

Shine  
like  
stars  
in the  
world  
Philippians 2:15

# WESTERN Recorder

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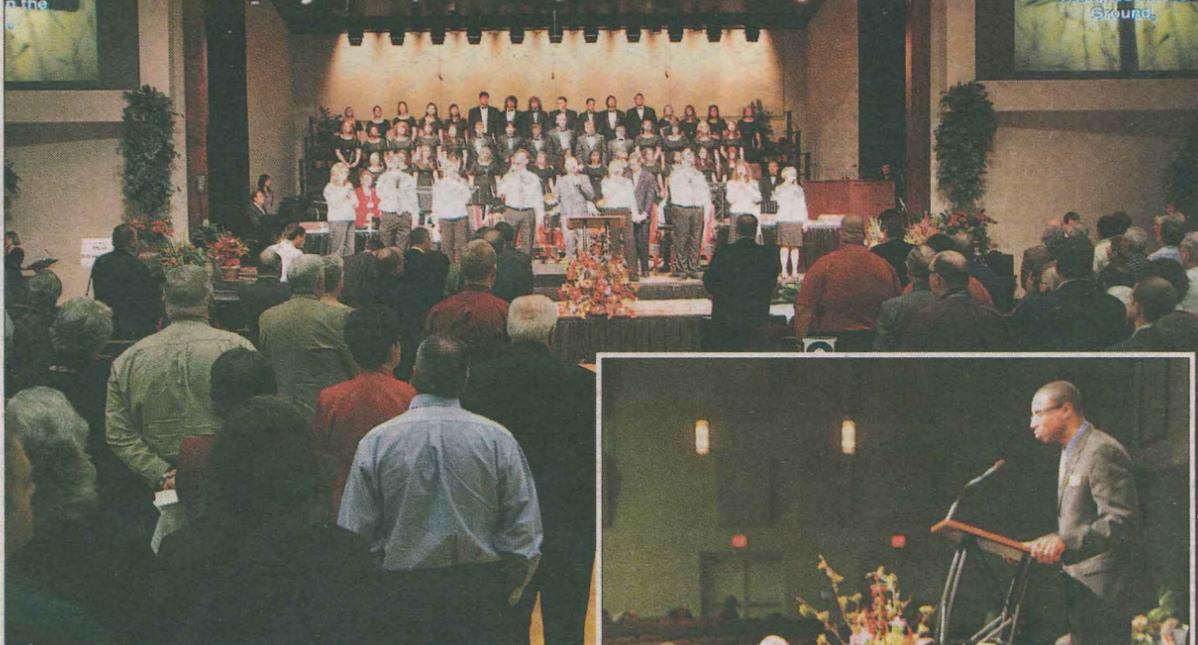
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## Great Commission focus



Kentucky Baptists gathered for worship and business at last week's 172nd Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting in Elizabethtown. **Above:** The Campbellsville University choir joins the praise team from Beacon Hill Baptist Church in leading a time of worship at the annual meeting held at Severns Valley Baptist Church. **Far right:** Curtis Woods, campus minister at Kentucky State University, prays to close out the convention's morning session as dozens of pastors kneel at the altar following outgoing president John Mark Toby's address. **Right:** Evangelist and newly elected KBC President Don Mathis closes the annual meeting with a word of challenge to Kentucky Baptists. He is the first twice-elected president since the convention revised its constitution in 1961 to prohibit presidents from serving successive terms. (Photos by Drew Nichter)



## Ky. Baptists form task force, elect evangelist as president

By Todd Deaton  
Editor

Elizabethtown—Messengers to the 172nd annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention approved the formation of a Great Commission Task Force, elected a Bowling Green evangelist as president, and adopted a \$23.5 million budget.

Meeting at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown Nov. 10, the 840 registered messengers also were apprised of preparations for the upcoming Find It Here evangelism campaign, considered a bylaw change to reduce the size of the KBC Mission Board, adopted a constitutional amendment that further defines what constitutes a "cooperating church," and approved five resolutions.

During the report of the Mission Board, KBC President John Mark Toby presented a recommendation calling for the creation of a Great Commission Task Force to study "how Kentucky Baptists can work more faithfully and effectively together in serving Christ through

the Great Commission." Coming on the heels of the formation of a Great Commission Resurgence Task Force by the Southern Baptist Convention when it met in Louisville this summer, the 15-member Kentucky task force will be led by Frankfort pastor Hershael York.

Don Mathis, staff evangelist at Eastwood Baptist Church in Bowling Green, became the first two-time convention president in nearly 50 years. A full-time evangelist since 1999 who earlier served as pastor of five churches in the state, Mathis previously was KBC president in 1985-86.

Serving with Mathis as first vice president will be Adam Greenway, assistant professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Mayfield pastor Rick Hatley, who was elected second vice president. All officers were elected by acclamation for the third consecutive year.

Messengers also adopted a \$23.5 million Cooperative Program budget for the 2010-11 fiscal year, representing a 4 percent reduction from this

year's budget. Funds passed along to support Southern Baptist Convention causes will increase by 0.68 percent to 38 percent, while 62 percent will be retained for KBC missions and ministry endeavors.

Evangelism Growth Team Leader Ross Bauscher reported that Kentucky Baptist churches have ordered more than 1.4 million bags containing a gospel presentation as part of the upcoming Find It Here evangelism campaign. Associational organizers anticipate that church members will distribute the bags to all of the state's estimated 1.5 million households in March, Bauscher said.

A proposed bylaw change, which will be voted on during next year's convention meeting, will reduce the membership of the KBC Mission Board from 171 members to 118 over the next five years. Following a study conducted by an ad-hoc committee, the recommendation essentially changes the method for determining associational representation on the board from being based on total church membership to resident

membership. Reducing the Mission Board's size will both reduce expenses and allow for more meaningful service, according to KBC officials.

By approving a constitutional amendment, messengers defined a cooperating KBC church as a congregation of baptized believers who are in general agreement with any of the historic Baptist confessions of faith. The definition also calls for churches to voluntarily report data to the state convention on a regular basis.

Among five adopted resolutions were statements encouraging participation in the Find It Here campaign, pledging to pray earnestly for the national and state Great Commission task forces, and calling on Congress to ensure that the sanctity of human life will be respected in any health care legislation.

The 2010 KBC annual meeting will be held Nov. 16 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington. Dan Summerlin, pastor of Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah, will deliver the convention sermon.

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, Nov. 18

## Messengers elect KBC officers by acclamation

By Todd Deaton  
Editor

**Elizabethtown**—Don Mathis, vocational evangelist and staff member at Eastwood Baptist Church in Bowling Green, was elected by acclamation as president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention during its annual meeting last week. His election marked the first time that a former president will serve a second time since Kentucky Baptists inserted a provision in their constitution in 1961 that barred an incumbent from serving successive terms.

For the third consecutive year, all candidates ran unopposed. Also elected were Adam Greenway, first vice president; Rick Hatley, second vice president; Wilma Simmons, secretary; and Pat Reaves, assistant secretary.

In nominating Mathis, Darren Gaddis, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Corbin, praised Mathis for his leadership in Cooperative Program giving, as well as his ability to connect Kentucky Baptists from all generations.

"I make this nomination knowing that our convention is at a crossroads," Gaddis said. "I know of no other Kentucky Baptist better equipped to lead us through this time than Don Mathis. It is my conviction that we need his leadership now more than ever before."

A full-time vocational evangelist since 1999, Mathis was KBC president in 1985-86. He also is a past president of the Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference.

During his 30 years in ministry, Mathis has been the pastor of five Kentucky Baptist churches, and he served as executive director for the West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists in the early 1990s.

In accepting the gavel from outgoing president John Mark Toby, Mathis remarked that, in electing him as their president, Kentucky Baptists had done three things they had never done before:

- Elected a 68-year-old man.
- Elected the first evangelist since 1837.
- Since inserting in the KBC constitution 48 years ago a statement disallowing successive terms in office, for the first time

## Constitutional change defines 'cooperating' church

By Drew Nichter  
News Director

**Elizabethtown**—Kentucky Baptist Convention messengers last week approved a constitutional change that attempts to reinforce what it means to be a "cooperating" KBC church.

The Committee on Constitution and Bylaws brought four recommendations to the annual meeting, all of which were passed with no discussion.

Among them was a rewording of Article III of the KBC Constitution which refers to the membership of the annual meeting and how many messengers qualify from each church.

The new language states:

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

Committee on Constitution and Bylaws members explained that the language is intended to strengthen the definition of a cooperating KBC church. They noted that the addition of the baptized believers and



**KBC OFFICERS** for 2009-10 are (from left to right) Wilma Simmons, a member of Big Spring Baptist Church in Ekron, secretary; Pat Reaves, a member of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Louisville, assistant secretary; Rick Hatley, pastor of High Point Baptist Church in Mayfield, second vice president; Adam Greenway, assistant professor of evangelism and applied apologetics at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, first vice president; and Don Mathis, vocational evangelist and staff member at Eastwood Baptist Church in Bowling Green, president. (KBC photo by Brenda Smith)

elected a president for a second term.

"Since we have already done some things that we've never done before, I pray under God that 2009-10 will be for the Kingdom's sake, ministry among Kentucky Baptists like we have never done it before and better than we've ever done it before," Mathis said.

The new president requested all Kentucky Baptists join with him in praying that the Find It Here evangelism campaign will be "a time of sowing and reaping far beyond any dream, any vision, that we might have." He also encouraged churches to step forward in sharing Christ through missions giving and going, especially through the Cooperative Program.

In other elections, Adam Greenway, assistant professor of evangelism and applied apologetics at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, was nominated by Bill Henard, pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington.

confessions of faith provisions accomplish that task.

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

The new wording also is intended to "strengthen the annual reporting mechanism coming from the churches," according to the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws' report.

KBC officials have noted that about 85 percent of Kentucky Baptist churches submit reports to the Annual Church Profile. Committee members said they hope the new language will "encourage the churches to be more proactive about reporting their activities" to the convention.

The Committee on Constitution and Bylaws also proposed three other changes that dealt specifically with standing KBC committees. Among them:

- Messengers voted to merge the KBC's Committee on Order of Business and Committee on Arrangements into a new stand-

ing committee, the Committee on the Annual Meeting.

Previously, responsibilities for planning the KBC annual meeting was delegated among four standing committees: Arrangements, Order of Business, the Committee on Committees and the Committee on Nominations.

Committee on Constitution and Bylaws members said that combining the responsibilities of the four groups into one "would be a better stewardship of convention resources and would provide greater coordination in planning."

The new Committee on the Annual Meeting will consist of six members, each serving three-year terms. It also will include the KBC executive director and six ex officio members, including the KBC president, vice presidents and a representative each from the Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference, Kentucky Baptist Music Association and Kentucky Baptist Religious Education Association.

