

Shine like stars in the world
Philippians 2:15

WESTERN Recorder

October 20, 2009
Vol. 183, No. 41

FOR THE RECORD

Annual meeting

KBC messengers to vote on definition of 'cooperating' church. *Page 2.*

Kentucky

State convention plants new churches as Kentucky's demographics change. *Page 3.*

Editorial

Campbellsville University fosters a feeling of family away from home. *Page 4.*

Financial Forum

Understanding your finances and the power of leverage. *Page 5.*

Baptists

Southern Baptists gather at Union University to discuss denomination's past, future. *Page 6.*

Nation

Senate panel OKs health care bill that includes funding for abortions. *Page 8.*

Issues

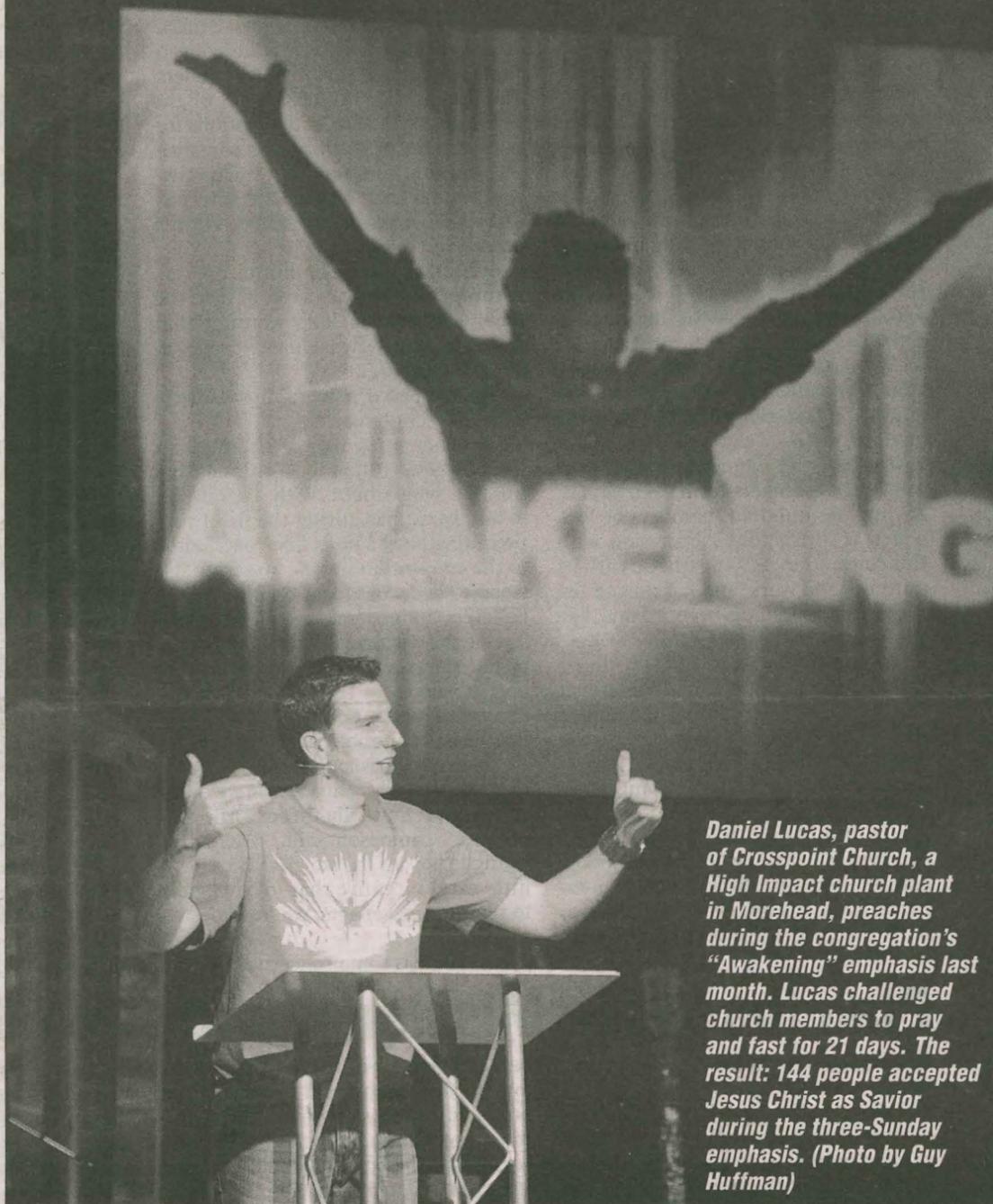
Only one in three U.S. churches considered spiritually 'vital,' researchers claim. *Page 10.*

Find us on Facebook

and on

twitter
as westernrecorder

'Harvest time' in Morehead



Daniel Lucas, pastor of Crosspoint Church, a High Impact church plant in Morehead, preaches during the congregation's "Awakening" emphasis last month. Lucas challenged church members to pray and fast for 21 days. The result: 144 people accepted Jesus Christ as Savior during the three-Sunday emphasis. (Photo by Guy Huffman)

High Impact church, campus experience spiritual 'Awakening'

By David Winfrey
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Morehead—Members of an Eastern Kentucky church saw dramatic results during a September emphasis that included prayer, fasting and intentional evangelistic efforts.

When Pastor Daniel Lucas asked members of Crosspoint Church to pray and fast for three weeks so that many people would accept Jesus as their personal Savior, several people had their doubts.

"The crazy thing about it is I put the challenge out that I would like to see 100 people saved in three weeks," Lucas recalled. "But we saw 101 people saved on the first Sunday."

During the three-Sunday "Awakening" effort, 144 people made professions of faith in Jesus, Lucas reported—but that's not all. "Nobody talks about this, but we had a pre-awakening because 23 people were saved in the three weeks prior."

And the Sunday after the emphasis, six more people made professions of faith, resulting in a total of 173 new Christians in seven weeks. Lucas said those seven weeks outpaced the church's first 18 months, when he estimated 130 people became Christians through the church's ministry.

Lucas said he sensed the fall would be a time for spiritual awakening. "Deep down inside my spirit, I sensed it was a harvest time for us."

The week before Labor Day, Lucas introduced a simple outline for members to follow:

- Identify three people whom they knew to be "far from God."
 - Pray for those people. Church staff also prayed for those who were identified, Lucas said, noting that 1,000 names were turned in by members.
 - Read a chapter each day from the Gospel of John. "There are 21 chapters, 21 days," Lucas pointed out, adding that all three "Awak-
- See Morehead church, BCM ... *Page 3*

IMB to send 25 new missionaries overseas

By Shawn Hendricks
International Mission Board

Richmond, Va.—It didn't look like they would be going overseas anytime soon.

After selling their house, saying goodbye to friends and giving away their dog, Tim and Audrey Shepard* were told there wasn't enough money to send them to the mission field—at least not until next year.

Because of reduced giving to the 2008 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and fallout from a tough economy, the International Mission Board put on hold some missionaries it had planned to send this year.

When word of the shortfall began to spread, pastors and other leaders launched a grassroots effort on behalf of overseas missions—and many Southern Baptists responded.

The Southern Baptists of Texas Convention was one of the first, presenting a check for \$100,000 at the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting in June. Those who attended the Pastors' Conference gave an additional \$43,000. In August, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary students, faculty and staff took up a special offering of \$60,000.

These along with other gifts from across the con-

vention will result in 25 more missionaries—including the Shepards—being appointed this fall.

For the Shepards, the delay has been challenging, but God has provided. Both were able to keep their jobs—one as a middle school math teacher; the other a school psychologist—and their family was able to move into a condominium owned by Audrey's sister.

"It's fantastic," Tim Shepard said. "Southern Baptists are so missions-minded—obviously those who are aware of the shortfall are trying to do something about it."

Now the couple will be able to share Jesus among 24 minority groups—18 of which are untouched by the gospel—in Asia. Without the Shepards, there would only be one other couple to work among more than 1 million people. The Shepards will help with ministry logistics, training national partners and following up with new believers and others who have expressed an interest in Christ.

After the IMB announced cutbacks this past spring, encouraging phone calls and e-mails started pouring in to the organization. Pastors and ministry leaders shared how their congregations had sacrificed a Sun-

□ See Southern Baptists' generosity ... *Page 7*

Kentucky couple among NAMB's newest missionaries

Prasad and Vandana Aghamkar, who minister in Louisville's south Asian Indian and Nepali communities were two of the 119 missionaries and chaplains recently commissioned by the North American Mission Board.

See story on page 7.

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, Oct. 21



CHURCH FIRE Firefighters work to extinguish a fire that destroyed the building that was home to Epoch Fellowship in Owenton, a church plant launched in March. Pastor Trent Holbert estimated the church lost about \$30,000 of equipment in the blaze.

Fire destroys church plant's building, members regroup

By Patti Clark
State Correspondent

Owenton—On the morning of Oct. 12, Carla Rohling and three of her kids headed to school after a four-day fall break.

For this mother of four, being early is something that just doesn't happen often.

"We are never that early," she said. "But the good Lord just told me to get up and get going."

The Rohlings left for school a little after 7 a.m. A few minutes later, they passed the sign that points the way to their church's new building.

"That's when I first smelled smoke," Rohling recalled. "And then I just drove into a fog of smoke. I looked over and realized the church was on fire."

The building that houses the Rohlings' church, Epoch Fellowship, a Kentucky Baptist Convention High Impact church in Owen County, was destroyed in the fire. The young church plant just launched this past March.

Epoch (pronounced "epic") was in the process of purchasing the building and two acres of land it sat on at the time of the fire. Pastor Trent Holbert said the church did not carry renter's insurance on the facility's contents and has estimated losses at about \$30,000. The majority of the equipment inside—primarily sound equipment, furniture and nursery items—were purchased with the first installment of funds from the KBC's High Impact program.

"I reminded myself to trust God," Holbert recalled thinking when first hearing about the fire. "I kept telling myself that He's up to something, but there's lots and lots of trusting."

Because the building was metal, firefighters could not peel away the siding quick enough to extinguish the blaze. Investigators determined the fire was electrical.

Epoch Fellowship has since received help from neighboring congregations and organizations.

Nearby Cedar Hill Baptist Church opted to cancel its Sunday night services so Epoch Fellowship can use its facilities for the time being. Monterey Baptist Church, Epoch's sponsoring church, also has pitched in to help.

Hope's Hands, a community collaborative that focuses on addressing the physical, emotional and spiritual health of the area's children and families, helped Epoch buy a replacement computer.

The church, which averages 40 to 50 in weekly attendance—nearly half of them youth and young adults—has not had its spirits dampened by the setback.

"We don't have to have a building to be a church," Holbert said. "We want to be a church that gives back to its community despite its circumstances."

"We have an even greater resolve now to be about our purpose of bringing people into a relationship with Jesus Christ," he added. "We are even more focused than ever on local mission. We are cast down, but we are not destroyed."

Holbert said the church is accepting donations to help replace items lost in the fire. To donate items, contact Holbert at (859) 322-3665, or Trent @EpochFellowship.org.

Messengers to vote on church definition

'Cooperating' church 'never really defined' in convention history

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Elizabethtown—When messengers convene at next month's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting, they will be asked to define a "cooperating" Kentucky Baptist church.

In its 172-year history, the state convention has "never really defined—beyond just a very minimal definition—what a cooperating church is," noted Stephen Wilson, chair of the KBC's Committee on Constitution and Bylaws.

The committee presented its first reading of a constitutional amendment at last year's annual meeting in Lexington. This year, messengers will be asked to vote on the proposal to change the wording of Article III of the convention's constitution.

The article refers to the membership of the KBC's annual meeting—specifically, its messengers and how many qualify from each church.

The current language reads:

"Two messengers from each church having one hundred members or less, which is in friendly cooperation with this convention; is sympathetic with its purposes and work; and has during the fiscal year preceding been a bona fide contributor to the convention's work."

In summary, each KBC-affiliated church is allowed two messengers, at minimum, at each annual meeting if they have contributed financially to the convention during the previous year.

According to KBC Assistant Executive Director Steve Thompson, that means if a church has given only \$1 to any KBC cause, whether the Cooperative Program, Eliza Broadus offering or a KBC agency or institution, two of its members are eligible for messenger status.

Beyond that, Article III's second section states that churches are allowed one additional messenger for every 250 members or \$250 given to CP, with a limit of 10 messengers.

Thompson said eligibility is determined by the KBC's Committee on Credentials using data submitted by Kentucky Baptist churches for the Annual Church Profile. He explained that the churches are solely responsible for reporting their numbers yearly.

With about an 85 percent reporting rate each year, Kentucky Baptist churches are better than most state conventions at reporting their ACP numbers, Thompson said. In 2008, 2,136 of the KBC's nearly 2,400 congregations reported to the ACP—around 90 percent.

Even so, Thompson said the motivation behind the proposed constitutional revision is to further increase church reporting.

Wilson said the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws chose to take the opportunity to include wording that would conclusively define a cooperating KBC church.

The proposed re-wording of Article III's first section reads:

"A cooperating Baptist church is in friendly cooperation with this convention; is sympathetic with its purposes and work; has during the fiscal year preceding been a bona fide contributor to the convention's work; and is understood to be a congregation of baptized believers in general agreement with any of the historic Baptist confessions of faith and willing to voluntarily report its activities to the offices of the Kentucky Baptist Convention on a regular (usually annual) basis."

"It really does put some language in there that says churches are expected to report annually through the ACP process," Thompson said. "We're just trying to bolster that to give churches a little extra incentive that to be eligible to register messengers, you're expected to report."

But there is some concern about the

meaning of such a definition. Could it be used to potentially exclude churches from the annual meeting or even the convention as a whole?

"Any time the constitution is tweaked, I know with the kind of convention temperament we've had in the last 30 years, I always think, 'Is somebody trying to do something here?'" noted Ken Holden, director of Georgetown College's Marshall Center for Christian Ministry who sat on the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws when the new language was formulated. "But in this case, I really think it's more trying to just push churches to do what (KBC leaders) ... need them to do to keep good records."

"Inclusive" not "exclusive"

Wilson said the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws kept the language defining a cooperating church—especially related to the historic Baptist faith confessions—deliberately broad.

"There is no intention of this committee to be exclusive; the intent of this wording is meant to be inclusive," noted Wilson, who is vice president of academic affairs at Mid-Continent University in Mayfield.

Wilson said the committee took its cue from the KBC's Baptist Faith & Message Study Committee which in its 2001 report—approved by that year's messengers—adopted the Bible "as the basis of all our faith and practice," and affirmed several historic Baptist confessions of faith. These include the Philadelphia Confession of Faith (1742), the New Hampshire Confession of Faith (1833) and the Baptist Faith & Message statement of 1925 and its revisions from 1963, 1998 and 2000.

"This is not a back-door attempt to say that it will be one confession over the other," Wilson insisted.

The amendment is expected to be voted on during the morning session of the Nov. 10 KBC annual meeting in Elizabethtown. It requires a two-thirds majority vote to pass.

Plan to reduce Mission Board size advances

By Todd Deaton
Editor

Louisville—The administrative committee of the Kentucky Baptist Convention approved a plan to reduce the membership of the state Mission Board and appointed a new campus minister during its Oct. 13 meeting in Louisville.

