

Shine like stars in the world  
Philippians 2:15

# WESTERN Recorder

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## Rescue operation



Executive Director John Ferguson stands outside the Jefferson Street Baptist Center in downtown Louisville. As head of the rescue shelter since January, Ferguson said the ministry has overcome a number of obstacles, such as financial difficulties and the encroachment of gentrification in the area that the shelter has called home since 1943. Despite the struggles, "it's just a joy to share the gospel not just with the homeless, but with anyone who walks through our doors," Ferguson said. (Photo by Drew Nichter)

## Louisville's Jefferson Street Baptist Center focuses on the gospel in serving city's vast homeless community

By Drew Nichter  
News Director

Louisville—John Ferguson has a slightly different perspective on the holidays.

"We've made so much of them as a society—and I'm glad of that. But for those who are isolated and alone, this is the worst time of year," said Ferguson, executive director of Jefferson Street Baptist Center, a rescue mission in downtown Louisville.

Although many individuals and businesses pitch in around Thanksgiving and Christmas to help serve meals at homeless shelters, there is more than can—and should—be done.

Underscoring Jefferson Street's vision statement, Ferguson said the center "exists to extend gospel-centered mercy to the homeless and hurting in the greater Louisville area."

But, "we're just a bridge ... from the homeless and hurting community to the local church," he stressed. "The local church is the end goal."

As head of the Louisville shelter since January, Ferguson said he has had his share of "joy mixed with heartache and sorrow."

"Joy in the sense of seeing the Lord work. Heartache and sorrow at seeing those who just walk away" from the gospel, he said.

It is a firsthand knowledge of the isolation of homelessness that drives Ferguson each day.

While never homeless himself, Ferguson said he "was just a few steps away from it." In his early 20s, he had a marriage on life support, was addicted to cocaine and led a self-indulgent "rock and roll lifestyle," he recalled.

Although he never experienced homelessness,  See Jefferson Street ministry ... *Page 3*

## IMB's budget shortfall could affect up to 600 missionaries

By Mark Kelly

Shreveport, La.—In a day of unprecedented global missions opportunity and great harvest, Southern Baptists will be forced to draw down their overseas missions force in 2010 by as many as 600 missionaries, International Mission Board trustees were told Nov. 10.

The trustees, meeting in Shreveport, La., adopted a \$317.6 million budget for next year and learned that \$7.5 million will be needed from contingency reserves to balance the budget. That unprecedented step leaves the organization with only six weeks of available reserves in case of major unexpected expenses. The funds will be needed in 2010 because projected revenue for the year is lower than projected expenses. The 2008 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering came in \$9 million short of the previous year's receipts and \$29 million short of its \$170 million goal.

Because of that shortfall, IMB was forced to suspend two short-term missionary programs, send fewer long-term workers and significantly reduce all aspects of its operating expenses. One of those short-term programs, the Masters Program, is being

reinstated in a format that asks new personnel to provide part of their own support package. The program offers those age 50 and older the opportunity to serve two to three years overseas.

The drawdown in the missionary force during 2010 will be accomplished through natural attrition, completion of service, retirements and limiting appointments, not by recalling any personnel, the trustees were told.

Because economic realities are forcing IMB to retrench its efforts, the organization must deliberately plan to have fewer missionaries—with implications for a lost world that should distress Southern Baptist church members, said Gordon Fort, IMB's vice president of global strategy.

"When doors are swinging open all over the world, when our work force is finding great harvest in some of the most difficult places in the world, we are drawing our force down from 5,600 to 5,000. It just shouldn't be," Fort told trustees.

When Southern Baptists collected \$11.1 billion in offering plates in 2008, according to the denomina-  See IMB's shortfall may ... *Page 6*

## Amid hardships, IMB appoints 55

Shreveport, La.—Despite the rocky economy and a red-line budget, International Mission Board trustees took a step of faith Nov. 10 when they celebrated the appointment of 55 new missionaries at Summer Grove Baptist Church in Shreveport, La.

Earlier this year, 25 of the 55 appointees were told they would be delayed going to the mission field until 2010 because there wasn't enough money to send them.

But during the summer, Southern Baptists responded to the IMB's financial restrictions with a grassroots effort to raise additional support to send as many of the delayed missionary candidates as possible before the end of 2009. IMB leadership determined the extra gifts would be enough to send 25 of the 69 career candidates on hold.

IMB trustee chairman Paul Chitwood, pastor of First Baptist Church of Mount Washington, praised the new missionaries for their commitment and passion,

calling them the "best of the best," in light of the IMB limiting the number of new appointments to the most strategic assignments.

"Their testimonies are clear. Their commitment is unquestionable. Their identity as Southern Baptists is without apology. And their call—God's call on their lives—is so evident," Chitwood said.

But he cautioned that the extra gifts making it possible for many of the new missionaries to go would have been given in vain without Southern Baptists' continued support.

"In the midst of this unprecedented opportunity all over the world, we find ourselves ... paring back our missionary force because of a lack of funding," Chitwood said. "As excited as we are to see these 55 new missionaries appointed, ... my prayer is that you will be challenged to make a greater commitment to pray and—during this Lottie Moon Christmas Offering season—to give."

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## High attendance Sunday school event meant to strengthen Find It Here follow-up efforts

By David Winfrey  
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Louisville—Churches taking part in the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Find It Here statewide evangelism emphasis next spring should plan now for a key project to improve results, according to KBC Sunday School Department Director Darryl Wilson.

A pilot project this past spring demonstrated that high-attendance Sunday school promotions attract church visitors while uniting members in outreach, Wilson said.

"The key word is 'care.' What are we doing in Sunday school to care for people inside and outside the church?" he asked. "If people aren't cared for, they're not going to come."

By planning now to host a high-attendance Sunday school event, he said, churches can boost their Sunday school attendance while providing strong follow-up for the statewide effort to blanket the commonwealth with the message of God's love.

The emphasis is intended to assist follow-up efforts to Find It Here, the statewide project next spring to share the message of Jesus with every Kentucky household.

The KBC is partnering with the North American Mission Board and Baptist associations to conduct the campaign. Kentucky Baptist congregations are encouraged to hand deliver a printed gospel presentation to every Kentucky household between March 6 and 21. The brochure has a gospel message that directs readers to the FindItHere.com Web site and a return card for ordering a free book.

Churches are asked to host the High Attendance Sunday School emphasis April 18, two weeks after Easter. The effort, Wilson noted, can help churches in many ways, including:

- Increasing prayer for unchurched people in their communities.
- Involving members in the success of their Sunday school classes.
- Breaking classes out of their routines to try new outreach strategies.
- Focusing members on inviting friends, family and neighbors to Sunday

school.

■ Expanding opportunities for people to be changed by God's Word.

"It will help any church that follows the suggestions, big or little," Wilson said. "They're going to have a good time doing it, and prayerfully, they're going to see some results."

Last spring, churches in Bardstown and Bowling Green participated in the pilot project. The KBC provided an array of resources, as churches were urged to plan, pray and promote for four weeks before the high-attendance event.

"It gives you a new burst of, 'Oh yeah, this is what we're about,'" said Stan Lowery, director of missions for Nelson Baptist Association in Bardstown, noting that church members were challenged to re-evaluate the purpose of their Sunday schools and how they might better reach others.

Lowery said the KBC resource materials made the emphasis easier to plan and manage. "There were a lot of ideas, and you didn't have to do it all," he recalled. "You could say, 'OK, this piece will really work in my situation.'"

Wilson said churches can prepare now by placing the High Attendance Sunday School event on their church calendars, reviewing the resources and planning options, and also to begin praying and talking about it.

One strategy involves hosting a fellowship that welcomes members' friends and family. Such events better connect class members and acquaint visitors with other members, making it less daunting to visit on Sunday morning.

"We Baptists are good at fellowship," Wilson pointed out. "So, why don't we fellowship some unchurched folks into Sunday school, and more important, into a relationship with Jesus Christ?"

In Bowling Green, 14 participating congregations saw their cumulative Sunday school attendance grow by more than 30 percent, according to Jeff Crabtree, director of missions for Warren Baptist Association. Those churches had a total Sunday school attendance of 2,255 that day, up 543 from their combined average of 1,712.

"It's benefited them longer than that

one day. That's the neat perspective," Crabtree said. "It helped us to move churches to the place where they understood that Sunday school was something that took work. But once they got there, they discovered it was well worth the investment of their time."

At White Stone Quarry Baptist Church in Bowling Green, members didn't reach their goal, but the event is having a lasting effect on the congregation, according to Pastor Alan Brumback.

"The emphasis enabled our church to be more intentional about plugging new members into Sunday school, more intentional about getting people engaged," he said. "As a matter of fact, we're out of room for Sunday school."

As the former minister of education at Central Baptist Church in Corbin, Crabtree said he had no trouble promoting a Sunday school project.

"If a church would just focus on Sunday school for four weeks, they'll reap the benefit," he noted. "And if they take how they did that over those four weeks over the next 48, they'll have a great year of Sunday school."

For more information about Find It Here and the high-attendance promotion, visit [www.KyBaptist.org/Reach](http://www.KyBaptist.org/Reach).

## Ky. couple appointed as missionaries

Shreveport, La.—A Kentucky couple was among 55 new missionaries recently appointed by the International Mission Board.

Michael and Rebecca Harrington of Lexington were commissioned as apprentice missionaries Nov. 10. The couple will be involved with church planting and evangelism in Europe.

According to the IMB, missionary apprentices serve three to four-year terms, which allow them to learn a language, adapt to the culture and gain valuable field experience alongside veteran personnel. Successful completion of an apprentice term usually leads to career service.

For the last two years, the couple have served as International Service Corps missionaries through the IMB.

The Harringtons both are graduates of

## October CP receipts outpace 2008 totals

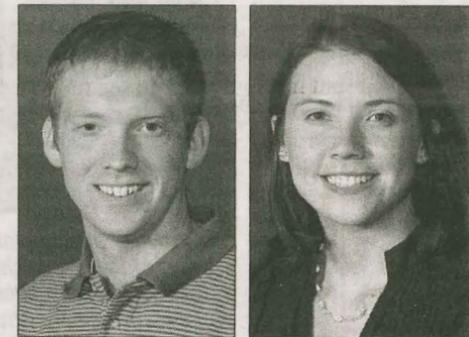
Louisville—Kentucky Baptists gave \$1,860,269 through the Cooperative Program in October, putting totals for the current fiscal year 7.4 percent ahead of last year and staying on pace for the 2009-10 working budget.

According to Lowell Ashby, KBC's business services team leader, last month's receipts brought totals for the fiscal year to \$3,833,749. That amount is \$264,899 more than the \$3,568,850 received at the same point last year.

"Thanks to the faithful giving of Kentucky Baptists, we have a strong foundation for ministries and missions that will take place during this fiscal year," said Billy Compton, KBC executive associate for Cooperative Program and resources.

Ashby said the year-to-date amount is technically \$246,251 (6.04 percent) behind the \$4.08 million needed through October to meet the fiscal year budget of \$24.48 million.

However, because of the downswing in the nation's economy, the KBC is operating under an approved working budget of \$23 million for the 2009-10 fiscal year. Both September and October receipts have fallen in line with what was anticipated, Ashby said.



