

Shine  
like  
stars  
in the  
world  
Philippians 2:15

# WESTERN Recorder

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*"We don't talk about the Cooperative Program; we show what it accomplishes."*

## CP's results resonate loudly at Living Hope

By Karen Willoughby

**Bowling Green**—Pastor Jason Pettus points to results, especially when it comes to missions.

"We don't talk much about the Cooperative Program as a program," Pettus said. "We talk about the results of it. We talk about the half-dozen students we send to seminary every year. We talk about what we are able to do in our city and around the world through the (Southern Baptist Convention). We don't talk about the Cooperative Program; we show what it accomplishes."

Pettus, 37, pastor of Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green, was 28 when he was called in 2001 to lead the congregation. Worship attendance has grown from 1,500 to around 2,300 in conjunction with the church's increased emphasis on missions.

"We couldn't run a seminary and provide disaster relief and plant churches and reach the nations the way the Southern Baptist Convention does," Pettus emphasized. "The Cooperative Program allows what we give to go further than it could in our hands alone."

Living Hope Baptist Church, established in 1976, currently commits 10 percent of its undesignated offerings to missions through CP.

The church's missions focus includes Hope House, a nonprofit organization established in 2007 by—but separate from—the church to help area residents with physical, mental and spiritual needs.

"Hope House shares the gospel, helps existing and new churches grow, and shares resources with the poor," Pettus said. One example of its ministries: backyard Bible clubs for children throughout the summer.

Extending its missions reach across the United States, Living Hope "partners with church planters, NAMB, and (sends) mission teams to spread the gospel and help churches care for their cities," Pettus added. "We are hoping to begin planting more churches."

Living Hope also is involved internationally, with members of the church serving on three continents as missionaries with the IMB.

"We are partnering with them by sending teams to serve with them



*"The reason I'm on the field is so people who have never heard of Jesus have the chance to hear."*

## Southern Baptists celebrate Cooperative Program



throughout the year," Pettus noted. "We also are training and raising up new leaders to become IMB missionaries."

Pettus, who holds a D.Min. from Reformed Theological Seminary, is a teaching pastor for the multi-generational church. His Sunday morning messages are backed each week by a worship guide insert that includes "Four Christ-Centered Conversations with your Children" and multi-question study guides for teens and adults to use in mid-week small group Bible study settings.

"I sense God calling us away from being a consumer-driven church and more focused on being a missionary training and sending church," Pettus explained.

"The process begins with membership. We ask all our members to be involved in sharing their faith, in reaching their lost friends and family," Pettus said. "And we ask them to gather with a group to study God's word ... and to serve on mission somewhere in the church and outside the church."

The pastor added, "My personal passion is to make disciples who make disciples and raise up leaders who will touch the world."

□ See Bowling Green church ... *Page 6*

## IMB missionary from Kentucky lauds CP giving

By Kristie Randolph  
Kentucky Baptist Convention

**Louisville**—Elizabeth Warren has literally been around the world and back, thanks to many people she probably will never meet.

Warren has been serving as a missionary to Asia for the past seven years through the International Mission Board. As Southern Baptists prepare to celebrate Cooperative Program Sunday April 11, Warren is spending her stateside time visiting churches in order to thank them for their gifts.

A lifelong Southern Baptist, Warren was disciplined, educated and called to missions through ministries of the Cooperative Program. She now is an advocate for CP, seeking to help people understand how the program enables thousands of missionaries like her.

"The reason I'm on the field is so people who have never heard of

□ See Kentuckian is example ... *Page 6*

## CP pioneer Dodd remembered as champion of cooperation

By David Roach

**Nashville, Tenn.**—When the Southern Baptist Convention needed money for missions, it could always count on M.E. Dodd to champion the cause.

In 1919, for example, an SBC committee planned to recommend that messengers to the denomination's annual meeting launch a drive to raise \$50 million. But before the committee could deliver its recommendation, Dodd preached a sermon to the convention on fulfilling the Great Commission.

"We have arrived at the moment in our history for which our forefathers toiled and sacrificed and prayed," he said, "for which they suffered and bled and died. The Baptist hour of all the centuries has sounded. To waver now would be traitorous; to give up here would be a crime against all

the martyred blood of the heroes of the past."

Inspired at least in part by Dodd's address, messengers raised the objective of the drive from \$50 million to \$75 million. It became known as the 75 Million Campaign, and the sermon as the \$25 Million Sermon.

But that was only a small part of Dodd's work for Southern Baptists. He went on to serve as SBC and Louisiana Baptist Convention president, chair the committee that recommended the establishment of the Cooperative Program and initiate the SBC Pastors' Conference, serving as its president for 15 years. He also was a member of the committee that helped launch the school that would become New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Dodd was called as pastor of

□ See Dodd pioneered ... *Page 6*

## Annual Church Profile statistics

# Report reveals decline in all major ministry areas for 2009

By Drew Nichter  
News Director

Louisville—Kentucky Baptist churches last year reported a drop in all major ministry categories, including the fewest baptisms recorded in 13 years, according to the 2009 Annual Church Profile report.

A total of 15,327 new believers were baptized in Kentucky Baptist Convention churches last year, 488 (3.1 percent) fewer than in 2008. That number represents the lowest number of baptisms registered since 1996. Churches reported 15,359 baptisms that year.

With 2,114 churches reporting, baptisms were only one of the 12 major ministry categories that saw a decline in numbers for 2009. The percentage decreases ranged from slight—a 0.5 percent drop in undesignated receipts—to significant—a 14.5 percent decline in Woman's Missionary Union membership.

Meanwhile, total membership in Kentucky Baptist churches dropped off by nearly 10,000 members (1.3 percent), while those same congregations lost 6,020 resident members (1.1 percent) in 2009. Sunday school enrollment and attendance also dropped—2.6 and 3.4 percent, respectively.

Addressing why ACP statistics have shifted downward in all areas, KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey said part of it is the challenge for churches to maintain intentionality when it comes to evangelism and discipleship.

"Each church needs an intentional and relational plan for reaching out to the community and sharing the gospel," he said.

The baptism slump is particularly noticeable when considering it came in the final year of the five-year Kentucky Baptists Connect initiative. The plan, which began in 2004 and concluded last August, called for 125,000 baptisms by its conclusion—an average of 25,000 per year.

During the original five-year plan (a three-year extension began Sept. 1, 2009, downsizing the baptism goal to 20,000 annually), Kentucky Baptist churches reported 81,872 baptisms.

Last December, the Mission Advisory Committee that oversaw Kentucky Baptists Connect's original phase issued its final report regarding the baptism numbers.

"The bottom line is simply that we as Baptists are not being as faithful in sharing the gospel as we need to be," the committee stated in its report.

Mackey said he agrees with that assessment. However, the three-year extension goal of 20,000 baptisms per year is realistic and necessary, he stressed.

"We've set very challenging goals," he said, "but I believe we need challenging goals to help us keep the focus on the main thing."

Mackey said he is thankful for "every person who was birthed into God's family and baptized last year." He also pointed out that four churches that reported 475 baptisms in 2008 did not return their ACP forms in 2009. "Reporting is a concern every year," Mackey said.

### Will baptisms follow?

With Kentucky Baptists in the middle of Find It Here, quite possibly the most ambitious evangelistic campaign in the convention's history, Mackey said churches must focus on "basic biblical principles of faithfully proclaiming the word of God" in order to see increases in areas such as baptisms, membership and Sunday school attendance.

Find It Here is part of the national GPS (God's Plan for Sharing) campaign spearheaded by the North American Mission Board. Its goal is to reach all of North America with the gospel by 2020.

In Kentucky, about 1,670 churches in 68 associations are participating in Find It Here, Mackey noted. The effort's primary push focused on getting unchurched people into the pews of Kentucky Baptist churches on Easter Sunday last weekend.

Mackey said if Find It Here proves to be as effective as Crossover Louisville—which preceded last year's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Louisville—"I believe we will see a significant increase in worship and Sunday school attendance ... and that baptisms will follow."

Meanwhile, after 11 consecutive years of record undesignated receipts, Kentucky Baptist churches received \$1.66 million less in 2009, a 0.5 percent decrease.

Mackey said he was not surprised by the slight dip in receipts, noting that the

### Kentucky Annual Church Profile Statistics

Category	2009	2008	+/-	% +/-
Total membership	760,667	770,629	-9,962	-1.3%
Resident membership	541,887	547,907	-6,020	-1.1%
Total baptisms	15,327	15,815	-488	-3.1%
Other additions	13,683	14,522	-839	-5.8%
Worship attendance	251,505	255,238	-3,733	-1.5%
Sunday school enrollment	300,527	308,431	-7,904	-2.6%
Sunday school attendance	165,635	171,399	-5,764	-3.4%
Discipleship training	62,031	65,101	-3,070	-4.7%
Music enrollment	58,392	61,116	-2,724	-4.5%
Woman's Missionary Union	32,720	38,250	-5,530	-14.5%
Baptist Men on Mission	12,917	13,751	-834	-6.1%
Undesignated receipts	\$333,433,444	\$335,091,508	\$11,077,421	-0.5%

slumping economy has left most Christian entities with as much as a 6 percent drop-off in giving.

"I think the fact that there has been only a slight decline is an indication of the high level of commitment that Kentucky Baptists have for their local churches and the Great Commission," he said.

### WMU trends

Quite possibly the most surprising statistic from the ACP report was the decline in WMU membership. Kentucky Baptist churches reported 5,530 fewer WMU members from 2008 to 2009—a decline of 14.5 percent.

Kentucky WMU Executive Director Joy Bolton attributed the drop to a pair of trends she's noticed in Southern Baptist churches as a whole.

No. 1, Bolton said, is churches nowadays are doing the work of WMU (which she identified as missions promotion and education) on a "church-wide basis."

"Age-level groups have become a secondary approach or not done at all in many churches," Bolton pointed out.

The second trend is that of churches incorporating programs from a "variety of sources" to reach children and youth, she indicated.

"Some churches do incorporate mis-

sions into these programs, but these other programs are not reflected in WMU enrollment and do not provide comprehensive Southern Baptist missions education," Bolton explained.

"However, missions offerings are the strongest ever in Kentucky, which shows that churches still embrace praying and giving for missions," she added.

Bolton said she intends to do all she can to reverse those trends starting this week at the Kentucky WMU annual meeting in Louisville, challenging fellow WMU leaders to "repent of our apathy."

She also noted WMU's increased efforts "to help churches understand the long-term value of teaching Great Commission values to preschoolers, children and youth."

"Some question why missions education with children matters," Bolton said. "Would you wait until your children are adults to teach them about honesty or compassion? Whatever we want our children to value as adults must be taught from preschool up."

In other ACP areas, worship attendance declined from 255,238 to 251,505 (1.5 percent), while discipleship training fell by more than 3,000 (4.7 percent). Music enrollment and Baptist Men on Mission membership each declined as well—4.5 percent and 6.1 percent, respectively.

## Prayerwalk kickstarts Whites Run Association's outreach to local college

By Drew Nichter  
News Director

Carrollton—While prayerwalking a section of downtown Carrollton as part of its Find It Here efforts, a group from Whites Run Baptist Association stopped at the corner of 4th and Main Streets to pray.

The three-story building on that corner is the home of Jefferson Community & Technical College's Carrollton campus.

After praying over the building and the school's students, faculty and staff, Whites Run Baptist Association director of missions Bob Young asked a simple question:

"Wouldn't it be great if we could have an ongoing ministry here?"

The next day, Young took an informal survey of students to discover what needs they had. The answer: inexpensive meals.

Recognizing an opportunity for outreach, Young turned to the association's Woman's Missionary Union, which took action that very evening.

The WMU "decided in that meeting that we could take care of meals for (the students) for free," Young recalled. "They were wanting cheap food, and you can't get any cheaper than free."

"When a project is brought to us ... and we see the need, we go with it," said Debbie Lewellyn, WMU leader for Whites Run and First Baptist Church of Carrollton.

When midterm exams at JCTCS rolled around in early March, Whites Run Association, one of the smallest in the state with only 10 churches, stood ready.

About 25 WMU volunteers served about 250 free meals for test-weary students and faculty members. The meals were served at First Baptist, Carrollton, located about a half-block from the school.

The association also provided students with a quiet place to study at the church, as well as Find It Here brochures for those interested in learning more about the gospel.

The majority of the students who attend the Carrollton campus are adults who have families and who commute from as far away as 50 miles. About 300 students attend classes on campus, Young estimated.

In simply trying to meet a need for the busy students, Young said the school's administration also discovered an unexpected benefit of the midterm meals.

"This is the only time that these folks have had time to really fellowship with

each other," Young was told.

The midterm event was so successful, Whites Run Association churches and JCTCS have plans to partner together yet again in the coming weeks.

The association will be serving food at the school's annual Spring Fling picnic April 20. Then, as the dreaded finals week comes around in early May, Whites Run volunteers again will be ready to serve hundreds of meals to students and faculty.

