

Shine like stars in the world
Philippians 2:15

WESTERN Recorder

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Creation Museum becomes a target of atheists, secular critics worldwide

Co-founder says all groups invited to visit the facility, especially those who hold contrasting worldviews

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Petersburg—Mark Looy knows what people are saying.

As chief communications officer for the Creation Museum in Northern Kentucky, Looy keeps close tabs on what's being said about the museum on Web sites and blog posts.

"We usually know within hours if something has been posted about the Creation Museum," said Looy, who is also co-founder of the museum and its parent ministry, Answers in Genesis.

Ever since it opened in May 2007, the Creation Museum in Petersburg—near where the borders of Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana meet—has become an international phenomenon.

According to its Web site, the Creation Museum is a "walk through history" museum designed to "counter evolutionary natural history museums that turn minds against Scripture and Jesus Christ, the Creator of the universe."

The museum promotes young earth creationism, the belief that the world was created by God in six 24-hour days about 6,000 years ago. This belief contrasts sharply with the widely accepted scientific theory that the earth is billions of years old.

The museum has garnered its share of supporters, many of them prominent evangelical Christians.

But those talking loudest about the museum are its detractors, many of whom consider themselves atheists and/or adhere to Charles Darwin's theory of evolution.

"I'm amazed almost every day on a blog or a Web

site someone is critiquing the Creation Museum from an evolutionary perspective," Looy said.

He noted that remarks about the museum typically range from "vile, profane comments to mocking," although some evolutionists acknowledge the museum's high-tech appeal, "even though they disagree with the message."

While most of what is said resides within the relative anonymity of cyberspace, Creation Museum staff do sometimes get an opportunity to meet their critics face to face.

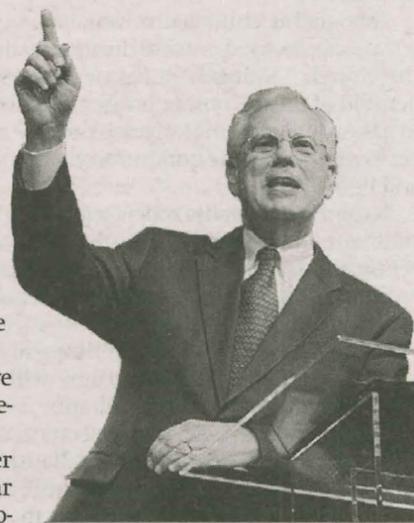
At its grand opening two years ago, Kentucky's chapter of American Atheists organized a "Rally for Reason" near the museum entrance, greeting the first visitors with protest signs and loud music. Looy said the group even had a plane flying overhead pulling an anti-creationism banner.

Even before the Creation Museum's doors opened, more than 2,000 science educators—most of them on the univer-

□ See *Creation Museum ... Page 3*



IN PROTEST Secular Student Alliance members hold a banner that reads, "It is okay to be an atheist," outside the gates of the Creation Museum in Northern Kentucky. The museum has become a target for secular groups that disagree with the facility's teaching of creationism and that the Bible is true. (Creation Museum photo)



IMB president Jerry Rankin to retire next year

By Michael Logan
International Mission Board

Jacksonville, Fla.—International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin announced last week that he will retire July 31, 2010, ending a 17-year tenure marked by sweeping organizational changes and a steady personal calling.

"Everything I have done has been driven by an unequivocal sense of a call to missions, to make my life count and to make the greatest impact possible on reaching a lost world for Jesus Christ," Rankin said.

Rankin told IMB trustees during his report at their Sept. 15-16 meeting in Jacksonville, Fla., that his presidency should not be judged for the accomplishments of the organization under his leadership, but for how the organization is poised for the future.

"For the second time in my tenure we are implementing a radical paradigm shift in organization and strategy," Rankin noted. "This is not because of past failure and ineffectiveness but a vision of the changes needed to ensure relevance and effectiveness in the future."

Such sentiments are consistent to Rankin's approach in leading the 163-year-old organization. Early in his administration, Rankin placed a greater emphasis on the work remaining in world evangelization than what already had been accomplished.

"It's not ... our size or annual statistical report that should drive us," Rankin explained. "We need to be driven by a vision to bring all peoples to a saving faith in Christ and what it takes to get there."

Yet there always has been a need to track progress. When Rankin took over leadership of the IMB in 1993, the Southern Baptist missions organization saw nearly 4,000 missionaries help start more than 2,000 churches in 142 countries. Last year, more than 5,500 IMB missionaries

□ See *Rankin announces ... Page 6*

Ky. Baptist church backs quartets



Nearly 100 members of the worship choir from Crestwood Baptist Church accompany the southern gospel group Legacy Five during last week's Fire in the Choir Gospel Choral Spectacular at the National Quartet Convention in Louisville. The annual gathering is the largest gospel music event in the country; nearly 40,000 people were expected to attend the seven-day event. The Crestwood Baptist choir performed in front of a standing-room-only crowd, backing such southern gospel groups as Karen Peck & New River, the Booth Brothers and Austin's Bridge. Directed by Worship Pastor Greg Cagle, the group also had an opportunity to do a song on its own. Choir members said they have been invited to participate again at next year's National Quartet Convention. (Photo by Drew Nichter)

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, Sept. 23

Preparation, excitement builds for Find It Here

By Ken Walker
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Lexington—Members of Porter Memorial Baptist Church are preparing to blanket a two-square-mile area of Lexington with 15,000 gospel brochures as part of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Find It Here emphasis.

"My goal is church involvement—to get our people focused outside the four walls of the church," Evangelism Pastor Trent Snyder said of the upcoming project. "We want to get our people thinking missionally and get them out in the community to be salt and light."

Snyder's comments reflect a growing excitement about Find It Here, the state convention's initiative leading to gospel distribution to 1.5 million Kentucky households next March.

Ross Bauscher, KBC evangelism growth team leader, said the campaign will be backed by television advertisements.

"We've got almost every association and director of missions behind it," Bauscher noted. "If I were a pastor, I'd be thinking that this would be a wonderful way to activate my church."

The effort kicks off with a statewide series of prayerwalks during September and October, which Bauscher said will create a sense of dependence on God and strengthen churches.

Bauscher called Find It Here a comprehensive strategy that is strengthened by its ties to the North American Mission Board's GPS (God's Plan for Sharing) initiative. The

effort aims to fulfill the Great Commission in North America by 2020.

"It is sowing the seeds," Bauscher pointed out. "This will create an awareness for church people to start seeing through God's eyes, seeing ways to impact their community."

Because of a busy fall schedule, Porter Memorial planned its initiative early. Its Find It Here effort starts Oct. 10 with a breakfast, training session and prayerwalks in surrounding neighborhoods.

The church recently included commitment cards in its Sept. 13 bulletin, asking members to sign up for prayerwalking and brochure distribution.

Porter Memorial kicked off its awareness campaign with advertisements in its monthly newsletter, a presentation to Sunday school teachers and a series of videos in Sunday services.

"After Oct. 10, we'll continue to revisit this to keep this in front of people's minds," Snyder said, noting prayerwalks may lead to evangelistic encounters. "We will have opportunities for people to share testimonies."

Tracking communities

Snyder said he benefited greatly from meeting with officials in Lexington's zoning office. For a \$25 fee, the city provided a series of neighborhood maps, including each house's address.

"That's a great resource," Snyder said. "It helps me target and keep track of where we're going. Any church can check with its

city or county zoning office for comparable information."

Among other Find It Here activities organized by KBC churches is a "Serving Christ Together" celebration Oct. 25-28, sponsored by Pulaski County Baptist Association.

John Mark Toby, pastor of Beacon Hill Baptist Church in Somerset and current KBC president, is a member of the planning committee. Toby said the association has ordered 2,000 brochures to distribute at the event.

"It's really great," Toby said of Find It Here. "Easter is our biggest day of the year. It's an awesome opportunity for churches. We have an opportunity to touch every home in Kentucky, which is huge. Our state needs hope."

In addition to the support of directors of missions, one association without a DOM enlisted all 19 of its churches, according to Larry Baker, KBC's director of new work and associational missions.

Baker said Wilma Simmons, clerk for Salem Baptist Association, participated in conference calls, a training session last spring and invited Baker to make a presentation to the pastors.

Salem's 100-percent participation symbolizes the kind of backing nearly all associations are giving Find It Here, Baker noted.

"It's captured the imagination of big churches, small churches, rural churches and big-city churches," he said. "I've been in 32 associations and the enthusiasm for the process is amazing."

Stewardship expert to lead 'Generous Churches' seminar

Elizabethtown—Church leaders who want to encourage biblical stewardship in their churches are invited to attend the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Cultivating Generous Churches seminar Oct. 29.

Church giving expert Brian Kluth will be the featured speaker at the event, which will be held at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

"The event is designed to equip church leaders in cultivating a culture of generosity within their congregations," said Alan Witham, KBC's church development team

leader. "Participants will receive practical instruction on how to address the resource challenge in the church through biblical teaching on stewardship, personal financial management and wise estate planning."

Topics will include:

- Financial trends impacting people's finances and church giving.
- Biblical insights to inspire and ignite more generous giving.
- Advancing biblical financial and generosity teaching in churches.

■ Estate stewardship and financial planning.

■ Leading others in personal financial stewardship.

Sponsored by the KBC's church development team, the event will run from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

The cost to register for the event is \$15 per person, which includes lunch and seminar materials. For more information or to register, visit www.KyBaptist.org/Generous, or call (502) 489-3335, or toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3335.

Equestrian ministry solicits volunteers, prayer for upcoming games

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Lexington—The slogan on the newest World Equestrian Games brochure reads: "Don't miss the biggest equestrian event in American history."

More than 600,000 people from more than 100 countries are expected to arrive in Kentucky a little more than a year from now. And believers in the state will be ready for them.

Lexington's Kentucky Horse Park will host the 16-day equestrian event, but recently welcomed about 100 Christians gearing up for the tremendous ministry opportunities that the World Equestrian Games will bring with them.

Church and Community Day, held Sept. 12 at the horse park, offered Kentucky believers a glimpse at the abundance of volunteer outreach possibilities.

Not only will Kentuckians represent the Bluegrass State at the WEG next year, but the entire United States, according to Harvey Thomas.

"Kentucky has the chance to change, improve or increase the image of the United States in 100 countries of the world," he noted.

Thomas is a public relations consultant working closely with the Church and Com-

munity Day's sponsor Affiliated International Ministries. A British Baptist, Thomas previously served as press secretary for former British prime minister Margaret Thatcher.

AIM is the organization that will coordinate Christian ministries during the World Equestrian Games. It was established by Kentucky Baptist Convention missions consultant Larry Martin.

The group is seeking a large number of volunteers to serve at next year's games in a variety of ministries, both at and around the Kentucky Horse Park.

During a panel discussion at the Church and Community Day, seven AIM representatives talked about the volunteer opportunities that will be available for both individuals, groups and churches as a whole.

There are two ways in which to volunteer, according to AIM volunteer coordinator Jeff Rice. One option is to sign up as an official WEG volunteer serving at the Kentucky Horse Park during the competitions. WEG volunteers are required to work six-hour shifts for a minimum of four of the event's 16 days, and must submit to a security check beforehand.

Another option is to become an AIM volunteer. The AIM group will work outside of the horse park at any number of sites in

and around Lexington.

