

Shine like stars in the world
Philippians 2:15

WESTERN Recorder

April 27, 2010
Vol. 184, No. 16

FOR THE RECORD

Kentucky
State Great Commission Resurgence Task Force enters new phase of work. *Page 2.*



Ministry
Interest in church planting grows among Kentucky Baptists. *Page 3.*



Media
West Virginia church is catalyst for 'Food Revolution.' *Page 7.*

'Happy Trails' Pardner

Kentuckian hands reins to Christ, now shares gospel on horseback

Editor's Note: As part of the Western Recorder's coverage of evangelistic outreach efforts during this year's World Equestrian Games in Lexington, we are profiling some of Kentucky's equine-related ministries.

By Dannah Prather
Partnerships Editor

Burna—In the 18th century, preachers would use horses as transportation to connect with people who needed to hear the gospel. The mode of transportation has changed, but pastors such as Chris Clarke still use horses today as "vehicles" to share the gospel.

Clarke, founder of Happy Trails Ministry and chaplain to horse enthusiasts, sometimes preaches from horseback, tying off the reins and riding without the use of his hands.

He explains to those listening that if the horse trusts its rider, it is willing to surrender control, even if the direction seems uncertain. Similarly, a child of God will surrender to God's instruction, even when the path seems unclear.

Along with that gospel message—and the equine visual aid—Clarke will pack his guitar, a supply of bot-
□ See Happy Trails Ministry ... *Page 2*



SINGING COWBOY MSC missionary and founder of Happy Trails Ministry Chris Clarke, seen here at last year's national Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting in Louisville, uses music and horses to share the gospel with those in the equine community, often preaching from atop a horse. Clarke and his family frequently take their ministry to horse shows, auctions and rodeos in Kentucky and elsewhere.



PRAYER-CLEANING A group of girls and women fanned out across the new outdoor stadium at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington April 17 to help wipe down and pray over each seat prior to last weekend's Rolex Kentucky Three Day Event at the park. The girls, participants at the Exalt 2010 conference, served as volunteers for Affiliated International Ministries, the group coordinating interdenominational ministry work for the World Equestrian Games coming this fall. (Photo by Drew Nichter)

Teenagers put faith in action at Ky. Horse Park stadium

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Lexington—After half a day of worship, prayer and music, it was time to get to work.

The more than 300 teenage girls and adult leaders gathered for the annual Exalt conference April 16-17 learned a little something about putting their faith into action by volunteering at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington.

The teens spent part of Saturday afternoon wiping down seats at the park's new outdoor stadium. Their work helped park officials prepare for the Rolex Kentucky Three Day Event, which was held last weekend.

But the girls' efforts were not entirely about cleanliness.

"We encourage them to pray for all the spectators that are coming and all the different people here for
□ See Kentucky teens ... *Page 3*

Missouri Baptist exec, board want GCR vote put off to 2011

Jefferson City, Mo.—Missouri Baptist Convention Executive Director David Tolliver will attempt to make a motion at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in June asking messengers to receive the report by the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force and delay any action for one year until all entities involved can do a spiritual/financial impact study.

The motion by Tolliver was sanctioned by the 54-member MBC executive board in an April 13 vote without opposition.

The vote also gives Tolliver authority to speak for the board as a messenger from his church.

The executive board also passed a resolution without opposition urging the Great Commission Task Force to postpone action on their report until the SBC's 2011 annual meeting, while pledging to pray for a Great Commission resurgence in the SBC and for the work of the task force.

The intent of the action is to allow impacted entities sufficient time to study the ramifications of the GCRTF's recommendations, Tolliver said, noting that the dissolving of cooperative agreements between state conventions and the North American Mission Board is among the GCRTF's proposals.

Concern was raised by the MBC executive board that SBC governance was not being respected as the GCRTF process has progressed. Board member Larry Lewis, president of the former Home Mission Board (now NAMB) from 1987-97, was among those who expressed such a view.

"In Baptist polity, we don't basically try to operate and run agencies by group action," Lewis said. "We elect trustees to do that. And so we want to refer this whole issue to the trustees."

Tolliver said he was pleased the board decided to speak to the Great Commission Task Force issue and hopes messengers will hear his motion and approve it.

The board's action came just days after eight state executive directors met with six members of the task force for a private meeting in Jackson, Tenn., hosted by Union University President David Dockery. Tolliver said he was not invited and was unaware of the meeting until he received an e-mail informing him about it after the fact.

The GCRTF report is expected to come before messengers on the first day of the June 14-15 SBC annual meeting in Orlando, Fla. (BP)

Find us on Facebook
and on Twitter
as westernrecorder

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, Apr. 28

Western Recorder, KBC staff honored with BCA awards

Chicago—Staff members of the Western Recorder and Kentucky Baptist Convention's communications department recently were honored with four awards from Baptist Communicators Association.

The 2010 Wilmer C. Fields Awards Competition honors were presented April 8 in Chicago.

The winners were:
 ■ Western Recorder Partnerships Editor Dannah Prather, first place for her feature story, "Christianity has no color," about the racially diverse Hunsinger Lane Baptist Church in Louisville.

■ KBC Electronic Media Specialist Brenda Media, first place in the category of disc-based media for her production of the CD-ROM version of the 2008 KBC Annual.

■ The KBC Communications team, second place for its Crossover Louisville 2009 public relations campaign.

■ KBC Media Production Associate Larry Brannin, second place for his video production of "It's Harvest Time!"

Happy Trails Ministry founder shares gospel with fellow horse enthusiasts

Continued from page 1

tled water labeled with Scripture, and a few boxes of New Testaments ("The Way for Cowboys") and gospel tracts ("The Simple Plan of the Master Horseman"). Then he and his wife, Sheila, are ready to hit the road to a horse and auction, show or rodeo.

"We as Southern Baptists are learning that if (people) are going to be reached, we've got to go where they are," said Clarke, a former minister of music and youth.

This path of ministry was not what Clarke expected as a student at Campbellsville College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

His family's interest in horses did not strike him as related to the ministry. Then, the Clarkes' youngest child, Laura, began competing in American Quarter Horse Association youth events.

Clarke said the lack of ministries "reaching out to these people in a purposeful, ongoing way," became more than a concern; it was a call from God.

Horse enthusiasts are "not in church on Sundays," he said, noting that events usually occur on weekends. Clarke now brings church to them.

When he mentioned to his wife the conviction that God was leading him to leave congregational ministry, Clarke said his wife's response was, "It's about time you caught up with the rest of us."

"Sheila thought I was about a year behind," Clarke explained.

Happy Trails Ministry is in its sixth year. In 2009, Clarke, now a Southern Baptist Mission Service Corps missionary, organized worship services at nearly 30 equine events around Kentucky and outside the commonwealth. He also spoke at more than 40 churches.

His guitar skills and experience as a worship leader transfer well to any setting, indoor or outdoor, and event organizers have been eager to welcome him.

"I've never had a horse show manager tell me I couldn't do Cowboy Church," Clarke said.

Another aspect to the ministry is riding lessons at the Burna stable. Clarke's sister, Lori, helps out. Students of any age are welcome. Fees are put back into the ministry to care for the horses used in the les-



A MAN AND HIS HORSE Mission Service Corps missionary Chris Clarke of Burna has a talk with Chip, one of his partners in Happy Trails Ministry. Clarke will lead a worship service June 6 for participants of a 4-H horse show and camp at Murray State University. (Photo by Dannah Prather)

sons.

MSC missionaries are self-funded servants. Clarke said about a dozen churches and a few individuals support Happy Trails but this year's unusually long and cold winter kept students away from the stable.

Happy Trails has begun an "Adopt-a-Horse" option for ministry partners to help maintain enough horses to continue offering lessons—with the Christian mentoring and Bible-verse activities that go along with them. A gift of \$25 to \$50 will care for one horse for about a month. Clarke has details via e-mail at wclarke@tds.net.

Through prayer, Kentucky Baptists unable to provide financial support to an equine ministry still can partner with Happy Trails and evangelistic efforts planned for the FEI World Equestrian Games in Lexington this fall, Clarke said.

"For our state to be able to host something on that scale ... what an opportunity," he said. "There will be many people coming from places that don't have access to the gospel."

For details on how to become involved in WEG ministries, visit the Affiliated International Ministries Web site at www.aimky.org.

With information from Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union

Kentucky GCR update: State convention task force enters next work phase

By Todd Deaton
Editor

Louisville—The Kentucky Great Commission Task Force has completed its initial phase of fact gathering and interviewing and now will begin turning its attention toward exploring specific aspects of how Kentucky Baptists can refocus their energies and move into the future, chairman Hershael York reported after its April 23 meeting in Louisville.

During its first three meetings this year, task force members have heard from all of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's team leaders and agency heads and studied the convention's governing documents.

The criterion the task force is using to evaluate the KBC's work is "how does this agency or department help Kentucky Baptists fulfill the Great Commission," the Frankfort pastor said.

"What we have discovered is that really in so many ways Kentucky Baptists are doing just a great job," he affirmed. "We have been thrilled to hear what God is doing through Kentucky Baptist work."

In offering his assessment that "everything we are doing is effective," York noted, "The question is not, are we doing good work. We are." The real question, however, is, "Is there any way we can do God's work better?"

"That's a tough question to ask when you feel like you are doing things well," York added.

Charged with finding ways that will enable Kentucky Baptists to more efficiently and effectively fulfill the Great Commission, the task force's assignment is about more than Cooperative Program dollars, York said. "It's about people. It's about obedience to Christ. It's about the gospel."

While the task force is watching the proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention's Great Commission Resurgence Task Force "with some interest," York added that that task force or by its recommendations.

"We are really seeking God's will for Kentucky Baptists," York said. "We are working hard to come up with something that is visionary and exciting and that Kentucky Baptists will be proud to follow."