Young called the new outreach a "servanthood ministry to be done in Jesus' name and for His glory," adding that "hopefully some of the local churches may see some students come in to their fellowship as a result."

Although the JCTCS Carrollton campus has been around since 1990, Young said he could not recall outreach like this being done for students.

In speaking with a JCTCS staff member about plans for the upcoming Spring Fling, Lewellyn said she apologized for not reaching out to the campus sooner.

Tammy Collins, a JCTCS staff member who has helped coordinate the Whites Run outreach, said the students and facul-

ty have expressed much gratitude for the meals. She also was surprised that it hadn't happened before now.

"Hindsight's 20/20, so of course because it was so successful, we look back and think, 'Why didn't we do this before?'" said Collins, a member of Worthville Baptist Church.

The fledgling campus outreach also has spawned other ministry opportunities. A JCTCS professor who leads a student Bible study at the college's Shelby County campus now is exploring the idea of doing the same at the Carrollton campus.

Also, Young said he has been contacted by the director of the Carrollton nursing program. She wants to partner with Whites Run Association in lining up public-service projects for nursing students to fulfill their community service requirements.

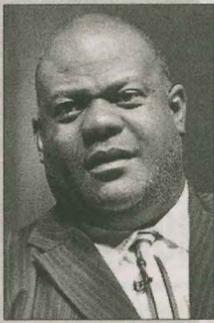
Young said the JCTCS outreach still is in its infancy, but he expects it to grow as the association finds ways to minister to students.

"We're just seeing how the Lord is leading us," Young said. "We're kind of brainstorming and trying to find where God's working and join Him."

## McKissic: It is time for SBC to elect a black president

Arlington, Texas—A prominent African-American pastor says it is time for the Southern Baptist Convention to elect its first black president.

Dwight McKissic, pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church in Arlington, Texas, said in a blog March 31 that in order to achieve a "Great Commission resurgence" to make the denomination more effective, the convention founded in 1845 to defend slavery should first undo a "great repentance resurgence" by electing someone representative of the people groups that Southern Baptists hope to reach.



Dwight McKissic

McKissic, a former trustee of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, suggested Fred Luter, pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans, as an ideal candidate for the job.

McKissic said by phone that he has discussed the idea with Luter, but he doesn't know if Luter would allow his name to be placed into nomination. Luter did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

McKissic said he also was supporting Troy Gramling, lead pastor of Flamingo Road Baptist Church in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., as president of the SBC Pastors' Conference, which precedes the annual meeting scheduled June 15-16 in Orlando, Fla.

McKissic said some bloggers have opposed Gramling, the only announced candidate for the post so far, because of his church's relatively low percentage of Cooperative Program support and the fact that his church has a female minister on staff.

McKissic said he does not believe Gramling's views on women in ministry fall beyond parameters of the SBC's 2000 revision of its doctrinal statement, the Baptist Faith and Message, but he contends that more is at stake than personalities.

"The SBC must repent of systemic, institutionalized and historic negative attitudes toward women, race and dissenters," he wrote. "When we repent of our sins and turn from our wicked ways, then God will forgive our sins and heal our convention and anoint us to go forth with power in carrying out the Great Commission." (ABP)

## Great Commission Resurgence

# GCR report concerns western execs

By Joe Westbury  
Georgia Christian Index

Denver—Executive directors from nine Southern Baptist state conventions in the West and Canada have told the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force that the committee's proposed restructuring of the North American Mission Board would severely curtail their ministries.

Leaders from California, Colorado, the Dakotas, Kansas/Nebraska, Montana, New Mexico, the Pacific Northwest, Utah/Idaho, Wyoming, and Canada met in Denver last month to discuss and share concerns regarding the "progress report" released by the task force Feb. 22. Task force chairman Ronnie Floyd of Springdale, Ark., and member Roger Spradlin of Bakersfield, Calif., attended the meeting to field questions and solicit feedback for the committee.

Following the meeting, Bill Crews, executive director for the Northwest Baptist Convention, said the group decided to draft a document addressing their concerns, particularly how dissolving the "cooperative agreements" between NAMB and the state Baptist conventions would affect the work of smaller conventions" such as those in the West and Canada.

"We all felt the meeting had been productive in that we were able to express our concerns about certain sections of the report," Crews said. "We were also able to hear some of the GCR Task Force's reasoning behind the recommendations in the report."

The group responded to a request from Floyd to make written suggestions "as to how the task force's preliminary report could be improved or changed to help further the cause of addressing the issue of the increasing lostness of North America, particularly in the West and Canada," Crews added.

The state executives are hoping their suggestions will be reflected in the final report when it is released May 3.

Baptist state conventions currently operate under agreements with NAMB in which Cooperative Program funds are returned to each state convention for missions and ministry. Those understandings, known as cooperative agreements, would be phased out over a four-year period until NAMB would be free to unilaterally appoint missionaries, rather than through shared funding with the states.

The task force report stated that "it is understood that state conventions will manage their budgets accordingly," meaning they would be responsible for funding missionaries reassigned by NAMB.

Several western state conventions have gone on record as saying such an agreement would severely curtail their ministries since they are largely dependent on NAMB funding for their ministries.

Joseph Bunce of the Baptist Convention of New Mexico expressed concern over the GCR report in a first-person column released by Baptist Press Feb. 25. Bunce noted that at the end of the cooperative agreements, "NAMB jointly-funded missionaries would be under the direct supervision of NAMB, rather than the state conventions they have historically served. This is huge for New Mexico and is a death sentence for other western state conventions."

Bunce said in the article that while he agrees with "the diagnoses of our spiritual malady," he does not agree with the "prescriptions" listed in the initial report.

### Work 'dismantled'?

It would be even worse in Montana, said that convention's executive director, Fred Hewett. He noted the convention will lose \$903,000 in funding once the partnerships come to an end.

The task force report, if approved as it now stands, "will dismantle 50 years of Southern Baptist missions work in Montana," Hewett told Lonnie Wilkey, editor of the Baptist and Reflector, newsjournal of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Tennessee and Montana currently are engaged in a missions partnership.

The Montana convention has 11 missionary staff members, including those in associational missions and church

strategists. If the task force's report is adopted as it is now written, "I would lose all 11 staff members," Hewett told Wilkey.

And just as important, Hewett added, "We would lose the ability to personally craft and implement what we believe could be a Great Commission strategy in Montana." The task force report presumes "a new plan will be more effective to accomplish the Great Commission in Montana than what we have," Hewett added.

One of the problems Hewett has with the task force report is that no one has asked him or anyone else in the state convention if what they are doing is effective. He also feels the report is a "condemnation" of all new work areas. "It presumes that we in the field do not understand and are not effective in doing Great Commission work," Hewett charged. (BP)

*The GCR Task Force's proposal to end cooperative agreements would be a "death sentence" to state conventions in the West and Canada, according to Joseph Bunce, executive director of the Baptist Convention of New Mexico.*

## Trio of Kentucky Baptists named to SBC's Resolutions Committee

Orlando, Fla.—SBC President Johnny Hunt has named the members of the Resolutions Committee who will serve during the June 15-16 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Orlando, Fla.

Hunt named Russell Moore as committee chairman. Moore is dean of the school of theology and senior vice president for academic administration at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He also is a teaching pastor at Highview Baptist Church in Louisville.

Kentucky Baptists joining Moore on the committee are Kevin Smith, pastor of Watson Memorial Baptist Church in Louisville, and Stephen Wilson, vice president for academic affairs at Mid-Continent University in Mayfield.

Both Russell and Smith served on last year's Resolutions Committee.

The other committee members are:

- Kie Bowman, pastor of Hyde Park Baptist Church in Austin, Texas.
- Gary Crawford, pastor of Westside

Baptist Church in Gainesville, Fla.

- Mike Daniels, campus pastor of the Church at Pinnacle Hills in Rogers, Ark.

- Paul Fleming, executive pastor of Forestville Baptist Church in Travelers Rest, S.C.

- Paul Jimenez, associate pastor for global missions at Johnson Ferry Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga.

- Jim Law, pastor of First Baptist Church of Gonzales, La.

- Shane Russell, pastor of Shoal Creek Church in Deatsville, Ala.

Proposed resolutions may be submitted as early as April 15 but no later than 15 days prior to the annual meeting, giving the committee two weeks to consider submissions.

Also, resolution proposals must be accompanied by a letter from a church qualified to send a messenger to the SBC annual meeting certifying that the individual submitting the resolution is a member in good standing. No individual will be allowed to submit more than three resolutions per year. (BP)

## BAPTIST DIGEST

**Georgia Baptists target woman-led church**—The Georgia Baptist Convention is again poised to cut ties with a historic member congregation over the issue of women in ministry. Graham Walker, co-pastor along with his wife, Mimi, of Druid Hills Baptist Church in Atlanta, said recently he learned the state convention's executive committee is recommending that messengers to this year's annual meeting withdraw fellowship from the congregation. The move is recommended because the church is in violation of an article in the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message that states the role of pastor is for men only. GBC Executive Director Robert White reportedly told Graham Walker in a January meeting that the convention "no longer" accepts autonomous churches that choose to call a woman as pastor.

**Harold Cole, former S.C. exec, dies**—Harold Cole, 90, executive secretary of the South Carolina Baptist Convention from 1970-82, died March 29 in Lexington, S.C., following a period of declining health. During his tenure with the South Carolina convention, 128 new churches were started and church membership grew by 85,000. Cooperative Program giving increased from \$5.3 million in 1970 to \$16 million in 1982. Cole was elected executive secretary of the SCBC in 1969. He previously had

served the convention as assistant general secretary from 1962-69. He also served as state student director both in South Carolina and North Carolina.

**Longtime Southern prof Mueller dies**—A second-generation Baptist theologian who taught during three decades at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary died March 26 in Texas. David Mueller was 80. He moved to Kerrville, Texas, after retiring from the seminary in Louisville in 1995. He was a graduate of Southern Seminary. He began his teaching career at Baylor University before being named professor of theology at Southern in 1961.

**CORRECTION**—In the March 23 WR story "Ga. pastor Wright to be nominated for SBC president," Johnson's Ferry Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga., of which candidate Bryant Wright is pastor, had designated 10 percent of church receipts to the Cooperative Program. Since 1997, the church has designated 3 percent of that 10 percent to the International Mission Board and the remaining 7 percent to the CP through the Georgia Baptist Convention. In 2003, the church changed its distribution to 5 percent each. Last year, Johnson's Ferry gave only 7 percent of its receipts, reportedly due to the down economy, contributing 3.5 percent to each.

**Vision for the Harvest**

I was recently asked to share a message called "Vision for the Harvest," based on Matthew 9:35-38. As I reflected on the compassion of Jesus in this passage, I was reminded that this is what Good Friday and Easter are all about.

**Partners in the Mission**

By Bill Mackey

I am convinced that we would have a compelling and captivating vision for the harvest if we could, through the Holy Spirit, see what Jesus saw, feel with His compassion and be absolutely convinced of the power of the gospel to transform lives. We would pray for the Lord of the Harvest to send laborers into His harvest and be willing to urgently enter the harvest with absolute surrender to God (Matthew 10).

Find It Here is a great example of what can happen when God's people pray and get a vision for the harvest. Baptists all over this great commonwealth have been fanning out to distribute the gospel to as many homes as possible.

Little Flock Baptist Church in Louisville was one of the many churches to participate. Under the leadership of the church's new pastor, Rodney Alexander, more than 100 teams distributed the gospel to more than 10,000 homes on a recent Sunday.

Volunteers haven't limited their visits to homes, though. Harold Riley, a Mission Service Corps missionary and chaplain at the Kentucky State Penitentiary in Eddyville, led volunteers to distribute the gospel to 900 inmates. Randy Foster, director of the KBC's Baptist Men on Missions Department, reported 16 professions of faith from that distribution, including several by men on death row.

What could happen if a local church were to continue to pray for homes and invite people to church? In Genesis 19 and 20, we read that 10 people could have made a huge difference in the city of Sodom as Abraham was interceding on behalf of Lot and his family.

Ten people could also make a huge difference in your church and community if they would work together to bring just 20 people to church regularly. At least 10 of those 20 could be expected to bring an additional three people within one year due to family connections and excitement over their faith and church.

This means that having just 10 people praying and reaching out can result in 50 new people attending in just a year's time.

"Reach" is the follow-up plan to Find It Here being used to help assimilate new people into the church through Sunday school. Sunday School High Attendance Day is scheduled for April 18. This is a great opportunity to bring someone with you next Sunday.

I praise God for what He is doing through the Find It Here process.

*Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.*

**Trees and people: known by one's fruits**

Will Rogers, the famous humorist, comedian and vaudeville performer, once claimed, "I never met a man that I didn't like." Well, as a boy, I never saw a tree I didn't like. And, like most rambunctious boys, I probably tried to climb every one I saw. But in our old yard in Greenville, S.C., we had one that no one in my family liked much.

