Shine like stars in the world
Philippians 2:15

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FOR THE RECORD

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'One Great Day'

Upcoming state evangelism initiative inspires creative outreach, ministry partnerships

By Ken Walker
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Bowling Green—As Kentucky Baptists prepare for the Find It Here evangelism campaign next spring, many already are working together to creatively reach out to the communities through servant evangelism.

The Warren Association of Baptists in Bowling Green used servant evangelism for its recent kick-off of Find It Here.

About two dozen congregations participated in "One Great Day," which focused on serving others in the community. Though most did projects Sept. 26, several postponed them a week because of heavy rains.

"Find It Here is a tool," said Jeff Crabtree, Warren Association's director of missions. "We're building off of it and looking at the next two years."

Despite the bad weather, churches completed such tasks as cleaning up community parks and homeowners' gutters, building handicapped ramps, sponsoring yard sales and giving away food and clothing.

One group built a walking track for an elementary school. Two others went through schools to wipe down everything as protection against the H1N1 flu virus.

Four churches—White Stone Quarry, Clear Fork, Providence Knob and Cedar Bluff—banded together to hold a free yard sale at Bowling Green's Rockfield Elementary School.

"Our purpose was to show the love of Christ and spread the gospel," said Alan Brumback, pastor of White Stone Quarry Baptist. "The best thing was four churches that never worked together before worked together smoothly. It's like we were one church."

The 110 volunteers also did face painting and distributed gospel tracts and free food, serving 125 families.

The four churches held a joint worship service six days before the yard sale, helping them appreciate that it was a "Kingdom" event ultimately aimed at sharing the gospel, Brumback noted.

"Overall, I think the strategy is causing churches to be more intentional," the pastor said of Find It Here. "It will open some doors to get people out doing ministry."

"Deliberate" contact

"These efforts are deliberate attempts to connect the Find It Here theme with these touches in the name of Christ," said Larry Baker, Kentucky Baptist Convention's new work and associational missions director. "We pray that these acts of kindness will be recalled when someone receives the Find It Here bag next spring, and that will encourage them to pull the brochure out and read about Jesus."

Though the rain forced Meadow Land Baptist Church to move its community cook-out into the fellowship hall, Pastor Charles Talley said they helped 70 families with free food and clothing. In addition, two people who attended returned the next day and rededicated their lives to Christ.

Both the cook-out and the spiritual activity that followed helped spread awareness of Find It Here, Talley said.

"It's getting our church excited again, especially when they see people coming back to the Lord," he said. "Our church is coming together around the great mission of seeing people saved and lives changed."

At the association's annual meeting Sept. 29, churches received their Find It Here prayerwalk-

❑ *See 'One Great Day' ... Page 3*

'GREAT' SERVICE *About two dozen Bowling Green churches participated in the Warren Baptist Association's recent "One Great Day" outreach.* ■ **Above left:** *Families browse tables of clothes and household items at a free yard sale, a collective effort of four Bowling Green churches.* ■ **Above center:** *Ladies from State Street Baptist Church put together meals to be delivered to senior adult shut-ins in the community.* ■ **Above right:** *Morgan White, a member of Hill View Baptist Church in Bowling Green, cleans leaves out of gutters as part of the church's outreach to senior adults in the area. (Photos courtesy of Jeff Crabtree)*

Find It Here to be focus of next month's KBC annual meeting

By Robert Reeves
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Elizabethtown—"Find It Here: Sharing Christ Across Kentucky" will be the theme of the 2009 Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting Nov. 10 as Baptists from across the commonwealth focus on preparation for a major evangelistic campaign planned for next spring.

Messengers to the 172nd annual meeting at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown will see video reports, hear testimonies and listen to inspirational messages in what could be considered a major convention-wide pep rally for the Find It Here initiative.

Find It Here is a major evangelistic push aimed at helping Kentucky Baptists fulfill the Great Commission in the state by sharing the gospel with up to 1.5 million households. Some 50,000 volunteers from the more than 2,400 Kentucky Baptist churches will be delivering a bag with a gospel presentation and brochure from their church to the homes in their area.

The door-to-door delivery is slated for March 6-21 and will be supported by a major media campaign on TV and radio.

Many Kentucky churches already have been preparing for the Find It Here initiative by prayerwalking the areas where they will be delivering the gospel presentation, providing witness training to church members, and working to improve church facilities and programs in order to make the best first impression on guests who may be visiting as a result of the effort.

"In the history of the Kentucky Baptist Convention there has never been such an all-encompassing evangelistic initiative," KBC Evangelism Team Leader Ross Bauscher said in encouraging Baptists to both participate in the evangelistic campaign and to be a part of the annual meeting.

More than 1,000 messengers and guests from churches across the state are expected to meet for convention business, fellowship and encouragement. Other business of the annual meeting will include setting a new budget goal for the Cooperative Program and electing convention officers.

Depending on action taken by the Kentucky Baptist Mission Board in its meeting Nov. 9, messengers to the annual meeting also may be requested to ask that KBC President John Mark Toby appoint a Great Commission Task Force for Kentucky.

The committee would be charged with studying "how Kentucky Baptists can work more faithfully and effectively together in serving Christ through the Great Commission." It would bring its report and any recommendations it might have to messengers attending the 2010 annual meeting at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington.

The Mission Board's administrative committee has asked the full board to consider recommending the formation of the special committee in response to action at the Southern Baptist Convention in Louisville in June. Messengers to that meeting asked SBC President Johnny Hunt to appoint a task force to examine how Southern Baptist national organizations are engaged in helping fulfill the Great Commis-

❑ *See Evangelism effort tops ... Page 2*

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Encouragers share Christ 'when the phone rings'

By David Winfrey
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Harrodsburg—Most Sunday nights, after the house gets quiet, Jerry Fowler goes to his kitchen table and talks to strangers.

Fowler does this so he can tell people from across the nation about Jesus. The construction supervisor volunteers as a "telephone encourager," praying with people who call a toll-free number seeking spiritual information.

The encouragers are part of a strategy of the North American Mission Board to both spread the message of Jesus and involve more Southern Baptists in sharing the gospel. NAMB sponsors a toll-free number—(888) Jesus2009—used for print and electronic media ads. It then routes callers to people like Fowler who are trained to inquire about callers' spiritual conditions and pray with them.

Telephone encouragers also are a key component for the Find It Here statewide evangelism emphasis the Kentucky Baptist Convention is coordinating.

Nationally, nearly 3,900 Southern Baptists are trained telephone encouragers, according to N.S.R.K. Ravi, coordinator of NAMB's Evangelism Response Center. Of those, approximately 850 regularly log on to take calls, he pointed out.

In the Bluegrass State, 145 Kentuckians have trained to be telephone encouragers, and 25 or so regularly volunteer. Additionally, 24 Kentucky congregations have signed on as "covenant churches," promising a fast follow-up to area residents who call the evangelism line.

KBC leaders are hoping more Kentucky Baptists will volunteer to help meet the need for more telephone encouragers.

Ravi said the response center is an ideal entry-level program for Christians to learn about sharing their faith. "Once they get into this and they see people get saved, they get bold and go knock on doors."

Fowler, a member of Bethel Baptist Church near Harrodsburg, learned about the initiative last fall from a guest speaker at his church.

"I thought it would be a good way to learn how to witness," Fowler said. He said he gives away Christian tracts but has been hesitant to witness one on one. "I'm a little bit shy about going up to someone you don't know face to face."

He completed an online training course in February and has been volunteering since the spring. Each time, he calls an automated service to log in to the system. He then spreads his witnessing materials on the kitchen table, prays and reads while waiting for a call. Many callers request prayer, he said; some ask spiritual questions.

Fowler mostly volunteers on Sunday nights because his two children should be asleep. "I try to log on after their bed time." Volunteers are asked to serve at least 35 hours a year, he added. "I try to do an hour a week."

Christians? Not Christians?

Callers often describe themselves as Christians, Fowler explained, but volunteers are trained not to take it for granted. "You still ask the other questions, the more diagnostic questions to find out if they are or they aren't," he said.

Fowler recalled leading one man to pray to make a profession of faith in Jesus. The caller had received evangelism materials from a co-worker. The materials included the toll-free number. "He called because he wanted to know who we were affiliated with."

Fowler said he explained the Christian faith and asked the man if he was ready to pray to receive Jesus as his personal Savior. "That's been the highlight of doing it. It's been the greatest feeling in the world," Fowler noted.

KBC leaders hope many more Kentuckians call the toll-free number and telephone encouragers during the Find It Here evangelism emphasis. The effort is designed to help KBC-affiliated churches share the message of Jesus with every household in Kentucky. Find It Here includes neighborhood prayerwalks, advertising and door-to-door distribution of brochures explaining the gospel.

NAMB and KBC will jointly sponsor an advertising campaign to support the materials distribution in March, according to Ross Bauscher, KBC evangelism growth team leader.

Ravi said the center received approximately 94,000 calls between 2006-08, or more than 600 per week. More than 5,000 callers made first-time professions of faith during that time, he added.

Fowler said serving as a telephone evangelist has made him less nervous about sharing his faith. "Any time you get to talk to someone you learn a little something," he noted. "I've learned not to be nervous when the phone rings."

Kentucky Baptists interested in volunteering through the Evangelism Response Center can find out more at www.ERCOnline.net. For more information about Find It Here, visit www.KyBaptist.org/FindItHere.

KBC disaster relief volunteers serving in the Philippines

Manila, Philippines—The Kentucky Baptist Convention has mobilized a disaster relief team to provide humanitarian assistance for those affected by the recent typhoon in the Philippines.

According to Coy Webb, disaster relief associate for the KBC, a team of five Kentucky Baptist volunteers is serving in Manila through Oct. 17. The team is assisting with clean-up and recovery, but the group also is "training Filipino Baptists in disaster relief ministry so they can continue the work when we leave," Webb pointed out.

"We've heard reports that there are over 1.2 million homes damaged or destroyed in the Manila area and approximately 400,000 left homeless," he said. "Our desire is to minister with compassionate help and to bring the hope of our Savior to those left devastated by these tragic storms."

In addition to Webb, the Kentucky team includes Ray Fultz of Frankfort, Dovie Smallwood of Frenchburg, Bill Kramer of Henderson and Bernard Randall of Monticello.

The effort is being coordinated by Baptist Global Response, a Southern Baptist global relief and development organization, along with the International Mission Board and North American Mission Board.

According to Jim Brown, U.S. director for Baptist Global Response, the Kentucky team is being joined by Southern Baptist volunteers from Texas and Oklahoma.

Webb said he is unsure how long the entire relief effort will last after the teams have finished their work.

Finley, who reignited football at Campbellsville, dies at 76

Greensburg—Ron Finley, the man who brought life to a dormant Campbellsville University football program, died Oct. 5 at a Greensburg medical facility. He was 76.

Finley was remembered as a man who preached on-field excellence and demanded off-field values.

"Coach Finley was a man who believed in possibilities," said Campbellsville President Michael Carter. "He believed every young man who came to play for him had great potential in the game of life.

"He lived and taught that life is a gift from God. He had a depth of character that inspired those around him."

Finley kick-started the sport at CU in 1987 after the program sat in a holding pattern for 30 years. He currently holds 77 of the school's 107 victories. Finley ended his college coaching career in 2002. His teams reached post-season play three times in his 15 seasons.

In 2006, Campbellsville University's football stadium was officially named in his honor.

