

Shine like stars in the world
Philippians 2:15

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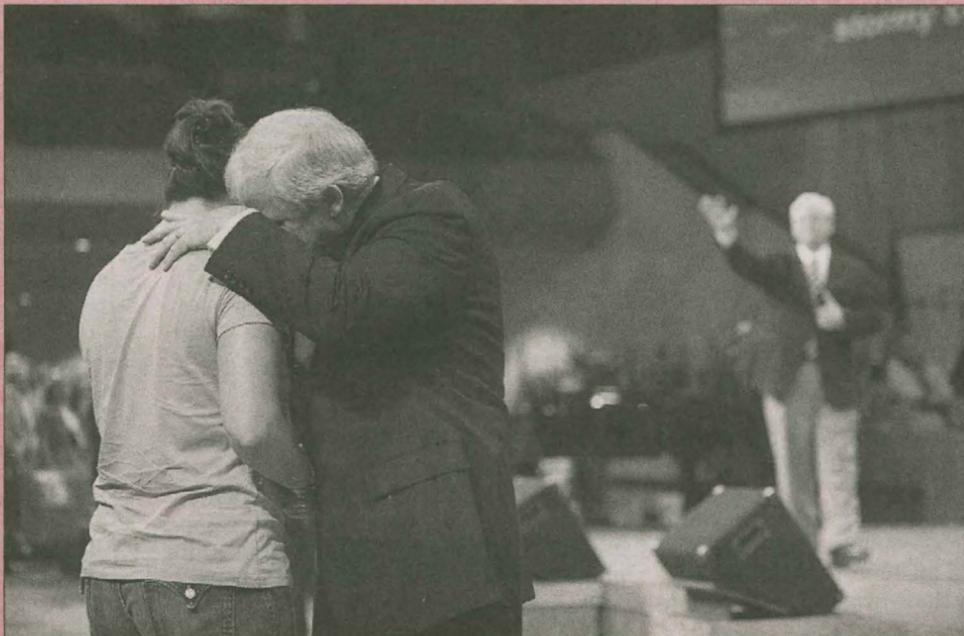
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IMB's future



Gordon Fort, vice president of the International Mission Board's office of global strategy, prays with a young woman who came forward in response to a call for more laborers given by IMB President Jerry Rankin (right) at the Sept. 16 missionary appointment service in Jacksonville, Fla. That same day, Rankin announced his intention to retire as head of the Southern Baptist Convention's world missionary agency July 31, 2010. The 60 newly appointed missionaries will be sent out among four continents, bringing the total number of Southern Baptist missionaries to 5,562. However, the appointment of future missionaries hangs in the balance because of a shortfall in funding from Southern Baptists' Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Hundreds of long- and short-term missionaries have been delayed as a result. So, with Rankin ending his 17-year tenure as IMB head, what qualities will the organization's next leader need to possess? What are his thoughts on a potential merger of the IMB and its domestic counterpart, the North American Mission Board? See story on page 8.

New Crossings-IMB partnership could be model for missions future

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Louisville—Since 2004, students who attend the Crossings camps at Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore have been exposed to the plight of children in the Eastern European country of Moldova and, more recently, the African nation of Zambia.

Each summer, students are encouraged not to spend their money on camp souvenirs, but to give their money to help children just like them experience the gospel.

"We want to connect kids here with kids elsewhere in the world," said Crossings leader David Melber.

Crossings now has teamed up with the International Mission Board to provide not only a real-world view of missions for its campers, but hands-on missions experience for its summer staff members as well.

The Kentucky Baptist camp ministry and Southern Baptist missions agency have established a new partnership that one IMB trustee said he hopes will become a model for missionary sending in the near future.

Kentucky pastor Paul Chitwood, chair of the IMB's trustee board, said the recent shortfall in funds through international missions offerings has severely limited IMB's ability to send out missionaries.

"We're hoping to see more partnerships like this, because it's just become very obvious that ... we're not going to be able to get the gospel to the nations unless we get more people mo-

bilized," said Chitwood, pastor at First Baptist Church of Mount Washington.

Earlier this year, the IMB announced that the number of missionaries sent in 2009 would be severely limited due to a drop in gifts to the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. The annual offering came up nearly \$30 million short of its budgeted goal of \$170 million.

The IMB was forced to suspend or limit appointments to several of its short-term missions programs. Among them, the Journeyman program, which sends 20-something, single college graduates overseas for two years.

Similar to the Journeyman program, the Crossings-IMB partnership will allow a handful of Crossings summer staffers to serve on the mission field each year, but for a shorter term—up to five months.

With more than 80 college- and seminary-age staff members working each summer at Crossings' two camps, Melber said many of them feel God calling them to missions.

"This would be a great chance for them to kind of test out that calling," he explained.

Melber said that four summer staffers already are lined up to begin serving in the first two countries starting in February. While not all of the details have been finalized, two students will serve in Bangalore, India; the other two in China's Guangdong province.

The IMB has identified unreached people groups in both areas. The goal, Melber said, is to see Crossings to partner with IMB ... Page 2



STEPPING ASIDE Morris Chapman announces to the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee Sept. 20 his plans to retire as president effective Sept. 30, 2010. (BP photo by Morris Abernathy)

SBC Executive Committee President Morris Chapman announces plans to retire

By Art Toalston

Nashville—Morris Chapman has announced his plans to retire as president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee effective Sept. 30, 2010.

Chapman, upon retirement, will have led the Executive Committee 18 years.

His tenure has spanned junctures of:

■ Theological conviction, such as the adoption of the Baptist Faith and Message 2000.

■ Heightened denominational effectiveness, such as the streamlining of the SBC's entities during the mid-1990s, and an invigorated emphasis on the Cooperative Program and stewardship.

■ Cultural relevance, such as the SBC's racial reconciliation resolution in 1995 and a multi-year emphasis on family ministry that began in the latter '90s.

Chapman, 68, announced his retirement in a letter to Executive Committee members on the opening day of their Sept. 20-21 meeting in Nashville, writing that after giving "serious and prayerful thought to my retirement date" in recent years, "the time has come."

His announcement comes on "my 50th anniversary in the ministry," Chapman wrote, connecting back to his work on church staffs as a teenager followed by his first pastorate in Rogers, Texas, at age 26.

Chapman's announcement also comes just a week after a similar one by International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin, who announced he is retiring after 17 years at the end of next July. The top spot at a third SBC entity, the North American Mission Board, also is vacant, since President Geoff Hammond and three top associates resigned under pressure Aug. 11.

"To be called of God ... in serving all Southern Baptists was one of the greatest honors of my life and yet one of the most humbling challenges I had ever faced," Chapman wrote of assuming the EC presidency in 1992. "I knew that except for depending completely upon God's Spirit to guide me, I could fail miserably. Listening to and remembering the word of the Lord heard by Zerubbabel in Zechariah 4:6 was paramount if I were to fulfill the duties of my new office in a way that truly honored the Lord Jesus Christ."

Each year of service with the Executive Committee, Chapman wrote, "has been a strong affirmation that God led us together."

While serving as pastor of First Baptist Church of Wichita Falls, Texas, in 1992, Chapman was elected as Executive Committee president as he concluded his second term as SBC president.

Chapman also served as pastor of First Baptist Church of Albuquerque, N.M., for five years. Earlier, he led First Baptist Church of Woodway in Waco, Texas, and First Baptist Church of Rogers, Texas.

Meanwhile, a seven-member search committee has been named to look for Chapman's successor.

See Executive Committee President Chapman ... Page 6

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, Sept. 30

World games offer 'unique platform' for women

By Dannah Prather
Partnerships Editor

Lexington—Kentucky Baptist women, horses and the gospel could become a powerhouse combination in 2010.

"It is reported that 70 percent of all horses in America are owned by women," said Joy Bolton, executive director of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union.

Indeed, it took less than three months for the newly formed Women's Horse Industry Association to attract more than 500 members according to founder Catherine Masters.

And, according to Maureen Gallatin, a consultant with Affiliated International Ministries, the United States Equestrian Federation reports that 85 percent of its members are female.

Bolton said she is hopeful that the FEI Alltech World Equestrian Games coming to Lexington in 2010 will inspire Christian women already involved in the equine community to incorporate missions into the mix.

"The WEG offers Kentucky women, especially those already involved with horses, a unique platform for sharing faith in Christ with other women who share an interest in horses," she said.

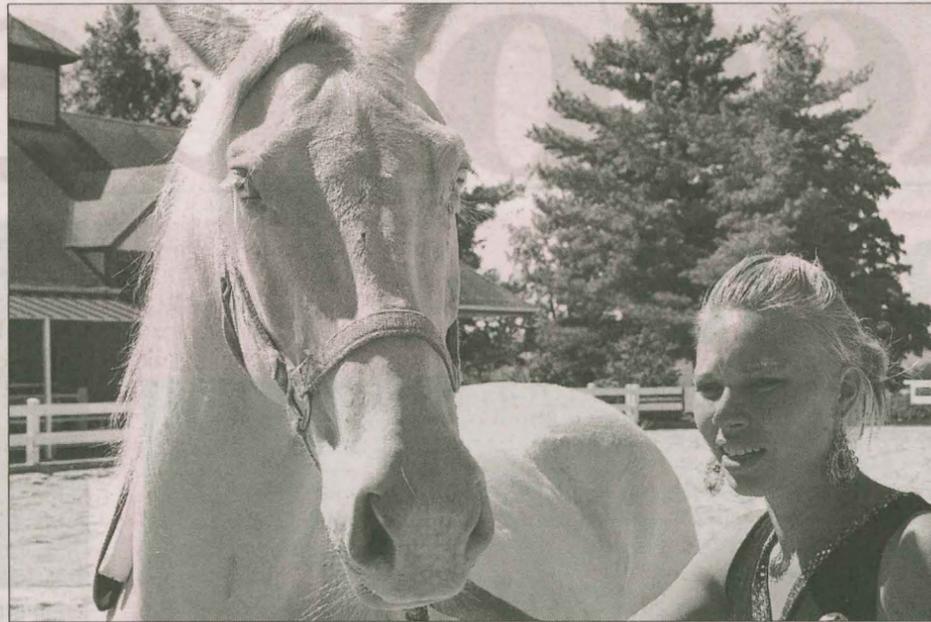
With encouragement from local WMU organizations, Baptist women who perhaps never have been involved in missions before may find a calling to serve among fellow horse lovers noted Larry Martin, executive director of Equestrian Ministries International.

EMI formed Affiliated International Ministries to mobilize volunteers specifically for the World Equestrian Games.

The WEG is "a phenomenal way of getting young women involved in WMU," added Martin, who also serves as a missions consultant with the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Bolton noted that with the growing popularity of "cowboy churches," evangelical equestrian ministries across the country have developed gospel presentations, Bible studies and other materials written specifically for the equestrian community.

