

Shine like stars in the world
Philippians 2:15

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FOR THE RECORD

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KBC's Growing Ministries Tour workshops tackle youth, children's ministry issues. *Page 3.*



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Deadly tornado crushes Mississippi church, but strengthens survivor's faith. *Page 7.*

Revival for Evangelists?

The ranks of vocational evangelists have dwindled in Kentucky, but those in the profession still believe in their divine call

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Bowling Green—The election last November of the first vocational evangelist as president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention may be a case of divine timing.

That is because Don Mathis sees a comeback in revivals brewing, which he thinks will increase appreciation for the position of evangelist.

"I keep hearing churches aren't having revivals but I don't think that's true," said Mathis, who also is president this year of the Fellowship of Kentucky Baptist Evangelists. "I believe more churches are having revivals than they

were six or seven years ago."

The difference is the meetings are shorter, usually three or four days compared to a week or more in the past. And, many churches only hold one a year instead of the usual two, Mathis noted.

This change makes preparation crucial, he said. Historically, there wouldn't be many conversions the first five days. With only five services in most revivals today, a congregation has to be spiritually ready, Mathis explained.

"If a church is prepared and prayed up, they'll have a good meeting," said the staff evangelist at Eastwood Baptist. □ See *State's vocational ... Page 2*

Evangelist and KBC President Don Mathis

Obama, Graham meet



President Obama and ailing evangelist Billy Graham exchanged prayers during their first meeting April 25 at Graham's home in Western North Carolina. Obama had traveled to nearby Asheville, N.C., and requested the visit—the first time a sitting president has visited Graham at his residence, said Graham's longtime spokesman A. Larry Ross. Graham, 91, issued a statement saying he was pleased with the visit and encouraged "Christians everywhere to pray for our president." During the 35-minute meeting, the men—joined by Graham's son and fellow evangelist Franklin Graham—discussed their wives, golf and Chicago. Graham gave the president two Bibles, one for himself and another for first lady Michelle Obama. Graham has met with 12 presidents over six decades, starting with Harry Truman in 1950. (White House photo)

GCR panel: 2010 meeting as critical to convention's future as 1979 gathering

Editor's Note: The Great Commission Resurgence Task Force released its final report May 3 after this issue went to press. The Western Recorder will have complete coverage of the task force's final report in next week's issue.

By Norman Jameson
North Carolina Biblical Recorder

Wake Forest, N.C.—Southern Baptists in the future will mark the 2010 annual meeting as the beginning of a Great Commission Resurgence in the same way they refer to 1979 as the start of the conservative shift that changed the face of the convention, panelists said during a Great Commission Resurgence discussion at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary April 28.

And it may take as long to show similar results, they said, cautioning patience on the part of the seminarians in attendance and reminding them it took 20 years for the convention to fully reflect the results of the actions that started in 1979.

Just days before the release of the much-anticipated update of their recommendations, Great Commission Resurgence Task Force members Daniel Akin, J.D. Greear and Al Gilbert were present to answer questions presented by John Akin, representing Baptist21 which put the panel together. Another GCR task force member, Albert Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Southern Baptist Convention President Johnny Hunt presented videotaped answers to questions they received earlier. Ronnie Floyd, the task force chairman, answered questions live via teleconference.

Panelists encouraged pastors to bring their maximum number of messengers to the SBC annual meeting in Orlando, Fla., to vote approval of the task force recommendations, which will be presented after lunch June 15 "We need you to join in on this force so we can make a difference," Hunt said. "You can become a catalyst to lead change."

John Akin, Daniel Akin's son and pastor of a Highview Baptist Church satellite campus in Louisville, moderated the panel and presented questions from around the country.

After a brief description of the declining statistics in the SBC where the "evidence is overwhelming that we're losing ground," Daniel Akin, president of Southeastern Seminary, said Baptists must become "more aggressive, more efficient and more effective in reaching lostness in North America and around the world."

That will require change, the panelists said. First, it will require "spiritual renewal through repentance," according to Floyd, who said the spiritual emphasis of the task force's recommendations has been overlooked as people studied the structural aspects.

Ultimately the task force cannot instruct individuals, churches, Baptist state conventions or national entities, they said. They can only lay out a compelling vision, trust that Southern Baptists will stake their claim to it and believe that repentant, committed believers will give sacrificially to support it.

At the same time, task force members said they expect the boards of entities and institutions to respond structurally to the vision Southern Baptists adopt to free more resources to reach highly populated areas of North America and unreached people groups overseas.

Asked if task force recommendations simply rearrange SBC bureaucracies, Greear, pastor of Summit Church in Durham, N.C., said, "The cry of the conservative resurgence was 'We don't want to give money to liberal institutions.' Now the cry is, 'We don't want to give money to bloated bureaucracy.'"

He said Rome was neither built, nor unbuilt, in a day, and the task force recommendations are a "first step that will need to be followed by many more steps."

"We're voting on the future of the SBC," Floyd said. "We're voting on whether the Great Commission matters, whether the SBC is willing to have a climate for change. It is imperative for the future not only of the SBC, but of the Great Commission. This is step one, but it's the most important step we'll ever take." (BP)

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Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, May 5

State's vocational evangelists say they're ready for revival

Continued from page 1

Church in Bowling Green. "Revival crowds are really good. It's not unusual to have 70 percent back Sunday night, which holds through Wednesday."

Despite this optimism, evangelists' presence in the commonwealth has decreased.

Twenty years ago the Fellowship of Kentucky Baptist Evangelists had more than two dozen members. Now it is down to about half a dozen, and most hold other jobs to supplement their preaching income.

Still, there are signs the pendulum may be swinging back. Not only is Mathis' 2010 calendar fairly full, Dale Rose of Monticello preached two five-day revivals this spring. Joe Mobley of London was recently asked by a church in Georgia if he would be interested in preaching at a three-week-long revival next year.

"There's a Pentecostal church down the street (in Calhoun, Ga.) with a sign that they've been in ongoing revival for three months," Mobley said.

"Our churches are starting to see what happened. Churches

that stopped having revivals three, four or five years ago are losing the Spirit and the church is joining the world."

Those that host revivals annually are seeing bigger crowds and some churches that stopped holding them six to 10 years ago are resuming them, Mobley added.

Heeding the call

Life as an evangelist today is great if that is what God has called you to do, said Mobley, who has been in the field for 40 years and visited 13 different countries.

He said he still believes passionately in the value of evangelists to motivate and inspire Christians.

"I'm afraid our churches aren't following Jesus," said Mobley, who recalled a pastor who asked him to avoid mentioning alcohol, tobacco, abortion and homosexuality. "We're being politically correct. Pastors can't afford not to have evangelists."

Rose has a positive outlook, saying he is able to book all the meetings he needs. Still, he admitted that finances are tight and some pastors are afraid to book him because they fear the offering won't offer adequate compensation.

"When I do international missions, like

going to an Inuit Eskimo village in Alaska last year, I go in the red in the ministry account," Rose noted. "We try to do one a year. If I had the finances, we would do four or five a year."

Crowds for his revival meetings vary, said Rose, the president of Grace Evangelistic Ministries. Without adequate publicity you won't get many people and without enough prayer you won't see any power, he added.

Although he sends everyone informational packets to help publicize meetings, few pastors implement those plans, Rose said.

"That's part of the success of Billy Graham's crusades over the years—all the preparation," Rose pointed out. "If a church is going to experience success, it has to put in the preparation."

Still, he said he enjoys evangelism even though he has to maintain a wholesale business to provide for his family.

"I praise the Lord I have the opportunity," said Rose, who previously was a pastor for 12 years in Kentucky and Texas.

Evangelist Steve Hardy isn't as upbeat

after 28 years, saying many churches in Western Kentucky and Tennessee have scuttled revivals in favor of Bible conferences or other meetings.

Although he usually speaks once or twice a week in the region, most of those engagements are at conferences or for vacationing pastors. In addition, many of the churches he visits are seeing declining attendance.

"I think some of them are starting to see the need to have revivals," the founder of the Steve Hardy Evangelistic Association noted. "But in the last few years we've been on the downside."

"If the church can get revived, you're going to see a lot more people coming to Christ. If you don't have joy restored back in believers, people aren't going to tell others about Jesus."

Are associations the answer?

Hardy said he would like to see a return to association-led revivals like the Harvest Weekends once sponsored by Severns Valley Baptist Association in Elizabethtown.

People gathered socially on Friday nights and attended revival meetings at participating churches the next two days.

"If the church can get revived, you're going to see a lot more people coming to Christ. If you don't have joy restored back in believers, people aren't going to tell others about Jesus."

Vocational evangelist Steve Hardy



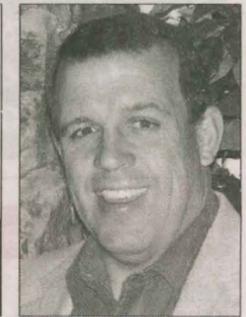
Steve Hardy



Don Mathis



Joe Mobley



Dale Rose

"I got quite a few meetings out of that," Hardy recalled. "Some other associations in Eastern Kentucky did this too, and it was a big help."

Despite the challenges, Mathis said he sees brighter days ahead. He is particularly encouraged by Find It Here, the soul-winning campaign that has generated nearly 2,000 response cards since March.

"I am blowing the trumpet," Mathis

said of exhorting churches to engage in follow-up via evangelistic visitation, vacation Bible school and harvest revivals.

"I would love to see simultaneous revivals next spring, if we could convince all the churches in an association to have revivals over a two-week period, publicize it together and have prayer meetings. My prayer is Find It Here is not a one-time event."

Spoken like a true evangelist.

Financial challenges don't deter state's evangelists

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

London—More than eight years have passed, but Joe Mobley's appreciation for God providing for his needs grows each time he tells the story. It involves two churches, one in Kentucky and the other in Georgia.

Mobley preached a revival one week for a Kentucky church 100 miles away, a trip he completed every morning and evening. At the end of the week, the pastor handed him an envelope containing his love offering: \$49.

"He cried," Mobley said of the church's pastor. "He said, 'That won't even take care of your gasoline.'"