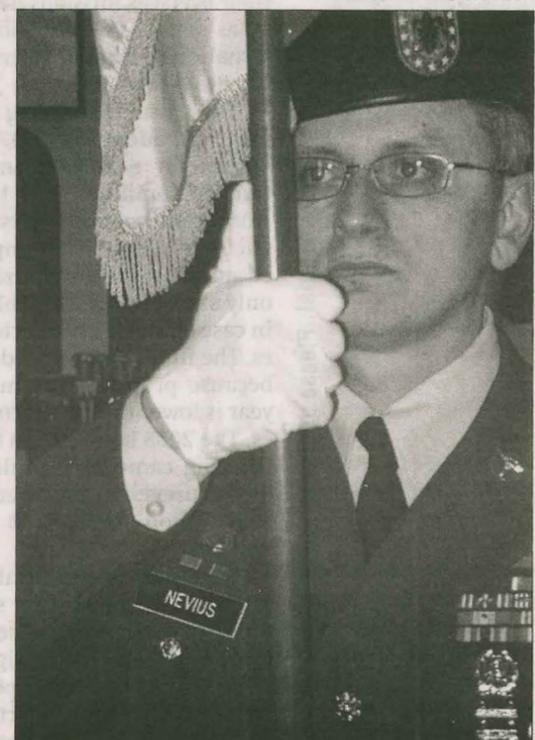
Michael and Rebecca Harrington

the University of Kentucky, and Michael currently is a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. They are involved with a Lexington mission, River of Life Ministries.

## Somerset church honors U.S. military veterans with rally, dedication



A 21-gun salute, the playing of "Taps," singing of patriotic songs and the Pledge of Allegiance were all part of a Nov. 1 Veterans' Day Rally at High Street Baptist Church in Somerset. Led by the Honor Guard from American Legion Post 38, living veterans from all branches of military service were honored, as well as the legacy of departed veterans. The event featured a dedication ceremony for the Veterans' Garden, located near the church's front steps. Pastor Ed Amundson offered a brief salute to all veterans and a plaque was presented to be installed at the garden reading, "In Honor of Our Veterans." ■ Left: A group of military veterans fire off a 21-gun salute during the dedication ceremony for High Street Baptist Church's new Veterans' Garden. ■ Right: An Honor Guard member leads a processional out of the church following the rally. (Photos courtesy of High Street Baptist Church)



## Jefferson Street ministry touches homeless through gospel

Continued from page 1

Ferguson said he did endure the intense feelings that accompany it.

"The loneliness and anger and bitterness (of homelessness) was a reality," he noted.

It was a friend in his hometown near Chicago who shared the gospel with him. After struggling through a year of ending his drug habit and restoring his marriage, Ferguson and his wife, Dawn, moved to Michigan.

There they found a church where the two of them were discipled and, as Ferguson put it, discovered what true community was and "why the local church is absolutely essential for change."

With a desire to become a pastor and church planter, Ferguson found himself at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 2001. At the same time, he recalled, God "was preparing me for ministry in an urban setting."

After stints with homeless ministries in Pontiac, Mich., and Lexington, Ferguson replaced former Jefferson Street director Rick Brenny, who entered the foreign mission field.

Although God ultimately led him into homeless ministry, Ferguson said he sees the local church as a vital component of bringing about gospel change in the lives of the homeless.

Unfortunately, too often churches do not get involved in homeless ministry because "they just don't know what to do," Ferguson observed.

"How do you handle someone who's been on the street for 20 years? It's a daunting reality," he noted.

Ferguson said he would like to see more churches partner with Jefferson Street not only through serving meals, but through investing in the lives of the shelter's residents and guests.

As a ministry of Long Run Baptist Association since 1943, Jefferson Street receives financial support from the association's churches, according to Director of Missions Wesley Pitts.

However, with the slumping economy, church gifts to the association have declined through much of 2009, which has directly affected Jefferson Street to the tune of about \$3,000, Ferguson estimated.

"Whenever we don't reach budget, our gifts to them have to be cut back," Pitts pointed out.

But it was its commitment to sharing the gospel that dealt Jefferson Street its most significant financial blow.

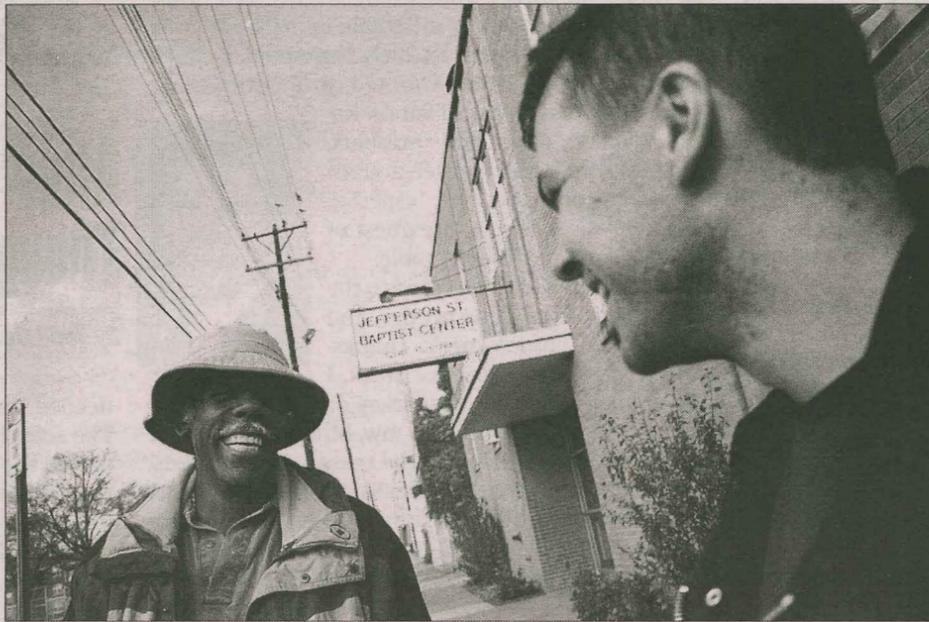
Over the summer, Ferguson and the shelter's board of directors declined to accept a \$50,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The grant represented 10 percent of Jefferson Street's \$500,000 budget.

Accepting the grant would have meant restrictions on sharing the gospel, Ferguson said.

While not much of a concern for the center's day shelter—which serves nearly 250 people daily—the restrictions would have adversely affected the Jefferson Street's recently retooled Fresh Start program.

Fresh Start is a discipleship program that helps male residents at Jefferson Street break cycles of addictions and bad decisions through Scripture, noted program director Keith Parker (see related story).

To restrict the gospel in the Fresh Start



**LAUGHTER** Jesse Eubanks (right), director of the Hope for Louisville program at Jefferson Street Baptist Center, shares a light-hearted moment with a day-shelter guest. (Photo courtesy of Jefferson Street Baptist Center)

program "where we are trying to see change take place, we understand that's just impossible because the gospel is central to change," Ferguson stressed. "The gospel is not something we tack on to an otherwise secular life."

Not only does Jefferson Street deal with internal financial struggles, outside forces also are working against it.

"You look around, gentrification is occurring," Ferguson said, referring to the buying and restoration of dilapidated urban neighborhoods, often at the expense of low-income families and small businesses.

For several years now, the city of Louisville has been steadily revamping a several-block area of the downtown's East corridor.

What used to be a row of run-down project housing apartments across the street from the shelter now is a vacant lot prepped for the construction of a more modern mixed-housing community. Residents will range from Section 8-eligible families to those paying \$300,000 for their homes, Ferguson noted.

He said he has been approached by both the city and an individual buyer about vacating the building to make way for a more appealing downtown locale.

"I've seen the plans for this area. They don't include having a rescue mission in the midst of an urban shopping area," Ferguson said.

It is a harsh reality another homeless shelter—no more than a block from Jefferson Street—discovered last year.

After announcing plans to spend millions of dollars for renovations, Wayside Christian Mission received a great deal of pushback from businesses in the area, which had become popular among antique dealers and art galleries.

Wayside sold its facilities for \$5 million in July 2008. It then spent the next year fighting battles about where in the city it could relocate. Only recently has Wayside been able to move into a previously vacant downtown Louisville hotel.

Yet Ferguson insisted Jefferson Street Baptist Center has no intentions of moving. "It makes sense for us to be where we're at," he noted.

"We stand in a unique place. We're not

driven by a bottom line, ... and that's the challenge they're facing," he added, referring to those who would want the shelter to sell its facilities.

What is a challenge is maintaining day-to-day operations on a shoestring budget. To make up for the lost HUD grant, Ferguson said he did have to make some personnel cuts to part-time employees.

"We are at a point where we are living by faith, which I think God wants us to do,"

he said, "but it challenges me as a director when I'm wondering if we're going to meet payroll or be able to purchase food."

So, just how can Kentucky Baptists help?

First and foremost is through food donations, Ferguson said, adding that the shelter goes through coffee and sugar faster than anything else. He also said the shelter is in need of cereal and oatmeal to serve for breakfast, which it started doing last year.

And with winter approaching, donations of warm coats and socks "are a necessity," Ferguson said.

On a personal level, Ferguson indicated he would like to see churches and individuals get involved through mentoring or adopting a resident or guest, especially during the holiday season.

Ferguson encouraged mentors to "pick a guy up for an hour a week, take him for coffee (and) enjoy some fellowship."

Doing so would show Jefferson Street residents and guests the love of Christ through mentors' selflessness, Ferguson noted.

Attempting to answer the question, "Why should I help Louisville?" Ferguson said the problem of the city's 11,000 homeless people ultimately belongs to the entire commonwealth.

"Louisville is—whether we like it or not—the hub of Kentucky," he noted. "The homeless flock here because they can eke out an existence. ... People from (Kentucky) communities are coming to Louisville."

For more ways to help Jefferson Street Baptist Center, visit [www.JeffersonStreet.org](http://www.JeffersonStreet.org), or call (502) 584-6543.

### Jeff. Street programs offer 'Fresh Start,' 'Hope'

By Drew Nichter  
News Director

Louisville—Graduation day comes this week for J.R. Root.

A native of Minnesota before coming to Louisville seven years ago, Root has lived at Jefferson Street Baptist Center for about a year now.

During that time, he has participated in the shelter's Fresh Start program, six months of "grace-based, disciplined and practical experience" for the center's male residents who struggle with addictions and other physical and emotional issues.

Although it has existed for several years, Fresh Start was revamped in May from a voluntary program to more of a discipleship-based curriculum with mandatory components, according to director Keith Parker.

"Just a guy being in this program, he's recognizing that he needs help, he needs change," Parker said, "and we're proposing that the only true change he can get is when Christ does something in his heart."

Soon-to-be graduate Root said while he has never really dealt with addiction in his life, he never has been very good at dealing with stress and anxiety.

Fresh Start, he said, has taught him how to make better decisions, looking "more at the Bible" in doing so.

"There's still stress there, but at least I'm managing it better than I was," he noted.

Parker said that as many as 40 men have participated in the retooled Fresh Start program since May. This week, only three will graduate. Many men either choose not to stick with it or they violate the disciplinary policy, he noted.

But he praised God for the three, like Root, "who have stuck with it."

"I have noticed some good change

and pray that what they've been taught through this six months the Lord would take and use and bring it to completion," Parker said.

Not only does Jefferson Street work to empower those it helps, but also those who are called to similar ministries.

Hope for Louisville started almost five years ago as a way for the men and women at the shelter "to establish deep relationships with other people, especially Christians," according to program director Jesse Eubanks.

The Hope program allows adults ages 18-29 to live and work at the shelter for either a year or a summer. Men live in an apartment on site, while women live just a couple of blocks away.

Each year, "our Hope team members seem to be able to build just deeper and deeper relationships," Eubanks said.

Describing Hope for Louisville as a "holistic discipleship program," Eubanks also said it allows participants to learn what it means "to actually follow in the steps of Christ as servants."

The schedule of a Hope team member is a rigorous one, typically lasting from 6:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. "It's a full immersion into this community," Eubanks observed.

But, he added, the effect on Jefferson Street's residents and guests is immeasurable.

"There are some residents who describe some of the Hope team members as their best friends, the people who are dearest to them in life," Eubanks said.

The Hope participants "are the folks that after (the staff) have gone home, they're sitting here sharing a meal, they're opening up Scripture," Eubanks explained. "They're here at 9 o'clock at night when somebody has something traumatic happen. These are the folks (the residents) go to reach out to."

