

Shine like stars in the world
Philippians 2:15

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FOR THE RECORD



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2010 Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference

RUN the RACE



■ **Above:** SBC President Johnny Hunt (left) and Somerset pastor John Mark Toby preach at last week's Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference.

■ **Left:** Kentucky Baptist ministers pray with Gary Maynard, minister of education and senior adults at Red House Baptist Church in Richmond. (Photos by Drew Nichter, Dannah Prather and Robert Reeves/KBC)

Ky. Baptist pastors find encouragement to stay in the race

Elizabethtown—In Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, he urged them to run the race "in such a way as to get the prize" (1 Corinthians 9:24).

That central theme permeated last week's Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, as church leaders drew on the encouragement of fellow ministers to "run the race."

Chris Platt, missions and ministry pastor at Crestwood Baptist Church, told Kentucky Baptists and guests that he did not wish to be "Captain Obvious" in his message but that when running the race, Christians need to be reminded how to seek God's will in their decision making.

"The prerequisite of knowing the will of God is to know the Son of God," Platt said, noting that without a saving relationship in Christ, a person cannot have access to the Holy Spirit. "One of the functions of the Holy Spirit is to reveal the will of God."

Platt noted Saul's dramatic encounter with God on the road to Damascus in Acts 22, but emphasized that God more frequently uses the "still, small voice" referenced in 1 Kings 19 that the prophet Elijah experienced.

Discerning that "still, small voice" requires intimacy with God through prayer and Bible study. "If you know the word of God, you'll be better equipped to know the will of God," Platt explained.

Godly advisors also have a role to play in helping believers make wise choices. Christians should seek fellow believers whose counsel is "on target biblically and on time practically."

To that end, **Joel Carwile** noted that all pastors, regardless of the number of degrees they may have or the amount of Bible knowledge they may possess, "all of us need a mentor," and must be willing to pass the baton to the next generation of leaders.

"For every Moses, there must be a Joshua; for every David, there must be a Solomon; and for every Elijah, there must be a Elisha," Platt said. □ See State ministers encouraged ... *Page 2*

Great Commission Resurgence group unveils progress report

By Mark Kelly

Nashville—Southern Baptists must be gripped anew by the lostness of the world, repent of their self-centeredness and focus their local churches on taking the gospel to those who have yet to hear, the chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention's Great Commission Resurgence Task Force announced last week.

Toward that end, Ronnie Floyd, pastor of First Baptist Church of Springdale, Ark., presented a "progress report" to the SBC's Executive Committee on the task force's work at the convention's six "components" of a vision they believe Southern Baptists will rally around and experience renewed passion for the Great Commission.

Floyd drew on Joel 2:12-17 to deliver a challenge about the need for urgent, wholehearted repentance if Southern Baptists are to participate in the evangelistic harvest that will accompany the outpouring of God's Spirit in the last days.

"With rhetoric we bemoan our dismal baptism numbers, our declining and plateaued churches, and our economic selfishness. The caustic criticism has resulted in a caustic cynicism that just adds to our rhetoric and writings," Floyd said. "We attempt to treat symptoms rather than the root issues of sin and carnality. The rhetoric needs to cease and the repentance personally and corporately must begin."

Floyd said Southern Baptists need to understand the "staggering" lostness of North America—where 258 million of 340 million residents are estimated to be lost—and the entire world—where 4 billion of 6.8 billion people have little to no access to the gospel. Penetrating such massive lostness requires each of the 50,000-plus Southern Baptist churches to become its own "missional strategy center," he explained.

"If we do not begin to understand the complexity of lostness in our own backyard and will never be penetrated with the gospel," Floyd declared. "If we deny the present reality of where we really are, we are jeopardizing our future and the generations who will follow us."

Floyd said he hoped the progress report the task force brought would be "clear and compelling" as it unveiled "some of the things we believe need to be done" to help Southern Baptists work together more faithfully and effectively to advance the gospel.

The six components of the task force's proposal Floyd presented involve:

■ Calling Southern Baptists "to rally toward a clear and compelling missional vision and begin to conduct ourselves with core values that will create a new and healthy culture within the South."
□ See GCR progress report ... *Page 6*

On the Inside

What could the GCR report mean for NAMB & state Baptist conventions?

Find out on Page 6



MOVING FORWARD GCR Task Force chairman Ronnie Floyd presents the group's progress report to the SBC's full Executive Committee Feb. 22. (Photo by Morris Abernathy/BP)

Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference

Local church issues solved only by Christ

By Todd Deaton & Drew Nichter
Editor & News Director

Elizabethtown—Since the onset of the postmodern era, churches have found themselves caught up in a philosophy perpetrated by the film, "Field of Dreams," in which the main character heard a voice telling him, "If you build it, they will come," **Craig Loscalzo** told those at last week's Evangelism Conference.

"And churches have spent the last 20 years ... attempting to build it, but they're still not coming," he asserted. "What's happened? My thesis is ... we have made means ends. And we have somehow forgotten what the end is."

Loscalzo, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington, described the postmodern culture as being enamored by technology and very subjective—throwing truth out the window and pandering to the loud-est voices in the pews.

"The world is in to giving people choices," he said. "It began with the great theologian Burger King who said, 'You can have it your way.'"

Churches have bought into this concept "hook, line and sinker," offering every kind of worship service and life enrichment class, Loscalzo charged. "We've got to give you choices, because if all we do is give you Jesus, you ain't coming," he mocked.

"We have missed the point," Loscalzo said. "When we have the most unique, powerful, unbelievable gift to give them, we wind up selling ourselves to the gods of culture in order to gain an audience."

"We've built it, and they still don't come because unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain, and unless God is watching over the city, the watchmen are watching in vain," he reminded pastors, paraphrasing Psalm 127. "Unless the little things that you and I do are bathed in what God is about, we are not going to be the kind of people, pastors or churches that God has called us to be."

Churches should use technology, "but it has to be means, not ends," he said. "When we use it as a tool for ministry, and the end is to lead people into a worshipful relationship with Christ, then we have it the way it is supposed to be."

But for Southern Baptists to fully carry out the Great Commission, churches must utilize Sunday school, according to **Allan Taylor**, minister of education at First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga. On Sunday mornings, "we're having Sunday school, but we're not using Sunday school," he argued.

Taylor lamented the trend that pastors have become so "over-infatuated" with the worship service that many churches are "out of balance."

"In the sanctuary, we see the church at worship. In Sunday school, we see the church at work," Taylor said. "We equip the saints to do the work of the ministry."

"Mission is best accomplished in the context of the small group," Taylor declared repeatedly. Listing the five functions of a New Testament church outlined in the Book of Acts—worship, evangelism, discipleship, ministry and fellowship—he pointed out that "every one of those, except worship, best takes place in the context of a small group," representing 80 percent of the church's functionality.

Vance Pitman, pastor of Hope Baptist Church in Las Vegas, urged Christians to spend their lives for something that will outlast them.

When reading the opening pages of Acts, one encounters the story of a group of about 100 to 125 people who God used to turn the world upside down, Pitman began. "You could really say of this group: 'They were world changers.'"

Pointing out that on its first day, the Jerusalem church saw 3,000 people profess faith in Jesus Christ, Pitman quipped, "I don't know about you, but I'd get pretty excited if this Sunday 3,000 people came to know Jesus Christ at my church."

Inside of six months, 100,000 people had come to know Jesus, Pitman continued. "What would it do in your town, if in the next six months 100,000 people came to know Jesus?" he asked. The problem, Pitman asserted, is "we don't expect God to do those kinds of things anymore."

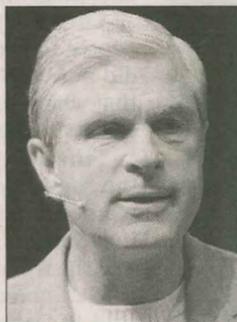
Observing that within 40 years, the gospel had reached every corner of the known world, Pitman said, "What if it could be said in 40 years—because of what God began in your fellowship—that there is not one unreached people group left on the earth?"

What was it that enabled these early believers to be so mightily used of God? Pitman highlighted four essential characteristics: a faith that produced obedience; a passion that produced unity; a desperation that produced prayer; and a reliance on the Holy Spirit that produced power.

The first church did not know what to do or where to do it, but they knew who they needed to hear from, Pitman emphasized. "If we really want to change the world, we have to hear what God says, and then do what God says."



Craig Loscalzo



Allan Taylor



Vance Pitman

State ministers encouraged to finish race strong, pass the baton to next generation

Continued from page 1

must be an Elisha," said Carwile, pastor of Louisville's Valley View Church, referring to the three most celebrated mentorships found in Scripture.

"It is vital for us to recognize that there is a generation of young leaders that are coming up behind us that need our mentoring, that need us to pour into their lives," he noted.

Because pastors cannot do it all themselves—although some may try—Carwile said mentor/mentee relationships are key. "It's part of passing the baton."

Carwile urged Kentucky Baptist ministers to seek out those men and women who will become the next wave of church leaders. He said although he didn't receive much mentoring as a young pastor, still "I'm standing on the shoulders of those who have been there before me."

Carwile also paid tribute to those Kentucky Baptist ministers at the conference who have spent 30, 40 and even 50 years in ministry. Asking those ministers to stand, Carwile said, "I want you to know that my generation of preachers thanks you, and my generation of preachers wants to honor you." He then prayed for the veteran ministers as fellow pastors around the sanctuary laid on hands on them.

Drawing on Paul's comparison of the Christian life to running a race in Hebrews 12:1-2, **Richard Gaines**, pastor of Consolidated Baptist Church in Lexington, encouraged pastors to "finish strong."

"So often we get encumbered by and become entangled with the things of this world, and we are unable to finish strong," he warned.

"I'm sick and tired of ministers or laypeople who started out strong and somewhere they got sidetracked," Gaines said. "They came into the church, they were in Sunday school, they were in Bible study, they were doing well, but somewhere they got ensnared with the things of this world, and they lost their zeal for the things of God."

And though the culture may appear to be pressing in on every side, Gaines urged, "We've got to hear Paul say, be not conformed to the ways of this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your minds. We've got to stand and fight the good fight."

Exhorting pastors to be men of character and integrity, Gaines cautioned them to be wary of pride. "I don't care how long you've been on this journey, the devil has been around a whole lot longer than you, and he's got stuff you ain't seen yet," Gaines warned. "He aims to steal, kill and destroy."

Believers must model biblical precepts through example, he urged. "God has called us to stand for holiness and righteousness and to stand on the word of God—not to comprise, not to go along to get along, but to draw a line in the sands of time and say, 'For God I live and for God I'm going to die.'"

"All we've got is the truth, but that's enough. That's enough," he proclaimed.

Compiled from reporting by Western Recorder staff

KBC's Find It Here statewide evangelism campaign kicks off this week

Louisville—After months of preparation, churches and associations are gearing up to implement the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Find It Here door-to-door evangelism initiative starting March 6.

"Communities have been prayerwalked, church facilities have been spruced up, church members have gone through training to help them understand how to tell the story of Jesus, and the bags have been stuffed with Find It Here brochures," said KBC Evangelism Growth Team Leader Ross Bauscher. "Now, we get a chance to celebrate what only God can do when He brings the harvest in."

The initiative to reach Kentucky's 1.5 million households with a gospel message runs through Easter. It combines a door-to-door delivery of a Find It Here brochure by an estimated 50,000 church volunteers with an \$182,000 statewide media campaign.

Delivery of the brochures is slated for March 6-21. The media campaign is set to run March 15-April 4 and features a 30-second TV spot that will run in all broadcast

markets in Kentucky. Radio and Spanish-language billboards also are being used in some areas.

"We are beginning the door-to-door delivery just ahead of the media campaign to allow churches time to begin getting the brochures out into their assigned areas and build the saturation level before the TV spots begin," said KBC Communications Director Robert Reeves. "We're also sharing the advertising campaign in our border markets with other state conventions, and the March 15 start date corresponds with the ad campaigns in those states."

Reeves said the Kentucky media buy, which is being funded by the KBC, Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union and the North American Mission Board, does not include additional advertising being purchased on the associational level or the inclusion by churches of the Find It Here spot in their own regularly-scheduled broadcast ministries.

Many associations and individual churches also have purchased yard signs and banners to promote the initiative.

Some are purchasing ad space in local newspapers.

The Find It Here messaging shares that "there's a place where the most important things in life can be found" and directs the reader or viewer to a specially-designed Web site, www.FindItHere.com. On the site, visitors can learn about Jesus, watch videos of people telling their stories about coming to faith in Christ, locate a church near them and download an e-book.

Establishing local-church connections

Reeves said the evangelism initiative is designed to leverage each touch in order to connect people to a local church. Participating churches have been encouraged to add a church brochure to the plastic bag with the gospel presentation, and most also are attaching a label with the church's name and address to the mail-back card that is part of the brochure.

The KBC will mail a free book, "Find It Here: Your New Beginning" by Jimmy Kinnard, to each person who returns the card and also will notify the association and

church so that they can follow up directly with the individual.

The brochure and Web site also include a toll-free number that individuals can call to receive direct spiritual help. These calls are answered by Southern Baptist volunteers working with NAMB's Evangelism Response Center. The local association also will be notified of these calls for follow-up.

"We know based on the market research that an average of 80 percent of the adults in our state will see the TV spots at least three and a half times, and with the households having the brochures delivered to them, we are confident that we're going to be able to touch a lot of lives," Reeves explained.

Larry Baker, KBC's interim missions growth team leader, said a poll of associations is showing that more than 70 percent of Kentucky Baptist churches are participating in the Find It Here initiative.

"That number is even approaching 100 percent in some associations," Baker added. "Our associations have been the key to building the excitement for Find It Here."

Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference

Hunt: 'Expect God to do something' again

By Todd Deaton
Editor

Elizabethtown—"God never intended faith to paralyze us; sometimes God gives us the peace if you move in the face of fear, instead of just waiting for it to subside," Southern Baptist Convention President Johnny Hunt exhorted Kentucky Baptists attending last week's Evangelism Conference.

In a message titled, "Living Fearlessly: Faith is Demanding," the pastor of First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga., drew a comparison between Southern Baptists and the Hebrew tribes led by Joshua, declaring, "God wants to do some things with us, and I believe the fear factor keeps us from believing God."

Explaining that some scholars believe that the Hebrews once had come within eight days of the Promise Land, Hunt asked, "How would you like to know at the end of your life that it took you 40 years because of unbelief?"

When the Israelites finally were allowed to enter, they were instructed to follow the Ark of the Covenant across the Jordan River since they had not passed that way before, Hunt noted. "I'll tell you what is wrong with Southern Baptists: We think we've been there, done that and know it all.

"When God humbles us, (and) He is ready to take us somewhere we have never been before," he says. "You've not been here before—none of you," Hunt explained, emphasizing the need to rely solely on God's direction.

After going through a time of preparation and consecration, Joshua told the people that "tomorrow the Lord will do wonders," Hunt noted.

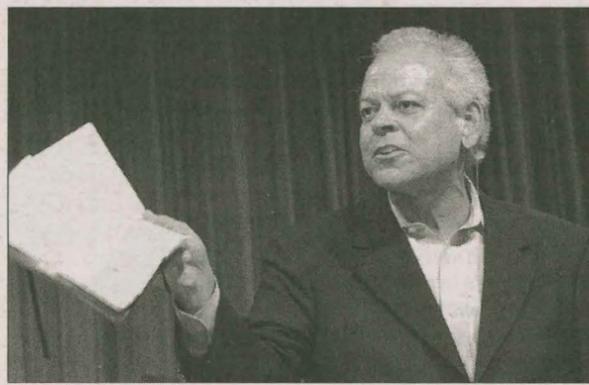
"You can go fearlessly or fearfully into the future, just so it doesn't analyze you," he urged.

Drawing an analogy, Hunt said Egypt represents the world's lostness and the wilderness journey represents the times of struggle that everyone goes through.

Yet the spirit-filled life is not without its battles, he corrected, pointing out that there were seven tribes on the other side of the Jordan waiting for the Hebrews. "So, the battle is not over; it's not going to be easy in the Promised Land," he explained.

"When God is challenging us to leave our comfort zone, where we've always been, what we've always known," Hunt continued, "God wants you to realize you are on a journey, and the journey's end is not in sight possibly."

After undergoing a time of preparation and conse-



GREAT EXPECTATIONS Southern Baptist Convention President Johnny Hunt, pastor of First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga., delivers the closing sermon at last week's Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference in Elizabethtown. (Photo by Robert Reeves/KBC)

cration, the Hebrews were ready to cross over, Hunt noted. "When you spend time with God, He will build courage into your life; He'll give you direction; He'll give you guidance; He will give you wisdom; and you'll begin to feel that God is going to see you through."

Everything looks overwhelming until one sees it from God's perspective, Hunt added. "It's been said, it is because we lose sight of God who can do the incredibly impossible that we meet frustration and futility," he observed.

"Do you remember the days on your way to church when you were giddy?" Hunt asked, urging pastors to recall when they were fired up, "believing God is going to do something today."

"Do you know what has happened in our churches across America?" he continued. "Our 'expectors' have expired. We used to expect God to do something."

The answer to what needs to happen for a Great Commission resurgence to occur is simple, Hunt suggested. "As a matter of fact, it's so simple I hardly ever get quoted on it.

"The answer to a GCR is not in state executive offices or our DOM offices, it's in the pulpits of our churches across America," Hunt said. Southern Baptists have more than 50,000 churches and mission places, he observed, adding that "when these places become aflame with passion, our 'expectors' aren't expired, and we expect God to do something ... the tide of this denomination will begin to rise."

Ky. Baptists must confront culture with Christ

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Elizabethtown—Citing a Barna Research study that shows only 71 percent of Southern Baptist pastors adhere to a biblical worldview, Kentucky pastor John Mark Toby said: "It's no wonder that many churches in our culture today mirror the values of the world."

Toby, pastor of Beacon Hill Baptist Church in Somerset, told participants at last week's Evangelism Conference an individual's worldview dictates how he or she views everything about life.

And if that worldview is not based upon God's word, especially among pastors, God's church and His people will be led astray, Toby suggested.

Referring to the story of Paul as he walked the streets of Athens in Acts 17, Toby recalled that Paul was troubled by what he saw in the Athenian culture during that time.

Toby said Kentucky Baptists should be equally concerned for today's society.

As "walk down the communities across Kentucky today, are we troubled over what we see?" he asked. "Are our spirits infuriated

over what has become? Have we become so calloused to what confronts and surrounds us today that we see not what our culture has permeated upon our society today?"

The answer lies in adopting a biblical worldview to counteract the dozens of other worldviews that compete for the hearts and minds of believers and non-believers alike, Toby noted.

"If we are going to change our culture, we're going to have to change the hearts and minds of men and women and boys and girls for Jesus Christ," he challenged pastors. "We need to be salt and light in our communities and our culture today."

The worldviews that challenge God's word for dominance in today's culture, according to Toby, include materialism, individualism, hedonism, pragmatism, atheism and humanism.

"We've exchanged the truth of God for a lie and (are) worshipping created things versus the Creator," Toby said.

"The worldview held by the majority of Americans today has no explicitly theistic content to it whatsoever," he added. "The average American can get rather comfortable go-

ing through life without ever thinking about God."

Toby said the issue of confronting the culture with Jesus Christ boils down to one question: "Is evangelism a priority for us?"

Noting that Southern Baptists are only baptizing half the number of teenagers they did in 1972, the Southern Baptist Convention first vice president declared, "We're losing a generation.

"We've got to be concerned for this generation that is coming on, because we've got to tell them about Jesus," Toby demanded. "If we don't, who will?"

One way Kentucky Baptist churches can refocus their efforts toward evangelism, Toby suggested, is through the Find It Here campaign, which begins this weekend. It is an opportunity "that leads us to the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday, (to) proclaim the message that Paul proclaimed to the culture he found himself in," Toby said.

"Our Kentucky churches must be alive with the power of the resurrection," he added. "We must be committed to the Christ who lives. We must follow Him faithfully in all that we do."

Avant: Southern Baptists being pummeled by an already-defeated enemy

By Dannah Prather
Partnerships Editor

Elizabethtown—Pastor and author John Avant told Kentucky Baptists and guests at last week's Evangelism Conference that God always is searching for "one man, one woman, one church, one city" to use for His glory.

The former evangelism vice president for the North American Mission Board said many Christians today belong to "the prodigal church" that has squandered God's riches and victory in Christ.

With baptisms in decline and the number of unchurched people on the rise, Avant said there is a desperate need for change.

"Evangelicals and Southern Baptists (are) ... getting our butts kicked against an enemy we're already promised to defeat," declared Avant, pastor of First Baptist Church of West Monroe, La.

"I'm not sure we really believe in God anymore," he continued. The early church described in the New Testament "didn't have anything but the power of the Holy Spirit and they saw their cities changed."

Avant said he wonders what would happen if believers lived "with abandoned passion" to the truth of God's love and power.

The thought is not new to him. His recent book, "If God Were Real" explores the topic. Avant was quick to tell Kentucky Baptists that his message was not part of a promotional tour—and that all proceeds from the book will be given to missions.

In his message, Avant referenced the story of the prodigal son in Luke 15 and the Roman centurion Cornelius found in Acts 10.

If the prodigal son's father had responded in tradition, the young man would have been banished for life, or at best, only permitted to serve the family as a slave. Instead, the father rejoiced when his son returned.

God is waiting for His children and His church to return to Him, Avant explained.

"While we've been the prodigal church, the Father has been watching for that one man, one woman, one church, one city" to return so He could run to them and say, "I've been waiting for you."

As a Roman centurion, Cornelius was a most unlikely candidate to spearhead the spread the gospel among the Gentiles.

Centurions "stripped the skin off our Savior," Avant said, referencing the story of Jesus' crucifixion.

Yet Scripture is clear that God noticed Cornelius' devotion and good works—proof that an individual can make a positive difference in the world.

"This is not rocket science," Avant said. "It doesn't have to cover the entire country. ... God's looking for (just) one."

According to Avant, three qualities in Cornelius that God seeks in His children today are:

■ Warriors who fight on their knees.

An angel told Cornelius that his prayers had "risen to God like a memorial offering."

■ Leaders who pioneer movements.

Cornelius was so devout, descendants of 10,000 slaves he freed were given his name. Avant noted that, without Cornelius, it is unlikely the men and women assembled at Severns Valley Baptist Church ever would have heard the gospel.

■ Followers who hear God and act.

God sent the Apostle Peter, a Jew "eaten up with racial prejudice" against Gentiles, to disciple Cornelius. Peter was obedient and the gospel was spread.

"You can't be a follower of Jesus and not change," Avant asserted. Changes in church culture also are necessary, he added.

Avant speculated that Christ might be uninterested in attending many of today's churches because members have not invited spiritually lost people.

"Where is our evangelism for those who don't look like us, act like us or smell like us?" Avant asked.

Jesus might say to today's churchgoers: "I'm not that interested in your sweet fellowship if people are going to hell," Avant said.



John Avant

GCR progress report presented

It was a privilege for Kay and me to be in Nashville last week for the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force's progress report to the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee. Ronnie Floyd, chairman of the task force, passionately presented the report and gave an extensive biblical foundation based on the second chapter of Joel. The final version of the report is expected to be ready in May and then will be presented to messengers attending the SBC's annual meeting in Orlando in June.

Partners in the Mission



By Bill Mackey

The six recommendations of the report deal with vision and values, reaching North America with the gospel and funding related to the Cooperative Program and stewardship development. The vision is "to present the gospel of Jesus Christ to every person in the world and to make disciples of all the nations." The eight values are Christ-likeness, truth, unity, relationships, trust, future, local church and Kingdom.

The major part of the recommendations deal with reaching North America primarily through church planting in metro and under-served areas, as well as evangelism, missional leadership development, Christian ministries, discipleship, missions education, mobilizing volunteers and endorsing chaplains.

The International Mission Board would be released from geographic restrictions to reach unreached and under-served people groups in North America. If approved, this will require considerable coordination and flexibility since the North American Mission Board has been given the primary role in developing the strategy for reaching North America. State conventions, associations and churches also are involved in reaching unreached people groups.

To provide more accountability for NAMB missionaries, and to free up funding for the church planting initiatives, the cooperative agreements between NAMB and state conventions would be phased out over four years. This means the Kentucky Baptist Convention would need to absorb about \$550,000 over the next four years, starting with the 2011-12 budget year. The loss of funding by new work state conventions that rely heavily on the cooperative agreement funds will need to be addressed by the task force.

One recommendation is to reassign Cooperative Program promotion and stewardship development from the SBC's Executive Committee to state conventions. The Cooperative Program was affirmed as the central means of supporting Great Commission ministries, but designated gifts for missions also would be recognized as "Great Commission Giving." CP funding for the IMB would be increased by 1 percent to 51 percent of all CP receipts to SBC causes.

If approved in June, successful implementation of this vision, and these recommendations, will require faithful and relational leaders who can inspire trust and cooperation at the highest level, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Two musts: compelling vision, healthy culture

The progress report unveiled by the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force this past week was noteworthy not just for what it said, but also for what it didn't. There was no call to revise Cooperative Program funding allocations to send out more international missionaries at the sacrifice of reaching the lost of our own states and nation. There was no call for merging the two mission boards, but rather to strengthen the North American Mission Board's role in planting churches—especially in the Northeast and West—and to allow the International Mission Board to work with unreached people groups in the United States. And, there was no call to redefine the Cooperative Program, opting instead to combine CP and designated giving totals under the new heading of "Great Commission Giving."



After Thought

By Todd Deaton

Yet, what was even more significant was the framers' strong call to rally Southern Baptists around a clear and compelling missional vision: "As a convention of churches, our missional vision is to present the Gospel of Jesus Christ to every person in the world and to make disciples of the nations." In placing this foremost, they got it right: "This missional vision should drive the entire work of Southern Baptists." Indeed, this is imperative if we want to see solidarity occur and any semblance of a resurgence take place.

They also got it right when they recognized that "if this missional vision is to be embraced long-term, we need to create a new and healthy culture within the Southern Baptist Convention." To that end, they urged all Baptists to embrace eight core values: "How can we not conduct ourselves with Christ-likeness? How can we not live out the truth of God's Word we so valiantly stand upon? How can we not be passionate about unity, working together for the sake of the Gospel? How can we not trust one another when trust is the key to all relationships? How can we not pass on the charge of the Great Commission to a rising generation, giving them a compelling, missional vision and creating a culture that operates by biblical values? How can we not have a denomination that responds to the local church, serving and assisting it at all times? How can we not embrace other Christ-followers for the Gospel, the Kingdom of Christ and the glory of God?"

Seemingly, it was more than coincidental that at the Evangelism Conference, on the same day the GCR

progress report was presented, keynote speakers were laying a firm foundation. For instance, Vance Pitman, pastor of Hope Baptist Church in Las Vegas, emphasized that America is now the fourth largest lost nation on the face of the earth. Only China, India and Indonesia have more lost people. In fact, Las Vegas, where Pitman serves as a church planter, is one of the most lost cities in our country. An estimated 95 percent of its population is unchurched.