The following Sunday, Mobley started preaching in Georgia. That Thursday night a man walked up and stuck a check in his pocket, telling him, "Let the preacher see that."

When Mobley looked at the check, it was for \$48,000.

"We give \$300, which covers gasoline, hotel expenses and everything," the pastor said after looking at the check. "I've been trying to change that."

When the pastors showed the check to the deacons, they were angry; one said that money could have paid off their debt. The man who wrote it replied that God told him to give it to missions.

The next night the same man handed Mobley another check as he told him, "This is for you and your family." The amount: \$8,000.

"That's the way God provides," Mobley said. "They didn't have as many people in that church in Georgia as they did in Kentucky."

Still, the founder of Crusades for Christ said the hard times that have hit churches the past two years have affected him, too. He didn't take any paychecks last year and has only had several paydays in 2010.

Mobley also had to cut his radio and TV broadcasts and eliminate mailing newsletters, which cost \$1,200 just for postage.

"You just cut back and whenever God provides, you do what you can do," Mobley said. "I haven't paid much attention to what churches are giving (since) I turn all the money in to Crusades for Christ."

Finances are one of the leading challenges for vocational evangelists, which

is why Steve Hardy started a commodities brokerage in the mid-1980s. Since he has six children, he always has had to do something to supplement his income, he said.

"As far as finances, it's really hard unless you're preaching a revival every week, and that's hard to do for any evangelist," said Hardy, a resident of Clinton who attends New Harmony Baptist Church. "I think every evangelist has a challenge preaching week after week and getting worn down."

However, Hardy doesn't require an offering, leaving it to the church to decide what compensation to provide.

He maintains the practice despite the church that put a box at the door and after he preached all week, it contained only \$45.

"Most churches do a lot more," he reassured.

To augment his income from evangelism the past 16 years, Dale Rose has operated a wholesale shoe brokerage that supplies overstock and closeouts to retailers around the U.S. and several other countries.

Still, times aren't nearly as tough as they were when he returned to his hometown of Monticello after attending seminary and serving as pastor at a church in Texas. In 1994 he had no job, no income and three children to feed.

"I would starve to death if it weren't for the business," Rose said. "There's a lot of young guys who look at evangelism and may even feel the call of God on their lives, but they can't make it."

Don Mathis, this year's president of the Fellowship of Kentucky Baptist Evangelists, said it is especially tough for a young man in his mid-20s to say he feels called into evangelism and make it financially.

However, it is much different for someone who has done something else, made numerous contacts and has a good reputation, Mathis said.

A longtime pastor in Kentucky, Mathis also has served as a denominational executive in West Virginia and staff member at LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville, Tenn.

"I've been at this for 11 years as of August and I've had not had a week I don't have a revival meeting when I want one," Mathis said. "I've had unusual opportunities to connect with people."

Connect with an Evangelist

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Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists
www.SBCEvangelist.org

Growing Ministries Tour

Key to keeping 16 to 19 year olds connected to church lies with parents' need to disciple kids

By Drew Nichter
News Director

May's Lick—The topic of how to keep 16 to 19 year olds in church has been a hot one since Joe Ball graduated high school.

"Here we are 30 years later and it's still an issue," said Ball, the Kentucky Baptist Convention's youth strategist. Only now, "we realize maybe there's something we can do about it."

It was a topic youth leaders tackled at a recent stop on the KBC's Growing Ministries Tour at May's Lick Baptist Church.

It's no secret that many students "check out" of church once they reach a certain age. There are a number of reasons for this, Ball said, but no one clear-cut solution for how to prevent it from happening.

In researching the book "Already Gone," Answers in Genesis founder Ken Ham asked 20-somethings who grew up in evangelical churches why they walked away.

The No. 1 response given was only mentioned by 12 percent of respondents, and only seven percentage points separated No. 1 from No. 10.

At the top of the list: "boring services" and "legalism."

Those responses were followed by "hypocrisy of leaders" (11 percent); "too political" (10 percent); "self-righteous people" (9 percent); "distance from home" (7 percent); "not relevant to personal growth" (6 percent); "God would not condemn me to hell" (6 percent); "Bible not relevant/not practical" (5 percent); and "couldn't find my preferred denomination in the area" (5 percent).

Ball said he was surprised by the results. "This would be easy if the No. 1 answer was, '85 percent of the people said this is the reason why they left.' It'd be easy to fix it," he noted. But the low percentages merely reaffirmed "there's not one issue."

Ball mentioned a pastor friend of his who "can look at a student at (age) 13 and tell you, within about an 85 percent accuracy, if they'll still be (in church) at 20 or 30—and it's all based on their parents."

Ball expressed concern about the generation of parents raising today's teenagers. He said the parenting style has become to pay others to teach children what they need to know.

Unfortunately, he noted, that also has extended into the church.

"We abdicated our biblical role as parents to disciple our own kids," Ball said. "We turned everything involved with the student ministry over to (the youth minister). ... We have 60 years of a track record that says, 'This has not worked.'"

In order to correct that, the old paradigm of the student to student minister relationship must change, Ball insisted.

The new paradigm must more closely resemble a wheel with the student in the middle, connected to not only a student minister, but parents, a small-group leader, a one-on-three discipler and a prayer warrior.

The key to making the new paradigm work, Ball said, is getting—and keeping—parents involved as the primary disciplers.

While parents who do participate at church can disciple their children, those parents who are not in church are unable to do that.

However, Ball pointed out that the reason many parents do not disciple their children is the embarrassment factor.

"It's like the sex talk: No parent wants to have it. It's uncomfortable," he said. "It's the same thing with spiritual (conversations): They may ask a questions that you don't think you can answer."

But as Ball noted, that is what discipleship is all about, "being able to say, 'I don't know. Let's see if we can find an answer.'"

Empowering parents to become spiritual leaders for their children requires church paradigm shift

By Drew Nichter
News Director

May's Lick—While serving at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington several years ago, John Bennett dealt with the same struggles likely every children's minister has faced during his or her ministry.

"We were fighting with soccer and football on Wednesday nights," he recalled. "I kind of got tired of just asking parents to be there."

Bennett, the Kentucky Baptist Convention's preschool/children's ministry director, shared ideas with other children's leaders at a recent Growing Ministries Tour stop at May's Lick Baptist Church.

He talked about the struggles of Ben Freudenberg, a children's minister who had reached the end of his own rope in dealing with the pull between church and the dozens of outside activities in which kids are involved.

Freudenberg's book, "The Family Friendly Church," chronicles his desire to quit his job, before being given the opportunity to take a sabbatical to explore other churches' children's ministries.

Freudenberg's research led him to conclude churches were doing children's ministry all wrong, Bennett said.

The author discovered that churches were telling parents to bring their children to church so that others could teach them about the Bible. Freudenberg determined that parents, who are the greatest influencers of their children's spiritual development, should be doing that task.

Freudenberg suggested a paradigm shift to have churches work in partnership with parents and to equip and empower parents to be the spiritual leaders in their homes. But, "how do you do that?" Bennett asked.

Inspired by Freudenberg's research, Bennett, then at Immanuel Baptist, enlisted

the help of five strong Christian families in the church. He urged the parents to generate ideas for creative family devotionals.

After a month of brainstorming, Bennett held a VIP (Victory in Parenting) night at Immanuel to share the dozens of ideas with parents church-wide.

The results were remarkable, he said. "All of a sudden, it changed families," he noted. "We shifted the paradigm from, 'You bring (the kids) here, we'll teach them things,' to, 'Let us give you some ideas and let's equip you to do that.'"

Bennett provided examples of some of the family devotionals the parents came up with:

Star Gazing—Lay out one night with your children and look up at the stars. Try to give all the stars names. You should have trouble coming up with names for all the stars you can see. Grab your Bible and read Psalm 147: 4. Let your children know that God placed all the stars in the sky and He knows them all by name.

Compliment Plate—Each night as you sit down to eat supper with your family, give one person a special plate. This is the "compliment plate." Whoever receives the compliment plate that night gets a compliment from everyone at the table. Rotate the plate so each night someone different gets the special compliment plate (including mom and dad). When asked why we do this, read Ephesians 4:29.

Jesus Is the Comforter—On a cold winter night, lay a comforter from your bed down on the floor. Roll your child up in it. They usually love this. Ask the children if they feel warm and snug. You might also ask, "Does it feel good to be warm and snug?" While they are immobilized by being wrapped up in the blanket, tell them to stay there, get your Bible and read 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 about Jesus being the comforter.

Goforth excited about training pastors at Cumberlands

Williamsburg—After only three weeks on the job, Keith Goforth said he is extremely excited about what God is going to accomplish through the new Master of Arts in Christian Studies program at University of the Cumberlands.

Although Goforth will be heading up the new graduate program, he did not become a Christian until he was in college at Middle Tennessee State University. There, he majored in social work, with a minor in recording industry management. "I was going to be a rock and roll star," he said with a smile. "God had a different plan than that."

After accepting Christ, Goforth became actively involved with campus ministries.

"That was the thing that really impacted me and what I would do in the future," he recalled. "That really gave me a passion about college students and just the transitional time that is, because that was a time that I made some significant decisions."

Goforth said after graduation, he did not know what to do, but knew he wanted to help people. "I knew that my calling was to full-time Christian ministry, and God made that evident within probably six months."

Goforth later attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, where he obtained a Ph.D. in child development and family studies, focusing on marriage education.

After serving in a pair of churches and with the student affairs department at the University of Tennessee, Goforth became an assistant professor of educational ministries at Campbellsville University.

Knowing that Goforth and his new wife were looking to relocate to Southeast Kentucky, a University of the Cumberlands graduate in Louisville encouraged him to connect with Bob Dunston, Cumberlands' religion department chair.

As plans for the new Christian studies master's program be-

gan to develop, Dunston eventually offered Goforth the opportunity to head up the fledgling program.

"Training pastors and church leaders is really an exciting thing for me," Goforth said. "We've got a great vision for what we want to see accomplished here."

There were several things that drew him to the program, Goforth noted. No. 1: online classes.

"So many pastors and church leaders don't live near a college, and it's really difficult for them to have accessibility to a college," he said. "So, being able to provide that online is really important."

