem within that age range could go toward solving the overall church dropout problem.

To do that, he stressed, churches “have to be essential to (young adults) so that they know they’re an essential part of the church.” (See related story on page 2.)

The Find It Here track highlighted workshops designed to prepare church leaders and members for Kentucky Baptists’ ambitious evangelism initiative set to kick off next year.

The initiative calls for all Ken-  See Essential Church ... *Page 2*

## Reallocation of Georgetown College CP funds nears end

By Drew Nichter  
News Director

Georgetown—Four years ago, the Kentucky Baptist Convention and its oldest educational institution, Georgetown College, began discussions which ultimately led to a new relationship between the two.

That memorandum of understanding included a phasing out of Cooperative Program funds from the KBC to Georgetown, in exchange for the school to name its own trustees.

When the KBC’s fiscal calendar page turns to 2009-10 next week, Georgetown College will no longer receive CP money from the convention, thus closing a historic chapter for both entities.

However, leaders of the school and the convention insist a ministry partnership between the two will continue well into the future.

“It’s not our intention to not continue to be a ministry partner with the KBC,” said Georgetown President Bill Crouch.

“There’s an ongoing connection—relationally and in ministry—that continues in goodwill and

a desire to assist each other,” echoed Bill Mackey, KBC’s executive director.

In 2005, Georgetown leaders expressed a desire to terminate the covenant agreement between the school and the KBC that had been in place since 1987. It specified that the convention had the right to select Georgetown’s trustees in return for financial support through the Cooperative Program.

In a 2005 interview with the Western Recorder about Georgetown’s request for a new agreement, Crouch cited the failure of the Partnership 2000 campaign (a joint fundraising effort by Georgetown, Campbellsville University and University of the Cumberlands), a vote by KBC messengers in 2004 against a proposed constitutional amendment to allow KBC-related colleges to recruit non-Baptist students, and a decision in 2005 by the KBC’s Committee on Nominations to reject Crouch’s first choice to fill a trustee vacancy.

Crouch also alluded to the goal of Georgetown College attaining Phi Beta Kappa status,

the highest academic rank a college or university can achieve.

“The differences had to do with what was being taught in the classroom, and the way that we approach, as a liberal arts educational institution, the teaching, as opposed to the way a church would teach,” Crouch said in an interview last week. “We were beginning to see where those things were coming at odds with each other.”

The request came at a time when Baptist universities historically aligned with state conventions—such as Belmont University in Tennessee and Mercer University in Georgia—were parting amid controversies and lawsuits.

Charles Barnes, who chaired the KBC/Georgetown joint workgroup that developed the new agreement, said leadership on both sides of the table wanted discussions to proceed in a positive manner.

“No one wanted Georgetown to suffer, because if the school suffered, that meant a lot of  See Georgetown, KBC leaders ... *Page 3*

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, Aug. 19

# Relevance is key to keeping young adults, youth in church

By Drew Nichter & Dannah Prather  
News Director & Partnerships Editor

Lexington—There are more than 27,000 students at the University of Kentucky. And as most statistics show, a good majority of them do not attend church.

As part of the Essential Church track at this year's Super Saturday event in Lexington, workshop participants discussed the hows and whys of young adult church involvement—or lack thereof.

"Young adults are leaving the church because it's not essential or relevant to their lives," said Daniel Berry, Baptist campus minister at UK.

That is the sad reality according to Berry and Pastor Richard Gaines, two men who have plenty of experience working with students in Lexington.

When Gaines became pastor at Consolidated Baptist Church in 1996, he asked about the church's collegiate ministry. He was told it didn't have one since college students "were just short-timers."

"We have to reach them where they are and realize that they are a different generation," Gaines explained. "It is work dealing with those who are from another generation from you."

Using information from the Thom and Sam Rainer book "Essential Church," Berry pointed out that 70 percent of young adults ages 18-22 drop out of church. He also ran through a lengthy list of reasons why. The bottom line: Church is no longer relevant to their generation.

Both Berry and Gaines urged pastors to embrace non-traditional means of communicating such as Facebook and Twitter. "To reach this generation, we've got to get out of our comfort zone," Gaines said.

The two ministers also agreed that pastors need to be authentic and vulnerable in

their interactions with young adults.

Berry suggested that pastors take an even bolder step in their churches by tackling social justice and creation care issues. He said if young adults see that the church has a homeless ministry or even something as simple as a recycling bin, they will see that the church cares.

Even though the numbers seem grim, Gaines insisted that all hope is not lost.

"If you minister to them effectively, they'll come to where you are," he said, adding that many young adults simply are looking for affirmation within the church. "We've got to validate them right now as being part of the present church."

While the church is working hard to keep the 18-22 age group, some say the problems begin much earlier.

According to Cyndi Crowder, a youth ministry worker at Campbellsville Baptist Church, "we are losing a generation."

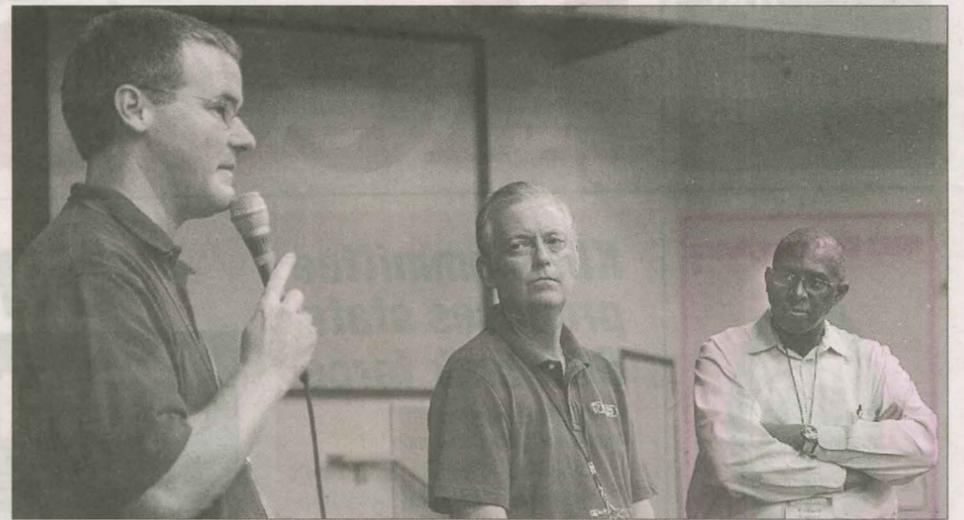
At her Super Saturday session, "Youth Culture 101," Crowder shared statistics that indicate adolescents and teens are adrift in a sea of ideas and technology that parents and other adults must understand if they are to penetrate it with God's truth.

"I tell you this to God's truth," said Crowder, a public school teacher.

Just as MP3 players permit youth to select individual songs instead of purchasing an entire CD of one artist's music, Crowder said the postmodern mindset encourages a "mix-and-match mindset" on religion. The world-view of today's average youth "is rooted in the belief that there is no such thing as objective truth," she said.

Other research she shared revealed:

- Three-fourths of parents do not monitor their kids' Internet usage. An estimated one in three students has access to the World Wide Web in their bedrooms; 70 per-



**Q & A** Daniel Berry (left), campus minister at the University of Kentucky, fields a question during a panel discussion at the Reaching and Keeping Young Adults workshop at last weekend's Super Saturday event in Lexington. Looking on are Mike James (center), discipleship assimilation coordinator for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, and Richard Gaines, pastor of Consolidated Baptist Church in Lexington. (Photo by Drew Nichter)

cent of 15 to 17 year olds have viewed online pornography.

- In one study, only 20 percent of youth said they would tell their father for advice if they had a problem.

- Christian apologist Josh McDowell reports that 67 percent of church youth think adults at their church are hypocrites.

- Three in five church teens will drop out of church by the time they are 29.

- Students "pick when adults interact with them," Crowder said, describing much of the average teenager's life as an "adult-free zone."

- "Students are seeking family outside their own family." Text messaging and social Web sites such as MySpace and Facebook are the preferred substitutes.

- "Biblical illiteracy is at an all-time high," Crowder said.

The latter is a sign of a more disturbing trend, she added. Church teens, even those without a basic understanding of doctrine, say they feel pressured by adults within the church to share the gospel with their peers.

Crowder and youth leaders attending the session brainstormed several ways to better educate, evangelize and disciple youth and families.

Instead of a full calendar of youth-only events, the church should provide opportunities for families to spend time together through retreats and mission trips. Youth leaders suggested "gadget-free" lock-ins, retreats and mission trips.

## Great Commission Task Force proposal to be voted on by Mission Board in Nov.

Continued from page 1

has begun its work and will be reporting back to SBC messengers next June in Orlando, Fla.

"This (appointing a Kentucky task force) would allow the KBC to Kentucky the national effort in evaluating how we as a state convention can best fulfill the Great Commission," Gaddis said.

Gaddis, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Corbin, affirmed the work of the Kentucky Baptist Mission Board staff and that of the other entities that receive at least some of the funding from the convention. These include Campbellsville University, Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Oneida Baptist Institute, University of the Cumberland, Kentucky Baptist Assemblies, Kentucky Baptist Foundation, Sunrise Children's Services, Western Recorder and Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union.

"We certainly appreciate and affirm the work of our Mission Board staff and that of every Kentucky Baptist Convention entity. We know that

each of our state organizations have been and are working faithfully," Gaddis said. "They are all led by capable and committed individuals who receive guidance from boards prayerfully selected and elected by Kentucky Baptists. It is healthy for any great organization to be constantly seeking ways to be even better and it is in this spirit that we recommend the formation of this task force."

KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey said he supports the idea of a state Great Commission task force.

"Growing, whether as an individual or as an organization, takes a willingness to step back from time to time and evaluate," Mackey noted. "I see this as a very good way to do just that. Kentucky Baptists have a strong track record of using special committees like this one to study big issues effectively and I believe God will bless as we seek His guidance."

The Great Commission refers to Jesus' command to His followers in Matthew 28:19-20 to "make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you." Southern Baptists have asked for this mandate to guide the work of the SBC's Great Commission Task Force that already is underway.

In other business, the committee members approved a recommendation to hire Greta Wilson of East Bernstadt as a part-time missions education consultant for Baptist Men on Mission. In her new role, Wilson will assist churches and associations in starting and strengthening missions education for boys by providing training, resources and encouragement to church leadership.

"Mrs. Wilson has been doing this type of work as a consultant for the North American Mission Board for several years, and for the past year, she has served in this role as a Mission Corps missionary for the Baptist Men on Mission department," said Randy Jones, KBC's missions growth team leader. "She has been well received by the Baptist Men constituency."

With additional reporting by Editor Todd Deaton



Greta Wilson

## Essential Church, Find It Here highlight Super Saturday event

Continued from page 1

tucky Baptist churches to blanket their communities with the gospel in the weeks leading up to Easter Sunday 2010. They are being urged to prayerwalk and go door to door giving out bags containing a gospel tract and a connection card inviting people to a local Baptist church for Easter.

Some of the Find It Here-related classes dealt with prayerwalking, church membership and servant evangelism.

In his workshop, Chris Platt told participants that servant evangelism is a part of who he is, and that a good justification is made for it in Scripture.

"It was Jesus who showed us that our kindness—the way that we do good—can truly make a difference," noted Platt, missions and ministries pastor at Crestwood Baptist Church.

Throughout the Bible, Platt explained, Jesus is seen serving others and showing us "how to love with no strings attached."

"Here He was in the biggest points of His life and He is showing the value of caring for others. ... Our Lord did that," Platt noted. "And if it was good enough for Jesus, it might be good enough for us, right?"

Platt said that, too often, churches become so internally focused "they don't think about anybody beyond themselves." Servant evangelism allows a church to become ex-

ternally focused and brings new life into the church.

There are many ways churches can participate in servant evangelism, but Platt urged participants to focus only on those that are relevant to their communities. What works in California may not always work in Kentucky, he reminded.

One of the most successful activities at Crestwood Baptist, Platt shared, is raking leaves in the fall for homeowners in nearby subdivisions. He said participants break up into larger teams and cover two or three neighborhoods in a day.

Often, he said, people will be surprised or intrigued by why a group of strangers would want to rake leaves, expecting nothing in return. That usually will allow an opportunity to transition the conversation toward Christ, he said. While it may not end with a conversion, "that's a seed you've sown," Platt pointed out.

He urged churches that want to do servant evangelism to be prepared to invest in it financially. He even suggested making such activities part of the church budget.

Five more Super Saturday events remain in August and September: Aug. 29, Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown; Sept. 12, First Baptist Church of Paducah, and First Baptist Church of Somerset; Sept. 19, First Baptist Church of Pikeville, and Zion Baptist Church in Henderson.

## KBC Louisville flood relief effort to run through the weekend

Louisville—The Kentucky Baptist Convention has again extended its effort to help Louisville residents affected by severe flooding Aug. 4, and has invited Southern Baptist disaster relief volunteers from across the nation to help serve.

According to KBC Disaster Relief Associate Coy Webb, the effort originally was scheduled to finish by Aug. 6, but was initially extended until Aug. 15 to meet the needs of residents. Webb said requests for assistance continued to come in and the decision was made to extend the effort through Aug. 29.

