

Shine  
like  
stars  
in the  
world  
Philippians 2:15

# WESTERN Recorder

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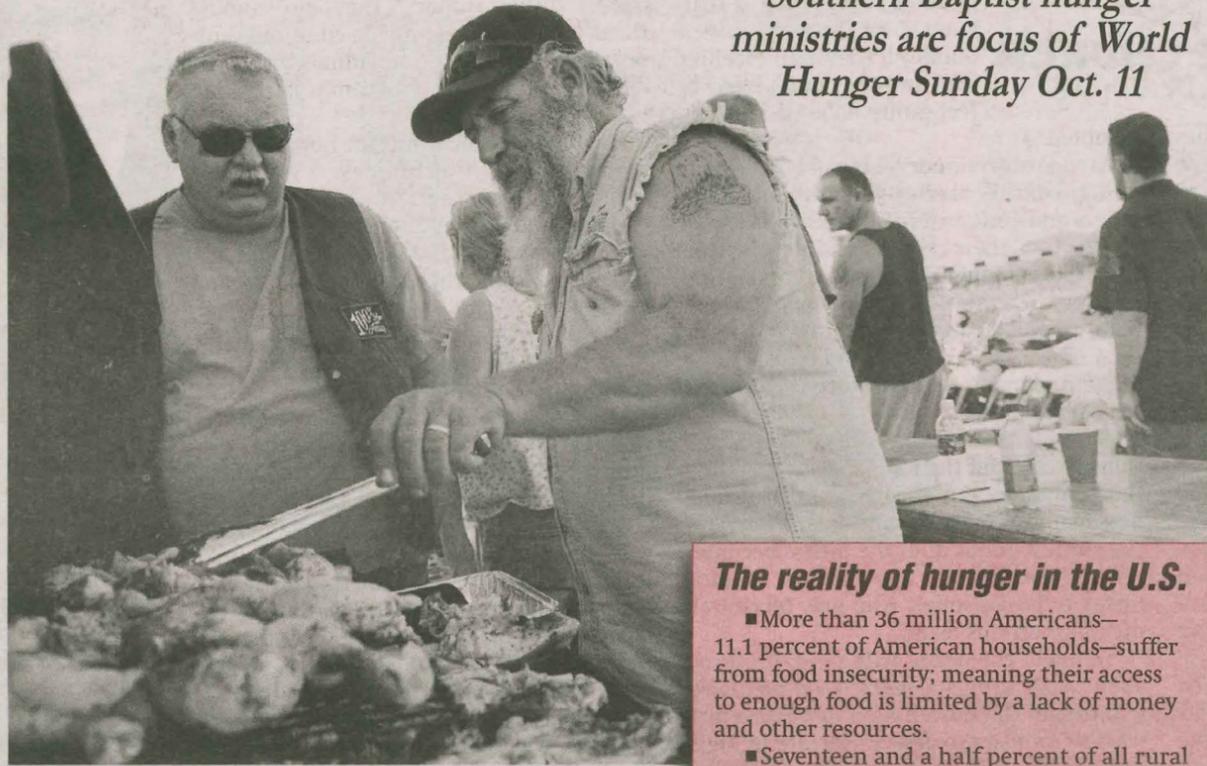
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## Feeding hungry hearts

Southern Baptist hunger ministries are focus of World Hunger Sunday Oct. 11



Mike Schwab grills chicken for the Wednesday night meal that feeds the many men and women who call Las Vegas streets their home. The food is provided by Domestic Hunger Funds received through Southern Nevada Baptist Association. (Photo by Kristen Nicole Sayres)

By Adam Miller  
On Mission

Las Vegas—Las Vegas burns and freezes—110 degrees during the day and into the teens on some nights. The desert city's homeless and hungry feel every temperature shift, going nights without shelter or sleep, finding food in garbage bins and wincing at the coldness of fellow humans.

"You feel lower than low when you're homeless," said Cody Huffman, who was living on the streets and addicted to drugs just a few years ago. "At least people will talk to a dog on the street. If you're homeless, you can't get a drink of water or get cool when it's 115 degrees outside, because they'll run you out."

Huffman now volunteers with the hunger ministry at Rushing Wind Church, a biker congregation meeting at Sunrise Baptist Church in Las Vegas. "I want the homeless and destitute to know they are somebody with God," he said.

Mike and Janice Schwab, members of Rushing Wind Church, also have joined in caring for the homeless men and women in Las Vegas. A year ago, the Schwabs were convicted about the great need in their city when they were downtown

□ See Southern Baptists feed hungry hearts ... Page 8

### The reality of hunger in the U.S.

■ More than 36 million Americans—11.1 percent of American households—suffer from food insecurity; meaning their access to enough food is limited by a lack of money and other resources.

■ Seventeen and a half percent of all rural households with children are food insecure (low food security and very low food security). That is estimated at more than 1 million children.

■ Better than 30 percent of households with children and headed by single women are food insecure.

■ Emergency food assistance plays a vital role in the lives of low-income families. In 2002, more than half of the non-elderly families that accessed a food pantry at least once during the year had children under the age of 18.

■ In 2007, 3.9 million of all U.S. households (3.4 percent) accessed emergency food from a food pantry at least once.

■ In 2008, Southern Baptist hunger ministries fed more than 5 million meals to the hungry in North America.

■ Missionaries and volunteers shared the gospel more than 785,000 times because of the opportunities provided through domestic hunger ministries.

■ More than 36,000 professions of faith and 5,763 baptisms were reported in 2008 as a result of these hunger ministries.

## Meager crop threatens lives in Central Asia

By June Lucas  
Baptist Global Response

Istanbul—An especially meager crop in an isolated valley in Central Asia created a food shortage—and an opportunity for Southern Baptists to help meet the physical needs of approximately 530 families.

At an altitude of almost 11,000 feet, villages in the area have the latest spring and earliest winter in the region. The summer of 2008 was shorter and cooler than normal for the area, and when field partners of Baptist Global Response visited the valley that fall, they saw that about 70 percent of the harvest still had not ripened. A group of villages at the end of the valley faced a harsh early winter. Snow already was falling at altitudes slightly higher than the villag-

es, which are located at 10,800 feet and usually are covered by more than three feet of snow during the winter months.

In desperation, villagers harvested green wheat in an effort to save some of their crop.

"These people barely have anything," the project director explained. "They have no medicine, no doctors and, most of the time, not enough food to even make it through the year. We heard one story when we were there about a man who went into this past winter with 200 cattle and he came out with only 30. The harshness of this place was truly overwhelming."

Southern Baptists organized a relief project financed by almost \$48,000 from the Southern Baptist World

□ See World Hunger Sunday ... Page 8

## State Baptists urged to get behind world hunger efforts

By Garrett Wishall  
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Louisville—As Southern Baptists gear up for World Hunger Sunday Oct. 11, the Kentucky Baptist Convention is challenging Kentucky Baptists to consider the importance of giving to alleviate world hunger and the impact it can have as a platform for sharing the gospel.

Eric Allen, director of the KBC's mission service and ministries department, noted that each Southern Baptist ministry that is supported by World Hunger Fund dollars is asked to make evangelism a priority.

"A number of people profess faith in Christ each year in Kentucky and nationally and internationally through the World Hunger Fund ministry," Allen said. "The more people we can give food to, the more people we will see come to Christ as a result of those ministries."

Southern Baptists annually designate the second Sunday in October as World Hunger Sunday. The World Hunger Fund, established in 1974, uses 100 percent of contributions to feed hungry people, according to the World Hunger Fund Web site. The Cooperative Program makes this possible by providing the administrative infrastructure to enable the funds to go directly toward hunger.

A minimum of 80 percent of monies given to the World Hunger Fund go to International Mission Board hunger relief efforts, while the remaining 20 percent is distributed to the hunger ministries of the North American Mission Board.

Allen said in Kentucky 85 percent of funds go to IMB efforts, while NAMB receives 15 percent.

Last year, Southern Baptists gave more than \$6.1 million to the World Hunger Fund. Individuals can give to the fund through their local churches—by designating their gift to the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund—or through their state conventions.

In 2008, 225 people professed faith in Christ as a result of hunger ministries in the state of Kentucky, Allen said. Elkhorn Baptist Association in Lexington saw such fruit through its Monday evening hot meal ministry.

"At this particular ministry, □ See KBC leaders urge ... Page 3

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, Oct. 7

## Convention issues flu guidelines for churches

By Robert Reeves  
 Kentucky Baptist Convention

Louisville—The Kentucky Baptist Convention is encouraging its churches to take precautions during this flu season to help limit the spread of the H1N1 and seasonal flu viruses.

The guidelines call for churches to take simple precautions immediately and to be prepared for greater precautions later if they become necessary.

"I think everyone realizes that flu can be more easily spread when you are with groups of people so it's important for our churches to be mindful of the basic precautions they can take to help protect their congregations," said Coy Webb, the KBC's disaster relief associate.

Webb said that at a minimum churches should make sure there are hand sanitizers, anti-bacterial soaps and disposable tissues located in strategic places throughout the church, including bathrooms, entry areas, nursery check-in stations, kitchens and offices. In some contexts, hand sanitizers even could be added to pew racks.

Additionally, the church should be thoroughly cleaned regularly, especially children's areas where toys are shared.

Churches also may want to consider encouraging forms of greeting other than hugs and handshakes and make adjustments to formal greeting times during their services.

"Adjusting the greeting time might be a tough one for many churches," Webb acknowledged. "We enjoy and appreciate the physical contact, but it might be best to forego some of that for just a little while."

Ushers and greeters should make frequent use of hand sanitizers and should wipe down door knobs and other surfaces that are frequently touched as people come to worship both before and after services.

Webb said it also is important to encourage church members to get flu vaccinations and to share with them that it is acceptable to stay home from church if they are sick.

"I know we generally want to encourage people to be in church, but it really is OK for people to miss a Sunday if they aren't feeling well and they don't need to feel guilty about doing so,"

he noted.

Standard reminders—possibly through bulletin board messages, bulletins, newsletters and announcement screens—for people to cover their mouths and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, and reminders to wash hands with soap and water also can help in preventing spread of the flu. Children's workers should be especially diligent in making sure children wash their hands often, Webb warned.

Beyond taking the minimal precautions, Webb said the KBC is recommending that churches put together flu preparedness teams to make advance plans for what the church might do if the illness becomes widespread. Include any medical or public-safety professionals who may be church members on this team.

He said the team will need to think about such things as what level of illness will trigger the cancellation of services and ways to minister to people who are in high-risk groups and feel they must stay away from church for the rest of the flu season.

The flu preparation team also should stay in touch with local health workers and agencies and follow public-safety guidelines that may be instituted in specific areas.

Flu preparation teams also must think about what ministry opportunities may arise as a result of the flu this year. For instance, some churches may be able to serve as distribution points for vaccinations. Others can use their Web sites or other communication tools to deliver public-health messages that address community concerns and/or dispel rumors. They also should think about ways to provide emotional support and comfort to individuals and families if the community becomes particularly hard hit.