Adam Greenway, chairman of the Mission Board Size Study Committee, presented a recommendation to shift the number of representatives for each of the state convention's 70 associations from being based on the total membership of its churches to being determined by their resident membership.

Currently each association receives one representative on the KBC Mission Board for every 5,000 church members, "or major fraction thereof." However, the proposed constitution and bylaw revision also would strike that allowance, meaning that an additional representative would be awarded only in increments of every 5,000 resident church members.

The Mission Board now is comprised of 155 members who represent 70 Baptist associations, eight at-large mem-

bers and eight ex-officio members, for a total membership of 171 persons. If the proposed changes are approved by the state convention, associational membership on the board would drop from 155 to 102, reducing the board's size by nearly a third, Greenway said.

The KBC's Mission Board is the largest of any state convention, and reducing its size not only would curb related expenses, but also would allow for more efficient and meaningful service, noted KBC Assistant Executive Director Steve Thompson.

Greenway, assistant professor of evangelism and applied apologetics at Southern Seminary's Billy Graham School of Missions and Evangelism, pointed out that most state convention mission boards have between 90 and 99 members. Even after the change, "that still puts us in the top two or three largest mission boards," he observed.

The board's "right-sizing" plan—as Greenwood called it—would be phased in over the next three to five years. He emphasized that "no current board members would have their term lengths truncated."

The committee's recommendation,

which follows a study conducted by a 12-member committee appointed by convention President John Mark Toby, now advances to the KBC Constitution and Bylaws Committee. A first reading of the proposed bylaw change to Article VII would then be presented to messengers attending this year's annual meeting at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown Nov. 10.

The last time the state Mission Board's method for determining its membership was revised was in 1929.

The administrative committee also named Gene Bracken, pastor of First Baptist Church of McDowell, to a part-time campus minister position in Prestonsburg. Bracken will be working with students at Big Sandy Community and Technical College.

A graduate of Cumberland College (now University of the Cumberlands), Bracken has been pastor at First Baptist, McDowell, since 2003. He previously was pastor of Hiseville Baptist church and has been a counselor at Bellewood Children's Home in Anchorage.

In other business, the administrative committee elected Bill Henard, pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, as vice chairman, filling a position vacated by Will Langford, who moved out of state.



Gene Bracken

KBC plants new churches as state's demographics change

By Erin Roach
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Ashland—On a short drive through Kentucky, one might notice a great number of churches. But studies indicate those churches are reaching only a small percentage of the state's population.

For instance, Ashland is a city of small churches, but it's also a city of traditional churches. The demographic data for the community shows that 29 percent of the 75,000 people who live in the area claim to be "not involved" in any church, and 32 percent claim only to be "somewhat involved."

The data also indicates that 25 percent of the people prefer a contemporary worship style compared to 21 percent who prefer a traditional style.

That's why the Kentucky Baptist Convention is sponsoring new church plants like LifeSong Church in Ashland, which uses a nontraditional approach to reach people who aren't attracted to the other options.

And to address the problem on a state-wide level, the KBC, in partnership with the North American Mission Board, is offering Basic Training for Church Planters,

Nov. 5-7, at the Kentucky Baptist Building in Louisville.

Each church planting team will leave the training with a basic plan for starting a new church to meet the demographic needs of its local community, a step toward solving Kentucky's unchurched challenge.

The KBC sets aside about \$700,000 each year for church planting, including about \$90,000 from the Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions. The convention also receives about \$335,000 in matching funds from NAMB.

The convention sponsors a church plant for three years, and within a three-year period the KBC funds between 120 and 150 new churches in the state.

Larry Baker, KBC's director for new work and associational missions, serves as the liaison between the KBC, NAMB, local Baptist associations, churches and church planters in the church planting process. All requests for funding of new works are coordinated through his office.

"We want to move as God moves. We want to move at the speed that He moves, and we want to be able to respond when God is speaking to someone to plant a

church, or to an association or church that wants to plant a church," Baker said.

The convention employs three strategies for church planting. The first is a High Impact church process where the plant has good potential for growth and has a strong sponsoring church. The KBC can provide up to \$100,000 over a three-year period to such a plant.

Another option is the bivocational process, which primarily is used for churches that don't have as much potential to grow large and might never be able to support a full-time pastor.

"We try not to overburden them with support in the beginning, something that they can't keep up and can't match as the church grows," Baker noted.

The third strategy is the high-potential process, which falls between the High Impact and bivocational approaches.

"They may have a bivocational pastor at the beginning of the funding process but they have the potential of creating enough membership where they are in order to have a full-time pastor at some time," Baker explained.

The KBC interfaces with NAMB and associations mainly through background

checks in assessing church planters and the potential for growth in specific areas. The three groups also work together to locate funding for church plants, whether through Cooperative Program dollars or a sponsoring church.

Baker said Kentucky Baptists' process for planting churches is an example that several denominational organizations can partner together to achieve what they could not alone.

"It's not really overlapping, it's partnership," he said. "What we have is a genuine partnership that helps everybody in the equation."

Keith Menshouse, lead pastor of LifeSong Church in Ashland, has been a pastor since 1982. He has worked with state conventions in Ohio, Kentucky and North Carolina and said the KBC understands how to plant churches successfully.

"Kentucky is by far, I think, more on target with what they're trying to do with church plants," Menshouse said. "The leadership at the KBC gets the fact that there have been some worldview shifts in society and that there have to be new approaches for us to be able to reach the younger generations that are not in church."

Pastors' Conference to encourage leaders to 'refocus on Jesus'

Elizabethtown—Kentucky Baptist pastors have the opportunity to be challenged and encouraged at the upcoming Pastor's Conference Nov. 9 at Sevens Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

The conference will be held prior to the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting, which will be held the following day.

Using the theme, "It's All About Him," the event is designed to "remind pastors why we do what we do, and who we do it for," said conference president Tom James, pastor of Eastwood Baptist Church in Bowling Green.

"It is my hope that those who come will be challenged to refocus on Christ," James said. "Pastors often get sidetracked because we get busy about the business of church. We want to refocus on Jesus."

The theme is based on Galatians 2:20, which James said is his life verse.

"It's my conviction that everything we do is about the Lord. I've asked the guest speakers to just preach on Jesus," James noted.

Speakers for the conference include Ergun Caner, president of Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary in Lynchburg, Va.; Phil Hoskins, pastor of Higher Ground Baptist Church in Kingsport, Tenn.; Don Mathis, staff evangelist at Eastwood Baptist Church in Bowling Green; Jamie Ward, associate pastor of preaching and evangelism at Hillvue Heights Church in Bowling Green; Ken Weathersby, senior strategist in church planting with the North American Mission Board; and Roger Williams, pastor of Annville Baptist Church.

The conference's afternoon session runs from 2-4:45 p.m., followed by the evening session from 6-9 p.m.

Special music will be provided by Dana Ellis, worship pastor at Eastwood Baptist, and will include the church's praise team.

James will conclude his one-year term as Pastors' Conference president at the close of the conference. Kevin Smith, pastor of Watson Memorial Baptist Church in Louisville, is president-elect. Wesley Noss, pastor of New Hope Baptist Church in Versailles, is secretary.

No pre-registration is required for the Pastors' Conference and there is no cost to attend. For more information about the KBC annual meeting, visit www.KyBaptist.org/AnnualMeeting.

Morehead church, BCM experience 'Awakening'

Continued from page 1

"Awakening" sermons were based on John's Gospel.

■ Invite those three people to visit Crosspoint during the emphasis, the last three Sundays of September.

■ Fast for 21 days, starting one week before the three-Sunday emphasis. "You don't fast to get something from God. You fast to get yourself positioned to hear from God," Lucas said. "Fasting lines you up with God. ... If your heart's pure, if your heart's right, you can ask anything from God."

And not all fasts are from food, he added.

"We never got specific," he said, noting that anyone choosing a food fast was encouraged to consult his or her physician before starting. "It was just, 'Your call, your decision, but give up something that you do daily that you think you have to have.'"

Members soon saw results when 66 adults made professions of faith during the first Sunday services and 35 students became Christians that evening during a special youth program.

All of this comes without the benefit of a permanent church building.

The congregation meets at the Morehead Conference Center on Sundays at 10 and 11:30 a.m.

"We are a portable church," Lucas explained, noting that 75-100 volunteers arrive each Sunday as early as 6:30 a.m. to set up speakers, welcome tables and other equipment. "And then we break everything back down and put it back in a box."

The 20-month-old church is a High Impact church plant, meaning organizers got help from the Kentucky Baptist Convention to launch a congregation that would be focused on reaching the unchurched.

Lucas said some members have apologized for being skeptical; many are excited to see such a spiritual revival. "It really increased their faith to see God move like that," he explained.

Campus gets involved

Crosspoint's example even influenced the Baptist Campus Ministry at Morehead State University, according to Campus Minister Gene Parr. BCM leadership also recently decided to fast, he said.

"During this past week we had

three students pray to receive Christ in our BCM," Parr reported. "These are agnostic or atheist students that our students have been investing in since the beginning of school."

The student leaders voted to extend their fast through the first two weeks of October, he added. "I just feel like God is doing something special in Morehead," Parr said. "I'm seeing it in other churches as well."

While many people would characterize Crosspoint as a contemporary congregation, Lucas stressed that the style of worship was not the reason for its recent results.

"We're not really that much different from most Sunday churches. I still preach from the same Bible," he emphasized.

The difference, he said, was that leadership and members tweaked the services to emphasize evangelism.

"It's just the simplicity of the gospel," he pointed out. "A lot of times we make it out to be something else. Through this thing, God has shown me to just preach the gospel, preach Jesus, just preach truth and give people a chance to respond."

Campbellsville Univ. to host small-group workshop

Campbellsville—Is your church in need of rethinking discipleship?

Campbellsville University and the Kentucky Baptist Convention are co-sponsoring the "Think Again ... About Small Groups" workshop Nov. 7 at Campbellsville University's Ransdell Chapel.

The Think Again workshop is designed to allow church leaders to rethink the way they are doing ministry, focusing specifically on small-group discipleship.

Rick Howerton, small-group specialist with LifeWay Christian Resources and a Campbellsville graduate, along with Darryl Wilson, KBC's Sunday school department director, will be the featured presenters.

According to Shane Garrison, assistant professor of educational ministries at Campbellsville, the workshop

title serves as "a challenge to church and ministry leaders to 'think again' about their ministry needs and methods."

"We want those attending to reconsider what they are doing in their churches, in hopes of reaching more people and growing them up into full maturity of Christ," Garrison said.

The Sunday school approach is the typical discipleship operation in many Kentucky communities, Garrison pointed out. While this model is effective, he said "many churches are looking for another option to reach people in different ways."

According to Garrison, the small-group paradigm is a discipleship methodology which seeks to foster deeper intimacy and trust within a group. This often is accomplished by meeting in a home or off-site location

where discussion can be more private and personal. Teaching the Bible in a discussion format encourages each small-group member to share about his or her experience and journey.

The Think Again workshops attempt to address a key area in educational ministry each year, Garrison said. Last year, the aim was youth ministry; children's ministry and multi-site church workshops are options for the future.

The workshop runs from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Registration is \$15 by Oct. 30 or \$20 after Oct. 30; the student rate is \$10. Cost includes materials, admission to that day's Campbellsville football game, catered lunch and a book.

For more information or to register for the workshop, visit www.KyBaptist.org/ThinkAgain, or call (270) 789-5227.

'Find It Here' to be meeting theme

The focus on the upcoming Find It Here evangelistic campaign has generated more excitement and preparation by Kentucky Baptist Convention churches and associations than any emphasis in the past 20 years.

Partners in the Mission



By Bill Mackey

At this point, churches and associations have ordered nearly 1.4 million copies of the gospel presentation and bags for Find It Here. They will deliver these, along with an invitation to their churches, to households all across Kentucky March 6-21, 2010.

Many churches already have been prayerwalking the areas where their members will be delivering the gospel presentations. I hope every home will be covered with prayer. This is an incredible time for all families to be lifted to the throne of grace for God's blessing, as well as conviction by the Holy Spirit.

In fact, now is the time for Kentucky Baptists to come together in prayer as never before. With all the challenges that families and individuals are facing economically, relationally, physically and spiritually, this is an urgent time to pray.

"Find It Here: Sharing the Gospel Across Kentucky" will be the theme of the KBC annual meeting Nov. 10 at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown. I pray that every church will consider sending messengers. This is a great time for Kentucky Baptists to come together in celebration of missions in Kentucky, in every state and Canada, and in 186 countries.

There will be reports by KBC agencies and institutions and the SBC mission boards, as well as a report on the unified budget support of missions through the Cooperative Program and special missions offerings. I am encouraged by the consistent and faithful support of missions by Kentucky Baptists. During September, Kentucky Baptist churches gave more than \$1.9 million through the Cooperative Program.

The KBC Annual Meeting program also will feature testimonies, inspirational music and challenging biblical messages. KBC President John Mark Toby plans to feature KBC ministries during his message.

Albert Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, will preach the convention sermon. I know that he will bring a strong expositional message based on God's Word.

The evening session will be a great time of inspiration, with great music and a biblical message by Jay Strack. He will challenge us to a higher commitment to our theme, "Find It Here, Sharing the Gospel Across Kentucky." I pray that every association will be represented during this time of commitment.

Most Kentucky Baptists can drive there early Tuesday, Nov. 10, and return home following the evening session, which is scheduled to end by 8:30 p.m.

If possible, come Monday for the Pastors' Conference, which has six inspirational speakers. Sessions begin at 2 and 6 p.m.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Campbellsville fosters feeling of family away from home

Recording its 19th consecutive semester of enrollment gains, Campbellsville University surpassed a significant milestone this fall by exceeding 3,000 students. Although those near Lebanon may challenge the veracity of a marker on the Campbellsville campus that declares its library to be the geographical center of the state, what is certain is that President Michael Carter and the university's outstanding faculty are fast building a reputation of academic excellence in a caring Christian environment. And, that surging yet sturdy stature as one of the nation's "up-and-coming institutions" is enticing an ever-swelling stream of students from near and far to center their attention on the central Kentucky college town.



After Thought

By Todd Deaton

Administrators anticipate that by this time next year, enrollment will have nearly doubled the number of students who were attending when President Carter arrived in 1996. The student body now heralds from 27 states and at least 30 other countries. With more than 250, the university has the largest number of international students among Kentucky's private institutions of higher education. Following my convocation message last Wednesday, Melody Hall, a senior theology major from Bowling Green who hopes to serve as a missionary to South Asia, took my daughter, Laura, and me on a campus tour. One of our first stops was the old gymnasium where more than 65 flags representing the students' homelands hang, attesting to the university's international recruiting prowess and its desire to make each of these students feel at home.

Campbellsville, which offers 44 baccalaureate degrees, 15 master's degrees and four post-graduate specializations, is deserving of its top 25 ranking in "Best Baccalaureate Colleges" in the South by the U.S. News & World Report. For three consecutive years, the university also has been named as one of America's Best Christian Colleges. With satellites in Louisville, Elizabethtown and Somerset, its full-time faculty has grown to more than 105. Recent additions to the campus include facilities for its school of nursing and its school of education, and plans are progressing on a new building for its school of business.