"We have invited other state disaster relief teams to join us in the effort as homes needing flood cleanup has swollen to almost 1,000 homes," Webb said. "There are hundreds of potential mud-out jobs that still need to be completed."

The national call-out was made Aug. 13, he said, and three states have responded thus far. Volunteers from Alabama, Missouri and Texas arrived last week, Webb noted.

At least 70 volunteers from Kentucky already have been part of the effort. The volunteers are providing mud-out work free of charge to area residents whose homes sustained damage from the floods. More than 50 jobs have been completed to date.

## Benefits of small groups outweigh concerns

By Dannah Prather  
Partnerships Editor

Lexington—According to Rick Howerton, small-group specialist with LifeWay Christian Resources, concerns that "small groups" replace existing ministries such as Sunday school or Sunday-evening worship cloud the question of whether or not the approach effectively reaches people with the gospel and equips them for Christian service.

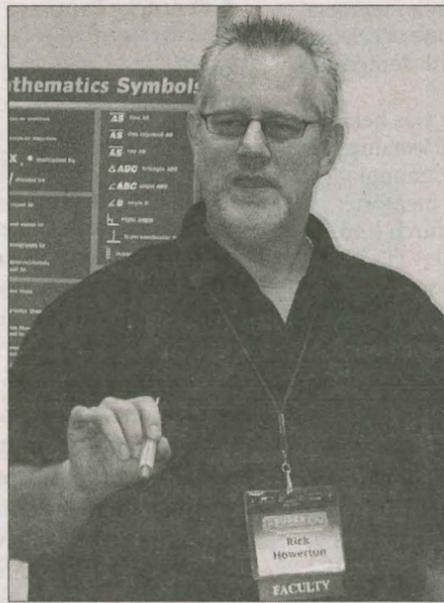
Quoting from Colossians, Howerton told Kentucky Baptists attending the Super Saturday workshop that the church's mission is to "present everyone mature in Christ." Less important, he said, is if the maturation process occurs in a Sunday school class or a friend's living room.

"A small group is four to 12 people doing the Christian life deeply together, really," said Howerton, a former staff member at Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green. Adding "really" to the definition is Howerton's way to emphasize the importance of authenticity among members of small groups.

In a church setting, people often are reluctant to ask questions or express opinions that others may disagree with, he explained. In a smaller, more casual group it is easier to talk honestly.

He compared the experience to a group of pilots who each want a turn at the controls. They "want to be given the chance to share their ideas and feelings and circle the runway," Howerton said.

Emphasizing sound biblical teaching, he added that it is the group leader's re-



Rick Howerton

sponsibility to take the controls and "only allow truth to land before the hour is out."

To create an open atmosphere, each member of a small group must commit to a "covenant" of respect and confidentiality, Howerton said.

Small groups meet at many different times but Howerton reported that in some churches now offering small groups instead of Sunday-evening worship, adult participation has increased from as little as 10 percent to as high as 80 percent.

He encouraged Kentucky Baptists inter-

ested in starting small groups to:

- Seek God's guidance through prayer.
- Discuss the matter first with the senior pastor. The timing may not be right to start something new.

- Develop a small-group covenant that includes an understanding that when the group reaches a certain size, a second group will be formed from it. To accomplish this, each group must have a leader and an apprentice.

- Noting that families never have been busier than they are now, Howerton said wise church leaders will not insist that members attend both a Sunday school class and a small group.

- Affinity groups, such as scrapbookers, golfers, single moms, etc., are natural sources for small-group development.

- Each small group should schedule activities that provide a casual setting to invite unchurched people. Small groups should be avenues for evangelism.

- If the group is comprised of couples, men and women should occasionally meet separately. If a member is struggling with sin, confession should not occur in the larger group.

- At other times, men could care for kids as a group so women could have an outing together. The men might go golfing or fishing together.

Before asking church leaders to support the idea, small-group proponents must be prepared to answer basic questions about structuring the groups, promoting the ministry and training leaders, Howerton said.

## Parrett: Opportunities abound for those with passion for Ky. missions

By Todd Deaton  
Editor

Lexington—Mission opportunities abound in the Bluegrass, a missions mobilization coordinator for the Kentucky Baptist Convention told Super Saturday participants in Lexington last weekend.

In one of the bevy of breakout sessions offered, "Connecting Your Judea to Christ," Teresa Parrett of Somerset urged, "Use your gifts, talents and skills in short-term or long-term missions."

"Why do missions in Kentucky?" she asked rhetorically, reminding the group quickly of the risen Lord's instructions in Acts 1:8. "Almost 2 million people in Kentucky are unreached," she said, noting that more than 700,000 of those live in one of

the 47 counties in Eastern Kentucky.

In five of those counties, two-thirds of the population or greater are unchurched, according to research conducted by the North American Mission Board. "There are a lot of people who we need to be reaching," she stressed.

While spotlighting a tremendous need for volunteers in Eastern Kentucky, where she has served for the past 10 years, Parrett also shared about opportunities available through the Appalachian Regional Ministry, which spans 12 states, and the Mississippi River Ministry, which works in seven states.

Among the many examples of ways that people can serve, she suggested doing prayerwalks, leading vacation Bible

schools, organizing block parties (or hollow parties), showing the JESUS video, clowning and puppet ministry, providing camps or recreational activities, cleaning yards, repairing homes, providing food and clothing, and building new churches.

She highlighted one unique, upcoming opportunity for Kentucky Baptists: the World Equestrian Games in 2010. More than 15,000 missions volunteers will be needed to work in ministry efforts being planned in Lexington, Georgetown, Versailles and surrounding areas, she said. These ministry projects are being coordinated through Affiliated International Ministries (visit [www.EquestrianMinistries.org/AIM](http://www.EquestrianMinistries.org/AIM) for details).

For those who feel that God is calling

them to be involved in missions work for longer periods, Parrett suggested that they consider serving as MOST or MSC missionaries through the North American Mission Board. MOST missionaries commit to serve 20 hours per week at church-based, associational or campus ministry settings from three months to two years, while MSC missionaries commit to serve for at least 10 years.

"Kentucky is the No. 2 state for MSC missionaries," Parrett said, noting that about 130 currently are serving in 35 Baptist associations across the state. "The average age of an MSC missionary is 54," she emphasized, adding that 63 were men and 70 were women. "Nineteen of these have served for 10 years or more."

## Georgetown, KBC leaders express hope for continued ministry partnership

Continued from page 1

Kentucky Baptist students would be hurt," Barnes said.

Led by Crouch and then-KBC president Hershael York, the workgroup hammered out the details of a new working relationship that would allow Georgetown to have a self-perpetuating board of trustees. It later was approved on a vote by KBC messengers.

The new plan called for Georgetown's Cooperative Program share of \$1.3 million to be phased out over a four-year period. The college agreed to have a trustee board that consisted of 75 percent Kentucky Baptists. The plan also provided for Georgetown and the KBC to jointly fund a campus minister position at the school.

A reallocation plan was later approved that disbursed half of Georgetown's CP funds to KBC-related entities, most of that to the four other KBC educational institutions.

The other half of the funds have been divided between KBC Mission Board min-

istries and Southern Baptist Convention causes since 2006.

The KBC's annual allocation went—as originally intended—to create a full-time CP strategist, a position which Billy Compton, KBC's executive associate for Cooperative Program and resources, now occupies.

According to Mackey, the KBC "had never had a position dedicated to just promotion of the Cooperative Program," and that if not for the reallocated funds, the role probably would not exist today.

For Georgetown, the results have been mixed since the change. Crouch said the school still is on track to achieve its four "strategic aims" that trustees set forth four years ago, three of which focus on academic success. He also pointed out that 85 percent of those trustees are Baptists.

As for the school's goal of increasing its endowment to \$100 million, Georgetown, like many other institutions, has taken a hit during this time of economic recession.

"We, like everybody, aren't worried about growing our endowment right now, we're worried about keeping our endowment," Crouch said.

Last year, a dip in philanthropic gifts forced the school to cut several staff positions, and adjust its fundraising goal for 2008-09 from \$4 million to \$2.1 million. That coupled with the elimination of the \$1.3 million in CP funds by 25 percent each of the last four years took its toll on Georgetown, Crouch pointed out.

"The timing was awful because of what happened with the economy," the president said. "We had to re-engineer the school in a lot of ways—which is not always a bad thing. We had to get much more efficient."

Crouch has forecasted brighter fiscal weather ahead. "The Lord's blessing us in a big way with donors," he said, adding that last year's adjustments have helped to balance the school's current budget and freed up a surplus of funds.

As for Georgetown's ongoing relation-

ship with the KBC and its churches, that often will intersect with the work of the school's religious life department. The office was formed last year and is directed by H.K. Kingkade.

He pointed out that Georgetown continues to work with and host many Kentucky Baptist churches on campus, as well as co-sponsoring events with the KBC such as next month's state ministers' golf tournament.

"We've been very grateful for the relationship with the Kentucky Baptist Convention over the years," Kingkade said.

But even with Aug. 31 looming and Georgetown's Cooperative Program funding drawing to a close, Kingkade insisted that while the school has forged its own path, it has not left the convention and its churches behind.

"It's not just, 'Well, the relationship's over,' and we go our separate ways," he said. "We're still willing to be in this together as we minister and partner to do ministry with Kentucky Baptist churches."

## Whitesburg celebrates 100 years

First Baptist Church of Whitesburg marked 100 years of ministry the weekend of Sept. 15-16. The church members, and more than 100 guests, had a wonderful time of celebration led by Tony Brown, pastor, and Linda Bell, centennial chairperson.

### Partners in the Mission



By Bill Mackey

The Saturday celebration was held under a large tent and included worship, testimonies, music, a dramatic monologue, preaching, lots of shared memories, a report from the mission church and, of course, lots of great food.

Following the meal, the youth presented a musical drama in the sanctuary. They had written and presented the drama three times during their mission trip to Myrtle Beach this summer. It was a powerful message for all ages to resist temptation and follow Jesus Christ.

On Sunday, a crowd of about 400 gathered for the centennial worship service with the theme: "To God Be The Glory." Pastor Brown began the service with the baptism of three young boys.

The service also included interpretive movement, a blessing of the children, choral praise and special music from Music Minister Susan Vanover. I was privileged to preach the centennial message.

A meal was provided following the worship service, the time capsule was opened and shared, and the children gathered in the parking lot to release balloons with the church name on them.

The church currently has 20 ongoing ministries to the community, plus a mission church at Eolia, located across Pine Mountain.

Since the beginning of the Cooperative Program, the church has given \$1,257,328 and currently gives 10 percent of undesignated church receipts to support missions. The church also is raising funds for a family life center.

The church had its beginning during a two week revival conducted by A.S. Petrey and James B. McKeehan in the spring of 1909, with 46 baptisms. The church was launched with 51 charter members in April 1909.

Among the church's pastors have been:

■ I.E. Enlow (1925-36), who led the church to reach out with eight mission points in coal camps, although this was during the time of the Great Depression.

■ L.O. Griffith (1936-45), who expanded the missions outreach and launched the Kentucky Baptist Convention camps at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College in Pineville. He later served the KBC and the Home Mission Board in missions and promotions.

■ Charles Q. Carter (1960-64), who led the church to relocate and construct the current facilities.

Eugene Enlow and his wife, Betty, were also present for the celebration. Eugene, who is the son of I.E., was saved and baptized as a boy at First Baptist Church.

It was a privilege for me to serve as pastor of this great church from 1969 to 1979. It is also a privilege to serve them (and more than 2,400 churches) through KBC.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

## Task force has potential, if it stays on task

Is the creation of a Great Commission Task Force for Kentucky Baptists a good thing?

To hear the members of the State Mission Board's administrative committee, the idea certainly sounds that way. The committee, according to Convention President John Mark Toby, will be charged with tracking with the national Great Commission Resurgence Task Force's work and evaluating how the state convention can more faithfully and effectively work together in fulfilling the Great Commission.

"Kentucky Baptists need to take this opportunity to look at where they are and be in a position to appropriately relate to the national committee's report when it is presented at the Southern Baptist Convention next summer," explained Charles Barnes of Louisville. "We should address all areas of our work together and prayerfully consider what direction these ministries should take in the future, as opposed to making a quick judgment or reaction to the national report."

Sounds reasonable.

Chip Pendleton, also of Louisville, agreed: "It's about being proactive, instead of just hearing the GCR report's motions. We will be looking at where we are, looking at our own state, and examining what we need to be doing." As far as the Kentucky task force's agenda is concerned, "there is nothing preconceived," he maintained. "We're just trying to get ahead of the game, and put ourselves in a better position to respond by hearing what people across our state are thinking."

"I am very excited about the committee's potential," asserted Bill Henard of Lexington. "I know John Mark Toby will put together a committee that loves Kentucky and Kentucky Baptists, but it will take a hard look at what we are doing and our future to help us be more effective in reaching Kentucky and in reaching the world."

Sounds responsible.