"I think the key words for now are 'common sense' and 'watchfulness,'" Webb said. "Churches do not need to overreact, but at the same time, they should take common-sense precautions and be watchful of what develops during the next few weeks and months."

As of last week, Kentucky's flu activity level was described as "widespread," according to the Centers for Disease Control. Since Aug. 1, there have been nearly 400 cases of the swine flu confirmed in the commonwealth. Two people have reportedly died from the virus—one in Lexington and one in Louisville.

A full list of the guidelines and links to more information about this flu season are available on the KBC's Safe Church Initiative Web page at [www.KyBaptist.org/SafeChurch](http://www.KyBaptist.org/SafeChurch).

Further H1N1 information is available at the Kentucky Department for Public Health Web site, [www.chfs.ky.gov/DPH](http://www.chfs.ky.gov/DPH), or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [www.CDC.gov](http://www.CDC.gov).

## Mayfield pastor to be nominated as KBC 2nd VP

Lexington—Rick Hatley, pastor of High Point Baptist Church in Mayfield, will be nominated as Kentucky Baptist Convention second vice president when the KBC annual meeting convenes next month in Elizabethtown.



Rick Hatley

Hatley, 48, is the first announced candidate for the post. He will be nominated by Alan Dodson, pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church in Lexington.

Dodson said in the nearly two decades he's known Hatley, "I've been able to follow his ministry. Everywhere Rick has gone, ... I've just been able to notice his devotion to the Cooperative Program and to evangelism."

As an elected KBC official, Hatley would offer support for KBC leadership and the Kentucky Baptists Connect initiative, Dodson said, adding that Hatley's commitment to Cooperative Program giving "is strong and he would bring that to the table of leadership."

Hatley echoed that commitment to CP. He noted that every church he has served has given 10 percent or more to the Southern Baptists' unified giving plan.

"I want to be a spokesperson to help rally folks around the Cooperative Program," he said.

A Kentucky native, Hatley said he is concerned with the decline in CP gifts among the state's churches in recent years. He said he wants to encourage Kentucky Baptist churches to give more to accomplish more in reaching the lost.

"Whether it's a very small church or a megachurch, it takes all of us giving," Hatley stressed. "I would just like to challenge every church to try to shoot for 10 percent no matter what the size of the budget is; not equal gifts, but equal sacrifice."

Hatley became pastor of High Point Baptist in May 2008. Before that, he served as pastor of First Baptist Church of Pinckneyville, Ill. He spent more than a dozen years as a minister of education at Central Baptist Church in Winchester and Central Baptist Church in Corbin. He also spent two years as church development director for the West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists.

A KBC Mission Board member, Hatley serves on the Committee on Nominations. He also was a LifeWay Christian Resources trustee for four years. Hatley is a graduate of Murray State University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

According to the KBC's 2008 Annual Church Profile statistics, High Point Baptist gave 10 percent of its undesignated receipts to the Cooperative Program and reported 10 baptisms in 2007-08.

## After doubling its size, Red River Assoc. DOM steps down

By Todd Deaton  
 Editor

Campton—Jack Fletcher, who is credited with having fostered a three-association partnership that has doubled the number of churches in Red River Baptist Association, has retired after serving more than 10 years as its director of missions.

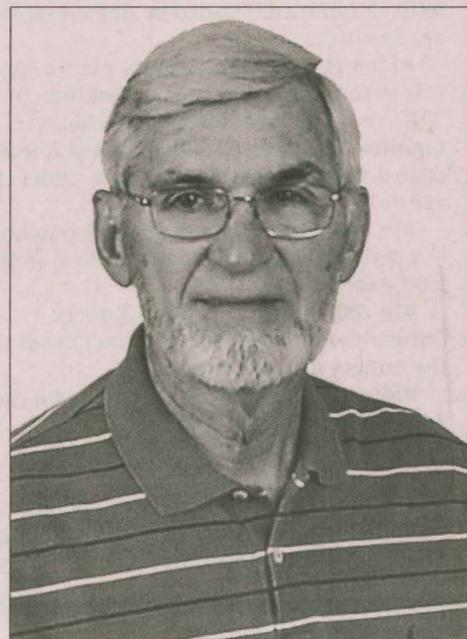
Shocked by the news that the six counties that comprise Red River were considered in 2003 by the North American Mission Board to be one of the nation's most unchurched areas, Fletcher quickly set to work to change things.

Little Bethel Baptist Association, led by Bob Morrison, and Christian County Baptist Association, then led by Larry Baker, soon joined in the church planting effort, creating a missions partnership that has fueled remarkable growth in only a few years.

At last count, nine missions and churches have been added to Red River Association, bringing its total number to 18 congregations. Successful church starts include Mill Knob, Wrigley, Calvary, Mount Sterling, Emmanuel, New Hope Community (Jackson), New Hope (West Liberty), and Crossroads and Baptist Fork missions.

"As part-time DOM of Red River Baptist Association, Jack has been able to lead the association to do more during his tenure than most full-time DOMs accomplish in their service," Baker, now director of new work and associational missions for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, told the Western Recorder. (Bobby Melton followed Baker as director of missions in Christian County, and has continued the partnership to strengthen the churches of Eastern Kentucky.)

"Jack's experience as a pastor and as an international missionary in Kentucky and



**STEPPING DOWN** Jack Fletcher, director of missions for Red River Baptist Association in Eastern Kentucky, recently retired after 10 years. During his tenure, the number of churches in the association has doubled in a region once described as one of the nation's most unchurched areas.

Indonesia gave him a unique set of skills that enabled him to be a cross-culturally adept and successful DOM," Baker continued. "His deep love for Appalachia and his great passion for reaching the lost served him well as he led the association to plant new churches."

Fletcher also was passionate about meeting the physical needs of people, Baker noted. "He was instrumental in making the arrangements to acquire the use of the Hazel

Green Academy properties that have served as a base for many compassionate responses to the needs of the area over nearly all of the last decade."

Since 1999, thousands of volunteers have come to the area through Appalachian Regional Ministries to help with backyard Bible clubs, vacations Bible schools, sports camps, revivals, block parties, home-repair projects and other outreach events. Medical and dental professionals have conducted free clinics, and teams of Kentucky Baptist disaster relief workers have served meals to area residents. Many of these volunteers have been housed in the much-improved and expanded facilities at Hazel Green.

But, according to Fletcher, "The biggest thing that happened in Red River is that people became involved and realized that they can accomplish great things for the Lord."

People from the association's churches now are going themselves on mission trips across the state and worldwide, he said.

Bruce Lowe, the association's clerk, said of Fletcher, "It has always been a goal of his to impact this region by starting churches. He has certainly done that."

"Jack has been a mentor and a leader, and he will be greatly missed," added Lowe, who will serve as interim director of missions for Red River Association until a replacement is chosen.

Still, Fletcher humbly acknowledged, "Any success that we see is always predicated by someone who was at the right place at the right time and was willing to step up and serve."

"God already had someone there who just needed a little guidance or was ready to lead," Fletcher added. "That was the key."

## Schools dedicate new campus buildings

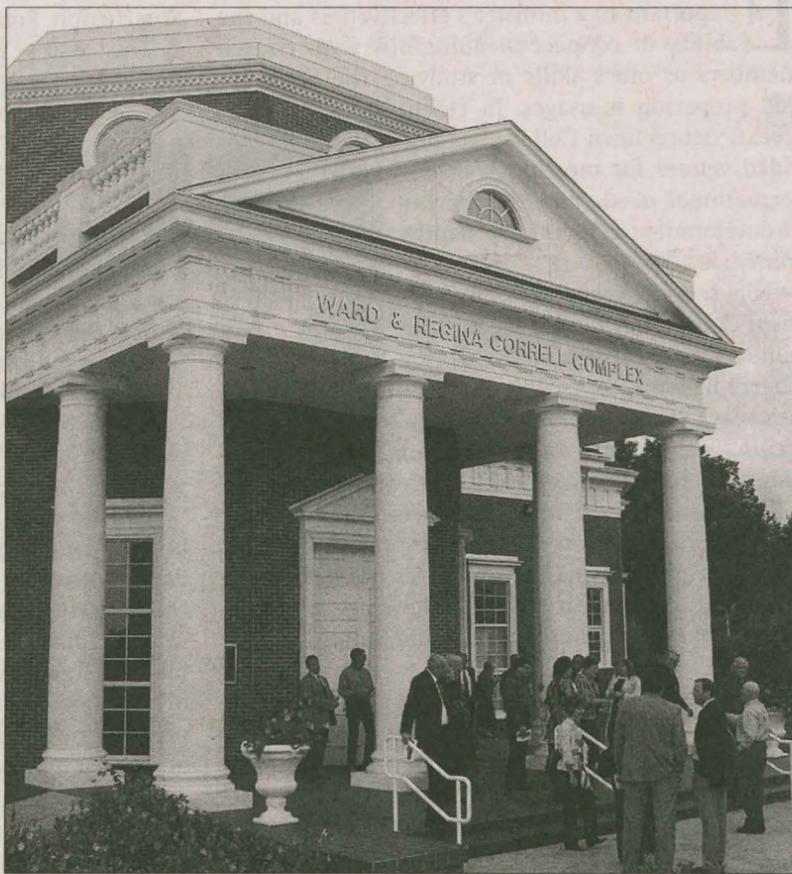
Williamsburg—University of the Cumberlands and Campbellsville University both held dedication ceremonies last week for the newest additions at the Kentucky Baptist campuses.

University of the Cumberlands dedicated the Ward and Regina Correll Science Complex (pictured at right) Sept. 21. Named for Ward Correll, a Somerset businessman and philanthropist, and also in memory of his wife, Regina, who died in 2008, the building was completed last December and opened for classes at the start of last semester.

The 78,000-square-foot science facility is a replica of Thomas Jefferson's famous Monticello home.

Campbellsville University dedicated the new home of its School of Education Sept. 23 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony (pictured below).

The 14,000-square-foot building, which took 13 months to complete, contains 21 faculty and staff offices, six classrooms and a conference room. It also includes the Beulah Campbell Collection Room, which features the Campbellsville alumna's extensive collection of children's literature and illustrations.



## KBC to host basic training event for church planters

Louisville—Kentucky Baptists who are involved in or interested in starting new churches are invited to attend the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Basic Training for Church Planters, Nov. 5-7, at the Baptist Building in Louisville.

Participants will gain basic skills and explore strategic issues of the church planting process. Participants also will learn how to begin a church planting plan customized to fit their needs.

The event will feature KBC staff, as well as several Kentucky Baptist High Impact church planters, including:

- Larry Baker, KBC's director for new work and associational missions.

- Billy Harmon, pastor of Essence Community Church in Louisville.