"This certainly is an opportunity for (Christian) women to determine that they



WOMEN AND HORSES Indiana native Amanda Sadowski, along with her husband, owns "Daisy," a spotted draft horse. It is estimated that 70 percent of horse owners in the United States are women. Kentucky Baptist leaders have expressed hope that women will get involved in ministries to next year's World Equestrian Games in Lexington, which may result in more women-centered ministries in the state after the games. (Photo by Drew Nichter)

will seek to share Christ with the women they encounter through the WEG," Bolton said.

But Martin and Bolton said the World Equestrian Games could be just the start of a new season of missions for Kentucky Baptists, especially those involved in the equine community.

"There are more than 20 different equestrian ministries in Kentucky already," Martin said. When Kentucky Baptists, as spectators or volunteers, travel to and from the WEG, he said he hopes they will stop to offer time and encouragement to one of those ministries.

Bolton said that as Kentucky Baptists get excited about serving during the World Equestrian Games, she hopes they will start new ministries that will continue long after the games.

"We pray that new horse-related ministries started by young women this year will continue beyond 2010, as women learn to connect their commitment to the Lord

Jesus to their love of horses in ongoing missions ministries."

A few examples of such efforts include cowboy churches, racetrack and campground chaplaincy, and horsemanship programs for children with special needs.

For information on Kentucky WMU, visit www.KYWMU.org. Learn more about Equestrian Ministries International at www.EquestrianMinistries.org. By clicking on the Affiliated International Ministries icon, visitors can find specific information about the statewide ministry effort during the World Equestrian Games.

Kentucky Baptists in the Lexington area can find WEG ministry information through Elkhorn Baptist Association at www.Elkhorn.org, or (859) 254-7747.

For information on current equestrian ministries in Kentucky or insight on how to start one, contact Wilburn Bonta by e-mail at WilburnBonta@kyol.net, or by phone at (270) 299-5826. The associate coordinator is Ray Hayes at (502) 477-2379.

Crossings to partner with IMB: Is it model for future?

Continued from page 1

to gain entry to the groups through meeting both the physical and spiritual needs of the children.

"An easy way to gain credibility is to see real needs in their groups—needs in their kids—meet those needs ... (and) gain the right to be around them," he noted. The ultimate goal, he added, is seeing a church planted and the gospel shared.

Not only does the program benefit Crossings summer staff, but the campers as well, Melber noted.

When the four staffers return from the mission field in June, they will jump into summer camp. They will be able to connect the campers to the missions projects and "paint a very good picture about what's going on there," Melber said.

Similar to the Moldovan and Zambian offerings, the India and China offerings will be split among the two camps—Jonathan Creek campers will raise money for the India project; Cedarmore students will support the China project.

Melber said the ultimate goal of these projects is to get students to learn and care about missions, so much so that they return to their respective churches and encourage "a year-round involvement" in the projects.

"We're just trying to ... connect churches here with a project there (and) get them connected through the IMB," Melber said.

Chitwood added that such an approach can make international missions much more personal.

"The more an individual or a church becomes aware of the needs and begins to get involved personally," he noted, "the higher their level of commitment for the rest of their lives will be."

Since the bulk of the funding will be picked up by Crossings through the camps' missions offerings and the missionaries' self-raised funds, the IMB will gain much-needed field personnel at little expense.

"By them funding it, we're able to send folks we couldn't send otherwise," Chitwood acknowledged.

"We see the benefit certainly in accomplishing the strategy that we have sensed God directing us toward on the field," he added. "We need personnel to do that, so this gets personnel on the field."

Because of the partnership's similarity to the Journeyman program—a short-term springboard for many career IMB missionaries—Chitwood said he expects the Crossings-IMB joint venture to result in a missionary windfall of sorts in the future.

"This gives yet another opportunity in

the lives of those students for God to speak and reveal His call in their lives," Chitwood said.

The new partnership marks an end to the summer missions offerings for Moldova and Zambia. Melber said other donors have adopted the Zambian project, which centers on providing orphans with basic needs in a school-like setting.

The Moldovan project, which has seen more than 25,000 students attend summer camp in the former Soviet republic, will continue to be funded by Crossings through budget funds. A former summer staff and her family recently moved to the country to teach at a Bible institute at the camp.

Like those projects, Melber said he hopes Crossings can transition away from the India and China projects to new endeavors in a couple of years, once students and churches get an up-close picture of how their Cooperative Program dollars are being used.

"For us to make missions come alive in the hearts of these students, we've got to be able to promote (CP as) tangible," he said. "It can't be, 'Give to this big fund.'"

"Even though the fund is great, it just doesn't really resonate a lot with an eighth grader."

University of the Cumberlands goes to court for pharmacy school

Frankfort—An attorney representing University of the Cumberlands in its battle for public funds to build a pharmacy school faced some tough questions from state Supreme Court justices last week.

Kimberlee Wood Colby appeared before the justices Sept. 24 to argue that the school is entitled to \$12 million for building construction and scholarships at the Kentucky Baptist school.

In April 2006, Kentucky legislators approved the \$12 million grant to the Williamsburg university, which was intended to provide "an opportunity to improve the health and welfare of the people of Kentucky, especially those in the Appalachian region," according to a statement released by the school. A homosexual rights group and several state legislators immediately sued then-Governor Ernie Fletcher, complaining that giving public funds to a private institution violated the state constitution.

Last year, a Franklin County circuit judge ruled that appropriation unconstitutional because it represented "a direct payment to a non-public religious school for educational purposes." Cumberlands later appealed the ruling.

Funds for public health

According to numerous media reports, Colby, who works for the Washington-based Christian Legal Society, claimed last week that the pharmacy school is merely intended to improve public health in Southeastern Kentucky.

The Corbin Times Tribune reported that Colby argued the funds will help curb a "dire statewide shortage of pharmacists" and are no different than those earmarked for religious hospitals.

However, Chief Justice John Minton remained skeptical of the university's claims saying that the state constitution specifically prohibits such funds being given to a church or denominational institution.

Among those challenging funding for Cumberlands' pharmacy school are the Kentucky Fairness Alliance, a gay-rights group, and Paul Simmons, a Baptist ethicist and former professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

The Fairness Alliance's involvement stems from the 2006 expulsion of former Cumberlands student Jason Johnson who used his MySpace Web site to publicize his homosexuality. The school said Johnson was expelled for conduct contrary to university guidelines.

The school again gained attention this summer when it withdrew an invitation to a Texas youth group whose church—Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth—had been dismissed from the Southern Baptist Convention because of a dispute over the issue of homosexuality.

News reports indicated it likely will be several weeks before the state Supreme Court hands down a decision in this case.

Prayerwalking effort to lay foundation for KBC's Find It Here

By Ken Walker
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Garrison—When Garrison Baptist Church prayerwalked its rural community prior to vacation Bible school in early June, it saw amazing results.

Garrison Baptist welcomed 34 people to its first-ever adult VBS class, nearly as many as the number of children it enrolled. Five adults accepted Christ as Savior and then were baptized.

"We've done prayerwalking off and on for several years," said Wes Cooper, pastor of Garrison Baptist since 2000. "It really picks up the spiritual climate. It's worked not only here but in other churches."

After those summer salvations, the Central Kentucky congregation plans several more prayerwalks as part of Find It Here—a Kentucky Baptist campaign to deliver the gospel to 1.5 million households in the state.

Prayerwalking marks the kickoff of the campaign, part of the GPS (God's Plan for Sharing) initiative of the North American Mission Board. GPS aims to fulfill the Great Commission in North America by 2020.

After prayerwalking the streets and roads of the commonwealth during September and October, KBC churches will

distribute bags house to house with a gospel presentation next March. A statewide media campaign will take place simultaneously in support of the gospel distribution.

That distribution will be followed by a Harvest Sunday celebration on Easter—which is April 4, 2010—and follow-up with those who return response cards. Additional follow-up for Find It Here is planned for April 18, which has been designated as Sunday School High Attendance Day.

Eric Allen, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's mission service and ministries department, said he believes the convention will meet its goal of prayerwalking every street because of the enthusiasm Find It Here is generating.

"There's such an excitement about this effort," said Allen, who had led training for numerous associations and during breakout sessions at last month's Super Saturday events.

"This is an opportunity for us to make an impact on our communities that we can't on our own," he noted. "This is expecting God to do a work. We are inviting

God to do a work in our communities, to send revival and to save people."

While Allen could not estimate how many churches will participate, he said he expects the initiative to gather momentum in coming weeks.

It will be awesome to have so many churches involved, he said, noting that many associations already have enlisted in the effort.

According to Allen, the key to a successful prayerwalk is advance preparation and training.

Mapping out the area the church will cover is necessary so participants don't duplicate efforts, he explained. In addition, Allen said training helps individuals focus on the task at hand instead of talking to other participants.

Allen's department has prepared a DVD that includes a PowerPoint presentation for training participants, a five-minute video, booklet and handouts. It can be downloaded at www.KyBaptist.org/Prayer or at www.KyBaptist.org/FindItHere.

Other resources also are available at www.KyBaptist.org/FindItHere.

Associations emphasizing the cam-

aign see awareness spreading. Bill Boldt, director of missions for Bracken Baptist Association, said 30 churches (about 80 percent of the association) have signed up to prayerwalk the region.

Boldt, who led the first of four training sessions in mid-August, has used the DVD produced by the KBC to prepare participants.

He also recommended materials by Greg Frizzell (www.FrizzellMinistries.org) of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma and John Franklin (www.JohnFranklinMinistries.org).

Boldt said other DOMs recruiting churches for prayerwalks should remember the "3 C's"—constant contact consciousness. He strives to maintain contact with pastors in his association through calls, e-mails and personal meetings.

To set the tone for prayer among Bracken's churches, in early August Boldt started prayerwalking around each church in his association. He expects the initiative to last through the month.

"I firmly believe in my heart that prayer is the key to this whole thing," Boldt said. "We need to feel what God feels and know what God knows. My heart breaks for the churches that don't have a passion for the lost. God's heart must break too."



Campbellsville students help families in need through KHO program

By Ashley Zsedenyi
Campbellsville University

Campbellsville—Campbellsville University senior Cameron Raulston said he "wanted to be the hands of Jesus and put my faith into action and help people" during his summer break. So, he pursued an internship with Kentucky Heartland Outreach, instead of wasting his summer working at a burger joint.

Raulston, of La Grange, was one of nine Campbellsville University students who spent their summer breaks interning with KHO as staff members overseeing construction projects at homes throughout Central Kentucky.

The interns worked as crew chiefs with 308 high-school and middle-school students and adults from churches from across the country. They built decks, repaired roofs and siding, painted and built ramps at 22 homes in Taylor, Green and Adair counties for six weeks. In July, they worked for three

weeks with volunteers at homes in Barren, Metcalfe and Hart counties.

KHO focuses on helping those in need, while ministering to campers and homeowners.

KHO Executive Director Todd Parish said 63 first-time salvation decisions were made during the camps—seven of those were by homeowners or their relatives. More than 40 students accepted a call to missions or ministry, according to camp pastor Brian Hensley.

