

Shine like stars in the world
Philippians 2:15

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FOR THE RECORD

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Two churches, One body

Louisville churches, one black, one white, unite as model for racial reconciliation

By David Winfrey
State Correspondent

Louisville—Long talks, compromises and at least one blunt sermon preceded the recent celebration service uniting a black church and a white church in Louisville.

Several questions remain for the new congregation, but both pastors insist they have both the Holy Spirit and a spirit of cooperation to make this merger a success.

More than 560 people sang, prayed, and rejoiced Aug. 23 as St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church (a mostly black congregation) and Shively Heights Baptist Church (a mostly white congregation) merged into St. Paul Baptist Church at Shively Heights.

Denominational leaders praised the union as a model for racial reconciliation.

"Today is a great example of the gospel at work changing lives, congregations and communities, with impact extending far beyond today and far beyond Louisville," said Larry Martin, a consultant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention who has long worked with St. Paul Pastor Lincoln Bingham in Christian racial reconciliation efforts.

The location of the combined



Pastors Lincoln Bingham (center left) and Mark Payton (center right), along with their wives, lead their newly united congregation in prayer Aug. 23. St. Paul Baptist Church at Shively Heights is the result of a merger of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church (a mostly black congregation) and Shively Heights Baptist Church (a mostly white congregation). (Photo by David Winfrey)

churches is especially noteworthy. Years ago, Shively was a "white flight" suburb for many families leaving the city of Louisville. Just down the road from the church campus, 55 years ago a bomb destroyed the house of the first black family to locate in Shively.

Pastors at both churches say they realized their congregations were at crossroads when they proposed the

idea of combining forces.

At St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, Pastor Bingham said facilities were limiting the predominately African-American church from conducting the ministries members wanted to host.

The youth had no gym. Seniors had no elevators. The sanctuary, which seats 220 people, lacked room to grow. "Our challenge was we had

ministries and membership larger than what our facilities could properly accommodate," Bingham said.

Seven miles southwest, the predominately white Shively Heights Baptist Church was facing challenges both economic and cultural, said Mark Payton, who has led the church for eight years.

"We had 100 people trying to
□ See Two churches, One ... Page 2

Eliza Broadus Season of Prayer highlights state missions

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Louisville—Quite possibly, no one has taken longer to become a millionaire than Eliza Broadus.

At the 2008 Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting, Executive Director Joy Bolton exclaimed: "Eliza is a millionaire!"

Nearly 100 years after Miss Broadus encouraged Kentucky's WMU to begin taking up an annual offering to support state missionaries and ministries, the offering named in her honor cracked the \$1 million mark.

With the Season of Prayer for the Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions here, it seems WMU is moving up and beyond that milestone.

For the new fiscal year beginning Sept. 1, the 2009-10 EBO bar has been set at \$1.1 million, an increase of \$47,992 (4.6 percent) over the 2008-09 goal.

Bolton called the \$1.1 million mark "a reachable goal" despite the down economy, which has shown signs of improvement in recent months. The offering already exceeded \$1.1 million in 2007-08 and may do so again for '08-'09.

As of last week, Bolton said the Eliza Broadus Offering total was hovering at around \$1,096,000 for the fiscal year which ended this week. She expects that it could exceed \$1.1 million as last-minute receipts trickle in, but likely will fall short of the record total from '07-'08.

"Even if we're a few dollars short of where we were in '07-'08, this is still a banner year for the offering," Bolton said.

Like the year before, there will be a surplus of EBO funds to be distributed to state missions and ministries. Much of the 2007-08 overage was used for the Crossover Louisville evangelistic efforts prior to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

Bolton emphasized that this year's overage, too, "will be used for evangelism in Kentucky." She and Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Bill Mackey will meet in the coming days to suggest which projects will receive those funds.

As for this year's Eliza Broadus Offering—which was named in 1975 for the longtime Kentucky WMU leader—the \$1.1 million already has been earmarked for dozens of Ken-

tucky missionaries and ministries.

According to Bolton, the offering is allocated among three segments: KBC Mission Board ministries; Kentucky WMU missions education; and Kentucky Special Ministries.

"The lion's share of the offering" goes to the KBC, Bolton noted. This year, that totals \$745,000, more than two-thirds of the total offering.

More than \$500,000 of the KBC's allocation is distributed to the missions growth team—about 21 percent of the team's overall budget. That includes funding for salary and insurance benefits for missionaries through the Associational Missionary Assistance Program. Team leader Randy Jones called the EBO funds for AMAP vital to the program.

He said the KBC currently helps 22 state Baptist associations employ full- or part-time director of missions through AMAP. "These are associations that might not be able to have a director of missions otherwise," Jones explained, adding, however, that the number of participating associations is decreasing as more of them become self-supporting.

Also under the missions growth
□ See Eliza Broadus ... Page 3

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WMU LEADER Eliza Broadus, a longtime advocate for state missions, urged Kentucky WMU in 1913 to collect an annual offering for state missions in churches across the commonwealth. To honor her work in promoting state missions and ministries, Kentucky WMU leaders in 1975 voted to name the annual state missions offering for Broadus. In 2007-08, the offering reached \$1 million for the first time in its history. This year's goal is \$1.1 million.

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, Sept. 2

Two churches, One body

Newly merged church could become model for successful racially integrated congregations

Continued from page 1

raise \$112,000 per year," he noted. "We were just getting so crunched and we just knew that we needed help to reach this community."

Statistics compiled with the help of the Kentucky Baptist Convention reinforced the challenges and opportunities surrounding the church campus, he added.

Projections showed that by next year, 30 percent of the neighborhood would be African-American, Payton said. Yet opportunities abound, he added. Reports also noted that 300,000 people live in a five-mile radius of the church. "Shively Heights is sitting in the most populated area in Kentucky."

The two pastors, who have been friends for 25 years, were talking this past winter when they realized a merger might solve their problems. The Shively Heights campus has a gym, four times as much education space as at St. Paul, elevators and a sanctuary that can seat 500 comfortably.

Together, Payton and Bingham emphasized the opportunities to reach the community with a witness and racial sensitivity that wasn't possible before.

Still, both congregations had some objectors. Said Payton: "Me and Lincoln decided when we started this process we would lose some but we would gain far more."

Bingham said two-thirds of St. Paul voted for the move. He said he maintained focus by casting the vision for what God wanted to accomplish.

"God wants us to do bigger things," he said. "We've had a great ministry here. But God has much more for us to do. And the facility and the racial mix (in Shively Heights) will provide even greater opportunity."

Payton said approximately 70 percent of Shively Heights voted for the move, but less than one percent gave "public opposition." Nearly 20 members have left since the vote to merge, he added. "Even in this day and age, we would be naïve to think some of it wasn't because of race."

Payton even addressed the racial issue in



MEDIA BLITZ The merger of Shively Heights Baptist Church and St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church was big news, if you measure the amount of media attention it attracted. At least six news reporters attended the initial joint service of St. Paul Baptist Church at Shively Heights. Newscaster Rachel Platt of WHAS-TV (pictured) said the uniqueness of the merger says a lot about race relations in Louisville. "People are kind of looking at this. Well how is it going to work out? How are they going to blend the two?" she said. "I think it's an experiment and a test of faith to see how this plays out—and people are watching." (Photos by David Winfrey)

a sermon before the merger.

"I just told them, 'You all used to live downtown. Why did you move to Shively? We all know why you moved,'" he recalled. "When are you going to quit running from them and start reaching them?"

Nationally, approximately 8 percent of churches are integrated, according to George Yancey, a sociology professor at the University of North Texas who has studied race and churches.

While many aspects of life, such as work or school, often are integrated, totally voluntary organizations like church remain less so, he noted. "In America we still choose to be among our own racially," said Yancey, author of "One Body, One Spirit."

"Families are that way. We usually choose (to marry) someone of our own race."

Successful integration requires sensitivity and compromise from all parties, he explained.

"Things are not going to be the way they used to be and both groups are going to have to accept that," he said.

Yancey said some research suggests integrated churches are better able to grow numerically, but there has been no measurement for such things as spiritual growth or true cooperation among different ethnic groups. "There needs to be more research into that."

At St. Paul Baptist Church at Shively



A JOYFUL NOISE Black and white children sing together during a choir performance at the first service of the newly merged St. Paul Baptist Church at Shively Heights.

Heights, many details remain to be worked out. Bingham and Payton are taking turns preaching on Sunday morning. All current staff is remaining. Bingham said leaders are working to maintain a diversity of cultures in all aspects.

"It will take some time to do this, but we'll do everything we can possibly do to make sure that equity is demonstrated in music, preaching and every other part of our worship."

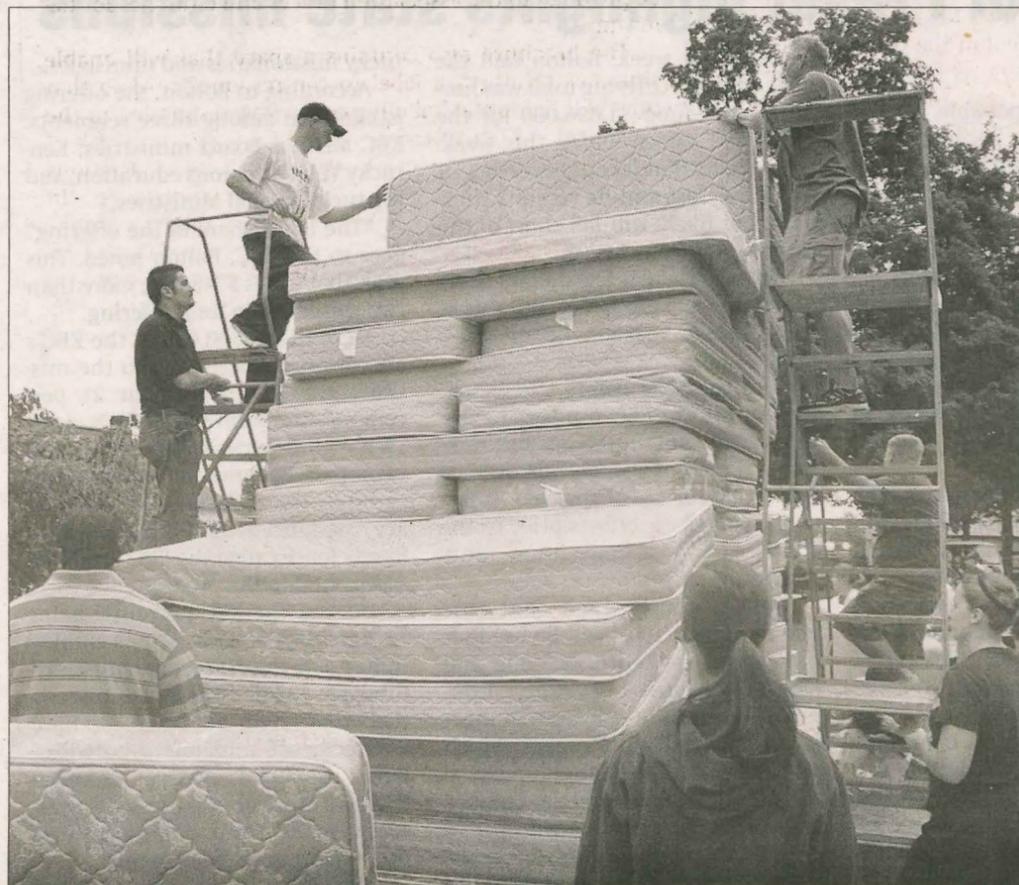
Payton agreed: "We are merging all of our teams to make sure we have adequate representation from both churches. We just want to make sure we don't have all black talking in one area and all white talking in another area. We want it totally blended."

