

Shine like stars in the world
Philippians 2:15

WESTERN Recorder

September 15, 2009
Vol. 183, No. 36

FOR THE RECORD

Kentucky
KBC Missions Growth Team Leader Randy Jones at year's end. *Page 2.*

Missions
Kentucky churches get ready to kick off annual Operation Christmas Child efforts. *Page 3.*

Editorial
Baptism is a time for family celebration. *Page 4.*

Financial Forum
Follow these six steps to achieve a healthier financial life. *Page 5.*

Baptists
World Changers ministry prepares for 20th anniversary, adopts new schedule format. *Page 6.*

Issues
President Obama promotes health care plan, but pro-life advocates remain skeptical. *Page 8.*

Nation
Report shows Christian leaders made frequent visits to the Bush White House. *Page 9.*

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The Year of the Horse

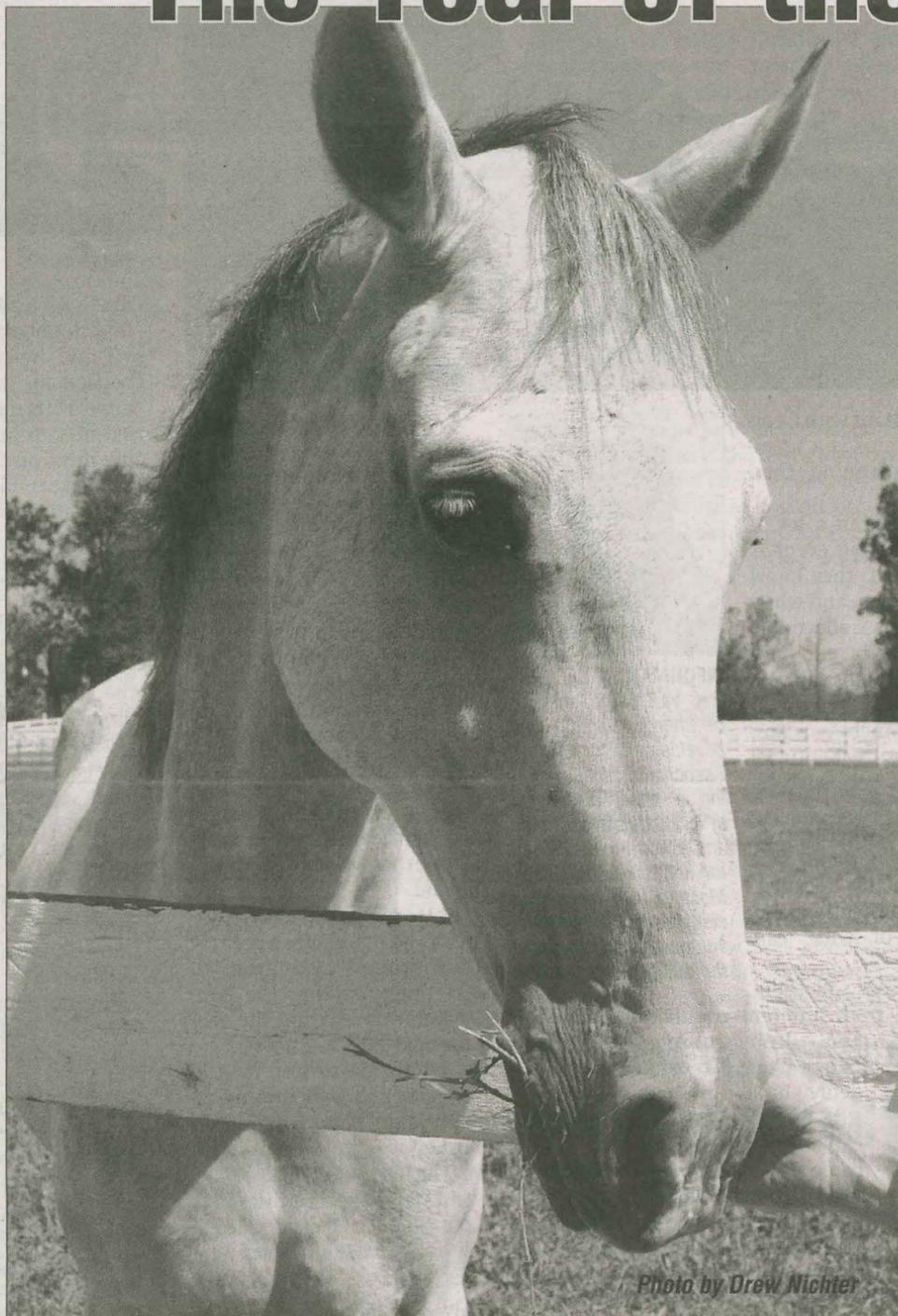


Photo by Drew Nichter

State's largest ministry opportunity gets financial boost from annual Eliza Broadus missions offering

By Dannah Prather
Partnerships Editor

Lexington—For Kentucky Baptists, 2010 could become the “year of the horse.”

As many as 600,000 people are expected to compete in or attend the FEI Alltech World Equestrian Games, Sept. 25-Oct. 10, 2010, at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington.

“The world is coming to Kentucky,” said Joy Bolton, executive director of Kentucky Woman’s Missionary Union.

Undoubtedly, many of those people who arrive will have never heard the gospel—perhaps even the name of Jesus Christ—before.

A group of Kentucky Baptists already are at work planning ministry events and recruiting volunteers, but WMU hopes even more people will become involved through prayer, and by supporting this year’s Eliza Broadus offering for missions in the commonwealth. With enough support, World Equestrian Games ministries could receive a big boost—up to \$15,000 from the offering.

Open your eyes...
the fields are ripe.

It's Harvest Time!

Larry Martin, a missions consultant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention and executive director of Equestrian Ministries International, said the funds will permit Kentucky Baptists a place of prominence in Bluegrass-area community festivals planned during the WEG.

“The excitement in Lexington continues to build,” Martin said. “People are getting very involved in the planning process.”

Representatives from thousands of churches and other groups in Kentucky are on board through Affiliated International Ministries, EMI’s volunteer organization formed especially for the World Equestrian Games.

One of those is Ray Van Camp, director of church planting and development for Elkhorn Baptist Association. Van Camp said the initial wave of volunteer recruitment came last Saturday at the first-ever Church and Community Day at the Kentucky Horse Park.

“We’re going to need between 300 to 500 volunteers,” Van Camp said.

A big job will be staffing booths at three community festivals. *See World Equestrian Games ... Page 2*

Ky. Baptist congregation at center of church-state debate

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Cecilia—A Kentucky Baptist church has found itself in the middle of a church-state debate after a local high school football coach invited his players to revival services where several were baptized.

Franklin Crossroads Baptist Church in Cecilia held revival services Aug. 23-26. Several players from the Breckinridge County High School football team, invited to the church by head coach and Franklin Crossroads member Scott Mooney, accepted Christ and were baptized at the revival.

Last week, the Louisville Courier-Journal reported that the mother of one of the players was upset that her 16-year-old son was baptized, claiming it happened without her knowledge or consent.

Michelle Ammons told the Courier-Journal that Mooney pushed his faith on her son, Robert Coffey, as well as the other players who attended. She claimed they were invited only to have a steak dinner and hear a motivational speaker.

Since the C-J article was published, the incident has taken on a life of its own, raising arguments on both sides of the church-state aisle.

“It’s amazing to me how this ‘non-story’ has become such a story,” Franklin Crossroads Pastor Ron Davis told the Western Recorder.

Davis said he has heard from secular and religious media outlets from all over the world since the story broke. CNN had requested to send a camera crew to Franklin Crossroads last weekend, and he has done interviews with reporters from as far away as Canada and Germany.

The nine football players baptized were among 83 people who made professions of faith during the final evening of a four-night revival with Evangelist Ronnie Hill from Texas.

On that night—“steak dinner night,” the pastor called it—more than 700 people packed the church. Hill spoke about the urgency of baptism and the obedience of it, Davis recalled.

Of the 83 people who accepted Christ that evening, 47 of them were baptized on the spot—many of them youth and children.

Davis said that children are not baptized at Franklin Crossroads without first obtaining parental consent. He added, however, he only adheres to that rule when the child in question is very young—often not with teenagers. “I’m very cautious

about parents being aware of and being a part of” baptisms, Davis said.

He noted that several who came forward to be baptized that night were children, and parental permission was obtained—but not for the football players. “These were young men,” Davis said.

The pastor defended Mooney’s decision to invite his players to the revival. Davis estimated that of the 40 or so players on the Breckinridge County team, 20 of them came to the revival service, several of them with their parents.

Davis described Mooney, who teaches a high school boys’ Sunday school class at Franklin Crossroads, as a “straight-up guy” who would not try to manipulate his players.

According to the Courier-Journal report, Michelle Ammons also expressed concern. *See Football player ... Page 3*

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, Sept. 16

World Equestrian Games ministry gets boost from Eliza Broadus State Missions Offering

Continued from page 1

tivals—the International Equestrian Festival in downtown Lexington; the Kentucky International Equine Expo at the Kentucky Horse Park; and the Festival of the Horse in Georgetown.

Martin and Van Camp said similar events probably will be held in other Bluegrass-area communities during the WEG's 16 days.

Puppet shows, children's games, artists, face painters and other activities are planned as vehicles to share the gospel.

Child care for the thousands of visitors to Lexington will be a great need, Van Camp noted. Teams are needed to provide vacation Bible school-type events at local hotels.

Backyard Bible clubs also will be needed at regional campgrounds which are expected to see a big jump in visitors next fall.

A special outreach is planned for the estimated 1,000 people arriving weeks, perhaps months, prior to the games. "All horses coming from outside the U.S. have to be in quarantine at least 30 days," Martin explained.

During that time, Kentucky Baptists and other Christian volunteers will have a great opportunity to build relationships with the men and women caring for the horses.

The World Equestrian Games is an Olympic-sized event that, in fact, is governed by the same group that relates to the International Olympic Committee on equestrian events for the summer games. Founded in 1921, Federation Equestre Internationale has 134 affiliated national federations from around the world.

Former Kentucky Baptist Beth Ann Williams has learned how a Christian community welcomes the world to town. The Eastern Kentucky University graduate directed ministries for the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City. She also served as a North American Mission Board missionary to the 1996 summer games in Atlanta.

THE WORLD IS COMING TO KENTUCKY Several national flags hang outside the International Museum of the Horse at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington. The 12,000-acre park is undergoing renovations in preparation for more than 600,000 competitors and spectators from all over the world that will visit for next year's World Equestrian Games. (Photos by Drew Nichter)



Now a consultant with Georgia WMU, Williams is a member of AIM's planning committee.

"What happens in a lot of places that get a big event is they hear to happen, and when it comes and goes ... inevitably people say, 'I wish I could have done more,'" Williams said.

The groundwork being laid by ministry planners is a positive step to ensure Kentucky Baptists will not have such regrets, she added.

"A lot of Kentucky Baptists were involved in Atlanta and Salt Lake," Williams recalled. "They have a foundation and understanding of what can happen."

When hundreds of thousands of people from different countries and cultures converge in one place, "you suddenly have this culture of openness," she explained. "People become very chatty."

Christians could not ask for a greater opportunity to share Christ, she said, noting that many of the WEG visitors come from countries "totally closed to the gospel."



INFORMATION SESSION Ray Van Camp, director of church planting and development for Elkhorn Association, speaks during a panel discussion at last Saturday's Church and Community Day at the Kentucky Horse Park. Much of the discussion centered of ministry and volunteer opportunities at the WEG.