"When we first established Kentucky Heartland Outreach in 2000, it was a step of faith in response to God's leadership to provide a venue for our students to serve others in the name of Christ," recalled John Chowning, Campbellsville University's vice president for church and external relations.

"We had little funding in the beginning, and it's very rewarding to see how KHO has grown and impacted the lives of several hundred homeowners in the Kentucky Heartland region as they have seen their homes upgraded by young people."

Since its inception, KHO volunteers have renovated 541 homes and constructed 26 new homes.

A typical day for a KHO camper begins as the groups head to their work sites for an eight-hour workday of making repairs and ministering to each other and the homeowners.

Melissa Green, KHO case manager, said the crew chiefs are responsible for teaching the groups how to do the work, as well as leading daily devotions.

She said the summer camps focus on roofing, decks and wheelchair ramps, "because that's what we can teach the students to do."

Laura Hatfield, an administrative assistant for KHO and summer camp manager, said the homeowners were grateful for the student volunteers' work. She also said they were amazed it was done free of charge.

The homeowners were "very touched that groups of teenagers would pay to come and work during their summer break, simply to share the love of Christ," noted Hatfield, a 2007 Campbellsville graduate.

Homeowners Wes and Betty Rea of Cave



LABOR OF LOVE A group of volunteers from churches in Florida, North Carolina and Tennessee, under the direction of Kentucky Heartland Outreach interns Lindsay Jones, Collin Johnson and Amanda Mosier, build a deck and ramp and replace a roof on a home near Cave City during a week-long summer camp with KHO. (Photos by Ashley Zsedenyi)

City were referred to KHO by the local community action office. They were in desperate need of two new decks to replace ones that were falling apart.

"Without this help we could not have been able to replace them," Betty acknowledged.

She said she enjoyed watching the students work and was "amazed how some of these young kids can do some of this work."

Campbellsville sophomore Collin Johnson, of Shelbyville, said he knows God had his hand on KHO this summer.

"Some sites I thought there would be no way we could finish them," he noted. "By a miracle it seems we are able to finish, and I know it's from God. That's the only way it could get finished."

He called KHO a great ministry and that he appreciates being able to reach people through construction and "use the opportunity to spread the Word and Christ's love."

Kati Hamilton, a junior at Campbellsville and native of Springfield, said the

camps gave her an opportunity to do something she loves—helping people.

"I like knowing I'm doing something good for someone else," she said. "There are a lot of homes that need repairs and not everyone can afford them."

"People have serious needs that need to be met."

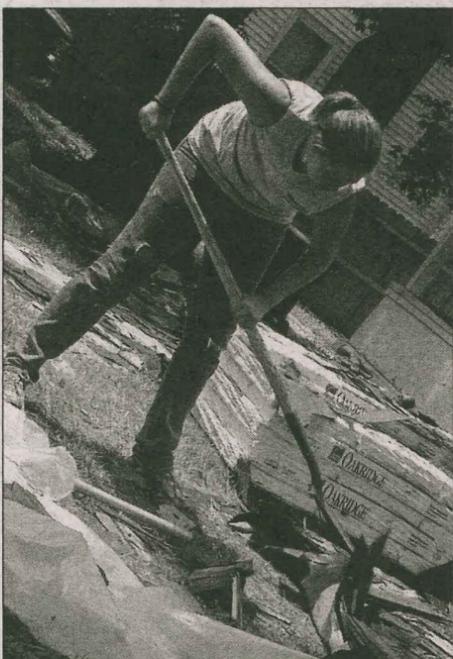
Hamilton said her brother participated in the KHO camps a couple of years ago. She noted a change in him and wanted the same thing for herself.

Lindsay Jones, a sophomore from Stanford, worked with KHO as a camper and "developed a heart for service" through her experience.

She said she learned more about KHO through Campbellsville University and her church, and said she felt God leading her to be a summer intern.

"I didn't think I could do construction all summer," but said she was greatly blessed this summer.

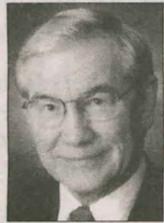
"I got to see how meeting a physical need affects homeowners spiritually and use it as a way to spread God's love," she said.



SUMMER HELP Samantha Baker, a KHO volunteer from Brainerd United Methodist Church in Chattanooga, Tenn., uses a shovel to clean up old shingles after a roof replacement job at a home in Glasgow.

Greenup Association builds

Greenup Association in the northeast part of Kentucky is a vital and growing group of churches that are on the move for our Lord. I recently had the privilege of attending the association's annual meeting and came away impressed by the many positive indicators of a healthy association.

Partners in the Mission**By Bill Mackey**

One sign is very visible as the association has nearly completed construction on a beautiful, new conference center on property adjacent to the associational office. Messengers to the recent association meeting voted to build sidewalks and purchase furniture for the conference center, which will be opening soon. Congratulations are due to Director of Missions Harold Cathey and the association's building committee on this significant accomplishment that will serve the churches for years to come.

Another important signature of health is that baptisms in the 51 churches in the association increased from 443 during the previous reporting year to 485 during this past year. Throughout the year, Cathey has consistently reported baptisms in the association's newsletter as a way to keep evangelism at the forefront for church leaders.

Greenup Association churches are also excited about evangelism in their area. The churches are participating in the upcoming "Find It Here" door-to-door evangelism campaign set for next spring. In preparation, church members will be prayerwalking in every community this fall, conducting witness training, preparing facilities and programs to make a strong first impression on guests, and planning great worship experiences.

Volunteers will be delivering bags with a gospel presentation to every home during the three weeks prior to Easter (April 4) when the campaign hits its peak. Churches are also working through the Sunday school program to prepare intentional follow-up for everyone who responds through the "Find it Here" effort.

Another strong sign of health for the Greenup Association is the growth in giving in the past year. Undesignated receipts to churches in the association grew from \$7,112,590 to \$8,521,412 last year. In a time of financial challenge, an increase of more than \$1.4 million is outstanding.

Several of the churches have experienced especially significant growth in giving in the past year. First Baptist Church of Russell reported an increase of \$862,858 in undesignated receipts, and Wildwood Baptist Church reported an increase of \$111,594 in undesignated receipts.

Another sign of health is that the Woman's Missionary Union is very strong in this association. I am grateful for the missions education and encouragement for missions involvement and giving provided by WMU.

All of the churches of the Greenup Association are to be congratulated on their church growth and generous stewardship to support missions causes in Kentucky and around the world.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Vacancies provide task force with unprecedented opportunity

In tennis, a player might call it a "high lob"; in golf, one would call it a "gimme" putt; in basketball, it would be called an "alley oop"; and in football, a player might call it a "wildcat" formation. But in Southern Baptist lingo, the vacancies at the top leadership positions at both of the denomination's missions boards and now the Executive Committee have created an unprecedented opportunity that some are referring to as a "God moment."

Jerry Rankin, 67, announced his retirement Sept. 16 after 17 years at the helm of the International Mission Board; Geoff Hammond, president of the North American Mission Board, and three associates resigned their positions in August.

After Rankin announced he would step down next July, Ronnie Floyd, chairman of the Great Commission Task Force, described the impending period in which both boards would be without a leader as "a unique moment in our history." Floyd told the Religious Herald: "All Southern Baptists have to ask ourselves one question—is God saying anything to us in all this? ... I'm sure He's speaking to us, but what He's saying, I don't know." The pastor of churches in Springdale and Rogers, Ark., then added, "All I can say is that I believe it is a God moment, whatever that might mean."

Five days after Rankin's announcement, Morris Chapman, president and CEO of the SBC's Executive Committee announced his plans to retire next September. Chapman, 68, has held the post since 1992. His career has been punctuated by a major reorganization of the denomination's agencies in 1995 and the adoption of the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message statement. Throughout his tenure, Chapman has been a steadfast proponent of the Cooperative Program, the SBC's unified budget to support national and international missions, theological education and its various ministries.

Now, Floyd and the other 22 members of the GCR task force—charged with examining how the SBC should most effectively structure its missionary-sending organizations and revamp its funding mechanism—have to be scratching their heads even more, pondering the unprecedented opportunity that has unfolded.

Earlier there was talk of a possible merger of the two mission boards. Will that idea breathe new life?

For the moment, Floyd isn't speculating. Rankin, however, told reporters that he did not see such a merger as advisable or desirable because of radical differences between the two boards, though he did say he might consider a "common missions effort through a new entity." Does that mean a "Great Commission

Board" could be on the horizon?

"Certainly the geographic distinctions are really rather artificial. All the unreached people groups we are trying to reach are found in North America and Canada," Rankin replied. "So perhaps there would be an open door to explore that possibility."

Or, could significant changes in the Cooperative Program be coming, perhaps allowing churches to count designations to specific national and international missions projects as part of their CP contributions?

In his remarks, Chapman felt the need to reiterate to Executive Committee members his opposition to such a proposal. "I believe deeply that if the Cooperative Program is ever

tossed aside to be replaced by a strong promotion of societal giving or if both undesignated and designated funds from our churches are counted as Cooperative Program gifts, we will have abandoned the greatest vehicle for supporting missions and theological education in the history of Christendom," he stated.

Another critical issue that GCR task force members must grapple with is how to engage young leaders in the SBC's work: "If we want to reach future unchurched Americans," Floyd said, "we are going to have to create a generation of leaders who want what this denomination can do, has done and will do."

The common denominator for leaders of both generations is a sincere desire to be more effective in sharing the gospel with others, both in this nation and around the world. Floyd pledged, "As chairman, I have one commitment: I am going to keep our focus on getting the gospel of Jesus Christ to every nation, every people group in the world."

With so many issues at hand, for the convention and its churches to capitalize on the God moment that is unfolding, Floyd appropriately urged all Southern Baptists that "more than anything in the world, they need to pray for us."

But to embark upon a Great Commission resurgence, they also must pray for the lost. In that spirit, Chapman issued a prayer challenge for his final year in office: "just one more soul!" That, indeed, should be every disciple's plea. If every church adopted this prayer, baptisms would increase by 45,000 next year, and by repeating this prayer several times, those church members who actively witness will multiply significantly, Chapman envisioned.

The best response to a God moment, after all, is to focus resolutely on accomplishing God's mission, and if individual Southern Baptists recapture a passion for lost souls, as Chapman accurately observes, this would facilitate a Great Commission resurgence.

**After Thought****By Todd Deaton****Do you know some missionaries?**

You are part of the world's largest missions-sending agency. Your Southern Baptist church voluntarily contributes through the Cooperative Program and special mission offerings to support your Southern Baptist missionaries—5,629 international missionaries and 5,500 North American missionaries. What a privilege!

But, do you know some Southern Baptist missionaries? Oh, you can't know all 11,000 (and many serve in areas where security is an issue), but your church can personally encourage a few. Need ideas to make connections with missionaries?