Another important aspect, Goforth said, is the program's focus on practical ministry.

"We've got some really innovative ideas on how we are going to do this that are going to separate it from other programs," he explained. "Church leaders are going to be actively involved in the courses."

Among the many goals he has for the Christian studies master's program, Goforth said he wants to get it established. Once that happens, he noted, word will spread and young pastors will see the value in the program.

Goforth "has hit the ground running and is broadening and deepening our program's emphasis on academics and practical ministry," Dunston said. "I know he will bless all of us at University of the Cumberlands through his dedication to Christ, creativity and commitment to excellence in ministry."

Goforth also said he wants to involve church leaders throughout Kentucky in the young program. He plans to connect with Kentucky Baptist Convention churches to find leaders who will participate with and train students.

Goforth said he also has made it a personal goal to be involved in the ministries of his students. "Being able to go hear them preach or hear them teach, seeing the work they are doing, whatever it is, I just love being a part of that."



Keith Goforth

Campbellsville's Carver School to award first master's degrees May 7

Campbellsville—Campbellsville University's Carver School of Social Work and Counseling is set to award its first master's degrees 12 years after acquiring the Carver name for its baccalaureate program from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention-affiliated school will award 15 master-of-social work degrees May 7, according to John Chowning, vice president for church and external relations.

Campbellsville University established its first program of social work in 1974. The program was phased out in 1989 and re-born in 1994. In 1998 Campbellsville purchased the Carver name from Southern Seminary which the year before closed its long-standing Carver School of Church Social Work.

The legacy of the original Carver school began in 1907 when the Woman's Missionary Union established a training school on the Southern Seminary campus to prepare young women to serve in missions and social work. In the 1960s, the training school merged with the seminary, making Southern the only seminary of any denomination to offer an accredited master's degree in social work. (ABP)

Three special days

My wife, Kay, and I recently had the opportunity to be with three churches for special days. It's always exciting to see how God is at work and to take time to mark His goodness.

Partners in the Mission



By Bill Mackey

Anchor Baptist Church in Lexington recently celebrated its 10th anniversary. Pastor Paul Sisk led the special morning worship and conducted a celebration service following a meal in the Anchor Resource Center.

The church began in 2000 with 84 members and moved to its current location in December 2004 with 180 members. Currently, the church has 483 resident members, 310 in average worship attendance and 232 in average Sunday school attendance. Receipts have grown from \$75,000 to \$767,420.

Pastor Sisk has led the church to grow in support of missions even though the church has conducted two major building programs. Gifts to missions through the Cooperative Program have reached \$45,884, and the church is strong in support of missions offerings.

Anchor is also the home for the Bluegrass Deaf Mission under the leadership of Pastor Brian Cross. Pastor Sisk says that God has the answer and provisions for the future.

Long Ridge Baptist Church in Owenton recently dedicated a new fellowship hall and Sunday school space. This new space came just in time to accommodate growth under the leadership of Pastor Roger Alford. The church averages about 50 in Sunday school and 100 in worship.

It was a privilege for me to preach Sunday morning and during the afternoon dedication of the new building. The church praised God for three women who left funds to the church that helped to support the construction.

The church began in 1820 and has a long history of support for missions. It now contributes 28 percent of undesignated receipts and has contributed a total of \$418,589 to missions through the Cooperative Program.

I also had the privilege of speaking recently at the Second Baptist Church of Madisonville. Pastor J.D. Holt asked that I share on the results of the Cooperative Program ministries during a combined adult Sunday school and during the worship service. Due to consistent support of missions through CP, the church has reached total gifts of \$1.2 million. This is in addition to providing strong support of the missions offerings since its launch in 1947.

Pastor Holt and his wife, Kari, have six children—two by adoption. The church continues to serve effectively in a changing community. We celebrate the missions organizations that are active at Second Baptist Church and the church's commitment to reach its community for Christ.

I praise God for these churches and hundreds like them across Kentucky who have leaders and members who are committed to missions and reaching their communities for Christ.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

The lasting influence of a godly mother

Mothers share a special bond with their children, particularly daughters. Some colleagues recently shared with me a tribute written by a high school sophomore after her mother succumbed to an extended, debilitating illness.

One of her mother's great loves was contemporary Christian music, especially songs by Third Day, said Chris Platt, associate pastor at Crestwood Baptist Church. Platt recalls: "Any time you were around her—whether she was feeling great or fighting for her life—Cindy had music playing. Her perseverance through life's storms and her consistent praise of God encouraged everyone who knew her. Psalm 95 is perfect for her: 'Come let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.'"

In following the example her mother set, Jordyn is "a beautiful young woman who loves Jesus." Platt explains, "She has had to wrestle with some of life's most difficult issues at a young age. Like anyone facing such a crisis, she has had some tough times. But mainly she has trusted God to see her through. Whether at a Sunday service, a student ministry, Wednesday night worship experience, or on a mission trip, she has offered her praise to God—much like her mother."

In Jordyn's own words, it is strikingly apparent how much Christian mothers can provide strong, godly influences on their children's lives:

"Anyone who knew my mom would know that there were two things she lived for: loving the Lord with all her heart, mind and soul, and to raise me to be a good, godly young woman.

"Just a few nights ago ... we were all standing around her, making the best of what little time we had left. She was barely hanging on—living somewhere in between heaven and earth. We turned on some praise music that she had always loved, and on her deathbed, my mom raised her hands to Jesus and sang with every ounce of energy she had in her.

"When you witness something like that, it just makes you think about your own faith. If a young woman who has been blind and paralyzed for the last three years of her life can find the strength and the will to praise Jesus, then why can't we?"

"There were so many nights throughout this whole journey when I would go to bed feeling hopeless and defeated, thinking there would be no end to this. I would lie in bed and just ask God that if He could—and I knew He could—then why wasn't He healing

my mom? All she had ever done was love Him, and now He was going to let her suffer like this? I was angry with God for a long time. Even in the end, I started getting frustrated, wondering why He wouldn't just end her pain and bring her to heaven where she would feel no pain.

"It really wasn't until these past few days that I have come to understand why He 'couldn't' heal her: My mom was an inspiration to everyone who knew her. People who would be struggling in their faith or in their marriages would come to church and see an ill woman in a wheelchair in the second row, reaching her hands up as high as

After Thought

By Todd Deaton



she could, singing as loud as she could, praising her Lord because that is what she lived for.

"She made people take a step back, look at their lives and think: 'Wow, if she can trust the Lord like that, why can't I? God was using her to help bring others back to the cross and make them remember why we are here.

"My point in saying all of this is not just to talk about what an incredible woman my mom was, but also to help those of you who may be struggling to find hope in your own lives or to have faith that God has a plan. God is not done using her life to inspire others in their walks with Him. Whenever times get tough I pray that you will look at my mom's life and find comfort in the fact that if He can bring something so incredible out of her illness and death, then He can move the mountains in your life and create something beautiful. He will take what used to be a source of pain and hopelessness for you to bring others to Him, so He can move their mountains.

"I would not be the person I am today if my mom would not have gotten sick, and I am thankful for all the good that has come out of it. I give all the credit for that to God. Yes, this is a funeral but more importantly it is a celebration of the life of an amazing mom, friend and child of God.

"We will all miss her terribly, but I can't be sad because I know she was called home by Jesus and greeted by the name 'good and faithful servant.' That is what she was. She lived a short life, but it was a more powerful and more memorable life than I could ever even hope to live. I am proud to call her my mom, and although this may feel like a storm at times, I will continue to praise the Lord, as she always did."

Thank you, godly mothers.

Evangelists long to be partnering for the harvest

As part of my responsibility as president of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists, I recently participated in the dedication of the new exhibit of the Evangelists Hall of Faith at the North American Mission Board.

Leading a group of speakers and musicians, Cliff Barrows of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association was keynote speaker. Without question, this was one of the most inspiring events of my 52 years of ministry. You must take the first opportunity to visit this beautiful room honoring the ministries of the 30 original inductees of the Hall of Faith.

While sitting on the platform listening to the list of inductees, and with each of their photos shown on the large screen, I had distinct memories of nearly every one of them. As a pastor for 36 years, I used evangelists to help my churches bring in the harvest. I doubt if there was a single year of my pastoral ministry that we did not have an evangelist in my pul-

pit. We were richly rewarded by their ministry and usually led our state convention in baptisms.

I realized even then that the evangelist was God's gift to the church

FIRST PERSON



Rod Herrod

and the wise pastor would take advantage of the opportunity to use them to strengthen the church and win the lost to Christ. Some would say that was an era which is now past. New research, however, has again indicated churches that schedule evangelistic events experience significantly more conversions and baptisms than those who do

not plan such events. The research goes a step further and indicates that the number of baptisms was even higher for those churches who used vocational evangelists.

This research reinforces some of the reasons for the Baptism Assistance Project. This strategy provides a vocational evangelist for our low baptism churches at little or no cost to the church. No doubt, there are many reasons many of our churches

are not seeing people saved, but one reason must be the decrease in the number of evangelistic events and the failure to use the ones given by God to the church to help with the harvest. Now, through the Baptism Assistance Project, even the smallest of our churches have the opportunity to use a vocational evangelist.

I am saddened that many of our called, gifted and dedicated evangelists wait for a call to serve while hundreds of our churches go week after week without a harvest. Pastors need the gifted evangelists, and our evangelists need the support of the local church. Why don't we assist one another in bringing in the harvest?

You will be blessed by scheduling a vocational evangelist for an evangelistic event in your church during the next 12 months. You may think your church is too small or too large to use a vocational evangelist, but neither is true. These evangelists are ready to go anywhere, anytime and will come by faith. Then it is your job to take care of the man of God. God will bless this biblical strategy.

Ron Herrod is an evangelist from Sevierville, Tenn.

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

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Conflict resolution for couples

By James Stillwell

Q: My fiancé and I are having more and more conflicts. Help! Please share any suggestions that might help us move out of being "stuck" to a new place of peace, love and understanding?



A: Conflict resolution is a hot topic on the international scene. The same principles apply whether you're talking about countries, corporations, or couples. The things you fight about might be different, but the principles for resolution are basically the same.