## A passion to win souls

When I answered a recent telephone call, Carl Boyd, one of our retired pastors and director of missions, was on the line. Carl shared that his wife, Suzanne, had just died of cancer less than a month after diagnosis.

### Partners in the Mission



By Bill Mackey

Carl had called to share that Suzanne had requested that I preach at her funeral. It was a very humbling experience to receive this request, and I was available. "The first time Suzanne heard you speak, she knew she had a soulmate in personal evangelism," Carl said.

The more I learned about Suzanne's commitment to personal soul winning and discipleship, the more honored I felt to preach at the celebration of her homegoing.

Sharing her faith was a lifelong joy for Suzanne. She became a Christian at age 13 and as a teenager shared the gospel with her father and grandfather. Both of them became disciples of Jesus Christ.

Within the last months, Suzanne shared Christ with one of her eight grandchildren. He, too, committed his life to Jesus Christ.

Suzanne taught school in Kentucky and California where Carl served in pioneer missions, but most of her career was serving the Lord as a pastor's wife. She taught children, trained teachers and mentored other women in personal soul winning, discipleship and as speakers and conference leaders.

Several women shared during the service about Suzanne's influence on their lives. Diane Hurt of Beaver Dam said Suzanne mentored her in witness visitation and personal soul winning. She shared vivid experiences of women coming to Christ and serving the Lord due to Suzanne's witness and leadership.

Suzanne served as a member of the Kentucky WMU executive board for two terms and participated in mission trips to Kenya and Brazil. She helped start churches in Ohio and Kentucky. While Carl served as director of missions in Pike Association, she served as child care director at Immanuel Baptist Church in Pikeville.

Most recently, Suzanne was active in a weekly jail ministry and had seen nine female inmates receive Christ within the last year. She also had conducted a women's seminar where six women prayed to receive Christ as recently as September.

Carl said that a person could not be with Suzanne very long before she had explored his or her relationship to Jesus Christ. Her brother-in-law shared that he avoided Suzanne as long as he could, but her prayers, and God, caught up with him, and he also committed his life to Christ.

"Suzanne's greatest passion in life was introducing others to Jesus Christ," Carl said.

May God continue to raise up godly women who are bold witnesses and disciples of Jesus Christ and who are willing to intentionally mentor others.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

## Keep your Thanksgiving spirit inflated

Across the street from where we live is a house with a giant turkey inflatable on its front lawn. When I first saw it in early November, I chuckled out loud: "Good grief!" Granted, at Christmastime, you see yard ornaments of Santa, Rudolph, Frosty, elves and presents, but it isn't every day you see a giant turkey bearing greetings, especially since he is soon to be the guest of honor at everyone's dinner table.

Yet I have grown accustomed to the giant turkey brightening my day, and I admire the homeowner's Thanksgiving spirit. So, one day last week, I was disappointed to see the turkey deflated, lying face down on the ground. It was a raw, blustery November day, and I assumed that was the reason. Nevertheless, it occurred to me just how fleeting a thankful heart can be. Our spirit of thankfulness often can become deflated whenever a chilly gust assails us. God's providence and provision in the past and His presence in the present are quickly cast asunder, and foreboding possibilities soon pummel our patient perseverance. In short, we easily lose heart.

While reading a historical narrative, "Mayflower" by Nathaniel Philbrick, I was reminded that in the midst of adversity, we often may not be alert to ways in which God provides for our needs. God's providential care was evident in the Pilgrims' story long before they sat down with the Indians for the first Thanksgiving meal.

Early on, the Speedwell, the ship on which the Pilgrims were first traveling, sprung a leak, and they had to return to port. Their journey was postponed by several months, delaying their arrival at Cape Cod to the start of winter. What no doubt at first seemed to be a disappointing setback turned out to be a blessing. According to Philbrick, the native Indian tribes, who lived along the New England coastline, usually went inland during the winter to escape the bitter, Atlantic winds. Their departure meant that the Pilgrims would not have to skirmish for a place to settle and could focus on building shelter instead.

Three years earlier, a plague swept through the Indian population, wiping out most of the region's inhabitants and leaving much of the shoreline unoccupied. Philbrick explains, "The biggest advantage of the area was that it had already been cleared by the Indians. And yet nowhere could they find evidence of any recent native settlements. The Pilgrims saw the eerie vacancy of this place as a miraculous gift from God."

## Thanksgiving: An attitude and lifestyle

By Tom Townsend

I like the month of November because of its weather, football and fellowship. I like the fact that we celebrate a day set aside to express our gratitude to the Lord for His bountiful blessings. Thanksgiving is a speed bump en route to the Christmas season for most Americans, but to those of us who are followers of Christ it is a time of reflection, family and true thanksgiving. It has its beginning in the early Pilgrims who came to this country to escape religious persecution and found the provision of the Lord to be beyond their expectations. Three years after landing on Plymouth Rock, the governor of the colony declared:

To All Ye Pilgrims

Inasmuch as the great Father has given us this year an abundant harvest of Indian corn, wheat, beans, squashes, and garden vegetables, and has made the forests to abound with game and the sea with fish and clams, and inasmuch as He has protected us from the ravages of the savages, has spared us from pestilence



### After Thought

By Todd Deaton

Another example of God's providence might be seen in the ship captain's haste to return to Holland before winter. Off course, he called off his search for the Hudson River where the Pilgrims had planned to settle.

Landing near Cape Cod brought them into contact with two Indians who had learned to speak some English from traders. These Indians later befriended the settlers and help them form alliances for mutual protection from hostile tribes.

On one of the first scouting trips, Miles Standish's exploring party discovered a fresh-water spring, a much-needed source of replenishment after months at sea. The scouting party also saw where some Indians had patted the sand smooth, and upon closer investigation they discovered a storage pit. They returned later to uncover four bushels of dried corn. The corn not only ward off immediate starvation, but the Pilgrims later learned how to plant some of the seeds. Many of the seeds that the Pilgrims had brought with them did not grow well here, so the discovery proved providential.

Early on, there were many acts of friendship between the Pilgrims and Pokanoket Indians that helped the new settlement to survive. One strong warrior, Samoset, made a striking impression as he walked unafraid into the Pilgrims' village, carrying a quiver of tipped and untipped arrows. Philbrick suggests that he was giving them a choice between peace and war. The Pilgrims were greatly relieved to sign an agreement not to hurt Samoset's tribe and promised that each would come to the aid of the other. Squanto and Samoset spent that night with the Pilgrims, and their sachem, Massasoit, returned a week later to help teach the Pilgrims how to fertilize the soil with fish.

The Pilgrims played host to the Indians, who greatly outnumbered them, at a harvest celebration in September and October, which we now refer to as Thanksgiving. In perhaps two other little-known gestures of friendship, Philbrick describes how in the years that followed, Edward Winslow visited Massasoit while he was gravely ill and helped his tribe to recover, and how Massasoit and 120 of his warriors attended Gov. William Bradford's wedding and danced in celebration.

The Pilgrims' story reminds us of the necessity of keeping our spirit of thanksgiving inflated and celebrating how God provides for our needs. Psalm 9 urges: "I will thank the LORD with all my heart; I will declare all Your wonderful works. I will rejoice and boast about You; I will sing about Your name, Most High."

each and every day of our lives. The Bible declares:

"When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you" (Deuteronomy 8:10).

"Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name" (Psalm 100:4).

"Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light" (Colossians 1:12).

"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ... sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father" (Colossians 3:15-17).

"Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

May the Lord's grace, mercy and provision be remembered by us all in an attitude and lifestyle of thanksgiving.

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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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## Talking about tricky triangles

By James Stillwell

**Q: I've been told that I have problems getting into "triangles" in relationships. What does that mean and what can I do?**

**A:** Relationship triangles happen whenever someone in conflict goes to a third party to reduce their own anxiety rather than going to the person directly with whom they are in conflict.

It makes sense that people would be tempted to alleviate anxiety through such alliances, since disequilibrium begs to be resolved. The problem is that it ultimately does not

work. Rather than eliminating anxiety, it just passes it on to somebody else. It perpetuates the problem and usually makes things worse.

Possibly the most widely known relationship triangle is the Persecutor-Victim-Rescuer model. In this situation, individuals take on roles which keep all three locked into an unproductive, endless pattern of persecution and rescue.

What's a person to do to avoid relationship landmines such as triangles? Here are a few hints:

**Assertiveness.** Speak for yourself to the source, the person with whom you have a problem (Matthew 19:18).

**Appropriate ownership.** With every situation, ask whose business this is—yours, theirs or God's? Is it something for which you ultimately are responsible? Take action to that extent. Is it something somebody else ultimately is responsible for? Then let it go. Is it something only God can control? Let that go, too.

**Ask God to work.** "Cast all your anxieties on Him, for He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7) suggests that you do what you can do, and give to God what only God can do.

**Appropriate listeners.** Professional counselors provide a safe and structured path for getting anxiety out of your head and out where you can deal with it. "Bear one another's burdens" (Galatians 6:2) suggests appropriate people can help you sort through things. "In the multitude of counselors there is safety" (Proverbs 11:14) suggests that utilizing wise people is an important path to success.

*James Stillwell is minister to singles at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington.*



## Your students are changing the world for Christ

By Daniel Berry

On a cold November night in 2008, 14 guys from the University of Kentucky Baptist Campus Ministry group painted themselves and went to the Vanderbilt-Kentucky football game. It was nighttime with the temperature in the mid-30s and raining. What would make these guys do such a thing? Was it school spirit?

The message that they wore on their chests simply read, "We miss Brad & Tom." It was in honor of their two friends who had passed away from a tragic car accident on the way home from a BCM retreat the weekend before.

As their campus minister, I remember wondering about what kind of ministry would happen the following year. Through tragedy, would this place simply become a place of retreat or even a spiritual MASH unit?

The answer soon was evident.

Over the last year, God has moved in the lives of your students. I could tell you of packed worship services where folding chairs had to be quickly found so that all could have a seat, or of the tens of thousands of dollars raised by your students for mission trips and the poor—but the story is the students themselves.

■ Four of Tom's friends gave up a weekend right after the ice storm in Western Kentucky to help two women who weren't able to see their yard through the debris, much less get in and out of their driveway easily.

■ Twelve students are partnering with the Violence Intervention Program on our campus, helping the campus to become a safer place.

■ Mary Beth is planning to lead a mission trip back to Africa, where she already has spent a summer with an unreached people group in the most primitive of conditions. She will take eight other BCM students with her.

■ Jake prayed to receive Christ on a couch in my office last year and wants to help lead a discipleship group this year for his friends who are young in their faith.

■ A freshman, who was waved down and coaxed into coming to a welcome-week activity, has since become

highly involved to the place where another freshman was able to lead him to the Lord in the school library.

■ Jackie, who in working with internationals helped to organize a cooking class, invited these students to a cooperating Baptist church to be involved in an international Sunday school class, and then saw three of them be baptized last week.

■ Drew, who after working a summer at a local camp, feels called into youth ministry.

■ Grace, along with many others, spent her summer working at Crossings Camps, investing in the lives of Kentucky children and youth by sharing the gospel that leads her life.

■ A freshman who has involved his non-Christian friend in every aspect of this ministry this year in hopes that the gospel he is sharing with him will become evident in his friend's life.

■ Peggy spent last spring in Costa Rica on mission and the summer working with the Acts 1:8 leadership team and now serves as president of our BCM.

There literally are dozens of other stories from Kelli, Laura, Justin, Tyler and beyond.

We are not a perfect ministry. In fact, we are far from it. While we are a big ministry on this campus, with around 350 in our Facebook membership, by my estimates there are more than 20,000 students on this campus who are not plugged into a local church, and we are daily trying to reach them.