Art Beasley of Winchester went further, affirming the work of the KBC's agencies and institutions: "We certainly want to take care of our ministries in Kentucky and to further what's best for Kentucky Baptists." An important aspect in strategic planning, Beasley agreed that the task force will help us to "see the most efficient way to use the resources that God has given us" and to identify "what we are doing that is effective in reaching this generation for Christ."

In a letter to institution and agency heads mailed the day after the committee's action, Chairman Darren Gaddis of Corbin made it a point to express appreciation and affirmation for the work of every KBC entity: "We know that you and your staff are capable and committed individuals who are working faithfully to serve our Lord and Kentucky Baptists. We thank God

for you and for what you do." If the convention approves the task force, Gaddis promised that "you will be included in the process and that your input, help and involvement will be highly valued."

Sounds reassuring.

## After Thought

By Todd Deaton



Still some quarters aren't convinced yet. Some recall the negative rhetoric that gave impetus to the national GCR movement by calling the state conventions "bloated bureaucracies" and irresponsibly accusing them of "skimming" from Cooperative Program funds. Some question if the task force's agenda will quickly become another push to move state convention's to a 50/50 CP formula, and they are apprehensive that in the haste to find more funds to send those missionaries who still are awaiting appointment, the denomination may lose sight of the need to reach the growing numbers of lost people in our own state and nation.

Indeed, no Southern Baptist will object to a desire to find more funding to send people to share the message of Christ around the world. But should the vitality and progress of evangelistic and mission work in our own state and the ministry of our Kentucky Baptist educational institutions and benevolent agencies be jeopardized to do so? According to North American Mission Board officials, the unreached population here in Kentucky surpasses 1.8 million, comprising as great a need for ongoing evangelistic efforts and mission endeavors as that of many countries where Southern Baptists' send missionaries.

In these economically trying times, a lack of sufficient funding would compromise vital ministries being done by our universities, institutions and benevolent agencies, causing them to lose traction as positions and programs are subsequently eliminated. Losing their missions and ministry effectiveness in our state also would prove to be short sighted, for it would curb the pipeline of students being reached through the ministries of healthy churches and prepared by thriving Christian universities for future missions service and church-related vocations. Thus, the answer may not lie in significant adjustments in the CP formula to meet immediate demands so much as in igniting a revival in stewardship among church members and promoting the blessings of sacrificial giving, especially in the midst of economic hardships.

So, is this task force a good thing? Could be. If it does increase our collective effectiveness in accomplishing the Great Commission, that certainly would be very desirable. But, for now, it's too soon to tell. The answer still depends on the recommendations of the national task force, the constituency of the state task force, and their ability to ascertain an implementation that is best for all Kentucky Baptists.

## WESTERN Recorder

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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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## Begin at home

In speaking with today's youth who are actively involved in their church, it seems their goals are steadfastly set in traveling to other countries to minister and to inspire.

I realize that Christianity should be made known to all the world, but I also believe that charity begins at home. We have shunned our communities and population in our own county, thereby crippling any chance of growth in the churches and for better citizens.

Our country has experienced a population explosion in the last two generations, which have no roots or foundations in the rudiments of life. These generations should have been gathered even closer to the church for guidance

and nurturing, but they have for the most part been ignored.

The success of our country depends upon our youth. In today's world, to whom is it that the youth turn? Without food to eat, shelter from the elements, a stable environment, and an education, these youths have become a liability in our world—and the last thought in their minds would be to attend a church.

Let's take care of our own first, and the rest will take care of itself by giving to others what we have been given ourselves. Let's keep our youth and church families more active in our own communities to perpetuate the much-needed growth. These individuals need our churches as much as our churches need these individuals.

All churches have retired teach-

ers. Has anyone attempted to set up a program to tutor students? Most families I know could never afford tutors, and we all know how much this is needed. This would get youth into the church. They would come to know the church as a friendly place and learn ways to improve themselves and their way of life, making them an asset to the community.

Mary Alice Harthill  
Louisville

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



## Sexual fantasy and marriage

By Scott Wigginton

**Q: What role should sexual fantasy play in a marriage?**

A: Answering this question requires a theology that carefully takes into account the theological categories of creation, fall and redemption. Simply put, God created humans and, thus, is the Author of human sexuality. His intention is that sexuality be exclusive to the marital relationship and that it be marked by pleasure, partnership and procreation.



The scriptures further tell us that all creation has been radically affected by the fall, and that sin has altered and distorted every aspect of fallen man in this fallen world. Thus, nothing is as it was originally supposed to be.

The Father, in His magnificent wisdom and kindness, was unwilling for the work of His creation to be completely destroyed; therefore, He has "kept" this world from complete self-destruction. Through the work of Christ on the cross, He has provided redemption from sin to all who repent, believe and receive His grace.

As the Author of imagination, God intended that our minds would glorify Him. We see this in the works of J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis in their fertile and sanctified imaginations. Unfortunately, like everything else affected by sin, even the fantasy lives of men and women have been corrupted. Instead of thinking of our spouses as we ought, and taking delight in them, the evil one would have us play out fantasies involving other people and other situations.

Let me be clear. The use of videos or audios that involve anyone else other than your spouse will lead you down a road that promises freedom but ends in brokenness. Sexual fantasy about anyone other than your spouse will surely, steadily and ultimately drain you of your attraction to your beloved. Don't do it!

Instead, in those times when you are tempted to meditate on a beautiful woman or attractive man, think of what attracted you to your spouse. Take a few moments today to read the Song of Solomon and note how many times the writer reflects on His Beloved.

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

## Back to school, back to prayer for teachers and students

By Keith Manuel

There is still power in fervent, effectual prayer in public schools. In spite of legal opinions or administrative pressure, a parent, teacher or student can have a robust, personal prayer ministry. Prayer is far from the "least" you can do for someone. It is the greatest privilege God has granted His children. The Bible says the prayers of the righteous benefit much.

Suppose for a moment you have a direct telephone line to the president of the United States and you have a close, personal relationship with him. Then suppose you knew a child who was suffering and you thought the president's influence and power could eliminate the suffering. Wouldn't you call him?

Prayer is powerful because you are placing a need directly in the hands of the King of all kings. As you go through the halls of your school, pray for people.

When you become aware of teachers or students experiencing problems at home, ask God to bring healing to their families. For people who are struggling spiritually, intercede for them asking God to give you an opportunity to be a verbal witness.

If you are a teacher, then, before class, take a few moments to prayerwalk your classroom, going to each desk, praying for each student by name. Pray for your students as they enter your classroom. Your time to pray for your students may be at night when you are grading their papers.

When you pray, ask God to open doors for you or your church to minister to the needs of students' families. You, of all adults, are aware that some of your students will share information with you they may never share with another adult.

Don't forget to be open to opportunities to pray for

your co-workers, as well. I know of several teachers who regularly share prayer concerns, meeting before or after school to pray. Sometimes the teachers swap prayer requests during breaks or on the playground. At other times, the teachers share those needs through e-mails or in private conversations on social networking tools.

Parents, you can be mighty prayer warriors on behalf of both your student and his or her teachers. I know of one parent with a child in an elementary school who volunteered to read every few weeks in her child's classroom. As she entered the school, she prayed for the receptionist and the administrators. With her bright yellow visitor's pass on her blouse, she prayed for teachers and students as she walked down the halls.

However, her prayer ministry didn't stop there. While in the carpool line, she prayed for parents she saw. Every morning and evening, she prayed for the police officer who provided security for the school and for the safety of the students. While watching the children walking by with loaded backpacks, she prayed for their spiritual and physical needs.

Your work may not afford you the opportunity to walk the halls of your child's school, but you can pray during parent/child field trips or while attending special school activities or sports. You can even get a list of all the teachers and pray for a different one by name during your private prayer time.

The consistent practice of prayer by believers can have a tremendous impact on our schools. Prayer may not be a corporate activity allowed in your setting, but no one can hinder the silent, yet powerful, prayers of a student, teacher or parent

from reaching the ears of our Heavenly Father.

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

**"Prayer is powerful because you are placing a need directly in the hands of the King of all kings. As you go through the halls of your school, pray for people. ... Prayer may not be a corporate activity allowed in your setting, but no one can hinder the silent, yet powerful, prayers of a student, teacher or parent from reaching the ears of our Heavenly Father."**

First Person



Keith Manuel

## As life's scenery rushes by, enjoy the journey

By Peter Beck

Willie Nelson once noted the joys of the journey. He looked forward to being "on the road again."

I know exactly what he's talking about. Recently, I rode my Harley to work, and that eight-mile ride struck a chord. The sound of the tires singing on the pavement, the tone of the pipes and the rhythm of the engine, the symphony of sensory input were all music to my soul. I was happy to be on the road again.

As I was coming in, I relished the momentary coolness of the air as I passed between two wetlands. I could feel the wind gently blowing across my arms as I accelerated. Then, my favorite part of my short journey hit me like one of Willie's long lost friends: I lost myself in the moment as I leaned the bike first one way and then another through the gentle curves of the off ramp.

Yes, I said the "off ramp." That quarter mile stretch of asphalt that connects one road to another was the best part of the trip. Why? Because, for those few heartbeats, I forgot about where I came from and where I was going. I was lost in the moment. The journey itself became the reason for the ride, not the destination.

That's one of the great mysteries and pleasures of riding a motorcycle. For bikers, the destination is secondary. The journey itself is the point. Once we get where we're going, we're already looking forward to the next ride, not the next place.

Far too many of us have become obsessed with the goal, whatever it might be. We want to finish this, accomplish that. We're so busy looking for the exit signs in life that we miss the scenery that passes by along the way.

I recently rejoiced as hundreds of our university students graduated. They've reached a turning point in their lives. At the same time, I grieved for some as I realized that for many of them, college was just a means to an end. The end was always before them, their motivating force, the prize dangled in front of their eyes. They were so consumed with moving on that they missed the joy of the journey they completed.

Christians are the same way. We're in such a rush to get through our present circumstances that the beauty of the moment is a blur in the mirror. Yet, the Bible teaches that the journey is part of the goal.

God is working in our lives every moment. We can glorify God now as well as in eternity. In God's economy, the means are part of the end.

Unfortunately, in our rush to get through today, we forget to marvel at what God is doing right now. The mile markers of our lives become forgettable reminders of the distance of the future rather than the milestones of our past. We'd rather today be a memory, a speed bump in life thankfully behind us, than relish today for the memories that it will create.

So, as this week hurries by, as you mark off one more month on the calendar, as you're tempted to look up the road, past today, re-member to slow down and enjoy the ride. Join Willie on the road, as he put it so lyrically, "Goin' places that I've never been. Seein' things that I may never see again." Better yet, see today as the psalmist saw it, "This is the day which the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad and in it. (BP)

*Peter Beck serves as an assistant professor of religion at Charleston Southern University in Charleston, S.C.*

FIRST PERSON

**"The Bible teaches that the journey is part of the goal. God is working in our lives every moment. We can glorify God now as well as in eternity. In God's economy, the means are part of the end."**

## Is your church being a faithful steward?

By Doug Strader

Pastors, other staff members and stewardship committees call upon church members to be faithful stewards with their resources, time and talents—and rightly so. But does the church have a responsibility to be faithful in how it uses the members' financial gifts, their time and their talents? Absolutely. In fact how the church uses the gifts and the giftedness of its members goes a long way in keeping integrity with the members.

First, the church should have a church-adopted, annual budget. Members have a right to know where their money is going to do ministry. The church treasurer or the financial secretary should provide members with a monthly financial statement, which includes receipts, disbursements and a balance sheet showing the financial stability of the church.

Many churches list salaries in a lump sum for reporting purposes, which is acceptable, but every member has a right to know the salaries and benefits of all staff. When only a few know the true picture of staff salaries and benefits, it can lead to distrust and an eroding of the financial integrity of the church. I know of several situations where staff salaries and benefits were kept a secret from the membership and that led to distrust and eventually to a squabble that culminated with staff resignations.

Members are encouraged to give at least a tithe to the Lord's work, but what about the church? Should the church be expected to be generous in supporting missions at home and around the world? The answer is, unequivocally, "yes!" A church that uses all of its financial resources on itself is not being faithful to its mission responsibility.

Churches should encourage every member to be involved in ministry. Many members serve in several positions in the church, while many others do not serve in any ministry. Every church has a responsibility to help members discover, develop and use their spiritual giftedness in ministry. Churches that use this concept are growing, and they are helping members live according to God's will and direction for their lives. They are becoming spiritually fulfilled servants of the Lord.

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



## Hammond makes first statement since resigning

By Tammi Reed Ledbetter  
Southern Baptist Texan

Atlanta—A week after resigning as president of the North American Mission Board, Geoff Hammond said he is glad to have played a role in helping Southern Baptists “live with urgency” in reaching the continent for Christ.

The public remarks were Hammond’s first since the day-long meeting of the NAMB trustee board that led to his resignation and that of three of his closest associates.

“The events as they unfolded (Aug. 11) were a shock to me. Although I am not at liberty to discuss the details, need-

less to say my resignation was not for moral, ethical or fiduciary responsibility, but there were methodological differences,” Hammond told the Southern Baptist Texan in an e-mail. “I still feel God led me to the North American Mission Board for a purpose—to help Southern Baptists see North America as a mission field and to live with urgency reaching this continent for Christ.”

