

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

# WESTERN Recorder

February 16, 2010  
Vol. 184, No. 6

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## From one legacy to another

*Sunday school teacher's estate gift vaults state offering past goal*

By Dannah Prather  
Partnerships Editor

**Central City**—She lived nearly a century and in her final years was bent with arthritis, but Marie Nicholson had strength enough to do some serious breaking.

Nicholson broke the mold of most women of her generation by going to college as an adult.

She probably shattered the concentration of more than one person who never expected to be asked in such a forthright manner: "Are you a Christian?"

The category of "children's Sunday school teacher" couldn't contain her; she taught adults, too.

And months after Nicholson's death, it was her generosity that broke the tape for the 2009-10 Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions.

The widow and retired elementary school teacher from Muhlenberg County left a generous donation from her estate that pushed the state missions offering over its \$1.1 million goal.

The offering does not conclude until Aug. 31, guaranteeing this year's total to be one for the record books.

Portions of Nicholson's estate also went to Southern Baptist efforts in international and North American missions according to her pastor, Gene Garner, of Cherry Hill Baptist Church in Central City.

Garner met Nicholson, who died last April, in her home. *See State missions offering benefits ... Page 3*



**FAITHFUL CHRISTIAN**  
Marie Nicholson holds a plaque given to her by her church family, Cherry Hill Baptist Church in Central City, for longtime commitment to the congregation and the gospel.

Nicholson taught Sunday school for 70 years at the Muhlenberg County church. She also was a faithful supporter of missions. A generous gift from her estate has pushed the 2009-10 Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions above its goal. (Photo courtesy of Carolyn Noffsinger)

## NAMB's newest missionaries face challenge of taking gospel to Alaska's vast landscape

By Mike Ebert  
North American Mission Board

**Anchorage, Alaska**—Against the backdrop of a land as rugged and wild as it is spiritually lost, the North American Mission Board commissioned 30 new missionaries and chaplains, many of whom will serve Alaska and its northern neighbor Canada.

The service took place at First Baptist Church of Anchorage, which was Alaska's first Southern Baptist church, started in 1943 by a small group of GIs stationed at nearby Fort Richardson. The church has since built a legacy of starting sister churches in Alaska.

"It's a real privilege for us to have this group of missionaries here at this point in your sending process—to be a part of that is a wonderful blessing," First Baptist, Anchorage pastor Ed Gregory told the audience. "Thank God for this privilege and for the fact that He is indeed at work across our land, and we get to be in on it."

Alaska Baptist Convention Executive Director David Baldwin told the new missionaries and chaplains, "You are in a friendly crowd. Probably every person here tonight has been touched by the Home Mission Board or the North American Mission Board because of the church planting and all that has gone into our state. We do not take that for granted."

Half of Alaska's population of nearly 700,000 is concentrated in the metro Anchorage area—365,000 people—in a state that is larger than Texas, California and



**NEW MISSIONARIES** Michael and Tina Abagon (center), who work in Honolulu, were two of the 30 missionaries and chaplains commissioned by the North American Mission Board during a service last month at First Baptist Church of Anchorage, Alaska. (Photo by Mike Ebert/NAMB)

Montana combined. Alaska's next two largest cities are Fairbanks (31,000) and Juneau (30,000).

Alaska's vastness creates formidable challenges for the 105 Southern Baptist churches and missions trying to reach the state's residents. Alaskan culture and lifestyle also bring challenges. Many of the state's citizens who transplanted from the "lower 48" came seeking soli-

*See NAMB commissions 30 ... Page 6*

## Jailed Baptists await prosecutor ruling on release

**Port-au-Prince, Haiti**—A group of American missions volunteers remain in Haitian prisons waiting to learn their fate for trying to take 33 children out of the country allegedly without proper documentation.

The 10 Baptists, most of them from two Idaho churches, received positive news last week—but not as good as they had hoped. Haitian Judge Bernard Saint-Vil recommended that they be released while the investigation continues, but they apparently will not be freed until sometime this week because the judge's recommendation must be reviewed by the prosecutor, Joseph M. Louis, who can agree or object to the recommendation. The judge, though, still will have the final word.

If released, it remains unclear whether the Baptist volunteers will be able to return to the U.S. or must remain in Haiti. Saint-Vil was quoted during a television interview as saying, "If the release of the Americans is granted, they will be able to leave the country, as long as their attorney provides guarantees for them." Other reports, though, have indicated Saint-Vil might require them to remain in Haiti.

The conflicting and ever-changing reports have tested the patience of the families back home, who remain prayerful and hopeful that their loved ones will return soon.

The families released a statement Feb. 11 through one of the churches—Central Valley Baptist of Meridian, Idaho—thanking people for their "continued thoughts and prayers."

"Our confidence continues to remain both in our faith and in the attorneys that represent our people," the statement read. "We understand that judicial proceedings take time, and even though we wanted them home yesterday ... we will be just as glad to have them home tomorrow."

Roger Oldham, vice president for convention relations for the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee, urged Southern Baptists to pray for the jailed volunteers.

"We ask people of good will across the convention and around the world to pray specifically for the nation of Haiti, including focused prayer for the release of these 10 detainees," Oldham said. (BP)

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, Feb. 17

# 'The people are in need'

*Kentucky Baptist disaster relief team members reflect on their emotional medical mission to Haiti*

By Drew Nichter  
News Director

Louisville—Recalling his experience in Haiti, Glenn Hickey stops mid-sentence and leans forward with tears in his eyes.

"What do you tell a child when he comes up to you and pulls your shirt and touches his mouth (to say) he wants the water bottle you've got in your back pocket?" Hickey asked. "You give him the water bottle you've got in your back pocket."

Hickey gets emotional when discussing the recent medical mission to Haiti as a part of a Kentucky Baptist disaster relief medical team.

"The people are in need, and it's the children that really get to you," he said.

Hickey served as leader of the 10-member medical team sent by the Kentucky Baptist Convention Jan. 31-Feb. 7. The group included doctors, nurses and a chaplain.

Serving in the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince, the medical team spent most of their time at a makeshift clinic near the presidential palace. Located at the city's center, the clinic sat just outside one of the largest tent cities that have sprung up all across the capital since the devastating Jan. 12 earthquake.

"Nobody's living in a house," noted Hickey, who operates a funeral home in Monticello. Hundreds of thousands of Haitians are living in city squares underneath tents.

Many news outlets have reported that the Haitians fear the homes that haven't already collapsed will do so in one of the many aftershocks being felt. Butch Vernon, who served as chaplain of the Kentucky Baptist team, said he believes the reason is much more supernatural.

Because of the prevalence of voodoo in Haiti, a number of residents believe that because many of the people killed in the earthquake were not properly buried, their spirits, or "lwas," will come back to haunt them, Vernon explained.

"It's not the earthquake fear that's the big deal," said Vernon, pastor of Thoroughbred Community Church in Nicholasville. "They're afraid to go into these homes because they're afraid that the lwas are going to come and punish them."

It's this undercurrent of fear that pervades Haiti right now, Hickey pointed out. Talking to the Western Recorder after being back in the U.S. for less than a day, he said the country's situation is ominous.

"It's just such a hopeless, desperate situation down there," Hickey lamented. "I feel like I know less today than I did while I was standing down there in it."

And it was the children who are hungry, thirsty and sick that left the strongest impression on the medical team members—specifically, 15-year-old Linda.

Vernon recalled first seeing Linda on a cot in the clinic wailing at the top of her lungs. Through an interpreter, Vernon found out she was screaming over and over, "Please let me die."

The team discovered that Linda had been buried in rubble for two days. Upon being freed, she discovered that her entire family was dead. She wandered the streets of Port-au-Prince for weeks until arriving at the clinic dehydrated and malnourished.

Vernon said the doctors and nurses gave her fluids, something to eat and plenty of love. Seven hours later, while taking a picture with team nurse Chris Lee, Vernon recalled seeing the "most dazzling smile you could imagine" on Linda's face. "The fact that we loved her totally changed her life, at least for that little bit of time," Vernon said. "And all we provided her with was

love—that was all we had."

The team also had with them some much-needed medical supplies and expertise. The doctors and nurses treated thousands of patients between two makeshift clinics during their week in Haiti.

Hickey and Vernon said the team saw about 300 patients on its first day in Port-au-Prince—the fewest of any day. Each day after that brought as many 700 patients into the clinic.

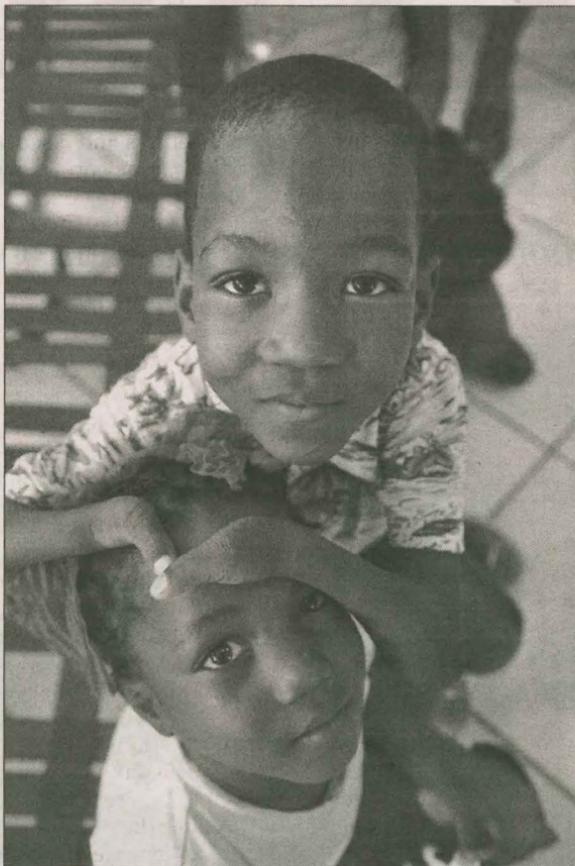
Of the many Haitians who received medical attention, Hickey estimated that at least 75 percent of them were touched by a Kentucky Baptist medical team member.

Hickey said that the majority of the medical issues Haitian survivors are dealing with now, more than a month after the earthquake, are infections from improperly healing wounds. With many patients, the doctors were forced to amputate all or parts of extremities.

Coy Webb, who oversees Kentucky Baptists' disaster relief efforts, said another major concern in the coming months is the potential outbreak of diseases like tuberculosis.

"You've got these people jam-packed into tent cities (and) if those kinds of epidemics start, it's going to be a pandemic," Webb said. "Within a few days, there might be 30,000 people infected just because they're living on top of each other."