Haywood Riner, who coached with Finley for his entire career at Campbellsville, said his former boss was all about bringing out the best in his coaches and his players.

"When I interviewed he only asked me one question: 'Will you be loyal to me?'" Riner responded with a "yes," and was hired on the spot.

"He was all about doing things right, whether it be winning football games, showing respect, being a gentleman and working hard academically," Riner recalled. "You always knew where you stood with coach."

At a recent dinner to commence an endowed scholarship in Finley's honor, former players heaped praise on their beloved coach.

"Coach Finley made me a better man, a better husband, a better father and a better person," Chris Morgan declared.

"Coach had us all attend church together," recalled Junior Higdon, a former player who now is principal at Taylor County High School. "He loved us and he loved Jesus Christ. We had a positive role model in Coach Finley."

Current team members will wear helmet stickers in memory of Finley for the remainder of the season.

Funeral services were held Oct. 7 at First Baptist Church of Russell Springs. Expressions of sympathy are requested to be made to the Ron Finley Endowed Scholarship Fund at Campbellsville University.

Evangelism effort tops agenda at convention

Continued from page 1

sion. That task force already has begun its work and will report back to SBC messengers next June in Orlando, Fla.

The KBC annual meeting will have three sessions—morning, afternoon and evening—with each anchored by a major address to messengers. KBC President John Mark Toby, pastor of Beacon Hill Baptist Church and current SBC first vice president, will deliver the annual president's address during the morning session. Albert Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville and a member of the SBC's Great Commission Task Force, will bring the annual convention sermon that afternoon.

Albert Mohler

The Tuesday evening address will be presented by Jay Strack, president and founder of Student Leadership University. He is the author of several highly acclaimed books, including "The Three Success Secrets of Shamgar" and "Good Kids Who Do Bad Things."

Convention messengers also will hear on Tuesday morning a report from KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey on the Kentucky Baptists Connect emphasis. This year marks the culmination of the original five-year run of the special initiative during which Kentucky Baptists focused on renewing commitments to evangelism, missions, leadership training, church growth, networking and relationships with Baptist agencies and institutions.

Jay Strack

Kentucky Baptists Connect was extended three more years in order to address goals that have not yet been reached and address additional opportunities. Mackey is expected to highlight Kentucky Baptists' achievements through Kentucky Baptists Connect and encourage renewed passion for efforts to reach the lost in Kentucky.

Convention officers will be elected Tuesday afternoon. The only announced candidate for president thus far is Don Mathis, a vocational evangelist and staff member at Eastwood Baptist Church in Bowling Green.

Mathis, 67, who was KBC president in 1985-86, will be nominated by Darren Gaddis, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Corbin, who served as KBC president in 2006-07 and is chairman of the KBC Mission Board's administrative committee.

Adam Greenway, a professor and administrator at Southern Seminary, will be nominated to serve as first vice president. Greenway, 31, is a member of First Baptist Church of Mount Washington. He will be nominated by Bill Henard, pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington.

Rick Hatley, pastor of High Point Baptist Church in Mayfield, will be nominated as second vice president. Hatley, 48, will be nominated by Alan Dodson, pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church in Lexington.

No candidates have been nominated to date for the positions of secretary or assistant secretary.

The Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference meeting will precede the annual meeting at Severns Valley on Nov. 9. The meeting will feature two sessions on Monday afternoon and evening.

The afternoon session from 2-4:45 p.m. will feature Roger Williams, pastor of Anville Baptist Church; Jamie Ward, associate pastor of preaching and evangelism at Hillvue Heights Church in Bowling Green; and Ken Weathersby, senior strategist in church planting for the North American Mission Board.

The evening session from 6-9 p.m. will feature Mathis; Phil Hoskins, pastor of Higher Ground Baptist Church in Kingsport, Tenn.; and Ergun Caner, president of Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary.

To see the full KBC annual meeting and Pastors' Conference schedules, visit www.KyBaptist.org/AnnualMeeting.

Northern Ky. Baptists to launch pastoral leadership initiative

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Erlanger—When it was formed in 1967, Northern Kentucky Baptist Association's 40 churches baptized more than 900 new believers.

Last year, the association—which has grown to 70 congregations—baptized 536 people. That is a baptism dip of nearly 400 over four decades in a region frequently regarded as one of the fastest-growing areas of Kentucky.

So, why the decline?

Northern Kentucky Director of Missions Rick Robbins said he believes there are a number of factors at play, but that by helping pastors become better leaders, the trend can be reversed.

"The point man in the church is the pastor," Robbins emphasized. "And the churches deserve—and they want—strong, decisive leadership. ... How do we address that?"

The answer for Robbins lies in his association's new initiative, the Five-Year Ministers' Leadership Development Focus, set to launch Jan. 1, 2010.

"We're going to devote the next five years to attempt to raise the leadership level of NKBA pastors to the highest point we can," he said, "with the realization that very few of us, including myself, are natural-born leaders."

According to a proposal put together by Robbins which lays out the new plan, churches can reach people with the gospel—and only healthy ones can do so effectively.

"Healthy churches have able, purposeful, intelligent, trained, visionary and risk-taking leadership," he wrote.

With an executive committee-approved budget of $50,000, Robbins said he will present the initiative to the NKBA annual meeting next week in Cold Spring.

A 10-member steering committee already has begun meeting and mapping out strategy for the five-year plan. The group consists of current and former pastors of Northern Kentucky churches.

"If our churches are really going to flourish, ... we need to have some continuing emphasis on developing the skills of the leaders—the pastors—of the churches," said Larry Smith, committee chair and a deacon at First Baptist Church of Fort Thomas.

A pastor for 14 years, Smith pointed to Luke 2:52 as validation for pastors' need for continued growth.

"The Scriptures tell us that Jesus grew in wisdom and stature," Smith noted. "I think those of us who want to be ministers need to realize that we need to continue growing."

So, just how does an association raise the leadership levels of its pastors?

Robbins and the steering committee have identified a long list of options for pastors to participate in, including attending conferences, taking seminary classes and purchasing helpful materials.

The $50,000 start-up money, Robbins said, will be used to assist those pastors who wish to attend a Saddleback Church conference on leadership, for example.

"If a pastor has no eduction budget in his church—or very little—he's never going to a Saddleback conference. He may not even be able to go to the state evangelism conference," Robbins explained. "But we will have the funds to help the guys do that."

LOOKING AT LEADERSHIP *Members of Northern Kentucky Baptist Association's steering committee for its Five-Year Ministers' Leadership Development Focus meet with Kentucky Baptist Convention leaders at a recent meeting to discuss partnership opportunities between the association and the convention as a way to bolster the new initiative. (NKBA photo)*

With all of the roles pastors are required to juggle, it often is difficult for pastors to be adept in more than just one area of leadership, said Mark Webb, pastor of First Baptist Church of Highland Heights.

One of the areas pastors struggle with mightily, he observed, is how to deal with conflict within the church.

"If you've been a pastor very long, you've dealt with it," noted Webb, a member of the steering committee.

Acknowledging weaknesses

While pastors may not deal well with conflict, getting them to admit it is another struggle, Webb said, an issue the committee has discussed.

"How do we get our pastors to say, 'OK, I'm not as strong a leader as I could be'?" he asked.

Conflict resolution is just one of many leadership areas in which pastors struggle, Robbins pointed out. "It runs the gamut, because the pastor needs many, many identifiable skills to do his job."

Oftentimes, when a pastor lands in hot water with his congregation, it rarely is because of some sin that the pastor has committed, Robbins said.

"Usually it's just a social-skills and communication breakdown that we hope to address," he noted.

The five-year initiative also contains a mentorship component that the steering committee expects will have a cross-church effect. As younger pastors enter Northern Kentucky churches, Robbins wants to have seasoned ministers waiting to take them under their wings.

The initiative's funds will be used to allow those pastors to go to lunch and get to know one another, Robbins said, calling it an incentive for mentorship.

Webb also explained that pastors who are strong in one area will be encouraged to connect with other pastors who may be proficient in areas in which they may lack. Doing so "strengthens not only a pastoral bond between brothers, but also strengthens our churches through what we're learning," he said.

While a bump in leadership is difficult to measure, Robbins said he expects the results to show up in increased baptisms in NKBA churches over the next five years.

Webb equated measuring leadership to measuring love.

"Measuring is difficult, but hopefully we will take what we learn and turn it into application," he said. "The more we become better leaders, the stronger our churches become."

'One Great Day' serves as launching pad to state evangelistic campaign in 2010

Continued from page 1

ing assignments and plans for gospel brochure distribution next March.

Crabtree said 40 of the 47 churches have committed to participating in the campaign, which he expects to accomplish great things.

"We want to think strategically," the missions director affirmed. "If we're not thinking strategically about it, we're just playing church."

Reigniting "spark of evangelism"

Find It Here is receiving a rousing send-off in other areas, as well. Christian County Baptist Association has adopted it as its evangelism theme for the coming year, according to Director of Missions Bobby Melton.

Signs advertising the campaign already have appeared at various events, such as festivals, block parties, vacation Bible schools and a recent youth rally in Hopkinsville.

The rally featured the Real Encounter motorcycle-stunt riding team and led to 100 decisions to follow Christ.

"We're just looking at all the ways we can get out in our community," Melton explained. "We put out Find It Here signs at the county fair and had a witnessing booth set up right off the midway. We had several people make professions of faith."

October marks the second month of the association's Find It Here prayerwalks, following up on spiritual activity that began last spring with eight weeks of witness training.

Taught by Darrell Crawford, pastor of LaFayette Baptist Church, the sessions attracted 65 people.

"That was to get folks prepared to be about sharing their faith," Melton pointed out. "Most people aren't afraid to share their faith, they're just not sure how to get started. If they get started, the Holy Spirit takes over and does the rest."

The association also spotlighted Find It Here at its annual meeting Sept. 28 and on its Web site.

AUTO OUTREACH *In spite of the rain, volunteers from Bowling Green's Hillvue Heights Church turn the parking lot into one large garage as part of its single mothers' oil change outreach during Warren Baptist Association's recent "One Great Day" event. The church not only changed oil, but also made small automotive repairs, inflated and changed tires, and performed routine inspections for nearly 350 single mothers in the community. (Photo courtesy of Jeff Crabtree)*

In addition, some churches are playing off the theme during ongoing servant evangelism projects.

"To me, Find It Here has reignited that spark of evangelism," Melton said. "We're going to keep the fires burning.

"The other day a director of missions asked, 'What if we don't reach all of Kentucky?' I said, 'If we only reach 60 percent that's 60 percent more than we reached last year."

Find It Here is a major evangelistic push aimed at helping Kentucky Baptists fulfill the Great Commission in the state by sharing the gospel with up to 1.5 million households. Some 50,000 volunteers from the more than 2,400 Kentucky Baptist churches will be delivering a bag with a gospel presentation and brochure from their church to the homes in their area. More information is available at www.KyBaptist.org/FindItHere.

Wolf Creek cares for children

Wolf Creek Baptist Church of Williamsburg in South Union/Mt. Zion Association celebrated its 200th anniversary recently by dedicating a pavilion and holding three days of special revival services.

That was exciting, but the church's ministry to children and youth really captured my heart. Wolf Creek has always had a reputation of being a missions-minded church, and I certainly found this to be true.

Partners in the Mission

By Bill Mackey

Each week, more than 50 children and youth are provided a snack breakfast on Sunday morning and full meals Sunday and Wednesday evenings. The food is provided by church members and generous individuals in the Williamsburg area.

