

Shine  
like  
stars  
in the  
world  
*Philippians 2:15*

# WESTERN Recorder

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## FOR THE RECORD

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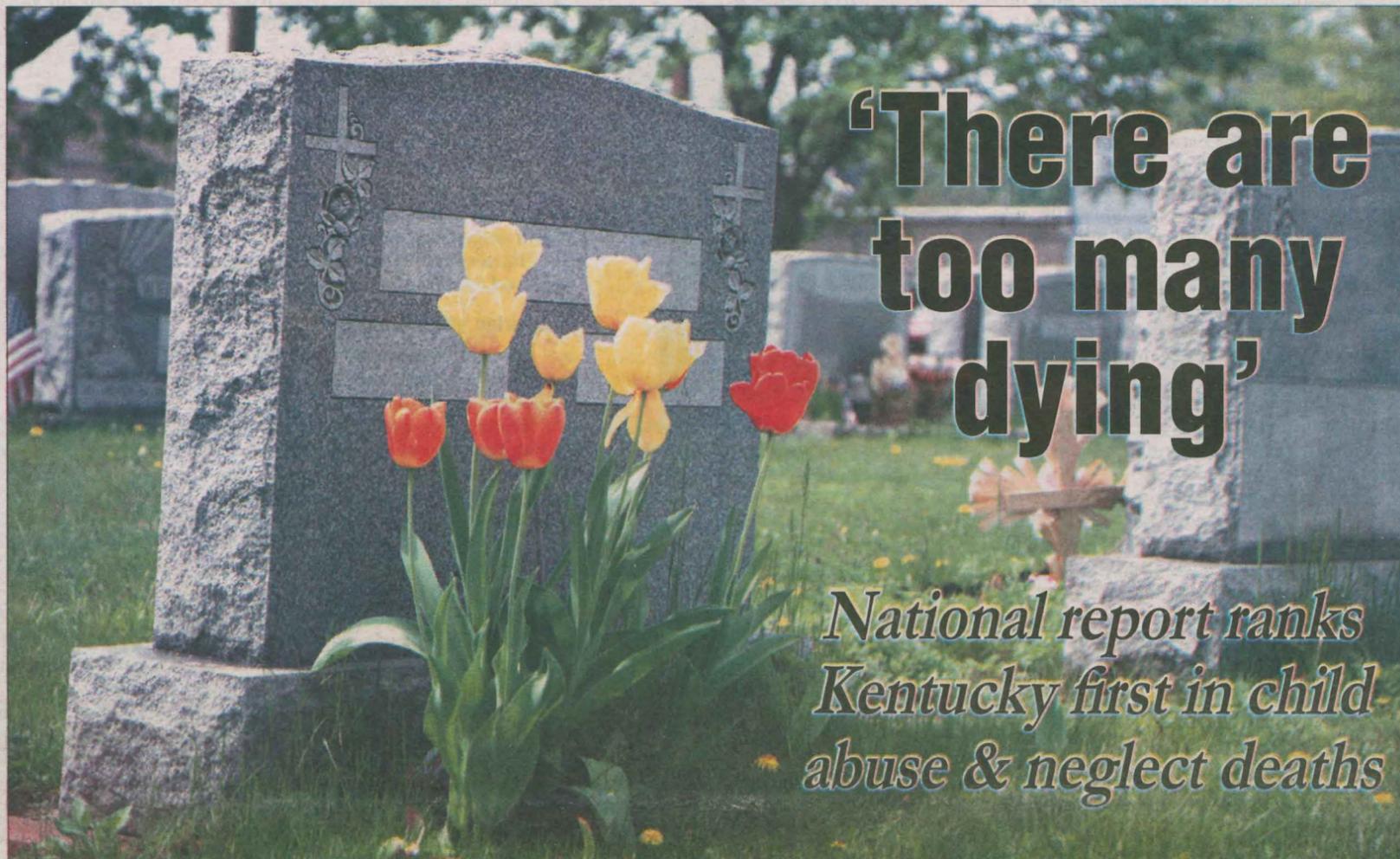
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**'There are too many dying'**

*National report ranks Kentucky first in child abuse & neglect deaths*

## Child advocates: Churches can help stem the tide

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

**Mount Washington**—A recent report that says Kentucky leads the nation in deaths from child abuse and neglect underscores the need for more Baptists to address the problem, said the president of Sunrise Children's Services.

"I don't think many of us are aware enough of it," said Bill Smithwick, longtime executive with the Kentucky Baptist agency. "Many children have had some unusual and abusive things happen to them. As a church, we need to step in."

Released by the Every Child Matters Education Fund of Washington, the report said 41 Kentucky children died in 2007 in circumstances where abuse or neglect was substantiated. That number was higher than the 26 deaths counted by the state. Federal authorities include situations where abuse or neglect occurred, even if it was not a direct cause of death.

However, Smithwick said no matter which figure is used, there are far too many children suffering mistreatment in the commonwealth.

On average, he said there are 70,000 cases of abuse and neglect reported in Kentucky annually, with more than 7,000 children in out-of-home care today. Private providers such as Sunrise care for almost half of them.

"The issue is there are way too many (children) dying ... because of abuse and neglect," Smithwick stressed. "They're having their child-

hood stolen because of parents who won't or can't provide for them."

According to the report, Kentucky's average of 4.09 deaths per 100,000 children led the nation, followed by South Dakota (4.08), Florida (3.79), Nebraska (3.59) and Missouri (3.51).

"It's heart wrenching that each day in America, five children will die from abuse and neglect, but what's worse is that the real number is even larger," said Michael Petit, president of Every Child Matters.

The report said that a total of 1,760 children across the U.S. died from abuse or neglect in 2007, the most recent year for complete data, according to Every Child Matters.

Economic conditions play a role in the situation. The report referred to a 2005 study by the American Humane Association. It said a child living in poverty is 22 times more likely to be abused than children whose families earn \$30,000 or more.

Petit also termed the report a wake-up call for federal lawmakers.

He said Congress must work with states to address the causes of abuse and increase support for the agencies that work to stop it.

Smithwick said that during Sunrise's last fiscal year, which ended Aug. 31, the state reduced its per diem reimbursement rates by 6 percent over a five-month period.

Although the old rates were later re-established, the cuts reduced Sunrise's revenues for the year by about \$265,000, he noted.

□ *Child advocates ... Page 8*

## Pastors see rewards, risks in prevention efforts

By Drew Nichter  
News Director

**Marion**—In December 2006, Rob Ison was driving through a drug-infested Crittenden County neighborhood when he felt a sharp pain in the side of his head. A few moments later, he passed out.

Ison spent the next few days in a hospital bed recovering from a minor stroke. While that may not seem unusual, consider this: he was only 33 years old at the time.

Rob Ison is pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Marion, a rural, Western Kentucky town struggling with a community-wide drug problem.

At the time of his stroke, Ison was helping lead Arms Around Families, started by Emmanuel Baptist to help families deal with a number of destructive issues, namely substance abuse, domestic violence and child abuse and neglect.

The program was "at its peak," he said, in late 2006, helping dozens of individuals each week break the cycle of abuse and violence in their homes.

The stroke, Ison maintained, "was directly connect-

ed to the stress of that specific ministry. So, I kind of learned the hard way."

All Christians wear a bullseye that the enemy is aiming at, Ison said. For pastors and Christian leaders, that target is even larger.

"If you're going into the enemy of God's camp ... with those who are perpetuating a culture and a lifestyle through drugs and through abuse, the target's even bigger than normal," Ison explained.

But for those church leaders like Ison and Lexington pastor Willis Polk who stand in the gap for children and families in crisis, such work is not only rewarding, it's biblically mandatory.

"Jesus told us about the least among us. He talked about the vulnerability of children," Polk said. "It is based on Scripture. ... If we're going to live out our New Testament marching orders and all, we can't overlook what the Master said. ... We cannot neglect that vulnerable population."

It's all about "emulating Jesus to them," Ison stated.

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Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, Nov. 11

# Missions, evangelism are pulse beat of Toby's presidency

By Todd Deaton  
Editor

Louisville—A year ago when he was nominated as president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, John Mark Toby set as his primary goals to encourage Kentucky Baptists to “work together to carry out the cause of Christ to our communities” and to “take a long-term look at the strategy our convention will need over the next 10 to 20 years to effectively meet the needs that will face us in the future.”

In promoting Crossover Louisville, the evangelism campaign prior to last June's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, and in rallying churches and associations to participate in the upcoming Find It Here evangelism campaign, Toby has fulfilled the first half of his commitment to Kentucky Baptists.

In the appointment of a committee to study the size of the KBC Mission Board, and—if approved by messengers at this week's convention—the formation of a Great Commission task force, Toby has set in motion the fulfillment of the second part of that commitment.

The pastor of Beacon Hill Baptist Church in Somerset, who winds down his term as president with this convention meeting, also will have appointed more committees than any other president in recent history.

“Dr. Toby has been available for consultation on a number of topics related to the work of the KBC,” said Executive Director Bill Mackey.

“He has spent time networking with KBC leaders and pastors in order to gain consensus on concerns such as amending the relationship to the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, the appointment of a new Missions Advisory Committee to monitor progress on Kentucky Baptists Connect goals, the work of the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws, and the appointment and work of the Mission Board's size committee,” Mackey noted.

And, if it is approved by convention messengers, Toby will appoint the KBC Great Commission Task Force, Mackey added. The group would guide Kentucky Baptists in formulating and implementing a strategic response to any recommendations brought by the SBC's Great Commission Resurgence Task Force report next June in Orlando, Fla.

As a military chaplain, Toby also has assisted with the deployment and return of

KBC President  
John Mark Toby



troops and with special assignments as requested this past year. “On several occasions, he has attended meetings in uniform due to assignments,” Mackey recalled.

“I love Kentucky Baptists and consider it one of my highest honors to have been able to serve as their president this past year,” Toby said.

## Looking back

Among the highlights of his tenure—in addition to being elected as SBC first vice president in June—was the launch of the Find It Here evangelism campaign. “That has just been very exciting to see Kentucky Baptist churches come on board and get behind it,” Toby remarked.

“Associations all across Kentucky and individual churches are all really focusing on the opportunity at hand to pray for our state through an emphasis this fall on prayerwalking communities, as well as preparing for a gospel-sowing event next spring by ordering brochures,” he said.

To date, more than 1,375,000 brochures have been ordered, he noted.

With an estimated 1.5 million homes in Kentucky, KBC officials are optimistic that by next year more than enough brochures will have been ordered to reach every household, Toby added.

“It's just been a very exciting prospect of seeing people engaged in prayer, gospel sowing, and getting out into their com-

munities and touching people's lives,” he said.

Pulaski Baptist Association, where Toby serves, recently participated in a Find It Here: Celebrating Christ Together campaign in which 60 churches gathered for an outreach and prayer event led by Dan Garland, a former KBC evangelism team leader.

“We saw our churches come together, be encouraged, pray together, but also be excited about the seed-sowing event next spring and how we can strategically go throughout our community and share the good news of Jesus Christ,” Toby reported. “That's been a very powerful event for our association and for me as well.”

“Prayer really needs to be the first place we start,” Toby affirmed.

## Exploring effectiveness

Another significant undertaking during Toby's tenure has been to study the KBC Mission Board's size.

“Upon researching, we found that Kentucky had the largest mission board of any state convention,” he explained. “We also were seeing a pattern in attendance at meetings; on average, about a third of the members were absent.”

“We wanted to make sure that we were being as effective as we possibly could be by determining what size will best meet the needs of Kentucky Baptists as we move forward,” he said, noting that it has been approximately 80 years since the matter was last studied.

Toby also highlighted the recommendation to create a Kentucky Baptist Great Commission task force.

“For Kentucky, we felt like just within our own state, it would be a good time to look at all aspects of our ministry and see how we can most be effective in carrying out the Great Commission across the state, nationally and around the world,” Toby explained.

“I pray the (SBC's) Great Commission task force is not just about a reallocation of resources, but is a recommitment to Christ to carry out His cause for discipleship, evangelism and missions through our state convention and the Southern Baptist Convention,” he said.

“We are living in very challenging times; the economic downturn has certainly affected how we view the denominational dollar,” he observed. “I think effectiveness has become the key question of

the day for many Baptist organizations.”

Adding that the times also present awesome opportunities, Toby maintained, “My prayer is that we will rise to the challenge before us to communicate Christ clearly to our culture, our communities and to our world.”

“It ought to be in the very fabric and fiber of every Kentucky Baptist to want to carry out the cause of Christ to their community, their country and around the world, and to see it done as effectively as possible,” he continued. “This task force will give us an opportunity to take a fresh look at where we are today, the culture which we find ourselves in, the challenges that are before us, and how best to respond.”

One of the best ways of promoting a missions mindset in churches and increasing commitment to the Cooperative Program is by encouraging participation in partnership missions endeavors, Toby affirmed.

He had the opportunity this summer, as part of the KBC's partnership to Tanzania, to serve on a team of 29, leading college students to build a church and to do evangelism in several villages.

“One of the strategies of the International Mission Board and the KBC is for churches and associations to adopt unreached people groups throughout the world,” he explained. “This was an opportunity for Pulaski Baptist Association to come together and send volunteers to participate on a mission team that not only accomplished a task around the world, but also drew us closer together back home because we worked together. That's why I really encourage Kentucky Baptists to engage in missions projects.”

Through his time as president, Toby said he has gained a greater awareness that the Kentucky Baptist Convention is a very strong convention. “We have good relationships with our agencies and institutions,” he observed. “We enjoy a strong fellowship in Kentucky, and that is something to be highly valued and to be highly cared for as we move forward by faith into the future.”

“I am excited about what Kentucky Baptists are doing and what Kentucky Baptists are going to do in the future with the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. And I am very excited about the potential that we have to make an impact on Kentucky, the nation and the world.”

## Ohio casino vote intensifies push to expand gambling in Kentucky

Frankfort—With the approval of casino gambling in Ohio last week, the push for expanded gambling in the Bluegrass State has intensified.

Ohio voters approved a plan to build casinos in the state's four largest cities, including Cincinnati, which borders Northern Kentucky.

The vote prompted Gov. Steve Beshear to urge Kentucky lawmakers to pass a bill that would allow video lottery terminals at the state's seven racetracks. He said the commonwealth stands to lose millions of dollars to Ohio if the VLT plan is not approved.

The VLT bill was proposed during a special session of the Kentucky General Assembly in June. It passed the House of Representatives but died in the Senate. The legislation does not represent a constitutional amendment and wouldn't require a state-wide vote to be enacted.

In recent years, Kentucky Baptists have

been vocal in their opposition of gambling expansion in the commonwealth. Messengers to the 2007 Kentucky Baptist Convention even adopted a resolution opposing gambling expansion and encouraging Kentucky Baptist churches and members to “express their individual opinions on this issue.”

Also last week, Sen. Damon Thayer, R-Georgetown, pre-filed his proposal for a constitutional amendment to allow slot machines in the seven Kentucky counties with horse racing tracks. It will be considered during the 2010 General Assembly.

Thayer claims the bill would bring at least \$100 million annually to the state's horse industry. To pass, it will require a three-fifths majority vote of both the state House and Senate, then a simple majority vote by Kentucky residents.

The 2010 state legislative session begins Jan. 5.

## Campbellsville athletes get ‘Crazy’ in their willingness to study God's Word

Campbellsville—Recently, four Campbellsville University student-athletes decided they wanted to see the school's athletic programs not only excel in competition, but spiritually as well. That prompted a collaboration in the form of a new Bible study specifically for the university's sports teams.

Alexandra Clemmons, Jordan Cornett, Courtney Danis and Kristi Ensinger worked with Campbellsville's Baptist Campus Ministry to form the Bible study. They contacted leaders from each sport to initiate the study among their teams.

Cornett, a CU softball player, said, as an athlete, it's difficult to get involved with the ministries of the BCM or Fellowship of Christian Athletes because of their busy schedules.

Cornett said Bible study meeting

times would vary for the group depending on each team's schedule. This way the schedules can remain flexible to accommodate the groups.

The Bible study is focused on the book “Crazy Love” by Francis Chan. It is about examining the way Christians live their lives and reintroducing the love of God by changing one's perspective on His love and character. Cornett said each team will go through the book's first five chapters during the fall semester and the next five in the spring.

“Crazy Love” creates a good opportunity to bond with your teammates and develop relationships that you might otherwise not have been able to develop,” noted Morgan Bullock, a member of the softball team.

For more about the Bible study, join the Facebook group, CUCrazyLove.

## Urban curriculum from LifeWay works for merged church

By David Winfrey  
LifeWay Christian Resources

**Louisville**—Five white, older adult Sunday school teachers aren't part of the first image that comes to mind when you open a copy of "YOU," LifeWay's curriculum for urban, multicultural churches.

But the teachers and their recently merged, mixed-race congregation are proving the Bible study literature has fans even in the suburbs.

The teachers are all members of St. Paul Baptist Church at Shively Heights, a Louisville church that launched in August when the mostly white Shively Heights Baptist Church merged with the mostly African-American St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church.

The new congregation averages about 350 at worship and 160 for Sunday school, according to Mark Payton, who was pastor at the Shively Heights congregation.

When combining the adult Sunday schools, Orlando Allen sought both a structure and literature that would serve all members well. "We don't want to end up with white classes and black classes," said Allen, the church's director of adult Sunday school.

For the new structure, Allen created five adult classes, each led by a team of three teachers from both prior congregations. Teachers will rotate monthly through the end of 2009 to promote variety and prevent burnout. "If we mix the teachers, you can typically mix the students," Allen said.

