

Shine like stars in the world
Philippians 2:15

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'Called to Love'

WMU marks leadership transitions, hears words of concern at meeting

By Dannah Prather
Partnerships Editor

Louisville—Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union elected a new president, was praised for humanitarian efforts in Africa and the Caribbean, and heard words of challenge from its executive director at last week's annual meeting in Louisville.

About 700 WMU members and guests received reports from missionaries to Asia, Africa, Chile and Kentucky's deaf/hearing-impaired community. They also thanked national WMU President Kaye Miller of Arkansas for her service as her four-year term concludes later this year.

During the two-day meeting hosted by Westport Road Baptist Church, Miller, who spoke at Kentucky WMU's annual meeting in 2006 when her term began, provided testimony and insight into the theme, "Called to Love."

"We are called to love as Jesus loved," said Miller, who grew up in Thailand an "M.K.," or "missionary kid." She focused her remarks on how prayer, financial support, personal spiritual growth and participation in missions all are expressions of Christian love.

Missions education is a large component of those expressions, Miller said, telling the story of an Actean in Arkansas who prayer-walked a mosque weekly until a curious □ See WMU 'Called to Love' ... Page 3



'THANK YOU' Kentucky WMU Executive Director Joy Bolton (left) accepts a gift from Korea WMU Executive Director Sook Jae Lee marking the conclusion of a ministry partnership between the two groups that began in 2006. (Photos by Dannah Prather)



RACETRACK MISSIONARY Legendary jockey Pat Day says he first wanted to be a rodeo bull rider before his stature and skills led him to the track. Very vocal about his faith in Christ, Day is a spokesperson for the Racetrack Chaplaincy of America, which moved its headquarters this year to Georgetown.



INTERNATIONAL ENTRANCE Carol Russ, a member of Westport Road Baptist Church in Louisville, carries the French flag in the opening procession of Kentucky WMU's annual meeting, as Roxanne Nanney (left), minister of music at First Baptist Church of Brandenburg, leads the crowd in "We've a Story to Tell to the Nations." Westport Road Baptist hosted the two-day event that drew about 700 Woman's Missionary Union members and guests.

WMU hears Find It Here report

By Dannah Prather
Partnerships Editor

Louisville—Those attending the Kentucky WMU annual meeting were among the first to hear initial reports about the success of the statewide evangelistic effort Find It Here.

Larry Baker, interim leader of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's missions growth team, shared information from pastors and directors of missions across Kentucky who said the concerted effort of prayer and distributing gospel materials door-to-door resulted in people accepting Christ as Savior and making other spiritual decisions.

□ See WMU gets early Find It Here report ... Page 3

Families take more active role in teaching 'Faith at Home'

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Lawrenceburg—Joe Snodgrass is a deacon at First Baptist Church of Lawrenceburg, where he and his wife, Heather, teach a young adults Sunday school class.

However, these days their most important spiritual activity occurs at home. Each night for 15 to 30 minutes they sing, review a daily devotional and pray with their three children, ages 1 to 7.

"Every time we do it, I believe it brings us closer together," said Snodgrass, chief financial officer of an online toy business. "As Americans we can slip into the habit of going to church on Sunday and let that be it."

"I believe the purpose of in-home worship is to get away from that so our children can see it's us and God (that matters), not what we're doing at church."

Marty and Heather Terry are another First Baptist, Lawrenceburg couple who review Bible stories, pray and sometimes sing with their two young daughters just before bedtime at least twice a week.

Marty also uses lessons from Sunday school and his daughter's Christian school classes to reinforce Bible truths with them.

He said he is grateful he implemented the idea of providing more spiritual instruction at home.

"Most people take their kids to church and we have a contract with the preacher to

handle their spiritual growth," said the self-employed businessman. "I've learned it's my job and the preacher is the backup. He's to fine tune the work we've done."

This home-based worship trend at First Baptist, Lawrenceburg mirrors a "Faith at Home" movement that is touching churches across the nation, including Kentucky Baptists.

Children's minister Dana Royalty said the church's emphasis goes back to the fall of 2008.

Her husband, Tracey (now associate pastor), started leading services at home after a professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville discussed the practice in one of his classes.

Soon after, Dana attended a children's pastors' conference in Nashville, Tenn., where she learned about "Faith Legacy." The curriculum stresses having key ceremonies at various times of children's lives.

Picking up on this, last May First Baptist held its first baby dedication, followed by a special ceremony for young children in September. This fall, it will mark third-graders' transition from children's church to adult services.

"It's something we keep in front of our people," Royalty said. "They're hearing it from leaders in the church and they're buying into it."

□ See Parents take the lead ... Page 2



CREATING A LEGACY Jason McRoberts and his wife, Tara, present their daughter, Greta, with her first "Read to Me" Bible at a Faith Legacy Bible Ceremony at the church, part of the "Faith at Home" movement taking hold at First Baptist Church of Lawrenceburg and other Kentucky Baptist churches.

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Parents take the lead in disciplining children

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When she surveyed the congregation recently, 80 percent of the first 30 people who responded said their family worships at home. Ninety-five percent named parents as their children's primary disciplers.

That is the same message student minister Jason McCray and children's minister Micah Johnson are bringing to Valley Creek Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

The two staff members are using principles from "Orange," an approach to holistic family ministry published by the reThink Group of Atlanta.

Although they haven't fully implemented the curriculum yet, Johnson is using reThink's "Value Packs" with elementary-age children. The packs contain a series of values which children study at church throughout the month. They also contain principles that parents can use to follow up with at home.

Since starting last September, Valley Creek's children have learned about such traits as endurance, obedience, humility and honesty.

"This is a way for us to teach various virtues and for parents to go home and build off what we started," Johnson said. "It's growing more and more as parents use them."

"We have them posted throughout the church," McCray added. "In the student ministry, I'm trying to get the students to memorize Scripture. And, learn the virtue of the month so there's continuity between parents who have young children and teenagers."

In addition, Valley Creek has started regular "Family Experience" services. They include songs keyed to that month's virtue, worship, skits and banter by a pair of hosts.

Promoting parental involvement

Todd Clayton, student pastor at Erlanger Baptist Church, said he hopes to see a similar emphasis develop at the Northern Kentucky congregation.

In early March, Clayton launched a monthly Sunday school class for parents. He will review how to deal with such difficult issues as drugs, sex and the need for students to have consistency in their Christian walk.

Clayton is stressing the importance of parents discussing spiritual principles at home since they ultimately have more influence with their children.

Parents have responded positively to this message, he noted.

"The parents get excited when a youth pastor recognizes their potential," said Clayton, the father of two young children. "When I drop my 3-year-old off in the nursery, I would love it if a nursery worker called and said, 'This is what we did today and here's how you can help your child this week.'"

Clayton said he hopes parents will not only teach biblically based lessons, but also get more involved with the youth ministry.

"As parents buy into (this idea), they'll become on fire for it," he explained. "So when we have a DiscipleNow weekend, they will want it to work as much as I do."

At Second Baptist Church of Greenville, Josh Smith is trying to increase awareness of the importance of parents as spiritual leaders.

The church's minister of children and recreation, Smith said he soon plans to implement a class for parents on how to discipline their children.

While praying last fall, Smith recalled sensing God impressing the importance of parents and ministry that would bring families together. That has meant inviting



FAMILY TIME The crew from Valley Creek Baptist Church in Elizabethtown hosts a Family Experience service April 3. The services include songs themed around a particular virtue, worship, skits and banter by a pair of hosts.

everyone—not just children—to participate in monthly outings like ice skating and movie time.

The children's minister also encourages more parents to stay for family recreation after Sunday evening services.

Smith said he believes God already is at work in this new emphasis, noting that it used to be difficult to find parents to teach

Wednesday night classes for children.

However, since Second Baptist, Greenville started using new curriculum last fall, parents have readily volunteered to lead those sessions.

"I think it's God working in the lives of parents," Smith indicated. "It's parents of the kids saying, 'I want to teach these children.'"

Ministers: Church, home must 'work together'

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Elizabethtown—Micah Johnson said he believes children have the ability to change the world, but that they need supportive parents to fully develop their potential.

The children's minister has a deep appreciation for the crucial role parents play because of a girl who is active at Valley Creek Baptist Church, but who doesn't receive support at home.

"The parents come and drop her off," Johnson said. "As excited as she is and as pumped as she is, I'm afraid it's going to diminish if she doesn't get some home involvement."

"I see how important it is for church and home to work together and integrate their work to have a greater influence on the child."

The need for parents to disciple their offspring can be seen through a key statistic. While children and youth pastors see students an average of 40 hours a year, their parents spend more than 3,000 hours with them.

"When you compare the two, we need to stay involved with families," Johnson said. "Our 40 hours are going to be more productive when combined with those 3,000."

Fortunately, that message is penetrating the body of Christ, according to a Southern Baptist pastor near Houston who spearheaded his church's move toward parental discipleship.

Brian Haynes, associate pastor of Kingsland Baptist Church in Katy, Texas, points to various authors emphasizing Deuteronomy 6:6-7, which instructs parents to "teach God's commands to your children and talk about them continuously."

"The whole return to Deuteronomy 6 and the practice of it is a move of the Lord in this country and western Christianity," Haynes said.

Kingsland Baptist helps parents guide children through seven milestones of life, starting in infancy. The key to its program is weekly "Faith Talks," where parents teach age-appropriate spiritual lessons at home.

The church also attempts to capture moments that present opportunities to

talk about God and celebrates events like baptism or graduating to new levels of maturity.

Since initiating this change five years ago, Kingsland has doubled its average attendance to 3,000. It also has seen hundreds of salvations.

Significantly, instead of primarily seeing conversions through vacation Bible school or special events, many youngsters tell of accepting Christ during home devotions.

"Our transformation the last few years has definitely changed the way families make disciples," Haynes said. "I think it's going to happen in the church universal. Whether that means five or 10 years is hard to say, but I think it will."

Another key leader in this movement is Reggie Joiner, founder of the reThink Group. Joiner is the creator of "Orange," which refers to mixing the best of the church (yellow) and home (red) to create a stronger color.

Some 4,500 churches use its curriculum, including resources for preschoolers, children and youth. Although the numbers have tripled in recent years, Joiner said he is more excited about the expansion of churches partnering with families, regardless of method.

Orange's popularity is demonstrated through its annual conference. The next one in late April near Atlanta is expected to attract 4,000 people from all 50 states and more than a dozen nations.

"This has become a primary way for churches to influence their communities," Joiner explained. "We want to do as much as we can to provide tools to help them do that."