Three vans make the needed trips to bring the children and youth who depend on the church and schools for food. It is a big challenge for Pastor John Justice and his wife and the other church members who not only prepare the food but also drive the vans and teach the children.

The pastor told me the story of a little girl who was reluctant to eat on a Sunday night because of stomach pain. He discovered that she had not eaten since Friday at school.

A large group of children and youth were present for the pavilion dedication, pig roast, games and music. More than 200 people from the church, community and association were present, including some who helped with the construction.

The three-acre site had been prepared following coal mining operations and donated to the church. Tents covered the serving lines and a flat bed trailer provided a platform for the musicians.

The preschoolers and younger children had their own worship and activities, and the youth and older children were very attentive. Two of the leaders teach school and lead Christian clubs at their school. I learned about a principal who prayerwalks every classroom each day before school.

It was a privilege to represent Kentucky Baptists on this historic occasion, to preach Sunday morning, and to preach in the first revival service Sunday night. Please join with me in prayer for three teens and an older boy who made decisions for Christ—three for baptism, and one for rededication and transfer of letter.

Please pray as well for the children and youth, families, and teachers of Whitley County schools. As of this writing, the schools have been closed for more than a week due to the H1N1 flu virus. Reports indicate that the greatest epidemic in the area, however, is drug addiction with the children suffering the consequences.

I praise God for the privilege to be associated with the members at Wolf Creek Baptist Church, whose goal is to help those who are in need and to provide hope through the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Cumberlands worth visiting, considering as place to study

After Thought

By Todd Deaton

Rain supposedly dampens one's spirits, but that wasn't the case on my first visit to the campus of the University of the Cumberlands last week. Even though it was nearly dusk and had begun to drizzle as I arrived in "the other Williamsburg" on Sunday evening, the grandeur of the 100-year-old campus' Appalachia vistas, mixed with the Jeffersonian, Antebellum and Edwardian architecture of its buildings, left a stirring impression.

The next morning, before I was to speak at convocation, Rick Fleenor, assistant to the president, took me on a tour of some of its 40-plus buildings. The Ward and Regina Correll Science Complex—which houses the Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics and Physics Departments as well as a training lab for physician assistants—is its newest academic facility. Modeled after Monticello, Thomas Jefferson's home in Charlottesville, Va., the center features his distinctive neoclassical design with dome and porticoes. The Lenora Fuson Harth Hall, a striking women's residence with huge white columns, which is the first building to greet campus visitors on one end of campus, opened in January and now houses 96 students. Now five years old, the E.L. Hutton School of Business, a two-story building with 11 classrooms, a lecture hall and three computer labs, resembles Independence Hall in Philadelphia—complete with a replica of the Liberty Bell. And the President's Home, which sits in the heart of the campus, built around 1905, is a replica of the "Kentucky Home" that exhibited at the St. Louis, Mo., World's Fair in 1904.

Founded as the Williamsburg Institute in 1889 by the 18 churches of Mount Zion Baptist Association, the name was changed to Cumberland College in 1913, and it is not difficult to see the university's strong religious heritage. Several churches are situated within walking distance of the campus—two of which are the First and Main Street Baptist congregations. The Gatliff Chapel, named after a local physician, Ancil Gatliff, who was one of the school's founders, contains gorgeous stained glass windows that depict the life of Christ on the upper level and present significant events in the history of the college on the lower level.

In his 29th year as president, James Taylor maintains the school's commitment "to provide a first class education at rates that are compatible with the means of mountain people." Now offering more than 40 undergraduate programs of study, the university also offers master's degrees in education and was recently approved to offer master's degrees in business administration, physician's assistant studies and professional counseling as well as doctorate degrees in educational leadership. Total enrollment is approximately 2,800, with about 65 percent of these students enrolled in one of its baccalaureate degree programs.

On our way into the university, one of our first stops was at the Taylor Stadium, named after President Taylor's son. The 2,400-seat athletic facility includes a football field, eight-lane track and locker rooms. Now in their 25th football season, the Patriots team recently played their 250th game. Winning two straight Mid-South Conference Championships, the Patriots, currently 6-0, are on their way to a possible "three-pete." Cumberlands offers 11 sports programs for both men and women, with recognized programs in basketball, swimming, golf, tennis, baseball and soccer.

Yet Cumberlands is more than an institution made of brick and mortar that offers sports programs; it exists to serve students primarily from the eastern Kentucky mountains, providing them with a quality education that nurtures and strengthens Christian values. At Cumberlands, though, students also are expected to serve the community. Through the Mountain Outreach program, more than 400 students and volunteers this past summer constructed safe, clean homes and completed other projects, such as wheel chair ramps, for area residents. Since its conception in 1982, Mountain Outreach has built more than 130 homes and performed countless repair projects throughout the region.

Mountain Outreach Director Marc Hensley, drove me off campus to see Taylor Meadows, a new neighborhood of several homes that were constructed by the students and volunteer groups from many Baptist churches. Selected by the students themselves, the families who receive these homes pay for them through low, interest-free mortgage payments. Mountain Outreach, Hensley said, not only has had a major impact on these struggling families, but many of Cumberlands' students also are impacted through their experiences and decide to enter community service fields or missions and ministry professions after graduation.

For some 25 years now, as I have traveled back and forth to Kentucky to attend seminary or visit my in-laws, I—like billions of other travelers—have rushed past the University of the Cumberlands sign along I-75 and perhaps took note of a few of its beautiful buildings that were visible from the highway. But after my visit last week, I can attest that this Kentucky Baptist university campus is well worth slowing down and driving the extra mile or two to see. And for prospective college students, its beautiful, Appalachia setting, its outstanding academic curriculum, its successful sports programs, and its commitment to Christian service and values make the University of the Cumberlands a truly great place to prepare for one's future.

Waitress gives lesson on tithing

FIRST PERSON

By Larry Rowell

In a declining economy such as ours, many families have cut back on activities that use what little discretionary funds are left at the end of the month. Included in this list is eating outside the home, which Americans did at least five times a week until a few years ago.

When I was a kid in the early 1960s, eating out was a treat reserved for a once-in-a-while special occasion such as a birthday.

Mama didn't particularly like to eat out because it was expensive. Besides, she could cook better than any restaurant cook dead or alive. Cubed steak, smothered in thick sawmill gravy, homemade mashed potatoes, zipper peas, cornbread and iced tea. Man, could Mama cook.

It would be hard to find that meal in a restaurant today because so many buy their food frozen, processed and pre-packaged from food service companies.

But when we did eat out, the waitresses were mostly matrons who wore dresses under an apron and some type of little frilly hat perched at the front of a bouffant hairdo that was frizzed to perfection. I have always liked waitresses because they do such a wonderful job. I remember the good ones and rarely have I ever met a grumpy waitress.

However, a tired and sad waitress recently told me that people are tipping less and less. And that concerns this single mother who makes $2.13 an hour and relies on tips to make a living.

But one trend that she reminded me of that I'm really ashamed of is on Sundays where good Christian folk, who just left their houses of worship, will eat in a restaurant and tip next to nothing—and that for good service.

My waitress friend told me she hates to work on Sundays.

"It makes you wonder what they're learning in church," she said. "It sure ain't 'It's better to give than receive.'"

And sadly, the toast fell buttered side up on that statement. Studies indicate that the average evangelical, Protestant church member gives less than 2.5 percent of their income to the local church.

The Bible, I told her, says in Malachi 3:10 to bring the "whole tithe into the storehouse," which is the local church. And, I added, the "whole tithe" is 10 percent, not 2.5 percent.

As she digested what I had just said, she sighed and said something that I'll never forget: "If they won't give God but that little bit, why should I expect that I'll get anything more than that?"

Larry Rowell is interim pastor of Jamestown First Baptist Church in Russell County Baptist Association. This column first appeared in The Casey County News, where Rowell works as a staff writer.

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

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Are you messing up retirement?

By Don Spencer

FINANCIAL FORUM

Recent reports that looked at nearly 22 million people in over 56,000 retirement plans are alarming. The average balance was $65,454. Over half the participants had a balance of $20,000 or less. Almost 40 percent had a balance of less than $10,000.

Seeing these disturbingly low figures served to remind me of some of the mistakes that most of us make with our retirement plans:

Not saving enough. A reasonable goal for retirement is to have adequate income on a regular basis that cannot be outlived. To do that, even for a person with modest income now, they need to be looking at a retirement savings account well in excess of $100,000. Depending on the retirement benefit option one takes, that $100,000 will generally provide a monthly benefit somewhere between $350 and $700. For most, even that is not enough to provide adequate retirement income.

Not saving in the right way. Too many people, often out of fear, use investment options that are inappropriate. Even with the recent market downturns, over the last 140 years, stocks have outperformed bonds 82 percent of the time over all 10-year periods, 95 percent of the time over all 20-year periods and 99 percent of the time over all 30-year periods. For those individuals in their 20s, 30s and even in their 40s, you have plenty of time to ride out the ups and downs of the market. If you do, while there are never any guarantees, history indicates you will come out with substantially better retirement.

Not spending enough time on planning. The average person probably spends more time planning for their vacation next year than they do in planning for 20 years or more they will spend in retirement.

Cashing out. Too often, when finances are tight, or there is a job change, too many people cash out their retirement. We "want it now." Those amounts are subject to regular tax as well as a 10 percent penalty tax. Most people end up paying about a third of those retirement funds in taxes. If those funds were left to grow tax deferred, the benefits in retirement would be significant.

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

Paducah recording artist now singing for soldiers

Along the Way

By Todd Deaton

Eric Horner had a 17-year career in country music, touring with the likes of Lee Greenwood, but seven years ago he surrendered to the ministry and left it all behind.

Now Horner, a member of Lone Oak Baptist Church, Paducah, has a new career: singing for soldiers.

Horner's ministry as a Christian recording artist was born through a song that he wrote for his wife, Debby, titled, "We Will Stand."

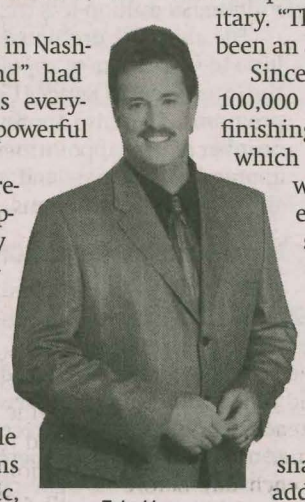
Through Debby, Horner learned about the sacrifice of military service. Her first husband, a marine, had been killed in Beirut , Lebanon, in 1983, when his barracks were bombed. "I realized I had taken freedom for granted," Horner said.

Watching Debby's reactions to the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, Horner was moved by her passionate emotions of grief and loss. In the wee hours of morning, he wrote a song, hoping to comfort her. Though it was meant at first only to be a gift for her, when Debby heard it, she said, "The world needs to hear this song."

So Horner took a demo to a radio station in Nashville. Within a few weeks, "We Will Stand" had spread like wildfire, and country stations everywhere were playing his song because of its powerful patriotic message.

Soon veterans groups were calling with requests for concerts. Horner saw it as "an opportunity to encourage veterans, and to say thank you to those who serve in the military."

After being invited by a commander to perform at Fort Gordon in Augusta, Ga., Horner began receive calls from other commanders. "On training bases, with mostly the command officers, I was not able to preach," Horner noted. But as chaplains heard him share his heart through music, more and more of them began to invite him to come speak at chapel services. "There, I could share about Christ with the soldiers," he said.