Vernon, meanwhile, indicated that the No. 1 issue Haitians carry with them is stress. "As our people go in, they need to be prepared to deal not only with the physical



**FACES OF HOPE** A brother and sister playfully pose for the camera as they visit the clinic where a Kentucky Baptist medical team served recently. Team members said seeing the Haitian children hungry and injured left a lasting impression on them. (Photos by Butch Vernon)

issues, but to be able to deal with the emotional issues."

The chaplain recalled counseling a Haitian man who lost everything in the earthquake. "He told me he watched as his wife, his infant daughter and his 2-year-old son were crushed to death in his house," Vernon said.



**FOOD STATION** Hundreds of Haitians wait in line as Southern Baptist Convention volunteers distribute food and bottled water from the back of a truck in Port-au-Prince. Food and water are becoming more scarce as time goes on, so distribution points like this one are becoming more vital for the continued health and survival of the Haitian people.

## UC student is link to KBC partnership

Tanzania native is second to study at Ky. Baptist college through alliance

By Daphne Baird  
University of the Cumberlands

Louisville—In January 2008, the Kentucky Baptist Convention began a three-year partnership with the Baptist Convention of Tanzania, effective through the end of this year. The relationship is based on six key aspects of partnership: training, equipping, advising, affirming, mentoring and strengthening.

While the partnership is a spiritual one designed to strengthen the relationship between the two countries, there is a human representation as well: Lusako Mwanjejele, a University of the Cumberlands sophomore and recipient of a four-year scholarship from the school.

Mwanjejele comes from Tanzania's Kyela District, where he grew up in a home with his mother, five brothers and a sister. Secure in his position as the youngest son, he said he believed his older brothers would take care of him. However, he lost each of his brothers to a disease that continues to ravage the country's population. Mwanjejele's mother alone—and Mwanjejele wants to do what he can to help.

The partnership between the KBC and the Tanzanian convention is not the first time such a partnership has brought a college student to Kentucky. Moses Mboya, a translator during the first KBC-BCT partnership from 1999-2001, is a 2005 graduate of Georgetown College, where he attended as a result of the partnership and efforts of the college and Georgetown Baptist Church. Mboya now is the executive secretary for the Baptist Convention of Tanzania and is a vital part of the current partnership's success.

Mboya also has been instrumental in making it possible for Mwanjejele to follow in his footsteps to study in Kentucky. He was part of a BCT delegation that trav-

eled to Kentucky in 2007 for leadership training and to begin talks about a future partnership between the two conventions.

Representatives from Kentucky Baptist-affiliated schools attended the meetings and discussed with Tanzanian Baptist leaders about how providing educational opportunities for one or more Tanzanian students could contribute to the success of the partnership. At that time, University of the Cumberlands President Jim Taylor committed a full scholarship for a Tanzanian Baptist student.

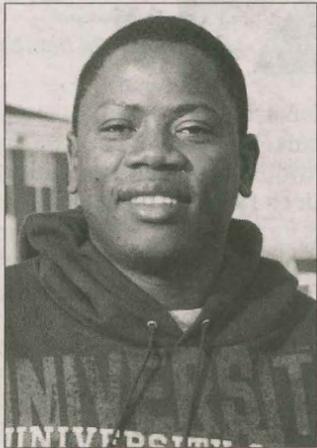
Selected from among 20 scholarship applicants, Mwanjejele said he realizes that he has been given an extraordinary opportunity. He said it was difficult to adjust to his new surroundings at the Cumberlands campus. There are many cultural differences, especially the amount of food available.

Although his hometown is very different from Williamsburg, it is a small town, so in that respect, he said, it feels like home.

"It is quiet," Mwanjejele said of Williamsburg. "There is no distraction."

A management information systems major, Mwanjejele said he enjoys life on campus. "It is easy to talk with students and professors," he noted.

Although he appreciates the opportunity to study in America, Mwanjejele said he understands it comes with responsibility. After graduation, he plans to follow in Mboya's footsteps and work for the Baptist Convention of Tanzania. While many students look forward to the financial gains after graduation, Mwanjejele said he is aware that most BCT positions are filled by volunteers answering God's call, because the struggling convention cannot afford to pay dedicated officers like Mboya. Even so, Mwanjejele said he is set on succeeding in order to repay those who have helped him by helping others.



Lusako Mwanjejele

## KBC leaders: Churches still have opportunity to take part in Find It Here initiative

Louisville—It's not too late for churches to commit to participating in the upcoming Find It Here evangelistic initiative, according to Kentucky Baptist Convention leaders.

During the campaign, March 6-21, Kentucky Baptists will deliver a gospel brochure to more than 1.4 million households across the commonwealth. People who receive the brochures and want to know more will be directed to [www.FindItHere.com](http://www.FindItHere.com), where they also can search for a Southern Baptist church near them.

"It's getting late but it's certainly not too late yet for churches to get on board," said KBC's Evangelism Growth Team Leader Ross Bauscher. "It's our desire to see every church that would like to be a part to participate."

Churches that want to participate should contact their associational director of missions to coordinate the geographic area they will be covering with other churches in the association. Churches that are not part of an association or are in an area where an association is not participating can contact the KBC's evangelism growth team office at (502) 489-3576, or toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3576, or by e-mail at [Evangelism@KyBaptist.org](mailto:Evangelism@KyBaptist.org).

Materials for Find It Here are available from the KBC—while supplies last—at a cost of 10 cents per bag/brochure. The brochures have a space for churches to include a label so they can be notified if the brochure recipient returns the postage-paid card requesting more information. Details about the information to include on the label are available in the Find It Here Church preparation guide available at [www.KyBaptist.org/FindItHere](http://www.KyBaptist.org/FindItHere).

Churches also can include their own brochures in the Find It Here bags.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention and North American Mission Board will be supporting the door-to-door gospel delivery with a media campaign featuring 30-second television spots that will run statewide March 15-April 3.

"This is a great opportunity for churches to impact their communities for Christ at one of those times of the year when people are most receptive to attending church, Easter," Bauscher said. "And the added attention that will be brought through the media campaign helps to reinforce the positive message. I'm praying that every church will take advantage of the opportunity to be a part of what is the single largest evangelistic push that Kentucky Baptists have ever done together."

## Johnson, 63, led deaf church in Danville 12 years

Lexington—Eddie Johnson, who was pastor of Danville Deaf Baptist Mission, died Feb. 2 at a Lexington hospital. He was 63.

Johnson was receiving kidney dialysis in Danville Feb. 1 when complications set in. He was rushed to Central Baptist Hospital in Lexington where he died a day later.

A lifelong Kentucky resident, Johnson attended the Kentucky School for the Deaf in Louisville. Johnson was a member of the city's Fourth Avenue Baptist Deaf Church for many years before becoming a charter member of Louisville Baptist Deaf Church.

Johnson later felt called into ministry and attended the Seminary Extension for the Deaf in Louisville. He became pastor of Danville Deaf Baptist Mission in 1998, serving up until the time of his death.

He also served on committees with the Conference of the Deaf for both the Southern Baptist and Kentucky Baptist conventions.

Johnson is survived by his wife, Sandra, three children and five grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Feb. 5 at Lexington Avenue Baptist Church in Danville.

## State missions offering benefits from Ky. Baptist's estate gift

Continued from page 1  
twilight years but he said she still had plenty of spark.

"Even at her age she was still working to see souls won to the Lord," said Garner, who has served at Cherry Hill for the past seven years.

Until illness sent her to the hospital and then into long-term care, Nicholson continued to teach her women's Sunday school class.

"She taught in some capacity in the church for 70 years," Garner said of Nicholson.

Her dedication to sharing the gospel with others never waned according to her nephew, Jimmy Bruce.

"It didn't matter who came into her room," Bruce recalled. "She asked them if they were a Christian and presented the plan of salvation to them if they would listen."

Missions "meant everything to her," he continued. "It was first and foremost in her thinking."

Bruce's cousin and former Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union staff member Carolyn Noffsinger agreed.

"Aunt Marie always believed that everybody in the world should have the opportunity to know about Jesus Christ," Noffsinger said. "She felt that was her responsibility and her privilege."

In death, Nicholson's generosity has drawn attention, but Garner said the bequest is only part of her legacy.

"Nearly everybody in the church

and the community has been touched spiritually by this lady," the pastor said. "She had a God-given gift to notice things in people."

When a young man with a troubled past visited Cherry Hill, Nicholson went out of her way to befriend him and give him a Bible.

The pastor said Nicholson sought the young man out each time he visited church. "She had picked up on the fact that he needed a friend," Garner recalled.

"She was a great inspiration," said Noffsinger, who was a student at Western Kentucky University with her aunt.

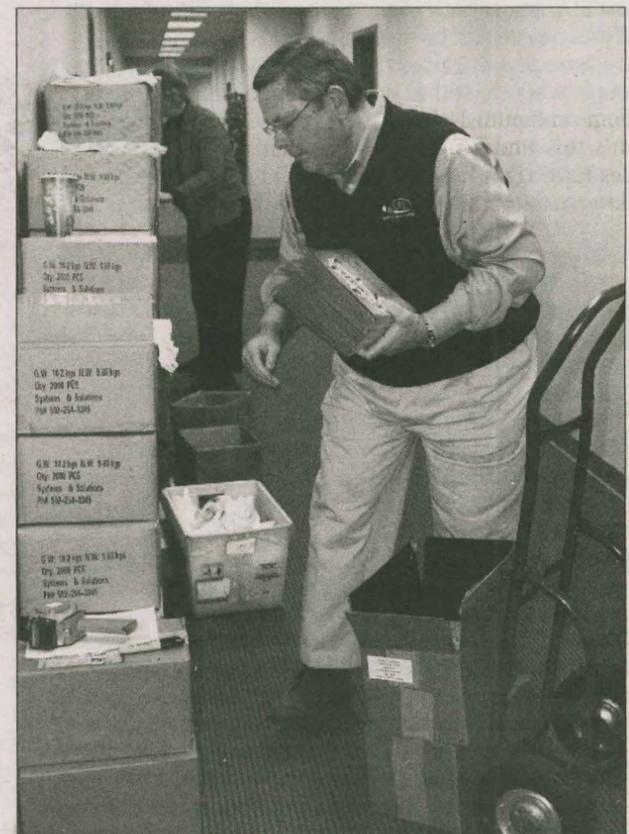
"She dropped out of college to get married when she was 20," Noffsinger explained. "She was getting her master's degree when I was a freshman."

If Nicholson knew it was her gift that pushed the Eliza Broadus Offering over its goal, "she would have been tickled," Garner said. "But she would've said ... give the Lord the praise."

Joy Bolton, executive director for Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, said the WMU Executive Board and Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Bill Mackey will decide specifically how the unanticipated state missions funds will be used.

"It's safe to say it will be for evangelism," Bolton assured.

Marie Nicholson wouldn't have it any other way.