Johnson said he based Valley Creek's new "Family Experience" services on a model Joiner discussed at a conference six years ago.

The Atlanta minister came up with the idea after watching "The Lion King" with his wife and children and noticing that everyone was closely engaged with the movie.

"He said, 'If Disney can engage the family, why can't the church?'" Johnson noted. "Lately, I've had a lot of parents talking about their children's consistency in learning. It seems to be a pretty positive response."

Longtime campus minister at Oneida, well-known blogger Spencer dies at 53

Oneida—Michael Spencer, the longtime campus minister at Oneida Baptist Institute, died April 5 after a four-month battle with cancer. He was 53.

Spencer, an ordained Baptist minister who graduated from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1984, also was known to many as the voice behind the popular and sometimes controversial Christian blog Internet Monk. Today the site claims 700,000 visitors a year and consistently is ranked as one of the 20 most popular sites in the Christian blogosphere.

For two decades Spencer worked as a campus minister and Bible teacher at Oneida Baptist Institute. He also was a frequent guest contributor to OBI President W.F. Underwood's weekly Western Recorder column "This Is Oneida."

Spencer "was a marvelous contributor to our school and he will be deeply missed," Underwood told the Recorder last week.

Spencer was diagnosed last year with a non-specific cancer and had a small mass removed from the base of his brain on Christmas Eve.

He began radiation and chemotherapy but doctors said in early March the cancer was too advanced and aggressive to expect any remission. He and his wife, Denise, opted to discontinue treatment March 23.

In the pulpit, Underwood called Spencer a "very gifted speaker," comparing him to well-known Baptist orators like John MacArthur, Adrian Rogers and Charles Stanley.

"I've heard all those people preach many, many times, and Mike took a back seat to no one," Underwood said.

As an instructor, Spencer "could take a (biblical) text and bring it down to where middle school and high school kids could sink their teeth into it," Underwood noted.

Spencer started the Internet Monk blog in 2000. A frequent critic of the status quo, Spencer sometimes was accused of being anti-evangelical. He described himself as a Baptist who was open to other traditions—including Catholicism—but said he chose to remain a Protestant, an evangelical and a Baptist for a reason.

Underwood declined to speak on the record about Spencer's Internet persona, but did note that his criticisms of denominational issues never influenced his teaching or personal discussions with Oneida students.

In addition to his wife, Spencer is survived by two adult children. A memorial service was held April 10 at the OBI chapel.

Spencer's first book, "Mere Christianity—Finding Your Way Back to Jesus-Shaped Spirituality," is due for release this fall.

An Associated Baptist Press story reported that Spencer had been dismissed from OBI prior to his death. Underwood refuted that statement, saying that because of missed time due to his illness, Spencer no longer was receiving his salary, but still was receiving medical benefits, housing, utilities and food, the same as all Oneida faculty and staff members.

With additional reporting by Associated Baptist Press

WMU 'Called to Love'

Continued from page 1

member asked her what she was doing. Upon hearing the gospel from the teenager, Miller said the man "set his Koran on the steps ... and accepted Christ kneeling at the side of the road."

"Missions education works," Miller said.

That topic was discussed with a tone of concern from Kentucky WMU Executive Director Joy Bolton.

Recognized during the annual meeting for 10 years of service as Kentucky WMU exec, Bolton said Kentucky's 2009 Annual Church Profile "results are disturbing."

WMU membership in churches completing the ACP dropped 14.5 percent from 2008. Bolton said the decline also likely means a drop in missions education organizations such as Mission Friends, Children in Action, Girls in Action, Acteens and Royal Ambassadors. "We need to recapture a passion for teaching missions to preschoolers and children," Bolton said.

She noted that other children's ministry programs often include a missions component but she fears the lack of "comprehensive Southern Baptist missions education" will result in a decline in missions participation and support by young adults.

Missions ed "does more than just prepare future missionaries and supporters. It helps get kids saved," Bolton noted, citing research from LifeWay Christian Resources that found churches with programs such as G.A.s and R.A.s baptize more children than churches without those efforts.

In her final remarks as Kentucky WMU president, Pat Reaves echoed Bolton's concerns. "If you don't have missions ed in your church, I'm going to beg you to ... pray about that."

Workers report progress, needs

Kentucky native and long-time missionary to Chile Karen



STEP ONE Susan Hatfield of Baptist Global Response, demonstrates how to pack an in-home health kit that will help an African family affected by AIDS or other serious illnesses. Hatfield and her husband, Mark, were among eight Southern Baptist international missionary couples who left the IMB to form Baptist Global Response in 2007. BGR meets physical needs in some of the most economically desperate countries of the world. (Photos by Dannah Prather)

Wright asked Kentucky Baptists to pray for the start of new churches in the port city of Valparaiso, "a city (of 400,000 people) built on 42 hills. ... Only four of those hills now have a congregation."

She said many people in Chile "are probably not very different from people you know" who choose aspects of different faiths to form a personal belief. She noted that the recent earthquake has made some people more open to hear the gospel.

Susan Hatfield of Baptist Global Response thanked Kentucky Baptists for the 9,650 "Buckets of Hope" for survivors of January's earthquake in Haiti. She also expressed thanks for the 1,000 in-home care kits Kentucky Baptists provided for people in Africa in recent years.

The mission of Baptist Global Response is "to connect people in need with people who care," Hatfield said. "Southern Baptists are a people who care."

Hatfield and her husband, Mark, both Kentucky natives, serve in sub-Saharan Africa where hunger, poverty and AIDS take a devastating toll on men, women and children. Through Baptist support of the World Hunger Fund, Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions and the Cooperative Program, Baptist Global Response is providing direct aid and working with other ministries to meet physical needs and build relationships.

Tim Bender, pastoral missionary to the deaf with the Kentucky Baptist Convention, thanked Kentucky Baptists for their support of the Eliza Broadus Offering which provides funding for ministries to the deaf and hearing impaired in Eastern Kentucky.

Bender, who has 50 percent of his hearing in both ears, said the deaf and hearing-impaired "are the most unreached people group in the world." Gallaudet University in Washington estimates as many as 24 million people are part of this community in the United States.



A MOTHER'S THANK YOU Linda Jackson thanks Kentucky WMU for encouraging her child, a student at Campbellsville University, while she and her husband, David, remained on the mission field in West Africa.

Bender started a mission church for the deaf in 1988 in Erlanger. He came to Louisville in 1992 and began the Louisville Baptist Deaf Church. He has served as a state missionary since 1998.

He stated specifically that pastors would be found to serve deaf/hearing-impaired in Bowling Green, Danville, Erlanger, Glasgow and Eastern Kentucky.

David and Linda Jackson, missionaries to West Africa, and a Last Frontier missionary to Asia also spoke at the meeting.

In other annual meeting news: ■ Kentucky Baptist leaders encouraged a growing focus on preparations for the World Equestrian Games Sept. 25-Oct. 10 in Lexington. Volunteers are needed for ministries to the Olympic-sized crowd. For details, visit www.aimky.org.

■ Kentucky WMU made a \$1,000 gift to the Korean WMU endowment fund in honor of Executive Director Sook Jae Lee.

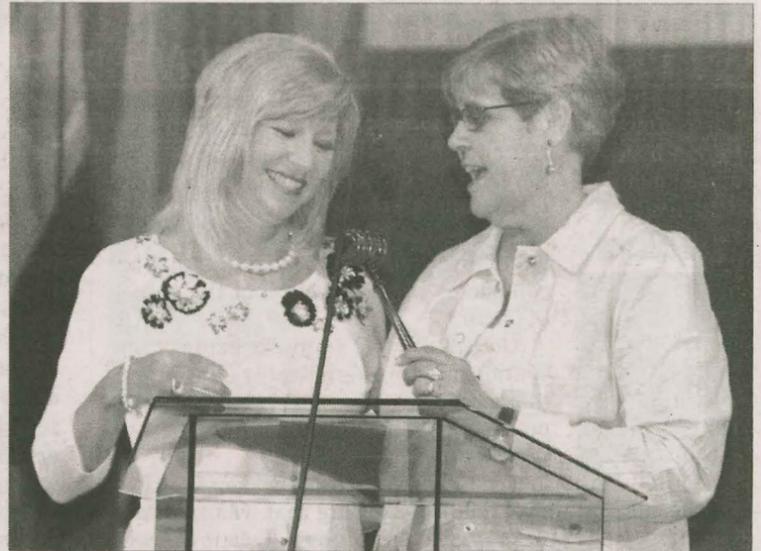
■ In her report, Bolton said Stacy Nall, camp consultant, has added the duties of preschool and children's consultant. Other staff members have taken on additional responsibilities since the retirement of Brenda Price in February.

■ In addition to Bolton, Glenda Triplett, office assistant, was recognized for 10 years of service with Kentucky WMU.

■ Re-elected as vice president was Sandra Duguid, a member of New Palestine Baptist Church in Crofton. Cheryl Hatfield of Willisburg concluded her service as recording secretary. Elected to that post was Marcia Ballard, member of Allansville Baptist Church in Winchester.

■ Newly elected members of the WMU Executive Board are: Brenda Williams, Almo; Joyce Wilcox, Berman; Lesa Keown, Hawesville; Amanda-Grace Richey, Smithfield; Darlene Schadler, Independence; Donna Fegenbush, Danville; Annette Story, Waynesburg; and Judy Short, Allen. Charlotte Rock of Louisville is the new president of Kentucky Baptist Nursing Fellowship and serves as an ex-officio member of the board.

■ The 2011 annual meeting will be March 25-26 at First Baptist Church of Bowling Green.



YOUR TURN Outgoing Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union president Pat Reaves of Louisville (right) passes the gavel to the new president, Linda Cooper of Bowling Green. Cooper, WMU director for Warren Association of Baptists, is a member of Forest Park Baptist Church.



M.K. & G.A.s Left: "Missionary Kid" Stratton Hatfield thanks Kentucky WMU for their ministries to missionaries that made it possible for him to attend a "re-entry retreat" for M.K.s coming to the United States from the international mission field. A student at the University of Kentucky, Stratton said he misses Africa, where his parents still serve, but that the fellow M.K.s he met at the retreat have helped in the transition to life in the U.S. Right: Girls in Action Trinity (left) and Gabrielle Cox of Louisville recite the G.A. pledge for WMU members and guests.