Board chairman Tim Patterson of Florida would not elaborate on the cause of the disagreement with Hammond, stating Aug. 11 that

they “worked through some very difficult issues” and “carried out their responsibilities ... in a way that has been honorable, thorough and fair.”



Geoff Hammond

Hammond was elected president by a unanimous vote of the NAMB board of trustees in March 2007 following a nine-month search to replace the previous president, Bob Reccord, who resigned as president in April 2006, citing “honest philosophical and methodological

differences.”

In response to questions posed by the Texan, Hammond noted: “Just the week before we hosted our state summer leadership meeting with state (convention) partners. In talking with hundreds of those partners, I felt we had incredible momentum and synergy and were set to have one of our greatest years ever. One of the greatest joys of my life was to lead NAMB as we created, developed and introduced the national evangelism initiative to Southern Baptists, GPS—God’s Plan for Sharing.

“However, despite what occurred, I am still grateful to have had an opportunity to influence Southern Baptists to reach North America for Christ and to help them understand that it will take missionary thinking and practices to achieve that goal,” he said.

“Southern Baptists have some of the most effective servants of the Lord in their North American missionaries and partners.” (BP)

## Taiwanese Baptists assisting victims of Typhoon Morakot

Taiwan—Baptists in Taiwan are assisting victims of Typhoon Morakot, which made landfall in the southern part of the island Aug. 7 and has caused some of the most widespread destruction in the nation’s history.

By last week, 126 people had been confirmed dead, but government officials expect the death toll to rise to more than 500.

Joseph Tseng Ching-En, general secretary of Taiwan’s Chinese Baptist Convention, told Baptist World Alliance that most victims were “swallowed” by landslides that buried villages after the storm’s torrential rains spurred the island’s worst floods in 50 years.

At least six Baptists have died or are feared dead. Five members from one Baptist family are confirmed dead, while another Baptist church member, a police officer, went missing after trying to rescue people affected by the typhoon. His body had not yet been recovered.

Tseng said 15 Baptist churches are located in the disaster zone. Most cannot be contacted due to blocked roads, destroyed bridges and the loss of electricity and telephone services. Churches that could be reached were badly damaged or destroyed.

The convention has 209 churches and more than 14,000 members.

Baptist World Aid, the relief-and-development arm of the BWA, is coordinating the global Baptist response and is making an initial donation of \$10,000 to support relief work underway by the Taiwan convention. (ABP)

## NAMB task force dissolved

Alpharetta, Ga.—A North American Mission Board task force commissioned by former president Geoff Hammond is being dissolved. However, members have been asked to be available for input and involvement as NAMB leaders ask questions about the effectiveness of the entity’s evangelism and church planting efforts.

Hammond announced the task force—originally called the North American Great Commission Task Force—in May, saying it would “study the actions and activities that will impact this continent for Christ in more effective ways.” The 30-member group met just once on July 28 deciding only to change the task force’s name, discussing areas it would

study and how it would go about publicly reporting its progress.

Although the task force is no more, Richard Harris, NAMB’s current acting interim president, and LifeWay Research Director Ed Stetzer, who served as a co-facilitator of the group, have asked members to keep a future webinar meeting date open on their calendar so the group can have input into the direction of NAMB’s church planting and evangelism efforts.

Also, Stetzer now is working with NAMB staff on a study of the missions organization’s church planting and evangelism work. He met with NAMB staff in those areas last week to begin identifying specific areas that need to be studied. (BP)

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REGISTRATION: 9:00AM  
WORKSHOP: 9:30AM-3:30PM

LIMITED TO 50 PARTICIPANTS

REGISTRATION: \$50/PERSON  
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“Witness of a Fragile Servant: A Personal Look  
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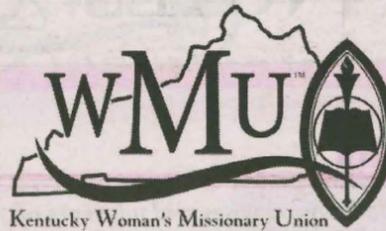
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# KENTUCKY NOTES



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## Celebrate!

2008-09 Eliza Broadus Offering for Kentucky Missions has exceeded the goal of \$1,052,008.

As of Aug. 19, \$1,096,953.

Our goal for 2009-10 is \$1,100,000.

Let's reach it because  
**It's Harvest Time!**

Fall 2009

## A Personal Word

Our theme for the 2009 Season of Prayer for State Missions is "It's Harvest Time!" There is much evidence that God is at work in a unique way in Kentucky and it is time for a spiritual harvest. Consider the following:

**1. The ice storm of 2009.** As a result of the bad weather, Disaster Relief volunteers in yellow shirts and hats were spread all over this state. They bore witness to Christ as they served meals and cut down trees. The bad weather was difficult, but God sent His messengers to share the gospel while they served.



Joy Bolton  
Executive  
Director-Treasurer

**2. Crossover 2009.** More than 3,000 volunteers came to Louisville to share Christ before the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. Block parties, door-to-door witnessing and surveys, home repairs, Intentional Community Evangelism teams and even a massive food distribution took place. Hundreds of professions of faith were recorded, and many people were drawn back to their relationship with Christ.

**3. "Find It Here."** This is the largest simultaneous evangelism effort ever planned for Kentucky. It begins this fall with prayerwalking every street and road in Kentucky. Associations are working on street assignments. Prayerwalking materials are included on the 2009 state missions DVD.

"Find It Here" continues next spring when we return to the streets we prayerwalked to take a bag with a gospel presentation to every house. We will deliver these bags to 1.5 million homes. The bags will be distributed March 6-21, 2010. Easter Sunday, April 4, will be Harvest Sunday. Follow-up contacts and ministries will also take place.

**4. World Equestrian Games.** The FEI Alltech World Equestrian Games are coming to Kentucky in the fall of 2010. This event is expected to draw 600,000 to 1 million visitors to Kentucky. Visitors will start arriving in the spring, when there will be many new, excited believers in Kentucky! Kentucky Baptists are gearing up for ministries before and during the games in cooperation with Affiliated International Ministries. AIM includes churches and community groups who want to minister to our guests.

You can learn more on Sept. 12, 2009, by attending Church Day at the Kentucky Horse Park. Look for a special AIM flyer in the 2009 State Missions Packet. It will get you reduced admission to the Horse Park that day. Come learn more about AIM and how you can be a part of ministry in Kentucky.

When I made this list and could see all of these things together, I realized the significant linkage and timing. I am sure there are more things going on that others could add to the list. God is at work in Kentucky. The question is now, will we join Him? It is my prayer that WMU will be at the forefront of these efforts.

We are celebrating that the Eliza Broadus Offering has exceeded the goal and the million-dollar mark for the second year in a row. As of Aug. 19, the 2008-09 Eliza Broadus Offering stood at \$1,096,953 and still counting!

Our offering year runs from Sept. 1 through Aug. 31, so we will start on our new goal and offering year as we start a new church year. Thank you, Kentucky Baptists, for faithfully giving to state missions during 2008-09. May we be a part of the harvest in Kentucky through our praying, giving and personal involvement in state missions.

Open your eyes...  
the fields are ripe.

*It's Harvest Time!*

2009 Season of Prayer  
for State Missions and  
Eliza Broadus Offering

\$1,100,000 Goal



Contact Kentucky WMU for the 2009 state missions DVD, teaching materials, posters, offering envelopes and promotional ideas. (502) 489-3534 or toll-free, (866) 489-3534. Materials are also posted on our web site: [kywmu.org/statemissions](http://kywmu.org/statemissions)

### 2009 Focus Areas:

Ministry to Released Offenders  
Equestrian Ministries  
"Find It Here!"



A special "It's Harvest Time!" state missions insert will be included in the September 8 issue of the Western Recorder.

The Eliza Broadus Offering is sponsored by Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union in partnership with the Kentucky Baptist Convention. All Eliza Broadus Offering funds are used for missions ministries and missions education in Kentucky.

2009 Eliza Broadus Offering Goal: \$1,100,000

## Missions, resources draw 250 to Winchester, Madisonville

In July, more than 250 people participated in World Missions Unlimited at Central Baptist Church in Winchester and First Baptist Church of Madisonville.

A variety of special interest and leadership training workshops were offered to prepare church WMU and Baptist Men on Mission leaders for the year

ahead in missions education and involvement.

New this year was a workshop just for pastors led by KBC's Steve Thompson which included missions involvement from a pastor's perspective.

Featured speakers included Gary King, R/6 Mentoring Program Director, Stanford; Eric Al-

len, Missions Service and Ministries Director, Kentucky Baptist Convention; and Steve Thompson, Assistant Executive Director, Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Canned food items were collected during the event and given to area ministries to distribute to needy families.

## Churchwide



The second year of our "Called to Love" emphasis focus is from Matthew 22:39 "...to love your neighbor as yourself."

As you are planning for your new year in WMU and its age-level organizations, it is exciting and challenging to see how your church can be involved in 'loving our neighbors.'

During the WMU director training a handout that shared 99 ministry ideas (plus one bonus) was handed out. If you did not attend, below are a half-dozen or so that might inspire you to 'love your neighbor.'

- o Assemble bagged lunches for the homeless. Include canned meat, peanut butter or cheese crackers, a bottle of water and an apple along with a typed prayer, thanking God for His provision. Distribute through your church, association or a local ministry site/organization.

- o Invite teen students to offer a free "just-because-we-care" car wash. As your finish each car, present the owner with a gospel tract or Scripture portion.

- o As a family project, operate a free Christmas wrapping service for the elderly and special needs families in your neighborhood.

- o Make "Emergency Kits" for families waiting in an emergency room or ICU. Include a new washcloth, travel-size bar soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, breakfast bar and a gospel tract that shares Christ and encouragement. Work with the volunteers in the emergency room and ICU to keep the kits in stock. These also can be distributed through local police and fire departments.

- o Host an Easter egg hunt for children who live in shelters in your community. Include egg decorating activities and a story time.

- o Collect Christian fiction or non-fiction for women housed in your county jail or detention center or at one of the state's Correctional Institute for Women. Work with the chaplain's office or warden's office to do this. Encourage Baptist Men on Mission to do the same for men who are incarcerated.

- o Prepare welcome baskets for new families in your neighborhood. Along with biscuits or brownies, include an invitation to Bible study and worship at your church.

Make 2009-10 the year your church "loves their neighbor as themselves."

Blessings!  
Wanda Walker

## Adults

"Raindrops on roses and whiskers on kittens; bright copper kettles and warm woolen mittens; silver white winters that melt into spring, these are a few of my favorite things."

What are your favorite things?

I recently asked that question of some women. One lady was quick to respond that it was being at the national WMU missions celebration in Louisville with a young lady from her



church attend who had never been involved in missions education, even as a child. Upon returning from the missions celebration, this young lady said we need this in our church, noting that she just knew the other young women who would want to be part of the ongoing missions celebration through Women on Mission.

Another woman responded that it was being part of men and women in their church doing missions and 'getting it.' Not just doing missions for a good feeling, but to serve others as Christ served

because Scripture tells them to do it.

Whatever is your favorite thing related to Women or Adults on Mission, share it with the women and men in your church and your life. God will bless your efforts and those of others around you as you "love others as yourselves."

Make sure you read about all the different opportunities for you throughout this fall edition of Kentucky Notes.

Praying for your favorite WOM/AOM things,

Wanda Walker

## Youth

The 2009-10 Kentucky Acteens Advisory Panel has been selected. The members of the panel are:

Maggie Ballou, Central Baptist, Corbin.

Lynzie Gray, Bethel Baptist, Harrodsburg.

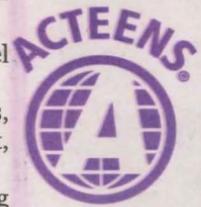
Savannah Hines, South Fork Baptist, Hodgenville.

Kayla Tomlin, Living Faith Baptist, Hartford.

Olivia Wallace, Lone Oak First Baptist, Paducah.

The panel plans the schedule and selects the theme for Exalt 2010. Stay tuned for more details.

Involve your youth in "Find it Here," the statewide effort to share the gospel



with every home in Kentucky. The Eliza Broadus Offering lesson plan for youth will inform your students and prepare their hearts for this emphasis. Your students can have an active role in prayer-walking, servant evangelism and taking the "Find it Here" packets to the door.

Bring your students to the Kentucky Horse Park Sept. 12 for the first ever "Church and Community Day". This will be a great way to learn about equestrian ministries and the ministries that will take place in conjunction with the World Equestrian Games. You can download a flyer from the WMU website and receive discounted admission.

In preparation for the 2010 World Equestrian Games, Kentucky WMU is sponsoring a mission trip for youth, . It

will take place July 5-9, 2010. The team will stay at Georgetown College. The purpose of the trip is to minister to WEG officials by helping them prepare for the games. The team also will help Affiliated International Ministries in preparing for ministry opportunities before and during the event. The cost is \$200 and includes lodging, meals and ministry supplies. Information will be mailed to all Acteens and Youth on Mission leaders in early September. If you have not received information by September 17, please contact LaRaine Rice at Kentucky WMU.