■ Establish a connection with an IMB or NAMB missionary who came from your church or your state.

■ Connect with an IMB missionary in a country where members of your church travel for business or pleasure.

■ Encourage a NAMB missionary who serves in your state—i.e. a church planter, collegiate minister, denominational leader, chaplain.

Fresh Ideas**Diana Davis**

■ Invite missionaries to speak at your church.

■ Consider buying and furnishing a house for furloughing missionaries. Be sure to establish a relationship with that missionary.

■ Plan a mission trip to assist an IMB or NAMB missionary.

■ Encourage students or adults in your church to go as short-term, summer or career missionaries with IMB or NAMB.

■ If your church adopts an unreached people group, a regional missionary will assist you. Encourage that missionary.

■ Discover connection resources on SBC Web sites. Use free monthly missions fliers for church bulletins. Display SBC missions maga-

zines and maps. Show missions video clips. Do a Missions FilmFest and write featured missionaries. Register to receive daily missionary birthdays, prayer requests and updates by e-mail.

As your church connects with missionaries, spotlight them. Pray faithfully for them. If appropriate where they serve, send personalized care packages and birthday cards. Do a Skype video-interview. Discover tangible ways you can help. Display their photos with small flags and a plaque: "These are some of the 11,126 missionaries supported by our church." Read their e-updates and reply with a scripture, encouragement or prayer.

Your tithes and offerings already support them monetarily. Will you put a "face" on missions and personally encourage an SBC missionary?

Note: An expanded version of this article at www.scbi.org/freshideas offers quick Web links to access these and other missionary connection ideas. Diana Davis is the wife of Indiana Baptists' executive director, and author of "Deacon Wives."

WESTERN Recorder

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

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Dealing with an adult child's divorce

By James Stillwell

Q: My child and his spouse are divorcing. I feel like a failure as a parent. What is a parent to do?

A: According to a study published in Family Ministry (Spring, 2001), there are strategies to help you deal with this all-too-common situation.



Cognitive strategies. First of all, give yourself credit for being the best parent you knew how to be. You may have likely been a good role model. Our children are adults capable of making their own decisions and living with the consequences.

Behavioral strategies. Help your children in practical ways. Offer to baby-sit, manage household tasks that might seem overwhelming for them right now. Read all that you can about the divorce experience, including Web sites such as ibc-lex.org. Find a divorce support group for your child. Take time for yourself. Remove yourself with work and physical exercise when you need a break from your children's pain.

Faith strategies. Remember your spiritual practices and beliefs. A devotional life with Bible reading and prayer can be a great source of strength.

Social support. Find a support system for you. You likely have friends who understand. You are not alone in this. If you are married, lean into your spouse. Balance your needs and the needs of your child regarding the time you are able to give and distance you are able to travel to offer support. Share your situation with a caring pastor. Be a part of a caring 12-step "anonymous" group where you are free to share feelings.

View this as a process. While it is too simplistic to say "time heals all wounds," time certainly diminishes pain. Take time to grieve.

Give yourself grace. As Paul reminded the Romans, "nothing can separate us from the love of Christ." The love and grace of Christ are deep and broad and cover situations like the one you're in right now. Allow yourself and all those in your circle of concern to experience grace. Jesus came, he said, to "heal the brokenhearted." Although this isn't what anyone "signed up for," everyone can, in the end, heal and grow stronger in the broken places.

James Stillwell is minister to singles at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington. Send questions for Family Forum to Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253, or e-mail WesRec@KyBaptist.org

Dr. Micah's prescription for health-care

By Marv Knox

What will our nation do about health care? That question dominates the American social and political landscape this autumn.

But another question hovers in the mists of that landscape. It's almost as important and perhaps even more troubling: Will Christians in the United States be part of the health-care problem, or will we contribute to the solution?

Judging by what we saw this hot, hazy summer, Christians probably will exacerbate the issue. Time after time, we watched as people simultaneously trumpeted their faith and blasted opponents who disagreed with them about how to ensure and insure health care. It wasn't a pretty sound. And I fear for the damage done to the reputation of Jesus Christ by the vitriol spewed by his followers.

At the outset, let me say that I'm not advocating a specific solution. But I think we should be able to build consensus around two parallel ideas: Solid health care should be available to all Americans. And something must be done to stem the rising costs of medical treatment, which not only crimp coverage, but also threaten to cripple the economy.

Personally, I've been fascinated by proposals that would eliminate for-profit insurance companies in favor of not-for-profit insurance organizations. I've also been intrigued by ideas that eliminate the administrative expenses inflating the costs of both health-care delivery itself and insurance coverage. I've also been intrigued by ideas that emphasize preventive care, guarantee insurance portability and protect people from having their coverage summarily denied (particularly through no fault of their own). And I would love to live in a country where everyone has a right to a healthy and decent level of ba-

sic medical care and where all Americans can insure themselves to ensure they receive the most comprehensive and excellent health care in the world.

By now, steam may already be billowing out of your ears because you have projected one model or another of health care upon the ideas I've just shared. If that is the case, I have one plea for you: Calm down. The First Amendment guarantees free speech. The social construct of our country calls for a civil exchange of ideas—a concept that seems lost in 2009.

I hope and pray Christians and other people of faith would lead the way toward finding a solution to this vital issue by embracing three principles outlined in the sixth chapter of the Old Testament book of Micah:

■ **Act justly.** If we truly believe all people are created in God's image and are of equal worth, then justice demands that we guarantee access to adequate medical care, and that it not be offered only to those who possess special status. We have developed a consensus regarding the human right to food, clothing and shelter. Well, shelter should include at least a decent level of protection from disease and physical malady, as well as protection from the elements.

■ **Love mercy.** This may be the hardest part. Mercy extends to those who are different, those we don't like, and even or especially those we don't think

deserve it. Frankly, we can identify plenty of people who, we think, don't deserve full medical care. But the prophet didn't include an opt-out clause for mercy.

■ **Walk humbly with God.** Lord, do we all need humility. Especially when we're worried and scared. But humility with God—extended to others—can help us find a solution.

Marv Knox is editor of the Texas Baptist Standard.

FIRST PERSON

I hope and pray Christians and other people of faith would lead the way toward finding a solution to this vital issue.

Christian charity: Offering Good News during hard times

By Ken Connor

Despite some encouraging signs of recovery, many people are still struggling in the wake of the current economic crisis. Unemployment numbers continue to rise, home foreclosures are at record highs, and investment portfolios remain ravaged by a volatile stock market. Relief is needed, and action is required. While economic relief and recovery continues to be the primary focus of our leaders in Washington, there is considerable disagreement over the best way for the government to address our economic woes.

It is apparent that the economic problems of the country—along with the resulting social problems—are being used as weapons of political warfare and packaged as evidence for or against various agendas, policies and ideologies. Thus, while everyday Americans struggle to keep food on their tables and roofs over their heads, politicians and pundits debate the merits of the free market and engage in the blame game. Was the economic collapse the result of too much or too little regulation? To nationalize or not to nationalize? These are certainly questions worthy of answers, and as we move forward as a nation we would do well to analyze how different responses to the economic crisis today might affect America tomorrow.

However, while the Pooh-Bahs on the Potomac dither about the nature and extent of government's role in helping those in need, there is one institution that has a clear and non-delegable duty to reach out and help those who are suffering. No new laws or regulations are required for this organization to do its good work and no new bureaucratic apparatus is required to administer it. In order to meet the challenges posed by these current woes, this non-governmental body need only embrace the principles of love, grace and charity that have guided it for the last 2000 years. This great institution is the church.

For Americans hurting now, abstract policy debates and partisan political warfare do little to change the reality on the ground. Government assistance programs—designed at the macro-level and administered by bureaucrats—often provide only cold comfort. Because of their size and the scope of their responsibilities, govern-

ment agencies are often unable to relate to the recipients of their aid in a personal way. Furthermore, they are only equipped to address the material symptoms of a problem. The church, on the other hand, is bound by a moral responsibility to provide material, emotional and spiritual care to those in need.

The Bible is full of exhortations about the need for compassion and charity towards those struggling with economic adversity. Jesus reminded His followers that when they fail to care for the "least of these," they are failing to care for Christ Himself (Matthew 25:45). In the Old Testament, God warned his people of the consequences of hard-heartedness towards the needy: "He who mocks the poor shows contempt for their Maker; whoever gloats over disaster will not go unpunished." (Proverbs 17:5). God's clear affinity for the most vulnerable among His creation reflects His love and mercy. As He was willing to sacrifice His perfect Son to atone for our sin and weakness, so Christians are obligated to pour out this same spirit of love and grace upon our fellow human beings. Christians who turn their backs on the poor and needy are guilty of turning their backs on the Lord Himself.

Providing material resources to those in need is one way of demonstrating brotherly love. Equally important, however, is the need for emotional and spiritual support and encouragement. When the future seems bleak and the walls are closing in, it is easy to succumb to hopelessness and despair. These difficult times provide the perfect opportunity for Christians to demonstrate love for their fellow man by opening their hands to their brothers and by sharing the Good News of the gospel.

The moral obligations of the Christian faith challenge believers to give selflessly of their time, talent and treasure—to step out of their comfort zones to share God's love and succor with those in need. There are no forms to fill out, no congressional guidelines to meet in order to establish eligibility; there are just people who are struggling and in need of help from those motivated by Christ's example of sacrifice, and His commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Ken Connor is a trial lawyer and chairman of the Center for a Just Society based in Washington D.C.

FIRST PERSON

Incentives for significant purchases

By Jeremy White

The recent stimulus acts have included significant tax incentives for major expenditures. Although this column can't go into depth for all of the many tax changes, I have listed below a few common areas of favorable taxpayer changes. As with most tax benefits, there are limitations. Some benefits can phase out at higher income levels, so be sure to discuss your situation with your tax advisor.

First-time homebuyer's credit. Buy a house and get up to \$8,000 back. "First-time" doesn't really mean first time. This refundable credit is available for anyone who purchases a home and has not previously owned their principal residence in the three years prior to purchase. This credit currently applies to houses purchased before Dec. 1, 2009. (Remember that a credit is better than a deduction because it is a dollar for dollar reduction in tax.)

Car purchasing incentives. The sales tax you pay on a new car purchase is now deductible whether or not you itemize. This is now an above-the-line deduction to reduce the after tax cost of buying a new car. In addition, there are incentives for purchasing fuel-efficient cars such as hybrids or lean-burn technology. (Be sure to check the IRS's website at www.irs.gov for which models and makes qualify.)

Energy improvements to your personal residence. These credits have been restored after being deleted from law in 2008. Not only have they been restored, but they have been increased and expanded for such home improvements as new energy efficient windows, certain appliances and insulation.

College aid. The HOPE credit has been increased and expanded to help middle-class families more. This credit now applies to all four years up to \$2,500. In addition, the income limits have been raised allowing more to qualify.