■ Messengers voted to change the terms of service for both the Committee on Nominations and Committee on Resolutions from two years to three years to bring them "in line with the general composition and terms" of the other standing KBC committees.

The Committee on Resolutions membership also will be increased from four to six.

## Great Commission Task Force to look at KBC efficiency

By Todd Deaton  
Editor

**Elizabethtown**—Messengers to last week's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting approved by an overwhelming majority the formation of a Great Commission Task Force that will study "how Kentucky Baptists can work more faithfully and effectively together in serving Christ through the Great Commission."

In presenting the recommendation as part of the Mission Board report at Severns Valley Baptist Church, KBC President John Mark Toby said the task force would study the effectiveness of the KBC's Mission Board, agencies and institutions. He later named 15 people to serve on the Great Commission Task Force, which will be chaired by **Hershael York**, pastor of Buck Run Baptist Church in Frankfort.

Others members of the task force include:

**Paul Badgett**, pastor, First Baptist Church, Pikeville.

**Charles Barnes**, member, Hurstbourne Baptist Church, Louisville.

**Joy Bolton**, executive director, Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union.

**Jeff Crabtree**, director of missions, Warren Baptist Association.

**Rusty Ellison**, pastor, Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville.

**Chad Fugitt**, pastor, First Baptist Church, Monticello.

**Greg Faulls**, pastor, Bellevue Baptist Church, Owensboro

**John Hale**, deacon, Mount Vernon Baptist Church.

**Bill Henard**, pastor, Porter Memorial Baptist Church, Lexington.

**James Jones**, pastor, Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Campbellsville.

**Jessica Milburn**, member, Union Baptist Church.

**Sam Rainer**, pastor, First Baptist Church, Murray.

**Kevin Smith**, pastor, Watson Memorial Baptist Church, Louisville.

**Dan Summerlin**, pastor, Lone Oak First Baptist Church, Paducah.

Newly-elected KBC President **Don Mathis** and KBC Executive Director **Bill Mackey** will serve as ex-officio members.

In a meeting immediately prior to the annual meeting, Darren Gaddis, chairman of the KBC administrative committee and pastor of Central Baptist Church in Corbin, presented the recommendation to members of the Mission Board for their approval, stating that the proposed action was in response to the Southern Baptist Convention's formation of a Great Commission Resurgence Task Force during its annual meeting this past summer in Louisville.

In light of any possible recommendations that may be forthcoming from the SBC task force during its report at next year's convention, Gaddis described the forming of a Kentucky task force as "a proactive move that is patterning what is happening in other state conventions."

The task force will bring a report with any recommendations it might have to messengers attending the 2010 annual meeting at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington.

## Strack urges pastors, others to follow Moses' lead, invest in next generation

By Drew Nichter  
News Director

**Elizabethtown**—As founder and president of Student Leadership University, Jay Strack has devoted much of his ministry to reaching the next generation.

But as Kentucky Baptist pastors get set to embark on the ambitious evangelistic campaign Find It Here, Strack sought to answer one question: "How do we reach this millennial generation?"

Strack closed out last week's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting reminding pastors and ministry leaders, "Our ministry is about this next generation."

The millennial generation, Strack explained, is made up of those ages 12-26 who are "a tribe apart," he said. "They don't act, feel or respond as my generation did or does."

He described millennials as very spiritual, yet without a concept of traditional worship. They also are experiential learners. "They want to see it and they want to do it."

He also reminded pastors that nearly three-fourths of those who make "true decisions for Christ" do so by age 18.

And the good news is, Strack pointed out, is that while they may shun Baptist worship styles from previous decades, "they do care a great deal about ancient traditions. They do want to know how Paul did church. What does Jesus have to say?"

How did they do it in the first century?" he noted.

Strack encouraged pastors to invest in the lives of the next generation. Specifically, he listed the four greatest needs of young people—a model, mentor, motivator and monitor—which ultimately applies to all church members.

"This generation doesn't just need a sage on the stage, they need a guide to walk beside them," Strack said.

He noted that the best biblical model of this principle is found with Moses "taking the time to pour his life into Joshua and Caleb."

Strack pointed out four things that Moses did with Joshua throughout the books of Exodus and Numbers:

- Moses waged war with Joshua (Exodus 17:8-16).
- Moses walked with Joshua (Exodus 24:13, 32:17).
- Moses worshipped with Joshua (Exodus 33:11).
- Moses worked with Joshua (Numbers 13:16-17).

"What Joshua do you have in your life?" Strack asked. Millennials "don't want a pat on the head or a pat on the back. They want an opportunity to do something great for God."

However, Strack noted, "Joshua

did not complete the mission" because he did not mentor the next generation. This is seen in the book of Judges which Strack described as a "train wreck."

"The book of Judges fits this generation to a T," he said, pointing out that "everyone did that which was right in their own eyes." Why? "Because there was no real authority," he determined.

But in the midst of all the chaos of Judges, one man, Shamgar, "makes a stand," Strack noted.

There are only two verses about Shamgar in the Bible, one of which mentions that he killed 600 Philistines with an oxgoad, a common farming tool.

From that, Strack identified three success secrets of the little-known Shamgar which he called the Shamgar Principle: Start where you are; use what you have; and do what you can.

Noting that the Find It Here emphasis may be the "only real hope this generation has ... in Kentucky to hear the gospel," Strack encouraged pastors to follow the Shamgar Principle.

"If we start where we are, use what we have and do what we can, do you have any idea what April (the culmination of Find It Here) will look like in Kentucky?"



Jay Strack

### President's address

## Toby: Ky. Baptists must take gospel to world

By Dannah Prather  
Partnerships Editor

**Elizabethtown**—Lt. Col. John Mark Toby wasn't on duty with the Kentucky National Guard Nov. 10, nevertheless he issued some marching orders.

Receiving the instructions were messengers and guests gathered at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown attending the annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

"Friends, we've got some work to do," said Toby, pastor of Beacon Hill Baptist Church in Somerset and outgoing KBC president. "We need every Kentucky Baptist church engaged in the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ all across Kentucky, the nation and around the world."

Toby's address focused on Find It Here, a nationwide effort of Southern Baptists to share the gospel with millions of people prior to Easter 2010. In Kentucky, the goal is to place information packets that include a gospel presentation in 1.5 million homes.

"We are embarking on an effort that is greater than ourselves," Toby declared.

But more than volunteers, Ken-

tucky Baptists need an adjustment of the heart if Find It Here is to be successful, he suggested.

Believers need to understand today's Kentuckians who are outside their churches, and also commit anew to prayer, evangelizing children and youth, and participating in missions worldwide, Toby said.

Referencing studies from the Glenmary Research Center and the Barna Group, Toby said church no longer is part of many Kentuckians' lives.

According to Barna, 32 percent of adults in Kentucky—approximately 1 million people—have not attended a "non-holiday" church service in the past six months.

"Most of Kentucky's unchurched are 'dechurched,'" Toby added. "They used to attend church regularly but they no longer do so."

"Most unchurched adults have a favorable opinion of the Christian faith (but) when it comes to the church, only 42 percent are favorable," he continued. "Kentucky Baptist churches are losing ground."

A reason for that lost ground, he indicated, is a "failure of churches to reach young people."

Helping young believers grow in their faith is as important as shar-

ing the gospel and providing opportunities for children to respond, he noted.

"It's more than just telling Bible stories ... we need to teach our kids apologetics, how to defend their faith," Toby said.

### Renewal starts with prayer

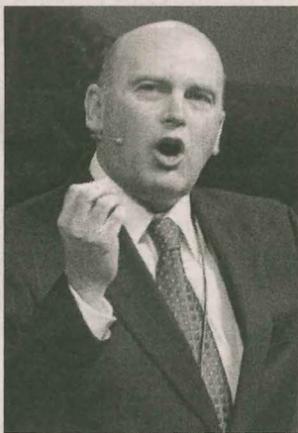
Prayer "is the heart of the matter" for a renewed commitment to evangelism and discipleship among Kentucky Baptists, he continued. "Why is prayer so important? As we pray with revived clean hearts, God moves."

He noted that prayerwalking was a major component of a recent mission trip to Tanzania by college students from Pulaski Baptist Association churches. Toby was part of the team that built a church facility, encouraged Tanzania Baptists and helped them spread the gospel. More than 1,000 people professed faith in Jesus Christ, Toby reported.

"We need to pray for a renewed heart of Kentucky and Southern Baptists to go." Believers must "have a heart for the Great Commission."

Baptists "need to be the power source for international missions," he continued. "Jesus is not finished with us. The work isn't over yet."

Calling for a "spirit of repentance to fall upon individuals and congregations," Toby declared that Kentucky Baptists needed "a 'come-to-Jesus' meeting," and invited messengers and guests to join him at the altar for prayer.



John Mark Toby

### Convention sermon

## Mohler: Necessity of being born again drives Baptists

By Todd Deaton  
Editor

**Elizabethtown**—"From time to time, it is very important that we go back and touch those touchstones to make certain that we know who we are, why we are here, and what it is that we are to be about," Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President Albert Mohler declared at the start of his convention message last week.

Mohler pointed to John 3:16 as the one verse that best identifies the "sum and substance" of the gospel.

"When just about anyone in the English-speaking world is asked to speak of that one verse to summarize the gospel, it is John 3:16 that comes immediately to mind," he said. "Those words come to us so naturally that our lips begin to move before the brain even needs to be engaged. It is resident in our hearts; it is so familiar in our ears."

Describing the cherished verse as "the irreducible minimum" of Christian belief, Mohler noted its broader context of a dialogue between Jesus and Nicodemus about how one enters the kingdom of heaven.

"He is a man who is unsettled in heart, and we are glad that he is," Mohler said of Nicodemus. "He is a man who wants to know more, and we are glad that it is so."

The fact that he comes to Jesus at night indicates that he not yet ready to make a public profession of his faith, Mohler explained. "This is not a man who fully understands the gospel and has come faithfully to obey the gospel."

One of the most disappointing aspects of ministry, Mohler observed, is how many people say nice things about Jesus, but their understanding falls far short of the gospel.

"We are surrounded by people who generally think very well of Jesus," he said. "They will say things just like Nicodemus: We know you are a teacher; we know that you have been sent from God; we perceive that no one can do what you do."

But those affirmations aren't enough, he declared. "It is very important that we obey what Jesus taught. Jesus here is saying something that we desperately need to hear: We cannot see the Kingdom of God unless we are born again."

Christianity cannot be understood from the outside, Mohler asserted, adding that he often is invited to meet with those who think they are secular religious experts. "They try to figure out why it is that we are as we are, do what we do, preach what we preach, and live as we live—and they can't get it," he said. "The only way to be on the inside is to be born again."

Proclaiming that our task is to take the gospel and to share it with every single human being, Mohler reiterated that "before we get to John 3:16, we've been told about the necessity of being born again."