Payton said he's asked members to be patient as leaders "nail down the wrinkles."

"We're all going to be stretched," he said. "I've reminded them of Joshua as he led the children of Israel. He said 'We've never been this way before,' and neither of our churches have been this way before."

Bingham said he hopes other congregations will learn from the merger that "we all should follow the biblical mandate that we all be one, and that it does not necessarily suggest disaster when we obey that command."

CU students go for world-record mattress stack



With 75 mattresses stacked at 12 feet, 9 inches tall, Campbellsville University broke the Guinness World Record for the world's tallest stack of mattresses during Welcome Weekend festivities Aug. 22. The previous record was held by Sealy Mattresses in High Point, N.C., set in 2005. To beat the world record, the stack of mattresses had to be free standing, commercially available and the same size. Community witnesses also were required, and the measurement had to be identified by an official land surveyor. Documentation still needs to be sent to Guinness World Record offices for final approval. (Photo by André Tomaz)

Equestrian ministries to host community day at horse park

Lexington—Those interested in serving as ministry volunteers for the 2010 World Equestrian Games are invited to a special Church and Community Day Sept. 12, at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington.

Sponsored by Affiliated International Ministries, the event is designed to educate the community about the upcoming World Equestrian Games and the opportunities for volunteers to minister to participants.

"We want people to experience the growing excitement for the 2010 World Equestrian Games, which will be, by far, the largest international event and the largest sporting event in Kentucky history," said Larry Martin, consultant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention and AIM coordinator.

The Church and Community Day will run from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and will include discounted admission rates to the Kentucky Horse Park. Admission for adults is \$9, admission for children ages 7-12 is \$6, and children ages 6 and under get in free, Martin said.

The event will feature presentations by AIM coordinators who are planning a variety of ministry and service opportunities during the World Equestrian Games. Participants also will have time to enjoy the park grounds, Martin noted.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention has designated funds for ministries related to the World Equestrian Games and is coordinating its efforts through AIM. The 2010 games are scheduled for Sept. 25-Oct. 10, and will take place at the Kentucky Horse Park.

Eliza Broadus Offering Season of Prayer begins, highlighting Kentucky missions

Continued from page 1

team umbrella is the new work and associational missions department which oversees much of the different language and ethnic ministries in the state.

The Hispanic Bible Institute will receive \$15,000 in EBO funds this year. Established in 2005, the school has graduated dozens of Hispanic church leaders since it opened. Bolton said it equips Hispanic leaders with a basic theological education in their own language.

"Hispanic work has changed. It's not just a migrant ministry anymore; these folks have come to stay," she noted. The Hispanic Bible Institute "is helping them train leaders, and that helps to fuel the growth in the Hispanic churches."

Jones said the EBO funds allow his department to stretch the Cooperative Program dollars it receives, either to be spread around to other missions growth departments or to other convention teams.

"There are some ministries we could not do if we didn't have the (EBO) money," Jones said.

2010 emphasis funded

Two other ministries that are earmarked to receive Eliza Broadus funds are two events that the KBC is highlighting for 2010: Find It Here and World Equestrian Games outreach.

Find It Here is the evangelistic push coordinated by the KBC that will attempt to reach 1.5 million Kentucky households with the gospel next year. The effort is part of the North American Mission Board's GPS—God's Plan for Sharing—national emphasis.

Bolton said that with the \$27,000 of EBO funds for Find It Here, the convention will be buying materials to fill bags that will be placed on doors statewide, as well as air time on local TV stations for a media campaign that will accompany the effort.

Meanwhile, the World Equestrian Games do not begin for more than a year, but outreach preparations have begun in earnest. The games are set for Sept. 25-Oct. 10,

2010, at Lexington's Kentucky Horse Park—the first time ever the event will be held outside of Europe. The games are projected to bring 300,000 people from all over the world to the Bluegrass State.

Larry Martin, a consultant for the KBC's missions growth team, has helped establish Affiliated International Ministries, the umbrella organization that is coordinating ministries at the World Equestrian Games. AIM will be hosting a Church and Community Day event next weekend to preview the ministry opportunities available at the games (see story on page 2).

Bolton said that because the competing horses have to be quarantined prior to the event, visitors will begin arriving next spring and early summer. "So, we're featuring that ministry now because we want Kentucky Baptists ... to know that there are things now going on they can be a part of," she pointed out.

Pray for state missions

The main thing Kentucky Baptists can be a part of now is prayer, Bolton insisted. The Season of Prayer for the Eliza Broadus Offering kicks off this

week; the Week of Prayer is set for Sept. 13-20.

"The purpose of the Season of Prayer, above all, is to pray for missions in Kentucky," she said, adding that its secondary purpose is to educate Kentucky Baptists about the offering. "You can't pray for what you don't know about."

Season of Prayer promotional packets were mailed to KBC churches statewide in July. These materials each year, Bolton said, serve to let people know about the number of Kentucky Baptist ministries funded by EBO.

She said the materials reinforce WMU's motto of "learn, pray, give and go."

"You 'learn' about the ministries, you 'pray' for the ministries, you 'give' to the ministries, and you 'go' get involved," Bolton noted.

To learn more about the Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions, visit www.KyWMU.org/StateMissions.

Eliza Broadus Offering 2009-10 Allocations

Kentucky Baptist Convention:
State Missions and Evangelism \$745,000

Kentucky WMU:
Missions Education \$260,000

Kentucky Special Ministries \$95,000

Eliza Broadus Offering Goal \$1.1 million

Judge rules against Kentucky law that calls for reliance on God for state's protection

Frankfort—A Kentucky court has ruled that a state law that declares the state Office of Homeland Security cannot do its job without God's help is unconstitutional.

Judge Thomas Wingate ruled Aug. 26 that the General Assembly's passage of a law requiring the state's Office of Homeland Security to acknowledge "the dependence on Almighty God as being vital to the security of the Commonwealth," violates the United States and Kentucky constitutions. The First Amendment prohibits government from passing laws "respecting an establishment of religion."

"The commonwealth's history does not exclude God from the stat-

utes, but it has never permitted the General Assembly to demand that its citizens depend on Almighty God," Wingate wrote in his 18-page order, according to an Associated Press report.

Rep. Tom Riner, D-Louisville, who also is a Kentucky Baptist pastor, included the language in the legislation when it was drawn up three years ago.

A group of Kentucky residents, backed by the American Atheists Inc. organization filed suit last year, claiming it was in violation of the First Amendment.

Riner, pastor of Louisville's Christ Is King Baptist Church, in comments to AP, called the judge's ruling a

"very disconcerting thing." He said the statute's language was no different to that of the "In God We Trust" motto that is printed on American currency, he said.

In his order, Wingate wrote that the language would have been allowed if it had simply suggested Homeland Security officials call on God's help in protecting Kentucky, according to the AP report.

Riner told AP that he hopes Attorney General Jack Conway, who defended the state in the lawsuit, will ask the judge to reconsider his decision. Conway has 10 days to do so and 30 days to appeal, AP noted.

Compiled from reports from Religion News Service and state media outlets.

Ky. Baptist schools named among 'Best Colleges'

Washington—A trio of Kentucky Baptist schools recently were named among America's top colleges and universities in the 2010 edition of U.S. News & World Report's "Best Colleges" publication.

Campbellsville University was ranked as the 23rd best baccalaureate schools in the South. University of the Cumberlands came in at 34th among the region's top baccalaureate educational institutions.

According to U.S. News & World Report, baccalaureate colleges are those that focus primarily on undergraduate education, but grant fewer than 50 percent of their degrees in liberal arts disciplines.

Campbellsville also was named as one of four "up-and-coming" baccalaureate colleges in the South. The Best Colleges 2010 Web site describes an "up-and-coming" school as those that "are making substan-

tial improvements in quality, even if they haven't yet cracked the competition for the top slots in the U.S. News rankings."

In the liberal arts category, Georgetown College was ranked as a Tier 3 institution. Like baccalaureate colleges, liberal arts schools emphasize undergraduate education, but award 50 percent or more of their degrees in liberal arts disciplines.

Deadline for state churches to request brochures for the Find It Here push is Sept. 15

By Robert Reeves
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Louisville—Kentucky Baptist churches are being reminded to get their orders for brochures and bags for next spring's Find it Here door-to-door evangelistic campaign in to their association offices as soon as possible.

Association offices will be placing bulk orders with the Kentucky Baptist Convention by Sept. 15. Participating in the bulk order will enable churches to receive the brochure and door hanger bag for 10 cents per unit. Churches are being asked to place their orders in increments of 500.

"Our ability to get the best price on printing is dependent on being able to order in a single large quantity," said Robert Reeves, KBC communications director.

Reeves said the brochures and bags will be delivered back to the association offices by mid-January.

Part of national effort

The gospel brochures and bags are one part of an effort to reach every household in the state with a gospel message just ahead of Easter Sunday 2010. Kentucky Baptists will hand deliver the brochures to as many as 1.5 million households March 6-21. At the same time, the Kentucky portion of a national media campaign will be blanketing the state.

Find it Here, is the tagline being used in media advertising geared to reach people who do not presently attend church. It is part of the GPS (God's Plan for Sharing) initiative of the North American Mission Board aimed at fulfilling the Great Commission in North America by 2020.

KBC Evangelism Team leader Ross Bauscher said there are three main components to the campaign: prayerwalking the state in the fall of 2009; the gospel sowing distribution to Kentucky households in March 2010; and the national media campaign.

He said convention officials are estimating that 50,000 volunteers will hand-deliver the "Find it Here" message. The brochure contains a simple gospel presentation using the acrostic "CROSS." Churches are encouraged to add an additional brochure from the church to the bag as well.

Individuals receiving the brochure can respond by calling a toll-free number to the NAMB Evangelism Response Center, visiting the FindItHere.com Web site or returning a postage-paid card that is part of the brochure. Responders will be sent a free book, and contact information will be provided to the association offices and churches for follow-up.

The brochure also contains a space that will enable churches to attach a label to the response card so that they will be notified about people who responded to the brochure they delivered.

"We are working very closely with our associations and churches to make this happen," Bauscher noted. "In each participating association, either the director of missions or the moderator is working with each church that wishes to participate to divide up the geographic area for the prayerwalking and gospel distribution. Any church is able to work as large or as small of an area as it feels it can handle."