No, it wasn't a barren or ugly tree. It was a very shady tree. In fact, it had lots of beautiful leaves, especially when they turned a fiery orange hue. Trillions of them fell each fall, making raking our yard an endless chore from October through December. Even worse, though, were the brown, hard, spiky gumballs that littered the ground.

According to that collaborative collective of colloquial knowledge, Wikipedia, some people refer to the woody balls of the sweetgum tree as "bir balls," "sticky balls," "space bugs," "ankle biters" or "conkleberries." I'm not sure about space bugs—unless it is because they look alien or resemble a meteorite—but I like that last one. It aptly describes the sound that one makes when it bounces off the top of your head, sometimes leaving a tender spot.

If I had known then what I know now, I would have cut that tree down when we first moved into the house a decade or so earlier while it was still small. In the spring, when my daughter longed to run barefoot through the newly sprouting grass, she had to be wary of a heel full of spurs. Summer mowing almost inevitably resulted in a smarting whelp across my shin from a spiky projectile hurled by the whirling blades. In the fall, when my son's friends gathered to play touch football, they unsuccessfully sought to avoid the agony of a half-buried spiky ball scraping across a knee or the palm of a hand. A snowball fight in the winter is loads of fun, but a gumball fight? That's just cruel!

When hundreds of these balls were strewn across the yard, someone had to rake up as many as possible and put them into garbage bags to be hauled away. That someone was me. Yow! Can you feel my pain? The memory of raw hands scars me even to this day.

What is amazing to me, however, is that botanists sometimes speak of these fiendish objects as the "fruit" of a sweetgum tree. Fruit? Fruits are supposed to be delicious. Oranges, apples, bananas and pears are fruits. Even sour lemons and limes qualify since they can be made into pies covered with meringue. Not this. Don't try eating this infernal fruit; you'll wind up with a sore mouth and a powerful bellyache.

I don't think that Jesus had a sweetgum tree in mind in Matthew 7:17-19, but it definitely illustrates His point well: "...every good tree produces good fruit, but a bad tree produces bad fruit. A good tree can't produce bad fruit; neither can a bad tree produce

good fruit. Every tree that doesn't produce good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." In essence, He was comparing people to trees: You can tell the good ones by the good things their lives produce.

As Southern Baptists, I believe that one of the best ways that others can see we are God's people is by the good fruit—missions and ministries—produced through the Cooperative Program. In Haiti, for example, Coy Webb, disaster relief associate for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, reports that 59,000 already have accepted Christ as a result of our work there following the devastating earthquake. Similarly, Baptist work in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina not only restored homes, but also impacted countless lives for Christ.

Beyond meeting immediate needs of hurting people, the Cooperative Program places thousands of missionaries in countries around the world through the International Mission Board and in cities and towns across our nation through the North American Mission Board. The Cooperative Program also provides seminaries to equip church leaders and missionaries, and it has built universities with strong campus ministry centers that mentor students in Christian values to impact their campuses now and their workplaces tomorrow. The Cooperative Program staffs camps and retreat centers to reach and disciple children and youth. And, the Cooperative Program helps care for patients at Baptist hospitals and sends teams of medical and dental personnel to volunteer at health clinics in impoverished areas. That's just for starters.

Ashley Clayton, associate vice president for stewardship with the SBC's Executive Committee, asserts: "For Southern Baptists, being 'on mission' is a hallmark of our denomination. Whether you talk about North America's urban centers, the unreached people groups in south Florida, Texas, California and New England or the remote areas of the Northwest, you'll find Southern Baptists in rock-solid conviction that God has called us to preach the gospel, start churches and change lives. And when it comes to international missions, Southern Baptists are unparalleled and galvanized in their commitment to go everywhere in the world to preach the gospel. Clearly, Southern Baptists are all about missions, and for the most part we are in agreement that the Cooperative Program is the best strategy out there."

Southern Baptists have much to celebrate April 11 on Cooperative Program Sunday. Jesus said His followers are not just to bear good fruit; they are to bear much fruit: "This is to my father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples" (John 15:8). Through the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists are bearing much fruit.

**After Thought**

By Todd Deaton

**Audit work group finds KBC agencies, institutions sound**

The audit work group of the Kentucky Baptist Convention mission board's business and finance committee met Dec. 15, 2009, to perform its annual review and evaluation of the financial condition and practices of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's affiliated entities and its mission board as reflected in their 2009 audited financial statements.

This annual audit review process is an important way Kentucky Baptists receive an accountability report from the convention and its affiliated entities. Kentucky Baptists can be pleased that this procedure exists whereby the convention and its institutions and agencies can give an accounting of the stewardship of the resources entrusted to them.

These entities include Camp-

bellsville University, University of the Cumberlands, Georgetown College, Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Oneida Baptist Institute, Kentucky Baptist Assemblies, Sunrise Children's Services, Baptist Healthcare System, Woman's Missionary Union, Western Recorder, Kentucky Baptist Foundation and the Kentucky Baptist Mission Programs and Subsidy.

Kentucky Baptists also can be pleased and encouraged with the sound financial condition and stability of the institutions and agencies and the level of cooperation demonstrated by them.

The work group complimented the board and administrative leadership of the convention and each of its affiliated entities. Kentucky Baptists are encouraged to increase their support of these institutions

and agencies prayerfully and financially.

Members of the audit work group were: chairperson Charles Barnes (Louisville), Larry Harder (Leitchfield), Larry Hill (Williamstown), Luke Hutcherson (Frankfort), Benny Joe Phelps (Lanesville), Business Manager Lowell Ashby, Accounting Services Director Cathi Roy-Sanders, Accounting Services Senior Accountant Tonya Penick, Executive Associate Steve Thompson and Executive Director Bill Mackey. In addition, a certified public accountant met with the group.

The work group's report was made to the full business and finance committee on March 23 and approved.

*Charles Barnes, chairperson  
KBC audit work group and  
business and finance committee*

**WESTERN Recorder**

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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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## Spring cleaning tips for youth ministry leaders

By Joe Ball

It must be spring because all the newspaper and television ads are for cleaning products. Even the comics I get e-mailed to me every day have references to spring cleaning. With that I began to think about how that relates to youth ministry. That isn't unusual; I can usually relate most everything to youth ministry. So from the home office in Zoneton, here are the top 10 ways I relate spring cleaning to youth ministry.

**1 Clean your office.** If you know me and have been to my office, you are bursting out in laughter now. At Edgewood, I cleaned the week before D-Now and anytime I knew my parents were visiting. At the Kentucky Baptist Convention building, I do it the week before the Mission Board meets. It has to be done, so why not now? Throw away the camp and mission trip brochures (deadlines to sign up have already passed); file the paperwork; dig the candy wrappers out of the love seat in the office; get the stuff off the floor.

**2 Back up your computer files.** It's going to crash sometime. Why not go ahead and back up your files now and take the backup off site? That way when it does crash, you won't be out of five year's worth of work.

**3 Clean out your car.** I know it's your mobile office, but the Diet Mountain Dew bottles rolling around under the seats are crying out for help. Get the ski trip and winter retreat stuff out of the trunk. You know you're going to need that room for your softball equipment and your golf clubs anyway.

**4 Update your contact list.** The e-mail address for Johnny's parents changed nine months ago, and every time you e-mail something to all the parents, that one always bounces back. Every month you say, "You know, I really need to change that one." Now is the time.

**5 Clean the youth space.** Last year's camp poster was a great way to promote camp last summer, but it has served its purpose. Same with last quarter's Sunday school pic-

tures. Keep looking. There are probably old Sunday school quarterlies and handouts from last month's Wednesday night teaching time, as well as sign-up sheets for events long since held. Don't forget the CD player that doesn't work and all those discs without their cases. It's OK, they have served their purpose.

### Youth Ministry Corner



Joe Ball

**6 Take the borrowed stuff back.** The director's box you borrowed for the band, the hymnal from the choir room, the hula hoop from the children department, the towels from the baptistery, the broom from the custodian's closet, the markers from the preschool department, the chair from the senior ladies class, the half-inch wrench from the bus garage—they all need to go back. They are missed by their owners.

**7 Clean the closets.** The game with half the pieces missing, the old flashlight batteries you just laid down when you put the new ones in, the set from the drama 10 years ago that found its way to the youth storage area, the dried-up markers, and

the random things left by students at camp and retreats—they can all go.

**8 Make a trip to Goodwill.** The old D-Now, retreat, camp and youth group T-shirts—they all go. So can the clothes and sleeping bags that don't belong to anybody but were left on the bus after youth trips.

**9 Wash the inside of your coffee cup.** I know there is nothing like coffee out of your favorite cup—and most days you rinse out yesterday's coffee with hot water before you put today's coffee in it—but it's time. There's a fungus in there that not even the scientists at Harvard can identify.

**10 Renew your spirit.** Spring brings a time of refreshing to the world. Take some time to renew your soul. Go take a hike, fly a kite, throw a baseball or take a nap in a hammock. Do something to renew your soul. Summer is coming and we need to get ready.

Joe Ball, a former youth minister at Edgewood Baptist Church in Hopkinsville, is youth strategist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

## 'My daughter needs a husband'

By James Stillwell

**Q: My daughter and her 6-year-old daughter really need a man in their life. I've supported them ever since my daughter's divorce. I think it would help to have a man by her side. What do you think?**

**A:** Be careful that you do not project your needs onto your daughter. You may not realize what you're saying is that you need her to have a man in her life. Think differently: Perhaps your daughter's greatest need is for healing from the pain of the divorce and to grow to become an independent woman.

Help your daughter find a good lawyer or mediator to help her through whatever legal issues are required. "A man in her life" might possibly be the last thing she needs. As long as they're in the legal system, they need a professional who has their best interests in mind.

Help your daughter to emotionally and spiritually recover from the divorce. Get her a good, licensed therapist/counselor. Get her into a divorce recovery workshop or support group. Through these means, she can gain strength to face whatever comes because she will be able to separate out the marriage/forgiveness issues from the parenting/legal issues. As a grandparent, it might help you to seek a licensed counselor to take care of your own needs for venting and processing.

Help your daughter find a support system. A church with a loving, strong ministry to the single-again and single-parent families would go a long way toward helping her find a loving community. A Christian support system helps take the edge off feelings of aloneness.

When enough time and intentional work toward healing have taken place and she is ready to enter the "dating scene" again, counsel her to have great discernment. Most relationships entered into too quickly after divorce are "rebound" relationships—not built to last.

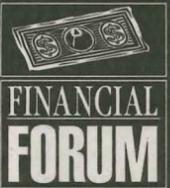
James Stillwell is minister to singles at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington. E-mail: james@ibs-lex.org.



## Preparing a layoff disaster plan

By Jeremy White

The ice storm of 2009 and the earthquake in Haiti in 2010 reminded us of the need for emergency plans. The economic recession reminded us of the importance of emergency plans when the primary source of income—your job—is threatened.



In Proverbs 22:3, Solomon says, "A prudent man sees danger and takes refuge, but the simple keep going and suffer for it." With unemployment hovering around 10 percent, a prudent person should include the following in the "layoff disaster plan."

**■ Build and maintain emergency savings.** In a nutshell, Solomon gave the financial principle for maintaining a reserve, or an emergency savings account. Most financial planners recommend at least three to six months of living expenses. Know what new expenses you would have to pick up after a layoff, such as insurance, and save for them.

**■ Adjust living expenses now.** Learn to live on less than you make so that any forced adjustment from a layoff would be less painful. As aptly said in Proverbs 21:20, "In the house of the wise are stores of choice food and oil, but a foolish man devours all he has."

**■ Sharpen career skills.** Finish a degree, take continuing education classes, develop contacts. Do all you can to be a valued employee at your current job.

**■ Obtain a home equity line of credit.** If you have sufficient equity, establishing a line of credit while you have a job is much easier than without one. If a layoff occurs and your emergency savings are exhausted, you could have this line of credit to draw upon for basic needs.

**■ Consider building other sources of income.** Develop hobby skills into a business, teach lessons, start a second job.

Layoffs and emergencies are not always within your control. As tough as they can be, they can also be used by God to increase your faith in His provision and to redirect our plans. Prepare the best you can, but continue to trust in God's supply and faithfulness.

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

## Voice of healing needed for a generation in pain

By Terry Dorsett

Life can be painful. A few months ago I spoke to a large group of teenagers who had gathered for a youth rally. Though I did not know all the teenagers there, I knew enough of them to know it was a room full of pain.

The "normal" painful things were represented, such as broken homes and financial needs. But there were also five teenagers present who had lost at least one parent to death. There were teens who had been physically abused as well as some who had been sexually abused. At least one bounced from house to house, never quite knowing where "home" is any particular week. A number lost friends in car accidents or a tragic house fire.

Several of those present were struggling with addictions in their own lives or in the lives of their parents.