Campbellsville lives up to its claim to help students "find your calling." With a student faculty ratio of 12:1, students benefit from small classes that allow for personal interaction with dedicated faculty members. During our visit, a music professor took time to show Laura, a cellist, several of the vocal and instrumental practice rooms and the orchestra rehearsal hall for its school of music, which boasts a nationally accredited program. Laura also visited with the chairman of the English department, who took a genuine interest in

helping her map out a trek toward achieving her ambition of becoming a college professor.

About 450 students participate on one of CU's 21 intercollegiate athletic teams, which compete in 14 sports on the NAIA Division I level. As a member of the National Christian College Athletic Association, CU's athletic teams have participated recently in 12 national competitions. Numerous players have been named "Champions of Character" by the NAIA, and still more have participated in community service and missions projects. For example, football players have read to kids at local elementary schools, and the baseball team has provided food to needy families and raised funds for cancer research.

Founded by Russell Creek Baptist Association in 1906, Campbellsville is proud of its rich Christian heritage, evidenced by the fact that the new Ransdell Chapel, where students gather weekly for convocations, is a focal point on the campus. The First Class program for first-semester freshmen provides a weekly chapel experience in which upperclassmen serve as mentors for small groups of 15 to 20 incoming students. While the First Class program lays a foundation for developing biblical character, servant leadership and stewardship, the Servant Leader program promotes participation in community service projects, provides academic advising and offers career counseling.

Campbellsville's vision for developing the next generation of servant leaders is further exemplified by its Kentucky Heartland Outreach, which hosted more than 600 volunteers who completed 52 home repairs and witnessed 63 professions of faith, including seven by homeowners or their relatives. Since 2000, KHO has renovated 586 homes, constructed 26 homes and involved more than 6,900 volunteers, 2,100 of whom were students. Over the summer, its CU Crew ministry teams also reaped 76 professions of faith.

Yet, perhaps the university's most endearing charm that keeps student ranks swelling year after year is its family atmosphere. In the President's Annual Report, Campus Minister Ed Pavy observed that for many years the word "family" has been the most-utilized description of the school. "There is something different about this place," Pavy wrote. "Though it has grown numerically, the sense of family is still here." In declaring his faculty colleagues to be fellow ministers, he explained, "The faculty and staff love the students and truly want the best for them. I believe the students realize this. It makes for a tremendous environment." Even during her short time on campus, Laura—as I'm sure countless other prospective students—could tell she was among caring friends and found a sense of family away from home very alluring.

WESTERN
Recorder

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

DR. TODD DEATON
Editor

DREW NICTER
News Director

THOMAS C. TOWNSEND
Marketing & Business Manager

www.WesternRecorder.org

Board of Directors:

Floyd Price (chairman), London;
Skip Alexander (vice chairman),
Campbellsville;
Duane Bolin, Murray;
Bill Edmonds, Louisville;
Dan Francis, Erlanger;
Chip Hutcheson, Princeton;
Lanna Kilgore, Bowling Green;
Willis Polk, Lexington;
Linda Polley, Elizabethtown;
June Rice, Paintsville;
Wayne Spivey, Harrodsburg;
Rodney Travis, Hopkinsville.

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

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

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

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

Sharing Jesus with Spider-man

A 3-foot-tall Spider-man and his parents are driving past your church, looking for a safe, fun Halloween alternative. Need fresh ideas for a community outreach event?

Free family foto. Create a beautiful lighted outdoor photo site on your church lawn with pumpkins, mums, hay bales and autumn leaves. Advertise well. Enlist amateur photographers to quickly pose and photograph families who stop by. On Sunday, display photos in the church foyer for pick-up, or mail them to families as a postcard with a personal note on the back.

A community-wide costume parade can be staged in your church parking lot with an emcee, spotlights, Christian music and free hot

chocolate. Prepare a gift and church invitation for onlookers. Chalk the parade route, designate a staging area for the children and decorate a golf cart for your parade marshal, the pastor.

Fresh Ideas



Diana Davis

A "trunk or treat" event can attract hundreds to your church parking lot. Joyful, costumed church members circle their cars in the parking lot, open their decorated trunks and pass out candies, tracts and invitations to church.

Fall festival. Some churches plan a free festival, with carnival games, tractor rides, box mazes, pumpkin carving or cupcake walks. Others rent bouncy games, feature a Christian band or do a Noah's Ark party.

Hallway parade. Ask children from your church to meet at a lo-

cal nursing home for a pre-arranged costume parade down the halls. Distribute large-print tracts and pre-approved treats for residents.

Reverse trick-or-treating. Teens or families deliver homemade cookies to neighbors, along with a packet of information about your church.

Set a goal. Each guest for any event will receive two verbal invitations to church along with a tract (such as ATSTracts.org) and a printed invitation to worship.

Leave the light on. If church members stay at home that evening, challenge them to give out big candy bars or treats along with a tract and church invitation.

Paul challenged Christians to "make the most of every opportunity." There's a little guy in a Spider-man costume in your town who needs Jesus.

Diana Davis is the wife of Indiana Baptists' executive director and author of "Deacon Wives."

The power of leverage

By Jeremy White

I once told my 9-year-old, 60-pound daughter that she could lift me. She doubted, but tried and struggled in vain to lift me by hugging my legs and lifting.

To teach her about the power of leverage, I positioned a block as a fulcrum and stood at the end of a long board. When she stepped on the other up-raised end of the board, she successfully lifted me off the ground.

Archimedes, the Greek mathematician and inventor, famously said, "Give me a lever long enough and a fulcrum on which to place it, and I shall move the world."

Financially speaking, leverage is using other people's money or debt to achieve greater returns on an investment. However, such financial leverage comes with some risk.

A person may increase their return or be able to spend more by using the leverage of other people's money. But if the returns are insufficient to pay off the debt, then trouble starts. As a whole, the United States has experienced significant financial leverage from personal debt, mortgage loans and government debt.

I began thinking about other areas where we can leverage our own resources. Leverage these items in your life, you'll get more power without taking on debt or risk.

Wisdom from others. Your spouse, your family and your financial advisor all can provide a perspective different than your own to make better financial decisions.

God's Word. Besides the wisdom of others, obtain wisdom of the Author and Creator of life. Timeless wisdom is contained in the principles of His Word.

The Holy Spirit. As a believer you have the built-in benefit of the Holy Spirit to nudge you, move you and guide you into making better decisions.

Your own experiences. Most of us have earned an honorary degree from the School of Hard Knocks. Reflect on and benefit from these experiences.

The experiences of others. Leverage from what others have experienced and what you have observed. You don't have to experience everything yourself, but you still can benefit.

You can lift more, achieve more and become a better steward by using leverage in these areas to make better financial decisions.

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

'Where's Mike?' reveals students' place in God's heart

By Gene Parr

It was the kind of phone call campus ministers love to get. The person at the other end of the line identified himself as a Morehead alumnus, but I did not recognize the name. Then he explained that he really didn't come to the Baptist Campus Ministry more than a few times, and what he really wanted was the contact information on a former student named Mike.

I told him I would be glad to assist and asked him to help me recall which Mike he was looking for. He gave me the years Mike attended MSU, that he was a chemistry major, and had been very involved in the BCM. I had no trouble remembering his last name and gave it over the phone. But I told him that before I felt comfortable sharing Mike's contact information, I really needed to know the reason the caller wanted to reach him.

The caller started by saying that he had sat next to Mike in chemistry class and while it was very apparent that Mike was a Christian, he never pushed his faith on anyone. He said Mike just lived his life in a quiet, friendly way that made the people around him feel valued. The caller then went on to say that after he graduated from college, he had married, then divorced. Now he had remarried and started going to church, but all during this time—the ups and downs of life—he had one recurring thought in his mind that gave him hope and vision. That thought was that he really wished he could live life the way he had seen Mike live life.

I gave the caller Mike's contact information. As I hung up the phone, I reflected on the kind of living witness that would prompt someone to attempt years later to get in touch with a student whose first name and the fact that he was involved in the Baptist Campus Ministry was all they could remember.

I continued to think about Mike—how he had come from northern Indiana as a National Merit Scholar, knowing literally no one, and how a faculty member saw him sitting alone in the school cafeteria and encouraged him to try the Baptist Student

Center as a good place to make friends. Mike joined in our freshman activities and started going to First Baptist Church with us. Toward the end of that first semester, Mike went forward one Sunday morning to confess Christ as his Lord and Savior.

I remembered how Mike grew in our discipleship groups and went on to serve as our BCM missions fund coordinator. He finished Morehead State with a 4.00 in Chemistry and Cum Laude recognition. But what stood out most in my mind was when Mike, as a senior, gave his testimony in Sunday morning worship and said, "I thought that I came to Morehead State to get an education, but God had more in mind for me than that. The Lord brought me here to MSU so I would come to know Him, to learn to open His Word and understand it. The Lord brought me here to teach me how to pray."

When Jesus commanded us to bear fruit that lasts, I think of Mike. I think of how special it was to sit and have breakfast a couple of years ago in Mike's home with his wife and their two boys. This is a family that continues to grow spiritually and honor God. I think of the unique and special way God worked in Mike's life and in the lives of thousands of college students who walk in and out the doors of our Baptist student centers across the state.

How grateful I am that Kentucky Baptists believe that college students have an important place in the heart and will of God. During these important years when they are deciding on a career, a life mate, and are developing into the person they are going to become, Kentucky Baptists have provided a place on university campuses every single day of the academic year for them to find the encouragement and direction they need to live a life that can honor God and spread His Good News.

Someone once observed, "In college we make our habits; after college, our habits make us." I believe it. Mike has proven it.

Gene Parr is Baptist campus minister at Morehead State University.

FAITH ON CAMPUS



Beliefs lack grounding

A number of beliefs that John C'de Baca reveals in his letter lack grounding in either the Bible or science.

His assertion that "scientists and others rightly reject creation from nothing" is simply false, I suggest he

read the conclusions of scientists such as Jastrow (an agnostic) or Behe (a theist) which conclude, against all preconceived ends, that the universe did result from a "big bang." The book, "I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist" by Geisler and Turek, lays out the scientific support for creation from nothing quite clearly.

His assertion regarding the sun not appearing until day four discounts the glory of God—the Bible teaches that the Person of Christ was present at creation. We are further taught the sun will one day pass away, being replaced by His glory.

It should be noted that being created in the image of God does not result in universal idolatry because our Creator does not worship us. When we worship other humans, idolatry occurs as an issue in our hearts.

Not dying in the fall? What is death but separation, eternally, from God? Did it not occur with the sin?

C'de Baca does make one correct statement: It is foolish to defend the Bible's truth by denying what it says; it is more foolish to attempt to fit the Bible into something as woefully inaccurate as Darwinism or to propose the Bible says something that it clearly does not.

*John Beville
Louisville*

Young earth viable

In Genesis 1:1, the Bible clearly teaches creation ex-nihilo (out of nothing).

The days of creation are literal, 24-hour days. Evolutionists, secularists and liberal theologians only have a problem with this interpretation when it conflicts with their predisposed views. The words "evening and morning" in reference to the days makes it abundantly clear to anyone except a skeptic.

God did say Adam would die the day that he ate the forbidden fruit. The Bible speaks of three types of death: physical, spiritual and eternal. Death is separation. Physical death separates us from the living. Spiritual death separates us from God (Ephesians 2:1; Colossians 2:13). Eternal death separates us from God and the living who have eternal life (Revelations 20:6, 14). Adam died spiritually that day, thanks to God's mercy, and later died physically.

Evolution and creationism are antithetical. Evolution teaches man interred the world because of death. Creationism teaches death entered the world because of man's sin. The order of when things were created or evolved does not agree. The universe could survive four days without the sun. The new Jerusalem will survive eternally without it (Rev. 21:23). There is plenty of evidence to support young-earth creationism, but, as Peter says, some willingly are ignorant.

*Jerry Fowler
Harrodsburg*

Problem of belief

I am certain that more eloquent words could be written regarding John C'de Baca's letter criticizing the Creation Museum, but I am compelled to speak out. Two issues that he raises in his letter stand out.

First, surely God must have been sorely confused when He spoke of "the evening and the morning were the first day." Am I to believe that God didn't know what constituted an evening or a morning? Am I serving a God who was not powerful enough to create our present world in just 144 hours? Was He so limited in power that He needed more time?

Second, the Creation Museum is not part of any problem. It is, I believe, providing factual information and credible examples of how our present world came into being. I see the underlying problem as one of a lack of faith in the believing community and perhaps a fear of being ridiculed by unbelievers.

If believing God's Word as it speaks of creation makes me a fool in the eyes of the world then I say, "Amen and Amen!"

*John Routh, pastor
Middle Creek Baptist Church
Hodgenville*

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.

'Mirror, mirror, on the wall ...'

By Scott Wigginton

Q: How can I help my teenage son develop healthy self-esteem?

The views on self-esteem and self-acceptance in the popular psychological culture are quite different than what is found in the Bible.

The concepts of love found in Scripture do not encourage self-indulgence, the primacy of the individual, or a sense of personal entitlement due to societal status, family position, special talents or personal merit. Talk show approaches that espouse repeating selfish mantras not only sound silly, they unwittingly place superficial band-aids on wounds that require soul surgery.

The ultimate answer to "Mirror, mirror, on the wall, who's the fairest one of all?" is not a resounding "I am," but "He is," referring to Christ.

Only when your son deeply understands "the Son" will he truly understand that the sole basis of self-worth has to do with rejecting "a haughty spirit" (Proverbs 16:18) and embracing a humble recognition of his true identity. Exaggerated self-importance is thus replaced by corrected vision which sees one's true identity as created by God, broken by sin and redeemed by God's grace as a person who is called to meaningful living that reflects the glory of God.

Rather than directing your son to step out of his phone booth to pretend to be Superman, remind him that God loves Clark Kent. Help him to experiment with his gifts and talents, to spend time with Christian friends who are focused on making a difference in their world, and to see your delight in him through spending time together as a family.

Remind your son of the value of self-discipline, a servant heart and investing his life in relationships. As he walks in the stream of the Spirit's life, he will experience something much more valuable than superficial self-esteem.

In Galatians 5:22 Paul writes: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control."

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



Wrap-up

Union University conference explores past, future of denominationalism, evangelicals

Jackson, Tenn.—The future of denominationalism and Southern Baptists, the effectiveness of evangelism, and church planting strategies were among the topics addressed during a conference on “Southern Baptists, Evangelicals and the Future of Denominationalism,” held to mark the 400th anniversary of the Baptist movement.

A host of speakers presented their views Oct. 6-9 at Union University in Jackson, Tenn., including several Baptist college and seminary presidents, deans and professors, and other evangelical leaders.

Southern Baptists’ future rests on redirecting resources from the Deep South, abandoning racism and remaining committed to biblical orthodoxy, expository preaching, the lordship of Christ and sound doctrine, declared Daniel Akin, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, during his address.

Akin told conference participants that \$12 billion was given through the denomination’s local churches in 2008 but “only 2.75 percent ever left the borders of the United States.”

Church planting in “unreached and unserved areas of our nation is little more than a trickle,” he pointed out. “Why we plant more churches in Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina, North Carolina and Tennessee than we do in New York, Illinois, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Washington and California is absolutely incomprehensible to me.”