"The great dividing line in humanity is not rich and poor; it's not North and South; it's not education; it's not economics; it's not culture; it's not politics; it's not ethnicity," he continued. "It is those who have been born again and those who have not. It is those who believe in Jesus Christ and those who do not."

Embedded in John 3:16, he maintained, is an assertion of the exclusivity of the gospel of Jesus Christ. "We must not miss this," he insisted. "This is not a message, this is not a means of salvation, this is not a gospel; this is the gospel: '... whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.'"

Belief in Christ is the singular issue for entrance into the Kingdom of God, Mohler declared. "The gospel is not a sales message we get to communicate. It is a command that is to be obeyed. Brethren, what must we do? Repent, believe, be baptized."

Asserting that the basis of Baptist unity is missional, Mohler concluded, "What we have here in John 3 is a reminder of the theological basis for everything we know about the gospel, and everything we do as local churches, and what calls us together as a state convention, and what calls us together with others as the Southern Baptist Convention, and what drives us forward."

"The big issue for us is to understand that we have been given the command to make disciples of all the nations," he emphasized. "We have a gospel that aims us at that and that deploys us at that. And we have to come to understand that if we are really going to do what we have to do, (then) all of us—starting with our own stewardship in our own homes and families—are going to have to ask hard questions as to whether or not we actually believe what we say we believe."

## Extending Kentucky Baptists Connect

The Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting marked the public launch of the extension of Kentucky Baptists Connect, the KBC initiative to develop leaders, strengthen churches and reach people.

### Partners in the Mission



By Bill Mackey

The original Kentucky Baptists Connect ended this year. Most goals were reached, but the initiative was extended for three years to incorporate new goals and allow more time to reach others that were unfulfilled.

The primary objective of the plan's section on developing leaders is "to assist Kentucky Baptists to implement God's vision in their personal lives and in their churches, to grow in their vibrant faith through enhanced personal and corporate worship, and to network with others for leader development." Specific goals in this section relate to vision, worship, student leaders, prayer, networking and mentoring.

The objective for strengthening churches is "to strengthen churches in the areas of healthy relationships, dynamic Bible study, discipleship and joyful stewardship in a way that results in intentional plans for local and world outreach." Specific goals relate to developing healthy congregations, growing Sunday school and small groups, developing disciples and assimilating new members, more fully involving 16-19 year olds in congregational life, developing comprehensive stewardship strategies, and assisting churches with intentional growth.

To assist churches with intentional growth, the KBC staff has customized the Ministry Toolbox church growth software for Kentucky. The basic church health survey in the software package comes with a resource of 120 projects with action plans.

With the Ministry Toolbox, churches can make a one-time \$200 purchase and then use the survey as often as needed to monitor progress in achieving objectives.

The KBC staff also has an expanded version of the software to use in consulting with churches. This version has specialized surveys and hundreds of additional projects to help churches grow.

If you have interest in the Ministry Toolbox, please contact the church development team at (502) 489-3335 or (866) 489-3335, or e-mail ChurchDevelopment@KyBaptist.org.

The Kentucky Baptists Connect objective for reaching people is "to reach all people possible by equipping church leaders for intentional and strategic evangelism, and by mobilizing church leaders and members in missions, ministries and church planting."

The evangelism goals in this section relate to increased baptisms, implementing the national strategy of "God's Plan for Sharing," and reaching students and children. The missions goals relate to church planting, mobilizing volunteers, providing disaster relief training, increasing involvement in international partnership missions, and supporting community outreach ministries.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

## Task Force equally concerned for SBC, KBC work

Since the formation of a Great Commission Task Force for Kentucky was first proposed in August, speculation has been mounting as to who might be appointed to serve on this pivotal study group, which has been assigned the task of evaluating the effectiveness of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Mission Board and its agencies and institutions. Would the composition of the task force favor increased funding for Southern Baptist Convention interests and international missions causes? Would its constituents be equally concerned about not compromising the integrity and vitality of KBC missions and ministries? Would its members be strong, evangelistic supporters of the Cooperative Program?



### After Thought

By Todd Deaton

While certainly not definitive—since much rests on the specific recommendations of the national Great Commission Resurgence Task Force next June—a cursory analysis of the 15 people appointed by outgoing KBC President John Mark Toby during the state convention's annual meeting last week seems in order. Among the group are 10 pastors, three laypersons, one director of missions and one agency head. Here's a quick rundown:

**Hershael York**, the task force's chairman, is pastor of Buck Run Baptist Church in Frankfort and a professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Buck Run has a resident membership of 1,020; contributed \$112,479, or 10.0 percent of its undesignated receipts, through the Cooperative Program; and reported 18 baptisms in 2008. York is a past KBC president, and many Kentucky Baptists appreciated his leadership during Georgetown College's departure from the state convention's fold. This past year, York served as chairman of the KBC Committee on Committees and is a former chairman of its Committee on Nominations.

**Paul Badgett** is pastor of First Baptist Church of Pikeville, which has 983 resident members; contributed \$89,112, or 8.9 percent of its undesignated receipts, through the Cooperative Program; and recorded 50 baptisms last year. He is a past KBC president and a former chairman of the KBC's committees on Order of Business and Public Affairs.

**Charles Barnes** is a member of Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville, which has 1,017 resident members; contributed \$74,543, or 7.4 percent, of its undesignated receipts through CP; and baptized 10 people last year. A past KBC president, Barnes is known for his work in coordinating Crossover Louisville this past summer and in serving on the Baptist Faith and Message study committee in 2001. He is a former chairman of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation's board, the KBC Committee on Order of Business, the mission study committee that led to Kentucky Baptists Connect; and the mission advisory committee that monitored Kentucky Baptists Connect. He also has served on the University of the Cumberland and Southern Seminary trustee boards.

**Joy Bolton** is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, which is responsible for promoting and administrating the Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions. She is a member Clayville Baptist Church in Louisville, which has 151 resident members, contributed \$7,588, or 6.2 percent, through CP, and recorded three baptisms last year.

**Jeff Crabtree** is director of missions for Warren Baptist Association and a member of Hillvue Heights Baptist Church in Bowling Green, which has 4,833 resident members, contributed \$76,000, or 2.5 percent of undesignated receipts, through CP, and reported 503 baptisms. Crabtree previously was the minister of education at Central Baptist Church in Corbin, where Darren Gaddis, a former KBC president, is pastor.

**Rusty Ellison** is pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville, which has 1,811 resident members, contributed \$48,775, or 2.7 percent, to CP and recorded 21 baptisms. Previously Ellison was president of Kentucky Baptist Assemblies and was this year's chairman of the Committee on Order of Business. He also has been a member of the state Mission Board.

**Chad Fugitt** is pastor of First Baptist Church of Monticello, which has 541 resident members, reported 11 baptisms and contributed \$36,000, or 7.9 percent, through CP. He served as second vice president of the

KBC in 2006-07 and was chairman of the Committee on Nominations this year.

**Greg Fallis** is pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Owensboro, which has 1,797 resident members, netted 48 baptisms and contributed \$122,000 through CP, or 7.0 percent of its undesignated receipts. He is a former North American Mission Board trustee and was chairman of the search committee that called former NAMB President Geoff Hammond. He also has served on the state Mission Board and as a member of the KBC administrative committee and its Baptist Faith and Message study committee.

**John Hale** is a deacon at First Baptist Church of Mount Vernon, which reported 798 resident members, baptized 11 people and contributed \$46,510, or 11.9 percent of its undesignated receipts, through CP. William Nations is pastor at Mount Vernon First.

**Bill Henard**, pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington and a professor at Southern Seminary, is a past president of the KBC and a former first vice president of the SBC. Porter Memorial has 2,580 members, recorded 53 baptisms and contributed \$199,714, or 9.4 percent, through CP. He is a former trustee chairman of LifeWay Christian Resources and is serving as a trustee for the University of the Cumberland. Porter Memorial topped \$7 million in total CP giving this past year.

**James Jones** is pastor of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Campbellsville and a past KBC president. Pleasant Hill has 513 resident members, saw five baptisms and contributed \$66,922, or 29.4 percent, through CP. Jones, who was awarded the state convention's CP Distinguished Leadership Award last year, has served as a trustee of Campbellsville University and Sunrise Children's Services, and has been a member of the KBC administrative committee and the Committee on Public Affairs.

**Jessica Milburn** is the wife of Kevin Milburn, pastor of Union Baptist Church, which has 722 members, recorded 16 baptisms and contributed \$37,277, or 7.8 percent, through CP.

**Sam Rainer** is the new pastor of First Baptist Church of Murray, which has 1,628 resident members, baptized 13 people and contributed \$97,338, or 10.3 percent, through CP last year. He is the son of Thom Rainer, president of LifeWay Christian Resources, and a researcher and author.

**Kevin Smith** is a professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and pastor of Watson Memorial Baptist Church in Louisville, which has 273 resident members, reported 13 baptisms and contributed \$7,070, or 4.2 percent, through CP. Smith is a former KBC first vice president and he preached the convention sermon in 2008.

**Dan Summerlin** is pastor of Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah, which reported 2,577 members and 38 baptisms and contributed \$256,669, or 9.2 percent, through the CP. He is chairman of the new Kentucky Baptists Connect advisory committee and served on the Committee on Resolutions. Summerlin was elected as a trustee of the Western Recorder at this year's annual meeting and he will preach next year's convention sermon when the KBC meets at Lexington's Immanuel Baptist Church.

Combined, the members of the task force represent churches that contribute, on average, 8.99 percent of their undesignated receipts through the Cooperative Program. Even without the boost of Pleasant Hill's high percentage, the average CP contribution of their churches is 7.53 percent—still well above the KBC's average church contribution of 6.99 percent and the SBC average of 6.1 percent in 2008. And, even without Hillvue Heights' addition of 503 baptisms, their churches averaged 22.14 baptisms last year. The task force's membership also reflects extensive years of service to both Kentucky Baptists and Southern Baptists. From these early indications, President Toby has appointed a task force that will both understand the urgency of finding additional resources to enable Southern Baptists to fulfill the Great Commission globally, while appreciating and affirming the ministry of the KBC Mission Board staff and every Kentucky Baptist entity.

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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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## Willingness to give

By Doug Strader

*"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:37-39).*



From time to time, I read articles and books where the writers talk about falling in love with God and/or Jesus. This is strange language to many people. In the earlier days of pastoring

I did not encounter as much language about falling in love with God. But in fact, that is what worship should be about, whether it is private or corporate worship.

Do you find yourself falling in love with God/Jesus more and more as you mature in your Christian life? Do you hunger and thirst to know God/Jesus more and more in your daily walk as a Christian?

Jesus in fact says in the verses cited above that to love the Lord our God is the first and greatest commandment of all. Since He said that, it has to be true, because God's Word is true. To make sure that we are following His teaching, our daily time of Bible study, prayer, meditation and ministry needs to be given a place of prominence and priority.