More information

Bauscher said churches in a non-participating association or churches not affiliated with an association can contact the evangelism growth team office at (502) 489-3576, or toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3576 for assistance.

For the national media campaign, NAMB has produced high-quality TV and radio spots in English and Spanish. The ads feature the stories of individuals who found life unfulfilling until they found Christ.

Churches also can use the spots independently if they so choose. The GPS spots are available for viewing and download at www.OneMission.tv.

Most of the ads are free to download, but some of them can be customized with a church or association's logo for a fee.

A variety of Find it Here church preparation resources also are available to Kentucky churches on the KBC Web site at www.KyBaptist.org/FindItHere.



St. Paul Baptist at Shively Heights

I saw an incredible demonstration of unity in the Lord Jesus Christ recently as the people of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church and Shively Heights Baptist Church gathered for their first worship service as a new, combined congregation in Louisville on Aug. 23. The predominantly black St. Paul and the predominantly white Shively Heights have now merged to become St. Paul Baptist Church at Shively Heights.

Partners in the Mission



By Bill Mackey

The combined worship services of the two churches would typically total about 350, but the number of worshipers reached nearly 600 for this historic first service. This important barrier-breaking occasion also captured the attention of local, state and national news media as the church received coverage on "Good Morning America" and on evening news broadcasts.

Mark Payton, pastor of the former Shively Heights Baptist Church, and now lead pastor of the combined church, extended the opening welcome and provided comments and prayer. Lincoln Bingham, pastor of the former St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, and now senior pastor, preached on the topic "When the Word Gets Out," based on Mark 2:1-12.

Bingham proclaimed that when Jesus is in the house, people find healing, forgiveness, freedom from sin, and assistance in getting to Jesus. There was also outstanding music by the adult choir, soloists and the youth and children's choirs, under the direction of Shirley Mucker.

The new church body also participated in a joint covenant time directed by both pastors. The covenant statements praised God for those who had been faithful, paid the price and laid the foundation that made the merger possible. The statements also looked to the future that God will provide.

The merger reflects a focus on racial reconciliation that has long been exemplified in the lives of both pastors. Bingham has worked in cooperative ministries between the Kentucky Baptist Convention and the General Association of Baptists for more than 20 years. In 1999, he helped launch the Greater Louisville Reconciliation Ministries that involved several denominations in the Louisville area. He also has jointly sponsored "Reconciliations of the World" workshops and celebrations.

Payton also has worked behind the scenes on some reconciliation challenges.

The two men have been friends for many years. Their friendship began when Payton invited Bingham to conduct a revival in his church 22 years ago. Since that time, they have shared each others' pulpits many times.

It was true privilege for me to participate in this special worship service. May God enable all of us to take seriously the following covenant statement recited by the new combined congregation: "Fill us with ever-increasing knowledge of trust, and with an every-growing awareness of human need, especially for salvation."

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

We are one in the Spirit

"Don't all of us have one Father? Didn't one God create us?" the prophet Malachi challenged the people of Israel in Old Testament times. Malachi's insight is as fresh as this morning's newspaper: Two Louisville congregations—one predominantly white; the other, African-American—have merged, becoming one in the bond of love.

More than 600 members and friends of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church and Shively Heights Baptist Church gathered together for their first service Aug. 23. The combined congregation is named St. Paul Baptist Church at Shively Heights, and Lincoln Bingham and Mark Payton serve as its co-pastors.

While pulpit exchanges, joint holiday fellowships, co-sponsored vacation Bible schools, and shared mission trips have become more common in recent years, merging two churches into a new, multi-racial congregation is something of a rarity in Southern Baptist life. As might be expected, such a merger drew the attention of national media.

Yet, Shively Heights Pastor Mark Payton is humbled by the whole experience. "I stand in awe that God has found favor and in His sovereignty has chosen me and Lincoln Bingham to do something that has not been done in Kentucky Baptist life, and that we have a church that is willing to do it," he told the Western Recorder.

The transition has gone amazingly well, Payton said. "Folks would not believe how smooth it has been," he added. "In my 26 years of ministry, it is one of the smoothest transitions in which I have ever had the privilege of being involved."

Worship styles may be one of the biggest challenges for both groups, Payton allowed, "but we will work through it. There is just so much energy and excitement." And even though one Sunday isn't enough to really tell about how people feel about the mix of worship and music styles, Payton believes "we are blending as much as we can."

That's to be expected. Not only have Payton and Bingham long been friends, but also Bingham has become known as a pioneer in racial reconciliation among Kentucky Baptists. For four decades, he has been instrumental in tearing down racial stereotypes and getting our churches to work together, fostering harmony, peace and cooperation. In 2006, Bingham was presented an achievement award during the annual Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference by Bobby Welch, then president of the Southern Baptist Convention, and the state convention.

In the early 1970s, Bingham became the first African-American sales clerk at any Baptist Book Store

(now LifeWay). In 1976, he was appointed as a missionary for the Home Mission Board (now North American Mission Board). After working as a consultant for the Kentucky Baptist convention for several years, Bingham was appointed in 1997 as director of cooperative ministries. His leadership has assisted more than 80 African-American congregations in becoming involved in the KBC's ministries and helped spur support for both a local Tony Evans crusade and a Billy Graham festival.

After Thought

By Todd Deaton



In 1999, Bingham and Les Hollon, former pastor of St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville, co-founded Greater Louisville Reconciliation Ministries, expanding a partnership between the two congregations that has encouraged joint worship services, community-wide celebrations, and united missions projects.

This past week, Bingham's congregation became a model of unity for Kentucky Baptists yet again, as members reached across the aisle, extending the hand of fellowship to their brothers and sisters in Christ.

"God wants us to do bigger and better things. ...God has much more for us to do," Bingham urged the members of St. Paul. The larger facility at Shively Heights and the racial mix will provide even greater opportunities for ministry, he emphasized.

As inner-city communities become more ethnically diverse, and some Baptist churches either must adapt or face extinction, Payton hopes the merger sends an encouraging message: "You don't have to die; there are other options." But some attitudes and prejudices will have to change, he added.

The goal of the merger, he maintained, is not to pass the ministry baton from one race to the other, but to create a whole new church born of all races and nationalities.

"Ultimately, it isn't about a white church and a black church coming together. We are saying that what has been done in the secular world—in education, sports, and business—should have been done in our churches a long time ago."

That's essentially what usher Keith Dunbar told a Courier-Journal reporter: "It's long overdue. If we can get together at football games and movies, and we can go to baseball games and sit right next to people we don't even know and have a good time—for Christians it shouldn't be a problem at all. It should be easy."

"When the Word gets out," as Bingham titled his first message to the multi-racial congregation, then this first-of-its-kind merger in Louisville may write a new chapter in our nation's history and among the disciples of Christ as they exemplarily seek to live out the second of His great commands: "Love your neighbor as yourself."



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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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Stop and think

This letter is in disagreement with the Aug. 19 article in the Western Recorder entitled "SBC's ethics group calls health care proposal 'dangerous.'"

While I am also concerned about the 1,018 pages and "voluminous citations making it nearly impossible to figure what everything in the bill actually means," as stated in the article, I do know with absolute certainty that Americans, here and now, already have diminished health care. We currently have less choice of insurance and unprecedented insurance intrusion into every level of our lives.

■ Health care is being rationed now through insurance corporations.

■ Insurance officials, rather than private citizens, are now determin-

ing the type of health care received by Americans.

■ Americans now have to pay exorbitant fees for health insurance due to age or pre-existing conditions.

■ Hospitals now at times discharge patients earlier than they should because of mandates of insurance corporations.

■ Americans are paying higher taxes now to guarantee care for people who do not have health insurance.

■ Insurance companies now evaluate therapies and drugs on a cost basis, instead of a clinical basis.

Christians, Americans, citizens stop and think. Who do you think is behind the negative statements on health care reform? Who will benefit most if the health care reform bill is defeated?

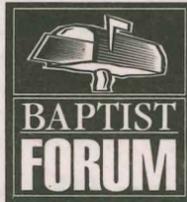
Do you really believe the government has a clandestine plan to "pull

the plug on grandma?" I am the age of a grandma, but I am not afraid of the government pulling the plug. I am, however, afraid of being denied health insurance coverage because of my age, pre-existing conditions, or not being able to afford coverage.

All of this is happening now, before health care reform, to hundreds and thousands of people every day. I repeat, stop and think.

Connie Pruett
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.



Looking for love, coming up short

By James Stillwell

Q: Why is it so tough to find a true relationship? Why is it so hard to make a connection? Why is it so difficult to connect with someone for a long-term relationship?

A: The dynamics of relationships are both internal and external, and are usually inter-connected. I recommend that you explore such questions one-on-one with a competent, Christian counselor, pastor, or trusted friend. There are a lot of dynamics in play, and exploring out loud with someone trained to listen can help you sort things out. There is likely a pastoral counseling center within distance that could be of tremendous assistance in this journey.

Ask yourself why you might be avoiding groups or one-on-one contacts. Perhaps you have developed patterns of avoidance or shyness. Some of these patterns can be overcome by making the choice to be around others. Then allow yourself to make eye contact. Make sure conversation includes good listening. Real interest in the other person is a key in any building of a relationship.

Network with others who know people you might want to meet. Perhaps your world is too small. Consider a move outside your geographical comfort zone or other ways to increase your odds of reaching your goal.

Engage your natural interests that might connect you with others. It helps to have things in common. Also, if you find yourself being fake around others in order to be liked, you're really only hurting yourself. Be yourself, relax, and you'll find that connections can happen more naturally.

Remember priorities. The most important thing about life is not your marital status, but the health of your relationship with God and others. Community happens with your brothers and sisters in Christ by loving God with all your heart, loving your neighbor as yourself, and asking God to guide. God is big enough to guide you in the paths that are just right for you.

James Stillwell is minister at Singles at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington. Send questions for *Singles at Immanuel Baptist Church*, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253, or e-mail WesRec@KyBaptist.org

Back to college for 130 million students

By Erich Bridges

Another school year is gearing up—a good time to focus on one of the fastest-growing “people groups” on the planet: college students.

Worldwide, the number of college students has more than doubled—to 130 million—in the past 50 years, according to Ken Cochrum, global campus strategist for Campus Crusade for Christ.

“If taken as a whole, this generation of college students would constitute the world’s 10th-largest country,” Cochrum reports in the Lausanne World Pulse. “Governments of developing nations have realized that their future depends upon a well-educated population who can compete in today’s borderless ‘glocal’ economy.”

Those governments, joined by corporations and advertisers, “invest millions of dollars each year attempting to influence students and the choices they will make for the rest of their lives,” Cochrum observes. “What about the church? What level of urgency and intentionality do we give to making disciples and building Christ-centered movements among students today?”

Good question.

Cochrum lists some of the urban centers that have become magnets for students—Moscow with 1.2 million, Mexico City with 400,000, Rome with 250,000. The list grows, along with the hopes of millions of students riding on their sons and daughters seeking higher education.