Every Southern Baptist congregation should be “a church planting church and every church a Great Commission church,” Akin added. “This must be more than a slogan. It must be a reality.”

Akin called for a church planting strate-

gy “that assaults the major population centers of North America.”

Akin also said the Southern Baptist Convention name needs to be changed, because it isn’t “best for identifying who we are and want to be in the future.”

That future will be shaped by the younger generation, Akin’s seminary presidential counterpart stressed.

Albert Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, said the rise of secularism and the fall of cultural Christianity in the Deep South over the past two decades have conspired to make the 20-something generation crucial for defining the mission of the SBC over the next 10 to 20 years.

“When we look at the numbers (in the SBC), all of a sudden, they aren’t going up any more,” Mohler explained. “We find ourselves in a situation in which we have to ask ourselves some very basic questions ... and they are questions of a denomination headed toward a crisis.”

Young Southern Baptists must not be fixated on numbers or statistics but must fix their gaze on faithfulness to God’s Word, the task of taking the gospel to the nations and the glory of God, Mohler indicated.

“Those (numbers) are not unimportant, but it is the heart of the denomination that is the bigger issue—the clarity of our vision, the essential importance of our mission,” he asserted. “It is going to be yours and you are going to decide what to do with it.”

Although denominations like the SBC are in decline, they still provide benefits such as structure, connections, coherence and accountability, the president of Union University affirmed.

“I believe (denominations) do matter, and they will continue to matter. But if, and only if, they remain connected to Scripture and to the orthodox tradition.”

—Union University President David Dockery

SBC ethics leader Land apologizes for Holocaust remark

New York—A top Southern Baptist official has apologized to Jews for comparing Democrats’ proposals to reform health care to the Holocaust.

“It was never my intention to equate the Obama administration’s health care reform proposals with anything related to the Holocaust,” Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission wrote in a letter last week to the Anti-Defamation League. “My concern, which is clear when the remarks are reviewed in context, was about the potential denial of health care to the elderly, the infirm, the disabled and the unborn.”

According to the Florida Baptist Witness, Land referred to Nazis as he criticized the health care reform plans of President Obama and congressional Democrats in a Sept. 26 speech to the Christian Coalition of Florida.

“I want to put it to you bluntly,” Land said in the speech. “What they are attempting to do in health care, particularly in treating the elderly, is not something like what the Nazis did. It is precisely what the Nazis did.”

In an Oct. 9 letter, ADL National Director Abraham Foxman told Land that he was particularly offended by the remarks as a Holocaust survivor.

“While we understand there are deep convictions and passions regarding the health care reform, whatever one’s views are, the Nazi comparison is inappropriate, insensitive and unjustified,” Foxman wrote. “Such comparisons diminish the history and the memory of the 6 million Jews and 5 million others who died at the hands of the Nazis and insults those who fought bravely against (Nazi dictator Adolf) Hitler.”

Land told Foxman that he would choose his words more carefully in the future. (RNS)

Mo. Baptist messengers to be asked to use CP for lawsuits

Jefferson City, Mo.—In the face of a tightened economy, the Missouri Baptist Convention will seek convention messengers’ permission to direct Cooperative Program gifts to fund ongoing legal action against five formerly affiliated institutions.

In April, MBC Executive Board members approved a \$15.75 million CP allocations budget, which designates 3 percent of the total to the convention’s “agency restoration” fund.

Messengers to the 2003 MBC annual meeting approved establishing the fund to encourage churches and individuals to give to cover legal fees incurred in the seven-plus-yearlong legal battle with The Baptist Home retirement-home system, the Word & Way newspaper, the Missouri Baptist Foundation, Missouri Baptist University and Windermere Baptist Conference Center. However, convention leaders had resisted directing CP contributions to fund legal fees.

Because the convention’s lawsuit fund—which had been accepting designated gifts from churches—apparently has been unable to keep pace with mounting legal fees, the board considered the CP funding option. However, opposition to using CP gifts to fund the lawsuits surfaced after the board’s April decision. In an effort to make the option more palatable to Missouri Baptists, board members also agreed to an alternate giving plan at their July meeting.

The alternative option allows churches to designate that the tagged 3 percent be distributed to the convention’s three remaining institutions instead of into ARF coffers.

The choice of giving plans hinges on messenger approval of the budget at the annual meeting, scheduled for next week. If the budget is approved, each church will be asked to vote on which plan it will use for 2010. (ABP)

Join us for a Stewardship Summit with Dr. Brian Kluth...

CULTIVATING GENEROUS CHURCHES

10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. (EST)
October 29, 2009

Severns Valley Baptist Church
Elizabethtown

Pastors, church staff, treasurers, finance committee members and other church leaders are invited to attend.

\$15 per person
Register at:
www.kybaptist.org/generous
502-489-3335 | 866-489-3335



Topics will include:

- Financial trends
- Biblical insights
- Generosity teaching
- Estate stewardship
- Personal stewardship
- And much more!



Dr. Brian Kluth
Stewardship Educator

'Diverse' challenges loom for NAMB's newest missionaries

By Mike Ebert

North American Mission Board

Denver—Joe Beckler and wife, Cheri, are on a mission field where people are skeptical, even suspicious, of Christianity.

"Many of them have alternate lifestyles. How do you present the gospel to people who have great disdain for the gospel? Many people here view Christianity with great suspicion," said Beckler, a missionary who is working to start churches in Denver. "Their worldview is complicated."

Sharing Christ with such people often is contingent upon building relationships. "Life is our best tool. Calling yourself a Christ follower gets attention," Beckler noted. "It's not uncommon here to have someone literally following you. You have to show them the way to Christ through daily life."

The Becklers were just two of the 119 missionaries and chaplains commissioned by the North American Mission Board Oct. 5 at Applewood Baptist Church in Denver. The mission field they face reflects the growing diversity of ministry by NAMB missionaries as North America's population grows increasingly diverse and complex.

"We are a diverse culture. The world has come to our front door," NAMB's interim president Richard Harris told the appointees. "And that's the reason we need missionaries and chaplains going out to the front lines and representing us."

The group who were commissioned in Denver reflect the diversity of the mission



GO TELL Justin and Jackey Perry, church planters seeking to reach families, the urban poor and college students in South Tampa, were among 119 North American Mission Board missionaries commissioned Oct. 5 at Applewood Baptist Church in Denver. (NAMB photo by John Swain)

field—and those who are going to that field, including:

- Prasad and Vandana Aghamkar, who minister in the south Asian Indian and Nepali communities of Louisville.

- Ken and Thurlen Bain, who work among Native Americans in Arizona.

- Chuy and Maria Avila, who are reaching Hispanics in Laredo, Texas.

- Jali and Sundus Dawood, who minister to the Arabic community in Dallas.

- Harold and Barbara Lunsford, who work among oilfield workers in Wyoming.

- Pedro and Dionisia Escobar, who reach out to Latinos in New Mexico.

All of these missionaries work through state convention partners to most effectively link national and local strategy and maximize efficient use of Southern Baptist resources.

Vivek Arora, as a young man living in India, had a dream that he would someday find a book that would answer all his questions, and that he would be instrumental in bringing people together in a way that they could live in harmony. He discovered that book years later when he came to faith in Christ while reading a Hindi translation of the Bible. As for people living in harmony, he said he believes the Great Commission is God's plan for that.

Today, Vivek and his wife, Manisha, are church planting missionaries in Boston, ministering in the international community that has come from around the world to one of America's great cities.

"We are reaching out to international students and professionals," Vivek explained. "Many come here from their countries for two or three years. If we can reach them for Christ, the impact will be greatly multiplied when they return."

Harris told the missionaries and chaplains that, in being sent to challenging mission fields, much is expected of them.

"Be evangelistic," Harris urged. "We're not looking for you to go out there and help us shuffle around church members. We want you to go out there and take the gospel to people, let the Holy Spirit work in their lives and transform them into

new creatures in Christ."

Mark Edlund, executive director of the Colorado Baptist General Convention, who served in Asia as a Southern Baptist missionary for 17 years, thanked NAMB for its partnership in Colorado missions.

"Welcome to this mission field we call Colorado," Edlund said. "I am so thankful to NAMB for what they do for Colorado."

Edlund said NAMB provides at least partial funding for the work of 49 missions personnel in Colorado and for another 86 self-funded Mission Service Corps missionaries who serve in the state.

Harris encouraged the missionaries not to be distracted by things that might derail them from ministry. He specifically addressed the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force which is considering, among other things, recommending changes in how NAMB functions.

"If there's one thing that Southern Baptists love, it's their missionaries and their chaplains," Harris said. "You do what God has called you to do and leave the rest to Him. Southern Baptists will take care of you."

Harris ended with a challenge: "Go out of here tonight with a new zeal and a renewed belief that the gospel is the power of God unto salvation. You're going to meet some tough cookies. You're going to meet some people who are mixed up in their theology, their mindset and their worldview. Don't let it deter you, hinder you or discourage you. Present the truth. Present the gospel and depend on the Holy Spirit to work through your life." (BP)

Southern Baptists' generosity paves way for IMB to appoint 25 more missionaries

Continued from page 1

day's offering or collected special offerings for international missions.

While the mission board has not yet received all of the anticipated funds, the decision to appoint 25 additional personnel was based on reports from pastors and denominational leaders.

"We are humbled and gratified when we hear about churches encouraging their people to dig deeper than ever and taking special offerings so that more people can go to spread the Good News," IMB treasurer David Steverson said.

"While we rejoice in these special offerings, ... we must ensure to the best of our abilities that whoever is sent will be able to be sustained for the long term," Steverson added. "We pray that those who gave a special gift this summer will give again during their church's regular focus on international missions or Lottie Moon Christmas Offering campaign."

Last year, giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering fell about \$9 million short of the previous year's offering and \$29 million short of its goal. This year's goal is set at \$175 million. Continued support through the Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is crucial to continuing the work, Steverson said.

"His Kingdom first"

News of the shortfall challenged Michael Cloer, pastor of Englewood Baptist Church in Rocky Mount, N.C., to rethink his priorities. Even with Englewood in the midst of a \$1.1 million building project, Cloer said he felt convicted to respond to the shortfall.

"The Lord impressed upon my heart to put His Kingdom first before our own needs here at Englewood," Cloer noted. "This is a no-brainer. ... We've got to do this."

In response, the congregation set aside the fourth Sunday in August to give their entire offering to international missions. The church usually runs about 1,000 people in three worship services

on Sunday mornings. That day the church collected \$76,209—an amount Cloer said was above their usual weekly offering.

"It's a tough time, but we believed and stepped out" in faith, Cloer said. "We've been hit just like everybody else in the economy ... and God has taken care of us."

About an hour's drive west at Cresset Baptist Church in Durham, N.C., the congregation of about 175 also decided to take a special offering for international missions. Instead of challenging everyone to "give large amounts," pastor Jon Glass encouraged them to consider what would happen if every Southern Baptist gave \$5. He then set a goal of \$1,000.

When all the money was counted, the church had collected \$4,700.

Glass, who started as pastor of Cresset in February, said the church's response renewed his appreciation for the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, which allow Southern Baptists to pool their resources.

"If every Southern Baptist who attends church on a Sunday were to give about \$5, then it would make up for the shortfall," Glass suggested. "We could continue to do so much work around the world."

Teens at Super Summer evangelism and leadership camps in Missouri also joined in the effort, with campers sacrificing money they had planned to spend on T-shirts, pizza or CDs for international missions.

"There were audible gasps when I laid out the shortfall in giving," said Matt Kearns, student ministry director for the Missouri Baptist Convention. "When I asked, 'Would you all be interested in (giving to international missions)?' they cheered."

During the two weeks of camps, students gave more than \$3,000 for overseas ministries.

Kearns and his ministry team then chipped in, raising the total to \$6,000. "Every one of them responded by giving ... how could we not?"

*Names changed for security reasons

Heart of Worship 2009

October 23-24, 2009

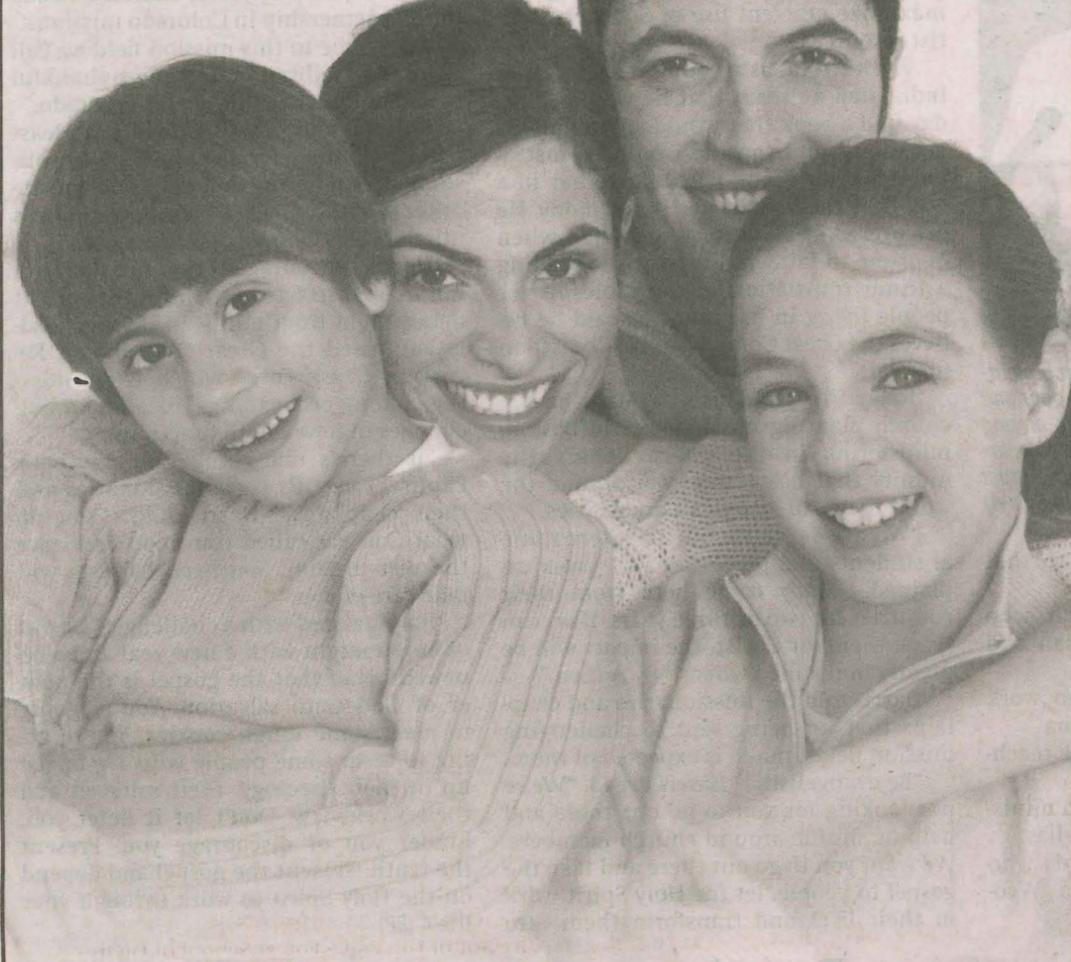
A Worship Conference for middle school and high school students

Praise Band Track • Student Choir Track • Drama Ministry Track

For more information on this student worship conference call (502) 897-4693 or go online for complete information on schedule, costs and registration forms.

www.boycecollege.com/heartofworship

Ministry doesn't stop for you to figure out your insurance needs.