Sometimes we forget a most important element of worship, namely giving our tithes and offerings. It appears to me that when I fall more in love with God/Jesus, I will be more willing to give my tithes and offerings to Him.

There are many other aspects of our worship such as praise, adoration, exaltation, fellowship, surrender, confession, commitment and, as mentioned above, the giving our tithes and offerings, our time and using our spiritual gifts.

Never underestimate the importance of giving as it relates to our worship. Jesus told us that the only way we can adequately worship the Lord our God is to learn to love Him with all our heart, mind and soul. Do we really love the Lord if we cannot trust Him with our tithes and offerings?

Doug Strader is pastor of Farmdale Baptist Church in Louisville.

## Retired Ky. missionary McKinley honored for CP support

By Kristie Randolph  
Kentucky Baptist Convention

**Elizabethtown**—Kentucky Baptists honored Jim McKinley along with several churches for outstanding leadership and support of the Cooperative Program during last week's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting.

Jim McKinley received the Distinguished Cooperative Program Leadership Award for his support of the Cooperative Program and lifelong involvement in CP missions and ministries.

"Dr. Jim McKinley defines the partnership we call the Cooperative Program," said Billy Compton, KBC's executive associate for Cooperative Program and resources. "He has served as pastor, missions educator, IMB missionary and a Cooperative Program ambassador."

McKinley is an emeritus missionary, having served for 34 years as a missionary in Bangladesh through the International Mission Board, along with his wife and five children.

Before leaving for the mission field, he served as pastor of Central Grove Baptist Church in Albany and pastor of Mount Moriah Baptist Church in Mount Eden. McKinley later would serve as KBC president in 2000-01 and as a KBC consultant for the Cooperative Program from 1992-95.

McKinley is a graduate of Campbellsville University, Wayland Baptist University in Plainview, Texas, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. He currently is an active member at Westport Road Baptist Church in Louisville, as well as with Long Run Baptist Association.

### CP achievements

Churches celebrating significant milestones in Cooperative Program giving also were recognized.

Three churches were commended as top givers for total dollars given in 2008: Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green, \$406,200.94; Lone Oak First Baptist Church in Paducah, \$277,332.37; and Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington, \$272,874.76.

Three churches were recognized as the top per-capita givers, including: Paducah Korean Baptist Church, whose 10 members gave a total of \$2,789.01, or \$278.91 per member; Henderson Memorial Baptist Church in Hopkinsville, whose 152 members gave a total of \$36,204.59, or \$238.19 per member; and Mexico Baptist Church in Marion, whose 385 members gave \$86,858.13, or \$225.61 per member.

Churches reaching significant cumulative giving milestones in the 2008-09 budget year also were recognized.

Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington was honored for giving \$7 million; Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green was honored for giving \$5 million; Central Baptist Church in Corbin was honored for giving \$4 million; First Baptist Church of Hopkinsville was honored for giving \$3 million; and First Baptist Church of Barbourville was honored for giving \$2 million.

Nine churches were honored for giving \$1 million, including: Elkton Baptist Church; First Baptist Church of Hazard; First Baptist Church of Mount Vernon; Hazel Baptist Church; Lebanon Baptist Church; Memorial Baptist Church in Frankfort; New Harmony Baptist Church in Benton; Second Baptist Church of Russellville; and Thornhill Baptist Church in Frankfort.



**LIFETIME OF SERVICE** Longtime missionary and former Kentucky Baptist pastor Jim McKinley (right), alongside his wife, Betty, receives the Distinguished Cooperative Program Leadership Award from KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey at last week's annual meeting in Elizabethtown. (KBC photo by Brenda Smith)

## 'Engage state with gospel,' Bauscher urges

**Elizabethtown**—Evangelism Growth Team Leader Ross Bauscher appraised messengers to the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting of the preparations being made by associations and churches for Find It Here, Kentucky Baptists' major evangelistic campaign next spring.

Reflecting on 2 Corinthians 5 where the early church there first gave themselves to the Lord, Bauscher said that he thought about "how God is weaving all of this together" by networking pastors, directors of missions and state convention staff. "It is just overwhelming to me what is taking place," he said.

Kentucky Baptists already have ordered more than 1.4 million bags that will include a gospel message and be shared with an estimated 1.5 million households across Kentucky.

"I'm just excited to know what is going to take place not only in individual lives, but also what's going to happen in the life of the church," he said.

Bauscher told about a recent conversation with Ron Davis, pastor of Franklin Crossroads Baptist Church in Cecilia for 22 years, who was excited about the prayerwalking that his members did in connection with Find It Here. "He was smiling and said, 'I had 183 people who participat-

ed in prayerwalking, and we prayed for 4,700 households,'" Bauscher recalled.

According to the North American Mission Board, out of an estimated population of 4,269,245, Kentucky has 2,587,995 persons who are lost without Jesus Christ, Bauscher said. In other words, 63 percent are lost.

"I think it is time we get outside the four walls of the church and engage our state with the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ," he affirmed. "I believe that this is absolutely not only a mandate from God, but I think God will honor those who honor Him as we go out sharing the gospel."

## Creative ways for churches to celebrate Thanksgiving

By Diana Davis

Looking for creative ways for your church to celebrate Thanksgiving? Try one of these:

### 24 Hours of Thanks.

Host a 24-hour prayer chain of thanksgiving to God. Church members sign up for a half-hour shift to pray in the church sanctuary or a special prayer room. Each person prays briefly with the previous prayer, then spends time in thanksgiving prayer to God.

### Senior Saints & Six Year Olds.

A tech-savvy teen could work with a senior adult Bible class and the six-year-olds' class to make a video clip to use on Sunday before Thanksgiving. Record each person, with head bowed or raised toward heaven, praying "I thank you God for \_\_\_\_\_."

### Turkey Smoking Party.

A few men at one church invited church members and neighbors to bring their turkey to the church parking lot, where the cooks enjoyed hours of horseshoes and corn-hole games while they lovingly prepared scrumptious birds.

**Thankful Art Show.** Plan ahead to host a city-wide art exhibit at your church. Use the theme "Thankful" and accept art from all age groups. Begin by asking artists in your church to create a piece of art and help with planning. Special invitations are sent to teachers and art students at nearby art studios, universities and schools.

**Sharing Thanksgiving.** Assign members to deliver a homemade pie to each homebound member. Encourage members to plan family celebrations to include a single adult, university or seminary student, widow, wid-

ower or international student.

**Digital Thanks.** Ask church members to use a digital camera or camera phone to take photos to complete this sentence: "I thank my God for ...". Present them during Sunday worship. Viewing photos of pets, pals, pizza, and policemen will remind worshippers to thank God for them.

**Blessing Baskets.** Purchase baskets to provide one for each family in your church. Families put blessing baskets on their dining tables and deposit notes of thanks to God each day. On the Sunday before Thanksgiving, they bring their baskets to the altar and offer thanks to God.

Don't skip over Thanksgiving this year. Celebrate a focused time of giving thanks to our great God.

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

## Finding lasting happiness in life

By Scott Wigginton

**Q: I am a Christian who truly loves God, but I seem to struggle when it comes to being happy on a day-to-day basis. Is there something wrong with me?**

**A:** While you leave much unsaid, Scripture does point out that obedience and holiness are the ultimate goal of Christians, not happiness. Happiness, a subjective state of wellbeing, is often the by-product of an obedient and holy life.

Happiness research does reveal a number of findings that echo the wisdom of the Bible. If you want to be happy, invest in relationships with the right people. Research suggests that happiness is contagious.

If you want to be happier, give up on seeking wealth, fame and image for their own sake. Remember that happy people are givers, not collectors. Happy people watch less television and get more sleep. Happy people typically slow down and enjoy the small moments in life and pay attention to physical health.

Research indicates that happy people find genuine meaning in life beyond pleasure.

While some researchers tend to believe that there is an individual "set point" for happiness beyond which persons cannot go, most believe that the choices we make have a tremendous influence on our daily sense of satisfaction, contentment and wellbeing.

Perhaps the ancient research of a wise and wealthy old king is a meaningful reminder that happiness ultimately cannot be found in temporal pleasures. In Ecclesiastes 2, Solomon disavows the lasting value of laughter and good times; wine and substances; projects; slaves and servants; silver, cattle and treasures; music and entertainment; and sexual pleasures. Temporal pleasure only has the power to tease, not to satisfy, unless placed in service of the One who calls us to Himself.

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



## Resolutions address abortion, evangelism

By Drew Nichter  
News Director

Elizabethtown—Kentucky Baptist messengers meeting in Elizabethtown last week passed resolutions on abortion, the upcoming Find It Here evangelistic campaign and a Great Commission resurgence.

With Washington lawmakers debating health care reform, Kentucky Baptists restated their strong stance on the sanctity of human life, urging President Obama and Congress to ensure that “there will be no federal funding of abortion” in any health care legislation that is passed.

The U.S. House of Representatives passed the version of a health care reform bill Nov. 7 that included an amendment prohibiting federal funding of abortion. The Senate is expected to begin its own debate on health care legislation this week.

An effort to amend the resolution was voted down by messengers. Orion Bell, a messenger from St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville, moved to have the resolution specify no federal funding for “elective” abortions.

“There are times when an abortion is a necessary operation for the health and life of a mother,” Bell said. “We wouldn’t want to deny prayer for that kind of necessary procedure.”

Several messengers opposed Bell’s motion. Bill Henard, pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, said that research shows only 1 percent of abortions are performed due to rape, incest or to protect a mother’s health.

“Kentucky Baptists (and) Christians throughout time have stood for the sanc-

tity of human life, and for us to put such a thing in the resolution would basically say that one life is more sanctified than another,” noted Brandt Lyon, pastor of Olivet Baptist Church in Herndon.

Messengers also passed a resolution concerning the Find It Here statewide evangelistic campaign set for next year. It urges Kentucky Baptists to “pray for a great harvest of souls” and “make every effort to see that a gospel message is shared with every household in Kentucky.”

With the formation of Kentucky’s own Great Commission Task Force, as well as the similar Southern Baptist committee, messengers passed a resolution urging prayer for the two groups. It also calls for prayer for the North American and International Mission boards, as well as the Southern Baptist Convention’s Executive Committee, all of which are seeking new leadership.

Messengers also voted to refer a motion to the KBC’s Committee on Resolutions for its consideration next year.

Rick Reeder, director of missions for Caldwell-Lyon Baptist Association, called for a work group to research an appropriate way to honor the importance of the King James Version of the Bible on its 400th anniversary in 2011.

“The King James Version has probably been the main source of sermons preached from more pulpits across the centuries and around the world,” Reeder said.

“I’m not proposing this motion to raise a debate or concern about other translations; it is only to give credit and proper honor to the blessing that God has given to the whole world,” he added.