In answering why a Great Commission Resurgence is needed, Task Force Chairman Ronnie Floyd said: "The answer is simple: The lostness of North America and the entire world is staggering." An estimated 258 million people in the United States are lost, he noted. Meanwhile, Pitman observed that more than 40 percent of its unchurched population lives in the West. His fledgling congregation hopes to be a launching pad that will be used of God to touch the western states.

Yet Southern Baptist also must grasp lostness in a global context, Floyd maintained, pointing out that the United States comprises only 4.5 percent of the world's population of 6.8 billion. Though 5,845 people groups have no access to the gospel as yet, Floyd urged Southern Baptists: "Be encouraged, God is also pouring out His Spirit mightily in Asia, the Orient, Africa, South America and Eastern Europe, as well as other places around the globe." God is alive and at work all over the world, Pitman agreed. "Did you know there are more people coming to faith in Jesus Christ on a daily basis around the world than in any other time in human history?" he asked. He then shared some startling facts: More Muslims have come to Christ in the last 30 years than in the past 1,400 years, and in China, more than 35,000 people per day are coming to Christ.

"God has invited us to get in on it," Pitman urged. "But we've got our eyes on such a small picture of what God is doing; we tend to view God's activity through the lens of what is happening inside the four walls of our church," he said. God has called us to a mission, however, that is so much bigger, Pitman said. And while the GCR Task Force's report is a work in progress and some prudent concerns regarding implementation already have been raised, their call for churches to become "missional strategy centers" also resonates with Pitman's appeal: "When God birthed your church, He had the nations on His heart."

Learning to love ourselves less

By Erich Bridges

American Christianity has become so worldly, to use an old-fashioned word, that believers of an earlier age would barely recognize many of us as followers of Christ.

Spiritual practices of extended prayer, fasting and silence are rare in a culture addicted to constant sensory stimulation. Abstaining from pleasures and entertainments for the purpose of holiness is rarer still. Voluntary poverty and self-denial sound so ... medieval.

They're actually a lot older. "Do not love the world nor the things of the world," wrote John, Jesus' beloved disciple. "If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world" (1 John 2:15, 16).

The unholy love John warned against emanates from "people who love themselves, and who love things without regard to God," wrote Francois Fenelon in the 17th century. "When do we show that we love the world? When we are jealous of authority. When we love a reputation that we are not worthy of. When we

spend idle time in the company of others. When we look for comforts that magnify the flesh. When we are weak and fainthearted in our Christian practices. When we do not take care to study the truths of the gospel."

Many Christians are wary of the time-encrusted rituals of a season such as Lent, the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter. Lent has lost much of its meaning and solemnity. Church members, if they still observe the season at all, often go through the motions of giving up some vice or beloved habit (double cheeseburgers, say), then revert immediately to unrestrained indulgence as soon as the 40 days are up.

That's not the true spirit of Lent, which calls Christians to prayer, self-denial, self-examination and repentance. Think of Christ in the desert—fasting, praying and resisting the devil as He prepared for His mission. Can you devote a day, perhaps two or three, to the undivided pursuit of God? Rightly observing Lent in our hearts is about loving God more. If we do that, loving ourselves less will be a natural result.

"As you stand before God, think about the mercy He has shown you, the enlightenment He has given you

... the pitfalls of this world from which He has kept you safe," Fenelon recommended. "Think about the crosses He has entrusted to you so that you may become a living sacrifice, because they are clear signs of His love. Let your gratefulness for the past inspire you with trust for the future. Be persuaded that He has loved you too much not to love you still...."

"God has taken away the soft and comfortable things from your life. Why? Because you need to be humbled and to come to know yourself; because in vain you have sought elsewhere for help and comfort."

If God has yet to remove the "soft and comfortable" things from your life, what if you voluntarily gave some of them to Him as an act of love and obedience?

When we love Him more, we love others more, particularly those who wander in darkness. It's amazing how a heart like that of Jonah—who wanted to see Nineveh destroyed—can be transformed into the heart of God, who was passionately concerned about the lost souls of that city.

A return to the true observance of Lent in our hearts could be a powerful impetus for missions, which is the lifting of God's great name among all the nations. (BP)

Erich Bridges is global correspondent for the International Mission Board.

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

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Addressing teenage sexuality

By Valerie Vincent

I am concerned that my daughter is acting out sexually, but I don't know what to say.

The church teaches teenagers to "flee from sexual immorality," while at the same time our culture holds forth sexual activity as the solution to life's problems: boredom, status, acceptance, love, desirability. God's commands are clearly for the health and well-being of His creation.



Most people do best with truth and good information to make decisions. Meg Meeker is a pediatrician who is concerned about the well-being of teenagers. Her book, "Epidemic: How Teen Sex is Killing Our Kids," describes the destructive impact of sexual activity on the bodies, minds and spirits of teenagers. She negates the reality of "safe sex" by describing the numerous sexually transmitted diseases that are not prevented by condom usage or by engaging in other sexual behaviors.

Our culture sends a message that they are missing out if they do not engage in sexual activity. Paul, however, describes the body as not only belonging to one's self but also to his or her spouse. His words remind us there is more to sex than a physical act. It belongs within the clear commitment of marriage. This defines a context of safety and trust in which sexual expression can be fully explored and valued. Our culture has disconnected sexual activity from relationship, and in so doing has significantly harmed young people. God's word makes it clear sexual activity is sacred; the culture has made it profane.

Talk with your daughter. Tell her your concerns and what you want for her life. Remind her how valuable she is to you, her family and God. Does she value herself, her body, her mind? Have her pediatrician provide good medical information about how your daughter's behavior is impacting her health. Let her know you care and believe she will make good choices. Show her in Scripture how much God values and loves her.

Valerie Vincent is a Christian counselor with Hardy Associates in Louisville.

In cars and ministry, 'running' doesn't mean working

Western Recorder partners with six new-work Baptist conventions to produce their newspapers. Periodically we will share with our readers insights into the lives and ministries of our Baptist brothers and sisters in these regions.

By Leo Endel

My poor car just ain't what she used to be. She still looks pretty good on the outside, but she's got problems.

On a recent trip to Kansas City, she burned out a wheel bearing. I had her fixed and had started back home when I began to hear another noise.

I called my mechanic on the way through Des Moines and described the sound my car was making. He's good—real good. He said, "It's probably related to your power steering unit. You'd better stop and check your fluid level." Then he told me where I'd find the dipstick. Even with his directions, I had to get out the book to find it underneath hoses almost on the bottom of the motor.

Sure enough, it was low, and I managed to get fluid into the belly of the beast. She quieted right down.

I relaxed and thought I was home free—until the electrical light flashed on my dashboard.

I pulled into a rest stop a couple of miles later and opened the hood; like a kindergartner doing brain surgery, I fully expected to learn nothing, but even I couldn't miss that the serpentine belt was off.

I hooked it over the engine and got back in the car. I knew from a previous episode that my battery was new, so I got into my car, looked at the GPS and calculated that I needed to make it 35 miles in the fog just as the darkness enveloped me. In a few moments I realized my heat was gone. It was 6 degrees outside.

At about 10 more miles, the anti-lock break system light came on, and the engine started to cycle making me go slow and then allowing me to go faster. The temperature gauge flew past the overheating margin.

In 10 more miles, the headlights were still on, but the electrical system started to shut down and my gauges flickered.

Finally, only 1.5 miles from where I knew I could get help, the headlights shut down into darkness and I coasted to the shoulder—barely clearing a bridge. I was in darkness and fog with no lights. Trucks blazed down the Interstate seemingly unaware that I was there.

By the time AAA finished loading my car, both the driver and I felt lucky to be alive. Three days later I drove back to Albert Lea, Minn., to pick up my car.

By the time my mechanic finished the job, I'd spent \$1,200 on the old beast!

I must admit that for a fleeting moment I thought she might be ready for the junkyard, but I knew that wasn't really an option. I like my old Pontiac, and now that I've recently replaced half of her parts, she's practically brand new. With two kids in college, getting a newer model isn't an option. I have to fix it.

It's usually obvious when my car has problems and needs some work, but I've noticed that it's not so obvious when it comes to the programs and ministries of the church. The machinery can keep on going long after the ministry loses its edge.

If it died on the roadside, we'd say, "Hey, we've got a problem that we need to fix." But usually it keeps rolling along, but with little impact. We keep maintaining it, finding people to do it and publicizing it, but it's not do-

ing anything.

The old expression, "if it ain't broke don't fix it," sounds okay until you step back and notice that just because it's running doesn't mean it's working. It needs to be fixed, but nobody notices.

When my car stopped carrying me down the road, I knew I had to fix it. When the church stops reaching people, shouldn't we think about fixing it?

I've spent a lot of time and money with my mechanic, but he's got me back on the road. Maybe it's time for you to give your "church mechanics" a call. Whether you live and serve in Minnesota, Wisconsin or Kentucky, there are fellow Southern Baptists waiting to help you.

Leo Endel is executive director of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention.

FIRST PERSON

"When the church stops reaching people, shouldn't we think about fixing it?"

Six life lessons from Tiger Woods

As the Tiger Woods scandal has saturated the media, I have given a lot of thought to lessons that we, as Christians, can learn from his situation. Here are some of my musings that I hope you will find to be helpful and challenging in your walk with Christ.

FIRST PERSON

There are some interesting parallels between King David, the Bible character, and Tiger Woods, the sports icon. Like David, Woods started out as a person with great promise and potential. Like David, Woods has accomplished more than his predecessors. Like David, Woods has had his name scandalized in the public square.

Specifically, I believe there are six life lessons that we can learn:

Your character is more important than your image (see 1 Samuel 16:6-7). In Tiger Woods' public statement on the Feb. 19, he said, "Character and decency are what really count." How true this statement is! It has been well said, "Character is who you are when nobody's looking." As Christians, we are not immune to the problem of hypocrisy. For the Christian, image is not everything. While man looks at the outward appearance, God looks at the heart. We must endeavor to have a heart of integrity and consistency.

Winning can go to your head (see 2 Samuel 11:1-4a). Tiger Woods said, "I felt that I had worked hard my entire life and deserved to enjoy all the temptations around me. I felt I was entitled." Like King David, Woods felt entitled to enjoy the pleasures of sin. Fundamentally, sin is rooted in one's selfish desire to do his or her own thing, without being accountable to anyone.

As was the case with David and Tiger Woods, we can become drunk on the wine of our own achievements, and thus develop feelings of entitlement. Each of us has a "Tiger" within that must be tamed. This "Tiger," as it were, is our sinful nature that wants

to do whatever feels good at the moment, no matter whom it hurts.

Your sin hurts other people (see 2 Samuel 11:26-27). Woods stated, "I hurt my wife, my kids, my mother, my wife's family, my friends." To be sure, our sin hurts others. David's sin of having Bathsheba's husband, Uriah, killed caused her great emotional pain. Likewise, Woods' sin of adultery and his apparent sexual addiction has deeply hurt those closest to him. We need to consider how our sinful choices can devastate those whom we claim to love and compromise the commitments we have made to both them and God.

Private choices have public consequences (see 2 Samuel 12:10-12). Woods said, "People want to know how I could have done these things. ... And while I have always tried to be a private person, there are some things I want to say." Like King David, Woods found out that those who sin privately often forfeit any semblance of privacy in their lives. Things that are done in the dark eventually come out into the light. It could be in the case of looking at internet pornography, embezzling funds, cheating on taxes, or gossiping. Choices we make in private often have public consequences that are

embarrassing for us and hurtful to the Kingdom of God.

When you mess up, you need to fess up (see 2 Samuel 12:13a). In his confession, Woods stated, "I was unfaithful. I had affairs. I cheated. ... I am the one who needs to change." Time will tell whether his public confession was sincere or a mere public relations gimmick. However, in the case of King David, his confession was from the heart. God knows the difference between a person being truly broken over his or her sin and a person being "sorry" because they got caught. As David demonstrated, true confession is the bridge that leads to repentance; that is, an authentic desire to change one's behavior.

God is the only source of true forgiveness (see 2 Samuel 12:13b). In the wake of his moral failures, Woods said, "I have a lot of work to do. ... Part of following this path for me is Buddhism." Moral relativism says, "There are many roads to Rome; if Buddhism works for Tiger, more power to him." However, as a preacher of the gospel, I believe that Christianity is the only thing that offers forgiveness of sin. Jesus emphatically stated, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). Only through Christ—not Buddha, Mohammed, Confucius, or anyone else—can one truly experience forgiveness of sin. We cannot earn or work for forgiveness (Ephesians 2:8-9). It is totally a work of God's grace that was completed at the cross by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Joel Bowman is senior pastor of Temple of Faith Baptist Church in Louisville.



Joel Bowman

Excuses for not tithing non-biblical

By Doug Strader

I began pastoring in 1960 when I was a college sophomore. To say that I was inexperienced would not do justice to my pastoral beginnings. Like most young pastors, I was eager to "cut my teeth" and get started expounding the message of the Bible, and part of that message was giving at least a tithe to the Lord through the church.

I encountered my first objection to tithing in my first church. A gentleman did not practice tithing because he felt that it was not taught in the New Testament. His reasoning was that since we are under the grace of the New Testament and not the law of the Old Testament, Christians were not obligated to practice tithing. My rationale for tithing in that situation is that if those under the law were required to tithe, then those who were under grace should be willing to give more than a tithe.

Although we disagreed on the issue, he was very kind and gracious to his "brash" new pastor and assured me that through the years, he had given more than a tithe to the Lord.

A few years later, I met a man in a church where I was leading revival. He said he did not believe in tithing because if everyone tithed, the church would have more money than it needed. He was so spiritually shortsighted that he could not envision the church using that money to spread the gospel.

I have also been told by well-meaning Christians that they either do not make enough money or that they make too much money to tithe. Which is more difficult? It depends on a person's situation, but the one who makes the least could be the one who has the most difficult time. Several people have told me that after they pay their monthly bills they do not have any money left with which to tithe. But God's Word teaches that we are to give off the top to the Lord.