GuideStone makes it as simple as 1-2-3.

When you're in the ministry, your calling guides your choices both at church and at home. At GuideStone, we also have a calling: to "serve those who serve the Lord." That's why we strive to provide quality insurance products that protect you, your family and, ultimately, your calling.

At GuideStone, we offer:

1. Plan choices that meet your healthcare and budget needs.
2. Easy online application.
3. Service you can count on.

GuideStone Insurance. Our ministry serving your ministry.



Apply Online

at www.GuideStone.org/FreeQuote to **Get A Quote.**

Or call **1-888-98-GUIDE** (1-888-984-8433) to speak to a customer relations specialist.

Ministers, church staff and denominational employees are eligible to apply for coverage through GuideStone. Underwriting is required.

GuideStone[®]
Insurance Plans

Do well. Do right.[®]

© 2009 GuideStone Financial Resources 15562 9/09

Senate panel OKs bill that includes abortion funding

Washington—After months of deliberations and debate, the Senate Finance Committee passed a health care bill Oct. 13 that critics say would result not only in federal funding of abortions but also an increase in the number of abortions nationwide.

The bill, sponsored by committee chairman Max Baucus, D-Mont., passed 14-9, with Sen. Olympia Snowe of Maine the only Republican voting for it. No Democrats voted against it. It now will be combined with another bill that previously passed another Senate committee and then head to the Senate floor.

Although the bill's supporters say it would not result in federal funding of abortion, the 259-page bill lays out on pages 31-33 how abortion would be covered under the plan. An amendment, sponsored by Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, was defeated Sept. 30 that would have explicitly prohibited federal funding of abortion.

"We tried to guarantee that federal funding for abortions wouldn't be

allowed under this bill. We were told 'no,'" Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, said in a statement.

Specifically, the bill:

- Allows for credits and cost-sharing subsidies for lower-income individuals to be used to purchase private insurance plans that cover elective abortions. The bill requires the insurance companies to segregate their internal funds and not use federal dollars to pay for the abortions. Critics have called the move an accounting gimmick.

- Requires that each area of the country provide at least one plan that pays for elective abortions and one plan that does not pay for them.

Pro-life advocates argue that if it becomes easier for a woman to pay for an abortion, the number of abortions will increase.

The bill does not include a government-run public option, although it does provide money to set up a consumer-run insurance cooperative. Such cooperatives presumably would be able to cover abortion without restrictions. (BP)

Study: One in 5 Americans may be secular in 20 years

By Angela Abbamonte

Hartford, Conn.—The number of American adults who do not identify with a particular religion is growing and may comprise more than 20 percent of the population in two decades, according to a new study.

Conducted by researchers at Trinity College, the study, titled "American Nones: The Profile of the No Religion Population," showed that people who profess no religion, or "Nones," are similar to the general public in marital status, education, racial and ethnic makeup and income.

According to the study, it is possible that one in five Americans will put themselves in the "None" category by 2030.

"We are here. We are like everybody else. We are part of the community," said Jesse Galef, communications associate at the Secular Coalition for America.

Galef said he hopes that this trend will dispel stereotypes that Nones have no morals because of their lack of religion and help them gain a political voice.

The study indicated that a large percentage of Nones also decline to identify with a political party. More than 40 percent call themselves independents; 34 percent say they're Democrats; and 13 percent Republicans.

Barry Kosmin, head researcher for the study, said that the spread of the Nones is a national and historical phenomenon. He cited examples from the Founding Fathers, such as Thomas Jefferson's version of the Bible, in which he cut out reference to Jesus' divinity.

The most notable difference between the Nones and the religious population is the gender gap. Only 12 percent of American women are Nones while 19 percent of American men

claim no religion. According to the study, women who grew up in non-religious homes are less likely to stay non-religious. Women also are less likely to switch out of religion.

"Why, now, I have no clue," Kosmin said. The study "raises as many questions as answers."

"Nones" not atheists

Most Nones would not consider themselves atheists. More than 50 percent believe in either a higher being or a personal god, while only 7 percent are self-proclaimed atheists. One in three say they "definitely" believe that humans developed from earlier species of animals.

Of "converted" Nones, 35 percent identified as Catholics until the age of 12. William D'Antonio of Catholic University said this finding accords with his research, and that other studies have shown that Catholics often leave the church because they view it as overly dogmatic.

Kerry Robinson, executive director of the National Leadership Roundtable on Church Management, has been working to keep Catholics involved in the church by asking them to give of their talents in service.

"When you invite someone to give what they do best," Robinson said, "they become more invested in the church."

While initiatives designed to keep people involved in religion development, Nones still are growing in number and continue to look more like the general population.

In the conclusion of the Trinity study, researchers said Nones are the "invisible minority" in the U.S. "because their social characteristics are very similar to the majority." The shift to secularism in the 1990s largely happened "under the radar," the researchers noted. (RNS)

Ex-Muslim teen ordered to return home to Ohio

Orlando, Fla.—Rifqa Bary, a 17-year-old girl who fled her family's home after converting from Islam to Christianity, was ordered last week to return to Ohio where she will be in the custody of a local children's services agency.

In July, Bary sought refuge in Orlando after saying that her father threatened her life. In August, Florida's Department of Children and Families took emergency protective custody of her and placed her with foster parents.

Bary claims to have been a Christian for four years, a development she attempted to hide from her devout Muslim parents, who are natives of Sri Lanka and now reside near Columbus, Ohio. She reportedly hid a copy of the Bible in their home and secretly attended Christian meetings.

In an affidavit filed in August, Bary said in 2007 her father, Mohamed Bary, found a copy of "The Purpose Driven Life" by Rick Warren hidden in her bedroom. He had a serious talk with her about retaining the Islamic bloodline in their family, she said, adding that she didn't admit her conversion.

The petition filed on the daughter's behalf in Florida said she faced imminent harm not only from her family but from the extreme radical Muslim community in her hometown of Columbus.

Bary now will be turned over to Ohio foster care after her immigration records are properly filed and she receives assurance that she can continue classes with an online school system in Florida, according to a Florida Baptist Witness report. A judge has set an Oct. 23 hearing to address details of the transfer of custody. (BP)

Religious reaction to Obama's Nobel prize mixed

Washington—Reaction among the religious community was mixed after the world learned Oct. 9 that President Obama had won the Nobel Peace Prize.

Obama and much of the world community expressed surprise at the announcement, yet the Norwegian Nobel Committee voiced no apprehensions about the future of his presidency. It commended him on what has been achieved so far in his nine-month presidency "for his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples," including how the president has "powerfully stimulated disarmament and arms control negotiations."

The head of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Committee warned that awarding the Nobel Peace Prize to President Obama was a political move intended to influence the United States' foreign policy.

"Something more than the power of charisma induced the Norwegians to honor Mr. Obama, so this is a teachable moment," Richard Land said Oct. 10.

He added that the award puts pressure on Obama to "take an even more internationalist" U.S. foreign policy and makes it more difficult for him to continue the war and increase the number of troops in Afghanistan.

"The pressure is not all that subtle," Land said. "If you get the Nobel Peace Prize do you turn around and send 40,000 more troops to Afghanistan? I believe that we should listen to the general in charge, who says he needs 40,000 more troops to do the job. If you're going to put men in harm's way, you ought to listen to the professionals."

Meanwhile, a news release issued by the National Association of Evangelicals, which was holding an "Evangelical Leaders Forum" in the Washington area touching on nuclear weapons and such issues as immigration, the environment and sexuality, quoted NAE President Leith Anderson as saying: "I first heard the call for a world free of nuclear weapons from President Ronald Reagan when he addressed the National Association of Evangelicals over 25 years ago. The Nobel prize for

President Obama acknowledges and perpetuates the Reagan vision."

The news release also quoted NAE board member and Florida pastor Joel Hunter as saying, "The ambition to free future generations from the fear of indiscriminate destruction is a truly nonpartisan ambition that resonates with our deepest moral convictions."

The news release stated that the NAE "has a long history of speaking out on nuclear issues. Its 1986 'Peace, Freedom, and Security Studies' called for the need to balance disarmament goals with a concern for human rights and freedom."

More recently, the NAE co-sponsored a 2008 consultation at the Hoover Institution with Ronald Reagan's Secretary of State, George Shultz, to "explore the need to re-engage the nuclear issue in the post-Cold War, post-9/11 era."

Obama is expected to accept the award Dec. 10 in Oslo, Norway.

Compiled from reports by Baptist Press and Associated Baptist Press

Ga. school board upholds ban on cheerleaders' Bible banners

Ringgold, Ga.—A school board in Georgia upheld a policy Oct. 13 banning cheerleaders from displaying religious banners on the field at high school football games.

Supporters of the signs, banned Sept. 28 by a superintendent who had been told by a Ringgold, Ga., woman that they violate federal law, rallied outside the first school board meeting since the decision. They then packed the meeting room with a crowd estimated at between 80 and 100 people.

Renzo Wiggins, attorney for Caotoosa County Public Schools, told spectators the tradition of having football players at Lakeview-Fort Oglethorpe High School burst onto the field through paper signs displaying Bible verses violated the First Amendment's ban on government endorsement of religion.

"Virtually all of the cases rule

that that has the imprimatur of a stamp of approval by the state," Wiggins said in a video posted online by the Chattanooga Free Press. "Therefore it is prohibited under the Establishment Clause."

Attorney Matthew Bryan, meanwhile, said the signs were protected under the First Amendment's clause guaranteeing free speech.

"There are no cases in the federal appellate courts that deal with cheerleader signs, so there have been no cases to say that cheerleader signs violate the Establishment Clause," Bryan said.

Superintendent Denia Reese said she regretted the decision to remove the banners from the field and restrict them to a "free-speech zone" outside the stadium, but it was her responsibility to protect the school district from a potential lawsuit. (ABP)

Advisers urge caution about religious, govt. partnerships

By Adelle Banks

Washington—White House advisers recommended last week that federal officials do more to ensure that government partnerships with faith-based groups are constitutional, transparent and support religious liberty.

"We want to make sure that (religious providers of social services) understand all these ideas ... so that they're not confused, they're not hamstrung and they're not sued," said Melissa Rogers, a member of the President's Advisory Council on Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships.

But Rogers, director of the Wake Forest School of Divinity Center for Religion and Public Life, said advisers who are tasked with reforming the White House faith-based office differ on whether faith-based groups that receive federal grants should remove religious symbols or form separate corporations for taxpayer-funded charitable work.

Barry Lynn, a member of the task force, said he thinks such symbols should be avoided whenever possible.

"I do think that religious symbols, icons and Scriptures should—except in extraordinary circumstances—not be present in a space providing a government-funded service," said Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

Richard Stearns, president of the Christian relief agency World Vision and a member of the council, said that it "lacks common sense" for such disputes to focus more on the symbols than the effectiveness of the programs.

"Because of a cross or a Star of David in the room, do we require that organization to change its identity in order to deliver that social service?" he asked. "I think the goal here should be ... not to hamper or hinder these organizations from doing the good that they can do, but to enable and empower them while protecting the rights of both parties, the beneficiary and the service delivery organization."

Advisers agreed that a Bush administration executive order on faith-based and community organizations should be amended to ensure that grant-making decisions are made "free from political interference or even the appearance of political interference," Rogers noted.

Over the course of a daylong meeting, council members offered suggestions on five other focus areas related to religious/federal partnerships:

- The fatherhood task force recommended increased federal funding of programs to assist fathers, including military and incarcerated dads.

- The task force on economic recovery and domestic poverty called for efforts to permanently reduce U.S. poverty rates.

- The interreligious cooperation task force recommended creating a working group of multi-religious and community groups to advise the Obama administration on a just resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

- The environment and climate change task force urged the creation of an Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships at the Environmental Protection Agency.

- The global poverty and development task force called for the launch of a public campaign to involve the American public in ending global poverty. (RNS)

Bringing Your Family to the Annual Meeting?

If so, your children are invited to

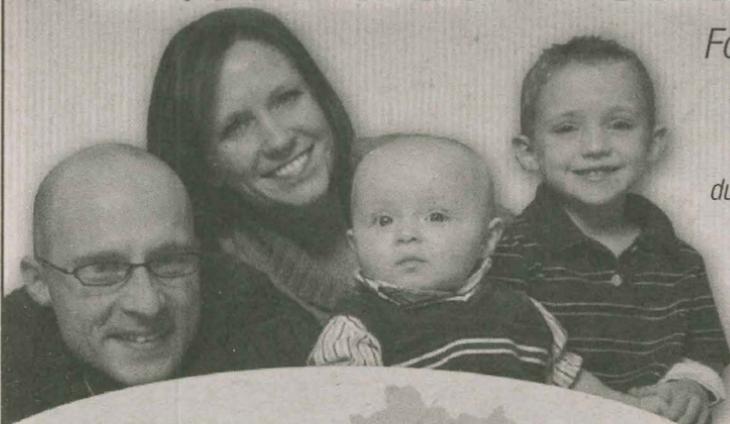
Extended Teaching Care

For Preschoolers and Children
Ages 6 weeks to 5th Grade

Space is limited

Extended Teaching Care will be available during the sessions of the Kentucky Baptist Pastors Conference and the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Annual Meeting, Nov. 9-10 at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

Please note: There is no charge for Extended Teaching Care. Children must be registered in advance by calling 866-489-3575. Children must be picked up at meal times. We regret that we are unable to provide care for special needs children.



Find it Here

Sharing Christ Across Kentucky

Extended Teaching Care is made possible by your gifts through the Cooperative Program.



Call 866-489-3575 today to make reservations.
www.kybaptist.org/annualmeeting

Are churches too stingy?

Practicing tithing could mean extra \$161 billion for missions work

By Angela Abbamonte

Champaign, Ill.—Are U.S. churchgoers stingy?

That's one possible conclusion from a newly updated report that shows if parishioners tithed the biblically recommended 10 percent of their income—instead of their current 2.26 percent—an extra \$161 billion would be flowing to charity.

The report, published by Illinois-based research firm empty tomb, inc., also found that congregations continue to keep more money for their own needs instead of "benevolences" beyond the four walls of a church.

"Money is training wheels," said Sylvia Ronsvalle, executive vice president of empty tomb, inc., "If we're not faithful in giving, how will we see the church grow?"

Ronsvalle, along with her husband John, co-wrote the "State of Church Giving through 2007: What Are Our Christian Billionaires Thinking—Or Are They?" The annual report, released on Oct. 15, examines financial trends in Christian churches. Financial vitality, they say, is a key indicator of overall church health.

Giving for benevolences in 2007 hit an all-time low, with an average of just 14 percent of member contributions going to needs beyond the church, down from a high of 21 percent 40 years ago. Ronsvalle said this may indicate churches believe that "maintenance is adequate" and are more concerned with being financially sound than contributing to missions.

"If you go to maintain your institution, you're going to find that your institution dies," she said.