- Tim Holmes, pastor of Hillside Community Church in Ashland.

- Matt Johnson, pastor of The Journey Church in Murray.

- Dustin Neely, pastor of Crossing Church in Louisville.

Discussion topics will include vision, master plan, leadership development, core groups, administrative issues, mileposts and much more. The event is open to church planters and their spouses, church planting teams, and sponsoring or partnering church leadership.

Sponsored by the KBC and the North American Mission Board, the training will run from 9 a.m.-8 p.m. on Nov. 5-6, and 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. on Nov. 7.

The cost to attend is \$30 per person with a maximum of \$120 per team if paid by Oct. 15. After that date, the cost is \$35 per person with a maximum of \$180 per team. The deadline to register is Nov. 1.

For more information or to register, visit [www.KyBaptist.org/BasicTraining](http://www.KyBaptist.org/BasicTraining), or call (502) 489-3528, or toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3528.

## KBC leaders urge Ky. Baptists to support hunger ministries

*Continued from page 1*

they ask each person that comes if there is anything they can pray about for them, and then as they have opportunity they share the gospel with them," Allen explained. "There was a woman who came weekly to the ministry who professed faith in Christ, was baptized and became a member of a local church."

Calvary Baptist Church in Central City provides food to an average of 300 families per month, Allen said, through the help of World Hunger Fund monies.

Calvary Baptist Pastor Roger Skipworth "said during three months last year they had four people accept Christ and one family joined their church" through the hunger ministry, Allen recalled.

One way Southern Baptists can give to the World Hunger Fund is through Bread Banks distributed by Woman's Missionary Union. Allen said the banks have taken the place of the rice bowls previously used to collect money for food distribution. Individuals, churches, schools or community groups can use the plastic banks—which look like a loaf of bread—to collect money to give to the World Hunger Fund.

"We are encouraging pastors to have members take a Bread Bank home with them, put it on the counter and put change in it," Allen said. "This is an opportunity for parents to teach their children about giving and supporting the poor."

Packs of 50 Bread Banks are available for \$49.99 at [www.WMUStore.com](http://www.WMUStore.com) under the "Promotional Materials" tab.

Allen encouraged pastors to use World Hunger Sunday as a platform to exhort their congregations to give to alleviate world hunger on a more regular basis. In Kentucky, the Fast One to Feed One initiative is designed to encourage such regular giving, he pointed out.

"The initiative is to fast for a meal each month and put the money you saved by fasting toward supporting the World Hunger Fund," he said. "If everybody gave the price of just one meal a year, much less the price of 12 meals over the course of year, we would make a lot of progress in giving toward world hunger."

Allen noted that last year the average Southern Baptist gave less than the cost of a soft drink toward world hunger initiatives.

"My thinking is, if we could every year see the amount of money given by Kentucky Baptists to world hunger increase, it says that we are becoming more aware of the need and are willing to give more," he suggested.

For more information on the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund, visit [www.WorldHungerFund.com](http://www.WorldHungerFund.com). For more information on the Fast One to Feed One initiative, visit [www.KyBaptist.org/Hunger](http://www.KyBaptist.org/Hunger).

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](http://www.kybaptist.org/hunger)  
[www.worldhungerfund.com](http://www.worldhungerfund.com)



## New ministry resource available

I'd like to tell you about a new resource that the Kentucky Baptist Convention is making available for churches. The Church Health Survey and Ministry ToolBox is one of the most incredible resources for the local church that I have ever seen.

### Partners in the Mission



By Bill Mackey

The KBC staff has worked very hard with the developer to customize this tool for our churches. The Ministry ToolBox is basically a software package for your church computer that will provide you with everything you need to assess your congregation's spiritual needs and implement ways to strengthen your church.

The tool focuses on 12 key factors in the local church: vision, connecting with culture, administration, worship, evangelism, discipleship, fellowship, ministry, missions, Sunday school, student ministry and stewardship.

It uses a survey that can be given to members that distinguishes between perception and behavior in each of these key areas. For example, the survey may show you that your church members believe their church is friendly, but their behavior shows they are friendly to each other, but not so accepting of outsiders.

The results of the survey will also distinguish between elected leaders and church members. For example, the results may show that church members may feel omitted in making decisions, but that elected leaders feel very good about the decision-making process.

Churches will be able to use the survey results to pray about God's direction and to help determine if there are areas they need to address. Once the church decides on an objective or behavior to address, the Ministry ToolBox provides sample objectives, projects and action plans.

The software will cost the church only \$200 and can be used repeatedly. Churches that have sought to do this kind of assessment in the past can attest that this is a great savings.

There is also a "pro" version of the software available that has more features and sample projects. This version has the capacity to produce special surveys for the 12 key factors. For example, if a church wants to conduct a survey specifically about worship, the survey can be printed and made available to the church.

KBC staff consultants will have this version and can use it to assist your church. Both versions of the Ministry ToolBox are incredible tools for local church ministry, and I am delighted that they will soon be available.

If you think you might have interest in taking advantage of this resource, please contact the KBC's Church Development Team office at 502-489-3571 or 866-489-3571 for more information. The software will be demonstrated in the exhibit hall throughout the upcoming KBC Annual Meeting at Sevens Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown on Nov. 10.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

## Caring for the preacher promotes congregational health

Emotional, social and physical health is often as important to a minister's effectiveness and the ability to connect meaningfully with church members as one's skills in studying the Scripture and preparing messages. In recent weeks, Georgetown College has provided venues for meeting both the recreational needs and the spiritual development of Kentucky Baptist ministers.

For several years now, Georgetown College has hosted a golf tournament for ministers at the nearby Cherry Blossom course. Some 65 ministers played in this year's event. For more skilled golfers, the event is a competitive match and plaques are awarded to top players. For others, like myself, the round is more of a lesson in humility, hope, perseverance and prayer (over every drive across a lake and every putt). But for all, the annual tournament provides not only recreation, but also a great time of fellowship, ministerial networking, exchanging ideas and building camaraderie.

While most meetings sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention are serious in topics and content, Creative Ministries Consultant Tom Smoot, who organizes the event, noted, "The golf tournament requires nothing from a participant other than a set of golf clubs, a day and a half of fun and fellowship, an opportunity to meet other church staff members on a very informal basis, and a time to let your hair down (for those who still have hair), be yourself and play golf as good or as bad as you do. We stress to all to get to know others they don't already know, and to just have fun."

Though the tournament got off to a soggy start, the 65 players commiserated about golf balls not getting much roll on rain-soaked fairways and their slow putts on the wet greens. But the lessons learned paid off for some on their second round. Tournament winners included Larry Pursiful, associate pastor, Westport Road Baptist Church in Louisville, championship flight; Jerry Carter, pastor, Apollo Heights Baptist Church in Owensboro; first flight; Matt Garner, minister of music, Simpsonville Baptist Church, second flight; and Thomas Webb, pastor, Buck Creek Baptist Church in Calhoun, third flight.

This past week, about three dozen pastors and ministers gathered at Broadway Baptist Church in Louisville for a preaching workshop hosted by the Marshall Center for Christian Ministry at Georgetown College, which is named for former KBC Executive Director Bill Marshall. Provided through the Eugene and Cully Enlow Excellence in Preaching Endowment, past workshop leaders have included such notable preach-

ers as Thomas Long, John Killinger, John Claypool, Ron Higdon, Robert Smith and Calvin Miller.

This year's workshop, "The Changing Face of Preaching. Fragile: Handle with Care," featured Charles Bugg, executive director for the Center for Transformational Leadership. Previously, he was professor of church ministry and leadership and a dean of the divinity school at Gardner-Webb University, and he has been a preaching professor at Baptist Theological Seminary in Richmond and Southern Baptist

Theological Seminary.

When preparing a message, preachers should ask themselves: "Where is the real encounter with scripture? Where is the challenge?" Bugg advocated. "When we don't have this, we turn the Bible into a book of helpful instructions to get me through the day," he said.

Borrowing from Augustine's thoughts, Bugg reminded preachers that sermons are supposed to teach, delight and persuade. "It's not just one or two of the above; it's all of the above," he quipped. The preacher must help audiences "to see the importance of what something said to us in the Scripture" and "to see its ethical and theological dimensions" for our lives, he explained.

A sermon should delight people "not in the sense that they are rolling in the aisles," but that it moves them to say, "Now that really prodded me to think about some things," he instructed. The word "persuade" is not talking necessarily about evangelism, he corrected, but "how do I take what I have been taught and move that into where I live, ethically and morally.

"I still believe in the power of words to change people," he said. "Preaching has the capacity to move people," he reminded the group. Encouraging ministers to see the value of the spoken word, Bugg affirmed, "Preaching can make a powerful difference in the lives of people." The idea, he maintained, is not to make the sermon interesting, but to make it influential. "Impact their lives," he challenged.

Both of these kinds of events are beneficial to ministerial health and congregational vitality. Ministers are able to model for the rest of us what it means to have a love for life, wholesome ways of enjoying God's creation, and demonstrating a love for other people—outside of the pulpit—when they are in the workplace or at play. Ministers also need words of affirmation and encouragement, to realize that what they do does matter and that God is able to use their words, through the power of His Word and the Holy Spirit, to change lives.



## After Thought

By Todd Deaton

## Criticism justified

The Creation Museum is bringing worldwide criticism upon us. Tragically, it is largely justified. Their so-called Answers in Genesis gives the wrong answers.

Scientists and others rightly reject creation from nothing. The Bible, our authority, says creation is the development of new things from existent things. Adam was created, yes created, from clay. Eve came from Adam. The new creation is the transformation of this one, and of ourselves.

The "days" of creation are periods or stages of development, not literal 24-hour periods. The sun does not appear until day four. The whole period in which God created heaven and earth is a "day" (Gen.

2:3). God said Adam would die on the day he ate the forbidden fruit, yet he lived for almost a century. And God doesn't lie.

The image of God was their typological function, fulfilled in Christ, not something in their genes. That would mean universal idolatry. In my Bible, an image of God is an idol.

God commanded the earth to bring forth plants, and it did. He commanded the earth to bring forth living creatures, and it did. Life originated from the earth, at God's command.

Evolution does not place God out of the picture. The wrong definition of creation, and of evolution, is what does that. It is foolish to defend the Bible's truth by denying what it says. It pushes thinking people away from Christ.

All criticism of creationism does not come from atheists and secularists. I hold a Ph.D. from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. I am pastor of First Baptist Church in Lexington. And I see clearly that the Creation Museum is part of the problem, not the solution. We should not put the stumbling blocks of foolishness and error before the world and expect them to receive us warmly.

John C. de Baca  
Lexington

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

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June Rice, Paintsville;  
Wayne Spivey, Harrodsburg;  
Rodney Travis, Hopkinsville.