In my opinion, it is difficult to study God's Word and come up with an excuse not to tithe.

Reprinted from Western Recorder, March 4, 2008. Doug Strader, retired director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's stewardship department, is pastor of Farmdale Baptist in Louisville.



GCR progress report details future vision for Southern Baptists

Continued from page 1

ern Baptist Convention." The "missional vision" is "as a convention of churches, ... to present the gospel of Jesus Christ to every person in the world and to make disciples of all the nations." The eight core values are Christ-likeness; truth; unity; relationships; trust; future; local church; and kingdom.

■ Recommending the North American Mission Board "prioritize efforts to plant churches in North America and to reach our nation's cities and clarify its role to lead and accomplish efforts to reach North America with the gospel." NAMB needs to be "reinvented and released" by implementing a direct strategy for planting churches in North America "with a priority to reach metropolitan areas and underserved people groups," Floyd noted.

The plan calls for NAMB to assist churches in evangelism, discipleship and developing current pastoral leadership. It also calls for NAMB to decentralize operations into seven regions and recommends releasing the entity from "cooperative agreements"

with state conventions over the course of four years to free up money for national strategy.

■ Requesting Southern Baptists "entrust to the International Mission Board the ministry to reach the unreached and underserved people groups without regard to any geographic limitations."

■ Moving the primary responsibility for Cooperative Program promotion and stewardship education ministry assignments from the Executive Committee to the state conventions. Historically, CP promotion was seen as the responsibility of the state conventions, Floyd said. The task force's plan envisions state convention leaders creating a consortium that, in cooperation with the Executive Committee president, would "plan and execute an annual strategy that will promote the Cooperative Program to our churches as well as challenge our churches in biblical stewardship."

While the plan envisions state conventions reassuming the stewardship assignment, "it is the responsibility of local



PRESS CONFERENCE GCR Task Force members Johnny Hunt (left), Ronnie Floyd (center) and Albert Mohler took questions from press members Feb. 22. Many of the questions concerned the proposed changes to the North American Mission Board. (Photo by Morris Abernathy/BP)

Changes may be ahead for NAMB, state conventions

Nashville—Members of the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force said last week that their proposed dissolving of cooperative agreements between the North American Mission Board and state conventions will make the respective sides stronger and more equipped to reach the nation with the gospel.

The proposal could have a significant impact on state conventions located in areas that do not have a strong Southern Baptist presence.

The various cooperative agreements NAMB has with state conventions would be dissolved by the end of a four-year period to free up more money to "budget for a national strategy" to prioritize the planting of churches. Currently, the state conventions forward a portion of Cooperative Program money to the SBC's allocation budget, and NAMB takes its portion of that budget and sends \$50.6 million each year back to the state conventions—a process that is "complicated" and results "in a lack of productivity and accountability," the report stated.

Under the proposal, NAMB's role for nurturing young and smaller state conventions would be left for the various state conventions themselves, with the hope that the larger ones would fill the gap—thus freeing up the \$50.6 million for NAMB to reprioritize.

The end of the cooperative agree-

ments also would mean that NAMB missionaries would be direct appointments reporting solely to NAMB and not jointly supported with state conventions.

The task force's Feb. 22 progress report included six "components," none of which elicited more questions at the press conference than component No. 2, which at seven pages is the report's lengthiest and which details how NAMB will be "reinvented and released."

In its report, the task force urges any future partnerships between NAMB and state conventions be "project-driven" and streamlined so that the "direct mission and priorities of the North American Mission Board" are fulfilled.

Albert Mohler, task force member and president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, said the committee is "not saying that the cooperative agreements were a bad idea."

"We are saying that in the year 2010, we are light years past what the SBC was in the 1950s, structurally, demographically, methodologically," he said, calling the current system a "financial merry-go-round."

"We want healthy state conventions in the old-line Southern Baptist states to be far more involved in helping younger developing state conventions, and we would rather the state conventions do that than NAMB," Mohler said. (BP)

churches to challenge their people to walk in obedience to God by honoring Him weekly with at least the first tenth of all income, as well as additional offerings to our local churches," Floyd said.

■ Reaffirming the Cooperative Program "as our central means of supporting Great Commission ministries" and establishing a broader category of "Great Commission giving" to celebrate all the financial support—CP giving and designated giving—local congregations provide for Southern Baptist missions. "We are not recommending any changes to the Cooperative Program but are reaffirming it as our central means of supporting the Great Commission ministries of the Southern Baptist Convention," Floyd

said, saying the task force calls upon every church "to work diligently at giving more through the Cooperative Program."

■ Raising the percentage of CP funds received by the IMB in the 2011-12 budget year to 51 percent and funding the increase in part with monies previously allocated to the SBC Executive Committee for CP promotion and stewardship education. The proposal would reduce the SBC's operating budget allocation of 3.4 percent by roughly \$2 million, and add it to the IMB's budget, currently at nearly \$320 million.

Floyd said the task force will release its final report May 3, in anticipation of presenting it to messengers to the SBC's June 15-16 annual meeting in Orlando, Fla. (BP)

Caner apologizes for IMB criticism

Lynchburg, Va.—The president of Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary has apologized for calling the head of the International Mission Board a liar, saying he got carried away in an interview while criticizing a missions strategy used to evangelize Muslims.

In a Feb. 24 podcast on the SBC Today Web site, Ergun Caner, a former Muslim turned Southern Baptist, defended earlier statements critical of a strategy called the Camel Method.

The method uses verses from the Quran to convince Muslims that what the Bible says about Jesus is true.

But Caner said he "became an idiot" and "stepped over the line" in a Feb. 3 SBC Today podcast accusing IMB President Jerry Rankin of lying by allowing missionaries to use the method in the Muslim world.

"I believe that the Camel is lying," Caner reiterated in the most recent podcast in-

terview. "It assumes the ignorance of a Muslim by saying, 'Oh, you believe Allah? I believe in Allah.' That's one of my ethical issues with the Camel. I think it's based on deception.

"And then the idiot opens his mouth and says, 'Do I believe it's lying?'" he continued, quoting his previous words. "Sure. Do I believe that Jerry Rankin is lying? Yes.

"And so what happens is, in one fell swoop I cast aspersion on a brother, and given the last few days I've discovered that's not the biblical thing to do," Caner noted.

Caner said he acknowledged his mistake before students in a chapel service at Liberty Seminary and in a letter of apology sent directly to Rankin.

"If you're dumb enough to say something like that, you've got to be man enough to own up to it," he said. "What does it mean to call somebody a liar? You're questioning their motives." (ABP)



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Where does "Annie" go?

"So how long of a gap is there between the time the North American Mission Board receives gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and those gifts being put into use?"

This is one of the many questions the North American Mission Board staff receives each year. The answer may surprise you: Immediately!

NAMB's budget is based upon anticipated receipts from all income sources, with Cooperative Program and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering being the primary ones. So, when Southern Baptists give to Annie, they can be confident that the funds are immediately put to use to win people to Christ throughout North America.

In 2009, receipts to the Annie Armstrong offering exceeded \$56 million. Though far short of the \$65 million goal, God has blessed us in a time when we all face the challenge of doing more with less.

Giving is just one part of the funding formula for North American missions. A penny put in the offering plate is just a penny, but with prayer its value increases significantly. So, as you prayerfully consider what your gift will be this year, make sure you cover that gift with your prayers.

This year's goal is \$70 million and as always, every penny will be used to equip and support more than 5,300 missionaries, many of them jointly sponsored through partnerships with NAMB and state conventions. Below represents an overview of how 2009 receipts will be spent to help them accomplish the task of their call:

Missionary Support, 71 percent (\$49,700,000).

- Salaries.
- Health benefits.
- Missionary orientation.
- Ongoing missionary training.

Church Planting Support, 17 percent (\$11,900,000).

- Rental of facilities.
- Materials.
- Promotional expenses.

Evangelism Support, 12 percent (\$8,400,000).

- Scripture distribution.
- Sports evangelism.
- Special evangelism events.
- Media campaigns.



LEADING THE WAY Craig (left) and Suzy Miles, North American Mission Board Mission Service Corps missionaries and founders of Appalachian Trail Servants, minister to a fellow hiker somewhere along the 2,175-mile-long Appalachian Trail. The Mileses are just two of more than 5,300 missionaries in the United States, Canada and their territories supported by the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. (Photo by John Swain/NAMB)

MSC missionaries stay on the path to share Christ with fellow hikers

By Adam Miller and Mickey Noah
North American Mission Board

Franklin, N.C.—To understand a person, walk a mile in his shoes. But if that person is an Appalachian Trail thru-hiker, you'll have to walk several hundred miles.

"It's not until about mile 500 that they start to listen," said North American Mission Board Mission Service Corps missionary Suzy Miles. "Before that, they're superheroes."

MSC missionaries Craig and Suzy Miles started Appalachian Trail Servants six years ago so they could help represent Christ through service, evangelism and discipleship to reach the long-trail hiking community trekking the 2,175-mile Appalachian Trail. The couple has hiked about 1,000 miles of the trail themselves, and visited most of its length to conduct ministry training for churches near trailheads and to minister to hikers through acts of kindness.

The Mileses are just two of more than 5,300 missionaries in the United States, Canada and their territories supported by the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

As MSC missionaries, the Mileses must raise their own support among family, friends and churches. Although they are self-funded, they also receive additional support—such as training, administrative support and field ministry assistance—from the Annie Armstrong offering.

The Appalachian Trail is a marked, yard-wide footpath winding through the Appalachian Mountains from Springer Mountain in North Georgia to Mount Katahdin in central Maine. Conceived in 1921 and completed in 1937, it passes through 14 states. More than four million people hike some part of the trail each year, and another 2,000 "thru-hikers" attempt to go the entire distance.

Suzy grew up in Dahlonega, Ga., with a family and a father who took hikers in, fed them and shared with them the truth about Christ.

A native of Stone Mountain, Ga., Craig already had earned a degree in economics at the University of Georgia and seminary master's degrees when he met Suzy. At that time, Miles was working in information technology for a regional bank, but said he believed he had a higher calling.

One morning on the way to work, he stopped by his church and prayed: "Lord, how can you use our time and talents for your glory?"

"Right after I prayed that prayer, I spotted a missionary magazine on a table next to me," Miles recalled. "On the cover was a story about extreme hiking in China. It just clicked in my head that

we needed to start a ministry on the Appalachian Trail. Suzy and I were seeing hundreds of hikers, ... but we knew their spiritual needs were not being met."

Miles and Suzy married and now six years later, their home and ministry are based in Franklin, N.C., only a short drive from a major Appalachian Trail trailhead. With an expanding ministry, they continue to serve hikers but are beginning to focus their attention on training churches and leaders who have a heart for hikers.

Whether simply hiking on a crisp autumn weekend or thru-hiking the entire Appalachian Trail, the sport is not for the faint-of-heart. Backpacks containing tents, sleeping bags, clothes, food, first-aid and water purification equipment can weigh 35 pounds or more.

In addition to the obvious challenges, other hazards include severe weather, Lyme disease, steep grades, limited water and poison ivy.

"Thru-hiking the Appalachian Trail takes a tremendous commitment of time and resources," Miles said. "And the hardest part is not the physical aspect but the mental. Within the first 30 miles, 20 percent drop out. By North Carolina, 50 percent have dropped out. By West Virginia, 75 percent have quit. Only 15 percent of those who start in Georgia make it to the peak of Mount Katahdin in Maine."

To reach these hearty souls, the Mileses have focused their efforts on training churches and trail chaplains—a select position with AT Servants that requires a mature walk with Christ, a missionary mindset and the ability to walk thousands of miles under often heavy loads.

"We receive dozens of applications every year, but only one or two meet the criteria," Miles said.

Trail chaplains, which have the greatest direct impact on hikers, trudge the 2,175 miles with every ounce of gear any other hiker would carry and with a goal of enjoying the journey and reaching the end. But chaplains sit around shelters and campfires with the purpose of representing Christ, answering hard questions from thoughtful, hurting people and walking alongside those same people for days, weeks and even months.

Still on the lookout for divine appointments, Craig and Suzy cultivate the soil of the hiker community with a sense of urgency for those churches and individuals with a heart for hikers.

"We have an amazing opportunity," Suzy noted. "If we can represent Christ to someone during a critical few months on the trail, we can see Christ change them for a lifetime."

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Castleberry: Time & money issues provide open doors for evangelism

By Kristie Randolph
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Elizabethtown—Learning how to properly manage one's time and financial resources is essential to the Christian life and also can lead to evangelistic opportunities, said Carolyn Castleberry, an internationally recognized author on money and time management.

Castleberry spoke to a room of more than 80 participants at the women's event during last week's Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference. The event also included a mini-concert by Christian artist Deidra Hughes.

Castleberry told of how God used a series of miscarriages and financial difficulties to cause her to evaluate her life and surrender fully to him. After the birth of her first child, Castleberry put her faith into action and left a successful career in television in order to make time for her family.

Using her own story as an example, Castleberry encouraged Kentucky Baptist women to manage their time well by defining their priorities and trust God to provide for them.

"The Lord always shows up and He always gives us choices. He is always good," she said.

Part of defining one's priorities is avoiding time traps and seeking to invest oneself "where it matters," Castleberry noted, referencing a survey that showed three out of four women aren't happy with how they are spending their time.

Too often, most women either are overwhelmed, self-stressed, pressured or procrastinators, she pointed out.

"We start out

strong, but in the daily grind of life, we forget who we are," Castleberry said. "It's a new concept to get really clear on what really matters. What are the dreams the Lord has placed into your heart? What are the things most important to you?"