I met several elite university students in Moscow a few years ago. They attended a professional development seminar based on Christian principles. The seminar stressed the “soft skills” seldom seen in Russia’s highly competitive business climate: relating to others, constructive criticism, encouragement and teamwork.

“We’re really trying to help students with their understanding of human relationships,” explained one of the seminar leaders, a Southern Baptist worker. “How do you treat people if you want to build trust? One of the most important principles we focus on with them is the Golden Rule: Treat others as you would like to be treated—with dignity and value.”

“We’ve had students who’ve finished the initial phase of training say to us, ‘This is going to change my life.’ Or

they’ll say, ‘The Golden Rule is the most important rule in all of life.’ These are lost people saying what Jesus said. It really is business training, but it’s amazing what the Holy Spirit can do when we present truth.”

Maxim, an international business major, had tears in his eyes after the final session as he thanked the leaders. He wrote on his seminar evaluation form:

“I’d like to find out my values. Would you help me? Do you think that career is the meaning of life? When I’m dying, I want to be sure that I was a good man, that I’ve walked through a right life. Is there truth in business that’s going to help me?”

The next step: an invitation to one-on-one mentorships with Christian business professionals. After that, responsive students are invited to home worship groups to delve more deeply into the Gospel. When they become disciples, they will become leaders for Christ in Russia.

Churches and mission ministries will never have enough resources to reach every searching student like Maxim. The way to keep up with the global student explosion, Cochrum believes, is to nurture student-led movements that multiply disciples and leaders.

“Healthy student-led movements of spiritual multiplication serve as a leadership engine for the body of Christ,” he says. “Students don’t remain students forever. Within five years most of these 130 million will be on their journey to the marketplace. They will begin leading families and paying taxes. They will shape fields such as government, scientific research, education, sports and entertainment.”

And let no one underestimate their spiritual potential. American Protestants fewer than 1,000 missionaries worldwide before the YMCA launched the Student Volunteer Movement in 1888, led by John R. Mott. By 1920, the movement had directly mobilized more than 8,700 missionaries for reaching the lost—and influenced many more to go—setting the stage for an unprecedented era of Christian expansion worldwide.

A new student-led movement might do the same in our time.

Erich Bridges is global correspondent for the International Mission Board.



COMMENTARY

Let your voice be heard about abortion funding

By Penna Dexter

CBS News Anchor Katie Couric asked President Obama last month whether he advocates federal funding of abortion in a health care plan public option. The president answered that he’d “rather not wade into” the issue, and he mentioned the “tradition of excluding funding for abortions but did not say whether or not he supports that tradition.

In recent days, the Obama administration created a Web site to try and debunk the opposition’s arguments against current plans for health care reform. Notably missing from the site is any mention of abortion that the plan will lead to federal funding of abortion.

President Obama has left it to Congress to formulate legislation to enact his priority for national health care. House and Senate leaders, when asked whether abortion will be funded in any plan they pass, have attempted to get away with similarly vague responses. But the real answers are rising to the surface. In a meeting of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee, Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) smoked the truth out of Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.). Hatch asked Mikulski whether an amendment she had offered to the Kennedy health care bill would force insurance companies to contract with abortion providers like Planned Parenthood.

She somewhat stammered through her answer: “It would include women’s health clinics that provide comprehensive services and under the definition of a women’s health clinic, it would include, uh, it would include uh, Planned, uh Parenthood clinics.... It does not expand in any way expand a service.” (Perhaps not, but Planned Parenthood already does plenty of abortions.) The senator continued, “In other words, it doesn’t expand, um, uh, nor mandate abortion service.”

Hatch observed, “No, but it would provide for them.” Mikulski responded, “It would provide for any service deemed medically necessary or medically appropriate.” Mind you, Planned Parenthood would be doing the “deeming.” That being the case, Hatch said he’d have a tough time supporting the Mikulski amendment and asked for some language about not including abortion services. Mikulski was not willing to make such a change.

Mikulski’s amendment passed the HELP committee,

with all Republicans and Democrat Robert Casey (D-Pa.) opposing it.

Three House committees also have passed national health care bills, and in all versions, attempts to exclude abortion funding have been defeated. One amendment would have prevented abortion coverage in private and public plans.

FIRST PERSON

Earlier, another member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Rep. Lois Capps of California introduced what she called a “compromise” amendment. The measure requires that every area of the country include a health care plan that includes abortion and one that does not. It seeks to include the blow with an accounting gimmick by which a public plan can cover abortions as long as the abortion is paid for out of enrollees’ premiums. Pro-life leaders call it a bookkeeping scheme that really amounts to an abortion edict. The Capps Amendment, or something like it, is meant to allow Democrats from conservative districts to claim they oppose an abortion mandate as they vote for health care reform that will, in reality, provide unrestricted funding of abortion.

As the House was preparing to take up health care reform several weeks back, 19 House Democrats sent a letter to Speaker Nancy Pelosi, insisting that abortion be excluded from any “government-defined or subsidized health insurance plan.” This is in keeping with current policy where federal funding for abortion is prohibited except in cases of rape and incest or where the life of the mother is threatened.

Douglas Johnson, legislative director for the National Right to Life Committee, says the Senate’s (yet unnumbered) Kennedy bill, and the health care legislation advocated by House leadership, would result in “the greatest expansion of abortion since Roe vs. Wade” and would mean “federal funding of abortion on a massive scale.” Lawmakers must be convinced that this nation is repulsed by taxpayer-funded abortion. (BP)

Penna Dexter is a frequent panelist on “Point of View” syndicated radio program. Her weekly commentaries air on the Bott and Moody Radio Networks. To contact your representative or senator, call the Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121 or visit <http://capwiz.com/ethics/dbq/officials>.

Purge the urge to splurge

By Jeremy White

After a recent conference at which I had spoken, someone said they simply tend to buy too much. “How can we cut back on all those purchases?” they asked.

People can drift into financial trouble without realizing it just from spending more than they think on the little stuff. Going out to eat, the multiple trips to the vending machine, the knick-knacks bought for decorating, or new tools for the garage.

Money just gradually flutters away through day to day purchases with no tracking or control. These are the people asking at the end of the month, “Where did it all go?” No major purchases made, but just the drip, drip, drip effect that eventually leads to a flood.

On the other hand, some people know very well why they are in financial trouble. They can point back to that boat, a new car on credit, or too much house for their income. People in this situation may watch some of the daily expenditures very carefully because money is so tight. But the big mistake is so significant that it is difficult to keep their finances in balance.

In both cases, families need to purge the urge to splurge. Those splurges or impulse purchases, whether big or small, can cause financial damage. Ask these questions before any non-routine purchase:

1. Do I really need this?
2. Can I borrow or try it before purchasing it?
3. Will I change my mind once I have it?
4. What area will I have to cut back on to buy this?
5. Have I had a “cooling off” period to avoid an impulse purchase?
6. Have I checked with my spouse?
7. Have I compared prices with other sources?
8. What’s the worse thing that could happen if I purchase this? How likely is that to occur.

These questions are really designed for you to stop and insert self-control. As Proverbs 21:20 says, “In the house of the wise are stores of choice food and oil, but a foolish man devours all he has.”

Jeremy L. White is a CPA with Blythe, White & Associates in Paducah.



Rice: Spritual disciplines are not goals, rather means to better know, serve God

By Dannah Prather
Partnerships Editor

Lexington—"Spiritual disciplines are to life what practice is to sports," according to Steve Rice, senior pastor at First Baptist Church of Shelbyville.

At the recent Super Saturday event at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington, Rice noted that, during a game, basketball players do not receive points for all the free throws they have made in practice. What counts are the points scored during the game.

Likewise, he said, Scripture memorization, fasting, prayer and service are not goals themselves. Instead they are venues through which believers can better know and serve God.

"The intent of Bible study isn't to become a Bible scholar," he continued. "The goal is becoming like Jesus."

Rice's session on spiritual disciplines also included definitions of what such practices are not.

"Spiritual disciplines are not barometers of spirituality ... (or) a way to gain favor with God." It is impossible for God to love His people more than He already does, Rice explained. Incorporating Bible study and other disciplines into everyday life is how a Christian becomes "that fully devoted passionate follower of Jesus."

Noting that the word "Christian" is found only three times in the New Testament but the word "disciple" is found 267 times, Rice said it is obvious that spiritual disciplines are important to God.

"When a person is first saved they are a disciple, even if they are not mature," he noted. Many churches have classes for new Christians or new church members. Rice said an obvious second step in the education of new Christians would be the study of spiritual disciplines.

He recommended several books and other resources that help believers determine where they are in their spiritual walks and what they can do to become more mature believers.

LifeWay Christian Resources has a Spiritual Growth Assessment available at www.LifeWay.com/Discipleship. Participants respond to questions about beliefs and practices with answers ranging from "never" to "always." One example is: "I practice a regular quiet time and look forward to that time with Christ."

Rice said the assessment is valuable to individuals, as well as to pastors and ministers. He suggested church staff invite all members to complete the assessment anonymously to help church leaders plan sermon series or other efforts to address specific discipleship needs.

Authors view spiritual disciplines differently. For example, in Claude King's "The Call to Follow Christ," six disciplines are noted. In another text the list grows to nine. While Bible study and prayer are found on most lists, other practices include:

- Fasting.
- Silence/solitude.
- Fellowship.
- Service.
- Worship.
- Confession.
- Stewardship.

In addition to "The Call to Follow Christ," Rice mentioned other helpful resources, including:

■ Donald Whitney's "Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life." Whitney is a professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

■ John Ortberg's "The Life You've Always Wanted: Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People" includes insights from other authors.

■ Dallas Willard's "The Spirit of the Disciplines" divides the practices into two categories, disciplines of abstinence such as solitude and fasting, and disciplines of engagement such as worship and confession.

Remaining conferences

Four more Super Saturday events are scheduled in September: 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.

Conflict can be opportunity for growth, Campbellsville professor tells deacons

By Todd Deaton
Editor

Lexington—"How many of you would say, 'Church life is a peaceful life?'" Campbellsville University Professor Shane Garrison asked participants at a recent Super Saturday workshop for deacons.

When he asked the deacons to name times when they felt the most peaceful, some responded that it was when they were fishing, deer hunting or playing golf. Observing that most of the responses were times when they were either alone or in a small group, Garrison asserted, "Any time you get people together, peace is in jeopardy."

That's why he believes that because of the leadership role that deacons have in most churches, peacemaking is a mandatory part of their job.

While most deacons would likely protest that they did not become a deacon to solve interpersonal conflicts, Garrison emphasized, "You may well be the most equipped person in your church to be a peacekeeper."

"It is my conviction that not only are you the most able, but also it is your biblical responsibility," he contended, citing Romans 12:18.

When a disagreement arises and conflict spreads its tentacles among a church's members, causing harm to the unity of the body, deacons must not be reluctant to address the situation, he said. In fact, if conflict is handled right, Garrison counseled, it could be of "amazing benefit" to God's people. Whenever two Christians who are at odds with each other agree to sit down, talk with each other and settle the matter in the bond of Christian

love, it sets a powerful example of conflict resolution for others to follow, he said.