Williams and Van Camp said a tremendous need exists for Christian volunteers who can speak other languages.

One of the greatest outreach opportunities in the Olympics was from volunteers wearing buttons that read "May I help you?" in another language, Williams noted. What may begin as directions to the nearest bathroom could result in someone opening their heart to the gospel.

"If our folks are open to making new friends and sharing their heart in a real, natural way, that works every time," she said.

Bolton encourages Kentucky Baptists, especially those around Lexington, to start prayerwalking the Kentucky Horse Park now, preparing the venue spiritually for next year's visitors.

"There is no admission to stop by (the Kentucky Horse Park) and walk around after hours," Bolton said. "What will God do to touch the world if we saturate this facility in prayer over the next year?"

A list of volunteer opportunities has been posted on Elkhorn Baptist Association's Web site, www.Elkhorn.org. The phone number is (859) 254-7747.

Volunteers can sign up now to serve at the Kentucky Horse Park through AIM. Visit www.EquestrianMinistries.org and click on the "AIM" link to request information.

Jones, KBC missions growth team leader, to retire at year end

Louisville—After more than 13 years of service on the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Mission Board staff, Missions Growth Team leader Randy Jones will retire from his position, effective Dec. 31.



Randy Jones

Jones came to the KBC in 1996 as state missions director for the KBC. He was appointed team leader for the missions growth team in 2005.

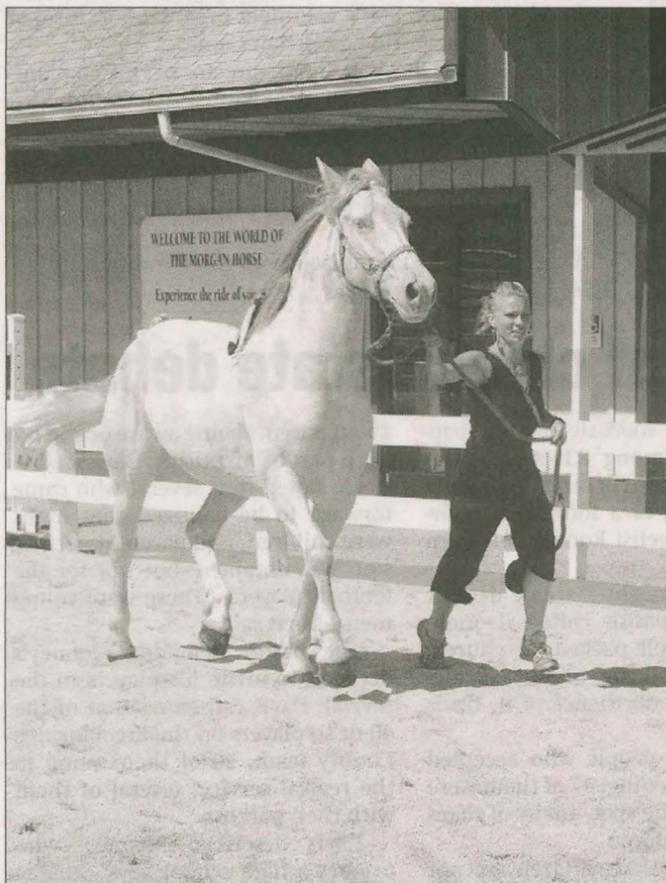
"Randy is respected as an outstanding administrator and missions leader. Having served as an International Mission Board missionary and director of missions, he has a passion for missions," said KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey. "God has led him to put together an outstanding missions team that provides excellent leadership. We will look to them for continued leadership in the years to come."

Prior to joining the KBC staff, Jones served in a variety of ministry positions across Kentucky and Indiana. He also spent several years as a field evangelist in Costa Rica and Paraguay for the Southern Baptist Convention's International Mission Board.

After serving in several Kentucky Baptist churches as a student pastor, Jones served as pastor of Maceo Baptist Church in Daviess County. He went on to serve as pastor of Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church in Utica and later, First Baptist Church of Sonora. Jones also was associate pastor of education and administration at Central Baptist Church in Winchester.

In addition to church leadership, Jones served at various times in associational missions as director of missions for Northern Kentucky Baptist and Boone's Creek Baptist associations in Kentucky, as well as Northwest Indiana Baptist Association.

Jones holds a bachelor's degree from Kentucky Wesleyan College in Owensboro and a Master of Divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. He also received a diploma from the Spanish Language Institute in San Jose, Costa Rica.



WORKING OUT Amanda Sadowski from Indiana takes Daisy, a spotted draft horse around the practice ring at the Kentucky Horse Park to get her used to her surroundings before a show later in the day. Hundreds of thousands of competitors like Daisy and Amanda will arrive in the Bluegrass State next year for the FEI Alltech World Equestrian Games.

Claude King to lead discipleship workshops

Lexington—Discipleship specialist Claude King will be featured speaker at four upcoming Here's Hope Discipleship Workshops for pastors.

The conferences will be offered on four different dates and at four different locations across the state next month and next year:

■ Oct. 12 at Anchor Baptist Church in Lexington.

■ Oct. 13 at the Warren Baptist Association office in Bowling Green.

■ March 1, 2010, at the Kentucky Baptist Building in Louisville.

■ March 2, 2010, at Beacon Hill

Baptist Church in Somerset.



Claude King

Sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention, the workshops are designed to provide practical help to pastors and key laypersons seeking to encourage effective discipleship in their churches.

"Participants will learn from Claude King, who is one of the best voices on discipleship, and they'll also have the opportunity to develop specific plans for moving others toward revival, harvest and spiritual maturity," said Mike James, KBC's discipleship and assimilation coordinator.

According to James, participants will learn to help others experience spiritual healing, understand God's pattern for spiritual growth, and learn from other pastors and discipleship leaders.

King serves as discipleship specialist for LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville. He is the author of numerous books and discipleship courses, including "Experiencing God," "Fresh Encounter" and "The Mind of Christ."

All four workshops will run from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. local time. Registration is \$10 per person and can be completed online at www.KyBaptist.org/Hope, or by calling (502) 489-3581, or toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3581.

Mentoring & discipleship requires time, focus on Christ, pastor says

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Lexington—Basketball coaches can spend hours each day showing their players how to shoot lay-ups and play defense. But once the game starts, "all you can do is yell from the sidelines," Pastor Tim Parsons said.

Parsons led the Mentoring 101 workshop at last month's first Super Saturday event in Lexington. He compared

the process of mentoring and discipleship to that of coaching.

"We're coaches in the lives of people all around us," he said. "Mentoring means to take someone down a path along with you."

Parsons pointed out that the mandate for discipleship comes from Jesus' own lips in His words to His disciples just before his ascension into heaven, as referenced in Matthew 28:16-20.

In those final words, Jesus tells His disciples to do three things: to go and make disciples of all nations, to baptize them and to teach them. "These words are from the mouth of Jesus and they summarize everything He had already taught His disciples," Parsons said.

Oftentimes, believers will lead others to Christ, but neglect to follow through on Jesus' other two commands, Parsons noted. "When you lead someone to Christ, ... do it with a mindset of making a disciple, seeing the process all the way through," he urged.

The pastor described mentorship as a relationship, but more importantly, it is "taking the necessary time to win, involve and teach someone how to live for Jesus."

When learning how to disciple someone, Parsons said Christians need to look no further than Jesus, "the greatest mentor and discipler there has ever been in the world."

Parsons shared his "Jesus model" for learning to disciple others:

■ Jesus carefully chose those who were interested.

■ "Go after somebody who's eager to learn in their faith," Parsons urged.

■ Jesus gave out the instructions and the expectations clearly in the beginning. "We need to be clear about what we're expecting in the area of discipleship," the pastor said.

■ Jesus gave of His time unselfishly and His disciples saw the real Him. "If you're going to be a mentor ... it's going to take some time. That's the No. 1 reason people won't do it," Parsons said. "We've let our lives get too busy to be followers of Jesus."

■ Jesus disciplined by teaching, showing and guiding.

■ Jesus allowed the disciples to be human and He taught them through their mistakes and weaknesses.

■ Jesus focused on His relationship to the Father, not allowing for any distractions. Even though He was God on earth, Jesus still "snuck away early in the morning to communicate with His Father," Parsons pointed out.

■ When His task was completed, He let them go. "The idea is to raise people up and let them go," Parsons noted.

The final Super Saturday conferences are scheduled for this weekend, Sept. 19, at First Baptist Church of Pikeville and Zion Baptist Church in Henderson.



Kentucky churches ready to kick off Operation Christmas Child efforts

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Somerset—Think it's too early to start looking ahead to Christmas? Think again.

Volunteers statewide soon will kick off their annual Operation Christmas Child efforts to provide gifts and the gospel to impoverished children around the world.

Operation Christmas Child is a ministry of Samaritan's Purse, the Christian relief organization headed by Franklin Graham, son of renowned evangelist Billy Graham.

The ministry distributes gift-filled shoeboxes to children living in some of the world's most poverty-stricken areas. The boxes are packed by thousands of volunteers nationwide through a variety of organizations, like churches, schools and businesses.

Samaritan's Purse "is on the leading edge of relief work to some of the most desperate countries in the world," said Sheri Yonts, a longtime Operation Christmas Child volunteer.

Yonts coordinates the Somerset-area collection center for shoebox donations to OCC. Her husband, Charlie, a deacon at Somerset's Beacon Hill Baptist Church, directs the collection effort for the Lake Cumberland area, which includes more than a dozen Southeastern Kentucky counties.

The Yontses are gearing up for their area's kick-off event set for Sept. 22 at Beacon Hill Baptist. It is aimed at getting more volunteers and organizations throughout the community to participate in packing shoeboxes for the world's children.

The Somerset gathering is one of four area kick-off events in Kentucky this weekend and next week, according to Allison Mobley, Mid-South Region director for Operation Christmas Child. The other three events will be held Sept. 19-20 in Alexandria; Sept. 20-21 in Lexington; and Sept. 21 in Danville.

The featured speaker at each kick-off is Livia Satterfield, a Georgia college student who is known as a "full-circle" speaker. That means she has both received and given shoeboxes.

Satterfield spent the first 12 years of her life in a Romanian orphanage and was a multiple recipient of gifts through Operation Christmas Child.

Livia met her future mother, Connie, when she

visited the orphanage on a mission trip. The two remained close and five years later, Connie and her husband adopted Livia.

While not all children's will experience the same happy ending, the shoeboxes provide them with gifts they wouldn't otherwise receive and, more importantly, a "gospel opportunity," Mobley said.

Last year, Kentuckians packed and delivered 119,708 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. The Yontses' Lake Cumberland area placed second among the state's 10 area teams, packing 13,164 boxes.

Sheri Yonts said last year's total was both surprising and humbling given "we have some very poor counties surrounding us." She pointed out that only 6,000 of the 13,000-plus shoeboxes came from Pulaski County. "Whatever little bit you're willing to do, the Lord doubles and triples it," she said. The area goal this year is 15,000 shoeboxes.

Both Yonts and Mobley insisted that it's not too early to begin packing shoeboxes. The week for all shoebox collections is Nov. 16-23—just two months away.

"If you do it now, it really can make more of a difference than if you wait until the last minute," Mobley said.

For individuals or church groups interested in participating in Operation Christmas Child this year, Mobley encouraged them to visit the Samaritan's Purse Web site—www.SamaritansPurse.org—or to call (800) 353-5949.