It is possible to live a balanced life, she said, but it's important to realize that "the balanced life is not a perfect life."

For the Christian, the key to a balanced life is to "take time to spend with God alone. The Lord has solutions we haven't even thought of," Castleberry noted. "He has it worked out and we just need to ask him."

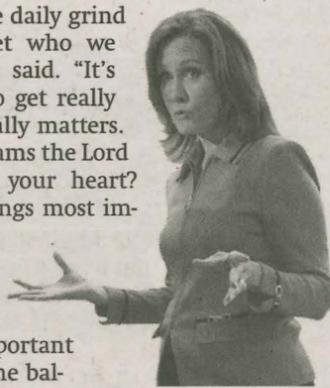
The author challenged women to watch for evangelistic opportunities when speaking with their friends about struggles with time management.

"There are opportunities to share Christ when people are going through difficult circumstances like I did. That is where your friends are, that is where your community is, and that is where the Lord wants you to make a difference," she said.

Personal finance is another area where Christians can help others who are struggling and point them to Christ, Castleberry explained.

All too often, women find their security in finances instead of in God's provision for them. Referencing James 1:2-3, Castleberry said she sees this "played out in finances because that's where our security is.

"But God's economy is not the world's economy. What we have to do is change our minds and hearts and come humbly before the Lord and ask Him what to do with this."



Carolyn Castleberry



Deidra Hughes

'Who's in charge?'

Oneida's work program allows some students opportunity to be 'the boss'

Most of our friends know that Oneida puts a great deal of emphasis on work ethic. From the very founding of our school, work has been a part of every student's daily responsibilities.

Anyone who has visited us knows we have a rather large campus. There are 15 major buildings to clean every day, a lot of grass to mow in the summer, and a very active farm program. This gives our students the opportunity to choose from a variety of jobs. Our students do not get paid for their services, so there is no paycheck at the end of the week. However, their work helps keep our school affordable for all of our students, especially for those from low-income families.

I know it takes time to get used to the idea of going to work every day but not getting a paycheck. Our students, however, appreciate the opportunity to choose from a variety of jobs. They also like being able to change jobs if they have chosen or are assigned a job they do not like.

Understandably, every group of boys or girls has a supervisor. That supervisor usually is a student who has been in the work program for some time and has shown the ability to get along with the students in his or her work group. They have shown maturity, command the respect of their peers, are good workers themselves, and have displayed the abilities to be a leader.

It likely will come as no surprise that most students want to be "in charge." The idea of being the "top dog," the one who gives instructions and assignments to others, appeals to most. Sadly, it also is true that some who become super-

visors have the mistaken idea that their working days are over. They sometimes begin their supervisory responsibilities thinking they can give everyone their work assignments and then just sit back and watch them do the work.

Since my office is in the administration building, I have many opportunities to see the work being done by students who clean the lower level of this building, the upstairs chapel area and the offices—including mine. It is not uncommon for me to make a trip to the restroom and notice that something has not been cleaned properly or has been missed altogether. I also occasionally notice that the students have not put all of their cleaning equipment in the storage area. That could be a dust mop, mop bucket, broom, vacuum sweeper or any number of other items.

Recently I noticed an area in the restroom that had not been cleaned for several days, maybe longer. The next day I asked, "Who's in charge?" The supervisor proudly told me that he was in charge. I took him to the area and showed him the problem. He quickly told me whose job it was and said he would get him to clean it right away. But I reminded him the only reason his worker had missed cleaning the area so long was because the supervisor had not been doing his job. His job, after all, is to supervise. I reminded him that his job was to make sure that his workers didn't miss cleaning certain areas, that the cleaning was done properly and that all of the equipment was put away. All of a sudden being the "supervisor" was not as much fun.

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

This is Oneida



W.F. Underwood

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'I hope it doesn't snow tonight

More-than-normal snowfall kicks off unusual semester

"I hope it doesn't snow tonight, I want to have school tomorrow."

Now, when was the last time you heard that kind of talk from a student of any age, much less a non-traditional student? I recently heard that comment from one of our new students who was starting classes at Clear Creek for the first time this spring semester.

Like many of us, some of our new students have experienced a more extreme winter than past years. We actually have had to cancel classes more than once here on campus because of the heavy snowfalls the last few weeks; that is something we normally do not have to do. The new students are excited about being here, though, and they don't want to miss any classes right now because they are afraid of missing something. I know what you're thinking: Just give them time, that excitement will dwindle.

It's always exciting for me to see the enthusiasm of new students getting started with their studies as they follow God's call on their lives. This spring, we praise the Lord for 13 new degree-seeking students who have affirmed to us they are following God's call to Clear Creek. We

are honored to be used of God to provide training for them.

God continues to call our students from all walks of life. Seven of the students will live on campus and study full time. Six of our new students will study totally online.

The average age of students in our new spring semester class is 36 years old. Twelve of our students are married and one is single. We have five students from Kentucky; two from Tennessee; two from Florida; and one each from Ohio, Indiana, North Carolina, and Utah.

The students' previous occupations include: pastor, youth pastor, machinist, electrician; distribution center worker, retail worker, production planner, truck driver, and engineering worker.

Your support enables us to fulfill our mission to equip these God-called students for ministry. Thank you so much for making that possible. Please pray for their excitement to stay strong as the reality of trying to budget their time between family, work and studies sets in.

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.cccb.edu; e-mail: dfox@ccb.edu

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

Guess who's turning 65

KBF's 'time has just arrived' as it marks latest milestone

No, it is not yours truly; it's the Kentucky Baptist Foundation! Although it was conceived Nov. 17, 1943, by a resolution to the messengers of the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky (now the Kentucky Baptist Convention), it was not born until March 8, 1945, when its Articles of Incorporation were filed with the secretary of state.

So, on March 8, 2010, the KBF will celebrate its 65th birthday—but we are not retiring. In fact, we've only just begun! With the "great convergence" of the financial challenges of a "Great Commission resurgence" and the "greatest financial wealth transfer" in history, our time has just arrived. More than at any other time in our history, there is a tidal wave of opportunity to assist Kentucky Baptists in bridging the gap between the biblical mandates of leaving a Great Commission legacy and providing for their relatives.

As Kentucky Baptists' one and only trust agency, and after 65 years of service, your KBF stands steadfast and solid for kingdom advancement. What sets us apart—our value proposition, if you

please—is we bring the highest business and Christian ethical standards and methods to our roles as (a) a fiduciary of funds and (b) a facilitator of life-changing legacies for kingdom advancement.

Let me encourage you to join in a stewardship revolution that seeks to bridge the gap between the financial challenges of accomplishing the Great Commission and the greatest generational wealth transfer taking place among Kentucky Baptists. It's a revolution in which we collectively view the estate planning process to be an act of biblical stewardship.

The core convictions propelling us onward are:

- God is creator and owner of all things, and we are called to be His stewards (managers).

- How we plan our estates likely will be the single-most important act of financial stewardship we will ever make.

- Through estate stewardship, each of us can impact the world for Christ.

Call us to discover how you can be a part of bridging the gap.

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

KENTUCKY
BAPTIST
FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

2010 Winter Olympics

Baptists share coffee, Good News

By Adam Miller
North American Mission Board

Vancouver, British Columbia—Making an impact at the Olympics means serving others beyond what they are expecting.

"I'm a Christian. Isn't this what we're supposed to do?" asked Irina State, a member of a Romanian Southern Baptist Church in British Columbia.

State echoed the feelings of more than 400 Southern Baptist volunteers from 25 states and two Canadian provinces who joined in making Christ known among crowds in Vancouver at the Winter Olympic Games.

With a home base at churches throughout Vancouver, More Than Gold volunteers filled large portable containers with hot chocolate and coffee and hit the streets as the days turned cool.

While it was an awkward contraption to wear for three or four hours, there was little doubt the large cylinder attracted attention from a distance—jutting out as it did among throngs in downtown Vancouver.

From train stop to train stop, dozens of the backpack coffee dispensers bobbed around street corners, usually surrounded by volunteers wearing the trademark-blue More Than Gold jackets. Their backpacks filled with brand-new trading pins, city guides and copies of Mark's Gospel, the volunteers engaged passersby.

"People come to the Olympics for excellence, and that's what we want to give them," said Steve Timmons, director of the University of Nevada-Las Vegas' Baptist Campus Ministry. The pins were premium quality, the coffee was organic Nicaraguan, and the pocket guides included profiles of Christian athletes and helpful city maps.

Timmons and a dozen college-aged volunteers formed an assembly line along Granville Avenue just outside the doors of the nearby SkyTrain station. Coffee dispenser, cup bearer and sugar and cream holder all performed their jobs working out of pocket-stitched aprons and a large tank strapped



JAVALUJAH! Volunteers joined other More Than Gold volunteers during the Winter Olympics working near Vancouver's Granville SkyTrain station to dispense coffee and hot chocolate, often emptying their supply in less than an hour. (Photo by Adam Miller/NAMB)

to the biggest volunteer's back. They remained mobile, going where the crowds gathered.

"People really respond to this," said Chris Clifton, a volunteer from UNLV who, just two nights earlier, had talked with an atheist for two hours.

Coffee wasn't the only thing that grabbed tourists' attention. So did pin trading, a longstanding Olympic tradition. When handing out the More than Gold pins, volunteers used the colors on the pins to share about Jesus.

Developed for the 1996 Summer Olympics by the International Sports Coalition in association with the North American Mission Board, More Than Gold seeks to provide a tangible gospel presence in host cities, benefitting Olympic committee work, as well as the witness of local evangelical churches. Nearly 1,000 volunteers—almost half of whom were Southern Baptist—joined the effort in Vancouver.

"This has been a very unifying experience for our churches," said Alan Au, a local Baptist pastor who helped plan the More Than Gold outreach in Vancouver. "The results will extend far beyond the Olympics, both here and in the lives of athletes and spectators returning home. This is only the beginning." (BP)



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Dr. James Leo Garrett, Jr.

Distinguished Professor of Theology Emeritus at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. Dr. Garrett has taught at both Baylor University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has also lectured in Colombia, Mexico, Brazil, Uruguay, Romania, the Ukraine, and at numerous U.S. schools. He has been author, co-author, editor, or co-editor of a dozen books, including *We Baptists* (Providence House, 1999).



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NCAA rules committee could ban messages on players' eye black

Indianapolis—In what some already are calling the "Tim Tebow rule," the NCAA Football Rules Committee is proposing that college football players be prohibited from writing anything on their eye black—the very types of messages the former Florida Gator quarterback made popular with various Bible verses.

The recommendation was made by the committee in an announcement last month. It now must be approved by the Playing Rules Oversight Panel.

The committee actually called the new rule a "clarification" because a rule that apparently would ban such messages already was in place. The clarification, which would take effect this fall, says "if eye shade is worn it must be solid black with no words, numbers, logos or other symbols."

Tebow, the 2007 Heisman Trophy winner, was not mentioned, although he popularized the trend—and the nation noticed. On the same day Florida played Alabama in the SEC Championship Game Dec. 5, the No. 1 Google "hot" search in the U.S. was John 16:33, the verse Tebow wore on his eye black.

In fact, Tebow's Scripture choices were among the Top 10 Google searches in the U.S. during nearly every major Florida game in 2009. For the Sept. 19 game against Tennessee, his choice of Romans 8:28 was the No. 5 search; for the Oct. 10 game against LSU, 1 Thessa-

lonians 5:18 was the No. 7 search; and for the game against Florida State—his final home game—Hebrews 12:1-2 was the No. 3 search. His choice of Ephesians 2:8-10 was the No. 4 search for the Jan. 1 Sugar Bowl. The Google trend dates back to the 2008 BCS Championship Game, when John 3:16—Tebow's verse for that game—landed at the No. 1 spot.

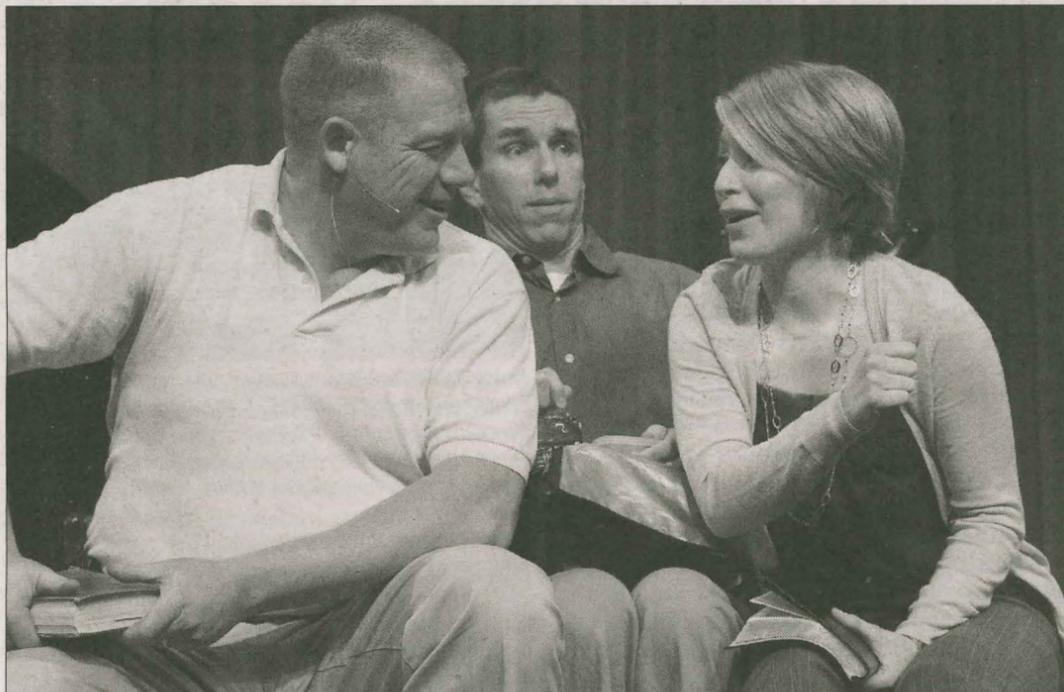
Tebow's eye black was by far the most-followed eye shade in college football, but he wasn't the only one doing it.