"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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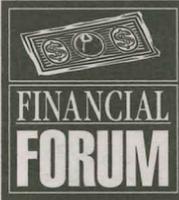
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## Helping you make a difference

By Laurie Valentine

Using the Kentucky Baptist Foundation to accomplish your legacy giving objectives can benefit both you and the Baptist causes you wish to support.



The Kentucky Baptist Foundation is the only agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention that may receive legacy gifts for the support of all Kentucky Baptist and Southern Baptist causes. As a "member of the family," the Foundation has a special appreciation and affection for the mission and ministry of the causes that will be supported through your gifts. This connection assures you, as the giver, the Foundation has each cause's best interests in mind as it manages the gifts made for that cause's benefit.

Many donors want to provide support to more than one cause and realize that dividing their gift may result in lower total support. A single trust or endowment fund can be set up with the Kentucky Baptist Foundation to provide support to more than one Baptist cause. This can result in more consistent levels of support for all. Each cause will have the benefit of the same level of competent investment management services and the economies of centralized fund management.

Setting up the Kentucky Baptist Foundation as the manager of your gift assures the causes you want to support are left to do what they were called to do—missions, Christian education, child care, evangelism, disaster relief, etc. You relieve their board, trustees and/or staff from day-to-day investment research, analysis, decision-making, transacting and reporting, and place those responsibilities with the organization whose purpose is to provide competent, prudent financial management for the causes designated by its donors.

The board and staff of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation have a sincere desire to help each Kentucky Baptist determine how they can practice their Christian financial stewardship at a deeper level. This desire is reflected in the variety of legacy gift plans offered and the ability of the Foundation to accept gifts of any size.

Contact our president, Barry Allen, or me at 1-866-489-3533 (toll-free) and let us show you how you can make a lasting difference for the cause of Christ in our world. Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.

## The moral imperative of health care reform

By David Gushee

The national debate raging over health-care reform has become a maelstrom of competing claims and counterclaims. It has been deeply infected by political demagoguery and hysteria.

The tenor of the debate raises the legitimate question as to whether our nation still has the capacity to tackle an enormously complex policy challenge such as this one. Each day we spend millions of dollars to defeat external threats—but if we cannot address our own domestic problems any more effectively than this, then it will not be al Qaeda that undoes us.

The primary Christian interest in health-care reform is the moral imperative to extend adequate health care to all of our nation's people. Why is health-care access a moral imperative? Choose your Scripture text or your moral theory, but they all point in the same direction:

Those of us who enjoy access to health care could try a Golden Rule test, and ask whether we are doing unto others as we would have them do unto us if we do not fight for health care for those who do not have it. Is this how we would like our children to be treated when they are sick?

We could work from Jesus' teaching of "love your neighbor as yourself" and ask whether we can simultaneously love a neighbor and not care if they die from a treatable disease because they cannot pay for care.

We could work from a theology of human rights that includes bodily rights, which includes a right to health care—at least in societies such as our own that have the capacity to deliver health care.

We could speak of basic principles of distributive justice in regard to the goods needed for a decent life in a community, and note the obvious fact that the unjust maldistribution of health care in this country is a huge national scandal and an affront to the God of justice.

We could focus on Scripture's concern for the poor and the demand that they be provided for, and then link poverty and lack of adequate health care—for these are linked every day, in deadly ways, here.

The national debate over health-care reform has lost, or never developed, a truly moral focus. It has not been treated as the great moral crusade that it is. To find a way to extend quality health care to 50 million Americans who do not currently have it would be an extraordinary moral victory for this country. But except around the

fearful edges of the debate—pulling the plug on grandma, death panels, abortion—the moral case has been muted, shouted down, abandoned or never made.

A word must be said about these most extreme fears.

In my view they reflect some combination of honest grassroots-level misunderstandings of complex policy issues—misunderstandings that are often fed by purposeful misrepresentations by activists seeking to derail health-care reform or to deal Barack Obama a setback. Such misunderstandings have been enabled to some extent by a lack of message clarity by those advocating various pieces of reform legislation.

No American Congress will pass health-care legislation with euthanasia panels. No one will start surreptitiously pulling the plug on grandma. And if some contingent tries to slip in expansion of taxpayer funding for abortion into the final bill, it will lose my support and that of many others.

It must be observed, however, that for a certain contingent of American Christians, issues only become "moral issues" at the edges of life—at the beginning and the end. Providing health care for 50 million people is not itself viewed as a moral imperative; the issue only becomes morally significant if it might, somehow, just maybe, lead to more abortion or to euthanasia. Is it not possible for Christians to care both about people getting health care when they need it, and about abortion and euthanasia? Once again we see how important it is that Christians develop a holistic, comprehensive sanctity-of-life ethic concerned about human well-being from womb to tomb—and everywhere in between.

I have argued that extension of health-care access is a great moral imperative. It also seems clear to me that gaining this expanded access to health care at a reasonable price to the taxpayer, business and the federal budget is a highly important prudential goal.

Which kinds of reform strategies will be the most effective at extending coverage to the most people at the least additional cost are questions best left to those who have the expertise to make informed judgments on such matters. But that we need something like the health-care legislation now struggling through Congress seems to me very clear on Christian grounds. (ABP)

David Gushee is distinguished university professor of Christian ethics at Mercer University.

### FIRST PERSON

## Scouting helps reach unchurched teens, families

If you have spent any time listening to me tell my story, you know that for almost 40 years I have been involved in Boy Scouts in some fashion or another. I was 6 when my dad became Scoutmaster of Troop 20 in Bullitt County, Kentucky—a position he still holds today more than 40 years later. I have been a Cub Scout, Boy Scout (Eagle Scout class of 1980) and now an adult leader. The time spent in Scouting has helped to define who I am.

Recently I had the opportunity to sit down with Clint Sharff, director of field service for the Lincoln Heritage Council, Boy Scouts of America, serving north central Kentucky. I requested some time to talk about how churches can use Scouting as a ministry tool to reach unchurched families. During our conversation, Sharff said that "90 percent or more of Scouting in central Kentucky exists in partnership with local churches," and that "20 percent of all Scouts' first contact with a church" comes through a pack or troop that meets in that church.

I'm not sure what else we do as churches that 20 percent of its participants have their first contact with a church through it. Sharff also said that Scouting provides a means for "unchurched people to become comfortable in a church environment." While Scouting doesn't evangelize as part of its regular meetings, it does provide for the building of relationships with unchurched teenagers and their families, which can lead to evangelistic opportunities.

While 90 percent of Scouting organizations are chartered to churches, Sharff stated that "most churches miss the connection between the Scouting program and the church's ministry." He added, "If you have 12 in your church's youth group, you may have 20 more in a Scout troop that meets on Monday night at your church." And that is a "great way for a youth pastor to connect with 20 young men," who may not be otherwise involved in the church's ministry.

Scouting has a "religious aspect that is non-negotiable," Sharff continued. "We begin every meeting with 'on my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God.'" And the last point of the Scout Law is "a Scout is reverent." He said, "I believe that no young person can become the citizen he is meant to be without a relationship with God." That is one of the core values that Scouting teaches.

Sharff also observed, "Too many churches haven't gone the extra mile to engage" the members of the troops and pack that meet at their building. It should be "more than just the group that meets here on Tuesday nights." These students are coming into our buildings on a regular basis and so are their parents.

It could be as simple as "popping in" during a meeting, introducing yourself and giving contact information to the boys," he continued. "You could lead in an opening prayer, work with the units Chaplains Aide or help the Scouts with their God and Country Award."

Local churches give "guidance over their unit," Sharff noted. "It belongs to your church; it's a franchise, a partnership." The leadership of the troop or pack should be selected by the church and should be helping the church to "accomplish what it wants to accomplish." If a leader teaches contrary to the church's mission, then "you, as the owner, have the right and responsibility to name someone else" as leader.

For more than 100 years, Scouting has been developing young men into leaders. Meetings at the troop level are run by 15- to 17-year-olds. In most churches, the idea of 17-year-olds running the youth meeting would scare them, but "in Scouting, that is expected," Scarff said. The mantle of leadership training in the Scouts, according to Scarff, is "Train them, trust them, and let them lead."

Joe Ball, a former youth minister at Edgewood Baptist Church in Hopkinsville, is youth strategist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

### Youth Ministry Corner



Joe Ball

## How to develop a child's worldview

By David Garrard

**Worldview:** How you see and understand the world and everything in it.

That's a simple, straightforward definition—one that even children can grasp. Here's the big truth that accompanies it: If you are a Christian, that decision should affect how you see and understand everything around you—all of life. If you are a Christian, you should be seeing things in a particular way—a way that is consistent with who God is, and with the teachings of the Bible. Others may or may not see things that way, but you should.

That's the big truth. Here's the big question: As parents, how can we help our children learn to have a distinctively Christian worldview?

**Use sunglasses.** Sunglasses change how you see everything—especially tinted lenses. In the same way, our faith ought to "color" how we view life.

**Use optical illusions.** Classic optical illusions like the "Woman or Witch?" can help children understand that we get to choose how we want to look at and understand life. Some choose to see God; others don't. The choice is ours.

**Use Hidden Picture puzzles.** The puzzles can help children understand the importance of intentionally looking for God in their world.

**Use a compass.** A compass helps us find our way by showing us where North is. Once you know the direction north, you also know south, east and west. In the same way, when we look to God, a lot of other things fall into place.

**Use the Bible.** Help your children develop devotional habits. Spending regular time in prayer, Bible reading and worship affects how we see and understand everything. It turns our hearts toward God and tunes us to see His will and His ways at work in our world and in our lives.

**Use teachable moments.** Look for ways to call attention to how worldviews differ and often conflict with biblical truth. Help your children understand that because you believe in God, you see and understand things in a certain way—a way consistent with who God is and with what the Bible teaches.

David Garrard is minister to children at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville.



## Oral missions network wins missions innovation award

Richmond, Va.—The International Orality Network, of which the International Mission Board is a sponsor, received The Mission Exchange's Innovation in Mission Award at a Sept. 22 conference in St. Louis.

The Mission Exchange, composed of 100 evangelical, missions-sending organizations that support approximately 20,000 missionaries, honored the International Orality Network for its innovative approach to missions, breakthrough thinking, practical training and effective resources.

The International Orality Network is a group of ministries that makes the gospel available for oral learners in culturally appropriate ways in order to facilitate church planting movements. ION's executive director, Avery Willis, formerly IMB's senior vice president for overseas operations, accepted the award on behalf of the orality network during The Mission Exchange's recent conference.

Orality is the reliance on spoken word as a primary means of communication. Since 60 percent of the world's population learns orally, ION and its sponsor organizations believe that to fulfill the Great Commission, the gospel must be available to an oral audience.

The orality movement uses methods conducive to the learning style of oral learners in discipleship, evangelism, leadership training and church planting. These include storytelling, poems, chants, songs, riddles and proverbs.

"Other people are recognizing that this approach—that we started assessing seriously 20 years ago—is one that now is recognized widely as an innovation in missions that's really important," noted Grant Lovejoy, IMB's director of orality strategy.