**PACKING PARTY** Ross Bauscher (foreground), Kentucky Baptist Convention's evangelism growth team leader, and Carla Purvis (background), evangelism growth team ministry assistant, pack thousands of Find It Here brochures to be mailed to participating Kentucky Baptist churches and associations statewide. The materials will be placed in bags and distributed to more than 1.4 million households in the weeks leading up to Easter Sunday. (Photo by Dannah Prather)

## Disaster relief

The earthquake disaster in Haiti has been heartbreaking. The severity of the devastation, the number of injuries, the tremendous loss of life and the amount of displacement of people is almost more than we can truly fathom.

### Partners in the Mission



By Bill Mackey

God is blessing even in the midst of this tragedy, however, and I am pleased that Kentucky Baptists have been able to be a part of the early relief efforts.

Coy Webb, Kentucky Baptist Convention's disaster relief associate, was a part of the first Southern Baptist assessment team sent to work out the logistics for the long-term Baptist response. And, a Kentucky Baptist medical team was one of the first Southern Baptist teams to get in

to minister to needs.

This team ministered in one of the tent cities that sprang up after the earthquake, as well as in a makeshift hospital in what had been police barracks just across the street from the presidential palace in Port-au-Prince.

The work is just beginning, though, and we will have an incredible opportunity to assist the 800-plus Haitian Baptist churches that are ministering to the people. The Florida Baptist Convention already supports seven missionaries in Haiti who work through these churches.

Right now, Kentucky Baptists have a grand opportunity to give financially to help fund the relief work and to put together a "Bucket of Hope" which will provide practical physical support for Haitian families.

Financial gifts may be made by giving online at [www.KyBaptist.org/DR](http://www.KyBaptist.org/DR); by placing a gift designated for Haiti in the offering plate at your church; or by mailing it to the KBC, P.O. Box 856300, Dept. 124, Louisville, KY 40285-9900. (Please note "Haiti Earthquake" on the check's memo line.)

The "Bucket of Hope" consists of a plastic five-gallon bucket packed with selected foodstuffs. It will cost approximately \$40 to purchase the materials and provide for shipping.

Details can be found online at [www.KyBaptist.org/Buckets](http://www.KyBaptist.org/Buckets). The buckets need to be turned in to your association's collection point by March 4.

Although it has not gotten as much attention, Kentucky Baptists also are still at work in American Samoa, which was devastated by a tsunami last September. Larry and Elaine Koch of Kentucky are coordinating Southern Baptist rebuilding efforts and report great needs there. If you have a team ready that cannot yet go to Haiti, please pray about going to American Samoa.

I am confident that all Kentucky Baptists will do their best to support both of these disaster relief and rebuilding efforts. Teams will be needed for years to come.

Please pray for all of these disaster relief efforts and the people who are still in recovery and rebuilding. Also, pray for the spiritual development of all persons involved.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

## Resurgence linked to spiritual vitality

For much of this past week, editors of state Baptist papers have been discussing the future of denominational journalism and the Southern Baptist Convention. The heads or representatives of the SBC's national and international mission boards, Woman's Missionary Union, LifeWay Christian Resources and the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, as well as the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force, reported on their program assignments and were available for questions. From their comments, I have become convinced more than ever that the future of state Baptist papers and the denomination itself are intrinsically and inexorably linked. Any resurgence begins with the reinvigorated hearts of individual Baptists and the renewed spiritual vitality of our churches, which inevitably will lead to a greater desire for accomplishing our cooperative mission to fulfill our Lord's commission to spread the Word.

While much attention was given to what some experts see as the inevitable rise of online digital publications, or e-issues, and whether or not they will replace the printed page, Jim Futral, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, set a spiritual tone by pointing to a deeper, more critical issue. Recalling Ezekiel's plea for a new heart and renewed spirit, Futral observed that the human body has about 650 muscles—a few of which you can get along without—but one is essential: the heart. "Spiritually, we don't stop and look at our own heart," he charged. "How long has it been," he asked, "since you've been in the consultation room with Jesus and allowed the Great Cardiologist to tell you how your heart is doing?" But just as a doctor cannot make a patient buy the medicine and take it, Futral suggested that the contemplative question is, "Will we follow Jesus' instructions and live."

Even more direct, Futral later focused on the passage in Revelation where Jesus asks the Ephesus church, "How's your love life?" Ephesus apparently had lost its fervent love for Christ, and the application for Southern Baptists is that we are falling further and further behind in reaching a lost world, Futral said. Statistics from the North American Mission Board indicate that some 258 million people have no relationship with Christ. "What has happened to us?" Futral asked. "Have Southern Baptist churches lost their passion, their energy?" The crucial question now is, "How can we get the joy back in serving Jesus?" In Revelation 2, the Risen Lord urges us to remember, repent and return to the first work. Remembering the good ole days is not what Jesus is after, Futral said. Instead, He wants us to remember when our love for serving Him was so

vibrant and warm. If we will repent and do what Jesus first asked of us, then He will use us again, Futral assured.

Though he did not divulge any recommendations to be presented by the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force at next week's SBC Executive Committee meeting, Robert White, executive director of the Georgia Baptist Convention, provided his general impressions of its deliberations. "Prayer has been vital to every session; from the first meeting, we began on our knees," he said. Like others, White

confided that he was dubious at first about whether the task force was needed. Yet he, too, has become increasingly concerned by alarming statistics indicating more churches were baptizing fewer and fewer people and seeing their percentages of Cooperative Program giving declining for some time.

The challenge of Southern Baptists is not so much organizationally related as it is a spiritual problem, White reiterated. "The entire ship of Southern Baptists rises on the waters of spiritual renewal," he maintained. The Bible clearly requires obedience to the tithe, yet individuals are giving 2.2 percent of their income to the church, he underscored. "We will never be the Kingdom people we should be until we return the tithe to the Lord," he urged, calling for a stewardship revival. "We are quibbling in Southern Baptist life over six cents," he quipped. "We are sending six cents of every dollar given on to our state conventions, and keeping 94 cents for the local church." While some have made much of the fact that only two cents of every dollar is passed along to the International Mission Board, "that's only part of the story," he observed, noting that on average only about six cents goes to state, national or international missions causes. Furthermore, the money begins not with the state convention, but with the heart of the individuals in the pews, he emphasized.

At the heart of the task force report, however, seems to be a focus on recovering the spiritual vitality of our churches, so that they will become more effective in planting new churches, reaching their communities and being on mission for Christ both in our homeland and around the world. As spiritual vitality returns, trends reflecting our declining passion and the dearth of a sense of urgency in sharing Christ will be reversed. And if you care about hearing how God is working among Southern Baptists, then reading your state Baptist paper will become increasingly important to you since our newspaper's greater purpose is to reenergize churches in evangelism and missions.

## After Thought

By Todd Deaton



## Don't bother opening Pandora's box

By Phyllis Zagano

OK, so I saw "Avatar," the computer-generated "epic" in which the American military-industrial complex invades a planet full of tall blue pantheists. The predictable plot involves a former Marine who takes the place of his dead twin brother on a scientific excursion financed by a large military contractor. The company, RDA, has hired every ex-military caricature possible to help it mine "unobtainium" from beneath the blue folks' Hometree.

The ex-Marine turns blue through mind control of his cloned Avatar body. He wanders around the planet Pandora accompanied by the local chief's daughter.

A lot of people have fallen under the "Avatar" spell, hoping to defeat the bad guys and live happily ever after, communing with nature, with the good guys. In the movie, Americans play the bad guys (except the blue ex-Marine who goes rogue) while the good guys are the Pan-

dorans, who send them packing.

The film's Technicolor theology presents pantheism as the solution to everything. Pantheism (nature is god) is not the same as panentheism (God encompasses nature). Christian understanding is that God encompasses the entire universe, but God is not limited or bound by the universe or by anything in it.

"Avatar" is the highest-grossing movie ever. Earth-bound fans have fallen in love with Pandoran pantheism. It does sound plausible: all creation dies, and its energy must go someplace. On Pandora, that energy goes to the Tree of Souls, and a little occasional bonding lets ancestral blue folks help the living.

But why the name Pandora? The goddess Pandora of mythology had a large storage jar (remember "Pandora's Box?") from which flew all the world's evils. In that story, the most powerful virtue of life—hope—remained inside. Is there hope on Pandora? I am not sure.

With nine Oscar nominations (including for Best Picture) and a boatload of other accolades, "Avatar" is technically and artistically interesting for its cutting-edge computerized graphics, but that's about as far as it goes.

Here's the world as "Avatar" understands it: It's August, 2154 (precisely when creator-director James Cameron will turn 200). Americans haven't progressed much. Scientists are geeks, corporate contractors are greedy, mercenary soldiers are idiots, and the U.S. stomps out helpless alien cultures. That's the Avatar message.

With a marketing budget of some \$150 million, promoters are selling that message through books, video games and interactive 3-D cans of Coca-Cola. McDonald's includes "Avatar" "action figures" in Happy Meals.

The irony is that in criticizing the spread of American junk culture, "Avatar" is doing precisely what it complains about.

Phyllis Zagano is visiting professor of theology and religion at St. Leo University in Florida.

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Rodney Travis, Hopkinsville.

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

Western Recorder is published weekly 49 weeks a year by Western Recorder Inc., an agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253. It will not be published the first week of January, the week of Independence Day or the week of Christmas. Periodicals postage paid at Louisville, Ky. (USPS 679-380)

For general information, to give news tips, or to place an advertisement, call (502) 489-3535.

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

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

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## The role of emotions

By Scott Wigginton

**Q: What should be the role of emotions in dating, courtship and marriage?**

**A:** Perhaps your subtext might be, "As a Christian, can you trust your emotions?" This is an important issue, for we are continually bombarded by emotions.



Vincent Van Dyke once wrote, "Let's not forget that the little emotions are the great captains of our lives and we obey them without realizing it." Being able to recognize and name our emotions is often the first step in keeping executive control over our choices. All too often people allow

their decisions to be unduly influenced, even hijacked, by "little emotions" that become "great captains."

While I believe God does not desire to do His deepest work in the shallowest parts of our lives, we must be clear that it was God who created emotions. Loving Him with all of our hearts, souls and minds surely means loving God with our emotions. Yet just as we experience the "holy emotions" (joy, peace, compassion) as did Jesus, we also experience the "human emotions" that our Lord knew as well. Living in a fallen world, He knew grief and sorrow, and He knew pain and anxiety.

But there are also "unholy emotions." In this realm exist the ugly distortions that sin, and Satan conspire to create. Among fleshly and poisonous emotions are found malice, bitterness, lusts, selfish ambition, envy and jealousy. Romantic love and infatuation, precariously situated on selfish desires, represents a twisted caricature of godly delight. Motivated by our own gratification, lust masquerades to make a compelling case for allowing something that should be the caboose to serve, instead, as the engine of a healthy relationship. Lovers beware! The temporary insanity created by the drug of romance may be the breeding ground of relational impulsivity.