Former Oklahoma State quarterback Zac Robinson wore on his eye black the words "press on," taken from Philippians 3:14, a verse that was repeated by his father often at family gatherings. His father died last October.

Ohio State quarterback Terrelle Pryor also wore Bible verses on his eye black, including Philippians 3:14. Pryor, though, was involved in one of the more controversial instances of eye black when he wrote the word "Vick" under his left eye as a tribute to Michael Vick.

The NCAA's football rules already prohibited "anything on the uniform other than a player's numbers; a player's name; NCAA Football logo; memorial recognition; the American flag; or institution, conference or game identification. No other words, numbers or symbols are permitted on a player's person or tape." The rule was part of the rules section on illegal equipment. (BP)

Drama & Music



SPIRITED DEBATE Tim Gooch (left), David Buckner (center) and Valerie Shoulta perform the "Park Bench Skit" at last week's Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown. The comedic skit portrays two churchgoing Christians (Gooch and Shoulta) having a tense and often misguided debate about the best way to witness to a non-believer, clearly oblivious to one sitting between them on the bench (Buckner). After several minutes of the Christians' exchange, the non-believer asks to hear about the "good news" they've been discussing, only to be rebuffed because each of Christians is too busy. (Photo by Drew Nichter)



SPECIAL MUSIC Barbi (right) and Terry Franklin lead a time of praise and worship music at the Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference last week. The Franklins are regular guests at Kentucky Baptist Convention-sponsored events. The Nashville-based singing and songwriting duo have been ministering around the world for 25 years. They are the founders of Heart for the World, Inc., a missions organization focusing on evangelism, as well as marriage and families. The Franklins also have recorded and released several CDs. (Photo by Dannah Prather)



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

- 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.
- 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.
- 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, Bardstown.
- 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

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SEEKING: Church secretary, proficient in Microsoft Office and church office procedures. 25-32 hours/week. Submit resumé by Apr. 1 to Farmdale Baptist Church, 1238 Durrett Lane, Louisville, KY 40213; or fbclou@bellsouth.net.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of music. Prefer degree in music and experience 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 Oak Hill Baptist Church. Located on Hwy 1517 in LaRue County, central Kentucky, the church is affiliated with Lynn Association. Send resumé to: Pulpit Committee, 4240 Oak Hill Road, Sonora, KY 42776; oakhillbaptistchurch@hotmail.com.

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 with "Minister of Music" for the subject.

SEEKING: Senior pastor. Hickory Grove Baptist Church, Independence, Ky. (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: Senior pastor for First Baptist Church of Florence, Ala. Masters-level seminary degree (SBC) or above, and five years experience as a pastor preferred. Send resumé to: fbcpastorsearch@gmail.com; or mail to: 209 N Walnut Street, Florence, AL 35630.

SEEKING: Part-time music minister for Brookside Baptist Church. Responsible for blended-style congregational worship, praise and choir discipleship. Send resumé to Pastor DeWayne L. Brewer, 1351 Wilmore Road, Nicholasville, KY 40356; or e-mail to dewayne@brookside-baptist.org.

SEEKING: Full-time Southern Baptist pastor for The Potter's House Baptist Worship Center in Smithland, Ky., a member of Ohio River Baptist Association of Southern Baptists. Submit resumé to PO Box 3520, Paducah, KY 42003-3520. Resumes will be accepted through 5-15-2010. www.PottersHouseBWC.org.

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: The Baptist State Convention of Michigan is seeking resumé for the position of executive director. The qualified applicant will be a visionary leader with administrative skills, have a minimum of a masters-level degree, pastoral experience and proven SBC denominational leadership. Please send all resumé to search@bscm.org by May 15.

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. Resumes will be received through April 15.

SERVICES: Web ministry. Spread the gospel and make disciples through the Web 24/7. www.hostmyministry.com.



The Rumor

By Todd and Michelle Deaton

On the basketball court, Craig Crab and Lenny Lobster were practicing jump shots. But Lenny got bored and started spinning the ball on his claw. Then Craig began pretending he could slam dunk. That's when he fell, and the tale began.

"Ouch!" yelled Craig as he crashed to the ground. He had tripped while attempting a "triple-reverse, behind-the-head slam dunk."

"What's wrong?" Lenny asked Craig, who was all crumpled over.

"I think I cracked my shell," Craig said, hobbling around.

Sunny Starfish was roller skating when she heard Craig's yell. She rushed to see what was wrong. "What happened?" she asked.

"Craig cracked his shell," Lenny replied, without taking his eyes off Craig.

"Oh," said Sunny. "What do you do for a cracked shell?"

"I don't know," Lenny said.

"I'll go get Seamore Seahorse," offered Sunny. "He'll know."

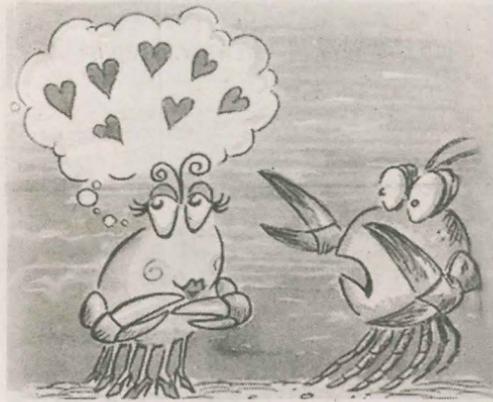
Sunny rushed to Seamore's house. She told him that Craig fell and cracked his shell. But that's not what he heard. What he heard

was "Craig has a crooked shell."

Seamore wasn't sure how to fix a crooked shell, but he ran to the basketball court. On the way, he passed Ollie Oyster.

"Why are you in such a hurry?" Ollie asked.

"Craig has a crooked shell," Seamore yelled as he sped past.



But that wasn't what Ollie heard. Seamore was huffing and puffing, and Ollie thought he said, "Craig has a hook in his tail."

Now everyone knows that crabs don't have tails. But Ollie didn't stop to think. He rushed to tell Clarice Clam.

Clarice was swinging when Ollie found her. "Guess what?" Ollie began. "Craig has a hook in his tail."

Clarice was singing as she was swinging, and that's not what she heard. She thought Ollie said, "Craig is in the hospital."

Syd Squid was helping her mother wash dishes when Clarice rushed into the kitchen. "Craig is in the hospital," she blurted out.

But Syd could not hear above the clatter of the pots and pans. She thought Clarice said, "Craig loves Crystal."

"He does?" Syd asked. But she didn't wait for Clarice to answer before she rushed to the phone and called Crystal Crab. "I know a secret," she teased. "Craig loves you."

"How do you know?" Crystal asked.

"Clarice told me," Syd replied. "Come on, let's go find Craig."

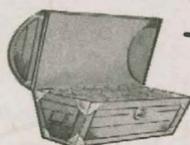
When Crystal and Syd caught up with Craig, all of the Cove Kids—except for Clarice, who had gone to the hospital to look for Craig—were on the basketball court.

All the way there, Syd had built up Crystal's hopes. When Syd bounded up, she gleefully sang out, "Craig and Crystal sitting in a tree, K-I-S-S-I-N-G ..."

"What?" asked Craig. "I don't love Crystal," he protested.

Crying softly, Crystal crawled into her shell, while Syd stammered, "But, but, but ..."

Though Craig has a hard shell, he also has a soft heart. He explained to Crystal that he did like her and wanted to be her friend. And the Cove Kids figured out how Craig had cracked his shell but wasn't hurt badly, and how the tale had become a wild rumor that hurt someone's feelings.



Treasure Hunt

What were some of the rumors that spread after Crusty fell? Whose feelings got hurt? How does gossip hurt others? Read Proverbs 16:28 together.

For Heaven's Sake



Preacher's Kids

David Ayers



Bible Crosswords

By Carole Stengel

Across

- 1 "Give me this ____" (John 4:15)
- 5 "____ of false prophets" (Matthew 7:15)
- 10 Jacque's friend
- 11 Noncommissioned officer, abbr.
- 12 Angry
- 14 "Behold the ____ of God" (John 1:29)
- 16 Small child
- 17 "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the ____" (Colossians 3:2)
- 20 "Cleanse your ____" (James 4:8)
- 24 Dessert
- 25 "Ye have not because ye ____ not" (James 4:2)
- 26 "Set thy ____ among the stars" (Obadiah 1:4)
- 27 New England state, abbr.
- 28 Abram's nephew
- 30 The son of Peleth (Numbers 16:1)
- 31 "God gave the ____" (1 Corinthians 3:6)
- 34 Ruth's second husband (Ruth 4:13)
- 35 Masculine pronoun
- 36 "At thy word I will let down the ____" (Luke 5:5)
- 37 "Every ____ shall see him" (Revelation 1:7)
- 39 Summer beverage
- 40 Alternating current, abbr.
- 41 "The ____ of those things is death" (Romans 6:21)
- 44 Spoken
- 46 "____ thy foot against a stone" (Matthew 4:6)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55
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- 48 God gave Joshua the victory over ____ (Joshua 8:1)
- 50 "Clothed in pure and white ____" (Revelation 15:6)
- 51 Nicodemus was a ____ of the Jews (John 3:1)
- 53 Alcoholic beverage
- 54 The Creator
- 55 "There is none good but ____" (Mark 10:18)

Down

- 1 "We ____ by faith" (2 Corinthians 5:7)
- 2 Japanese pearl diver
- 3 "Grace to help in ____ of need" (Hebrews 4:16)
- 4 Nurse, abbr.
- 5 "____ young men, and maidens" (Psalms 148:12)
- 6 "None is able to ____ thee" (2 Chronicles 20:6)
- 7 Relating or resembling, suffix
- 8 "Who giveth ____ upon the earth" (Job 5:10)
- 9 And, Lat.
- 13 Elevated trains
- 15 To immerse or dip in water
- 18 Smallest state, abbr.
- 19 "A ____ of babes" (Romans 2:20)

- 21 Largest state, abbr.
- 22 Dead letter office, abbr.
- 23 Genus, comb form
- 25 Score an A
- 26 "These were more ____ than those in Thessalonica" (Acts 17:11)
- 28 "If thou ____ this man go" (John 19:12)
- 29 "False ____ among you" (2 Peter 2:1)
- 32 Regarding, abbr.
- 33 The ____ is the word of God (Luke 8:11)
- 38 "Teach the ____ women" (Titus 2:4)
- 39 Louisiana's neighbor, abbr.
- 40 Preposition
- 42 "She put her hand to the ____" (Judges 5:26)
- 43 "Jesus saith unto them, Come and ____" (John 21:12)
- 45 "Paul the ____" (Philemon 9)
- 47 "____ to keep you from falling" (Jude 24)
- 49 Male sibling, for short
- 50 City in California, abbr.
- 52 International peace-keeping organization, abbr.



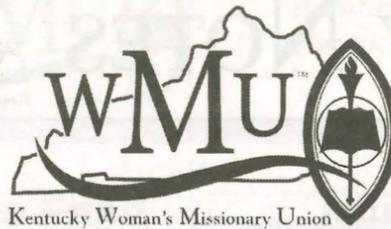
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throw this away?**

Didn't think so

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WESTERN
Recorder

KENTUCKY NOTES



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2010 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions

Theme: *Live with Urgency –
 Share God's Transforming
 Power*

Offering Goal: \$70 million

Kentucky Baptist churches
 gave a record \$2,038,632.93
 to the 2009 AAEO!

Can we exceed this in 2010?

Spring 2010

107th Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting April 9-10 at Westport Road Baptist Church, Louisville

Friday 10 a.m.

Theme interpretation – Kaye Miller
 Offering for Kentucky WMU
 ministries to missionaries
 Baptist Global Response, Susan
 Hatfield
 Called to Chile, Karen Wright

Friday noon – Heritage Fund
 luncheon honoring Patricia
 Reaves (box lunch by pre-
 reservation)

Friday 1:30 p.m.

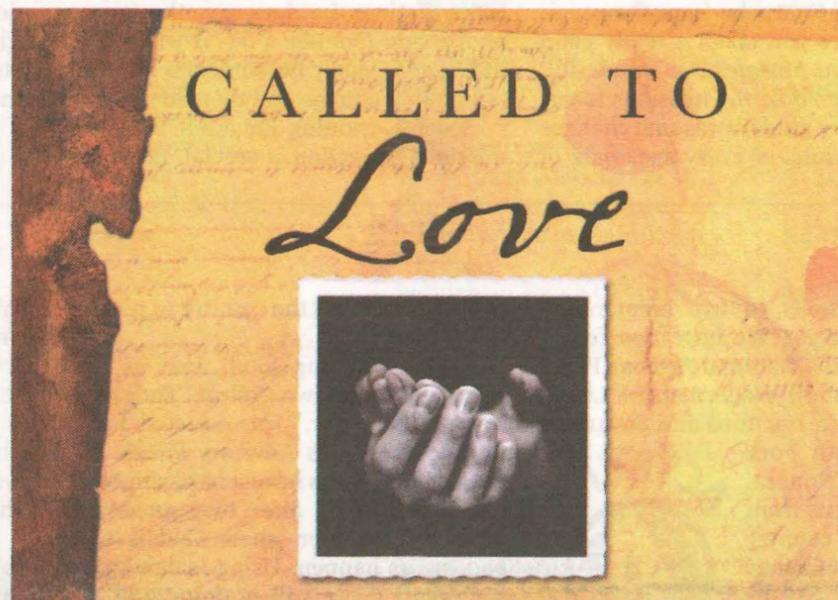
Theme interpretation, Kaye Miller
 Eliza Broadus Offering emphasis:
 Tim Bender, Missionary to the
 Deaf, Louisville
 Kentucky WMU business session
 Installation of officers & board
 Special recognition of Brenda Price

Friday 3 p.m.