"As far as IMB is concerned, I think it is also an affirmation because we have really helped lead the way in this and some of our field personnel and staff have had a real key role in identifying orality as a factor in our effectiveness."

For more information on IMB's orality strategy, visit [www.OralityStrategies.org](http://www.OralityStrategies.org) and [www.CBStorying.org](http://www.CBStorying.org). (BP)

## Kentucky crews aid Georgia clean-up

Atlanta—Kentucky Baptist disaster relief volunteers are among more than 300 workers helping Georgia residents recover from last month's severe flooding.

KBC Disaster Relief Associate Coy Webb said the request for Kentucky volunteers was issued as estimates of damaged homes rose to at least 1,000.

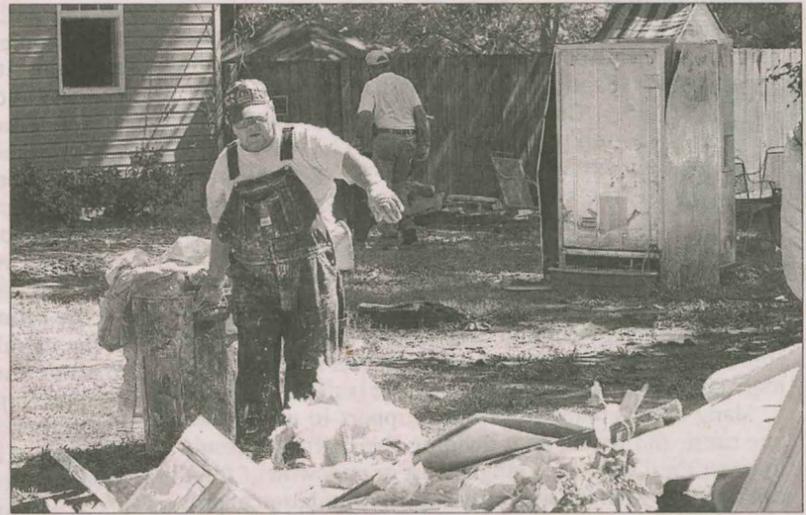
"The Georgia Baptist disaster relief director has indicated that this is an epic flood for Georgia, one that has impacted up to about half of state, Webb said. "They have requested other states to help, and asked for Kentucky volunteers to help with impacted areas in northwest Atlanta."

Around two dozen Kentucky volunteers are scheduled to serve in Georgia through Oct. 10. Webb said the teams are providing mud-out work to area residents.

As of last week, some 50 Southern Baptist disaster relief crews from nine state conventions were on the scene in the affected areas of Atlanta, preparing meals for victims and volunteers, cleaning out muddy homes and removing debris.

Southern Baptist feeding units located at two Atlanta-area churches had prepared more than 8,600 hot meals as of last week, reported Bruce Poss, disaster operations coordinator for the North American Mission Board.

Nearly 100 mud-out jobs already have been completed by Baptists



**RELIEF EFFORTS UNDERWAY** Larry Harris, a member of North Highlands Baptist Church in Hueytown, Ala., hauls wet insulation from a flooded home in Powder Springs, Ga. Harris lost his foot after an accident during Hurricane Katrina relief efforts yet continues as a disaster relief volunteer. (NAMB photo by John Swain)

since the flood, from some 200 work requests by local flood victims. In addition to feeding and recovery units, Baptists also are providing victims and volunteers with units for hot showers and laundry, as well as chaplains for counseling needs.

In addition to Kentucky, disaster relief teams have been mobilized from state conventions in Alabama, Georgia, Nebraska, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia.

"We're going to be involved in this for two or three weeks," said Stuart Lang, disaster relief director

for the Georgia Baptist Convention. "But I feel very good about the way things are going. We have a good infrastructure system in place to process the orders (from flood victims) and get them into the hands of the people doing the work."

According to Webb, additional volunteers still are needed. Trained workers may contact the KBC's Baptist Men on Mission department at (502) 489-3527, or toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3527.

Compiled from reporting by KBC communications and NAMB

## KBC Mission Board recommendations

The Kentucky Baptist Convention's constitution requires that the KBC Mission Board publish its recommendations in the Western Recorder at least 30 days before they are voted on during the annual meeting. This year's meeting will be Nov. 10 at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown. For more information about these recommendations, call the KBC Mission Board at (502) 489-3577 or toll-free (866) 489-3577.

### Recommendations to the Messengers of the 2009 Kentucky Baptist Convention:

The annual Cooperative Program Goals, as well as the percentages for the division of Cooperative Program funds between Kentucky Baptist Convention causes and Southern Baptist Convention causes, are determined by the Kentucky Baptist Convention in annual session.

Upon recommendation of the Mission Board, the Convention at Lexington November 10, 2008 set the 2009-2010 goals and percentages as shown below. The Mission Board will recommend to the Convention in Elizabethtown November 10, 2009, the 2010-2011 goals and percentages.

	ORIGINAL 2007-2008 BUDGET		ORIGINAL 2008-2009 BUDGET		ORIGINAL 2009-2010 BUDGET		PROPOSED 2010-2011 BUDGET	
<b>I. COOPERATIVE PROGRAM GOAL</b>								
A. OPERATIONAL BUDGET	\$24,000,000	1.90%	\$24,000,000	0.0%	\$24,480,000	2.0%	\$23,500,000	-4.0%
1. SBC CAUSES (a)	\$8,807,318		\$8,890,184		\$9,136,887		\$8,930,000	
		36.70%		37.04%		37.32%		38.00%
2. KBC CAUSES (b)	\$15,192,682		\$15,109,816		\$15,343,113		\$14,570,000	
		63.30%		62.96%		62.68%		62.00%
<b>TOTAL COOPERATIVE PROGRAM GOAL (c)</b>	\$24,000,000		\$24,000,000		\$24,480,000		\$23,500,000	
<b>II. OTHER ESTIMATED INCOME</b>	\$2,593,950		\$2,735,460		\$2,650,606		*	
A. RESTRICTED KY ONLY	\$450,000		\$400,000		\$360,000		*	
B. OTHER	\$2,143,950		\$2,335,460		\$2,290,606		*	
<b>III. TOTAL BUDGET GOAL</b>	\$26,593,950		\$26,735,460		\$27,130,606		*	

(a) The distribution of these items is voted by the Southern Baptist Convention.

(b) The distribution of these items is voted by the Mission Board, Kentucky Baptist Convention.

(c) Any Cooperative Program receipts in excess of the goal will be distributed at the same percentages.

\*To be approved by the Mission Board upon recommendation of the Business and Finance Committee May 3-4, 2010.

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## Perplexing riddle

### Why are Christians these days so stingy with money?

Why don't Christians in America give away money more generously? Why are we so remarkably stingy in our financial stewardship, especially in light of the following three realities?

First, American Christians, for the most part, have the financial resources to give generously if they so desired. There are only three things one can do with money: give, save and spend. Regrettably, too many Christians spend first instead of give first, and many never get beyond spending to giving and saving. They have an upside-down view of stewardship. The statistics of Americans' discretionary spending on things for ourselves is staggering.

Second, most all traditions in American Christianity explicitly teach their followers to give liberally, including tithing 10 percent of their incomes. All versions of the Baptist Faith and Message adopted by Southern Baptists include a statement on stewardship which acknowledges God as the source of all blessings—temporal and spiritual—and us as trustees of those blessings. The last sentence states, "According to the Scriptures, Chris-

tians should contribute of their means cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately and liberally for the advancement of the Redeemer's cause on earth."

Third, generous giving promises to make a huge impact in transforming the world. Ordinary Christians have within our collective power to foster unprecedented spiritual, cultural, social and economic change in accordance with our values and interests. And it does not require lavish giving, just more generous giving, which, interestingly enough, is not only within our capacity to do, but also in accordance with the teachings of the Holy Scriptures we claim to believe and follow, and therefore, we should be doing anyway.

The answer to the riddle is found in Malachi 3:6-12—best known for its emphasis on tithing. However, what we overlook is that Malachi set tithing in the larger context of repentance and a faith commitment to God. Like the people of God in Malachi's day, our denial of guilt and lack of repentance has had the same results—robbing God.

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

### Ky. Baptist Foundation



Barry Allen

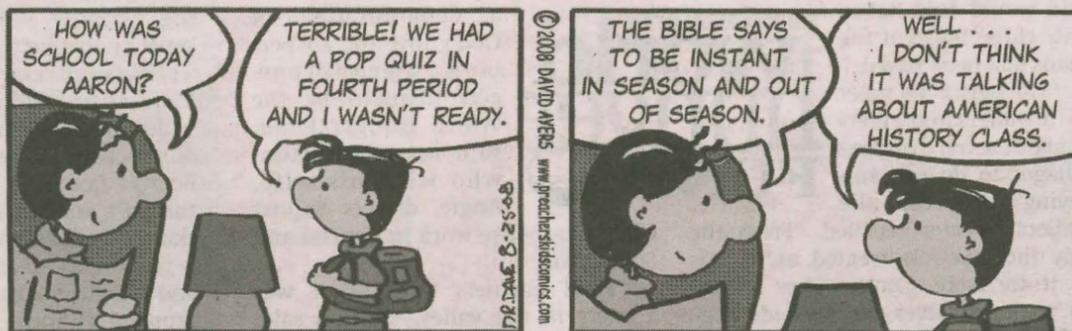
## For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



## Preacher's Kids

David Ayers



## Bible Crosswords

By Evelyn Boyington

### Across

- 1 Cleo's killer
- 4 Asa or Ahab
- 8 Perfect
- 12 "They cast \_\_\_\_\_, that is, the lot, before Haman" (Esther 3:7)
- 13 One who sold his birthright
- 14 "As he saith also in \_\_\_\_\_, I will call them my people" (Romans 9:25)
- 15 Where one uses a wood
- 16 "Six \_\_\_\_\_ shalt thou labour and do all thy work" (Exodus 20:9)
- 17 Reporter's question
- 18 "There shall come a \_\_\_\_\_ out of Jacob and a Sceptre shall rise" (Numbers 24:17)
- 20 Word's partner
- 21 "Stretch out the \_\_\_\_\_ that is in thy hand toward Ai" (Joshua 8:18)
- 23 Greek letter
- 25 To exhibit exhaustion
- 26 Burdened one
- 27 Golden State (abbr.)
- 29 Godfrey, to friends
- 30 "The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy \_\_\_\_\_" (Romans 10:8)
- 31 "For the Father ... hath committed all judgment unto the \_\_\_\_\_" (John 5:22)
- 32 Bible div.
- 33 "Ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days \_\_\_\_\_" (Acts 1:5)
- 34 KJV verb
- 35 Out of (arch.)
- 36 Says "whoa"
- 37 "I am the \_\_\_\_\_ vine" (John 15:1)
- 38 "Nadab and Abihu ... offered strange \_\_\_\_\_ before the Lord" (Leviticus 10:1)