PRESIDENTIAL CHAT Kaye Miller (left), president of national WMU, visits with Geneva Faw of Louisville during a reception for Miller and Brenda Price at the Kentucky Baptist Convention building. Price recently retired after nearly 30 years on the staff of Kentucky WMU. The reception was held on the first day of last week's annual meeting. Miller, a nurse and former M.K., began serving as national WMU president in 2006. Her term ends this year. (Photo by Drew Nichter)



SPECIAL DELIVERY Victoria Hicks, a member of Lyndon Baptist Church in Louisville, creates an "encouragement card" during a break in the WMU meeting. The cards go to hospital patients, people served by the Jefferson Street Baptist Center and to other people facing crisis. During the meeting, WMU members also donated clothing for Louisville-area ministries. More than \$7,000 for ministries to Southern Baptist missionaries with Kentucky ties.

WMU gets early Find It Here report

Continued from page 1

A former director of missions for Christian County Baptist Association, Baker said, "I don't believe I have ever seen the excitement" that Find It Here has generated among Kentucky Baptists.

Baker said the KBC estimates between 40,000 and 50,000 Kentucky Baptists from nearly 1,700 churches representing 68 associations participated.

Based upon cards returned by people who received the gospel materials, more than 2,700 people have made spiritual decisions, including professions of faith in Christ, baptism and rededications to Christ. Others wanted to learn how to become a Christian or wanted more information on the local church.

Baker said one person wrote on a card: "Please come see me. I don't know if I can hold on much longer."

Several pastors credited Find It Here for an exciting Easter Sunday, Baker said.

■ Colesburg Baptist Church in Hardin County usually welcomes about 85 people on Easter. This year 121 people came.

■ Knox County Association reported four churches were "standing room only."

■ West Van Lear Baptist Church in Floyd County recently drew about 12 people for Sunday morning worship. Today the church has that many people in the choir.

■ Hillvue Heights in Bowling Green baptized 33 people on Easter Sunday, some of those people had made professions of faith at services earlier that day.

"Churches have started working together for the kingdom of God in a way we've not really seen in Kentucky before," Baker said.

Thanks be to God for your generosity

"You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God" (2 Corinthians 9:11).

Partners in the Mission

By Bill Mackey

In this verse, the apostle Paul was reminding the believers at Corinth that their generosity was resulting in thanksgiving to God. In verse 13, he goes on to say that "... men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ."

On behalf of all Kentucky Baptist Convention and Southern Baptist Convention mission causes, I want to express heartfelt praise to God for the continuing generosity of Kentucky Baptists.

Recently, I heard a speaker say that we need to make sure that we thank the right people. In this case, I want lay people who work hard and give generously to support their local churches to know that they are appreciated. Without the generous giving of faithful Kentucky Baptists and lay people like them across the SBC, we would not have outstanding and effective mission boards, seminaries, conventions, associations and churches. Without their generous and faithful giving and obedience to God, we could not expect or experience a Great Commission resurgence.

Even in a time of economic challenge, Kentucky Baptists have exceeded Cooperative Program gifts over the previous year by 1.6 percent (\$219,053) through the end of March. And the mission offerings are at all time record levels:

- Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions—This offering has exceeded \$4.9 million (up 21 percent over 2009).

- Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions—Most receipts will come during April, but this offering is already off to a fast start with about \$475,000 received by the end of March.

- Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions—This offering has exceeded \$1.2 million (up 17 percent over 2009).

Recently, I had an opportunity to review the six months report of Cooperative Program giving by KBC churches. While giving from some churches was down, it was exciting to see that many were showing increases—some pretty dramatic. In fact during this six-month period, more than 113 churches increased their giving to support missions through CP gifts by more than \$3,000 which is most commendable in these challenging economic times.

This is a wonderful example of how churches partner and complement each other in order to accomplish together what we could not do separately. This is why Paul wrote, "...I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel ..." (Philippians 1:4).

To see the latest six-month giving report for all Kentucky Baptist Churches, visit www.kybaptist.org/cpreports. A host of other CP materials for your church are available at www.kybaptist.org/cpmissions.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Children deserve to know some real heroes

Joy Bolton, executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, didn't mince words during her report last week: "We need a missions education resurgence." Citing statistics in the 2009 Annual Church Profile that show a trend of decline in WMU membership, Bolton appealed to church leaders to repent of their apathy and recapture a passion for teaching missions education to children and youth. In her prayer, she asked God to use WMU to teach children about a lost world and to help churches to see kids not just as our future leaders, but as Billy, Susan and Johnny, who need to experience the love of Christ now.

**After Thought**

By Todd Deaton

WMU annual meetings always provide a great opportunity to meet missionaries. And after talking with a few—the likes of Jim Leeper, who served in Turkey, Bosnia and Germany; Jim and Betty McKinley, who served 34 years in Bangladesh; and Gerald and June McNeely, who taught at a seminary in Spain—I found myself awestruck by their sacrificial commitment. Yet I wondered: Do our children and youth see these missionaries as spiritual heroes? Do they appear larger than life—greater than any basketball, baseball or football player? In our sports-crazed society, have we somehow failed our children by not introducing them to some of the heroes of our faith: our missionaries?

"What's so cool about being a missionary?" our children ask. Consider some real-life experiences that were shared during the WMU annual meeting:

- National WMU President Kaye Miller, a former missionary kid, recalled how as a child she had witnessed firsthand an immediate answer to prayer. At a medical clinic in the bush of Thailand, where her father was serving, a young boy desperately needed surgery. Doctors, however, could not operate in the makeshift tent made from mosquito netting because the X-ray machine broke. Not long after the missionaries prayed, though, a puff of dust was seen rising along the road. Inside an approaching truck was a new X-ray machine, purchased by Southern Baptist gifts to the Lottie Moon Offering for International Missions.

- Karen Wright, a missionary to Chile, told about Baptist relief efforts to prepare food for families affected by the recent earthquake. She conveyed an urgent need for volunteers to assist construction efforts to provide shelter before the rainy season arrives. At least 10 Baptist churches were damaged significantly and several pastors lost their homes, she added. "Our

prayer is that God will use this disaster for spiritual awakening, and that Christian people will be able to share their hope with others," she said.

- David and Linda Jackson, missionaries to West Africa, moved from an urban setting because they found village after village where people had never heard about Jesus. Because so few people have access to their written language, the Jacksons do Bible storytelling, covering from creation to Christ. Some Muslim women wanted to learn to read, so the Jacksons are teaching them by studying Bible stories.

- Tim Bender, a pastoral missionary in Louisville, works with what is thought to be the largest unreached people group, according to the International Mission Board: the deaf and hearing-impaired. Advances in technology and a more level playing field due to the American Disabilities Act have actually made this community harder to reach, Bender said. "They are more self-sufficient; they feel they don't need God," he explained. "But they all need one thing: relationships," he noted. Through building relationships, believers can share Christ, Bender urged.

- A Last Frontier missionary serving in Asia ministers among a people group that does not even have a written language. She has worked diligently, however, to learn to communicate. In one village, she met a 103-year-old man. Most of his family doubted if he would be able to hear, but after she finished the man responded, "I heard everything you said and I want to believe." Like most of the villagers, it was the first time he'd ever heard Jesus' name. "That's the reason I'm there," she said.

Southern Baptists are talking a lot these days about the need for a Great Commission resurgence. But, as Bolton aptly emphasized, the issue is far more than how we divide Cooperative Program funds. She called on WMU to increase efforts "to help churches understand the long-term value of teaching Great Commission values to preschoolers, children and youth." Whatever we want our children to value as adults must be taught from preschool up, she urged.

She's right. If we are serious about seeing a Great Commission resurgence, we have to do our part. Support and encourage some of our local heroes: those who lead Girls-in-Action, Acteens, Royal Ambassadors and Challengers, helping our children to understand that all Christians are called to love. And invite our missionaries frequently to speak. Our children deserve to know some truly great, spiritual heroes.

Beyond Find It Here: 'What should we do now?'

By Don Mathis

One of the most exciting events in recent times in the Kentucky Baptist Convention has been Find It Here. Leading up to Easter Sunday, a gospel witness and an invitation to attend worship was either placed in the hands of residents or hung on the door knobs of 1.5 million homes.

Find It Here followed a time of prayerwalking communities in preparation for the distribution. It will be followed by a High Attendance Day in Sunday school on April 18.

Positive results are being reported by many churches. The Kentucky church where I preached in revival the week before Easter already has had five families attend as a result of Find It Here. A neighboring church reported 24 first-time guests—more than they have seen in years.

I preached in revival in an out-of-state church with services beginning on Easter Sunday. With a normal Sunday morning attendance of 82, they had 174. More returned on

Sunday night than they have on a typical Sunday morning.

I am sure that many churches have experienced similar results. What will result from Find It Here in the near future? What about months and years from now? God only knows, but it will inevitably be positive. God has promised that His Word will not return void.

An even more important question becomes, "What do we do now?" Let me offer a few suggestions:

- 1) Immediately start or re-energize your existing evangelistic visitation program. Knock on the doors of the persons discovered through Find It Here. There are a lot of "programs" for doing visitation. Use one of them or develop your own. If we don't knock on their doors, they won't come through ours.

- 2) Enrolled every possible person in a Sunday school class. This is a good time to start new classes. Remember, new classes grow faster.

- 3) Pray, plan and work toward your best vacation Bible school ever.

Make it an outreach VBS. Almost half of the people baptized each year in our churches come from VBS. This, too, will be at its best with the direct involvement of the pastor, including his leading the invitation time.

- 4) Follow up with a Harvest Revival sometime between August and November. Couple this with a High Attendance Day in Sunday school and special revival nights. With the actions mentioned above, many of the gospel seeds sown now will be ready for God to give a harvest.

- 5) How about simultaneous revivals next spring? We always baptize more people when we have revivals than when we don't.

In short, let's not let Find It Here be another program that comes and goes. We can deliver the gospel to every home in Kentucky. Let's keep our focus on the 63 percent of our state's population who do not know Jesus. They need for Find It Here to be more than a one time event.

Don Mathis, staff evangelist at Eastwood Baptist Church in Bowling Green, is president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

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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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Some dangerous winds assail our fragile planet

By Erich Bridges

Sorry to rain on your spring parade, but the world faces some dangerous challenges that threaten already-fragile global stability.

Putting aside the overheated debate about climate change—whether it is caused by human activity, what can be done about it, etc.—more immediate threats demand attention. Here are a few:

Age of scarcity

After an “age of abundance” marked by rapid economic growth in the 1990s and the first decade of the new millennium, an “age of scarcity” is emerging, according to some forecasters. It will persist even if the major economies overcome the recent global downturn.