Conferences/ministry project at the
 church
 Open house at Kentucky Baptist
 Building
 Reception honoring Brenda Price,
 Kaye Miller
 Missionary parents fellowship

Friday 6:45 p.m.

Concert, Westport Road Baptist
 Church Musicians
 Theme interpretation, Kaye Miller
 Greetings & Cooperative Program,
 Billy Compton
 Offering for Kentucky WMU
 ministries to missionaries



Called to Asia, Last Frontier
 Missionary
 Special Music, Korean Ladies Choir,
 New Life Baptist
 Called to Korea, Sook Jae Lee

Saturday 7 a.m.

Baptist Nursing Fellowship
 breakfast (by pre-reservation)

Saturday 9 a.m.

Theme interpretation, Kaye Miller
 Called to West Africa, David & Linda
 Jackson
 "Find it Here!" Larry Baker
 Offering for Kentucky WMU
 Ministries to Missionaries

Welcoming the World to Kentucky
 – The World Equestrian Games
 and AIM, Larry Martin, Pat Day,
 LaRaine Rice
 Closing & passing the gavel,
 Patricia Reaves

Saturday noon

Louisville ministries tour (by pre-
 reservation)

Music leader, Roxanne Nanney
 Pianist, David Headley
 Prelude will begin 10 minutes before each
 session (all times are EST)
 Annual meeting poster & information/
 registration form: www.kywmu.org/
 annualmeeting

A Personal Word

We have all been saddened by the earthquake in Haiti. Southern Baptists are responding. Your gifts through KBC Disaster Relief, IMB, Baptist Global Response, or the WMU Foundation HEART Fund, will all be used for long term recovery and shared with a gospel witness.



Joy Bolton
 Executive
 Director-Treasurer

I have mixed feelings about the retirement of Brenda Price, Associate Executive Director and Preschool/Children's Consultant for Kentucky WMU since 1982. I am happy for Brenda to retire in good health, but will miss her organizational skills, attention to detail, and her extensive knowledge of Kentucky WMU. Some changes in assignments for the Kentucky WMU staff

will be determined in the weeks ahead.

I am humbled by the request of past KBC President Dr. John Mark Toby, to serve on the Kentucky Great Commission Task Force. The Kentucky Great Commission blog is a great resource which includes the national and Kentucky task force developments. You can subscribe to www.greatcommissionky.com by email. Please pray for the Kentucky GC Task Force as we prayerfully seek to examine the work of the KBC to determine how we can work more faithfully and effectively together in serving Christ and fulfilling the Great Commission.

I am excited about the 2010 Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting. We will honor Pat Reaves as she concludes her term, honor our national president Kaye Miller who will conclude her term in June, and honor Brenda as she retires. We will elect a new president and recording secretary.

The 2010 meeting includes special interest conferences as well as open house at the Kentucky Baptist Building. We have great missionaries lined up. We will even have a Baptist Global Response report straight from the field. There is also a tour of Louisville area ministries on Saturday. For more information and to download a registration form, go to www.kywmu.org/annualmeeting.

Other opportunities with Kentucky WMU in the next few months include Associational WMU Leader Training, camps and overnights at Cedar Crest, overnights at Jonathan Creek, and summer training in Richmond and Henderson in July. I encourage you to attend the national WMU meeting in Orlando in June and stay for the SBC to hear the report of the GCR Task Force. The recommendations will be significant. You are also invited to attend the Women's Leadership Conference and Baptist World Congress, July 24-Aug. 1 in Hawaii.

Above all, let me say **thank you** for your response to the Eliza Broadus Offering. During these difficult economic times, your faithful giving has continued. The overage from the past two years is making a difference in evangelism and "Find it Here!" In January we exceeded our \$1.1 million goal for the 2009-10 offering which will allow us to fund additional ministries in the year ahead.

WMU bids farewell to retiring Brenda Price

Brenda Price, associate executive director and preschool/children's consultant, retired officially Feb. 28 after 27½ years on the Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union staff. She will be honored in April with a reception at the Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting.

Prior to joining the Kentucky WMU staff in 1982, Brenda was a school teacher. She served as GA leader and director in her home church, First Baptist of Bowling Green. Brenda also held several positions with Warren Association, including serving as a summer missionary for three summers and as Girls in Action Director. Though her responsibilities grew



Brenda Price

while with Kentucky WMU, Brenda retired from the same basic position she started with, Mission Friends and Girls in Action consultant. Because WMU began a coed children's organization in 1995, Brenda's position was expanded to include Children in Action, and her title changed to Preschool/Children's consultant.

For a period of about 22 months, from 1997 to 1999, Brenda also served as interim executive director for Kentucky WMU. She served admirably in that role, keeping the office running and giving oversight to the organization's work.

In 1999, the duties of associate executive director were added to her

continuing responsibilities with preschoolers and children. In that role, Brenda has helped supervise office staff and lead in planning such WMU training as S.A.L.T. for associational leaders and World Missions Unlimited for all leaders in the summer.

We are grateful for Brenda's faithful service in missions education and support. She has taught and encouraged many preschool and children's leaders, directed mother/daughter and GA overnights, organized training events, and much more.

We will miss her careful attention to small details as well as her years of memory of our work. We wish her the very best as she retires from Kentucky WMU, but continues in her service to the Lord and ministries with preschoolers and children.

Churchwide



I remember as a little girl thinking about the future, when you would have cars that you could tell where to take you to and you would not have to worry about it.

If I had known that idea would become reality I would have told someone who could invent it and then I could cash in on the Global Positioning System technology we have available now.

Technological advances have made it easy to have instant contact with anyone through email, social networking, Skype, etc. Just as these can help us with our work and keep us in touch with old and new friends, they also can be an asset to grow missions and mission education in your church.

Did you know that through Facebook you join the Children's Mission group and be in the know about Children's Ministry Day? How about being part of the Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union group? Kentucky Acteens? And a group called I'm a Friend of WMU.

You can get Twitter updates from missional leaders such as Ed Stetzer, who is also on Facebook. Adult women can connect through a website designed especially for younger women, www.mymissionfulfilled.com.

Are you promoting this in your church? If not, why not? It is a great approach to missions education for those who just don't have time for leading mission groups or being a part of a group. Be open-minded to less traditional methods of educating our churches about missions.

The Week of Prayer for North American Missions is upon us. Does your church have social networking groups, like on Facebook or a website, or staff who do? Do you use your personal email, Facebook account or Twitter to promote missions and missions giving? Perhaps encourage giving to the mission offering through these methods as well as the ones that are made readily available through the North American Mission Board and Kentucky WMU.

You can even set your GPS to get you to any mission gathering, anywhere such as Kentucky WMU's annual meeting at Westport Road Baptist Church in Louisville, April 9-10. Hope to see you there!

Blessings this spring!
Wanda Walker

Adults

Adults are creatures of habit. It has been said that there are two things that Baptists hate: "change" and "the same 'ole thing." That makes life difficult then, doesn't it? This applies in several ways to adults and missions education

First, this past year *Missions Mosaic* and *Women on Mission* leader materials made positive changes. However, the subscription for each of these **decreased** in the state of Kentucky from the previous year? Have you taken a really good look at *Missions Mosaic*? It is wonderful. The stories, the look, the missions focus, the daily prayer guide, awesome changes that engage adults of every age, walk of



life, culture and ethnicity. Also, the *Leader Helps and Handouts* is now *Women on Mission Planner*. This is an incredible guide for leaders of adult groups to engage their audience in Bible study, mission action, prayer time, and Shades of ReAd book club.

Yes, my friend, change is good. If you have stopped getting *Missions Mosaic*, it is time to start back up again. Some women spend more than the cost of a subscription for one meal. *Missions Mosaic* is delivered monthly, and the impact can last a lifetime. Leaders, give the *Women on Mission Planner* a try. It will make a difference. Don't be someone who just talks about change and then doesn't.

Second, training for adult leaders of missions education is crucial. Ed Stetzer

recently said, "When we stop learning about missions, we stop going on mission." Yet, for some reason, leaders of adult mission groups seem to not engage in learning new skills and putting them into practice. Not only is training like Kentucky's *World Missions Unlimited* a time to get training for associational and church leaders, it is a time to network and borrow ideas to help your church in adult missions and mission education.

Lastly, "we've always done it that way" is not always the most effective reason for doing things. Be creative. Try new things. Challenge yourself and others to not get stuck by wanting change and yet not moving away from the same 'ole thing.

Digging out of the rut with you!
Wanda Walker

Youth

Congratulations to five outstanding Kentucky Acteens! We have two representatives on the National Acteens Panel this year: Brandie Hagerman of Living Faith Baptist in Hartford and Savannah Hines of South Fork Baptist in Sonora. Only six Acteens from across the country received this honor. Brandie and Savannah will represent Acteens at the National WMU Missions Celebration in Orlando, have some input in Blume 2011, and will write for the Mag.

Three young ladies were named as Top Teens by National WMU: Bethany Bargo, Locust Grove Baptist in Barbourville; Lynzie Gray, Bethel Baptist in Harrodsburg; and Kayla Tomlin, Living Faith Baptist in Whitesville. Just 10 Ac-



teens from across the country to received this honor.

Exalt is coming soon! Join us April 16-17 at Georgetown College. The theme, "Scarred Warrior," was selected by the Kentucky Acteens Advisory Panel. They noticed that teens have a hard time coming back to God after they make mistakes and wonder where God is when bad things happen. Using Isaiah 53 and Ephesians 6, we will examine how God heals the hurts from relationships, insecurity and when bad things happen to us. Gayla Parker, former missionary and teen author, will be our speaker. Her testimony relates well to the theme, and will inspire. Danielle Harrison, who led worship at Exalt 2008, will lead us in worship again.

We will go to the Horse Park Saturday afternoon to prayerwalk and perform service projects. The park will host the

World Equestrian Games in September and October. More than 300,000 people from around the world are expected at the event. Pat Day will join us Saturday morning to tell us about ministries that will take place during the games.

New this summer is Acteens Overnight at Cedar Crest, June 18-19! Similar to Acteens Splash (being held June 25-26 at Jonathan Creek), the weekend event will be a relaxing retreat for Acteens.

It's not too early to begin planning for Blume, the national Acteens conference, July 13-16, 2011, at the Coronado Springs Resort at Walt Disney World. Details will be shared at Exalt, and you can visit www.blumeforgirls.com for more information.

LaRaine Rice



Preschool & Children

Preschool

With the bright days of spring comes a renewed commitment to involve more preschoolers in missions education. Your Mission Friends class cannot grow without continuous, intentional enlistment efforts. Use a variety of methods to show your interest in involving a preschooler in Mission Friends:

- Send the child a colorful card.
- Visit the child and parents in the home to share about Missions Friends. Take a copy of *Share* and a Mission Friends button to the prospective member.
- Invite Mission Friends members and prospects and their parents to get involved in Families on Mission. Share suggestions in the spring issue of *Start*.
- Create a spring bulletin board display in a prominent area in your church. Include the name or picture of each child in Mission Friends.

Be on the lookout. Big changes to Mis-



sion Friends curriculum materials are coming in Fall 2010. Learn more in upcoming issues of *Start* and at www.missionfriends.com.

Children

More than 15,000 children participated in Children's Ministry Day on Feb. 20. This special day was an opportunity for children to participate in hands-on missions. Children participated in a variety of housing-related ministry projects, related to the theme "Home Team. Children's Ministry Day enabled children to grow spiritually as they ministered to others and shared their faith through hands-on missions.

Visit www.childrensmissions.com to share your Children's Ministry Day story. Report your church's participation by **March 20**. This will be our way of finding out what churches have done in Kentucky as well as know who participated in our state.



Don't forget camp! Two state camps, Cedar Crest and Jonathan Creek, offer opportunities for all girls. In addition a special Express Week is offered for boys and girls at Cedar Crest. More information can be found on page 4 of this insert.

A Personal Note: After serving on the Kentucky WMU staff for more than 27 1/2 years as preschool/children's consultant (along with other responsibilities), I will begin a new chapter in my life on March 1: Retirement! Missions education has had a vital part in my life's journey. What a blessing it has been to blend my passion for children and missions into years of serving Kentucky Baptists. My commitment to missions education will not cease in retirement, as I look forward to new and exciting opportunities of serving the Lord. Thank you, preschool and children's mission leaders, for your call to love those precious in His sight as you lead them to know Jesus and His mission. Blessings to you as "we labor together with Him."

Brenda Price

President's Perspective

Many things have already happened in this new year! I was in Birmingham in January for the national board meeting. This is always a great time, seeing my WMU friends from around the country. This was the last board meeting for me as president of Kentucky WMU. We saw and heard all the new things that will be happening in 2010-11.



Pat Reaves
Kentucky WMU
President

We will have a new challenging theme as well as a new Project:HELP.

I am so proud of the Acteens in our state. Two of them have been chosen to be National Acteen Panelists for 2010, Brandie Hagerman and Savannah Hines. Congratulations to both girls! We also had three girls chosen as Top Teens: Bethany Bargo, Lynzie Gray and Kayla Tomlin. Way to go girls! I appreciate all of you who teach Acteens and invest in the lives of these young women. Plans for *Blume* will soon be announced. It will be an expensive trip, but one that could be life-changing. Plan to get them to Orlando in 2011!