Conflict resolution experts speak of the "four C's" of resolving differences:

Compromise. When neither person gets all they want, but everybody gets something. This is an occasional way to go, and succeeds in "part-way" movement toward happiness for both parties.

Capitulation. One party gives and the other receives. It is "one way" happiness. When the issue is very important to one party and not very important to the other party, this is the way to go.

Co-existence. This is a "no way!" resolution. It means will agree to disagree. On certain issues, fine—but if this as the path for every issue, it's not much of a marriage.

Collaboration. This is ideal for most issues. It is a "both ways" resolution. Stephen Covey called it "synergy." This means you work together to make a new solution that would not have been possible otherwise, that is better than anything either of you could have come up with on your own.

New Testament teachings about living in peace with all (Romans 12) and about living in forgiveness and forbearance (Colossians 3) apply to this topic. Living your relationship under the dominion of the Holy Spirit, in mutual submission to one another (Ephesians 5) and in humble example of Christ (Philippians 2) are all good ways of making conflicts into stepping stones to your growth as Christians and as a couple.

Reprinted from Western Recorder, Feb. 10, 2009. James Stillwell is minister to singles at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington.

Seven characteristics of evangelistic Christians

By Thom Rainer

For more than 20 years I have been researching and studying churches, primarily those in North America. I had the joy of serving as senior pastor in four churches where God blessed with evangelistic growth. I have written more than 20 books about the church in America.

FIRST PERSON

I am not giving you my credentials to impress you, but simply to share that my life's passion has been leading and learning about evangelistic churches.

At this point in my life and ministry, however, I realize that I have not given sufficient attention to one of the primary characteristics of evangelistic churches.

It is so obvious. Indeed it is so clear that I am surprised at my neglect of this factor. Stated simply, the evangelistic churches that I have researched for the past 20 years have one or more highly evangelistic Christians.

I know. The previous statement is no great revelation. It is almost stating the obvious. But, if it is reality, why are we not hearing more about these Christians who seem to have a passion for evangelism? Why are we not doing a better job of telling their stories?

In this short article I hope to address this great omission.

Seven characteristics

It is inevitable that, when we do research on evangelistic churches, we learn about one or more members in the church who, to use the

book title by Charles H. Spurgeon, embody the traits of "The Soul Winner." Oftentimes one of those members is the pastor. But we have also seen many laypersons who are themselves soul winners.

In our interviews with these people, or with those who tell us about the soul winners, we began to discern some clear patterns. We called those patterns "the seven characteristics of highly evangelistic Christians."

1. They are people of prayer. They realize that only God can convict and convert, and they are totally dependent upon Him in prayer. Most of the highly evangelistic Christians spend at least an hour in prayer each day.

2. They have a theology that compels them to evangelize. They believe in the urgency of the gospel message. They believe that Christ is the only way of salvation. They believe that anyone without Christ is doomed for a literal hell.

3. They are people who spend time in the Word. The more time they spend in the Bible, the more likely they are to see the lostness of humanity and the love of God in Christ to save those who are lost.

4. They are compassionate people. Their hearts break for those who don't have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. They have learned to love the world by becoming more like Christ who has the greatest love for the world.

5. They love the communities where God has placed them. They

are immersed in the culture because they desire for the light of Christ to shine through them in their communities.

6. They are intentional about evangelism. They pray for opportunities to share the gospel. They look for those opportunities. And they see many so-called casual encounters as appointments set by God.

7. They are accountable to someone for their evangelistic activities. They know that many good activities can replace Great Commission activities if they are not careful. Good can replace the best. So they make certain that someone holds them accountable each week, either formally or informally, for their evangelistic efforts.

The secret of evangelistic churches

The secret of evangelistic churches is really no secret at all. Ultimately, evangelistic churches see more persons become Christians through the passionate efforts of highly evangelistic Christians. More than any programs. More than any church events. More than anything else, we are the instruments God has chosen to use.

Sometimes we ask the question, "What is my church doing to become more evangelistic?" But the better question is, "What am I doing to become more evangelistic?"

Charles H. Spurgeon was right. We need more soul winners. We need more highly evangelistic Christians. (BP)

Thom Rainer is president of LifeWay Christian Resources.

Teaching college students to live, learn and love

By Brian Combs

I am a simple, sinful man who is saved by God's grace to fulfill His mission for my life.

What is that mission? In Matthew 18, Jesus announces to His disciples that they are to go and make disciples, baptize them, and teach them to obey everything He has commanded.

What has He commanded? The Hebrew Scriptures list several commands that people are to follow. In Matthew 22:34-40, Jesus simplified that law into two main commands: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself. In John 13:34-35, Jesus simplifies the law even further by instructing His disciples to love one another as He loved them so that others would know that they were His disciples.

The gospel is simple. God created us to live in communion with Him. As His creation, we had everything provided for our needs and we were in a right standing with God. However, we chose to become like God, to replace Him as God of our lives, and the result was a broken relationship with God. Because God loves us so much, He sent His son Jesus so that those who believe in Him may have their relationship with God restored, experience life to the full and experience eternity with God.

This is the message that Baptist Campus Ministry seeks to teach the community at Northern Kentucky University. We begin with students. Students who are entering college for the first time are embarking on a life-changing journey like none they

have experienced. The potential impact the college experience will have on their lives is extreme. Students will be engaged in curricular and co-curricular settings in ways that will challenge them to produce developmental growth that will carry them through emerging adulthood into adulthood.

In a recent study at Northern Kentucky University, 85.9 percent of freshmen students indicated they are searching for meaning and purpose in life. Further, results indicate that while they are interested in discovering meaning and purpose in life, they are basically like sheep without a shepherd (Matthew 9:36). Students desire someone to come alongside them and help them learn what it means to be human. They feel that there is something more to life and yet, they are not able to find it.

One way Baptist Campus Ministry at Northern Kentucky University seeks to share the gospel with students is by teaching Christian students what Jesus commands and then showing them how to fulfill those commands in their lives. These students learn to live, learn and love.

Live—Scripture teaches that we are to live in communion with people and with God (John 17:1-26). We understand what they need. We are positioned to meet those needs through the power of the Holy Spirit. We are positioned to share the gospel with them.

Learn—When we live in communion with people and God, we learn about those people and God (Acts 2:42-47). We share life together. We figure out ways to help people with the

resources we have. Scripture says that when these things were done people were added to the Kingdom daily. This same thing can happen today.

Love—It is through this living with and learning about people and God that we ultimately develop a love for those people and for God (Matthew 22:34-40). This was Jesus' model for evangelism. It was simple and effective. It was so simple that His disciples were able to understand and replicate it. We continue to use it today.

Would you consider these questions in light of your own life?

- What is your plan for living in communion with others and God?
- What is your plan for learning about others people in your life and learning about God?
- What is your plan for fulfilling God's purpose for your life?

Would you also consider these questions in light of your church and its plan for making disciples, baptizing and teaching them to obey Jesus' commands?

- How is your church helping people learn to live in communion with others and with God?
- How is your church helping people learn about people in their lives and about God?
- How is your church helping people fulfill God's purpose in their lives?

May your faith and actions work together (James 2:22) so the gospel will go out to all peoples of the world (Acts 1:8) and that people can truly experience life to the full (John 10:10) both in this life into eternity.

Brian Combs is campus minister at Northern Kentucky University.

Simplify your life

By Jeremy White

I love the title of a book I own about the frantic pace of modern life, "Little House on the Freeway."

With all the technology to save time and effort, it still seems most of us endure too much complexity. Here are some ways you can simplify the financial side of your life:

- Reduce bank accounts. Keep only one checking and one savings account.
- Set up automatic payments. As long as you reconcile your checking

account regularly, use auto-draft payments for those regular bills, such as utilities and insurance. You won't forget a deadline and you'll save postage, too.

■ Pay ahead the small bills. If you prefer not to use auto-payment, pay small bills ahead. Paying ahead saves time and postage—far more than the near-zero interest to be earned.

■ Streamline charitable giving. Rather than giving \$25 to 25 good causes, give more to three or four charities that you are passionate about.

■ Use only one credit card. Why keep a gas card, a department store card and three others?

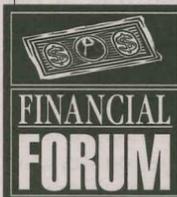
■ Find one professional, trusted adviser. Use one insurance agent for all your needs. Find a person that can help with both taxes and investments.

■ Know what to keep and what to toss. Retain income tax returns permanently. Keep real estate deeds, mortgage documents and insurance policy as long as owned. Hold supporting tax reporting information (W-2's, charitable contribution receipts, bank statements) for seven years. IRA and 401(k) statements need only to be kept for a year. Mutual fund prospectuses and annual reports can be discarded after review.

■ Electronic or paper. Most of us keep far more paper when information can be found or kept online.

■ Make backups of important computer records and store away from your house. Make a video inventory of personal property and store offsite to help during any insurance recovery.

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



North American missions

Newly formed network aims to reach Brazilians in large U.S. metro areas

By Mickey Noah

North American Mission Board

Alpharetta, Ga.—Brazilian Baptist pastor Silair Almeida speaks with the confidence that comes from nearly 20 years of ministry among 300,000 Brazilians who now call South Florida home.

Almeida was one of 14 Brazilian pastors and church leaders who met for two days at the North American Mission Board to establish a Brazilian Mission Network that aims to exponentially expand the spread of the gospel among an estimated 1.3 million Brazilians living in the United States.

Only 12,000 of the Brazilians nationwide worship in about 75 Baptist churches, reported Mark Hobafcovich, NAMB's consultant for urban church planting in North America.

"We need to cast a God-sized vision to a larger audience to get people to believe in something much bigger than themselves," Hobafcovich told Brazilian Baptist leaders. "If we do the same things for the next 20 years we've done in the last 20 years, we'll plant only 75 new Brazilian churches by 2030. That's just not good enough."

The 1.3 million Brazilians in the U.S. predominantly live and work in nine metropolitan areas: South Florida; Boston; New York; Washington; Atlanta; Houston/Dallas/Austin; Chicago; Los Angeles; and San Francisco.

To begin reaching these Brazilians, Hobafcovich said Southern Baptists need to plant 400 new Brazilian Baptist churches by 2030, roughly one new church for every 3,000 Brazilians.