Kentucky Baptists have a great history of "stretching toward one another" as they work through challenges to discover God's "unique vision together," York observed. "It is our hope that Kentucky Baptists will lead the way with the Great Commission resurgence and in the way we allocate our resources and our energies," he added.

In complementing the makeup of the task force, York described the group as "an eclectic mix of Kentucky Baptists from all over the state, of different ages and of different outlooks on so many things. And yet, already there is such a trust among the members of the committee. We feel free to say what we think and to share ideas without fear of being reviled, rejected or repeated outside of the committee meetings."

Strong March CP totals exceed working budget

Louisville—With more than \$13.5 million collected through the end of March, Cooperative Program totals for the current fiscal year now are ahead of last year's pace by \$219,053 (1.6 percent).

According to Lowell Ashby, Kentucky Baptist Convention's business services team leader, Kentucky Baptists gave \$2,083,872 through the Cooperative Program in March, enough to also push totals ahead of pace for the \$23 million 2009-10 working budget.

The more than \$2 million received in March was \$164,520 more than the \$1,919,352 needed to stay on pace for the working budget, Ashby said. In order to stay on pace for the working budget through the remainder of the fiscal year, an average of \$1,886,448 is needed each month.

At this point during the 2008-09 fiscal year, Kentucky Baptists had given a total of \$13,328,709.

According to Ashby, CP totals remain behind the original fiscal year budget of \$24.48 million by \$712,238 (4.99 percent). However, because of the challenging national economy, the KBC is operating under the approved working budget of \$23 million for the 2009-10 fiscal year, he pointed out.

"It has been exciting to see God working this past month as Kentucky Baptists have given to CP missions and ministries even as they actively participated in gospel outreach during the Find It Here campaign," said Billy Compton, KBC's executive associate for Cooperative Program and resources. "This truly is an example of how we can do more together than we ever could alone."

State's high court denies funding for Cumberlands pharmacy school

Frankfort—The Kentucky Supreme Court ruled last week that University of the Cumberlands cannot use \$10 million of taxpayer money to build a pharmacy school.

The high court said the funds, appropriated by the Kentucky General Assembly in 2006, violate the state constitution's prohibition on public funding of "any church, sectarian or denominational school."

In a divided decision, justices also ruled that a \$1 million scholarship program for students at the school also was a constitutional breach.

State lawmakers appropriated funds to begin a university so that pharmacy from the area wouldn't have to travel so far to get a pharmacological education. Legislators reasoned the action also would make it more likely they would remain close to home to pursue their careers.

Justice Lisabeth Hughes Abramson, however, said in the court opinion that if Kentucky needs to expand the opportunities for pharmacy school education, the General Assembly may do so, "but not by appropriating public funds to an educational institution that is religiously affiliated."

The university released a statement from President James Taylor saying the school had not yet re-

viewed the Supreme Court's decision, but that because of the ruling, "we will not begin a pharmacy school here at University of the Cumberlands."

While the decision may have ended Cumberlands' pursuit of such a school, Taylor pointed out that other pharmacy schools have been started or expanded since the Cumberlands case began.

For instance, University of Kentucky has expanded its School of Pharmacy while both Midway College and Sullivan University in Louisville have opened pharmacy schools as well.

"Thus, in our view, we have accomplished our purpose which was to meet a critical need for pharmacists in the Appalachian area and beyond," the statement read.

Justices rejected an argument by university lawyers that the state constitution ban violates the free-exercise and free-speech clauses of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. They also rejected a defense argument that the law is Kentucky's version of "Blaine Amendments," constitutional provisions passed in several states in the 1800s restricting government aid to "sectarian" schools prompted by anti-Catholic bigotry during that time. (ABP)

With additional reporting by News Director Drew Nichter

Interest in church planting grows among Kentucky Baptists

By Erin Roach
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Louisville—More congregations across the Kentucky Baptist Convention are taking the initiative to plant churches as a way to reach unchurched and dechurched people in their communities.

While the KBC continues to assist an average of 70 individuals who feel called to plant churches each year, New Work and Associational Missions Department Director Larry Baker said he has seen an increase in churches initiating the process.

"It's still predominantly planter-driven, but we're beginning to see a lot more churches being interested in planting churches," said Baker, who also is the KBC's interim missions growth team leader.

"We've had a handful of churches that were interested in church planting, but now it seems like we're getting more calls about sitting down with their missions committee or their church planting committee and talking to them about possibilities of what it would take to plant a church," he noted.

Baker said he has long desired for this shift to occur, and he attributes the breakthrough, in part, to a broader realization of the task at hand.

"People are beginning to understand that we have a serious problem with lostness and dechurched people in our state," he explained. "Maybe even the Find It Here campaign has awakened people to the reality that there are pockets in almost all of our counties where there are no evangelical churches."

Introducing new churches is one way to reach a growing population of people who don't belong to any congregation, Baker

said, citing a 2000 Glenmary Report on U.S. Congregations and Religions.

According to the report, Baker said only 12.8 percent of Kentuckians attended a church or other religious organization on any given worship day; 58 percent claimed adherence to a religion; and approximately 33 percent were members of a religious group.

Baker said he is encouraged by the increased interest among KBC churches because church planting is one of the most effective evangelism methods.

"I think there are a lot of churches that are beginning to realize that if somebody hadn't planted them, then they wouldn't be around. And certainly if there are going to be churches around in the future, they're going to have to be involved in church planting," he noted.

According to Baker, other state conventions have seen the same kind of interest among churches, especially where leaders speak often of church planting. The emphasis by the North American Mission Board and other groups has helped too, he added.

Missions work leads to church plant

Coral Hill Baptist Church in Glasgow is one church that has taken the initiative to plant another congregation. The idea began several years ago when the church formed a missions partnership with an African American church in Cleveland, said Pastor Ray Woodie.

For two years, Coral Hill members traveled to Northern Ohio to lend a hand, and in the third year of the partnership, members of the black church visited Glasgow.

The pastor of the Cleveland church no-

"I think there are a lot of churches that are beginning to realize that if somebody hadn't planted them, then they wouldn't be around. And certainly if there are going to be churches around in the future, they're going to have to be involved in church planting."

Larry Baker, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's new work and associational missions department

ticed that some areas of Glasgow with African American populations were not being sufficiently reached with the gospel. He eventually moved to Glasgow to establish a ministry to such people. That ministry, Community for Christ, began with food distribution and activities for children.

"Since its inception, which was about a year and a half ago, they've seen over 100 people come to faith in Christ," Woodie said. "They were ready to begin to baptize and move people toward that next step of discipleship."

According to Woodie, Coral Hill Baptist Church sought to partner with the thriving ministry to help them move toward the status of a recognized mission so the work could continue.

Coral Hill also has helped sponsor River Pointe Church in Munfordville, which is a KBC High Impact congregation. Placed strategically in growing areas and aimed at reaching non-believers and those who

have dropped out of church, High Impact churches have a five-year attendance goal of 250 people.

Each High Impact plant receives \$100,000 through the Kentucky Baptist Convention over a three-year start-up period.

Coral Hill's desire to plant churches, Woodie said, grew from the firsthand experiences members gained when they traveled to other locations on mission trips.

"We're just a little rural church that believes the kingdom is best reached when it expands through church planting," Woodie said. "We used to measure the success of our church by how many people came in within the course of a year."

"We have since changed our philosophy on that, and I believe a better measurement of church growth is not determined by how many people come into your church but how many people are you sending out of your church."

Kentucky teens seek to make Christ known by 'prayer-cleaning' stadium

Continued from page 1

the World Equestrian Games," said LaRaine Rice, Kentucky WMU youth/college consultant who coordinated the outing.

As the teens wiped down each of the stadium's 7,300 permanent seats, they also prayed over the seats and the numerous people who will sit in them between now and the close of the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games.

The games will be held at the Kentucky Horse Park Sept. 25-Oct. 10. It is the first time the event—held every four years—will take place outside of Europe. An estimated 600,000 people are expected to attend the games, making it the largest sporting event ever held in the United States.

The fact that many of those people may not know Jesus Christ or have even heard His name was on the girls' minds.

"These people who have no idea what Christianity is about, we're praying for them, to just help bring them closer to God," said Debbie Ferguson, 14, a member of Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington.

National Acteens panelist Brandie Hagerman, 17, a member of Living Faith Baptist Church in Hartford, agreed.

"You can only hope that somebody might be sitting in that seat and something will change their life and they'll get saved," she said.

Although the work may seem small, the "prayer-cleaning" could have an eternal impact, Hagerman said. "You've got to know that God will be here and He will do something miraculous."

The Exalt volunteers were the first to represent Affiliated International Ministries, an ecumenical group of churches and other organizations coordinating a vari-

ety ministries around the World Equestrian Games.

Rice, who is the volunteer coordinator for AIM, had all of the participants wear AIM's official "More Than Gold" T-shirts that will be worn by AIM volunteers during the games.

The More Than Gold theme, used by ministry volunteers at the past few Summer and Winter Olympic Games, has been adapted for the horse show crowd. The five-color horseshoe logo provides a means for volunteers to easily share Christ.

Currently, AIM is enlisting volunteers for the number of events it will be participating in or hosting. The volunteer application form can be found online at www.aimky.org.

According to AIM director Larry Martin, many of the equine-themed events where volunteers will be needed all will take place outside of the Kentucky Horse Park.

For those who wish to volunteer inside the park during the games, they must sign up as an official World Equestrian Games volunteer. That can be done at www.AlltechFEIGames.com/Volunteer.

AIM's new office space even has provided a perfect spot for volunteers to pray over the park's 1,224 acres.

Martin said the AIM office now is located at Cane Run Baptist Church, which sits directly across the street from the entrance to the Kentucky Horse Park.

"From the Cane Run parking lot, you can look across and see the outdoor stadium easily," he noted, adding that the park's two indoor arenas also are visible, providing a perfect opportunity to pray for the games and the hundreds of thousands of visitors.