Allen proposed the YOU curriculum, which the St. Paul congregation started using shortly before the merger. "YOU is not about the African-American congregation nor is it about the Caucasian congregation," Allen said. "It is a culturally diverse curriculum."

Allen said St. Paul chose YOU for three reasons: "One is it has excellent content. The second is it has excellent object lessons. And the third is it has good practical applications."

It also helps classes be "growth-oriented" instead of "teaching-oriented," he said. Allen said he wants lessons that provoke members to be proactive and excited about sharing their faith.

"Basically we're trying to get our class out of the church building and into the break rooms and the boardrooms," he said. "We want the participants leaving the classroom thinking, 'Now, what do I need to do?'"

The initial test came the first month when former members of the mostly white Shively Heights church taught YOU to all five adult classes.

Payton said he initially was concerned how teachers from his former church would accept the new literature. "It's unusual that all your teachers would be on board with it, but they loved it," he said. "The main thing they're saying to me is there's almost too much information."

Lincoln Bingham, pastor of the former St. Paul church, said he is delighted to be using YOU. "The main quality of the material is the content. But the recognition of various ethnic groups is also very important to us."

For more information about LifeWay's YOU curriculum, visit [www.LifeWay.com/YOU](http://www.LifeWay.com/YOU).

## Disaster relief

# Association's grassroots effort aids community

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

**Liberty**—Although a recent tornado damaged more than 80 homes and a Kentucky Baptist church, it also left behind a newfound optimism about the fledgling Casey County Baptist Association.

Just three years after forming the association, Casey County's members sprung into action after the storm struck early last month.

About 30 volunteers from six of the association's 11 churches helped prepare and serve meals and clean up property.

Other denominations and community residents joined the effort, as well as a group of female inmates from the Casey County Detention Center.

"I was overwhelmed at how our people responded," said Noel Dodson, who stepped down as director of missions Oct. 31. "Our Brotherhood and WMU (Woman's Missionary Union) simply did more than we thought we could get done."

The crews started serving food the day after the storm at a convenience store and gas station in Liberty, the county seat of this South Central Kentucky community.

They continued serving two meals a day through Oct. 15, according to associational secretary Lisa Peek.

The relief effort is continuing through the association's distribution of clothing, furniture and other items donated by community residents.

The supplies include more than 1,800 canned goods and other food items collected in recent weeks by students at the town's elementary school.

The items are stored in a 53-foot trailer temporarily parked on the association's property. A friend of Dodson's from Pulaski County loaned him the vehicle.

The association's efforts drew high marks from local officials, including Josh Wetherington, assistant disaster and emergency services coordinator for the county.

"We appreciate the help they provided," Wetherington said. "Having food there really benefited the responders as well as the victims."

The response was the silver lining in an otherwise cloudy situation, said Brent Delp, a deacon at Creston Baptist Church in Liberty.

Although repair estimates still are being collected, the church sustained more than

\$100,000 damage in the tornado, including destruction of its parsonage.

High winds ripped off all the church building's shingles and more than a third of the brick on one side. The storm also destroyed three stained glass windows, basement windows and a baby grand piano.

Despite the damage, help from association members and residents enlivened Delp, who works with the sheriff's department.

"It was amazing how everyone pitched in," Delp said. "From Friday afternoon (Oct. 9) to Saturday afternoon, you wouldn't believe how much got cleaned up."

Since the storm, Creston Baptist has been meeting in a church located on the Casey County Association's property.

The Creston congregation expects to return home for Nov. 15 services after recent clean-up efforts made its building usable.

Delp said they appreciated the use of the association's property, despite offers of help from other churches.

"It's good to have somebody in your family help, where you don't feel like you're intruding on anybody," the deacon said. "The association has accomplished a lot."

The relief effort has prompted a new spirit and interest in disaster relief training

so more people can be prepared the next time a disaster hits, said Bonnie King, associational WMU co-director.

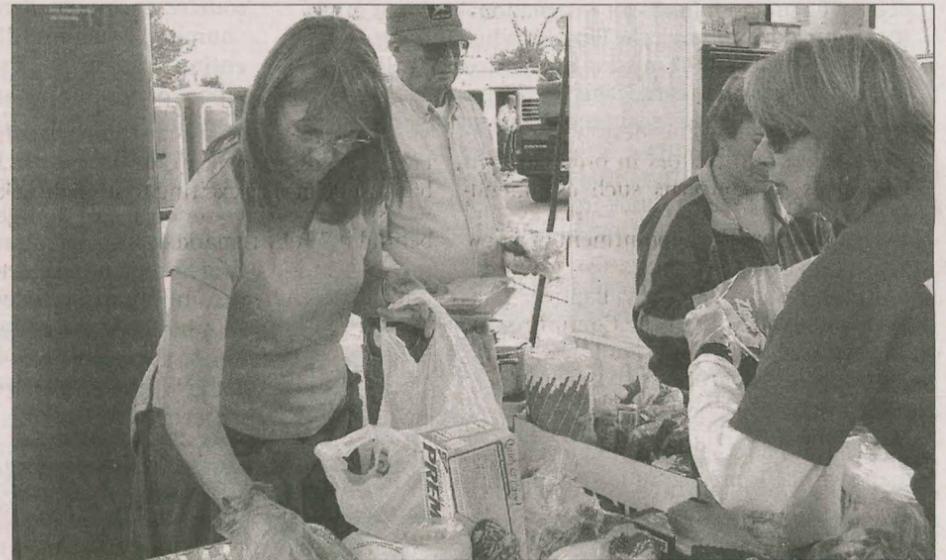
Although she hasn't been through the state convention's training, King said the morning after the storm she felt moved to do something to help people who were hurting.

After reading Isaiah 30:21—which talks about God providing direction—King called Dodson to ask if she could cook some soup at the association's office for clean-up volunteers. The member of Poplar Grove Baptist Church in Liberty said the effort evolved from there.

"When we got there God was already there and said, 'I'll take over and take it from here,'" King recalled, noting the numerous volunteers who responded on short notice. "He just wants us to say we're willing. It was special."

Dodson, who had to resign as DOM because of health problems, called the response the crowning achievement of his year in office.

"Our new Brotherhood director is Robert Powell—he jumped in there and got it done," said Dodson, pastor of Liberty's Poplar Springs Baptist Church. "Bonnie King has a lot of credit coming, too."



**COMMUNITY SERVANTS** Volunteers Karen Lynch (left), Dale Patterson (center) and Bonnie King prepare meals for Liberty-area residents who were affected by storms that struck their community last month. The grassroots disaster relief effort was coordinated by Casey County Baptist Association. King is co-director of the association's Woman's Missionary Union. Patterson is a member of Oak Grove Baptist Church in Danville.

## Student: Guatemala mission 'forever changed my life'

**Williamsburg**—"God is wanting and waiting for His children to step up and go be disciples of all nations and do His work according to His will."

University of the Cumberlands student-athlete Courtney Fout had the opportunity to live those words during a summer mission trip to Guatemala.

"My experience in Guatemala has forever changed my life and the way I view the world," said Fout, a psychology major and volleyball player at UC.

Fout spent 10 days in the Central American country with other members from Hope Church, her home congregation in Miamisburg, Ohio. The village the group served was called Tabacol, located outside of the city of Zapota.

The team built three concrete homes for three families in the village, Fout recalled.

In addition to building houses, Fout said she also had an opportunity to develop relationships with several people in the village, especially the children.

"I would wake up every morning won-

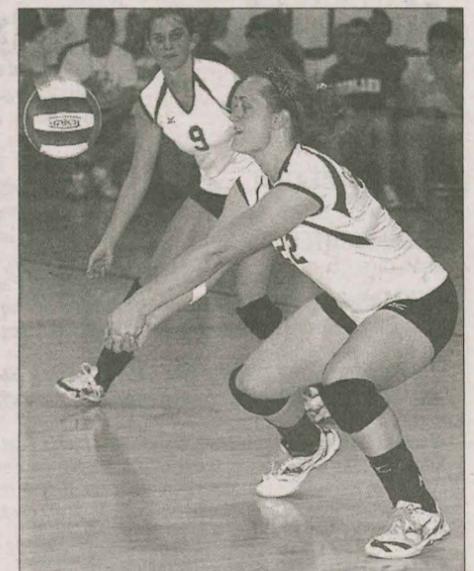
dering how I could be used, and I feel God used me every time my feet hit the floor," she noted.

Fout said she was excited to do the Lord's work in Guatemala, noting that was able to be a witness to the children and others.

Fout recalled one important relationship she forged with a young lady in the village whom she got to know on a personal and spiritual level.

"She was close to my age and God really brought us together," Fout said. "She lost her voice as a child and could only whisper. One night we prayed for hours for her healing. Over the next days, I heard her regain her normal voice slowly."

The mission trip, Fout said, has made her aware of the blessings of her own life. Mission trips are great ways to have one's mind opened to other lifestyles, especially when people are living in such difficult conditions, she added. "Words will never do justice to how greatly I've been changed and how my heart breaks for my friends in Guatemala."



**CHANGED** University of the Cumberlands' Courtney Fout (foreground), seen here on the volleyball court, said a summer mission trip to Guatemala changed her life. (Cumberlands photo)

## Collegiate ministry blessed by God

Collegiate ministry is an area of Kentucky Baptist Convention work that provides great support in evangelism, missions, leadership development and strengthening churches. Kentucky Baptists have 12 full-time ministry centers and a presence with at least a part-time campus minister at many of the colleges in our state.

### Partners in the Mission



By Bill Mackey

The campus ministers and centers are provided by the gifts of Kentucky Baptists through their churches and the Cooperative Program. Local associations and churches also provide support for their local BCMs.

There have been more than 100 professions of faith by students each year for the last five years, with that number increasing this past year to 293. That's 695 new Christians from this ministry.

Our Baptist Campus Ministry students are in missions and evangelism. In fact, our students were instrumental in 3,214 people coming to faith in Christ in the past five years. Amazingly, 2,513 of those conversions came this past year, many of them in Africa, where our students served alongside International Mission Board missionaries.

Baptist Campus Ministry also is having a huge impact on international missions through its work on the campuses. We've seen an average of 1,086 international students participate in our campus programs each year during the past five years. Having international interns on the campuses makes this an everyday ministry to the world right here in Kentucky.

Many international students are only on the campuses for a semester or a year as visiting scholars or exchange students. The program funds for international student ministry are provided through the Eliza Broadus Offering.

We can count 10,842 mission experiences for college students in the past five years. Summer trips, spring break trips and Christmas break trips.

To finance these trips, students have invested (along with student missions funds from the KBC and Kentucky WMU's Eliza Broadus Offering) \$1,870,581 during the past five years.

In the area of vocational call, BCM has been able to identify approximately 429 students looking to go into some expression of ministry as a life calling each year.

In the area of leadership, BCM has invested directly in an average of 645 students each year for leadership development. Many of these students meet weekly or biweekly to learn how to be a person of influence. Their training eventually will be expressed in leadership capacities in the local church.

Finally, BCM has assisted in ministry over the past four years an average of 388 churches. This has been primarily in the area of youth ministry.

Many thanks to Kentucky Baptists for allowing Baptist Campus Ministry to be a part of making disciples and mobilizing Great Commission Christians.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

## We owe them every protection possible

The front page story and accompanying artwork are quite disturbing. The tragic reality, however, is that as many as 41 children in Kentucky died in 2007 from abuse or neglect, and on average, 70,000 cases are reported annually. Bill Smithwick of Sunrise Children's Service is exactly right: far too many children are suffering mistreatment in the commonwealth. Even one is too many. This unsettling revelation constitutes a clarion call for churches and individual Christians to protect the vulnerable and innocent among us and to provide counseling and healing ministries for hurting families.



### After Thought

By Todd Deaton

In a companion piece to the article by Ken Walker, News Director Drew Nichter spotlights the ministries of two churches, Emmanuel Baptist Church in Marion and Imani Baptist Church in Lexington, which are standing in the gap for children and families in crisis. Their story reminds us that while this kind of ministry comes with its share of stresses, not only is it a rewarding endeavor, it also is part of God's biblical mandate to serve "the least of these."

Partnership Editions Editor Dannah Prather has compiled some suggestions and links to resources to aid congregations in implementing simple practices to better protect children. With its Safe Church Initiative, the Kentucky Baptist Convention provides free access to resources to make churches, preschools and other ministries secure environments for children. These resources encourage Kentucky Baptists to extend their churches' reach into the community by offering parenting classes, addiction-recovery ministries, after-school programming and other initiatives.

Along this same line, two Kentucky Baptists recently partnered in publishing a paperback children's book to help parents talk with their kids about distressing topics such as stranger danger, bullying and inappropriate touching. In "Okay With Me," author Lisa Wood, children's minister at Immanuel Baptist Church in Frankfort, and illustrator Trish Pelletier, a member of Crestwood Baptist Church, have produced a valuable teaching tool that empowers even young children to tell others when something is OK with them and what is not.

Wood previously was a columnist for the Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer, and as a young mother then, she recalls how severely affected by several horrific reports of child abductions and molestations. "I broke into tears and could not write about it," she said, lamenting that any child should ever suffer at the hands of a family member. Then, one night a rhyme began forming in her head to teach kids some essential rules that would help them stay safe. Over time, more rhymes came to mind, and she began writing down the words. After she met Pelletier in a seminary class,

Wood suggested that they work together on a project to create a children's book.

Their book, published by Author House, includes "Parent Notes" to encourage further discussions between parents and children. For example, in regards to sexual abuse, Wood writes: "Most families have normal, healthy, affectionate relationships with their children. Each year, however, the number of children who are sexually assaulted by family members increases. Boys are just as likely as girls to be targets. Talk with your child about inappropriate touching and tell them to inform your IMMEDIATELY if an

aunt, uncle, cousin, grandparent, sibling, step-parent or step-sibling touches them in a way that makes them feel 'icky.'"

Wood further suggests, "Assure your child that you will believe them and they should feel safe in coming to you with their anxiety. Teach your child to respect their instincts and teach them to trust their own feelings."

In another note to parents, she warns: "Children should be taught that it is NEVER okay to go anywhere with someone they do not know. Strangers often promise toys, candy, or money to gain a child's trust and the consequences of accepting these bribes are tragic. Parents should keep in mind that children consider strangers to be people they've never seen before." Even though the child might recognize someone and even know them by name, she cautions, "This does not mean, however, that this person is safe and can be trusted...."

Wood urges children to "start thinking now, 'bout what you'll do if someone ever bothers you," and she concludes with a charge to all parents: "Affirm your child's right to be protected. Remind your child each day that he or she is loved, valued, and regarded as worthy of your special care."

Projects like this are indeed commendable for there is a tremendous need for Christians to step up and address this horrendous evil—all the while mindful that unfortunately the reality of child abuse not only occurs out there in the secular world, but also in some homes of the families in our churches. In a resolution adopted by Southern Baptists in 2007—the same year that the alarming statistics on child abuse reported in Walker's article occurred—Southern Baptists voiced their "deep level of moral outrage and concern at any instance of child victimization." Executive Committee President Morris Chapman rightly implored churches then to be ever vigilant in preventing the heinous acts of assault, abandonment and abuse: "We owe our boys and girls and the women of our churches every protection possible. We owe them our prayers and loving care if they are victimized."

## EBO exceeds goal

Thank you, Kentucky Baptists! We are profoundly grateful for your wonderful response to the 2008-09 Eliza Broadus Offering, especially in light of a very difficult year in the economy. Our 2008-09 offering goal was \$1,052,008, and it is with great excitement that we are able to report the total amount given: \$1,103,135.41. Over-  
age funds will be used for evangelism in Kentucky, including Find It Here.

Because of your faithful giving for Kentucky missions, ministries across Kentucky receive support every year through EBO. The impact of your praying, giving and personal involvement will be felt for years to come as people who came to know Christ this past year grow in their discipleship.

The average from the 2008-09 Eliza Broadus Offering will be used as follows: \$30,000 to provide expanded Find It Here media coverage in six associations, representing 26 counties with a high percentage of lost/unchurched people; \$15,000 for association and church evangelism event assistance; and \$6,130 for evangelism projects funded directly by Kentucky WMU. That is a total of \$51,130.

We now are receiving the 2009-10 Eliza Broadus Offering. Our goal is \$1.1 million. The 2009 Season of Prayer emphasis, "It's Harvest Time," is very timely as we prayer-walk our state in preparation for the Find It Here gospel distribution, March 6-21, 2010.

This is a timely theme as we prepare for the World Equestrian Games which will bring thousands

of visitors to Kentucky in 2010. And it is timely as we minister to released offenders who are re-entering our communities and need the guidance of Christ followers as they start again.

The 2009 "It's Harvest Time" materials are undated and may be used at any time in your church. A DVD and other materials are available from Kentucky WMU or on the Web: [www.kywmu.org](http://www.kywmu.org).

Joy Bolton  
Executive Director  
Kentucky WMU

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

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

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Rodney Travis, Hopkinsville.

## Flexibility in your marriage

By Valerie Vincent

How flexible are you in your marriage? Can you touch your toes? How far can you reach? How much pain can you endure as you stretch, trying to increase your flexibility?



Are you willing to endure any discomfort or pain in your marriage in order to stretch yourself? Will you stretch beyond the usual? Will you stretch outside the norm? Will you risk trying a new way of talking or interacting? Will you attempt anything different in your behavior?