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48					49					50		

- 39 Hurries
- 40 Speed
- 42 Compass dir.
- 45 Opposed to aweather
- 46 "In \_\_\_\_\_ there was a voice heard, lamentation" (Matthew 2:18)
- 47 Iowa college
- 48 Kind of hall
- 49 Memo part
- 50 Before
- 19 Make lace
- 20 KJV verb
- 21 Measure of length
- 22 Say adieu
- 23 "\_\_\_\_\_ hither thy finger, and behold my hands" (John 20:27)
- 24 Tortoise's opponent
- 26 "My people are \_\_\_\_\_ to back sliding from me" (Hosea 11:7)
- 27 Pasture youngster
- 28 They head for the hills
- 30 Now's partner
- 31 "Let the lying lips be put to \_\_\_\_\_" (Psalm 31:18)
- 33 Provides shelter
- 34 "We do not \_\_\_\_\_ after the flesh" (2 Corinthians 10:3)
- 35 Loosens
- 36 "So \_\_\_\_\_ gave Solomon cedar trees and fir trees" (1 Kings 5:10)
- 37 Game piece
- 38 "His \_\_\_\_\_ went throughout all Syria" (Matthew 4:24)
- 39 Son of Noah
- 40 Every third (comb. form)
- 41 "\_\_\_\_\_ thou not the bread of him that hath an evil eye" (Proverbs 23:6)
- 43 Conjunction
- 44 Shoe width

### Last week's solution

E	W	S	E	S	L	L	C	H	E	W	
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## World Hunger Sunday

## Hunger fund supplies villagers with much-needed food, hope

Continued from page 1

Hunger Fund, in partnership with Baptist Global Response. The provision of basic food items, including flour, rice, cooking oil and small amounts of tea and sugar helped families survive the difficult winter.

In order to reach the villages, the team drove 16 hours on rough mountain roads—a trip the project director said would have taken only three hours if the roads had been paved.

"We began to meet with leaders and elders of about seven different villages to do our surveying" of needs, the project director recalled. "From the way these people treated us, it was as if we were royalty. They helped us with whatever we needed. They offered the little wood that they had in order to make fires for us to keep us warm. They sacrificed the few things they had like it was nothing."

After a week-long respite following the survey trip, four trucks loaded with food navigated the 16-hour journey. The team faced a number of obstacles in transporting the food to the villages, including several flat tires and washed-out roads.

"After leaping all the hurdles we finally made it back to the valley and began the distribution," the project director said. "It is hard to put into words the joy that we saw in some of these people. We gave them enough food to make it through a good chunk of the year and words could not dis-

play their thankfulness. It was an amazing experience."

The food assistance project fits into a greater goal of community development in the valley, the project director explained. He described the entire trip as "a journey that would end with about 530 families being able to make it through another year on the food."

Helping people in dire need as a demonstration of God's love for all people is a key goal of projects financed by the World Hunger Fund, said Francis Horton, who with his wife, Angie, directs Baptist Global Response work in Central and South Asia.

"Field partners told me it was a party in the valley," Horton said. "With what has been supplied, they will be carried through until the end of the summer and harvest. The villagers said it was as though God had sent them the food from heaven. It was that unexpected and needed and providential."

"A believer who helped in the project said: 'The food we gave them was equivalent of raising a dead person to life again. They were near death and looking at leaving the mountains, and we gave them the resources to stay and even, in some cases, to live,'" Horton added. "We are grateful that Southern Baptists are a people who care about people in need. Their gifts to the World Hunger Fund made a life-saving difference for these families."

SOUTHERN BAPTIST  
**World  
hunger  
FUNDS**

## Y'all come!

## Fall is an excellent time of year to plan visit to OBI's mountainside campus

It would be very difficult to estimate the number of groups and individuals who have visited our campus in the last 15 to 20 years.

Many have visited for the very first time, while others have been here several times. Some even visit us more than once a year.

Normally we know when friends are coming, but it is not uncommon to look out my window and see someone I did not expect.

We normally have most of our visitors in the spring and fall. I think in the spring many people have been more or less homebound during the winter and are anxious to get out and travel.

Others plan a fall visit because they are hoping to see the changing of the leaves. The mountains do come alive in the fall, especially if the weather is such that the colors are spectacular.

While it is hard to know when the fall colors will be the best, normally the middle of October, give or take a week, will provide the best opportunity to see the mountains dressed in their most beautiful fall colors.

Many individual guests come to Oneida after the passing of a spouse. They often tell us that before their loved one passed away, they made regular visits to our campus.

Others come as a group—small or large. A Sunday school class, or other group, will fill the church bus or bring a caravan of vehicles. Many times we are told the primary purpose for the visit is to let people see where some of their missions dollars are going.

I never cease to be amazed at the number of

people who have only a limited knowledge of how their Cooperative Program dollars are used. They often think that most of their CP money is used to support missionaries overseas, but they do not realize how much of it is at work here in Kentucky.

More than a few people have admitted that they had no idea that part of their CP giving helped support Oneida.

We always are honored when we have visitors since it is rather obvious that most anyone coming to our campus made a special trip to see us. Rarely does anyone tell us they were on their way to another destination when they decided to stop by for a visit.

If you have been to our campus you know that you pretty much have to be on your way to Oneida, since we are out of the way to just about any other destination.

Time is running out to plan a fall visit, but it's not too late. Sometimes a week or two of planning gets better results than planning months in advance.

If you or a group from your church would like to visit, we would be honored to have you as our guests. If you arrive on a school day between 10:30 and 10:45 a.m., you will arrive in time for our morning chapel service.

After chapel we will tell you a little about OBI and try to answer any questions you may have. Then we will take you on a tour of our campus and treat you to a free lunch. Often a visit to our craft house will conclude your visit. It's not too late for a fall visit, so "y'all come!"

W.F. Underwood is president of Oneida Baptist Institute, Box 67, Oneida, KY 40972; [www.oneidaschool.org](http://www.oneidaschool.org); e-mail: [president@oneidaschool.org](mailto:president@oneidaschool.org)

## This is Oneida



W.F. Underwood

## Southern Baptists feed hungry hearts beneath bright, harsh Las Vegas lights

Continued from page 1

with their son who offered all he had—a pack of crackers—to a man who obviously was cold and hungry.

The following week, the Schwabs showed up with hot dogs and hamburgers and fed a meager crowd. The next week, more than 20 hungry people showed up. And each Wednesday since, at 6 p.m., in a vacant dirt lot near the city's Silver Bowl sports complex, the Schwabs have staked their ground with cooking, cleaning and dining equipment. They serve up spaghetti, hot dogs and occasionally a celebratory cake for someone's sobriety.

Those first few meals turned into a church-wide ministry, which relies on funds from donations and the North American Mission Board's Domestic Hunger Fund, distributed through Southern Nevada Baptist Association, to feed the homeless.

This work doesn't come without price and sacrifice for the Schwabs and their small group of volunteers. At the end of a 12- or 14-hour day, the Schwabs come home spent but excited about what God will do each week.

"If people can deal with the heat and cold all the time, then we can do it one night a week for a few hours," Janice Schwab insisted.

"Being homeless takes away your dignity," said Huffman, who offers a message each week while the guests eat. "My calling is to build these people back up."

Because of its transitory nature, the homeless population makes follow-up and discipleship difficult. But in this case, four people have come to know Christ, been baptized and are attending Rushing Wind Church.

"Four years ago, I began living in the desert," Dawn recalled. "I began waking up every morning looking for a way to feed my hab-

it. I heard there was a place I could get something to eat."

The church met her physical needs and with that offered a cure for deeper cravings she found only fulfilled in Christ. The group did the same for Anthony, who started using drugs at 13, and Bob, also a former addict.

"I have been a meth user and alcoholic for 30 years. I found myself homeless for the last five years," Bob said. "I found myself living in the desert off Russell Road. I was never really into God. I started going to the services because I was hungry."

Lisa started using crystal meth eight years ago. Thanks to the ministry at Rushing Wind Church, she's now clean. "I still go to the park," noted Lisa, who has since landed a job and a home. "But I go as a volunteer."

"My life is lived for the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ," Lisa added. "I am living proof that all you have to do is give everything up to Him and He will change you."

The Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund gives people ears for the gospel by feeding hungry mouths. In 2008 alone, money given to the Domestic Hunger Fund served more than 5 million meals, resulting in 36,000 professions of faith in Christ. More than 100,000 volunteers served at more than 2,000 hunger ministry sites throughout the U.S. funded by more than \$1.26 million distributed by NAMB to Southern Baptist state partners.

According to Louann Aegerter, a North American missionary and ministry evangelism director for Southern Nevada Association, NAMB hunger funds provided more than 92,000 meals through hunger ministries throughout the state.

For more information on hunger ministries in Kentucky, visit [www.KyBaptist.org/Hunger](http://www.KyBaptist.org/Hunger).

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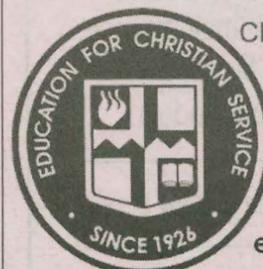
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## Senate panel rejects ban on abortion funding in health reform

By Tom Strode

Washington—The Senate Finance Committee rejected an amendment last week that would have prohibited federal funds from paying for abortions in plans or subsidies established by a new health care reform bill.

The same committee also turned back an amendment that would have barred the government from coercing hospitals, doctors and other health care providers from participating in abortions.

The vote against each amendment was 13-10, with Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, the sponsor in each case.

The votes came on attempted changes to legislation sponsored by Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., the Finance Committee's chair-

man. Though Baucus has said he does not want federal funds to cover abortion in his bill, Hatch reported, it would authorize government subsidies to help some Americans purchase private health insurance that covers elective abortions.

It also includes language that would further relax the bill's abortion policy if Congress decides not to renew the Hyde Amendment, pro-life critics of the Baucus proposal argue. That amendment, first adopted more than 30 years ago, is part of the spending bill for the Department of Health and Human Services and bars Medicaid from paying for abortions. The Hyde Amendment has to be renewed each year, however, and many Democrats in Congress oppose it.

Expressing disappointment with both votes, Hatch said, "The American people do not want, and should not be expected, to foot the bill for abortions."

Meanwhile, Southern Baptist ethicist Richard Land challenged those who argued that the amendments were unnecessary.

"If there was not a need for Senator Hatch's amendments, he wouldn't have brought them, and if there hadn't been a need for them, then the pro-abortion elements in the Senate would not have opposed them so vigorously," said Land, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

"The vigorous and unflinching opposition of the pro-abortion forces in the Senate only serves to underscore the desper-

ate need for protecting both life and conscience," Land added.