Inspirational Pony



During a stop at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville last week, Molly the Pony visits with fellow amputee Art Robb. Molly and her owner Kaye Harris (left) visited the church as part of a tour of the Louisville area last week, which included a Shelby County elementary school and a downtown Louisville children's hospital. Molly the Pony has become a symbol of inspiration and perseverance since she was rescued from a barn by Harris after surviving Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Molly later was attacked by a dog and had to have her right front leg amputated. A rare feat for a horse, Molly has worn a prosthetic leg since then. Her inspirational story has been documented in a children's book. Also, Harris and her husband, Glenn, have started a nonprofit foundation called Kids and Ponies: Molly's Foundation, which seeks to care for Molly and other rescued ponies, as well as to provide educational and rehabilitative programs for children using ponies. The visit at St. Matthews Baptist was arranged by Larry Martin, director of Affiliated International Ministries, which will feature Molly the Pony at several AIM-sponsored equine events across the state during the World Equestrian Games Sept. 25-Oct. 10. (Photo by Todd Deaton)

Great Commission hope

I have been asked on numerous occasions about the progress report issued in February by the Southern Baptist Convention's Great Commission Resurgence Task Force. I have certainly had some concerns, but I am encouraged by the response of

Partners in the Mission



By Bill Mackey

the task force to feedback and look forward to the release of the final version on May 3. I am prayerful that new language in the report will relieve concerns and permit a little more flexibility in its implementation.

Southern Baptists certainly support the call to renewed commitment to God's mission through the Great Commission. I am grateful the task force has placed a strong emphasis on prayer and spiritual vitality.

I am also appreciative that the committee has invited feedback from Southern Baptists. The task force graciously invited various leaders, including state executive directors, to present in person and have conducted conference calls with large groups.

One of the report's recommendations deals with phasing out cooperative agreements between the North American Mission Board and state conventions. These agreements guide the way state conventions and NAMB share expenses in the common work of spreading the gospel. NAMB would use the savings to help fund an aggressive church planting process in the unreached and underserved areas of North America, especially the largest cities.

Some executives in the "old line" state conventions (the larger, Southern state conventions that originally formed the SBC) have expressed to me their willingness to absorb the cost of ending the cooperative agreements for their states provided that NAMB continues to have a strong supportive role with new work state conventions. I am hopeful that the final report will lengthen the phase out time of the cooperative agreements to seven to eight years, rather than four in the old line state conventions.

I believe the final report should also place a stronger emphasis on the Cooperative Program as the preferred and primary way of funding Southern Baptist missions and ministries. Hopefully, the updated report will remove concerns that a new reporting category called Great Commission Giving will hurt CP giving. The SBC's Executive Committee also needs to have a strong coordinating role, along with state conventions, in promoting CP.

I also would like to see the final report reflect NAMB as the primary coordinator of strategy to reach North America. This strategy can be supported by International Missions Board personnel as requested to reach international people groups.

The final report would also be strengthened by including a strong spiritual emphasis on biblical stewardship. A national emphasis on increased Cooperative Program support through local churches will result in more support for all mission causes—especially world missions.

If all mission partners, churches, associations, state conventions and the SBC will seek the Lord as never before, I believe Southern Baptists can experience a Great Commission Resurgence under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Celebrating 35 years of international friendships

Mimi Diercks, a native of the Philippines, attended Friendship International for the first time about five years ago after a friend from Switzerland invited her. Through the ministry hosted by Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville, she met a group of Filipinos who made her feel welcomed and helped her adjust to a new home. And even though Diercks didn't speak the same language as many of the other internationals whom she met there, she experienced how "a smile, a hug or greeting brings joy to one's heart."

That joy is what brings back the 220 internationals involved week after week, but the ministry's leaders and 70 volunteers from the churches of Long Run Baptist Association also hope participants will experience the lasting joy of discovering "a friend who sticks closer than a brother." Friendship International Director Evarose Gutmann reminded many of the association's Woman's Missionary Union members who gathered for its 35th anniversary celebration last week, "We started with no other goal but friendship with the international women who were coming here, who may be lonely and want to get better acquainted with their new country." But Gutmann and the other volunteers know that friendship also can open doors for the gospel.

"I just enjoy meeting all of these people from many different countries and faiths. It's just been great," remarked Edna Keeling, one of Friendship International's two living founders. "We pray the Lord will use us any way He can to show His love."

Anyone who has ever moved to a far away city can easily understand the tremendous difference a few friends can make during those early stress-filled and lonely days. The anxiety of moving is amplified, however, when one also faces the challenges of learning a new language and adapting to a new culture. Routine tasks, such as finding work, shopping in a grocery store, locating a doctor's office, getting a driver's license and enrolling children in school, seem all the more daunting. That's where the volunteers of Friendship International are eager to assist.

In addition to basic English, volunteers teach communication and writing, Bible, citizenship, arts and crafts, sewing, pottery and a variety of other classes. For instance, during the celebration, I sat next to Tom Prather, who enjoys teaching a driver's education course and hosting a bowling team at Walnut Street to foster fellowship among the internationals, and Dick Bierman, another frequent volunteer, who offers his expertise in computer and video production.

Diercks took driving lessons, attended a sewing class and is now involved in the chorus of Friendship International. She comes regularly because "it's fun and you learn something with the help of the volunteers." The chorus, directed by Mary Bolton, performed two songs at the anniversary celebration and is available to sing in area churches. "I don't have a good voice, but I like to sing to God's glory," Diercks said. While she appreciates what she has learned from the volunteers, she said that she has been most influenced by what she has observed "through their showing God's love and compassion." Now she wants to give back to Friendship International by lending a hand with mak-

ing refreshments, welcoming newcomers and "just being a friend" to other internationals.

"God bless Friendship International!" Diercks exclaimed, expressing the sentiments of many of the 220 people from some 39 countries who attended the 35th anniversary celebration. Over the years the ministry has touched thousands of lives, and volunteers Anna Mary Byrdwell and Julie Hillen led a roll call of 120 nations—from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe—from which participants have come.

Phronsie Quinn, another living founder, recalled how the group first met in the church's basement under the sanctuary. The group now meets in the activity center. Quinn, the wife of the late Gene Quinn, former director of the state convention's church music department, was prompted to begin Friendship International in 1975 after seeing the difficulty that Vietnamese refugees were having in adjusting. After spending two years in the Philippines and one in Japan doing missions work, Quinn understands what it was like to go into a grocery store and not be able to read labels. Through Friendship International, she and others saw a way to help internationals learn English and become better acclimated to American culture. In the process, they also would be exposed to Christianity through prayer times and Bible study.

While the volunteers certainly have been a blessing to internationals by helping them feel welcomed and loved, one thing was readily apparent during the 35th anniversary celebration: Friendship International also has been a blessing to the volunteers, enabling them to show God's love to people from other nations. Their ministry truly exemplifies that even though we may speak different languages and be of different nationalities, we are all His children, and it evidences that, indeed, "it's a small world after all."

After Thought

By Todd Deaton



WESTERN Recorder

Box 43969
Louisville, KY 40253

DR. TODD DEATON
Editor

DREW NICHTER
News Director

THOMAS C. TOWNSEND
Marketing & Business Manager

Board of Directors:

Floyd Price (chairman), London;
Skip Alexander (vice chairman),
Campbellsville;
Duane Bolin, Murray;
Bill Edmonds, Louisville;
Dan Francis, Erlanger;
Chip Hutcheson, Princeton;
Lanna Kilgore, Bowling Green;
Paul Nunn, Prestonsburg;
Willis Polk, Lexington;
June Rice, Paintsville;
Wayne Spivey, Harrodsburg;
Dan Summerlin, Paducah.

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

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

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

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

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

www.WesternRecorder.org

'Amp your camp' and pamper a youth camper

Kids are leaving for church camp. What does that have to do with you—a church member?

Youth camp and kids' camp offer an amazing focus for Christian growth, building Christian friendships, and knowing God's will. Small encouragements from you can enhance that experience. Need fresh ideas?

■ A church can order vinyl write-on wristbands, add a camper's name, and ask members to wear a band all week, praying for God to work in that student's life.

■ As kids depart for camp, show up with individually-wrapped Rice Krispie treats for the trip.

■ Your choir, deacons or Bible class could enhance the youth leader for a camp-enhancing idea, then collect money to purchase it (i.e. camp T-shirts, ping pong table, contest prize, sports equipment, money for ice

cream or pizza en route to camp.)

■ Your group could write and mail prayer notes to each camper.

■ Mail a giant container of fireball candies for campers to share. Jot a prayer note right on the container and add an address label.

■ Invest personally as a volunteer camp counselor, sponsor, nurse or sports organizer.

■ Donate a partial camp scholarship(s). Even better, do it as a class or anonymously. Some churches provide camp for minimal cost using budget or a special offering.

■ Prioritize camp on your family's summer calendar if you have a child.

■ Fill a pretty bowl with fruit and snacks for a cabin. Provide replenishments for the week, and gift the bowl to the cabin counselor.

■ A youth worker who can't at-

tend could pack individual goodie bags for their students, with a small gift, snacks, quarters and Scripture note. Or write daily personal encouragement notes for the cabin counselor to distribute.

■ Help the camp leader with last-minute details the week before camp or with check-in and luggage duties on send-off day.

■ Invite the campers' parents to Wednesday prayer meeting that week. Pray for their kids.

■ Attend worship or help behind the scenes, if the camp is nearby.

■ Celebrate the results. Ask campers to tell you about their experiences. Enthusiastically attend any post-camp report or testimony service.

How will you help make your church camp a highlight of summer for kids this year?

Diana Davis is the wife of Indiana Baptist Convention's executive director and author of "Fresh Ideas," "Fresh Ideas for Women's Ministry" and "Deacon Wives."