The Web site has information on where to locate an organization's nearest collection center, lists of what can and cannot be packed in the shoeboxes and other resources including ideas for hosting a "packing party."

Yonts encouraged all organizations, especially Kentucky Baptist churches, to get involved with Operation Christmas Child.

"It has shown that through a shoebox you can touch a child's life, and even bring that child (and) their community ... to the saving grace of God," she noted. "And once you introduce them to God, He can bring them joy, in spite of the dire situations that they're living in."

Football player baptisms place Cecilia church in middle of church-state debate

Continued from page 1

pressed concern over Mooney's use of a school bus to transport the students to the church, which is about an hour southeast of the school.

Breckinridge County Schools Superintendent Janet Meeks told the C-J that the trip did not violate school policy because it was voluntary and school funds were not used to pay for the gas. Meeks attends Franklin Crossroads and witnessed the players' baptisms.

"None of the players were rewarded for going and none were punished for not going," Meeks was quoted as saying.

Davis called such church-state issues—like he finds himself in the middle of now—"political footballs." He said he believes churches and schools should be able to "walk together."

"But I believe we have freedoms today that are being taken from us, not because of the Constitution, (but) because of politics," he noted.

And public school coaches and administrators are under especially close scrutiny when it comes to prayer in school or around students.

A Pace, Fla., high school principal and athletic director face jail time for praying at a January luncheon honoring boosters which was held on school property. The school system has a policy that prohibits employees from offering "religious prayers or devotionals during school-sponsored events."

In March, New Jersey high school football coach Marcus Borden had his appeal rejected by the U.S. Supreme Court to allow him to bow his head and kneel during prayers led by his players, a violation of East Brunswick, N.J., school district policy.

Regardless of the furor surrounding the baptisms, Davis said he still would have baptized the players if they had insisted on it.

"I would not refuse to baptize them, but I would instruct them to make sure if there are any questions," he said. "If I knew their parents didn't want them baptized, I wouldn't do that."

However, Davis said that because of the number of people who came forward to be baptized, the players were given the option to postpone their baptisms until a later date. Only 47 of the 83 people were baptized that evening—28 people are still awaiting their baptisms, the pastor noted.

The players "didn't have to do it that night. That was their desire to do it," Davis explained.

The pastor said he has "put it out there" that he would like to speak to the teenager's mother and apologize.

"We're trying to wait until the time is right to speak to her and to let her know that we're sorry that this has upset her," he said.

However, "the victim here is the poor boy; the young man who was so excited for his decision," Davis noted. "He's just caught in the crosshairs. That's the sad part of the story."

It remains to be seen how far the story continues. Several media outlets reported that Michelle Ammons is considering legal action. While that may not include the church, Davis said he views the entire situation as a spiritual battle.

"I believe Satan has raised his head and he's trying to get people to speak for him," Davis said. "I think whenever great things happen, these things follow."

Deadline
October 12!

CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS

The Kentucky Baptist Convention Committee on Resolutions will be receiving resolutions to be considered at this year's annual meeting until October 12.

This year's meeting is to be held Nov. 10 in Elizabethtown at **Severns Valley Baptist Church.**

RESOLUTIONS MUST:

- Be typewritten, titled & dated
- Be accompanied by a letter or e-mail from a church qualified to send a messenger to the annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention certifying that the person submitting the resolution is a member in good standing
- Include complete contact information for the person submitting the resolution and his or her church. No person may submit more than three resolutions in a single year.

IF YOU HAVE A RESOLUTION TO BE CONSIDERED:

E-mail to: executive@kybaptist.org
(preferred method)

OR

Mail to: Committee on Resolutions
c/o KBC Executive Office
P.O. Box 43433
Louisville, KY 40253



Executive Office
502-489-3577 or 866-489-3577
www.kybaptist.org/annualmeeting

EBO: 'It's Harvest Time'

Jesus used farming and harvest concepts to help His followers understand the Kingdom principles of sowing and reaping and to understand that only God provides the increase (Matt. 9:37-38). This year's Eliza Broadus Offering for

Partners in the Mission

By Bill Mackey

State Missions theme, "It's Harvest Time," uses this same imagery in promoting the many key partnerships that can result in God's blessing of a great harvest.

One of the biggest upcoming ministry partnerships supported by the Eliza Broadus Offering is the "Find It Here" evangelistic campaign. "Find it Here" is a partnership between the North American Mission Board, the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Kentucky associations and local churches with support from the Eliza Broadus Offering.

The goal is to deliver the gospel to 1.5 million households in Kentucky next March. This door-to-door gospel sowing event will be supported by a three-week advertising campaign conducted by NAMB and the KBC.

In preparation, Kentucky Baptists will be seeking to prayerwalk every street and road, conduct witness training and take steps to prepare their churches to make the best possible first impression on guests.

The Eliza Broadus Offering also supports an extensive partnership between the KBC and 22 associational missionaries who serve as directors of missions. An evangelistic campaign, such as "Find it Here," would be impossible without strong association support.

Another Eliza Broadus Offering partnership exists between NAMB, KBC and groups of churches and associations that work with five regional Hispanic church planters. It is rewarding to see so many Hispanics coming to faith in Jesus Christ.

Another great example of partnership between the KBC and the Eliza Broadus Offering is found in the ministry of Teresa Parrett. As KBC missions mobilization coordinator, Teresa coordinates assignments for more than 20,000 volunteers who work in our state each year. Teresa also serves as coordinator and encourager for 130 NAMB-commissioned Mission Service Corps missionaries in Kentucky.

The KBC depends on partnership with the Eliza Broadus Offering for support of international collegiate ministry, which seeks to share the gospel with about 10,000 international students on Kentucky campuses each year.

The Eliza Broadus Offering is also supporting Kentucky Baptist efforts to provide a witness to the more than 600,000 guests expected to attend the World Equestrian Games in Lexington next year. This undertaking involves a partnership between the KBC, NAMB, Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union and Affiliated International Ministries (AIM).

There are many other partner ministries supported by your EBO gifts as well. Every supported ministry is very grateful to God for your prayers and generous support during 2008-09 which saw EBO gifts exceed \$1.1 million.

I hope you will join with my wife, Kay, and me as we pray for these partner ministries and support them generously.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Baptism: a time for family celebration

Baptism—especially a youth's—should be a time for celebration, not an occasion overshadowed by a cloud of consternation.

Eighty-three people made professions of faith in Jesus Christ during revival services held at a single Kentucky church. Forty-seven of them were baptized on one Wednesday night, responding to an invitation given by Evangelist Ronnie Hill. On that night at Franklin Crossroads Baptist Church in Cecilia, Pastor Ron Davis said, "God just moved in here. ... We just stood back in awe."

Baptists across the state and Christians everywhere rejoice with Franklin Crossroads, but that is not what has gained national media attention. Instead, the focus is on nine high school football players who were part of the spontaneous baptism service. One of the boys' mothers—a Baptist herself—is upset that her son was baptized that night, without his parents' consent. Now Franklin Crossroads, unfortunately, is caught in the media's crosshairs.

About 20 members of Breckenridge County High School's football team went to the services that night with their coach, a member at Franklin Crossroads, on board a public school bus. Hence, all the controversy: School administrators claim that using the bus to transport the players to the revival wasn't against policy since the gas was paid for by an individual, and not the county, for an after-school activity that the students weren't required to attend; still, legal critics challenge its constitutionality, charging that it is a violation of the separation of church and state, especially in light of a coach's influence on his or her players.

Nevertheless, this coach, a Sunday school teacher at Franklin Crossroads, should be commended for being as concerned about the spiritual wellbeing of his players as he is about their physical conditioning. He was doing exactly what countless evangelists and pastors of all denominational stripes have urged true disciples of Christ to do: Invite others to church, where they will hear the gospel. Even more, the coach, a former assistant at Campbellsville University, saw to it that those he invited had transportation, if they wanted to come—albeit, a public school bus. That night, the revival featured a steak dinner, where 650 people were served, and the players heard a message by the same motivational

speaker who led assemblies at three area schools that week.

Yet, as a parent, I also can understand why some might be dismayed and disappointed if their child had participated in a spontaneous baptism at which they weren't even present. As a general practice, Davis even said, "We don't baptize without parental consent. I'm very cautious about parents being aware of and being a part" of baptisms. After meeting with a counselor, each of these young men, however, apparently decided that they wanted to be baptized that night. "They wanted to, so we baptized them," Davis said. "It was a big event, a big night. They were happy." That's a memory any parent would want for their child.

While the believer's newfound joy should be the greater focus here, baptism is an important step in any child's life—one that ideally should be celebrated not only with one's spiritual family, but also with one's physical family, whenever possible. Mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts, cousins and grandparents all attended my own children's baptism services, some traveling great distances to attend. What a powerful witness to non-Christian family members a child can give as he or she professes faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior. That, too, is something to be cherished.

"Hindsight is a wonderful thing," Davis confided, adding that he wouldn't want to upset any parent for any reason. If he had it to do over again, he admitted, "I would maybe have given more instructions to make sure that the baptisms are OK with their parents."

In the Southern Baptist view, it should be emphasized here that the act of baptism is not what saves a person; it is one's profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord. So where our children are concerned, it may be more prudent to be sure that they truly understand the significance of the life commitment they are making and plan for their baptism service to be a time of celebration for their family, rather than hastily pushing them toward the baptismal pool.

However, as Philip did when the Ethiopian eunuch pointed to the waiting water, when the Holy Spirit is moving in an adult convert's life, a follower of Christ should not be hesitant to be obedient to our Lord's command to go baptize and make disciples.

**After Thought**

By Todd Deaton

Discerning ears

I am writing after reading the article, "Obama seeks religious help" Christians need discerning ears and hearts led by the Holy Spirit to judge between the voice of compassion and the voice of seduction. They both sound exactly alike.

Perhaps not at first, but over time, Christians could be made to fund abortions, because it would be judged as discrimination not to do so. How will government control of health care affect biblical Christian ministry? Will we be able to counsel people against suicide, abortion, euthanasia and homosexuality? Will we be compromised by losing our tax status? Will we be threatened?

Richard Wumbrandt, in his book "Tortured for Christ," retells how the socialists and communists came into Europe appealing to clergy and religious leaders concerning their ethical and moral responsibilities. The government would provide a job for everyone, food, medical care, a place to live. After all, isn't that what Jesus would want?

The religious leaders embraced them, communism was established, and the first people to experience persecution were the religious people and the church leaders. They were arrested for the gospel, thrown in jail, beaten, and could no longer

speak for Christ. They could only endure "torture for Christ."

Brothers and sisters, please pray earnestly about this matter.

Janice Bodinof
Harrodsburg

Pandering to youth

An Aug. 25 article reported a conclusion reached at a recent meeting was that the church is not relevant to young people and, therefore, is becoming expendable. Multitudes of young people have ignored the church upon leaving home and realizing the freedom accruing to the no-parent-around circumstance.

Perhaps a better approach would remark that young people are not actually relevant to the church—notwithstanding all the hand-wringing about how to make church relevant to them. Young people generally are idealistic and respond to challenges, especially when "doing good" is involved. What they instinctively understand and generally despise, however, is any effort to pander to them.

For instance, they've watched the church adopt their music in worship, transparently pandering to them, instead of expecting them to see that worship is different. They've seen churches set up extra services just to feature their ap-

proach to worship. They've recognized the ease with which to manipulate churches, and young people thrive on beating the system.