Some couples have become rigid, stiff, inflexible in their marriages. One or both of the spouses may say, "Why do we need to read a book about marriage? We're fine. I'm not going to go on some marriage retreat. There's nothing wrong with our marriage. There's nothing wrong with our communication. I can hear you just fine."

Marriage education does stretch and grow us by learning new skills or gaining new insights into marriage or our spouses. It might be a little painful. We may feel vulnerable.

How much can God use an inflexible, rigid marriage relationship? Not only does God want to use an individual, but when God has brought two people together in marriage, then, yes, God also wants to use that marriage for His purposes.

Is your marriage flexible enough to be used in that way, or do you both need to increase your flexibility by stretching? Perhaps that stretching may be a retreat, reading a book, counseling or a Bible study on relationship.

Usually if we think we don't need something, it could be a good sign that we do.

Stretching is good for the marriage bond.

*Valerie Vincent is a Christian counselor with Hardy Associates in Louisville. Send questions for Family Forum to Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253 or e-mail wesrec@kybaptist.org.*

## Associations are vital Great Commission partners

By Robert Reeves

As Southern Baptists have focused on fulfilling the Great Commission, the discussion has largely centered on the work of our two mission boards—the International Mission Board and North American Mission Board. The Kentucky Baptist Convention is engaging in missions both across the street and around the world as well. I want to focus, however, on one of our Great Commission partners that sometimes may be overlooked: the local association.

I'm spurred on by a great report that I received recently from Christian County Baptist Association, which serves 43 churches in the Hopkinsville area. Bobby Melton, the director of missions, reported on missions projects and trips that the association's churches had engaged in during 2008-09, and it definitely impressed me. According to Melton, nearly 1,800 volunteers had participated in more than 70 community, state, national and international missions projects or trips.

Locally, participants from the association were involved in missions projects to help elderly residents with home repairs, canvas neighborhoods for an inner-city medical ministry, engage in disaster relief activities following our huge ice storm, conduct door-to-door evangelism, minister at nursing homes and much more.

In-state projects included participating in Kentucky Chang-ers, helping the Oneida Baptist Institute, conducting vacation Bible schools, and providing quilts, food and clothing to ministries in other parts of the state. National missions and ministry projects included work in soup kitchens, providing disaster relief services and ministering through World Changers.

The association also participated in international missions, impacting eight countries: Brazil, Honduras, Nicaragua, Haiti, Jamaica, Ecuador, Costa Rica and South Korea. The projects included medical missions, evangelism work, poverty and hunger relief work, church planting, construction, aid to orphanages and more. In the case of Haiti, a youth group was not able to go, but worked to raise more than \$24,000 to purchase generators for several churches.

This was just one association. Kentucky has 71 associations and while they all may not have been able to engage in hands-on missions at the level that Christian County Baptist Association did, all were ministering in vital ways that were impacting not only their own communities, but also the world.

### FIRST PERSON

In Kentucky, we rely heavily on our associations in the work to reach our state for Christ. They are vital partners with us in communicating with the churches, planting new churches, providing training opportunities and coordinating evangelism activities.

The Find It Here campaign is a great example of the important partnership between associations, the state convention and the North American Mission Board. Find It Here is a door-to-door evangelism effort that will enable us to get a gospel presentation in just about every household in Kentucky before next Easter. We are praying for a great harvest as Kentucky churches and associations have truly taken ownership of the campaign.

Although large in scope, the implementation plan really is pretty simple, thanks to the work of our associations and directors of missions. Essentially, directors of missions and moderators have worked with pastors to divide associations geographically and make assignments. The churches then placed orders through their associations for Find It Here brochures and plastic bags that they will take to those households. (The bags and brochures are being provided through the Kentucky Baptist Convention, working in partnership with NAMB.)

The associations have heavily promoted Find It Here, as has the Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, and the churches have responded. The churches already have begun prayer-walking the areas to which they will deliver bags and training church members to be strong witnesses. The bags will be delivered March 6-21, the same time that the KBC and North American Mission Board will be conducting a major media campaign to provide "air support" for the 50,000 volunteers who will be delivering the bags.

I don't think this campaign would have caught on the way it has or have the potential for success that it has, if it were not for our associations. NAMB has been able to provide the vision, get the ball rolling and offer various kinds of support for the campaign. Our state convention has been able to provide statewide coordination, handle materials, provide training, work with NAMB to develop the media campaign, and otherwise provide logistical support. It is the association, however, that has had the detailed knowledge about the communities, neighborhoods and participating churches to pull this together.

*Robert Reeves is communications director for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.*

## Make the most of your time by investing in eternity

By Peter Beck

1. 24. 1,440. 7. 168. 28. 30. 31. 744. 12. 365. 8,760. Alone, these numbers are interesting symbols on the page. Separately, you might recognize a few of them. Together they represent the passing of our lives, year by year, day by day, hour by hour. They are time.

Time is a precious commodity. Just ask those who don't have enough. Time spent is time forever lost to time.

Now, consider Paul's admonition to "redeem the time" (Ephesians 5:16). He certainly doesn't believe that we can buy back time spent. Nor does Paul think that we can buy more time for ourselves. Yet, he admonishes the church to improve the time to their own avail.

Of this verse Jonathan Edwards once preached: "And hence it is that time is a thing so exceeding precious, because 'tis by that that we have opportunity of escaping everlasting misery and of obtaining eternal blessedness and glory. 'Tis upon the improvement of time that there depends an escape from an infinite evil and an obtaining an infinite good. And this puts an infinite value upon time."

As yet another week of your life ends and another waits to begin, it's time to check the ledger of your life, to consider the investments you've made in eternity.

Have you spent your allotment of time wisely this week? Or have you squandered this great resource on things of temporal, momentary value?

Have you used your daily quota of time for God's glory and your good? Or did you waste away the hours on things of little import?

Did you spend any time this week living for eternity rather than for the moment? Did you contribute anything of eternal worth or did you miss another opportunity for everlasting gain?

How much time did you dedicate to things of God? How much time did you claim for yourself?

Would you spend your time differently, if you had a

second chance? Would you give more of it away if it were yours again?

Test yourself in the upcoming days. Count your hours. Note your minutes. Tally your days. Sit down. Write down everything you do for the next seven days, the next 168 hours. Ask yourself the hard question, "What did I do with the time that God has given me?" My hunch is that we're spending it unwisely on things that are perishing rather than things imperishable. See if I'm right.

I am not saying that work is avoidable or unimportant. I am saying that perhaps less time spent pondering spreadsheets in our spare time and more time invested in the spiritual lives of our children would be time well spent. I am saying that hours passed in the Word of God are of surpassing worth when compared to hours wasted on the Internet. Minutes spent in sharing our faith are infinitely richer than hours spent talking about the next big game or the latest political debate.

God has given us a special gift in time. How we act as stewards of that gift speaks volumes about our investment in eternity.

On another occasion much earlier in his life, Edwards resolved "to live so as I shall wish I had done when I come to die."

Edwards understood what so few of us take into account. Time is too valuable to waste and too fleeting to hold onto forever. He sought to make the best use of it, to proclaim God's greatness, to lay claim, through faith, on the gospel for himself, and to be thrifty with it for the gain of others. He wanted to live so that at death he might not regret one moment of time.

The week is nearly over. The time is lost. We can never reclaim a second of the past. The future knocks. Time will wait for no one. Make the most of what God has given you—for your benefit and His exceeding glory.

*Peter Beck serves as an assistant professor of religion at Charleston Southern University in Charleston, S.C. This column first appeared at Christianity.com.*

## Financial security ≠ peace of mind

By Jeremy White

Many people have the goal of financial security. I'd like to suggest that your goal be "financial peace of mind" rather than security. Not only is peace of mind more desirable biblically, it's also more obtainable.



Paul instructs Timothy: "Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment" (1 Timothy 6:17).

Tucked in the middle of this imperative command is an absolute statement about wealth. The certainty of wealth is its uncertainty. Whether it's your retirement plan or real estate or the value of a dollar, your wealth is uncertain. Even the financial institution that you thought was so strong is uncertain.

A person may be getting close to financial security by having a significant amount of wealth, but that does not mean that they have financial peace of mind. You have probably known people who have significant material wealth, but who are anxious, fearful and worried.

On the other hand, I have known people who are definitely not on the Forbes 400 list of richest people, but have financial peace of mind. What exactly is financial peace of mind? Having financial peace of mind is recognizing that God owns it all. It is understanding that I'm just a temporary manager (or steward) of what He has entrusted to me. Therefore, if the stock market is down, why should I worry if they really are God's investments?

Indicators of financial peace of mind include three biblical attitudes: contentment, thankfulness and patience. A person who exhibits these qualities has a peace that passes understanding. Isaiah 26:3 says to the Lord, "You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you."

The economy has been difficult this past year. But I am reminded of the Psalmist who spoke of God's certainty: "He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken" (Psalms 62:6). That security gives me peace of mind.

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

*God has given us a special gift in time. How we act as stewards of that gift speaks volumes about our investment in eternity.*

## 2009 Report of the KBC Committee on Nominations

### SPRING REPORT

#### KBC MISSION BOARD:

- Bell (Region 8):** 2011 Unexpired Term – Jonathan Hendrickson (Bimble)  
**Blackford (Region 3):** 2010 Unexpired Term – Brian Adkins (Hawesville)  
**Graves County (Region 1):** 2011 Unexpired Term – Rick Hatley (Mayfield)  
**Green Valley (Region 2):** 2010 Unexpired Term – Dolores Gilmore (Henderson)  
**Muhlenberg County (Region 2):** 2011 Unexpired Term – Greg Brooks (Greenville)

### FALL REPORT

#### KBC MISSION BOARD:

- Region 1:** 2012 term – Howard Atkinson (Paducah)  
**Region 8:** 2012 term – Paul Badgett (Pikeville)  
**Blood River (Region 1):** 2012 term – Ryker Wilson (Murray)  
**Blood River (Region 1):** 2010 Unexpired term – Jack Henshaw (Benton)  
**Boone's Creek (Region 6):** 2012 term – Todd Rader (Winchester)  
**Booneville (Region 8):** 2012 term – Anthony Lovett (Manchester)  
**Caldwell-Lyon (Region 1):** 2012 term – Harrell Riley (Princeton)  
**Central (Region 7):** 2010 Unexpired term – John McDaniel (Springfield)  
**Christian County (Region 2):** 2012 term – Rick Stevens (Hopkinsville)  
**Crittenden (Region 5):** 2012 term – Greg Nimmo (Dry Ridge)  
**Daviess/McLean (Region 2):** 2012 term – Charles Thomas (Utica)  
**Elkhorn (Region 6):** 2012 term – David Stokes (Lexington)  
**Elkhorn (Region 6):** 2012 term – John Birchett (Lexington)  
**Elkhorn (Region 6):** 2012 term – Gary Ellcessor (Paris)  
**Franklin (Region 5):** 2012 term – Scott Van Neste (Frankfort)  
**Graves County (Region 1):** 2012 term – Ronnie Stinson, Jr. (Hickory)  
**Green Valley (Region 2):** 2012 term – Rodney Groff (Henderson)  
**Greenup (Region 8):** 2012 term – Ronnie Mayes (Ashland)  
**Irvine (Region 8):** 2011 Unexpired term – Gary Farmer (Annville)  
**Knox (Region 8):** 2012 term – Calvin Hibbard (Corbin)  
**Laurel River (Region 8):** 2012 term – Tommy Tapscott (London)

- Liberty (Region 7):** 2012 term – Bill Whittaker (Glasgow)  
**Little Bethel (Region 2):** 2012 term – J. D. Holt (Madisonville)  
**Little River (Region 1):** 2012 term – Ann Schisler (Cadiz)  
**Logan Todd (Region 3):** 2012 term – Buddy Crabtree (Russellville)  
**Long Run (Region 4):** 2012 term – Todd Robertson (Louisville)  
**Long Run (Region 4):** 2012 term – Anna Mary Byrdwell (Louisville)  
**Long Run (Region 4):** 2012 term – Rob Gibson (Goshen)  
**Long Run (Region 4):** 2012 term – John Sanders (Crestwood)  
**Long Run (Region 4):** 2012 term – Jon Cyrus (Prospect)  
**Lynn (Region 3):** 2012 term – John Smith (Munfordville)  
**Mercer (Region 6):** 2012 term – Kenny Queener (Harrodsburg)  
**Muhlenberg (Region 2):** 2012 term – Dan Yeager (Bremen)  
**Nelson (Region 3):** 2012 term – Matthew Spandler-Davison (Bardstown)  
**Northern Kentucky (Region 5):** 2011 Unexpired term – Robert Franklin (Alexandria)  
**Northern Kentucky (Region 5):** 2012 term – Ronny Raines (Cold Spring)  
**Northern Kentucky (Region 5):** 2012 term – Todd Toole (Burlington)  
**Ohio River (Region 1):** 2012 term – Tim Burdon (Marion)  
**Ohio Valley (Region 1):** 2012 term – Jeff McMain (Clay)  
**Oldham-Trimble (Region 5):** 2010 Unexpired term – Lynn Traylor (Buckner)  
**Oldham-Trimble (Region 5):** 2012 term – John Mitchen (Crestwood)  
**Pike (Region 8):** 2012 term – Shawn Bruce (Elkhorn City)  
**Pulaski (Region 7):** 2012 term – Ed Amundson II (Somerset)  
**Red River (Region 8):** 2012 term – Patricia Ceschini (West Liberty)  
**Rockcastle (Region 7):** 2012 term – David Sargent (Mt. Vernon)  
**Russell County (Region 7):** 2012 term – Jeff Kerr (Russell Springs)  
**Russell Creek (Region 7):** 2012 term – Billy G. Dangerfield (Greensburg)  
**Salem (Region 3):** 2012 term – William Chandler (Brandenburg)  
**Severns Valley (Region 3):** 2012 term – Hyuk Ju Lee (Radcliff)  
**Shelby (Region 4):** 2012 term – Shirley

- Ragan (Pewee Valley)  
**Simpson (Region 3):** 2012 term – Jack Wade (Franklin)  
**S Union/Mt Zion (Region 7):** 2012 term – Larry Sowders (Barbourville)  
**Tates Creek (Region 6):** 2012 term – Dan Evans (Berea)  
**Ten Mile (Region 5):** 2012 term – Jim Purcell (Crittenden)  
**Union (Region 5):** 2012 term – Cohen Copley (Falmouth)  
**Warren (Region 3):** 2012 term – David Gifford (Bowling Green)  
**Warren (Region 3):** 2012 term – Ted Pemberton (Alvaton)  
**Warren (Region 3):** 2012 term – Willa Dean Harston (Scottsville)  
**Wayne County (Region 7):** 2012 term – Thomas Floyd (Monticello)  
**West Union (Region 1):** 2012 term – Jeff Wallace (Paducah)

### BOARDS OF AGENCIES & INSTITUTIONS:

- Campbellsville University (Trustees)**  
 2010 Unexpired Term (1): Tommy Turner (Magnolia); 2013 Terms (11): J. Chester Badgett (Campbellsville); Mike Eastridge (Bowling Green); Jana Gore (Elizabethtown); Henry Lee (Campbellsville); Ron Lewis (White Mills); Mary Frances May (Columbia); David K. Morris (Warsaw); Carol Bertram Peddicord (Albany); Jay Robison (Lexington); Malinda Smith (Danville); Ralph Tesseneer (Campbellsville)

### Clear Creek Baptist Bible College (Trustees)

- 2013 Terms (8): Jeremy Anderson (Waco); Bennie Bush (Corbin); M.D. Cabe (Barton, GA); Alan Dodson (Lexington); Lyndell Graven (Bowling Green); Ronnie Pennington (Richmond); Dane Poe (Jonesville, VA); Jeff Shouse (Spottsville)

### Kentucky Baptist Assemblies (Trustees)

- 2013 Terms (3): Paul Douglas (Paducah); Gina Rogers (Auburn); Charlie Wallace (Shelbyville)

### Kentucky Ethics League (Trustees)

- 2012 Terms (5): Tyre Denney (Shelbyville); Ron Hunt (Richmond); Albert Jones (Williamsburg); Ron Melton (Providence); Herschel Walker (Corbin)

### Kentucky Baptist Foundation (Directors)

- 2013 Terms (4): W. Harvey Coggin (Lexington); T.J. McGlothlin (Simpsonville); Ralph L. Rascoe (Owensboro); M. A. Winchester (Stearns)

### Oneida Baptist Institute (Trustees)

- 2013 Terms (6): Marvin Cress (Corbin); Marsha Hurst (Richmond); Kenneth Ray (Leitchfield); Fred Rogers (Manchester); Martha Faye Smith (Albany); Wanda Whited (London)

### Sunrise Children's Services (Directors)

- 2013 Terms (6): J. Richard Carlton (Lexington); Thomas A. Christopher (Danville); Patricia M. Gutierrez (Bowling Green); Dennis H., Reed, Sr. (Louisville); Joyce M. Smith (Louisville); Kyle Wise (Bowling Green)

### University of the Cumberland (Trustees)

- 2012 Unexpired Term (1): Jerry D. Winchester (Corbin); 2013 Terms (7): Phillip Armstrong (Stone Mountain, GA); Doyle Baker (Lexington); Sam Ballou (Corbin); William C. Gullett (Hendersonville, TN); Bill Hacker (Corbin); Richard Knock (Florence); Howard Mann (Ashland)

### Western Recorder (Directors)

- 2013 Terms (3): Paul Nunn (Prestonsburg); Floyd Price (London); Dan Summerlin (Paducah)

### Preacher of 2010 Annual Sermon:

- Dan Summerlin (Paducah)

### Recommended by Committee on Nominations:

- Committee Members:** Chad Fugitt (Chairperson), Tom James (Vice-Chairperson), Carolyn Anderson, Kay Atchison, Kenny Chyle, Randy Coleman, Bill Cook, Ken Felty, Rick Hatley, Chuck Henderson, Chris Holmes, Damon Jones, Greg Nimmo, Richard Oldham, Donnie Patrick, Shelby Reynolds, Joed Rice, Millie Rose, Mike Rust and Gary Taylor.