The report compares the amount U.S. church members gave to international missions and the amount of "remittances," or money that is sent back home by foreigners living in the U.S. In 2007, \$79 billion was sent abroad through remittances—an average of about \$2,076 per person. By contrast, U.S.-born church members gave an average of \$70 to international ministries. If churches sent money overseas at the same rate, that would mean an additional \$314 billion given for international needs, Ronsvalle estimated.

Ronsvalle said churches have become complacent and no longer are challenging themselves to do extraordinary things. There is a "lack of vision" and churchgoers have a hard time seeing how their contribution to missions can affect the world or its problems.

"One of the changes that seems to have happened to the church in the United States is that it has moved away from vision," she said. "It's not challenging itself to be great. Don't go to safety, go for faithfulness." (RNS)

Only 1 in 3 churches spiritually 'vital'

By Bob Allen

Hartford, Conn.—A congregation's health depends less on theology than methodology, according to a first look at an upcoming national study by Hartford Seminary's Institute for Religion Research.

Faith Communities Today 2008, released Oct. 15, paints an overall sobering picture of congregational life in America. Congregations in general are losing ground in attendance, financial health and overall vitality. At the same time, many are bucking the trend, reporting spiritual vitality and a sense of mission and purpose despite challenges like finances and conflict.

Beginning in the 1970s, conventional wisdom said that churches holding to a conservative theology and putting high demands on members grew numerically, while more liberal congregations became increasingly secular and irrelevant, and inevitably declined.

Adding a more recent measure of whether a church perceives itself to be "spiritually vital and alive," however, the Hartford researchers found that vitality peaked at both the conservative and liberal extremes of the theological spectrum.

"Most discussions of congregational identity focus on (ideological) content," lead researcher David Roozen wrote in the report. "But what most organizational theorists say is that strength of identity or distinctiveness of identity is equally, if not more, important."

About one-third of church members (35 percent) surveyed strongly agreed with a statement describing their congregation as spiritually vital and alive. Those churches are more likely to say they have a clear sense of mission and purpose that sets them apart from other congregations. They also are more likely to have grown in the last five years and less likely to face financial problems.

The researchers identified things that vital congregations do particularly well. People who attend vital churches are more likely to invite a new person to a Sunday school class than people who attend other churches. Vital churches tend to be better at inviting new people to take part in worship leadership by reading, singing or taking up an offering. They also get new visitors or members involved in social ministry more quickly.

Leaders of vital churches promote a clear vision for the congregation, engage in evangelism and involve themselves in the training of lay leaders.

Other earmarks of vital churches include providing training for volunteers and regularly recognizing them for their service.

Leaders of vital churches promote a clear vision for the congregation, engage in evangelism and involve themselves in the training of lay leaders. Other leadership areas like administration and representing the congregation in the community, on the other hand, showed "no significant relationship" to a church's spiritual vitality.

Overall, fewer than half (48 percent) of congregations in the study reported more than a 2 percent growth in worship attendance over the last five years. That is 10 points below the 58 percent that reported growth in 2005.

Fewer than one in five (19 percent) described their church's financial health as "excellent," down from 24 percent in 2005 and 31 percent in 2000.

Three churches in four (74 percent) reported having conflict during the past five years over key issues like money, worship, leadership or program priorities—about the same percentage recorded eight years ago.

Conflict in many cases saps vitality, Roozen observed, but if managed well it can lead to positive change. Changing a church's worship style, for example, while controversial, usually is a catalyst for growth.

Churches that recently adopted a more contemporary worship style were far more likely to have increased attendance by 2 percent or more between 2003 and 2008 than congregations that always have had traditional worship—64 percent versus 44 percent.

More than half (53 percent) of congregations that have a contemporary service but haven't changed it in the last five years report growth of 2 percent or more in worship attendance in that time frame.

Changes in worship style do not automatically boost attendance, however.

Churches that have adopted some changes but still consider their worship service traditional are least likely to grow, with 41 percent reaching the 2-percent-over-five-years benchmark in increased attendance.

The study is one in a series of national surveys examining 39 American denominations and faith groups.

Survey analysts called it "a story of concern, but also a story of hope." While revealing "an emerging, persistent and broad-based downward trend in congregational vitality," researchers also found "pockets of vitality that are suggestive of the potential for moving forward." (ABP)

Obama pledges 'unwavering' support to gay-rights causes

Washington—Using some of his strongest language to date in siding with the homosexual community, President Obama told a gathering of the Human Rights Campaign that his commitment to their cause was "unwavering" and that his administration, before he leaves office, would end the military's Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy.

"I'm here with a simple message: I'm here with you in that fight" for homosexual causes, Obama told those gathered at an event held by the nation's largest homosexual activist organization. Obama repeated his stance for overturning the 1996 federal Defense of Marriage Act—which, if reversed, could force every state to recognize same-sex marriages from other states. He also stated his opposition to those who would "enshrine discrimination into our constitution"—a reference to a federal marriage amendment and presumably also state marriage amendments.

He made news by saying he would sign a defense authorization bill that includes an amendment broadening the hate crimes law to include homosexual persons. Conservatives say the hate crimes protections put religious liberties at risk.

"My expectation is that when you look back on these years, you will see a time in which we put a stop to discrimination against gays and lesbians—whether in the office or on the battlefield," Obama said. "You will see a time in which we as a nation finally recognize relationships between two men or two women as just as real and admirable as relationships between a man and a woman. You will see a nation that's valuing and cherishing these families as we build a more perfect union—a union in which gay Americans are an important part. I am committed to these goals." (BP)



Keynote Speaker:
Paul Tripp

October 26 - 28, 2009

the Promoting
GOSPEL

Conference for Pastors
LaGrange Baptist Church

Speaker:
Justin Taylor



<http://promotingthegospel.org>

Why are churches overlooked?

When planning estate gifts, churches are often left out

Why do church members overlook their churches when making planned gifts? Planned gifts are gifts church members can't put in the offering plate; they are gifts out of assets, not income; gifts made in light of the church member's overall estate and financial plans; gifts that use tax-advantaged methods to accomplish the church member's philanthropic objectives; and gifts that may require professional adviser assistance to complete.

Ky. Baptist Foundation



Barry Allen

Churches are the most overlooked charities in estate stewardship and planned giving. Church members are more likely to include in their estate plans or make a planned gift to a college, children's ministry, human-need ministry, the arts or a museum—but not a church.

We have discovered through assisting individuals and families the most likely reasons church members overlook their churches. First, they are never asked by church leadership to even consider including the church in their estate plans or to make a planned gift during their lives. Second, most church members—even those who tithe out of their incomes—understand

tithing as something one does during life, but not at death. Third, they lack confidence the church has the ability to administer such a gift. Fourth, they were unsatisfied with the effectiveness of the church's ministry. And lastly, they did not have the level of esteem for the leadership required to make such a gift.

Let me encourage you not to overlook your church in your estate stewardship. To the extent Laurie Valentine, our trust counsel, and I can be of assistance to you, please give us that privilege. Call us toll free. There is no cost or obligation for our consultation service. Furthermore, we can suggest proven solutions for consideration in overcoming the obstacles others have mentioned as why they did not include their churches in their plans.

Also, let me encourage you to visit our Web site, www.KyBaptistFoundation.org, for valuable charitable gift planning information, including an interactive estate-plan organizer, which is a terrific secure and private data-gathering, tutorial and decision-making tool.

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

For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Preacher's Kids

David Ayers



Bible Crosswords

By Evelyn Boyington

Across

- 1 Sign of the end times (Matthew 24:6)
- 5 "Fear God and ___ his commandments" (Ecclesiastes 12:13)
- 9 Trucker's "motel"
- 12 "He (Isaac) called the name of the well ___" (Genesis 26:20)
- 13 Exclamation
- 14 Tint
- 15 Sinks
- 17 "I was afraid, and went and hid thy ___" (Matthew 25:25)
- 19 ___ and the Thummin (Exodus 28:30)
- 20 "My servant ___ at home sick" (Matthew 8:6)
- 21 Puts an end to
- 23 Parts of capitols
- 25 Charade
- 26 In the near future (arch.)
- 28 "Buy the truth and ___ it not" (Proverbs 23:23)
- 31 Preposition
- 32 Church part (pl.)
- 34 That is (abbr.)
- 35 "Ye may rejoice, and that I may be the ___ sorrowful" (Philippians 2:28)
- 38 Nuisance
- 39 Promise Keepers attendees
- 40 "Ye shall receive ___, after that the Holy Ghost is come" (Acts 1:8)
- 42 "___ your ways and your doings" (Jeremiah 7:3)
- 44 "There ___ from heaven a great light" (Acts 22:6)
- 46 Actor Thicke

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15				16			17	18		
		19					20			
21	22				23	24				
25				26	27			28	29	30
31				32			33			34
35		36	37		38				39	
		40		41			42	43		
44	45						46			
47				48			49			50 51
52				53	54			55		
56				57				58		

- 47 Unleashed
- 49 "Those who by reason of use have their ___ exercised to discern" (Hebrews 5:14)
- 52 Holiday, for one
- 53 Choose's cohort
- 55 Settle in a cozy spot
- 56 French pronoun
- 57 "Thou hadst cast me ... in the midst of the ___" (Jonah 2:3)
- 58 "The poison of ___ is under their lips" (Romans 3:13)
- 16 Hebrew month
- 18 "Behold, thou (Samson) hast mocked me (Delilah), and told me ___" (Judges 16:10)
- 21 Greet
- 22 Teen trauma
- 23 Capital of Delaware
- 24 Singles
- 27 Back of the neck
- 29 Property claim
- 30 Let borrow
- 33 Not fresh
- 36 Forks' cohorts
- 37 "As my beloved ___ I warn you" (1 Corinthians 4:14)
- 39 Monthly occurrence
- 41 Mourns
- 43 "Our fathers did eat ___ in the desert" (John 6:31)
- 44 Skirt feature
- 45 Practice and practice and practice
- 46 Queries
- 48 "To live is Christ and to ___ is gain" (Philippians 1:21)
- 50 Extra sense (abbr.)
- 51 Byways (abbr.)
- 54 About (abbr.)

Down

- 1 Entanglement
- 2 Good king of Judah
- 3 Consequence
- 4 Avoid
- 5 Abyssinian weight
- 6 Chicago transport (abbr.)
- 7 "In the day you ___ thereof, then your eyes shall be opened" (Genesis 3:5)
- 8 "Sing unto the Lord with ... the voice of a ___" (Psalm 98:5)
- 9 "Hast thou not ... curdled me like ___" (Job 10:10)
- 10 Orpah, to Obed
- 11 House, in Hebrew

Last week's solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
M	T	S	B	A	L	M	A	H	A	B
I	R	A	E	R	I	E	B	A	D	E
S	E	T	A	S	S	I	R	O	N	
T	E	E	T	H	A	S	I	D	E	
				R	E	S	E	N	E	D
A	N	O	I	N	T	I	N	G	S	T
R	E	A	P	E	R	G	S	O	R	E
M	A	R	W	A	T	E	R	P	O	T
S	R	G	O	D	R	O	E			
A	H	I	O	A	R	E	R	E	A	D
H	U	M	S	S	U	R	E	R	I	E
A	B	E	T	T	E	A	R	I	N	N

Carpenter Bus Sales
We Rent Buses!
 15 to 41 Passenger Buses Available
 Exclusive provider for
 LifeWay Church Bus Sales
 800.370.6180 • carpenterbus.com

Mississippi Baptist Minister Hosts

Hawaii

Join Other Southern Baptists and Rev. Billy Williams
 On His Sixth YMT Baptist Vacation Package!

Departs April 19, 2010 from **\$1528***

Fly to Honolulu for five nights in Waikiki, three nights on Kauai, two nights on Maui, one night in Hilo and three nights in Kona, on the "big island" of Hawaii. Devotions will be available some days on tour, for those in the group who wish to participate. Sightseeing on every island includes: a Honolulu city tour with Punchbowl Crater and Pearl Harbor cruise to the Arizona Memorial; Kauai's Wailua riverboat cruise; Iao Valley excursion & the old whaling capital of Lahaina on Maui; and on the Big-Island-of-Hawaii, a Hilo orchid garden, Rainbow Falls, Black Sand Beaches, Volcanoes National Park and more! YMT specializes in Hawaii and has had its own office in Honolulu since 1967. Prices are so affordable because travelers buy wholesale, directly from the actual Hawaiian tour operator. Rev. Williams is semi-retired and has been serving for 49 years as a Baptist minister, 23 years of which he was pastor of the First Baptist Church in Gautier, Mississippi. Currently he attends and is active in Broadmoor Baptist Church in Madison, Mississippi. Friends and family are welcome! One does not have to be Baptist to join this group. Flights are available from throughout the United States. *Price, per person, double occupancy, includes taxes, inter-island flights, hotels, baggage handling, and escorted sightseeing on every island. Airfare is extra; call for prices.

For brochure, information, reservations, and letter from Pastor Williams, call 7 days a week:

YMT Vacations 1-800-736-7300

Growing quantity of 'Christian' films now pay close attention to quality

By Adelle Banks

Hollywood, Calif.—Director Brian Baugh's upcoming teen film "To Save a Life" may be many things, but one thing it's not, he said, is a "Christian" movie.

The upcoming film about a star basketball player who copes with a friend's death is edgier than others—with violence, marijuana and a brief sex scene. Conservative friends who have screened the movie worry it doesn't have enough faith in it, while others think it may have a bit too much.

"That's what makes it fun," said Baugh, whose movie will be distributed by Samuel Goldwyn Films. "Can we walk that line?"

Five years after the stunning box-office results of Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ," Christian filmmakers are trying to develop higher quality movies that will attract a faith-based audience without alienating non-churchgoers.

Craig Detweiler, director of Pepperdine University's Center for Entertainment, Media and Culture, said he generally splits movies into two basic categories: good or bad. Most colleagues, he acknowledged, tend to put Christian movies in the latter category.

A small but growing movement is trying to change that image, highlighted most recently by "Fireproof," a movie about a firefighter struggling to save his marriage, and produced by a Southern Baptist church in Georgia, that ended up as the No. 1 independent movie of 2008.

"The profitability of a film like 'Fireproof' will inspire a spate of imitators," Detweiler said. "What I'd rather see is a wave of originators who have such a level of artistry, craft and originality that audiences and critics ... take notice."

Filmmakers Alex and Stephen Kendrick, the writers and producers of "Fireproof," are working with new Christian-film subsidiaries of media giant Sony and paying careful attention to the script—even as they aim squarely for a churchgoing audience without being too churchy.

In fact, they deleted one scene—but included it in the DVD's deleted scenes—that featured firefighters debating the existence of God over a plate of chicken wings at the fire station.

"We didn't want to present the medicine, if you will, before they understand what's been diagnosed," said Alex Kendrick, an associate pastor at Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany, Ga.

His younger brother, Stephen, also an associate pastor at the church, is brutally honest about the image they were trying to overcome. "Part of the reason ... people have turned away from Christian movies is because historically they've been very cheesy and painful to watch," he said.

As they have worked with Sony to improve the quality of their films there's been a box-office payoff. Their first film, "Flywheel," was shown in three local theaters. "Facing the Giants," opened in 441 theaters and "Fireproof" in 839, with both ending up in more than 1,000 theaters during their runs. The Kendrick brothers will begin filming a new movie next year.