However, as I sat around the campfire this November at the fall retreat and looked at 85 of your students who came with us, giving of their time and their money to learn about discipleship, I was reminded that God is doing some neat things in their lives. In the middle of some very difficult struggles, most of them had realized one very important thing: They discovered that God had not abandoned them, so they are not going to give up on serving Him.

From Pikeville to Murray, Henderson to Somerset, these are your students and they are changing the world for Christ.

*Daniel Berry is the campus minister at the University of Kentucky.*

### FAITH ON CAMPUS

## Thanksgiving and hard times are uneasy companions

By Stephen Wilson

Strangely enough, Thanksgiving and hard times have been companions off and on ever since 1621.

When the Pilgrims held their first Thanksgiving, the previous winter had been one of brutal adversity in which the elements and disease brought death to many of them.

In the years after 1621, Thanksgiving remained a largely regional holiday and was celebrated on only special occasions. Nevertheless, the Continental Congress during the American Revolution set aside a day of thanksgiving in December. Although the proclamation recognized the difficult times, God was thanked for His role in helping the colonists in a time of war.

President George Washington issued his first proclamation of thanksgiving at a time when Americans did not know for sure whether the American experiment in republicanism

would even work. Washington's proclamation was largely concerned with prayers for the very uncertain future.

As states slowly began recognizing a special Thanksgiving holiday in late November, the new nation continued to employ prayers to the Almighty to address times of adversity interlaced with their thanks. Lincoln's special 1863 Thanksgiving proclamation acknowledged a "civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity."

As the various states set a day to observe Thanksgiving, the annual feast endured both the boom and bust times of the Gilded Age and the uncertainties of the early 20th century. President Wilson's World War I Thanksgiving Proclamation of 1917 acknowledged that the nation was "in the midst of sorrow and great peril." Wilson, a devout Christian, also warned Americans not to forget to thank God in this time of "darkness."

When the United States faced the 10 years of the Great Depression from 1929-39, those Thanksgivings took place during a time of unparalleled adversity. President Hoover ignored the depression in his 1929 proclamation, but both he and President Roosevelt acknowledged the nation's suffering in the proclamations to follow.

Adversity continued in the 1940s during World War II. When President Roosevelt gave a speech stating that Americans valued the "four freedoms," Norman Rockwell was inspired to produce four paintings to reference each freedom. His painting, "Freedom from Want," featured a domestic scene of a family sitting down to a Thanksgiving feast. The painting expressed the mood of thankful reverence, reflecting the subdued joy of the holiday meal during the war years.

Since World War II, the United States has experienced the Thanksgiving holiday in both good times and bad. War, recessions and civil strife have been balanced by times of peace, prosperity and civility.

Currently the United States is involved in two wars and is enduring a continuing recession. American Christians will pause during Thanksgiving to thank God for their blessings even in these troubled times.

Indeed as Christians encounter adversity, it is their obligation to trust God for His blessings. Thanksgiving and adversity have been uneasy companions in the past. They still are.

*Stephen Douglas Wilson is vice president for academic affairs at Mid-Continent University in Mayfield, Ky., and a member of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee.*

*Joy Bolton  
Executive Director  
Kentucky WMU*

### FIRST PERSON

## Clayvillage gives more

Thank you for your editorial about the Great Commission Task Force for Kentucky and for listing information about those who will be serving. Kentucky Baptists need to know those who have been selected, their backgrounds and church memberships.

Because of my writing and speaking about the importance of the Cooperative Program, I wanted to provide an update about the CP giving of Clayvillage Baptist Church in Shelbyville. Clayvillage gives 10.5

percent of the general offerings through the Cooperative Program. Due to differences in the church and KBC accounting periods and the timing of contributions by the church, the Clayvillage CP percentage is higher than reported in the article.

I ask all Kentucky Baptists to pray for both the SBC and Kentucky Great Commission Task Force groups. These are important days as we seek God's direction for the future.



## Give an income stream

By Laurie Valentine

Is your church in a building program? Would you like to fund your annual giving for missions, child care ministries or other ministries for the next few years in a new and creative way? If you would like to coordinate your charitable giving with a tax-saving way to transfer assets to your family, a charitable lead annuity trust is the giving vehicle to consider.

A charitable lead annuity trust, or CLAT, is a gift arrangement that provides a fixed income stream to one or more charitable causes for a designated period of years. At the end of the trust term, the trust remainder can either be returned to you or be distributed to your children and/or other family members.

While a lifetime gift to a "non-grantor" CLAT does not entitle you to a charitable income tax deduction, it does provide a way to pass assets to your children or others at reduced gift and estate tax cost. Gift tax savings come from the fact the tax value of the future gift to your family is the present value of the remainder interest in the trust, not the full value of your gift. With careful coordination of the fixed amount being paid to the charitable beneficiaries and the trust term, you can reduce the present value of the remainder gift significantly. Estate tax savings result from the removal of the asset, any subsequent appreciation and the future income it generates from your estate.

Example: Ralph and Martha Gray set up a seven-year 6 percent CLAT funded with \$100,000 of stock. The \$6,000 per-year income stream (6% x \$100,000 gifted to the trust) will be divided equally between the building program at the Grays' church, their Baptist college alma mater and international missions. Over the seven-year term the charities will receive a total of \$42,000 (\$14,000 each). Assuming the trust assets earn an average annual return of 7.2 percent, there will be \$82,100 left to pass to their children and, because the gift tax value of the future gift to their children was only \$37,100, \$25,000 of that value passes tax free.

*Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.*



## True Great Commission resurgence needs radical change, Rankin says

By Mark Kelly

Shreveport, La.—If Southern Baptists truly want to experience a Great Commission resurgence, they must turn their backs on business as usual and be willing to make radical changes in their missions commitment and approach, Jerry Rankin recently told International Mission Board trustees.

Rankin, who plans to retire as IMB president July 31, 2010, said he believes the 23-member task force studying how Southern Baptists can be more effective in obeying the Great Commission will bring some radical recommendations to the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting next June.

"We should not be afraid of making radical changes. If we come out just kind of tweaking what we are doing to try to do it a little better, that would be most unfortunate," Rankin noted. "We are at a watershed time in history, with an unprecedented opportunity. God has blessed us and we must not become ingrown and self-focused, committed simply to continuing what we are doing in the way we are doing it. We've got to be willing to change."

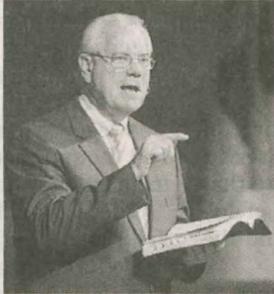
Rankin said he finds some merit in the idea of merging the denomination's international and North American mission boards but only to the extent that it helps Southern Baptists accomplish the mandate to take the gospel to "the ends of the earth" and "make disciples of all nations."

"If we're thinking of combining (the two boards) just for the sake of efficiency, thinking it

will release more funds to be more focused on our mission task, I think that would be a huge misperception," he said.

Trying to merge the two entities could merely wind up creating "a complex, bureaucratic structure that would dilute the effectiveness of what each of us is doing," Rankin added.

On the other hand, the current geographic dichotomy between North American and international missions "doesn't make a lot of sense and is a detriment to fulfilling our Great Commission task," he said.



Jerry Rankin

Nearly every "people group we would ever hope to reach anywhere in the world is found right here in our own country," Rankin pointed out. "If there could be a way to come to a global missions entity that is focused on evangelizing and planting indigenous churches and reaching all the peoples of the world, whether here or overseas, there could be some merit in that."

One challenge in facilitating a Great Commission resurgence among Southern Baptists lies in that "Great Commission" is not a term found in the Bible and people differ in their definitions of its mandate, Rankin noted.

"Certainly God wants us to reach our home community, to evangelize our state, to minister to people in need," Rankin told IMB trustees. "But let's not misuse the Scripture to divert our attention from the focus of the Great Commission is all about: reaching the ends of the earth, those that are yet to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ. (BP)

## Georgia Baptists cut ties with church led by woman

Decatur, Ga.—The Georgia Baptist Convention has ended its 148-year-old relationship with First Baptist Church of Decatur, Ga., over the congregation's 2007 vote to hire a woman as senior pastor.

Pastor Julie Pennington-Russell read a letter at the end of both worship services Nov. 15 from Robert White, executive director of the 1.3 million-member state convention. It informed her that messengers to the group's recent annual meeting took action to declare them "not a cooperating church" because "a woman is serving as senior pastor."

White said funds received from First Baptist, Decatur, during 2009 will be returned.

Last year the Georgia Baptist Convention, one of the oldest and largest of 42 state Baptist conventions, changed policies to decline funds sent by churches "not in cooperation and harmony with the approved work and purpose" of the convention. Leaders recommending the change said it came "as a result of questions raised regarding First Baptist Church of Decatur, who has a woman as senior pastor."

The Southern Baptist Convention amended the Baptist Faith & Message doctrinal statement in 2000 to declare, "While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture."

With the new action, Georgia Baptist leaders not only may refuse to accept money from First Baptist Church of Decatur, but the church no longer is eligible to receive resources and services offered by the convention.

Baptist Women in Ministry, an advocacy and support group founded in 1983, has estimated there are more than 2,000 ordained women ministering in churches with a Southern Baptist heritage. About 120 have been identified as senior pastors, mostly in churches that now identify with newer groups like the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and Alliance of Baptists. The vast majority serve in roles other than preaching pastor, like church-staff positions, chaplains and missionaries.

With 2,700 members, First Baptist, Decatur is one of the largest and most prominent churches traditionally affiliated with the SBC to be led by a woman pastor. A search committee considered 64 candidates before unanimously recommending Pennington-Russell. (ABP)

## IMB's shortfall may affect as many as 600 missionaries

Continued from page 1

tion's Annual Church Profile, and 2.77 percent "finally arrives to support the vision of reaching a lost world, and when (Southern Baptists) are structuring ourselves in a way that guarantees we will fail in our mission, it just shouldn't be."

The IMB's 2010 budget anticipates \$100 million in Cooperative Program funding—a decrease of \$7.6 million from 2009—and calls for \$175 million in Lottie Moon Christmas Offering receipts, said David Steverson, IMB's chief financial officer. The operating portion of the 2010 budget is \$23.2 million less than 2009, and the total budget represents a decrease of \$2.2 million. The plan includes \$29 million for capital needs that will not be spent unless the Lottie Moon offering surpasses its \$146 million operating budget goal.

The overall goal of the new budget accounts for 85.3 percent of the total, while the portion for state-side administration and promotion amounts to 14.7 percent. As part of the belt tightening, benefits have been reduced for both missionaries and staff.

Drawing back from the mission, Fort remarked, imperils not just organizational advance, but the eternal destiny of human souls. "Those who live in great darkness are seeing the light," he said. "But you know, the best news that we have is good news, but good news is only good when it's received in time."

The next trustee meeting will be held Jan. 18-19 in Richmond, Va. (BP)

## Researchers say nation's eyes on 2009 Lottie Moon offering

Champaign, Ill.—A Christian organization that tracks giving to religious groups says other denominations will be watching this year's Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, which funds international missionaries.

John and Sylvia Ronsvalle of empty tomb, inc., a research-and-service organization, say the nation's second-largest religious body is approaching "a critical choice point" in December 2009.

"Will the Southern Baptist Convention step up to the plate and hit the ball out of the park this Christmas?" the Ronsvalles asked in a media advisory promoting their newest study, *The State of Church Giving Through 2007: What Are Our Christian Billionaires Thinking—Or Are They?*

The book cites the SBC as a case study, describing a denomination with a "clearly stated goal" for achieving the 2,000-year-old mission of preaching the Christian gospel to all people groups, but lacking an adequate funding plan for meeting that goal.