Eric Horner

So with his "Victory Concerts," he now tries to schedule chapel services. While he still can't share his testimony at the concerts, he does distribute Bibles and tracts.

"Some soldiers take two and three Bibles and send them home to Mom and Dad or other family members," Horner said.

The soldiers' response has been unbelievable, he rejoiced, noting that a team of 16 volunteers accompanies him to counsel with the soldiers. Since they began keeping track, about 200 decisions for salvation have been recorded during chapel services, and hundreds more have rededicated their lives. At one base in South Carolina, 75 of the 400 soldiers present responded, he noted.

"To see that kind of response is very humbling and affirming," Horner said, explaining, "I've played on some of the biggest stages with some of the biggest names in country music, but that pales in comparison to seeing those soldiers respond."

Decision cards are filled out by soldiers who respond to an invitation, and members of Lone Oak Baptist Church send a letter to encourage each of those soldiers. "Some church members even become their pen pals," he said.

So far, most of Horner's work has been with the army, but he hopes to expand soon to other branches of the military. "The ministry is really growing," he said. "It's been an amazing journey to get where we are."

Since 2005, he has performed for more than 100,000 soldiers in more than 50 concerts. He is finishing a new album, "Christmas in America," which will be available in mid-November. And while he performs at about 150 churches each year—sometimes two to four times in a single week—and he really enjoys doing the church concerts, "I absolutely love the military ministry," he said.

"The main message that we try to give in chapel and through the Victory Concerts is one of hope," Horner said. "In chapel, it is finding hope in Christ."

"We just want to encourage them and share Christ with them before they go," he added. "This may be the last opportunity that someone has to share Christ with them before they leave for duty. We take that mission very seriously."

To those who are searching for a word of hope, "we offer the best hope there is: hope in Christ" ... *along the Way.*

Wake up

BAPTIST FORUM

As Christians, let's not be wimps. Let's confront abortion for the homicide that it is.

Make no mistake about this one: President Obama's health care plan will provide for abortion on demand under the guise of reproductive health care—to be paid for by taxpayers. It is time for us to wake up.

Victor Maestri
Old Forge, Penn.

Thinking Christians

Too often we Christians are not known for our thoughtful reflection on current events. When we get our talking points from the ideologues on cable news channels and talk radio, we become as shrill and reactionary as they are, and just as divisive.

The vacuum that is our failure to think independently is filled with a myriad of voices in our culture. When we merely parrot back the talking points of our culture—whether conservative or liberal, we fail to engage culture as thoughtful Christians. Feigning thinking through repetition of others thoughts is not a proper substitute for thinking.

Of course, there are occasions when someone in print or media expresses our thoughts on a subject better than we could. These articulations can and should be recognized if it is helpful in expressing our own thoughtful reflection, but should never be a substitute for thoughtful and biblical reflection.

Sometimes we also sacrifice thoughtful reflection on the altar of a quick reaction. We think that we must respond immediately to every issue that arises, even before all the facts are in. This often makes us look foolish and uninformed.

The other danger, of course, is to live in a constant state of equivocation, never taking a stand on the controversial issues of the day. Each of us, by temperament, is prone to one extreme or the other. By Christian commitment we must purpose to be both thoughtful and courageous, or in biblical terms, to be "speaking the truth in love" (Ephesians 4:15). To do this, we must be able to think about the biblical and logical implications of ideas and actions and respond appropriately as the situation warrants.

Steve Weaver, pastor
Farmdale Baptist Church
Frankfort

Reform capitalism

We Americans won't adequately reform health care until we reform capitalism. That may be the most important moral/spiritual/justice issue of our time.

Personal and corporate greed drives our economic engine. We worship at the altar of capitalism's sacred marketplace. Capitalism has become America's religion, having much more of an impact on how we live our lives than do the teachings of Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Is capitalism, as we practice it, the economic system God wills? How can we reform capitalism to make it compatible with God's will? If the "In God We Trust" engraved on our currency is genuine, shouldn't seeking God's will on how we do the economy be of utmost importance?

Why can't we form an economic system which combines the best ideas from capitalism and socialism that is devoid of greed? Wasn't government ordained by God?

It seems to me that socialism would serve us better in the area of universal health care. Life-saving health care should be not-for-profit, and the richest nation in the history of humankind can pay for it, if the will is there.

Don't synagogues, churches and mosques thrive and meet people's needs when members pool their time, talents and tithes to do God's will?

Paul Whiteley Sr.
Louisville

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

What's wanted in a relationship?

By Valerie Vincent

FAMILY FORUM

Comfort. Safety. Happiness/Joy. Meaning.

A spouse needs to feel valued. A spouse needs to feel cared about.

Jesus encountered people as he traveled. When he did, the way he spoke and interacted with them helped them feel valuable. He acknowledged their life and the circumstances of their life. He recognized their deepest needs. He provided them with the means for satisfying their deepest needs, their hunger, their thirst.

Humans hunger and thirst for the things of this world. Why? Because we do have a demanding need for love, deep and strong; for meaning and purpose to our existence; for value that does not end with age or wrinkles or memory loss or disability.

God knows our need. God has always planned to fulfill those needs to overflowing. Jesus is the living water, the bread of life. Jesus offers to quench our thirst and satisfy our hunger forever. In the end the world can only offer us death, the end. Christ is the bridge, the path to the life we have always wanted but struggle to believe exists: the kingdom of God on earth, deep and abiding love, infinite value of one's life, purpose beyond our understanding for our very existence.

Seek ye first the kingdom—God's kingdom, God's way of seeing the world, God's way of understanding reality, God's view of humanity, God's plan for meeting needs, God's way of seeing your spouse, God's way of loving your spouse.

Then all these things shall be added unto you. What things? All that you need. All that you need to be satisfied.

God has a great plan for marriage: to meet a lot of our needs through our spouse. God's plan has always been to use his human creation to speak his truth in love and love with an eternal purpose. Is your marriage a touch of the eternal kingdom on earth?

Valerie Vincent is a Christian counselor with Hardy Associates in Louisville.

www.WesternRecorder.org
October 13, 2009

Study: SBC funding plan inadequate to achieve stated goals

By Bob Allen

Champaign, Ill.—The Southern Baptist Convention has identified a missionary-sending goal big enough to accomplish the nearly 2,000-year-old task of the Great Commission—but lacks a clear fundraising plan for meeting it, according to an upcoming annual report on Christian stewardship.

The State of Church Giving Through 2007 report, set for release Oct. 15 by empty tomb, inc., a Christian service and research organization based in Champaign, Ill., uses the nation's second-largest religious body as a case study to discuss money and the church.

Authors John and Sylvia Ronsvalle applaud the SBC for articulating a clear goal for engaging all unreached people groups on Earth. To do that, leaders say the International Mission Board would need to increase its present missionary force of 5,300 to about 8,000.

The Ronsvalles say Southern Baptists are not effectively meeting the goal, however, because there is no clear plan in place for raising additional money to support the new missionaries.

When the SBC announced 2,800 as "the number of additional IMB missionaries needed to engage the unreached people groups around the world with the gospel" in the September 2007 issue of the denominational magazine SBC Life, no cost estimate was included.

Using a figure on the SBC Web site that it costs $40,931.64 a year to support each missionary, it would require nearly $115 million more annually to pay for 2,800 additional missionaries.

SBC Life did not use that cost estimate, however, because the bottom half of the full-page ad in which the goal appeared promoted the funding channel for meeting it as the Cooperative Program. Half of CP funds collected at the national level go to the IMB; the rest fund other denominational causes such as theological seminaries and public-policy advocacy.

All denominations use international missions as a marketing tool to encourage general giving that supports the entire denominational structure, the Ronsvalles acknowledge, but they contend that current funding practices of the SBC are failing to keep up with stated goals.

If the convention is serious about its goal for global evangelism, the authors suggest it would be more effective to raise new money for missions through the annual Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, which is designated 100 percent for the IMB.

The Lottie Moon goal increased from $165 million in 2007 to $170 million in 2008, with no mention of the goal of expanding the mission force. The 2008 offering failed to reach that goal, totaling $141 million, $9 million less than 2007.

The shortfall prompted IMB trustees in June to suspend new appointments to both the International Service Corps and Masters programs. They also approved reducing the number of new appointments to the career, apprentice, associate and journeyman missions-personnel programs.

Increase percentage of CP?

One proposal to remedy underfunding of the IMB is to strengthen CP by changing its percentage allocation.

Traditionally the standards have been for congregations to forward 10 percent of their undesignated receipts to the state convention and for 50 percent of the money that comes into state conventions to be sent on to the SBC.

Even if that model were followed—the current average state conventions forward to the SBC is closer to 38 percent, and only a fraction of SBC-affilated churches give a full 10 percent to CP—congregations would need to direct $330 million more to the CP to generate an additional $114 million for international missions. State conventions and non-IMB entities at the national level would receive equal amounts.

The Ronsvalles say that seems unlikely with long-term trends showing smaller, not larger, percentages of congregational undesignated gifts being directed to the unified budget. A proposed benchmark of 10 percent for CP giving from the churches with which SBC leaders are affiliated prompted considerable debate within the denomination.

They say it would take "a relatively small amount of dollars"—about $7 for every member of a Southern Baptist church—to raise the $114 million needed annually to support 2,800 additional missionaries.

That could be done by mobilizing "retail billionaire philanthropists"—small donors who combine in large enough numbers to support multi-billion-dollar institutions—who have traditionally funded SBC mission work. The question, they ask, is how to attract increased giving.

One scenario is to enlist one or more "wholesale billionaire philanthropists," large-capacity donors, to announce they would match every dollar of the 2009 Lottie Moon offering that exceeds the previous year's offering up to a specified amount.

The stated goal would be to increase the offering to a level adequate to fully fund current IMB operations, recover ground lost with the 2008 decline and to field the additional 2,800 missionaries needed to engage all unreached people groups.

The Ronsvalles calculate the new total at $265 million—an increase of $124 million over the most recent amount. Based on 2008 membership figures, the increased offering from churches would cost each member an extra $3.82 to raise the $62 million to be matched by wealthy philanthropists.

Resistence from entities?

They say resistance would most likely come from agency heads fearing that churches would increase designated giving by reducing undesignated gifts—the notion of "robbing Peter to pay Paul."

The Ronsvalles contend, however that it is "not improbable" that the "money follows vision" formula would come into play, providing sufficient funds for other convention ministries as well.

They point out that church members are willing to support the general structure of the denomination, evidenced by the amounts of support they give to the Cooperative Program, but the percentage of donations leaving the local church has been declining since the 1980s.

"Denominational officials may take courage in the biblical affirmation that 'perfect love casts out fear' (1 John 4:18), and choose to love those in desperate spiritual and physical need at the risk of the preservation of their own structures," they concluded.

"Current giving trends suggest that continuing in the same pattern will not protect those structures," they continued. "The perceived risks associated with expanding missions may be well worth taking." (ABP)

BAPTIST DIGEST

SBC CP gifts finish year down—The Southern Baptist Convention finished its 2008-09 fiscal year 2.87 percent behind budget, while Cooperative Program receipts for the year were down 2.23 percent and combined CP and designated giving for the year was down 3.65 percent, SBC Executive Committee President Morris Chapman announced recently. A total of $199,822,090.18 in CP gifts was received by the convention during the fiscal year, which ran from Oct. 1, 2008 to Sept. 31, 2009—down by $4,563,502.45 (2.23 percent) from the previous year's total. For the SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget, the year-end total came up $5,894,743.82 (2.87 percent) short of the $205,716,834.00 budgeted to support Southern Baptist ministries worldwide.