Fresh Ideas



Diana Davis

Campbellsville students reach out to China partners

By Keith Spears

Several representatives of Campbellsville University recently traveled to China to expand and finalize agreements with several Chinese institutions of higher learning. These partnerships with Chinese universities are further affirmation that Campbellsville has become a global missions partner in helping spread the message of the Christian faith.

A Chinese professor joined the chairman of the Campbellsville University Board of Trustees and me for a Saturday evening meal to brief us on our upcoming visit to her university. The results of this informal conversation were destined to be more surprising than we could have imagined and would confirm the importance of our university mission.

Chairman Jay Conner had joined the Campbellsville recruitment trip to China. With one of the south's highest percentages of international students, and a majority of them from Asia, Campbellsville is involved with several Chinese universities.

The Campbellsville group had just returned to the Chinese capital after spending several days in a northern province assisting a mission-based institution operated by Christian faculty and administrators. Campbellsville is creating an English Language Institute that will transfer all of the institution's instruction into English. Campbellsville faculty members from the heartland of Kentucky are

training Chinese professors to teach in English—certainly “missions in action.”

In Beijing, we were expecting to clarify campus visit logistics with our dinner guest; however, the discussion took a spiritual turn when she asked about the faith-based mission of Campbellsville. While we had been cautioned not to appear to proselytize, clearly the professor was interested. Our discussion led to an invitation for her and her family to attend church with us the following day.

Making arrangements via cell phone, we learned that the invitation had to be retracted. Local laws prevented any Chinese citizen from entering the international Christian church services. It was a lesson for us in religious freedom, or lack thereof. Although disappointed, the professor suggested an alternative.

“Dr. Spears, I would like for my students in comparative literature to hear your explanation of faith. Would you be willing to do that?” she asked.

If the local laws stopped her from going to church, how could we go to a government university and, in effect, deliver a testimony? Truly, another mission in action opportunity was laid on our table.

Two days later, while Conner was in a formal meeting, I spoke to an

English-speaking class of undergraduates eager to understand why America considered itself a nation based on faith. The two and half hours passed quickly. From the Mayflower to Lincoln to Lottie Moon missions, the lively discussion blended into the age-old debate of “knowledge vs. faith.”

Toward the end, a young lady summed up the group's perception. “It seems that knowledge is belief in what we can see,” she remarked, “while faith is belief in something that we cannot see.” I suggested that she might be in tune with a biblical writer known as Paul.

The class concluded with students fervent for the next lecture. Yes, it was only a single event; but it was one that left the speaker rewarded and more excited than ever about the mission of our Christ-centered institution. Our prayer is that this visit sowed seeds that will be harvested in the future.

Campbellsville University is proving that higher education can be a valuable vehicle for Christianity in America and abroad, providing remarkable life changing encounters for students and faculty alike. Baptist higher education is indeed “missions in action.”

Keith Spears is vice president for regional and professional education at Campbellsville University.

FIRST PERSON

Our prayer is that this visit sowed seeds that will be harvested in the future.

How couples approach one another

By Valerie Vincent

How couples approach one another is essential. The manner in which one spouse speaks to the other is very important.

Tone of voice, facial expressions, word content, body language all can communicate absolute derision. If the word content is incongruent with tone, facial expression, body language, then the nonverbal communication carries significantly more weight and the content will not be credible.

Often couples will declare their goal for communication is to share their side or explain their view so that they as a couple can get along or have better communication. Yet, the manner in which they communicate is so divisive that the more accurate goal would be to tear down or get the upper hand.

We can become very frustrated that others do not respond to our needs and instead deal with us in anger. This tends to happen because we fail to voice our real needs clearly and instead use blame, sarcasm, silence and pouting as tools of communication.

For some, this leads toward martyrdom and thoughts of “I am alone. My spouse does not care about me. I am so angry that I just want to hurt my spouse.”

When we feel hurt or injured emotionally, we tend to strike out. Sometimes this is backhanded.

If you want to experience responses of love, care, sensitivity, kindness, thoughtfulness, then you must pay attention to how you approach and how you speak to your spouse.

Each of us is responsible for our behavior in this way. There is no excuse or exception for this.

Valerie Vincent is a Christian counselor with Hardy Associates in Louisville. Send questions for Family Forum to Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253 or e-mail wesrec@kybaptist.org.



FAMILY FORUM

Doing all for His glory

By Doug Strader

One of the most awesome things about being a disciple of Jesus is that God our Father allows us to be on mission with Him. Our Father is on mission around the world at all times, and He allows His children around the world to be on mission with Him.

Just think: The God of our universe allows you and me to be at work with Him in ministering the gospel to all people. Therefore, as the Apostle Paul admonished the disciples at Corinth that whether they were eating or drinking, or whatever they were doing, we should do it all for the glory of God. I think he would admonish those of us who are living today to do likewise.

One of the ways that we work with the Lord is in the area of financial stewardship. Our loving Father allows us to be stewards of all that He entrusts to us. Even in the Old Testament, the children of God were instructed to be good stewards of the things that God had permitted them to manage. Proverbs 3:9 says, “Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.”

To give of the firstfruits means to give to God the very best that you have, not the leftovers. We are to manage well what the Lord has permitted us to oversee. Ask yourself how well you are managing what God has entrusted to you. Everything we have belongs to Him, but He only asks for the firstfruits.

As disciples of Jesus, we need to keep in mind the principles of giving that the New Testament teaches. The Apostle Paul said in 2 Corinthians 9:6-7: “The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

What we do for Him does not go unnoticed, because as Hebrews 6:10 says, “For God is not so unjust as to overlook your work and the love that you showed for His sake in serving the saints, as you still do.”

Doug Strader, retired director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's stewardship department, is pastor of Farmdale Baptist Church in Louisville.



FINANCIAL FORUM

EKG strategist: Valuing the work of state conventions

I am delighted to see that dialogue between the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force and the state convention executive directors continues to progress. I have had the privilege of working with a large number of our state leaders through my travels, first as a seminary president and now as the national strategist for Empowering Kingdom Growth. I have found them to be men of vision and passion with a desire to see their churches become more effective agents for Kingdom advance.

I am concerned that the GCRTF progress report, if adopted as originally stated, would create a tremendous burden for the state executives, whose assignment it is to lead churches to work together in the fulfillment of the Acts 1:8 imperative.

First, the tenor of the report seemed to suggest that accountability was lacking for monies received from the North American Mission Board for agreed-upon ministry initiatives. While that may have not been directly stated, it was certainly implied, and any such suggestion is both inappropriate and counter-productive when it comes to our partnership for the Great Commission.

Any work NAMB is going to accomplish now or in the future—however these agreements are renegotiated for the future—will depend upon respectful relationships that are undergirded by trust.

Second, I am concerned that the lack of NAMB financial agree-

ments would greatly penalize those states that face the greatest need and greatest opportunity when it comes to the planting of churches. In pioneer states, many of the staff

members have salaries that are supplemented by NAMB funding. When you couple this loss of resources with the request that the states be required to accept the full responsibility of stewardship and Cooperative Program promotion, you can begin to see the immensity of the challenge they are facing.

I have no doubt that our state conventions can do an excellent job of promoting the Cooperative Program alone, but the truth is that there is great benefit and cost savings involved in having the promotion for the CP come from a single location. It ensures that we all can echo the same message when it comes to cooperating for Kingdom advance.

Third, the potential impact upon state convention work was recently in the news when a potential presidential candidate indicated the state convention should keep no more than 25 percent of CP monies collected for state-wide ministries. This is both an arbitrary and unrealistic number that undu-

ly diminishes the value of the work of state conventions.

It is true that the SBC has no authority to tell the state convention what percentage of receipts they are required to forward to the SBC Executive Committee for disbursement to convention-wide causes. Yet recent articles suggest monies could be given around state conventions who do not comply with the acceptable percentages by designating their gifts as “Great Commission Giving.” These monies would then be added to gifts that are traditional Cooperative Program gifts.

If the “Great Commission Giving” category were used in this manner, it would spell the end of what we have known as the Cooperative Program and could greatly impact the work of our state conventions as they assist churches in becoming more effective in all their Acts 1:8 partnerships.

I am delighted to hear that dialogue continues and that substantial progress is being made. All of our various entities have a vital role to play in fulfilling the Acts 1:8 imperative, and we must build strong partnerships for the sake of the Kingdom.

Ken Hemphill is the SBC's national strategist for Empowering Kingdom Growth. The Great Commission Resurgence task force will release its final report on May 3.

FIRST PERSON



Ken Hemphill

If the Great Commission Giving category were used in this manner, it would spell the end of what we have known as the Cooperative Program and could greatly impact the work of our state conventions ...

Louisville-based international ministry celebrates 35 years

Louisville—Many of the 220 internationals and 70 volunteers currently involved with the Friendship International Ministry gathered April 21 at Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville to celebrate the ministry's 35th anniversary.

Through the ministry, sponsored by Walnut Street, Long Run Baptist Association and Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, internationals from 121 countries have learned English, Bible stories, citizenship, driver's education, computer skills and creative arts.

As part of the celebration, Friendship Director Evarose Gutmann (at right in photo at bottom right) recognized Phronsie Quinn (left) and Edna Keeling, the ministry's two living founders; several women from India performed native dances (below); and an international chorus, led by Mary Bolton, performed (right).
(Photos by Todd Deaton)



Campbellsville volleyball team brightens Mondays at local nursing home

By Richard RoBards
Campbellsville University

Campbellsville—Until six weeks ago, Lilian DeSilva didn't know beans about the game of Rummy. But since being introduced to Eulean Vaughn at Campbellsville's Medco Center, DeSilva has been learning the hard way.

"Look at that score," DeSilva said pointing to a tally sheet. "I don't think she has taught me all the rules."

DeSilva, a sophomore from Brazil, her coach, and five of her Campbellsville University volleyball team visit each Monday afternoon at Medco—playing games and assisting the staff with visits and filling ice and water bottles.