LaRaine Rice

## Preschool & Children

### For Mission Friends leaders

Welcome to a new year in Mission Friends! As a Mission Friends leader, you are "Called to Love" God with all of your heart, soul, and mind. You have an important part in helping preschoolers to love God and others. *Start, Share and First Steps in Missions* are essential tools that will enable you to provide developmentally appropriate activities for each child.

The September unit in *Start* focuses on Kentucky and the ministry of Lester and Bessie McPeck, missionaries in Jenkins, Ky. You will want to involve preschoolers in the Season of Prayer and Offering for State Missions during September as well. The state missions study material for preschoolers can be incorporated with the *Start* unit throughout the month. The material is available from your WMU director or Kentucky WMU office.

Plan now to introduce preschoolers to missions in North Africa through the *International Missions Study 2009 Teaching Guide for Preschool*. The study coordinates with the December unit in *Start* and contains activities and stories that can be taught during a churchwide study or during any regular preschoolers class.



### For Girls in Action and Children in Action leaders

Get active with the 2009-10 Girls in Action and Children in Action theme: Fit 4 God's Mission! Members of GA and CiA will learn about the importance of "getting fit" for missions work mentally, physically, spiritually and socially. They will meet missionaries who are sharing the love of God with others. Be a prepared leader by:

- Reading

"How to Involve Children in Mission: Includes Guides for Girls in Action and Children in Action."

- Using the "2009-2010 WMU Year Book" to help you know, month by month, what is in store for Girls in Action or Children in Action.

- Becoming familiar with the curriculum. ("GA Leader" for GA leaders and "Children in Action Leader" for Children in Action leaders.)

- Involving all children in your church in the 2009 State Missions Emphasis in September and the International Missions Emphasis in December.

- Discovering more information about Girls in Action at [www.gapassport.com](http://www.gapassport.com) or Children in Action at [www.childrenmissions.com](http://www.childrenmissions.com).



### For GAs

Imagine a day of Christmas around the world, bright-colored streamers, booths and attractions that feature missions and Girls in Action. This is what you will see at a special event called "GA JAM," Saturday, Nov. 14, 2009, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

- All GAs in grades 1-6 are invited.

- Campbellsville Baptist Church, Campbellsville.

- Cost: \$10 per person, which includes lunch.

- Contact Kentucky WMU for more information.



### For CiA agents

Members of Children in Action are invited to the Children in Action Missions Day Camp Saturday, Sept. 19, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Corinth Baptist Church in London. Children in Action is WMU's coed organization for boys and girls in grades 1-6. Children will meet missionaries, make new friends, learn about God and His creation, participate in a ministry project, play games and lots more. The cost is \$10 per person. Registration deadline is Sept. 11. Contact Kentucky WMU for more information.

Brenda Price

## President's Perspective

Summer comes and goes too quickly. What great memories from the National WMU Mission Celebration in June at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville. The committees from Long Run and Shelby Associations—led by Mary Lou Crutcher—did a fantastic job. The folks at St. Matthews did a great job hosting. It was a real privilege to have so many visitors in "Our Old Kentucky Home".



**Pat Reaves**  
Kentucky WMU  
President

We had several new experiences "on the road" this summer. Baptist Nursing Fellowship nurses from Kentucky took their *Baby Boot Camp* to North Dakota. Thanks to all who represented Kentucky on this mission trip. Also, Stacy and the camp staff took camp to three associations after three weeks at Cedar-Crest. I know that many lives were touched through their efforts.

We saw many of you at World Missions Unlimited in July. If you weren't there and you need help in the new year, please call the office and some of us will be glad to assist you. We have another year of our theme "Called to Love". Kaye Miller has a new book out with the same name, and I highly recommend it to you. Kaye will be with us in April for our Mission Celebration/Annual Meeting. Start now making your plans to be there.

The WMU Executive Board will meet in October at Cedarmore. We spend several days together making decisions about the work of Kentucky WMU. Please be in prayer for us as we make those decisions. Our prayer is that everything we do will be pleasing to God as we continue to be on mission with Him. I appreciate the women who give of their time and talents to serve on the board.

Don't forget that Eliza wants to stay a millionaire! Many ministries in Kentucky depend on this offering. Please work with your churches to make them aware of the needs. When they know the needs they will give.

Give me a call if I can help you in any way. Remember to love God. Love others.

Working together,  
Pat Reaves

## Heritage Fund Giving

March 1—May 31, 2009

The following people were honored or remembered through gifts to the Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund during the third quarter of the 2008-09 fiscal year. Thanks to each person who gave to the Heritage Fund in honor of or in memory of someone significant to you and WMU.

We also continue to receive gifts for the 1000<sup>2</sup> Campaign for the Heritage Fund. This campaign began at the 2007 Annual Meeting to enlist 1000 donors (individuals or groups) to give \$1,000 between 2007-2010. Please note the pledge gifts in our report each quarter, which also may be given in honor or memory of someone. You can participate in the 1000<sup>2</sup> Campaign by making pledge or gift today!

### In Honor of:

Joy Bolton  
WMU & Senior Adults,  
Hillsdale  
WMU, New Palestine  
Joy Bolton  
Melissa Mae Beam  
State WMU Staff  
Amanda Major,  
Amelia Prater,  
Allie Alexander-Lusk,  
Anna Alexander  
Rev. Raymond Aldridge  
Kentucky WMU -  
past & present  
Jean Crady

Anna Mary Byrdwell  
Donna & Rolland Kint

### In Memory Of:

Lealice Dehoney

Jane Kent  
Vercie Lawson  
Viola Fagan  
Ernestine Midkiff  
Barbara Jones  
Opal Howard  
Jane Kent

### Other Heritage Fund Gifts

Shirley Barlow  
Mr. & Mrs. Maxwell Sledd  
Mary Williams Circle,  
Bethel Baptist Church

Delia Prather  
Graefenburg Baptist Church  
Dorothy Luebbert

### 1000<sup>2</sup> Campaign Contributions March 1-May 31, 2009

(includes \$1,000 gifts, pledge payments and other campaign gifts)

Shelby Baptist Association WMU	Cropper Baptist Church WMU
Kentucky WMU Staff	Charmaine Nichols
Dry Ridge Baptist Church	Jo Pelham
Night Women on Mission	Soonsil Back
Pat & Dudley Reaves	Carol Russ
Susan Bryant	Cheryl Hatfield
WMU Group	Central Baptist Church,
Twyla Sheffield	Winchester, Roundtable
New Salem Baptist Church	Oakland Avenue Baptist WMU
WMU (PGDL Circle)	Crestwood Baptist Church WMU

### 1000<sup>2</sup> Campaign Update (as of 6/30/09):

Total pledges and other gifts: \$90,765.78

Received toward campaigns: \$83,267.72

### Donor:

Clayvillage Baptist Church  
Pat Reaves

Pat Reaves  
Mary Lou Crutcher\*  
Denise Beam\*  
Patty Renfrow\*  
Linda Alexander\*

Sandra Duguid\*  
Thelda Smith

Daviess-McLean Baptist Association. WMU  
Pat Reaves  
William & Marilyn Lamkin

### Donor:

Walnut Street Baptist Women on Mission  
Maribeth Hambrick  
Marcia Ballard  
Anonymous  
Dan & Pattie Midkiff  
Hempridge Baptist WMU  
FBC Murray WMU  
Frankie Johnson

\* Toward pledge

## Calendar

### September

12 Super Saturday, First BC, Somerset  
Super Saturday, First BC, Paducah  
13-20 Season of Prayer for State Missions and Eliza Broadus Offering  
19 Super Saturday, Zion BC, Henderson  
Super Saturday, First BC, Pikeville  
19 Children in Action Missions Day Camp, Corinth BC, London  
25-26 Regional Women on Mission Retreat, White Mills

### October

8-10 National WMU Missions Event, Kissimmee, FL

### November/December

2 Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer  
10 KBC Annual Meeting, Severns Valley BC  
14 GA JAM (girls, grades 1-6) Campbellsville BC  
29-Dec. 6 Week of Prayer for International Missions and Lottie Moon Offering

**Find it Here**  
Sharing Christ Across Kentucky

Want to be part of the harvest in Kentucky? You can be through "Find It Here," a campaign to deliver the gospel to 1.5 million households across Kentucky March 6-21, 2010. It all starts this fall as we begin to prepare the soil for a spiritual harvest.

Find it Here will consist of four major activities. They are:

1. Prayerwalk every street and road in Kentucky (September and October 2009).
2. Distribute house-to-house a bag with a gospel presentation (March 6-21, 2010).
3. Harvest Sunday Easter Celebration on April 4.
4. Follow-up of those who return the postage-paid response cards.

Kentucky Baptist associations have divided their areas and assigned streets to participating churches. Churches will prayerwalk their assigned streets this fall, then deliver gospel presentation bags next spring. All ages can participate.

You can prepare for "Find It Here" by attending prayerwalking training. (Prayerwalking materials are available on the 2009 state missions DVD.) Then find out what streets have been assigned to your church and volunteer to be on a prayerwalking team.

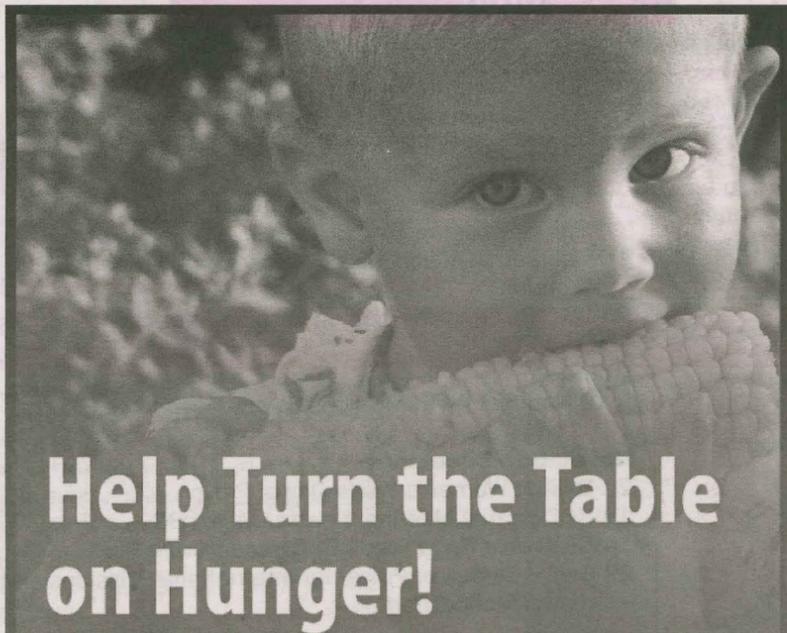
It's harvest time in Kentucky. Join us in preparing the soil as we prayerwalk our state this fall.

# Back to the Basics

Regional Women on Mission Retreat, White Mills, KY

September 25-26 (Last day to register is September 11)

Retreat information with a registration form can be found at [www.kywmu.org/retreats](http://www.kywmu.org/retreats)



## Help Turn the Table on Hunger!

Hunger is a very real problem not only abroad but right here in Kentucky. You can help turn the table by participating in Fast One to Feed One.

- 1) Fast one meal a month, using that meal time to pray for hunger needs.
- 2) Donate to the Southern Baptist World Hunger fund through your church the amount you would have spent.



Find out more about hunger and download free resources at [kybaptist.org/hunger](http://kybaptist.org/hunger).



Mission Service & Ministries Department  
502-489-3530 or 866-489-3530

For less than a dollar a person, your church, school or community group can fight world hunger by collecting money in the World Hunger Bread Bank. Order banks in quantities of 50 from the WMU store online. Order before September 21 to ensure delivery before World Hunger Sunday, October 11.

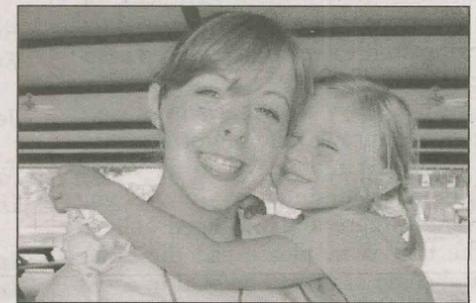
## Campers' 'European Excursion'



Campers and their church leaders took a "European Excursion" at Cedar Crest this summer.

They discovered the culture, language and mission work of Germany, France and Spain. Campers also learned about missionaries serving around the world and made a "Use Me" book for English-as-a-second-language students. The camp offering went to help missionaries in Western Europe share the gospel with their friends at coffee houses. A portion of the offering also was given to the Co-operative Program.

Cedar Crest is located at the Cedar-more Camp and Conference Center in Bagdad, Ky. Children in grades 1-10 and



their church leaders are invited to Mission Adventure Camp at Cedar Crest next year as we celebrate equestrian ministries in Kentucky. Please contact Kentucky WMU for 2010 dates and prices.

After serving at Cedar Crest, Mission Adventure Camp staffers took an excursion across Kentucky. Campers in Lincoln, Boone's Creek and Green Valley Associations were able to experience Mission Adventure Camp in their own hometowns. Associational campers, like Cedar Crest campers, learned about missions around the world through missionaries, crafts, games and mission projects.