The Ronsvalles calculate that by increasing their donations to the International Mission Board's upcoming Lottie Moon offering by an average of \$7 per member,

the denomination would raise enough money to field an additional 2,800 missionaries the IMB says it needs to engage every global people group in evangelism.

Instead of seeking to promote foreign missions exclusively through traditional channels, the case study suggests mobilizing "retail billionaire philanthropists"—small donors who combine in large enough numbers to support multi-billion-dollar institutions—by enlisting "wholesale billionaire philanthropists." These large-capacity donors would pledge matching gifts to increases in the 2009 Lottie Moon Offering.

The Ronsvalles say the difference between the SBC and many other denominations is that Southern Baptists have a large, at-scale, clearly stated goal around which congregations can rally.

The question, they say, is, "Will Southern Baptists put their donations where their stated goal is?"

"Will they seize the present opportunity to put feet on the gospel and set a standard for other denominations to follow?" the Ronsvalles ask. "The eyes of the nation are on the Southern Baptists." (ABP)

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## God is at work among kids

### Christian parents long to see children living for Him

This week our family has experienced events that not only have "hit close to home" but have taken place in our home.

It all began back in the summer when we saw camp life make another difference within our four walls. Alex, our 15-year-old son, decided to go to Haiti with Brent Gambrell Ministries. Brent happens to be one of our annual camp pastors. We were very excited for Alex to go and prayed that God would really change his life and perspective in regard to world missions.

a camp ministry is that our family is allowed to witness thousands of campers each year who are faced with God's call upon their lives. The reality is that we should not be surprised when God intervenes in our lives on a personal level with one of our children.

### Ky. Baptist Assemblies



David Melber

When we left the airport, I thought about the blessing of God sending out Alex once again. From a father's perspective, there is no greater joy than seeing your son or daughter make God-centered choices of their own. I look forward to seeing each of our five children grow up. Our prayers are that God would use each of them for His glory and purposes.

The result of that trip was more than we ever could have imagined. Alex radically changed many aspects of his life. The results of that change continued this week as we again put Alex on a plane to Haiti. This time, however, he will be gone for more than two weeks.

As Christian parents we internally hope that God will use each of our children for His glory, whether that is one day in a secular position or through full-time ministry. The blessing of being part of

For students, camp is not just another week-long summer activity; it is an intensive week of seeking after God. Many times the week of seeking produces lasting life change as it did with Alex and many others. We are blessed to have these decisions happening in our home.

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

## Who runs Sunrise Children's Services?

### Children's program is not run by the commonwealth

We sometimes hear this statement from Baptists: "I won't support Sunrise because they are run by the state." The Commonwealth of Kentucky does not run Sunrise, but I can understand why some jump to this erroneous conclusion.

Sunrise is reimbursed by the state, on a per-day basis, for each child in our care. The reimbursement comes after the services are provided and do not cover our actual expenses. I know this is the reason some Baptists think we are state run, but it isn't true.

The state contracts for goods and services it cannot provide. For instance, the roads in Kentucky are paid with federal, state and local funds. The state contracts with builders to build and maintain our roadways because Kentucky does not have its own road-building department. The same relationship exists for painting bridges and other necessities of running our commonwealth.

The Cabinet for Health and Family Services does not own or run any residential facilities for children. They must contract with private providers like Sunrise to care for the children ordered into their care by the courts. The cabinet does have its own foster families but not enough to care for the number of children committed to their oversight.

Like other state contractors, Sunrise and other providers must meet minimum standards to care for state-agency children. These

standards are set forth in the licensing requirements for anyone wanting to care for children who are wards of the state. Once these minimum standards of safety and care are met, a provider may enter into a contract with the state.

But you cannot tell them about Jesus! No, we can't force Jesus on them, but we can make religious education opportunities available to the kids. Our contract states we must provide for the spiritual growth of the children and that is what we do. There is no coercion, there is opportunity, and most children choose to participate. Many children choose faith, most do not; it is as it should be—their free choice.

The difference between Sunrise's contract with the state and the road contractor is how we are paid. The road contractor establishes a price and then either comes in under the bid or over. Sunrise is paid a per-deim rate that, at best, covers 80 percent of our costs. No road contractor would bid a job knowing they must raise the other 20 percent of its expenses just to break even.

Our service is different than theirs: Ours is a mission. Yes, the state should pay us the actual costs of services rendered but it does not. That is why the ongoing support of our Baptist family is essential to our ongoing care for the most victimized young citizens of Kentucky. So, don't forget the Thanksgiving Offering.

Bill Smithwick is president of Sunrise Children's Services. Contact Sunrise at (502) 538-1000 or www.sunrise.org



Bill Smithwick

## For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



## Preacher's Kids

David Ayers

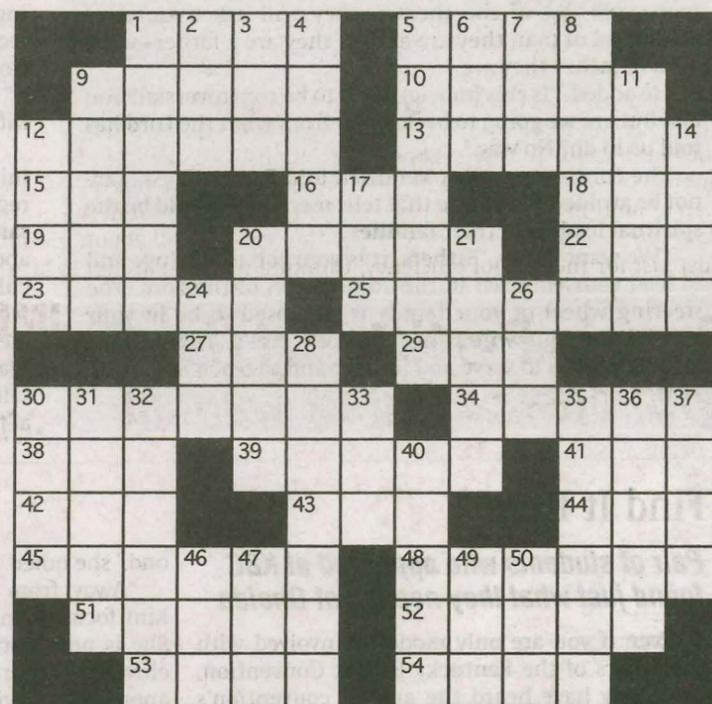


## Bible Crosswords

By Evelyn Boyington

### Across

- 1 "The \_\_\_ trees of the wheels were joined to the base" (1 Kings 7:32)
- 5 Ingredient in some cereals
- 9 Father of Kish (1 Samuel 9:1)
- 10 "\_\_\_ up a child in the way he should go" (Proverbs 22:6)
- 12 Achieve success (colloq.)
- 13 "Mount Zion, which is \_\_\_" (Deuteronomy 4:48)
- 15 Fuss
- 16 Let go, not so nicely
- 18 Greek letter
- 19 Utility org. for noncity dwellers
- 20 Main rooms of ancient Roman house
- 22 Poetic contraction
- 23 Support one's alma mater
- 25 Job requirements
- 27 Stack or rack
- 29 "Ye shall go out with joy and be \_\_\_ forth with peace" (Isaiah 55:12)
- 30 Side and back, to name two
- 34 Narrow, deep pass
- 38 The style of (suffix)
- 39 Accustomed oneself, with "into"
- 41 Son of Benjamin (Genesis 46:21)
- 42 Push, and even shove
- 43 Inhabitant, e.g. (abbr.)
- 44 "Ye shall be hated of all \_\_\_" (Matthew 10:22)
- 45 Hope for all generations: Jesus has \_\_\_ from the dead!



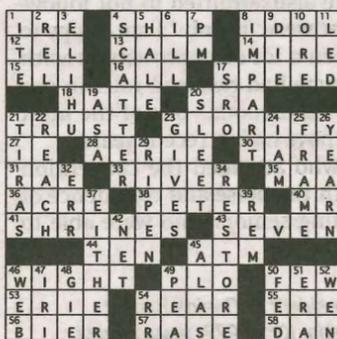
- 48 Saturated with liquid, with "up"
- 51 "Laying up in \_\_\_ for themselves a good foundation" (1 Timothy 6:19)
- 52 "For we which have believed do \_\_\_ into rest" (Hebrews 4:3)
- 53 Taken to court
- 54 "Call ye upon him while he is \_\_\_" (Isaiah 55:6)

- 14 Fashion designer Byron
- 17 Son of Benjamin (Genesis 46:21)
- 20 "Now it is high time to \_\_\_ ... now is our salvation nearer" (Romans 13:11)
- 21 "\_\_\_ you ways and your doings" (Jeremiah 7:3)
- 24 Exclamation of surprise
- 26 Fuss
- 28 Ached
- 30 Watery animal fluid (pl.)
- 31 Alexander and others
- 32 Forgives; pardons
- 33 Compass dir.
- 35 "The third part of an hin of oil to \_\_\_ with the fine flour" (Ezekiel 46:14)
- 36 "Be of good \_\_\_; I have over-come the world" (John 16:33)
- 37 "Naphtali is a \_\_\_ let loose" (Genesis 49:21)
- 40 Industrial center in Germany
- 46 French coin
- 47 Before
- 49 "As the body is \_\_\_, and hath many members" (1 Corinthians 12:12)
- 50 School org.

### Down

- 1 Europe, in particular, to Americans
- 2 Hours in the day, to a centurion
- 3 O.T. book
- 4 "For Jacob my servant's sake, and Israel mine \_\_\_" (Isaiah 45:4)
- 5 Brother of Caleb (Joshua 15:17)
- 6 Linking verb
- 7 Black liquid
- 8 Tribe of Israel
- 9 Actress Eve
- 11 "But I will shew thee that which is \_\_\_ in the scripture" (Daniel 10:21)
- 12 River in Switzerland

## Last week's solution



## 'Fireproof' church reveals title, theme for next movie

Albany, Ga.—The Georgia church that made "Fireproof" and "Facing the Giants" has announced its next release—"Courageous," a movie about fatherhood. Church leaders said they hope the film will convict men to rise up and be spiritual leaders of their children and families.

Alex and Stephen Kendrick, associate pastors at Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany, Ga., said the script—which is not yet finished—will focus on the lives of four policemen and their struggles to be better fathers.

It will be the fourth movie from the church, which saw its last two films surprise movie commentators and gross \$10 million and \$33.5 million, respectively, despite relatively small budgets. "Fireproof" was the top grossing independent film last year.

The target date for filming "Courageous" is spring 2010, with a likely release in early 2011. A budget has not been set, although it probably will be more than it was for Fireproof, which cost \$500,000 to make.

The movie is being filmed at a time when 36 percent of all children live without their biological fathers and 40 percent of all births take place outside of marriage. Church leaders said at the announcement they are praying "Courageous" sparks a fatherhood movement.

"The media often portrays fathers as weak, selfish, often immoral," Alex Kendrick told church members. "But we know the healthier home is when a father is engaged and involved with a purpose. ... It is our desire that when men walk out of the theater, they will ask themselves what kind of man they are and—if they are a father—what kind of father they are."

He added, "Is this (movie) likely to be controversial? You bet. But are we going to back down from what the Lord has told us to do? No way."

The controversy, Alex Kendrick told Baptist Press, cannot be avoided in a movie that tells men they should be the spiritual leaders of their families.

"We want to say, 'Fathers, it is your job to nurture and to lead your children in the admonition of the Lord. The steering wheel of your family is supposed to be in your hands, not your wife's, not anybody else's. This is your job. Your job is to serve and protect and to teach about the Lord.'" (BP)

## LifeWay's 'Bible Navigator X' for Xbox is 'ripe with potential' for new media

By Bob Allen

Nashville—Attention video gamers: The Bible is coming to an Xbox near you.