Observing how a broken bone that has been mended often becomes stronger than it was before the fracture, Garrison explained, "Something that happens in the process of reconciliation can lead the two parties to a deeper friendship and respect for each other than before their broken relationship."

The determining factor, Garrison maintained, is how a church conflict is managed and resolved. In addition to inviting the two parties to a private reconciliation meeting, among the key principles that he highlighted from author Ken Sande's book, "The Peacemaker," were the following:

- "Move quickly if the fire is getting out of control; move slowly if the fire is not burning down the house."
- Squelch all rumors, talk and gossip outside of the parties involved.
- Give each person an opportunity to share their side of the story.
- Ask each person to identify their sin in the situation.
- Encourage each person to ask for the forgiveness of their sin.

"Conflict can become an opportunity for the gospel to go forward, and for church members and a community to experience something that is uniquely Christian," Garrison concluded. "It's a way in which the Bible becomes real to them. It isn't a Sunday school lesson any more; it's an 'in-your-face,' real-life biblical application."

Cumberlands launches new counseling program

Williamsburg—With the mission of meeting the educational needs of Appalachia in mind, University of the Cumberlands has launched a new Master of Arts in Professional Counseling program.

The program will look to develop clinically and technically competent—as well as ethically responsible—mental health counselors to serve communities in a variety of clinical settings. The MAPC program will be administered through Cumberlands' psychology department.

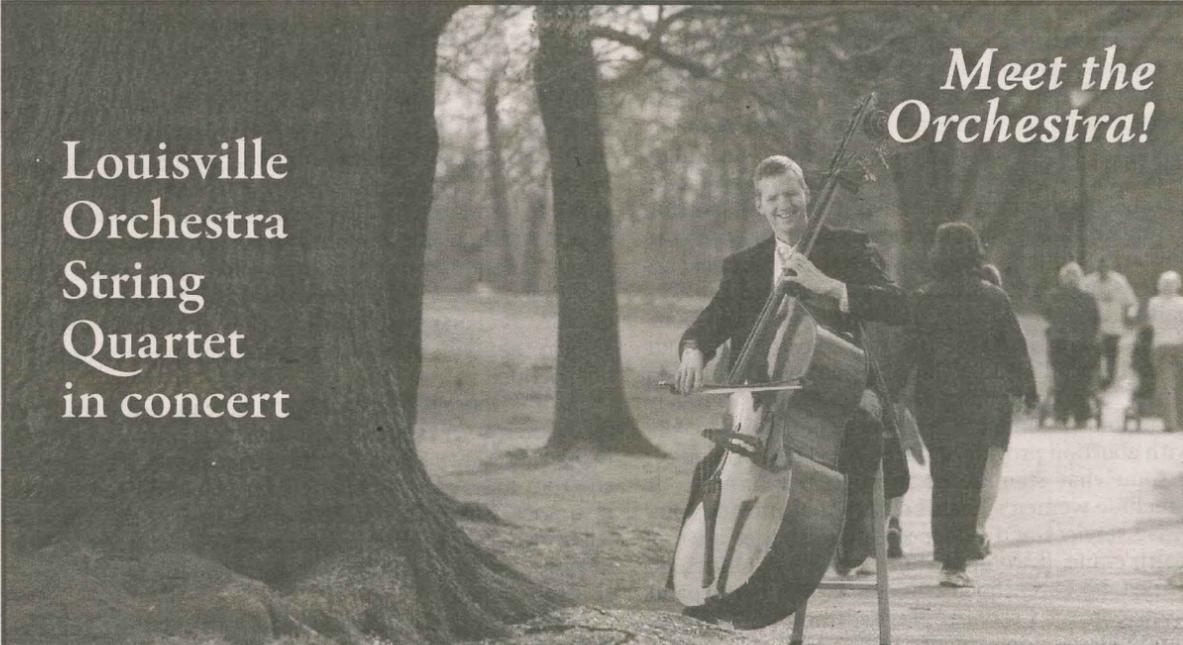
Two program options are being

offered. One, a two-year program, is designed for students with a baccalaureate degree who wish to become licensed professional counselors. The second is an advanced-standing track for licensed professionals who want to add the professional counselor license to their resumés.

The program also offers a blended curriculum of on-campus and evening classes, allowing students to take up to 24 of the 60 total hours online. Each eight-week, on-campus class meets one evening per week for four hours.

"We are pleased with the modifications to our Master of Arts in Professional Counseling program," said Dennis Trickett, psychology department chair and MAPC program director. "This will help fulfill UC's mission to serve the needs of Appalachia by better preparing individuals to provide counseling services in Williamsburg and surrounding communities."

For a full program description, visit the school's Web site at www.UCumberlands.edu/Academics/MAPC, or call (606) 539-4390.



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Tickets: Students/seniors \$5; General admission \$10; at the door \$15
Order tickets online at www.sbts.edu/events



SOUTHERN SEMINARY

Circumstances change

Avoid anxiety by reviewing your estate plan regularly

Have you reviewed your will, title to assets, beneficiary designations, power of attorney and other estate planning documents lately? Do you remember whom you named as your executor, guardian of your children and trustees of any trusts you created? Have circumstances changed in your life or the lives of your heirs, beneficiaries and fiduciaries, since you last reviewed your documents?

I raise these questions because we encounter so many people who executed a will and other estate planning documents years ago, placed them in a safe-deposit box at the bank and then proceeded to ignore them.

I recall one incident where a widow could not even remember whom she had designated 30 years ago as her executor, or whether she had designated an alternate. What if her executor had predeceased her and she had no alternate, or the alternate had also predeceased her or was incapable of fulfilling such a critical responsibility?

I also recall an incident where a bachelor, who died in a nursing home, had named an executor and three successive alternates, but all

of them had predeceased him. In both of these incidents, significant expense, time and anxiety could have been saved had these two individuals reviewed their documents on a regular basis.

Ky. Baptist Foundation



Barry Allen

We recommend you review all of your documents at least every three years, or any time circumstances change that justify a review. It does not mean you will have to make changes, but at least you are consciously re-evaluating and reconfirming the validity of your plan given the changed circumstances. I am amazed each time I review my plan at what I had forgotten about it.

Some changed circumstances that should prompt your immediate review are: marriage; divorce; birth or adoption; death; a child has grown up; a significant change in the value of your assets; receipt of additional assets through gifts or inheritance; or relocation to another state.

Call our Trust Counsel Laurie Valentine toll free for confidential assistance at no cost or obligation.

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

For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Preacher's Kids

David Ayers



Bible Crosswords

By Evelyn Boyington

Across

- 1 This admits attorneys
- 4 Tribe of Israel
- 9 Son of King Abijam
- 12 KJV verb
- 13 "The last ____ of that man is worse than the first" (Luke 11:26)
- 14 Atlantic state (abbr.)
- 15 Exist
- 16 "Abstain from ____ lusts which war against the soul" (1 Peter 2:11)
- 18 Apiece (abbr.)
- 19 Golf goal
- 21 Golf bag contents
- 23 "I will not give sleep to mine ____" (Psalm 132:4)
- 25 Aerie
- 26 Prophetic O.T. book (abbr.)
- 28 Entreat
- 30 What may be let out
- 33 Linking verb
- 34 "____ yourselves likewise with the same mind" (1 Peter 4:1)
- 35 "As it was in the days of ____, so shall it be" (Luke 17:26)
- 36 Del ____, Calif.
- 37 Fades
- 39 "There was no room for them in the ____" (Luke 2:7)
- 40 In short order (arch.)
- 42 ____ man (jazz player)
- 44 King of the Moabites (Numbers 22:4)
- 46 Dinner table favorites, especially with children
- 49 Linking verb
- 50 Populates
- 54 Twelve Step gp.

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44	45							46			47	48
49			50		51	52	53				54	
55		56		57						58		
59				60							61	

- 55 Under-____ (beach hazard)
- 57 Hebrew month
- 58 ATM number
- 59 "It will be fair weather: for the ____ is red" (Matthew 16:2)
- 60 Undergarments
- 61 What Hophni and Phineas took into battle

- 24 "In the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been ____" (Revelation 5:6)
- 25 "Your ____ are written in heaven" (Luke 10:20)
- 26 Flood preventer, sometimes
- 27 Former NFL coach Parseghian
- 29 "Ye do ____, not knowing the scriptures" (Matthew 22:29)

Down

- 1 Bunyon's ox
- 2 ____ code
- 3 Correct (abbr.)
- 4 "Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell ____" (2 Peter 3:4)
- 5 Sault ____ Marie
- 6 Possesses
- 7 Ordinal suffix
- 8 Depended on
- 9 Classified info
- 10 "God hath ____ mine affliction" (Genesis 31:42)
- 11 Exclamation of dismay
- 16 Summer pest
- 17 Time period (abbr., pl.)
- 20 "To the ____ assembly and church of the firstborn" (Hebrews 12:23)
- 22 First judge of Israel

- 31 Many moons
- 32 "Let no man glory in ____ For all things are yours" (1 Corinthians 3:21)
- 37 "Who sent ____ and wonders into the midst of thee, O Egypt" (Psalm 135:9)
- 38 Mythological nymphs
- 41 Part of fabric
- 43 PC operating system
- 44 Cavern dwellers
- 45 Lose control, with "run"
- 47 Hideaway
- 48 Went down
- 51 What was poured on Saul's head
- 52 Greek letter
- 53 Sitting down, you get this
- 56 Western state (abbr.)
- 58 State College state (abbr.)

Last week's solution

J	A	W		P	A	R	E		A	I	L	S
A	B	E		E	B	O	N		S	N	E	E
W	E	A		K	E	N	E		S	C	A	R
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Zip	

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Nonpartisan organization claims Obama wrong on abortion funding

By Michael Foust

Washington—A leading nonpartisan fact-checking organization says President Obama was incorrect when he said the congressional health care plans could not lead to government-funded abortion.

FactCheck.org, a Web site run by the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania, posted a 1,400-word analysis Aug. 21 examining a statement Obama made to religious groups. During that webcast, he asserted, "You've heard that this is all going to mean government funding of abortion. Not true. These are all fabrications."

The Web site, which has been critical of statements by both Republicans and Democrats, said, "We judge that the president goes too far when he calls the statements that government would be funding abortions 'fabrications.'"

FactCheck.org further said, "We take no stand on whether all abortions should or should not be covered. As for the House bill as it stands now, it's a matter of fact that it would allow both a 'public plan' and newly subsidized private plans to cover all abortions."

Time magazine also criticized Obama's statement on abortion in an Aug. 24 report, saying it "does not tell the whole story."

Obama increasingly has dealt with the issue of abortion and health care in recent days, saying in an Aug. 22 address, "Some are ... saying that coverage for abortions would be mandated under reform. Also false." Technically, Obama may be correct in making that statement: According to FactCheck.org, while elective abortions may not be mandated under current proposals, they will be allowed, and Obama as a candidate stated his support for abortion coverage in a health care plan.