- Ex Officio Members:** Executive Director Bill Mackey and Convention President John Mark Toby

## 2009 Report of the KBC Committee on Committees

- ♦ **Committee on Arrangements** – 2012 Terms – Howard Atkinson (Paducah) and Rodney Alexander (Florence)
- ♦ **Committee on Constitution & Bylaws** – 2012 Terms – Arnold Turner (Prestonsburg), Scott Lawless (Somerset), and Bill Henard (Lexington)
- ♦ **Committee on Credentials** – 2012 Terms – Bill Dawson (Somerset), Scott Van Neste (Frankfort) and Jeff Crabtree (Bowling Green)
- ♦ **Committee on Nominations** – 2011 Terms unless noted otherwise:  
**Region 1:** Tim Cole (Hardin) and Kenneth Brown (Paducah)

- Region 2:** Thomas Webb (Calhoun); and 2010 Unexpired Term: Brandt Lyon (Herndon)
- Region 3:** Jerry Shacklett (Ekron) and Ron Davis (Cecilia)
- Region 4:** Chuck Fuller (Louisville)
- Region 5:** Mike Jones (Union) and Norm Workman (Foster)
- Region 6:** Andrew Dyer (Harrodsburg)
- Region 7:** Brian Burkhead (Corbin)
- Region 8:** Paul Schmidt (Grayson) and Ronnie Mayes (Ashland)
- ♦ **Committee on Order of Business** – 2012 Terms – French Harmon (Somerset) and Steve Gray (Lexington)

- ♦ **Committee on Public Affairs** – 2010 Unexpired Term – James Jones (Campbellsville); 2012 Terms – David Beck (Louisville), Chip Hutcheson (Princeton) and Jeff Noffsinger (Olmstead)
- ♦ **Committee on Resolutions** – 2011 Terms – Tim Harris (Woodburn) and Ray England (Greenville)

### Persons to Report – 2010

- ♦ **Cooperative Program:** Todd Linn (Henderson); Alternate – Bob Ehr (Lawrenceburg)
- ♦ **International Mission Board:** Steve Hill (Glendale); Alternate – Craig Loscalzo (Lexington)

- ♦ **North American Mission Board:** Carlos De La Barra (Louisville); Alternate – Pete Rivera (Louisville)
- ♦ **Obituaries:** J. K. Pierce (Lexington); Alternate – Allen Harrod (Nicholasville)

### Recommended by Committee on Committees:

- Committee Members:** Hershael York (Chairperson), Harold Cathey (Vice Chairperson), George "Buddy" Crabtree Jr., David Daugherty, Wesley Noss, Steve Rutherford, Kevin Smith, and Dan Summerlin  
**Ex Officio Members:** Executive Director Bill Mackey and Convention President John Mark Toby

## GuideStone trustees receive positive report for fiscal year

Dallas—GuideStone Financial Resources President O.S. Hawkins updated trustees on the first three quarters of 2009, including how the GuideStone staff has demonstrated perspective amid one of the greatest economic crises in the nation's history.

GuideStone trustees, meeting last week in Dallas, also received a financial status report from Chief Operating Officer John Jones and approved the 2010 budget.

"In times of uncertainty we can give up, give in or give out," Hawkins told trustees. "However, through the power of God's leadership we must reach up seeking His guidance. We must reach in to fine tune our processes and make the most of the resources that we have. And we must reach out to our participants in helping them to also gain a proper perspective as they navigate these tumultuous times of financial crisis."

Jones, summarizing GuideStone's financial status through the first nine months of the year, said, "From a low point of \$6.9 billion in assets in March of this year, our asset base at the end of September was \$8.8 billion, an increase of 31 percent."

"The substantial increase in the assets reflects the upward movement we have seen in the financial markets and underscores the importance of staying invested in a planned allocation to take advantage of the improved performance in the financial markets," Jones noted.

The overall performance of GuideStone Funds was positive for the year both on an absolute and a relative basis, Jones ex-

plained, citing the ranking of the funds in the latest report by industry analysis firm fi360.

"GuideStone Funds was ranked at the 26th percentile among mutual fund families," he said. "That means we ranked higher than 74 percent of all other mutual fund families."

The fi360 report ranks approximately 213 mutual fund families based on the percentage of their individual funds that pass fi360's due diligence screens, including the fund's track record, assets, management tenure, style consistency, expense ratio, risk-adjusted performance, and performance relative to their peer group, among other criteria.

Jones also reviewed the success of GuideStone's Mission:Dignity program for the first nine months in providing assistance to retired ministers or their widows who have significant financial needs.

"Since the first of this year, 3,833 donors have made gifts to Mission:Dignity and 1,064 donors made their first gift," Jones reported. "We are grateful that churches and individuals have continued to support this vital ministry even in the midst of a difficult economic period."

Kentucky Baptist layman Greg Bibb, chairman of the trustees' budget subcommittee, reviewed the operating budget proposed for 2010, which then received unanimous trustee approval. The proposed budget is 15.5 percent lower than the originally approved 2009 budget. (BP)

### BAPTIST DIGEST

**Warren, Reader's Digest end deal**—Mega-church pastor Rick Warren and the Reader's Digest Association will stop co-publishing their quarterly magazine, the two announced Nov. 4. Warren, pastor of Saddleback Church in Southern California, will move the magazine online. The partners unveiled "The Purpose Driven Connection" in January, a publication that featured spiritual guidance from Warren and a DVD for small-group discussions. The annual subscription included special access to additional online resources. Since the launch of the magazine, the number of subscribers to Warren's daily digital devotional has increased by about 100,000 to more than 400,000. The last print edition of the magazine will be published this month.

**FBC Dallas launches building project**—First Baptist Church of Dallas has launched what leaders say will be the largest church building campaign in modern history—a \$130 million project that includes the congregation's first entirely new sanctuary since the 1890s. Once considered the largest church in the Southern Baptist Convention, First Baptist, Dallas, has declined from 25,000 members under its legendary pastor of 50 years, W.A. Criswell, to about 11,000 today. Under leadership of Robert Jeffress, who took over as pastor in 2007, leaders say the church is growing again, but present facilities are inadequate for innovative ministries needed to reach today's generation.

**N.M. Baptists retire debt**—Nearly 400 Baptists from across New Mexico celebrated a note-burning ceremony during last month's Baptist Convention of New Mexico annual meeting in Glorieta. The convention has carried debt on its headquarters building in Albuquerque since 2001. The debt was retired seven years before it was due to be paid in full. Messengers also approved the BCNM's 2010 budget, which is slightly less than the 2009 budget, the largest in the convention's history.

**Zurheide, pastor in historic pulpits, dies**—A pastor who served both historic American Baptist and Southern Baptist churches died Oct. 28, nearly six years after being diagnosed with cancer. In January 2004, Jeff Zurheide, 54, left First Baptist Church of Oklahoma City—a pulpit once occupied by the legendary Southern Baptist pastor/theologian Herschel Hobbs—to become pastor of First Baptist Church of New London, N.H. The congregation was organized in 1788—shortly after New Hampshire became the requisite ninth state to ratify the Constitution, thus creating the United States of America. Soon after, Zurheide was diagnosed with aggressive multiple myeloma, a malignant bone marrow/blood cancer. Zurheide announced Aug. 23 he was applying for disability and stepping away from full-time ministry. He preached his last sermon Aug. 30. Zurheide is survived by his wife of 32 years, Karen, a daughter, Molly, and a son, Andrew.

**love in action**

*Thank you for your gifts through the Cooperative Program. Together, we are demonstrating love in action by funding missions and ministries all over the world.*

[www.kybaptist.org/cpmissions](http://www.kybaptist.org/cpmissions)

**KBC**  
KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION

# Pastors see rewards, risks in prevention ministries

Continued from page 1

With the recent news that Kentucky leads the nation in the rate of child deaths from abuse and neglect—perhaps as many as 41 children in 2007 (see related story on page 1)—it begs the question: What is the church's role in preventing child abuse and neglect?

"The Lord has invested His Holy Spirit in us that He might reveal Himself through us," Ison emphasized.

In many cases, he added, it's not about solving children's problems, it is about loving them, letting them know they are cared for and that they can feel safe. "A lot of times I think that's what (God) does—He just lets them feel safe," Ison said.

Emmanuel's Arms Around Families started four years ago. Marilyn Belt, who directs the ministry, said the program is developed to curb high-risk behaviors in families. That includes abuse, neglect, substance abuse and domestic violence.

Individuals or families often are ordered to attend the 12- to 16-week program by a family court judge or state social worker. Arms Around Families involves three main components: parenting classes, a children's program and substance-abuse recovery.

The parenting feature of the program focuses on those aspects "that would make a healthy, safe, appropriate parent," said Belt, a social worker with the state's Cabinet for Health and Family Services in neighboring Union County.

The curriculum helps parents identify behaviors or circumstances that could lead to abuse and neglect, and teaches appropriate discipline. Volunteers also instruct parents in basic nutrition, hygiene, financial planning and other aspects of caring for children, Ison noted.

## Keeping families intact

On the other side of the state, a similar program is helping Lexington's struggling families stay together.

Imani Baptist Church and Pastor Polk have coordinated the SKY (Strengthening Kentucky) Families program for seven years now. The class-based program is under the umbrella of Imani's Family Life Center, a nonprofit entity of the church.

SKY Families deals almost exclusively with parents who, for a variety of reasons, have had their children removed from their care.

"Our focus is on helping them settle issues and develop stronger family units,

## Remembering Michaela



In its report, the Every Child Matters Education Fund included a profile of a child from each state where abuse/neglect fatalities occurred in 2007, the most recent year with complete data. For Kentucky, it was the story of Michaela Watkins (left). Michaela, 12, was found dead in her Winchester home March 11, 2007. In 2008, her father and stepmother were convicted of Michaela's murder. Prosecutors said they scalded the girl with hot water and beat her until her chest was crushed. Michaela's death was unusually brutal but, according to the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, that same year more than 15,500 Kentucky children were victims of some form of maltreatment. The commonwealth reported that 26 children died in 2007 from abuse and neglect. The Every Child Matters study included all deaths where abuse or neglect had been confirmed in the home, 41, even if the child's death could not be directly attributed to the maltreatment.



**VISUAL AID** Campbellsville University's Carver School of Social Work and Counseling SWITCH Club members promoted the Pinwheel for Prevention campaign to raise awareness of the problem of child abuse and neglect. The event was held last April as part of National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Students raised about \$300 to assist the local school system in caring for underprivileged children. (Campbellsville University photo by Ashley Holt)

so that kids can be brought back to the family," Polk said.

SKY Families is funded by Kentucky State University's cooperative extension department and also works in conjunction with Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky in Lexington. Often, Polk pointed out, parents who are referred to the Imani program have been cited for child neglect. That can take different forms, and often, Polk said, the parents he comes in contact with were not aware they were breaking the law.

Through social workers directly involved with Lexington's family court system, families are referred to the program. Polk said judges typically send parents they believe can change and are committed to regaining custody of their children.

He said that when parents discover why they are chosen to participate in SKY Families, "they let their guards down."

The 12-week program begins with an orientation and ends with a graduation. In between, parents attend a series of classes focused on effective parenting strategies, discipline, family health and communication, and maintaining relationships.

Polk said he takes a hands-on approach to SKY Families, leading as many as three sessions including the orientation. After parents have received their certificate of completion, they get a final word from the pastor.

"I tell them how to go back (to court) and present themselves to the judge," Polk said, "and more times than not, they get their

children back."

Polk noted that all too often struggling families get caught in the revolving door of the family court system. He said that SKY Families is helping eliminate that cycle and build stronger families.

Asked why his church takes on the role of protecting children, Polk said the answer is simple: Jesus said so.

And for many church leaders who accept such a mission to protect children from those who would do evil to them, Pastor Ison warned: Be prepared to put on the armor of God.

"You've literally turned up the heat on the enemy's desire to frustrate you and to work against you," he noted.

Ison called a program like Arms Around Families "so spiritually draining" that maintaining a close, personal and daily dialogue with Christ is "absolutely critical" and the only way to keep going.

But while the pastor warns against all that can go wrong with social ministries like Arms Around Families, he said that individual success stories are what keep him going in his ministry to hurting children.

"It's not a hopeless situation because God is able to deal with individuals and do miraculous things that nobody else can do," Ison said.

He stressed, however, that there is a long way to go.

To make his point, Ison borrowed a missionary anecdote of a grandfather and grandson walking along the beach where hundreds of starfish have washed ashore. The grandson picks one up and throws it back into the water. As he bends down to pick up another one, the grandfather tells him he's foolish for doing so because he'll never be able to throw them all back. As the grandson hurls another starfish into the ocean, he replies, "Yes, but it sure does make a world of difference to that one."

After telling the story, missionaries often ask, "Are you the grandfather or the grandson?"

Ison said: "I'm the guy who wades out in the water and tries to figure out why all these starfish are washing up on shore."

"I think the (social services) system is made to throw back starfish, and nobody is really getting out in the water."

Ison said he often prays, "Lord, where are we missing the mark with the adults that is causing these problems? Because we're never going to be able to throw back all the starfish. So, let's stop them from coming up on shore in the first place."

# Child advocates: Kentucky faith communities can help stem tide



Continued from page 1

State funds cover only about 75 percent of the costs of care for the children Sunrise helps. The gap between Sunrise's costs for residential treatment and the reimbursements average \$48 per day per child, with foster care shortfalls averaging \$20 per day.

Smithwick said budget cuts for the state's Department of Community-Based Services, which oversees the children in Sunrise's care, affects the quality of that care.

"The best of workers can't provide

the kind of time (children) need because they're so overburdened and understaffed," he explained. "If we had more money for prevention, we could keep more kids in their homes."

Laura Chowning, community development coordinator for Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky, said churches could lead the way in prevention efforts.

"It would be a tremendous opportunity to see the church follow (Christ's) Greatest Commandment," Chowning said, referring to Matthew 22:36-40 which states that believers are to "love the Lord your God with all your heart ... and to love your neighbor as yourself."

With education and resources, congregations can "find the needs of individuals and help meet those needs so families are supported during stressful times," she said. From that point, Chowning said, churches then may realize they wish to do more, such as providing the kind of services available at Imani Baptist Church in Lexington

and Emmanuel Baptist Church in Marion (see story on page 1).

Smithwick noted that Kentucky Baptists continue to help Sunrise in its mission by making financial contributions, volunteering at the residential programs and helping make holidays and birthdays special for all of the children in its care.

In addition, Kentucky Baptists raise money through its "Mile of Pennies" initiative, sponsor children at Christmas and support the Thanksgiving Offering, a major source of funding.

"Without private donations we couldn't stay open, but it's been running tight," Smithwick said. "We need more private donors to care for these kids."

Those numbers include nearly 375 children who receive out-of-home care through Sunrise. As of Oct. 28, that included 143 in residential treatment and 228 in foster care.

Two of Sunrise's programs are family initiatives that seek to prevent abuse

and neglect through a Medicaid program called Impact Plus. The Danville operation provides case management. Workers there help connect parents with community-based services, such as counseling, school aid or enrolling children in the state medical insurance program.

The Owensboro office goes a step further, also providing in-home instruction, such as teaching parenting skills, discipline and budgeting lessons.

Such community resources hold families together, Smithwick suggested. However, sometimes more intensive services are required, such as substance-abuse treatment, he added.

"The point is to keep children in their homes when possible," Smithwick emphasized. "Serving families retroactively often means long legal processes, institutional care and the prosecution and incarceration of offending adults—all of which costs a lot of money."

With additional reporting by Dannah Prather

## Faith communities ideal places to educate, equip, encourage parents

By **Dannah Prather**  
Partnerships Editor

**Louisville**—According to longtime Baptist counselor Wade Rowatt, churches are uniquely qualified to help prevent the abuse and neglect of children.

"When parents are in a right relationship with God, they are less likely to be in wrong relationship with their children," said Rowatt, director of the pastoral counseling ministry of St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville.

"Highlighting Christian parenting and teaching effective parenting" is a responsibility of the church, Rowatt said. "We have the authority of the Scripture and we have the life and work of Jesus valuing children. ... We have a strong moral imperative to move in that direction."

■ A first step is to train Sunday school workers and church staff to recognize the signs of abuse and neglect.

"When you have children coming in with regular bruises and cuts, we need to catch it early before that child winds up getting killed. ... That's a very sensitive issue,

but there's training. Other professions go through it; we can do it."

Rowatt encourages churches not to become overwhelmed with the issue. "We don't have to do it all ourselves. We can link up with schools, with the police force, with the hospitals."

■ Providing parenting classes for church members, prospects or anyone in the community is another "educational role" for congregations, he said, noting that St. Matthews Baptist offers parenting classes annually. Focus on the Family and LifeWay Christian Resources are among many publishers with curricula on Christian parenting.

■ Congregations should pay special attention to single parents, Rowatt said. "A lot of the child abuse comes from single parents who don't have a community support system." Something as simple as offering to babysit could be a great encouragement to a single parent.