Kris Fuhr, vice president of Provident Films, said her company aims to find scripts that primarily tell a good story.

"If you put story first and then ask yourself, 'How can faith feel like an organic part of this story?', then you have a formula for success," said Fuhr, whose company is a subsidiary of Sony BMG Music Entertainment.

Ted Baehr, chairman of the Christian Film and Television Commission, thinks unofficial rules about not having a church-related scene too soon in a movie are "foolish," but he is nonetheless grateful that secular companies are paying more attention to Christian movies.

"I think the good news is that Sony has decided to give a break to some of these people," said Baehr, whose organization publishes "Movieguide." "And that's because we keep telling them there's money in them thar hills. There's an audience out there." (RNS)

When he looks to the future... what does he see?

Kentucky children who are victims of neglect and abuse can face a dark future. It is our goal to make it a little brighter through:

- Therapeutic foster care
- Impact Plus services for low-income, at-risk families
- Residential treatment

Our efforts impact families in every county across Kentucky. We provide services to approximately 400 children each day. Won't you join us in giving children hope for a better future?

SUNRISE CHILDREN'S SERVICES
1-800-456-1386
www.SUNRISE.org



'I've always wanted to volunteer, but ...'

Oneida relies heavily on its volunteers who feel called to serve its students

Over the years dozens of people have told me that they had wanted to be full-time volunteers "but" they just never could put it all together. It is a sad moment to look into the face of a person who honestly wanted to dedicate part of his or her life to volunteering "but" has waited too long.

I have talked to people from many backgrounds and with various skills who said that as soon as they got their children raised and their homes paid off they wanted to do volunteer work. Often the people I am talking to are well into their 70s or 80s. They know that they have allowed that portion of their lives to slip away and now it's too late. They do not think of it as an intentional rebellious act, but they acknowledge that there was a time when they felt God was calling them to spend part of their retirement years volunteering. Some have told me that Oneida was the place where God wanted them to serve.

As I wrote last week, Oneida has a long, rich history of being blessed with a host of volunteers. We started this school year with 16 full- or nearly full-time volunteers. Many of these wonderful people did not know where they would serve or if we could even use them when they offered their services. Often it was not until they talked with us that they discovered they had a skill or gift that we could put to use. Let me share how these wonderful volunteers are meeting some important needs for this ministry.

The husband of one couple is our volunteer coordinator and his wife is the best "gofer" we

have ever had. Another couple are retired school teachers/administrators and are a great asset in the classroom. One volunteer is an OBI graduate and became our first alumni director. Another couple provides us with a farm manager and craft shop manager. One volunteer lends his considerable skills in maintenance.

One lady volunteers in the evenings helping students—especially international students—with their homework. Another Oneida graduate volunteers in our student store and fills our soda machines. Two men help on our farm and the wife of one helps in our craft shop. Another couple provides us with a transportation director and an office receptionist/clerical helper. Finally, our latest volunteer helps as a "granny" in the girls' dorm.

Each of these individuals meets a critical and important need in this ministry. Collectively they save us many thousands of dollars in salaries and other costs, and they get to spend some of their retirement years serving the Lord.

Have you longed to be a long-term volunteer? For some that could mean two years; for others it may be an open-ended offer as long as their health holds out and we have a need. In addition to providing you with an opportunity to give a special gift to the Lord, we will provide your housing, utilities—except for phone and TV—and all of your meals. I will do everything possible to give you a place of service that meets our needs with your skills. Most of our volunteers help year round but some request summers off. The clock is ticking; don't wait until it is too late.

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

This is Oneida



W.F. Underwood

A piece of history

New book retells the story of Clear Creek's rich history

As I write this article, we have just received our shipment of the updated history of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College.

Many of you are familiar with a previous book by Carvin Bryant, "The Voice in the Mountains." Many people have enjoyed reading that book through the years and have been inspired by what God has done through Clear Creek to impact Kingdom work all over the world.

We believe our new updated history, "Born in the Heart of God: A History of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College 1926-2008," will provide some very informative and inspiring reading about God's continued work through Clear Creek.

The author, Christopher Beckham, provides an excellent journey for the reader through the history of Clear Creek from its earliest beginnings to the present day. Beckham also has a unique perspective on the book in that he serves as pastor of the historic Flemingsburg Baptist Church, which is one of the churches that L.C. Kelly, founder of Clear Creek, once served.

I believe this is a book Kentucky Baptists will want to have in their

libraries. This is a wonderful story of how God began a work in 1926 in the mountains of Southeastern Kentucky with a few men committed to following God's will in their lives.

And God's work continues today with literally thousands of people who are making an impact for Christ, not only in Kentucky, but all across the world.

Clear Creek Baptist Bible College is proud to be the Bible college of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. We count it an honor to especially serve KBC churches and those of other state conventions through our alumni—our history proves it.

You can order your copy of this important piece of Kentucky Baptist history by contacting Clear Creek toll free at (866) 340-3196.

You also can purchase a copy of the book online through our bookstore at www.CCBBC.edu. Just click on the bookstore link, type in the title of the book, pay for it online and it will be shipped to you.

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

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

Volunteer nurses give shots for missions

By Caroline Anderson
International Mission Board

Richmond, Va.—“I’m down to Barbie Band-Aids. Sorry, dude,” nurse Joe Thomas tells a future missionary in his mid-20s after giving him a shot.

Thomas and Katrina Otto are longtime volunteer nurses at immunization clinics at the International Learning Center near Richmond, Va. During the two-month orientations to prepare missionaries for service with the International Mission Board, the nurses administer shots for everything from rabies to Japanese encephalitis and yellow fever.

Otto, an emergency room nurse at Providence Medical Center in Kansas City, Kan., has volunteered since 1999. When she accompanied a friend to the IMB for a missionary orientation in 1998, she realized the shot clinics were an excellent opportunity to use her nursing skills. She also has a special place in her heart for missionaries—her parents were North American Mission Board missionaries to Alaska.

Thomas, a nurse in the intensive care unit at St. Luke’s South Hospital in Overland Park, Kan., heard about the opportunity through Otto, a fellow church member at Lenexa (Kan.) Baptist Church. After going with Otto to a missionary orientation at ILC in 2000, Thomas decided to volunteer as a way to be involved in missions while using his God-given talents.

Thomas and Otto’s years of working together at the clinics is evident: swab with alcohol, then one, two, three—poke. The nurses’ needles puncture each arm of the patient in unison.

The reactions vary. Some patients scrunch their eyes shut. Some stare placidly at photographs from southern Asia and Africa on the clinic wall. Still others crack jokes during the procedure.

Otto and Thomas attempt to lighten the mood with a little humor of their own. In fact, they have worked together so long they coordinate their jokes.

“Thank you for choosing IMB for your immunization care,” Otto says as a patient exits the room after receiving four shots, two in each arm. “There will not be a quiz later,”



DOUBLE STICK Nurses Katrina Otto and Joe Thomas do not work in the same Kansas City-area hospital but they volunteer together four times a year, inoculating Southern Baptist missionaries preparing to serve overseas. The Kansans help full-time IMB medical staff who say that without the pair’s help, they could not meet the demand. (IMB photo)

Thomas adds as he hands out information about the vaccines just administered.

Four times a year, Thomas and Otto fly to Richmond from Kansas at their own expense. Airfare isn’t cheap, but they insisted the rewards of volunteering far outweigh the costs.

“One of our goals is to be a support to the full-time medical staff and provide them with what they need,” Otto said. “God spoke to us about coming and I’m honored to be a part of it.”

Vaccinating hundreds of missionaries and their families at each orientation is a feat that IMB’s full-time medical staff couldn’t accomplish without Thomas and Otto’s help. This past summer, 3,000 shots were administered. At one session, 486 shots were given in just two-and-a-half hours.

An average of 12,000 to 15,000 shots are dispensed at ILC annually which, according to Sandy Hammack, an IMB clinical nurse, makes IMB one of the largest administra-

tors of immunizations on the East Coast.

The volume of work makes IMB’s medical staff appreciate Thomas and Otto’s servant hearts even more.

“It’s significant because they not only come at their own expense, they use their vacation time,” Hammack said. “They take off four times a year—for each of the orientation sessions.”

But their dedication doesn’t stop there. Both nurses sometimes work the graveyard shift so they are able to fly out for an IMB shot clinic that same morning. They are careful to plan mission trips and work schedules around clinic dates. They’ve even turned down job offers because they wouldn’t be able to volunteer at ILC.

“We’ve established a certain skill set, and to get to use it to further the Kingdom, that’s really enjoyable,” Thomas said. “Ever since I became a Christian, I had an interest in missions. For whatever reason, God has not called my wife and me to full-time missions, but this is a place I can contribute to

international missions on a continuing basis and do my part.”

Spending time with the missionaries and getting to hear their stories is what Thomas finds most rewarding.

“We (have) heard some fantastic stories of God working through them and how they were called and the conflicts they go through to get here and the commitment they make to go,” Thomas said.

Another benefit is seeing firsthand how Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and Cooperative Program funds are used. The immunizations, some of which can cost \$100 or more, are paid for by Southern Baptist contributions.

When Thomas and Otto return home, they share their experiences with their church family.

“We get the privilege of coming in and seeing all the support provided for the missionaries,” Thomas said, “and we try to encourage people from our church to get a glimpse of what is going on.”

One sacrifice both nurses make is time away from their families. Otto’s husband is disabled and Thomas’ wife is recovering from a serious car accident. But the prayer networks they’ve established are a major support. In addition to their church, they have prayer partners in the IMB missionary community.

When Thomas’ wife was injured in 2005, he was unable to make it to several immunization clinics. But he knew he and his wife were being remembered.

“They took it on as a group to pray for her,” he recalled. “There were (missionaries) not only here (in Richmond), but when they went all over the world, they were praying for her.”

When they aren’t busy with clinics and their jobs, Thomas and Otto frequently go on mission trips. On several occasions, they’ve encountered missionaries on the field they had inoculated at ILC. They said these full-circle moments remind them that every Christian plays a part in helping fulfill the Great Commission.

“God is doing fantastic things, and He’s not calling ‘supermen,’” Thomas said. “He’s calling ordinary people.” (BP)

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

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

- You can join the effort by:
- Collecting money in the World Hunger Bread Bank.
 - Contributing to the World Hunger Fund offering.
 - Participating in Fast One to Feed One.

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



Black Sunday school conference focuses on effective teaching

Nashville—Sunday school is about Bible study. But cultural differences need to be considered to help participants get the most out of the (mostly) Sunday morning experience.

More than 250 Christian educators from black churches across the country gathered in Nashville recently for the National Black Sunday School Conference sponsored by LifeWay Christian Resources.

The conference focused on helping Sunday school leaders and teachers become more effective.

Chandra Bennett, editor of the “YOU” curriculum, a quarterly Bible study resource created with urban and multicultural believers in mind, said that enthusiasm for teaching was crucial to success.

“If you aren’t having fun teaching, see if you really have the joy of the Lord,” she said. “Don’t be boring.”

She proposed three questions teachers can ask themselves to determine whether their teaching is effective: Are believers changing into the likeness of Jesus? Are believers growing in their love and trust of God? Are believers becoming more obedient to God?

Wayne Poling, LifeWay’s senior lead Sunday school specialist, used the acronym GOSS, or Growth Oriented Sunday School, to describe effective Bible study ministries.

“A Growth Oriented Sunday School is committed to teaching those who show up on Sunday, but it is also a Sunday school in which the leadership and class members are committed to reaching people.” Participants learned how to implement each of three primary principles involved in building their Sunday schools: invite, discover and connect.

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

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

■ Pray for those churches that God is calling to become directly involved in overseas missions.

■ Pray for those churches and individuals who will be attending the International Mission Board summits for Asia Oct. 26-27 at Second Baptist Church of Springfield, Mo., and Nov. 4-6 at Long Hollow Baptist Church in Hendersonville, Tenn.

■ Pray for the Kentucky Baptist Convention's ongoing missions partnership with the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware and that God will call many Kentucky Baptist churches and associations to participate in projects there in 2010.

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

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

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **ARLINGTON**—First Church recently ordained **Ronnie Owens** as a deacon. **Shane O'Guin** is pastor.

■ **CADIZ**—Canton Church will hold revival services Oct. 25-28 with **Ronnie Sivells**, KBC church development strategist, as evangelist. **Paul Cannon** is pastor.

Locust Grove Church will hold revival services Oct. 25-28 with **Darrel Porche**, pastor of Buffalo Lick Church in Cadiz, as evangelist. **John Hagan** is pastor.

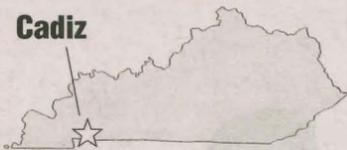
■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Campbellsville University will hold a Preview Day Oct. 24, 9 a.m. to introduce prospective students and parents to college life. For more information or to register, visit www.CampbellsvilleUniversity/PreviewDay, or call (800) 264-6014, ext. 5220.

■ **CENTRAL CITY**—Cedar Grove Church will hold revival services Oct. 25-28 with **Bob Morrison**, director of missions for Little Bethel Association, as evangelist. **Kenneth Abbott** is pastor.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Tunnel Hill Church will hold revival services

Spotlight on ...

Cadiz



Oak Grove Church will hold its Fall Festival Oct. 24. The church also will hold revival services Oct. 25-28 with **Brett Miles**, pastor of Northside Church in Almo, as evangelist. **Jack Studie** is transitional pastor.

Oct. 25-29, 6:30 p.m. with **Dale Rose** as evangelist. **Nathan Whisnant** is pastor.

■ **FLAT LICK**—Liberty Church recently called **Steven Honeycutt** as pastor.

■ **GREENVILLE**—New Cypress Church will hold revival services Oct. 22-25 with **Brian Jones** as evangelist. **Tommy Drury** is pastor.

Oak Grove Baptist Church will hold revival services Oct. 25-28. **Paul**

Nicholasville church makes Kingdom 'investment' through film

Nicholasville—Crosswoods Baptist Church is sponsoring a showing of the Christian film, "The Secrets of Jonathan Sperry," Oct. 23 at AmStar 14 Theater in Nicholasville.

"It's got a strong message," said Steve Bruce, pastor of Crosswoods Baptist. "The gospel is very clear."

The film is directed and co-written by Rich Christiano whose previous movies are "Time Changer" and "Unidentified."

Bruce said the congregation hopes enough people come to the Oct. 23 showing to extend the mov-

ie's run at AmStar. Tickets can be purchased in bulk. The pastor is encouraging members to invite unchurched friends and family to attend the film with them, or to give tickets away as gifts.

Inviting someone to attend a movie is less intimidating for Christians than sharing their testimony or a gospel presentation, Bruce noted.

"The biggest problem we as pastors have is to get our people to go into the world to share Christ," he said. Inviting someone to attend a

KBC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October

- 22-23 Quarterly Prayer Meeting for Spiritual Awakening, Northside Baptist Church, Mount Vernon.
- 29 Cultivating Generous Churches: A Stewardship Summit, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.
- 30-11/1 ENGAGE International Student Conference, Cave City Convention Center.