"House and Senate legislation would allow a new 'public' insurance plan to cover abortions, despite language added to the House bill that technically forbids using public funds to pay for them," the Web site noted. "Obama has said in the past that 'reproductive services' would be covered by

his public plan, so it's likely that any new federal insurance plan would cover abortion unless Congress expressly prohibits that. Low- and moderate-income persons who would choose the 'public plan' would qualify for federal subsidies to purchase it. Private plans that cover abortion also could be purchased with the help of federal subsidies."

Under the leading House plan and an addition to the bill known as the Capps Amendment, the public plan can cover elective abortions as long as the abortions are paid for only by enrollees' premiums. Similarly, lower-income individuals will be allowed to use federal subsidies to purchase a public or private plan that covers abortions as long as the subsidy itself does not go toward financing abortions.

Supporters say the segregation of funds is a compromise that would work. Opponents call it a phony compromise and a bookkeeping scam. Those same opponents say it's nonsense to argue that under a public plan, some of the money is not government money. The federal government, after all, would be running the public option and paying the abortion doctors out of a government account—even if the account is financed by premium monies, pro-lifers point out.

Pro-life advocates also say that any system that makes it cheaper and easier to have an abortion would lead to an increase in abortions.

"The Capps Amendment leaves it to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to decide whether or not (abortion) will be covered," according to FactCheck.org. "It says, 'Nothing in this act shall be construed as preventing the public health insurance option from providing' abortion services that would not be legal for Medicaid coverage. ... We can't say what (any HHS secretary) will do in the future. But Obama himself said on July 17, 2007, that 'in my mind, reproductive care is essential care' and would be covered by his public insurance plan." (BP)

Conservatives say current U.S. health care system 'is working'

Washington—Conservative Christian groups last week ramped up opposition to health care reform, saying the current system "has problems" but "it is working."

Members of the newly formed Freedom Federation, comprised of some of the largest conservative religious groups in the country, say they oppose taxpayer-supported abortion, rationed health care for the elderly and government control of personal health decisions.

Mathew Staver, who heads the legal group Liberty Counsel and is dean at Liberty University's law school, said the group agrees on certain core values.

"We value the sanctity of life,"

Staver said at a press conference. "Without that, we are nothing at all."

On abortion, Federation members said they are concerned that although the word "abortion" does not appear in the draft bills, it will be paid for by the government under the proposed reform.

"When the government pays for abortion, the numbers of abortions increase," said Wendy Wright, president of Concerned Women for America.

The Freedom Federation said they would only be satisfied if the reform bills explicitly state that abortion is not a form of health care and would not be paid for with taxpayer funds. (RNS)

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From hogs to heifers: A good day at the fair

Oneida agriculture students take home plenty of honors at Laurel County fair

Written by Jennifer Griebenow, OBI assistant farm manager and FFA advisor

In June, a number of our agriculture students participated in the Laurel County Ag Fair. Our summer ag students participate in the fair each year, but this time we were thrilled to experience a number of firsts.

This was the first year we have competed in the dairy show, though we have had a Holstein calf program since 2002. In the past our Holstein program has been only bull calves purchased at a local dairy, with the final product being used in our food service department. In 2008, we added heifers to the program. This, along with a new show division at the fair, allowed 15 ag students to show dairy calves. Olivia Bevil won Reserve Champion in the heifer division and Kimberly Withrow won first place in the senior showmanship class.

This summer, we offered our middle schoolers a livestock-intensive class—another first—geared toward day two at the fair, the Skill-a-Thon and livestock judging competition. Six students participated in this competition—yet another first.

The Skill-a-Thon is an agriculture-based quiz with questions regarding livestock equipment, meat cuts, feed identification and livestock breeds. For the livestock judging portion of the contest, all students were required to individually rank dairy calves, breeding ewes, market hogs, meat goats and market steers. Withrow won first place overall at both competitions.

Another first was the district goat show; in the past we have only participated at the county lev-

el. We took 21 goats to both shows, competing in market and showmanship classes.

On the last day of the fair, we took 18 show pigs, 11 show steers and two show heifers. Our students' show pigs competed very well despite the heat. We had several class winners for the showmanship competition and for the market hog division. Sara Goforth's steer was named Grand Champion, weighing 1,260 pounds with a gain of 3.4 pounds per day. Bevil's steer was named Reserve Grand Champion, weighing 1,330 pounds and gaining 3.5 pounds a day. This was the first time OBI has won both the grand and reserve champion awards.

Another contest at the fair was the beef calf project book. Students had the opportunity to record feed intake and monitor weight gain, starting when the show calves were weaned last fall. Our students finished four project books and received high marks.

The highest honor at the Laurel County Ag Fair was the Cornett Award, which is based on combined individual performances throughout the fair. Withrow placed second with five other OBI students placing in the top 10—another first.

As fair week ended, everyone enjoyed a few minutes of rest at a cookout after the livestock auction. As we prepared to leave the fairgrounds, our students were busy making plans for the 2010 Laurel County Ag Fair.

As farm staff, we are so blessed to have been able to share this experience with more than 25 students and to be able to witness their personal growth and successes.

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

School is now in session

Fall semester brings new crop of students to CCBBC

We have just completed the first week of the new fall semester. This time of year always brings excitement back to our campus after the long summer break. It is always exciting to meet the new students and hear them share how God is working in their lives. They are always excited about getting started with their studies that first week. That is, until they get those first syllabi; then it's syllabus shock for a few days. They always make it through, though, and are ready to help the next group through their shock the next semester.

This fall we praise the Lord for 53 new degree-seeking students who have affirmed to us that they are following God's call to Clear Creek. We count it an honor to be used of God to provide their training.

God continues to call Clear Creek students from all walks of life, all over the country, and to different avenues of study. Twenty-five of these students will live on campus and study full time. Thirteen of them will enroll as commuters spending one night a week away from home. Fifteen of our new students will study entirely online through our online bachelor's de-

gree program.

The average age of our new fall semester class is 29 years old. Twenty-eight of our students are married and 25 are single. These new students come to us from 11 states. We have 32 students from Kentucky; 10 from Tennessee; two each from Georgia and North Carolina; and one each from Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Michigan, Montana and Utah. Thirty-two of these new students have previous college experience.

The students' previous occupations include: banker, salesman, restaurant cook, factory worker, pastor, draftsman, pharmacy technician, maintenance supervisor, fire and safety inspector, police sergeant, janitor, construction worker and realtor.

We count it a privilege to be "the" Bible college of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Thank you for your support that enables us to fulfill our mission to equip these God-called students for ministry. Please pray for them as they continue to follow God's call in their preparation for Kingdom work.

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

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

Great Commission Resurgence

'Take an honest look' at SBC, Floyd urges

By Mark Kelly

Rogers, Ark.—Southern Baptists need to quit believing what they read about themselves and realize that America is becoming more lost every day, the chairman of the denomination's Great Commission Resurgence Task Force said.

Task force members are being bombarded with information about where Southern Baptists are today, Ronnie Floyd told a group of more than 400 pastors and laypeople Aug. 26 at the Church at Pinnacle Hills in Rogers, Ark., but complex statistics must be understood if the task force is going to be able to identify where the denomination needs to go.

"Our commission is to reveal the honest and true status of this denomination," Floyd told the group at the opening of the task force's first "listening session" for rank and file Southern Baptists. "We can't go where we need to go if we don't really understand where we are. ... (Southern Baptists) probably need to stop believing all we read about ourselves and take an honest look at who we really are."

While God is moving in "unbelievable" ways through Southern Baptist missions work overseas, Floyd said the reality is that many churches in the United States are plateaued or declining in membership, and the denomination baptized fewer people in 2008 than far fewer congregations baptized in 1950. "We have more people and more resources than we have ever had and we are doing less with it to reach the lost, unchurched people of America," Floyd said.

Southern Baptists need to reestablish the primacy of the local church and focus on creating a new generation of leaders who can take the convention to new levels of Great Commission effectiveness, Floyd said.

"We need to see that the headquarters of this denomination is not in Nashville or any state convention

Hunt encourages personal resurgence

By Mark Kelly

Rogers, Ark.—Southern Baptist Convention President Johnny Hunt called on the denomination's pastors Aug. 26 to seek "a personal Great Commission resurgence" and lead their congregations to "embrace in the greatest degree ever the lostness of the world."

Hunt spoke to more than 400 pastors and laypeople at the Church at Pinnacle Hills in Rogers, Ark., during a "listening session" held by the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force.

"We will see significant change when the pulpits in America of Southern Baptist preachers make it a priority to embrace the importance of engaging others with the gospel," Hunt said, adding that his own family has made a renewed commitment to personal evangelism, missions and sacrificial giving.

He told about a young family at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary who had quit jobs and sold their home to prepare for overseas missions service, only to be told—along with many others—that the International Mission Board did not have the funds to send them after the 2008 Lottie

Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions fell \$9 million short of the previous year's receipts and \$29 million short of its \$170 million goal.

Hunt's one-word commentary: "Unacceptable."

"I was told in my early years to pray and tell the people," Hunt noted. "I've found Southern Baptists in my 33 years of pastoring to be a need-oriented people. Show them the vision, show them the lostness and I'm telling you they will step up to the challenge."

God gives times of economic crisis to create an opportunity to show Himself strong, Hunt added. Southern Baptists must remember the Bible's assertion that "the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof" and ask themselves, "What would God have me do?"

Sending more money to combat lostness must be a top priority for Southern Baptists in the United States, as well as overseas, Hunt maintained.

"I want to see us embrace church planting, especially in the major metropolitan centers of this nation," Hunt said. "We will never win America to Christ until we get serious about planting churches in our major cities." (BP)

office but in one place: in every pulpit—whether they have 20 people in the facility or 20,000, that is the headquarters of the Southern Baptist Convention," Floyd said.

"Our focus in this denomination must be to release the future generations to do greater things than any of us have done or could ever do," he noted. "If we're going to be honest today, we're not even sure that generation behind my generation even wants what we have to offer. If we want to reach future unchurched Americans, we are going to have to

create a generation of leaders who want what this denomination can do, has done and will do."

At the same time, however, Floyd said Southern Baptists need to focus on taking the gospel to people groups around the world.

"We want to see a resurgence to the Great Commission resulting in seeing the nations exalting Jesus Christ," Floyd said. "As chairman, I have one commitment: I am going to keep our focus on getting the gospel of Jesus Christ to every nation, every people group in the world." (BP)

Professor chooses church over seminary job

By Bob Allen

Fort Worth, Texas—A music professor has taken early retirement at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary rather than resigning a part-time position and moving his membership from a church that the Southern Baptist Convention declared out of fellowship in June.

Michael Cox, professor of music theory and composition at Southwestern's School of Church Music since 1990, is a member of Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, and director of the church's Chancel Choir.

SBC messengers voted June 23 to sever its 125-year-old ties with Broadway Baptist, after the congregation failed to convince denominational leaders it was in compliance with SBC membership requirements banning churches that affirm homosexuality.