“The main problems of scarcity are water and food shortages, demographic change and state failure,” reports *The Economist* magazine. The competition for precious resources among shaky governments with even shakier economies could spark tensions among nations that once considered each other allies.

Unseen attackers

Who would have thought we’d miss the days of MAD (“Mutual Assured Destruction”), when a few superpowers kept the peace, more or less, by targeting each other with nuclear weapons they hoped never to use?

Today, untraceable enemies can bring down national computer net-

works via cyber-attack. If you can’t confirm the source of such attacks, you can’t retaliate—which increases the likelihood they will occur.

The possibility of attacks by shadowy groups with far more devastating weapons is no less real.

“As I view the threat, we have a perfect storm,” warned former U.S. Senator Sam Nunn (D-Ga.) in a recent interview with *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. Nunn, a longtime defense expert, leads a group working to decrease the global threat of weapons of mass destruction.

“We have weapons of mass destruction-type material spread in at least 40 countries around the globe,” Nunn said. “We have technological know-how that is spread very wide now. It was formerly thought that only a state could make a bomb. Nobody that’s informed on the subject believes that anymore. We’ve got an increased number of terrorists who would not hesitate to use a nuclear weapon if they were able to get one.”

Decline of freedom

For the fourth year in a row, more countries experienced declines in political freedom than advances, according to “Freedom in the World 2010,” the latest annual report from the watchdog organization Freedom House. Eighty-nine countries, home to about half of the world’s people,

are classified as “free.” The rest, even those nations that hold democratic elections, govern their populations with varying levels of repression.

A report released in December by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life found that nearly seven of every 10 people live in countries that significantly restrict religious faith and practice. Of 198 nations studied, 75 put official limits on religious evangelization.

If you think such forces are beyond the ability of ordinary Christians to influence, think again. Evangelical groups—including Baptist Global Response, an international relief and development organization—are doing some of the most effective work to end human suffering and promote sustainable development, even as they share the love of Jesus.

Followers of Christ also are defending the rights of people in many places to basic human freedoms, including the freedom to worship as they please. The gospel itself, once it spreads and takes root, has shown its power to transform whole societies as it transforms hearts.

Finally, believers possess the most powerful weapon of all: prayer. You can pray for peace. And where there is no peace, you can pray that God will use turmoil to turn the eyes of searching humanity toward Him. (BP)

Erich Bridges is global correspondent for the International Mission Board.

FIRST PERSON

If you think such forces are beyond the ability of ordinary Christians to influence, think again.

Take a biblical ‘time out’

By Scott Wigginton

Q: My wife and I have the most awful fights. While we never get physical, we say things that would embarrass us if anyone were listening. At this point, our children are very young, but I’m afraid that they will grow up and witness these things. What can we do?

A: The apostle Paul wrote to the church at Ephesus, “Be angry, and do not sin...” (Ephesians 4:26a), indicating that all anger need not move persons to destructive thinking or behavior. Obviously, your verbal wars are destructive to each of you, to your marriage and potentially to your witness.

While Ephesians 4:26b reminds you to “not let the sun go down upon your anger,” referring to dealing with anger in a timely manner, an interesting text in the Old Testament amplifies the teaching. Psalm 4:4 begins in the same way, “Be angry, and do not sin...,” but finishes in a very different way. The reader is encouraged, “... on your bed, reflect in your heart and be still.” The Amplified Bible puts it this way, “... commune with your own hearts upon your beds and be silent.”

Could it be that there is wisdom in taking a biblical “timeout” to calm down? Could it be that, rather than simply counting to 10, we are encouraged to pray and recount God’s desire for us to be like Christ? If we would be silent and turn to God, would He not provide the ability to transcend the awful strivings of our “flesh?”

Would it be surprising that studies among marriage and family researchers suggest that when a person’s heartbeat gets above 100 beats per minute in conflict, he/she tends to get stupid? One may know the rules for a fair fight, understand all the best information on conflict management, and still charge forward with hurtful intent, driven by a chaotic need to defend and attack. The ancient wisdom of the Scripture is simply this: slow down; look up; listen up; be different.

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



IRA conversion offers opportunity

By Laurie Valentine

Do you have a traditional IRA and expect to be in the same income tax bracket in retirement that you are in currently? Or, do you have a traditional IRA, the bulk of which you hope to be able to leave to your children at your death, all of whom are in higher tax brackets than you?

If you answered yes to one (or both) of those questions, you may want to consider converting your traditional IRA into a Roth IRA. Unlike traditional IRAs, contributions to a Roth IRA are not tax deductible. However, like a traditional IRA, funds in a Roth IRA grow tax-free.

One advantage of a Roth IRA is there is no requirement for withdrawals for persons over age 70 1/2 as there is for a traditional IRA. And, Roth IRA distributions are not taxable income. The one hitch is that any amount converted to a Roth IRA is subject to income tax. To reduce the income tax hit caused by a conversion to a Roth IRA, consider combining the conversion with a charitable gift. The charitable gift component of the plan provides a charitable income tax deduction.

Your giving goals and the amount of income you must recognize as a result of the conversion will determine which of a variety of charitable gift plans is best.

Charitable gift annuities seem well-suited to this type of planning as they provide tax-favored income for life that can replace the required distribution income that would have come from the traditional IRA, an immediate tax deduction, and the opportunity to set up a potentially significant future gift to charity.

For example, if Mary, 69, in a 35 percent tax bracket, converted her \$100,000 IRA to a Roth IRA, she would owe \$35,000 of income taxes. If, instead, she converted only \$60,000 and used the other \$40,000 to fund a 5.6 percent charitable gift annuity, her tax liability would be reduced 15 percent, and she would receive \$35,840 in annuity payments during her expected life. With 7 percent annual investment returns, at Mary’s death, charity will receive \$55,600 from the gift annuity and the Roth IRA will have \$205,000 to pass to family.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.



After celebrating Easter, be more like Jesus

By Bill Webb

The highest holy day of the year for Christians is now past. Christians rightfully celebrated God’s sacrifice in the death of His Son on a ghastly cross. We remembered His death reverently and soberly. But we also rejoiced in the remembrance of His resurrection and His victory over evil and death. We gave thanks that He is our personal Savior and Lord.

Luke 24:46-48 references some of Jesus’ final words to His disciples after His resurrection: “He told them, ‘This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.’”

Twenty-first-century believers often struggle with what we will do with the powerful truth of the resurrection once the spiritual high of Easter is behind us. How do we live out our faith in such a way that we are faithful witnesses of the things of God? Do Jesus’ words suggest that we merely all become preachers and evangelists and spend every moment preaching repentance and forgiveness of sins?

The life of Jesus gives us the best example of one who not only grasped the message of God but also demonstrated the love of God to humankind. In the days after Pentecost, people from all over were coming to faith in Christ by the thousands. By all indications, they were responding to the powerful preaching of the disciples. But they also were moved by religious people who did not look down on others but who shared possessions, such

as food, and experiences like prayer and worship.

Among religious types—those earliest Christians were a novelty—just like Jesus, an obvious one of a kind.

This year, Easter was celebrated in communities that have been turned upside down and destroyed by disasters—places like Haiti, Chile, Turkey and China. In all of these places, outsiders have reached out in compassion with various kinds of aid, much of it delivered in person. On lesser scales, more and more churches and their members are living out their faith with compassionate ministries in their own neighborhoods.

More than 25 years ago I was assigned to do a story about a ministry to children and their families in the impoverished mountain communities of southeast Kentucky. A young woman from this isolated area guided the ministry, called Love in Action. She dodged coal trucks on narrow mountain roads to reach nooks and crannies containing people wary of outsiders. Over time, they had seen love in action—and many had opened up to the hearing of the gospel.

The best evangelism in Christendom still happens when unbelievers see in believers the character and characteristics of Christ. For instance, when we observe hunger, we do what we can to meet that need—just like Jesus.

When we see poverty, we address issues that cause poverty and we do

whatever we can to alleviate it—just like Jesus.

When we encounter a person in pain, we respond in specific ways—just like Jesus.

When we see loneliness, we befriend the lonely and introduce them to the ultimate friend—Jesus.

Sometimes people suggest that the only reason we need to reach out to others in such situations is to earn a hearing for sharing our faith. They suggest that our acts of benevolent ministry are mainly lures to reel unbelievers into a gospel presentation. To view hunger, poverty, pain, loneliness and hopelessness as mere tools for

making a gospel-pounce on an unsuspecting person is to miss the point of Jesus’ ministry and of genuine evangelism.

We become particularly sensitive to hunger, poverty, pain, loneliness and hopelessness because of what Christ has done for us and because we are gradually becoming more like Him. We

notice conditions that are heartbreaking and offer ourselves to do something about them—just like Jesus. And because we really care about people, we are motivated to help them out of spiritual poverty, too—just like Jesus.

Some of the most effective Christian proclaimers have been those who have not only pointed people to Jesus but have given them a little taste of the Savior, too. Easter is a reminder that God wants us all to be more like Jesus. (ABP)

Bill Webb is editor of the Missouri Baptist Word & Way.

FIRST PERSON

The best evangelism ... still happens when unbelievers see in believers the character and characteristics of Christ.



FAMILY TIME The Santos family distributes Find It Here bags throughout their neighborhood in Reno, Nev. The bags included a gospel presentation, as well as invitations to Filipino International Fellowship Church and Crosspoint Community Church for Easter Sunday services.

Churches share gospel in 'Biggest Little City'

By Carol Pipes
North American Mission Board

Reno, Nev.—In the shadow of the Sierra Mountains, the "Biggest Little City in the World"—Reno, Nev.—comes to life when the sun sets as the downtown casinos light up the Nevada sky.

But peel away the glitz of Reno's nightlife and you'll find a city spiritually asleep, with at least 96 percent of the population unchurched.

For that reason, pastors in Sierra Baptist Association decided to participate in GPS: Across North America, part of a 10-year evangelism effort by Southern Baptists.

"The churches of Sierra Baptist Association saw this as a great opportunity to capitalize on the TV commercials that are airing on the channels here in Northern Nevada," said Eddie Miller, director of missions for Sierra Association. "It's exciting to hear stories from churches in the association about how their members have responded to this effort. We've had families adopt entire neighborhoods."

Families like Richard and Tina Santos, who live in the Spanish Springs area of Reno. Members of Filipino International Christian Fellowship, the couple stuffed almost 500 bags with the Find It Here materials and two church fliers—one for Filipino Fellowship and the other for Crosspoint, an English-speaking congregation. On a recent Saturday, Richard, Tina and their three sons—Kai, Kaden and Keno—walked up and down the streets of their neighborhood. They stopped at each house, hanging a bag on the door-knobs.