Keep reading Kentucky Notes for next year's Mission Adventure Camp plans.



## Find It Here

Sharing Christ Across Kentucky

2009 KBC Annual Meeting

Tuesday, November 10  
Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown

Visit the WMU booth. Participate in the sessions. Support Kentucky Baptists. Be inspired and challenged!

## 2009 Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer



Every year on or near the first Monday in November, Baptist women in about 130 countries gather to pray for one another.

We use a program published by the Baptist World Alliance Women's Department, which is composed of seven continental unions representing 229 national Baptist women's organiza-

tions, including WMU. The 2009 program was prepared by the North American Baptist Women's Union.

Join with Baptist Women around the world on Monday, Nov. 2, as we pray for ministries for and by women. The Day of Prayer program is available from Kentucky WMU or visit: [kywmu.org/dayofprayer](http://kywmu.org/dayofprayer).

Kentucky WMU  
2009-10 Calendars  
are the perfect size  
to fit in your Bible.

Use one to keep  
track of personal  
and WMU dates.

Copies are  
available for \$1.

Contact WMU today!

## Deward Hurst remembered

**Former camp director was true example of a servant**

Earlier this month, Deward Hurst left this world to go home to the Lord. Deward served as the director of Jonathan Creek for approximately 10 years through the late 1990s. Deward and his wife, June, lived on the property at Jonathan Creek throughout his career there. Unless you have done so, you may not realize all that takes place when living on site at a camp.

**Ky. Baptist Assemblies**



David Melber

Most of us who work typically leave our homes and drive to work on a daily basis and then return home. While you can do some work from home, we usually leave daily tasks at the jobsite or office.

Living at a camp property is unlike most anything you can imagine. Your "on-call status" for taking care of buildings and people can place you in active duty any time you are on the property.

Under such circumstances, Deward and June proved their worth as servants in the name of Jesus to numerous people and church groups over a decade. Their commitment was demonstrated year after year and was celebrated by countless churches and groups that attended Jonathan Creek. I

am so thankful for Deward and June. They truly gave so much of themselves, which has allowed Jonathan Creek to be where it is today.

The reality is that both of our camp properties have countless stories of such families who have made great sacrifices and received great blessings through this demanding ministry setting. In 2002, we honored Deward and June's impact by naming one of the new lodges at Jonathan Creek for them.

As Deward now is with the Lord, I cannot help but realize that he now sees the fruit of his labor.

Our continued prayers go out to June and the Hurst family as they mourn the loss of a loved one. Our tremendous thanks and humble gratitude go to the Hurst family for their service in ministry at Jonathan Creek.

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

## 'Let us not become weary'

**Blessings will flow if we do not give up on these children**

Because God never gives up on His children, we at Sunrise Children's Services strive to never give up on the kids who come into our residential programs and foster homes. They've already had their families give up on them. So, despite the challenges and setbacks, we try to keep Galatians 6:9 in mind: "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

**Sunrise Children's Services**



Bill Smithwick

Chelsey is a great example of why we hold to that Scripture. Her childhood was destroyed by living in a cold, insect-infested home where she constantly was hungry. She also suffered repeated sexual abuse. By the time she was 6 years old, Chelsey's mother abandoned her, her younger sister and her disabled brother.

When the siblings were rescued, they were placed in a Sunrise foster home. Unfortunately for Chelsey, the siblings were separated when her sister was adopted and her brother was moved because of the specialized care he required. The deep emotional wounds that Chelsey carried intensified when she lost her relationship with her siblings.

Chelsey eventually came to Sunrise's Dixon Center in Western Kentucky at age 14. She experienced nightmares and flashbacks on a daily basis. She strug-

gled to trust any caregiver. Understandably, she was angry about her life. Chelsey was unable to make progress at the Dixon Center and moved on to other programs.

But three years later, Chelsey returned to Dixon. The staff didn't know if they could help her this time, but they did not "become weary in doing good." Her therapist helped her to cope with the scary and painful memories that continued to attack her mind. She became an active participant in church, and all the prayer, patience, love and understanding that our workers offered finally paid off. Chelsey's walls fell down, allowing her to

develop healthy relationships, let go of her anger and move beyond her past.

Chelsey earned her high school diploma while at the Dixon Center. When she walked across the stage to accept her diploma, Sunrise staff and school personnel shed tears of joy at her determination and accomplishments. The staff rejoiced that they had been partners with God in the long process of changing the life of His hurting child.

The prayer and financial support that Sunrise receives ensures that we continue to "reap a harvest if we do not give up" on God's precious children.

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

## For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



## Preacher's Kids

David Ayers



## Bible Crosswords

By Evelyn Boyington

### Across

- 1 "God clave an hollow place that was in the \_\_\_\_\_, and there came water thereout" (Judges 15:19)
- 4 Prepare fruit
- 8 Whatever \_\_\_\_\_ you
- 12 Jurist Fortas
- 13 Black
- 14 Dagger
- 15 "He \_\_\_\_\_ my strength in the way" (Psalm 102:23)
- 17 Permanent mark
- 18 Evidence of beating
- 19 Sesame, for one
- 20 Northwest \_\_\_\_\_ (abbr.)
- 21 "Shoot out thine \_\_\_\_\_, and destroy them" (Psalm 144:6)
- 24 Ate out
- 27 Linking verb
- 28 Comprehend
- 29 Son of Zeus
- 30 "How can a man be born when he is \_\_\_\_\_?" (John 3:4)
- 31 Dead \_\_\_\_\_ (Dick Francis classic)
- 32 French pronoun
- 33 Hole-making tool
- 34 Amusement park amusements
- 35 Begin a conversation
- 37 Wager
- 38 Hurry (arch.)
- 39 Punish (arch.)
- 43 Steakhouse selection, perhaps
- 45 "Though they would have cast anchors out of the \_\_\_\_\_" (Acts 27:30)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13				14			
15			16				17			
18							19			
			20			21			22	23
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35			36			37				
		38				39		40	41	42
43	44			45	46					
47				48				49		
50				51				52		

- 47 Cary Grant, once
- 48 Father of Azariah (2 Chronicles 15:1)
- 49 Paris summer
- 50 Challenge
- 51 Whirlpool
- 52 Affirmative vote
- 19 Pay dirt
- 21 Son of Bela (Numbers 26:40)
- 22 Used to be
- 23 Cupboard collections, as in dishes
- 24 Fruit of the palm
- 25 Smooth
- 26 One close by
- 27 Cheer competitor

### Down

- 1 Spielberg film
- 2 Aid's partner
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ thin
- 4 "There was none that moved the wing or opened the mouth, or \_\_\_\_\_" (Isaiah 10:14)
- 5 Son of Ner (2 Samuel 2:8)
- 6 "Asahel was as light of foot as a wild \_\_\_\_\_" (2 Samuel 2:18)
- 7 Like omega
- 8 Son of Kohath (1 Chronicles 6:22)
- 9 "And they wrought onyx stones \_\_\_\_\_ in ouches of gold" (Exodus 39:6)
- 10 Bucolic locale
- 11 Indian weight
- 16 Unclean birds (Deuteronomy 14:13)
- 30 "\_\_\_\_\_ no man any thing, but to love" (Romans 13:8)
- 31 Refers to
- 33 Mature
- 34 "The wrath of the Lord arose against his people, till there was no \_\_\_\_\_" (2 Chronicles 36:16)
- 36 Seat location
- 37 Told all
- 40 Feminine name
- 41 Bethlehem: \_\_\_\_\_ of David
- 42 Fencing gear
- 43 Exterminate
- 44 Lupino
- 45 Nemesis
- 46 "The \_\_\_\_\_ number ... is to be redeemed" (Numbers 3:48)

## Last week's solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
T	A	M	A	R	O	M	E	W	A	R
E	L	A	M	A	N	E	M	E	L	I
N	A	E	D	G	E	R	E	A	P	
		19	T	R	U	E		20	S	T
21	R	I	C	E		25	T	H	I	E
27	L	A	T	E		31	S	H	A	M
32	A	S	H		33	S	P	A	R	E
35	N	E	E		36	T	I	N	E	
38	S	T	I	C	K		40	S	W	O
41	S	H		43	A	R	E		44	M
45	T	O	W	N		47	L	E	A	K
50	O	A	R		51	A	R	I	A	
55	P	R	Y		56	M	E	E	T	

## Mohler: SBC must be willing to face change or suffer significant decline

Louisville—The Southern Baptist Convention faces a critical crossroads and must move into the future with denominational structures and methods open to change or face serious decline. That was the prediction from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President Albert Mohler last week during a forum on the future of the SBC at the Louisville campus.

Mohler said the SBC in 2009 continues to operate largely out of a model that the denomination adopted from corporate America in the early 20th century, a model that prioritizes efficiency over theological conviction in carrying out the task of missions.

"Certainly in business, efficiency can be a make-or-break word between profit and loss," Mohler said, "but when it comes to missions and the work of our churches and the work of the gospel around the world, efficiency has a limited application."

In the 1950s, the SBC underwent a restructuring calculated to bring greater denominational efficiency, Mohler pointed out. This led to the adoption of a programmatic approach to ministry based more on corporate management practices than theology.

Though American culture, particularly in the Bible Belt, has changed profoundly, Mohler said the SBC has continued to operate out of a 1950s programmatic mentality. He compared the denomination to two American institutions: the General Motors Corporation and the shopping mall.

For most of the 20th century, more than half of all automobiles sold in America were manufactured by GM. While the car-buying culture changed in the late 20th century, GM continued to operate out of a business model that worked well in the 1950s. Now, the auto giant has declared bankruptcy and is no longer a publicly traded corporation.

Similarly, shopping malls exploded in number over the second half of the 20th century, but today, hundreds of them sit empty because business-

es want to operate outside of malls so their storefronts will have increased visibility.

In the same way, Mohler said the SBC faces a bleak future if it continues to minister out of a business model from the 1950s instead of one driven by theological and missional concerns, neither of which is susceptible to the shifting currents of culture.

"The question we have to ask is the same question that General Motors should have been asking for the last 20 years: What has changed and why have we not?" Mohler suggested. "Or for those whose business is the shopping mall: Has the logic of this particular organizational pattern been eclipsed by something else?"

"Are the people who are actually in our churches today and the people we are trying to reach today, are they attracted to that kind of logic or does it seem like an age gone by?"

Mohler indicated that the SBC faces at least 10 dichotomies. He said Southern Baptists in the future will be either:

- Missiological or bureaucratic.
- Tribal or theological.
- Convictional or confused.
- Secular or sectarian.
- Younger or dead.
- Diverse or diminished.
- Missional or more methodological.
- More strategic or more anemic.
- More bold or more boring.
- Happy or bitter.

Regarding the Cooperative Program, Mohler said the convention has perception problems and reality problems.

"We say we are sold out to missions and yet the closer you look at the actual infrastructure of the Southern Baptist Convention at every level ... only a small portion of that offering plate dollar ever gets close to the International Missions Board," he said. (BP)



Albert Mohler

JOIN YOUR BAPTIST CHAPLAIN REV. ROY MYERS

## Alaska Cruise

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

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

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

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## Jesus followers

### The lesson Jesus' disciples learned in Mark is a lesson for all Christ followers

By Michael Spencer, OBI campus minister

As Jesus followers, sometimes we get it right and sometimes we get it wrong.

The Gospels tell us that Jesus gave to the 12 (Mark 6) and later to the 72 (Luke 10) the power to minister in His name. In Luke 10:17-18, the disciples returned rejoicing. They got it right and saw His power at work. Jesus rejoiced with them. "I saw Satan fall like lightning."

But in Mark 9, the disciples could not cast an evil spirit out of a boy. Previously, they had done this very thing, but now they were powerless. Jesus said about them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you?" I'm sure that's not the last time Jesus looked at His disciples who had previously done His will and His work and lamented that they were now powerless.

It is a story all of us in ministry know well. Sometimes we get Jesus-following right and sometimes we get it wrong. Sometimes we are useful and on mission; other times we are obstacles and off task. In the conversation that follows in Mark 9, Jesus plainly reveals the problem.

First, the disciples were arguing with the Pharisees. I believe it is likely that the Pharisees were objecting to the disciples using the name of Jesus as the authority for what they were doing. The disciples' response was natural—and wrong. They argued and soon a "great crowd" gathered to watch the argument. How much of our powerlessness is because of our distractions into arguments, gossip, petty disagreements and other wastes of our time and calling?

Second, Jesus said the disciples were "faithless." In Mark 8, the disciples had identified Jesus as the Messiah, but at this point they did not believe or understand the cross and resurrection. Faith in Mark is often set up as the opposite of fear, not unbelief—but there is a natural connection. When we don't know the power of the resurrection, we are thrown back on ourselves. What can we do that will impress? What can we do that

will make a difference? God chooses to use us, but our faith cannot be in our usefulness or our "power." Our faith must be in Jesus.

All of us need our faith built up, especially in these times when fear has taken such a deep hold in the minds of so many Christians. The one who raised Jesus from the dead is at work in and through you. Have confidence in Him. Grow in your faith in Jesus.