Although these tax incentives certainly enhance or reduce the cost of your purchase, you should never make such a major purchase based on these tax incentives alone. Don't let the tax tail wag the dog. Taking on a debt that you are strained to afford to buy a new car, for example, is not wise stewardship just to take advantage of the tax incentive.

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



Baptist, non-denominational churches dominate LifeWay list of largest congregations

Nashville—About one-fourth of the largest and one-third of the fastest-growing churches in America are Baptist, according to an annual listing compiled by LifeWay Research for Outreach Magazine.

Nearly half of the nation's largest and fastest-growing churches are non-denominational. With attendance averaging 43,500, the largest congregation, Joel Osteen's Lakewood Church in Houston, has nearly twice as many members as the next largest, LifeChurch.tv in Edmond, Okla., attended by 26,776.

"There is little question that more of the larger and fastest-growing churches are non-denominational," said LifeWay Research President Ed Stetzer, who compiled the lists. "And, in many of the cases, even those that were denominational, they often did not say so in their name."

Forty-six of the nation's largest churches (defined as having more than 5,600 members) and 47 of the fastest growing (1,000-plus-member congregations posting an annual numerical gain of 300 or more, and a percentage increase of at least 5 percent) are non-denominational.

Twenty-four of the largest churches, meanwhile, are Baptist, and 17 of those are Southern Baptist. By comparison, three Presbyterian, one United Methodist and one Evangelical Lutheran crack the list of the 100 largest churches.

The largest Baptist congregation, Second Baptist Church of Houston, ranks No. 5 overall. Led by former Southern Baptist Convention president Ed Young, the church reported an average weekly attendance of 22,723.

Second Baptist, Houston, comes in just behind North Point Community Church in Alpharetta, Ga. Though non-denominational, North Point was started by former Southern Baptist minister Andy Stanley in 1995 and now is America's fourth-largest church with attendance of 23,377.

Thirty-one of the fastest-growing churches are Baptist. Out of those, 21 are Southern Baptist. Stetzer said the high profile of Southern Baptists on both the largest and fastest-growing lists is a doesn't change his earlier observations that the SBC, as a whole, is starting to decline.

LifeWay Research projected recently unless the aging and predominantly white denomination reverses a 50-year trend of declining evangelism, its membership will decline by nearly half—from 16.2 million to 8.7 million—by 2050.

"There are a good number of SBC megachurches on the list, but their growth does not offset the membership decline of the denomination as a whole," Stetzer explained. "There are growing SBC churches in every size—small, medium and large. However, the net membership has dropped for two years in a row." (ABP)

Executive Committee President Chapman to retire in 2010, search team appointed

Continued from page 1

Executive Committee chairman Randall James, at the close of last week's meeting in Nashville, named himself and six others to the committee. James had been authorized by a vote of the Executive Committee to name the search group after Chapman announced his retirement plans.

Joining James, a Floridian, on the presidential search committee are EC members Clarence Cooper of Mississippi; David Dykes of Texas; Martha Lawley of Wyoming; Doug Melton of Oklahoma; Jay Shell of Arkansas; and Danny Siquefield of Tennessee.

James said he hopes the committee will be able to present a nominee by next June's SBC annual meeting in Orlando, Fla. Names submitted to the committee will be held in "the strictest of confidence," James noted, requesting that potential candidates' names be submitted by Dec. 1.

■ James is an assistant pastor at First Baptist Church of Orlando. He has served as Executive Committee chairman since 2008 and has been an EC member since 2003.

■ Cooper is pastor of Brandon Baptist Church in Mississippi and an EC member since 2004.

■ Dykes is pastor of Green Acres Baptist Church in Tyler, Texas, and an EC member since 2007.

■ Lawley, the Executive Committee's secretary and EC member since 2004, is an author and speaker and a member of First Southern Baptist Church of Worland, Wyo.

■ Melton is pastor of Southern Hills Baptist Church in Oklahoma City and an EC member since 2003.

■ Shell is an attorney and a member of West Baptist Church in Batesville, Ark. He has been an EC member since 2007.

■ Siquefield is pastor of Faith

EC takes action on business items

Nashville—During the final business session of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee meeting last week in Nashville, members took action on the following items:

■ Approved a requested \$250k budget for the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force. To date, the 23-member task force has held two meetings, in Atlanta and in Rogers, Ark., with the next meeting slated for Oct. 27 in Dallas.

Regarding motions referred from the 2009 SBC annual meeting, the Executive Committee:

■ Postponed action on a proposed reallocation of the World Hunger Fund to 70 percent to the International Mission Board and 30 percent to the North American Mission Board (from the current 80/20 allocation).

■ Declined to recommend adjustment of the seminary funding formula, "agreeing with previous positions taken by the Council of Seminary Presidents that while the current formula is not perfect, it is the best of all other options."

■ Declined to recommend the appointment of a task force to examine Cooperative Program giving, specifically regarding the possibility of allowing portions of CP dollars from each church to be designated to particular SBC causes. The Executive Committee stated that "such an action would

undermine the continued viability of the Cooperative Program." The EC also noted that "the Task Force on Cooperation (2000-2002) and the Cooperative Program Ad Hoc Committee (2002-2006) provided sufficient opportunities to examine this issue resulting in the definition of the Cooperative Program," which was approved at the 2007 SBC annual meeting.

■ Declined to recommend revision of trustee term provisions in the SBC constitution, such as term lengths and trustee service by members of the same church, describing the current provisions as "beneficial to the Convention."

■ Declined to recommend amending the SBC Organization Manual to require SBC entities to report actions that interpret the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 or the convention's governing policies. The Executive Committee said a 2007 convention-adopted statement continues to be "an appropriate guide for our entities": "The Baptist Faith and Message is not a creed, or a complete statement of our faith, nor final or infallible, nevertheless it is the only consensus statement of doctrinal beliefs approved by the Southern Baptist Convention and as such is sufficient in its current form to guide trustees in their establishment of policies and practices of entities of the Convention." (BP)

Baptist Church in Bartlett, Tenn., and president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. He became an EC member in 2009.

James said names of nominees for Executive Committee president can be mailed to the Presidential Search

Committee c/o SBC Executive Committee, 901 Commerce St., Nashville, TN 37203, or to him at First Baptist Church, 3000 S. John Young Pkwy., Orlando, FL 32805. (BP)

With additional reporting by Associated Baptist Press

Brazilian Baptist, former BWA president Fanini dies

Fort Worth, Texas—Nilson Fanini, a Brazilian pastor and evangelist who served as president of the Baptist World Alliance from 1995 to 2000, died Sept. 19 of complications following a stroke. He was 77.

During his term as BWA president, Fanini viewed the BWA's primary role as defending human rights, attacking social injustice, promoting peace and helping those who were hungry and those with desperate needs. In addition, he placed evangelism at the heart of the fellowship of more than 200 Baptist conventions and unions.

Fanini served for several decades as pastor of the 7,000-member First Baptist Church of Niteroi, Brazil, a suburb of Rio de Janeiro. He preached in 109 countries, baptizing more than 11,000 converts. A seminary he founded trained more than 600 young ministers as pastors and ministers of education.

Through radio and a television ministry he began, reportedly with assistance from the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, he preached for 34 years to tens of millions in South America. A network of 13 social ministries emerged from his TV presence, including medical clinics, food- and clothing-distribution sites and a job-training center.

Four years ago, Fanini left First Baptist, Niteroi, to form a new church, Memorial Baptist Church in Niteroi, which he served until his death.

Funeral services were held Sept. 26 at Igreja Bautista Getsemani in Fort Worth, Texas. Other memorial services were held for Fanini in his home country of Brazil.

Survivors include his wife, Helga, three children and four grandchildren. (ABP)

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Charitable gift annuity offers more income & gift options

Like many people, you may depend upon income from certificates of deposit.

If so, you probably wish interest rates were a lot higher than they are. You also may have been thinking about how to provide some kind of financial benefit to your church and/or other charitable causes, but did not feel you could give up that income-producing CD.

I am happy to inform you that the Kentucky Baptist Foundation offers a simple solution to your need for more income and your charitable intentions. That solution is a charitable gift annuity.

A CGA is an agreement between you and the foundation under which, in exchange for your gift to the KBF of cash or appreciated assets with a value of at least \$5,000, the foundation agrees to pay you a fixed amount each quarter for the rest of your life. The payout rate depends upon your age. The older you are, the higher the rate.

Also, a CGA can be on one or two lives. For example, it can be on the lives of a husband and wife, or a parent and child.

Not only is the payout partially tax free, but also the gift portion of the plan is tax deductible. If you give appreciated assets, there likely will be capital gains tax savings as well.

The portion of your gift not needed to make the lifetime annuity payments to you will be available at your death for the benefit of the cause(s) you designate in advance.

You can specify for the remaining portion to be available to the charitable cause(s) outright, or to be held by the KBF in a permanent endowment fund with only the earnings—not the principal—being paid in perpetuity to the cause(s).

Anyone age 50 or older is eligible. Examples of single-life rates are 5.3 percent at age 65; 5.7 percent at 70; 6.3 percent at 75; 7.1 percent at 80; 8.1 percent at 85; and 9.5 percent at 90 and older.

As you anticipate the maturity of your CD, consider using it for a CGA. Laurie Valentine and I are awaiting your toll-free call for assistance.

Ky. Baptist Foundation



Barry Allen

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



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.