AIM representative Ray Van Camp, director of church planting and development for Elkhorn Baptist Association, said that AIM will have a presence at dozens of WEG-associated events in Lexington and a number of surrounding cities. The different outreach opportunities include staffing booths, participating in backyard Bible clubs at area hotels, storytelling and face-painting.

There also is a need for families and churches to open their doors to give World Equestrian Games volunteers from other countries a place to stay, noted Ken McDaniel, AIM hospitality coordinator and associate minister at Hill-n-Dale Christian Church in Lexington.

Much of the WEG outreach is being patterned after Christian outreach that takes place during the winter and summer Olympics every other year. LaRaine Rice, youth and college consultant with Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, is coordinating gospel presentation materials for AIM. She said events like the Olympics and the WEG provides many opportunities to share the gospel.

"When so many people from so many different cultures come together in a neutral sports setting, it just opens up conver-

Kentucky CP giving behind budget for third straight year

Louisville—As the Kentucky Baptist Convention's 2008-09 fiscal year came to a close Aug. 31, Cooperative Program receipts came in \$924,670 (3.85 percent) behind budget.

Receipts collected in August totaled \$1,785,670, bringing totals for the year to \$23,075,330. The budget for the 2008-09 fiscal year was \$24 million.

"This has been a fiscal year full of challenges, but it has also been a year in which Kentucky Baptists have displayed again how we can accomplish more together," said Billy Compton, KBC's executive associate for Cooperative Program and resources. "In a time of economic upheaval, our churches have been faithful in providing resources with their gifts through the Cooperative Program."

Total receipts for the 2008-09 fiscal year also were short of receipts collected in the previous fiscal year. In 2007-08, CP receipts totaled \$23,867,431 and were behind budget by 0.55 percent, noted KBC Business Services Team Leader Lowell Ashby.

This also is the third consecutive year that CP receipts did not meet budget, he said.

Ashby indicated that the KBC staff now is operating within a working budget of \$23 million for the 2009-10 fiscal year, which began Sept. 1 and runs through Aug. 31, 2010.

Last November, Mission Board members originally approved a detailed \$24,480,000 budget for this fiscal year, but the downswing in the nation's economy prompted the board to approve a working budget of \$23 million at its May meeting this year.

Ashby said the difference between the budget goals set by messengers and anticipated revenues would be placed in a contingency section of the budget, which will not be spent unless the funds are actually received.

sations," she explained. "People are more open to hearing other thoughts, other beliefs and just learning from one another."

Rice said that part of the volunteer outreach will involve pin trading, a favorite pastime of Olympics visitors. The "More Than Gold" pins help believers share the gospel, she noted.

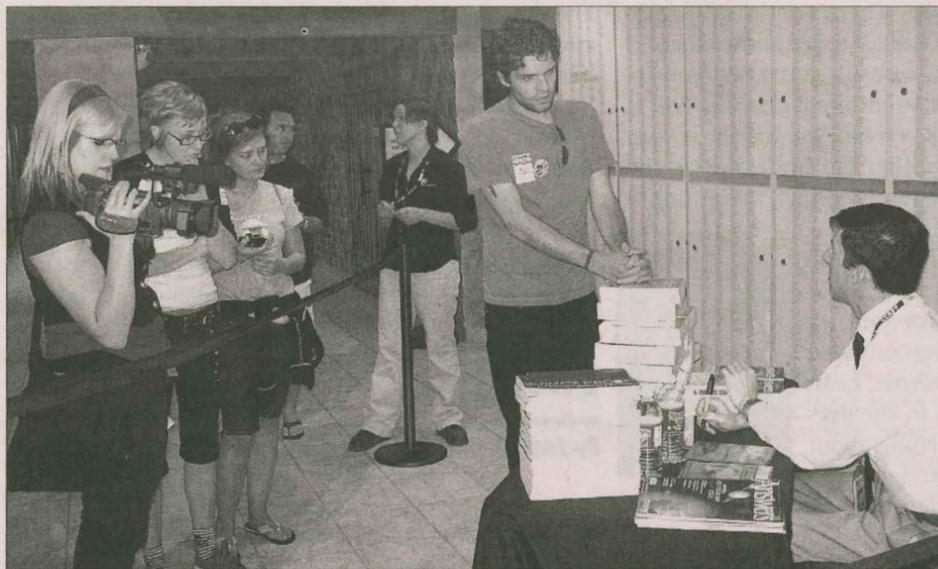
With so many details still left to be finalized before next year's games, Cindy Rullman stressed that prayer is the most important way volunteers can be involved right now.

Because there may not be an opportunity for "overt evangelism" inside the park during the World Equestrian Games, Rullman, associate director of marketing for the Kentucky Horse Park, urged Christians to begin prayerwalking the park as much as possible.

"Our prayer effort from now through the games could make this place like stepping into the Holy of Holies," she said. "I absolutely believe that we could ... have God's presence here in such a powerful way that none of us would have to open our mouths."

For more information about how to volunteer, send an e-mail to aim@hthomas.net or visit www.EquestrianMinistries.org/WEG.

Creation Museum becomes target for atheists, secular groups



DISCUSSING CREATIONISM An atheist member of the Secular Student Alliance talks with Jason Lisle, a speaker and researcher for the Creation Museum, following a presentation. A few of the nearly 300 SSA members who visited the museum last month listen in and videotape the discussion. Museum co-founder Mark Looy said that while some members of the SSA group were disruptive during their visit, he would welcome them, and any atheist group, to visit again. (Creation Museum photo)

Continued from page 1

sity level—signed petitions challenging the museum's teachings. The petitions stated that creationism has no place in science education.

Looy said that occasionally skeptics—atheists, evolutionists, humanists, etc.—will visit the museum and cause a small commotion by making comments about the exhibits or presentations. Very rarely is security asked to escort a visitor from the museum due to a disruption, Looy said; never has a confrontation become hostile or violent.

Unless a visitor is wearing something that presents him or her as a skeptic, museum personnel usually do not know about them. When they show up in large groups, that gets the staff's attention, Looy said.

One of the highest profile visits to the Creation Museum came last month when 285 members of the Secular Student Alliance arrived to tour the facility.

Looy said museum staff communicated with SSA organizer, Lyz Liddell, prior to the group's visit. He also sent a letter of warning to PZ Myers, a biology professor at the University of Minnesota, Morris, and an outspoken atheist, known for his extreme criticism of Christianity on his widely read blog.

Leading up to the visit, SSA members threatened all kinds of disruptions at the museum. While most never happened, Looy said the disruption wasn't entirely without incident.

Several times, SSA members were asked to keep their voices down when loudly criticizing some of the exhibits, as well as a presentation by Jason Lisle, an astronomer and astrophysicist who serves as a speaker and researcher for the Creation Museum.

One SSA member was asked to leave after refusing to stop videotaping a conversation between an atheist student and a family from Virginia that claimed their visit had been disrupted by the students' comments.

Looy said that the 285 SSA members represented little more than one-tenth of the museum's visitors that day. Museum personnel primarily were concerned with making sure the students did not ruin the experience for the other 2,000 people.

Looy said he appreciated the SSA group's visit and welcomed them—and all similar

groups—to return to the museum.

However, in a vitriolic post-visit rant on his blog, Myers called the Creation Museum a "haunted house" and a "carnival ride."

Claiming that it presents no scientific evidence to back its claims, Myers said the Creation Museum deserves only "profound disrespect and ridicule."

Answers in Genesis president and co-founder Ken Ham responded to the criticism on his own blog, saying that Myers "is obviously very angry at God and relishes in mocking Christianity—spending a lot of time fighting against someone he doesn't believe exists."

Despite the online war of words, Looy emphasized that "we welcome atheist groups and humanist groups because they've probably never heard the other side of the story."

So, why the vehement disdain for creationism?

"They possess a worldview that's far different than ours," Looy pointed out. "They believe that the world—the universe—was created without a purpose. Therefore, they can do whatever they want when it comes to morality and how they conduct themselves in this world."

"Their anger clearly indicates that our worldview is in conflict with theirs, and they can't stand people who have a way of liv-

ing and standards based on the Bible that go contrary to what they want to do."

In an increasingly secular society, Looy said the Creation Museum's mission is "to equip Christians to be able to answer some of the tough questions that our secular world sometimes can throw at them."

While the museum is seen as a place where visitors can get their questions answered through "Scripture and science," Looy said the Creation Museum's overarching function is as an "evangelistic facility."

"The last thing I would want is someone to leave the Creation Museum and say, 'OK, I'm a creationist, I've given up evolution,' but they don't become a Christian," Looy explained. "In terms of eternity, that doesn't accomplish anything if they just give up on evolution and believe in a creator."

"They need to accept the fact that Christ is more than just our Creator, ... He's our Savior."

Secular belief groups growing in U.S.

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Petersburg—Since it opened in May 2007, the Creation Museum and its parent ministry, Answers in Genesis, have become lightning rods of criticism among the world's secular community.

The museum's teaching of creationism and the Bible as an accurate, historical document is not a popular school of thought among those in the science community.

Museum co-founder and chief communications officer Mark Looy lamented that "so many non-Christians today don't take the Bible seriously because they think that it's in error and cannot be trusted." He added that scientists have convinced people over time that the accounts of creation in Genesis are inaccurate.

Over generations, that has led to a general disregard for the Bible, Looy noted, and consequently, the gospel message.

"I would say that 30 or 40 years ago, it was 'easier' to share your faith because people generally had a respect for the Bible and believed it may be God's Word," Looy said.

"Nowadays, our secular, scientific world is trying to attempt to show the Bible cannot be trusted, and therefore, people are not inclined to listen to the gospel anymore."

He pointed out that the number of individuals who hold secular beliefs is growing worldwide, particularly among 20-somethings in the United States.

On U.S. college campuses especially, the secular movement is taking hold.

The national Secular Student Alliance reported last week that the number of atheist or agnostic student groups on U.S. campuses has more than doubled in the past two years—from 80 to 162.

Lyz Liddell, senior campus organizer for the SSA, attributed the group's growth to an increasing number of students questioning their faith and leaving it behind.

Looy said that students often will question their faith if they don't get the answers they're looking for in the church. More specifically, "why there is death and suffering in this world," and

why the theory of evolution is not true, he noted.

"When they come through here, they're much more built up in their faith and less inclined to leave the church once they recognize the Bible is a trustworthy historical document," Looy said.

When it comes to secular beliefs, there are a number of different "isms" out there. Beyond the general atheism or agnosticism that claims no belief in God, there are many other secular doctrines to which a person might adhere.

Bob Dunston, religion department chair at University of the Cumberland in Williamsburg, offers a brief description of seven of the more common secular beliefs.

Agnostic: An individual who believes in neither the existence nor the non-existence of any deity, including God, because the existence of any ultimate reality or deity can never be satisfactorily proven and is thus simply unknowable.

Atheist: An individual who does not believe in the existence of any deity, including God.

Evolutionist: An individual who understands the development of all things (including plants, animals, humans, culture, etc.) as a process of evolving from simpler to more complex forms. Evolving may occur along one linear path or along several paths at the same time.

Free thinker: An individual who does not accept any religious doctrine or truth and believes only what human reason can establish.

Humanist: An individual who rejects the supernatural and focuses on the dignity and worth of each individual and his or her capacity to reach his or her potential and best self through reason.