The Finance Committee's defeat of the funding restriction means five congressional committees—two in the Senate and three in the House of Representatives—have failed to act to prevent federal funds from paying for elective abortions in health reform legislation. The Hatch amendment would have allowed funding for abortions in the cases of a threat to the mother's life and a pregnancy by rape or incest.

While Hatch's language would not have permitted government funds to subsidize plans that cover abortions, it would have allowed insurance companies to provide abortion coverage through separate plans not subsidized with federal money. (BP)

### NATIONAL NOTES

**Committee restores abstinence funding**—The Senate Finance Committee voted to restore funding for abstinence education through Title V state grants last week after Sen. Orrin Hatch added an amendment to reinstate \$50 million per year in abstinence funding that President Obama had cut from his budget proposal to Congress. The 12-11 vote came despite the committee's chairman Sen. Max Baucus arguing that abstinence education doesn't work. The measure still must pass the full Senate and the House.

**Report: Support for abortion on decline in U.S.**—Support for abortion is declining across the country, with Americans now evenly divided on whether it should be legal, a new report shows. In 2007 and 2008, supporters of legal abortion outnumbered opponents. But recent surveys by the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press found that 47 percent now say it should be legal in all or most cases and 44 percent believe it should be illegal all or most of the time. Those figures represent a shift away from support for abortion rights in previous years, when 54 percent of respondents supported legal abortion and 40 percent who thought abortion should be illegal.

**U.S. birth rate down 2 percent in 2008**—Birth rates in the United States fell nearly 2 percent in 2008, marking the first decline since the start of the decade, according to a report by the National Center for Health Statistics. There were 4.2 million births last year, down about 68,000 from 2007, the report said, noting that more babies were born in 2007 than in any other year in the nation's history. In a separate study, the Guttmacher Institute surveyed about 950 women between the ages of 18 and 34 whose household incomes were less than \$75,000 and found that more than four in 10 said the economy was affecting their decisions about having children.

**Most Americans marry just once**—Most Americans marry just once, according to new data from the U.S. Census Bureau. The American Community Survey, an ongoing statistical portrait of the characteristics of the nation's population, found that of 3 million people, 76 percent of those who had ever married have done so only once. Also, nearly 20 percent of Americans have been married twice and 5 percent have been married three or more times, according to the survey, released Sept. 21. Less than 11 percent of the population is currently divorced, and the average marriage, the Census Bureau said, lasts 18.2 years. Nearly 1 in 3 Americans age 15 and older (31.2 percent) reported they had never been married, the highest level in a decade. The number previously stayed around 27 percent before climbing in 2006.

**Court dismisses judgment against Westboro**—Members of Westboro Baptist Church, the anti-gay church that protests military funerals, won a court victory last month when a federal appeals court overturned a \$5 million judgment against it. The father of a Marine who was killed in Iraq in 2006 sued Westboro pastor Fred Phelps and members of his Topeka, Kan., church after they protested his son's funeral with inflammatory signs. Judge Robert King of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals writing in the majority opinion, said the signs were "utterly distasteful" but addressed "matters of public concern." Rejecting the privacy arguments of Albert Snyder of York, Pa., King upheld the church's free speech rights. The lawyer for Snyder said he will seek an appeal to the Supreme Court. In 2008, a U.S. district court lowered the judgment against the church from \$10.9 million to \$5 million.

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## PLAN OF SALVATION

By Chris Platt

Have you ever played with an Etch A Sketch? Most of us have had the experience of moving the dials back and forth until we produced either a masterpiece or a mess. I usually make a mess.

Before we know Christ and the power of His resurrection (Philippians 3:10), our lives often look like our drawings on the Etch A Sketch. There are few masterpieces out there. We make bad decisions. We live with regrets. Some of our relationships don't work out. If only we could have a clean slate and be given a fresh start.

Listen, it's possible. The good thing about an Etch A Sketch is you can shake it and have a fresh screen. The good thing about knowing Christ is that you can have a fresh start. How does that happen?

The book "Becoming A Contagious Christian" describes "The Five-Second Gospel."

**God loves us.** 1 John 4:16 tells us that we have a loving God who cares deeply for us. We matter to Him.

**We blew it.** We were created to be good, but we chose to go our own way and became sinful (Romans 3:23).

**Christ paid for it.** The good news is that Jesus became man, came to earth and died as our substitute. Peter said He "died for sins ... to bring (us) to God" (1 Peter 3:18).

**We must receive Him.** We must respond by asking Christ to be our forgiver and leader (1 Peter 3:15). The result is spiritual transformation by the Holy Spirit—and a fresh start.

*Reprinted from Western Recorder, Sept. 2, 2008. Chris Platt is missions and ministry pastor at Crestwood Baptist Church in Oldham County.*

## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **BOAZ**—Freemont Church will hold homecoming services Oct. 11, 10:30 a.m. featuring guest speakers, music, a fellowship meal and an opportunity to view the ongoing renovation at the former Freemont School building. **Larry Smith** is pastor.

■ **CADIZ**—Donaldson Creek Church will hold revival services Oct. 11-16 with **Billy Turner** as evangelist. **Kenneth Glass** is pastor.

■ **CYNTHIANA**—Irvingville Church recently called **Brad Caudill** as pastor.

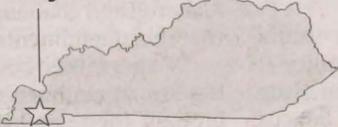
■ **HICKMAN**—First Church will hold revival services Oct. 11-14, 7 p.m. with **Chip Davis** as evangelist and **Russ Pruitt** as worship leader. **Tom Quimby** is pastor.

■ **MAYFIELD**—**Glenn Cope** recently resigned as pastor of New Hope Church.

■ **MOUNT VERNON**—Clear Creek Church will hold revival services Oct. 11-14 with **Randy McPherson**,

### Spotlight on ...

#### Mayfield



High Point Church will host a Ladies Conference Oct. 10, 10 a.m. with author and women's ministry consultant **Sarah Maddox** as guest speaker. For more information or to register, call (270) 247-2647 or (270) 376-2515. **Rick Hatley** is pastor.

pastor of Crosspoint Church in Richmond, as evangelist. **Billy Long** is pastor.

■ **VANCEBURG**—**Kevin Cornette** recently resigned as pastor of Heselon Church.

#### To place an advertisement:

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

**FOR SALE:** Beautiful Christian, patriotic and military neckties: \$15 value for \$6. Hispanic neckties: \$7. Schofield Bible: \$69.95 retail for \$39. Humor book (1,200 sold) "500 Laughter Doeth Good Like a Medicine": \$6. (606) 285-3051.

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of worship for North Oldham Baptist Church (SBC). Position description at [www.nobcky.org](http://www.nobcky.org). Submit resumé and references (one pastoral) to Rita. [Stephenson@nobcky.org](mailto:Stephenson@nobcky.org).

**SEEKING:** Full-time associate pastor/worship leader with emphasis on music ministry for Southern Baptist church. Requires ability to work closely with pastoral team to lead our church in inspiring music and praise. Send resumé to: Morganfield First Baptist Church, 200 North Morgan St., Morganfield, KY 42437. E-mail: [morganfield\\_fbc@bellsouth.net](mailto:morganfield_fbc@bellsouth.net). Deadline for resumé: Nov. 1, 2009.

**SEEKING:** Senior pastor, with excellent preaching ability and a heart for pastoral care, for Trinity Baptist Church of Moultrie, Ga. Located in southwest Georgia, our warm and welcoming 250-member church, dually aligned with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and the Southern Baptist Convention, has a tradition of community ecumenism, an active committee system, a deacon family ministry (we ordain both male and female deacons), a strong Sunday school program, and a dedication to missions. As church administrator, our new pastor should take a hands-on role in these ministries. Our worship style would best be described as traditional-blended, though our quarterly youth services have introduced our congregation to a more experiential worship style. Our prospective pastor should be a people-person and encourager to the church's well-established staff. Direct all inquiries and resúmes to the Pastor Search Committee, Trinity Baptist Church, Moultrie, GA 31768; or to [tbc\\_pastorsearch@gmail.com](mailto:tbc_pastorsearch@gmail.com). [www.trinityofmoultrie.org](http://www.trinityofmoultrie.org).

**SEEKING:** Bivocational youth minister for a growing suburban northern Kentucky Baptist church. This ministry position potentially could become full-time in the future. A love for Christ and teenagers a must. Please send resúmes by Nov. 1, 2009 to: Youth Minister Search Committee, Union Baptist Church, PO Box 194, Union, KY 41091. For detailed job description, please visit [www.unionbaptistchurch.org/yp.html](http://www.unionbaptistchurch.org/yp.html).

**SEEKING:** Worship pastor for innovative, contemporary and missional church 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](http://www.newworkfellowship.com). Send resumé to [nikkiheiserman@newworkfellowship.com](mailto:nikkiheiserman@newworkfellowship.com).



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### October

- 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.
- 10 KBC Annual Meeting, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.
- 13-15 All-State Junior High Choir, First Baptist Church, Richmond.
- 14 GA Jam, Campbellsville Baptist Church.

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

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**SEEKING:** Full-time Southern Baptist pastor with a passion for the lost. Please send a cover letter (required) and resumé to First Baptist Church of East Bernstadt, PO Box 266, East Bernstadt, KY 40729, Attn: Pastor Search. Deadline for resúmes is Nov. 6, 2009.

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

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for Hopewell Baptist Church in Harrodsburg, Ky. Submit resumé by 10-30-09 via e-mail to [bobbybrenda@bellsouth.net](mailto: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 resúmes and DVDs is Oct. 13, 2009.

**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 resúmes to Kathy Newman, 1017 Trail Drive, Henderson, KY 42420; or e-mail to [Pat@immanuelbaptisttemple.org](mailto:Pat@immanuelbaptisttemple.org).

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## Flooding in Philippines capital poses disaster relief challenge

By Tess Rivers  
International Mission Board

**Manila, Philippines**—When Tropical Storm Ketsana blew through Manila Sept. 26, it dumped more rain in six hours than the Philippines' capital normally receives the entire month of September, resulting in what has been called the worst flood in 40 years.

In any city, such rainfall would lead to flooding. For a crowded city that sits below sea level with an underdeveloped sewage system, the results proved disastrous. As of last weekend, the government reported 80 percent of Manila was under water.

More than 240 people have lost their lives and hundreds of thousands are displaced. Southern Baptist missionaries living in Manila expect the death toll to climb higher.

"Just in my area of town alone," said Jill Harvell, a missionary living in Quezon City, "I can think of 22 people who have died as a result of this storm."

"People have been stranded on their rooftops for ... days without food and water. Cars were floating down the streets. I've never seen anything like it."

It is the worst flood that Shirley Seale, who has served in the Philippines since 1987, can recall.

"We've been assessing the needs in areas around Manila. One of our national pastors estimates that in one area alone, more than 100 are either dead or missing," she reported.