"When we heard about Find It Here, we were excited," Richard Santos noted. "We wanted to be a part of it and getting the name of Jesus Christ known all over."

Santos is a volunteer telephone encourager for the North American Mission Board's Evangelism Response Center. When someone calls the number on the Find It Here brochures or television commercials, the call is forwarded to a volunteer like Santos. An increase in calls has been registered since the Find It Here advertising campaign started a few weeks ago.

"Without a doubt, I think many lives will be changed through this," Santos said. "Curiosity will kick in, people will go to the Web site, make phone calls and ask questions. It's going to be a great thing."

Sierra Association has trained more than 50 telephone encouragers in the area and another 20 trainers to help others become part of the ERC ministry.

"Our churches are excited about this evangelistic effort as it has potential for months of outreach impact here in the area," Miller said.

"Our involvement was a no-brainer," said Doug Vaughan, founding pastor of Crosspoint Community Church. "We realized our mission and goals fit right into the 10-year GPS strategy. It's just something we wanted to be a part of."

Vaughan has been teaching his members that the church is not a building but a group of people who are out living in the community and showing Christ to those who don't know Him.

"This outreach effort is getting us outside our comfort zone," Vaughan said. "And we're able to get out and reach the people around us."

Vaughan said he also liked the idea of partnering other churches throughout the convention. "It's great to be a part of something bigger than ourselves," he said. (BP)

Mile-high ministry opportunity

Denver church mobilizes members to help city Find It Here

By James Dotson
North American Mission Board

Denver—The task at hand for members of Riverside Baptist Church: slip small plastic bags containing a couple of brochures on doorknobs or gateposts in assigned neighborhoods near their church.

The opportunity to share Christ is one of the key reasons the Denver church joined thousands of others nationwide in distributing millions of the bags as part of the God's Plan for Sharing: Across North America effort developed by the North American Mission Board.

"It's a wonderful opportunity for ministry," said Devon Gibson, one of 16 members of Riverside's Koinonia "impact group" which distributed 750 of the packets in 45 minutes.

"It's all about getting out of the actual church and getting into the neighborhood of the inner city," Gibson said. "That's what God has called us to do. We come (to church) to get equipped, but our ministry is outside."

Riverside distributed more than 12,000 of the packets in neighborhoods surrounding its campus, as well as in Castle Rock to the south where it sponsors a church plant. Each of the packets contained the main Find It Here brochure and information about the church.

The packet distribution, which followed prayerwalking in the same neighborhoods in previous weeks, was just one element of a comprehensive implementation of the campaign at Riverside.

Pastor Jim Shaddix said larger churches such as Riverside often don't participate in denominational initiatives because of their ability to develop and implement their own contextualized campaigns. But this campaign—known locally as Across Colorado—was different.

"With the quality of those television ads and the production of that much material, this was just a really cool way to get the gospel out," Shaddix said. "We had to ask the question, is there something we could do right now that would have as broad a reach and be as effective as this? And our conclusion was no we couldn't."

The national campaign is expected to touch approximately 15 million homes nationally this year based on orders of materials from state conventions, with about 500,000 of those in Colorado. In addition, NAMB developed a Find It Here advertising campaign and funded \$1.2 million in media buys which was coupled with an additional half million dollars from state conventions. In all, more than 24,000 TV spots, more than 7,000 radio spots, print ads, billboards, yard signs and banners have been incorporated into the initiative.

Reaching home and office

Riverside ramped up a comprehensive campaign that included three main components to supplement the television advertising campaign funded by the Colorado Baptist Convention and NAMB.

"Where I Live" encouraged members to put up 250 custom yard signs, prayerwalk their neighborhoods and distribute the door-hanger packets.

"Where I Work" included printed desktop displays that could be put in break rooms and on bulletin boards.

A social networking campaign encouraged individuals to link to the FindItHere.com Web site from Facebook, Twitter and other outlets.

Then it simply was a matter of execution. Training in January and February was followed by assembly of the packets, prayerwalking and finally distribution of the in-



DOOR TO DOOR Susan Young, a member of Riverside Baptist Church in Denver, delivers a bag containing a Find It Here brochure to a home as part of Southern Baptists' GPS: Across North America evangelism initiative. (Photo by James Dotson/NAMB)

formation packets last month. The church's Hispanic congregation planned events in area parks throughout March where they distributed the Find It Here brochures. And to reinforce the effort, Shaddix also themed an eight-week evangelistic sermon series on Find It Here.

"Some of the coolest things have been the behind the scenes," said Dennis Blythe, the church's leadership pastor. "Some of our senior adults who aren't going to be able to walk neighborhoods, they're spending hours stuffing packets and doing everything they can."

All activities were designed to culminate in Easter celebration services and follow-up efforts with those who responded—whether directly through the church, the Find It Here Web site or the national toll-free phone number. (BP)

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Black pastor Luter declines calls for SBC presidential bid

New Orleans—A Louisiana pastor said he has no plans to be nominated as the Southern Baptist Convention's first African-American president this summer.

Fred Luter, senior pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans, was mentioned publicly as a possible candidate in a March 31 blog by Texas pastor Dwight McKissic. McKissic, who also is African-American, said electing a black president would go a long way toward unifying a denomination long divided by issues such as race.

Luter said in an e-mail April 3 that McKissic isn't the only person who has suggested that he seek office, but he has not agreed to be nominated. "There are a lot of guys throughout the convention who would like to see that happen," Luter said. "I truly appreciate their trust and confidence in me, however that will not happen this year."

Luter has broken ground before for African-Americans in Southern Baptist life. In 1992, he was the first African-American elected

to the Louisiana Baptist Convention executive board and in 2001 was the first African-American to preach the annual sermon at the Southern Baptist Convention.

Started as an all-white Southern Baptist church in the 1940s, Franklin Avenue turned its building over to Baptist Association of Greater New Orleans during "white flight" in the 1970s as white people moved out of the neighborhood and black people moved in. When Luter came as pastor in 1986, there were 65 members on the roll. Today the church has grown to more than 7,000 worshippers.

McKissic, pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church in Arlington, Texas, cited in his blog a reference in a book written in 2002 by Paige Patterson, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, supporting the idea of an African-American SBC president by 2005.

While much of the convention's growth since the 1980s is attributed to ethnic churches, relatively few people of color serve in leadership roles. (ABP)

SBC VP: Westboro not So. Baptist

Convention offended by hate-filled rhetoric, 'grieves for them'

Nashville, Tenn.—An independent Baptist church notorious for its hate-filled protests is back in the news, prompting one Southern Baptist leader to clarify to the public that the church has no affiliation with the Southern Baptist Convention.

Westboro Baptist Church, a Topeka, Kan.-based congregation comprised largely of the family members of pastor Fred Phelps, won a court victory late last month when a federal appeals panel ordered the father of a dead Marine to pay the church more than \$16,000 in court costs from a civil suit he filed. The father had sued the church after it protested his son's military funeral. His son was killed in Iraq in 2006.

Later this year, the U.S. Supreme Court will decide whether Westboro has a constitutional right to protest at such funerals.

Westboro conducts hundreds of protests each year and made a name for itself years ago with its brightly colored signs, nearly all of which condemn homosexuality. It even has protested the SBC at least twice. Unlike Westboro, the SBC is on record as stating that homosexuality is a forgivable sin and that homosexuals can be saved.

"We repudiate the tactics used by Fred Phelps and his followers at Westboro, and find them offensive," said Roger Oldham, vice president for convention relations for the Southern Baptist Executive Committee. "However, we do not rush to cast stones at them. We rather grieve for them. We grieve when any individual or group that identifies itself as Christian draws attention to itself and away from the cross of Christ.

"This church has no relationship with the Southern Baptist Convention. I do not know any Southern Baptist who does not share my sorrow and grief that this group distorts the message of

the cross and reflects poorly on Christians in general and Baptists in particular."

Westboro has received so much international attention the past decade that Baptist Press published a special report in 2003 highlighting the difference between Southern Baptists and Westboro. The story included an interview with Phelps himself and Southern Baptists who were critical of Westboro's beliefs.

Oldham said it was particularly offensive to see the news about Westboro's court victory during the week leading up to Easter.

"We are grieved that Passion week and Resurrection Day (Easter) were overshadowed by such scandalous behavior—not the scandal of the cross, which all followers of Christ willingly endure, but the scandal of drawing attention to self," Oldham said. "Scripture reminds us to glory only in the cross of Jesus. Our only mission as followers of Jesus is to encourage people to see and hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Anything less is a prideful exercise in futility.

"The message of Jesus' death on the cross forces us to see how miserably we fail to measure up to God's righteousness," Oldham continued. "When we look into the mirror of God's holiness, we see ourselves for the sinners we are. Thus, the cross is, by itself, offensive to those who do not believe. It calls us to turn from our sin and cling to the Savior for deliverance and forgiveness.

"Individual Southern Baptists do their best to point others away from themselves and to the cross of Jesus. ... They rush to render aid when disaster strikes," Oldham added. "The only offense we hope we bring to the public square is the accusation that we cling to the cross, and believe in and follow Jesus." (BP)



WRONG MESSAGE
A Southern Baptist Convention official wants to make clear that Westboro Baptist Church from Topeka, Kan., seen here picketing a 2005 military funeral in Tennessee, is not a Southern Baptist congregation. (Photo by Morris Abernathy/BP)

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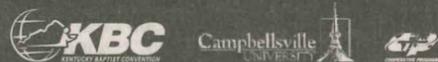
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Theological education team established for work abroad

Richmond, Va.—A newly identified team of missionaries from the International Mission Board will focus on helping leaders of overseas church plants build solid theological foundations.

Four missionaries will serve as full-time area theological education consultants for the Americas, Asia, Africa and Europe. They will build relationships with overseas seminaries and develop programs for leadership training. They also intend to work with Southern Baptist seminaries to encourage and facilitate partnerships with national Baptist seminaries.

The team will be headed by Chuck Lawless, dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions and Evangelism at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. The mission board hired Lawless as its global consultant for theological education in 2008 to assess the status of theological education overseas.

Other team members include Calvin Morris of Georgia, who has served in the Americas since 1988 and will be the theological education consultant for the Americas; Louisiana native and 16-year missionary Preston Pearce for Europe; and Missouri native Randy Arnett for Africa. IMB leadership still is working to identify a fourth consultant who will serve Asia.

The four-person consultant team's efforts will be combined with more than 140 IMB missionaries already engaged in both residential and non-residential theological education.