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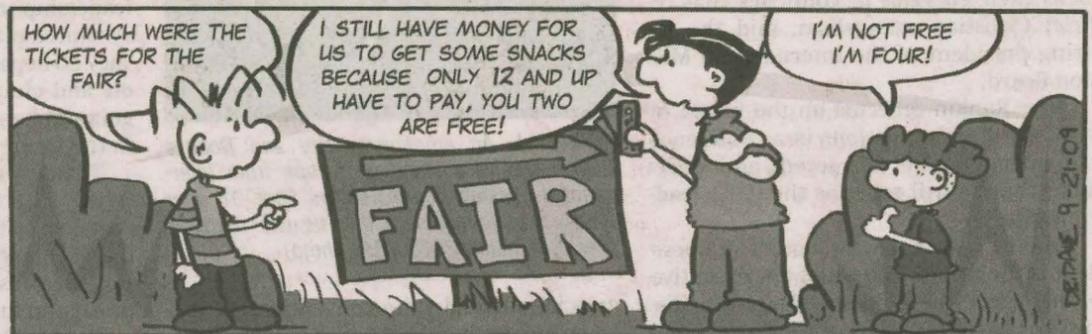
For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Preacher's Kids

David Ayers



Bible Crosswords

By Evelyn Boyington

Across

- 1 Woolly ones
- 5 Under the weather
- 8 Mull over
- 12 Imply
- 13 Feminine Israeli name
- 14 Covenant
- 15 Make null
- 16 Attila, for one
- 17 Zone
- 18 "As newborn babes, ____ the sincere milk of the word" (1 Peter 2:2)
- 20 "____ is all, and in all" (Colossians 3:11)
- 22 Cable, for one
- 23 Hairpin curve
- 24 "In thy fear will I ____ toward thy holy temple" (Psalm 5:7)
- 28 Temporary dwellings
- 32 "For Adam was first formed, then ____" (1 Timothy 2:13)
- 33 Gratuity
- 35 Vowel trio
- 36 "To be a reproach and a proverb, a ____ and a curse" (Jeremiah 24:9)
- 39 "The dragon shalt thou ____ under feet" (Psalm 91:13)
- 42 ____ drum
- 44 "Ye ____ of your father the devil" (John 8:44)
- 45 Graven image, perhaps
- 48 Mental pictures
- 52 Hope
- 53 Donkey
- 55 Disreputable establishment
- 56 Sheltered side
- 57 "A faithful witness will not ____" (Proverbs 14:5)
- 58 Appliance

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11	
12						13				14			
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				42		43		44					
45	46	47						48			49	50	51
52						53	54			55			
56						57				58			
59						60				61			

- 59 "The day of the Lord is ____" (Joel 3:14)
- 60 Sra, in Sarasota
- 61 Left
- Down
- 1 Son of Gera, the second judge of Israel (Judges 3:15)
- 2 "Woe to them that are mighty to drink ____" (Isaiah 5:22)
- 3 "The Creator of the ____ of the earth, fainteth not" (Isaiah 40:28)
- 4 Group of philosophers who met Paul at Athens (Acts 17:18)
- 5 "They that do such things shall not ____ the kingdom of God" (Galatians 5:21)
- 6 President Hoover's wife, familiarly
- 7 Masculine name
- 8 Rough; earthy
- 9 Mata ____
- 10 Summers, in Nice
- 11 Reporter's question
- 19 Stadium sound
- 21 Honolulu's time zone
- 24 ____ paint
- 25 Eggs
- 26 Father of Serug (Genesis 11:20)
- 27 "To him was given the key of the bottomless ____" (Revelation 9:1)
- 29 Snooze
- 30 Up to that point (var.)
- 31 Feminine nickname
- 34 The children of the Proverbs 31 woman call her blessed, and the husband ____ her
- 37 "They are all delivered unto death, to the ____ parts of the earth" (Ezekiel 31:14)
- 38 Greek letter
- 40 "The isles shall wait upon me, and on mine ____ shall they trust" (Isaiah 51:5)
- 41 Bucolic spot
- 43 King's bailiwick
- 45 ____ song
- 46 Mosaic piece
- 47 On a steamer
- 49 "____ unto the Lord the glory due unto his name" (Psalm 96:8)
- 50 Tied
- 51 Dispatched
- 54 Title of respect

Last week's solution

M	A	R	A		S	F	O	A	M		D	O	A
O	R	E	B		I	D	L	E		R	U	B	
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Rankin: Missions future includes focus on direct involvement

Agency's next leader should have missionary experience & passion

By Robert Dilday
Virginia Religious Herald

Jacksonville, Fla.—Baptist congregations will increasingly take on more direct responsibility for international missions, freeing full-time missionaries to focus their energies in countries that restrict Christian evangelism, said the retiring president of the International Mission Board.

Jerry Rankin reflected on the future of Southern Baptist missions in a conference call interview after his recent announcement that he will retire as the IMB's leader next July.

Rankin, whose 17-year tenure as president is the second longest of any executive of that agency in the past century, also discussed the implications of the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force examining the way the Southern Baptist Convention distributes funding for missions work; responded to speculation that the task force will recommend a merger of the IMB and the North American Mission Board; and identified characteristics he'd like to see in his successor.

Increased reliance on local churches to carry out the missions task is one of the most significant accomplishments of his tenure, Rankin told reporters in the Sept. 17 conference call.

He has encouraged the IMB to make "an intentional effort not to do missions on behalf of Southern Baptists but seeking to multiply the resources and the people by mobilizing our churches, by personalizing their involvement, and getting churches,



FAREWELL An emotional Jerry and Bobbye Rankin receive a standing ovation from International Mission Board trustees Sept. 16 after Rankin's announcement that he will retire as president in July 2010. (IMB photo)

associations and state conventions to truly partner with us in the task of global missions," he said.

Currently, as many as 8,000 Southern Baptist churches are engaged in direct, long-term missions partnerships overseas, Rankin noted—a dramatic strategic shift in a denomination that traditionally relied exclusively on a large force of full-time missionaries to carry out that task.

"We recognize that you don't have healthy Bible-based churches seeking to reach the lost that don't also have a vision for reaching the nations," he said. "The churches that are involved in overseas missions—God is blessing their outreach locally, as well."

The strategic shift has had the practical effect of enabling Southern Baptists to maintain missions involvement in the midst of an economic crisis, Rankin ex-

plained. Earlier this year, revenue shortfalls led IMB trustees to place a cap on the number of missionaries they could appoint—and forced them to consider a long-term restriction if contributions remained low. Currently the IMB employs about 5,600 missionaries.

But the shift also is altering missiological assumptions—and that's a good thing, Rankin said.

"Already the role of the missionary has significantly changed," he said. "Their role now is engagement in discipleship and leadership training. They're not the primary church planter doing the work. It's what they do in partnership with national believers and churches and conventions. That's going to be even more part of the strategy in the future."

That approach could be enhanced as a result of an intensive self-examination undertaken by the SBC, Rankin noted. In June, the SBC appointed a Great Commission Resurgence Task Force to study its organizational and funding mechanisms.

"I hope that we can regain a focus that will revitalize our churches," he stated. "We have had a deliberate focus on engaging churches. ... I think that's the direction the whole denomination is moving."

"There is nothing that our denomination is doing that I do not commend or see as valid," he added. "I can't throw stones at anything. It's all good, but it's imperative that we examine the priority. ... The question is, are we doing all we should be doing to fulfill God's mission to reach every nation and people with the gospel?"

Rankin expressed little enthusiasm for one proposal being given wide currency—that the missions priority could be accomplished more effectively through a merger of the IMB and NAMB.

"Most people do not comprehend how radically different the two boards are,"

Rankin said. "The only thing we have in common are the words 'mission' and 'board' in our names. ... To try to merge two entities with such a different focus would create an even greater bureaucracy that would dilute any effectiveness we have with the IMB and NAMB in their unique assignments."

Any merger that simply combined all responsibilities currently assigned to both the IMB and NAMB would be cumbersome, Rankin explained.

But, he warned, any "global mission board" would need to be narrowly focused, "rather than trying to do anything and everything that Southern Baptists interpret as missions."

In the meantime, Rankin said he hopes a new president of the IMB will have vision, focus and passion.

"We've got to have a leader who is a visionary, who can see the future, what can be, what is beyond the current reality, where we need to go to complete the Great Commission and reach all people with the gospel," he said. "But we also need a leader who has the discipline to stay focused and keep the organization focused."

Must the new president have career missionary experience?

"It would be very difficult for even an outstanding leader to come in and lead a staff and a missionary force without having some element of experience of where (the missionaries) are coming from (and) what they have experienced," Rankin suggested. "It can be done. But it would take some time and there would be some loss of momentum in building credibility."

"But we want God's person and God has the ability to equip someone without experience who has a vision and passion for the missionary task. But that experience would count for a lot with those who that person is leading." (ABP)

Six special services

Spiritual Emphasis Weeks fulfill OBI's mission, commitment to evangelism

By Michael Spencer, OBI campus minister

While Oneida Baptist Institute is not a church, it is a mission school committed to evangelism. Part of that commitment is to have two "Spiritual Emphasis Weeks" during the school year. Each one is a special opportunity to share the gospel with our students during six consecutive services.

Coordinating Spiritual Emphasis Week is part of the job description of the campus minister. A preacher and a worship leader are brought in to lead three chapel services for all of our students and three evening services for those students who choose to attend.

This fall, Todd Meadows, from Somerset, was our preacher, and Sam Judd, from Nashville, was our worship leader for the week. Todd spoke about "our awesome God." Sam, who has worked with Christian musician Michael Card for many years, led worship, as well as performed some of his own compositions.

Preaching often is criticized as an ineffective means of evangelism, but Oneida believes in gospel preaching. Todd did an excellent job drawing out the character of God, the problem of sin and the atonement of Jesus. For many of our students from non-Christian families and cultures, this explanation of the gospel is very helpful in continuing the witness of houseparents, teachers, coaches and staff.

While students are required to attend chapel during the daytime, they are not required to attend services at night. Nonetheless, we had a good attendance each night, despite many

sports events going on. Our houseparent staff gives students the opportunity to miss study hall in order to attend these services. On Wednesday, when there usually are no sports going on, we have our largest crowds.

Each service concludes with an invitation to believe the gospel and to receive Jesus as Lord and Savior. Students can talk with Spiritual Emphasis Week team members and the school faculty and staff who volunteer at the services.

This is Oneida



W.F. Underwood

Bill Genet, one of our teachers and a deacon at Oneida Baptist Church, is our local church liaison who counsels students who want to be baptized while they are with us. Students are baptized throughout the year, while others who make professions of faith choose to go home to join a church.

Oneida believes in prayer, preaching and a gentle, clear invitation. We do not use tactics, manipulate emotions or tolerate any kind of "forcing the message" on the students who come to us. We respect those who are not believers as much as those who are.

After a Spiritual Emphasis Week, students have options for spiritual growth. Baptist Campus Ministry has an active Bible study each week, as does our girls' dorm devotion team. BCM also sponsors a basic and advanced Bible study on Sundays for students who want to grow.

There always are needs that you can assist in meeting. From prayer to Bibles to projector bulbs, you can be part of our efforts to share Christ with students. Give to our ministry or contact us and ask how you can help.

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

Find It Here

Clear Creek offers its help with statewide initiative

Many of you probably are familiar with the Find It Here campaign being promoted in the Kentucky Baptist Convention. If you aren't, it is a campaign to deliver the gospel to 1.5 million households across Kentucky in the weeks leading up to Easter Sunday 2010. It is part of the GPS (God's Plan for Sharing) initiative of the North American Mission Board aimed at fulfilling the Great Commission in North America by 2020.

The campaign will consist of prayerwalking areas throughout the state and a gospel distribution of plastic bags to every household in Kentucky with a special Find It Here brochure and an invitation to attend a Kentucky Baptist church on Easter Sunday 2010.

Clear Creek would like to offer our help to your association or church as you seek to help with this exciting campaign.

Two of our core values focus on evangelism and missions and serving the churches of our Kentucky Baptist Convention:

Evangelism and missions—We are a community of individuals redeemed from sin by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and

transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit. We affirm He died for the whole world and commissions each believer to take the gospel into the world. We commit ourselves to the priority of personal evangelism and world missions.

Servant of the churches—We are a community that exists to train individuals sent to us by the churches. We commit ourselves to serve the needs of the churches.