Brenda Price retired in February from Kentucky WMU. Brenda has been a mentor and role model for many girls and women across the state. She personally encouraged me as a Mission Friends teacher. She also saw to it that I received training and then used me as a conference leader. Thanks, Brenda, for believing in me!

In January, the finance committee of Kentucky WMU gave over \$100,000 to ministries across the state of Kentucky. Many people are hearing about Jesus, babies are **not** being aborted, children are being tutored, people are receiving food and clothes, English is being taught, and many other good things are happening because **you** gave to the Eliza Broadus Offering. **Thank you!**

I am looking forward to our annual meeting in April. Many plans are already made. Kaye Miller will be with us to share from her book *Called to Love*. Kaye will touch your heart as she shares about growing up as a missionary kid. You will also have a chance to thank Brenda for all she has done for WMU. A reception will be held for Brenda and Kaye on Friday afternoon at the Kentucky Baptist Convention Building.

This is my last article as president of Kentucky WMU. Again let me say that serving as president has been a "beyond belief" experience. Thank you for all the memories! Remember to **love God, love others.**

Working together,
Pat

Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund Sept. 1—Dec. 31, 2009

The following persons were honored or remembered through gifts to the Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund during the last four months of 2009. Our thanks to each person who gave to the Heritage Fund in honor of or in memory of someone significant to you and WMU.

In addition, gifts for the 1000² Campaign for the Heritage Fund continue to come in. Pledge gifts may also be given in honor or memory of someone. You can still participate in the 1000² Campaign by making a pledge or gift today!

In Honor of:

Ida Mae Cummins

Melissa Mae Bean
Lisa Nickell & Greenup Assoc.
Dorothy Crace
Irene Pelfrey
Buck Grove WMU
Jason Oliver
Dr. & Mrs. H. T. Hambrick
Pat Reaves

Pat Reaves
Jamie, Brad & Jennifer Cooper

In Memory Of:

Vera Richardson
Margie Dick
Maria P. Pereira
Doris Roberts
Harriett Montgomery
Janice Davis
Janice Davis
Sam & Sallie Sutherland
Thelma Simpson Mengedoht
Velma Simpson Smith
Irene Adkins

Jane Brookshire

Donor:

Burks Branch Women on Mission
Denise L. Bean*
Pat Reaves
Pat Reaves
Andrea Cable
Patty Renfrow
Three Forks Association*
Chuck & Frankie Johnson
Adeleru Women on Mission group
Bethlehem Baptist Church
Shirley Taliafero
Jim & Linda Cooper

Donor:

Pulaski County Bapt. Assoc. WMU
Pulaski County Bapt. Assoc. WMU
Igna S. Davis
Wayne County Bapt. Assoc. WMU
Patty Renfrow*
Marcia Ballard
Boone's Creek Bapt. Assoc. WMU
Three Forks Association*
Carolyn G. Simpson
Carolyn G. Simpson
Friends Women on Mission Prayer Group,
FBC Hopkinsville
Marcia Ballard

* Toward pledge

1000² Campaign Contributions (includes \$1,000 gifts, pledge payments, and other campaign gifts):

- Parkway Baptist Women
- Hempridge Baptist Church WMU
- Twyla Sheffield
- Cheryl Hatfield
- Mary Williams Circle, Bethel Baptist Church
- Westport Road Baptist Church WMU
- Bettie Sue Wells
- Kentucky WMU Staff
- PGDL Circle, New Salem Baptist Church WMU
- Jo Pelham
- Bill & Charmaine Nichols
- Crestwood Baptist WMU
- Irma Woodrow
- Konnie Smith
- Max Sledd
- Pulaski Baptist Association WMU

Calendar

March

- 5-6** Creative Ministries Festival & Youth Missions Workshop, *Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville*
- 7-14** Season of Prayer for North American Missions & Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
- 12-13** Creative Ministries Festival & Youth Missions Workshop, *First BC, Bowling Green*
- 12-13** Women on Mission Regional Retreat, *Camp Schafer, Hawesville*
- 20** Hispanic WMU Event, *First BC, Shelbyville*
- 26-27** Kentucky WMU Resource Team, *Baptist Building, Louisville*

April

- 8** Kentucky WMU Executive Board Meeting, *Baptist Building, Louisville*
- 9-10** Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting, *Westport Road BC, Louisville*
- 15-17** Baptist Nursing Fellowship Annual Meeting, *Fort Worth, Texas, Radisson Hotel Fossil Creek*
- 16-17** Exalt, *Georgetown College*

May

- 15** Kentucky WMU State Associational Leadership Training (SALT), *Baptist Building, Louisville*
- 17** Women of Worth Lifestyle Evangelism Conference, *Severns Valley BC, Elizabethtown*
- 18** Women of Worth Lifestyle Evangelism Conference, *First BC, Somerset*

June

- 13-14** National WMU Missions Celebration Annual Meeting, *Orlando*
- 14-18** Mission Adventure Camp for girls, grades 3-6, *Cedar Crest*
- 15-16** Southern Baptist Convention, *Orlando*
- 18-19** Mother/Daughter Overnight, grades 1-3, *Cedar Crest*
- 18-19** Acteens Overnight, grades 7-12, *Cedar Crest*
- 21-25** Mission Adventure Camp for girls, grades 3-6, *Cedar Crest*
- 25-26** Mother/Daughter Overnight, grades 1-3, *Cedar Crest*
- 25-26** Mother/Daughter Overnight, grades 1-3, *Jonathan Creek GA, Overnight, grades 4-6, Jonathan Creek Acteens Splash, grades 7-12, Jonathan Creek*
- 26** Kentucky Baptist Nursing Fellowship Summer Meeting and Continuing Education Session, *Louisville*
- 28-30** Express Camp, boys & girls, grades 3-6, *Cedar Crest*
- 30-July 2** Express Camp, boys & girls, grades 3-6, *Cedar Crest*

Welcome new WMU groups in Kentucky

Welcome to the new WMU groups started September 2009 to January 2010:

Mission Friends

First BC Flatwoods
Lake Spring
Macedonia
Milton
Mt. Carmel
New Light
Parksville
Pleasant Hill
Pleasant Memorial
Upton

Children in Action

Central
First BC Carrolton
First BC Falmouth
Grand Rivers
Living Hope
Macedonia
Parkway
Pleasant Ridge
Westport Road

Acteens

New Light
Sparksville
Union

Girls in Action

Airline
Casky
First BC Flatwoods
Greensburg
Lake Spring
Meadow Hill
Milton
Mt. Olivet
New Light
Plainview
Pleasant Ridge
Upton
Vine Run
White Hall

Youth on Mission

First BC Falmouth
Mt. Olivet
Pleasant Green
Pleasant Memorial

Women on Mission

Beech Grove
Fairdale
First BC Falmouth
Greenview
Monroe
Pine Flat

Kentucky WMU trip opportunities

National WMU Annual Meeting & Southern Baptist Convention

Orange County
Convention Center
Orlando, Florida
June 11-17
Cost: \$400
Includes motorcoach
(from Louisville)
and hotel (double
occupancy)
[www.kywmu.org/
orlando](http://www.kywmu.org/orlando)

Women's Leadership Conference & Baptist World Congress

Honolulu, Hawaii
July 23-Aug. 2
See brochure for
details & pricing
[www.kywmu.org/
hawaii](http://www.kywmu.org/hawaii)

WORLD MISSIONS UNLIMITED 2010

July 16-17-First Baptist Church, Richmond
July 23-24-First Baptist Church, Henderson
(Please note the change in locations/dates.)
Friday, 6:30-9 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

How can YOU become a better missions leader in your church and/or association?

Attend workshops for basic training and strengthening leadership skills at World Missions Unlimited. Workshops for church leaders of all WMU organizations and Baptist Men on Mission (formerly Brotherhood) organizations will be provided. Those attending WMU conferences will receive a WMU Year Book. Participants in Baptist Men on Mission workshops will receive appropriate resources.

Sessions focusing on preschool, children, youth and adult areas will be available for leaders. During both days numerous workshops will deal with special areas of interest.

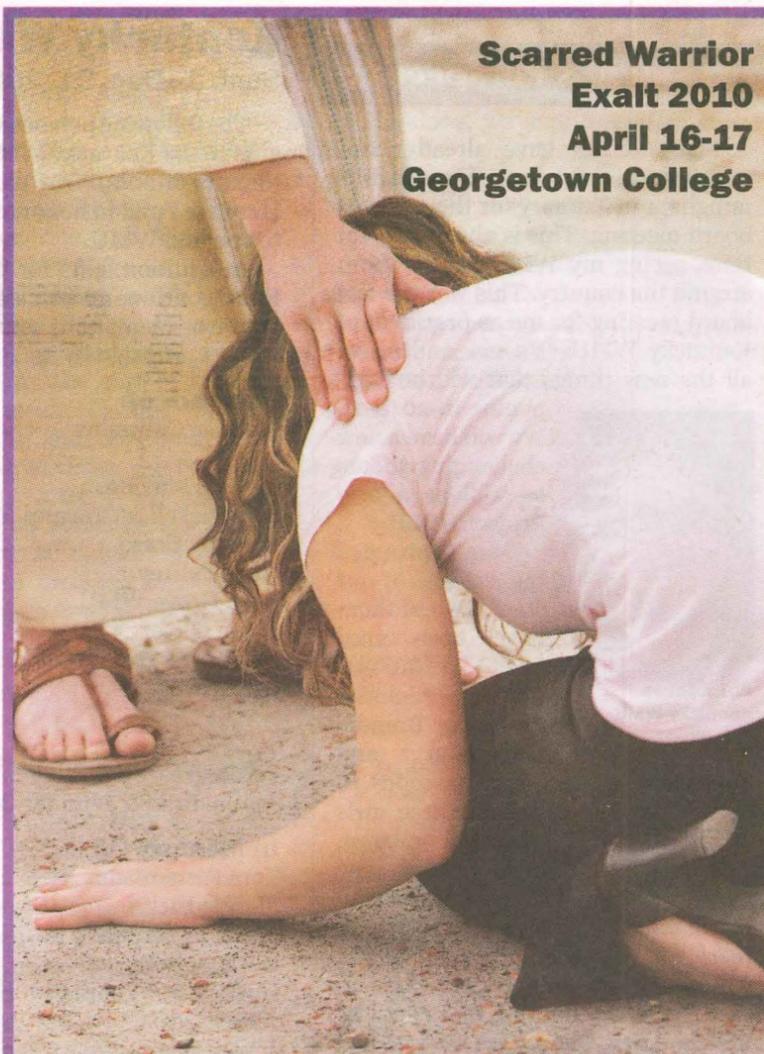
A special training track is designed for associational WMU leaders on Friday and Saturday. Associational leaders are encouraged to attend both days to receive the full benefit of this training.

Cost: \$5 per session (\$15 for all three)

- Friday Evening
- Saturday Morning
- Saturday Afternoon (includes lunch)

The registration deadline for Richmond is July 9; Henderson, July 16. Afterward, a \$7 fee will be added to the total cost.

Church/associational WMU leaders will receive registration materials in May. For more information, contact Kentucky WMU.



**Scarred Warrior
Exalt 2010
April 16-17
Georgetown College**

Kentucky Baptist Nursing Fellowship

Kentucky Baptist Nursing Fellowship offers Christian fellowship, service and growth to all medical professionals (active or retired) as well as medical students.

BNF is for those who want to pray for, give

and do medical missions.

Kentucky BNF welcomes all medical professionals to the meeting on Saturday, April 10, 7 a.m., at Westport Road Baptist Church in Louisville. Please register in advance.

Join teen girls for an exciting weekend as we discover a God who heals our hurts. On Saturday afternoon, we will go to the Kentucky Horse Park to volunteer & pray for those attending the World Equestrian Games. The closing worship service will feature Pat Day. For more information, go to page 2 of this insert and www.kywmu.org/exalt.

Register now for Kentucky WMU missions camp

Don't miss this summer's variety of camping events in two locations! Registration forms are now being accepted in the Kentucky WMU office. Please contact the WMU office or visit our website if you need registration materials.

Mission Adventure Camp, Cedar Crest

Enjoy the great outdoors as we learn about missions in Kentucky! Each group of 1-7 children attending Girls in Action Camp Express Camp and Acteens Overnight need to be accompanied by a church chaperone. Contact Kentucky WMU about discounted rates for Girls in Action and Express Camp chaperones.

Girls in Action Camps \$180*

June 14-18 girls in grades 3-6 and their chaperones

June 21-25 girls in grades 3-6 and their chaperones

Express Camps \$96*

June 28-30 boys and girls in grades 3-6 and their chaperones

June 30-July 2 boys and girls in grades 3-6 and their chaperones

New Acteens Overnight \$48*

June 18-19 girls in grades 7-12 and their chaperones

Mother/Daughter Overnights \$53*

June 18-19 girls in grades 1-3 and their moms

June 25-26 girls in grades 1-3 and their moms

*Early Bird rates (per person) through May 15.

Overnights at the Creek

Jonathan Creek June 25-26

Mother-Daughter Overnight, grades 1-3 and moms \$38*

GA Overnight, grades 4-6 and their chaperones \$44*

Acteens Splash, grades 7-10 and their chaperones \$48*

*Early Bird rates (per person) through May 23.

Live!
Love!



Camp staff needed

Applications for summer staff at Cedar Crest will be accepted until all positions are filled. Positions include: Fellowship Leader, Worship Leader, Crafts Leader, Missions Leader, Lifeguard, Technology Assistant, Recreation Leader Nature Leader and Kitchen Coordinator. Applicants should be high school juniors, seniors or college students.

Medical volunteers are also needed for each week of camp.

Please contact the WMU office for applications.

For more information, contact Stacy Nall, (502) 489-3454 or toll free (866) 489-3534, Stacy.Nall@kybaptist.org, www.kywmu.org.