"We do whatever is needed," said Samantha James, a sophomore from Louisville. "We check in on them and have made some pretty good friends."

It has been a win-win situation for everyone.

"I just felt like it was a good idea for us to volunteer somewhere," coach Amy Eckenfels said. "We had a meeting, Medco needed volunteers and the girls really seem to like it."

On the same Monday, teammate Caroline Martin is playing Rummy with James Mattingly. She's winning, which prompts Mattingly to say: "I must have taught her too good."

That comment doesn't necessarily jive with what the girls have been jokingly saying under their breath—that their opponents are withholding Rummy strategy so that their Medco volunteers don't get too adept.

"I'm just a lot older," Vaughn joked. "I guess experience has something to do with it."

"This has been really nice," said Martin, who also is from Brazil. "It makes me think of my grandmom. I miss my family and this is a way for me to connect with them

in a vicarious way. Some of these people don't have any family to visit them."

"I can tell you that I really look forward to them being here," Mattingly said.

Martin recalled that when she was at Northwest College in Wyoming, before transferring to Campbellsville, the team there would visit a nursing home and the residents would attend all the team's home games.

Special impact

DeSilva and Martin agreed that the game of Rummy is foreign to them. But the impact the volleyball team is having isn't foreign to the residents of Medco or themselves.

"We've done other community projects, but this one has been special," said Brooke Marcum, a junior from La Grange. "I've lost both sets of my grandparents and being able to develop relationships with these folks has been good."

Marcum said the visits allow her to re-

connect the relationship she had with her grandparents.

"Our visits really makes them happy," she acknowledged. "I know it can be boring here sometimes, and it does us and them good to just sit around a talk and listen to their stories."

"It gives you a really good feeling to know that you're giving them company and making them happy," said Shannon Cahill, a sophomore from Louisville. "Seeing them each week and watching them improve ... just makes me feel connected."

Caitlin Dresting, a freshman from Louisville, said volunteering like this is nothing new for her. "Our high school team made similar visits to a nursing home in Louisville and we painted fingernails and played cards."

"Whatever their needs are, we do," Coach Eckenfels explained. "Right now this fits perfectly into what we want to do and eventually we may want to split up and go into some of the schools and work

with a younger set of people."

But even if the girls were to become professional Rummy players, the Medco residents still would invite the team back with open arms.



GAME TIME Campbellsville University women's volleyball player Lilian DeSilva plays a hand of Rummy with Eulean Vaughn, a resident at the Medco Center in Campbellsville. The volleyball team visits the seniors at the center every Monday afternoon, spending time with the residents and helping the staff at the nursing facility. (Photo by Richard RoBards/Campbellsville University)

Southern Baptist Convention
June 15-16 in Orlando, Florida

2010 MESSENGER CARDS
Attention PASTORS:

Messenger Cards for voting privileges at the SBC are available from the KBC Executive Office. They MUST be signed by your church clerk or moderator BEFORE being presented for registration.

Please make your request to:

KBC
KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION

Executive Office
PO Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433
Attn. Wanda Karolyi
Call 502-489-3374 or 866-489-3374 or
e-mail: wanda.karolyi@kybaptist.org

DEADLINE: June 7, 2010

W.Va. church leads 'Revolution'

ABC healthy-eating reality series leaves the air, but not the community

By Ken Walker

Huntington, W.Va.—The final episode of "Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution" aired April 23, but the Southern Baptist church that sparked the ABC mini-reality series enjoyed a sneak preview at its midweek service April 21.

Some of the scenes in the finale looked familiar: They were filmed in the parking lot of suburban First Baptist Church of Kenova, W.Va., the afternoon of April 13.

Billed as a "Cooking Boot Camp," the event had the feel of a community festival. First Baptist, Kenova roped off the parking lot and set up several tents for healthy cooking demonstrations and pep talks by British chef Jamie Oliver.

First Baptist teaching pastor Steve Willis worked in a tent where Oliver showed parents how to pack healthy lunches. Willis created fruit-based smoothies.

"I'm glad it's wrapping up," Willis said of the attention generated by the six-week reality TV show. "Dozens of churches—not just in America, but throughout the world—are calling and sending me e-mails, saying, 'What are you guys doing? We've got the same problem here.'"

While Oliver has become a local celebrity thanks to the visibility of the national broadcast, his visit originated with First Baptist. The church instituted exercise classes after a fall 2008 report from the Centers for Disease Control listed the Huntington, W.Va., area as the nation's unhealthiest.

"We knew it was a problem," Willis said, "because I was in the hospital all the time, seeing people die from obesity-related diseases or having all these surgeries. We had the most obesity, high blood pressure, heart disease, gum disease, sleep habits and the worst exercise habits."

After Willis preached about obesity, 40 people answered an altar call to enlist in its "Biggest Loser" program. Despite its success, Willis later told his wife he didn't know anything about proper eating.

Last year, the day after he prayed, "Lord, I need somebody to come in and teach nutrition," Oliver's production crew called. They had read a story online about the church's health initiative and wanted to help.

"The fact they called the next day—I knew God was sending the guy here," Willis noted.

The "Food Revolution" series has generated curiosity seekers, including a couple from London who wanted to meet Willis. Visitors from other nations and states also have shown up, making the church a bit of a tourist attraction, the pastor said.

While the public spotlight will fade now that the finale has aired, the church's healthy emphasis will continue. In addition to opening its family life center three hours a day for walking, First Baptist, Kenova hosts aerobics on Monday nights and Zumba classes on Tuesdays.

Collectively, participants in its exercise program have shed a ton of weight, including one woman who has lost 75 pounds and another who dropped 70.

"Awakened and humbled"

Church member Stacie Edwards, whose family was featured prominently in the first two episodes, has lost 20 pounds. Her husband, Tim, also has lost 20 and son, Justin, is 35 pounds lighter.

Though initially skeptical of Oliver's efforts, Stacie Edwards said she now is off medications she had been taking and is much happier today. The family recently dug up the fryer it buried during the first episode in order to clear the ground for a vegetable garden.

"Jamie was there and backed us up for so many weeks," Edwards said. "He was in our lives for three months. It seemed like it woke me up. I think that's what I needed, to be awakened and humbled."

Barbara Hicks, one of the cooks who prepare meals for Wednesday night dinners at the church, said "Food Revolution" has made her more aware of the need to choose healthier products.

Hicks said the crew now fixes more salads and uses fewer mayonnaise-based dressings, roasts vegetables and has cut out the use of most canola oil and butter.

Longtime First Baptist, Kenova member Richard Lykins said he has purchased a treadmill, is taking more hikes with his family and is choosing water over soda.

A supervisor at an area chemical plant, Lykins said he has had to make an effort to eat healthier at work because when men cook there, the food often is fattening.

"I think it's sparked everyone to be accountable for their health and to take care of themselves and their family," Lykins not-

ed. "I think it's going to help not only now, but generations from now."

Church member Jane Galloway, who helps supervise those who walk at the family life center on Monday mornings, said she hopes the changes will filter down to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

"You have to start small and do it all your life," said Galloway, whose mother and some relatives died at young ages because of heart disease. "We have a lot of unhealthy children. I have a grandchild who lives on chicken nuggets, so I'm hoping this will affect her. We've got to start young and bring them up right."

At the other end of the age scale, Willis already can see a change. Despite one of the area's harshest winters in years, he didn't officiate at any funerals in recent months where a death was related to obesity.



ORDER UP Steve Willis, teaching pastor of the Huntington-area First Baptist Church of Kenova, W.Va., pours smoothies of fruit, yogurt and nuts as part of the filming of the final episode of British chef Jamie Oliver's "Food Revolution" reality show. (Photos by Ken Walker)

In the past, "It seemed like every other week I was doing a funeral of somebody who was dying before their time," the pastor said. (BP)

Spiritual spark buoyed TV series

By Ken Walker

Huntington, W.Va.—While the TV persona of British chef Jamie Oliver has added nationwide attention to the topic of nutrition, there was a spiritual spark to his "Food Revolution" in Huntington, W.Va.

In addition to a local Baptist pastor saying God sent Oliver to this Ohio River city, Yvonne Jones has no doubt the Lord arranged the visit.

Jones, director of the Huntington-based Ebenezer Medical Outreach, saw Oliver discussing healthy cooking on the "Today" show two years ago. She said she prayed, "Lord, it sure would be great if he came to Huntington."

"Then Pastor Steve (Willis) was saying he was talking with his congregation about the need to eat healthy and (Oliver's) production company called him," Jones noted. "Why his church (the Huntington-area First Baptist Church of Kenova) of all the churches in this area? Because God planned it that way."

Although the six-week reality series wrapped up April 23, the revolution it started will continue at the local storefront kitchen venue that Oliver used during filming last fall.

Renamed Huntington's Kitchen, Ebenezer assumed its operations in February. The Christian-based ministry offers a series of healthy cooking classes each month. Attendance ranges from four to 12 people, with classes already booked months in advance.

Although First Baptist, Kenova had offered some cooking classes in the past, the church now sends interested individuals to Huntington's Kitchen.

Combined with its exercise classes and the attention generated by Oliver's show, Willis said he hopes the parallels between physical and spiritual health will become stronger in the public's consciousness.

"People are beginning to see that how we treat our body is directly related to how we treat God and our neighbors," said Willis, teaching pastor at the Southern Baptist church.

"Scripture says to honor God with your body. Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, and it's almost as if we've forgotten that in our society. For us to live for God with all that we have, we have to take care of our body."

There is a practical application for churches, Willis added. In the past he had seen numerous parents who were so overweight and out of shape they didn't

have the energy to spend the time needed with their children.

In addition, he said their reliance on fatty convenience foods ran up their food and medical bills. That means money that could have gone toward ministry through a local church was spent on medical care.