November

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

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

Drury is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—St. Stephen Church will honor Pastor **Kevin Cosby** for his 30 years with the church Oct. 23, 7 p.m. with its 12th annual Black and White Gala at the Downtown Louisville Marriott Hotel. Tickets are \$40 for adults and \$30 for children. Also, the church will hold special worship services Oct. 24-25 to celebrate Pastor Cosby's tenure. For more information, visit www.SSCLive.org.

■ **PURYEAR, TENN.**—Oak Grove Church recently called **William Beasley** as

pastor.

■ **WACO**—Bethlehem Church will hold revival services Oct. 25-28, 7 p.m. with **Earl Van Winkle** as evangelist. **Mark McGuire** is pastor.

■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—University of the Cumberlands will host author **Jim Tomlinson** who will present the school's annual Dr. Robert L. Palmer Memorial Lecture Oct. 22, 7:30 p.m. at the Gatliff Chapel on campus. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call (606) 539-4455.

movie "is painless."

Important to the process is asking friends and family to discuss the movie's message later, he added.

"I think people are going to have questions," Bruce predicted.

Churches can sponsor a showing of the film for \$2,000. If the movie remains for several days or weeks, it is possible to recoup the initial investment, "but that's not how I sold it" at Crosswoods, Bruce said. "We're making a \$2,000 investment in the Kingdom."

For information about the movie

and sponsorship, visit www.SperryMovie.com, or call (949) 380-8550.

"The Secrets of Jonathan Sperry" stars Gavin MacLeod as a man who befriends and mentors three boys during their summer vacation. MacLeod, best known for his roles on "The Love Boat" and the "Mary Tyler Moore Show," became a Christian in 1985.

Bruce said the movie has a strong message of Christian discipleship that will appeal to many believers. It is rated PG for "mild thematic elements."

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

NEEDED: Organ for New Life Baptist Church (Hawesville, Ky.) which is building a new sanctuary. Contact Wallace Gooch, (270) 927-8939.

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

SEEKING: Part-time worship minister at FBC, Grayson, Ky. Responsible for leading blended-style congregational worship and coordinating praise team. Please send resumés to Paul Schmidt, PO Box 577, Grayson, KY 41143; or e-mail fbcgayson@windstream.net.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music and worship for SBC church. Experience in blended style with creative multi-media worship. Responsible for a comprehensive worship ministry that includes all ages with a particular focus on leadership of large adult choir as well as praise team and musicians. Applicant should possess the character, skills and personality to lead others in meaningful worship through various ways. Submit resumé by Nov. 15, 2009, to Westside Baptist Church, 207 Robertson Road South, Murray, KY 42071, Attn: Music Search Committee. www.wbcmurray.org.

SEEKING: Full-time minister to preschool and children families, Hurstbourne Baptist Church. Minimum of a bachelor's degree and three years part-time experience required. Send resumé to: Minister to Preschool and Children Families Search Committee, 8800 Shelbyville Road, Louisville, KY 40245.

SEEKING: Full-time senior adult pastor who will disciple our senior adults, and lead our deacon and CAREnet ministries for Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green, Ky. Potential candidates for this position should submit their resumés by Dec. 1, 2009, to: Richard Carwile, Living Hope Baptist Church, 1805 Westen Avenue, Bowling Green, KY 42104; or electronically to rcarwile@lhb.org.

SEEKING: Associate church and community ministry director for Elkhorn Baptist Association, a missional community of churches in the central Kentucky area. Job requires a minimum of a college degree from an accredited college. Associate will assist the director of church and community ministries in the area of human needs, with an emphasis on the Irishtown Mission. This is a jointly funded position with Elkhorn Association, North American Mission Board and the Kentucky Baptist Convention; and requires missionary appointment by the North American Mission Board. A resumé may be sent to: office@elkhorn.org, or to Elkhorn Baptist Association, 1161 Red Mile Road, Lexington, KY 40504. Resumés will be received until Nov. 20, 2009.

SEEKING: Part-time youth minister. Send resumé to Eastern Gate Baptist Church, PO Box 6686, Shepherdsville, KY 40265.

SEEKING: Bivocational pastor. Send resumé to West Broadway Baptist Church, 8420 Six Mile Lane, Louisville, KY 40220; or e-mail to wbbc@unidal.com.

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

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for 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 nbbc.pastorsearch@fuse.net.

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.

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

China's constellation of cities

Many urbanites accept Christ, then return to villages to share gospel with friends, family

By Kathie Chute
International Mission Board

Beijing—In the past 20 years, central China has been growing cities at a record pace; 223 villages and towns in the region have reached a population of more than 1 million people each, with an additional 250 topping 400,000.

For rural people who are moving to urban areas in record numbers, the growth presents new opportunities.

"Salaries are much higher in the cities, so these cities are experiencing an influx of people," said Naomi*, a Christian worker. "One city may have a population of about 1 million people, but it might grow to 6 million in just a few years."

Still, in central China's constellation of lost cities, Christians comprise less than 0.01 percent of the population.

"In addition to the cities, we try to work with the villages because many of (these people) will go to the cities," Naomi explained. "If we can reach the family, then they will send a believer's influence to the city."

The progress happening today is built on the past. When China closed its borders in the 1940s, prayers for believers there did not stop. Neither did God's Spirit. When workers returned to survey the areas decades later, they found more believers than when the borders closed.

"We found young people who said they believed because their grandparents had told them about Jesus," Naomi said. "Even when conditions were very difficult, their families found ways to explain their faith."

Southern Baptist work continued in the 1990s among the house churches there. In a spark of revival in 2000, about 1,500 people made decisions for Christ in one town. "Their influence," Naomi noted, "has spread to other areas."

Rejecting gods without arms

The Wongs* and the Chos* are two couples who found faith during that revival and moved to one of the population centers to work.

Mei Ling Wong* said she was a tough case. Her older sister moved to the city and each year returned to their hometown to witness to her family.

"It took 10 years," Mei Ling recalled. "At first I told her burning incense and worshipping our gods had been part of our culture for thousands of years. I would not believe in a foreign god. Then she said the offerings we give to our ancestors, to our gods, could not have been taken by the gods. Those gods

did not have hands, did not have arms, so they could not take the offerings. I never thought about that."

Traditionally, she said, Chinese are Buddhists, but they also worship their ancestors and gods in nature. Most villages have a banyan tree that is worshipped.

"I asked the name of this foreign god, and my sister said He is the heavenly God of all things and Jesus. I knew then I had to believe in Him."

Mei Ling's husband, Samuel*, took a little longer to accept Christ as his Lord and Savior.

New believers witness to other parents

"Mei Ling is my second wife," Samuel said. "My first marriage ended in divorce before I became a believer. If either of us had been a believer then, we would have known much more about how to make our marriage work."

Samuel noted that, even among believers, many couples have marital problems. Often husbands who go to work in cities will set up a second household with a mistress. Sensing the importance of working with such couples, Samuel and Mei Ling began counseling them in building Christian marriages.

"We counsel some privately, and we also have marriage enrichment seminars," Samuel said. "I write for the newspaper each week to offer advice for believers who want to improve their marriages."

The local newspaper became interested in the Wongs' ministry after they printed brochures and distributed them in the community. The newspaper asked him to begin writing a column that includes Scripture and a Christian perspective.

"We need more training," Samuel pointed out. "China does not offer this kind of training."

The Chos agree that training is essential to what they do as well. However, their focus is on children.

"For us, counseling families about their children is important," Dae Ling Cho* said. "When couples become believers, they don't know how to raise their children. If they do nothing, the children won't study and they won't succeed in life. We try to give them scriptural principles to help."

Dae Ling's path to becoming a Christian took her a little farther from home. She moved to Europe for six years to study. A friend began sharing her faith, encouraging Dae Ling to pray the sinner's prayer.

"My friend became a believer because someone else witnessed to her and gave



IN THE SHADOW OF THE CITY Chinese men play cards on the banks of the Yangtze in Chongqing, where many rural Chinese have moved to seek new opportunities to make a living.

her a Bible. She began at the beginning and read only one sentence per day. After 14 days, she knew she didn't have to be afraid of the dark anymore because God was there. She turned her life over to Him. She gave me a Bible and a book to read. I became a believer in 2002."

After she returned to China, friends introduced Dae Ling to Daniel*. She shared her faith with him and he also became a believer. They dated and eventually married. Today they minister to families.

"The work we do gives us ways to discuss our faith," Dae Ling said, "but it also gives us opportunities to share with those who do not believe yet."

The Wongs and the Chos return to their rural hometown often to help with a house

church there. In addition, they help coordinate efforts when volunteer groups come to the area to work with children and share their testimonies. Then Chinese co-workers follow up.

"We've found it's much more effective to train the Chinese and let them lead," Naomi said. "They have ideas and move in directions we would never think about."

Only God knows the number of believers in China. Official estimates stand at about 70 million, but some believers still don't go on record with their faith.

"There is still so much to do," Naomi said. "Volunteer groups coming in have helped, but we need more. We need others to come and see the needs." (BP)

*Names changed for security reasons

Cooking provides platform for professional chef to share Christ with others

By Kathie Chute
International Mission Board

Beijing—In the private dining room of a restaurant, chef Su Ning* sings a song from a new hymnal. Her face glows as she finds the melody, marking time by drumming her fingers on the table. Others around the table join her as she adds motions to the hymn, smiling as she remembers one gesture then falters at another.

Su and a group of friends pooled their money to print the hymnal, which will be distributed to house churches in China. The one she holds in her hand was one of the first off the presses.

"We have not had a hymnal," she said

smiling. "All of the songs are written by Chinese. It's very exciting to have our own praise songs."

Like so many others, Su came to the city from a rural family of nine children to build a better life. Families are larger in rural areas since minority families often can legally have more than one child.

"I have six older siblings and two younger ones," Su said. "We knew we needed to move to the city if we were going to succeed."

Su said she has been in the kitchen learning to cook since she was young.

"At first, my mother and my aunts let me cook only the greens," she recalled. "I

learned more as I got older."

One of her older sisters moved to the provincial capital and became a believer. She began sharing her faith with Su, especially after she also had moved to the city.

"I didn't like this Jesus," Su recalled. She did notice, though, that her sister seemed much happier and her personality was different—so much so that Su began to listen.

Eventually, Su accepted Christ and made a commitment to spread the gospel among her countrymen.

"I became a new person," she said. "Even my cooking improved. Jesus did that. There is no other explanation."

Su became a chef in a local restaurant where she witnessed to her 30 co-workers. When all of them became believers, the restaurant owner fired them. However, they found work in other city restaurants and their witness spread.

"She is a prolific witness," noted a Christian worker in the city. "Each year, she brings about 100 new believers into their group. She is at the very center of the work here."

Today the restaurant where Su works is one of the best in the city. Her reputation as a chef has spread—and so has her Christian witness. (BP)

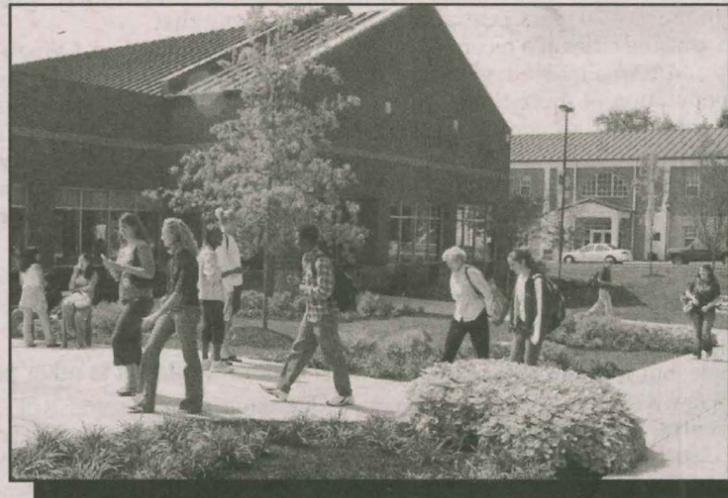
*Name changed for security reasons



Church Relations Council active at CU

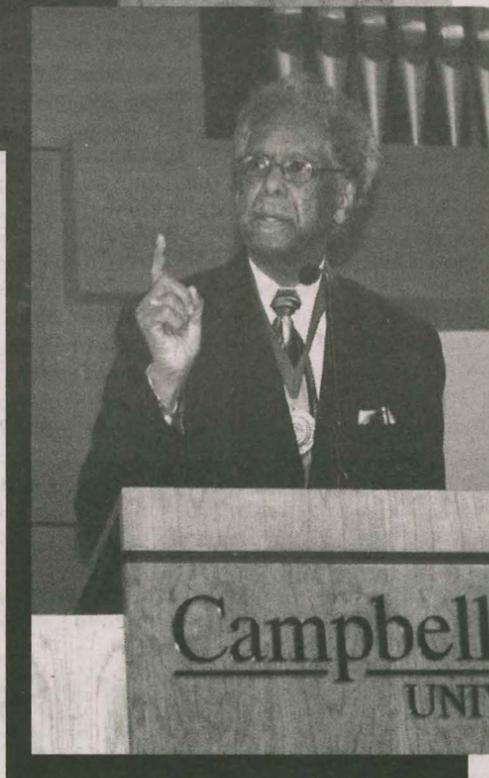
The Campbellsville University Church Relations Council (CRC) met in August. Executive Board members include: Dr. Mark Shelton, pastor of Burkesville Baptist Church and chair-elect of the CRC; Rev. John Chowning, CU vice president for church and external relations and executive assistant to the president; Rev. Matthew Smyzer, pastor of Beargrass Missionary Baptist Church and Mrs. Anna Mary Byrdwell, CU trustee and current CRC chair. In the photo below, President Michael V. Carter, left, received a citation from the CRC in honor of Carter's decade of service at CU. Presenting the citation are outgoing chair, Rev. Smyzer, center, and the current chair, Mrs. Byrdwell. The CRC provides support for the Christian higher education mission of the university.

For more information about the CRC and its impact at CU, visit the website: www.campbellsville.edu/church-and-external-relations



Bingham receives honors

Dr. Lincoln Bingham, at right, senior pastor of St. Paul Baptist Church at Shively Heights in Louisville, was given the Campbellsville University Leadership Award Sept. 30. The Leadership Award is ceremoniously shared in appreciation and admiration of consummate leadership in Kentucky's spiritual, health, education, cultural, economic and community development. Bingham, in accepting his award, said, "I am so thankful that Campbellsville University is a model for diversity. We want our church to do likewise."



Note to Prospective Students:

Please visit Campbellsville University!
Let us show you the campus and answer your questions about college life.
Next Preview Days are Oct. 24 and Nov. 7
More details at: www.campbellsville.edu/previewday

*Offering 44 academic majors & minors
at the baccalaureate level
15 master's programs and
four 4 post graduate programs:
Rank 1, DOSE, ESL, Gifted & Talented*



Toby leads Chapel service

Dr. John Mark Toby, above, president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of Beacon Hill Baptist Church in Somerset, Ky., spoke at Campbellsville University's chapel service, Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2009. He also serves on Campbellsville University's Church Relations Council.



• Ranked 23rd in the South's Best Baccalaureate Colleges

• Ranked 4th in the South's "Up-and-Coming Schools"

• Tied for 5th in the South's "Most International Students"

• Listed among America's Best Christian Colleges

• Recognized as a Military-Friendly School

270.789.5000 1.800.264.6014

www.campbellsville.edu