They see the church as too weak to withstand pressure, even pressure from immature adolescents—notwithstanding their self-assumed worldliness. They've watched preachers pace back and forth like comedians working the crowd, or they've watched them in dress suitable for the beach to be "with it." Their generation has heard none of the great music of the church or been exposed to the poetry of hymns and knows little more than how to sing the words on the wall.

Worship is the key to a church's viability. The young suspect that the church panders because it either feels too insecure to challenge them with the best or simply believes them too shallow to sweat the important forming of their spirituality, despite discovering in family and school that this sometimes means enduring learning rather than being entertained.

Jim Clark
Lexington

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

WESTERN
Recorder

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

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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

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

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

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



President Obama's school speech—what should one think?

By Albert Mohler

President Barack Obama's speech to America's school children last Tuesday morning continues to incite controversy. On the surface, this seems incredible. Why would a speech calling for students to remain in school and set personal goals for themselves incite any controversy at all? Is this just another eruption of the culture war?

At first glance, that seems to be exactly what this fracas is all about. Much of the controversy is reckless, baseless and plainly irrational. Some have called the speech an effort to recruit America's children into socialism. Others have argued that any presidential speech piped into classrooms is illegitimate. But a presidential speech to students is hardly unprecedented. This speech by this president has led to an unprecedented uproar.

At this level, the controversy is a national embarrassment. Conservatives must avoid jumping on every conspiracy theory and labeling every action by the Obama administration as sinister or socialist. Our civic culture is debased when opposing parties and political alignments read every proposal by the other side as suspect on its face.

Furthermore, this controversy smacks of disrespect for the president and, by extension, disrespect for the presidency itself. Both fly in the face of Christian responsibility to pray for those in authority.

Respect for our government, though never as an end in itself, is part of our Christian responsibility. This controversy threatens to sow seeds of permanent distrust and suspicion in the hearts of the young. In an age of rampant cynicism, this is inexcusable.

The main thrust of the president's address was a call for students to remain in school, set personal goals, and make a difference in society and a future for themselves.

As the president said:

"I've talked a lot about your government's responsibility for setting high standards, supporting teachers and principals, and turning around schools that aren't working where students aren't getting the opportunities they deserve.

"But at the end of the day, we can have the most dedicated teachers, the most supportive parents, the best schools in the world—and ... none of it will matter unless all of you fulfill your responsibilities. Unless you show up to those schools; pay attention to those teachers; listen to your parents, grandparents and other adults; and put in the hard work it takes to succeed.

"And that's what I want to focus on today: the responsibility each of you has for your education. I want to start with the responsibility you have to yourself."

The remainder of the remarks followed similar lines of encouragement. Some sections were quite personal:

"I get it. I know what it's like. My father left my family when I was two years old, and I was raised by a single mom who had to work and who struggled at times to pay the bills and wasn't always able to give us things the other kids had. There were times when I missed having a father in my life. There were times when I was lonely and felt like I didn't fit in.

"So I wasn't always as focused as I should have been on school. I did some things I'm not proud of, and got in more trouble than I should have. And my life could have easily taken a turn for the worse."

Let's be honest here. Most middle-class white kids get plenty of these messages, starting at home. But might this message be particularly helpful for a child struggling for a role model or looking for justification for his studiousness? America's cities and schools are filled with students who need such a word of encouragement. Will a presidential address change a life? Probably on its own, this is not likely. But can an address like this help? We must hope and indeed pray that it can.

President Obama actually bears a particular stewardship at this point, and he acknowledges this in his speech. As he says, "But I was fortunate. I got a lot of second chances and had the opportunity to go to college, and law school, and follow my dreams."

This president did indeed enjoy rare opportunities. In his speech he acknowledges that not all children have what he did have—a mother who encouraged him and opportunities that he was able to seize. He offers encouragement and calls for what most parents would want children to hear: Work hard, stay in school, develop your interests and take responsibility.

This message should be welcomed by America's parents, both Democrats and Republicans, liberals and conservatives. So why the controversy?

Well, things are rarely so clear-cut as they seem. When President Obama wonders who he should blame for this controversy, he should look directly to his administration. Put plainly, his own Department of Education released suggested lesson plans that appeared to be more about the cult of Obama than about the president's message. The lesson plans (changed after the controversy erupted) suggested: "Teachers can extend learning by having students write letters to themselves about what they can do to help the president. These would be collected and redistributed at an appropriate date by the teacher to make students accountable to their goals."

Needless to say, helping the president achieve his goals is a big departure from encouraging students to set and attain their own goals. Add to this that the president's speech to students, timed reasonably enough to be the first day virtually all of the nation's public school students are in classrooms, came a day before the president also scheduled a speech to a joint session of Congress to defend his health care reform proposals. Though there is no reason to assume any sinister timing here, and there is every reason to see these scheduled events as separate, the public effect is hardly a surprise.

Children are to be asked to help the president meet his goals the day before the president puts his administration on the line for his controversial health-care reform effort? Conspiracy? No. Horrible timing? Yes. Administration slow to get it? Obviously.

It is easy to see how the motives of the president and his administration became suspect. The White House,

Ask not what spouse can do, but what you can do for marriage

By Valerie Vincent

With the recent death of Senator Ted Kennedy, quotes from his brother, John F. Kennedy, have played in the media. In his inaugural speech, JFK said these now famous lines, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." What if we applied that to marriage. What can you do for your marriage?

Most spouses are looking to the marriage or the other spouse with the expectation, "What are you going to do for me? What am I going to get out of it?" Adults can criticize youth for having an attitude of entitlement. Too many adults model this attitude. We are consumed with thoughts of ourselves: my needs, my wants, my desires. Is there anything more important than me? How much time do I spend each day thinking about me?

According to the Bible, it is not all about me. So what can you do for your marriage?

- Pray for your spouse.
- Participate in God's vision for your spouse.
- Engage in an active role of helping your spouse grow.
- Perform daily acts of kindness in your marriage.
- Dream about what your marriage could be in light of scripture, and set out to make that dream a reality.
- Work toward your marriage being a blessing to those around you.
- Give to your marriage—give your heart, your mind, your money, your talents, your time to your marriage.

And though it is not all about you, when you focus on your spouse and strive to give to the marriage rather than take, then you will benefit. Being a blessing tends to flow back to the giver.

Valerie Vincent is a Christian counselor with Hardy Associates in Louisville. Send questions for Family Forum to Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253 or e-mail wesrec@kybaptist.org.



Six steps toward achieving a healthier financial lifestyle

By Don Spencer

We are often reminded of ways to improve our health, such as eating less fat or exercising more. These reminders are beneficial and important. We also need to think about our financial health. Here are six steps for you to consider:

■ Figure out where you are today. It is crucial to know where you stand. List your assets and liabilities. Know where all of your accounts are. For asset accounts including your retirement savings, know the balances and how they are invested. For debts, know the balance due, the interest rate and when that debt will be paid off.

■ Know where you are going. Decide on a plan for the future. Dream about the future and set some goals. Make your goals realistic and achievable. Make sure the goals are measurable—in other words, how will you know when you reach the goals? What do you need to do to financially to achieve those goals.

■ Make saving for retirement a priority. You will likely spend 20 or more years in retirement, so plan for it. Save an adequate percentage each month, gradually increasing the percentage each year. Most planners suggest at least 10 percent of your pay for retirement savings.

■ Balance the budget and pay off existing debts. (That assumes you have a budget. If not, make one.) Make sure your spending is in line with your income. Get rid of consumer debts. As long as you have those debts, they impose some level of control over your life. You will never have financial freedom as long as you are a slave to debt. For some folks, the only way this will be achieved is to cut up the credit cards—or at a minimum, leave the credit cards at home to have only in case of emergency.

■ Monitor your progress at least once a year. Are you making progress, or are you getting into deeper financial trouble? If you are behind in your savings or debt reduction goals, take the necessary steps to address those areas. If you don't, you will be facing major "financial illness" in the future.

■ Last and most important, as you do all these things, make sure your handling of money reflects your Christian commitment, which includes your tithes and offerings.

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



Respect for our government ... is part of our Christian responsibility. This controversy threatens to sow seeds of permanent distrust and suspicion in the hearts of the young. In an age of rampant cynicism, this is inexcusable.

the president and his administration share the blame here. An earlier release of the president's remarks and the absence of the original lesson plans would have greatly lessened the controversy and might have avoided it completely.

The politics of celebrity is a dangerous business. President Obama is a cult figure and a pop icon. That cuts both ways. The Obama campaign capitalized on it, and the Obama Administration attempts to do the same. But the president's constitutional role is that of the nation's chief executive, not its icon. This is not the Soviet Union or North Korea. We do not need a cult of personality around this White House, and the president is ill-served by those who would present him as a pop icon. The president should call all citizens to serve the nation—not to serve him and help him meet his goals.

It was inevitable that the nation's first African-American president would face such challenges. Given the force of his personality, President Obama's greatest strengths can easily become his besetting weaknesses. And yet, this entire nation should hope and pray that more Americans would follow this president's example of family dedication, commitment to marriage, and love for his children.

The nation—and the Obama Administration—should learn from this controversy and be determined not to repeat this fracas.

The White House should shut down the cult of personality, and the nation's conservatives should discipline themselves to discern the real issues from the conspiracy myths. There is plenty to deal with on the plane of reality.

Barack Obama is president of the United States. Christians must be the first to pray for this president and to model respect for the presidency, even when we must disagree with the president's policies and proposals. Given what he said to America's students, count me as one who hopes many were listening. If even a few young hearts were encouraged, those moments will be worth all the controversy.

Albert Mohler is president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

BAPTIST DIGEST

Mills elected as Kansas-Nebraska director—The Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists' mission board has elected Bob Mills as its new executive director, effective Jan. 1, 2010. Mills, 60, currently the convention's director of missions, will serve as executive director-elect until the current exec, Peck Lindsay, retires Dec. 31 after more than 30 years in the position. Mills came to the Kansas-Nebraska convention in 1998 from the North American Mission Board, where he had been director of the Mission Service Corps program since 1986 and coordinator for supervision training and leadership development. He joined the staff of the then-Home Mission Board in 1981. Mills also has served as a pastor and associational leader.

Akin recovering from surgery—Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary President Daniel Akin underwent successful surgery on his colon Sept. 4 and is recuperating at home. Akin had the scheduled surgery at the advice of doctors to head off complications associated with diverticulitis, a digestive disorder of the colon with which he has struggled for some time. Akin spent several days in the hospital and is continuing his recovery at his Wake Forest, N.C., home. He noted how thankful he is for the kind words and prayers that have been lifted up on his behalf by friends at home and around the world. He said he is looking forward to returning to work both at Southeastern Seminary and on the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force.

Samford basketball player found dead—Samford University basketball player Jim Griffin

was found dead in his dorm room Sept. 8. School officials believe he died in his sleep from an undetectable heart condition, but results from an autopsy won't be available for about two weeks. A senior sociology major from Chicago, Griffin had played in a pick-up basketball game and did some weight training the previous day before returning to his room at the Birmingham, Ala., campus. Griffin, 23, a 6-foot-7-inch forward, was a bench player often inserted late in tight games because of his hustle and passing skills. Jimmy Tillette, head coach of the Samford men's basketball team, described Griffin as a "gutsy" player beloved by teammates and extremely popular on campus. Survivors include his parents, Marge and John, an older sister and older brother. A memorial service for Griffin was held Sept. 10 on campus.