■ Creating a culture in the church that values children is important, and again, Rowatt said, biblical.

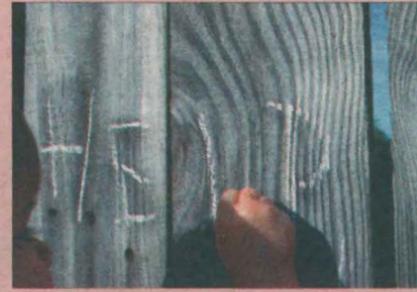
Facilitators of a "Faith and Child Abuse" workshop in Lexington earlier this year suggested that churches offer periodic Bible studies, prayer meetings and prayerwalks that focus on the health and wellbeing of children. Some churches plan these in the fall at the start of the new school year.

■ Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky's Partners in Prevention Network, [www.pcaky.org](http://www.pcaky.org), links churches and other organizations so they can share project ideas and stay up to date on abuse/neglect issues.



## Prevention Resources

Anyone who suspects that a child is being abused or neglected is required to inform authorities immediately. Failure to report suspected maltreatment is a class B misdemeanor and could result in a fine or time in jail. According to Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky, callers do not need to provide evidence of abuse or neglect; a "reason to believe" that a child is being mistreated is sufficient to make a report. Authorities cannot release the name of the caller except by court order. It also is possible to make reports anonymously.



**The Kentucky Child Abuse Hotline is (800) 752-6200.**

There are many ways Kentucky Baptists, as individuals and congregations, can help children and families in crisis. Start by implementing policies and procedures to protect children who come to your church each week. For details on the **Safe Church Initiative**, including free downloads, visit [www.KyBaptist.org](http://www.KyBaptist.org), or call (800) 266-6477.

Support programs such as **Sunrise Children's Services**, [www.Sunrise.org](http://www.Sunrise.org), or (800) 456-1386. Learn how to become a foster parent. Start an awareness campaign in your church; consider kicking it off during Child Abuse Prevention Month in April.

Open your church facility to the community by hosting parenting or addiction-recovery classes. Baptist churches have used curricula from LifeWay Christian Resources, Focus on the Family and Dr. Kevin Leman. Assist existing community ministries and programs such as those for women facing crisis pregnancies. Promote adoption and foster care. For additional ideas and resources, contact **Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky** at [www.pcaky.org](http://www.pcaky.org) or (800) CHILDREN. Learn the signs of abuse and neglect with free downloads from the Child Welfare Information Gateway, [www.ChildWelfare.gov](http://www.ChildWelfare.gov).

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# Hunt calls for raising 'silenced' voice of faith in Middle East

By Erich Bridges  
International Mission Board

**Middle East**—On a sun-washed October morning in the Middle East, Southern Baptist Convention President Johnny Hunt stood atop a roof and listened as mournful voices floated up from the valley below.

First one cry, then another and another: the voices of Muslim imams from every mosque in the city calling the faithful to Friday prayers. The prayer calls merged into a single choir of sorts, followed by an echo chamber of competing loudspeakers as the imams launched into their sermons to the area's 75,000 residents.

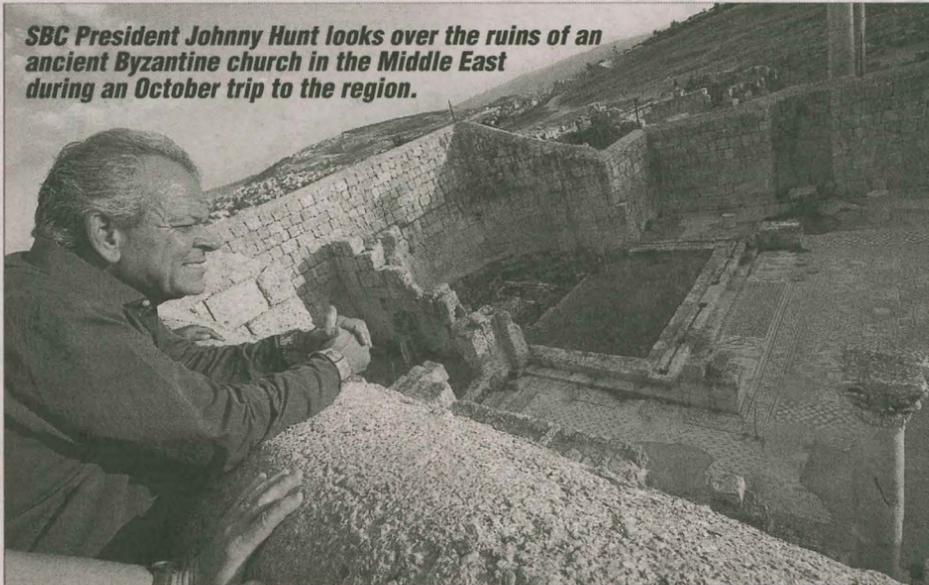
Many events in the Old and New Testaments—including key moments in the lives of Moses, Elijah and Paul—took place in or near this valley.

"We're hearing the voice of the leaders of Islam," Hunt said as he listened. "It's the message of Muhammad, the message of the Qur'an that is dominant in an area that once was very Christian. The Apostle Paul would have made his way through these hills within probably 20 miles of this very city. We would have heard the message of Jesus Christ."

"But that voice has been silenced. We have been drowned out because we've allowed ourselves to be silenced," Hunt lamented. "The voice of Islam has been raised because they are willing to pay the cost to make their message known, while we in our affluent culture have done less and less to make Jesus known. As never before in our lifetime, we must raise our voices even louder ... to make the gospel known."

Hunt, pastor of the Atlanta-area First

**SBC President Johnny Hunt looks over the ruins of an ancient Byzantine church in the Middle East during an October trip to the region.**



Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga., visited four countries in the Middle East and North Africa last month. Accompanying him and his wife, Janet, during the two-week journey were Woodstock missions staff members and six other Southern Baptist pastors and missions leaders.

Hunt and his colleagues met with more than 30 Baptist pastors from six nations that are home to Middle Eastern peoples, visited Southern Baptist workers in the region, and traveled to one of the most volatile places in North Africa.

They spent several days with the Middle Eastern pastors teaching, mentoring and trading ideas about effective ministry. The pastors, many of them young members of a

new generation of leaders, shared the challenges they face: persecution, discouragement, isolation, struggling flocks and lack of resources.

During a devotion time, one of the Middle Eastern pastors asked if others ever considered quitting the ministry. "I think about it twice a day," he admitted with a laugh. Others nodded in recognition of his difficulties. He reminded them that Elijah felt like quitting, too, before the Lord gave him new strength and courage.

"If you are feeling as if you are weary, under pressure and can't continue, God will come to strengthen you," the pastors promised. He and other leaders described the many ways God is working through their

ministries to shine light into a dark world.

"These churches are like babies that have been abandoned," one conference participant said. "Every time they stand up, they get knocked down. They just need a big brother to lean on."

For a few days, Hunt and his group served as those big brothers.

"You have really supported us," one of the Middle Eastern pastors told the visiting Americans. "Someone has come from the other end of the world to say, 'You are not alone.' ... We need that."

Hunt then moved on to an even more challenging nation in North Africa, the home of some of the most radical Islamic groups in the world. But it also is home to a powerful, indigenous church-planting movement that is expanding rapidly despite violent resistance.

Some of the new church leaders in the region themselves are former Muslim extremists. The Americans met them in the capital city and listened to their stories.

"We met men who have known the Lord maybe five years, who sense the call to go back to their own people or their own villages, which are areas of hostility," Hunt recalled. "They're willing to cross any barrier to make Christ known."

"We're not talking about the church in hiding," Hunt explained. "We're talking about bold proclamations. It so reminds us of the New Testament and it's so inspiring. It challenges us to make sure that we're taking advantage of the freedom of religion in our own nation. If they're willing to do it here, we should really take it up a notch in our own backyard." (BP)

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## Adults and youth

### Today's over-40 crowd still has a lot to offer students

I recently returned from a youth pastors' convention that we attend every year. We go to these conferences to set up a display and promote our camp programs. While in attendance, we get to meet thousands of youth pastors and workers representing many states and even other countries. These events are very beneficial because we get to "learn" what is happening in youth ministry culture, and we always are hopeful that we can take away a few ideas to incorporate into our camp.

### Ky. Baptist Assemblies



David Melber

I must admit that every year my age gap in relation to the typical youth worker seems to be greater and greater. As a parent, I am very interested in what youth pastors are doing in their efforts to impact my kids in a real and tangible way.

One aspect of these events that has remained consistent over the years is that youth workers are seeking help. I know you may be thinking that I am too old or too far removed from youth ministry to really offer what they need, but I would respectfully disagree.

The biblical pattern for church structure always has included

people from various stages of life working together so the life experiences of the over-40 crowd can be passed on to the those 40 and younger. There is nothing magical about 40, it just seemed like a good dividing line. If you fall into the over-40 group, don't think that you have nothing to offer your youth ministry at church. Not only do they need you, but your youth pastors and workers need you.

Again, after attending these events for 10 years, I've found that much has changed in youth ministry methods. However, one consistent theme has been that youth leaders are in need of assistance in a variety of ways. I hear it over and over at these conventions.

I would encourage you to just ask if you can help. You may be surprised how God can use you to reach today's youth. The fact is your wisdom from living life is greatly needed in the lives of our younger generation.

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

## For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



## Preacher's Kids

David Ayers



## Bible Crosswords

By Evelyn Boyington

### Across

- 1 Cartographer's creation
- 4 Had a stroke
- 8 Captain Hook's henchman
- 12 Mother of Hezekiah (2 Kings 18:2)
- 13 "The king arose, and \_\_\_ his garments" (2 Samuel 13:31)
- 14 "I \_\_\_ you!"
- 15 "My money is \_\_\_; and lo, it is even in my sack" (Genesis 42:28)
- 17 Deserve
- 18 Mar, in a way
- 19 "Beware of the scribes, which love ... the chief \_\_\_ in the synagogues" (Mark 12:38,39)
- 21 English breakfast, for one
- 23 Keeps away from
- 26 Cathedral feature
- 29 "The vine languisheth, all the merry hearted do \_\_\_" (Isaiah 24:7)
- 32 Norma \_\_\_ (Sally Field role)
- 33 "He that hath clean hands and a \_\_\_ heart" (Psalm 24:4)
- 34 Worldwide workers group (abbr.)
- 35 Fantasy (Fr.)
- 36 Time for les grandes vacances
- 37 College building
- 38 "Thou hast been in \_\_\_ the garden of God" (Ezekiel 28:13)
- 39 "Evening \_\_\_" (former TV show)
- 41 Part of a circle (abbr.)
- 43 Tithe fraction
- 46 Park \_\_\_ (neighborhood in Brooklyn, NY)
- 50 \_\_\_ Canal
- 52 "\_\_\_ his marvellous works ... his wonders" (1 Chronicles 16:12)
- 54 Circuit
- 55 Mouths
- 56 On; upon (prefix)
- 57 \_\_\_ room
- 58 Blemish
- 59 Actress Sandra

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- 5 "The words of his mouth were smoother than butter, but \_\_\_ was in his heart" (Psalm 55:21)
- 6 Mythological god of war
- 7 Babylonian conqueror
- 8 "Smite ... and destroy all the children of \_\_\_" (Numbers 24:17)
- 9 "The children of Israel ... cannot be \_\_\_ nor numbered" (Hosea 1:10)
- 10 "Men have not heard, nor perceived by the \_\_\_" (Isaiah 64:4)
- 11 Sea bird
- 16 "Ye pay \_\_\_ of mint and anise" (Matthew 23:23)
- 20 Furniture wood
- 22 "They ... were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in \_\_\_" (Acts 16:6)
- 24 Church part
- 25 Observed
- 26 Mirrors
- 27 Orpah's sister-in-law
- 28 "From the beginning of the \_\_\_ God made them male and female" (Mark 10:6)
- 30 \_\_\_ at ease
- 31 "They should not worship devils and idols of \_\_\_" (Revelation 9:20)
- 35 King's domain
- 37 Little red one
- 40 "Thou hast laid me in the lowest pit ... in the \_\_\_" (Psalm 88:6)
- 42 To cause to be (suffix, Brit.)
- 44 "Doth he thank that servant ... ? I \_\_\_ not" (Luke 17:9)
- 45 Wife of Zeus
- 47 Grandfather of David
- 48 Cartoon character LePew
- 49 Pennsylvania city
- 50 Small-town America street
- 51 \_\_\_ v. Wade
- 53 "They \_\_\_ my path, they set forward my calamity" (Job 30:13)

### Last week's solution

1	H	A	L	E	5	L	E	A	P	11			
2	S	E	V	E	N	10	L	E	A	P	11		
3	T	H	R	E	A	T	13	T	R	U	E	S	T
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### Down

- 1 \_\_\_ Hill, where Paul spoke in Athens
- 2 Assist
- 3 City on the Arno River
- 4 "The \_\_\_ that smote the image became a great mountain" (Daniel 2:35)

## Christian, Jewish leaders repeat call for significant restrictions against Iran

New York—Southern Baptist ethicist Richard Land has joined Jewish and evangelical Christian leaders in New York in calling for immediate sanctions to thwart Iran from developing nuclear weapons.

The president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission collaborated with Paul de Vries, president of the New York Divinity School and leader of New York Evangelicals, and Joseph Potasnik, executive vice president of the New York Board of Rabbis, in issuing a statement last week urging all governments to apply sanctions in order to produce effective diplomacy and encourage the human rights efforts of Iranians living under a militant Islamic regime.

The evangelical and Jewish groups recommended two actions proposed by some members of Congress:

- Sanction banks that work even indirectly with Iranian banks.

- Sanction firms or governments that export refined petroleum to Iran.

"Such actions could quickly damage Iran's economy, shrink the regime's domestic popularity, provoke real diplomacy, and engender significant steps toward ending the Iran regime's murderous pursuit of nuclear weapons," the statement said. "Leading nations should then engage in effectual diplomacy, resulting in enforced guarantees of an Iran without weapons of mass destruction, nuclear or otherwise."

Iran contends it is developing nuclear power for non-military purposes, but others are concerned the effort is to establish a nuclear arms program.

Statement endorsers offered 10 reasons for sanctions, including: Iran's status as the top state sponsor of terrorism; its brutalization of the human-rights movement within its borders; its potential control of half of the world's oil reserves; and the threat of a nuclear arms race in response to Iran's weapons program.

"We need to apply as much pressure as possible on Iran because the status quo is unacceptable," Potasnik said in a written release. "Iran has a government without a conscience, so we must stand together." (BP)

## Study: 1 in 4 people globally are Muslims IMB VP: Our responsibility is to love them

Washington—Nearly one in four people worldwide is Muslim, according to a comprehensive demographic study by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life. The estimate is in line with previous data from other sources like the United Nations and the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

The statistics should remind Southern Baptists that the world is full of people who need to hear the gospel, an International Mission Board spokesperson said.

According to the study, 1.57 billion (23 percent) of the world's estimated 6.8 billion people are Muslim. The number fits almost in the middle of the high estimate of about 26 percent and the lower end of 21 percent.

By comparison, the worldwide Christian population is estimated to be about 2.2 billion, or 1 in 3 people on the planet, according to the CIA Factbook.

In 2010, Pew plans to launch a comprehensive study of the Christian population and to release a more comprehensive report on Muslims. The group plans to investigate growth rates for both religions.

More than 60 percent of the Muslim population lives in Asia, with about 20 percent in the Middle East and North Africa. More than 300 million live in countries where Islam is not the majority religion, Pew noted.

Of the total Muslim population, Pew estimated that about 90 percent are Sunni Muslims and roughly 10 percent are Shia Muslims living primarily in four countries—Iran, Pakistan, India and Iraq.

In the largest project of its kind to date, Pew analyzed about 1,500 sources of data from 232 countries and territories as part of a more extensive report due out next year aimed at helping people understand religion around the world.

### Motivation to share Christ

Clyde Meador, the IMB's executive vice president, said the report should motivate believers to reach a world that is lost without Christ.

"The thing we need to realize—for instance, the fact that there are 300 million Muslims living in countries that are not majority Muslim—is that here are these 300 million people living in places where likely they are more accessible to hearing the gospel, and quite possibly they are more open to the gospel in those settings," Meador said.

"Where is there a greater accessibility to them than right here in the United States? Our responsibility is to love these people and to share with them truth as we have opportunity," he added.

Overseas, Southern Baptists seek to make the truth of the gospel available among Muslims wherever they find openness. In some countries where Islam is the majority religion, such as Indonesia, believers actually have the freedom to share the gospel wisely, Meador noted.

In India, with the third largest Muslim population in the world, there is tremendous freedom to share, he said, adding that the task grows more difficult in places like Pakistan and

the Middle East.

"I think if at any point we say that there's no use, that they're beyond the gospel or we shouldn't be trying to reach them, I think we absolutely contradict Scripture if we say something like that," Meador said.

As believers share the gospel with Muslims worldwide, one of the most significant challenges adherents to Islam face is cultural resistance to leaving their religion.

"When a person from a strong Muslim background ... comes to faith in Christ, he or she loses a lot," Meador explained. "Of course in a few places they may lose their lives. Most often what they lose are family ties, respect of the community and in some cases their jobs."

In addition, Meador stressed that radical, militant Islam is a small minority of the billions of Muslims worldwide. He urged sensitivity toward Muslims Southern Baptists may encounter in their daily lives.

"When you see that man and woman walking through the aisle at WalMart and she's covered to a large extent, and he's got an unusually long beard or whatever, just know that behind that beard (and) behind that covering is a person just like you," Meador said.