Naturalist: An individual who believes everything has an explanation in nature. Naturalists who allow for God or another supernatural reality to serve as the only satisfactory explanation for some element in reality insist that the laws governing nature must not be interfered with, but must remain constantly in force.

Secularist: An individual who is either indifferent to or rejects the role of religion in any discussion or area of inquiry.

Moore, longtime Kentucky Baptist disaster relief leader, to step down

Louisville—After more than 20 years of service with the Kentucky Baptist disaster relief ministry, volunteer Harold Moore is stepping down from his role as state feeding coordinator.

Moore, who has served as state feeding coordinator during most of his 20 years with DR, was "one of the people who first got involved in Kentucky Baptist disaster relief and helped shape the ministry for the future," said KBC Disaster Relief Associate Coy Webb, noting that the ministry was first formed in 1984.

"I want to commend Harold for his long-time commitment and service to disaster relief," Webb stated. "His leadership is much of the reason that Kentucky Baptists have continued to grow in disaster relief and that Kentucky Baptist disaster relief is recognized as providing outstanding ministry to those suffering in disaster."

Under Moore's leadership, Kentucky

Baptist disaster relief was able to "greatly expand its equipment and enhance our ability to minister effectively," Webb noted. Moore also has served on chainsaw and mud-out teams, and was instrumental in recruiting new disaster relief volunteers during his two decades of service.

Moore served in many of the major disasters to which Kentucky Baptists have been called to respond, including Hurricane Hugo in North Carolina in 1989, Hurricane Andrew in Florida in 1992, the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York in 2001, Hurricane Katrina along the Gulf Coast in 2005, and last year, Hurricane Gustav in Louisiana and Hurricane Ike in Texas.

Moore "had a real passion for disaster relief and was a very faithful volunteer," Webb noted.

Webb said Moore will continue to serve as part of the Baptist Men on Mission Steering Committee.

'Find It Here' prayer emphasis

September is the launch time for the "Find It Here" prayer emphasis. The goal is to prayerwalk every street, road and lane in Kentucky. The specific responsibility is to pray for every home and every person that you may see.

Partners in the Mission



By Bill Mackey

Assignments have been made in most associations for each church to have an assigned area for prayerwalking this fall and gospel distribution next spring. It will be a blessing if some homes are prayed for many times, but we want to make sure none are omitted.

The excitement for "Find it Here" is growing across the state. Many churches placed their orders for the gospel distribution bags and brochures last week through their associations. I have heard of churches ordering 5,000, and even up to 10,000, bags and gospel presentations. Baptist associations are providing primary leadership for this major evangelism emphasis, with support from the Kentucky Baptist Convention and North American Mission Board.

I have seen the excitement personally as I have had the privilege to be in several annual associational meetings recently. I have been impressed with the presentations, training and inspirational challenges.

In the Breckinridge Association's annual meeting, new Director of Missions David Stovall brought a wonderful message from Nehemiah. He recounted how Nehemiah was broken in prayer over the conditions that he discovered in Jerusalem and then led the people to rebuild the city's walls. Specific areas were assigned to families and because the people had a mind to work, God enabled them to accomplish the goal.

Bracken Association saw a large crowd attend for training and inspiration at Colesburg Baptist Church recently. Conferences included Prayerwalking, Witness Training, First Impressions and Follow Up/Assimilation.

Director of Missions Bill Bolt has challenged the churches to double their baptisms and to conduct a joint baptism service with hundreds following Christ in baptism. He is praying for God to do a mighty work in the churches.

Boones Creek Association's annual meeting at the First Baptist Church of Irvine was full of moving reports and information about "Find It Here." Shad Tibbs, pastor of Reid Village Baptist Church, brought the closing message there with a word from God based on Matthew 13:57-58, "And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief."

Each person in attendance had been given a grain of corn when they entered the sanctuary. Then in the conclusion of his sermon, Shad said that if planted carefully, each grain would produce a 1,600-fold harvest (two ears of approximately 800 grains each). Tibbs challenged each person to bring his or her grain of corn to the altar and to pray that they would live the gospel and plant the seed of the gospel lovingly for a great harvest of souls.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

New consultant has heart cry for missions ed

"I'm glad that I'm an RA. There's nothing I'd rather be. If I wasn't an RA ... I don't know what I'd be." Though the missions organization you inserted in the lyric may have differed, chances are, if you went to a Baptist camp as a kid, you may have seen this skit at one time or another. For me, however, the refrain is more than just a humorous act, the words in tone a personal testimony.

Through participating in Royal Ambassadors and working as a counselor at a state Baptist camp, my journey into ministry began. Seeing countless boys make decisions for Christ, hearing how God was at work in the lives of fellow staffers, and learning about missions experiences of numerous International Mission Board workers had a profound effect. I sensed God's call and headed toward a Southern Baptist seminary to prepare for ministry as a Christian journalist.

Understandably, I was elated when the KBC Administrative Committee recently took a significant step to promote the growth of Royal Ambassador chapters and other missions organizations across our state. The committee approved hiring a new consultant, Greta Wilson, whose specific assignment will be to assist churches in starting and strengthening missions education for boys by providing training, resources and encouragement to local church leadership.

Churches with RA organizations, according to Rob Carr of the North American Mission Board, have a 24 percent higher rate of baptisms than churches without RA programs. Last year, the number of men and boys enrolled in Baptist Men and RA programs across the Southern Baptist Convention jumped to 403,575, compared to 381,355 in 2007. Kentucky is among the top 10 states in the number of Baptist Men and RAs, with almost 13,650 involved.

"It's easy to have a Royal Ambassadors program," coaxes Wilson. "Through RAs, boys are mentored by godly men, future church leaders are developed, families are added to the church, more people come to Christ, and more funds are given to the local church," she explains. "The Cooperative Program expands, and the Great Commission is taught through the strategy of Acts 1:8."

Positive mission experiences as children and youth often lead them to participate in missions organizations as adults. "Missions education is the foundation for the Great Commission as it lays a solid bedrock of the importance of missions and missions giving as well as being a springboard in the lives of believers to hear God's calling to surrender themselves to a mission's calling," said Coy Webb, director of Kentucky Baptist Men on Mission. "Greta is playing a vital role in connecting churches, associations, and mission leaders to the Kingdom work that God is doing from Kentucky to

the uttermost places. She is assisting them in finding resources to be successful in establishing missions as a priority in our local churches."

Wilson, who is described by a former Sunday school teacher as "one of those precious people who came to know the Lord and has never gotten over it," exudes a love and enthusiasm for missions that is inspirational.

Her own spiritual journey also is a testimony of how God can use missions organizations to foster a call into missions service.

Visited by FAITH teams from First Baptist Church of East Bernstadt on several occasions, she and her husband, Ron, saw their 11-year old daughter accept Christ and be baptized in 1999. "Watching her, in childlike faith, give her heart to the Lord increased the conviction of both my and my husband's hearts," Wilson said. They were baptized the following month.

She quickly became involved in ministries of her church, serving in various roles ranging from church clerk, Sunday school teacher, visitation coordinator and FAITH evangelism team leader to Woman's Missionary Union director, Mission Friends teacher, GA leader and vacation Bible school teacher.

Not long after the 9/11 terrorist attack, Wilson watched a news report about some disaster relief workers wearing yellow shirts who were serving in New York City. When she discovered they were Southern Baptists, working under the auspices of the North American Mission Board, her interest in missions service kicked in. That desire soon led her to the Web sites of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, the International Mission Board and the North American Mission Board, where she learned about the many missions resources and opportunities available to Southern Baptists. "I could not read or research enough about missions," Wilson recalls.

After volunteering in various Christian service projects and missions efforts and leading missions education activities at her home church and at other churches, Wilson sensed she was being called into missions. Soon after returning from a missions project with NOAH Rebuild—a partnership between New Orleans churches and associations, Louisiana Baptists and NAMB to help New Orleans rebuild after Hurricane Katrina—and receiving disaster relief training through Baptist Men, she knew "these events were preparing me to answer this call."

"My prayer is for a resurgence in missions education," Wilson says. "My heart cry is to get Southern Baptists involved in missions, and to get adult leaders involved in the lives of children.

"The end product," she affirms, "is godly men and women who are willing and ready to serve as the Lord leads them to do."



After Thought

By Todd Deaton

WESTERN
Recorder

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

DR. TODD DEATON
Editor

DREW NICHTER
News Director

THOMAS C. TOWNSEND
Marketing & Business Manager

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

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Troubling events

I found events described in the article, "Ky. Baptist congregation at center of church-state debate" troubling.

News reports stated Robert Coffey's mom was upset because she understood the boys were being "invited only to have a steak dinner and hear a motivational speaker."

Was that the way the evening was presented to the boys? If her understanding of the invitation is accurate, then it seems that while the coach "would not try to manipulate his players," he may be guilty of pulling a bait and switch. We do not do the cause of Christ any favor when we pull people into evangelistic events under less-than-honest

pretenses. As a parent, I would be upset if a trusted adult invited my child to an event that turned out to be quite different from its billing.

In the day of cell phones and text messaging, I wonder why some effort was not made to communicate with his mom. While her objection may not be a reason to deny him baptism, I have a hard time understanding why the rush to baptize in a vacuum of parental knowledge and involvement.

If Coffey made a profession of faith as a result of the service, why the rush to baptize, since we do not believe in baptismal regeneration? Would it not have been better to spend more time counseling the young man in the implica-

tions of his baptism, including the impact on his family? If he did not live in Cecilia, could not a referral have been made to a church closer to home?

Finally, I am concerned about blaming the controversy on Satan. Based on what I read, it seems that if the coach, the church and those leading the event had handled things differently, much of the ruckus could have been avoided.

Jim Holladay
Louisville

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



Sending a child off to college

By Scott Wigginton

Sending our first child off to college this fall somehow seems like volunteering to be a live organ donor. Even though I'm convinced it is the right thing to do, it hurts a lot inside and there is a part of a family that is forever gone.



Gone are the days when we enter the church needing five seats; four is enough, but seems somehow incomplete. Gone are the opportunities for playing doubles in tennis and making someone serve as ball (boy or girl); now everyone gets to play ... but one. The neighborhood is missing its cutest walker. The driveway is missing a car. Hope and Caleb are missing a cord in the strong rope of sibling solidarity. In the words of Edna St. Vincent Millay, "The presence of [her] absence is everywhere."

Millay was writing about grief. But is not grief what many of us experience when we send a child off to college? Grief is about letting go. Grief is about losing something. Grief is about longing and sadness.

Taking time to sit in a young adult's room in the aftermath of her packing frenzy is an experience of being captured by bits and pieces of 18 years of life together. Discarded jewelry that did not make the cut, wrappers from her favorite gum, pictures of good times together, a hair barrette, an old FCA Bible ... all remind me of a little girl who ran with reckless abandon to her daddy after her first day of kindergarten.

Be reminded this fall that the depth of relational grief does correlate to the height of relational joy, that the emptiness in a home does bespeak something of the fullness of a heart, and that the Father is always about His business of calling a broken parent's heart back to Him.

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

Note to my boss at the IMB: 'Thank you, Dr. Rankin'

By Erich Bridges

Dear Jerry Rankin: I knew this day would come, but I wasn't looking forward to it.