Wellborn, 'Baptist Hour' preacher, dies—Retired Florida State University professor and former "Baptist Hour" radio preacher Charles Wellborn died Oct. 1 at his home in Georgetown. Contemporaries described Wellborn, 86, as one of the best preachers they ever heard and the clearest voice of conscience among his generation of Baptists. He began preaching on "Baptist Hour," a weekly program produced by what was then called the Radio Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, in 1948. Wellborn later served 10 years as pastor of Seventh & James Baptist Church in Waco, Texas. He also taught at Baylor University, Campbell College in Buies Creek, N.C., and Florida State from where he retired in 1990. Over the years he wrote seven books, two plays and more than 100 articles in scholarly and popular journals. Wellborn was a member of Faith Baptist Church in Georgetown where his memorial service was held Oct. 10.

IMB search committee seeks candidates—A team of International Mission Board trustees met Oct. 6 in Richmond, Va., and announced they will begin accepting recommendations to bolster their search for the IMB's next president. The 15-member search committee was appointed in September following Jerry Rankin's announcement that he will retire as IMB president in July 2010. Jimmy Pritchard, senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Forney, Texas, is chair of the committee with Norman Coe, associate pastor of Highview Baptist Church in Louisville, as vice chair. Recommendations can be sent to IMBPresident@FBCForney.org or to P.O. Box 97, Forney, TX 75126. The deadline for submissions is Dec. 31.

Music publishers strike deal—PraiseGathering Music Group and LifeWay Worship have signed an exclusive co-publishing agreement that results in one of the largest selections of Christian choral music in the industry. The agreement, effective Nov. 1, provides more churches with music from contributors to the PraiseGathering catalog. PraiseGathering Music Group is a church music publishing house that equips local churches with musical resources. LifeWay Worship produces materials, events and online resources that touch on multiple aspects of the worship and music experience.

EVANGELISM IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

You can reach people for Christ without leaving your house!

As Christians we are familiar with the Great Commission. We understand that Christ charged us to reach out and share His message of salvation to those in need. It sounds simple enough, but it can be a challenging thing to do in today's busy world!

How can you get in touch with people who are seeking God's help? When can you find the time to reach out to those people between all of the other things you have to do each day?

There is a group that can provide you with innovative tools that allow you to reach seekers from your own home – at your own convenience. It's called

The Evangelism Response Center

...and it's easy to get involved.

To learn more, contact us at

erc@namb.net
or (770) 410-6383.

North American Mission Board

Camp expansions continue

Growth of Crossings means camps 'under construction'

Ky. Baptist Assemblies

David Melber

Camp will see some very exciting changes at both Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek in 2010. While we have made additions and improvements, the most significant will be with our worship services. Shortly after the summer we resumed work on the new worship center at Cedarmore. This addition will be an incredible asset to our ministry in the future. This summer, camps were divided into two worship services each night which changed the dynamics of an evening at camp.

The new worship center will allow for a seating capacity of more than 700. As I was walking the property recently, I was reminded that the very existence of Cedarmore hung in the balance only a few short years ago. I stood in front of the new worship center under construction and praised the Lord for His goodness. Students are hearing and responding to the gospel message at this property and many will come to know Him while worshipping in this new facility.

At Jonathan Creek we will be renovating the A.M. Johnson Worship Center which was constructed in 2002. At that time the seating capacity more than doubled that of the Shoemake Chapel. Apparently, we underestimated. This year we will be adding more square footage to the seating area bringing the capacity to more than 700.

I am very excited about the additions in recreation, housing and other areas of camp, but I must say that to be increasing our capacity for worship services at both properties this year is of utmost significance. These two projects create an attitude of reflection in me as I consider the past decade at the camps.

Please accept our invitation to arrange a visit to see the improvements at Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek. In addition, we would like to express our apologies to our retreat groups this fall while we are "under construction." Our desire is to minimize the impact of projects while groups are at the properties. However, our increasing attendance mandates that we continue to build.

Thank you for your support and prayers for the camps. We hope you will rejoice with us as we celebrate how God has blessed beyond what we ever would have imagined.

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

For Heaven's Sake

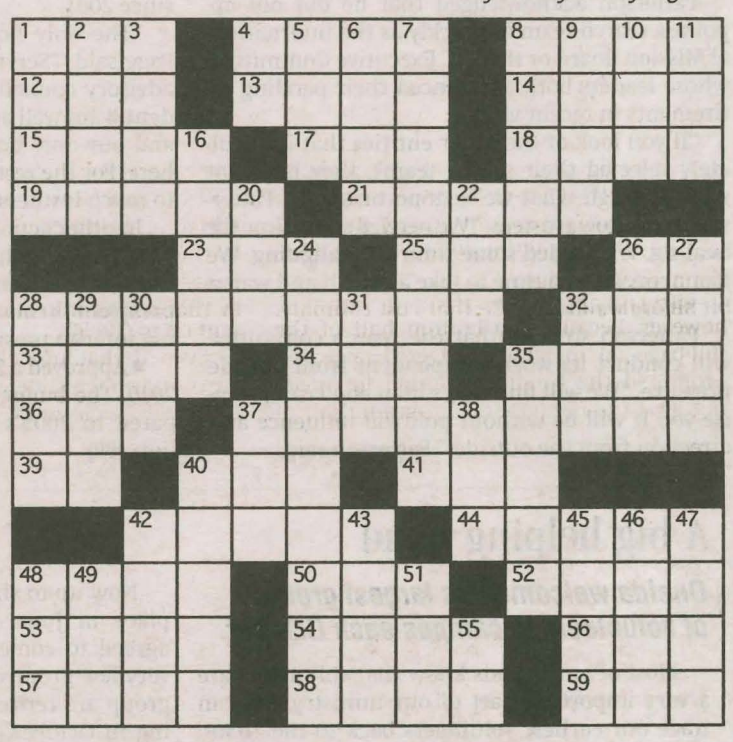
Mike Morgan

Preacher's Kids

David Ayers

Bible Crosswords

By Evelyn Boyington



Across

1 Atlas and Apennines (abbr.)
4 "Is there no ____ in Gilead?" (Jeremiah 8:22)
8 Son of Omri; notoriously evil king
12 Gershwin
13 Great Lake
14 KJV verb
15 Complete collections
17 "Thou shalt not plow with an ox and an ____ together" (Deuteronomy 22:10)
18 Curtain or horse
19 Canines, for example
21 Stage direction
23 Legal object
25 Chemical suffix
26 Certain physician (abbr.)
28 "The yoke shall be destroyed because of the ____" (Isaiah 10:27)
32 ____ ear
33 "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also ____" (Galatians 6:7)
34 Energy unit
35 Mad at
36 "They ____ my path, they set for-ward my calamity" (Job 30:13)
37 "There were set there six ____ of stone" (John 2:6)
39 Elder (abbr.)
40 "The everlasting ____, the Lord" (Isaiah 40:28)
41 One fleet of foot in the forest
42 Grand ____ auto
44 "Let them praise his name in the ____" (Psalm 149:3)
48 "____ went before the ark" (2 Samuel 6:4)
50 Linking verb
52 "____ my lips"
53 Works like a gem
54 Steadfast
56 KJV grain
57 Aid's partner
58 Saline drop
59 "When we came to the ____, that we opened our sacks" (Genesis 43:21)

Down

1 "There went up a ____ from the earth and watered" (Genesis 2:6)
2 Birch or ginkgo
3 Make contented
4 "____ it ever so humble ... "
5 Son of Jether (1 Chronicles 7:38)
6 Feminine name
7 "A thorn in the flesh, the ____ of Satan" (2 Corinthians 12:7)
8 "____ in me, and I in you" (John 15:4)
9 Animal not to be eaten (Deuteronomy 14:7)
10 Hubbub
11 Actor Cross
16 Sunset, for one
20 Coop dowager
22 Participle suffix
24 Hardly fickle
26 Gossip, literally (colloq.)
27 Addition column
28 "God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting ____" (Deuteronomy 33:27)
29 "Thou art ____, O Lord" (Psalm 119:151)
30 Paddle
31 NYC subway
32 "Is any thing ____ hard for the Lord?" (Genesis 18:14)
35 Asparagus unit
37 Sorrow
38 "The staff of his shoulder, the ____ of his oppressor" (Isaiah 9:4)
40 "The Holy ____ shall come upon thee" (Luke 1:35)
42 ____ and again
43 Colorfast
45 Father of Salathiel (Luke 3:27)
46 "Whosoever slayeth ____, vengeance shall be taken on him" (Genesis 4:15)
47 Idyllic spot
48 Exclamation
49 Where the action is
51 Baseball stat.
55 Son of Judah (1 Chronicles 2:3)

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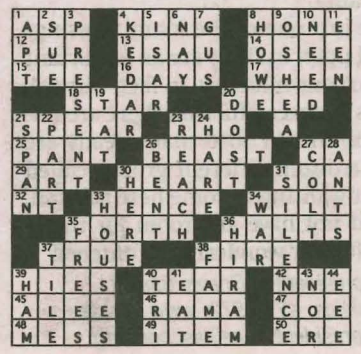
Last week's solution



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NAMB search committee appointed, Frank Page elected evangelism VP

Denver—The appointment of an eight-member presidential search committee and the unanimous approval of former Southern Baptist Convention President Frank Page as vice president of evangelization topped news from the North American Mission Board's Oct. 7 trustee meeting in Denver.

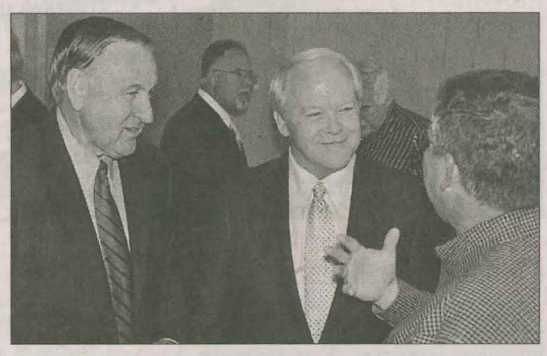
Tim Patterson, chairman of NAMB's trustee board, appointed Ted Traylor, pastor of Olive Baptist Church in Pensacola, Fla., as the committee's chairman. Also on the committee: Doug Dieterly, executive pastor, Plymouth (Ind.) Baptist Church; Tim Dowdy, pastor, Eagle's Landing First Baptist Church, McDonough, Ga.; Larry Gipson, pastor, First Baptist Church, Oneonta, Ala.; Chuck Herring, pastor, First Baptist Church, Collierville, Tenn.; Lisa Knutsen, member, Green Valley Baptist Church, Henderson, Nev.; and Ryan Palmer, pastor, Seventh Metro Church, Baltimore. Patterson, who is pastor of Hillcrest Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla., will serve as an ex officio member of the committee.

Appointment of the search committee comes two months after the Aug. 11 resignation of Geoff Hammond, who had led NAMB since May 2007.

Patterson acknowledged that he did not appoint a search team as quickly as the International Mission Board or the SBC Executive Committee, whose leaders both announced their pending retirements in recent weeks.

"If you look at the other entities that immediately selected their search teams, they have not gone through what we've gone through," Patterson told fellow trustees. "We needed some time for healing. We needed some time for realigning. We just needed some time to take a breath and wait a bit before we did this."