"It's a person who has the same joys and hurts. It's a person who has the same needs. It's a person who has the same cares. But it's a person who doesn't know Jesus."

"The fact that they dress differently does not mean they're out to get you." (BP)

## 'Tell the cooks we have more guests for lunch'

### Interruptions are just part of life at Oneida where friends drop by to visit

One of the first things I learned about Oneida when my wife, Kay, and I returned 26 years ago was always to expect the unexpected—that includes guests.

It was a Tuesday morning and it already had been a very busy day. We had volunteers from Alabama, California, Ohio, Illinois and Kentucky helping us, so we knew we would have to cook extra at each meal. We also were expecting some guests from Ashland and a church near Somerset. Those two groups arrived in time for chapel and had brought clothing for our Friendship House.

Our chapel speaker that morning was a young man we had as a student in the late '90s. I remember Matt very well and was disappointed when he decided not to return after completing his freshman and sophomore years. Recently, Matt dedicated his life to full-time ministry and now is attending Clear Creek Baptist Bible College. He told our students a little about his Oneida experience and that the worst mistake he ever made was leaving OBI.

As we stepped outside after chapel, a large bus pulled onto campus, followed by a medium-sized truck. These friends were from Burlington and the bus appeared to be full. My wife, who was showing our guests to the dining room, asked me if I knew they were coming. I told her that I didn't but I would take care of them.

I found out that the truck was full of Christmas gifts for our students. And trust me, it was full! After unloading the gifts, we made our way to the dining room. My wife had warned the

cooks that we had additional unexpected guests and to make sure we had plenty of food. As we arrived, the cooks were putting on the finishing touches to make sure we had a bountiful offering of food. I don't think our guests had any idea about the intense activity that had taken place just before we got there.

After lunch, our guests from Somerset and Ashland made their way home. One of my staff members took our visitors from Burlington on a short tour of our campus, and I took them on a tour of the farm before they left.

When I returned to the office, Kay confessed that she had forgotten to write down that our guests from Burlington were coming. We can almost always feed a few extra mouths, but when we have a large group or two coming, we always tell the kitchen so they can fix a little extra. After all, if you are feeding 500 people, what's another 50 or so?

I am not going to finish this article without confessing that I usually am a person who has to work at not being frustrated with interruptions. But anyone who has the responsibilities I do has to expect, and accept, interruptions.

A few years ago, one of my staff members who knows about this frustration gave me a little gift that sits on my desk. It reads, "Every interruption is an opportunity." I read that virtually every day—and I need to read it every day. We are blessed to have so many friends. How can I get frustrated when our dear friends who believe in and support this ministry drop in? "Thank you, Lord, for our friends and for interruptions!"

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

### This is Oneida



W.F. Underwood

## 'Keep up the good work'

### Alumnus shares memories, influence of Clear Creek

I always enjoy hearing about the impact that Clear Creek has had on the lives of students who God calls here to equip for their ministry calling.

I recently heard from alumnus James Reed of Elizabethtown. His encouraging letter was a great reminder of the impact that Clear Creek continues to have on the lives of students whom God calls here, as well as on Kingdom work as a whole.

I know you will be encouraged about the ministry of Clear Creek as I share some highlights of his letter. We are honored to serve as "the" Bible college of the Kentucky Baptist Convention—this is one of the many reasons why.

"I attended Clear Creek Mountain Preachers Bible School in 1951. Because of miserable grades in high school, I was afraid to tackle college. Arriving at Clear Creek with only \$50 and the promise of help from the G.I. Bill, I was able to survive by working two days a week on campus. I found the professors inspiring and challenging. These retired saints had much to share that I got nowhere else. I buckled down and began to make good grades, to

my surprise.

"After the fall and winter terms, one of the professors asked me if I had completed high school. When I told him that I had, he encouraged me to go on to college. I then enrolled in Georgetown College in the fall of 1952 and graduated in

the spring of 1955 with a major in Bible. Without the encouragement I received at Clear Creek I might not have even considered college.

"I have served as a pastor in churches throughout Kentucky, Ohio, Illinois and Arizona with so many good memories. I am still active today at Valley Creek Baptist Church in Elizabethtown at the

age of 86. I still remember the days of sitting around on the front porch of Kelly Hall and listening to my fellow students telling of their conversion and call to preach. I felt that was as close to heaven as I would ever get before actually going there.

"I thank God for Clear Creek Baptist Bible College and say 'keep up the good work.'"

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

**'Focus' founder Dobson retires from radio post**

Colorado Springs, Colo.—Religious broadcaster James Dobson will end his hosting of the "Focus on the Family" program in February 2010, a final step of resignation from the organization he founded more than 30 years ago.



James Dobson

The Colorado Springs, Colo., ministry announced Dobson's plans Oct. 30. Dobson resigned the presidency of the ministry in 2003 and stepped down from its board, along with his wife, Shirley, last February.

"The Bible tells us that to everything there is a season—and Dr. Dobson's season at Focus on the Family has been remarkable," said Jim Daly, president and CEO of the ministry. "We're excited about continuing the work he began and following the biblical principles he's always followed to reach today's families."

Focus spokesman Gary Schneeberger said in an interview last week the radio show will continue without Dobson, 73, and the decision did not relate to his health.

"He's as robust as he ever was, perhaps more robust than a lot of us who try to keep up with him around here," Schneeberger said.

But the spokesman said the latest decision is an "emotional" one for Dobson and the board as it will mark the end of official ties Dobson has with the ministry he founded in 1977. The ministry said it plans "a series of events" to honor Dobson before the end of February, when his last broadcast will air.

Though the broadcaster has no immediate plans beyond finishing a book on raising daughters, Schneeberger said he expects Dobson to remain vocal about his views.

"I would be shocked if we do not continue to hear him speak out in the public square because his passion for families and his passion for defending families is so strong," Schneeberger said.

"Focus on the Family has never been about one man," Daly added. "That's why Dr. Dobson has always refused to have his name put on any building here. It's about doing the Lord's work in helping families."

The ministry has faced layoffs in recent years as a result of decreased donations and the changing economy. At its peak it had 1,400 staffers and it now has about 860. (RNS)

With additional reporting by Baptist Press

Decision 2009

**Conservatives applaud off-year election results**

Augusta, Maine—Conservative Christians hailed the results of last week's voting, especially the defeat of gay marriage legislation in Maine.

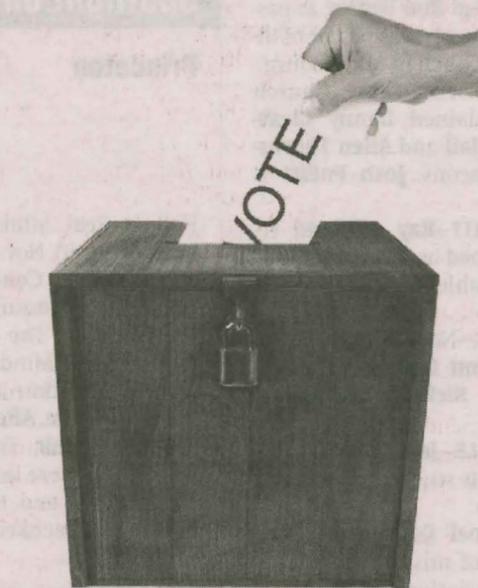
Mathew Staver, dean of Liberty University's School of Law, called the Maine decision, which overturned a same-sex marriage law enacted earlier this year, a "huge victory" for supporters of traditional marriage.

"Every time the citizens have voted on marriage, they have always sided with natural marriage and rejected same-sex marriage," Staver said. "Maine dramatically illustrates the will of the people, and politicians should wake up and listen."

Stand for Marriage Maine, a group that worked for the repeal of the law, was supported by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland, Knights of Columbus and the Maine chapter of Concerned Women of America.

Joey Marshall, pastor of Living Stone Community Church in Standish, Maine, said Christians "must rejoice and give God the glory" for the win, but also must make clear why they oppose redefining marriage.

"For us, the homosexual movement is not an issue of equality, but a social issue concerning moral values," he said. "I want our opponents to understand that this is not a person-



al attack on same-sex couples, but rather the expression of our belief that marriage is between one man and one woman as God intended.

"God loves all people, but He calls this lifestyle inappropriate," Marshall added. "The issue of redefining marriage does not just af-

fect same-sex couples, but it will have ongoing effects and consequences that will impact every single family within our society."

Conservatives also welcomed the election of two Republican governors with ties to conservative Christian organizations: Bob McDonnell in Virginia, an alumnus of Pat Robertson's Regent University, and Chris Christie in New Jersey, who was endorsed by FRC Action PAC, the political action committee of the Family Research Council.

"Many factors played a role in the outcome of (the Nov. 3) elections, so it's important not to exaggerate the religious right's influence," said Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State. "But at the same time, Americans need to know that this movement's leaders are still influential in American politics."

Despite the conservative victories, supporters of gay rights in Michigan hailed a vote in Kalamazoo, where city voters adopted an ordinance that includes gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender people in anti-discrimination protections. A referendum in Washington state that gives domestic partnerships many of the legal rights of married couples also won approval. (RNS)

With additional reporting by Baptist Press

**House passes health care bill without funding for abortions**

Washington—Pro-life advocates are claiming victory after an amendment was passed last weekend that would prohibit the federal health care reform bill from covering or funding abortions.

The amendment passed minutes before the health care bill itself was approved by the U.S. House of Representatives.

Rep. Bart Stupak, D-Mich., and 40 pro-life members of the House had tried for weeks to get a floor vote on the amendment, which was narrowly defeated in a committee. They threatened to prevent the bill from coming to the floor if their amendment wasn't considered.

The amendment, sponsored by Stupak, prohibits the government-run public option from covering elective abortions and also prevents federal subsidies from paying for insurance plans that cover elective abortions.

The amendment received the votes of 176 Republicans and 64 Democrats. Opposing it were 194 Democrats, including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Majority Lead-

er Steny Hoyer, both of whom voted for the overall bill.

Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council, called the vote a "pro-life milestone."

"This is one of the most significant pro-life votes since Roe v Wade," he said during a conference call after the vote. Perkins said he still has reservations about the overall bill but is "very grateful" for the leadership of pro-life members of both parties.

The Senate is working on its own version of the health care bill, and—assuming it passes that chamber—it will be merged with the House bill. Abortion rights groups, including Planned Parenthood, pledged to try and kill the amendment before any bill goes to President Obama.

Stupak, who voted for the overall bill, said his amendment simply applied the Hyde Amendment—which is current law—to the health care bill. The Hyde Amendment prevents Medicaid from paying for elective abortions. Stupak said without his amendment, the health care bill would be a "direct assault" on the Hyde Amendment. (BP)

**Okla. town wants Christian prison**

Wakita, Okla.—A tiny town in Oklahoma is throwing its support behind a push to build a privately run, faith-based prison that would employ only Christians and attempt to rehabilitate inmates using biblical concepts.

Bill Robinson, founder of Corrections Concepts Inc., a Dallas-based nonprofit ministry, said he is living proof of how ex-criminals can become positive influences in society, with God's help.

"God gave me this vision ... to go build a prison," said Robinson, who was released 38 years ago and has ministered to inmates since 1985.

The town of Wakita, with 380 res-

idents, hopes to welcome 600 more if the \$42 million proposal is approved by the state Department of Corrections. A 150-acre site near the edge of town has been selected and the appropriate paperwork filed, Robinson said.

The facility would house men who have 12 to 30 months of their sentences remaining, he said. Prisoners would have to apply and be accepted on the conditions they would work, help subsidize their incarceration and accept the faith-based programs and environment.

Bible study and worship would not be required of inmates, Robinson said. (RNS)

**Abortion clinic director quits job after abortion ultrasound**

Bryan, Texas—The director of a Planned Parenthood clinic in Southeast Texas quit her job and now is supporting a pro-life organization after watching an ultrasound of an abortion.

Abby Johnson, 29, worked at the abortion clinic for eight years and told FoxNews.com she had been "extremely pro-choice" during that time. That all changed in September when she watched an ultrasound of an unborn baby being vacuumed out of a woman's uterus. She quit her job at the clinic in early October.

"I just thought, 'I can't do this anymore,' and it was just like a flash that hit me, and I thought, 'That's it,'" she told KBTX-TV in Bryan, Texas. Johnson added in the interview with FoxNews.com, "I would say there was a definite conversion in my heart, ... a spiritual conversion."

The clinic had been the location of a peaceful pro-life prayer vigil by those associated with the nationwide 40 Days for Life initiative.

Johnson, who became the clinic's director two years ago, said she became disgruntled with Planned Parenthood when officials began pressuring her to get more abortions for the facility in order to generate more revenue.

"Every meeting that we had was, 'We don't have enough money, we don't have enough money—we've got to keep these abortions coming,'" Johnson said. "It's a very lucrative business and that's why they want to increase numbers."

Johnson said she is thankful she left and has no regrets. "I feel so pure in heart," she told KBTX. "I don't have this guilt, I don't have this burden on me anymore—that's how I know this conversion was a spiritual conversion."

Johnson now is working to prevent abortions and has prayed on the sidewalk with members of the pro-life group Coalition for Life, which has an office just a short walk from the Planned Parenthood building. Some of those members once prayed for Johnson to have a change of heart. A statement from the organization called Johnson's conversion "by far the most amazing thing that has happened to the Coalition for Life throughout its entire history."

After Johnson resigned, Planned Parenthood asked for and received a temporary restraining order against her and the Coalition for Life. A hearing is set for Nov. 10.

Planned Parenthood issued the following statement to KBTX: "We regret being forced to turn to the courts to protect the safety and confidentiality of our clients and staff. However, in this instance it is absolutely necessary."

A press release from 40 Days for Life said Johnson is one of eight workers from various clinics who have left their jobs during 40 Days for Life campaigns. Johnson is the highest ranking of the eight. (BP)

**PRAYER PARTNERS**

Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist missionaries and ministries:

**Crossroads Pregnancy Center in Glasgow.** Crossroads is a crisis pregnancy center serving seven counties that helps women and families who find themselves in unplanned pregnancy situations. The center's mission is to save moms and dads spiritually, while saving unborn children physically. Pray that clients will come to know Christ as Savior and pursue a life of discipleship. Pray also for additional community partners, financial provisions for the ministry, and Bible study resources.

**Mission Service Corps missionary Chris Clarke of Marion.** Chris is the director of Happy Trails Ministries and serves as chaplain at horse shows and equine venues throughout a multi-state region. Chris is known for his "cowboy church" method of sharing the gospel with those who attend his weekend services. Pray that those attending the services will respond positively to the gospel and make decisions to receive Christ. Pray that God will provide additional partners to assist in and provide for Chris' ministry.

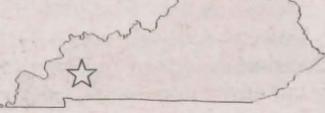
If you would like Kentucky Baptists to join in praying for a ministry of your church or association, please send the information to Eric Allen at [Eric.Allen@KyBaptist.org](mailto:Eric.Allen@KyBaptist.org) or call (866) 489-3530.

**MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI**  
COMPILED BY STAFF

- **BRODHEAD**—Poplar Grove Church recently called **Ron Wesley** as pastor. He previously was pastor of Indian Creek Church in Middleburg.
- **CARLISLE**—Locust Grove Church recently ordained **Danny Cleaver, Eugene Hall** and **Allen Thornsbury** as deacons. **Josh Pollitt** is pastor.
- **CENTRAL CITY**—**Ray Gilliland** recently resigned as director of missions for Muhlenberg County Association.
- **COXS CREEK**—New Salem Church ordained **Scott Downey** as a deacon Nov. 1. **Richard McPheeters** is pastor.
- **HOPKINSVILLE**—**Jeff Jones** recently resigned as student minister at First Church.
- **LIBERTY**—**Noel Dodson** resigned as director of missions for Casey County Association Oct. 31.
- **SHELBYVILLE**—Highland Church recently called **Jerry Lee Tracy** as interim pastor. He previously was pastor of Elkhorn Church.
- **SHEPHERDSVILLE**—Victory Church recently ordained **Stephen Cren-**

**Spotlight on ...**

**Princeton**



Hell Is Real Ministries will host a concert Nov. 12, 7 p.m. at Caldwell County High School's Community Activities Building. The Reach Records' Altered Minds Tour will feature Christian artists **Lecrae, Sho Baraka, After Edmund** and **Mikeschair**. The concert is free. For more information on the tour and the bands, visit [www.ReachRecords.com/AlteredMinds](http://www.ReachRecords.com/AlteredMinds).

- shaw** to the gospel ministry. **Tony Stamps** is pastor.
- **TOPMOST**—Topmost Church recently ordained **Rodney Hall, Ricky Huff** and **Jack Johnson** as deacons.

**LifeWay stores to collect OCC shoeboxes Nov. 14**

Nashville—LifeWay Christian Stores throughout the country will participate in a collection day for Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts Nov. 14.

Since 2003, LifeWay has taken part in the effort to bring the message of God's love to children around the world through toys, hygiene items, school supplies and other small gifts.

"We've been delighted to help facilitate the generous giving by thousands of our customers over the years," said David Ecrement, manager of media and events for LifeWay Christian Stores. "While this is the busiest time of year for our employees, we all find great joy in being involved with and supporting Operation Christmas Child."

Store employees will be available to suggest gift ideas to customers, and LifeWay will have a limited number of boxes and

shoebox labels available so customers can pack boxes on site.