LifeWay Christian Resources recently announced plans to introduce an Xbox 360 application featuring the complete Holman Christian Standard Bible. Due out next month, "Bible Navigator X" is thought to be the first complete Bible on a video game.

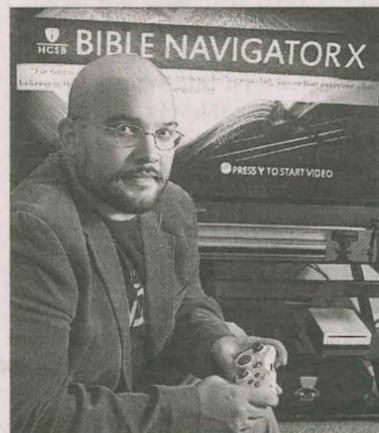
Aaron Linne, executive producer of digital marketing for B&H Publishing Group, said the project has been a dream of his since the Xbox 360 was launched in 2005 with an announcement that there would be downloadable games.

"The Bible is a message of hope that doesn't need to be confined to scrolls or books or PCs; the Good News can be read on iPhones, Kindles and the Xbox 360, too," Linne said in an e-mail.

A Nov. 10 press release introducing the Xbox Bible exploded onto tech Web sites all over the world. A Google search for "Bible Navigator X" last week produced about 83,700 hits.

"We are very pleased with the initial response we have received regarding the application," Linne said. "It's exciting seeing people talk about the Bible and its impact on culture."

Linne, a Liberty University graduate who first went to work for LifeWay as a digital-media producer, said his bosses were willing to take a financial risk even in this weak



**HARDCORE GAMER** Aaron Linne, a self-described video game aficionado with an entire room of his home dedicated to gaming, is the executive producer of digital marketing for B&H Publishing Group as well as the mastermind behind "Bible Navigator X."

economy if it meant spreading the gospel.

Once he started working with a developer in the Xbox community on adapting the "HCSB Bible Navigator," a CD-ROM program for personal computers introduced in 2003, he said it fit the medium perfectly.

"It feels natural and nice," he wrote on his blog, "like the Xbox was made to host the Bible."

"Bible Navigator X" will sell for \$5 or 400 Microsoft Points, an online currency that allows users to purchase products without using a credit card. It will be downloadable at Xbox.com through the "Xbox LIVE Indie Games" channel, which

is devoted to original games made, reviewed and played by the online community.

Since other handheld devices don't offer a similar toolset, the application is available only for Xbox, Linne said, but he is interested in developing it for other platforms when the opportunities arise. "I think the responses we've seen all show that the Bible is a life-changing text, and we're happy to be able to move it to a new platform and media that is ripe with potential."

Writing for Collide Magazine in April, Linne said the "near future" of the Bible probably lies with electronic publishing. He pointed to Martin Luther's translation of the New Testament into a dialect of German in 1522, which opened the door not only for the Protestant Reformation but also for his dialect to become the standard German language.

While the printed word has had a good run, he said, analysts predict 88 percent of revenue growth for publishing and advertising companies in the next few years will come from the digital medium.

Already there are online Bibles, mobile Bibles for handheld digital devices like the iPhone and community services that allow users to share sermons and other thoughts on social-networking sites.

"We must find ways to engage the life-changing Scriptures in a way that is meaningful to the culture that exists around it," Linne concluded. "This is the key for any future thinking about the Bible." (ABP)

## Find It Here

### Pair of students who appeared at KBC found just what they needed at Oneida

Even if you are only modestly involved with the affairs of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, you likely have heard the annual convention's theme this year, "Find It Here."

Oneida Baptist Institute is a uniquely special place where students from a variety of backgrounds can find what they need. Each year since 1999, I have asked some of my students to share the time I have to give my report at the KBC annual meeting. This year I asked two of my seniors to present a skit written by one of my staff emphasizing how Oneida is a place where young people can find what they need.

I thought those who attended the convention might like to know a little about those two students. One of my staff recently wrote this article about the young lady whose real name is Kim.

"Kim is a senior from Ohio and has attended OBI since June 2003, the summer before her sixth-grade year. 'My great aunt found this school on the Internet. ... My mom was a single mom taking care of four kids by herself, which was not easy,' Kim said. She was afraid to leave home but it was an easier adjustment for Kim since her sister and two brothers were coming with her.

"Kim never imagined she would stay and graduate from OBI. 'I just thought it was while we were in the hard place we were in as a family,' Kim said. 'I'm glad I stayed here.' Kim has participated in FFA, Student Government Association, drama, choir, cheerleading, tennis and yearbook. She also works on the farm. 'I prioritize. I keep my grades first and all my activities come sec-

ond,' she noted.

"Away from a stressful home environment, Kim focused on school and her responsibilities. She is now a straight-'A', college-bound student enrolled in four advanced-placement classes. She appreciates having caring teachers and said, 'At OBI, you are the entire reason the staff is here. It makes you feel like you belong here, like you have a purpose. I know I'm here for a reason.'"

The second student, Craig (that's his real name, too) is from Alabama and came to Oneida last year as a junior. He did not plan to return for his senior year, but his parents reminded him about his difficulties in other schools. Craig attended a Christian school where some of his actions were well outside the acceptable tolerances. His grades ran the scale from below average to above average, depending on the class. The names of the students who were on the honor roll for the first quarter were called in chapel last week and Craig made the 'B' honor roll.

Craig admitted that before coming to OBI he was a little immature, sometimes rebellious and not focused. He also admitted to not following rules he thought were "dumb." I am happy to say that we have seen a lot of improvement with Craig. Most recently he had two lead roles in our fall play, "Fairytale Courtroom," one of the most delightful plays we have had in recent years.

I believe those who attended the convention were impressed with the poise and confidence of these two outstanding seniors who were able to "Find It Here."

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

## Unforgettable question

### Clear Creek student recalls question that changed life

It all started with a question. Sophomore Adam Lake, from Ohio, remembers that important question that started him thinking about his relationship with Jesus Christ.

"I had thought I was saved when I was 6 but really had no clue what I was doing at that time," Adam recalled. "So, for years I went around with this false idea of who I thought I was. I was completely out of church by my early 20s. One day I was getting a hair cut and my barber asked me a question I will never forget: He asked me if I went to church anywhere. I told him that I did not go to church anymore and he looked at me and told me if you don't go to church you will die and go to hell.

"Well, I did know enough to know that just going to church does not get you into heaven, but the question he asked did get me to thinking about my life," Adam said. "I began to ask myself, if I am a Christian, then why am I not in church? So, I started going to church and the Lord began to convict me about my life. I came to realize that I did not know Jesus Christ as my personal Savior and I

truly committed my life to Christ nine years ago. As I look back, it all started with that question from my barber. I am glad he asked me that important question because it changed my life."

What is the next step for Adam after graduation? "My major here at Clear Creek is pastoral ministries," he said. "I really feel that the Lord is leading me to pastor a church after my studies are completed. I would like to go on to seminary after my time here. I feel that somewhere down the road I would like to teach. I have a heart for young pastors because I am one of them. I am here today because a lot of people have invested their time and energy to get me here. I would like to be one of those people who would invest in others as they come along behind me."

### Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

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

## Polls: Americans oppose funding abortion as part of health reform

Washington—Two new polls show that a majority of Americans oppose federal funding of abortion in the health care bill.

The poll results from CNN and CBS News come as legislators debate a pro-life amendment to the health care reform bill that recently passed the House.

The CNN poll found that U.S. adults oppose by a 61-37 percent margin "using public funds for abortions when the woman cannot afford it." More than half of those who were polled by CBS News agreed that insurance plans should not cover abortion "if the federal government provides subsidies or credits to help people buy health insurance."

The pro-life health care amendment sponsored by Democratic Rep. Bart Stupak (Mich.) prevents the government-run public option from covering abortion and federal subsidies given to lower-income people from paying for private insurance plans that cover abortions. Exceptions are made for abortions in the case of rape, incest and to save the mother's life.

The White House has indicated it opposes the Stupak amendment language.

"The president has said repeatedly, and he said in his speech to Congress, that he doesn't believe that this bill should change the status quo as it relates to the issue of abortion," David Axelrod, a top adviser to President Obama, said on CNN Nov. 15. "I think it's fair to say that the bill Congress passed does change the status quo."

Asked if Obama would veto the bill if the Stupak language was included, Axelrod did not answer directly. (BP)

## Hunger in the United States

### Baptist ethicists: Hunger stats are wake-up call

Washington—New government numbers revealing that, in 2008, nearly one in six Americans lived in households that struggled to afford food ought to be a wake-up call for Christians, according to two Baptist ethicists.

An annual USDA report released Nov. 16 reported that 17 million households—14.6 percent of all homes in the United States—were "food insecure" and had difficulty putting enough food on the table at times during the year.

That compares to 13 million households—11.1 percent—who worried about their next meal in 2007 and represents the highest level recorded since the government started taking national food-security surveys in 1995.

"Thanksgiving is coming, and many Americans are struggling to meet their basic food needs," said Robert Parham of the Baptist Center for Ethics. "Being thankful is not enough this year. Christians need to say thanks and seek justice

for those at risk of hunger."

The USDA found that one-third of food-insecure households had "very low" food security, meaning that some household members had reduced food intake and had eating patterns interrupted at times during the year. That is 5.7 percent of all U.S. households, or about 6.7 million. The number is 2 million more households than the 4.1 percent of U.S. households with "very low" food security reported in 2007. That also was the highest on record.

"We're calling on the faith community to respond to these hunger needs," said Suzii Paynter, director of the Christian Life Commission of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

#### Hunger summit

Paynter's agency brought 50 Baptist hunger advocates to a summit at Baylor University last week to discuss ways to eradicate hunger in Texas by 2015. As

many as 240 representatives from advocacy groups, social-service providers and state and local governments attended the event.

Paynter said the idea was to coordinate efforts of the public and private sector to make existing programs more effective.

"We have all of these resources in place," she said. "They are not coordinated. They are not working together."

She said the summit was "the first time we've ever had all these people in a room."

"This is a perfect example of federal, state, faith-based, nonprofit, advocacy and a major university working together successfully for the good of the community and the less fortunate," said Bill Ludwig, USDA regional administrator. "No matter what the final outcome and results produced by the summit, this adventure has already been a huge success by bringing so many individuals from different walks of life to the table together." (ABP)

### Numerous groups oppose 'defamation of religions' push

Washington—The Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission has joined more than 100 other organizations in a statement opposing "defamation of religions" resolutions being promoted in the United Nations.

The "defamation of religions" movement, which is led in the United Nations by the 56-member Organization of the Islamic Conference, urges the condemnation of messages that defame religions and can lead to violence. Such a measure approved by a U.N. body earlier this year cited only Islam as a specific target and urged countries to protect "against acts of hatred, discrimination, intimidation and coercion resulting from defamation

of religions and incitement to religious hatred in general."

#### "Defamation" drawbacks

The new statement says the "defamation of religions" concept is "incompatible with the fundamental freedoms of individuals to freely exercise and peacefully exercise their thoughts, ideas and beliefs." Such resolutions, the statement notes, "punish the peaceful criticism of ideas" and do not protect the rights of individuals as affirmed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, one of the U.N.'s founding documents.

"Defamation of religions" resolutions undergird laws in some countries that

prohibit blasphemy and are used to oppress religious or political beliefs that are out of favor with the government, according to the statement. The document makes no direct reference to Islam, though some Muslim-dominated states enforce anti-blasphemy laws.

"It is vitally important for governments to combat violence motivated by bias and hatred and to encourage respectful speech and civil dialogue, while at the same time affirming that freedom of expression and freedom of thought, conscience and religion are integral to the health of free societies and the dignity of the human person," says the Nov. 10 statement. (BP)

## ERLC document stresses life protection in health care bill

Washington—Fifteen principles—including the honoring of all human life—must be implemented in order for health care reform to be satisfactory, according to a new document issued by the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

The paper, "Fifteen Principles for Successful Health Care Reform," outlines criteria it says are needed "to achieve the desired result of affordable, high-quality, universal health care." The document was produced by the Research Institute of the ERLC. The Research Institute is an evangelical Christian think tank of 25 fellows, including seminary presidents and ethicists.