Patterson stressed that the search committee will conduct its work independent from outside pressure. "We will find God's man and I can promise you it will be without political influence and direction from the outside," Patterson said.



NEW ROLE *Frank Page (center) and Richard Harris visit with a North American Mission Board trustee after Page was elected NAMB's vice president for evangelization Oct. 7. Harris is NAMB's acting interim president. Page, a former Southern Baptist Convention president, will begin his new role later this month. (Photo by Joe Westbury/ Georgia Christian Index)*

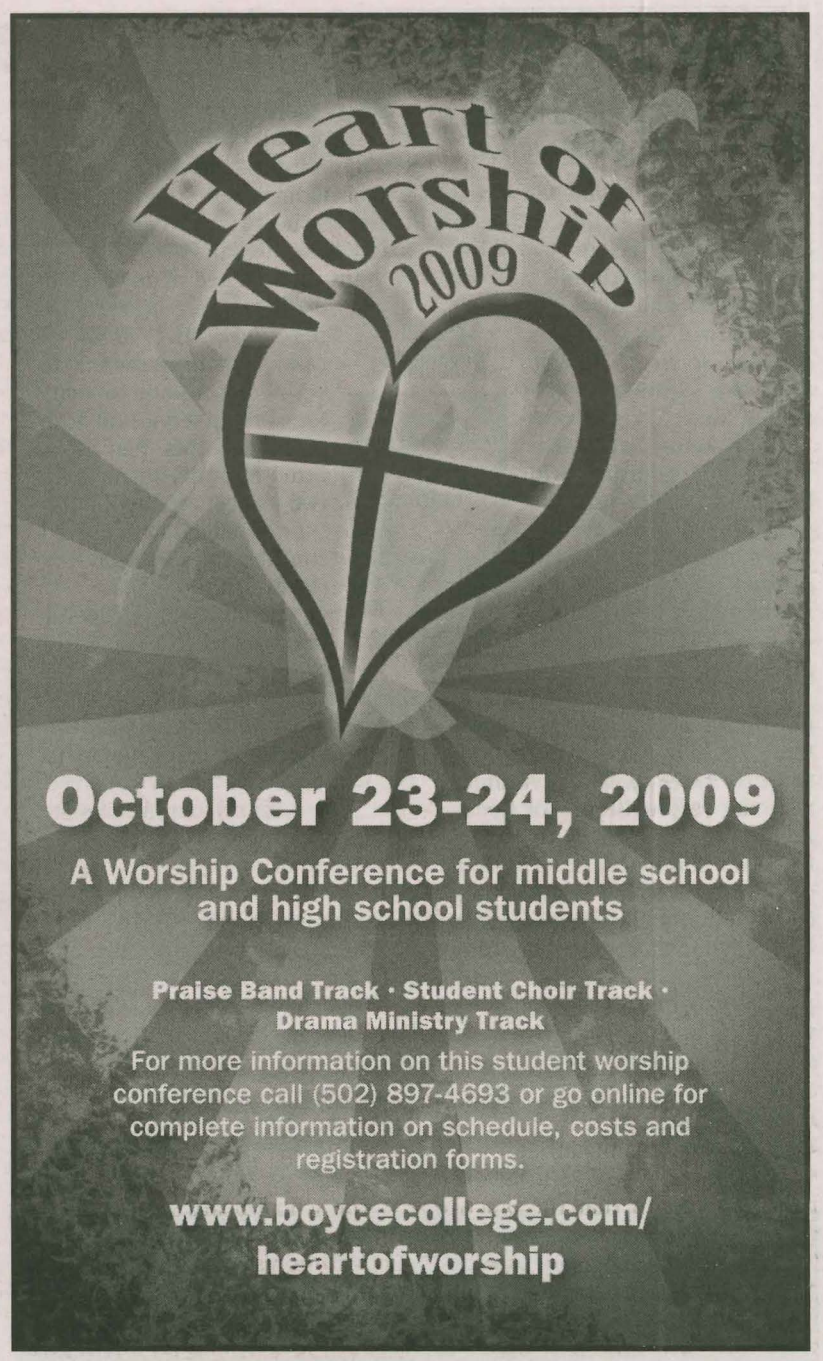
In an attempt to move the agency forward, trustees unanimously approved Frank Page to NAMB's top evangelism post.

Page was SBC president from 2006-08. He has been pastor of First Baptist Church of Taylors, S.C., since 2001.

"The only hope for our continent is Christ," Page said. "Serving as I do on President Obama's advisory council and having served as SBC president, I am well aware of the anarchy in our nation and our only hope is Jesus, and that's why I am here. For the rest of my life I want to do what I can to touch lostness on this continent."

In other action, NAMB's trustees:

- Named Richard Harris as the mission board's interim president, to remain in the role until a president is chosen. Harris has been serving as acting interim president since Aug. 12.
- Approved a $126 million operating budget for 2010. The budget is a 5.8 percent reduction compared to 2009's approved budget of $133.8 million. (BP)



A big helping hand

Oneida welcomes its largest group of volunteers to campus each October

Most of our friends know that volunteers are a very important part of our ministry. We can trace our earliest volunteers back to the 1930s. When Kay and I returned to Oneida in 1984, about a dozen different groups of volunteers visited our campus every year, mostly during June and July. The largest group consisted of 12-15 people.

This is Oneida

W.F. Underwood

Our volunteer program today includes many more groups and a much larger number of volunteers. Our first volunteer groups of the year arrived in January and the last group for 2009 will arrive the first week of November. We already have had about 50 different groups of volunteers in 2009, with eight additional groups due to come in October and November. I do not know how many volunteers have helped us this year, but it likely will be more than 800 when the last group comes.

October is a very special month because our largest group of volunteers—the Alabama Campers on Mission—began arriving during the first few days of the month. They have been coming for the past 15 years; they originally came for two weeks in June. The group is so large—this year nearly 100 are expected to be here—we can't take any other volunteers while they are here.

Several years ago the leader of the group asked me if there was a better time for them to come so that other groups who could only come in June or July could come in their place. At that time we did not have many volunteers after September, so October seemed like a win-win situation.

Now up to six other groups can work in their place in June since the Campers on Mission agreed to come during October when we have very few groups. Since most of the people in the group are retirees they really do not mind coming in October, and they like being here in the mountains when the leaves are beginning to change and the weather is cooler.

The ACOM is not only the largest group that comes every year, they are the only group that spends two weeks with us. Admittedly, they are an older group, but like so many of our older volunteers, they bring a lifetime of skills which is invaluable to ministries like Oneida.

As I looked over the hillside at our campground recently, I didn't see room for additional campers—but several more volunteers were due to arrive. Our campground is set up for full hook-ups for about 34 units. All 34 hook-ups are in use during the next two weeks and there are some campers in an overflow area. Not only is the campground full, but nearly all of our volunteer housing is full of volunteers who chose to use our guest housing instead of driving their motor homes from Alabama.

Volunteers are just one of the many blessings God has showered upon us. They are an important and critical part of our ministry. In fact, our volunteer program is so successful that there are several weeks and months in 2010 that already are filled. More than a dozen different groups called in July and August wanting to come here this fall, but we simply did not have any room for them. Thank you, Lord, for our wonderful volunteers!

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

'To God be the glory!'

Clear Creek building named for former leader Whittaker

Touring the campus of Clear Creek affords a sense of the legacies various leaders have left behind. The tour may begin with historic Kelly Hall, built when the first president, Lloyd Caswell Kelly, still was at the helm. Stories still are told about the construction of the massive structure and of the rainstorms that washed up stones every time the supply got low during the building process. They say Kelly would pray, the rains would come and more stones would be available for the masons' work. Kelly Hall, with its tons of hard sandstone, reminds us of Dr. Kelly, who faced many hardships to start his preachers' school and weathered many storms to see it grow.

Clear Creek Chronicle

Donnie Fox

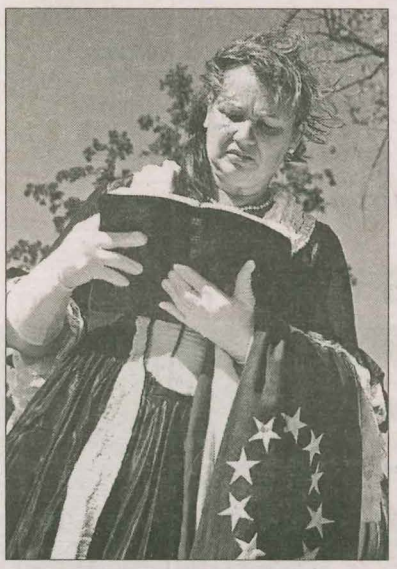
The next stop likely would be the Aldridge Building, named for the second president, Dennis Merrill Aldridge. This building, like Kelly Hall, largely used to be classroom space. Now it is our administration building. The president's office is located in the Aldridge Building, along with offices for the rest of the administrative staff. The Aldridge Building is an administrative center and a good representation of the leadership of Dr. Aldridge. Under his guidence, Clear Creek not only grew in size, but also in structure.

A breezeway connects the Aldridge Building to the classroom building. Many comment on first sight that the classroom building looks like a church. The beautiful stained-glass windows and the church-like shape are no accident. Learning is a holy thing when God is your subject. Our beautiful classroom building was constructed during the tenure of Bill Whittaker, Clear Creek's fourth president. Dr. Whittaker was what many would call a "development president." Under his leadership Clear Creek grew financially, but he was not just a development president. More than 600 diplomas were awarded and Clear Creek gained accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools during the Whittaker years.

As I write this, we have just completed the ceremony where we officially named our classroom facility the Bill D. Whittaker Classroom Building. As Dr. Whittaker would say, "To God be the glory!"

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

U.S. Supreme Court weighs fate of Mojave cross memorial



MONUMENT DEBATE *Merrie Turner, dressed as Betsy Ross, prays Psalm 91 in front of the Supreme Court as justices considered the fate of a war memorial cross in California's Mojave National Preserve. (RNS photo by Angela Abbamonte)*

By Adelle Banks

Washington—When Congress passed a law transferring the property around a war memorial cross in the Mojave National Preserve into private hands, did that resolve a court ruling that the cross violated church-state separation?

The U.S. Supreme Court grappled with that question last week and related thorny issues, including how veterans should be memorialized and whether other cross-shaped war memorials are in danger of being taken down.

The case reached the nation's highest court eight years after Frank Buono, a former assistant superintendent of the preserve, sued because the National Park Service permitted the cross but rejected a Buddhist shrine.

Solicitor General Elena Kagan argued that the transfer to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, arranged through a 2004 act of Congress, was a proper way to handle the complaint.

She said a lower court left the government with two options when it determined the memorial was unconstitutional: either remove the cross, which had "acquired deep meaning for the veterans in the community," or find a way to dissociate the government from the 7-foot symbol.

The justices delved into questions about how many national memorials exist with religious symbols and whether such memorials would be appropriate in various locations across the country.

Kagan suggested that a religious building, such as a church or synagogue, could be a national memorial if it had particular historical significance, such as links to the civil rights work of the late Martin Luther King Jr.

But she said national memorials can be on public or private land.

Kagan argued that in the case of the Mojave cross, "if the transfer had taken place it would no longer have been the government's property." A lower court blocked the transfer as an insufficient remedy.

ACLU attorney Peter Eliasberg, who represented Buono, said the retention of the Mojave cross as a national memorial on private land is questionable.

"A cross is the predominant symbol of Christianity and it signifies that Jesus is the son of God and died to redeem mankind (from) our sins," he argued.