There were at least two "cutters" in the group and at least three who were struggling with their sexual identity.

Wow! What a lot of pain for one room. Whatever happened to teenagers just hanging out and being kids?

Speaking to that group reinforced in my mind that this is a generation of pain. They are a generation of broken families and emotional problems. They are the first generation that will likely be less well off than their parents. They are inheriting an economy that is in shambles, morality that has collapsed and a nation that is not as well liked around the world as it once was.

With so much stacked against them, the last thing they need is a church that does not care about their pain or help them with their struggles. Yet, that is what my find.

Many young people are leaving the

church not because they don't believe in God; statistics actually say that teenagers are more likely to believe in God than their parents. It is just that they are not finding God in many churches. So they look for Him in other places.

The church has been called to hold the keys to the Kingdom of God. Too many have lost the keys. One of the ways churches can rediscover the keys to the Kingdom and unlock spiritual truth for teenagers is to help them deal with the pain they have experienced.

Thankfully, we have an Advocate who stays closer than a brother. Christ is the One who was wounded for our transgressions and by His stripes we can be healed. So we have a lot to offer young people that can ease their pain.

Encourage your church to be a voice of healing for a generation in pain.

Terry Dorsett is director of the Green Mountain Baptist Association in Vermont.

## Honor God's servants

She's often the first to represent your church, and her special day is coming. On Administrative Professional's Day, April 21, will you—a church member or staff member—bless her (or him) in some way? Need fresh ideas?

Wouldn't she be surprised to arrive at work to find brewed coffee and a tray of pastries and fruit in her honor? Or helium balloons tied to her chair? Or dozens of "Thank God for Phoebe!" signs hung around the office?

The church website, newsletter,

bulletin or pre-service PowerPoint could acknowledge her service with a photo, comment about her work, her favorite Scripture and a request for members to pray for her this week.

Need thoughtful gift ideas? Order a personalized Study Bible or note cards. Make a certificate or t-shirt to proclaim her "Best Administrative Assistant in [your town.]" A gift in her name for missions. A desk set, electronic desk gadget, plant for her desk. A good book, bouquet of favorite flowers, restaurant gift card. Tickets to her favorite sports event, Christian concert, garden show or theatre.

### Fresh Ideas



Diana Davis

Be sure to include a hand-written note of appreciation.

How about a surprise lunch in her honor? Invite church staff, her husband or friend, and people she sees regularly at work, such as the postal carrier, custodian or church leaders. She arrives to unexpected applause and "thank you" signs. Each guest presents a balloon to her as they share a story or word about her uplifting ministry.

Most importantly, say the words. Pick up the phone, send an e-mail or text, or stop by to express appreciation. As you show honor to God's servants, you honor God, too.

Diana Davis is author of *Fresh Ideas and Deacon Wives*.



## COOPERATIVE PROGRAM SUNDAY

APRIL 11

## Bowling Green church driven by CP, missions

Continued from page 1

"We have hundreds of people leaving our city every year to take the gospel to our nation and world, and we have more than a thousand people serving in our city throughout the year by sharing Christ and showing the love of Christ in acts of service," Pettus pointed out.

"The church exists to help people get to know God, grow in Christ and give to others," Pettus added. "We are challenged every week to invest love and prayer into people, and to invite them to know Christ and to worship with us."

Pettus described Living Hope as "a simple church ... driven by a simple vision that God has given us in the Great Commandments found in Matthew 22:37-40, and all we do is determined by the simple mission God has given us in the Great Commission."

Two years after Pettus was called as pastor, the church dedicated a new preschool and children's building on its 10-acre campus. Living Hope's first building was constructed in 1978. Educational space followed and, in 1996, a worship center. A gymnasium with dedicated space for children and youth currently is being built.

Despite the cost of construction, Living Hope remains committed to supporting missions through CP and is in the top 50 churches across the SBC in its commitment to CP.

"They are our top CP dollar giver in Kentucky," said Billy Compton, Kentucky Baptist Convention's executive associate for Cooperative Program and resources. "The church continues to grow and be an excellent model of mission and ministry cooperation."

But, Pettus avoided any accolades.

"No church is perfect and I am far from the leader God wants me to be," Pettus noted. "Yet, God is faithful and is choosing to work through me and the church I serve. God does not need a person, a church or a system to be perfect for Him to fulfill His kingdom purpose. We must simply be willing to allow Him to produce fruit through us." (BP)

## Kentuckian is example of Cooperative Program life

Continued from page 1

Jesus have the chance to hear," she said. "When people give through CP and Lottie Moon, they aid what I do."

Warren's deep ties to Cooperative Program ministries and missions began at a Girls in Action camp in Texas. It was there Warren said she first felt God calling her to be a missionary.

After moving to Kentucky, Warren's involvement in the youth group at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown fueled her excitement for missions.

While she knew the basics about how CP worked, it wasn't until Warren got involved in the Baptist Campus Ministry at Eastern Kentucky University that she said she began to experience its benefits firsthand.

"During my college years, I had many opportunities to be exposed to missions and be a part of missions," Warren recalled.

It wasn't long before she learned through the BCM of extended missions opportunities available to college students through the IMB and the North American Mission Board. After her freshman year, Warren was commissioned by NAMB for missions work in Wyoming for a summer. Several years later, she went on to serve for a summer in Asia through the IMB.

Warren again benefitted from the Cooperative Program as she attended seminary to prepare more fully for her calling. She went on to complete a Master of Arts in missions degree at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

"When I was in seminary, I had a defining moment when God showed me exactly where he wanted me to go," she said.

Warren headed to Asia through the IMB's Journeyman program. While there, Warren's call to lifelong missions was affirmed once again, and she later became a career missionary.

Now, several years into her assignment, Warren said she has seen God working among the people she serves and is hopeful she will be able to continue serving there for years to come.

"I'd like to be there for life, but there are no guarantees," she noted, referring to strict government policy in Asia that often has resulted in missionaries returning home. "I could end up anywhere, but that's OK as long as I am serving somewhere."

## Dodd pioneered SBC missions funding

Continued from page 1

First Baptist Church of Shreveport, La., in 1912, where he served until his retirement in 1950.

Spanning half a century, Dodd preached 18,000 sermons, baptized 7,000 converts and traveled some 500,000 miles to speak across the globe. That translated into an average of one sermon per day for his entire ministry.

Within the SBC, his preaching ability helped launch him into leadership positions, including the convention presidency between 1933 and 1935.

Yet perhaps Dodd's most enduring legacy emerged from his service as chairman of the SBC's Committee on Future Program in the mid-1920s. The committee's goal was to build on the 75 Million Campaign and devise a way to fund the denomination's work permanently. It recommended that churches commit a percentage of their total receipts each year to their state conventions, which then would spend a portion of the money on local ministries and forward the remainder to the SBC.



M.E. Dodd

The committee's recommendation was adopted in 1925 and became known as the Cooperative Program.

For Dodd, the unified giving plan had personal as well as convention-wide ramifications. Before CP, he spent significant time fielding requests from various ministries that wanted First Baptist, Shreveport to sponsor them.

With the establishment of CP, however, he was free to focus on

ministry and send offerings to a central distribution hub rather than manage the allocation of mission funds himself.

Dodd's responsibilities often forced him to spend less time with his family than he would have liked, according to granddaughter Virginia Joyner.

And although Dodd died in 1952, Joyner said she knows his advocacy of the Cooperative Program still is relevant today. (BP)

### Dodd would warn against 'fractured' CP

Shreveport, La.—If he were alive today, Cooperative Program originator M.E. Dodd would warn Southern Baptist churches not to circumvent CP by designating their gifts to specific entities rather than giving through the SBC's unified giving program.

That is the opinion of Dodd's granddaughter Virginia Joyner, church historian at First Baptist Church of Shreveport, La., where Dodd was pastor for nearly 40 years. During that time, he chaired the committee that recommended CP to the SBC in 1925.

"He would say, 'Keep it all together. Do the missions. Do all of the work. Do the relief and everything out of the Cooperative Program,'" she said of her grandfather.

Lamenting the fact that some congregations replace a portion of their CP giving with designated offerings to specific SBC causes, Joyner said such a plan distorts Dodd's original vision.

"I think the Cooperative Program is being fractured, and

we need to pull it back together again and keep it intact," she emphasized.

Joyner also noted that her grandfather had unique leadership skills and likely would have used it to combat disunity in the SBC today.

"I think that if my grandfather had been living today, the Southern Baptist Convention would not be in the condition it's in today," she said. "I believe that he would have kept it together because he was that kind of man. He was kind and sweet, and he would have kept all the sides together if he could have."

Before CP, fielding financial appeals from various Baptist ministries detracted from Dodd's pastoral work, Joyner said. She noted that he would not want contemporary pastors to reassume funding allocation decisions and voluntarily take on the burden that he helped cast aside.

"He would say, 'Keep up the Cooperative Program. Do not let it break off and do missions out of part of it,'" Joyner said.

## LEADING AN OVERSEAS MISSION TRIP?

**DON'T WAIT UNTIL YOU GET THERE  
TO FIND OUT YOU'RE UNPREPARED!**

### Team Leader Training for International Mission Trips

April 23-24, 2010

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Kentucky Baptist Building  
13420 East Point Centre Dr.  
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Team Leader Training for International Mission Trips is open to any Kentucky Baptist planning to lead a mission trip or interested in learning more about leading a trip.

You'll learn best practices for:

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- Planning the Team's Strategy
- Building and Preparing a Team
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- Departing, Arriving, Returning, Reporting
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There is no charge for the training, but registration is required at [www.kybaptist.org/tlt](http://www.kybaptist.org/tlt)

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**COOPERATIVE PROGRAM**

love in action



It's time to **Celebrate!**

Cooperative Program Sunday  
**APRIL 11, 2010**

*Please join us as we celebrate how  
God is changing lives through  
the missions partnership of  
Kentucky Baptists...  
the Cooperative Program.*





# Celebrating... COOPER

(Based on 2009 ACP Data)

## OVERALL CP GIVING (TOP 20)

Congregation	City	Total CP \$
Living Hope	Bowling Green	406,200.94
Lone Oak First	Paducah	277,332.37
Immanuel	Lexington	272,874.76
Owensboro First	Owensboro	251,785.65
Severns Valley	Elizabethtown	237,414.33
Henderson First	Henderson	233,090.04
Shelbyville First	Shelbyville	217,239.05
Eastwood	Bowling Green	206,559.38
Paducah First	Paducah	199,999.92
Hillcrest	Hopkinsville	181,665.25
Russell First	Russell	159,423.79
Campbellsville	Campbellsville	156,617.21
Central	Corbin	155,914.14
Westport Road	Louisville	134,840.61
Lawrenceburg First	Lawrenceburg	133,744.89
Rich Pond	Bowling Green	129,522.80
Central City First	Central City	125,265.10
Sand Spring	Lawrenceburg	121,098.02
Richmond First	Richmond	119,942.80
Central	Winchester	118,130.07

## CP GIVING PER CAPITA (TOP 20)

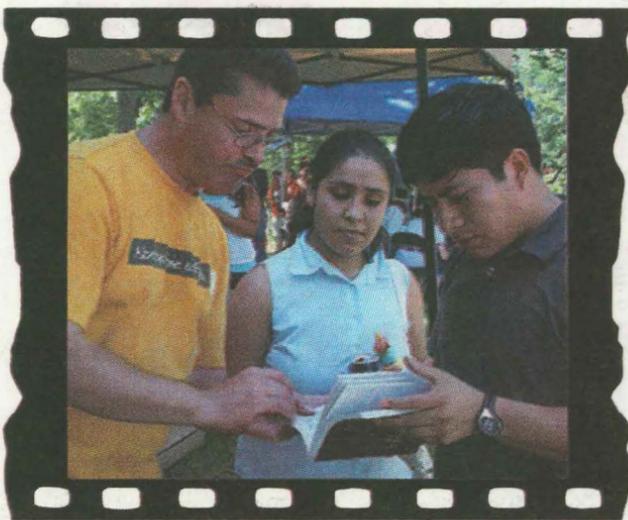
Congregation	City	Total CP \$
Ralph Avenue	Louisville	58,407.14
Mount Pisgah	Bremen	69,873.69
Valley View	Irvine	8,975.75
Briensburg	Benton	85,514.62
Countryside	Morganfield	6,921.27
Hardinsburg	Hardinsburg	54,753.58
Princeton First	Princeton	87,119.35
Shelbyville First	Shelbyville	217,239.05
Owensboro First	Owensboro	251,785.65
Central City First	Central City	125,265.10
Henderson First	Henderson	233,090.04
Bruners Chapel	Harrodsburg	85,156.10
Mexico	Marion	86,858.13
Henderson Memorial	Hopkinsville	36,204.59
Russellville First	Russellville	53,793.56
Barbourville First	Barbourville	80,122.37
Good Hope	Campbellsville	29,997.81
Mount Vernon	Jamestown	5,914.97
Salem	Mortons Gap	15,524.14
Altona Missionary	Calvert City	49,501.37