LifeWay also is offering a special 50 percent discount on the new Veggie Tales DVD, "Saint Nicholas," to anyone donating a shoebox that day.

Suggestions of items to pack in a shoebox or small plastic container include:

**School supplies:** pens, pencils, crayons, picture books, solar calculators.

**Toys:** small cars, dolls, balls, stuffed animals, jump ropes.

**Hygiene items:** toothbrushes, toothpaste, mild bar soap, combs, washcloths.

**Other:** hard candy, lollipops, mints, gum, T-shirts, socks, ball caps, sunglasses, hair clips, watches.

For more information about what can and cannot be packed in the shoeboxes, visit [www.LifeWayStores.com/OCC](http://www.LifeWayStores.com/OCC).

**KBC CALENDAR OF EVENTS**  
KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION

**November**

- 13-15 All-State Junior High Choir, First Baptist Church, Richmond.
- 14 GA Jam, Campbellsville Baptist Church.

**December**

- 14-15 KBC Mission Board Meeting, Baptist Building, Louisville.

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

**Campbellsville to host book signing with Sen. McConnell**

Campbellsville—U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell will be at Campbellsville University Nov. 13 to sign copies of author John David Dyche's new book "Republican Leader: A Political Biography on Senator Mitch McConnell."

The book signing begins at 11 a.m. at the school's bookstore.

McConnell also will tape an episode of "Dialogue on Public Issues" with John Chowning, Campbellsville's vice president for church and external relations, and will give an address

at 10 a.m. at the school's Winters Dining Hall. A reception for Sen. McConnell will be held in the Chowning Executive Dining Room after the address. The entire event is free and open to the public.

McConnell's appearance is a part of Campbellsville University's Kentucky Heartland Institute on Public Policy.

McConnell is the longest-serving U.S. Senator in Kentucky's history, and is the Senate Republican Leader in Congress.

**CLASSIFIED ADS**

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

**FOR SALE:** 1995 Ford Club Wagon 8-passenger, 89,898; 1997 Ford Econoline 8-passenger, 150,066; 1999 Dodge Ram 1500 8-passenger, 110,951; 1999 GMC SLE AWD Safari 8-passenger, 88,075; 2001 Ford XL 15-passenger, 60,636; 2008 Chevrolet 14-passenger bus. American Bus & Accessories, Inc., (800) 582-7118.

**RESOURCES:** Do you need a church pianist? We have piano CDs for congregations to sing by-hymns, gospel, choruses, Christmas, etc. Free demo. Special church pricing. Worship Service Resources, (877) 977-6800; [www.pianocds.org](http://www.pianocds.org).

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

**SEEKING:** Inez First Baptist is looking for the man that God would have lead our congregation. Small, stable church with only four pastor changes in over 50 years. Contact Claudean Williamson at (606) 298-4818.

**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 40222.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of music/outreach for a Southern Baptist church (averaging 300+, blended worship style). Church needs a gifted musician with a heart for worship and ministry. Requires minimum college degree. Send resumé to Grapevine Baptist Church, 85 Sandcut Road, Madisonville, KY 42431; or e-mail [gbchurch@newwavcomm.net](mailto:gbchurch@newwavcomm.net).

**SEEKING:** Part-time youth minister with a heart for Jesus and the lost, at a conservative Baptist church. Education and experience a must. Competitive salary. Bruner's Chapel Baptist Church, Harrodsburg, Ky. E-mail questions and resumé to [brocrows@gmail.com](mailto:brocrows@gmail.com).

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of music and education for Rose Hill Baptist Church in Ashland. Interested candidates should mail resumé to: Personnel Committee, Rose Hill Baptist Church, 1001 Winslow Road, Ashland, KY 41102.

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music (Hopkinsville/Clarksville area). Express interest or request information at [trentonbaptist@belloso.uth.net](mailto:trentonbaptist@belloso.uth.net), or Trenton Baptist Church, PO Box 191, Trenton, KY 42286.

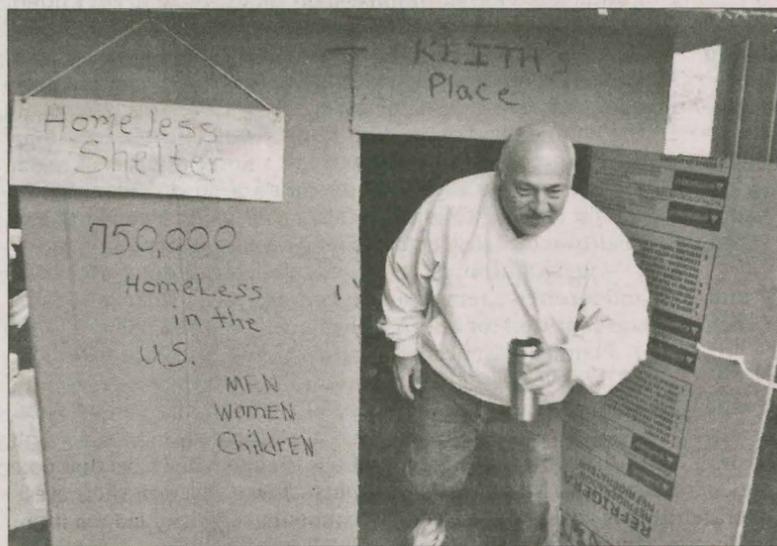
**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of youth, First Baptist Church, Richmond, Va. Candidates must hold bachelor's and master's of divinity degrees. In addition, at least five years relevant experience is preferred. Visit [www.fbrichmond.org](http://www.fbrichmond.org) (youth ministry section) for additional details or to send resumé with cover letter.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of music for a vibrant Southern Baptist church (running between 700-800 on Sunday morning) in beautiful North-central Arkansas. Church needs a versatile musician and a mature follower of Christ who can lead worship in traditional and blended services and is skilled in media ministry. Send resumé to [esbc@suddenlinkmail.com](mailto:esbc@suddenlinkmail.com); or East Side Baptist Church, 718 E Ninth St., Mountain Home, AR 72653, Attn: David Ethredge.

**SEEKING:** Full-time worship pastor for Walnut Memorial Baptist Church in Owensboro, Ky. Complete job description can be viewed at [www.walnutmemorial.org](http://www.walnutmemorial.org). Please send resumé to [sjrsmith@wildblue.net](mailto:sjrsmith@wildblue.net).

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

**Homeless missions challenge**



Keith Weldon, pastor of Parksville Baptist Church emerges from his temporary cardboard box home in front of the Boyle County church. Weldon made a deal with members of his church that if they would raise \$500 for homeless missions, he would sleep in a cardboard box. The Parksville congregation met the pastor's challenge and Weldon spent Halloween night in the cardboard box on the church property. As Weldon's box states, the most recent studies estimate that there are nearly 750,000 homeless people in the United States. (Photo courtesy of Parksville Baptist Church)

# A pastor's pain

*When pastors' silent suffering turns tragic*

By Greg Warner

Hickory, N.C.—What kind of personal pain would cause a 42-year-old pastor to abandon his family, his calling and even life itself? Members of a North Carolina Baptist church are asking that question after their pastor committed suicide in his car in September.

Those who counsel pastors say Christian culture, especially Southern evangelicalism, creates the perfect environment for depression. Pastors suffer in silence, unwilling or unable to seek help or even talk about it. Sometimes they leave the ministry. Occasionally, the result is the unthinkable.



Experts say clergy suicide is a rare outcome to a common problem. But Baptists in the Carolinas are soul searching after a spate of suicides and suicide attempts by pastors. In addition to the September suicide of David Treadway, two others in North Carolina attempted suicide, and three in South Carolina succeeded, all in the last four years.

Being a pastor—a high-profile, high-stress job with nearly impossible expectations for success—can send one down the road to depression, according to pastoral counselors.

"We set the bar so high that most pastors can't achieve that," said H.B. London, vice president for pastoral ministries at Focus on the Family. "And because most pastors are people pleasers, they get frustrated and feel they can't live up to that."

When pastors fail to live up to demands imposed by themselves or others they often "turn their frustration back on themselves," leading to self-doubt and to feelings of failure and hopelessness, said Fred Smoot, executive director of Emory Clergy Care in Duluth, Ga.

A pastor is like "a 24-hour ER" who is supposed to be available to any congregant at any time, said Steve Scoggin, president of CareNet, a network of 21 pastoral counseling centers in North Carolina. "We create an environment that makes it hard to admit our humanity."

It's a job that breeds isolation and loneliness—the pastorate's "greatest occupational hazards," said Scoggin, who counsels many Baptists and other ministers. "These suicides are born out of a lack of those social supports that can intervene in times of personal crisis."

No one knows for sure how many ministers suffer depression or attempt suicide. "It's like nailing Jell-O to the wall," London said. But he estimated 18 per-

cent to 25 percent of all ministers are depressed at any one time.

Most counselors and psychologists interviewed for this article agreed depression among pastors is at least as prevalent as in the general population. As many as 12 percent of men and 26 percent of women will experience major depression during their lifetimes, according to the American Medical Association.

"The likelihood is that one out of every four pastors is depressed," said Matthew Stanford, a professor of psychology and neuroscience at Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

**"The likelihood is that one out of every four pastors is depressed."**

—Matthew Stanford, professor of psychology and neuroscience at Baylor University

But anxiety and depression in the pulpit are "markedly higher" in the last five years, Smoot pointed out. "The current economic crisis has caused many of our pastors to go into depression."

Besides the recession's strain on church budgets, depressed pastors increasingly report frustration over their congregations' resistance to cultural change.

Most depression does not lead to suicide, but almost all suicides begin with depression. It causes two-thirds of the 30,000 suicides reported each year, the AMA reports.

Nearly two out of three depressed people do not seek treatment, according to studies by the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance. Counselors say even fewer depressed ministers get treated because of career fears, social stigma and spiritual taboo.

"Clergy do not talk about it because it violates their understanding of their faith," Scoggin said. "They believe they are not supposed to have those kinds of thoughts."

Treadway, pastor of Sandy Ridge Baptist Church in Hickory, N.C., was the exception. He told his congregation he was in treatment several months before his

suicide. Still the shock was hard to absorb, co-workers said.

Rodney Powe, worship pastor at the church, said he only now understands depression is a mental illness. Christians who don't experience depression trivialize it, he said. "We just say, 'Come on, get over it. We have the hope of Christ and the Holy Spirit.'"

There apparently are no statistics suggesting ministers are more likely to commit suicide than other professionals. Studies purporting to measure the suicide risk of various occupations have produced wildly different results.

Stanford, who studies how the Christian community deals with mental illness, said depression in Christian culture carries "a double stigmatization."

Society places a stigma on mental illness, but Christians make it worse, he said, by "over-spiritualizing" depression and other disorders—dismissing them as a lack of faith or a sign of weakness.

Polite Southern culture adds its own taboo against "talking about something as personal as your mental health," Scoggin noted.

The result is a culture of avoidance. "You can't talk about it before it happens and you can't talk about it after it happens," said Monty Hale, director of pastoral ministries for the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

For pastors, treatment can come at a high price. "You are committing career suicide if you have to seek treatment," Stanford said, "particularly if you have to take time off."

In some settings, however, it is becoming a little more acceptable for pastors to get treatment, he said.

The good news, Smoot said, is "most pastors don't stay depressed. They find a way out of that frustration."

"Depression is part of the human condition," Scoggin added. "Some people simply find ways to gracefully live with it. Like other chronic illnesses, you may not get over it." (RNS)

## Young King Josiah inspires students to do great things

By John Evans

Nashville—It is perhaps fitting that an obscure 8-year-old king is the inspiration behind an emerging student initiative.

Although the biblical account of King Josiah often is overshadowed in Sunday school classes by his more prominent ancestors such as David and Solomon, he nevertheless completely revolutionized the culture of his kingdom in a way no one before or after him did.

That is exactly what those behind the Josiah Road movement hope to accomplish. Its motto—"Calling All Students to Influence, Stand and Lead"—is outlined at [www.JosiahRoad.com](http://www.JosiahRoad.com).

The idea for the ministry took shape at the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission which is most widely known for its work on cultural issues and public policy. Josiah Road is an effort to encourage the next generation of leaders to stand up and lead out as Christ followers.

The Josiah Road ministry recently extended its reach with the release of a five-part student Bible study of the principles gleaned from the biblical account of Josiah.

Harold Harper, executive vice president at the ERLC, connected with the story of King Josiah through the challenges of raising children in what he called a "morally bankrupt society."

"I'm just a parent trying to raise my son and daughter in a culture that scares me to death," Harper said. "But I find hope in the story of King Josiah."

The account to which Harper was drawn is found in 2 Chronicles. It states that Josiah was only 8 years old when he became king of a land filled with idol worship practices that were encouraged by many of the kings before him. At the age of 16, "he began to seek the God of his father David" (2 Chronicles 34:3). As a teenager, Josiah tore down the idols in Judah, restored the temple of God, celebrated the Passover and presided over the rediscovery of the Book of the Law.

It may be said that Josiah singlehandedly transformed a culture that worshipped idols to one that worshipped the true God, a stunning achievement that has inspired a ministry in his name in the 21st century.

Josiah Road officially began at the 2007 SBC in San Antonio as a Web-based ministry to point students to the story of Josiah, who accomplished great things for God even though he was very young.

The idea is that once students see how Josiah stood for the Lord amidst a crooked generation, they will be motivated to do the same, Harper pointed out.

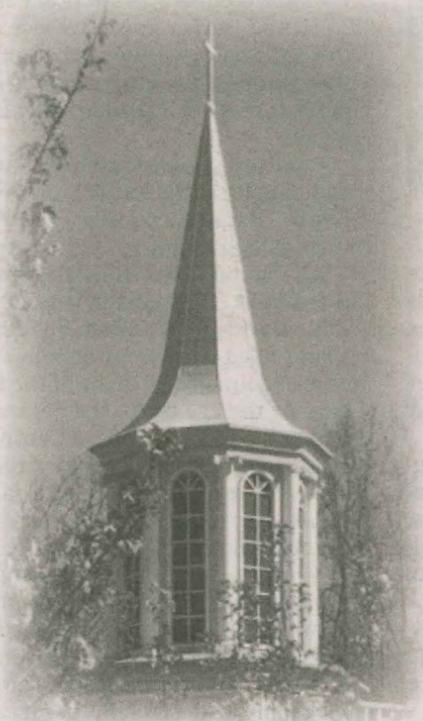
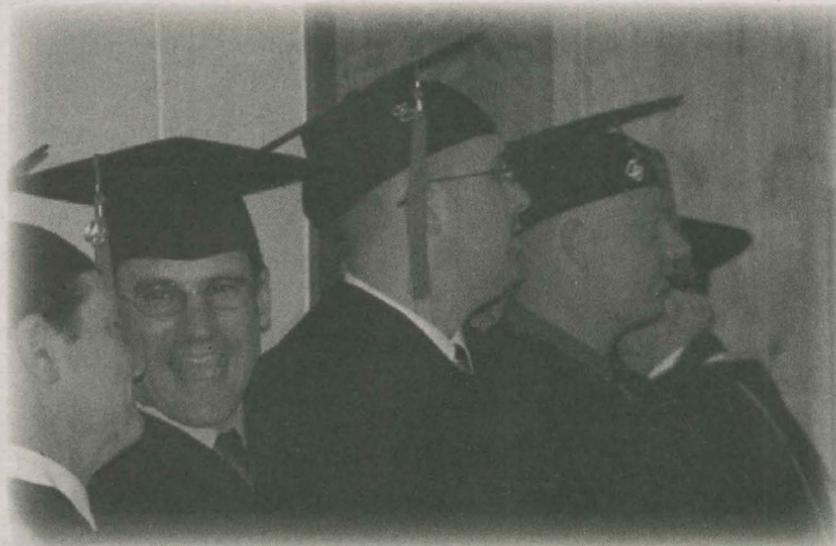
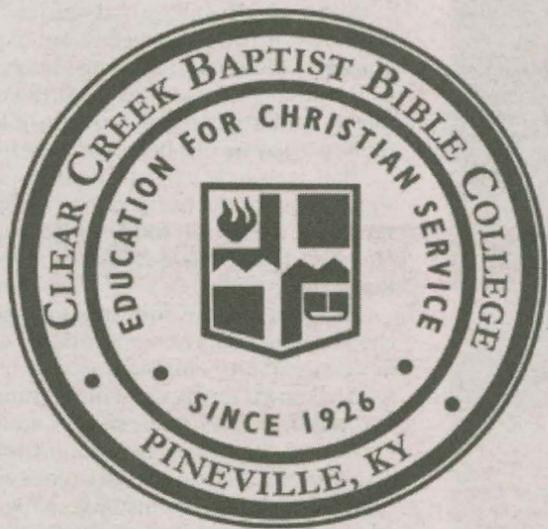
To accomplish this, Josiah Road hosts devotional-style blogs written by students, as well as news stories and videos about students who are actively leading.

"We want to give a place for students and youth pastors to be encouraged (and) to find resources," said Josh Ulmer, Josiah Road project coordinator. "A lot of times, parents and other adults say they want students to lead but don't give them the platform and encourage them along."

The new five-part Bible study, available for download from the Josiah Road Web site, is designed for youth pastors or student leaders to go through in small groups.