Since Southwestern requires its professors to belong to a Southern Baptist church, that meant Cox, composer of more than 160 published works recognized 11 times by

the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, had to make a choice.

"I'm sorry Southwestern and the Southern Baptist Convention put Michael in this difficult position," said Brent Beasley, senior pastor of Broadway Baptist Church. "But from Broadway's perspective, we're thrilled that he made the courageous decision he did to take early retirement from Southwestern and stay at Broadway."

Appointed composer-in-residence

The church responded by naming Cox as composer-in-residence, a one-year appointment in addition to his part-time job as director of the Chancel Choir. Beasley said the composer-in-residence position will carry a stipend, and Cox would compose several pieces during the year for use in worship services at the church.

"Michael is a gifted composer and conductor, and he means a lot to our Chancel Choir and entire congregation," Beasley said. "And continuing their relationship with Broadway is

obviously important to Michael and Rhonda, as well."

According to Cox's online biography, he has composed and published numerous sacred choral and keyboard works for use in the church.

His seventh keyboard collection, titled "All Glory, Laud and Honor," was published by Shawnee Press. More recently, his compositional efforts have focused upon larger works for festival-size choirs and orchestras. His "Deo Gratias" was recorded by the Southwestern Seminary Oratorio Chorus and the Fort Worth Chamber Orchestra. His latest effort in this genre is an eight-movement work for tenor soloist, choir and orchestra titled "Symphonic Psalms." It was commissioned and premiered by the Oklahoma Baptist University Oratorio Chorus and Orchestra.

Prior to joining the Southwestern faculty in 1990, Cox taught for 18 years at Oklahoma Baptist University.

Cox and Southwestern officials both declined to comment. (ABP)

NATIONAL NOTES

Akin facing colon surgery—An unspecified medical condition that will entail colon surgery prevented Daniel Akin, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, from attending the Aug. 26 meeting of the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force in Rogers, Ark. A statement released by the seminary reported: "Dr. Akin is currently under the care of a doctor and is resting at home, but is looking at colon surgery in the near future for a non-life-threatening medical condition." Akin's condition was noted at the outset of a luncheon and question-and-answer session open to pastors and media.

LifeWay seeks tenants for Frost Building—LifeWay Christian Resources is seeking to lease the historic Frost Building in downtown Nashville. LifeWay vacated the building late last year in an effort to use existing office space more efficiently. The five-story Frost building features nearly 40,000 square feet of office space and underwent extensive interior remodeling in 1992-93. Built in 1914 as the first permanent structure of the former Baptist Sunday School Board (now LifeWay), and named for founder J.M. Frost, the building was placed on the city's historical register in 1980. There is precedent for leasing the building, officials said. Beginning in the 1950s, LifeWay leased the Frost Building to the State of Tennessee and the Nashville Metropolitan Government before reoccupying the building in 1980.

North Carolina convention cuts jobs—With income trailing last year's gifts by 3.2 percent, or \$647,000, the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina recently laid off three people and eliminated six positions. Three persons whose positions were eliminated were Eddie Hammett, senior consultant for discipleship and deacon ministry; Wendy Edwards, senior consultant for spiritual formation; and Rosanna Strickland, resource center manager. Convention officials estimated an annual savings of approximately \$500,000 in the staff and position reductions.

Black Baptist group elects new leader—A New Jersey pastor who formerly worked for American Baptist Churches USA has been chosen to lead one of America's largest black Baptist denominations. Walter Parrish III, senior pastor of Union Baptist Church in Montclair, N.J., was elected general secretary of the Progressive National Baptist Convention at the group's recent annual meeting in Louisville. Parrish, 50, will succeed Tyrone Pitts, general secretary of the PNBC since 1989, who is retiring. Parrish is scheduled to take over the job Jan. 1. Before moving to the historic African-American congregation, which is affiliated with both the PNBC and ABC, Parrish worked 12 years for American Baptists' Ministers and Missionaries Benefits Board. He went to Montclair in March 2002, first as interim pastor, and then was called as the church's permanent pastor that May. Claiming 2.5 million members around the world and 1.5 million in the United States, the PNBC is the third-largest African-American Baptist convention.

Former Stetson University president dies—Douglas Lee, who in his 22 years as president of Stetson University piloted the school through the stormy waters of denominational conflict, died Aug. 25 at age 66. Lee retired in May as president of the DeLand, Fla.-based Baptist school. He died of post-surgical complications, according to a statement posted on Stetson's Web site. In the 1990s, he led the school to separate from the Florida Baptist Convention. "It was very clear to me when I became president ... that Stetson and the Florida Baptist Convention were drifting apart," he said in 1997. "I knew there was no other way but to become, not a Baptist institution, but an independent university committed to religious values and to a Baptist heritage." Under his leadership the school grew its endowment, enrollment and campus facilities significantly while reducing its teacher-to-student ratio to 11 to 1.

Former HMB, CBF missionary dies—Ana D'Amico, retired Cooperative Baptist Fellowship field worker and Southern Baptist Home Mission Board missionary, died Aug. 25 at her home in Louisville, following a lengthy battle with breast cancer. She was 73. D'Amico served as a missionary to New York with the Home (now North American) Mission Board from 1985-89. She and her husband, David, were commissioned in 1995 as CBF representatives to the United Nations while in New York from 1996-2004. The D'Amicos gained non-governmental organization status for the CBF at the U.N., which allowed them access to briefings at U.N. headquarters. The D'Amicos' last assignment was working as advocates for Hispanics in North Carolina. They retired in 2006.

PLAN OF SALVATION

By H.K. Kingkade

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

John 3:16 has been called "the gospel in a nutshell." These words of Jesus have made a huge impact on lives through the centuries. This verse shows us how great God's love is and how incredible it is that this love is directed toward us. This love starts with God and makes it possible to have a personal relationship with the God who created the universe.

"This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins" (1 John 4:10).

John 3:16 also tells us that whoever believes in God's only son, shall not perish but have eternal life. This is a free gift of eternal life, but we must believe in Jesus as God's son and accept Him as our Lord and Savior.

Do you know that God loves you? God loves you so much, He gave His only son to die for your sins so that you can have a personal relationship with Him. You can accept this life that God promises by praying this prayer:

"Lord, I know I am a sinner. I confess all my sins and I ask for your forgiveness. Come into my life and be Lord of my life. Amen."

Choose today to follow God and experience this great love. By accepting Christ as your savior, you can know the perfect love that only God can give.

H.K. Kingkade is director of religious life at Georgetown College

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CADIZ**—New Light Church ordained **Greg Creekmur** as a deacon Aug. 16. **Donny Garner** is pastor.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Campbellsville University will host a Community Workforce Readiness Expo Sept. 3, 6 p.m. at the Campbellsville Community Center. For more information, call **Palvena Pace** or **Chad Mattingly** at (270) 789-1352.

■ **FULTON**—Crutchfield Church recently called **Kevin Keeling** as interim pastor.

■ **JUNCTION CITY**—First Church ordained **Ryan Norris Dillingham** as a deacon Aug. 23. **Dale Denton** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Highland Church ordained **Greg Bunten** and **Jan Foren** as deacons Aug. 30. Joe Phelps is pastor.

■ **OWENTON**—Richland Church recently called **Brian Blair** as youth minister. He previously was youth minister at Grace Church in Independence. **Charles Johnson** is pastor.

■ **PADUCAH**—Longtime music minister **Kent Jackson** died Aug. 25. He was 68. Jackson served as minister of music at churches in Texas and Tennessee before coming to Kentucky. He served First Church of Paducah from 1986-98 and First Church of LaCenter from 1998-2000. He also was a music director and instructor at Mid-Continent University in Mayfield, and served as a church music consultant with the Georgia Baptist Convention until his retirement in 2006. He also was a member of The Centurymen, a select choir made up of Southern Baptist music ministers. He served as the group's president in 1993. Funeral services were held Aug. 28 at Lone Oak First Church of Paducah where Jackson was a member. He is survived by his wife, Lucretia, two children and three grandchildren.

Cumberlands students do summer missions in school's backyard

Williamsburg—As University of the Cumberlands students arrive back on campus, most are eager to share their summer experiences away from campus. More than 60 Cumberlands students served across the United States or internationally through Baptist Campus Ministries.

However, for five students, the mission field consisted of the area around Williamsburg as they worked with Appalachian Ministries.

A program of University of the Cumberlands' BCM, Appalachian Ministries is designed to focus on those individuals, especially children, that students encounter close to home.

During the year, BCM students work with AM to bring the love of Christ to local children. During the summers, a smaller group remains on campus and serves in Whitley County. These students work with local churches to conduct vacation Bible schools and work with volunteer youth groups to hold backyard Bible clubs and other activities to benefit children who might not otherwise

get involved in church activities.

Many in the group said they realized that working with children is both a challenge and a joy, because children have a way of recognizing sincerity, but they enjoy being around Christians who can "let go."

"I don't care to make a fool of myself if everyone around me is comfortable with it," said sophomore Jonathan Carmack, who served with AM this summer. "It is up to us to do God's will and what people think about us doesn't matter."

One week, the AM Summer Servants conducted a backyard Bible club on a Williamsburg street during the afternoons, then helped Corinth Baptist Church near Corbin conduct VBS in the evenings. With nearly 150 children enrolled, the Corinth Baptist program was well-received. Three of the 13 professions of faith made as a result of AM's summer ministry were made at the church's VBS.

In addition to their local work, the group served at a youth camp in Illinois, where Carmack said he was



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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, Murray; First Baptist Church, Frankfort; 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.

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

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

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

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



SUMMER MISSIONS University of the Cumberlands student Jonathan Carmack (standing) was part of a five-member team of students who spent their summer doing missions work throughout Whitley County, serving in a variety of ways, including teaching VBS, like this one at Corbin's Corinth Baptist Church. (University of the Cumberlands photo)

blessed to lead a young girl to Christ.

"It was a blessing to have God working through me to tell my story and share Scripture," he recalled. He also said he knew he had been called to serve, but that he went into the summer like "a deer caught in

headlights."

Although he is the son of a minister, Carmack insisted that he did not want to become a pastor, but after his summer experiences, he said he now feels "100 percent sure that I'm called to be a pastor."

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SEEKING: Full-time youth/children's minister for Munfordville Baptist Church, Munfordville, Ky. Interested individuals should contact John Smith at mbc@scrtc.com; or call (270) 766-7811. Deadline for applications is Sept. 27.

SEEKING: Enthusiastic part-time youth pastor who is mission-minded and desires to make disciples. If you feel led, please contact Bedford Baptist Church, 1425 Hwy 421E, Bedford, KY 40006. (502) 255-3240.

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 youth minister. Please send resumé to Symsonia Baptist, PO Box 343, Symsonia, KY 42082; or e-mail to symsoniabaptist@bellsouth.net.