## WORSHIP ATTENDANCE 100 OR LESS

Congregation	City	Total CP \$
Ralph Avenue	Louisville	58,407.14
Good Hope	Campbellsville	29,997.81
Thornhill	Frankfort	24,432.00
Salem	Shelbyville	24,354.11
Woodland	Greenville	22,358.00
Mount Zion	Elizabethtown	20,964.14
Millville	Frankfort	20,814.14
Cave Springs	Albany	19,670.00
Freedom	Stanford	19,542.00
Hartford	Hartford	18,934.08
Morgantown First	Morgantown	18,542.20
Olive Hill First	Olive Hill	18,266.28
Temple	Central City	17,503.00
Long Ridge	Owenton	17,394.00
Cecilia	Cecilia	17,386.89
Hopewell	Harrodsburg	17,126.53
Glenville	Utica	17,104.66
Kevil	Kevil	17,022.26
Eddy Creek	Princeton	16,160.63
Union City	Richmond	16,116.09

## WORSHIP ATTENDANCE 100-299

Congregation	City	Total CP \$
Central City First	Central City	125,265.10
Princeton First	Princeton	87,119.35
Mexico	Marion	86,858.13
Briensburg	Benton	85,514.62
Bruners Chapel	Harrodsburg	85,156.10
Barbourville First	Barbourville	80,122.37
Mount Pisgah	Bremen	69,873.69
Eddyville First	Eddyville	63,013.95
Highland	Shelbyville	61,736.12
Pleasant Hill	Campbellsville	60,105.76
Pleasant Grove	Owensboro	58,045.30
Hardinsburg	Hardinsburg	54,753.58
Owenton First	Owenton	54,675.72
Russellville First	Russellville	53,793.56
High Street	Somerset	53,748.55
Immanuel	Elizabethtown	53,084.55
Wildwood	Ashland	50,795.06
Reidland	Paducah	50,449.68
Pleasant Hill	Somerset	50,372.76
Altona Missionary	Calvert City	49,501.37



Through CP, Kentucky Baptists are training pastors and providing Spanish Bibles and other literature to reach Kentucky's growing Hispanic population.



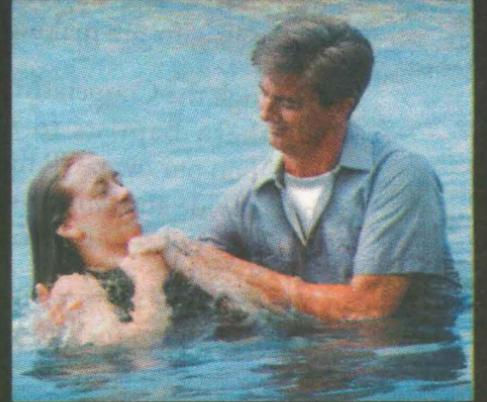
# Pacesetting Churches in 2009 OPERATIVE PROGRAM GIVING

More than 2,000 individuals are trained as disaster relief volunteer workers in Kentucky. They can provide thousands of meals, help clean up and remove debris, plus offer many other services when disaster strikes.

## WORSHIP ATTENDANCE 500-999

Congregation	City	Total CP \$
Owensboro First	Owensboro	251,785.65
Henderson First	Henderson	233,090.04
Shelbyville First	Shelbyville	217,239.05
Eastwood	Bowling Green	206,559.38
Paducah First	Paducah	199,999.92
Russell First	Russell	159,423.79
Campbellsville	Campbellsville	156,617.21
Central	Corbin	155,914.14
Westport Road	Louisville	134,840.61
Rich Pond	Bowling Green	129,522.80
Sand Spring	Lawrenceburg	121,098.02
Central	Winchester	118,130.07
Buck Run	Frankfort	98,775.00
Pikeville First	Pikeville	92,494.90
Mt Washington First	Mt Washington	91,428.97
LaGrange	La Grange	78,566.99
Hickory Grove	Independence	77,616.18
Franklin Crossroads	Cecilia	68,518.14
Ninth and O	Louisville	68,508.00
Shively	Louisville	67,986.13

*"For we are God's fellow workers..."*  
I Corinthians 3:9 NIV



Kentucky Baptist Connect churches are committed to increasing baptisms by 20,000 each year through 2012, and to disciple these new Christians to grow in Christ and become active church members.

## WORSHIP ATTENDANCE 300-499

Congregation	City	Total CP \$
Lawrenceburg First	Lawrenceburg	133,744.89
Southside	Princeton	104,593.04
Yellow Creek	Owensboro	104,076.30
Beaver Dam	Beaver Dam	97,482.95
Hopkinsville First	Hopkinsville	90,080.16
Broadway	Lexington	80,192.72
Rose Hill	Ashland	80,097.52
Versailles	Versailles	79,904.51
Corinth	London	78,812.62
Walnut Memorial	Owensboro	77,105.70
Hopkinsville Second	Hopkinsville	76,027.06
Edgewood	Hopkinsville	75,591.47
Red House	Richmond	75,257.12
Greenville Second	Greenville	74,804.65
Hurstbourne	Louisville	73,672.40
Lancaster	Lancaster	70,572.36
Glasgow	Glasgow	63,833.70
Burlington	Burlington	63,465.78
Cadiz	Cadiz	62,292.15
Northside	Elizabethtown	61,833.96



Baptist Campus Ministries empower students to serve all over the world.

Through the Cooperative Program, a portion of the tithes and offerings of a single church are extended to ministries for the needy, the sick, the aged, and the lost, as well as the support of about 10,000 North American and international missionaries. Listed here are the church leaders in CP giving (top 20) categorized by overall giving, giving per capita and by worship attendance.

## WORSHIP ATTENDANCE 1,000+

Congregation	City	Total CP \$
Living Hope	Bowling Green	406,200.94
Lone Oak First	Paducah	277,332.37
Immanuel	Lexington	272,874.76
Severns Valley	Elizabethtown	237,414.33
Hillcrest	Hopkinsville	181,665.25
Richmond First	Richmond	119,942.80
Hardin	Hardin	108,515.01
Crestwood	Crestwood	99,589.99
Porter Memorial	Lexington	84,244.85
Bellevue	Owensboro	67,926.52
Valley View	Louisville	50,861.86
Calvary	Lexington	28,800.04
Hillvue Heights	Bowling Green	24,000.00
Trace Creek	Mayfield	17,500.00
Florence	Florence	10,648.61
Little Flock	Shepherdsville	10,000.00
Sojourn	Louisville	10,000.00
Highview	Louisville	9,999.96
Consolidated	Lexington	5,000.00
Binghamtown	Middlesboro	2,500.00

Partnership missions provides the opportunity to share the Gospel in many countries.

love in action



love in action

Dear CP Partner,

You probably understand the value of celebration. For instance, how likely is it that you would forget a milestone in your life such as your birthday or the birthdays of important people in your life? You also know the difference a celebration moment can make when your favorite basketball team wins a game during March Madness. Celebrating demonstrates the value of a life accomplishment or a milestone experienced.



Just as noteworthy to celebrate is the impact of our partnership through the Cooperative Program as Kentucky Baptists. Sunday, April 11, has been designated as a day to feature the Cooperative Program because your generous gifts are making an eternal difference.

Through the Cooperative Program you are enabling Kentucky Baptists and Southern Baptists to accomplish more for Christ together than we ever could on our own. CP funds provide the foundational support for statewide, nationwide and worldwide ministry and mission efforts. These gifts literally work 24 hours a day, 365 days a year all over the world.

Your church plays a vital role as we celebrate connecting people to Jesus Christ daily to the ends of the earth by putting love into action. Thank you in advance for remembering Cooperative Program Sunday on April 11, 2010.

With grateful appreciation,

*Billy Compton*

Dr. Billy Compton  
Executive Associate for Cooperative Program



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*CP Sunday is April 11!*

**WHAT is it?** CP Sunday is simply a day to highlight and celebrate the Cooperative Program, the plan Kentucky Baptists—and all Southern Baptists—use to fund missions causes at state, national and international levels.

**WHY celebrate it?** Celebrating CP Sunday is one of the easiest ways to educate your church members about the Cooperative Program. Many Kentucky Baptists contribute significantly to missions through their church, but are not aware of how this works or why it is important.

**HOW can we celebrate it?** CP Sunday can easily be incorporated into your normal church service on April 11 (or any Sunday). The possibilities are endless!

Help your congregation understand how they support missions through the Cooperative Program.

**FIND OUT MORE**

Free promotional resources and celebration suggestions are available at [www.kybaptist.org/cpsunday](http://www.kybaptist.org/cpsunday)

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## Seeking shelter

*Housing for Chilean families is 'open door' for witness*

By Kate Gregory  
International Mission Board

**Tirua, Chile**—Wiping tears from her eyes, the 21-year-old mother thanked Baptists for providing shelter for her family.

"I want to give thanks to everyone for this shelter," Rosa Inostroza de Santibañez said of the 10-by-20-foot structure with wood walls and a tin roof for her family in Tirua, Chile. "We are very thankful. We are going to sleep under a roof tonight and not on the ground."

She and her family had been living in a makeshift lean-to pieced together by her husband, Rodrigo, after the family had to run for higher ground to escape an earthquake-induced tsunami Feb. 27.

"We didn't know what we would have done if you hadn't come," Rosa said of the Chilean Baptists and volunteers from Second Baptist Church of Russellville, Ark., who delivered the shelter March 24. "We didn't have any other options open to us."

Early in the morning of Feb. 27, an earthquake crumbled their roof. Less than an hour later a tsunami crashed into their Pacific coast town.

Rosa and Rodrigo grabbed their 2-year-old daughter while Rosa's mother, Luz, pushed her 30-year-old wheelchair-bound daughter up a steep hill amid neighbors running and cars racing to escape the wave.

The older daughter is living with other relatives, while Luz stays with Rosa and her family on the hill. They had been sleep-

ing in a tarp-covered enclosure just large enough to hold two twin-sized mattresses pushed together. They've salvaged some of their belongings by making trips up and down the hill to get dishes and blankets.

At night, their young daughter, Anahis, is afraid as the cold coastal winds of the Chilean autumn whip against the tarp in the dark. Rodrigo and Rosa comfort their daughter by shining a flashlight. They have no electricity.

Luz said she is afraid to sleep in the section of the family's home that wasn't damaged because aftershocks continue.

"I'm afraid that the tremors are going to get stronger instead of weaker," she said.

Municipalities are helping families rebuild. But the need is far-reaching. Many homes at water's edge were swept away, strewn debris and belongings along the Tirua River that feeds into the ocean. Local authorities also are providing food at a school located at the bottom of the town's hill.

The bread store where 20-year-old Rodrigo worked as a baker was damaged; then looters stole all the equipment. Rodrigo volunteers at the school, helping distribute food and clothing until the bread store reopens or he can find another job.

It may take families several years to rebuild, make repairs or add on to temporary shelters to make them more permanent, said International Mission Board missionary Trent Tomlinson.

Rodrigo agreed. "This will be our home



**RAISE THE ROOF** Bobby Biggers (left), pastor of Second Baptist Church of Russellville, Ark., and Rodrigo Santibañez carry a tin roof panel to his family's new shelter in Tirua, Chile. The roof caved in the Santibañezes' home as an earthquake-induced tsunami flooded the town.

for a while," he said.

Tomlinson said he realized this area's need while he and fellow missionaries Anders Snyder and David Hines drove through it to assess damage two days after the quake.

About 50 people representing churches from several denominations met in Tomlinson's home, forming a plan to fan out and meet needs generated by the disaster.

"This is an open door," Tomlinson said. "We're earning the right to be heard here."

The volunteers delivered pre-assembled shelters to four other families, including handyman Juan Gonzalez. His home—located 650 feet from the ocean—was destroyed

by the tsunami while he was staying in Concepción, close to the earthquake's epicenter.

"I'm one of the fortunate ones to be able to move in (to a shelter) so quickly," Gonzalez said.

Mario Barros, president of Iglesia Misionera Internacional Agape (Agape International Missionary Church, an association of national Baptist congregations), met with the mayor of Tirua a day before volunteers arrived with the shelters.

"We want to be organized and be a channel of hope to those who need it," said Barros, who works alongside Tomlinson as a church planter. (BP)

## Quake shifts church's mission plans

*Ark. congregation opts for 'God's plan, not ours' in Chile efforts*

By Kate Gregory  
International Mission Board

**Temuco, Chile**—After adopting the Mapuche people group in Chile last fall, Second Baptist Church of Russellville, Ark., was planning to conduct first aid training during its first mission trip to the Mapuche. But following the Feb. 27 earthquake and tsunami, the church shifted gears to help build temporary shelters for displaced Chileans.

"This trip shows us to operate on God's plan, not ours," said Shane Wooten of Second Baptist, "because our plans fall through but God's never does."