Global prayer initiative set for launch—B&H Publishing Group will soon launch PrayerGates.com, an online social networking community designed to minister to women around the world. The Web site will use Beth Moore's bestselling study "Praying God's Word" to equip, minister and encourage women. Weekly excerpts from the Bible study will be posted on the site and serve as discussion starters. Personalized profiles, user-created prayer groups and multimedia resources also will be features of the community. The site will allow users to create prayer groups specifically for Beth Moore Bible studies and events. The site also will feature other authors. Each year, the community will focus on a new resource related to prayer. For more information, visit PrayerGates.com.

World Changers turns 20, adopts new 2010 schedule

Alpharetta, Ga.—The North American Mission Board's World Changers program will mark 20 years of ministry in 2010. Since 1990, some 288,000 students and their adult leaders have participated in the missions initiative to repair and rehabilitate some of the poorest neighborhoods in the United States.

While 2010 will be a year to celebrate how God has used World Changers over the years, it also is a year when NAMB leadership will make improvements to position the program for the future.

World Changers is a pre-packaged mission experience managed by NAMB, enabling students to donate a week of their summer working in conjunction with cities, churches and community agencies to provide renovations at no charge to low-income homeowners.

One of the major changes for next year is a city project schedule which will begin on Monday and end on Saturday, as opposed to the previous Saturday-to-Saturday format. While the new schedule does not include a night off or the host church's Sunday services, World Changers Team Leader John Bailey said the change opens up new possibilities of ministry "to make sure that the local church connection is maintained."

"One night of the project will be

set aside for participants to interact with their host church," Bailey noted. "We will continue to partner with local churches in the project community to reach people for Christ. We are looking at some creative ways in which to do that."

Some of the ideas under consideration for the community focus night are block parties, servant evangelism or other opportunities where World Changers participants could plug into local churches' existing strategies.

Other than the new six-day schedule, Bailey said World Changers will continue to have the same look, feel and experience that participants have come to expect over the years. Construction will continue to be the main ministry tool at project sites, and nightly worship will remain one of the highlights.

World Changers renovated its 20,000th house in June in Savannah, Ga. Nearly 24,000 students and adults participated nationwide in the program during the summer, representing more than 1,200 Southern Baptist churches.

There are three World Changers projects scheduled in Kentucky next year: June 14-19, Owensboro; June 21-26, Madisonville; and July 5-10, Henderson. For more information, visit www.World-Changers.net. (BP)

SOUTHERN BAPTISTS EVANGELICALS AND THE FUTURE OF DENOMINATIONALISM OCTOBER 6-9, 2009



In recognition of the 400th anniversary of the Baptist movement, Union University is hosting an event that promises to be one of the most significant anywhere addressing the vital issues facing Southern Baptists and Evangelicals as we move into the second decade of the 21st century.

Hosted by the Office of Church Relations and the R.C. Ryan Center for Biblical Studies

Speakers will include:

D. Michael Lindsay
(Ph.D., Princeton University)

Timothy George
(Th.D., Harvard University)

R. Albert Mohler, Jr.
(Ph.D., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary)

Duane Litfin
(Ph.D., Purdue University & D.Phil., Oxford University)

David S. Dockery
(Ph.D., University of Texas system)

Register now at
www.uu.edu/events/baptistfuture



UNION
UNIVERSITY

Giving in tough times

Insurance policies and IRA gifts can benefit charities

All of us would agree we have been living in tough economic times—tougher for some than for others.

In fact, the past year has been the toughest economic period ever for some. Most of the folks with whom I have conferred this past year have been impacted negatively by the economic situation, or know of a family member or friend who has. The impact has been far-reaching.

For many of you this has resulted in the inability to make that planned gift you intended, or to continue the ongoing planned giving you had been doing in the past for the benefit of your church's building program, children's ministry, a college or some other charitable cause of your choosing. Since many planned gifts typically are made with donations of appreciated stocks or real estate, this has not been a time when such gifts were possible for many individuals as the market values of such assets declined so severely and suddenly in 2008.

However, you may have assets you never thought about donat-

ing to your church and other charities. Let me suggest two for your consideration.

First, consider donating a whole or universal life insurance policy. Perhaps you have a policy with a cash value and you no longer need it. You can donate the policy to a qualified charity which can cash it for use in fulfilling its mission. Generally you, the donor, can claim a tax deduction for your basis in the policy.

Another life insurance option would be to purchase a policy or transfer an existing one, making your chosen charity the owner and beneficiary. You, the donor, will receive a tax deduction each year equal to the premiums you pay.

Second, if you are 70 and a half years old or older, consider making an income tax-free gift to a charity before the end of the year from the minimum distribution required up to \$100,000 of your IRA.

Call Laurie Valentine toll free for more information on how to donate these types of assets.

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

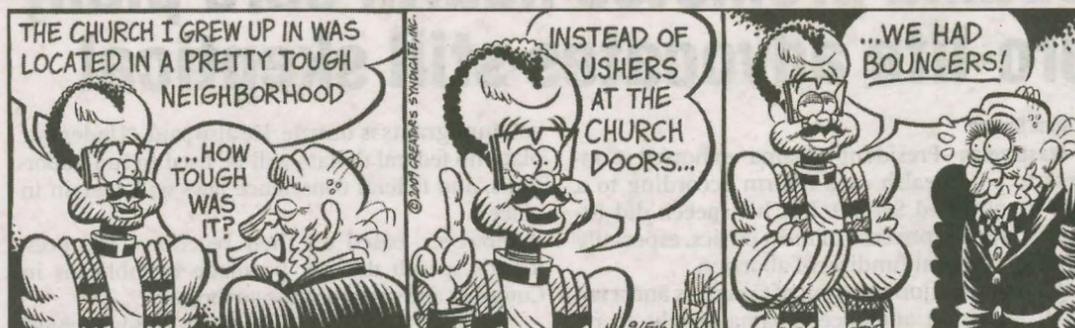
Ky. Baptist Foundation



Barry Allen

For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Preacher's Kids

David Ayers



Bible Crosswords

By Evelyn Boyington

Across

- 1 "Until the day dawn, and the day ____ arise" (2 Peter 1:19)
- 5 "Believe not every spirit, but ____ the spirits" (1 John 4:1)
- 8 Some circles
- 12 "Take thine ____, eat, drink, and be merry" (Luke 12:19)
- 13 Do garden work
- 14 Wild rest stop
- 15 Operatic highlight
- 16 Mange, in Marshalltown
- 17 Land measure
- 18 "Let them be for signs, and for ____, and for day, and years" (Genesis 1:14)
- 20 Pine
- 21 Exclamation of pain
- 22 Item to do
- 24 Newsman Phillips
- 27 Laughing sound
- 28 Moisture
- 31 Holds the deed to
- 32 "We have also a more ____ word of prophecy" (2 Peter 1:19)
- 33 Forest female
- 34 "If God ____ for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31)
- 36 "We pray you in Christ's ____, be ye reconciled to God" (2 Corinthians 5:20)
- 37 "They wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in ____" (Hebrews 11:38)
- 39 ____ of the Chaldees
- 40 Late actor Ames
- 42 Survived in water
- 47 Kind of scale
- 48 "Ye ____ bought with a price" (1 Corinthians 6:20)
- 49 Tabu, to toddler
- 50 Greek letter (pl.)
- 51 Nothing
- 52 Oaf; bully
- 53 Black, for one
- 54 Kind of glass
- 55 Sea bird

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47						48				49			
50						51				52			
53						54				55			

- 4 "Produce your cause ... bring forth your strong ____, saith the King of Jacob" (Isaiah 41:21)
- 5 There's partner
- 6 Sunday entree
- 7 "____ not I, but Christ liveth in me" (Galatians 2:20)
- 8 "The Lord is not ____ concerning his promise" (2 Peter 3:9)
- 9 Every
- 10 Soggy ground
- 11 Anger
- 19 "____ no man any thing, but to love" (Romans 13:8)
- 20 King of Judah; son of Abijam
- 23 Exclamation of delight
- 24 Earth
- 25 When this many are gathered together, the Lord is present
- 26 Christians worship the ____ true God
- 28 "A word spoken in ____ season, how good is it" (Proverbs 15:23)
- 29 Historical period
- 30 Unite
- 32 "How shall we sing the Lord's song in a ____ land?" (Psalm 137:4)
- 34 ____-oni, Rachel's youngest
- 35 Printer's measure

- 36 "A Boy Named ____" (J Cash hit)
- 37 KJV verb
- 38 Airport runway
- 40 Recently, with "of"
- 41 Showing no favoritism (Fr.)
- 43 Call on for help
- 44 "Behold, I stand at the ____" (Revelation 3:20)
- 45 ____ Church, Virginia (site of 1864 battle)
- 46 Well ____
- 47 Charlotte's ____ (E.B. White classic)
- 48 Reply (abbr.)

Last week's solution

S	A	L	E	C	A	R	E	T	O	W	
A	M	O	S	A	M	E	N	E	W	E	
P	I	T	E	N	T	B	E	E	S		
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When he looks to the future... what does he see?

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Obama promotes health care plan, pro-life advocates still skeptical

By Tom Strode

Washington—President Obama exhorted Congress to pass health care reform according to a plan he outlined Sept. 9. But his speech did little to allay the concerns of most critics, especially regarding federal funding of abortion.

Addressing a joint session of Congress and a national television audience, Obama sought to regain momentum on an initiative for which support has faltered in recent months. Afterward, it remained to be seen if the speech would revive his push for health care reform. It appeared the differences over the president's proposal may only have hardened in some sectors of the debate, and he still faced the challenge of convincing moderate members of his own party to back his plan.

The plan Obama announced to the joint session, he said, would address the goals of providing "more security and stability" for those with health insurance and coverage for those without insurance, as well as slowing the increase in health care costs.

He told Congress and the American public "nothing in this plan will require you or your employer to change the coverage or the doctor you have." He continued to promote a public, or government-run, option, saying the White House believes less than 5 percent of Americans would enroll in such a plan.

The president said he would not support a bill that increases the deficit or uses money from the Medicare trust fund to underwrite health care reform. He said the plan's \$900 billion cost over 10 years would be met primarily by cutting waste in the present health care system.

Obama also took issue with what he described as "scare tactics," saying, the "time for bickering is over. The time for games has passed."

He called the charge his plan would establish bureaucratic panels with the "power to kill off" seniors "a lie, plain and simple." Obama said the allegation his plan would provide coverage for ille-

gal immigrants is untrue. He also said, "Under our plan, no federal dollars will be used to fund abortions, and federal conscience laws will remain in place."

However, based on their reactions, the president's speech did not persuade Republicans in Congress and most pro-life advocates.