Evangelism and church planting efforts must be grounded in solid theological foundations and leaders trained in those foundations to sustain growth, said Gordon Fort, vice president for global strategy for the IMB. "So the question is, 'How do we best deliver the theological education in a way that helps us sustain our objective but also meets the needs of our Baptist partners?'" (BP)

White House hosts Easter prayer breakfast

Washington—President Obama recalled the resurrection of Christ at a Easter prayer breakfast last week that included pastors from a wide range of denominations, including the Southern Baptist Convention.

The event was an effort to fulfill his desire to make all people “feel welcome” at the White House, Obama said in an address to the clergy and their guests. His administration also has hosted a Seder to commemorate the Jewish Passover and an Iftar to break the daily fast during the Muslim observance of Ramadan, he said.

The president told guests the resurrection of Jesus forever changed the world.

“We are thankful for the sacrifice He gave for the sins of humanity,” Obama said. “And we glory in the promise of redemption in the resurrection.”

He is “continually learning” each person “falls short of how we ought to live,” the president noted. “And selfishness and pride are vices that afflict us all.

“As Christians, we believe that redemption can be delivered—by faith in Jesus Christ. ... Redemption makes life, however fleeting here on Earth, resound with eternal hope.”

The president also referred to Christ’s final words on the cross.

“Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.” ... These words were spoken by our Lord and Savior, but they can just as truly be spoken by every one of us here today. Their meaning can just as truly be lived out by all of God’s children.

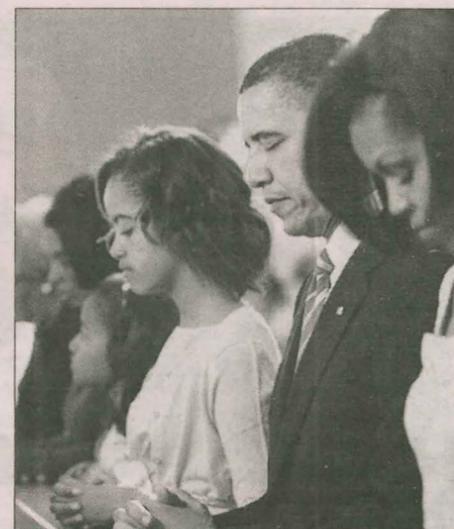
“So, on this day, let us commit our spirit to the pursuit of a life that is true, to act justly and to love mercy and walk humbly with the Lord,” Obama said. “And when we falter, as we will, let redemption—through commitment and through perseverance and through faith—be our abiding hope and fervent prayer.”

The White House released a list naming 13 of the 90 guests at the breakfast, accord-

ing to a press pool report by Stewart Powell of the Houston Chronicle. Although SBC President Johnny Hunt’s name was not released by the White House, he did attend the breakfast, his office stated.

Among the names released by the White House were Joel Osteen, pastor of Lakewood Church in Houston, and Bill Hybels, senior pastor of Willow Creek Community Church in suburban Chicago.

The other guests disclosed by the White House were Kirbyjon Caldwell, senior pastor of Windsor Village United Methodist Church in Houston; Peg Chamberlin, president of the National Council of Churches; Sharon Watkins, president of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); Julius Scruggs, president of the National Baptist Convention of America; Israel Gaither, national commander of the Salvation Army; Carol Keehan, president of the Catholic Health Association; and Nancy Wilson, moderator of Metropolitan Community Churches. (BP)



REFLECTION President Obama and his family pray during Easter services at Allen Chapel AME Church in Washington April 4. During a speech to leaders of several denominations, Obama said he was thankful for Jesus’ sacrifice “for the sins of humanity.” (White House photo courtesy of Pete Souza)

Supreme Court Justice Stevens to retire

Washington—Associate Justice John Paul Stevens said last Friday he will retire from the U.S. Supreme Court this summer.

Stevens, who will turn 90 next week, has served on the high court since 1975.

The Washington Post reported April 4 that Stevens was leaning toward retiring sometime during Barack Obama’s presidency, but the justice had not yet decided when.

“I can tell you that I love the job and deciding whether to leave it is a very difficult decision,” Stevens told The Washington Post. “But I want to make it in a way that’s best for the court.”

With the announcement of Stevens’ departure from the Supreme Court, there now is time for the nomination and confirmation of a new justice before the court’s next term which be-

gins in October.

“I will seek someone in the coming weeks with similar qualities—an independent mind, a record of excellence and integrity, a fierce dedication to the rule of law, and a keen understanding of how the law affects the daily lives of the American people,” Obama said after hearing of Stevens’ plans.

In his votes, Stevens consistently has supported abortion rights and was part of a six-member majority that overturned a state ban on same-sex sodomy in 2003.

Three people have been mentioned as candidates to replace Stevens: U.S. Solicitor General Elena Kagan; Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Diane Wood; and District of Columbia Circuit Judge Merrick Garland. (BP)

Controversial health care bill will fund abstinence education

Washington—While conservatives find much to dislike in the health care legislation passed by the Obama administration, the National Abstinence Education Association noted one bright spot: more than \$250 million available for abstinence education.

The organization said its bipartisan efforts to secure such funding were successful and the money will be available to all states through the Title V funding stream from 2010 to 2014.

“We are encouraged that funding will continue so that the important

health message of risk avoidance will reach American teens,” said Valerie Huber, executive director of the NAEA.

The health care bill, though, provides significantly more funding for comprehensive sex education programs, which teach contraceptive methods in addition to mentioning the abstinence option.

Funding for abstinence education has been under fire during the Obama administration, with the president eliminating federal funding for it in his first proposed budget. (BP)

Meet the Class of 2010, part 4

Oneida senior struggled with adoption while adjusting to life at new school

Few life issues can be more stressful for a young person than being adopted. Over the years OBI has had a lot of teens who were not adjusting well in their adopted families. We often are blessed to have an opportunity to work with students who are dealing with stressful home situations. This senior essay was written by one of our adopted boys who found success and himself at Oneida.

“Back in Tennessee I was the type of kid who was always confused about everything, whether it was how to get along with others or how to love someone. ... In 1999, my mother was shot and killed. From that point in my life, I didn’t know how to act without my biological mother.

“I was adopted by ‘J’ and ‘T’ at the age of 7. Before the adoption, they were my great aunt and uncle. But I did not know them personally. Growing up with them seemed very hard because I did not know how to love anyone. ... At the same time, I never realized the sacrifices they had to make with three kids of their own and then taking in three more.

“I grew to be rebellious and liked to argue to try to get a point across. ... I made ‘C’s and ‘D’s on my report card and my little sister made all ‘A’s. Can anyone say super jealous? ... My parents would always tell me that they loved me, but I let the words go in one ear and out the other. At the same time, I would say ‘I love you’ back hoping that they believed me. I turned into someone I never thought I would turn into and I hurt a lot of people.

“So, my parents directed my attention to the

Oneida Baptist Institute. I looked at them and laughed because I thought of myself as the boss of the house, which, by the way, I wasn’t.

“I arrived at Oneida in the fall of 2008 not at all ready for the new experience. I tried for several months to deny that the school was really worth it. I would sleep in the chapel services, and I would push people away. I never realized that everyone was trying to help me.

“Finally, I decided I would give the school a chance. I started paying attention in class and somehow I ended up on the honor roll. At the time I was sort of happy. Then I started playing sports and I began to be a bit happier each month. I started getting along with people and I started realizing how this school was what I needed in my life.

“I started learning respect and then I became a more responsible person in the dorm. Mr. Garrett (who passed away in December after serving here for nearly 25 years) taught me a lot of life lessons through his own experiences so I felt that I could relate to him. Even though he is in a better place now, his lessons still left an impression on my life.

“I am graduating now and I will always remember Oneida for straightening up my life and for giving me a second chance. I am also thankful for (Oneida) teaching me to love and be thankful for the ones God has placed in my life—mostly my parents. Thank you!”

Many people do not understand why I have a faculty and staff who serve for such modest salaries. This young man’s story pretty well explains it all.

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

This is Oneida



W.F. Underwood

It’s Bristol Baby!

Clear Creek students share Christ at Bristol Speedway

The students at Clear Creek are always excited about opportunities to take what they’re learning in the classroom out into the community and surrounding areas to share the gospel. On a recent weekend in March, students Ben Harr and Dan and Shannon Haggerty were able to participate in a unique event that allowed them the opportunity to witness to thousands of people.

Twice a year people gather at Bristol Motor Speedway—known as the Roman Coliseum of racing—to watch, as they call it, “racin’ the way it oughtta

Ben, Dan and Shannon were provided the opportunity to participate with Raceway Ministries and passed out nearly 40,000 gospel tracts in two days. They also had opportunities to pray with people, conduct church services at the campgrounds around the track, give away numerous New Testaments, and hand out lots of literature such as testimony cards of race car drivers.

Along with many others from Raceway Ministries, the students were able to reflect the shining light of Jesus Christ to a lost and dying world. During the course of the weekend events at Bristol, many people accepted Jesus Christ as Savior.

One of the more interesting witnessing opportunities involved passing out schedules of the weekend’s events. One side of the handout included a schedule of events; the other side had the rest of the 2010 Sprint Cup schedule. In the middle was a copy of the gospel message. It was amazing to see people come up and get the cards. People were literally asking for them. Nearly 40,000 of these schedules were passed out to the crowd. Who knows how many people came to know the Lord that weekend at Bristol Motor Speedway. To God be the glory.

Thank you for your support that enables us to fulfill our mission to equip students like Ben, Dan and Shannon as they seek to follow God’s call 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.ccbbc.edu; e-mail: dfox@ccbbc.edu

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

God's continuous blessings

Changes evident at camps as summer approaches

The past month has been one of the most significant since the inception of Kentucky Baptist Assemblies in regard to the facilities at Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek.

Never before have we had as many facility-related projects ongoing. The projects are generating great excitement and, quite honestly, some anxiety as we try to complete everything prior to summer.

This past month could not have been possible without God's blessings as seen through several critical areas. Volunteer groups, including Kentucky Changers and University of the Cumberlands' Mountain Outreach, have played critical roles at each property by providing great help and accomplishing numerous tasks.

The next six weeks are critical as we near the completion of the Calvin D. Fields Worship Center at Cedarmore and the renovation of the A.M. Johnson Worship Center at Jonathan Creek. Additionally, we have several other projects that will be completed with the assistance of other volunteer groups in combination with an "all-hands-

on-deck" practice run for our staff.