Fellow church member Laura Brown, a high school senior, originally planned to spend her spring break ministering in another part of the world. When that trip didn't work out, she shifted her focus to Chile.

"I had been praying about Chile, especially after the earthquake, looking for any opportunity to help," Brown recalled. "When the church's plans changed, I could step in and help because I had my passport ready."

The volunteer team worked alongside local Baptists and Baptist partners in building temporary shelters from March 19-26.

Trent Tomlinson, an International Mission Board missionary from Alabama, and local Baptists have been scouting locations for the temporary shelters.

The shelters, called mediaguas, are 10-by-20-foot structures with wood walls and tin roofs. The volunteers cut and nail the wood to assemble the walls, which then are transported and assembled on site.

Tomlinson, who has received 400 requests for the temporary shelters for families whose homes were destroyed or are unsafe, said it will take several weeks to build that many units.

"We can't do everything," he said, "but we have to do what we can."

A team of Oklahoma Baptists is scheduled to continue the work started by the Arkansas volunteers.

During their trip to Chile, the Arkansas team was encouraged by the words of Marcela Romero, a member of a Mapuche Baptist church plant, who said that "God gives us wisdom and knowledge to keep on with the work He's given us. The most important thing is your prayers." The Mapuche people make up approximately 4 percent of Chile's population.

Second Baptist, Russellville adopted the Mapuche people in partnership with six other Arkansas Baptist churches: First Baptist Church of Hampton; Angel's Way Baptist Church in Marion; Bradley Baptist Church; First Baptist Church of Mount Ida; Third Baptist Church of Malvern; and Cross Community Church in Fort Smith.

"We could not do this by ourselves," Second Baptist pastor Bobby Biggers said. "What we would like to do is send collective teams back to Chile every three months." (BP)



**TAKING SHAPE** Members of Second Baptist Church of Russellville, Ark., help International Mission Board missionary Trent Tomlinson (center) frame up a wall and cross-section of a temporary shelter for Chileans displaced by the Feb. 27 earthquake and tsunami.

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## Survey: Missions groups reaching immigrants, but 'can do better'

**Nashville**—A North American Mission Board/LifeWay Research study found that while ministries across North America are reaching out to a significant portion of first-generation immigrants, much work remains to be done.

Still, while evangelistic growth among these groups has been slow, the potential is promising, with immigrants from most countries considered somewhat receptive to the gospel.

"For us to be faithful in assisting our churches in the tasks of evangelism and church planting, we need an awareness of what work is underway so believers, churches, denominations and ministries can support and participate in these missions efforts here in North America," explained Richard Harris, NAMB's interim president.

The 74 Christian organizations included in the study have 3,757 missionaries and church planters working among first-generation immigrants. These organizations reported the highest number of first-generation immigrant believers are from Mexico. A distant second are immigrants from Haiti, followed by those from South Korea,

Cuba and China.

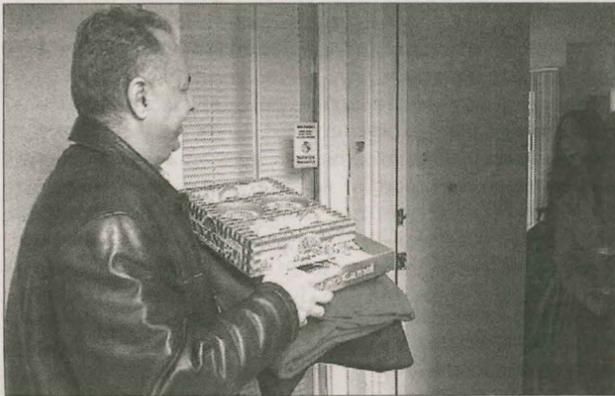
Respondents were asked to indicate, by country, changes in the number of immigrants involved in the organizations over the last year. Most said immigrant numbers were "about the same." Only those from Myanmar, Vietnam and Cambodia were noted as having "more total participants than one year ago."

"The opportunity here is great," said Ken Weathersby, NAMB's vice president of church planting. "Many immigrants come from places where preaching the gospel is illegal, but they can hear the gospel in their new home. In turn, those believers can impact their families here in North America and in their country of origin, more easily crossing language and cultural barriers."

Despite the slow growth of immigrants participating in these organizations, respondents said, overall, immigrants are receptive to the gospel. The survey revealed that those hailing from Ecuador, Guatemala, Liberia, Honduras, El Salvador, Myanmar, Brazil, Costa Rica, Kenya and Mexico displayed the greatest openness.

Surveyed organizations currently minister to immigrants from 151 of a possible 202 countries considered in the analysis. That means 25 percent of possible countries of origin, including nations of Europe, Africa and the South Pacific, have no organizations ministering to their immigrants in North America. Another 26 percent have only one or two national or regional organizations ministering to them.

"Things are changing in the U.S. and Canada," said Ed Stetzer, director of LifeWay Research. "By 2050, there will be no majority race or ethnicity in the United States. ... This is a wake-up call to the church in North America. The nations of the world are living right here, yet many are not hearing the gospel in an intentional, organized way. We can do better." (BP)



**A NEW HOME** Jalil Dawood (left), a North American Mission Board missionary serving Dallas Arabic Christian Church, is one of many church planters reaching out to first-generation immigrants who have relocated to North America.

## Meet the Class of 2010, part 3

### For international students, Oneida often is not what they expected in U.S. school

I cannot write this series about the Class of 2010 and ignore our international students. We do not recruit our internationals—or any students for that matter. We often are contacted by various placement agencies who, for a fee, will direct as many students as possible to our school. We have never done that and have never needed to. Some years we could have had more international students, but we have purposely restricted the total number.

However, it seems the Lord has opened this door of opportunity, and I have labored over how many internationals we should enroll. One major benefit of the international presence on our campus is their strong desire to excel academically. This is an encouragement and example for many of our American students. Here is part of the senior essay written by "Sharon" (not her real name).

"And here is the maid's room, while over to the left is the entrance to the pool house.' The moment my mother told me that I had a chance to be a student in America ... this was the dream that kept going through my head. To me, America was like a huge version of an MTV show. I imagined lavish cars and palm trees.

"Due to my less-than-stellar grades in the ninth grade, (my mother) challenged me by saying that she would send me to the states if I could become the top student in my tenth-grade class. I kept my end of the deal and she kept hers. She arranged for me to fly to a place called Kentucky. Unfortunately, MTV did not have a studio there.

### This is Oneida



W.F. Underwood

"I remember how I felt on the way to Oneida Baptist Institute. I spent most of my life in Seoul, South Korea, one of the largest cities in Asia, so I could not believe what I was seeing. Cows, horses, farms, mountains. ... I was so disappointed. I complained about everything and behaved arrogantly. ... (but) I figured that OBI had something special that other places didn't have.

"OBI has a kind faculty and staff who treat students with the love of Jesus. It was unusual at first when the teachers talked about God and Jesus in class. I was not against it, but I also did not give much attention to what they were saying. Even though I grew up in a Christian family, I was faithless before I came here.

However, those little ways of the Christian life that I had to face totally changed me. I learned how to live as a Christian. OBI helped me to be thankful for everything and to humble myself, ... even though this was a hard lesson to learn."

On more than a few occasions our students—not just the international students—have expressed surprise when traveling to and arriving at Oneida. Often their expectations were not realized when they actually got here.

Another area where our American and international students are alike is in respect to their spiritual needs. South Korea is one of the most evangelized nations in Asia. Yet, time and time again, we meet Koreans who profess to be Christians, but often are very shallow in their faith. From experience, we know we have a unique opportunity to help all of our students grow spiritually.

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

## Servants of the churches

### Students help local churches with evangelism campaign

One of Clear Creek's core values is: **Servant of the churches.**

We are a community that exists to train individuals sent to us by the churches. We commit ourselves to serve the needs of the churches.

Recently we had some students who helped a church with some Find It Here evangelistic efforts in its community. Students Sam Schmidt, Brian Kendrick, Ryan Martin and Dale Turner spent a weekend with Pastor Paul Hubbs and Williams Memorial Baptist Church in Ravena.

The students also were invited to preach a weekend revival. Each of the men was given an opportunity to preach. Meanwhile, they spent Saturday out in the community distributing information, inviting people to church and sharing the gospel.

"It was one of the most powerful experiences I have ever had," Schmidt said. "We were able to plant many seeds and see a few decisions. It was really uplifting to watch the Holy Spirit work."

We had another team of students that traveled to West Chester, Ohio, to assist Clear Creek alum-

nus Travis Smalley, pastor of Lakota Hills Baptist Church, with evangelistic outreach efforts there. The team included professor Richard Bartels and students Mat Collins, Jerrod Clark and Steve Thomas. That group was part of a larger team of more than 130 people who participated in efforts to reach more than 19,000 households in one day.

"The pastor was very appreciative and excited about what the team was able to accomplish in one day," Professor Bartels said. "When the team came back together at the end of the day, it was 'mission accomplished.' We were able to reach all those households that the church had intended to reach. The students were really excited for their opportunity to get out and distribute that much material to all those people. There were a lot of people who were introduced to the gospel through these efforts. This is what these students came to school for."

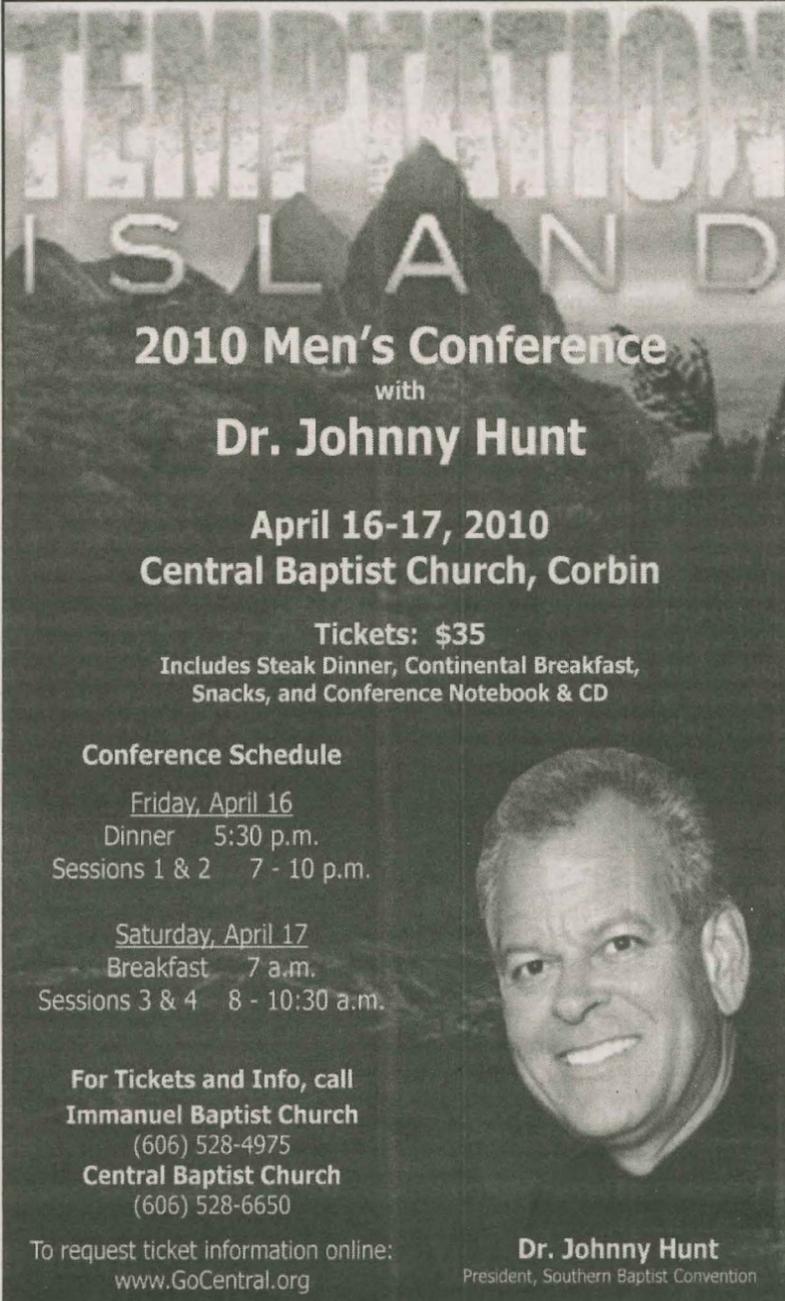
Thank you for your support which enables us to equip students with practical ministry training for God's calling on their lives.

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



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**Dr. Johnny Hunt**  
President, Southern Baptist Convention

## Giving to Caesar and God

**Stewardship motivated by Christ, not tax advantages**

Estate stewardship for us Christians is unique and distinct because it is a spiritually motivated decision, not a tax-motivated one. However, tax avoidance, inheritance and financial products, not biblical stewardship, drive most of the estate planning done in the United States.