Justice Antonin Scalia disagreed.

"The cross is the ... most common symbol of ... the resting place of the dead," Scalia said, calling Eliasberg's contention that the cross only honors dead Christian veterans "outrageous."

The location of a cross-shaped memorial also was addressed by the justices, who compared its site—"in the middle of nowhere"—to a more visible location on the National Mall in Washington.

Eliasberg told Justice John Paul Stevens that context matters in cases dealing with the First Amendment's prohibition against government-established religion, but he reiterated that the cross in a remote area has been designated as a national memorial.

In another point of comparison, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg asked Eliasberg what would happen to the Argonne Cross in Arlington National Cemetery, which commemorates lives lost in World War I, if the high court determines the Mojave cross should come down.

"In Arlington, there is a cross that is surrounded by a sea of tombstones with symbols of the faith of all of the different service members," Eliasberg responded. "In that context, I don't think anyone would perceive that the government was favoring one particular religion." (RNS)

Ban on religious signs roils Ga. community

Fort Oglethorpe, Ga.—The woman who sparked a controversy over signs bearing Bible verses at a north Georgia high school's football games said she was not offended by the signs and was surprised when the district superintendent banned them.

Catoosa County Public Schools ruled last month that the practice of football players at Lakeview-Fort Oglethorpe High School bursting onto the field through paper banners bearing motivational Bible verses opened the district to lawsuits and must be stopped.

At the Oct. 2 home varsity football game, the team took the field through a banner reading "This is Big Red Country." Players marched across the field and dropped to one knee in a circle of prayer.

Though banned from the playing field, religious messages filled the stands. Students wrote Scripture verses on their chests with body paint, wore T-shirts printed with "Warriors for Christ" and held banners like "You took him off our sign but you can't take him out of our hearts."

The school board's decision that the religious banners violated the Constitution's ban on establishment of religion galvanized the 900-member student body and community.

Fueling the outrage was the report that the tradition, started shortly after the Sept. 11 attacks, had to end because of a single complaint.

The outcry prompted the alleged complainant—Donna Jackson of nearby Ringgold, Ga.—to come forward with her side of the story.

Jackson issued a press release admitting that she made a call to Catoosa County school superintendent Denia Reese about cheerleader signs but denying that she was complaining about them or threatening to sue.

Jackson said she "neither intended nor expected" the superintendent to "take the drastic action that ensued."

After the telephone conversation, Superintendent Reese said Jackson filed an open-records request for financial documentation for purchase of supplies to make the banners. The school system sought legal advice, she said, which confirmed the cheerleaders' use of the banners would likely constitute a violation of the First Amendment as currently interpreted by the Supreme Court. (ABP)

NATIONAL NOTES

Congress puts 'God' back in visitor center—When the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center opened in December 2008, the national motto, "In God We Trust," was nowhere to be found. But almost a year later, after complaints from members of Congress, a new engraving of the phrase was unveiled. In July 2008, Rep. J. Randy Forbes, R-Va., founder and chairman of the Congressional Prayer Caucus, led more than 100 members of Congress to sign a letter to the architect of the Capitol about the lack of "historical religious content" in the new visitor center. Committees in the House and Senate voted to make a number of changes to the $621 million facility. Last July, the House and Senate voted to instruct the architect of the Capitol to engrave the national motto and the Pledge of Allegiance in the visitor center.

Court denies attempt for pro-life plates in Ill.—Supreme Court justices last week turned away an anti-abortion group's attempt to compel Illinois to offer special license plates that support the pro-life cause. The court declined, without comment, to hear arguments in Choose Life Illinois v. White. Choose Life Illinois, Inc., had appealed a decision by the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upholding the state's right to refuse to enter the abortion debate in its specialty license plate offerings. State officials had refused to offer the plates despite being presented a petition by supporters of the effort—and even though other appeals courts have upheld similar programs elsewhere in the country. So far, according to Choose Life, 24 other states have approved such specialty license plates.

Father sues school over son's anti-abortion shirt—On the day President Obama addressed the nation's schoolchildren, a middle school student donned an anti-abortion T-shirt to protest Obama's proposed overhaul of the nation's health care system. The student wore the "Abortion is not Healthcare" T-shirt without incident until his fifth-period teacher sent him to the principal's office. He was ordered to turn the shirt inside out because it might offend other students. The boy's father, William Boyer of New Cumberland, Pa., filed suit last week against the West Shore School District, alleging that his son, E.B., was unfairly censored by school officials. Boyer's suit claims the district's policies regarding student expression, dress and grooming are unconstitutional and that the censorship of religious and political speech violates the Constitution.

NCC warns against uncivil debates—Fearing that civic debate in the United States is becoming increasingly acrimonious and even ugly, the National Council of Churches is urging civility in national discussions on public issues, including health care reform. The call comes during a time of growing concern about the tenor of debate over health care reform. There also is growing concern about attacks on President Obama, some of which have been called racist and which emerged over the summer in large-scale protests and at public town hall forums.

Prayer Partners

Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist missionaries and ministries:

Prodigal Ministries in Crestwood. Prodigal is an after-care ministry that helps men and women after prison return through life transformation and the renewal of their minds in Christ. With three transitional houses, program director Jennifer Partin shares that the ministry's goal is to help ex-offenders have a seamless, gradual and healthy re-entry into society. Pray that more believers will volunteers to help in Prodigal's role-modeling and mentoring programs. Pray that God will provide for their financial needs as they receive donations and income from fundraisers.

Mission Service Corps missionaries Doug and Joli Cullen of Pineville. The Cullens are national missionaries serving through Choose Life Ministries. They visit churches, sharing the gospel and promoting the sanctity of life through preaching, teaching, music and creative arts. Pray for opportunities across the United States to share the gospel concerning the sanctity of life. Pray for the unborn, and for the safety of the Cullens as they travel nationwide with their children.

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

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by staff

■ **ARTEMUS**—First Church recently celebrated its 150th anniversary with three days of services. **Tom Patterson** is pastor.

■ **BARDWELL**—Kirbyton Church recently called **Michael Lee** as pastor.

■ **BEREA**—Liberty Avenue Church will hold revival services Oct. 18-21, 7 p.m. with **Ken Felty,** associate pastor at Corinth Church in London, as evangelist. **Charlie Dean** is pastor.

■ **CADIZ**—**Albert Clardy** recently resigned as pastor of Delmont Church.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Saloma Church will hold fall revival services Oct. 16-17, 7 p.m.; Oct. 18, 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. with **Kyle Franklin,** pastor of Mount Roberts Church in Campbellsville as evangelist. **Tim Shockley,** worship minister at Cecilia Church will lead music. A community potluck meal will precede the Saturday evening service. **John Chowning** is pastor.

■ **DRY RIDGE**—Dry Ridge Church ordained **Keith Heaverin** as a deacon Oct. 4. **Joe Kitchens** is pastor.

■ **IRVINE**—Providence Church will hold revival services Oct. 18, 6 p.m.; Oct. 19-21, 7 p.m. with **Kenny Davis,** pastor of Bethel Church in Berea, as evangelist. **Bill VanWinkle** is pastor.

■ **LEXINGTON**—South Elkhorn Church recently ordained Youth Director **Christopher Parrish** to the gospel ministry. **Damon Jones** is pastor.

■ **LONDON**—East Pittsburg Church recently called **Jake Brock** as youth minister and ordained **Sam Thomas** as a deacon. **Denny McCowan** is pastor.

■ **MOUNT VERNON**—Scaffold Cane Church will hold revival services Oct. 18-21, 7 p.m. with **Billy Long,** pastor of Clear Creek Church in Mount Vernon, as evangelist. **Chris Cobb** is pastor.

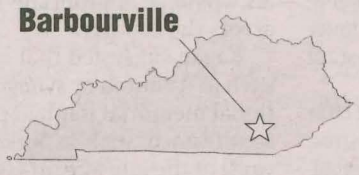
■ **MAYFIELD**—Baltimore Church recently called **Jess Alford** as pastor.

Trace Creek Church ordained **Keith Allred** to the gospel ministry Sept. 20. **Ronnie Stinson** is pastor.

■ **SCIENCE HILL**—Northside Church will hold homecoming services Oct. 18, 9:45 a.m. with **Gerald McCants** as guest speaker. A potluck meal and special music by **Quintin McGinnis** follows the morning worship service. **David Muse** is pastor.

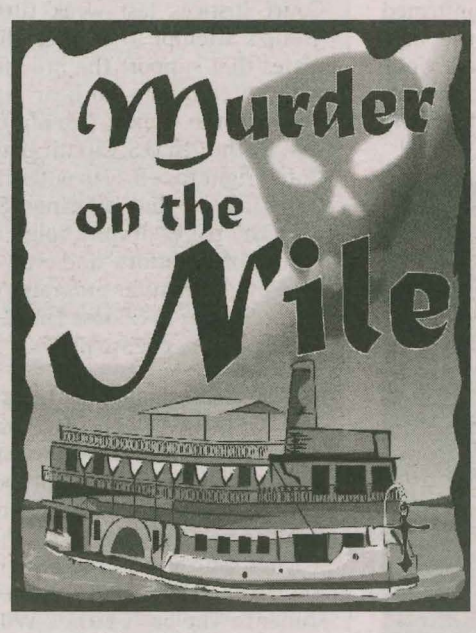
Spotlight on ...

Barbourville



Swan Pond Church recently held revival services with **Dale Rose** as evangelist. The church reported five professions of faith during the services. **Denvil Taylor** is pastor.

35th Anniversary Derby Dinner PLAY HOUSE



*Dinner Included

*Free Parking

Simon and his new wife find that a honeymoon on the Nile may not have been such a good idea when it becomes a floating murder scene. In true Agatha Christie fashion, this tense and eerie mystery will keep you on the edge of your seat to the very end.

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KBC Calendar of Events

KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION

October

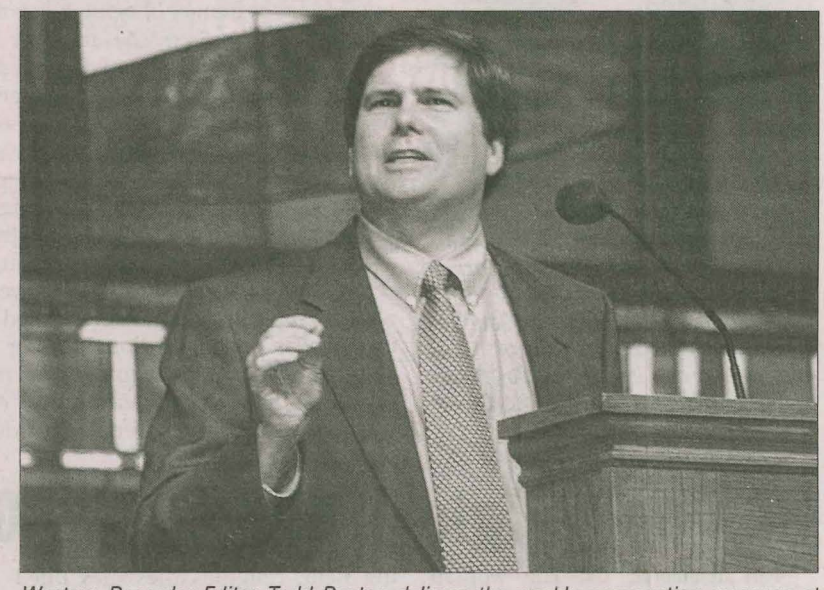
19-20 Senior Adult Choir Festival, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

20 Ministry Assistants Workshop, Baptist Building, Louisville.

22-23 Quarterly Prayer Meeting for Spiritual Awakening, Northside Baptist Church, Mount Vernon.