**BUSINESS SESSION** Rick Reeder, director of missions for Caldwell-Lyon Baptist Association, proposes a motion from the floor during last week’s KBC annual meeting in Elizabethtown. (Photo by Drew Nichter)

After a messenger spoke out in opposition to creating a work group and spending Cooperative Program and an endeavor, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary professor Adam Greenway moved to have the motion referred to the Committee on Resolutions, which will bring its recommendation to next year’s annual meeting.

Among the other resolutions, messengers voted to support the work of Baptist Healthcare System and its work throughout the state.

## Mackey touts spirit of cooperation in Ky. Baptist churches

Elizabethtown—Paul’s counsel in Titus 2:12-14 to live in a sensible, righteous and godly way while looking forward to the glorious appearing of our Lord is valuable instruction for today, Kentucky Baptist Executive Director Bill Mackey said.

During his KBC Mission Board staff report last week, Mackey exhorted Kentucky Baptists to continue being zealous in doing good works, and he praised them for the joy in giving that they demonstrated this past year.

“As I think about the downturn in the economy and the very generous way that Kentucky Baptists have continued to support missions in Kentucky and around the world through the Cooperative Program, ... it is incredible,” he said.

While Cooperative Program receipts lagged by 7 percent last year, September and October receipts already are ahead of giving at the same time last year, he reported.

Crossover Louisville was “an incredible Louisville service and working together,” Mackey noted. That spirit has continued in preparations for the Find It Here evangelism campaign, he added.

“I have never seen this kind of cooperation and unity in moving forward together to accomplish a mission that is bigger than us,” Mackey said.

## Messengers agree on amendments to Foundation, KBC covenant agreement

By Drew Nichter  
News Director

Elizabethtown—Messengers to last week’s Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting approved a handful of amendments to the covenant agreement between the KBC and the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.

On the 65th anniversary of its formation, Foundation President Barry Allen said the amendments provided an opportunity to do three things:

- To affirm the covenant relationship that exists between the KBC and the Foundation.

- To affirm the fiduciary relationship and responsibilities and KBF, KBC and all Kentucky Baptists.

- To enhance the Foundation’s role in the future of Kentucky Baptist life.

In his report to messengers, Allen noted that three of the four KBF’s board of directors with the fourth prompted by KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey and the convention’s attorney.

The amendments were approved without discussion. They include:

- Changing the classification of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation from “agency” to that of “trust agency.”

Allen said the rewording will better reflect and affirm the Foundation’s unique mission and fiduciary duties; facilitate a heightened awareness among Kentucky Baptists of the KBF as an important stewardship resource available to them; instill a higher sense of confidence and trust in the Foundation to utilize its services; and result in more financial benefits to the larger Kentucky Baptist family.

The amendment “is all the more relevant and important given the loss of trust in secular financial institutions,” Allen insisted.

- Increasing the amount of indebtedness the KBF can incur—without the approval of the KBC’s business and finance committee—from \$30,000 or less to an amount not exceeding 50 percent of the Foundation’s annual budget. The agency’s 2009-10 budget is approximately \$800,000, Allen noted.

“Currently, the Foundation has no debt and is not planning to incur any,” he added.

- Resolving a conflict between the covenant agreement and the KBC Constitution which prohibits Mission Board employees from serving on institutions of KBC-related agencies or boards. The Foundation’s Articles of Incorporation previously allowed for the KBC executive director and business services team leader to serve as ex-officio members of the KBF board.

Existing to Allen, that provision existed when the KBF was a department of the Mission Board and was not revised when it became a partnering entity in 1994.

The provision in the covenant agreement was replaced with one stating that the KBC executive director and business services team leader would instead be invited to all Foundation board meetings “to facilitate an appropriate level of continued participation.”

- Revising the schedule of financial reports sent to the KBC executive director.

Financial statements now will be sent quarterly rather than monthly, Allen said. Also, the KBF’s annual budget will be sent to the convention for approval once it has been approved by Foundation board members—typically in early- to mid-May, Allen said—rather than by Feb. 1 each year.

**The amendment to classify Kentucky Baptist Foundation as “trust agency” is “all the more relevant and important given the loss of trust in secular financial institutions.”**

Barry Allen, president, Kentucky Baptist Foundation

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## Mission Board gives nod to task force, downsizing

Elizabethtown—The Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board approved the appointment of a Great Commission Task Force for Kentucky, consented to a plan to reduce its membership, and named a new director of children's ministry during its Nov. 9 meeting.

Darren Gaddis, chairman of the KBC administrative committee, told Mission Board members that the task force's formation is in anticipation of any recommendations that might come from the national task force during the 2010 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

Meanwhile, Stephen Wilson, chairman of the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws, presented a proposed change that shifts an association's representation from being determined by the churches' total membership

to resident membership. The Mission Board currently is comprised of 155 members who represent 70 associations and 16 at-large and ex-officio members. With the convention's approval, associational membership will drop to 102.



John Bennett

Adam Greenway, chairman of the Mission Board size study committee, explained that the plan would be implemented over the next five years.

A first reading of the bylaw change to reduce the board's size was later presented to the messengers attending this year's annual meeting.

The Mission Board also approved John Bennett of Elizabethtown to serve as the KBC's preschool and children's ministry director. He will begin his duties Jan. 1. Bennett has served as children and family pastor at Severns Valley Baptist Church since 2007.

## Pastors' Conference

# Keep focus on Christ, speakers urge

Elizabethtown—Encouraging pastors to maintain their focus on Jesus Christ, Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference speakers sounded a reminder: "It's all about Him."

The Pastors' Conference was held Nov. 9 at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown prior to the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annual meeting.

Among the speakers at the one-day conference: **Roger Williams**, pastor of Annville Baptist Church, said a sense of fear often accompanies the act of following Jesus.

Mark 10:32 says that Jesus' followers were amazed and afraid as they followed Him into Jerusalem, Williams pointed out. Jesus chose average, everyday men to follow Him and poured His life into them. Those ordinary men went on to change the world.

Pastors, too, often must face fear as they minister, Williams said. They are ordinary men called to do an extraordinary thing—preach the gospel—and the weight of that responsibility can be difficult to bear.

But God does not have a Plan B. God made you and called you to preach, Williams told pastors. Even that fear can be used by God, he said. "Fright keeps us clinging to the cross, close to the Lord Jesus Christ."

**Ken Weathersby** asked pastors: "Why worry when you can pray?"

Using Psalm 23 as his text, Weathersby, vice president of church planting for the North American Mission Board, noted that Christian maturity entails understanding how to deal with life's successes and failures. "What is God saying to us when we find ourselves in the dark valleys of life?" he asked. "Even in our darkest days ... the Bible tells us that God is there."

Weathersby highlighted several truths concerning valleys: they are inevitable and "will find their way into your home," they are unpredictable and come suddenly on otherwise good days, and they are very impartial for "no one is immune."

But, more importantly, valleys are temporary, he emphasized. Like a tunnel, "valleys are not something that you stay in all your life," but rather they "are something you go through" and come back out into the light.

So, what should one do when passing through a valley? "Refuse to be discouraged" because "God not only promises His power in the valley, but He also promises us His presence," Weathersby said.

**Ergun Caner**, in a twist on the historic Jonathan Edwards sermon, challenged Kentucky Baptist pastors to consider: "Preachers in the Hands of an Angry God."

"I love the local church," said Caner, president of Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary in Lynchburg, Va., whose first ministry position was at Manchester Baptist Church, "but I fear for the local church. If things don't get rectified soon, we're going to have a monstrous problem."

Preaching from Jeremiah 28, Caner said pastors and teachers must return to solid biblical teaching if they are to fulfill the Great Commission.

In the text, the prophet Jeremiah confronts the false teachings of Hananiah whose messages, Caner noted, focused on prosperity and "peace without penitence."

Caner said he sees the same trend in some of today's pastors who have "abdicated the role of shepherd" in their churches in the name of compassion and popularity. "We're not talking about hating the world," he said. "We're talking about loving it enough to tell the truth."

**Don Mathis** observed that too often Baptists tend to focus on what is wrong with the church rather than what is right and godly.

Reminding Kentucky Baptist pastors that the church "is still the bride of Christ," the evangelist shared three things that are right with today's "Bible-believing, gospel-preaching, New Testament church."

First of all, "the church is right in its membership," Mathis said. In Matthew 16:13, when Jesus asks His disciples, "Who do you say I am?" Simon



**OFFICERS ELECTED** Pastors elected Chad Fugitt (right), pastor of First Baptist Church of Monticello, as Pastors' Conference president-elect. He will preside over the 2011 event. Wesley Noss, pastor of New Hope Baptist Church in Versailles (left), was elected as Pastors' Conference secretary. Kevin Smith (center), pastor of Watson Memorial Baptist Church in Louisville, who was voted president-elect at last year's conference, moved into the president's role. He will preside over next year's Pastors' Conference. (Photo by Drew Nichter)

Peter's response represents the answer that all church members should have: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Secondly, "the church is right in its management," Mathis suggested. "It is not your church, it is not my church, ... it is Jesus' church. We better never forget that."

Finally, "the church is right in its message," he concluded. "Jesus said, 'I've given to you my churches (and) ... my followers that which opens the door to heaven.'"

**Jamie Ward** had a warning for Kentucky Baptists: "Be careful to think you're something when you're really nothing."

As Paul advised the Galatians, those who think they are something deceive themselves, said Ward, associate pastor of preaching and evangelism at Hillvue Heights Church in Bowling Green.

Ward shared of his father's childhood home living with a single mother and seven siblings. The house sat directly across the street from a church. Yet, no one from the congregation ever knocked on the door, he said.

"Why would they not go?" Ward asked. "When you are a church full of people who begin to think they are something when they're really nothing, then there are limits as to what they will do for the glory of God."

Ward cautioned pastors that if Jesus is not at the center of their lives, He is not in the wrong place, they are. "Jesus is always where Jesus is supposed to be," Ward said. "If He's not at the center of my life, it's because I've got to move." God will accomplish His will with or without us, he added.

**Phil Hoskins**, pastor of Higher Ground Baptist Church in Kingsport, Tenn., affirming that the rock upon which the church is built is "none other than the Lord Jesus Christ, proclaimed, "The church is alive and well because the founder is alive and well. The foundation of the church is secure because Christ is a solid, steadfast and secure foundation."

Basing his message on Matthew 16, Hoskins declared that the church still could not afford to lose its convictions, character or compassion.

Preach the gospel "without fear, favor or compromise," Hoskins urged pastors. "I do not believe that Jesus is a good way to heaven. I don't believe that He is a better way to heaven. I believe that Jesus is still the only way."

Acknowledging that the Christian walk is not always easy, Hoskins observed, "It's the little issues that challenge us on a daily basis that either confirm or deny our Christian character." He then warned, "When we lose our character, we have lost it all."