We Americans enjoy the most favorable tax system in the world in terms of encouraging charitable giving. So, without question, we should seek to maximize the available tax benefits in our giving.

However, we also must recognize, at the end of the day, we shall be held accountable for how we steward what God has entrusted to us. And for most, how we plan our estates likely will be the single most important act of financial stewardship we shall ever make.

It is important to remember charitable giving in America preceded all of our current tax systems. Many charities were created and continuously funded through generous outright gifts, bequests and life-income gifts before the establishment of the modern federal income, estate and gift tax codes.

I am pleased to acknowledge

those with whom we have had the privilege of assisting and who have demonstrated their primary motivation to give was not the tax savings opportunities, but the opportunities to make a difference in changing peoples' lives in the name of Christ and through the missions and ministries of the charities in which they were involved, including their churches.

**KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION**



Barry Allen

Having said that, taxes can and do play an important role in the size, form and timing of legacy gifts out of one's estate. Inherent in the mission of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation is to facilitate the making of legacy gifts by simplifying the

process and ensuring that each person is maximizing the available tax-savings opportunities. To that end, the KBF offers to all Kentucky Baptists private, confidential estate and charitable gift planning consultation.

Call Laurie Valentine toll free to assist you in fulfilling the teaching of Jesus to "give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's" (Matthew 22:21).

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

## Christian leaders call for civility following attacks

Washington—As Democratic lawmakers reel from violent attacks and threats, religious leaders have issued a "covenant for civility" pledging that they will pray for politicians and model respectful behavior.

"The church in the United States can offer a message of hope and reconciliation to a nation that is deeply divided by political and cultural differences," reads the statement, signed by more than 100 Christian leaders.

The covenant was released March 25 by the anti-poverty group Sojourners, as members of Congress who voted in favor of health care reform have faced attacks. A brick was thrown through Democratic Rep. Louise Slaughter's window in Niagara Falls, N.Y., and a gas line was cut at the home of the brother of Rep. Tom Perriello, D-Va.

Quoting the Bible, the faith leaders said political debaters should be "quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry."

In addition to the covenant, several religious groups are condemning the threats against members of Congress.

Mat Staver of the conservative law firm Liberty Counsel noted that President Obama signed the reform bill 235 years to the date when orator Patrick Henry called for fighting abuses of power by the British: "Two centuries ago the people took up arms. Today the people must channel their anger through nonviolent means to change the leadership and the direction of America."

Signatories on the civility covenant included: Leith Anderson, president of the National Association of Evangelicals; Prison Fellowship founder Chuck Colson; and Timothy George, dean of Beeson Divinity School at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala. (RNS)

## Expert: Recession may lead churches to have clearer fiscal focus

By Ken Camp  
Texas Baptist Standard

Winchester, Va.—Tough economic times may actually result in stronger, healthier and smarter churches and Christian ministries, according to Dan Busby, president of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability.

In times of economic stress, contributors prioritize giving. So, local congregations and programs that provide "safety-net" assistance for people in need generally have been most successful in attracting or retaining donors, Busby noted.

In fact, the Salvation Army recently reported Americans gave a record \$139 million last Christmas to its Red Kettle Campaign, which provides more than 28 million Americans with food, shelter and substance abuse treatment.

Anecdotal evidence indicates many individual congregations have fared better than most parachurch ministries during months of recession, Busby added.

And just as tight dollars force contributors to make hard choices, economic stress also should prompt churches and Christian ministries to set priorities.

"Those that are able to redirect their focus may come out healthier than if the recession had not occurred," he said. "Churches and ministries should focus on their core mission."

When times are good, ministries tend to create new programs and expend energy promoting them, he noted. But when times get tough, smart ministries focus on their central purpose.

Congregations and related Christian ministries can prepare for hard times by "building margin into ministry," Busby urged, rather than operating on a razor-thin edge.

Desperate times can lead trusting people to desperate acts, and churches in financial trouble should beware of fraudulent perpetrators of get-rich-quick scams, he recommended.

"It's human nature to want the best deal and the best return on one's investment. But so many times, people don't learn from history. If it looks too good to be true, assume that it is," he said.

In a tight economy, churches should take special precautions against embezzlement and fraud, Busby advised.

"As Christians, we often let our guard down. We're the most trusting people. Too often, we don't institute internal controls, segregation of duties and other basic business principles at church that we know make sense anywhere else," he said. (ABP)



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## Conservative Baptist activist Schaefer, 73, found murdered

Clarkesville, Ga.—Nancy Schaefer, a conservative Christian activist and former two-term state senator in Georgia, was found dead with her husband March 26 in their North Georgia home in what is being described as a murder-suicide.

Investigators told the Associated Press they believe Bruce Schaefer, 74, shot his wife once in the back while she slept early Friday morning and then shot himself. Police found a handgun near his body and several letters written to family members, including a suicide note.

Contrary to early reports that Bruce Schaefer had cancer, the Gainesville (Ga.) Times reported March 27 that the couple's daughter, who discovered the bodies, told the local sheriff her father was not suffering from any serious illness at the time of the shootings.

Habersham County Sheriff Joey Terrell said some of the letters mentioned serious financial problems and speculated that might have been a motive.

For 23 years, Nancy Schaefer, 73, was president of Family Concerns, a non-profit organization she started in 1985. She was elected to the Georgia State Senate in 2004. Before that she ran for mayor of Atlanta in 1993, was the Republican nominee for lieutenant governor in 1994 and finished third in the GOP race for governor in 1998.

For eight years she was a trustee of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, and was a former first vice president of the Georgia Baptist Convention.

Funeral services were March 31 at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Toccoa, Ga. The family requested no flowers but suggested memorial gifts be given in the Schaefer's memory to the Athens Y Camp in Tallulah Falls, Ga. (ABP)

## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **BRODHEAD**—Mount Zion Church will hold revival services April 8-11, 7 p.m. with **Jason Abner**, pastor of Mount Gilead Church in McKee; **Chris Cobb**, pastor of Scaffold Cane Church in Mount Vernon; and **Shane Gabbard**, pastor of Letter Box Church in Annville, as evangelists. **Josh Chasteen** is pastor.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Campbellsville University's Handbell Choir will present its annual spring concert April 10, 8 p.m. at the Gheens Recital Hall on campus. The performance is free and open to the public. For more information, call (270) 789-5237.

■ **FRANKLIN**—**Jarrett Bigbie** recently resigned as pastor of Trinity Church due to health reasons. He served the church for 13 years.

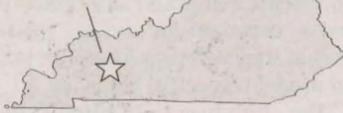
■ **MOUNT VERNON**—Roundstone Church will hold revival services April 11-14, 7 p.m. with **Shelby Reynolds**, pastor of Eubank Church, as evangelist. **Rick Reynolds** is pastor.

■ **PADUCAH**—West End Church recently called **Tyson Lindsey** as youth minister. **Larry Lindsey** is pastor.

■ **SOMERSET**—Calvary Church recently ordained **Neil Carey**, **Bill Clouse**, **Tom Gholson** and **Stanley Mounce** as deacons. **Gilbert Robinson** is pastor.

## Spotlight on ...

## Graham



Graham Tabernacle will hold revival services April 11-15, 6:30 p.m. with **Vernon Cook**, pastor of Oak Grove Church in Greenville; **Tommy Drury**, pastor of New Cypress Church in Greenville; **Jerry Eades**, pastor of Vernal Grove Church in Greenville; **Ron Matheny**, pastor of Graham Tabernacle; and **Ron Wingo**, pastor of East Union Church in Graham, as evangelists.

## Hunting for souls

Pastor turned TV host uses outdoor sports to reach men for Christ

By Norm Miller

Pigeon Forge, Tenn.—Chuck McAlister is a hunter. From his boyhood days of stalking small game to hosting the "AdventureBound Outdoors" TV show, the former Southern Baptist pastor today pursues creative ways to tell others about Jesus.

A series of spiritual junctures led McAlister from the church where he was pastor for 17 years—The Church at Crossgate Center in Hot Springs, Ark.—to put his full-time efforts into the award-winning show and other avenues of outreach to outdoorsmen.

McAlister founded AdventureBound Outdoors in 1996, pioneering a magazine-style hunting show and using it locally to re-brand The Church at Crossgate Center as one that understands men and wants to reach them with the gospel. ABO does that using a featured "truth segment" in which viewers are told how to have a personal relationship with Jesus.

"During the time when the show was nationally syndicated, we were averaging 300 men a month making

salvation decisions for Christ as a result of the truth segment," noted McAlister, who also is a trustee of the International Mission Board.

"It's truly miraculous," he said. "The show crosses denominational and socio-economic lines. We're drawing blue-collar 'Bubba meat hunters' and white-collar professionals who'll drop 10 grand to hunt bear in Alaska. The common denominator among all of them is their love for the outdoors—and that was put there by God."

Although a significant number of people were responding to the gospel, McAlister felt an ongoing concern for connecting new Christians to local churches. That's one reason why "AdventureBound Outdoors" is no longer nationally syndicated and is being offered free for churches to air on local television stations. The program content will be the same. However, the church will be featured at the beginning and end of the show. "I have a strong commitment that our evangelistic ministry be tied to a local church," McAlister said.

"As far as the viewers are concerned, the program is a product of the church," he explained. "Now when people respond, they will be responding to that church."

Fitting hand-in-glove with the TV show are wild game dinners that McAlister uses for evangelistic outreach. "It's one of the most effective ways to reach unchurched men" who, McAlister said, aren't comfortable singing love songs to another man—Jesus—or holding hands with other men while praying.

Because wild game dinners focus on the manly aspects of life, unchurched men realize they

can feel comfortable in church. "Church is a place where men can be men and learn that Jesus wasn't an effeminate man," McAlister pointed out.

In addition to reaching unchurched men for Christ, McAlister said entire families eventually find salvation and a local church home via the wild game dinners.

Coupling the evangelistic effectiveness of wild game dinners and the hunting show, McAlister said, "We're working now on a template to use both as church planting tools by giving church planters free access to the show." For example, a wild game dinner will be advertised on the show. And those responding to the gospel at the dinner will form the core group of a new church.

McAlister already is working with officials at the Canadian National Baptist Convention to utilize the strategy.

Working closely with McAlister is Chuck Myers, managing partner of ABO. Myers is the go-to guy for churches and other Baptist entities interested in procuring the TV show

for evangelistic and church planting purposes.

"Church planting and evangelism aren't unique," Myers said. "But using the show for those is unique and non-traditional."

Myers recently finalized an agreement with the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, and is talking with interested, leading-church pastors in New Mexico and Wyoming.

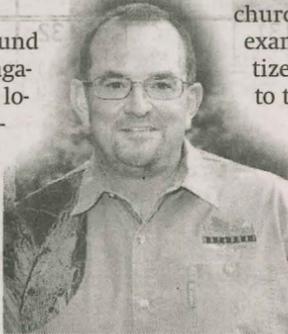
"There are many hunters who already believe in God, country and apple pie—they just don't know God," Myers said. "AdventureBound Outdoors is the venue to introduce them to the Creator of the creation they enjoy so much."

Not waiting on others to plant a church, McAlister launched Encounter Church in Pigeon Forge, Tenn., on Easter Sunday.

"On any given weekend, Pigeon Forge averages a quarter-million tourists," said McAlister, who noted the new church will not intentionally compete with other churches. "In fact, it's not going to be your typical church with age-graded ministries," he explained. "Encounter Church will exist for one reason, and that will be to impact unchurched tourists, win them to Jesus Christ and connect them to churches in their hometowns."

Noting his role will be as planting pastor, McAlister said he will not be the exclusive preacher, partly because he will continue with his weekend wild game dinners and television show.

"But more importantly," he said, "we don't want a personality-driven church. We want it to impact people and reach them with the good news of Jesus Christ. If it is personality driven, then that person is Jesus. It won't be about a human." (BP)



Chuck McAlister



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## April

9-10 Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union Annual Meeting, Westport Road Baptist Church, Louisville.

9-10 Region 8 Disaster Relief Recertification and Training, First Baptist Church, Hazard.

10 Region 5 RA Congress, Aberdeen (Ohio) Baptist Church.

12 Growing Ministries Tour, La Grange Baptist Church.

13 Growing Ministries Tour, Mays Lick Baptist Church.

13 Iron Sharpening Iron, Applebee's Park, Lexington.

15 Iron Sharpening Iron, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

16-17 Exalt, Georgetown College.

16-18 All-State Children's Choir—East, Cedarmore Camp and Conference Center, Bagdad.

18 High Attendance Sunday School Day.

20 Growing Ministries Tour, First Baptist Church, Monticello.

20 Iron Sharpening Iron, University of the Cumberlands, Williamsburg.

20 Senior Living Celebration, Sand Spring Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg.

22 Growing Ministries Tour, Hawesville Baptist Church.

22 Iron Sharpening Iron, Buffalo Wild Wings, Bowling Green.

22 KBC Men's Chorale Concert, Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Pineville.

22 Senior Living Celebration, Second Baptist Church, Greenville.

22-23 Quarterly Prayer Meeting for Spiritual Awakening, Haven of Rest, Inez.