Almeida and his wife immigrated to the United States from Brazil 19 years ago. Together, they and five others started First Brazilian Baptist Church of South Florida in Pompano Beach. Today, with 1,600 members, it is the largest Brazilian Baptist church in the U.S.—and a powerful magnet drawing Brazilians to Christ.

A few years ago, the church, which adds about

200 baptized believers each year, was named one of the fastest growing churches in the U.S. by Outreach Magazine.

"Reaching Brazilians for Christ is a big challenge," Almeida said. "You can't reach them in the traditional ways. You start with relationships, friendships and social ministries."

First Brazilian Baptist operates 28 different ministries—staffed by 450 volunteers—for Brazilian immigrants in South Florida.

"We have a strong food ministry and a ministry that finds jobs for people," Almeida said of the various initiatives to help Brazilians turn to Christ and start a relationship with the church. Once a year, the church connects 12,000 local Brazilians with 200 businesses for networking.

In Boston, the large Brazilian presence resulted from those who came looking for jobs.

Robert Souza, who works in ethnic church planting for the Baptist Convention of New England, was president of South Brazil Baptist Theological Seminary in Rio de Janeiro when he felt called to resign and move to Northborough, Mass., 45 miles west of Boston.

Souza said there are only 26 Brazilian Baptist churches in New England for a 350,000-person mission field. And those 26 churches average only 50 to 60 members each, a total of only about 1,000 Brazilian Baptists in all.

"Our challenge is for people to start churches and train people," Souza said, citing a need to train "indigenous people to plant churches here" but acknowledging, "It's hard to bring in people from Brazil because of immigration issues."

Also needed: "partners to support our Brazilian pastors in this area," Souza said. "It's very expensive to live in the Boston area. We also need space for worship, prayer meetings, Bible studies and social gatherings. We usually have to find meeting space from existing Anglo churches." (BP)

Florida pastor Traylor is third candidate for SBC presidency

Saraland, Ala.—Ted Traylor, pastor of Olive Baptist Church in Pensacola, Fla., will be nominated for president of the Southern Baptist Convention at the June 15-16 annual meeting in Orlando, Fla., fellow pastor Ed Litton told the Florida Baptist Witness.

"In this historic moment in Southern Baptist life, God has moved upon my heart to nominate" Traylor, said Litton, pastor of First Baptist Church of North Mobile in Saraland, Ala.



Ted Traylor

Traylor told the Florida Baptist newspaper he agreed to be nominated "in response to the Lord's prompting and the encouragement of friends across the SBC."

Anticipating the future, Traylor said his goal is "to serve and lead the convention I love into a revival of the Great Commission in the days ahead."

A member of the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force, Traylor said his involvement with the group's work has been "life changing."

"The challenges that have surfaced demand spiritual revival and honest evaluation," Traylor said. "Together our Baptist peo-

ple can touch the world with the gospel."

Traylor is the third nominee to enter the SBC presidential race, joining Georgia pastor Bryant Wright and Alabama pastor Jimmy Jackson.

Information from the SBC's 2009 Annual Church Profile for Olive Baptist Church lists 270 baptisms and primary worship service attendance of 3,105. The church gave \$731,080 (10.1 percent) through

the Cooperative Program from total undesignated receipts of \$7,213,206. According to the ACP, the church also received \$33,264 for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions and \$10,466 for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions.

Traylor is a trustee of the North American Mission Board and is chairman of NAMB's presidential search team. Among other denominational leadership positions, he has been president of the Florida Baptist State Convention, SBC first vice president and president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference. (BP)

BAPTIST DIGEST

Jailed Baptist volunteer to stand trial—Southern Baptist missions volunteer Laura Silsby will stand trial in Haiti on a charge of arranging irregular travel, CNN reported April 26. The network said Judge Bernard Saint-Vil dropped more serious charges of kidnapping and criminal association against Silsby and nine other Baptist church members from Idaho, Oklahoma and Texas, who were stopped while trying to take 33 Haitian children out of the country after a devastating earthquake struck Haiti in January. If convicted, Silsby could face from six months to three years in prison. Stopped at the Haiti-Dominican Republic border for not having proper documentation to take the children out of the country, Silsby told officials that they were orphans and that some lost parents in the earthquake. Officials later learned that many of the children had parents, who turned them over to the Baptists in hopes they could give them a better life.

One killed in Arkansas church bus crash—One woman was killed and more than 25 were injured when a busload of Hispanic Baptist pastors and church members crashed April 24 on Interstate 40 between Russellville and Clarksville, Ark. Anna Del Carmen Ortez, 56, of Rogers, Ark., died in the crash. The group of about 35 people was returning from the Arkansas Baptist State Convention-sponsored Hispanic Family Conference at Lifeline Baptist Church in Little Rock. Two of the injured were airlifted to a Little Rock hospital. The others were treated in Russellville and Clarksville hospitals and released over the weekend. Police spokesman Bill Sadler told KTHV-TV in Little Rock it was a single-vehicle accident. Sadler said the bus, westbound on I-40, was from First Baptist Church of Bentonville in Northwest Arkansas. The bus hit a guardrail, spun and flipped, according to news reports. An investigation into the cause of the accident is ongoing. The group left Little Rock sometime after 3 p.m. on April 24. Elaine Casey, a member of First Baptist, Bentonville, was driving the bus. She and her husband, Jerry, both were injured, according to R.E. Clark, associational missionary for Northwest Arkansas Baptist Association.

Evangelist Herrod to be nominee for SBC first VP post

Atlanta—Evangelist Bailey Smith, a former Southern Baptist Convention president, will nominate fellow evangelist Ron Herrod for first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention next month.

Herrod, the current president of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists, is the first announced nominee for the post.

A senior pastor of several Southern Baptist churches, Herrod started Ron Herrod Evangelism Ministries Association in 1995.

In addition to preaching hundreds of revivals and crusades, Herrod has conducted mission projects in more than 30 countries.

His denominational experience includes service as trustee of the International Mission Board, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and Louisiana College. He has served as president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Pastors' Conference and vice president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference.

Herrod is a member of Grace Baptist Church in Knoxville, Tenn. Information from the 2009 Annual Church Profile for the church lists 204 baptisms and primary worship service attendance of 2,884. The church gave \$174,999 (3.76 percent) through the Cooperative Program from total undesignated receipts of \$4,654,098. (BP)

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Tornado crushes Mississippi church, but not survivor's faith

By Mickey Noah
North American Mission Board

Yazoo City, Miss.—Dale Thrasher—who miraculously survived an April 24 tornado that toppled Hillcrest Baptist Church around him—told his wife that the Lord was just not ready for him yet.

"He still has other work for me to do."

Sixty-year-old Thrasher—an 11-year member and lay leader at the small Missionary Baptist church in Yazoo City, Miss.—had come to the church to make some copies for a church business meeting the next day.

"My wife called me about 15 minutes before the tornado hit to tell me it was heading for Yazoo City," Thrasher recalled. He looked outside, didn't see anything and returned to making the copies.

"A few minutes later, the building started to pop," he said. "I went back to the front door and all I could see was a black, swirling cloud. I believe it was the tornado and I was already in it."

Thrasher dashed for the church kitchen where he planned to get under a kitchen table for protection. "But as I passed the sanctuary, the doors were open and I felt the Lord leading me inside," he said. "I slid under the communion table. It was just like the Lord put his arms around me. The windows started to blow out."

In a surreal way, Thrasher said the sanctuary's cushioned, individual seats started rushing toward him and the communion table.

"The building popped. Stuff started falling around me. Furniture started swirling around. I just covered my head and said, 'Lord, please save me.'"



SURVIVOR Dale Thrasher stands on the spot where a communion table saved him as his church, Hillcrest Baptist in Yazoo City, Miss., crashed down around him during a deadly tornado April 24. (Photo by Jason Patterson/Yazoo (Miss.) Herald)

Mercifully for Thrasher, it was all over in 30 seconds. Buried under two-by-fours, plywood, sheetrock and other debris, he looked up and saw the sky. He then knew Hillcrest Baptist Church—at least the physical facility—was no more.

"Then I heard a spewing sound and I could smell natural gas," Thrasher noted. "I knew the Lord had saved me from the tornado but now I didn't want to burn up in a fire." Kicking at the debris that confined him, he finally opened up a hole just big enough to squeeze out. All he had to show for 30 seconds in the teeth of an F-4 tornado was a few scratches, a nick on his forearm and carpet burns.

"Looking at it naturally, I should be dead. Spiritually, the Lord saved me so I could tell

the folks what He did," Thrasher explained. "It wasn't the table that saved me; it was the Lord. If I had gone to the kitchen, I'd be dead because there is nothing left of the kitchen—no table, no stove, no refrigerator, no nothing. The Lord saved my soul in 1970. On Saturday, he saved my natural life to do some work for Him."

Prior to April 24, Hillcrest's 90-plus members already had witnessed more than their share of trials and tribulations. The two-story, metal church building destroyed by the tornado was the replacement for a church that an arsonist burned to the ground 10 years ago.

"We are insured," Thrasher said. "Hopefully, it'll be enough to build a new church, although it may not be in the same place.

We built back after the fire and were debt free. The Lord blessed us then and He will bless us again."

About 40 members of the church gathered the day after for a tear-filled outdoor worship service in bright sunshine and blue skies. A member—digging around in the remains of the sanctuary—picked up a soggy hymnal, already opened to a hymn which the congregation, standing in a circle, began to sing. The name of the hymn: "Till the Storm Passes By."

Others in Yazoo City, a town of 14,000, and rural Choctaw County were not as fortunate. At least 10 people were killed by the tornado, hundreds injured, and dozens of homes and businesses were destroyed in those two hardest hit areas.

Don Gann, consultant for men's ministry and disaster relief for the Mississippi Baptist Convention, said a small feeding operation was immediately set up at First Baptist Church of Yazoo City and has prepared hundreds of meals.

"We've also activated three of our chain-saw teams—out of the 40 we have in the state," Gann said.