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

## Rediscovering the joy of curling up with the Good Book

By David Jeremiah

Fifteen years ago, Amazon.com was all the buzz. You could go online, order a book, pay a discounted price and receive the book in a few days. While bibliophiles rejoiced, bookstore owners were getting nervous. Was this the end of the brick-and-mortar bookstore? Were people going to use their computers instead of their cars to seek out new books?

Most bookstores joined the online world to take advantage of Internet sales while continuing to see their bookstore sales increase as well. Five years ago, Barnes & Noble's in-store sales were \$4.5 billion compared to their online sales of \$440 million.

At that time, \$8 million dollars was the total in-store sales for Barnes & Noble, B. Dalton, Borders and Waldenbooks, compared to Amazon.com's \$3 billion for online media sales. Those four major brick-and-mortar chains, plus the two major online outlets (Amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com) generated \$11.5 billion in media sales.

Here's an example of how bookstores are holding their own against online distributors. In Charlotte, N.C., there's a huge Barnes & Noble store. It has two floors, 31,000 square feet, and more than 200,000 book, magazine, music and movie titles—plus more plush sofas and armchairs than a furniture store, along with the ubiquitous Starbucks and deli.

This bookstore was the anchor client in a "Lifestyle Center" at a major metropolitan mall. That says a lot about the place of books in the life of the average American.

Let's face it—something has been proven about the role of books in people's lives over the last few decades. Compare what it takes to buy a bestseller online versus at your local brick-and-mortar bookstore:

- Online: Order at home in your pajamas; unlimited selection; read reviews by other readers; get suggestions on similar books; pay a discounted price (often free shipping); eat while you shop; have the book delivered to your door; and the whole deal takes under 10 minutes.

- At the store: Get dressed, drive through traffic, find a parking place; limited selection, possibly out of stock; hope-

fully find a clerk to help you; pay retail; drive home; takes an hour-plus of your day.

With the obvious advantages, people are buying lots of books online as well as for electronic download. But in spite of the disadvantages, people are still flocking to the new "lifestyle" bookstores in record numbers. Why?

It's because of the warm-and-fuzzy factor of taking a bestseller in your hands, smelling the new-paper smell, gently cracking open the binding, and settling into a deep reading chair with a cup of coffee and a brownie—that's why!

Now before you accuse me of being a stockholder in a bookstore chain, trying to encourage you to go spend your money there ... I'm not. But I am trying to encourage you to do something else.

More than plush armchairs and brownies, there's another reason we love to go to the bookstore in search of the latest bestseller or other books. It's because we were born to read. "Words" are the way God has revealed Himself to us—the written Word and the Living Word, Jesus Christ. If we are going to know God, we are going to have to be readers.

Are you taking full advantage of the most exciting reading opportunity? The best "best-

seller" of all time is available to you: God's bestseller, the Bible.

From Genesis to Revelation, there are 66 books that touch every theme found on the shelves of a major bookstore: drama, romance, biography, military history, theology, church history, ancient Near Eastern history, geography, marriage and family, future world events, self-help and humor (yes, humor—have you read Jonah lately?).

And the best part is, you already own all 66 of these books. You can curl up with a bestseller—make that the bestseller—any time you like. You've got the armchair, best coffee and cookies—so what are you waiting for? Instead of going online or to the mall for a good book, grab the Good Book. Rediscover why you were born to read. (BP)

*David Jeremiah is the founder of the radio and television program "Turning Point for God," and senior pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church in El Cajon, Calif.*

### FIRST PERSON

*You can curl up with a bestseller—make that the bestseller—any time you like.*

## Muslim converts recount 'the year of living dangerously'

By Erich Bridges

What do you think about when you look back on the past year of your life?

Family joys and heartaches, perhaps. Victories and defeats on the job or at school. Sickness and health. Events in the lives of close friends. Odds are, you aren't remembering the physical beatings you took for Christ.

Rasheed\* and Farooq\* are.

I've written several times about Rasheed and Farooq, two Muslims in India who have become committed followers of Jesus Christ. They lead a growing movement of Muslim-background believers in Mumbai, India's largest city. The urban giant's 20 million people include some 2 million Muslims—a large but often marginalized minority that is showing increasing openness to the gospel.

Last time we checked in with Rasheed, he was lying in a hospital bed with a head wound, broken rib and internal injuries suffered during a brutal attack at the hands of people angered by his stand for Jesus. He had led two Muslim men to faith in Christ. One of them went home and told family members. Enraged, they found Rasheed, pushed him down and beat him with a cricket bat until others rescued him. He was hospitalized for nearly a month.

"Rasheed is almost fully recovered now," says a Christian worker who keeps in touch with him. "He is looking for work again while continuing to teach six leaders of jama'ats"—indigenous worship groups composed

of Muslim-background followers of Jesus—and leading five jama'ats himself.

"While he was recovering, three more Muslims gave their lives to Christ through the faithful witness of believers in his groups."

Farooq, meanwhile, has stayed busy with more than 70 Shi'ite Muslim "seeker groups" investigating the Gospel. Spiritual seekers in the groups now probably surpass 1,000.

"The Muslims they speak with are incredulous," reports the worker. "They say, 'This is the first time we have heard this truth.'"

The year 2009, the worker adds, was a "very good year—and a difficult year" for both Farooq and Rasheed.

A selected chronology of the year's events in their lives and ministries:

- Rasheed begins a jama'at in his hometown and four more elsewhere.

- Farooq is framed, arrested and beaten for sharing his faith with Muslim seekers. He loses his possessions and sustains painful leg injuries. "I did nothing wrong," he declares. "I know that God was with me in jail and through the whole ordeal. I can trust Him for anything!"

- Exonerated and released from jail, Farooq promptly restarts the seeker meeting that was the source of his persecution.

- Nawab\* becomes a believer in Fa-

arooq's native place. He begins two jama'ats and currently conducts a weekly seeker meeting.

- Many women's seeker meetings begin. More than 50 women now attend three jama'ats.

- Thirty new leaders are trained to launch seeker meetings following extensive evangelistic outreach during an annual Muslim festival.

- During Ramadan outreach efforts, two leaders are beaten for sharing Jesus. One lies in a coma for several days. Both recover.

- At least 52 new jama'ats are begun during the year, bringing Farooq's total to more than 100. It's getting harder to count them, he reports.

"It wasn't an easy year, but God has done amazing things in the hearts of Farooq and Rasheed, as well as in the hearts of the Muslim-background believers whose faith and fearlessness have grown in ways we never could have imagined," reflects the Christian worker.

Next time somebody tells you the gospel will never penetrate the Muslim world, or that Muslims aren't interested in knowing about Jesus Christ, remember Rasheed, Farooq and many others like them.

They beg to differ—and they put their lives on the line daily to prove otherwise. (BP)

*\*Names changed. Erich Bridges is global correspondent for the International Mission Board.*

### FIRST PERSON

*The next time someone tells you that Muslims aren't interested in the gospel, ... these two beg to differ.*

## Supplementing retirement savings

By Laurie Valentine

Many executives and professionals in their highest earning years face the fact that the amount of deductible contributions they may make to their qualified retirement plan or IRA is not keeping up with the growth of their income. Many also are looking for a supplemental retirement savings vehicle that permits tax-free growth of their nest egg. A retirement unitrust may be the right planning tool for such individuals—if they are motivated to benefit charitable causes, as well as themselves, with their plan.

A retirement unitrust is a "flip" charitable remainder trust that pays the lesser of the net income generated by the trust assets or the unitrust amount (designated percentage of trust asset value, recalculated each year) until a triggering event occurs—or flips—the trust into a standard unitrust, paying the designated unitrust amount each year.

The benefits to the donor include an immediate income tax deduction for the future remainder charitable gift; low cash flow from the trust until the donor retires; a potentially substantial increase in trust distributions to the donor after retirement; and a significant future gift to one or more charitable causes.

Here's an example: John Brown, age 50, transfers assets worth \$100,000 to a unitrust that will pay him the lesser of the net income or 6 percent annually until 2028 when he will turn 68 (the "triggering event"), at which time the unitrust will "flip" to a standard unitrust paying him 6 percent each year. Brown is entitled to a charitable contribution deduction of approximately \$21,000 in the year he creates the trust. If the trust is invested for an average annual yield of 1 percent and capital appreciation of 7 percent until the triggering event, the trust will grow to approximately \$338,000 by 2028. His income from the unitrust also will take a big jump in 2028 from \$3,159 per year to \$20,280 per year. Any additions made to the trust in later years by Brown will entitle him to additional charitable contribution deductions if he itemizes.

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



# Seminary president labels IMB mission strategy as 'heresy'

By Bob Allen

Lynchburg, Va.—The president of Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary has labeled a method used by Southern Baptist missionaries to spread the gospel in Muslim lands deceptive and heretical.

In a recent podcast interview on the SBC Today blog, Ergun Caner blasted the "Camel Method," developed by longtime International Mission Board strategist Kevin Greeson to engage Muslims into talking about Jesus using a familiar legend from Islam. The story says that every good Muslim knows 99 names for Allah, but there is a 100th name that was revealed only to the camel.

According to the Camel Method, the 100th name is Jesus, or "Isa," as the name is rendered in Arabic. Using selected verses from the Quran, the method establishes three points: that Isa—honored in Islam as a prophet but not as divine—is holy, has power over death and knows the way to heaven. From there it goes on to present the plan of salvation by relating it to Eid al-Adha, the Islamic feast of sacrifice.

Though reportedly very effective in working with Muslims, the method has detractors who say it crosses a line between "contextualization"—embracing Christianity in ways that are culturally relevant in a given society—and "syncretism"—a fusion of two different belief systems that cannot

be reconciled with biblical Christianity.

For Caner—himself a Southern Baptist and a former Muslim who has written books labeling Islam a false religion—that line is clear. "The IMB is teaching heresy," he declared.

Caner said Allah as described in the Quran and the God revealed in the Bible have nothing in common. To suggest otherwise, he said, is "absolute, fundamental deception."

"You can't start an evangelistic enterprise based on deception," Caner said. "I just can't imagine that type of lying, and that's exactly what I call it."

"So you're saying (IMB President) Jerry Rankin lies?" he continued. "That's exactly what I'm saying."

Greeson, who has served with the IMB since 1993, said he had little success during his first two years of working with Muslims in South Asia. They didn't believe Jesus was the Son of God or in his resurrection. They did not acknowledge the authority of the Bible, so quoting Scripture was useless.