The principles were released as the health care debate in Congress moved from the House of Representatives to the Senate.

Earlier this month, the House voted 220-215 for a health care bill that includes a government-managed option. The representatives did so only after approving a pro-life amendment barring federal funds from paying for abortions in the public option and from subsidizing private plans that cover abortions.

The ERLC document rejects government-run health care as an option, with the Research Institute fellows saying reform of the private health care system is the best alternative.

"The goal of this reform should be to reduce the cost of health care and health care insurance while maintaining the highest possible standard of health care for all, thus increasing the quality of health care for more and more Americans," they said. "While a perfect system is not attainable, there is much room for improvement."

Regarding the first principle, the fellows said about the sanctity of human life: "Every stage of life, every type of disability must be treated with utmost reverence for every life. Abortion must not be mandated in health insurance plans. ... Every treatment must meet a rigorous pro-life standard that refuses to value or respect one life more than another life. Covered treatments must not be denied by insurance companies due to unrelated issues in a person's medical history. The right of conscience of health care providers and pharmacists must be guaranteed." (BP)

## NATIONAL NOTES

**Court pulls Christian license plates**—A Christian license plate in South Carolina has been ruled unconstitutional by a federal district court. The license plate showed a cross, stained glass window and the words "I Believe." The ruling overturned the state law known as the "I Believe" Act which gave the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles authority to issue the license plate. U.S. District Judge Cameron McGowan Currie held that "such a law amounts to state endorsement not only of religion in general, but of a specific sect in particular." The "I Believe" Act is unconstitutional because it "authorizes a single plate with a uniquely Christian message" and was approved through government action, suggesting the government favors a specific religion, Currie said.

**Push begins to reverse Prop 8**—Same-sex marriage supporters in California began collecting signatures Nov. 16 for a proposed constitutional amendment that would ask voters next year to overturn Proposition 8. The drive is being organized by the group Love Honor Cherish, which must collect nearly 700,000 valid signatures by mid-April to qualify the amendment for the ballot. The amendment, which would appear on the November 2010 ballot, would strike the Prop 8 language from the state constitution—"Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California"—and replace it with the following: "Marriage is between only two persons and shall not be restricted on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, gender, sexual orientation or religion."

**Student sues over abortion protest**—A New Jersey high school student has filed suit against the Bridgeton, N.J., school board after officials did not allow her to participate in an October protest against abortion during school hours. The student, who was not named in

the suit, said she had planned to hand out anti-abortion pamphlets, wear an armband with "Life" written on it and remain silent throughout the day unless she was called upon in class. Oct. 20 marked the sixth year of the protest, known as the Pro-life Day of Silent Solidarity. It is organized by Stand True, a Troy, Ohio-based ministry. Religious groups and abortion foes encourage students to wear duct tape over their mouths or otherwise remain mostly silent that day to symbolize fetuses forever silenced by abortion. The suit claims that school officials told the girl "nothing religious is allowed in public schools" when she asked for permission to take part in the protest. It also says school policy banning religious expression violates the 1st and 14th Amendments of the Constitution.

**County council's prayers unconstitutional**—A federal judge is recommending that a North Carolina county be ordered to stop allowing sectarian prayers at meetings of its board of commissioners. Magistrate Judge Trevor Sharpe recommended Nov. 9 that the court issue an injunction to prevent prayers that he found overwhelmingly sectarian at meetings of the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners. A policy adopted in 2007 allows the board to invite a minister to offer prayer. The policy advises the minister to offer an invitation "according to the dictates of (the leader's) own conscience, but requests the prayer opportunity "not be exploited as an effort" to convert others and asks participants to "maintain a spirit of respect and ecumenism." In practice, the judge found, the prayers overwhelmingly mentioned Jesus Christ, having the effect of favoring Christianity over other religions. The county had argued that the prayers offered by visiting ministers were their private speech, but Sharpe said the prayers were government speech subject to the First Amendment's ban on establishment of religion.

**PRAYER PARTNERS**

Please pray for the following Kentucky Baptist missionaries and ministries:

**New Heights Church in Pineville.** Planted in November 2007, New Heights Church already has maxed out the facility they currently rent and needs to find another place to meet. Church planter/pastor Mark Elkins shares that rental space and property to build on in the Pineville area is very expensive so they are seeking God's guidance about what to do. Pray that God will give them clear direction and provide the resources they need to accomplish His plan. Pray that lost people in the area will be drawn by the Holy Spirit to a saving faith in Jesus Christ through the witness of the church.

**Missionary Jammie Stone of Louisville.** Jammie serves as weekday ministries director at the Baptist Fellowship Center in Louisville. She gives direction to after-school programs for children, food and clothing distribution, and offers financial assistance to families in need. Pray that additional volunteers will make themselves available to help with the ministry. Pray also that Jammie will show the love of Christ to center visitors and that they will discover Jesus as the ultimate answer to life's problems.

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

**MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI**

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **BARBOURVILLE**—New Bethel Church recently ordained **Randy Johnson** as a deacon. **Lonnie Collett** is pastor.

■ **BOWLING GREEN**—Jackson Grove Church recently called **Don Rogers** as pastor.

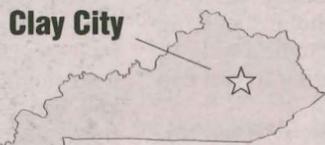
■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—**Ruth Cloyd Badgett**, wife of former Kentucky Baptist pastor **J. Chester Badgett**, died Nov. 11. She was 96. As a schoolteacher, Mrs. Badgett served in ministry alongside her husband, who was pastor of several churches, most notably Campbellsville Church for 30 years. The couple also served as foreign missionaries in China and Venezuela. Ruth Badgett is survived by her husband, three children, five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held Nov. 14 in Campbellsville. Expressions of sympathy are requested in the form of donations to the Badgett-Cloyd Scholarship Fund at Campbellsville University, Campbellsville Baptist Church or the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

■ **LONDON**—Mount Olivet Church recently ordained **Charles Hoskins** as a deacon. **Calvin Hibbard** is pastor.

■ **PHILPOT**—Karns Grove Church re-

**Spotlight on ...**

**Clay City**



Clay City Church recently honored Pastor **Grider Denney** for his 25 years of service to the church.

cently ordained **Mike Hines** as a deacon. **Larry Birkhead** is interim pastor.

■ **SALVISA**—Salvisa Church recently called **Chris Brown** as pastor, and ordained **Tracy Burden**, **David Goodlett**, and **Dave Mangum** as deacons.

■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—University of the Cumberlands' chamber choir will present its Madrigal Dinner Dec. 3-5, 6:30 p.m. The flute choir and brass ensemble also will perform. For more information on purchasing tickets, call (606) 539-4332.

■ **CORRECTION**—**Jerry Lee Tracy**, who recently was called as interim pastor of Highland Church in Shelbyville, previously was pastor at Elkton Church.

**Senior adult coordinates Dec. 'Esther Fast' to pray for U.S.**

**Woodstock, Ga.**—An 81-year-old Georgia woman is calling on believers nationwide to participate in the "Esther Fast to Pray for Our Nation" Dec. 1-3, asking God for forgiveness and mercy and for His intervention in the course of events in the United States.

**Dorothy Marden**, a member of the Atlanta-area First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga., said the third and fourth chapters of the Book of Esther present God's plan for saving a nation.

"God saved the entire nation of Israel through the plan given in the Book of Esther. If it worked for Israel, it will work for America, too," Marden said. "We are dedicating the first three days of December to fast and pray for our nation. Then we will devote the remainder of the month to focus upon the Lord Jesus Christ."

While fasting, Marden said she

expects people to examine their own spiritual conditions, confess all known sins, repent with sorrow, experience the cleansing of the Holy Spirit and intercede for others and for the nation.

As people intercede for America, Marden suggests praying that the nation would return to a God-centered worldview; that God would restore the nation to peace and order; that Americans would return to holiness and godliness, forsaking godlessness; and that they would cast out the idols in their lives.

She also suggests praying for God to restore His throne in hearts, homes, churches, states and the nation, which will bring revival to each realm, along with praying for God to be restored as the head of homes, churches, governments—including judicial officials—and schools. (BP)

**Sen. McConnell visits Campbellsville Univ.**



*U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell shakes hands with Campbellsville Mayor Brenda Allen at a recent book signing at the Campbellsville University campus. The longtime senator from Kentucky visited the Kentucky Baptist school Nov. 13 to speak to students, faculty and staff and to autograph copies of the autobiography "Republican Leader: Political Biography of Senator Mitch McConnell," written by David Dyche. During an address at a reception, McConnell discussed such hot-button topics as the health care reform bill, the economic stimulus package and unemployment. (Photo by Joan McKinney)*

**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, First Baptist Church, Calvert City, and Oakland Baptist Church.

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

**Chowning to chair agency board**

**Frankfort**—John Chowning, vice president for church and external relations at Campbellsville University, has been elected to serve as chair of the board of directors for the Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center.

The center is a state agency dedicated to researching trends and issues likely to influence the future of the state. Created in 1992, the center is governed by a 21-member board and has a mandate to increase knowledge about issues on Kentucky's horizon, guide planning ef-

forts throughout state government and engage citizens and policymakers in preparing for the future.

"These are very challenging times for the Commonwealth of Kentucky," Chowning said. "There has never been greater need for long-term public policy research to help decision makers understand the complexities of the issues facing our state."

In addition to his work at Campbellsville University, Chowning also is pastor of Saloma Baptist Church in Campbellsville.

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**SEEKING:** Full-time activities pastor to minister to our church family and community through sports and recreation. Please send resumé to Search Committee, Campbellsville Baptist Church, PO Box 530, Campbellsville, KY 42719; or [bradl@cvillebaptist.com](mailto:bradl@cvillebaptist.com).

**SEEKING:** Part-time pianist/organist. Must have musical experience and demonstrate godly character. Sundays and Wednesdays required. Send resumé to Parkway Baptist Church, 1915 N Broadway, Lexington, KY 40505; or [gale48@insightbb.com](mailto:gale48@insightbb.com).

**SEEKING:** Part-time youth minister. Send resumé to Dawson Baptist Church, 5880 Hwy 54, Philpot, KY 42366; or e-mail to [craig@dawsonbaptist.com](mailto:craig@dawsonbaptist.com).

**SEEKING:** DOM for Boones Creek Baptist Association. Conservative Southern Baptist with pastoral experience. Send resumé to Calvary Baptist Church, 21 Glory St., Irvine, KY 40336.

**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:** 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/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 [brocroe@gmail.com](mailto:brocroe@gmail.com).

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

# Baptist disaster relief effort far from over in American Samoa

By Mickey Noah  
North American Mission Board

**Pago Pago, American Samoa**—Southern Baptist disaster relief work continues on American Samoa, nearly two months after an earthquake measuring 8.3 on the Richter scale struck the South Pacific island, triggering a deadly tsunami that killed 31 people, including six Southern Baptists.

But disaster relief volunteers on site say many needs created by the disaster remain unmet.

Water purification has emerged as the key disaster relief ministry operation since the Sept. 29 tsunami, according to Bruce Poss, disaster relief coordinator for the North American Mission Board. As of mid-November, volunteers had purified more than 4,000 gallons of water in 17 villages throughout the island, which is located about six hours south of Hawaii.