Perhaps you could use a team of students to come help prayerwalk a specific area in your association. Or maybe your church would like help with prayerwalking the community where your church is located. We would love to help with

the gospel distribution of the plastic bags to households in your association or community.

We are excited about this opportunity to reach our state with the Good News of Jesus Christ. If you would like us to partner with you to help with this campaign, contact Richard Witherite, director of church relations, toll free at (866) 340-3196 or by e-mail at RWitherite@cbbc.edu.

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.cbbc.edu; e-mail: dfox@cbbc.edu

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

Southern Baptists, other conservative leaders urge Iran action

By Tom Strode

Washington—Southern Baptist leaders were among nearly 50 religious and conservative leaders who called Sept. 22 for swift action by the U.S. government to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons.

In a letter to President Obama and Congress, Southern Baptist Convention President Johnny Hunt and ethics leader Richard Land joined others in urging a boycott on arms sales to the militant Islamic regime and economic sanctions on firms that conduct oil-related business with Iran.

"For the world's most dangerous regime to obtain the world's most dangerous weapons is something that neither the United States nor the community of civilized nations can allow," the letter stated.

"A nuclear-armed Iran is almost certain to initiate an arms race with other Middle Eastern and Arab nations who have reason to fear the religious, political and military ambitions of Iran's extremist leaders," it continued.

Calling Iran the "world's leading state sponsor of international terror," the signers said they "must assume" the regime will provide nuclear weapons "to extremist groups that are declared and demonstrated enemies to America and her allies."

The letter was sent a day before Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad addressed the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

Other Southern Baptist signers of the letter from a coalition called Christian

Leaders for a Nuclear-free Iran included past SBC presidents Jack Graham and James Merritt, as well as Ronnie Floyd, pastor of First Baptist Church of Springdale, Ark., and Paul Pressler, retired judge and an architect of the SBC's conservative shift.

The International Atomic Energy Agency has found Iran has the ability to produce "enough low-enriched uranium to compile almost two nuclear weapons if it is enriched to weapons-grade levels," the letter noted. Also, IAEA has pointed out Iran's refusal to answer inquiries about its nuclear program's military aspects.

In addition to supporting terrorist organizations in other countries, Iran oppresses its own citizens' rights. Tehran "is currently arresting and detaining political oppo-

nents, actively persecutes its Christian citizens, (and) has shot protestors in cold blood in the streets," according to the letter.

Iran is one of eight countries to be classified by the U.S. State Department as "countries of particular concern," a designation reserved for the world's worst violators of religious liberty.

Other signers of the letter include Gary Bauer, president of American Values; Charles Colson, chairman of Prison Fellowship; Tom Minnery, senior vice president of Focus on the Family; Pat Robertson, president of the Christian Broadcasting Network; Nina Shea, director of the Hudson Institute's Center for Religious Freedom; and Wendy Wright, president of Concerned Women for America. (BP)

Did you know that over **32,000** people came to know Christ last year through our hunger relief ministries?

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

You can join the effort by:

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

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



NATIONAL NOTES

Fla. school officials acquitted—A Florida judge acquitted two Florida school officials Sept. 17 of charges they broke the terms of an order that was meant to prevent faculty-led prayer at public school events. Principal Frank Lay and athletic director Robert Freeman were cleared of criminal charges that could have led to a fine or six months in jail. Both men work in the Santa Rosa County school system in Northern Florida. U.S. District Judge M. Case Rodgers ruled that the prayer in question was spontaneous and did not violate the order, the Pensacola News-Journal reported.

Texas board: Keep Christmas in textbooks—Christmas and Rosh Hashanah will remain in Texas social studies textbooks, members of the Texas State Board of Education decided Sept. 17 during a review of proposed new standards. The 15-member board, which approves curriculum and textbook standards for the state's public schools, held a public hearing on proposed changes offered by educators and a review panel. According to news reports, several members of the review panel had advocated removing Christmas and the Jewish holiday Rosh Hashanah, keeping only Easter and Yom Kippur as holidays representing the two dominant American religions.

Graham grandson to keep Florida pulpit—Tullian Tchividjian, the grandson of evangelist Billy Graham, will remain as pastor of Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., after dissidents failed in their attempt to oust him. At a congregational meeting on Sept. 20, members of the congregation rejected, 69 percent to 31 percent, a motion to end their relationship with Tchividjian. He succeeded the founding pastor, D. James Kennedy, a prominent conservative religious broadcaster, who died in 2007. When Tchividjian was accepted as pastor in March by 91 percent of the voting members, Coral Ridge merged with the South Florida congregation he had founded, New City Church. Dissidents, including Kennedy's daughter Jennifer Kennedy Cassidy, were upset that, unlike Kennedy, Tchividjian has shunned a clerical robe and chosen not to focus on political issues from the pulpit.

Abortion funding in health care hurts support—Including abortion funding significantly weakens, rather than strengthens, support for health care reform, according to a new public opinion poll. The survey showed 43 percent of voters say they would be less likely to support President Obama's health care proposal if the federal government pays for abortions, while only 8 percent say they would be more likely to support such a plan. President Obama has said federal funds will not pay for abortions under his plan. The leading health care bill in the House of Representatives, however, explicitly authorizes federal funding of abortions.

Huckabee wins straw poll of 'values voters'—Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee was the clear favorite among participants of the Family Research Council's Values Voter Summit in a straw poll of 10 possible Republican presidential candidates in 2012. Huckabee won 28 percent of the 597 votes cast in two days of balloting. Four candidates—former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty, former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin and Rep. Mike Pence, R-Ind.—tied for second place, each with about 12 percent. There were no Democrats on the ballot because FRC officials assume President Obama will be the likely Democratic nominee in 2012.

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PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Pray that Kentucky Baptist churches and associations will commit to be involved in the Acts 1:8 Challenge, a comprehensive missions strategy to reach their communities (Jerusalem), state (Judea), continent (Samaria) and the world (ends of the earth).

■ Pray for those Kentucky Baptist churches and associations that are in the process of planning their mission trips for 2010.

■ Pray for the Kentucky Baptist Convention's partnership missions staff as they travel.

■ Pray for the mission trip planned for members of Ten Mile Baptist Association churches to Rohrsersville, Md. The KBC maintains a missions partnership with the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware.

■ Pray for the leaders of the Baptist Convention of Tanzania as they struggle to provide leadership for their people and churches with very few resources available to them. The KBC also maintains a missions partnership with the Tanzanian Baptists.

■ Pray that God will bring more doctors and funding to the Baptist hospital in Kigoma, Tanzania.

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

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CADIZ**—New Hope Church recently called **Mark Thweatt** as pastor. He previously was pastor at Olive Missionary Church in Hardin.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Grace Church recently called **David Smith** as pastor.

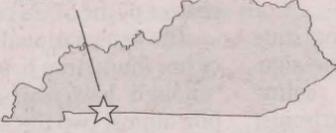
■ **MAYFIELD**—Twenty Graves County Association churches participated in simultaneous revival services Sept. 13-16, with an associational-wide rally with all churches Sept. 17. Pastors from the churches spoke to a different congregation each night. Former Kentucky Baptist pastor **Dan Garland**, director of pastoral ministry and church consulting for LifeWay Christian Resources, was evangelist at the rally. Director of Missions **Glynn Copeland** reported that 67 people accepted Christ during the revival services.

Tony Steele recently resigned as pastor of Sharon Church.

■ **PRINCETON**—Cedar Bluff Church will hold revival services Oct. 4-9 with **Ronnie Sivells**, KBC church development strategist, as evangelist. **Mark Faughn** is pastor.

Spotlight on ...

Oak Grove



Living Waters Fellowship dedicated its new worship center Sept. 20 with **Bobby Melton**, director of missions for Christian County Association; **Steve Paschall**, retired Southern Baptist Army chaplain; and **Dennis Pulley**, associational missionary for Cumberland Association in Clarksville, Tenn. Twelve people were baptized and more than 160 attended, including members of Living Waters' sister churches Eternal Rock Church, a Hispanic congregation, and Eternal Living Waters Church, a Korean congregation. **David Coram** is pastor.

Young pastor, author Rainer called to lead Murray church

Murray—Sam Rainer, Florida pastor and author of the book "Essential Church," has been called as pastor at First Baptist Church of Murray.

Rainer, son of LifeWay Christian Resources President Thom Rainer, will begin his tenure at the church Oct. 4.

Rainer previously was the campus pastor at Sarasota Baptist Church in Florida. He also is president of Rainer Research, a research and consulting firm geared toward studying church health issues.

According to the church's Web site, Rainer accepted the call to join First Baptist, Murray, because of the opportunity to connect with college students, as well as "the chance for cross-generational ministry."

In recent years, Rainer has become a prominent voice for young leaders in the Southern Baptist Convention. "Essential Church," which he co-authored with his father, explores why so many young adults, age 18-22, drop out of church, and what churches can do to bring them back.

In March, the Kentucky Baptist

Convention brought Rainer to Elizabethtown for a day-long Essential Church conference. The KBC even has begun a convention-wide emphasis based on the book, incorporating an Essential Church track at last month Super Saturday events.

Rainer's call to First Baptist, Murray, pairs the young leader with a notably historic congregation. The Western Kentucky church is generally regarded as the birthplace of the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists' unified giving plan.

Harvey Boyce Taylor, who was pastor of the church from 1897-1931, developed the budget idea in 1900. The General Association (as the KBC was known then) adopted the plan in 1915. Ten years later, the SBC used Kentucky's model for what would become the Cooperative Program.

According to the First Baptist Web site, Rainer was baptized at Hopewell Baptist Church in Louisville where his father was pastor from 1986-88. He is a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. His wife, Erin, is a Campbellsville University alumna.



Sam Rainer



Praise band Kurt and the Crew perform during University of the Cumberlands' Fall Awakening worship week, Sept. 14-18.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October

- 1-3 Ministers in Transition Conference, Louisville.
- 2-3 Celebrate the Mission, Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 12 Disciple Making Workshop, Anchor Baptist Church, Lexington.
- 13 Disciple Making Workshop, Warren Baptist Association Office, Bowling Green.
- 19-20 Senior Adult Choir Festival, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.
- 20 Ministry Assistants Workshop, Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 22-23 Quarterly Prayer Meeting for Spiritual Awakening, Northside Baptist Church, Mount Vernon.
- 29 Cultivating Generous Churches: A Stewardship Summit, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

30-11/1 ENGAGE International Student Conference, Cave City Convention Center.

November

- 5-7 Basic Training for Church Planters, Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 7 Creative Ministries 101 Workshops, First Baptist Church, Somerset.
- 9 KBC Mission Board Meeting, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.
- 9 Kentucky Baptist Music Conference, Campbellsville University.
- 9 Kentucky Baptist Pastors Conference, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.
- 9 Youth Ministers Fall Meeting, Northside Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

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

LifeWay opens Richmond store

Richmond—The new LifeWay Christian Store in Richmond will celebrate its grand opening starting Oct. 3 and running through the end of the month.