The bottom line is that God has blessed us in ways too numerous to count. First, we have record numbers of campers coming each year even in the midst of a challenging economy. Due to the great numbers, we are making significant facility changes that cannot be done without the help of volunteers.

Ky. Baptist Assemblies



David Melber

The growth we have experienced also has increased our need for more staff to minister to students throughout the summer.

We simply are amazed at how God continues to move and provide each and every day in this ministry. I again want to personally

invite you to make a visit to the properties. You may not recognize the camps; they are looking quite different these days.

As summer rapidly approaches, we ask for your prayers. You can pray specifically for the safety of all campers and staff, and pray that we clearly present the gospel each and every day. Third, we ask you to pray that God's kingdom will be greatly expanded by the new lives He creates in the hearts of campers.

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

Scholars debate Bible's reliability

Ehrman, Evans discuss whether Scriptures can be trusted

By D.J. Castilleja
Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

Kansas City, Mo.—Two internationally known scholars in the area of biblical reliability came together April 1 in a debate at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Craig Evans and Bart Ehrman, two of the leading scholars on each side of the modern reliability of Scriptures debate, discussed the topic "The Risen Christ: The Biblical Accounts of the Resurrection—Are They True?"

Moderated by Midwestern President Philip Roberts, the debate attempted to answer the question, "How can I really trust that the Bible is the actual word of God?"

Opponents of the reliability of the Bible tend to focus on issues surrounding the text including date of authorship, authenticity, archeological evidence and variants in the existing manuscripts.

Ehrman, who does not believe in the trustworthiness of the Scriptures, listed reasons why he thinks biblical texts cannot be trusted.

"The people who wrote the stories in the Bible are not the ones who witnessed the stories," he said during the debate. "None of the Gospels are an eyewitness account. All the Gospels were written 30 to 60 years later by people who were not there to see these things happen."

Because of discrepancies in the synoptic gospel accounts of the resurrection, Ehrman argued, individuals should not base the truth of the resurrection of Christ on the books of the Bible. Ehrman's stance against the accuracy of Scripture has catapulted him to popularity as a critic of the reliability of the Bible.

A professor at the University of North Carolina and self-proclaimed agnostic, Ehrman is best known for his works in textual criticism and his most recent books "Misquoting Jesus" and "Jesus, Interrupted."

Evans, professor of New Testament at Acadia Divinity College in Canada, holds his own list of credentials which include writing and editing

more than 60 books, including his latest, "Jesus, the Final Days: What Really Happened."

Evans offered support of the authenticity of the biblical accounts of the resurrection, saying differences in the gospel accounts are more complicated than just acknowledging they exist. "I hope students will learn that simplistic answers don't explain much and will let you down."

"The event was a success, but the debate goes on as we live in a world where individuals have chosen not to accept the evidence, and they need to hear the voice affirming the resurrection."

Craig Evans, professor of New Testament at Acadia Divinity College in Canada

During a question-and-answer session, Ehrman told the audience the reason for his departure from faith in Christ came not because of his work in academics or the variations in the texts but from the problem of suffering in the world.

"The reality is that this world is a cesspool of misery for so many people, and I simply came to a point where I could no longer believe in God," he said.

Evans responded, "But I have to ask, too, if you are going to ask why all the misery, why all suffering and so on, why is there beauty? Why is there grace? Why is there love? Why is there mercy? Why is there greatness? All of these things are not necessary for survival. There is this redundancy, this unnecessary surplus of the

good and the beautiful that is within the human heart that is capable of transforming darkness into light. Where does that come from?"

After the debate, Roberts said the event "assured us that there is overwhelming textual support for the resurrection of Jesus Christ."

"I hope students took away a burning passion to share the truth of the resurrection and all its wonderful promises," Roberts said. "The event was a success, but the debate goes on as we live in a world where individuals have chosen not to accept the evidence, and they need to hear the voice affirming the resurrection."

Mark Wayne, a master of divinity student at Midwestern Seminary, attended the debate as part of an evangelical ministries course.

"By seeing these two views contrasted, it challenges the students to dig deeper in their studies and their faith," Wayne said. (BP)

Researchers explore connection between religion and prejudice

Waco, Texas—More than 50 years after Martin Luther King Jr. lamented that 11 o'clock Sunday morning is the most segregated hour in America, a Baylor University study suggests that religion itself may be a contributing factor in racial prejudice.

The study, published in the journal Social Psychological and Personality Science, found that people subliminally "primed" with Christian words reported more negative attitudes about African-Americans than those primed with neutral words.

"What's interesting about this study is that it shows some component of religion does lead to some negative evaluations of people based on race," said Wade Rowatt, associate professor of psychology and neuroscience at Baylor, who led the study. "We just don't know why."

Priming is a process by which exposure to one word or concept influences an individual's future response to something else. In the Baylor study, college students were primed with either religious-word letter strings like "Bible," "faith," "Christ" and "church" or neutral words like "shirt," "butter," "switch" and "hammer." Researchers found that religiously primed students demonstrated "a slight but significant" increase in racial prejudice.

Rowatt and his fellow researchers speculated about possible explanations for what they call the "Christian-racial-prejudice hypothesis."

One is that because America's religious tradition is so influenced by Puritanism, people responding to religious terms may be drawing on ideals like the "Protestant work ethic," which has been shown to activate anti-black attitudes. (ABP)



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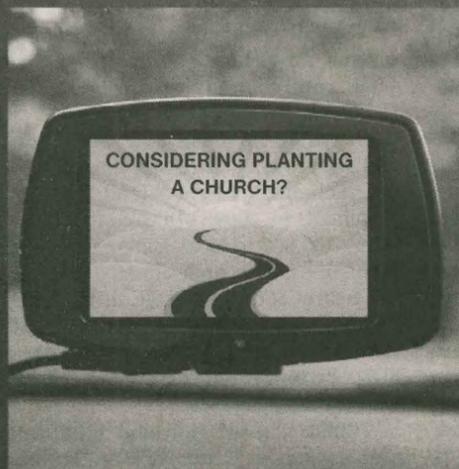


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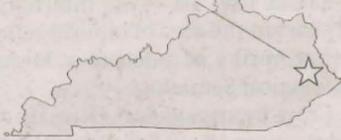
MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

- **BEDFORD**—Bedford Church called **Ferrill Davis** as pastor.
- **BLOOMFIELD**—**Ryan Lyons** recently resigned as pastor of Bloomfield Church to plant a church in Milledgeville, Ga.
- **CADIZ**—East Cadiz Church will hold a Revival Fires service April 20, 7 p.m. with **Paxton Redd**, pastor of Oak Grove Church in Cadiz, as evangelist. Little River Baptist Association's men's choir will provide special music. **Lester Watson** is pastor.
- **CAMPBELLVILLE**—Campbellsville University will host a discussion forum with **Terry Anderson**, visiting lecturer at University of Kentucky's School of Journalism and Telecommunications, April 15, 2 p.m. at the Ransdell Chapel on the Campbellsville campus. Anderson is a former Middle East correspondent for Associated Press who was held hostage in Lebanon from 1985-91. For more information, call **Stan McKinney** at (270) 789-5035.
- Saloma Church will hold a Sunday of Revival and Renewal April 18, 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. with **Matthew Smyzer**, pastor of Beargrass Missionary Church in Louisville, as guest speaker. An ensemble from Beargrass will provide special music. For more information, call (270) 789-0082. **John Chowning** is pastor.
- **CLINTON**—Second Church will celebrate its 56th anniversary with a homecoming service April 18, 11 a.m. The church also will hold revival services April 19-23 with **Daniel Fraser** as evangelist. **Larry Fraser** is pastor.
- **DOVER**—Dover Church recently called **Levi Gallagher** as pastor.
- **MOUNT STERLING**—Reid Village Church recently ordained **John Baker** as a deacon. **Shad Tibbs** is pastor.
- **WILLIAMSBURG**—University of the Cumberlands' music department will host a performance of the **Cumberland Singers** April 15, 7:30 p.m., and the percussion ensemble April 20, 7:30 p.m., at the Nell Moore Recital Hall on campus. The performances are free and open to the public. For more information, call the music department at (606) 539-4332.

Spotlight on ...

West Van Lear



West Van Lear Church will hold revival services April 16-17, 7 p.m., and April 18, 6 p.m., with **Sam Schmidt** as evangelist. **Paul Grainger** is pastor.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April

- 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.

For more information, call (800) 266-6477 or visit www.kybaptist.org

Campbellsville University to host 24God youth conference April 16

Campbellsville—Campbellsville University will host 24God Ministries, a youth conference for middle and high school students April 16-17 at the Badgett Academic Support Center on the Campbellsville campus.

Preachers for the event include Jimi Bird, Kyle Franklin, Ben Martin and Andy Woods. Lucas Harris, Andrew McGinnis and The Tim Harvey Band will lead the worship times. Drew Underwood and Frank Wright will serve as emcees for the weekend.

Former Campbellsville University students Andy Woods and Frank Wright are the co-founders of 24God. The ministry was formed more than 10 years ago to provide a conference that strives for excellence in all areas, is affordable to

all who want to attend.

According to its Web site, the goal of 24God Ministry is to offer students the opportunity to draw closer to Jesus Christ. Through the years, thousands of students who have attended 24God events have made decisions to commit their lives to Jesus Christ.

The cost to attend the two-day conference is \$20, which includes dinner, lunch and a T-shirt. Lodging arrangements can be made with local churches or host facilities.

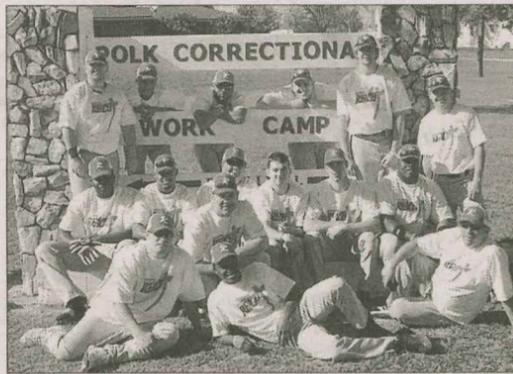
Supporting ministry partners of 24God are Kentucky Heartland Outreach and Campbellsville University. For more information or to register for the conference, visit www.24God.com, or call (606) 669-8123.

Spring break missions



■ **Left:** Two Campbellsville University students sort cans at a Charleston, S.C., food bank as part of Man Trip 2010, a spring break mission trip to three cities—also Atlanta and Gainesville, Fla.—with five male students.

■ **Right:** The Sports Reach softball team made up of Campbellsville student-athletes and coaches pause for a picture outside the Polk Correctional Work Camp in Polk City, Fla., where the team played softball with inmates there and at several other correctional facilities in the state.