You're retiring next summer as president of the International Mission Board. When you made the announcement, I thought back to the days leading up to your election 16 years ago.

At the time, you said you felt "inadequate to the task." You were reluctant to take on the gargantuan job of leading the largest evangelical missionary-sending agency.

Today, I want to thank you for stepping up and taking the heat, even when it hurt. For spending countless nights away from home in dodgy airplanes and dingy Third World airports. For attending innumerable meetings. For preaching thousands of mission messages to churches at home. And for walking beside thousands of missionaries and Christian servants in some of the darkest places on earth.

More than that, thank you for being a disciplined and visionary leader from day one.

I've never heard you speak to an audience or congregation without using these three words: "a lost world." Not once. I got tired of hearing it—until I realized it wasn't a phrase but a consuming passion within you. The fact that so many millions of people have yet to hear the name of Jesus Christ actually breaks your heart.

By far the biggest challenges IMB missionaries and staff have faced during your tenure have involved not convention politics or economic difficulties but the "main thing": How do we reach a lost world with the saving gospel of Jesus Christ? As a leader, you have never taken your eye off that all-important task, given to us by the Lord Himself in Matthew 28:19: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations ..."

All nations, not just the ones that are open, friendly or willing to grant missionary visas. And not just all "nations" as we understand them in the political sense, but all peoples—in all their staggering cultural, ethnic and linguistic variety. That is how God sees the world, and He wants all the peoples of the world to worship Him in spirit and truth.

The magnitude of that command led you to become not

a denominational bureaucrat but a revolutionary. As a field missionary who started out in an earlier era, you first had to revolutionize your own thinking about missions. You embraced new strategies you once questioned and aggressively spread them throughout a global enterprise.

You declared that the International Mission Board would no longer talk about reaching the whole world while sending missionaries only to part of it. Rather, we would mobilize Southern Baptists and other Great Commission-minded Christians to do whatever it takes to plant churches among every unreached, unevangelized and unengaged people group.

In a day when people demand hands-on involvement, you declared we would move beyond simply sending missionaries. Instead, we would make local churches—regardless of their size—full strategic partners in the task of global missions. That is their biblical role, after all, something often forgotten in the age of professional missions.

It's not always easy working with a revolutionary—especially one who advocates continuous revolution in pursuit of a grand vision. You have initiated two major IMB reorganizations and many smaller ones. Missionary and staff assignments have changed and changed again. Strongly held beliefs about mission methods have been repeatedly challenged. Comfort zones have been abolished.

A large, traditional mission board now embraces new and even experimental strategies to impact lostness. An organization once known for going it alone now aggressively pursues mission partners overseas and church partners at home. I believe IMB is more relevant than ever to people who seriously want to reach the nations.

Thank you for being passionate and not just talking about it. Thank you for taking spiritual warfare seriously. Thank you for being obsessed—in a holy way—with a lost world.

When a reporter asked about your legacy, you responded: "I would like to be able to say, 'We can no longer identify a people group that doesn't have access to the gospel.' To me, that's the essence of what we're about."

Erich Bridges is global correspondent for the International Mission Board

FIRST PERSON

BCM students eagerly picking up Great Commission torch

By Keith Inman

I spent 16 years under the influence of First Baptist Church, Murray. This church was the birthplace of the Cooperative Program, and being a Great Commission church is part of her DNA. When I was a student at Murray State in the 1970s, the influence of two pastors resonated Sunday after Sunday from the pulpit. Richard Walker, a missionary to Brazil, preached himself back to the land that captured his passion.

Bill Whitaker came to First Baptist just as Southern Baptist's were launching Bold Mission Thrust, and in a few short years, he was packing up his family and heading off to the Philippines.

The list is long of those of us who received the vocational call to ministry under the Great Commission influence at Murray.

The special relationship that existed between the local church and the BCM nurtured the serious call of what it meant to be a follower of Jesus and our responsibility to be Great Commission Christians.

The powerful combination of the local church and the Baptist Campus Ministry is a tremendous force for the Great Commission Resurgence being heralded today. More students than ever before are responding to the opportunity to assist our missionaries in proclaiming the gospel. The mission experience morphs into a mission lifestyle and after graduation, you find former students living a life on mission, whether in their stateside communities or on foreign soil.

Approximately half of the students involved in the Kentucky BCM are not Baptist. They are drawn to our ministry for a variety of reasons: strong discipleship, worship, evangelism, Christian community. However, one of the primary reasons is missions. Southern Baptists offer a chance of experiencing God that occurs uniquely through being on mission, whether it is on the university campus or the dry plains of Africa.

Our students are challenged with these statements: 1) Only one in 100 people their age have the opportunity to experience higher education. This makes U.S. students the most educated group in the world. 2) The U.S. student has access to the most wealth in the world. 3) The Christian student professes a faith that many in the world have yet to hear. When you combine these factors and infuse the power, presence, and passion of Christ, you have a generation of students compelled to go—and many times stay in

the uttermost parts of the earth for the sake of His name.

Richard*, Karley*, Cheryl*, and Katie* are all former BCM students in Kentucky. They are Great Commission Christians passionately seeking the face of God and declaring His heart for the nations.

Richard's campus minister met with him for three years in a one-on-one discipleship/mentoring relationship. His campus minister took him to Southeast Asia for a summer. Richard had been active in the international ministry on campus. His love for God's word and his ability to share clearly with international students led to a three-year appointment as a Journeyman. He is enrolled seminary with plans to return as a career missionary.

*Karley's heart was nurtured for the mission field by her family and home church in Louisville. On the campus, a special award was named in her honor, recognizing her love and service to people. Her campus minister said, "When I think of Karley, I think of a young woman whose heart broke for the world and for people who did not know Christ. Her attitude expressed this every day." After multiple mission experiences to Southeast Asia, Karley now serves in that region.

*Cheryl comes from a strong family committed to faith. Her giftedness has granted her the ability to relate to a wide range of people. She is always meeting new people and is well known in a variety of segments on campus. Her faith compelled her to be involved on the university campus and on the plains of Africa.

Katie is our semester missionary at Northern Kentucky University, awaiting appointment as a USC-2 missionary. Her multiple mission trips and experiences in South Africa have made her heart sensitive to God's call and passion for declaring His name to the nations. Wherever Katie is, she talks mission, encouraging students to seriously commit themselves to seizing this moment to engage the world with the gospel.

Last year, approximately \$495,530 was spent on mission experiences through the BCM ministry of Kentucky. To the best of our knowledge, 2,513 conversions were witnessed by BCM students serving on mission. There were 2,595 separate mission experiences by BCM students. At least 293 students came to Christ on the university campus. This is the generation to whom we will pass the Great Commission torch. Let the resurgence begin.

*Names changed for security reasons.

FAITH ON CAMPUS

Grace giving or pocketbook living

By Doug Strader

Recently a member shared with me that a statement that I had made during our stewardship emphasis was true from his perspective: Tithing is a heart issue and not a pocketbook issue. He had grown up in a very conservative rural church where tithing was neither taught nor practiced. People gave enough for the church to pay her bills, but nothing more. That is quite a contrast to the way the Macedonians gave according to the Apostle Paul.

How did the Macedonians give? In the eighth chapter of Second Corinthians Paul describes their giving philosophy to the offering he was receiving for the Jerusalem Christians.

- He described their giving as the grace of God.
- They were in a severe test of affliction.
- They had an abundance of joy.
- They were in extreme poverty.
- They had an overflowing wealth of generosity.
- They gave beyond their means.
- They did it of their own free will.
- Paul said that they even begged for the privilege of giving to the saints in Jerusalem.

■ Before the Macedonians gave of their resources, they first gave themselves to the Lord and then to Paul and his companions.

Paul was writing to the Corinthian Christians, urging them to follow through on an earlier commitment they had made to the offering for the Jerusalem Christians. He was using the Macedonian example to inspire them.

As you think about your giving to the Lord's work, how does it compare to the Macedonian example? Are you a grace giver, or do you give only what you think you can afford? Think about what the Lord has done for you, how you have been a recipient of His grace? Then compare your giving with the grace He has given to you.

Each Sunday when we worship through giving, it should please us to know that we have offered to God our best. As the words of the song say, "because I have been given much, I, too, must give." That is grace giving.

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



Rankin announces plans to retire as IMB president in 2010

Continued from page 1

helped plant nearly 27,000 churches and engage 101 new people groups for a total of 1,190 engaged people groups worldwide.

The move from tracking countries to focusing on people groups reveals another area where Rankin worked to change the IMB. Country counts faded during the past 10 years as the organization shifted to finding the best ways to engage new people groups and population centers.

"I think moving us to a people-group focus helped us learn to innovate," he noted. "But probably the most radical innovation of all has been the process of moving us to a mobilization perspective."

Unexpected direction

Rankin and his wife, Bobbye, were appointed missionaries to Indonesia in June 1970 where he served as a general evangelist in two Indonesian locations.

Rankin also consulted in evangelism and church growth in India, served as associate to the area director for South and Southeast Asia, and then as administrator for missions work in India. He became area director for Southern Asia and the Pacific where he oversaw the work of 480 missionaries in 15 countries.

"I never anticipated that I would move beyond a niche where God had called us to serve as missionaries in Indonesia," Rankin recalled.

"It made no sense for a field missionary who had been overseas for 23 years to be selected over others who were far more qualified and at a peak of controversy regarding control of leadership roles among South-

ern Baptist Convention entities," he said.

"I reluctantly accepted the role, not out of any desire for status or reputation and certainly not for a denominational administration role, but only to make the greatest impact on reaching a lost world that my life could make. The motivation for accepting this was only that same missionary call that carried us to Indonesia."

Rankin said he sees that same sense of call uniting the organization's leadership teams, as well as in the emerging young leaders within the IMB's staff and missionary force. He added that same spirit of unity rests within the current body of trustees.

"Never in my experience have we had a board of trustees so unified, supportive and sensitive to the spiritual nature of our task," he said in his report.

Rankin said this common vision is vital as the organization moves into the next phase of its history.

"We have always been a missionary-sending agency with unlimited capacity to send and support the missionaries being called out of our Southern Baptist churches," he pointed out. "That is no longer the case as appointments are being restricted and strategies must be changed to more effectively deploy and utilize limited numbers of personnel."

"The next president must deal with economic realities that will not permit us to presume upon unlimited financial resources as we have in the past. Southern Baptists are at a point of crisis in deciding whether to continue a bureaucratic legacy, supporting a comprehensive plethora of ministries and programs, or focus resources on fulfill-

IMB: Search committee named; contingency funds tapped

Jacksonville, Fla.—Following word of International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin's retirement at the IMB trustee meeting last week, Kentucky pastor and trustee chairman Paul Chitwood announced the formation of a 15-member search committee to find Rankin's replacement.

Jimmy Pritchard, pastor of First Baptist Church of Forney, Texas, was tapped to chair the committee. Kentuckian Norman Coe, a member of Highview Baptist Church will serve as vice chairman, alongside Chitwood who also will serve on the search committee.

"The task that falls now to us as trustees of this board is indeed a weighty task," said Chitwood, pastor of First Baptist Church of Mount Washington. "If we measure what is significant based upon the potential to impact the Kingdom of God, then choosing the next president of the United States would pale in comparison to choosing the next president of the International Mission Board."