After discovering a Christian movement in a village where many people were converting from Islam, Greeson asked about the catalyst. From there he developed the Camel Method as a way to treat Muslims

with respect while challenging them to confront their own sacred writings as a bridge to the gospel.

The method is not intended primarily for one-on-one witnessing, but for planting of reproducing indigenous churches called "Jesus Groups." Greeson said there are thousands of such congregations in what he calls the largest turning of Muslims to Christ in history.



Ergun Caner

Caner countered that the issue is not whether the method works, but rather if it represents biblical Christianity.

"There's a huge difference between building a church and building a crowd," he noted. "There's a huge difference between having a movement with results and having a movement with eternal results."

Caner said he has no problem using the name "Allah" for God when speaking in Arabic—that is the name Arab Christians always have used for the deity—but telling a Muslim that Allah in the Quran refers to the Christian God is dishonest.

Proponents of the Camel Method say it isn't intended to be a full presentation of the gospel message but a point of connection with a goal of leading Muslims to accept Christ as revealed in the Bible while re-

taining their ethnic identity in an Islamic culture.

John Travis\*, a Christian who has worked with Muslims in Asia for many years, said that for the majority of the world's 1 billion Muslims, changing religions is something that is never seriously contemplated.

Yet, Travis said he personally knows many Muslims who have put their faith in Jesus. Some formally convert to Christianity and worship at local churches identified with Western denominations or in small home fellowships with other Muslim-background believers. Fearing persecution, others worship underground. Still others, sometimes called "Messianic Muslims," reject teachings of Islam that directly contradict the Bible, but do not view or describe themselves as Christians.

IMB trustees adopted guidelines in 2007 regarding "contextualization" of church planting methods among unreached people groups.

The IMB supports, for instance, using "Allah" when describing the God of the Bible but not the theological construct represented by the name as used in the Quran. While condoning the use of a culture's sacred text for "bridge building," the guidelines caution missionaries to take care not to imply wholesale acceptance of those teachings. (ABP)

\*Name changed for security reasons

## NAMB commissions 30 new missionaries and chaplains

Continued from page 1

tude and independence, making evangelistic outreach difficult.

On the other hand, many of the state's native Alaskans live in remote villages that cannot even be accessed by car.

Mission Service Corps missionaries Luke and Sarah Stewart moved to the remote Eskimo village of Kobuk in 2008 to minister at a Southern Baptist Convention mission church. The Stewarts and their young family faced temperatures during their first winter that plunged to 65 degrees below zero. The village is inaccessible by car, so supplies must be flown in when weather permits.

Stewart said ministry in Kobuk requires a slow approach, serving the village's citizens while trying to share Christ as relationships develop.

"I am trying to be an encouragement to the believers and help them grow in their Christian lives," Stewart noted. "Beyond that, we are trying to serve the other people so they will see by the way we live and the way we treat them that we love them and that God loves them."

Other missionaries commissioned to Alaska during the service last month will work in Kodiak and Girdwood. Others who were commissioned will be ministering in Oregon, North Dakota, Hawaii, Washington, Utah, Canada, California and South Carolina.

NAMB's newest missionaries and chaplains arrived in Anchorage two days before the commissioning for a time of training and orientation hosted by leaders of the mission board, including Richard Harris, NAMB's interim president; Frank Page, vice president for evangelization; and Ken Weathersby, vice president of church planting.

The missionaries fanned out across the greater Anchorage area on Sunday morning, visiting with and preaching in local Southern Baptist churches.

Harris voiced a charge to the newly commissioned workers: "Whatever else you are trying to accomplish in your ministry, as we send you out tonight, it is to proclaim the gospel of Christ by way of life and by word of mouth."

Harris encouraged the missionaries to approach people with "gentleness and respect."

"You are going to confront all kinds of people with all kinds of backgrounds. Go to them in humility. Remember who you are. Remember whose you are."

But spreading the gospel is not only a missionary responsibility. Turning to those from area churches who attended the commissioning service, Harris said, "Every year, 3 million precious souls are added to North America's population. You say, 'I can't reach everybody.' No, but you can reach somebody, and if you are willing to share, God will bring a harvest field into your life." (BP)

### BAPTIST DIGEST

**Suspected Texas church arsons now at 11**—Two more Baptist churches less than two miles apart burned Feb. 8, making a total of 11 East Texas churches damaged or destroyed by fire since the new year and seven confirmed as arsons, authorities say. Investigators from the Smith County Fire Marshal's office and the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives still are trying to determine the cause of the fires at Dover Baptist Church and Clear Springs Missionary Baptist Church in Smith County. Because arson has been confirmed in seven other church burnings in the region, ATF special agent Tom Crowley said it is the suspected cause of the latest fires. Federal investigators have upped the reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the suspect to \$25,000.

**Va. Baptist college president steps down**—Michael Puglisi unexpectedly resigned as president of Virginia Intermont College Jan. 25, apparently at the request of trustees of the Baptist-affiliated school. And in what college administrators and trustees said was a move unrelated to the president's resignation, the school announced it will reduce its staff by about 40 people. Puglisi had served as president of the college for five years and had shepherded the institution through severe economic challenges that threatened to close it three years ago. Puglisi avoided a financial crisis by raising funds for operating expenses, including \$3.5 million last year. The 126-year-old Virginia Intermont, located in Bristol, Va., has around 550 students and 75 faculty members.

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## A Life Spared

*Grateful to be alive, Haitian is intent on sharing God's word*

By **Tristan Taylor**  
International Mission Board

**Port-au-Prince, Haiti**—The Vallee de Bourdon neighborhood in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, was a beautiful place to live—before the 7.0-magnitude earthquake struck last month.

An otherworldly light filled the hillside community when the setting sun angled its rays through the surrounding lush trees. Like stadium seats, houses were stair-stepped up from the riverbed below. Stairways leading from one level to the other functioned as sidewalks on slopes too steep for roads.

Now, “the neighborhood is almost completely destroyed,” said Hubert Duchatelier, a Haitian Baptist and father of five who has lived in Vallee de Bourdon for 13 years.

When the earthquake started, Duchatelier was on his home's flat rooftop. From there, he had a view of the whole valley and saw the houses of his neighborhood shake and fall. When the quake ended, all he could hear was wailing.

His family was unharmed. So were his mother's and sister's households nearby. But his brother's house, only yards from his own, collapsed on the family inside. The bodies of his brother and four others still are buried beneath the rubble.

But Duchatelier is grateful that so many others have survived, given that most of the houses covering the hillside are only broken shells of concrete. Walls have collapsed, exposing empty interiors.

People continue to move along the stairways, but few stop at any houses. Some people sought shelter

in other communities. Those who stayed have resettled along the riverbed in sheet-metal shacks that used to house their pigs. Though difficult to live in, these leaky huts pose less of a threat than the houses if another earthquake occurs.

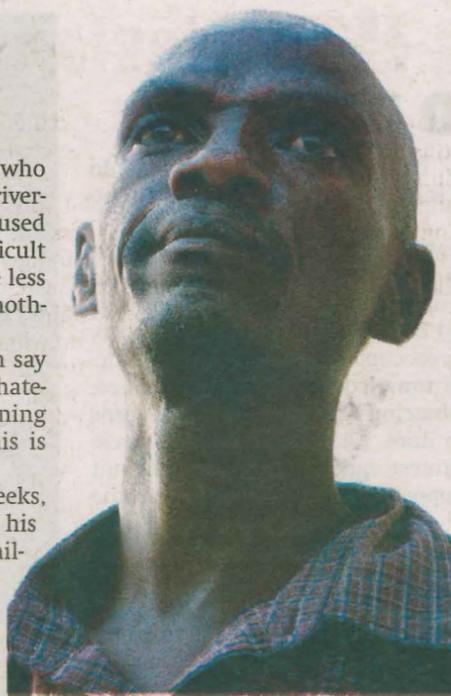
“We live like pigs here. I can say that because it's me,” said Duchatelier, pointing out the mud, burning trash and wandering pigs. “This is not a way to live.”

After saving money for two weeks, Duchatelier was able to move his wife, Marie, and their five children between the ages of 2 and 12 out of their sheet-metal shack to a one-room house in Marie's hometown of Saint-Marc. Every day, Duchatelier uses public transportation to travel nearly 46 miles from Saint-Marc to Port-au-Prince, where he works at the Florida Baptist Convention's Confraternite Missionaire Baptiste d'Haiti guest house.

Hubert recently received a theology degree from Haitian Baptist Theological Seminary after three years of study. Before the earthquake, he led Bible studies in his home, gave devotionals for his neighbors twice a day and shared the “JESUS” film along with International Mission Board missionaries Mark and Peggy Rutledge. Sometimes he stood in public and spoke against voodoo.

“I am not afraid of” voodoo, Duchatelier said. “When (people) talk about that, I take out my Bible and read Psalm 91 to them and I tell them, ‘Don't be afraid, because God is your shelter.’”

Duchatelier will have to make a new start and find a bigger home. But he has every intention of continuing his ministry. He said he plans to speak out about his faith and share devotions with his new neighbors.



**FACING FORWARD** Hubert Duchatelier's home in a hillside community in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, was rendered uninhabitable by last month's earthquake. Duchatelier's brother and four others still are buried beneath the rubble of their house. He since has moved his wife and five children to his wife's hometown.

“You're supposed to minister where you are. I plan to do the same thing in Saint-Marc,” Duchatelier insisted. “After this earthquake, if God saved your life, He saved it to continue His work.”

Haitians are interested in God's word right now, Duchatelier explained. They believe God spared their lives and they will listen carefully to people who talk about Him.”

Hubert asked for people to pray that his family will stay close to God. “Tell the people in America to be praying, because I am going to start a new work for God where my family is now,” he said, “and for me to touch people's hearts when they hear my teaching.”

“And pray for me,” he added. “For God to give me strength to continue His work.” (BP)



**HEALING THE WOUNDED** At the Good Samaritan's Clinic in Jimani, Dominican Republic, Southern Baptist missionaries work alongside dozens of others medical volunteers from around the world. More than \$4 million has been given to Haiti relief efforts through Southern Baptist entities.

## Giving to So. Baptist relief effort in Haiti tops \$4 million

By **Mark Kelly**  
Baptist Global Response

**Port-au-Prince, Haiti**—As the official death toll from Haiti's Jan. 12 earthquake matches that of the 2004 South Asian tsunami, Americans are responding by donating generously through Southern Baptist disaster relief channels.

The financial gifts for Haiti relief are flowing in a steady stream of donations both large and small—even from very young donors, said Jim Brown, U.S. director for Baptist Global Response.

Haiti's government announced last week that the catastrophic earthquake had claimed 230,000 lives in the capital of Port-au-Prince, but that number did not include bodies buried by private funeral homes in private cemeteries or the dead buried by their own families, news services reported. The new figure matches the death toll from the tsunami that ravaged South Asia in 2004.