Many of the missionaries found themselves stranded at various locations around the city when the rain came. However, as roads became passable, their thoughts immediately turned to the enormous needs around them.

By Sept. 27, Harvell—whose husband, Greg, was stranded in nearby Quezon province—already had submitted a request for funds from Baptist Global Response to help with relief efforts. A day later, initial funds had been approved and released.

"When I arrived home Monday night, Jill had already organized Filipinos from our house church and the community," Greg



**DESPERATE SITUATION** Filipinos clamber onto a roof to escape floodwaters dumped by Typhoon Ketsana in the Quezon City suburb of Manila Sept. 26. (Photo by Jay Directo/AFP)

Harvell noted. "They were all there packing bags of relief items to give away."

Jill, together with her children and the Filipino believers, packed 400 bags with rice, powdered milk, canned meat and coffee to distribute to those in the immediate areas affected by the flood.

Seventeen-year-old Josh Fern, whose parents, Dwight and Gloria Fern, were stranded at a school across town, opened their home to about 15 people affected by the storm, including one teenage girl who developed appendicitis.

"The girl's parents also were stranded in another part of the city. Thankfully, though, there was a nurse in the group who helped care for her," Gloria Fern said.

Getting the young woman to the hospital involved a number of vehicles, including a rubber raft.

Gloria said she was not surprised that her son opened up their home to those in need. "Missionaries all over the city were opening their homes," she noted. "I had just finished major grocery shopping the

### Kentucky among DR teams in Philippines

**Manila, Philippines**—Southern Baptists are gearing up for a major disaster response in the wake of a typhoon that flooded the homes of 2.3 million people in the Philippines.

A specialized disaster response team from the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention has led the effort this week to lay the groundwork for a larger contingent of volunteers who will arrive later, said Jim Brown, U.S. director for Baptist Global Response.

The teams planning to follow the SBTC group will be drawn from Kentucky, Oklahoma and Texas Baptist Men disaster relief units, Brown reported. All the teams are being drawn from the list of Southern Baptist disaster relief units on standby for international emergency response during August and September. The volunteers will focus on clean-up and mud-out duties, which includes disinfecting buildings and gutting damaged interiors.

Typhoon Ketsana slammed into Manila and surrounding provinces, dumping a month's worth of rain in just 12 hours. Relief organizations say it is the country's worst flooding in 40 years.

day before, so we had plenty of food and supplies to share with others."

After the Ferns arrived home, they began to think of other ways to help their community. Armed with shovels and rakes, the small group in their home headed out to assist with clean-up efforts in some of the more heavily damaged areas.

Long-term relief and clean-up will take months. More immediate needs involve rescue, temporary shelter and food and water. "Typically, our goal in a disaster situation is to meet immediate needs first," said Philip Monroe from the Asian Disaster Foundation, an organization that works with Baptist Global Response.

"Meeting short-term needs can take from two weeks to two months," Mon-

roe estimated. "Then once those needs are met, workers seek to identify a smaller segment of the population and develop a holistic and strategic approach to meeting their needs."

In the Philippines, Monroe continued, this longer-term strategy will include involvement of national believers in relief and clean-up efforts as they seek opportunities to share the gospel.

But for now, the challenge remains to meet immediate needs as quickly and efficiently as possible. With major food warehouses under water and grocery shelves nearly empty, it is a difficult task.

"This is the worst I've ever seen it," Greg Harvell said. "The flooding ... has affected everybody in the city." (BP)

### Pakistani pastor asks world's Baptists for prayer, support

By Mark Woods  
British Baptist Times

**Falls Church, Va.**—A pastor in Pakistan has asked Baptists around the world to pray for the nation's beleaguered Christian community as it faces increasing pressure from the Muslim majority.

In an e-mail to the Baptist World Alliance, Pervaiz Khokhar said prayers are needed after a series of violent incidents in the summer threatened the community's tenuous safety. In late July, Khokhar said, hundreds of members of Sipah-e-Sahaba, a Muslim group banned by the Pakistani government, killed Christians in the city of Gojra and in the nearby village of Korian. The murders stem from allegations that Christians had been defiling a copy of the Koran.

Between 60 and 70 Christian homes were torched. Khokhar said it is thought that at least nine Christians were burned alive, four of whom were children.

He said the allegations apparently stem from an incident in

which a young boy attending a wedding ceremony was accused by Muslims of burning pages of the Koran. Local Christian and Muslim leaders established that the accusation was false, but Sipah-e-Sahaba urged Muslim villagers to attack Christians anyway.

Khokhar asked for prayer from the worldwide family of Baptists. "These people need your support and prayers. Please remember them in your prayers and if possible support them," he wrote.

He also referred to a similar incident from the summer, when a mob attacked the homes of Christians after charges of blasphemy in another part of Punjab province.

Protestant and Catholic leaders in Pakistan have made plans to call an emergency meeting of all church leaders to organize protest action in the face of what they believe is a worsening situation for Christians.

Pakistan, with approximately 180 million residents, is home to fewer than 3 million Christians. (ABP)

### Post-tsunami aid heads to American Samoa

By Mickey Noah  
North American Mission Board

**Pago, Pago, American Samoa**—A Baptist-sponsored Seafarers' Center has been lost in the destruction by a deadly tsunami that struck several islands in the South Pacific Sept. 29.

"Our Seafarers' Center is a total loss," reported Veryl Henderson, executive director of the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention in Honolulu.

A North American Mission Board missionary directs the center in Pago Pago Harbor in American Samoa and lives there with his wife and three children. But Joeli Sovea, a NAMB Mission Service Corps missionary, his wife, Tupe, and their three children, Joel-Samuel, JoHannah and Joreignna, now are without a home.

The Soveas, indigenous citizens of American Samoa, have served at the Seafarers Center since their commissioning as MSC missionaries in May 2008.

The center has been an outreach primarily to fishermen by NAMB and the Hawaii convention. The Soveas also were instrumental in starting Seafarer's Christian Fellowship, a new church plant in Pago Pago, the capital of American Samoa, a U.S. territory with a population of 65,000 people.

The tsunami pushed four devastating waves—each 15 to 20 feet high—into Pago Pago Harbor, smashing boats, houses and other buildings in its devastating path, pushing flooding a full mile into the island.

"All wood structures along the shoreline are gone," Henderson said. "Boats have been depos-

ited on land."

At the Seafarers' Center, all that remains is a concrete shell; the facility's contents were destroyed.

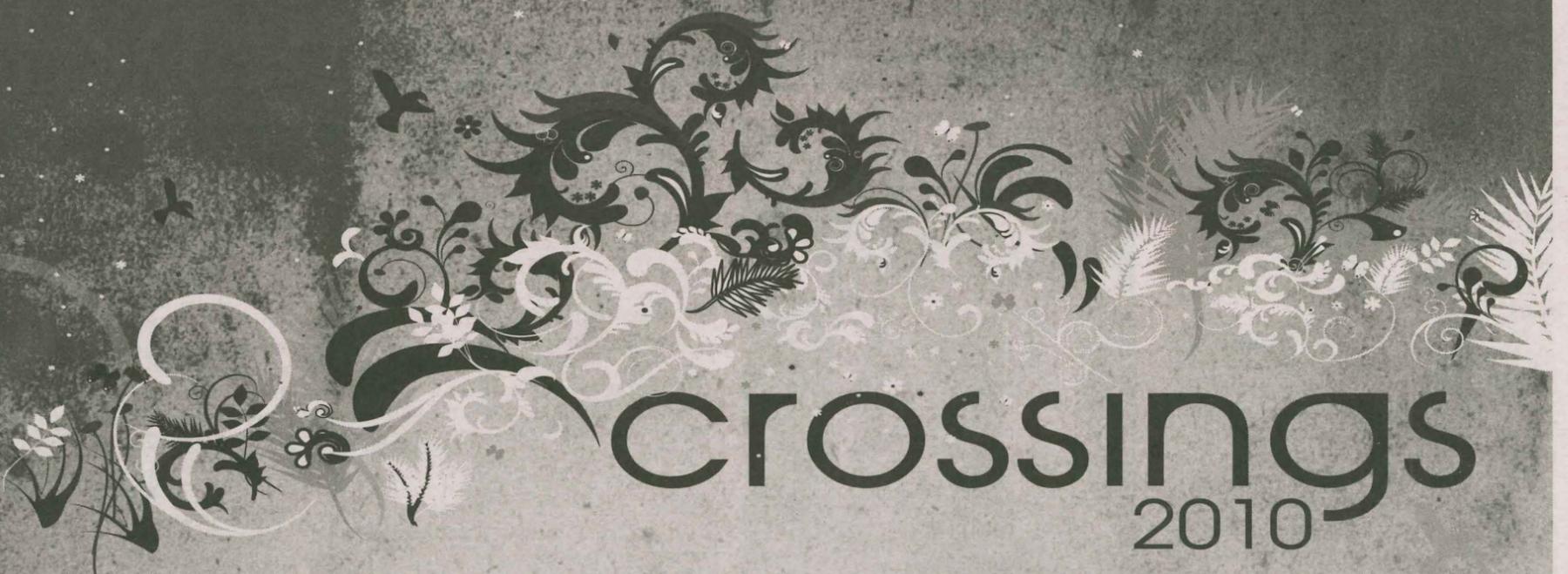
NAMB's disaster relief operations center in Alpharetta, Ga.—already open to coordinate a response to devastating floods in Georgia—has taken steps to help in American Samoa, working closely with Henderson and others at the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention.

A Hawaii convention feeding kitchen in Honolulu with the capacity to serve up to 3,000 meals a day has been flown to Pago Pago, NAMB disaster relief coordinator Bruce Poss reported. As many as 15 trained disaster relief volunteers in Hawaii, including two chaplains, also were deployed to American Samoa.

"We're looking at setting up the kitchen and a disaster response staging area at a school near Pago Pago," Poss noted.

The massive South Pacific tsunami is reported to have killed more than 100 people—some 30 on American Samoa alone—and left dozens more missing, possibly swept out to sea. The death count is expected to climb. The tsunami was created by a powerful earthquake measuring in magnitude between 8.0 and 8.3, which hit around dawn last Tuesday.

According to the Associated Press, the earthquake was centered about 125 miles from Samoa, an island nation of 180,000 people located about halfway between New Zealand and Hawaii. Samoa is about 120 miles from American Samoa—a six-hour flight from Hawaii. (BP)



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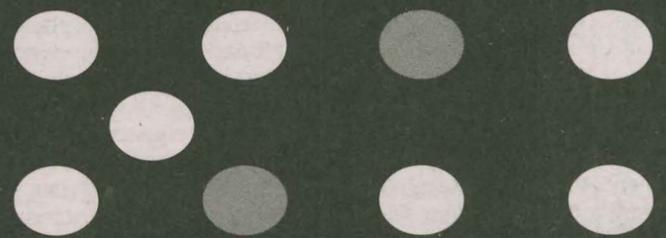
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