In the Greek Olympics, the runner who crossed the finish line first was not always the winner. Instead, it was the one who finished first with his torch still burning, Hoskins noted. "I want to cross the finish line with my torch still brightly shining for the Lord Jesus Christ."

Compiled from reporting by Western Recorder staff and KBC communications department

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## AGENCY REPORTS

**Campbellsville University**—Michael Carter, president of Campbellsville University, said the school is in the midst of its 19th consecutive semester of record enrollment, recently surpassing the 3,000-student mark. He thanked Kentucky Baptists for the \$1.5 million in Cooperative Program funds to Campbellsville, and noted that the university has provided a record \$5 million in financial aid to Baptist students. Through chapel services and other evangelistic efforts, 335 people made professions of faith last year. The university dedicated its new School of Education in September, and Campbellsville's Louisville campus reached an enrollment of 200. Additional satellite campuses have opened in Elizabethtown, Hodgenville, Jamestown and Somerset.

**Clear Creek Baptist Bible College**—Donnie Fox reports that the Pineville school now offers a fully accredited bachelor of arts in ministry degree completely online. "God has given us a heart for bivocational pastors," explained the Clear Creek president. In thanking Kentucky Baptists for their support of Clear Creek through the Cooperative Program, Fox noted that the college has the lowest tuition of any accredited school affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention. "Your giving continues to be a lifeline to us," he said, adding that CP funds comprise 20 percent of Clear Creek's budget. Last year, 436 people made professions of faith in Christ through the ministry of Clear Creek students, Fox reported. Students, faculty and staff participated in mission trips to Africa, Guatemala, Turkey, Guam, New York and North Dakota.

**Kentucky Baptist Assemblies**—At the start of his report, Kentucky Baptist Assemblies President David Melber asked those who

were present at a 1994 KBC Mission Board meeting where members voted to keep Cedarmore Camp and Conference Center open to stand. As about two dozen people stood, Melber thanked them and reported that since that time, around 100,000 people have come through both the Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek facilities, resulting in 10,000 salvation decisions. Through the Crossings summer camp program, students have given about \$500,000 to worldwide missions efforts, Melber said. Camp attendance increased 40 percent this year from 2008, he noted, and next year's registration is set to grow again "by an enormous percentage in the face of a faltering economy." "There is no other explanation other than the power of Jesus Christ working there," Melber said.

**Oneida Baptist Institute**—Bud Underwood, president of Oneida Baptist Institute, told messengers that the boarding school for students in grades 6-12 has seen lean financial times the past two years, "but we've been through that storm pretty well." Gifts from individuals and churches comprise about 56 percent of Oneida's budget. "Without the support we would not be here," Underwood noted. In his written report, he said Kentucky Baptists who embrace the Find It Here evangelistic effort next year should consider Oneida as a destination for a short-term mission trip. In-kind and financial donations are needed, as well. Referring students to Oneida also is a way to support the ministry, he added.

**Sunrise Children's Services**—Bill Smithwick, president of Sunrise Children's Services, encouraged Kentucky Baptists to consider embarking on "missions in reverse" by becoming foster parents. "We place the mission field in the homes," he

explained. He then introduced to messengers and guests a current foster parent, Betty Horton. She and her husband, Steve, have cared for nine foster children over the past five years. Already parents and grandparents, the Hortons adopted one of their foster sons. The children "mostly need someone to love and appreciate them," Horton said. "One child is worth it all." Currently Sunrise works with parents in 157 foster homes in Kentucky that can serve up to 383 children and teens.

**University of the Cumberlands**—In the last year, University of the Cumberlands has inaugurated two new degrees, a master's in business administration and a doctorate in education. The Williamsburg college also offers four degrees entirely online. Three new facilities now are in service on the campus: the Ward and Regina Correll Science Building, the Terry and Marion Forcht Medical Wing, and the Lenora Fuson Harth Women's Residence Hall. President Jim Taylor told messengers that volunteers have completed construction on the 132nd house for area people in need through Mountain Outreach, Cumberlands' community service ministry. In March, Cumberlands became Kentucky Baptists' second church-planting center designed to encourage existing churches to start new missions and congregations. Two meetings were held this year, providing church starters a forum for Bible study, encouragement and networking. Through Cumberlands' Baptist Collegiate Ministries, 40 students accepted Christ as Savior and about 30 made decisions for discipleship and entering full-time Christian service.

**Western Recorder**—In his first report to KBC messengers, Western Recorder Editor Todd Deaton called attention to the

noticeable changes that have been made to the newspaper since he began last January. Those include a redesigned masthead and logo, expanded Kentucky news, and a new editorial philosophy based on Romans 14:19, "Let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another." Deaton also referred to the newspaper's vision statement from Philippians, "Shine like stars in the world," which he said "encapsulates the mission of the Kentucky Baptist newspaper." Calling the Western Recorder a vehicle for sharing the stories of Kentucky Baptists doing ministries and missions worldwide, Deaton said, "These are the folks we want to showcase week in and week out. ... Why? Because they are letting Jesus Christ's light shine brightly for all the world to see."

**Woman's Missionary Union**—Joy Bolton, executive director for Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, honored the Christian Women's Job Corps site in Campbellsville as this year's top job corps site in the nation. Each year, the WMU Foundation awards a CWJC or Christian Men's Job Corps site with the honor. Edwina Rowell, who became site coordinator in Campbellsville last March, accepted the award. She said differences are being made among site participants and "people have come to know the Lord." The Campbellsville site also was given a \$1,468 check which Rowell said will be used to purchase Bible study materials, advertising and furniture and office supplies for the group's new offices. The Job Corps ministry, which began in 1997, serves more than 4,000 men and women at 215 sites across the country, Bolton reported. The ministry "exists to provide a Christian context for which women and men in need are equipped for life and employment," she said.

## Got flu?

**Houseparents show God's love amid small minor flu outbreak at Oneida**

Unless you have been on another planet, you know about the flu situation in our country and worldwide. Since we have students from around the world and all over the U.S., we knew there would be only a slight chance that we would not be affected.

When our students returned from fall break Oct. 4, most of us believed it would only take a few days until we would see the effects of the virus. Each evening the local news reported nearly every county school in our area closed because of the high number of absentees. At first they only were closed for a day or two, then three to four days or the balance of the week.

Still we waited. During the first two weeks of October, we only had three or four students needing bed rest. At the beginning of the third week, students with low-grade fevers and other flu-like symptoms began to fill our bed-rest rooms. The first day or two there were only a half dozen students on bed rest, but it only took another couple of days for the numbers to increase.

In a public school if a student becomes ill, he is sent home or simply doesn't come to school at all. But in a boarding school environment, it is a little more difficult. At its peak we never had more than about 15 or so on bed rest at one time. The symptoms were typical of the flu. The one major difference was that none of our students had the normally high temperatures.

Our houseparents meet many needs of our students. They help provide a structured environment with consequences for not following es-

tablished guidelines. They also provide a listening ear for those who simply need someone to talk to. Often our houseparents have the opportunity to share some good advice with a teen who is struggling.

One of the nicest things our houseparents can provide is some tender loving care when someone is not feeling well. I think there are few things worse than being away from home when you are sick. In times like these our houseparents have the opportunity to show compassion and demonstrate the importance of giving a cup of water in His name.

I remember being one of those OBI students with the flu in 1963. I don't know how many boys were sick at that time, but I was really sick. I would have liked to have been home so my mom could take care of me. I was blessed to have the next best thing to my mother's care when my houseparent, Harold Combs, took care of me. Those bowls of soup the cooks

made for us tasted mighty good. I think crackers are good nearly any time, but they taste especially good served with soup when you are sick. The soup always was served with some water or juice and a "How are you feeling today?" Just knowing that someone cared how I felt made me feel a little better.

In the past two weeks we've had about 50 students on bed rest. The houseparents had to put aside some of their normal daily routines in order to care for those who were sick. I am sure it was a little overwhelming at times, but what an opportunity to show God's love.

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

**This is Oneida**

W.F. Underwood

## A mission trip experience

**Student shares interesting story of his first mission trip**

One of the highlights of our chapel services each year is when students get to share about their personal experiences on mission trips.

Sam Schmidt is one of our new students from Grayson who is completing his first semester. Sam had not been enrolled as a student at Clear Creek very long when he felt the Lord leading him to take his first mission trip out of the country. After continued prayer and searching for God's will, he felt that he should definitely go on the trip.

Since his ticket was purchased only a week before the trip, Sam found out that he would be traveling alone since the planes that other team members were flying on already were booked. Having never before flown nor been out of the country, it was a little frightening for Sam. But he was given telephone numbers to call in case anything went wrong.

Getting on the plane to fly to his final destination after a layover in a foreign country was when Sam's trip got interesting. As the plane taxied to the runway, a passenger in the back began shouting, which in turn started other people standing and shouting. Of course Sam had no

idea what was being said because it all was in a foreign language.

When the flight attendants could not subdue the angry passengers, the plane turned around and came back to the gate where it was met by security forces and three people were escorted off. The plane finally got off the ground—late by this time—but Sam had experienced something that most travelers don't see.

The other team members already had arrived at the destination, so they were able to keep in contact with Sam by cell phone throughout the harrowing process of also waiting until a severe weather system passed and the plane was allowed to take off. Sam finally arrived, joined the team and was blessed with the opportunity to hand out Christian literature and meet other believers throughout the country where they ministered for a week.

After such a frightening first-time experience, would Sam do it again? He said he is ready to go back again next semester.

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

## IRS gift deadline nears

**Important tax-benefit gift must be made by Dec. 31**

If you are at least age 70 and a half, and already are taking the required minimum distribution from your individual retirement account but do not need the additional income, you have a window of opportunity to make a significant tax-advantaged gift to your church, the Kentucky Baptist Foundation and other favorite charitable organizations. This applies both to traditional and Roth IRAs.

This window of opportunity is small; the transfer of IRA assets must be completed by Dec. 31. Since such transfers take more time to complete than most charitable gifts, you must act promptly. Please call our Trust Counsel Laurie Valentine toll free for assistance in how an IRA charitable rollover might work for you.

Keep in mind the gift must go directly to a qualified charity or an endowment fund for the benefit of a qualified charity. Your church, association, Kentucky Baptist Convention-related institutions, agencies, partnering organizations and auxiliary all are qualified charities. Transfers to donor-advised funds, charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, supporting

organizations, private foundations or other giving vehicles do not qualify.

You can direct your gift to the Kentucky Baptist Foundation to be added to an existing endowment fund or to establish an endowment that will perpetually support your charitable interests.

**Ky. Baptist Foundation**



**Barry Allen**

This is a significant window of opportunity and could afford you the opportunity to make a gift you never dreamed possible. You are allowed to donate up to \$100,000 from your IRA without including this amount in your taxable gross income; the amount donated counts toward your required minimum distribution. A couple may be able to donate up to \$200,000. If you desire to donate more than the deductibility ceiling of 50 percent of your adjusted gross income in 2009, this also is an opportunity for you to fulfill that desire.