In other business, IMB treasurer David Steverson told trustees that more missionaries will be sent this year than originally planned, thanks to special offerings

collected by Southern Baptists.

In May, trustees were forced to reduce missionary appointments because of a shortfall in funding from the Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. The appointment of 69 long-term candidates and some 350 short-term candidates waiting to serve on the mission field was delayed. Now, about 25 of those 69 long-term candidates will be added to a group of 37 already slated for appointment in November.

Despite Southern Baptists' generosity, Steverson cautioned trustees that IMB's financial situation remains serious. Calling the budget shortfall a "crisis," he said IMB would, for the first time in its history, be forced to dip into contingency funds in order to balance the budget.

Steverson said IMB will close the budget gap by drawing the \$7.5 million from its contingency funds. He acknowledged this is not a long-term solution to decreased giving, but said he believes the economic crisis warrants such action.

"Since we first established a contingency reserve some 60 years ago, this will be the first time we have used it for our benefit," Steverson noted. (BP)

ing the Great Commission."

Rankin added that the IMB stands on the verge of unprecedented opportunities to complete the task of engaging every nation, people and language with the gospel.

"We need a leader who can identify with

the next generation, one who has credibility to mobilize Southern Baptists, creative vision to implement new strategies and faith to provide the spiritual leadership that will keep us aligned with the mission of a sovereign God." (BP)



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172nd KBC Annual Meeting

November 10, 2009

Severns Valley Baptist Church
Elizabethtown, Kentucky

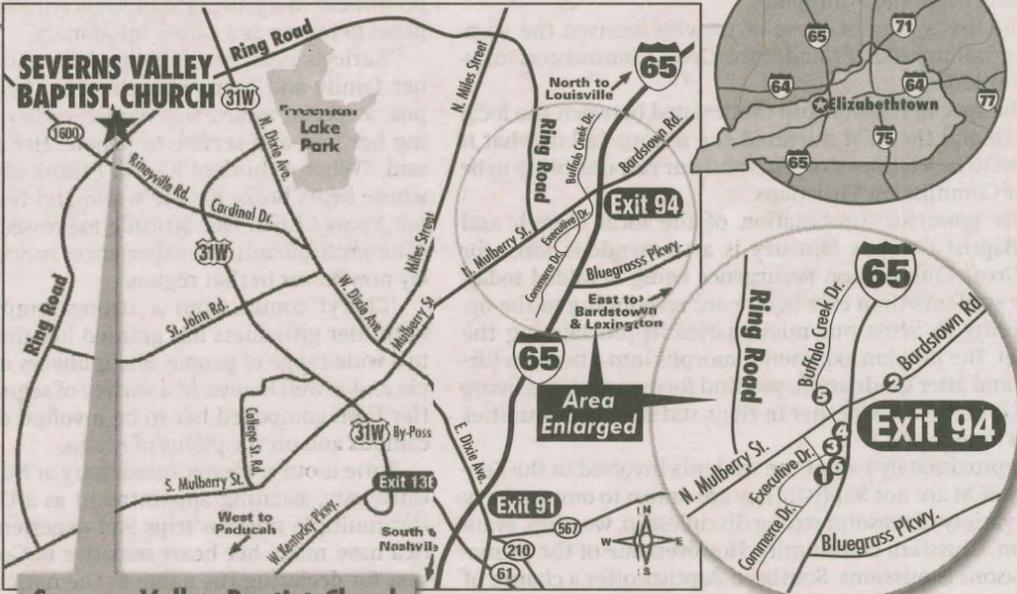
Make plans now to attend!

Elizabethtown Accommodation Information

- Hotels listed below are located at exit #94 off I-65 (see map detail for locations).
- Messengers are responsible for reserving their own accommodations.
- To receive blocked room rates, mention the Kentucky Baptist Convention at time of reservation and be sure to make your reservation by the deadline. (Group numbers are also listed if available and can be referenced if requested.)
- Elizabethtown is on Eastern Time.
- Rates do not include the 10.24% Elizabethtown hotel tax.
- All hotels offer a complimentary continental breakfast.
- All rooms are non-smoking and have free high-speed Internet access.

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comfort Suites 215 Commerce Drive 270.360.0088 \$84.99 flat rate (kings, queens) Reservation deadline: October 26 Group #: 126489 2. Comfort Inn 2009 North Mulberry 270.765.4166 \$76.49 flat rate (kings, queens) Free USA Today Refrigerator & microwave in room Reservation deadline: October 8 Group #: 100093 3. Fairfield Inn* 1031 Executive Drive 270.769.1440 \$89 flat rate (kings, doubles) Reservation deadline: October 20 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Hampton Inn* 1035 Executive Drive 270.765.6663 \$89 flat rate Reservation deadline: October 20 5. Holiday Inn Express & Suites* 107 Buffalo Creek Drive 270.769.1334 \$99 flat rate (doubles) Reservation deadline: October 26 6. LaQuinta Inns and Suites 210 Commerce Drive 270.765.4747 \$79.99 rate (kings, queens) Reservation deadline: October 26
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*These hotels have blocked only a limited number of rooms.



Severns Valley Baptist Church
1100 Ring Road • Elizabethtown, KY 42701
www.severnsvalley.org



For more information, visit www.kybaptist.org/annualmeeting
or contact the KBC Communications Department:
502.489.3578 / 866.489.3578 / Denise.Withers@kybaptist.org

Evaluation time at camp

There is always room for improvement at Crossings

At the conclusion of each summer comes a thorough and exhaustive self-evaluation of camp. This actually is one of my favorite times of the year as we seek to identify areas to improve, change or even eliminate.

There is something about having a challenge before us that personally energizes me. Challenges provoke our staff members to new levels of thinking.

While we saw record numbers this year in everything from attendance to decisions, we still have plenty of areas that we can improve upon for the coming year.

As we completed the month of evaluation time, several key adjustments to the Crossings program for 2010 are well underway. Changes that will be coming next years include:

- New adult Bible studies and youth pastor-equipping seminars.
- Optional adult involvement in small group Bible study time.
- The addition of new small-group space.
- A modified evening schedule to help protect church group time.

- The addition of targeted high school and gender specific activities.
- New and expanded worship space at both properties.
- Expanded dining space.

There even are several other areas of improvements that will be implemented prior to 2010. The beauty of self-evaluation is that it keeps ministries or institutions from having "sacred cows." Change maintains relevancy for changing trends in churches and fosters an environment of creativity.

As you visit Cedarmore or Jonathan Creek, we will always be interested in what goes well. However, we honestly desire to know what does not meet your expectations.

Please feel free to share your comments and concerns as we seek to be the best possible stewards of these properties for the purpose of reaching a lost world.

Ky. Baptist Assemblies



David Melber

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

Great Commission expansion

Great Commission should include all that Jesus taught

The Great Commission, the driving biblical text of Southern Baptists and other evangelicals, needs resurgence according to convention leadership. We need to replenish the passion, reignite the zeal and increase funding to do more to spread the gospel.

I will not argue with providing more of the gospel for more people in more places. However, I do think we need a broader view of the Great Commission than we traditionally have.

The text in Matthew 28:18-20, is clear that we are to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." We are going and baptizing. Going and baptizing defines Southern Baptists.

Then the text says we are to be about "teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." I grew up hearing much more emphasis on the "going and baptizing" than "making disciples" and "teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

The sermons, lessons, lectures and training I heard throughout

my life on the Great Commission were that disciples are to learn to make more disciples—period. That is what discipleship meant, other than no smoking, drinking, playing cards, dancing, etc. The Great Commission was about soul winning with little, if any, focus on life saving.

Is soul winning all Jesus taught the 12? What else did Jesus teach His disciples and where did He take them?

Jesus took the disciples not only to the lost sheep of Israel but to the hurting sheep of Israel as well. He got his hands dirty caring for the downtrodden.

He literally and spiritually touched lepers, the demon-possessed, the terminally ill, the dead, old people, young people, children, Jews and Gentiles. He put his reputation on the line by dining with the likes of Zacchaeus and partying with sinners. He even took time for kids and commanded the disciples to do the same.

Should not all Jesus taught and commanded us to do be part of the Great Commission? I do believe this part of the Great Commission especially needs a resurgence.

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

Sunrise Children's Services



Bill Smithwick

For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Preacher's Kids

David Ayers



Bible Crosswords

By Evelyn Boyington

Across

- 1 "Call me not Naomi, call me ____" (Ruth 1:20)
- 5 Bunch of bubbles
- 9 Paramedic's report (abbr.)
- 12 "The slaughter of Midian at the rock of ____" (Isaiah 10:26)
- 13 "Every ____ word that men shall speak, they shall give account" (Matthew 12:36)
- 14 There's the ____
- 15 "She ... began to ____ his feet with tears" (Luke 7:38)
- 16 Burden
- 17 Compass dir.
- 18 "Let us build us a city and ____, whose top may reach unto heaven" (Genesis 11:4)
- 20 Lets off fumes
- 22 Ship to ____
- 24 Team ____, Olympics competitor
- 25 Attitude
- 26 Has ____
- 29 "It shall be even given thee to the ____ of the kingdom" (Esther 5:3)
- 33 Creative concept
- 35 "I will send a ____, saying, Go, find the arrows" (1 Samuel 20:21)
- 36 Golden calf, for one
- 37 More is ____
- 38 Telegram word
- 40 United
- 41 Ram's mate
- 43 Captured, in a way
- 45 Lion's portion
- 48 "What is the chaff to the ____?" (Jeremiah 23:28)

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56					57					58		
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- 50 Require effort
- 51 "He himself stayed in ____ for a season" (Acts 19:22)
- 53 Become bored
- 56 Linking verb
- 57 ____ stop
- 58 "Whatsoever shall be given you in that ____, that speak ye" (Mark 13:11)
- 59 Affirmative
- 60 Overeat, almost
- 61 Dagger
- 21 Mother, hello (abbr.)
- 22 "Strengthen their mast, they could not spread the ____" (Isaiah 33:23)
- 23 "____ us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne" (Revelation 6:16)
- 24 Cancel; annul
- 27 In addition
- 28 Partake
- 30 "Ye have received the Spirit of ____, whereby we cry, Abba, Father" (Romans 8:15)

Down

- 1 Weekend job, for many
- 2 Son of Jether (1 Chronicles 7:38)
- 3 Gives new life, as the Lord
- 4 "Him shall the people curse, nations shall ____ him" (Proverbs 24:24)
- 5 Rank's partner
- 6 Scent
- 7 In the manner of
- 8 "Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the ____ and the Persians" (Daniel 5:28)
- 9 Three (Ger.)
- 10 Fire
- 11 Fortas and others
- 19 Where one surfs
- 31 Single
- 32 "Then all the disciples forsook him, and ____" (Matthew 26:56)
- 34 Tribe of Israel (var.)
- 39 ____ millennialism
- 42 Becomes useless, with "out"
- 44 Vows
- 45 "None can ____ his hand" (Daniel 4:35)
- 46 Unclean animal (Leviticus 11:6)
- 47 Cutting tools
- 48 Knew; learned (arch.)
- 49 "____ the evil" (Amos 5:15)
- 52 Aegean, for one
- 54 Regret
- 55 Poetic contraction

Last week's solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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LifeWay execs report solid ministry results in uncertain economic times

By Rob Phillips
LifeWay Christian Resources

Ridgecrest, N.C.—2009 will be an uncommonly good year in ministry for LifeWay Christian Resources, but the economic downturn will continue to challenge the organization in 2010.