First Baptist, Kenova member Stacie Edwards can vouch for the truth of that statement. Edwards, whose family was featured in Oliver's first two episodes, said in the past she felt lethargic because of a diet of pizza, chicken nuggets and other calorie-laden food.

Not only is she 20 pounds lighter and off the medications she once used, Edwards said her family now is closer.

"It's been tremendous," she said. "I'm doing what God wants us to do with our body. He doesn't want us to fill up on junk food and stuff like that."

"One great thing is my husband is getting so close to Christ right now," Edwards added. "I think maybe this whole thing has put him closer. He sees what the church is doing and what Jamie is doing and he sees what I do."

Treating one's body as God's temple is a message Willis said he thinks isn't emphasized enough in the body of Christ. Despite hundreds of interviews with secular media, the pastor said he had not received much feedback from Christian leaders during the run of Oliver's show.

Leaders play a key role in the conditions that need to change in churches, Willis pointed out.

Church potluck dinners all too often feature items like fried chicken, rolls and mashed potatoes and gravy, which may be OK as an occasional treat but can't be the staple of one's diet, Willis said.

"I'm not going to lie to you; we still see some of that here and I still like fried chicken," he said. "But you just have to make wiser choices."

However, he said, he sees pastors as the key to turning this situation around.

"Pastors need to realize that people aren't serving God and aren't able to love God until pastors get in the pulpit and say, 'We've got to love each other enough to keep each other accountable and improve the way we eat,'" Willis urged.

Or, as Oliver put it in his closing remarks for the final episode: "It takes all of you—parents, lunch ladies, principals, teachers and cooks—to make this happen. If any of you don't get involved, it stops working." (BP)



CELEBRITY SIGHTING British chef Jamie Oliver visits with fans during the filming of the final episode of "Food Revolution" in Huntington, W.Va. The six-week ABC series, which put local First Baptist Church of Kenova, W.Va., in the spotlight, concluded April 23.

Legal skirmish jeopardizes National Day of Prayer tradition

By Adelle Banks

Washington—As Rep. Randy Forbes sees it, the decision by a Wisconsin federal judge that the law creating a National Day of Prayer is unconstitutional is little more than one person's opinion.

Millions of Americans, Forbes said, think otherwise.

"That's not what the Constitution says," the Virginia Republican declared last week, surrounded by other members of the Congressional Prayer Caucus. "That's what one unelected judge says the Constitution says."

On April 22, the Justice Department said it would appeal the decision, capping a week of political uproar from conservatives after Judge Barbara Crabb of Madison, Wis., issued her April 15 ruling.

Since then, lawmakers and conservative Christian groups had pushed President Obama to appeal the controversial decision. Interfaith organizations that say evangelicals have "hijacked" the prayer day, meanwhile, hope politicians will take a more inclusive approach to the observance.

With yet another legal skirmish in the offing, the political debate over whether Americans should pause for a collective day of national prayer on the first Thursday of May now has reached a fever pitch.

The Freedom from Religion Foundation, the small Wisconsin-based organization that Crabb vindicated with the decision, is planning to contact all 50 governors and mayors of major cities to dissuade them from participating in observances, scheduled for May 6 this year.

"It's a David and Goliath fight, but we're readying our slingshot," said foundation co-president Annie Laurie Gaylor, with not a hint of irony as she pulled a metaphor straight out of the Bible.

The National Day of Prayer Task Force,



PRAYER DEBATE Former president George W. Bush and wife, Laura, bow their heads along with National Day of Prayer Chairwoman Shirley Dobson and her husband, religious broadcaster James Dobson, at a May 2003 ceremony in the East Room of the White House. President Obama has said he will appeal a federal judge's ruling that the law creating the National Day of Prayer is unconstitutional, even though he declined to host a Bush-style observance at the White House. (White House photo)

the Colorado Springs, Colo.-based group that plans tens of thousands of events each year, already has launched a "Save the National Day of Prayer" campaign.

"This is an attack upon our religious freedoms, and it is a sad day in America when an atheist in Wisconsin can undermine this tradition for millions of others who simply wish to join their fellow citizens in praying for their country," the petition reads.

"This is an egregious and revealing decision," added Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. "It shows the brooding hostility toward religion that exists at

some levels of federal, state and local government in this country."

Shirley Dobson, leader of the prayer day task force and the wife of Focus on the Family founder James Dobson, issued a statement last week decrying the "unrelenting assault" on the nation's "heritage of prayer."

In addition to Crabb's ruling, she criticized the Military Religious Freedom Foundation's demand that the Pentagon disinvite evangelist Franklin Graham from speaking at its National Day of Prayer event.

"It is time to say, 'Enough is enough,'" Dobson said. "We can be silent no more."

Graham, who angered Muslims by calling Islam an "evil and wicked religion" after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, is this year's honorary chairman of the prayer task force. The Council on American-Islamic Relations also has asked the Pentagon to remove Graham as a speaker after he told Fox News last week that Muslims are "enslaved by Islam."

The Alliance Defense Fund, which successfully removed Shirley Dobson as a defendant in the case that landed in Crabb's courtroom, has sent an update to mayors saying Crabb's ruling "should not disrupt your local observance" of the prayer day.

J. Michael Johnson, a senior legal counsel for the ADF, said he hopes his legal advice will be the same after the appeals.

"I think observances like this can and will continue, but it would be a real shame if the government couldn't acknowledge the importance of it," he noted.

Hours after Crabb's decision, the White House announced via Twitter that President Obama "intends to recognize a National Day of Prayer," as he did last year. In 2009, he issued a proclamation, but did not host an observance at the White House, as his predecessor George W. Bush did throughout his presidency.

The judge noted that her decision cannot be enforced until the appeals process is exhausted, making the observances scheduled for May 6 able to continue this year.

Whatever the appeals court decides, First Amendment Center scholar Charles Haynes predicted politicians will embrace the debate—and probably show up at more events this year.

"It's like waving a red flag in front of politicians, and who wants to say we don't support prayer?" said Haynes, who agreed with the ruling but said he doubts it will be upheld. "That's like being against apple pie and motherhood." (RNS)

Meet the class of 2010, part 5

Ethiopian student finds at Oneida what he couldn't at finest schools back home

Many of our international students struggle with some of the same issues as our American students. Growing up in a fine home and attending a good school does not mean success will automatically follow. Here is part of a senior essay written by one of our international students.

"My name is Abraham (not his real name) and I am the second of four children. ... I was born and raised in Ethiopia with a diverse culture that puts emphasis on respect and the family.

"Before enrolling at Oneida my junior year, I was educated in one of the finest schools in Ethiopia, ... (but) I didn't have the most amazing grades. ... After doing some research I believed that Oneida Baptist Institute would be the perfect place for me. My friends and family ... didn't understand how a Christian boarding school in the middle of nowhere could help me.

"Life at Oneida was not easy. At first I thought I had made the biggest mistake of my life. Little did I realize that it was the best. I was not used to having so many rules in my life, like cutting my hair, shaving frequently and dressing in a certain manner. ... However, I began living my life with faith in God and I prayed that the Lord would help me to see people for who they really were.

"By the end of my junior year, I realized that Oneida was helping me to become a better person. I had the choice of not coming back for my senior year. However, I chose to stay and graduate from Oneida. Knowing that I had this choice, some of my friends thought I was insane for deciding to come back. But I wanted to finish this

life-changing experience I had started.

"I never made my own bed, washed my own clothes or even worked before I came to Oneida. As much as I hated doing all this, I began to realize how much Oneida was helping me. ... Not only did Oneida help me go from being an average student to a straight-'A' student, it also helped me build a lifelong foundation for my spiritual life. I may not realize it now, but I know for a fact that once I graduate and move along in the real world, everything that was taught, including the songs we sang in chapel, will come back to me and make sense. ... Little did I know before coming to Oneida that I would learn to say, 'Good morning' in six different languages.

"Oneida has taught me countless things. However, the most important thing that will probably impact the rest of my life the most is my spiritual experience. Oneida has taught me values and morals of being a Christian. It has laid the biggest foundation for my life. For all of this I thank my teachers, houseparents, my parents and most of all, God!"

Time and time again, new students tell us that attending chapel every academic day and two worship services on Sundays seems to be a bit too much religion. I cannot be honest and say that all of those students eventually understand and accept the importance of the spiritual foundation we try to provide. However, I can say with complete honesty that most of our students, just like this young man, in time do understand why we put so much emphasis on their spiritual needs.

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

Partners in ministry

Clear Creek meets needs of bivocational, small churches

The Bivocational and Small Church Leadership Network, formerly the Southern Baptist Bivocational Ministers' Association, held their annual meeting last week at Del Norte Baptist Church in Albuquerque, N.M. Clear Creek had the privilege of attending this meeting because we serve as a regional resource center for bivocational and small churches in the Southern Baptist Convention.

As a regional resource center, we encourage, promote and serve smaller membership churches in the SBC. According to the statistical data available through 2008, there were more than 44,000 churches in the SBC. In that same year, more than 28,000 of those churches averaged less than 125 in worship.

Clear Creek's initial goal as a regional resource center is to assist those called of God in obtaining the educational training necessary to do ministry. We serve as a resource center for students to acquire the tools through the various materials available. We function as an encouragement to those doing ministry. We network with a consortium of educational institu-

tions and national, state and local groups to assist ministers. We recognize the important role that bivocational and small churches have in the fulfillment of the Great Commission and the building of God's kingdom.

Just a couple of days ago, I had a conversation with a young man who, after 16 years in the Army, was called to preach. He and his family stepped out in faith and began a new church in their home under the leadership of his home church. He was able to get a civilian job on the military base where he previously was assigned.

His civilian job—doing the same job he previously had done in the Army—supplied his family's financial needs. He was eligible for the post-9/11 GI Bill and needed to be equipped to do ministry. He was looking for an accredited school that was completely online and offered a Bible degree. Clear Creek Baptist Bible College was able to meet each of his needs and he will enroll at Clear Creek as an online student in the fall.