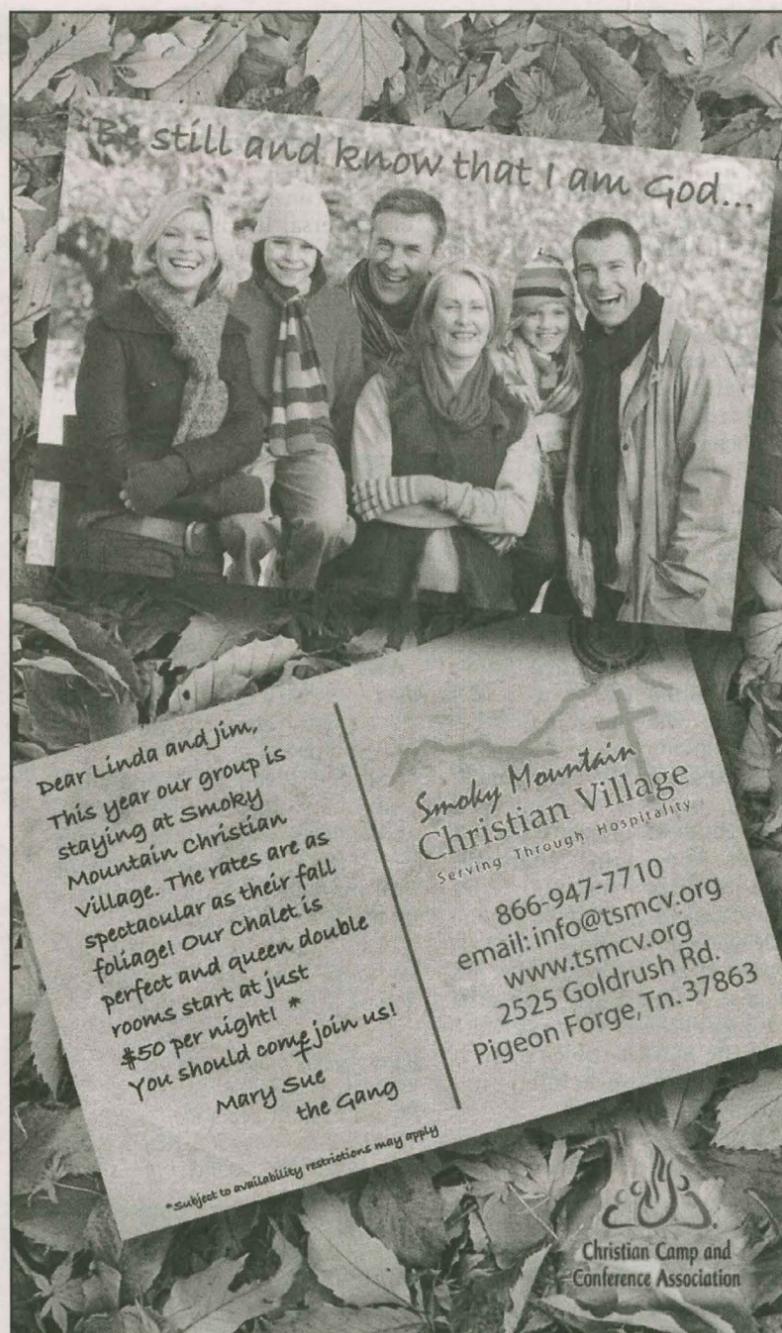
Southern Baptist public policy leader Richard Land said Obama was unconvincing on the abortion funding problem and may not have helped himself with his approach.

"I found the tone of the president's speech startlingly combative," said Land, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. "It had more of the tone of a campaign speech by a presidential candidate rather than a president of the United States addressing Congress. I fear that tone will make health care reform more difficult rather than less."

"There are deep and substantive policy differences among the various, competing solutions that have been proposed to reform health care," Land added. "It is neither fair nor helpful for the president to dismiss those who disagree with him as not wanting to reform health care. There are numerous alternative approaches to the president's that would address significant issues in our health care delivery system in America. These should be debated constructively and without name-calling."

Though Obama presented his proposal as a new plan, most pro-life advocates did not react to his assurance on abortion funding as if they expected a new version without the troubling provision in the House bill that explicitly authorizes funding for elective abortions.

Obama previously has denied the House bill would underwrite abortions, but pro-life organizations have said the president has misrepresented the legislation. Committees in both the House and Senate rejected efforts to exclude abortion funding from health care legislation. (BP)



The two most important things

One-on-one interviews reveal students' desires, goals for their Oneida careers

The personal, one-on-one interviews we do with our new students gives us the opportunity to know a little more about each one. They are almost always a little nervous about leaving family and friends and coming to Oneida, which many consider to be in the middle of nowhere.

Each interviewer has his or her own routine when it comes to helping the new student feel at ease. I ask them if they are a little nervous. Not surprisingly, most will say, "Yes, a little." I tell them that's good because it means they're normal. I ask if our campus was larger or smaller than they expected. I follow that with, "Of all the things you've seen or heard about Oneida, what do you think you will like the best?"

While each student normally offers one or two things they think they will like, there usually are about a dozen different answers. Then I ask, "What do you think you may not like about being at Oneida?" More often than not the student can't think of anything. But if they do express a concern it is usually, "I will miss my girlfriend/boyfriend/friends," and, "Not being able to run around with my buddies."

Near the end of the interview, each of us ask the student to tell us two things they want to accomplish while they are at OBI. Often a middle-school student will state goals that are as mature and thoughtful as the average high-school student.

By far, the No. 1 answer is, "I want to make better grades." The primary reason students come to our campus is that they are not doing well academically in their current learning environ-

This is Oneida



W.F. Underwood

ment. Any parent who has had a child who is not focused and is doing poorly in school knows that low grades usually lead to family conflicts. The student expresses this desire in different ways. Some simply say, "Make better grades," or "Be on the honor roll." One frustrated student said, "I just want to learn!"

But there are other answers. They may want to make friends, play sports, have a better attitude, be able to go to college, make their mom proud, control their temper, get ready for college, and so on.

Once in a while an insightful student will say, "I am looking forward to more independence." When I hear that statement, I almost always comment that very few students realize that aspect of our school. The last thing most parents want to hear is that their child will have more independence. But think about it: An Oneida student will make far more decisions every day without the oversight of mom or dad than the average student.

You may be thinking, "But is that a good thing?" Absolutely yes! Why? Because with independence comes responsibility and consequences. We give the average student much more freedom to make choices—but each is held responsible for those choices. If a bad choice is made, they have no one to blame but themselves. And trust me, that is a very good life lesson.

Most students who spend a few years with us do reach their stated goals. They are proud and their parents usually are deeply grateful that Oneida was able to help their child find success.

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

Still thinking of others

Estate gift for Clear Creek is reflection of friend's life

Cleo Click of Heidrick lived 89 years. She was one of those people who lived their lives with the goal of doing more than just making it through. Cleo lived her life with the goal of making a difference. Many of her years were spent in faithful service to her Lord as a member of Highland Park Baptist Church in Knox County. For as long as her health allowed, Cleo was active in many capacities there. She will be missed at Highland Park; she made a difference in her church.

Cleo obviously made a difference in her family as well. Her nephew, J.R. Majors, remembers his aunt fondly. "I wish you could have known Cleo. I don't know of a finer, more sincere person. She was greatly loved and greatly missed. Even in her passing she continued to think of others." And she did exactly that.

Cleo always appreciated the ministry of Clear Creek as evidenced in the student pastors who preached and worked at her church. She undoubtedly made an impact on those ministers in training with words of encouragement and a positive presence. All the while, she was planning even further assistance toward

ministry training—help that would continue beyond her life-span.

At her passing, it became known that Cleo had remembered Clear Creek in her estate plans. It was her desire that she be able to encourage and help those whom God calls to ministry training even after her she was called home.

Majors, who served as executor of her estate, said it best. One day a letter arrived on campus from him which included a check from the Cleo Click estate. "We take comfort in the fact that her faith will bear fruit into the future through this gift to your school," the letter read.

Thanks to God's goodness through people such as Click, student pastors will continue to be a blessing to churches everywhere. The ministry of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College is possible because many churches, organizations and individuals are faithful to share in God's work. Our ministry continues and students are trained because people like Cleo are willing to make a difference.

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

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

Report shows Christian leaders made frequent visits to the Bush White House

Washington—Key conservative Christian leaders made dozens of visits to the White House during President George W. Bush's administration, a watchdog group announced.

Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW) had sought the records for years.

"Newly disclosed Bush-era White House visitor records suggest leading conservative Christian leaders may have had a significant voice in President Bush's administration, and many seem to have had the ear of the president himself," CREW said in a Sept. 4 news release.

James Dobson, founder of the Colorado-based ministry Focus on the Family, visited the White House 24 times, including 10 visits with President Bush. Tony Perkins, president of the Washington-based Family Re-

search Council, visited 14 times, including two visits with Bush.

Evangelical female leaders, too, had political clout. Andrea Lafferty, executive director of the Washington-based Traditional Values Coalition, made 50 White House visits, including six with the president.

Wendy Wright, president of Washington-based Concerned Women for America, made the second-highest number of visits—43—including four with Bush.

Other well-known conservative religious leaders who visited Bush and others at the White House included the late Jerry Falwell and the late Paul Weyrich, founder of the Free Congress Foundation.

CREW requested the visitor records of a total of nine Christian conservative leaders. (RNS)

NATIONAL NOTES

Street preacher wins free speech case—Jesse Morrell, a 24-year-old with a ministry of open-air preaching on or near college campuses, has won a settlement with the city of New Haven, Conn., to resume preaching on the streets near Yale University. In 2004, Morrell tried to express his faith vocally on public streets outside nightclubs in New Haven. Police officers told Morrell that club patrons had complained about his preaching and said his speech was "annoying," thereby violating the local noise ordinance. In 2005, Alliance Defense Fund filed a lawsuit against the New Haven police, citing the First Amendment. Last month, the city of New Haven agreed to a consent order that will allow Morrell to preach on the sidewalk without being harassed or arrested. Morrell, whose ministry is called Open Air Outreach, travels the country sharing the gospel through tracts and Bible distribution, as well as personal conversations and open-air preaching.

Woman files suit against Graham association—The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association has denied the claims of a black former employee who filed suit, alleging she was fired after expressing concern that the ministry was not sufficiently reaching out to African-American churches. The racial discrimination lawsuit by Kimberly McCallum was moved Sept. 2 from a local court to a federal court, the Associated Press reported. In response, the association issued a statement confirming the suit and saying it works to be inclusive. According to the AP, the suit says McCallum complained that a list of 635 prospective congregations for a BGEA program included only three that were predominantly black. She said she was fired a week later due to downsizing. She seeks back pay, damages and job reinstatement.

Judge sets court date in 'birther' case—The so-called "Birthers" claimed a small victory Sept. 8 when a federal judge set a tentative trial date of Jan. 26, 2010, for a lawsuit claiming that President Obama is constitutionally ineligible for his office. California pastor Wiley Drake is one of several plaintiffs in the lawsuit alleging that Obama cannot hold his office because he does not meet the constitutional requirement that the president be a "natural-born" citizen. Obama has posted online images of his birth certificate, showing that he was born in Hawaii to an American mother and Kenyan father. Independent journalists and fact-checking groups have examined it and affirmed that it appears authentic. Hawaiian state officials—including the state's Republican governor—also have indicated that the document is official. But that hasn't stopped the "birthers," those who believe Obama is attempting to hide the truth about his background.

Pharmacy owners win preliminary injunction—Two Illinois pharmacy owners have gained a temporary victory in their effort to conduct their practice according to their pro-life consciences. The Seventh Judicial Circuit Court in Springfield, Ill., has granted a preliminary injunction protecting Luke VanderBleek and Glenn Kosirog from having to abide by a 2005 state order requiring pharmacists to fill all prescriptions. The injunction will remain in effect until there is a final ruling in the case. The decision means the pharmacies owned by the two men will not be required to dispense the "morning-after" pill Plan B and other drugs to which they object. Plan B, for which girls 16 and younger must have a prescription, works to restrict ovulation in a female.

FDA OKs generic 'morning-after' pill—Another "morning-after" pill soon will be for sale in stores. Watson Laboratories has received approval from the Food and Drug Administration to market a generic version of Plan B, a post-intercourse "emergency contraceptive." The new generic drug will be marketed under the name Next Choice. Like Plan B, it will be available for purchase without a prescription for women 17 years of age and older and for prescription use by girls younger than 17. Next Choice works, like Plan B, to restrict ovulation in a female. It also can act after conception to block implantation of a tiny embryo in the uterine wall. The FDA approved Next Choice late last month.