That's the report executives from LifeWay gave trustees at their semiannual meeting Sept. 14-15 at Ridgecrest Conference Center near Asheville, N.C.

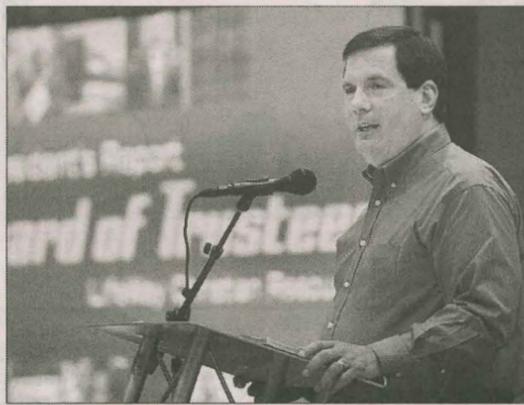
LifeWay President Thom Rainer told trustees that despite widespread despair across the country, the people of God have great hope and should seize this opportunity to move forward in ministry. Drawing from Jeremiah 29, in which the exiles of Judah had lost hope of returning home, Rainer said there always is hope for God's people. "There is no such thing as no hope when your hope is in God," he said.

Chief Financial Officer Jerry Rhyne provided a candid appraisal of the business outlook. "The economy is a mess, and 38 percent of the nation's chief financial officers do not expect the recovery to begin until at least April of 2010," he noted, adding that consumer confidence continues to wane and U.S. executives worry most about being able to forecast results.

Despite that gloomy outlook, Rhyne said LifeWay's financial health is good, citing a strong balance sheet, no debt, a strong and diverse customer base, and other key factors.

"LifeWay is a ministry funded by a business model," Rhyne explained, "but that model needs to be adjusted from time to time." For example, LifeWay has budgeted no salary increases for 2010 and is holding the line on prices for most literature to help struggling churches.

"It's important for Southern Baptists to know that LifeWay has never received Cooperative Program dollars," Rhyne pointed out. "In addition, LifeWay is self-supporting, and we invest a significant amount in ministries at home and around



PRESIDENT'S REPORT Thom Rainer, president of LifeWay Christian Resources, delivers his report to trustees Sept. 14 at Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina. (Photo by Kent Harville)

the world."

Rhyne also reported that the economic slowdown has impacted the conference centers. Ministry groups still are coming, but are bringing fewer people, he explained. Even so, major renovations and new construction at Ridgecrest and Glorieta—most recently the new Johnson Spring Convention Center at Ridgecrest—have created high value venues that are attracting new ministries, he said.

Glorieta is preparing to implement its new operational model in October. The conference center will remain open all year but will focus on smaller ministries and events during the winter months. "We think this new operational model will help ensure the continued year-round operation of the Glorieta ministry in a challenging economic environment," he noted.

The camps at Ridgecrest have defied the economic downturn, Rhyne added. There was record camp attendance this year, resulting in the fifth consecutive year of camp revenue growth.



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Oneida runner's determination proves winning is not the most important thing

Our school has few policies that I am more proud of than our co-curricular policies. A long time ago we were like most schools—you could try out for a team, but if your skills were not relatively good, you may not make the team. Now we do not "cut" athletes for lack of ability. Admittedly, we may have been a little lenient by making room for some students to be part of a team even if they would normally have been cut. Over the years, I have seen many boys and girls actively take part in one of our teams when anyone could quickly tell these students lacked any real skill.

I recently attended an away cross country meet. Our OBI runners and coaches knew that one particular young lady was not a good runner; she has a form of cerebral palsy that can be easily noticed when she runs or walks. This is her first year to run cross country but she has been on our track team for three years.

In a cross country meet, several runners usually cross the finish line two or three minutes apart. Little by little the others cross the line, sometimes up to 10 minutes behind the first runners. Then, in every race I have ever attended, there is that last runner. I admit that I get just a little impatient waiting for that last one, especially if it is one of our students. In the race I attended recently, we waited patiently for what we thought was the last runner, but when that person crossed the line, I realized one of our runners had not yet come in. It was our girl with CP.

Since this young lady had to run past us in or-

der to make the last lap around the field, the official asked one of our coaches if we wanted to let her stop and not complete the last lap. I was happy when he replied, "No. If you don't mind, please let her run the whole course." Some 24 minutes after the runner before her crossed the finish line, she finally completed the course.

I can't tell you why she puts herself through this punishment. Running obviously is a challenge for her, but she is a part of our team and she certainly has earned the right to run. Undoubtedly she knew she was the last runner, but as she passed us she kept that determined look and ran on.

After another recent meet, a coach from one of the other teams sent this e-mail to our coach: "I wanted to commend one of your runners for her excellent sportsmanship at the Owsley meet. One of my runners ran with her most of the race and was having a difficult time finishing. Your girl was very encouraging and positive with her. I greatly appreciated it and wanted to commend your leadership in training such fine student-athletes. She's definitely a special gal and I appreciate her enthusiasm more than you know. Her encouragement meant more to my kid than anything I could've said or done." The girl this coach was commending was our CP girl.

We all like to win, and most athletes do not compete only to lose. But as we all know, many different experiences in life provide opportunities to learn. Winning is important, but there are things more important than winning.

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

This is Oneida



W.F. Underwood

Making connections

Associational meetings offer time to interact and share

The beginning of the fall season is a busy time for all of us involved in Baptist life. This time of year there is a lot of activity throughout state conventions with annual associational meetings. I recently attended two associational meetings and look forward to attending three upcoming meetings at Greenup, Wayne County and Liberty Baptist associations.

I was privileged to attend the Russell County Baptist associational meeting where Danny Withers serves as director of missions. I was proud as I watched Clear Creek alumnus Jeff Kerr, pastor of Friendship Baptist Church in Russell Springs, moderate the session. It is always a joy to watch our alumni get involved in their local associations.

I also was privileged to attend Grayson County Baptist Association's meeting where Paul Childers serves as moderator. I was encouraged by the high attendance at both of these meetings.

For me personally, these annual meetings are a great time to fellowship, connect and share with fellow Kentucky Baptists. One of my favorite parts of my position is getting to travel around our great state visit-

ing associational meetings and sharing about the work of our excellent agencies and institutions.

As president of one of your Christian educational institutions, I would like to say "thank you" to Kentucky Baptists for your cooperative giving that enables all of our agencies and institutions to fulfill the mission that God has given each of us.

Thank you, Kentucky Baptists, for allowing me time in your associational meetings to share specifically with you how your cooperative giving impacts Kingdom work through Clear Creek Baptist Bible College. Your cooperative giving is a lifeline for us.

Through your support, we are able to keep our tuition at the lowest level of any Southern Baptist college offering a fully accredited bachelor's degree in ministry. Your giving amounts to about one-fifth of our total budget. We could not do what we do without you.

Thank you Kentucky Baptists for all you do for us. I look forward to seeing you at future associational meetings for a time of fellowship, connecting and sharing.

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.cccb.edu; e-mail: dfox@ccb.edu

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

Senator's health bill at odds with Obama pledge, pro-lifers say

By Michael Foust

Washington—A health care plan introduced Sept. 16 by U.S. Sen. Max Baucus would cover elective abortions and contains many of the same problems found in the leading House bill, pro-life leaders contend.

Baucus, a Democrat from Montana who is chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, released his much-anticipated plan one week after President Obama pledged that "no federal dollars will be used to fund abortions" in any plan he supports.

But Baucus' 223-page bill explicitly lays out a plan for abortion coverage, and critics say it uses federal funds to pay for the procedures.

The bill is being debated in the Senate Finance Committee and Republicans are pledging to offer amendments explicitly prohibiting abortion coverage.

"There are still some serious outstanding issues that have yet to be resolved," Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, said in a statement. "Like preventing taxpayer funding of abortion services."

Douglas Johnson, legislative director for the National Right to Life Committee, said in a statement regarding the House bill and the Baucus bill: "These bills are not consistent with President Obama's Sept. 9 claim

that 'no federal dollars will be used to fund abortions.'"

Baucus' plan does not include a government-backed public option, which has been a source of controversy in the House bill because of its method of funding abortion. But the Baucus bill nevertheless provides for abortion coverage. For example:

- The bill allows tax credits and cost-sharing subsidies for lower-income individuals to be used to purchase private insurance plans that pay for elective abortions. It requires the insurance companies to segregate their internal funds and not use federal dollars to pay for the abortions. Critics call the stipulation an accounting gimmick.

- The bill requires that each area of the country offering an insurance exchange provide at least one plan that pays for elective abortions and one plan that does not.

- It prevents private insurers from being required to cover elective abortions but leaves the door open to changing the policy if the Hyde Amendment is not renewed. The Hyde Amendment traditionally has been attached each year to the Health and Human Services appropriations bill to prevent Medicaid from covering abortions except in cases of rape, incest and to save a mother's life. It must be renewed each year

to remain in effect, and many Democrats in Congress oppose it.

Critics say much of the Baucus bill language on abortion includes loopholes that would further relax the abortion policy if the Hyde Amendment is not renewed.

The bill states: "Abortion cannot be a mandated benefit as part of a minimum benefits package except in those cases for which federal funds appropriated for the Department of Health and Human Services are permitted." That means if the Hyde Amendment is not renewed and HHS is allowed to cover elective abortions through Medicaid, then private insurance companies could be forced to cover elective abortions under a minimum benefits requirement.

Pro-lifers maintain that any health care program should follow the lead of current law, which prevents the Federal Employees Health Benefits program—the insurance plan used by federal employees—from covering elective abortions.

Johnson said the bill "contains an array of pro-abortion mandates and federal subsidies for elective abortion."

"National Right to Life strongly opposes the legislation in its current form," he noted. "We will work in support of amendments to eliminate the abortion mandates

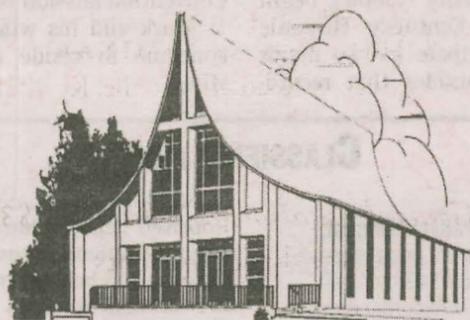
and federal abortion subsidies."

The bill, Johnson added, "contains provisions that would send massive federal subsidies directly to both private insurance plans and government-chartered cooperatives that pay for elective abortion."

Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council, said the "accounting used in the bill is a matter of smoke and mirrors, since elective abortion is authorized for health plans receiving government subsidies."

"If President Obama is serious about preventing funding for abortion in health care reform, he should immediately support adoption of Democrat Rep. Bart Stupak's amendment to exclude abortion from all health care reform legislation," Perkins said. "It's time for President Obama to stop the smoke and mirrors on abortion and health care and straightforwardly tell Congress to permanently exclude abortion coverage."