Please do not delay in acting upon this significant stewarding opportunity. Laurie and I stand ready to assist you. Please contact us today.

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

## For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



## Preacher's Kids

David Ayers



## Bible Crosswords

By Evelyn Boyington

### Across

- Wrath
- 4 Send out
- 8 "They made a calf ... and offered sacrifice unto the \_\_\_\_" (Acts 7:41)
- 12 From or to a distance (prefix)
- 13 "He maketh the storm a \_\_\_\_" (Psalm 107:29)
- 14 Bog
- 15 He thought Hannah had been drinking
- 16 Bold alternative
- 17 Disobey a road sign
- 18 "Do good to them that \_\_\_\_ you" (Matthew 5:44)
- 20 Lady of Spain, perhaps (abbr.)
- 21 "In thee, O Lord, do I put my \_\_\_\_" (Psalm 71:1)
- 23 "\_\_\_\_ God in the day of visitation" (1 Peter 2:12)
- 27 Clarifying abbr.
- 28 From here one has a bird's-eye view
- 30 Ripped apart (arch.)
- 31 Feminine name
- 33 "There is a \_\_\_\_, the streams whereof shall make glad" (Psalm 46:4)
- 35 Little lamb's cry
- 36 Land measure
- 38 AKA Cephas
- 40 Title of respect (abbr.)
- 41 What Demetrius the silversmith made (Acts 19:24)
- 43 Children of the vindicated Job: \_\_\_\_ sons and three daughters
- 44 Number of pieces of silver belonging to the woman in the parable of the lost coin
- 45 Cash cow (abbr.)
- 46 Isle of \_\_\_\_, in the English Channel
- 49 Arafat's assoc.
- 50 Not a lot
- 53 Buffalo's lake
- 54 \_\_\_\_ Window (Hitchcock film)
- 55 Before
- 56 Coffin
- 57 "\_\_\_\_ it even to the foundation thereof" (Psalm 137:7)
- 58 Tribe of Israel

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

- 4 "I will \_\_\_\_ you abroad among the nations" (Nehemiah 1:8)
- 5 Actor Alan
- 6 "They angered him ... so that it went \_\_\_\_ with Moses" (Psalm 106:32)
- 7 Britain's John Major, once (abbr.)
- 8 "That I may \_\_\_\_ unto you some spiritual gift" (Romans 1:11)
- 9 "I must \_\_\_\_ in this land" (Deuteronomy 4:22)
- 10 Mine find
- 11 What Fred Astaire did?
- 17 Hit's initials.
- 19 Good king of Judah
- 20 Storm hazard
- 21 Son of Japheth (Genesis 10:2)
- 22 Toothbrush brand
- 23 "What \_\_\_\_?"
- 24 The Great \_\_\_\_ (name for God)
- 25 "For he knoweth our \_\_\_\_; he remembereth that we are dust" (Psalm 103:14)
- 26 Pine
- 29 What sour grapes do, hopefully
- 32 To blunder
- 34 "I will \_\_\_\_ health unto thee" (Jeremiah 30:17)
- 37 One or the other
- 39 Jerky movement during sleep (abbr.)
- 42 "I will spread my \_\_\_\_ upon them" (Hosea 7:12)
- 45 Exclamation of pity
- 46 Sticky trap
- 47 Son of Bela (1 Chronicles 7:7)
- 48 Give (Scot.)
- 49 Legume
- 50 "I have \_\_\_\_ you with milk" (1 Corinthians 3:2)
- 51 Tide competitor
- 52 Benign skin tumor
- 54 B & O, e.g.

### Last week's solution

M	A	P	S	W	A	M	S	M	E	E		
A	B	I	T	A	R	E	H	E	A	R		
R	E	S	T	O	R	E	D	E	A	R	N	
S	T	A	I	N	S	E	A	T	S			
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P	U	R	E	I	L	O	R	E	V	E		
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M	E	N	S	W	A	R	T	D	E	E		

Christmas memories start with you...  
**Sponsor a Child.**

Sunrise Children's Services is seeking Christmas sponsors for our children. If you would like to give one or more of our children a memorable Christmas this year, either by shopping from a wish list or making a monetary donation, please contact us at:

**SUNRISE CHILDREN'S SERVICES**  
 (800) 456-1386  
[www.SUNRISE.org](http://www.SUNRISE.org)

**PRAYER PARTNERS**

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

■ While in the region of Pisidian Antioch (Acts 13:14), Paul preached and prayed and the "word of the Lord spread throughout the whole region" (Acts 13:49). The Pisidian Project needs volunteers to walk that same region—which is now Turkey—praying and spreading the Word of God. If you are interested in participating or for more information, visit [www.Go2AlltheWorld.com](http://www.Go2AlltheWorld.com).

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

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

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

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

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

**MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI**

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **BROWDER**—Browder Church recently called **Jeremy Jessup** as pastor. He previously was pastor at Bethel Church in Morgantown.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Campbellsville University will host Tiger Round-Up Nov. 19-20, an overnight event that allows high school seniors to experience a night at college and see the campus. For more information or to register, visit [www.CampbellsvilleUniversity/TigerRoundUp](http://www.CampbellsvilleUniversity/TigerRoundUp), or call (800) 264-6014, ext. 5220.

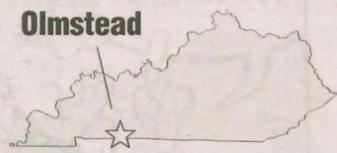
Elk Horn Church recently ordained **Bob Clark, Howard Durham, Travis Gilpin, Terry Kingsley** and **Larry Parrish** as deacons. The church also celebrated its 108th salvation in the past 14 months. **Brian Rafferty** is pastor.

■ **GEORGETOWN**—Georgetown College will host a campus VIP (Visit-in-Person) Day Nov. 21, 9 a.m. for prospective students and their parents. For more information or to register, visit [www.georgetowncollege/admissions](http://www.georgetowncollege/admissions), or call (800) 788-9985.

■ **GREENVILLE**—Oak Grove Church

**Spotlight on ...**

**Olmstead**



Dripping Spring Church will hold revival services Nov. 20-21, 7 p.m.; Nov. 22, 10:30 a.m. with **Bobby Reno** as evangelist. **Jeff Noffsinger** is pastor.

recently called **Vernon Cook** as pastor.

■ **HODGENVILLE**—Campbellsville University will hold a dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony Nov. 19, 1 p.m. for the school's Brockman Center at the regional campus. Those scheduled to speak include Campbellsville University President **Michael Carter**; Hodgenville Mayor **Terry Cruse**; **Mike Rodgers**, pastor of First Church, Hodgenville; and LaRue County Judge/Executive **Tommy Turner**. The event is open

**KBC CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**December**

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

**January**

14-16 Shepherding the Shepherd, Downtown Hilton Hotel, Lexington.

22-23 Region 2 Disaster Relief Recertification and Training, Second Baptist Church, Madisonville.

26 Pastor/Staff Forum, Living Hope Baptist Church, Bowling Green.

28-30 Southeast Conclave, Chattanooga, Tenn.

29-30 Deacon/Pastor/Spouse Retreat, Holiday Inn Plaza, Bowling Green.

29-30 Preschool/Children's Ministry Meeting, Baptist Building, Louisville.

29-30 Regional Women on Mission Retreat, Laurel Lake Baptist Camp, Corbin.

**February**

5-6 Region 4 Disaster Relief Recertification and Training, Ninth & O Baptist Church, Louisville.

15 Regional Church Financial Benefits Conference, Oakland Baptist Church.

17 Regional Church Financial Benefits Conference, Baptist Building, Louisville.

20 Kentucky Changers Crew Chief Training, Baptist Building, Louisville.

20 Women's Chorale Winter Retreat, TBA.

22-23 Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

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

to the public.

■ **OWENSBORO**—**Linda Waller**, who served as church pianist and handbell choir director at First Church for 20 years, died Nov. 4. She was 54. Waller earned a de-

gree in music education from Georgetown College. A memorial service was held Nov. 7 at First Church.

■ **POWDERLY**—Woodson Church recently called **Travis Fox** as pastor.

**Kentucky teen closes out KBC annual meeting**



Savannah Hines (right) stands alongside Kentucky Baptist Convention Secretary Wilma Simmons and Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union President Pat Reaves shortly before praying to close out last week's KBC annual meeting in Elizabethtown. Hines, a member of South Fork Baptist Church in Hodgenville, is a 2009 National Acteens Top Teen, one of two from Kentucky. The high school senior also serves on the Kentucky Acteens Panel, a group of up to six teenage girls who help plan the annual state Acteens Conference. The panel selects the event's theme and schedule each year, according to LaRaine Rice, youth and college consultant with Kentucky WMU. Next year's conference is scheduled for April 16-17 with the theme "Scarred Warrior," which comes from Isaiah 53. (KBC photo by Brenda Smith)

**CLASSIFIED ADS**

**AVAILABLE:** Worship leader (with music bachelor's) in Owensboro area seeks ministry opportunity. E-mail for resumé and references: [paco\\_1026@hotmail.com](mailto:paco_1026@hotmail.com).

**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.

**SEEKING:** Full-time youth minister for Calvary Baptist Church in Danville, Ky. We are looking for an experienced individual with a passion for reaching and discipling youth. Resumés may be e-mailed to [info@calvaryindanville.com](mailto:info@calvaryindanville.com); or mailed to Calvary Baptist Church, 214 Lincoln Ave., Danville KY 40422. Deadline for submission is Wed., Dec. 2.

**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:** Full-time youth minister with minimum three years experience in youth leadership for Beech Haven Baptist Church, Athens, Ga. Seminary graduate preferred. Submit resumé electronically to Dr. Trey Hood ([th@uga.edu](mailto:th@uga.edu)). Full consideration given to applications received before Dec. 21, 2009. View job description at [www.BeechHaven.org/positions](http://www.BeechHaven.org/positions).

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister/director of children with minimum three years leadership experience in children's programs for Beech Haven Baptist Church in Athens, Ga. Submit resumé electronically to [bhbchildren@gmail.com](mailto:bhbchildren@gmail.com); or mail

**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.

to Beech Haven Baptist Church, 2390 W Broad St., Athens, GA 30606, Attn: Children's Minister Search Committee. View full job description at [www.BeechHaven.org/positions](http://www.BeechHaven.org/positions).

**SEEKING:** Part-time youth pastor and part-time children's pastor, or full-time position covering both. Forestpark Community Church, a growing suburban congregation, is seeking strong leadership in our youth and children's ministries. Membership is about 200; dedicated student ministry campus. For more information or to submit a resumé, contact Terry Steiden, (502) 836-9201, [tsteiden@insightbb.com](mailto:tsteiden@insightbb.com).