The 4,650-square-foot store, which officially opened Sept. 24, features Christian music, gifts, Bibles, books, children's products and church supplies.

"We are excited about the opportunity to be a part of Richmond and the surrounding communities," said

Mark Scott, vice president of LifeWay Christian Stores. "We look forward to serving people and churches by providing them with biblical solutions for life."

The Richmond location is one of eight LifeWay Christian Stores in Kentucky, and one of 152 stores the chain operates in 25 states. It is located in the Richmond Centre at Barns Mill Road off of Interstate 75. Store hours are 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

CLASSIFIED ADS

To place an advertisement: Rates are available upon request. Call (502) 489-3428; or visit www.WesternRecorder.org. Claims made by advertisers are not necessarily those of the Western Recorder's staff or directors.

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

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

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

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

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

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.

SEEKING: Part-time interim worship pastor for Immanuel Baptist Temple, Henderson, Ky. Responsibilities include directing choir and praise teams, plus leading blended style congregational worship. Please send resumés to Kathy Newman, 1017 Trail Drive, Henderson, KY 42420; or e-mail to Pat@immanuelbaptisttemple.org.

SEEKING: Part-time worship leader/music minister. Opportunity to grow with us as we take a new direction toward worship God's way at Friendship Baptist Church, Campbellsville, Ky. Call Bob at (270) 469-8919 for details and information.

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 resumé to Ryker's Ridge Baptist Church, 2601 N Ryker's Ridge Road, Madison, IN 47250; or secretary@rykersridge.org.

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

For Graham daughter, it's about relationship, not religion

By Greg Garrison
Birmingham (Ala.) News

Birmingham, Ala.—Anne Graham Lotz enunciates precisely and speaks in distinctive clipped cadences that are reminiscent of her famous father, evangelist Billy Graham.

She's calling to talk about her new book, "The Magnificent Obsession: Embracing the God-Filled Life," but of course is willing to give an update on how "Daddy Bill" is doing.

"He'll be 91 in November," said Lotz, the second of the Grahams' five children. "He has a hard time seeing and walking, but his mind is clear. He's very affectionate and content. ... He's shifted gears. Most of his life he's been concerned about reaching the world. Now he's most concerned about the people immediately around him."

The ailing evangelist can still regale people with great storytelling, his daughter said.

"All his life his mind has been super sharp, like a computer," she described. "It's just incredible what detail he can remember. He may have to pause and think, to recall, but he can tell stories in detail like you wouldn't believe."

Lotz and her children live about four hours away from the elder Graham's home in western North Carolina, but she and her children go to visit frequently. "They just love him," Lotz said. "They're so gentle with him. He has two dogs that stay with him and a big cat I gave him last year."

Lotz, 61, has been staying busy as an evangelist and author in her own right.

Her new book focuses on the biblical story of Abraham. She notes that Abraham, considered the father of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, did not have a religion, but a relationship, with God.

"Religion is, I think, one of the biggest hindrances to finding God," Lotz noted. "God described Abraham as a friend. ... I want to know God in a relationship that one day He will describe as a friendship. God loves you and wants to know you. He's calling you to a personal relationship."

Christians too often feel their faith is accomplished when they are saved and attend church, Lotz explained. "That's such a shallow understanding," she said. A relationship can begin at church, she said, but it can't end there. "Being a Christian is a personal relationship with God, a thriving relationship, based on communication."

The problem, she noted, is that too many people are "too reliant" on the church, and too many Christians "have

fallen into a convenient pattern of allowing their church experience to be their sum total of experiencing God."

Growing up in the Graham house, she said she learned to keep Sunday as a day set apart. But people shouldn't rely on a kind of Sundays-only spirituality, she urged. "If something happened and you could no longer go to church, if you were homebound and lost your friends at church, how strong would your relationship with God be?"

Speaking of being homebound brings her back to her father.

"My daddy is that way now," she said. "He's homebound. His relationship with God is vibrant."

Her mother, Ruth, too, provided an inspiring example of faith as she approached death two years ago, Lotz recalled.

"She finished so strong. Every day, her relationship with Christ was stronger than the day before. She would say she was like

a mouse on glueboard, couldn't lift a finger some days, but she was strong in her faith, filled with joy, alive in her relation-

ship with the Lord. There was pain and difficulty involved. I saw her handle it with grace and inner strength."

She learned other lessons about relationships from her mother, she said—from a woman whose husband was the world's most famous Christian preacher. Perhaps because he was so famous.

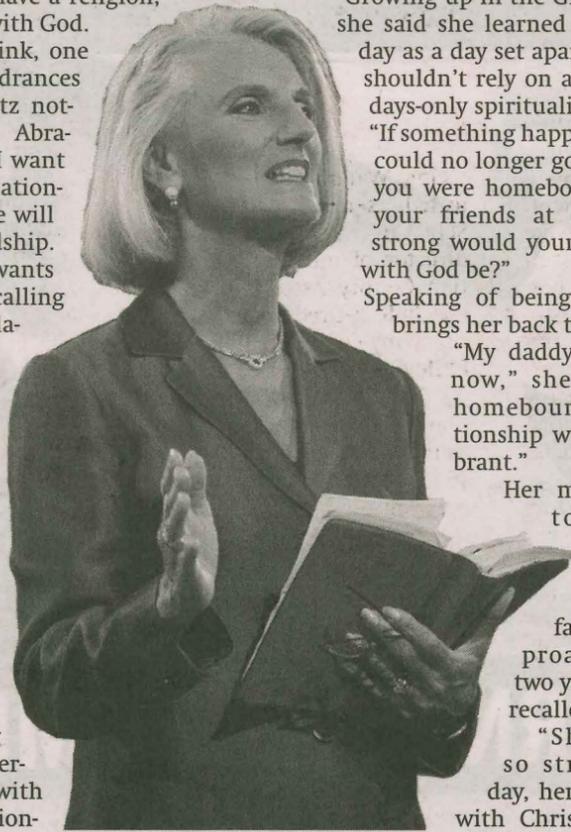
"You can't develop it through a pastor or spouse; you have to develop it firsthand," Lotz said. "Within the church, I feel people are just rocking along and afraid to say what they experience isn't satisfying. ... There are a lot of believers in exile. They've been so hurt by God's people, they don't go to church. They run away from God's people and they throw God out."

It's an experience Lotz knows all too well herself. She left church for a year, she said, because of how fellow members treated her and her husband. "Their behavior was despicable," she recalled. "What they did was wicked."

The problem, she said, is that "when the church does it, you feel God did it. You have to cling tighter and say, 'God I want to be closer to you.'"

The Lotz family later helped plant a new church, Southbridge Fellowship, which meets in a movie theater in Raleigh, N.C., and is led by Pastor Scott Lehr. Her falling out with church has sensitized her to how common an experience it is for many Christians.

"If they have been burned and hurt by God's people," she said, "we're calling them into a personal relationship with God." (RNS)



Anne Graham Lotz

'Proactive' ministry is the goal of Southern Baptist Navy chaplain

Annapolis, Md.—As Lt. Cmdr. Scott Callaham reflects on the opportunities God has given him as a North American Mission Board-endorsed chaplain, one that stands out is when he baptized men by immersion for the first time in the 101-year history of the U.S. Naval Academy Chapel.

Callaham, a member of Weems Creek Baptist Church in Annapolis, Md., is serving a three-year tour of duty at the Naval Academy. On Easter this year, he helped baptize nine midshipmen in a converted physical therapy tub.

The occasion was important to Callaham, he said, because young believers serving in the nation's military testified to their faith in a public manner.

"Immersion has a very evangelistic impact, especially when it's performed with people who are not Christians in attendance," Callaham noted.

"Going through the act tells the whole story, sometimes better than with words. That believer gets buried with Christ and rises. He or she identifies with Christ right now in faith, testifying to Christ's resurrection in the past and to the believer's own resurrection in the future. It's pretty powerful."

Callaham graduated from the academy in 1993, but he remembers well arriving in Annapolis just out of high school in Houston. With his head shaved, he swore his oath of service and soon began his days with rigorous physical activity at 5:45 a.m.

"I remember my plebe summer and the 'old' chaplains huffing and puffing as they ran with us," Callaham recalled.

He remembers the encouragement he felt when the chaplains cheered for him to keep going. Now Callaham climbs out of bed voluntarily at 5 a.m. to run with the plebes. Today he's one of the "more mature" chaplains and admits he occasionally huffs and puffs.



SPECIAL BAPTISM Chaplains Scott Callaham (left) and Michael Amedick (right) baptize Sam Kim, the first person ever baptized by immersion at the U.S. Naval Academy's historic chapel. Callaham said he wears a collar for "missiological" purposes. (BP photo)

Callaham grew up in a Christian home and accepted Christ as a child. After graduating from the academy, he was a fast attack nuclear submarine officer in the Navy. Sensing a call to become a chaplain, he resigned after completing his service.

Following studies at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, Callaham returned to active duty as a chaplain. Before being assigned to the Naval Academy, he served on an aircraft carrier along the Pacific Coast in Washington.

"This is the best job I'll ever have," Callaham said of his service as a chaplain. "Military personnel are intensely interested in solving their problems and doing it in a

framework that includes their faith."

As a military chaplain, Callaham strives for complete confidentiality. Being in an organization that places a high value on the free exercise of religion allows him to speak to people candidly, he said.

For example, while counseling a sailor on the aircraft carrier, Callaham discovered that the young man had grown up in a Mormon family.

"My role is to protect his free exercise of religion per the United States Constitution," Callaham noted. "So I said, 'If you want to speak with someone with a Mormon viewpoint, I'm not that person. I can refer you to someone else. Or, if you prefer, I

can tell you how I address this issue as a follower of Jesus.'"

Callaham works with people from a variety of backgrounds, including many sailors and Marines who do not profess a religious faith.

As a chaplain, Callaham doesn't wait in a secluded office for others to approach him for counseling.

"The most effective chaplain ministry is proactive, in which the chaplain thoroughly participates in the life of the people served," he said.

While aboard the aircraft carrier, Callaham walked through an engineering area, checking in with people and letting them know the chaplains cared about them. Later, a young woman from that department asked to discuss a problem she was having. He said he believes that opportunity was prompted by his walk through the engineering spaces.

When he was a midshipman, Callaham was involved in the Annapolis Baptist Student Ministry. Today he points to Naval Academy BSM founding director Dick Bumpass as a tremendous influence on him.

The BSM, he noted, trains midshipmen in a Christian worldview and complements the work of the local church. During his earlier days at the academy, Callaham especially enjoyed seeking refuge at the BSM house where he could relax in a Christian environment.

"College is a crucial time in people's lives," he said.

"Here is a ministry that engages young people at that critical time of questioning: 'What does God say about this? What is the Christ-like thing to do in this circumstance? What does it mean to follow God as a naval officer?' I am thrilled to protect their religious freedom so that they can seek the answers to these questions," Callaham said. (BP)

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