Finally, Jesus said that the disciples needed to pray; not make a show of an exorcism, but pray. "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer."

Pray. Pray more. Pray faithfully and consistently. Pray with confidence in God. Pray that unbelief will be replaced with faith, and uselessness with mission. Ask for the prayers of others.

As we minister at OBI, we want to be Jesus followers who get it right. We have many opportunities to see Jesus at work, but we need faith, power and constant prayer. Finances are important, but spiritual weapons are essential. Be our partners through prayer, encouragement and support. OBI has "gotten it right" many times in 110 years, and with your support, will continue to do so.

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

## On the other side of the world

### People everywhere still need to hear about Jesus Christ

As you know from reading this column the last two weeks, I have been out of the country on a mission trip. There are a few things that God has affirmed for me on this trip to "the other side of the world."

I know you already know this, but we are truly blessed to live in America. Oh, how we often take for granted the modern conveniences we have at our disposal. What a blessing to just be able to travel from point to point here in this country without having to go through a checkpoint with no guarantee you will be able to continue on your journey.

And no matter where we go, whether it's here in this country or even on the other side of the world, people still need and want to hear about Jesus. Ecclesiastes 3:11 and Romans 1:19-20 came alive to me as I spent time sharing the gospel with people who lived in a remote part of this big, big world.

My interaction with people on the other side of the world has affirmed to me that God truly has put eternity in the hearts of mankind (Ecclesiastes 3:11). And what I found on this mission trip is that

people know in their hearts that without God, there is something missing from their lives. They just cannot figure life out and they are yearning to have that peace they have been searching for.

This trip also affirmed to me that creation itself does point all

of mankind to the fact that there is a God (Romans 1:19-20). The problem is that they do not know how to get to Him.

My mind goes back to the elderly man I encountered working out in his crop fields all alone. As I shared the gospel with him and he accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior, he smiled at me and said, "I have been yearning in

my heart for someone to come and tell me how to get to God."

We do live in a big, big world. And may we never forget there are people all around us who are waiting for someone to come and tell them that Jesus loved them enough to die for their sins, and that He is the only way back to God.

### 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

## Obama seeks religious help in debunking health care critics

By Adelle Banks

Washington—Facing incendiary charges that health care reform would finance abortion and euthanasia, President Obama last week appealed to religious groups to help sell the plan and debunk critics' "false witness."

"I'm going to need the help of all of you," Obama told a conference call and live webcast that attracted an estimated 140,000 people. "I need you to knock on doors, talk to your neighbors. I need you to spread the facts and speak the truth."

The "40 Minutes for Health Reform" call, organized by the Washington-based group Faith in Public Life and supported by 32 religious organizations, was part of a campaign to get clergy and congregants actively

involved in promoting health care reform.

The president used the call to decry what he called "misinformation" and "divisive and deceptive attacks" in the ongoing debate.

"There are some folks out there who are, frankly, bearing false witness," he said.

Obama called the idea that the legislation would include "death panels" to determine whether elderly patients live or die "an extraordinary lie." He said it was "not true" that the plans represent a "government takeover of health care" or "mean government funding of abortion."

"These are all fabrications that have been put out there in order to discourage people from meeting what I consider to be a core ethical and moral obligation, and

that is that we look out for one another, that I am my brother's keeper, I am my sister's keeper," he said.

At the same time, conservative groups, including leading Christian activists, ramped up their continued opposition to the reform package, which they insist could ultimately lead to taxpayer-funded abortions or rationing of care for the elderly.

Just two hours before Obama's call, Tony Perkins, president of Family Research Council Action, unveiled a second ad that says money that could be used for surgery for the elderly would instead pay for abortions. Their tag line is: "Our greatest generation denied care. Our future generation denied life."

Perkins said there was a lot of "gnashing of teeth over our first ad" but he stood by its claims. He said his organization worked to amend legislation to ensure that taxpayer-funded abortions would not be included. "They were all voted down, primarily on party lines," he said.

Perkins also criticized Obama's attempt to appeal to religious leaders, saying that the president was "changing his tone" and that Obama was "now trying to use the language of the Religious Left to convince Americans that this is a moral issue."

In addition to the abortion issue, Perkins noted his opposition to the reform because of what he described as "rationing" of services that he said would result from a government-administered plan. (RNS)

### LEADING AN OVERSEAS MISSION TRIP?

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TO FIND OUT YOU'RE UNPREPARED!

#### Team Leader Training for International Mission Trips

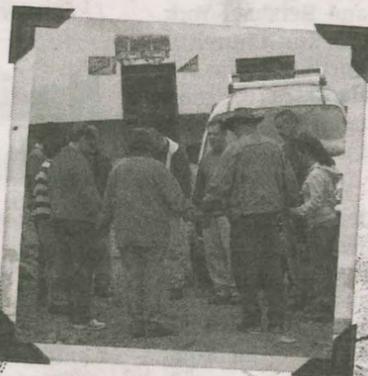
September 18-19, 2009  
Training begins at 6:30 pm on Friday  
and ends at 5 pm on Saturday

Kentucky Baptist Building  
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Team Leader Training for International Mission Trips is open to any Kentucky Baptist planning to lead a mission trip or interested in learning more about leading a trip.

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



### NBC poll indicates majority of Americans believe health care bill will fund abortions

By Michael Foust

Washington—Despite President Obama's claims to the contrary, a recent NBC News poll shows that Americans, by a 13-point margin, believe the health care plan likely will use federal dollars to fund abortions.

The poll was released last week as a leading conservative organization, the Family Research Council Action, began airing its second television advertisement arguing that the various health care bills, as written, leave the door open to abortion funding.

The survey of 805 adults found that 50 percent agree the plan "likely will use taxpayer dollars to pay for women to have abortions." Thirty-seven percent say it is unlikely.

Independent analyses seem to have backed up pro-lifers' claims. An Aug. 5 Associated Press report said that "health care legislation before Congress would allow a new government-sponsored insurance plan to cover abortions." Likewise, an Aug. 13 ABC News story said that "under health care reform, lower-income Americans would have their health care subsidized by the government, and they will be allowed to pick a health plan that covers abortion."

President Obama and White House officials have attempted in recent days to tackle what they view as health care bill "myths," but have yet to say anything about abortion. Pro-lifers claim the silence is due to the fact that the charges are true.

The current health care/abortion debate concerns three primary issues:

- Whether a public option (a government-run plan) will cover abortion.
- Whether federal subsidies to low-income individuals can be used to purchase private insurance plans that cover abortion.
- Whether the federal government will mandate that private insurance plans cover a list of "essential benefits," and whether that list of benefits will include abortions.

Even if the final version of a health care bill does not include a public option, there still are major concerns for pro-life advocates, according to Douglas Johnson, the National Right to Life Committee's legislative director.

He said that current law prohibits the federal employees health plan—the same health insurance plan that members of Congress have—to cover abortions. That principle, he noted, should apply to any health care bill.

"You've heard those in Congress say many times, 'I want every American to have as good a health plan as we in Congress have.' Well, let's apply this (restriction on abortion funding) as well," Johnson said. "If we talk about insurance plans, health plans of any type, (under current law) federal funds cannot flow into a fund that includes abortion coverage."

Meanwhile, the new TV ad by the Family Research Council Action, like its first one, argues that the health care bill not only will lead to government funding of abortion but also to the rationing of health care for the elderly.

The group's first ad, which dealt with the same subject, aired on cable news in Arkansas, Nebraska, Louisiana, Alaska and Pennsylvania and had about \$500,000 behind it. Both ads ask viewers to call their senator. The Senate is seen as the greatest roadblock for any health care bill. (BP)

## Kentucky Baptist Minister's Golf Tournament

September 21-22, 2009  
Cherry Blossom Golf &  
Country Club Georgetown, KY



Register online  
[www.kybaptist.org/golf](http://www.kybaptist.org/golf)

**PRAYER PARTNERS**

Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist missionaries and ministries:

**Mission Service Corps missionaries Lynn and Angie Wagoner of McDowell.** The Wagoners serve as directors of God's Appalachian Partnership in Eastern Kentucky. Praise God that while meeting the physical needs (food, clothing, job-skill development and home construction) of the poor in Appalachia, many have accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior. Pray that the Wagoners will be effective in connecting these individuals with local churches. Pray that God will provide resources for the Dorema project, a ministry to place families in refurbished mobile homes with no-interest loans.

**Marsha's Place Pregnancy Resource Center in Henderson.** Jeanmarie Parrott serves as coordinator of this ministry that empowers individuals facing unplanned pregnancies with life-affirming choices through prevention, intervention and restoration. Pray that God would provide a larger facility for the ministry and a new ultrasound machine. Pray also for new sources of financial and volunteer support so that more individuals will find healing and salvation through Christ.

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

**MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI**

COMPILED BY STAFF

- **AUBURN**—New Friendship Church recently called **Barry Raley** as pastor.
- **CADIZ**—Rock Front Church recently called **Howard Conner** as pastor.
- **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Saloma Church will host a Singspiration service Aug. 30, 6 p.m. Guest singers and musicians are invited to participate. For more information, call (270) 789-0082. **John Chowning** is pastor.
- **CORBIN**—**Jeff Moran** recently resigned as minister of youth at Central Church.
- **DAWSON SPRINGS**—Lebanon Missionary Church recently called **Mike Boyd** as pastor. He recently was ordained to the gospel ministry at Northside Church in Princeton.
- **FOREST HILLS**—**Jeff Deel** recently resigned as pastor of First Church.
- **FRANKFORT**—Calvary Church recently called **Bill Hartung** as pastor.

Evergreen Church will host **Brian Free & Assurance** in concert Aug. 28, 7 p.m. For more information, call (502) 223-8364. **Brad Hockensmith** is pastor.

■ **KIMPER**—Kimper Mission will hold a constitution service Aug. 30, 3 p.m., to officially change its name to Kimper Community Church. For more information, call (606) 835-1840. **Andy Keaton** is pastor.

■ **MAYSVILLE**—Plainview Church recently called **Al Simmons** as pastor. He previously was pastor at Irvingville Church in Cynthiana.

■ **PADUCAH**—Trinity Church will host **Ann Downing** in concert Aug. 30, 6 p.m. For more info, call (270) 442-1013. **Kenneth Brown** is pastor.

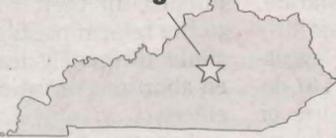
West End Church recently called **Larry Lindsey** as pastor.

■ **PRINCETON**—Southside Church will hold revival services Aug. 30, 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.; Aug. 31-Sept. 2, noon & 6:30 p.m. with **Bobby Reno** as evangelist. **Bruce Hodge** is transitional pastor.

■ **SOMERSET**—High Street Church will hold a Brazilian Homecoming service Aug. 30, 7 p.m. with Brazilian students from Campbellsville Uni-

**Spotlight on ...**

**Harrodsburg**



Pioneer Church will host a Bible conference, "Celebrating Christ's Church: Biblical Snapshots of a Glorious Bride," Aug. 30-Sept. 1, 6 p.m. featuring guest speakers **Josh Buice**, pastor of Cornerstone Church in McMinnville, Tenn.; **Bill Cook**, pastor of Ninth & O Church in Louisville; **David Crowe**, pastor of Bruner's Chapel Church in Harrodsburg; **Patrick Whyte**, evangelist with Hear His Voice Ministries in Lexington; and **Hershael York**, pastor of Buck Run Church in Frankfort. Worship music will be led by **Sola Grace**. For more information, call (859) 734-2821. **Andrew Dyer** is pastor.

versity and other Brazil natives from around the state sharing music and testimonies. Those interested in Brazilian missions are invited to attend. For more information, call **Steve Hall** at (606) 678-8973. **Ed Amundson** is pastor.

■ **STANTON**—Emmanuel Church will host the Hope Fest Community Youth Concert Aug. 29, 5 p.m. featuring **Caleb Rowdon** and **Ebenezer Stone**. For more information, call (606) 663-1300.

■ **WALTON**—New Banklick Church recently called **Calvin Perry** as interim pastor.

■ **WICKLIFFE**—Bethlehem Church recently called **Michael Suitor** as pastor.

■ **CORRECTION**—Karns Grove Church in Philpot recently called **Larry Birkhead** as interim pastor.



**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**August**

29 Super Saturday, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

**September**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**National Quartet Convention to be in Louisville Sept. 13-19**

**Louisville**—The city of Louisville will once again host the National Quartet Convention. The 52nd annual event will be held Sept. 13-19 at the Kentucky Fair & Exposition Center.

More than 40,000 fans of southern gospel music from around the United States and more than a half dozen countries are expected to attend the convention. Dozens of the biggest names in southern gospel will be featured during the week-long event. Among them are The Gaither Vocal Band, Ernie Haase & Signature Sound, The Hoppers, The Kingdom Heirs, Gold City, Greater Vision, The McKameys, Legacy Five, The Inspirations, The Kingsmen, The Dove Brothers and The Dixie Melody Boys.

The convention also will feature

a number of trios, duos and solo performers during the week, including Ivan Parker, Janet Paschal and Kentucky native Mark Bishop.