Harper's son Luke, who helped write the study, said he hopes it will create a new generation of Josiahs in young men and women his age. "I hope they see they have that potential," he noted. "I want to open their eyes, to say (to) all students, 'This guy led a nation at the age of 8.'" (BP)

# Thank You Kentucky Baptist



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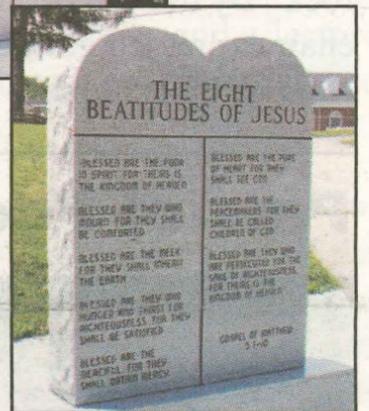
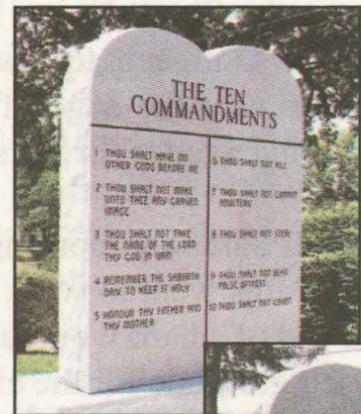
# UNIVERSITY of the CUMBERLANDS

## Faith of our Fathers

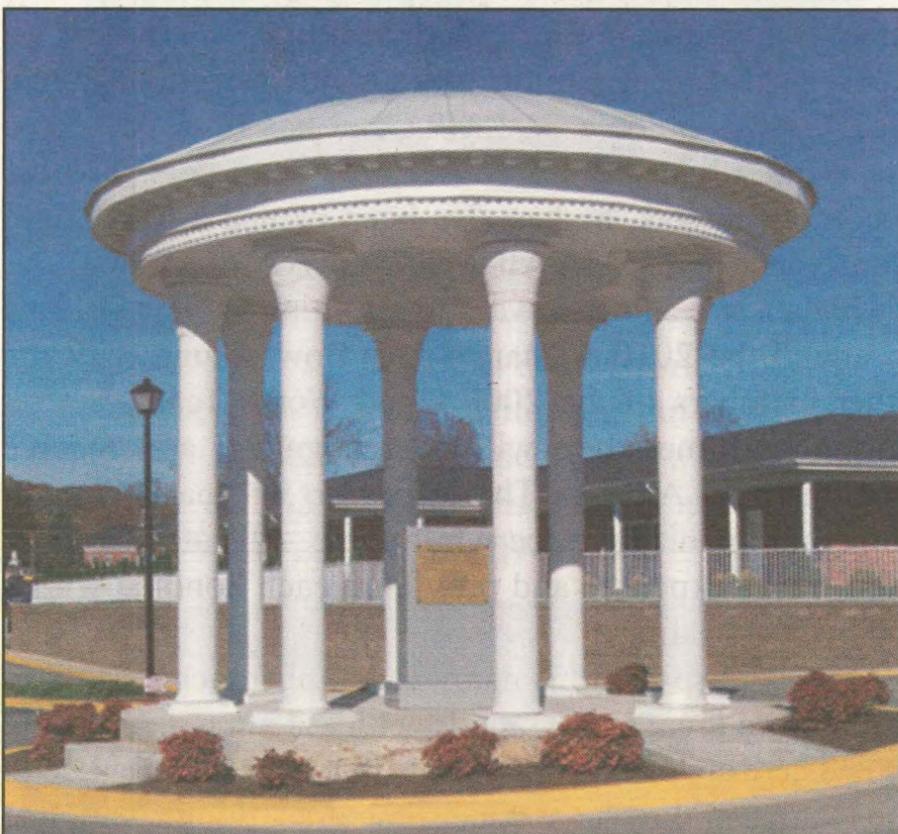
University of the Cumberland embodies the beliefs of America's founders. Examples appear all over campus, reminding our students, faculty, staff and community friends of their freedom of worship.



The Divine Servant is a reminder to the Cumberland community that the University's goal is to produce servant-leaders who follow Christ's teachings and example.



Three monuments on campus bear the Beatitudes on one side and the Ten Commandments on the other. One is located at the main entrance to campus and the others are near each end of the iconic viaduct, which marks the center of campus.



The Colonnade that stands at the intersection of two campus streets bears the scripture: "Ye shall say unto this mountain, remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you." *Matthew 17:20b.*



In the garden of the President's Home is a replica of The Christmas Box Angel Statue, which is dedicated to all parents who have lost a child. The original statue was commissioned by Richard Paul Evans, author of "The Christmas Box," to help parents seeking a place to grieve.

# a New, Safe Place to Play

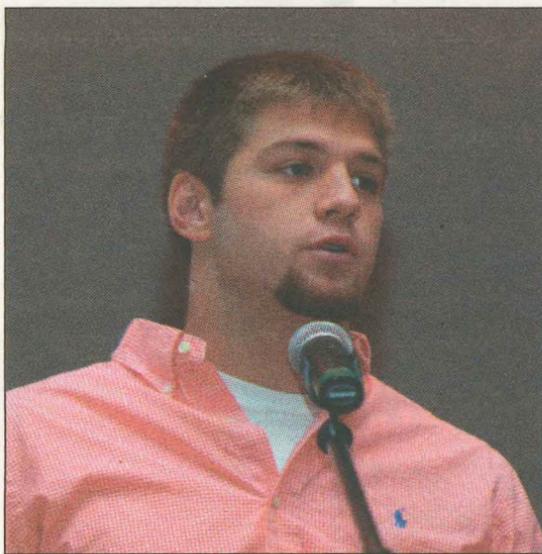
Mountain Outreach students are comfortable building new homes for families, but recently, they were involved in providing a new home for playground equipment that still has a lot of “play” in it.

When Williamsburg acquired new equipment for Briar Creek Park, city officials donated the old equipment to Mid-Springs Community Park, about 12 miles away. The community board, which includes David Aker, director of missions for the South Union Mount Zion Association, asked Mountain Outreach to assist with the move. But, the park site sits near the edge of a cliff, and the first step involved installing a fence for the safety of the children who will play there.

Early on a fall Saturday morning, 15 Mountain Outreach students and four faculty/staff volunteers met at the park, and soon two teams went to work on clearing the brush and on setting the post, some of which required drilling into rock. By the end of a hard workday, the entire board had come by the site, along with several area children. The board chair expressed gratitude for the excellent job. Marc Hensley, director of Mountain Outreach said, “We were back on campus by 1:30 p.m., tired and hungry, but satisfied with the mission that God had provided for us.”



## Patriot Football Player is a Winner on and off the Field



University of the Cumberland's football standout Paul Jeffrey (P.J.) Hughes is the only NAIA player to be named to the 2009 Allstate American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) Good Works Team. From 106 national nominees, the largest number in

the program's 18-year history, only 22 individuals were selected for this prestigious award. Members of the Good Works Team are honored not for prowess on the field, but for their commitment to working with a charitable organization, service group or community service while maintaining a good academic standing.

Chosen as the 2009 Homecoming King, Hughes is well-known for his participation in campus life and his many service activities, especially in Baptist Campus Ministries (BCM). He is a STAR, which is a student leader for the freshman orientation class, Insights; an academic peer tutor at the Academic Resource Center (ARC); a BCM Life Group leader; and an active member of Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He also volunteers at the local elementary school, at Williamsburg Nursing Home and during UC's Mountain Outreach Gift Day.

Two mission trips have been highlights in Hughes' life. In 2007, he participated in an 8-day trip to Hollis, Alaska, with his uncle's church from Social Circle, Ga., where the group finished the construction of a church and made repairs to the pastor's home. During the 2009 spring break, he served as a BCM missionary to New Orleans to assist with an after school program, fix up the Baptist Center where the missions group stayed and participate in street evangelism in the French Quarter.

A senior business administration major from Montezuma, Ga., Hughes holds a 3.93 GPA and has been named to the Dean's List for six consecutive semesters. For his accomplishments, he has also been named a Mid-South Conference and NAIA All-Academic Award winner.

Hughes is looking forward to returning to New Orleans to attend the 2010 Allstate Sugar Bowl Game with the other members of the 2009 Good Works Team, where, during halftime, they will be recognized and receive trophies from Allstate. The team also will participate in some community service while there. Allstate is paying their travel expenses and providing each honoree with a ticket to the game.

Modest in spite of his many accomplishments, Hughes said, “It's a great honor, and I feel like I am not deserving of it. There are some great people that have been named to the team, and they have done some great things. I am just honored to be mentioned in the same breath as somebody like Tim Tebow and Jeff Owens. . . some guys like that.”

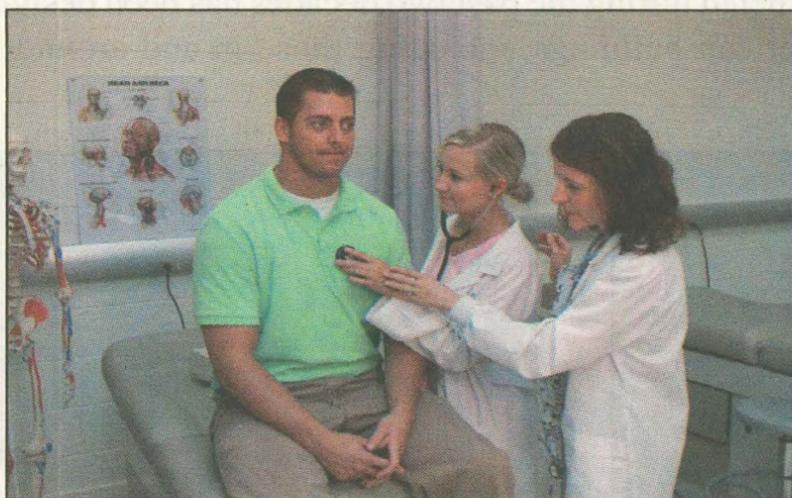
# Working Today to Prepare Tomorrow's Medical Professionals

When classes begin in January, beginning the spring semester, 27 University of the Cumberlands graduate students will begin their journey toward becoming medical professionals. These are the members of the first cohort of Cumberlands' Physician Assistant Studies program, the first such program offered at a private college or university in Kentucky.

According to the mission statement of the program:

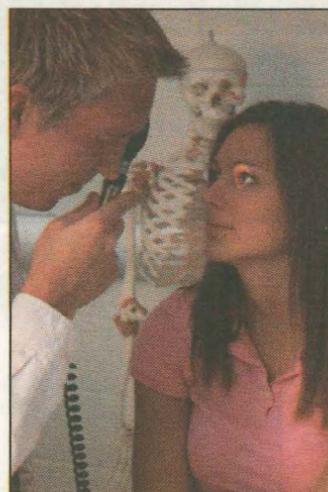
University of the Cumberlands' Physician Assistant program strives for professional excellence in an environment of compassion and team cooperation with the common goal of producing professionals who serve as a vital part of the health care team. It is our intent to prepare clinicians whose lifestyle reflects a commitment to lifelong learning, leadership and service to their community.

A student who already holds a baccalaureate degree can earn a graduate-level degree in physician assistant studies in two years of continuous study, which comprise the professional phase of the program. The first year of didactic studies includes the ethical issues and responsibilities of a physician assistant, anatomy, pathology, pharmacology, clinical medicine and medical application. The second year consists of clinical



instruction at off-campus rotation sites, review for the Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam (PANCE) and professional development coursework. Rotation sites will include practical instruction in, but not limited to, family medicine, internal medicine, women's health, pediatrics, psychiatry, emergency medicine, surgery, and student-selected clinical electives.

PA classes will be taught by an outstanding faculty of highly qualified instructors, physicians and professionals with invaluable practical experience. The total number of participants in the program at any given time is limited to 48, usually 24 in each cohort. The number of students in any cohort who successfully complete the first year of the program will determine the number of students accepted into the following cohort, always keeping the total at 48 participants.



All on-campus courses in the program will be taught in the new Correll Science Complex, specifically in the Forcht Medical Wing of the blended newly-constructed and newly-renovated building. The Forcht Wing consists of state-of-the-art classrooms, PA assessment and procedures laboratories and a lecture hall. Students will also have access to a computer lab and conveniently located locker room.

Undergraduate students who wish to prepare to participate in the graduate or professional phase of the program will complete a 3-year, 6-semester program, or pre-professional phase, covering general education courses as well as core math and science courses. These students are given preference but no guarantee for acceptance into the professional phase.

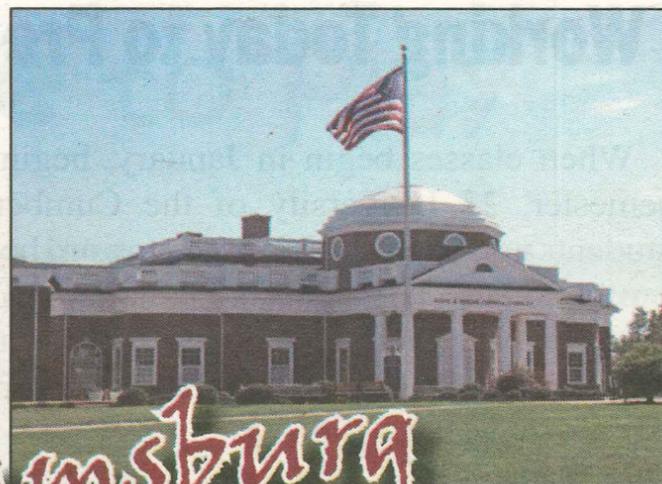
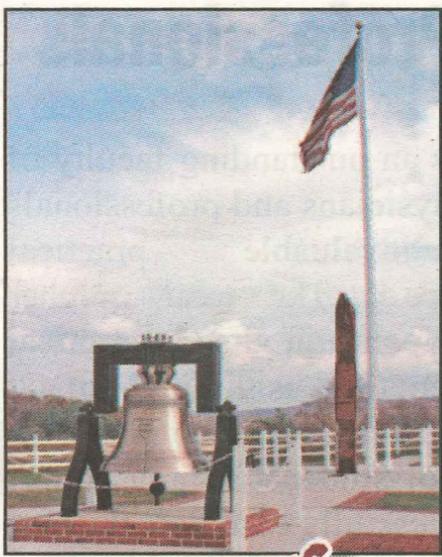
Dr. Eddie S. Perkins, PA program director, has favorably compared the program's facilities to those at some of the nation's best universities. "We are proud of what we have to offer here, and we believe that Cumberlands' PA program will educate compassionate, well-prepared medical professionals to help ease the shortage of physicians in Appalachia for a long time to come," said Perkins.

Persons interested in the PA program should contact the Physician Assistant Program Department at 800-343-1609, ext. 4398, 606-539-4398 or [pa@ucumberlands.edu](mailto:pa@ucumberlands.edu).

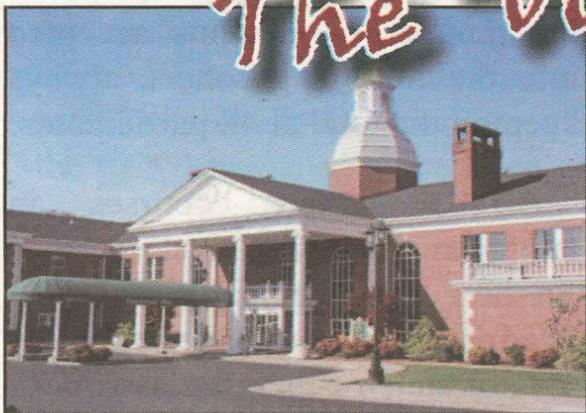
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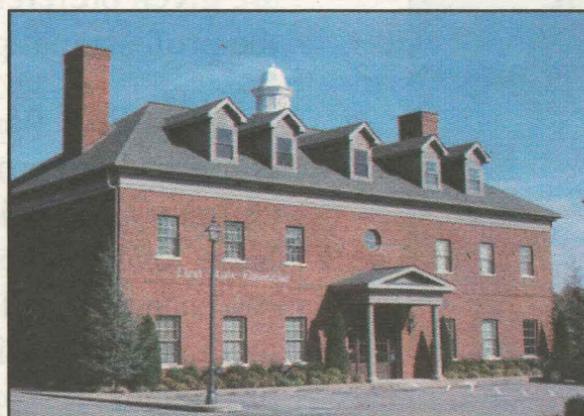


# The "other" Williamsburg



American symbols also dot the campus—the Patriots of Cumberland can be proud of the heritage their name represents. The Shaft of Steel in Patriot Park, beside the Hutton School of Business, is an actual piece of the remains of the World Trade Center, given by the City of New York in honor of Andy Croley, an alumnus, a local mortician and a member of the US DMORT team, for his service as coroner following the 9-11 terrorist attack. The Liberty Bell, also in Patriot Park, is an exact replica of the original at Independence Hall in Philadelphia.

University of the Cumberland is known not only for the outstanding quality of its academics but also for its distinctive architecture. Each campus building renovated or constructed during the past two decades has been designed in the classical, colonial style that characterizes many early American buildings, including those in and around the "first" Williamsburg—in Virginia.



Here in the "other" Williamsburg, many structures, including civic buildings, businesses and private residences have also been built to blend into this architectural setting.

Plans are underway for the next step in Cumberland's transformation: the renovation of the Boswell Campus Center, the site of the new Student Health and Wellness Center. Current plans call for a comprehensive health and exercise facility, which will benefit the entire Cumberland community. One architectural rendering is pictured here, featuring the steeple that one has come to expect and a restful view across campus, overlooking a large reflecting pool.

A campus icon, the bust of Dr. James M. Boswell, president from 1947-1980, looks across campus to the Boswell Campus Center, which has been a center of student life for more than 30 years, and which will house the new Student Health and Wellness Center.

*(Far right, proposed design for the new Student Health & Wellness Center by Johnson Early Architects.)*