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

'Stand for God's word'



Western Recorder Editor Todd Deaton delivers the weekly convocation message at University of the Cumberlands Oct. 5. He encouraged students at the Williamsburg campus to serve God and stand up for Him despite any obstacles that may present themselves. Using several biblical examples of those who stood up for Christ, Deaton said, "This is how devoted followers of Christ may become the greatest of leaders: No matter what ... stand up for good, stand for God's word." Deaton also will deliver the convocation address at Campbellsville University Oct. 14.

Classified Ads

To place an advertisement:
Rates are available upon request.
Call (502) 489-3428; or visit www.WesternRecorder.org.
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NEEDED: Used hymnal on PowerPoint for Lake City Baptist Church. Please call Nancy, (270) 928-4211.

RESOURCES: LongviewNET LLC provides Web site help for churches and ministries. Visit www.longviewnet.com for details.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for First Baptist Church, Sonora, Ky. Submit resumé by Oct. 30, 2009, by e-mail to fbsonora@bbtel.com; or mail to PO Box 187, Sonora, KY 42776.

SEEKING: Director of missions for Green Valley Baptist Association in Henderson, Ky. Submit resumés to DOM Search Committee, Zion Baptist Church, 8158 State Route 351 E, Henderson, KY 42420-9406.

SEEKING: Full-time Southern Baptist pastor who loves the Lord and has a passion for the lost. Please send cover letter (required) and resumé to New Banklick Baptist Church, 10719 Banklick Road, Walton, KY 41094, Attn: Pastor Search; or by e-mail to nbbcpastorsearch@fuse.net.

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 resumés 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.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music. Responsible for planning, coordinating and directing the music ministry, blended-style worship and choir. Send resumé and salary requirements to FBC, Walton, 47 S Main St., Walton, KY 41094, Attn: MMSC; or e-mail to loisfbcw@fuse.net.

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 resumés is Nov. 6, 2009.

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: morganfieldfbc@bellsouth.net. Deadline for resumés: Nov. 1, 2009.

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

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

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

American Samoa relief efforts ongoing, six Southern Baptists among the dead

By Mickey Noah
North American Mission Board

Pago Pago, American Samoa—While American Samoa's overall death toll from the one-two punch of an earthquake and tsunami remains at 31, six of the victims were Southern Baptists, according to a local pastor.

"The South Pacific Baptist Association lost six members in three different churches—the Samoan-Korean Baptist Church, the Chinese Baptist Church of American Samoa and Faleniu Baptist Church," said Elise Tafao, pastor of Happy Valley Baptist Church in Pago Pago.

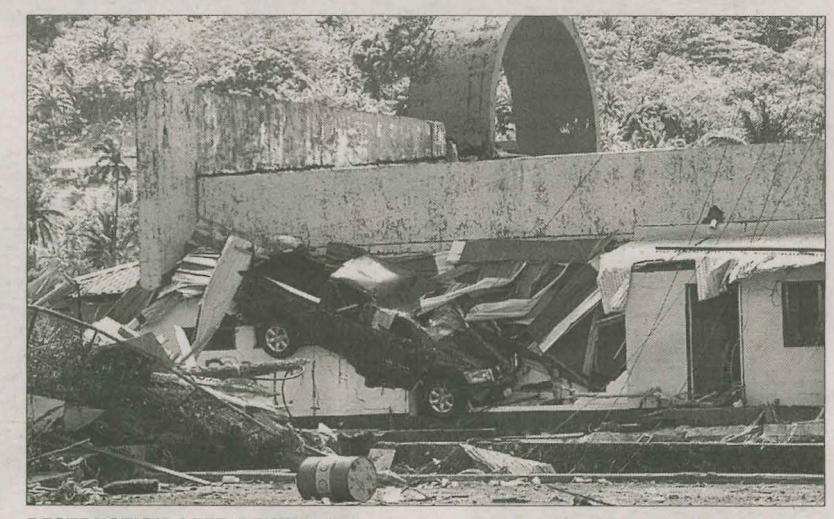
Tafao's church, which he has led for 17 years, is located in Pago Pago's international airport area, which was not impacted by the tsunami.

But those living and working in the Pago Pago harbor district were not as fortunate. Tafao said only 15 minutes separated the 8.0 magnitude earthquake and the deadly tsunami Sept. 29 that sent four tidal waves—each 15 to 20 feet high—smashing into land, tossing boats, cars and structures around like toys.

North American Mission Board Mission Service Corps missionaries Joeli and Tupe Sovea are doing well, Tafao said, although the Seafarers' Center—the couple's ministry base at the harbor—was destroyed. The center's concrete shell is all that remains, its contents swept out to sea by the tsunami. Since the Soveas' commissioning in May 2008, the center had served as both their home and office.

Tafao said negotiations to lease a replacement facility were successful, and that the Soveas and their three children already have moved. The new Seafarers' Center also is in the harbor district, within walking distance of the original center and not far from the international fishing vessels that dock in the harbor. Pago Pago is home to the largest tuna canneries in the world.

"Our seafarers ministry hands out tracts and videos like the 'JESUS' movie," Tafao said. "In the old center, we had a chapel, telephones, international calling cards for sale, a fax machine and a post office so the fisherman could contact their families back home."



DESTRUCTION LEFT BEHIND *Following the recent tsunami on the Pacific Ocean island of American Samoa, a truck was embedded in the wall of Pago Pago Community Center in Pago Pago, the island's capital. Nearly three dozen people died in the earthquake-triggered tsunami that hit the island last month, including six Southern Baptists. (Photo by John Newton/PagoPago.com)*

Tafao estimated a minimum of $20,000 will be needed to replace the center's big-screen TVs, office supplies, telephones, computers and ping pong and pool tables.

Electricity has been restored to most of the island, Tafao said, but landline telephone service remains out, although cell phones are working. Because the airport was unaffected, two or three military planes are flying in food and supplies each day from Hawaii to the island.

Tafao said residents who lost everything in the tsunami—such as the Soveas—need replacement pots and pans, cooking and eating utensils, dishes, children's clothing and other typical household items.

"An 80-year-old man—who lived in one of the hardest-hit villages and who we took food and clothing to—told me he's seen more of the love of God displayed since the tsunami than ever before," Tafao said.

He added that a Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention-owned feeding kitchen will not be flown in from Honolulu to American Samoa as originally planned.

"The American Red Cross said it is no longer needed because much of the available food on American Samoa is being provided through existing federal school-lunch program inventories," he explained.

Other Baptist relief agencies are working on the island as well.

Paul Montacute, director of Baptist World Aid, said Baptists around the world are praying for disaster victims, but prayers alone aren't enough. "We need your financial giving," the head of the relief-and-development arm of the Baptist World Alliance appealed in a news release.

Montacute said New Zealand Baptists are working through links they have with a network of Baptist churches in American Samoa.

The Hawaii Pacific convention has established a fund for individuals and organizations that wish to support relief efforts in American Samoa. Donations may be mailed to the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention, Samoa Disaster Relief Fund, 2042 Vancouver Drive, Honolulu, HI 96822. Donations also can be made through NAMB's disaster relief Web site at www.NAMB.net/DR. (BP)

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Creationists dispute 'Ardi' fossil discovery claim as new view of human origin

By Michael Foust

Petersburg—A "prehuman" fossil that some scientists claim gives new insight into human origins likely is nothing more than the remains of an ape and does not support evolutionary theory, scientists at a leading creationist ministry contend.

Answers in Genesis, the Christian ministry which runs the Creation Museum in Northern Kentucky, posted a 1,600-word analysis of the scientific find on its Web site Oct. 5, saying that the "Ardi" female fossil—which is short for Ardipithecus ramidus and which evolutionary scientists say is 4.4 million years old—poses no more threat to creationist belief than have past fossils.

"Given the number and scope of the papers presented this week on Ardi, it will take some time before creationists are confident in our conclusions on Ardi and her kin," Answers in Genesis wrote in its News to Note weekly feature.

"Based on our first look, however, the facts seem solidly behind the idea that Ardi was a quadrupedal ape with relatively little in common with humans (i.e., no more than most apes); the key basis for the alleged Ardi-human link (which even the authors are hesitant to confirm) is the idea that it walked upright—an idea that even evolutionists have criticized."

Answers in Genesis, which maintains the earth is thousands and not millions of years old, also said the find does away with the "missing link" theory—a conclusion with which even evolutionary scientists have agreed.

The Ardi fossil was first discovered in 1992 in Ethiopia but took 15 years to reconstruct, largely because the remains had been crushed and were so fragile that they would "turn to dust" if touched, National Geographic reported on its Web site. Scientists removed the fossils "along with their surrounding rock," and then, in a lab, removed the fossil "millimeter by submillimeter." The skull, also crushed, was scanned by computer and digitally put back together, National Geographic reported.

National Geographic, in fact, was among the news outlets that said the Ardi fossil disproved the "missing link," the theory that a part-human, part-chimpanzee creature once existed that linked humans with supposed chimpanzee ancestors.

"Instead, the new evidence suggests that the study of chimpanzee anatomy and behavior—long used to infer the nature of the earliest human ancestors—is largely irrelevant to understanding our beginnings," National Geographic science writer Jamie Shreeve wrote. "Ardi instead shows an unexpected mix of advanced characteristics and of primitive traits seen in much older apes that were unlike chimps or gorillas."

Alan Walker, a paleontologist from Penn State University, told the magazine, "This find is far more important than Lucy (a supposed 3.2 million-year-old fossil discovered in the 1970s). It shows that the last common ancestor with chimps didn't look like a chimp, or a human, or some funny thing in between."

Significantly, though, the scientists behind the findings have not said whether they believe Ardi—and other fossils like her—are a direct ancestor to humans.

"We will need many more fossil recoveries from the period of 3-5 million years ago to confidently answer that question in the future," the scientists wrote in a briefing document, BBC News reported.

The findings were published in a special edition of the journal Science and challenge not only the missing link theory but other popular evolutionary theories.

Kent State University's C. Owen Lovejoy, a primary author of the Science journal article, said Ardi is "turning evolution on its head" and that "we're going to have to rewrite the textbooks on human origins."

Answers in Genesis said creationists should "remember that—as with many fossils—the state of preservation is far less perfect than what media images and 'reconstructions' portray." National Geographic reported that the fossil was made up of "badly crushed and distorted bones" that had been, scientists theorized, trampled in the mud by large animals.

"We would point out that the scientists haven't actually observed Ardi walking; their assertion is based on their reconstruction of the bones," Answers in Genesis wrote. "Without having a live 'Ardi' to observe, scientists will only ever be able to come to probabilistic conclusions about its characteristics." (BP)

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Photo credit: Jessica Shields.

Parks Scholars 2009-10

Front row, left to right: Elizabeth Metcalfe, a freshman from Georgetown; Katie Boyd, a senior from Mayfield; Hannah Flanery, a sophomore from Ashland; Anna Fiechter, a freshman from London, KY. **Middle row from left:** Elizabeth Fannin, a junior from Inez; Molly Shoulta, a freshman from Louisville; Caitlin Williams, a sophomore from Murray. **Top row from left:** Jacob Price, a senior from Somerset; Phillip Davis, a freshman from Somerset. Coran Stewart, a junior from Paducah, is not pictured.

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