"But we may not need as many chain-saw teams as we first thought because where the tornado hit, it's a complete wipe-out," he pointed out. "People who lost their homes aren't worried about downed trees in their yards."

"But we're monitoring the situation," Gann said, adding that he was grateful for the offer of any additional help that might be needed through the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief team at the North American Mission Board. (BP)

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Supreme Court: Memorial cross OK

Case will be sent back to lower court for consideration

Washington—A divided Supreme Court last week overruled a lower court that had said Congress erred when it transferred a war memorial cross in the Mojave National Preserve into private hands.

The 5-4 ruling means the five-foot-cross, currently encased in plywood as the case made its way through the legal system, can remain while a lower court continues to consider the case.

Justice Anthony Kennedy, writing for the court's 5-4 majority, said, "The goal of avoiding governmental endorsement does not require eradication of all religious symbols in the public realm."

Kennedy said the district court ruling—which could have resulted in the removal of the cross—did not focus enough on the memorial's nonreligious context. The cross was erected in the California preserve primarily to memorialize American servicemen who died in World War I and not "to promote a Christian message," Kennedy wrote.

Justice Samuel Alito, in an opinion partly concurring with the plurality, said the cross had been there for almost 70 years and Congress was aware its removal might be viewed as a "sign of disrespect" to the soldiers it was designed to honor.

In an additional opinion, Justice Antonin Scalia said the transfer to private hands "best serves the public interest." Chief Justice John Roberts sided with the majority.

But in a lengthy dissent, outgoing Justice John Paul Stevens said the transfer of the property to the Veterans of Foreign Wars would not remove the government's religious endorsement. That remains, he said, especially since Congress declared the cross to be a national memorial. "Making a plain, unadorned Latin cross a war memorial does not make the cross secular," Stevens wrote. "It makes the war memorial sectarian."

Joining Stevens' dissent were Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sonia Sotomayor. Justice Stephen Breyer wrote a separate dissenting opinion.

The case now will go to the district court, which must further address the land transfer.



STILL STANDING
The U.S. Supreme Court ruled April 28 that Congress had authority to transfer a World War I memorial cross in California's Mojave National Preserve to private hands. (Photo courtesy of the Liberty Legal Institute)

The case, *Salazar v. Buono*, began in 2001 when Frank Buono, a former assistant superintendent of the preserve, filed suit, saying he was offended other religions beyond his own Christian faith were not represented near the memorial site.

Legal groups representing veterans' organizations—who had feared a court ruling might impact crosses at sites such as Arlington National Cemetery—hailed the decision but still voiced concern about the case's long-term impact.

"There are some statements in here which are encouraging from Kennedy but the issue ... clearly has not been decided yet by the court about veterans' memorials nationwide with religious imagery," said Kelly Shackelford, president of Liberty Institute, which represented the VFW and others. (RNS)

Muslims want Graham barred from Capitol Hill prayer event

Washington—Days after evangelist Franklin Graham was disinvited from a Pentagon observance of the National Day of Prayer, a Muslim organization has asked members of Congress to follow suit.

Corey Saylor, national legislative director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, questioned Graham's inclusion in a May 6 Capitol Hill event because of past statements that Islam is an "evil and wicked religion."

D.J. Jordan, a spokesman for Rep. Robert Aderholt, R-Ala., a sponsor of the congressional National Day of Prayer observance, said the invitation would not be rescinded.

Aderholt, in a statement, called Franklin Graham an "appropriate speaker" for the event, and said he was "honored that Franklin will

come to Congress to speak and pray for the legislative branch of government on May 6."

John Bornschein, executive director of the National Day of Prayer Task Force, the host of the Capitol Hill observance, also said that Graham will be there.

Graham mentioned the Pentagon decision to President Obama April 25 when the president met with his father, evangelist Billy Graham, at the elder Graham's North Carolina home.

A new study by LifeWay Research shows that 47 percent of Protestant pastors agree with the younger Graham's view of Islam. Another survey by Rasmussen Reports found that 60 percent of Americans favor the federal government recognizing a National Day of Prayer. (RNS)

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Meet the class of 2010, part 6

'Karen' learns her success at Oneida is thanks to caring faculty's love of Christ

It's been seven years, but I can remember when "Karen" (not her real name) came into my office with her three siblings. She and her twin brother had just completed the fifth grade. Their mother was interested in enrolling Karen's older brother and sister in our school. During the orientation program, Karen and her twin also wanted to enroll. There she stood, all 85 pounds and 4 feet 6 inches of her.

One of the reasons she wanted to enroll was her low grades. That was a little strange, because she had been placed in a gifted program. However, she made all 'D's and 'F's in the fifth grade. With some reservation, I agreed to allow all four siblings to enroll.

I am happy to report that Karen took to Oneida—as they say—like a duck to water. At the end of her sixth-grade year, her GPA was 3.87. Her older brother graduated in 2008 and her older sister graduated in 2009. Now Karen will be the salutatorian of the class of 2010. Here is part of her senior essay.

"My mother was essentially a single parent trying to raise four kids. My father was an alcoholic who often tried to quit drinking, to no avail. My (teachers) noticed my high test scores and put me in an advanced class, but I failed almost everything because I wouldn't do my homework. ... My first months at OBI were difficult, but ... I started to grow up and my behavior improved.

"I lived in Ohio my whole life, but I grew up at OBI. I've learned many things that will help me be successful in life. Through working on the farm, I learned that work is necessary and fulfill-

ing, and that hard work is even more fulfilling. Working on the farm taught me leadership and responsibility among my peers. ... Furthermore, I now know that I do have a purpose in life.

"Another thing that I've learned at OBI is that I am loved. I know that the staff here loves me and all the other students, and they want us to be successful. The most important thing, however, that I've learned is that the love the faculty and staff have for us is because of Jesus. Their love for Jesus allows them to love us regardless of the faults we have or mistakes we make."

There is so much more to Karen's story, I could fill several columns for a month. Karen has been a great blessing to us because she has taken advantage of the opportunities Oneida has given her. If she stays the course after graduation, she will be a success in life. Her success so far is, in large part, due to the caring faculty and staff that have given Karen the attention and love she needed. We provided her and her siblings with the stability they desperately needed.

When these four siblings enrolled, their mother had a part-time job as a cook. Her monthly income, including some modest assistance, was barely \$1,100. I remember the mother sitting in my office seven years ago asking me how much it would cost to enroll all of her children. When I told her we would provide all four with scholarships, the mother was speechless. Actually, our friends provided those scholarships. Without you, we cannot do what we do. Thanks for being so kind and for supporting our efforts.

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

A special guest

Students lead campus visitor to accept Christ as Savior

One of the many blessings of serving at Clear Creek is our location. Our 700-acre campus is located in the valley of the Pine Mountains where the Pine Mountain State Park is located. People who visit this wonderful state park literally have to drive straight through our campus to get to the park located on top of the mountains.

As a result, some of them stop by for a visit and we get to give them a tour of our beautiful campus. It's amazing how many people come from all over our state and our country to visit this area. And we have enjoyed meeting some wonderful people over the years.

As I write this article, I am praising the Lord for meeting Charlie. He was visiting our area on vacation recently seeking to just get away and "get some things straightened out between him and the Lord," he said.

While Charlie was in our area, he found his way to our campus. As he was walking around, he found our prayer chapel. As he was going in to spend some time there, he met two of our students, David and Steve. During the course of their

conversation, David and Steve began to talk with Charlie about a relationship with the Lord.

As they talked, Charlie realized he did not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. David and Steve shared with him from the Scriptures what he needed to do in order to accept Christ as his Savior.

During our chapel service later that day, our campus family rejoiced when Charlie stood as our guest and told how God had directed him to our campus and to our students to help him see that he needed to surrender his life to Jesus Christ. As Charlie smiled from ear to ear he happily told our entire campus family that he had trusted Jesus Christ as his Savior earlier that day.

We rejoice with Charlie and we praise the Lord that He brought Charlie our way on that day. Thank you so much for your support that enables us to equip our students to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ at any given time.

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

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

The huge disconnect

By and large, Christians not fulfilling stewardship duties

Every survey I've seen on financial stewardship reports a very high percentage of Christians believe God is the source and owner of all things, and He has entrusted them to His people to manage on His behalf and for His purposes—that is, to be His stewards. However, when one looks at how His people fulfill that stewardship responsibility, there is a huge disconnect. And this disconnect is manifested in our personal lives, in our churches and in our denominations.

Charitable giving in the U.S. averages 2.2 percent of disposal (after-tax) income, the same level it was a decade ago. One has to go back 40 years to a time when it was at a higher level of 2.4 percent. Giving to religion represents just more than one-third of all charitable giving from individuals. The average Christian gives 2.9 percent, according to a report in "Passing the Plate." That average increases among those who regularly attend church.

Various studies from diverse data sources over the years have come to the same conclusion: The vast majority of American Chris-

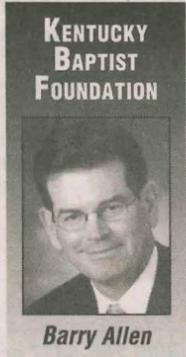
tians give very little to any church, parachurch or non-religious charities—and 20 percent give nothing. Clearly a small minority of generous givers contributes most of the total Christian dollars given; they are "covering" for the vast majority who give little or nothing.

When are we going to wake up and give financial stewardship the attention it requires and deserves? It's one of Jesus' priorities for discipleship. And yet, both pastor and people still dread the annual stewardship sermon. Discipleship education in churches and at denominational levels rarely, if at all, includes a healthy dose of biblical stewardship.