Donnie Fox is president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, 300 Clear Creek Road, Pineville, KY 40977; toll-free: (866) 340-3196; Web site: www.ccbcc.edu; e-mail: dfox@ccbbc.edu

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

The importance of finishing well

Retired volunteers provide inspiration for life journey

The volunteers have been at it again at camp.

Most recently, the Kentucky Campers on Mission have been at Cedarmore doing a variety of activities too numerous to list here. They have been regulars with the camps for more than a decade and they are a great encouragement to us and, specifically, to me personally.

While my interaction with them is fairly limited, the past week was an exception as I was at Cedarmore at some time during each day of the week. The fun of cutting up with them and the picking back and forth really blesses me and hopefully keeps us all a little younger in spirit.

As I get to observe them in their work, fellowship and play, it perhaps, most importantly, impacts me by their example in life. I will turn 43 in August and I guess that is somewhat the prime of life in many ways.

But the Christian life is not about the short term. We are to work out our salvation in fear and trembling for as long as we are on this earth. That being said, each year our lives should look more

like Christ than the prior. So, the real measure is how you finish, not just what are you doing at age 42.

Their example gives me encouragement and it spurs me on to seek to finish life by honoring God with all I do, whether in work or in working retirement. I want to finish strong and the fact is, we see many in ministry and also just in life who stray and do not finish well.

This spring has been more challenging than any I can remember, I have made mistakes in prioritizing my time and time has been lost that will not be regained.

This is true for all of us. Therefore, we are to make the most of our time for it is limited. Making the most of your time honestly is easier when there are Christians in your life whom you can observe and are at the next step and proving to be faithful servants.

Thanks again to the Kentucky Campers on Mission for much more than just your work.

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

Ky. Baptist Assemblies



David Melber

Missions giving

Ky. Baptists need to reverse how they give to missions

What do the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, the Eliza Broadus State Missions Offering and the Thanksgiving Offering for Sunrise Children's Services have in common?

The obvious answer is they all are missions offerings. The obvious reality of these offerings is how we Kentucky Baptists prioritize our missions giving.

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering began in 1888, at the request of Lottie Moon, a missionary to China. The first offering received totaled \$3,315.26.

Meanwhile, Kentucky Baptists contributed \$4,420,420 in 2008-09.

Since 1895, Southern Baptists have received an offering for home missions. The first offering totaled more than \$5,000. In 1969, the offering was renamed the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. Kentucky Baptists contributed \$2,038,633 in 2008-09.

Eliza Broadus led Kentucky Women's Missionary Union to begin receiving an annual offering for state missions. The offering was first taken in 1913. In fiscal year 2008-09, Kentucky Baptists contributed \$1,103,136.

In 1934, the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky approved the receipt of an offering for the Spring Meadows and Glen Dale Children's Homes. In 2008-09, Sunrise Children's Services re-

ceived \$654,183 through its Thanksgiving Offering.

The Thanksgiving Offering is a vital link of support between Kentucky Baptists and Sunrise; it can be received any time of the year. More money is given to Sunrise through the Thanksgiving Offering than the Cooperative Program.

The problem is that it has declined from \$888,090 in 2006 to \$654,183 in 2009. Our annual expenditures for the fiscal year ending in 2009 were \$23,253,623. During that period, Kentucky Baptists gave 2 percent of our operating expenses through CP and 3 percent through the Thanksgiving Offering.

Should we give significant money to state, home and foreign missions through our long-established offerings? Of course we should. The issue to consider is how we prioritize our giving. Acts 1:8 tells us our mission activities are to begin in Jerusalem—or, at home.

The victimized children of Kentucky are our mission here in our Jerusalem. Kentucky Baptists, you can help these hurting kids by doing two things. First, if you do not receive the Thanksgiving Offering for Sunrise Children's Services, make a commitment to do so in your church. Second, as we do with the other missions' offerings, set a goal for the offering, and do not close it until that goal is met.

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

Sunrise Children's Services



Bill Smithwick

Moderate Baptist leader Sherman dies

Former pastor was father of Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

Richmond, Va.—Cecil Sherman, 82, the first coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, died April 17 from complications of a heart attack.

Sherman suffered a massive heart attack April 15. Paramedics resuscitated him and transported him to Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center in Richmond, Va., where he died two days later.

"Baptists have lost a great champion, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship has lost its founding coordinator and I have lost a friend," said Daniel Vestal, executive coordinator of the Atlanta-based Fellowship. "But I celebrate his fruitful life and the resurrection hope we have in Jesus Christ."

A graduate of Baylor University in Waco, Texas, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and Princeton Theological Seminary in New Jersey, Sherman served as pastor of several churches during his ministry career including First Baptist Church of Chamblee, Ga.; First Baptist Church of College Station, Texas; First Baptist Church of Asheville, N.C.; and Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas. He also was campus evangelism coordinator with the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

However, Sherman is best remembered as the first coordinator of the CBF, the moderate Baptist group that formed after breaking away from the Southern Baptist Convention following a conservative shift within the convention that began in 1979.

In that year, after SBC messengers elected a president strongly backed by conservatives the Virginia Baptist Religious Herald quoted Paul Pressler, one of the leaders of the movement,

outlining a plan to capture control of the SBC through appointment of trustees to boards, agencies and institutions.

Sherman convened a meeting of 17 individuals, who were heavily invested in the SBC at the time and comfortable with its largely moderate direction, to discuss a counter strategy to resist the conservative movement in 1980.

In 1985 Sherman was named to the SBC Peace Committee, formed to examine causes and propose solutions to the controversy. He termed the experience "a study in frustration." Sherman resigned from the committee after seminary presidents meeting in Glorieta, N.M., released a statement affirming the Bible as "not errant."

When moderates decided to form their own organization following the 1990 SBC annual meeting in New Orleans, they turned to Sherman. He took the job as first coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship at age 64.

When Sherman arrived at CBF he was one of three staff members. When he retired in 1996, there were 25 in the Atlanta office. In 1991 CBF took in about \$4.5 million from 391 churches. When Sherman left there were nearly 1,500 churches contributing almost \$15 million annually, and the number of missionaries supported by the CBF had grown to more than 100.

In retirement, Sherman served as an interim pastor and as visiting professor of pastoral ministries at Baptist Theological Seminary in Richmond, Va.

Sherman was preceded in death by his wife, Dot, who died in 2008. He is survived by his daughter and a grandson. (ABP)



Cecil Sherman

Georgia's Newman is first candidate for SBC second VP

Hoschton, Ga.—Ray Newman, ethics and religious affairs specialist for the Georgia Baptist Convention, will be nominated as second vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention, a Georgia evangelist announced April 16.

Tommy Fountain, who also is director of missions for Mulberry Baptist Association in Hoschton, Ga., said he will nominate Newman for the post during the SBC's June meeting in Orlando, Fla.

Fountain cited Newman's stand on moral issues as the basis for the nomination. "In a time of moral and spiritual decline in our nation, Southern Baptists need the voice of a Ray Newman," Fountain said. "For the past several years, Newman has stood for moral rectitude and righteousness under the gold dome of the Georgia State Capitol."

In addition to his responsibilities with the Georgia Baptist Convention, Newman serves as a trustee of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

Newman and his wife, Gwen, are members of North Metro First Baptist Church in Lawrenceville, Ga. Information from the 2009 Annual Church Profile lists 110 baptisms and primary worship service attendance of 2,129. The church gave \$376,014 (12.99 percent) through the Cooperative Program. (BP)



Ray Newman

Ala. Baptist president is nominated for SBC post

Huntsville, Ala.—Jimmy Jackson, president of the Alabama Baptist State Convention, will be nominated for president of the Southern Baptist Convention at June's annual meeting in Orlando, Fla.

Jackson was the SBC's first vice president for 2006-07 and has been senior pastor of Whitesburg Baptist Church in Huntsville, Ala., for 31 years.

"I've been encouraged to be a candidate for the Southern Baptist Convention president," Jackson told The Alabama Baptist newspaper. "As we move forward as a state convention and the Southern Baptist Convention to reach the world for Jesus Christ, I would like to be a part of that."

"As I've prayed about the opportunity, I have a peace about it and have consented to be nominated."

Jackson is the second nominee for SBC president, joining Bryant Wright, senior pastor of Johnson Ferry Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga.

Jackson, who has led the Alabama Baptist convention the past two years, has served as first and second vice president of the SBC. He holds a divinity degree and Ph.D. from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He is a native of Greenwood, Miss., and a graduate of Mississippi College.

He has been an assistant parliamentarian at the SBC's annual meetings for nearly 25 years. He is a trustee at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and a former member of the SBC Executive Committee.

Information from the 2009 Annual Church Profile for Whitesburg Baptist Church lists 163 baptisms and primary worship service attendance of 1,556. The church gave \$295,748 (4.64 percent) through the Cooperative Program from total undesignated receipts of \$6,364,921. According to the ACP, the church also received \$236,735 for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions and \$138,548 for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions.

Rick Lance, executive director of the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions, described Jackson as "a statesman-like figure in Alabama Baptist life." (BP)



Jimmy Jackson

Tim Tebow:

Standing alone is key to significance

By Tim Ellsworth
Union University

Jackson, Tenn.—Courage to stand alone, a willingness to serve others and the ability to finish strong are three components to a life of significance and purpose, according to Tim Tebow.

"No one's ever really done anything significant when they've been with the pack," Tebow said April 19 during his keynote address at Union University's second annual Roy L. White Legacy Golf and Gala. "They've had to stand alone to do something significant."

The banquet event for the Jackson, Tenn., school drew about 1,700 people to the Carl Perkins Civic Center and completed a day that began with a golf tournament at a local country club.