But the suffering of Haiti's people—more than 700,000 of whom remain homeless—has touched many hearts in the United States, and the desire to help Haitians in need launched a tidal wave of donations to Southern Baptist organizations involved in the disaster response.

At last count, more than \$4 million had been given through four Southern Baptist organizations—\$1 million through Baptist Global Response, \$1.1 million through the International Mission Board, \$1.54 million through the Florida Baptist Convention, and \$400,000 through the North American Mission Board.

The great thing about giving through Southern Baptist disaster relief channels is that 100 percent of every dollar donated goes directly to ministries that help people in need, Brown explained.

“All four organizations have seen checks, cash and online donations stream in by the thousands—an average of more than \$130,000 a day altogether,” Brown said. “It's such a blessing to see good-hearted people respond so generously. Many of the people we've talked to have said they wanted to give through Southern Baptists because they knew every penny would be used to help people in need.”

The donations have come in from churches, businesses, schools and individuals of all ages, according to Megan Stull Riel, associate director of BGR's U.S. office.

One Florida congregation was moved to respond, in part because so many members of their community had family directly affected by the earthquake, said Kathy Burton, a public relations specialist for the Florida convention.

From Colorado, Dolores Southern Baptist Church wrote the Baptist Global Response office to say they showed slides of the devastation in Haiti and took up an offering of \$1,000 for Haiti relief. As the church treasurer, Colleen Smith, was organizing the money, a 9-year-old boy ran up to her and said, “Wait until I go to the van. I want to help.” He returned with a handful of \$1 and \$5 bills—\$50 in all—that he had been saving to buy a toy he wanted.

As much as monetary gifts are needed for the long-term disaster response in Haiti, church members will be more enthusiastic when leaders find ways for them to be personally involved, Brown noted.

“We'll not only help in Haiti with the urgent needs of the moment, but we also will be helping families and communities rebuild their lives,” Brown added. “Southern Baptist relief and development ministries are designed to help people experience the love of Christ today and find hope for the future.”

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## For churches ... How much risk is too much?

By G. Jeffrey MacDonald

**LaFayette, Ga.**—For Travis Hutchinson, the life of a pastor in a small-town Georgia church is about preaching the gospel, ministering to the needy and, increasingly, figuring out how to handle an ever-growing list of risks.

Some new risks are real and demand vigilance, said Hutchinson, pastor of Highlands Presbyterian Church in LaFayette, Ga. For example, conducting a criminal background check on everyone who works with children has become a necessity.

Other risks are more remote, he said. Still, vendors stoke anxiety about everything from shooting sprees to federal audits.

"I get lots and lots of stuff that just seems like fear mongering, and apparently that's taken hold in some places," Hutchinson noted. "One of the things we have to do as a congregation is ask ourselves: How much of our time is (risk management) eating up? And how much time are we spending doing what God wants us to do?"

In the wake of the Catholic Church's clergy sexual abuse crises and several church shooting incidents in recent years, risk has become a hot topic for churches. The National Association of Church Business Administration last year convened 30 first-time regional workshops to raise risk awareness among the 85 percent of churches it claims are vulnerable because they don't have a professional administrator.

This year, GuideOne Insurance is responding to rising demand from churches by rolling out new types of coverage, such as insurance against income loss caused by a church intruder.

For some church leaders, raising risk awareness and taking steps to prevent disasters is a matter of faithfulness. Tom Danklefsen, executive pastor of Grove City United Methodist Church in Ohio, coaches pastors of small and mid-sized churches on a range of risk issues, from protecting a church's tax-exempt status to thwarting the efforts of pickpockets during worship services.

"We're managing God's resources, and we want

to do that well," Danklefsen said. "We have to do due diligence. (Using safeguards) frees us to do better ministry."

But some say churches can become so concerned with minimizing risk they forget how to take risks appropriate to Christian discipleship. Theologian Scott Bader-Saye worries, for instance, that churches preoccupied with institutional safety may become unwelcoming toward poor people because embracing them could pose hazards to their bottom lines. Another concern: Churches anxious to protect endowment assets may not notice when opportunities for generosity come along.

"We're seeing faithfulness being reduced to good business management," noted Bader-Saye, a professor of moral theology at Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, Texas. "There are things more important than being safe. Those things involve loving God, loving neighbor, pursuing the good. ... If we teach our children that our fundamental objective is safety and security, then we don't prepare them to take the kind of risks they need to take to be disciples."

In the ministry trenches, pastors sometimes are working out principles to help them distinguish between risks to mitigate and risks worth taking. Hutchinson asks: Does taking a particular risk help the church advance the gospel or not?

Foregoing background checks on longtime Sunday school teachers wouldn't serve a lofty purpose and might in fact lead to shameful tragedies, Hutchinson suggested. Hence Highlands Presbyterian opts not to take that risk. But the congregation does offer worship space and humanitarian aid to immigrants, whether they're legal citizens or not. Highland elders have taken heat for such displays of hospitality. But they keep taking such risks, Hutchinson said, because they believe sometimes people must suffer for their gospel witness.

"The question being lost in today's risk management is: What are we willing to lose for the sake of the gospel?" (RNS)

## What a day for a field trip

### Oneida's 4H students pay a visit to a local dairy for a lesson on milking

On the first Saturday in February, several of our 4H students were treated to a field trip at a local dairy. It had rained for 36 hours and the rain had turned to sleet. The creek was up and we missed another flood by less than 18 inches. When the 13 elementary and middle school students boarded the bus, most had not zipped or buttoned their coats. They didn't seem to be affected by the cold. So with my coat zipped up and my hat on, why was I so cold?

Some of you reading this article are thinking that we don't have "elementary" children. Basically that is true. We do, however, have a K-5 program for our staff children only. We do this so our staff children are on the same school schedule as their parents. The county school already has missed 18 days this year and it looks like they will not be out of school until early June.

When Kay and I came to back to Oneida, two of our children were in elementary school and had to attend the county school since OBI had not developed a K-5 program for staff children. Our first year here, the county school missed 37 days of school because of the weather.

We arrived at the dairy an hour before the normal afternoon milking time. The owner and his retired father escorted us to the milking parlor. Each student had a written question he or she wanted to ask. I was surprised that none of them asked where chocolate milk came from—so I asked. The farmer didn't answer and the children looked at me as if to say, "Duh!"

The farmer explained his normal routine

for preparing and sanitizing the equipment. He told us what they were doing and why it was important. Finally it was time to let the eager cows in, six at a time. Each cow took her place and appeared happy to be able to give her bounty of milk.

One by one the cows were washed and hooked up to the automatic milking equipment. Nothing the farmer had told the children prepared them for the stream of milk they could see in the glass receiving containers. For a moment—only for a moment—the children were as quiet and as peaceful as the cows. Then the questions began to flow as quickly as the milk. When one of the boys put his hands on the glass container of fresh milk, he could not believe how warm it was. Each of the children seemed surprised that the milk could be so warm when it was nearly snowing outside. I am sure to their little cold hands it seemed unbelievably warm.

As soon as each cow had contributed all she could, they made their way to the feed lot so the next group could take their places. We toured the feed lot and the large barn. Things were going pretty well until one young man stepped out of his boot. There he stood, one foot on the ground and one foot in the air with no place to put it down. Finally, we saw his displaced boot. It was in a big pile of ... well, we were in a barn, so you know where his boot was. With a hefty tug, the boot was retrieved. On the trip home, I am not sure which was worse, the noise or the smell.

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

### This is Oneida



W.F. Underwood

# Giving Thanks

## knows no season

**Sadly, abuse and neglect knows no season either. Sunrise Children's Services is committed to serving children who suffer from abuse and neglect and we rely largely on the generosity of Kentucky Baptists for their prayers and financial support.**

**Traditionally, churches across the state have taken up a Thanksgiving Offering to support our ministry, but whether it's collected in November, February or July, your church's support to Sunrise is vital throughout the year.**

### SUNRISE CHILDREN'S SERVICES

(800) 456-1386 OR WWW.SUNRISE.ORG

## Snow days

### Student shares thoughts on Clear Creek worship service

By Dan Haggerty, Third-year student

What do the students, faculty, staff and their families at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College do on a Sunday when eight inches of snow falls and the whole region practically comes to a screeching halt?

Well, we worship the Lord, of course!

Hebrews 10:24-25 says, "Let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together." And that's exactly what happened. On any given Sunday you usually can find the stu-

dents and staff of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College out in the local churches preaching, teaching and ministering to people in the communities where they serve—but not this particular Sunday.

During the last weekend of January, Southeastern Kentucky was inundated with wintery weather. The Clear Creek campus received about eight inches of snow. Nearly every church in the region canceled services for the day. Those that did have services had only a handful of people due to the blizzard-like conditions.

But that didn't stop the residents

of the Clear Creek campus from worshipping the Lord. On Sunday afternoon, an impromptu worship service was held in the dining area of Kelly Hall. Those who had four-wheel drives slowly made their way out and those who didn't walked.

Once everyone gathered, the president of the school, Donnie Fox, asked for volunteers to lead in some congregational hymns. While Kay Jones, director of Kelly Hall, volunteered to play the piano, a sophomore, Andrew Ditty, son of Old Testament and Hebrew professor John Ditty, led the music. After the congregational singing Dr. Fox preached a message titled "Turning Potential

into Providing." While most students and staff of Clear Creek minister to people on Sundays, it was quite a memorable event to see students and staff gathered together on a cold snow-covered Sunday afternoon to stimulate one another to love and good deeds. It was a time of worship that most participants will not soon forget.

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.ccbcc.edu; e-mail: dfox@ccbbc.edu

### Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

## Special-needs beneficiaries

### Advance planning is crucial for special-needs children

Recently I was conversing with a woman who mentioned to me that she read my columns in the Western Recorder. She shared with me that she had a special-needs situation with one of her adult children, and it appeared that adult child would continue to depend upon her for financial assistance for as long as that child lived. She also shared with me the fact that she had made provisions via a trust for continued assistance to that child should she, the mother, predecease the child, which was likely given the mother's age.

I affirmed both the love and the foresight she had demonstrated in making such an advance provision for this special-needs child. That's exactly one of the circumstances to which the Apostle Paul was referring in 1 Timothy 5:8: "If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever."

The word which is translated as "provide" does not do justice to the original Greek word. The idea is that we are to anticipate a future event and make provisions for

it in advance. And, Paul goes on to warn that anyone who does not do so has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. The point he was making was that unbelievers were doing this, but some believers were not.

Although I commended the mother of the special-needs child mentioned earlier for her advance planning, I also asked her if she had considered including a Christian stewardship component in the trust she had established for her child once he or she died. In other words, once the purpose for which the trust was established no longer exists, she could direct the remaining funds, if any, to one or more charitable causes. She had not realized she could do that and indicated she would give it consideration.