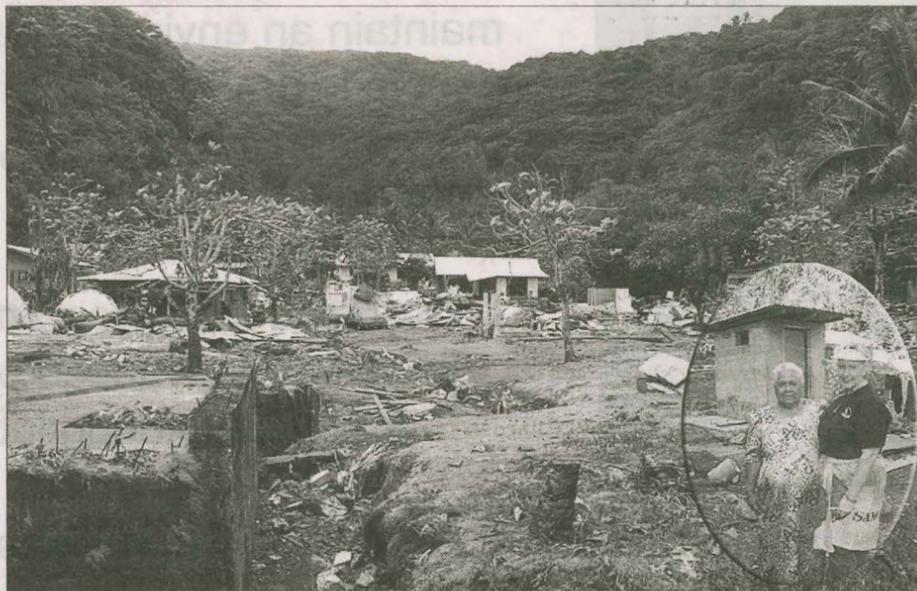
Natural water supplies in most locations on the island have been tainted, so authorities have urged Samoans to boil the water, Poss said. But villagers are unwilling to spend their limited money on propane fuel to boil water when they need it to cook food, making water purification vital.

"We're using the great analogy between the dirty water, which represents man as a sinner, and the clean water that represents Jesus Christ and the forgiven man saved by grace through faith," said NAMB Mission Service Corps missionary Randy Corn. "We use that at the beginning as we start the purification process to let the Samoan people know why we're there."

Corn and his wife, Ronda, serve in conjunction with the board's adult volunteer mobilization team. Following the earthquake and tsunami, the couple volunteered to spend a month in American Samoa to minister to victims and spread the gospel.

The Corns recently were joined by several other volunteers. All are assisting with water purification, chaplaincy and crisis intervention with high school students and children.

While Randy Corn has been overseeing



**SURVIVOR** North American Mission Board missionary Ronda Corn (right in small photo), and Susi stand in front of the cinderblock outhouse where Susi survived the Sept. 29 tsunami in American Samoa, which killed 31 people. The larger photo shows what's left of Susi's village, Asili, located on the western side of the island. (NAMB photo by John Newton)

water purification on the island, his wife has been involved with prayerwalking and Bible study with members of the local Chinese Baptist Church.

"Through an interpreter, the Chinese people are telling us, 'You don't know how much we appreciate your helping us,'" Ronda Corn said. "They ask us how long we're going to be here and ask us if we're coming back."

The Chinese women "tell us, 'We don't understand your language, but we see Jesus in you. We've been praying for someone to come and teach us,'" she added.

Many of the American Samoan villagers fortunate enough to survive the tsunami lost everything they owned when four devastating waves—each 15-20 feet high—blanketed the island, washing people, structures, personal belongings and vehicles out to sea.

Ronda Corn tells the story of Susi, a 64-

year-old Samoan woman, who lives in the village of Asili on the western tip of the island.

"Susi was in her home about 50 yards from the beach doing some morning chores," Corn said. "She had no warning and no way of knowing that, 135 miles away, a tsunami was brewing which would level her house within 15 minutes."

According to Corn, Susi's house suddenly became very dark and as she looked out her front window, a huge tsunami wave was heading right for her home. Susi ran out the back door to the only other shelter she knew—an outside toilet made of cinder blocks.

"Just as she ran into the outhouse, the tsunami wave hit, filling the interior with water and lifting Susi up to the top of the tiny block building," Corn said. "Her head was lodged in an open space of only 12 inches between the top of the blocks and the ex-

posed rafters. Wave after wave smashed against the concrete outhouse. All became quiet again and as the seawater receded, Susi found herself back on the floor—without a scratch."

Now, seven weeks later, most of the home is gone and what's left has been condemned, but the cinderblock outhouse remains. Susi now has 10 adults and children living with her in her condemned house, only because it's better than what they have, which is nothing.

"Susi was very emotional and wept as she talked about how God spared her life," Corn recalled. "I had the tremendous honor of praying with Susi for the peace that passes all understanding, for comfort and for the Lord to provide for all of her needs."

The Corns said they worry that American Samoa has fallen off the radar and that Southern Baptists have forgotten about the significant material and spiritual needs on the 76-square-mile island.

Poss said Southern Baptists still have a challenging mission in American Samoa which—with a population of 69,000—is a United States territory. Because of the island's relationship to the U.S., some American Samoans will qualify for recovery grants from Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"But American Samoa is made up of many different nationalities," Corn explained. "There are the Samoan people and there are the expatriates. Fifty percent of the island's current population is expatriates, who do not qualify for any FEMA assistance."

What can Southern Baptists do for the American Samoans devastated by the tsunami? According to the Corns, the best thing to do is give a monetary donation toward recovery efforts.

The Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention has established a fund for individuals and organizations wanting to support relief efforts in American Samoa. Donations also can be made through NAMB's disaster relief Web site, [www.NAMB.net/DR](http://www.NAMB.net/DR). (BP)

## El Salvador Baptist church mourns those lost in flood

By Vicki Brown  
Missouri Word & Way

**San Vicente, El Salvador**—A Baptist church in El Salvador held memorial services Nov. 12 for seven children and two adults lost in flash floods spawned by Hurricane Ida Nov. 9.

An initial report by the Baptist World Alliance said First Baptist Church of San Vicente collapsed in the storm that caused widespread flooding and mudslides in central El Salvador.

Subsequent reports, however, said the church building survived, but a mission congregation had been meeting at one of several homes that were destroyed throughout the region.

According to news reports, the death toll had climbed to at least 200, with an estimated 14,000 people displaced. Reports indicate that part of the Chinchontepec volcano in the San Vicente region collapsed, burying the town of Verapaz in mud.

A nearby river rose to within two blocks of First Baptist Church, according to Mauricio Vargas, multicultural specialist for Concord Baptist Association in Jefferson City, Mo., a native of the Central American country.

Vargas, who also heads the Missouri Baptist Convention's partnership with El Salvador, arrived in the country Nov. 9 along with MBC executive director David Tolliver. Washed-out roads, mud and rock delayed them from getting into San Vicente until Nov. 12. Vargas translated for Tolliver, who spoke at the memorial service held on the home's foundation.

Church families have opened their homes to other families whose houses were destroyed. First Baptist has been providing food, water, mattresses and other supplies, Vargas said.

Concord association and Concord Baptist Church in Jefferson City, Mo., assisted in establishing the mission. The association has worked with Salvadorean Baptists since 2003. (ABP)

## Russian lawmakers mull missionary restrictions

**Moscow**—New legislation being considered by Russian lawmakers could drastically restrict missions activity if made into law. Restrictions could include requiring missionaries and Russian Christians to obtain permission to engage in missionary activity and limiting its locations and participants, such as tourists and minors.

While the proposals currently are in the draft stages, language introduced by the Russian Ministry of Justice in October indicates that if these laws are enacted they will greatly restrict religious freedom.

Russian Baptist officials say they believe the new language primarily targets Roman Catholics and Protestants and believe it already has found favor with leaders of Russian Orthodoxy, Islam, Judaism and Buddhism—Russia's four most prominent religions.

"Of course, when measures like this are talked about, we are always concerned and we should look at them with a measure of seriousness," said Ed Tarleton, a leader of International Mission Board work in Russia. "Evangelicals have enjoyed days of openness and freedom, so when lawmakers start talking about language that is contrary to that, we become concerned."

### What will change?

The proposed changes include allowing only religious groups who have been registered in Russia for at least 15 years to apply for permission to engage in missionary activity. Foreigners in Russia on a temporary visa, such as a tourist visa, would be excluded from engaging in missionary work.

Russian Baptist leaders add that wording in the proposed legislation makes no distinction between professional missionaries and average believers. "Practically all believers will become susceptible to penal sanction," says Yuri Sipko, president of the Russian Union

of Evangelical Christians-Baptists.

In addition, the new language indicates that missions activity will not be allowed in hospitals, orphanages or homes for invalids and the aging without the approval of government officials. Missionary activity would be prohibited on the grounds of government buildings. The proposed measures also take aim at minors, saying that Russian minors may not be present at religious activities or be given media materials without their parents' consent.

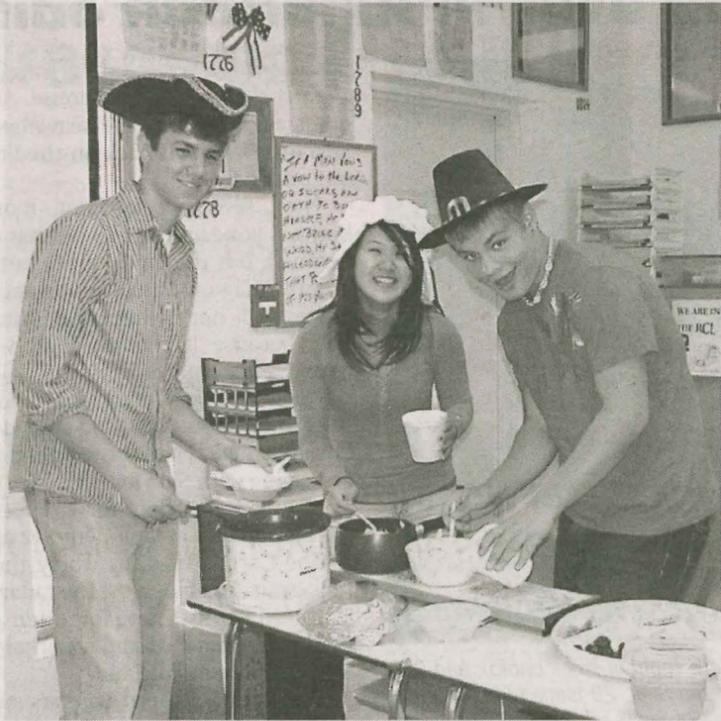
Over the past decade, Baptists in Russia, as well as other Protestants, have been involved with social work—addressing the issues of drug and alcohol abuse. Sipko recently wrote: "Without missionary activities, drunkenness and the abuse of narcotics will only increase. If the state begins to destroy the social ministry of churches, it will be forced to build more prisons."

IMB missionary Andy Leiniger has been working with Russian Baptists in Siberia as they develop social-ministry programs. "If these laws were to pass and be enforced, they would officially shut (the ministry centers) down," Leiniger said. "But I think it would be very hard to unofficially stop the work that is being done when it comes to helping people get away from their addictions."

Baptist leaders are most concerned about the ambiguity of the language in the proposals.

"Right now, it is like we are driving down the road and have speed limit and stop signs to tell us what we can and cannot do and police to enforce those specific rules," Tarleton noted. "If these new proposals remain as ambiguous as they appear to be at this stage, it would be like changing everything to caution signs, and religious groups would constantly be evaluated by officials making judgment calls based on their interpretation of the new laws." (BP)

# These pilgrims are still making progress

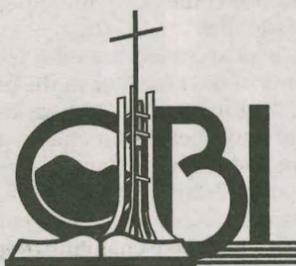


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