A Rasmussen poll released Sept. 17 suggested that 48 percent of likely voters believe any federally subsidized health care plan should prohibit abortion coverage. Another 13 percent believe it should cover abortion and 32 percent believe it should have no requirement concerning abortion. (BP)



Southern Heights Baptist Church, 3408 Clays Mill Rd., Lexington, Ky., would like to invite all former members, staff and friends to celebrate with us "50 Years of God's Faithfulness to Our Church," Sunday, Oct. 4, 2009, in the 10:45 a.m. worship service. Special speaker will be former pastor **Monty Carter**, and the morning service will be followed by a fellowship meal and an afternoon celebration service. Please RSVP by calling the church office at (859) 223-5223.

Groups seek repeal of federal grant rules

Washington—Dozens of legal and religious groups have asked Attorney General Eric Holder to rescind a Bush-era memorandum they believe wrongly permitted a religious charity to receive federal grant money despite its policy of hiring only Christians.

Organizations such as Americans United for the Separation of Church and State and the Anti-Defamation League told Holder in a Sept. 17 letter that the 2007 memo from the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel misinterpreted the 1993 Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

At issue is whether religious groups that receive federal grants are exempt from federal nondiscrimination employment law, or whether groups that make hiring decisions on faith should be eligible to receive federal funding at all.

"The OLC wrongly asserts that RFRA is 'reasonably construed' to require that a federal agency categorically exempt a religious organization from an explicit federal nondiscrimination provision tied to a grant program," reads the letter signed by 58 organizations.

The memo specifically referred to a \$1.5 million grant for a gang-reduction program of the Christian relief organization World Vision.

In their letter, the organizations said the "overly broad and questionable interpretation of RFRA has been cited by other federal agencies and extended to other programs and grants."

The groups asked for a review by the Obama administration and also requested a withdrawal of the memo. The Justice Department did not immediately respond to a request for comment. (RNS)

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Former SBC president Page has low expectations for White House's faith office

Minneapolis—Former Southern Baptist Convention President Frank Page said he doesn't expect much to result from the work of advisers to the White House's office dealing with faith-based and community groups.

"I believe that the policy recommendations that will come forth will be relatively innocuous, good, helpful," said Page, a member of the panel, Sept. 10 at the annual meeting of the Religion Newswriters Association. He expects results to be not much more than "low-hanging fruit."

"There will be good things, but nothing of great substance," Page said.

Criticism and praise

While Page has publicly disagreed with Obama on some issues, notably abortion, he nonetheless praised the president for his "responsible fatherhood" and poverty initiatives, as well as his commitment not to fund abortion under his proposed health care reforms.

The pastor of First Baptist Church of Taylors, S.C., called himself the "resident fundamentalist" on the 25-member advisory panel that includes Christians, Jews, Muslims and a Hindu, as well as representatives of secular organizations. Despite "some serious disagreements" with Obama, Page said he prays for the president daily and is honored to be a member of the advisory council. (RNS)

PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist missionaries and ministries:

Free community meal ministry of Parkland Baptist Church in Louisville.

A free hot meal is provided for the community on the last Thursday of each month when grocery money is running thin for most families. The church advertises through word of mouth, local community agencies and at the local unemployment office. Pray that their FAITH-trained volunteers will be effective in sharing Christ and leading others to a saving faith in Him. Pray that God will continue to provide the resources needed to meet the growing number of families in need.

Mission Service Corps missionary Cathy Chinn of Hartford.

Cathy is a Woman's Missionary Union mobilizer, connecting missions in action with women in Kentucky. Pray that women will become involved in missions in their state, North America and internationally. Pray for Cathy as she leads women's mission trips and serves as state WMU prayer coordinator.

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

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **BREMEN**—New Harmony Church will celebrate its 75th anniversary Sept. 27, 10:30 a.m. with **Ronnie Sivells**, KBC church development strategist, as guest speaker. **Dan Yeager** is pastor.

■ **CADIZ**—**Ronnie Hooks** recently resigned as pastor of Maple Grove Church.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Saloma Church will hold a joint worship service with First Church, Campbellsville, Sept. 27, 5 p.m. with First Church Pastor **Daniel Shull** as guest speaker. A fellowship time and potluck meal will precede the worship service. For more information, call (270) 789-5520. **John Chowning** is pastor.

■ **FOREST HILLS**—Longtime Kentucky Baptist pastor **Sid Copley** died Sept. 1. He was 81. He served as pastor of Stone Church in Pike County for 39 years until his retirement in 2000. He is survived by his wife, Joanna, three sons and two grandchildren. Funeral services were held Sept. 4 at First Church of Forest Hills.

■ **FORT MITCHELL**—Fort Mitchell Church will celebrate its 85th anniversary Sept. 27, 9 a.m. with former pastor **Jim Taulman** as guest speaker. Musician and Christian comedian **Gary Greiser** will provide special music. Lunch will follow the morning worship service. For more information, call (859) 331-2160.

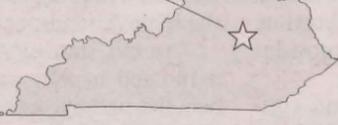
■ **HODGENVILLE**—First Church recently called **Misty Smith** as minister of music. Mike Rodgers is pastor.

■ **HOPKINSVILLE**—Second Church Pastor **Larry Purcell** began his first term as a trustee of LifeWay Christian Resources Sept. 14.

■ **KUTTAWA**—**Jeremy Short** recently

Spotlight on ...

Winchester



Heritage Church will celebrate its fourth anniversary with a Property Dedication Celebration Sept. 27, 10:45 a.m. with **Scott Pittman**, KBC's partnership missions director, as guest speaker. Special music will be provided by **Bryan Hatton**. A dinner on the grounds of the new property will follow at 1 p.m. For more information, call (859) 744-0410. **Gerald Peoples** is pastor.

resigned as pastor of Suwanee Furnace Church.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Gardenside Church will hold revival services Sept. 25-26, 7 p.m.; Sept. 27, 10:45 a.m. & 6 p.m. with **Don Walton**, director of Time For Truth Ministries, as evangelist. **Ron Wilburn** will lead music. **John Landon** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—West Broadway Church will celebrate its 100th anniversary Sept. 27, 6 p.m.

■ **SHELBYVILLE**—Victory Church recently called **Fred Moffatt** as interim pastor.

■ **TOMPKINSVILLE**—First Church will hold revival services Sept. 27, 11 a.m. & 7 p.m.; Sept. 28-30, 7 p.m. with **Brett Miles**, pastor of Northside Church in Almo, as evangelist. **Steve Shirk** will lead music. **Tom Stokes** is pastor.

Boyce worship conference focuses on music, students

Louisville—Music is a particularly powerful force among youth. From garage bands of the 1970s and '80s to today's video games like Guitar Hero, music has been and continues to be an integral part of the lives of most middle- and high-school students.

The Heart of Worship Conference at Boyce College seeks to help students claim music as a domain where God is glorified. Greg Brewton, department coordinator and associate professor of church music at Boyce, said this year's conference, set for Oct 23-24, particularly will focus on equipping students who lead worship or who play in praise bands for youth services.

"We are trying to help them have a biblical foundation for what they are already doing in their youth groups in the area of worship," he said. "I want to get (students) together with the worship leaders who are leading these sessions and let the students observe them, meet them and experience their walk with the Lord."

Brewton said the third annual conference will feature three primary breakout session tracks: praise bands, student choirs and drama teams. Those interested in attending can download a registration form at www.BoyceCollege.com/HeartofWorship. Discounted early bird reg-

istration ends Oct. 9. Brewton said students can attend the Saturday sessions only for a reduced rate.

Boyce College Dean Denny Burk is the keynote speaker for the event. Bo and Danielle Warren will present a concert on the conference's opening night. Bo serves as associate minister of music at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington and is a music theory instructor at Boyce College.

One unique element from last year's conference that will return this year is a praise band workshop and critique. As part of the praise band breakout track, bands will take turns playing a couple of songs, then receive instruction and critique from a panel.

Breakout session leaders include Dan Odle, associate pastor of music and worship at Highview Baptist Church in Louisville, who will present a biblical foundation for worship, and Nathan Platt, department coordinator of worship ministries and director of Aletheia, who will discuss how to structure a worship service.

Other breakouts include selecting songs for worship, effective worship band leadership, the importance of private worship for worship leaders and what to say to introduce songs. Several local worship leaders and Boyce graduates will lead the breakout sessions.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September

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.

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

Taylor Co. DOM sets retirement

Campbellsville—Bob Clark has announced his retirement, effective Dec. 31, after 10 years of ministry with Taylor County Baptist Association.

During his tenure as director of missions, Clark led the association to support a church ministry in St. Petersburg, Russia; participate in disaster relief ministries in New Orleans and Mississippi; commit \$25,000 toward constructing the Ransdell Chapel on the Campbellsville University campus; begin the Southern Kentucky Hispanic Ministry; participate in two major county-wide crusades that record-

ed hundreds of professions of faith; and assist college students and area church members in serving on national and international missions teams.

Clark also supervised the publishing of a 50th Anniversary History of Taylor County Baptist Association for its observance in 2007.

A former professor and academic dean at Campbellsville University for 32 years, he also was a member of the Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board.

Clark and his wife, Lillian, will continue to reside in Campbellsville.



Bob Clark

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SEEKING: Experienced and versatile musician for Washington Street Baptist Church, Paducah, Ky. Individual should be able to play by ear and have some music reading abilities. Competitive salary, along with opportunity for growth. Resumes may be sent to kharrisadminasst@bellsouth.net; or Washington Street Baptist Church, 721 Washington St., Paducah, KY 42003.

SEEKING: Part-time youth pastor for Ryker's Ridge Baptist Church, located near Madison, Ind. Information about the church can be found at www.RykersRidge.org. For more information, please contact Pastor Paul Brewster at (812) 265-4540, or send resume to Ryker's Ridge Baptist Church, 2601 N Ryker's Ridge Road, Madison, IN 47250; or secretary@rykersridge.org.

SEEKING: Senior pastor for Pleasant View Baptist Church, Waynesburg, Ky. Send resumes to Pastor Search Team, 13571 KY Hwy 1247, Waynesburg, KY 40489; or e-mail resumes to pastorsearch@pvbclincoln.org.

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 resume: Search Committee, First Baptist Church, PO Box 324, Mt. Sterling, KY 40353; or e-mail fbcmtsterling@bellsouth.net.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Hopewell Baptist Church in Harrodsburg, Ky. Submit resume by 10-30-09 via e-mail to bobbybrenda@bellsouth.net; or mail to: 1545 Talmage-Mayo Road, Harrodsburg, KY 40330.

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 resume to: Homsie Mitchell, Personnel Committee, Liberty Baptist Church, 365 Kenneth Lane, Hickory, KY 42051.

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 resume and DVD (required) of recent sermon to First Baptist Church, 403 N Spring St., McMinnville, TN 37110. Deadline for acceptance of resumes and DVDs is Oct. 13, 2009.

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

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 resume to nikkiheiserman@newworkfellowship.com.

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.



Bread banks to help in collecting money for world hunger

Birmingham, Ala.—Southern Baptists are encouraged to raise a little dough for world hunger relief with the help of new bread banks that are being sold by Woman's Missionary Union. WMU has teamed up with Baptist Global Response, the North American Mission Board, LifeWay Christian Resources, the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission and Baptist Press to promote the fundraiser.