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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.

RESOURCES: Affordable Web/media solutions by Capstone Creations for churches, ministries and businesses. For quote: www.capstonecreations.com.

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: 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 by June 1, 2010; or mailed to the church office at 2261 Armstrong Mill Road, Lexington, KY 40515. Attn: Pastor Search.

SEEKING: Part-time assistant director of activities for Parkland Baptist Church, Louisville. Ideal applicants are energetic, enthusiastic about reaching youth, children, and families through events and recreation. Must be flexible. Full job description available upon request. Send resumés to: Personnel Committee, 7206 Shepherdsville Road, Louisville, KY 40219; or via e-mail: parkbc@bellsouth.net (with subject line: "Attn: Personnel Committee").

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@villebaptist.com; or 420 N Central Ave., Campbellsville, KY 42718.

SEEKING: SBC church youth leader, spiritually mature with heart in service to youth. Approx. 20 flexible hours per week. Youth leadership experience required. Will plan, organize and implement comprehensive youth ministry to help lead youth to salvation and develop Christian growth; maintain guidance/working relationship with pastor; integrate youth into life of church; lead volunteer worker. Contact us: Tunnel Hill Baptist Church, 734 Tunnel Hill Church Road, Elizabethtown, KY 42701; Attn: Youth Leader Position Inquiry. (270) 737-8120. Visit www.tunnelhill.org, click on "email form" under "Contact Us"; enter your e-mail address; in Subject, enter "Youth Leader Position Inquiry"; add message and click "Send Email."

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. Resumés may be submitted to Calvary Baptist Church, 150 E High St., Lexington, KY 40507.

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

SEEKING: Senior pastor for Southside Baptist Church, Princeton, Ky. Candidates should have strong preaching skills, passion for pastoral care, demonstrated ability and a heart for missions and evangelism. Church has three staff members and averages 350 in Sunday school. Send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, PO Box 439, Princeton, KY 42445; or e-mail southside@timesleader.net. Resumés accepted through May 31, 2010.

SEEKING: Director (interim and/or long-term) for Bucharest Christian Academy, an international Christian school (K-12) in Bucharest, Romania. Position is not salaried—individual should come through mission-sending agency with full financial support. Qualified applicants must demonstrate a personal commitment to Christ, ability to thrive in a cross-cultural setting, and good communications and leadership skills. For information and/or application, visit www.bcaromania.org; or e-mail search committee chairperson Donna Brown at dmbrown_2000@hotmail.com.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Somerset, Ky. Please mail resumé to Pastor Search Committee, 1685 Hwy. 3091, Somerset, KY 42503.

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.

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: Pastor for Beaver Dam Baptist Church, an historic church at the heart of a small, rural community in Western Kentucky. Led by two full-time ministers, BDBC is widely known for its music and youth ministries, and its growing Christian education ministry, including preschool and K-6 elementary school. In 2009, BDBC contributed more than \$100,000 to local, state and international missions, with undesignated receipts totaling nearly \$660,000. BDBC affirms the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message. For more information or to submit a resumé, please contact the BDBC Pastor Search Committee, PO Box 242, Beaver Dam, KY 42320.

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



Syd and the storm
By Todd and Michelle Deaton

One evening, a thunderstorm came up suddenly while the Cove Kids were playing. They were near Solomon the Wise Sea Turtle's house, so they took cover there.

The Cove Kids were scared at first, but everyone except Syd Squid soon got over their fear. Syd was terrified by the sharp lightning and loud thunder. "I want to go home," she cried.

"We can't go outside," Solomon said. "The storm is too rough. As soon as the wind and waves calm down, you can go."

His words did not calm Syd. So the Cove Kids tried to take her mind off the storm.

"Let's sing," Sunny Starfish suggested.

"That's a great idea," agreed Solomon.

The Cove Kids began singing "Deep and Wide." Ollie Oyster suggested, "This Little Light of Mine." Syd had just joined in when Lenny Lobster requested "The Wise Man Built His House upon the Rock." This was not a good song during a storm. When the Cove Kids sang "the house on the sand went SPLAT," Syd screamed and ran to

hide in a corner of the room.

"Hey, why don't we play some games?" Seamore suggested. "Let's play 'Mother, May I.'"

They played for several minutes, but Syd did not move from the corner.

"I'm bored.

Let's play another game," Craig Crab complained. "How about 'Red Light, Green Light'?"

Although she did not play, Syd forgot

about the storm while watching the other Cove Kids. Suddenly, a large wave crashed against the side of the house, knocking pictures off the wall. Glass shattered across the floor. Syd was terrified.

After he swept up the broken glass, Solomon suggested, "I have some great books. Why don't we read?"

Solomon sat down, opened a book with a colorful cover and began to read. He was about halfway through the book when a bolt of lightning lit up the room and the thunder cracked so loud that the floor shook. The Cove Kids caught a glimpse of each other's frightened faces as the lights flickered and went out.

Syd grabbed hold of Solomon's arm so tight he was sure that, when the lights came back on, it would be black and blue, instead of green. "I want to go home now," she cried.

"Syd," Solomon said in a reassuring voice, "we can't go until the storm is over. It's not safe."

"But I want my mom and dad," Syd pleaded.

"I know," Solomon nodded. "I can't take you to your mom and dad, but I know someone greater who we can talk to now."

"Who?" Syd asked, still sobbing.

"Jesus once calmed a storm on a raging sea," Solomon said.

"Will He make this one go away?" Syd asked.

"I don't know if He will calm this one," Solomon replied, "but He will calm you and give you the courage to get through any storm. All you have to do is ask Him."

The storm outside roared for another hour, but the storm inside Syd disappeared much sooner.



Treasure Hunt

Why was Syd Squid afraid?
How did the Cove Kids try to help?
What did Syd do that helped her not to be afraid?
What do you do when you are afraid?
Do you ask God to help you?
Read Psalm 56:3 together.

For Heaven's Sake



Preacher's Kids

David Ayers



Bible Crosswords

By Janet W. Adkins

Across

- 1 "There was a marriage in ____ of Galilee" (John 2:1)
- 5 Headwear
- 8 "When they saw the ____, they rejoiced" (Matthew 2:10)
- 12 Son of Jerameel (1 Chronicles 2:25)
- 13 "If we confess ____ sins" (1 John 1:9)
- 14 "Her ____ shall be holiness to the Lord" (Isaiah 23:18)
- 15 Mexican money
- 16 Suffix meaning "process or function"
- 17 "For I have slain ____" (Genesis 4:23) (2 words)
- 18 "Thou hast made us to drink the wine of ____" (Psalms 60:3)
- 21 "The archers ____ him" (1 Samuel 31:3)
- 22 Shoe width
- 23 "It shall be health to thy ____" (Proverbs 3:8)
- 26 Girl's name
- 27 "That I may ____ Christ" (Philippians 3:8)
- 30 "It shall be a statute for ____" (Leviticus 23:31)
- 31 "Samuel arose, and ____ him up from Gilgal" (1 Samuel 13:15)
- 32 Son of Zerah (1 Chronicles 2:6)
- 33 Money owed the government
- 34 "____ also the Jairite was a chief ruler about David" (2 Samuel 20:26)
- 35 "Thou shalt call his name ____: for he shall save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21)
- 36 Onassis
- 37 "Babylon is taken, ____ is confounded" (Jeremiah 50:2)
- 38 "To ____ of goods, or to imprisonment" (Ezra 7:26)
- 44 "There was also ____ for the tribe of Manasseh" (Joshua 17:1) (2 words)
- 45 Place for experiments
- 46 "Strain at a ____" (Matthew 23:24)
- 48 Belonging to me
- 49 Compass point
- 50 Prefix for half
- 51 Not rich
- 52 Of the, Sp.
- 53 Very, Fr.

Down

- 1 Police officer (slang)
- 2 Vicinity
- 3 Scottish lake

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13			14			
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	18			19			20			
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38	39	40			41			42	43	
44					45			46		47
48					49			50		
51					52			53		

- 4 "There arose ____ generation after them" (Judges 2:10)
- 5 "____ it all joy" (James 1:2)
- 6 Comb. form for ear
- 7 "Now therefore ____ yourselves before the Lord" (1 Samuel 10:19)
- 8 "How long will you turn my glory into ____?" (Psalms 4:2)
- 9 "My ____ is at hand" (Mt. 26:18)
- 10 Brother of Uz (1 Chronicles 1:42)
- 11 "A great and strong wind ____ the mountains" (1 Kings 19:11)
- 19 "They ... their lamps, and took no ____ with them" (Matthew 25:3)
- 20 "Even as a ____ gathereth her chickens" (Matthew 23:37)
- 23 "For he shall pluck my feet out of the ____" (Psalms 25:15)
- 24 "And the king of Assyria brought men from Babylon ... and from ____" (2 Kings 17:24)
- 25 "For they ____ you with their wives" (Numbers 25:18)
- 26 Auto club, abbr.
- 27 "And the child ____ cured" (Matthew 17:18)
- 28 First son of Caleb (1 Chronicles 4:15)
- 29 Naval Air Station, abbr.
- 31 "The rams ... are ringstraked ... and ____" (Genesis 31:12)
- 32 "But his ____ is in the law of the Lord" (Psalms 1:2)
- 34 A son of Bela (1 Chronicles 7:7)
- 35 Type of airplane
- 36 "They returned from searching of the land ____ forty days" (Numbers 13:25)
- 37 "And the beginning of his (Nimrod's) kingdom was ____" (Genesis 10:10)
- 38 "I will ____ against thee" (Isaiah 29:3)
- 39 Miscellaneous mixture
- 40 Something forbidden
- 41 "Sweet ____ from a far country" (Jeremiah 6:20)
- 42 Latin prefix meaning "burden"
- 43 "Ye might have life through his ____" (John 20:31)
- 47 Poetic contraction for "it is"

Last week's solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
D	A	R	K	N	E	S	S	B	L	O	W
12	S	U		13	R	E	S	14	E	A	C
15	V	I	L	G	R	A	S	17	N	C	A
19	I	D	E	H							
20	E			21	E	R	N	A	L		F
		25	H	S		27	G	O	R	O	A
30	D	E	E	P		32	G	O	D	R	E
33	D	A	Y			36	S	E	E	D	I
39	L	I	V	E	A	T		41	A	T	E
42	I	T	E	M	S		48	F	O	W	L
F											
50	E	A	S	T		52	F	E	B		54
						55	E	A	R	T	H

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