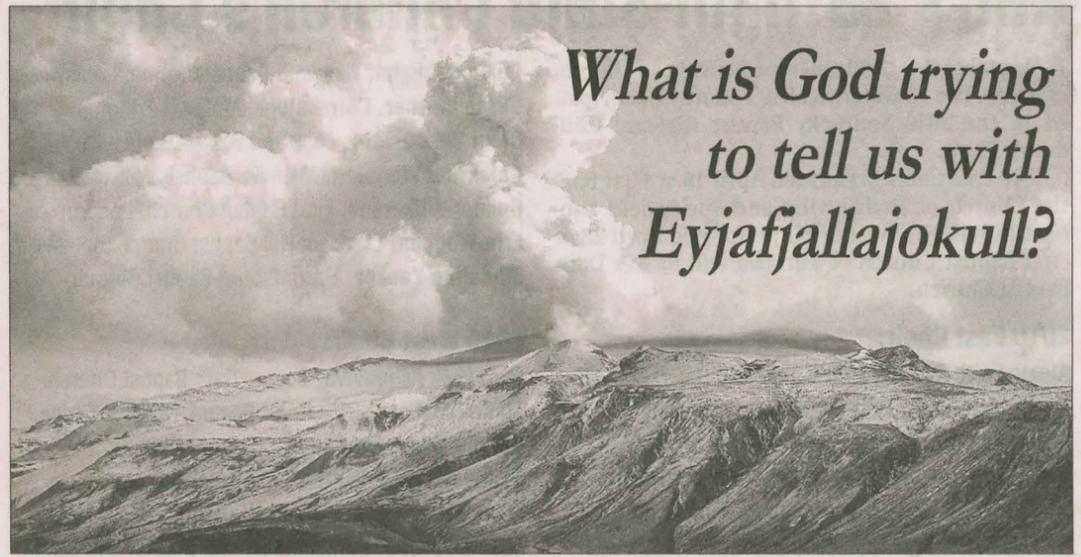
I believe Christian stewardship is a discipline that must be learned and lived; we are not born with it. It's more about spiritual development than financial development, and the earlier in life one learns and begins to practice this discipline, the longer one has to enjoy its rewards and benefits.

Let the Kentucky Baptist Foundation help you connect to your calling as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

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



Barry Allen



What is God trying to tell us with Eyjafjallajökull?

By Omar Sacirbey

Moscow—What do homosexuality, health care reform and British advertising standards all have in common? They're all things that have ticked God off, some religious leaders say, and He's venting his frustration with the angry fires of Iceland's Eyjafjallajökull volcano.

Moscow's Interfax newswire reported that the Association of (Russian) Orthodox Experts blamed the April 14 eruption—whose gigantic cloud of ash grounded transatlantic flights for more than a week—on gay rights in Europe and Iceland's tolerance of "neo-paganism."

Conservative commentator Rush Limbaugh, meanwhile, said God was angry over health care reform. San Antonio megachurch pastor John Hagee, the founder of Christians United for Israel, said God was unleashing His wrath on Britain for deciding that Israeli tourism ads actually featured parts of the disputed Palestinian territories, not Israel.

The eruption is the latest in a long line of natural events to which some religious leaders attribute divine judgment. In short, God is using nature to channel His displeasure with human behavior—both the sinners and those who tolerate them—and that we had better shape up.

It's an impulse that goes back thousands of years and still thrives in religious quarters that are generally skeptical of science and seek divine explanations for natural calamities:

- Iranian cleric Hojatoleslam Kazem Sedighi recently told his Shiite Muslim followers that immodestly dressed and promiscuous women are to blame for earthquakes.

- In February, Rabbi Yehuda Levin of the Rabbinical Alliance of America warned allowing gays in the military could cause natural disasters to strike America.

- Religious broadcaster Pat Robertson blamed the devastating Jan. 12 earthquake in Haiti on a pact between the devil and Haitians rebelling against French rule in the 18th century.

- Both Robertson and Hagee blamed Hurricane Katrina on New Orleans' immorality.

- Malaysian Muslim cleric Azizan Abdul Razak said the 2004 South Asian tsunami was God's message that "He created the world and can destroy the world," while Israel's Sephardic Chief Rabbi Shlomo Amar said it was "an expression of God's great ire with the world."

So what is it about nature's fury that attracts theological interpretation? For many religious leaders, scholars say, it's an opportunity to win new believers.

"Natural disasters are disruptive. When there's a disruption, people's worldviews are shaken, and need to be repaired," explained Steven Friesen, a biblical studies professor at the University of Texas at Austin.

"Natural disasters are a prime time to repair people's worldviews. ... It's a long-running theme in American culture that God works to bring people into changing their worldview."

Who accepts these proclamations and who doesn't often depends on how a believer views God: benevolent, wrathful, active, passive, or maybe something less defined, like a cosmic force.

"This stuff attracts people with a strong authoritarian image of God, and who believe that He ... does in fact punish people who do not follow His rules," said Wade Clark Roof, professor of American religion at the University of California at Santa Barbara.

Another common thread among people who link disaster to divine judgment is that they tend to consider disasters as confirmation of already-held beliefs.

"They already think God is working in certain ways, and disasters become an example of that," Friesen said, pointing to Hagee as an example. "There's no logical connection (between Britain's ad policy and the volcano), but because he is already convinced that God works to protect Israel, he believes that God made the volcano erupt to punish Britain."

But many religious leaders reject linking disaster to divine judgment.

"It's faulty theology. People take the personal consequences of sin, which are real, and project them onto natural disaster. That's where things break down," said Joel Hunter, a board member of the National Association of Evangelicals and a megachurch pastor in suburban Orlando, Fla.

"Speculating that disaster happens because sin has reached a certain level puts God in a really bad light."

Michael Lerner, president of the Network of Spiritual Progressives, agreed.

"You start blaming the victims for a process that is a result of something that they had nothing to do with," he said. (RNS)

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Christian journalists murdered in Nigeria

Jos, Nigeria—Continued ethnic violence in Nigeria has claimed the lives of two journalists working for a Christian publication. The April 24 killings continued the pattern of ongoing violence in the area following the March 7 massacre in which at least 500 individuals of Christian descent were murdered in nighttime raids by ethnic Fulani Muslims.

The journalists, Nathan Sheleph Dabak and Sunday Gyang Bwede, were working for The Light Bearer, a newspaper published by the Church of Christ in Nigeria, according to news reports. The slayings came less than two weeks after the April 13 murder of a Church of Christ pastor and his wife by Muslims.

Four other Christians were killed April 24, apparently in a revenge attack following the discovery of the corpse of a teenage Muslim who had been missing, Compass Direct news service reported. The four reportedly died—three of them stabbed to death—when hundreds of Muslim protestors rampaged through the area. A press statement from the Church of Christ in Nigeria said the journalists were on duty, covering the violence when they were attacked by a mob.

The church declared April 26-27 to be a mourning period and the organization's president appealed for its members to not make reprisals. (BP)

KBC's 2010 All-State Children's Choir

A total of 133 children, representing 39 churches across the commonwealth, recently participated in the 2010 Kentucky Baptist All-State Children's Choir.

The East Choir performed April 18 at First Baptist Church of Hodgenville and Springfield Baptist Church. The West Choir performed April 25 at First Baptist Church of Kuttawa and Beaver Dam Baptist Church.

2010 East Choir:

Alexis Faith Adams, First Baptist Church, Fisherville.
Amber Arterburn, First Baptist Church, London.
Skyler Arterburn, First Baptist Church, London.
Nathan Bain, First Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg.
Tilly Baldwin, First Baptist Church, Richmond.
Rachel Been, Fern Creek Baptist Church, Louisville.
Michaela Bowman, Crescent Hill Baptist, Louisville.
Jacob Breeding, Rineyville Baptist Church.
Bethany Cissell, Versailles Baptist Church.
Alex Cobb, First Baptist Church, Owenton.
Loren Collins, First Baptist Church, Richmond.
Emma Corner, Highland Baptist Church, Louisville.
Anna Cox, Cornerstone Baptist Church, Lexington.
Mackenzie Devine, Harrodsburg Baptist Church.
Bryce Elliott, First Baptist Church, Richmond.
Abigail Etherton, Parkland Baptist Church, Louisville.
Kaylei Ernst Farris, Eminence Baptist Church.
Morgan Flecke, Crescent Hill Baptist, Louisville.
Lizzie Fort, First Baptist Church, Richmond.
Lucas Gaddis, Eminence Baptist Church.
Grace Galyon, St. Matthews Baptist, Louisville.
Jillian Garrett, Highland Baptist Church, Louisville.
Kayla Gravi, Valley View Church, Louisville.
Zoe Hall, Highland Baptist Church, Louisville.
Chase Harberson, So. Heights Baptist, Lexington.
Faith Harris, Valley View Church, Louisville.
Sydney Hendrix, First Baptist Church, Frankfort.
Cady Holbrook, Grace Baptist Church, Winchester.
Isaac Hopkins, First Baptist Church, Frankfort.
Whitley Howlett, First Baptist, Mount Washington.
Bradley Hughes, First Baptist Church, Frankfort.
Sydney Humphress, Campbellsville Baptist Church.
Amiya Hunter, Eminence Baptist Church.
Shayla Kelley, Fern Creek Baptist Church, Louisville.
Rachel Kinman, Versailles Baptist Church.
Madison Lauer, Campbellsville Baptist Church.
Lindsey Leap, Southern Heights Baptist, Lexington.
Alley Marie Loudenburg, Springfield Baptist Church.
Tyler Masters, First Baptist Church, Richmond.
Paige McClellan, Highland Baptist Church, Louisville.
Sam Midkiff, First Baptist Church, Frankfort.
Katie Mitchell, First Baptist Church, Richmond.
Reagan Pollock, Campbellsville Baptist Church.
Jennifer Pope, Crescent Hill Baptist, Louisville.
Kleine Powell, First Baptist Church, Richmond.
Rebecca Ridge, Highland Baptist Church, Louisville.
Parker Ridings, Millville Baptist Church, Frankfort.
Noah Robinson, Fern Creek Baptist, Louisville.
Anne Russell Waits, Springfield Baptist Church.
Michael Sainato, So. Heights Baptist, Lexington.
Rebecca Sams, Millville Baptist Church, Frankfort.
Delaney Scriber, Eminence Baptist Church.
Anna Shelby, Versailles Baptist Church.
Alyssa Shippey, Highland Baptist Church, Louisville.
Joshua Simpson, First Baptist Church, Frankfort.
Olivia Simpson, First Baptist Church, Frankfort.
Joshua Spaulding, Greenup Fork Baptist, Owenton.
Micah Steele, Harrodsburg Baptist Church.
Hannah Stephens, Main Street Baptist, Williamsburg.
Joslyn Taylor, Highland Baptist Church, Louisville.
Kaitlyn Taylor, Main Street Baptist, Williamsburg.
Jonathan Thompson, First Baptist Church, Frankfort.
Haley Tribble, First Baptist Church, Richmond.