23-25 All-State Children's Choir—West, Jonathan Creek Camp and Conference Center, Hardin.

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**OPPORTUNITY:** If you are interested in preaching in revivals and becoming a lay-led revival leader, call Jerry at (502) 531-0396.

**SEEKING:** Part-time youth minister for Colesburg Baptist Church (near Elizabethtown) responsible for leading Wednesday night activities for grades 6-12, developing/enhancing youth activities and a vision for growth. For more information or to submit a resumé, e-mail [youth@colesburg.org](mailto:youth@colesburg.org).

**SEEKING:** Director of missions for Muhlenberg County Baptist Association. Please send resumé to: DOM Search Committee Chairman, Muhlenberg County Baptist Association, 1920 W Everly Brothers Blvd., Central City, KY 42330. Deadline for submission is April 30, 2010.

**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](mailto:oakhillbaptistchurch@hotmail.com).

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of recreation and missions for Calvary Baptist Church, Lexington, Ky. Responsibilities for this position are posted online at [www.calvarybaptistchurch.com](http://www.calvarybaptistchurch.com). Resumés may be submitted to Calvary Baptist Church, 150 E High St., Lexington, KY 40507.

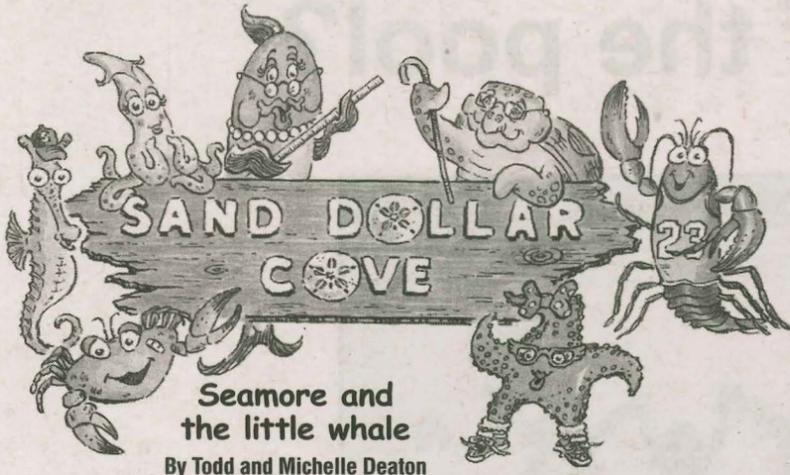
**SEEKING:** Full-time youth minister for Hillcrest Baptist Church, an established and growing Southern Baptist church with a membership of approx. 1,500. Seminary degree or equivalent and 3 years youth ministry experience needed. Forward resumé to Geoff Eli, Hillcrest Baptist Church, 920 Skyline Drive, Hopkinsville, KY 42240.

**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 resumés to [search@bscm.org](mailto:search@bscm.org) by May 15.

**SEEKING:** Senior pastor. The pastor search committee of Victory Baptist Church in Lexington, Ky., a Southern Baptist congregation, is accepting resumés for a senior pastor. Resumés should be sent to [pastorsearch@vbclex.org](mailto:pastorsearch@vbclex.org) by June 1, 2010; or mailed to the church office at 2261 Armstrong Mill Road, Lexington, KY 40515, Attn: Pastor Search.

**SEEKING:** Full-time children's pastor for Campbellsville Baptist Church, located in central Kentucky, to reach our children (birth-6th grade) and their families for Christ. Must be visionary, team player, highly relational and passionate about seeing young families come to Christ. Please send resumé to [Discipleship Pastor Brad Lauer, bradl@cvillebaptist.com](mailto:Discipleship Pastor Brad Lauer, bradl@cvillebaptist.com); or 420 N Central Ave., Campbellsville, KY 42718.

**TOURS:** Ten-day Holyland tour departing Nov. 8. Contact Pastor Jack Studie for a color brochure at [jstudie@aol.com](mailto:jstudie@aol.com); or (270) 889-7604.



## Seamore and the little whale

By Todd and Michelle Deaton

On the way home from school one day, Seamore Seahorse saw a baby whale that started following him. Seamore stopped to pat the little, white whale. "You're a cute, little whale," Seamore remarked. "Do you live around here?"

The baby whale looked at him with large, sad, black eyes and wagged its tail. "I have to go now," Seamore said. But the little, white whale kept following him.

Seamore stop to pat the whale again. The baby whale wagged its tail. "Maybe you can stay with me until we find out who you belong to," Seamore suggested. "I'll ask my mom," he added.

The baby whale sent a stream of water high into the air through its spout.

Seamore begged his mom, "Can I keep it? I'll take care of it."

"No, dear, little whales become big whales," she answered. "We don't have room. You need to help it find its way home."

"All right," Seamore agreed. But he didn't do as he mom said.

Instead, he snuck the whale

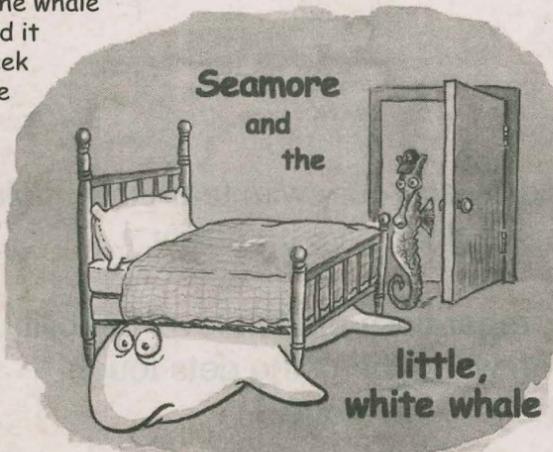
into his room and hid it under his bed. A week later, when Seamore returned from school, a surprise awaited. His bed was almost a foot above the floor. The whale was now too big to hide under the bed.

"We'll have to find another place," he said. The little, white whale wagged its tail, knocking a lamp off of the bedside table, and blew a stream of water out of its spout, spraying it all over the wall.

"What's that noise?" Seamore's mom called from the kitchen. "You don't still have that whale, do you?" "No, Mom," Seamore lied. "I'm just cleaning up my room." "Shhhh!" Seamore said to the whale. "You have to be quieter." Next, Seamore tried to hide the whale in his closet. But it soon grew so big that he had to move his clothes and toys out. "It looks like a hurricane hit your room!" his mom exclaimed as she tucked him in. She picked up some toys to put in his closet. Seamore panicked. "Mom, I hear the phone ringing," he lied. His mom looked puzzled. "If I didn't know better, I would think you're trying to hide a whale in your closet," she said. "That's silly, Mom," he frowned.

A week passed, and Seamore came home one day to find the whale was so big that it had pushed his closet door open. "Oh, no," he thought, "I've got to get you out of here before Mom sees you." He opened a window, but the whale was too big. He then tried to sneak it out the front door, but the whale started wailing loudly. "What's that horrible noise?" his mom asked. "I'm just listening to one of my CDs," Seamore lied. "That's a whale if I've ever heard one," said Seamore's mom. The whale's cry was so loud that its mom heard it miles away. She swam to the door of Seamore's house. The little, white whale was so glad to see its mom that it broke down the door, and they swam away together.

"Do you have something you want to tell me?" Seamore's mom asked, standing in the gaping hole where a door once hung. Seamore smiled sheepishly. "Little, white whales sure do become big, white whales quickly," he replied.



Seamore and the little, white whale

## Treasure Hunt

What lie did Seamore tell?  
How did his mother find out?  
How do little lies often grow into big ones?  
Why is lying wrong?  
Read Exodus 20:16 together.

## For Heaven's Sake



## Preacher's Kids

David Ayers



## Bible Crosswords

By Rebecca Souder

### Across

- 1 "Divided the light from the \_\_\_\_" (Genesis 1:4)
- 8 "He causeth his wind to \_\_\_\_" (Psalms 147:18)
- 12 Indiana State University, abbr.
- 13 Angers
- 14 "Sat upon \_\_\_\_ of them" (Acts 2:3)
- 15 Village, abbr.
- 16 "The earth brought forth \_\_\_\_" (Genesis 1:12)
- 18 Nazareth College and Academy, abbr.
- 19 Chemical suffix
- 20 Eastern seaboard state
- 21 "Being understood ... even his \_\_\_\_ power" (Romans 1:20)
- 25 Iron, chemical symbol
- 26 9th through 12th grades, abbr.
- 27 "Let my people \_\_\_\_" (Exodus 5:1)
- 28 "Voice \_\_\_\_ like the sea" (Jeremiah 6:23 nas)
- 30 "And darkness was upon the face of the \_\_\_\_" (Genesis 1:2)
- 32 "In the beginning \_\_\_\_" (Genesis 1:1)
- 34 Son of Peleg (Genesis 11:18)
- 35 "God called the light \_\_\_\_" (Genesis 1:5)
- 36 "Yielding \_\_\_\_ after his kind" (Genesis 1:12)
- 37 "\_\_\_\_ I have done this" (Psalms 7:3)
- 39 Fifty-four, Romans number
- 40 "Thou mayest freely \_\_\_\_" (Genesis 2:16)
- 41 "She took some and \_\_\_\_ it" (Genesis 3:6 NIV)
- 42 Articles
- 44 "\_\_\_\_ that may fly above the earth" (Genesis 1:20)
- 47 "Thou shalt \_\_\_\_ eat of it" (Genesis 2:17)
- 48 "Let there be \_\_\_\_ in the firmament" (Genesis 1:14)

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50	51				52				53			54
				55					56			

- 50 "Planted a garden in the \_\_\_\_" (Genesis 2:8 NIV)
- 52 Fellow of Entomology Society, abbr.
- 53 American Association of University Professors, abbr.
- 55 "The \_\_\_\_ was without form" (Genesis 1:2)
- 56 "And the \_\_\_\_ yielding fruit" (Genesis 1:12)
- 22 "Any taste in the white of an \_\_\_\_" (Job 6:6)
- 23 Rest, as a bird
- 24 "And the \_\_\_\_ God planted" (Genesis 2:8)
- 25 "And the \_\_\_\_ of righteousness is sown in peace" (James 3:18)
- 26 "Thus the \_\_\_\_ and the earth were finished" (Genesis 2:1)
- 29 Of age, Latin abbr.
- 31 Revise
- 33 Dover's state, abbr.
- 38 "The God which \_\_\_\_ me all my life" (Genesis 48:15)
- 39 "The moving creature that hath \_\_\_\_" (Genesis 1:20)
- 40 Suffix meaning to the utmost degree
- 41 "Thou shalt make an \_\_\_\_" (Exodus 30:1)
- 43 "Why beholdest thou the \_\_\_\_" (Matthew 7:3)
- 44 "\_\_\_\_ which we did eat in Egypt" (Numbers 11:5)
- 45 King of Bashan (Numbers 21:33)
- 46 "Said unto the woman, \_\_\_\_ is this?" (Genesis 3:13)
- 48 "\_\_\_\_ there be light" (Genesis 1:3)
- 49 "If any man will \_\_\_\_ thee" (Matthew 5:40)
- 51 Preposition
- 52 Romance language, abbr.
- 54 Sweaty class

### Down

- 1 "God \_\_\_\_ the light from the darkness" (Genesis 1:4)
- 2 "I will now turn \_\_\_\_, and see" (Exodus 3:3)
- 3 "The greater light to \_\_\_\_ the day" (Genesis 1:16)
- 4 "And the darkness he called \_\_\_\_" (Genesis 1:5)
- 5 "A people that do \_\_\_\_ in their heart" (Psalms 95:10)
- 6 "Have dominion over the fish of the \_\_\_\_" (Genesis 1:26)
- 7 Selective Service System, abbr.
- 8 "Let there \_\_\_\_ light" (Genesis 1:3)
- 9 "Let the dry \_\_\_\_ appear" (Genesis 1:9)
- 10 Ozark Christian College, abbr.
- 11 "God created great \_\_\_\_" (Genesis 1:21)
- 17 "I saw a \_\_\_\_ fall from heaven" (Revelation 9:1)
- 21 Catch sight of

## Last week's solution

1	W	O	R	K	M	A	N	5		6	S	W	7	O	8	R	9	
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# When was the last time you stood in the deep end of the pool?



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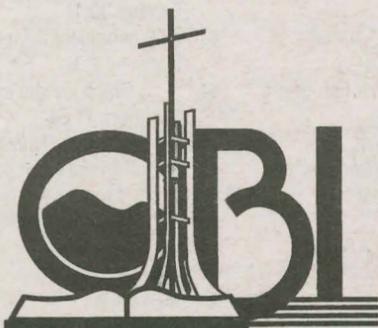
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