SEEKING: Full-time (preferable) or bivocational pastor for Glens Creek Baptist Church in Versailles. Please send resumé to Search Committee, Glens Creek Baptist Church, 4678 Steele Road, Versailles, KY 40383.

SEEKING: Part-time 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.

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

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.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of worship and outreach. Send resúmes to Journey Baptist Fellowship at journeylexington@gmail.com.

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

SEEKING: Full-time minister of Christian life activities at First Baptist Church, Bowling Green, Ky. Related experience preferable. Send resúmes to: 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.

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

Hugo's silver lining

20 years ago, hurricane provided catalyst for disaster relief ministry

By Mickey Noah
North American Mission Board

Columbia, S.C.—Before Katrina and Andrew, there was Hugo.

Some 20 years ago, Hurricane Hugo made landfall in South Carolina with winds of 140 miles per hour. It was the most devastating storm to ever hit the East Coast.

Hugo killed more than 100 people, left 100,000 others homeless and inflicted \$10 billion in damage.

But there was a silver lining: Hugo is credited as the catalyst for today's mammoth Southern Baptist Convention disaster relief response capability across the United States.

The night Hugo roared in, Mickey Caison was pastor of Providence Baptist Church in the small hamlet of Macedonia, S.C.

"As the hurricane came in, we were in the eye of the storm 12-15 minutes," recalled Caison, who now is adult volunteer mobilization team leader for the North American Mission Board.

"At Macedonia, we were on the edge of the Francis Marion National Forest. Over 290,000 acres of trees were destroyed that night, about 80 percent. In the days afterward, they used everything from mules to helicopters to get the timber to the mills."

Cliff Satterwhite was assigned to disaster relief the day after Hugo.

"South Carolina didn't even have a disaster relief ministry in 1989 when Hugo hit. Hugo changed the landscape for everybody." He spent the next six weeks working 18-hour days coordinating recovery efforts from Columbia.

"Other state conventions had disaster relief but not South Carolina," he said. "We had zero units."

Thirteen feeding units from 11 state Baptist conventions—Virginia, Florida, North Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, Louisiana, Ohio, Missouri, Arkansas, Mississippi and Kentucky—descended on South Carolina after Hugo. Thousands of downed trees isolated communities. Southern Baptists cranked out 265,000 meals for Hugo survivors.

South Carolina Baptists now have 129 disaster relief units according to Satter-



MONSTER STORM Hurricane Hugo near landfall on Sept. 21, 1989. (NOAA photo). **Inset:** Disaster relief volunteers with a Mississippi Baptist feeding unit fed some hungry South Carolina youngsters. (NAMB photo by John Swain)

white, who directs the ministry for the convention. Three feeding units can serve 15,000 meals a day. Other units provide chainsaw and other clean-up services, hot showers, laundry, medical services and communications.

Training for disaster relief volunteers in 1989 was spotty at best, Satterwhite said.

"Back then, people would throw a chainsaw in the back of a pickup truck and take off for the coast—totally untrained, not knowing what to do but willing to help someone. Today, we wouldn't think of a chainsaw team going out without hardhats, chaps and goggles. No one wore that stuff back then. We were flying by the seat of our pants during Hugo."

Post-Hugo disaster relief was focused in the Charleston area, Satterwhite said. "We

concentrated on Charleston with five feeding units, and we used fish cookers, not the nice units with tilt skillets and convection ovens we have today.

"Today, South Carolina has 6,800 trained volunteers for disaster relief, and next to North Carolina, we have one of the largest fleets of units," Satterwhite added.

Caison agreed that Hugo was pivotal in the development of Southern Baptist disaster relief, calling the hurricane "a major benchmark." He was so moved by the unprecedented Southern Baptist response to Hugo that he left his pastorate and went into SBC disaster relief full time.

"The next major DR benchmark event was Hurricane Andrew in 1992, followed by the Mississippi floods in 1993, the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995, 9/11 and, of

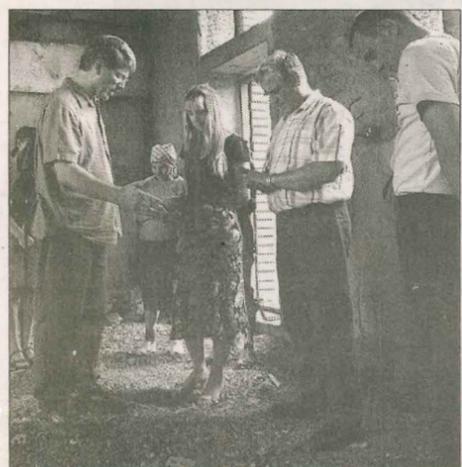
course, Katrina in 2005. But Hugo was the first and because of it, we've become more focused and specialized in our disaster relief ministry."

Caison said disaster relief operations now exist in all 42 SBC state conventions, with 90,000 trained volunteers nationwide and more than 2,000 units overall.

"We've grown not only in size but in strength," Caison said. "We have a deep commitment and passion for what we do and the spiritual component is very important."

Because Hugo was a watershed event in Southern Baptist disaster relief, Satterwhite noted that 500-600 people are expected to attend a 20th anniversary reunion Oct. 9-10 at the state's annual disaster relief training session in Charleston. (BP)

LifeWay employee encourages Russian believers as IMB volunteer



GROUP PRAYER Brian Krebs (left); Pavel, the local pastor; and interpreter Oksana, ask God's blessing on a new church under construction. The Baptist church is the only evangelical outreach in the small town of Sosnovka. Krebs is an employee with LifeWay Christian Resources. (Photo by Kent Harville)

By Polly House
LifeWay Christian Resources

Nashville—Brian Krebs has a divided heart.

His heart is split between his life as a husband, father, grandfather and employee of LifeWay Christian Resources, and his other life as the face of Southern Baptist missions in Novokuznetsk, Russia.

For the past three years, Krebs has served as virtual strategy coordinator with the International Mission Board. He works with evangelical churches in Novokuznetsk, supporting their ministry and helping them engage unbelievers in the city.

"Well less than 1 percent of Novokuznetsk's 500,000 people are believers," Krebs said. "There are a few believers there who are working diligently to reach out to the people of Novokuznetsk. I want to come alongside them and help them with whatever they need to do that."

Krebs' interest in Novokuznetsk began five years ago when his home church, Grace Community Church in Nashville began teaching English as a ministry in Belarus.

"Our church has had a strong English as a Second Language ministry for many years," Krebs said. "We wanted to expand this ministry into international work. The IMB told us of the need in Russia, and we were ready to join them in meeting it."

Krebs and his wife, Vicki, accompanied groups from Grace Com-

munity to Belarus annually from 2003-06.

When locals "understood that we really were sincere in wanting to help them with English, they welcomed us warmly."

Krebs met Andy Leininger, the IMB missionary in Novosibirsk, Russia, who told him about the VSC position. In 2007, Brian and Vicki Krebs were appointed.

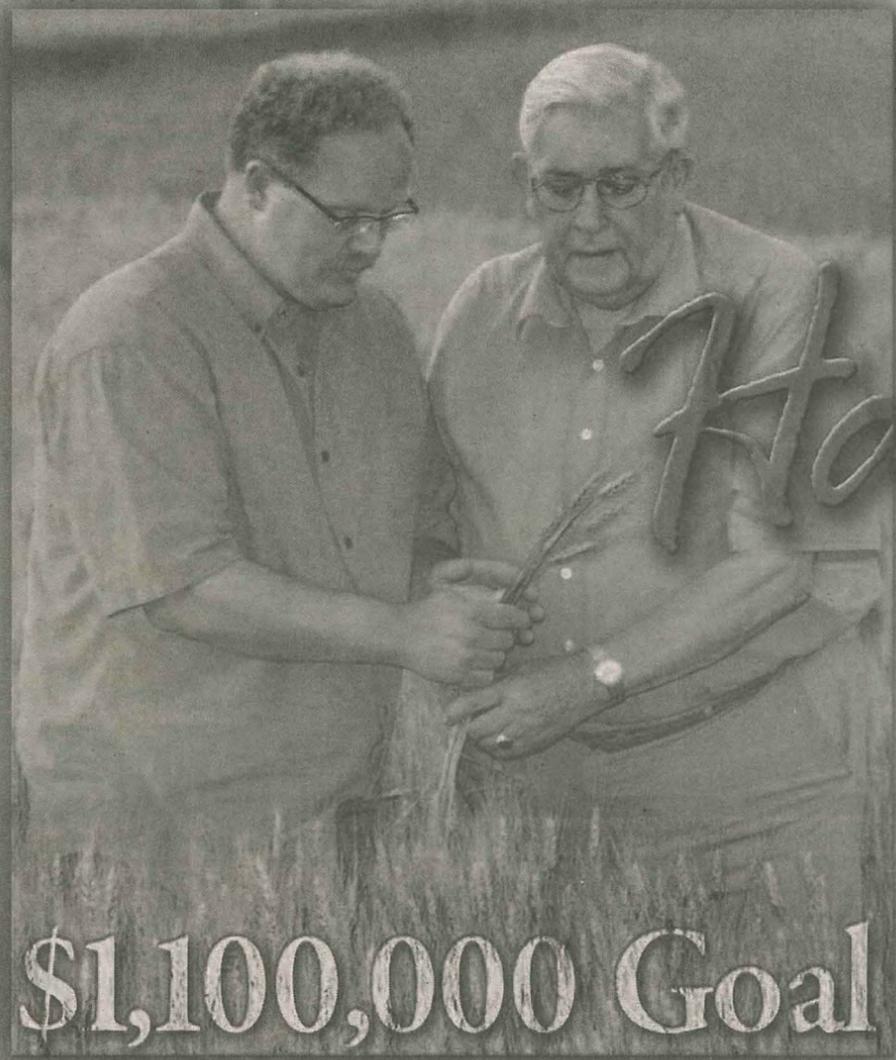
"I am committed to going to Novokuznetsk at least once a year to work with Anatoly, the pastor of the Baptist Church, and other evangelical pastors," Krebs said.

On the recent LifeWay-sponsored mission trip to Novokuznetsk, Krebs and nine other volunteers spent eight days doing outreach among the city's people. They had a time of English conversation at the city's public library, and visited a drug rehabilitation center and a youth camp.

"Novokuznetsk is not a tourist destination like Moscow or St. Petersburg," Krebs said. "Just the presence of Americans is a curiosity. This gives us the opportunity to share our love of Christ and, at the same time, give these local churches an extra visibility."

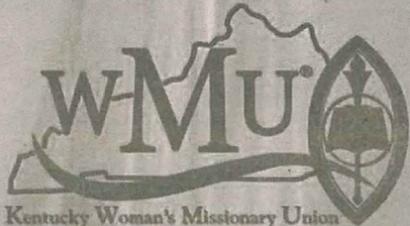
Krebs said he hopes more U.S. churches will partner with believers in Novokuznetsk. "We can learn from their models of ministry to drug and alcohol abusers and ministry to people in prisons. ... I can see Christian businessmen coming here and holding seminars on good solid business principles with the young business leaders. The possibilities are absolutely endless."

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