**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 of music and education for Rose Hill Baptist Church in Ashland. Interested candidates should mail resumés to: Personnel Committee, Rose Hill Baptist Church, 1001 Winslow Road, Ashland, KY 41102.

**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@newwavecomm.net](mailto:gbchurch@newwavecomm.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 [brocrowe@gmail.com](mailto:brocrowe@gmail.com).

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music (Hopkinsville/Clarksville area). Express interest or request information at [trentonbaptist@bell.south.net](mailto:trentonbaptist@bell.south.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.

## NAMB GPS evangelism pilot projects culminate in baptisms

By Adam Miller  
On Mission

Conyers, Ga.—Maxine Harris had no idea cancer was forming in her body when, miles away, pastors in Stone Mountain Baptist Association were meeting to talk about evangelism strategy.

The pastors wanted to reach out to communities within a five-mile radius of their churches in helping to pilot Southern Baptists' new evangelism initiative, GPS (God's Plan for Sharing).

Harris' neighborhood was a part of the plans that the pastors formulated last February as one of four pilot efforts in conjunction with the North American Mission Board for the initial year's emphasis called GPS: Across North America.

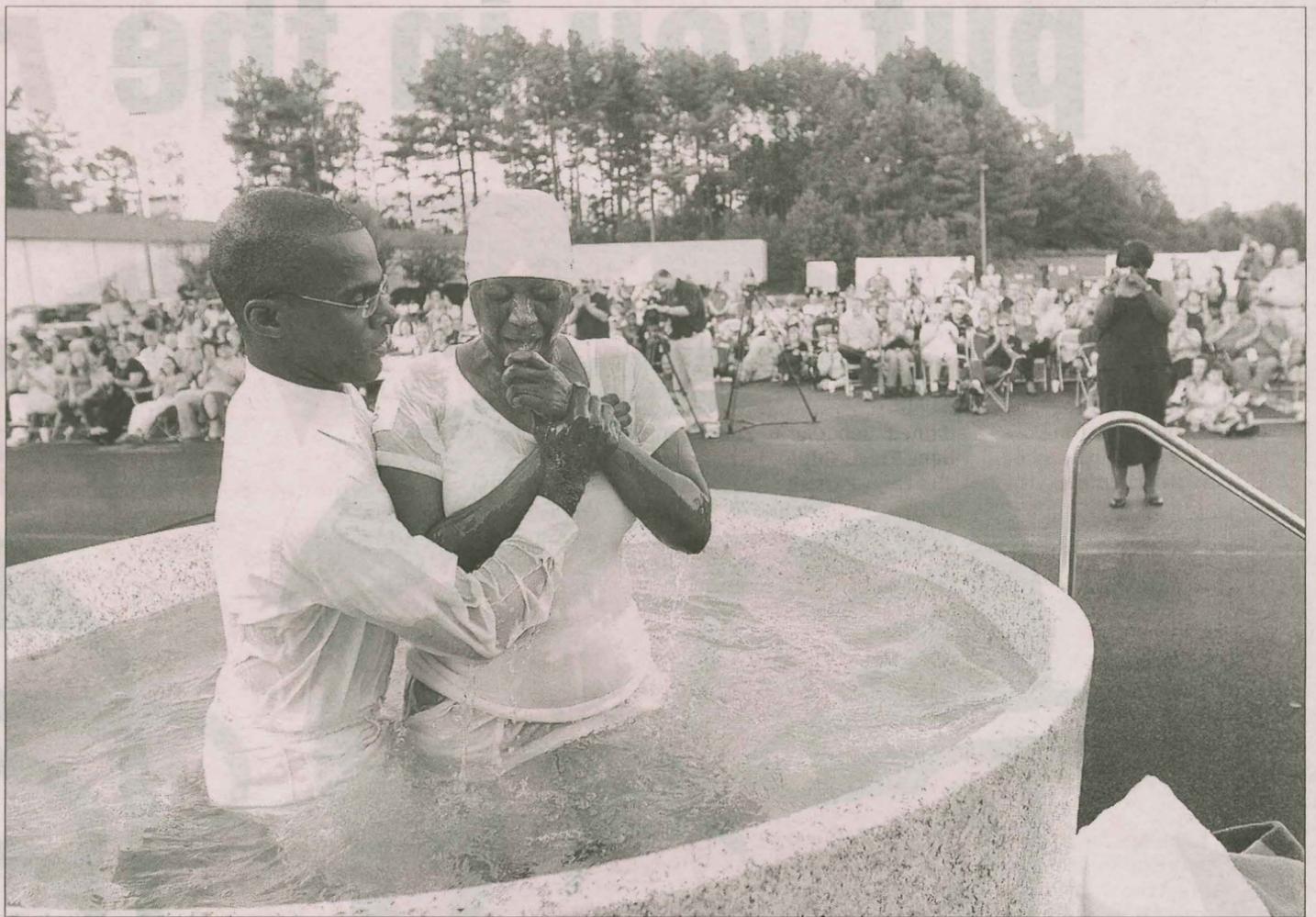
Harris wasn't home the day members of Emmanuel Community Church came knocking on the door of her home in Conyers, Ga., but she was intrigued by the materials left by the group—a flier with information about the church and about how she could find hope in Christ. When she was diagnosed this year with cancer, hope was something she was having a hard time finding.

As part of their plan to reach the Stone Mountain area this spring, more than 50 churches joined the GPS effort, visiting neighborhoods like Harris' in communities stretching from Conyers to Decatur. The Georgia churches were part of the pilot effort also involving Baptist associations in Philadelphia, Lubbock, Texas, and Riverside, Calif., in tilling the soil for GPS: Across North America, which is scheduled for launch in spring 2010. Forty-two Baptist state conventions have joined the initiative.

Scattering and planting seeds is a key component of biblical evangelism, and it bore fruit with Maxine Harris who was invited to church during the summer by one of the people who visited her home during the spring.

"I started chemo recently," Harris said, trying to talk as she wiped away tears. "With everything going on, I knew I needed something."

At church one Sunday, she realized what she needed in her life was Jesus Christ.



**RAISED TO NEW LIFE** Gary Favors, associate pastor of Emmanuel Community Church in Conyers, Ga., baptizes Maxine Harris, who came to know Christ earlier this year after reading some GPS (God's Plan for Sharing) evangelism materials that were left at her home. (BP photo by Adam Miller)

Dressed in a swimmer's cap and casual clothes, Harris was first in line when Emmanuel Community's associate pastor Gary Favors joined more than 20 other pastors from the area on a Sunday in September for a corporate baptism of 39 new believers in the parking lot of First Baptist Church of Conyers.

From elementary school to middle age, new believers were baptized in two small pools as family and friends looked on, cameras clicking to capture the moment as smoke curled from a nearby barbecue tent.

"God's plan for sharing has been around for a long time; now we're just intentionally putting it into action through these cooperative efforts," said Sean Nix, pastor of Oxford Baptist Church, about 35 miles east of Atlanta. "Over the course of this year, we've seen more people come to Christ than in previous years combined. We've had 23 professions of faith over the past few months" at the church.

"There's no way we would have come together without an initiative to unite us," said Jeff Myers, pastor of First Baptist, Conyers. "For this work to reach our

community we have to work together, and what GPS has done is it's given us a clearer vision and a Kingdom focus."

The Sunday night baptism service was "an outgrowth of our GPS strategy," said Larry Cheek, associational director of missions for Stone Mountain Baptist Association. "Before we left that night we had a tentative date for next spring's baptism. As an associational missionary, this has been the easiest thing I've ever done. I've not had to beg people. I've had more participation in GPS than anything we've ever done together." (BP)

## Southern Baptist stewardship emphasis has widespread church appeal

By Erin Roach

Nashville—Hundreds of pastors across the Southern Baptist Convention are learning that some of the best guidance they can give their people during these days is how to manage their finances, the leader of the SBC's stewardship emphasis said.

"Because of the climate that we live in, there has never been a better time to have a conversation in church about money than right now," noted Ashley Clayton, associate vice president for stewardship for the SBC's Executive Committee, adding that many people in the pews are preoccupied with job security and how to pay their bills.

"Why wouldn't a pastor address that? It could be that the people in our churches wonder why their pastor never talks about money when it's clearly in the news all the time," Clayton told Baptist Press.

Church leaders must begin to see stewardship in a different light, he said, because Jesus spoke frequently about money, a tool that enables ministry.

"Even as a denomination, we spend way too much time trying to divide the Cooperative Program dollars when what we should be doing is trying to grow the Cooperative Program dollars, and you do that through stewardship," Clayton said.

Most churches lack a consistent plan for helping people deal with money, he observed, noting that one of the main benefits of such a plan is that it changes lives on an individual level.

"The person who is worried about their future, who is failing to invest in their future, who is struggling to pay their bills, who is struggling to give often can't see beyond that," Clayton explained. "It colors their whole world. So a consistent stewardship plan in a church changes lives. It changed my life."

Clayton said he and his wife struggled with money for too many years, but when they took the first steps toward financial freedom, it was liberating.

"We still had the same problems and we still had debt to overcome, but you would have thought we had won the lottery," he recalled. "We were truly liberated because we were on the right path."

Also, a consistent plan for helping people deal with money is a cultural bridge

from churches to their local communities.

"If you want your church to get a toe hold in your community, if you want people in your community to see your church as being relevant and a place of hope and a place of help, hang out a sign that says, 'Get out of debt here,'" Clayton suggested. "It's a strong cultural bridge."

Church planters especially should be interested in promoting stewardship, he said, because offering people help with their finances immediately will help the community perceive the church as a place that offers hope and help.

Stewardship also is relevant because handling

money well is a mark of maturity in a believer's life, Clayton noted.

"It's a direct and outward response to God's grace in our lives. We should be compelled by God's grace to invest as many dollars in the Kingdom as we possibly can," he said. "My experience has been that it's not that believers don't want to give. It's that they cannot give."

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—Ashley Clayton, SBC Executive Committee's associate vice president for stewardship

"If it's true that unbelievers and believers alike spend \$1.26 over every dollar they earn, it's no wonder that giving has been on a decline in our denomination," Clayton added. "The point is treating money well and having a healthy approach to money translates into funding the Kingdom."

With such a strong need for stewardship education in churches today, the Executive Committee is investing in the convention's leaders through seminars, curricula and other resources under the It's A New Day stewardship umbrella.

By year's end, more than 2,000 pastors and church leaders will have attended a one-day financial freedom seminar sponsored by churches, local associations or state conventions in conjunction with the Executive Committee.

Earlier this year, the Executive Committee released the second volume of the It's A New Day curriculum series. Whereas the first volume, developed by Crown, involved a fee for Sunday school lessons, this volume is completely free and includes new material.

Available for download are four weeks of sermon videos, sermon notes, listening guides, PowerPoint slides and Bible study lessons. (BP)

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