The National Quartet Convention offers fans a "one-stop shopping" experience, with the opportunity to see and hear southern gospel groups, meet them and purchase music, videos and apparel at the approximately 450 exhibits.

Nightly concerts will be held at Freedom Hall, with afternoon concerts and worship services also scheduled throughout the Kentucky Fair & Exposition Center complex.

For more information about the 2009 National Quartet Convention, as well as a complete schedule of events, call (800) 846-8499 or visit [www.NATQC.com](http://www.NATQC.com).

**CLASSIFIED ADS**

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

**SEEKING:** Part-time youth minister. Please send resumé to Symsonia Baptist, PO Box 343, Symsonia, KY 42082; or e-mail to [symsoniabaptist@bellsouth.net](mailto:symsoniabaptist@bellsouth.net).

**SEEKING:** Part-time director of senior adult ministries for large, growing senior adult ministry at First Baptist Church, Richmond Ky. Successful candidate will be friendly and outgoing, with a strong calling to work with senior adults and lead them in ministry. Must be organized, knowledgeable in trip planning, and able to plan, organize and carry out special events. A successful track record of working alongside senior adults in ministry is a must. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, First Baptist Church, 425 Eastern Bypass, Richmond KY 40475; or e-mail [fbcrsumes@firstbaptistnet.com](mailto:fbcrsumes@firstbaptistnet.com).

**SEEKING:** Enthusiastic part-time youth pastor who has a passion for reaching the lost and making disciples. If you feel led, contact Bedford Baptist Church, 1425 Hwy 42E, Bedford, KY 40006. (502) 255-3240.

**SEEKING:** Part-time children's minister (nursery thru 5th grade) for Buckner Baptist, Oldham Co. Must have a desire to nurture and minister to children. Send a cover letter and resumé to Buckner Baptist Church, PO Box 54, Buckner, KY 40010; or e-mail to [rbaptistchurch@insightbb.com](mailto:rbaptistchurch@insightbb.com).

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of worship and outreach. Send resumé to Journey Baptist Fellowship at [journeylexington@gmail.com](mailto:journeylexington@gmail.com).

**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:** 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:** 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 resúmes 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@bellsouth.net](mailto:janiedoug@bellsouth.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 resúmes 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).

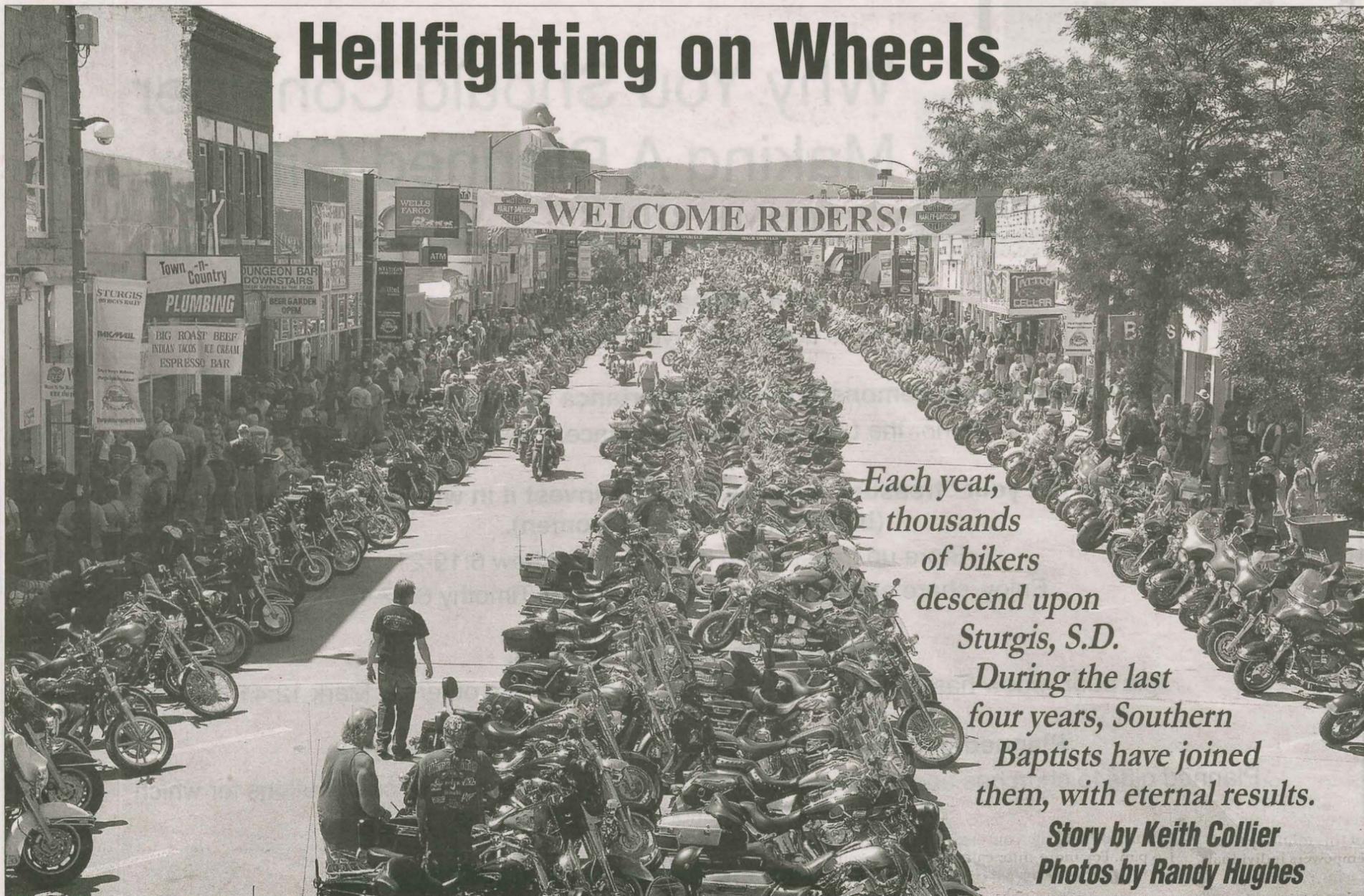
**SEEKING:** Part-time youth director. Please send resumé to Eatom Memorial Baptist Church, 1225 West Third St., Owensboro, KY 42301.

**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 [mjastratton@gmail.com](mailto:mjastratton@gmail.com).

**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 resúmes to [wroberts@bellnet.org](mailto:wroberts@bellnet.org).

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

## Hellfighting on Wheels



*Each year, thousands of bikers descend upon Sturgis, S.D. During the last four years, Southern Baptists have joined them, with eternal results.*

**Story by Keith Collier  
Photos by Randy Hughes**

**A**s motorcycle engines roared, more than 4,200 leather-clad motorcyclists and their friends at the 69th annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally heard a three-minute testimony of how Christ could radically change their lives. Just for listening, they also were given a chance to win a brand new Harley-Davidson bike.

For the fourth year in a row, the Sturgis Motorcycle Giveaway sponsored by the Dakota Baptist Convention and the North American Mission Board used volunteers from across the nation Aug. 3-8 to give personal testimonies about how they met Christ and to invite rally-goers to invite Him into their lives. By the end of the week, 835 people made professions of faith in Jesus Christ.

For one week in August each year, the small, quiet towns of the South Dakota Black Hills transform as around 500,000 motorcyclists and visitors descend upon the region for the bike rally. The atmosphere promotes raucous parties and sinful living, but it is into such darkness that God calls Christians to shine the light of Christ.

In 2006, the Dakota convention decided to do something about the sea of lostness.

"We talked about wanting to put together some kind of intentional evangelism event at Sturgis," said Garvon Golden, DBC's associate executive director. "We felt that if our two states are drawing such a large crowd of people from all over the world, we have the responsibility to try to share Christ with these folks and have some type of evangelistic presence."

Partnering with evangelist Ronnie Hill of Texas, the DBC staff decided to use the motorcycle giveaway to draw people to the booth so the staff and volunteers would have opportunities to share the gospel.

"You have to start with relevance," Golden emphasized. "You have to start with something that's going to get their atten-

tion, something that's going to make them stop and say, 'Yeah, I'll listen to you for three minutes.'"

Regardless of his or her response to the testimony, each individual was allowed to fill out a raffle ticket for the Harley.

"Our main focus is to share with people the gospel," Golden said. "We have no problem with Christians signing up for the motorcycle. We just want to be able to share with people who have never heard the gospel, and we try to make sure we have an opportunity to do that."

Jim Pratt, area missionary for Siouxland Association of Southern Baptists in South Dakota, said each witnessing opportunity was a chance to plant a seed.

"I was hellbound and was going to bust

hell wide open, and God used some people in a similar fashion to love me, and their love allowed me to hear the message," Pratt recalled. "Up to that point, I wouldn't listen to the message because I didn't feel that it was genuine. So, I'm hoping that people will see that we're genuine."

"Sometimes people are hurting, and they don't realize it," he added. "They're trying to find satisfaction in everything but Christ—whether it's motorcycles, alcohol, drugs or relationships—but the only satisfying relationship is with Christ."

David Badger, a member of the F.A.I.T.H. Riders Motorcycle Ministry, said he saw Sturgis with new eyes this year as he shared Christ with people who came to the booth. Although he had been to the rally many

times before, this was the first year he came as a Christian.

"This is the first year I've come with Christ in my heart," Badger noted. "The other years I came, I should have been one of the ones walking into this tent."

Follow-up for those who prayed to receive Christ is a high priority for Golden and his team. Names are sent to the Evangelism Response Center at NAMB, which in turn sends the names to churches in the areas where the people live. Golden also sends names to state evangelism directors.

This year, Calvary Baptist Church in Rapid City, S.D., hosted three evening events during the rally designed to encourage and disciple new believers. Sponsored by several Set Free churches in the Dakotas, Montana and Colorado, these events provided a Christian environment with free food, music and a discipleship-based message.

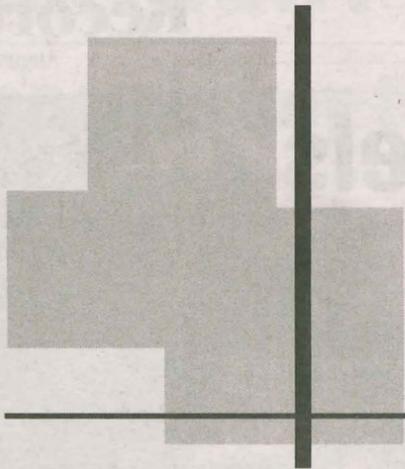
The DBC enlisted nearly 200 volunteers to help with this year's rally. Several state conventions, including the Georgia Baptist Convention, the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention and the Conservative Baptists of Virginia, offered financial support, and the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma sent trained chaplains.

Golden said he is thankful for the support of Southern Baptists from across the country and is excited about the growing number of churches and individuals from the Dakotas who volunteered.

"One of the things that we're hoping to see happen over the next few years is that more of the people from our own churches in the Dakotas will become involved in the ministry," Golden said. "I'm looking for the day when we can devote two full days of just Dakota people working the booth and sharing Christ. We've already been talking about that among our regional and area missionaries to try to pull people from our own churches to be a part." (BP)



**RESCUE MISSION** Michael Martin, a student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, shares the gospel with a biker as Blane Jeffords, a Hellfighter from Jacksonville, Fla., pumps gas at a free gas giveaway during the 69th annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in South Dakota earlier this month.



# Why You Should Consider Making A Planned Gift

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## **It all belongs to God.**

The earth is the Lord's and everything in it. Psalm 24:1

## **Estate stewardship demonstrates the importance of your relationship to God.**

Honor the Lord with your substance. Proverbs 3:9

## **Only way to get your "treasure" into heaven is to invest it in what is going to heaven (boys, girls, men and women).**

...Store up treasures in heaven... Matthew 6:19-21

Enjoy, share and invest for eternal gains. 1 Timothy 6:17-19

## **Worthy gifts come in all sizes.**

...this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others... Mark 12:41-44

## **Planned gifts made during life provide income tax savings.**

Planned gifts to churches and other qualified charitable organizations are contributions for which an income tax deduction may be available.

## **Capital gains tax savings may result from a gift during life of appreciated assets.**

Your charitable contribution is based on the current market value of the appreciated asset, not what you paid for it, and you avoid the capital gains tax that would be incurred if you sold the asset.

## **Charitable gifts made at death provide estate tax savings.**

Bequests and other gifts at death to Baptist and other qualified charitable causes, no matter the size, qualify for the unlimited estate tax charitable deduction.

## **Increase current income.**

Life income planned gifts may provide a larger "income" stream back to the donor and/or other life income beneficiary(s) than the income paid by the asset used to fund the life income gift.

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**To explore how making a planned gift can fulfill your charitable giving objectives as well as provide for the future financial security of your family contact:**

**Barry G. Allen, President and CEO**  
barry.allen@kybaptist.org

**Laurie W. Valentine, Trust Counsel and COO**  
laurie.valentine@kybaptist.org



[www.kybaptistfoundation.org](http://www.kybaptistfoundation.org)