Tebow, a two-time national champion as quarterback for the University of Florida and the 2007 Heisman Trophy winner, talked about the difficult decision he faced in selecting a college. While he was hoping for a clear word from God about where he was supposed to play college football, that word never came—and Tebow chose Florida because of his relationship with Gators coach Urban Meyer.

"Even though God sometimes doesn't show you, you have to trust in Him—because He's the only one that knew that Florida was the right place for me," Tebow said. "Me just trusting in Him and not even knowing His plan, that's what got me to the right place. That's what led me to Florida, and it truly was a blessing."

Tebow's career headed in a new direction last weekend, when he was chosen by the Denver Broncos in the NFL draft. Tebow said playing in the NFL has been his dream since he was 6 years old.

"Just like high school to college, I don't where the next step leads for me," Tebow said. "I don't know what the future holds. But you know what gives me peace and comfort, even though I don't know what the future holds? I know who holds my future, and that's what gives me peace."

One of his greatest moments

Tebow talked about the SEC Championship Game in 2008 when Florida trailed Alabama by three points in the fourth quarter. He gathered his offense and challenged his teammates to finish well. The Gators came from behind to win the game and went on to defeat Oklahoma for the national title.

At the end of that national title game was a moment that Tebow called one of the greatest moments of his athletic career. As he was walking to the sideline, Meyer hugged him and said, "Timmy, great job. That-a-boy. You finished



'WELL DONE' Former University of Florida quarterback Tim Tebow told a Union University crowd April 19 that his life goal is to have Christ say to him at the end of his life, "Timmy, great job. You finished. That-a-boy." (Photo by Morris Abernathy/Union University)

strong."

That moment was more special than winning the Heisman or winning the national title, Tebow said, because it was an intimate moment with a coach who was a father figure to him.

"My greatest goal in my life is that when I'm in heaven and I'm standing before Jesus Christ, He opens up His arms, and He walks up to me, and He gives me a hug, and He says, 'Timmy, great job. You finished. That-a-boy.'"

"Let me ask you that question," Tebow told the audience. "Is Jesus going to say to you, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant?'"

In a question-and-answer session following his speech, Tebow addressed such issues as the nationwide reaction to the Super Bowl ad from Focus on the Family ("It was a God story all the way," Tebow said), how he can be a good steward of the influence he has (Tebow said football is a means to the end of telling people about Jesus), his most difficult moment at Florida (the loss to Alabama in the 2009 SEC title game) and the new NCAA rule that prohibits players from wearing messages in their eye black (he said he understands the decision but thinks it's unfortunate that players won't have the ability to share things that are important to them—see related story below). (BP)

NCAA bans eye black messages

Indianapolis—The National Collegiate Athletic Association has banned the use of eye black with messages—a practice prominently used by former University of Florida star quarterback Tim Tebow to display Bible verses.

The NCAA's Playing Rules Oversight Panel approved a policy April 14 that players cannot place symbols or messages on the black strips under their eyes, which are used to reduce glare from the sun.

The NCAA denied that the rule was influenced by Tebow's biblical messages.

"When this rule was proposed the committee did not focus on any one team or student athlete," said Cameron Schuh, a spokesman for the NCAA. "That measure reinforces what the intended use of eye black is, which is to shade the eyes from the sun."

He said the panel's decision confirmed an existing rule "that players are not allowed to have any symbols or messages on their eye black, starting with this coming season."

Tebow—the 2007 Heisman Trophy winner—popularized the eye black trend, stimulating interest in the Bible verses he chose. The quarterback's Scripture choices during nationally-televised games, which included John 16:33, Romans 8:28, 1 Thessalonians 5:18, Hebrews 12:1-2, Ephesians 2:8-10 and John 3:16, became popular search topics on the world's top search engine Google.com.

Players other than the Heisman-trophy-winning Tebow have used the anti-glare paint for messages, biblical and otherwise. Former Oklahoma State quarterback Zac Robinson wore on his eye black the words "Press On," taken from Philippians 3:14, a verse that was repeated by his late father. Ohio State quarterback Terrelle Pryor also wrote Bible verses on his eye black, including Philippians 3:14. Reggie Bush, another Heisman winner, put 619, the area code of his native San Diego, on his eye black. (RNS)

With additional reporting by Baptist Press

KBC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April

- 27 Developing and Managing People, Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 27 Growing Ministries Tour, First Baptist Church, Danville.
- 29-5/1 Spring Retreat for Ministry Assistants, Lake Barkley State Resort Park, Cadiz.

- 30 Children's Bible Drill, First Baptist Church, Somerset; Lone Oak First Baptist Church, Paducah.
- 30-5/2 Equestrian Trail Ride, Mammoth Cave National Park.

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

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

- **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Campbellsville Church will host the Campbellsville University orchestra in concert April 29, 8 p.m. The concert is free and open to the public. For more information, call (270) 789-5237.
- **COVINGTON**—Oak Ridge Church recently honored Pastor **Randy Wal-**

lace for his 25 years of service.

- **LOUISVILLE**—St. Matthews Church will sponsor the Bob Downs Invitational Golf Classic May 3 at the Cardinal Club in Simpsonville with **Scott Lehman**, president of In His Grip Golf, as speaker. Proceeds go to EDGE outreach. Call (502) 869-8882.

CLASSIFIED ADS

To place an advertisement:
Rates are available upon request.
Call (502) 489-3428;
or visit www.WesternRecorder.org.
Claims made by advertisers are not necessarily those of the Western Recorder's staff or directors.

FOR RENT: Private beach and mountain resort accommodations. Summer and fall, discounts for ministers and families. E-mail enquiries to oasisattheocean@hotmail.com.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor to shepherd well-established SBC congregation of Bethabara Baptist Church in Daviess County, Ky. Resumes should be sent to Pulpit Committee, 2946 Hwy. 142, Philpot, KY 42366; or submitted via e-mail through our Website at www.bethabarabaptistky.webs.com.

SEEKING: Part-time custodian. Please send resumé to West Broadway Baptist Church, 8420 Six Mile Lane, Jeffersontown, KY 40220, Attn: Roger McClure.

SEEKING: Part-time worship minister to plan, organize and lead growing worship ministry at Oakland Baptist Church, which has a blended style of worship. Responsibilities include weekly leadership of worship choir, praise teams and instrumentalists, as well as seasonal events. Please submit resumé to John Smith at Oakland Baptist Church, PO Box 154, Oakland, KY 42159.

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.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Second Baptist Church, Hopkinsville, Ky. (affiliated with KBC). Send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, Second Baptist Church, 720 W 7th St., Hopkinsville, KY 42240; or e-mail pastorsearchbc@gmail.com. Deadline: June 15.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of children and family life (recreation). Candidate should be energetic, self-motivated, well organized and a creative team player who has the ability to relate to children, families and other adults on a personal and spiritual level. Send resumé to Dr. Stephen C. Rice, First Baptist Church, 1516 Midland Trail, Shelbyville, KY 40065; or e-mail to srice@fbcshelbyville.com. Phone: (502) 633-1317. Website: www.fbcshelbyville.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: 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 workser. 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: Senior pastor. The pastor search committee of Victory Baptist Church in Lexington, Ky., a Southern Baptist congregation, is accepting resumé for a senior pastor. Resumes 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: 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.

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

Under Construction

There has been a lot of activity on our campuses since camp ended last summer. When camp begins in 2010, our Jonathan Creek worship center will be fully renovated. At Cedarmore, the new worship center will be complete. Both facilities will have a seating capacity of 650, along with state-of-the-art sound, video and lighting capabilities.

New zip lines have been constructed at Jonathan Creek, along with two additional zip lines at Cedarmore.

Other improvements include renovations to the Boone Lodge bathrooms at Cedarmore and a renovation to Waller Dorm at Jonathan Creek.



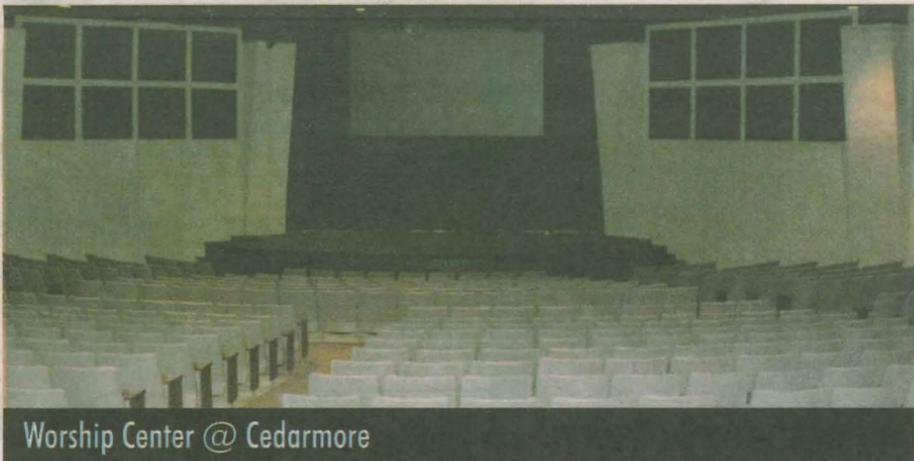
Zip line tower @ Jonathan Creek



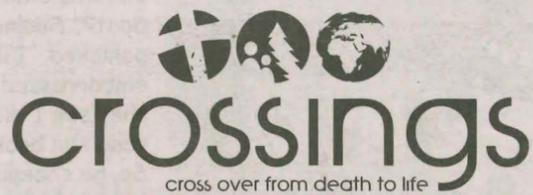
Worship Center @ Jonathan Creek



Waller Dorm @ Jonathan Creek



Worship Center @ Cedarmore



www.crossingscamps.org
502.491.7000

Need a Website?

If you're in the market for a website, or need to redesign your current site, consider 524concepts.

We specialize in custom, affordable designs that are easy to update.

Interested?

Call (502) 491-7000, or visit our site:
www.524concepts.com



524concepts