If you have special-needs beneficiaries and desire to include a stewardship component once that beneficiary no longer needs financial assistance, please call Trust Counsel Laurie Valentine toll free for assistance.

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

### KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

## 'Building great connections'

### In Vietnam, SBC's Welch commends strides made in religious freedom laws

By Shiloh Lane

Hanoi, Vietnam—When Bobby Welch first came to Vietnam more than 40 years ago, it was as a soldier. Now he comes as an ambassador for Christ.

Three years ago after retiring from First Baptist Church of Daytona Beach, Fla., Welch stepped into the role of strategist for global evangelical relations for the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee. His ambassadorial position has taken him across the world to strengthen the relationship between Southern Baptists and fellow believers, as well as governments in other nations.

Vietnam is just one of the countries that Welch, a former SBC president, has visited.

"It is impossible to accomplish the Great Commission," he said, "without first building great connections."

On his first trip to Vietnam, a bullet tore through Welch's lung. He survived only after realizing his need for God, he recalled. Welch has since returned to Vietnam three times.

Welch said he strayed from God during his college years after making a commitment to Christ as a teenager. In Vietnam, he was a weak believer. Yet, when he was wounded, a dying Welch cried out to God. At that moment a helicopter appeared and he knew whom to thank.

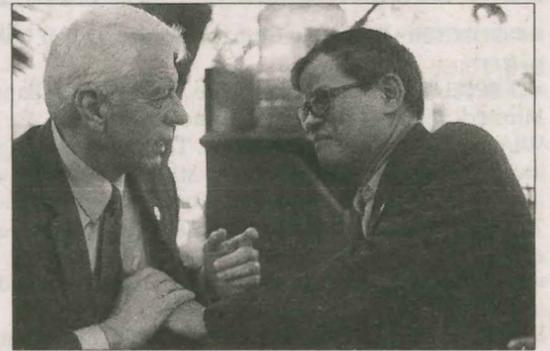
The rain-drenched jungles of Vietnam became the backdrop for his rededication to Christ.

"Every morning of my life, when I look in the mirror to shave my face," he noted, "I see the long scar on my chest and the cuts on my side. I say, 'Thank you, Vietnam,' because it changed my life."

Welch said he walked away from the war without hatred or resentment. Instead, he carried an awareness of his own mortality, a heightened awe of his heavenly Father and a sense of immediacy for his evangelical task.

The real story behind his latest trip to Vietnam is not his history with the country, Welch explained, but the fact that he—as a high-ranking leader in an American religious organization—was asked to come.

"I was invited by the government," he said.



**WAR STORIES** Bobby Welch, SBC's global evangelical relations strategist, tells Dang Tai Tinh, Vietnam's director general of the Department of International Cooperation, about his spiritual experience in the Vietnam War and how a severe bullet wound changed his life.

"That's the uniqueness about it. They didn't invite me because I was in the war. ... That's an incidental irony."

Over the past five years, Vietnam has taken significant steps toward religious freedom for its citizens. The government has recognized several religious groups, including the Vietnam Baptist Convention. However, the new laws leave room for improvement and rumors persist of oppression against believers in rural areas.

Welch said he came to encourage continued progress and to extend a friendly hand from a Christian representative.

VBC Executive Secretary Huy Le facilitated Welch's meetings, which Huy said could give the Baptist convention greater standing in the government's eyes.

"Our convention has started as a small convention," Huy pointed out. "This relationship with the SBC can build more credibility and let people know that we are part of a much greater Baptist community in the world."

Earlier this month, Welch met with leaders from three separate government departments, commending them for their strides toward religious freedom. He brought gifts, prayed for them, told them about his experiences in Vietnam and about the God who let him live.

His ministry, Welch added, is a ministry of presence. Sometimes phone calls and e-mails can't hold the weight and meaning of a handshake and a smile, he insisted. "It means a lot to these people that I have come a long, long way to be here." (BP)



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WESTERN Recorder

## UNIVERSITY of the CUMBERLANDS Religion Department

Presents the annual

Franklin P. Owen

Conference on Missions and the Church

featuring

**Dr. Robert Hughes**

Professor of Missions and Evangelism at Clear Creek Baptist College

Monday, March 1 & Wednesday, March 3  
10:00 a.m. in Gatliff Chapel

Tuesday, March 2

3:30 p.m. in Bennett Building - Room 104

For more information, contact the religion department at 606-539-4156.

## One-child policy produces disparity of sexes in China

Beijing—More than 24 million Chinese men of marrying age are likely to be unable to find wives in the year 2020, partly because of the frequency of sex-selection abortions.

A government-supported study issued last month showed the huge imbalance of the sexes, which it described as the country's most significant demographic problem. China is the world's most populous country, with about 1.3 billion people.

China has enforced population control—commonly referred to as a one-child policy—since 1979. Its policy limits couples in urban areas to one child and those in rural areas to two, if the first is a girl. Parents in cities may have second babies if the husband and wife both are only children.

With the aid of ultrasound technology, couples are able to choose abortion if the wife is carrying a female. Many couples desire male babies, so they can be supported financially by their sons as they age.

The Chinese Academy of Social Sciences reported, "Sex-specific abortions remained extremely commonplace, especially in rural areas," according to Agence France-Presse.

The study said the primary contributing factors to the imbalance included the population control program and an inadequate social security system.

The lack of women already is causing major social upheaval in some parts of China. The kidnapping and trafficking of women is "rampant" in regions with an excess of men, according to AFP. Forced prostitution and illegal marriages also are issues in those areas. (BP)

**MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI**

COMPILED BY STAFF

- **BURLINGTON**—Belleview Church recently called **Mike Pelfrey** as pastor.
- **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Campbellsville University's Baptist Campus Ministry will host its annual dinner theater Feb. 19, 7 p.m. at the Winters Dining Hall on campus. The event is designed to raise awareness and funds to support student missions work. Tickets are \$15 each or \$25 per couple. For more information, call (270) 789-5227 or e-mail **Joan Stansbury** at [JStansbury@Campbellsville.edu](mailto:JStansbury@Campbellsville.edu).
- **FORT MITCHELL**—Fort Mitchell Church recently called **Terry Fields** as pastor.
- **GOSHEN**—North Oldham Church recently called **Ron Westman Jr.** as minister of music and worship. Rob Gibson is pastor.
- **JAMESTOWN**—First Church recently called **Rick Garner** as interim pastor.
- **MORGANFIELD**—First Church recently called **Steve Custer** as associate pastor of worship and senior adults. **Tim Leadingham** is pastor.
- **OWENSBORO**—First Church recently called **Lee Brown** as minister to students. **Paul Strahan** is pastor.
- **PRESTONSBURG**—First Church recently called **Chris Kazee** as associate pastor to youth and children. **Jerry Workman** is pastor.
- **SYMSONIA**—Symsonia Church recently called **Adam Stephenson** as youth pastor. **Rick Miller** is pastor.

**Spotlight on ...**

**Elizabethtown**



Severns Valley Church will host a retirement celebration for Worship Pastor **Allen Case** on Feb. 27, 6 p.m. He has served the church for nearly 20 years. Tickets are \$10 each, with a \$25 household maximum. For more information, call (270) 765-7822.

**At Cumberlands  
Concerts for Haiti**

Leeann Wright, a member of the Cumberland Singers group at University of the Cumberlands sports a T-shirt promoting the school's music department's upcoming concert series dedicated to raising funds for disaster relief efforts in Haiti. Each of the March concerts is free, but donations for Haiti relief efforts will be accepted. The concert dates are: March 8, featuring the choral; March 9, featuring the University of the Cumberlands Jazz Ensemble; March 11, featuring the concert band; and March 30, featuring the instrumental faculty. All concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Grace Crum Rollins Fine Arts Center and are open to the public.



**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**February**

- 17 Regional Church Financial Benefits Conference, Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 20 Kentucky Changers Crew Chief Training, Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 22-23 Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.
- 27 Region 3 and 7 RA Congress, South Fork Baptist Church, Hodgenville.
- 12-13 Creative Ministries Festival, First Baptist Church, Bowling Green.
- 12-13 Women on Mission Regional Retreat, Camp Schafer, Hawesville.
- 12-19 GPS Find It Here Spring Break, various locations.
- 13 All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra Auditions, First Baptist Church, Bowling Green; First Baptist Church, Walton; First Baptist Church, Mount Sterling; Lewis Lane Baptist Church, Owensboro; Lone Oak First Baptist Church, Paducah; Parkland Baptist Church, Louisville.

**March**

- 1 Here's Hope Discipleship Workshop for Pastors, Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 2 Here's Hope Discipleship Workshop for Pastors, Beacon Hill Baptist Church, Somerset.
- 5 Region 1 RA Congress, Lone Oak First Baptist Church, Paducah.
- 5-6 Creative Ministries Festival, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.
- 5-6 Region 6 Disaster Relief Recertification and Training, Red House Baptist Church, Richmond.
- 5-12 GPS Find It Here Spring Break, various locations.
- 6 All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra Auditions, Central Baptist Church, Corbin; First Baptist Church, Hazard; First Baptist Church, Walton; Lewis Lane Baptist Church, Owensboro; Lone Oak First Baptist Church, Paducah; Rich Pond Baptist Church, Bowling Green; Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.
- 6 Handbell Festival, St. Matthews Baptist Church, Louisville.
- 6 State Vacation Bible School Clinic—East, Porter Memorial Baptist Church, Lexington.
- 13 State Vacation Bible School Clinic—West, Edgewood Baptist Church, Hopkinsville.
- 13 Region 2 RA Congress, Nortonville Baptist Church.
- 13 Region 3 RA Congress, Bethany Baptist Church, Alvaton.
- 15-16 Welcome to Kentucky, Hilton Garden Inn & Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 16 Understanding Other Beliefs, Parkway Baptist Church, Bardstow.
- 17-20 National Ministry Conference, First Baptist Church, Leesburg, Fla.
- 18-21 Adult Kentucky Changers, Cedarmore Camp and Conference Center, Bagdad.
- 20 Hispanic Evangelism Conference and Women's Event, First Baptist Church, Shelbyville.
- 20 Region 7 RA Congress, Elk Spring Valley Baptist Church, Monticello.
- 20 Region 8 RA Congress, TBA.
- 25-28 Adult Kentucky Changers, Jonathan Creek Camp and Conference Center, Hardin.

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

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**SEEKING:** Youth pastor. Youth group seeks awesome youth pastor: Do you love Jesus? Could you love us; disciple us; lead us in serving Him? Located in rural community 45 minutes north of Louisville, we are a great mission field and your ministry potential is unlimited. We can offer only a part-time opportunity, but if you feel led to contact us, please send a resumé to Bedford Baptist Church, 1425 Hwy. 42 East, PO Box 277, Bedford, KY 40006, Attn: Youth Pastor Search Committee; or e-mail [dawn.haney@trimble.kyschools.us](mailto:dawn.haney@trimble.kyschools.us).