Women are victims of clergy sexual advances—More than 3 percent of adult women who attend religious services at least once a month have been victims of clergy sexual misconduct, according to researchers at Baylor University. Put another way: in a congregation of 400 people, seven adult women have been targets of sexual advances by ministers, the study says. In addition, in one of 50 cases, the minister was married, according to the report. Four percent of respondents said they knew of a close friend or family member who had experienced a sexual advance by a minister in their own congregation, the study says.

HERE'S HOPE

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2010 DATES:

March 1: Louisville
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Just \$10.00 per person!

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This practical one-day workshop is designed for pastors, accompanied by a key layperson, to be encouraged, ministered to, and equipped so they can return to their congregations refreshed.

For more details and registration, go to www.kybaptist.org/hope or call 502-489-3581 or 866-489-3581 (toll-free in KY)



Did you know that over

32,000 people came to know Christ last year through our hunger relief ministries?

Through the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund, our missionaries and volunteers are offering nourishment for the body and soul. If we take God's Word seriously, the malnourished and hungry are our problem. Those who are afflicted were made in the image of God. He cares about them, which means we are to care about their welfare as well.

You can join the effort by:

- ▶ Collecting money in the World Hunger Bread Bank.
- ▶ Contributing to the World Hunger Fund offering.
- ▶ Participating in Fast One to Feed One.

For more information: www.kybaptist.org/hunger
www.worldhungerfund.com



PRAYER PARTNERS

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

- Pray for all Kentucky Baptists who are coordinating follow-up efforts with those who were reached by Kentucky Baptist volunteer mission teams during the summer.
- Pray that God will lead a Kentucky Baptist church to adopt a Brazilian Baptist church in Maryland through the KBC's missions partnership with the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware.
- Pray for the Kentucky Baptist Convention's partnership missions staff as they travel.
- Pray for the Team Leader Training event scheduled for Sept. 18-19. The event is designed to provide training for those Kentucky Baptists who are planning to lead an international mission trip or who want to learn more about how to plan and lead a trip. For more information or to register, visit www.KyBaptist.org/ILT.

■ Pray for the work and safety of the Olivet Baptist Church mission team from Christian County that will travel to Brazil Sept. 28.

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

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

- **CECILIA**—Cecilia Church ordained **Erdie Carter Sr.** and **Kenneth Morris** as deacons Aug. 30. **Erdie Carter Jr.** is pastor.
- **GREENVILLE**—Second Church celebrated its 60th anniversary Aug. 23 featuring a number of guest speakers, including Kentucky Senator **Jerry Rhoads** and State Representative **Brent Yonts**. Rhoads presented Pastor **Ray England** with a certificate from Kentucky Gov. **Steve Beshear** appointing England as a Kentucky Colonel. Several former church pastors also spoke at the ceremony. **Tracy Simmons** and **Andy Roberts** provided special music.
- **LaGRANGE**—DeHaven Church recently called **Key Chambers** as interim music leader. He previously was associate pastor and worship leader at Crestwood Church.
- **LONDON**—Laurel River Missionary Church recently called **Darren Cupp** as pastor. He previously was pastor of Mount Zion Church in Brodhead. Liberty Church recently ordained **Roy Murray** as a deacon. **Larry O'Bryan** is pastor.
- **LOUISVILLE**—Victory Memorial Church will hold homecoming services for its 120th anniversary Sept. 20, 10:45 a.m. with former pastor **Stephen Drake** as guest speaker. Lunch and a song service will follow the morning service. For more information, call (502) 368-2521. **Joseph Lumbrix** is pastor.
- **MILTON**—Corn Creek Church recently called **Benjamin Dailie** as pastor.
- **NANCY**—Cedar Point Church will

Spotlight on ...

Lawrenceburg



Sand Spring Church will host Christian comedian **Dennis Swanberg** Sept. 20, 6:45 p.m. **The Allen Family** will provide special music. The event is free. For more information, call (502) 839-3415. **Mike Hamrick** is pastor.

- celebrate its 100th anniversary Sept. 20, 11 a.m. with **Patrick Patterson**, pastor of Mount Pisgah Church in Nancy, as guest speaker. A meal will follow the service. **The Neighborhood Quartets** will provide special music at 1:30 p.m. **James Caldwell** is pastor.
- **PERRYVILLE**—Perryville Church recently called **Derek Trout** as youth minister. **Doug Davis** is pastor.
- **SALYERSVILLE**—First Church will host its second annual Cruise-In Sunday car show Sept. 20, 9 a.m. with **David Martin** of On Track Ministries as guest speaker. Awards will be given out to the top cars in several categories. Lunch will follow the morning worship service. For more information, call (606) 349-6276 or e-mail khoward@lvrecc.com. **Matthew Gullion** is pastor.

WMU missions event in Florida seeks to 'fulfill' participants

Kissimmee, Fla.—Baptist men and women nationwide soon will get the opportunity to discover what it really means to be "fulfilled."

National Woman's Missionary Union will host fulfilled! Oct. 8-10 at First Baptist Church of Kissimmee, Fla. The event will feature a weekend of workshops and hands-on ministry opportunities, focusing primarily on spiritual growth, prayer and outreach. Missionaries also will share inspiring stories of how God is at work in their fields of service.

Joyce Mitchell, team leader for national WMU's leadership development team, said that fulfilled! differs from other Christian conferences in that it has a missional focus with practical application as participants will seek to impact the Kissimmee area for Christ.

During the event, there will be four general sessions designed to encourage participants to reflect on their stories, lives and journeys. Featured speakers include national WMU President Kaye Miller; Maryland/Delaware WMU Executive Director Gayla Parker; 2002 Olympic silver medalist Lea Ann Parsley; and several North American Mission Board missionaries including

Derek Spain, a resort missionary in Lake Placid, N.Y.

On Oct. 9, participants will have the opportunity to minister through one or more planned missions outreach events. These include working at a daily meal ministry, food pantry, clothes closet, nursing home, low-income housing areas, transitional centers, or a pregnancy center. Additional areas of service include prayerwalking, ministries to the homeless and local church ministries.

Participants also will have the opportunity to make hospitality bags for the More than Gold team, a group that hands out bags to visitors at the Olympics and Paralympics. Those wishing to participate in this opportunity are encouraged to bring items such as lip balm, Band-Aids, Kleenex, mini note pads and hand warmers.

The registration fee for fulfilled! is \$79 and includes all sessions, ministry supplies for local outreach and Friday's lunch. Child care for infants through 4 year olds will be available at no cost during conference hours.

For more information or to register, visit www.WMU.com/Events/fulfilled.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September

- 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, Cherry Blossom Golf & Country Club, Georgetown.
- 24 Church Retirement Plan "Reality Check" Conference, Northside Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.
- 24-25 Men's Chorale Fall Retreat, Hurstbourne Baptist Church, Louisville.
- 25-26 Women's Chorale Fall Retreat, Hurstbourne Baptist Church, Louisville.
- 25-27 FOCUS 2009, Jonathan Creek Camp & Conference Center, Hardin.

26 Phase 1 Disaster Relief Training, First Baptist Church, Richmond.

October

- 1-3 Ministers in Transition Conference, Louisville.
- 2-3 Celebrate the Mission, Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 12 Disciple Making Workshop, Anchor Baptist Church, Lexington.
- 13 Disciple Making Workshop, Warren Baptist Association Office, Bowling Green.
- 19-20 Senior Adult Choir Festival, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.
- 20 Ministry Assistants Workshop, Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 20-22 Joshua Project Event, Holiday Inn University Plaza, Bowling Green.
- 22-23 Quarterly Prayer Meeting for Spiritual Awakening, Northside Baptist Church, Mount Vernon.
- 29 Cultivating Generous Churches: A Stewardship Summit, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.
- 30-11/1 ENGAGE International Student Conference, Cave City Convention Center.

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

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OPPORTUNITY: High-tech manufacturer offers unique opportunity for Christian family home-based business. Call toll-free, (888) 442-8934 for recorded message and complete information.

SEEKING: Bivocational minister of music to lead music service at Liberty Baptist Church, a medium-size church in Folsomdale, Ky. (10 miles north of Mayfield). Desire music degree and minimum of three years experience. Please mail resumé to: Homsie Mitchell, Personnel Committee, Liberty Baptist Church, 365 Kenneth Lane, Hickory, KY 42051.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of worship and outreach. Send resumé to Journey Baptist Fellowship at journeylexington@gmail.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 resumé will be accepted. Mail to Linda Owen, 3205 Broeck Pointe Circle, Louisville, KY 40241.

SEEKING: Worship pastor to work with our senior pastoral team to lead our church to the "next level." Responsibilities include: comprehensive worship ministry and another area of ministry unique to the candidate's passion and gifting. Visit our website (staff page) for additional information: www.newworkfellowship.com. Send resumé to nikkiheiserman@newworkfellowship.com.

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

SEEKING: Full-time Southern Baptist pastor who loves God, loves people, is called by the Holy Spirit, and above all, has a passion for Christ. Send resumé and DVD (required) of recent sermon to First Baptist Church, 403 N Spring St., McMinnville, TN 37110. Deadline for acceptance of resumé and DVDs is Oct. 13, 2009.

SEEKING: Part-time director of youth ministries (approx. 60 youth) for East Barbourville Baptist Church. Mail resumé to East Barbourville Baptist Church, PO Box 66, Barbourville, KY 40906.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of youth (grades 6-12). Prefer four-year college and seminary degrees with two years experience. See job description, www.fbcmtsterling.com. Submit resumé: Search Committee, First Baptist Church, PO Box 324, Mt. Sterling, KY 40353; or e-mail fbcmtsterling@bellsouth.net.

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

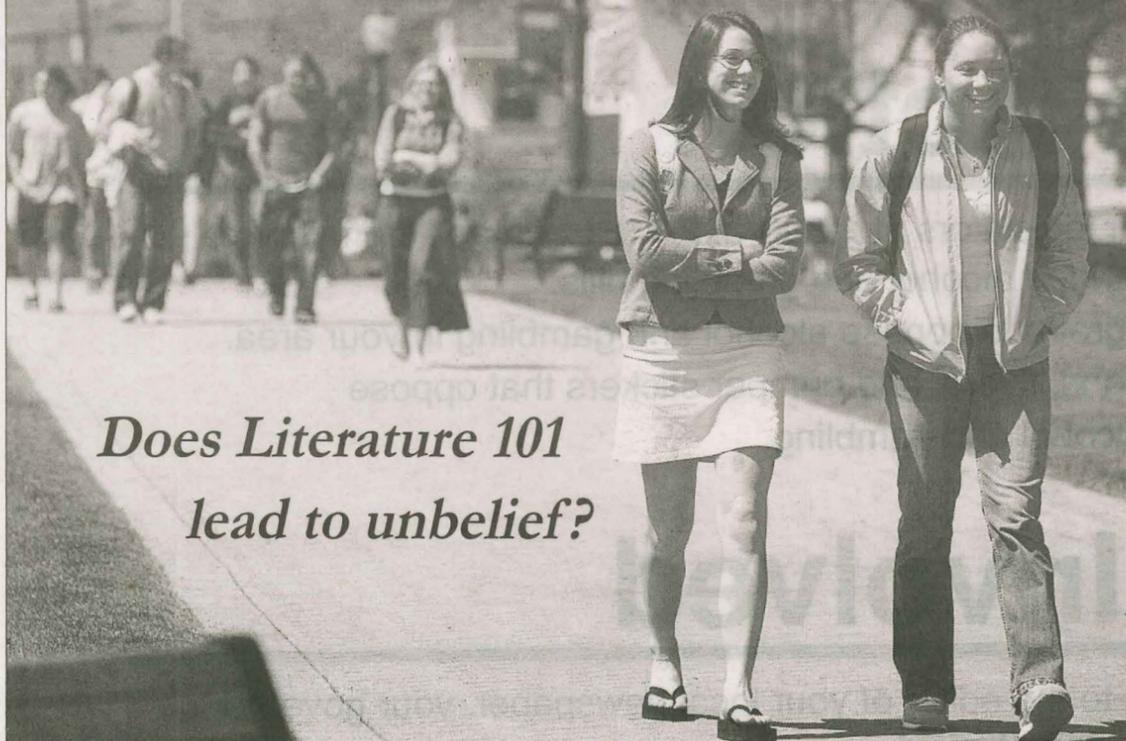
SEEKING: Enthusiastic part-time youth pastor who is mission-minded and desires to make disciples. If you feel led, please contact Bedford Baptist Church, 1425 Hwy 421E, Bedford, KY 40006. (502) 255-3240.