National WMU President Kaye Miller and Executive Director Wanda Lee first introduced the banks at the 2009 Southern Baptist Convention. The new banks replace the rice bowls that were used for decades to collect money for the Southern Baptist World Hunger emphasis each October. This year, offerings for World Hunger Sunday will be collected Oct. 11.

Each loaf-shaped bank is made of FDA-approved plastic, and has a removable lid to make donating easier. Bread banks are available in quantities of 50 for \$49.99, and are sold exclusively at www.WMUStore.com. The Web address, as well as that of the official Southern Baptist World Hunger site, www.WorldHungerFund.com, are stamped on the bottom of each bank so churches can purchase more banks.

Those who used the rice bowls in past years to collect monies for World Hunger relief efforts will remember they were made in China, not reusable and the design sometimes allowed money to fall out of the bottom.

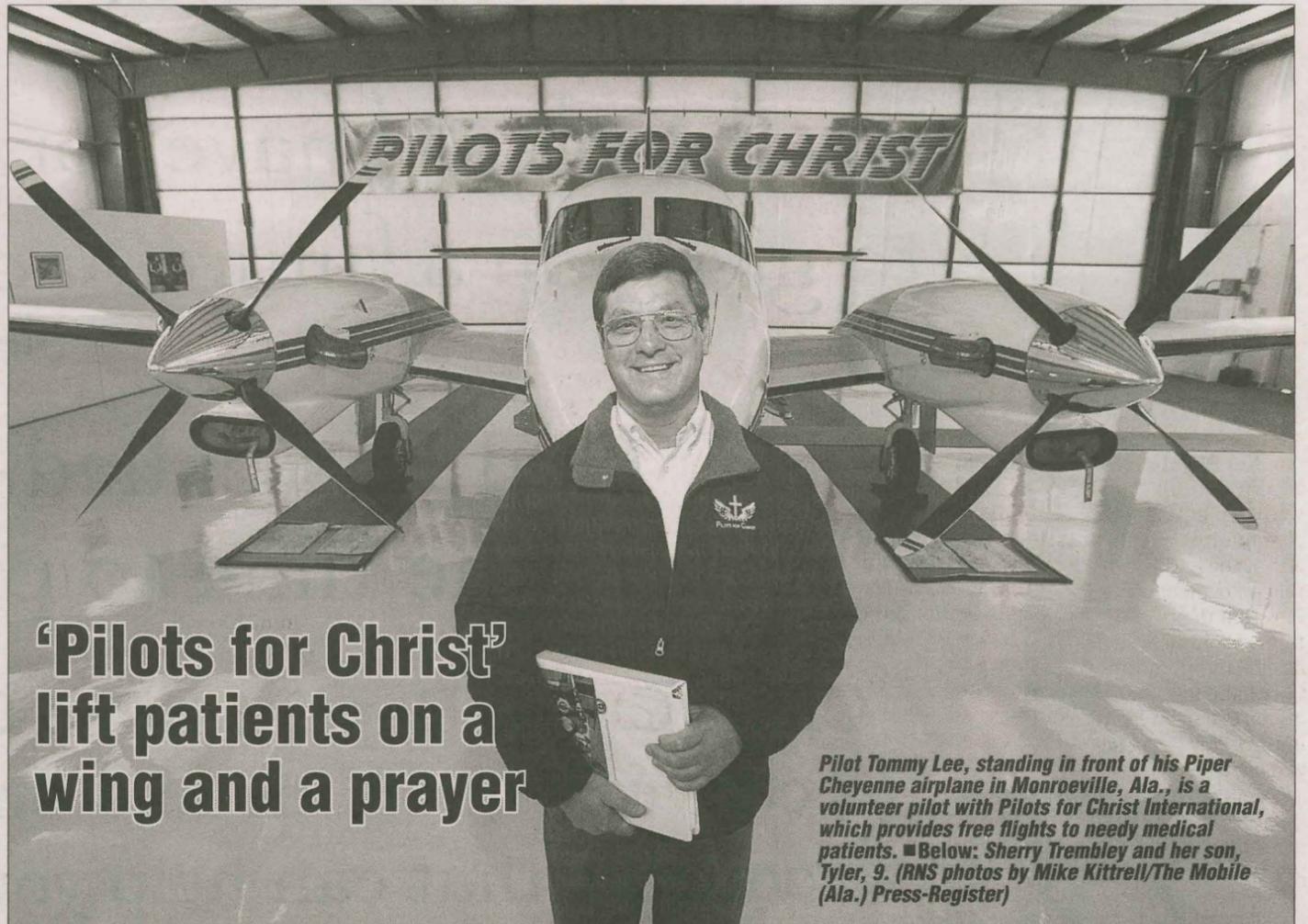
In contrast, the new bread banks are produced by a Southern Baptist family in Oregon, are reusable and are designed so that donations cannot fall out. Pat Tiller, former Northwest WMU president, and her husband, Dwayne, own a plastics manufacturing company. They were one of several companies who submitted bids to WMU.

"The benefits are twofold," Tiller noted. "We wanted to help WMU have a product they could sell at an affordable price and help the World Hunger cause by instilling a desire in peoples' hearts to give."

Tiller said that the cause is not new to her family. In past years, Dwayne has been on several missions trips to Honduras where he helped construct water pumps for people in need of clean drinking water. Because of their involvement in Southern Baptist activities, the Tillers have seen firsthand the benefits these needed funds provide.

Kristy Carr, WMU representative for the World Hunger Inter-Agency Committee, said input from the Alabama Baptist Convention, which created a version of the bread bank in 2008 and distributed 40,000 to churches across the state, was extremely helpful in shaping the current design.

Since 1974, Southern Baptists have given more than \$230 million to support world hunger relief efforts.



'Pilots for Christ' lift patients on a wing and a prayer

Pilot Tommy Lee, standing in front of his Piper Cheyenne airplane in Monroeville, Ala., is a volunteer pilot with Pilots for Christ International, which provides free flights to needy medical patients. ■ Below: Sherry Trembley and her son, Tyler, 9. (RNS photos by Mike Kittrell/The Mobile (Ala.) Press-Register)

By Roy Hoffman
Mobile (Ala.) Press-Register

Daphne, Ala.—On one of his healthiest days since being diagnosed in June 2008 with Stage 4 neuroblastoma, 9-year-old Tyler Trembley raced joyfully across a playground, his mother looking on.

After heavy bouts of chemotherapy and surgery to remove a tumor wrapped around his kidney—involving thousands of miles of air travel to specialty hospitals—the third-grader is getting better.

"I'm witness to how awe inspiring this life is," said his mother, Sherry Trembley, who praised the help of Pilots for Christ, an aviation ministry, and others including Angel Flight, which also aids those with medical needs by providing free flights for medical care.

"Every day," she said with gratitude, "my heart flutters."

A mother's struggle

A single mom to Tyler and his twin sister, Hannah, Trembley admits she was overwhelmed last summer, and soon exhausted, trying to get Tyler to Children's Hospital in Birmingham, Ala., and then to Sloane-Kettering Memorial Clinic in New York.

"I don't know how I found out about Pilots for Christ," she recalled, shaking her head. "God has placed people in my path who I've needed."

Tyler was too sick to be driven by car or flown commercially, and chartering a plane was too cost-prohibitive. The Trembleys found themselves being borne aloft by pilot Tommy Lee, at no charge, in Lee's Piper Cheyenne turbo-prop.

Lee, who owns a car dealership, helped

found the local chapter of the national Pilots for Christ in 1994. Inside the hangar where he keeps his plane hangs a banner: "Whoever is kind to the needy honors God. Proverbs 14:31"

"Our service is our ministry," said Lee, 55, who obtained his pilot's license at age 18 and did additional training in the Army—preparation, he now realizes, for his call to this mission of the air.

This local chapter of Pilots for Christ takes patients to medical destinations within a 350-mile radius, the most frequent being M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, and St. Jude Children's Hospital in Memphis.

The organization has no nurses, and is not an air ambulance, Lee emphasized. "We can't take anybody who needs medical assistance en route."

Prospective patients for transport need to apply and have a doctor's approval. The cost to charter a comparable private flight to Houston, Lee noted, probably would be between \$4,000 and \$5,000.

Pilots for Christ depends on volunteer time given by pilots and the use of their planes, and from donations that pay for fuel and mission support, which can include anything from costs for ground transportation to lodging for patients. There are other volunteers who sometimes ride along to assist families and help soothe jangled nerves.

'Mercy flights'

Lee said he hopes the ministry will one day be able to buy its own plane, a cost that he estimated could be as high as \$1 million.

"I could not have done it without the

help of Pilots for Christ," said Trembley, who credits those first flights for Tyler—beginning with a prayer circle led by the pilot—as essential to strengthening her emotionally.

Recently, Bob Eubanks, a retired orthopedic surgeon who also is a member of Pilots for Christ, flew the Trembleys to Atlanta, where they connected with an Angel Flight that carried them on to Sloane-Kettering.

"Each of these trips," said Eubanks, who extolled the beauty of flying through the skies on these missions, "are bathed in prayer."

Eubanks said that air traffic controllers will pay heed to what he called "mercy flights" or "compassion flights," often giving direct routes for landing.

He added: "Many times (someone) in air traffic control ... says, 'Thank you for what you do.'"

Pilots touch many lives

And the stories are legion.

Mike Floyd, 62, a retired special education teacher, came down with cancer of the adrenal glands. He has been flown by Pilots for Christ numerous times to M.D. Anderson Cancer Clinic. "God has laid a mission on their hearts," Floyd said.

Jimmy Crenshaw, a 47-year-old mill worker, was diagnosed with a form of leukemia. He depended on Pilots for Christ for flights that involved trips to Vanderbilt University in Nashville, as well as to M.D. Anderson.

"I was desperately sick," said Crenshaw, who still deals every night with excruciating pain in his bones.

Hazel Gentry, 85, needed help in a different way. Her sister-in-law had an advanced stage of Alzheimer's disease, and Gentry wanted to move her back from Jacksonville, Fla., to be near family. Lee and other volunteers, using a stretcher, were able to make that happen.

Nine-year-old Tyler had a wish of a different sort.

"I wished for a rainbow," said the youngster, remembering his first flight with Lee on the way to medical treatment. "Then I looked out the window—and there was a rainbow!" (RNS)

God told the prophet Jeremiah:

"I know the plans I have for you...
to give you a future and a hope."

Jeremiah 29:11

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now is the time to prepare

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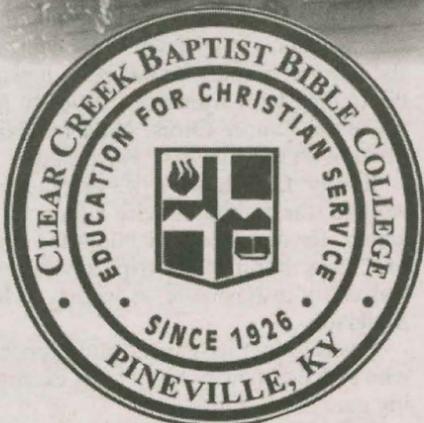
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CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

300 Clear Creek Road

Pineville, Kentucky 40977-9754

Dr. Donnie Fox, President

Phone: 606-337-3196

Fax: 606-337-2372

Internet: www.ccbhc.edu

E-Mail: distanceeducation@ccbhc.edu