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of music. Prefer degree in leading music for all ages. Will have additional ministry duties. Send resumé by mail to: Search Committee, Calvary Baptist Church, 121 Kentucky Ave., Princeton, KY 42445.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for Turner Ridge Baptist Church. Strong, mission-minded church in Northern Kentucky affiliated with Crittenden Baptist Association. Send resumé to Terry Sowder, 421 Straight-shoot Road, Falmouth, KY 41040.

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music for growing church. Primary duties include leading choir and congregational singing; preparing seasonal cantatas; and coordinating music programs. Please send resumé to Minister of Music Search Committee, New Bethel Baptist Church, 2022 Verona Mudlick Road, Verona, KY 41092; or e-mail to [nbbc2003@aol.com](mailto:nbbc2003@aol.com) with "Minister of Music" for the subject.

**SEEKING:** Minister of worship and education for First Baptist Church of Blountville, Tenn., which is the county seat for Kingsport and Bristol. First Baptist Church currently has both blended and contemporary services with a variety of ensembles. Education will involve working with teams to coordinate Bible study, VBS, camps and adult education opportunities. Candidate should be a team player who is ready to serve as needed. Please submit resumé and available DVD or CD to: Minister Search Team, First Baptist Church, PO Box 587, Blountville, TN 37617; or online: [fbcbtn@embarqmail.com](mailto:fbcbtn@embarqmail.com). Resumés will be received through April 15.

**SEEKING:** First Baptist Church, Tullahoma, Tenn., a conservative Southern Baptist church, is seeking a full-time minister of music to serve alongside four full-time ministers. Sunday morning worship includes a contemporary and a traditional service. Contact Pastor Herb Hester at 108 E Grundy St., Tullahoma, TN 37388; or [hester.herb@fbctullahoma.org](mailto:hester.herb@fbctullahoma.org).

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music for Gethsemane Baptist Church in Danville, Ky. We are a conservative Southern Baptist church with a blended-type of service. All resumés may be sent to the church at 123 Quisenberry Ave., Danville, KY 40422.

**SEEKING:** Pastor with 5+ years experience, seminary degree, to lead a Southern Baptist church in a key location with great opportunity to grow. Send resumé to Ira Linville, chair, Crestwood Baptist Church, 1043 Tamworth Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor of worship. Applicant must be a worship leader experienced in working with various styles of music. Zion is a dynamic, growing church that currently averages a total of 750 in two blended Sunday morning services. Candidate must have strong spiritual maturity and leadership skills, must be able to lead all aspects of worship ministry including congregational worship, praise team and band, choir of all ages, and creative arts ministries. Requires a seminary degree with at least five years experience. Send resumé, references and letter of interest to: Zion Baptist Church, 8158 Hwy 351, Henderson, KY 42420, Attn: Worship Pastor Search Committee.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of music for Red House Baptist Church, Richmond, Ky. Bachelor's and seminary degrees preferred, as well as prior experience in music ministry; must be able to work with choirs as well as worship teams. E-mail Alex Poulter, [wapbear@insightbb.com](mailto:wapbear@insightbb.com).

**SEEKING:** Senior pastor. Hickory Grove Baptist Church, Independence, Ky. ([www.HickoryGrove.net](http://www.HickoryGrove.net)) is seeking an educated and experienced minister with SBC background. Candidates should demonstrate strong leadership, communication, follow-through and evangelism. Send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, HGBC, PO Box 640, Independence, KY 41051. No phone calls or e-mails please. Applications will be accepted through 2-27-2010.

**SEEKING:** Bivocational minister of children and bivocational minister of music for CBF church in Western Kentucky. Positions can be combined or fulfilled separately. Contact Chris Hopgood, 311 Rudy Ave., Henderson, KY 42420.

**SERVICES:** Web ministry. Spread the gospel and make disciples through the Web 24/7. [www.hostmymistry.com](http://www.hostmymistry.com).

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**TOURS:** 10-day trip to Austria, Germany and the Oberammergau Passion Play, July 17-26, 2010. See Vienna, Salzburg, Innsbruck and Oberammergau. Attend the once-a-decade play, a tradition since 1634. Call Jerry Wright, First Baptist Church, London, (606) 864-4194.



**Craig's nasty spill**  
By Todd and Michelle Deaton

One day in Sand Dollar Cove, Craig Crab was being mean. Craig took Ollie Oyster's crayons, and he pushed Clarice Clam down on the playground. Then he cut in line in front of Sunny Starfish.

"Be kind to your friends," warned his teacher, Mrs. Tuna Tidewater, "or you won't have any."

"Who needs friends? They just get in my way," snapped Craig.

On the way home from Reedy Bottom School, Craig took a shortcut through Solomon the wise Sea Turtle's seaweed garden, stepping on the plants.

"Craig, one day your meanness will be your end, and you'll wish for a friend," Solomon warned.

"No way!" Craig shouted as he crossed the street without looking.

"That crab is heading for trouble," Solomon shook his head.

He was right. Down the street, Craig saw some trash cans in front of Seamore Seahorse's house. As he leaped over one, he gave the other two trash cans a whack with a stick. The cans went tumbling. Garbage spilled all over the street.

"Ha! Ha!" Craig laughed, delighted at the nasty mess he had made.

"Someone is going to have a hard time cleaning up."

At that moment, one of the trash cans bounced off a fence and into his path.

"Aaaughh!" Craig yelled as he took a nasty spill. He twisted his ankle, scraped both knees and an elbow, and bruised the backside of his shell.

"I can barely walk," Craig thought as he lay on the ground. "How am I going to make it home?"

Just then, Craig saw Ollie, whose crayons he had taken, walking toward him. "Maybe he will help me," Craig thought.

But Ollie saw Craig, too, and he was afraid. Ollie crossed to the other side of the road and walked past Craig.

Next, Craig saw Clarice, whom he had pushed down. "Maybe she will help me," Craig thought.

But she, too, was afraid. Clarice spun around and clammed up her shell. "I'll pretend I didn't see him. Maybe he'll go away," she thought.

"Fine," Craig wailed. "I don't want your help," he said, even though he did.

Then Craig saw Sunny and Seamore walking home together. "They won't help me either," he thought.

To his surprise, Sunny walked right to him. "Are you hurt?" she asked, helping him to his feet.

Craig thought Seamore would be mad. "Doesn't he know I was the one who toppled his trash cans?" Craig wondered.

Seamore just smiled. "Let's get some bandages," he said. "I'll start cleaning up."

"Why would you want to help me?" Craig asked.

"You're our friend," Sunny said.

"And you need our help," Seamore agreed.

The next day, Craig seemed different. He brought crayons for Ollie. He pushed Clarice, but this time she was swinging. He even let the whole class go ahead of him in the lunch line.

On his way home, he stopped at Solomon's house to replant his seaweed garden.

"Why did you come to help me?" Solomon asked.

"You're my friend, and you needed help," Craig shrugged.



## Treasure Hunt

How was Craig Crab being unkind? Who was a friend to Craig? What did they do for him? Have you ever needed help? Did someone help you? Read Galatians 6:10 together.

## For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



## Preacher's Kids

David Ayers



## Bible Crosswords

### Across

- 1 Biblical river
- 6 Longest book in the Bible
- 11 Female friends, Fr.
- 12 "There is death in the \_\_\_\_" (2 Kings 4:40)
- 13 Where those who are alive will meet the Lord when He comes again (1 Thessalonians 4:17)
- 14 "He esteemeth \_\_\_\_ as straw" (Job 41:27)
- 15 "She hid them with the \_\_\_\_ of flax" (Joshua 2:6)
- 16 Ceremonial form of prayer
- 19 Asian tree
- 20 When you'll get there, more or less, abbr.
- 22 John the Baptist's was made of camel hair (Matthew 3:4)
- 25 What a baby needs changed
- 28 Hesitant syllable
- 29 Jonathan shot this to warn David not to return to Saul's house
- 32 Route, abbr.
- 33 Joseph's brothers had these searched to find his silver cup
- 36 The eleventh letter of the Hebrew alphabet
- 37 Exclamation of surprise and triumph
- 38 God sent Jonah to warn this city
- 40 The wise men
- 41 Put off till a later time
- 42 Exist

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43						44				45
			46	47				48		
49								50		

- 43 Article that precedes a vowel
- 44 Firstborn son of Isaac and Rebecca
- 45 Chum
- 46 Severely
- 49 Bitter water was turned to this at Marah
- 50 Abraham's father
- 12 Addendum at the end of the letter, abbr.
- 17 Told by Elisha to wash himself seven times in the River Jordan
- 18 Yelp
- 21 Albert's nickname
- 23 One of the Spirit's fruit, a lowly spirit
- 24 Modern-day country where Noah's Ark is rumored to be
- 26 Spinning toy
- 27 Son of Kishi (1 Chronicles 6:44)
- 30 Cheer
- 31 Ezekiel saw this in his visions
- 32 Sixth book of the New Testament
- 34 Apple drink
- 35 Psalm word
- 39 Burial chamber
- 42 "Valley of \_\_\_\_" (Psalms 84:6)
- 46 Masculine pronoun
- 47 Preposition indicating location
- 48 King James Version of you

### Last week's solution

1	A	R	O	N	5	W	E	7	8	9	10	
11	B	D	12	N	O	13	A	D	14	T	A	R
15	B	A	B	Y	17	U	R	18	A	T	C	
19	Y	O	X	E	N	21	S	P	I	C	E	S
23	A	W	25	V	26	P	I	T	O	E		
27	M	A	28	E	V	E	N	30	R	U	L	E
32	O	F	F	E	R	I	N	36	P	A	T	E
38	E	C	H	E	R	U	B	I	M	S	42	S
43	44	45	O	N	46	S	E	I	47	X	I	
48	O	L	D	49	G	O	L	D	51	S	I	N
52	I	53	Y	A	54	L	O	V	E	A		
55	L	I	N	E	N	56	A	G	57	E	L	I

# Do you know me?

I am one of  
thousands of  
children in  
Kentucky who  
suffer daily from  
abuse or neglect.



## You can make a difference!

**SUNRISE CHILDREN'S SERVICES** provides care to approximately 400 children each day through our foster care, residential treatment centers and counseling services. Through **Sunrise**, children are given stability, support and hope for a brighter future - all in a Christ-centered atmosphere that emphasizes love and self-worth.



## SUNRISE CHILDREN'S SERVICES

[www.SUNRISE.org](http://www.SUNRISE.org)

1-800-456-1386