TOURS: 11-day Israel and Jordan tour, March 21 from Nashville, \$2,788. For a color brochure, contact Pastor Jack Studie, (270) 889-7604; or jstudie@aol.com. Our 18th pilgrimage.

WANTED: Braille hymnal, preferably the Baptist Hymnal but will take one with the older hymns from any evangelical church. Call (606) 864-9441.

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Faith on campus



*Does Literature 101
lead to unbelief?*

By S.J. Velasquez

Ann Arbor, Mich.—As college students return to campus, a new study suggests that some could be in danger of losing their religion.

Economics professor Miles Kimball and researchers from the University of Michigan Institute for Social Research determined that certain academic majors can influence students' religiosity—positively or negatively—over time.

More than 26,000 U.S. students responded to questions regarding importance of religion and religious attendance over a six-year period, beginning in high school and continuing through the year after college graduation.

Compared to survey participants who did not attend college, education majors showed the most dramatic increase in religious attendance and religious importance, followed by students in vocational and clerical programs, then business majors.

Biology, engineering, physical science and math majors all show an increase in religious attendance and a decrease in religious importance. Humanities and social science majors' religious attendance dips slightly, and religious importance plunges.

Kimball said college is an appropriate setting for measuring religious trends because a campus acts like a microcosm, with each academic major representing a real-world profession.

"College is one of the few times you have a neat little label about the sorts of ideas a person has come in contact with," Kimball pointed out. "Professions can have a profound effect on people's attitudes."

Just a fluke?

Although the findings illustrate a relationship between college majors and religiosity, some think the statistics are more coincidental than representative of faith journeys on campus.

Nadia Economides, a junior business major at University of Southern California, said religion is not necessarily more important to her now than it was in high school, contrary to the researchers' expectation that business majors become slightly more religious.

And while Economides attends church services less frequently than a few years ago, she said it's not a matter of her major; it's simply because the nearest Greek Orthodox church is a 20-minute drive from campus.

Economides noticed less religious activity among her peers too, which she attributes to the stress of a demanding major and the fast-paced nature of college life.

"Other things have become more immediate or

important," she said. "If I have a paper due, that's what I'm worrying about."

As a senior history major at Syracuse University, Darien Clark should have seen his own faith life wane, at least according to Kimball's study, but a social science major wasn't the kiss of death for his faith. In fact, Clark said his college years have proven quite the opposite.

Clark holds the title of "grand knight" for a local Knights of Columbus council and is set to become president of the campus Catholic group in January. He said he hasn't missed Mass since high school, and plans to add a minor in religion and society to further his knowledge of world religions.

"College changed how I was allowed to explore my faith in a more academic sense, as well as a more practical sense," Clark noted. "In high school ministries—not that it's watered down—it's not very nitty gritty. They hit the basic points. For me, going through college, I'd say that I know more specifics about my faith than ever."

"Crude" data

Kimball admitted that the survey utilized "fairly crude data," and said the findings more accurately reflect students' contact with "science, developmentalism and postmodernism" than religious experience.

He noted that social science and humanities majors—which generally employ the scientific method, are committed to truth, freedom and progress, and probe questions of truth and morality—are more likely to prompt students to question their religious upbringings and ultimately become less religious than other majors.

A 2004 study conducted by UCLA also tracked students' religious growth according to major. Consistent with Kimball's study, education majors led the way in religious and spiritual growth over the first three years of college. But unlike Kimball's study—in which social science and humanities majors show decreased religiosity—the UCLA study found fine arts and humanities majors experience the second- and third-highest rates of religious and spiritual growth.

Why the different outcomes between studies? Sam Speers, director of religious and spiritual life at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., said studies often assume that students' religious identity should be static. Looking at students five years after college, he suggested, would paint a more accurate picture of their religious identities.

"Just as students are questioning lots of things about who they are, they are also asking questions about religious identity," Speers explained. "Religious faith and practice is also something that's evolving and changing." (RNS)

Civility advocates encourage others to 'Love thy neighbor'

By Adelle Banks

Washington—Mark DeMoss, to borrow a line from the U2 song, still hasn't found what he's looking for.

The veteran Christian public relations executive couldn't find it last year when he advised Mitt Romney's presidential campaign.

It was missing again in the controversial battles over Proposition 8, the California measure that put an end to same-sex marriages last November.

And he's having a hard time finding it in the heat of the debates over health care reform.

"Civility isn't ruling the day," said DeMoss, who represents leading evangelicals like evangelist Franklin Graham and Prison Fellowship founder Chuck Colson.

That's why, just before Inauguration Day, DeMoss joined forces with Democratic consultant Lanny Davis to launch The Civility Project, an online forum that aims to help people who disagree be less disagreeable.

As people shout over each other at town hall meetings, with some resorting to name-calling and even defacing a Democratic congressman's sign with a Nazi swastika, DeMoss and others say religious leaders can play a role in cooling down the ranting and rhetoric.



Mark DeMoss

"Many Christians like to call ourselves followers of Christ," said DeMoss, a Southern Baptist whose office is based in Atlanta. "I can't be a follower of Christ if I'm shouting at you or interrupting your meeting, and I certainly don't look like one when I do that."

Civility and respect

He said the principles on his site—to be civil in public discourse, respect those with whom you disagree, and stand against incivility—can be applied by people of faith in situations ranging from political discourse to personal relationships.

The project mirrors a similar effort by Johns Hopkins University professor P.M. Forni that dates back a decade.

DeMoss lists Forni's books as useful resources on the project's Web site.

Brad Hirschfield, president of the New York-based National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership, said faith leaders can use the wisdom of their particular traditions to nurture compassion and human dignity in the midst of the continuing debate.

"The first question when things start to spin out of control in the town hall meeting is not to get in the person's face and preach about what's right with a capital R," said Hirschfield, whose most recent book is "You Don't Have to Be Wrong for Me to Be Right."

"But asking the person who's bent out of shape, 'What is it you're really terrified about?' ... Find out what the fear is about instead of trying to fix the person and make them agree with you."

The National Association of Evangelicals recently joined the call for civility in the health care reform debate. "We call on evangelicals, and all Americans, to engage in respectful and serious dialogue with our leaders and with each other, which focuses on issues rather than personalities," the NAE said in a statement last month.

Galen Carey, the NAE's director of government affairs, said it isn't a new concern for his office; five years ago, the NAE called for civil dialogue in its "For the Health of the Nation" document on Christian civic engagement.

Advocates on either side of the health care debate may have legitimate points of view, but sometimes the debate is "neither humble or civil," Carey said.

"The way in which they go about it, and with sometimes distortions, we think, are not honoring to the church or the nation," he said.

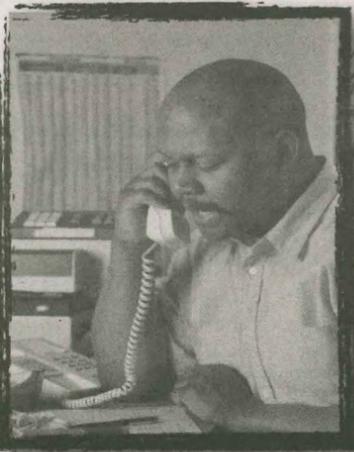
DeMoss said he was motivated by his faith to launch the civility push when he witnessed ugly anti-Mormonism directed at Romney's campaign. "I'm ashamed to say some of the worst, most uncivil treatment of Mormons came from ... evangelicals," he recalled.

His Web site notes examples of civility—such as how the Obamas and Bushes treated each other during the White House transition—and incivility, including anger from gay groups (frequently directed at Mormons) after losing the fight over Proposition 8.

DeMoss said he appreciates critiques he's received, and conceded that even fellow conservatives question whether his project demonstrates a lack of conviction or passion. Still, he intends to continue fighting for his cause—civily and respectfully, of course.

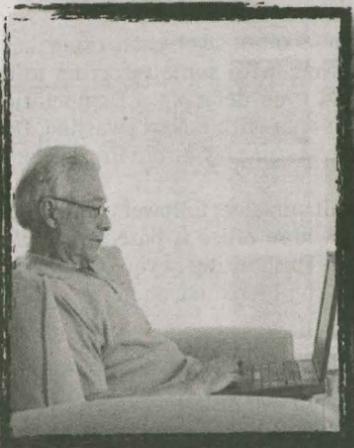
"For me," he said, "I'd rather write an op-ed somewhere or start a blog or speak somewhere and be heard and understood than to get my 15 seconds on TV shouting down some senator." (RNS)

What can you do to stop the expansion of alcohol and gambling in Kentucky?



Take Action

- Contact your legislators at 1-800-372-7181 and ask them to vote "No" to expanded alcohol and gambling bills.
- Organize a group to oppose alcohol and gambling in your area.
- Distribute signs, flyers, and bumper stickers that oppose expanded alcohol and gambling.



Get Involved

- Write letters to the editor of your local newspaper, your governor, and your elected officials.
- Use the Internet to learn about alcohol abuse and gambling addiction.
- Pray for your legislators and the lobbying efforts of the Kentucky League.



Make a Donation

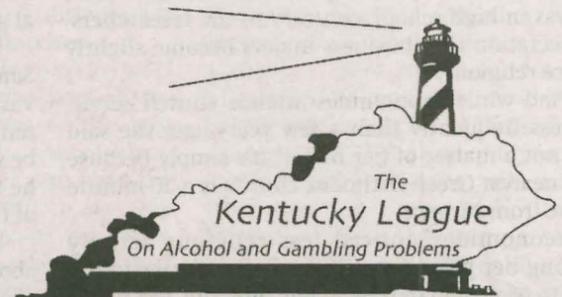
- Support the work of the Kentucky League with a weekly, monthly, or annual gift.
- Pledge a gift in memory or in honor of a loved one.
- Remember the Kentucky League in your will.



Speak Out

- Tell your friends and neighbors why you oppose expanded alcohol and gambling.
- Write informative articles for your local newspaper or a Blog.
- Invite a League speaker to your church, civic group, or club.

Kentucky League on Alcohol and Gambling Problems
2722 Crittenden Drive ♦ Louisville, KY 40209-1114
Phone (502) 635-0002 ♦ <http://www.kentuckyleague.org>



"Let Your Light Shine Before Men"

Matt 5:16