Paxton Vaughn, Highland Baptist Church, Louisville.
Elissa Warner, Cornerstone Baptist, Lexington.
Sami Weathersby, Highland Baptist, Louisville.
Katherine Whitaker, Main St. Baptist, Williamsburg.
Connor Wilkerson, First Baptist Church, London.
Erin Woggon, Crescent Hill Baptist Church, Louisville.
Madeline Yankey, Harrodsburg Baptist Church.

2010 West Choir:

MaryBeth Acquaviva, Beaver Dam Baptist Church.
Madeline Allen, Rich Pond Baptist, Bowling Green.
Natalie Allen, First Baptist Church, Kuttawa.
Bailey Arnett, Lone Oak First Baptist, Paducah.
Silas Baird, Hartford Baptist Church.
Zane Birdsong, Immanuel Baptist Church, Paducah.
Ashton Blakeman, Rich Pond Baptist, Bowling Green.
Wilson Blakeman, Rich Pond Baptist, Bowling Green.
Samantha Blount, Immanuel Baptist, Paducah.
Emily Boyd, First Baptist Church, Murray.
Anna Cate Brown, First Baptist Church, Murray.
Diana Brown, Cave City Baptist Church.
Hannah Cain-Hill, First Baptist Church, Murray.
Joseph Camilleri, Lone Oak First Baptist, Paducah.
Catherine Carter, Rich Pond Baptist, Bowling Green.
Baily Caudle, Lone Oak First Baptist, Paducah.
Ashley Chandler, Lone Oak First Baptist, Paducah.
Liam Coursey, First Baptist Church, Madisonville.
Sarahbeth Cox, First Baptist Church, Brandenburg.
Ben Daniel, First Baptist Church, Bowling Green.
Whit Devine, Immanuel Baptist Church, Paducah.
Emily Drew, First Baptist Church, Murray.
Cameron Durbin, Lone Oak First Baptist, Paducah.
DeeDee Early, First Baptist Church, Kuttawa.
Hannah Edminster, First Baptist Church, Murray.
Lauren Edminster, First Baptist Church, Murray.
Madison Erwin, First Baptist Church, Murray.
Simon Gill, Rich Pond Baptist, Bowling Green.
Ashtyn Gray, Hawesville Baptist Church.
Courtney Hall, Lone Oak First Baptist, Paducah.
Shelby Handley, First Baptist Church, Bowling Green.
Preston Harrell, First Baptist Church, Bowling Green.
William Holbrook, First Baptist Church, Morganfield.
Matthew Howerton, First Baptist, Madisonville.
Ashton Howton, Hawesville Baptist Church.
Sydney Isbell, Lone Oak First Baptist, Paducah.
Andrea Jameson, Lone Oak First Baptist, Paducah.
Elizabeth Jarboe, Rich Pond Baptist, Bowling Green.
Rebekah Jarboe, Rich Pond Baptist, Bowling Green.
Natalie Joseph, Lone Oak First Baptist, Paducah.
Olivia Kessinger, First Baptist Church, Brandenburg.
Danielle Lanham, First Baptist, Bowling Green.
Libby Lewis, Immanuel Baptist Church, Paducah.
Belle McBride, Lone Oak First Baptist, Paducah.
Reagan Miller, Rich Pond Baptist, Bowling Green.
Kasey Miracle, First Baptist Church, Madisonville.
Emma Mitchell, Lone Oak First Baptist, Paducah.
Rachel Oakley, First Baptist Church, Kuttawa.
Ashlee O'Bryan, Buena Vista Baptist, Owensboro.
Ethan Peck, Immanuel Baptist Church, Paducah.
Sarah Pemberton, Rich Pond Baptist, Bowling Green.
Sydney Pemberton, Rich Pond Baptist, Bowling Green.
Emma Robinson, Hawesville Baptist Church.
Jaymi Smart, Rich Pond Baptist, Bowling Green.
Katie Suggs, First Baptist Church, Bowling Green.
Olivia Swadley, Lone Oak First Baptist, Paducah.
Brayden Thomas, First Baptist Church, Morganfield.
Cody Tynes, Immanuel Baptist Church, Paducah.
Bailey Vandiver, Rich Pond Baptist, Bowling Green.
Alyssa Wathen, Lone Oak First Baptist, Paducah.
Madison Wells, First Baptist Church, Bowling Green.
Matti Whittedge, First Baptist Church, Morganfield.
Abigail Wright, First Baptist Church, Kuttawa.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May

- | | |
|--|---|
| 6 Iron Sharpening Iron, Kentucky Motor Speedway, Sparta. | 15 Kentucky WMU SALT, Baptist Building, Louisville. |
| 7 Children's Bible Drill, St. Matthews Baptist Church, Louisville. | 17 Women of Worth Lifestyle Evangelism Conference, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown. |
| 8 Children's Bible Drill, Calvary Baptist Church, Lexington. | 17 Iron Sharpening Iron, Moonlite Bar-B-Q, Owensboro. |
| 10 Growing Ministries Tour, First Baptist Church, Eddyville. | 18 Women of Worth Lifestyle Evangelism Conference, First Baptist Church, Somerset. |
| 11 Iron Sharpening Iron, Jonathan Creek Camp and Conference Center, Hardin. | 24-25 Youth Ministers' Spring Retreat, Georgetown College. |
| 11-13 Basic Training Journey for Church Planters, Baptist Building, Louisville. | |
| 11-14 Contagious Churches and Leaders, Sojourn Community Church, Louisville. | |

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SEEKING: Beechland Baptist is accepting resumés for a part-time minister to children. Submit resumés to bbcbishop@bellsouth.net.

SEEKING: Pastor for Wyoming church. We can't pay much, but we do offer a 4-bedroom, 3-bath house with paid utilities. Don't like cold weather? Come for the summer and help us build our church. Wonderful mission opportunity for a retired couple. For more information, contact PepperPup38@hotmail.com.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor to shepherd well-established SBC congregation of Bethabara Baptist Church in Daviess County, Ky. Resumés 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, Jeffersonton, 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: Full-time pastor for Second Baptist Church, Hopkinsville, Ky. (affiliated with KBC). Send resumés to: Pastor Search Committee, Second Baptist Church, 720 W 7th St., Hopkinsville, KY 42240; or e-mail pastorsearchsbc@gmail.com. Deadline: June 15.

SEEKING: Pianist for Evergreen Baptist Church. Sunday morning and evening services, Wednesday choir practice. Submit resumé to Personnel Committee, 2698 Evergreen Road, Frankfort, KY 40601. (502) 223-3470.

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 resumés 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.

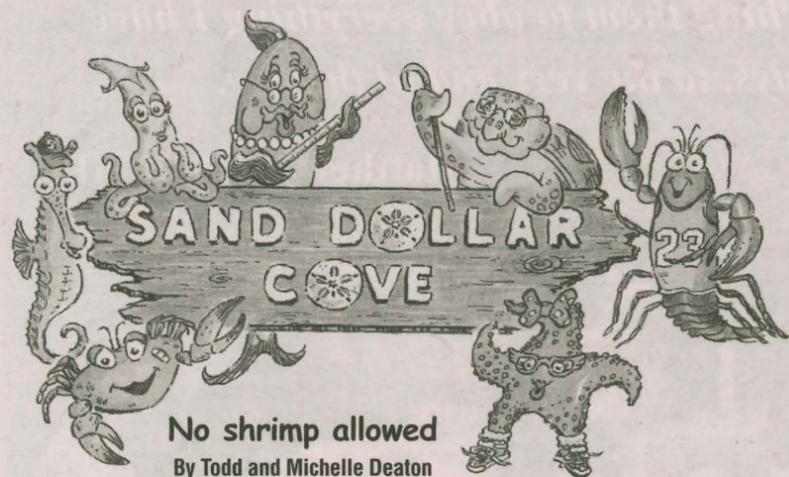
SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Somerset, Ky. Please mail resumé to Pastor Search Committee, 1685 Hwy. 3091, Somerset, KY 42503.

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 worker. Contact us: Tunnel Hill Baptist Church, 734 Tunnel Hill Church Road, Elizabethtown, KY 42701; Attn: Youth Leader Position Inquiry. (270) 737-8120. Visit www.tunnelhill.org, click on "email form" under "Contact Us"; enter your e-mail address; in Subject, enter "Youth Leader Position Inquiry"; add message and click "Send Email."

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

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

Mike Morgan



No shrimp allowed
By Todd and Michelle Deaton

One afternoon, Sunny Starfish, Syd Squid and Seamore Seahorse were drinking coconut milkshakes at the Nibble Hook snack bar when several shrimp crawled in. One of the shrimp sat down on the stool next to Sunny.

"Excuse me, but there isn't enough room for you," Sunny said, turning her nose up at the shrimp.

"There are four stools," the shrimp corrected.

"Syd needs an extra chair for all her legs," Sunny snapped. "Don't you, Syd?"

Syd nodded as she pushed the shrimp off the stool with two of her legs. "No shrimp allowed," she said, loud enough for the other shrimp to hear.

As the shrimp crawled away, Seamore asked Sunny, "Why are you so mean to the shrimp?"

"They're all riff-raff bottom-dwellers," she sneered, with a less-than-shining attitude.

"Yeah," Syd agreed, "we don't want them crawling around our Nibble Hook and spoiling everything. No respectable fish would be caught with them."

"They have feelings, too," Seamore reminded Sunny.

"They're just little creatures," Sunny replied. "Why should we care about them?"

"To whales and sharks, we seem little," Seamore objected.

"That's different," Syd argued.

"How?" Seamore asked.

Syd stammered, "But ... well, we don't attract shrimping boats."

"And those boats sometimes catch crabs, squids and starfish in their nets," Sunny added.

Seamore felt sad, but he wasn't sure why not allowing the shrimp to come into the Nibble Hook was a bad thing. He decided to ask Solomon the wise sea turtle, but Solomon was out of town.

By the time Solomon returned a week later, the Nibble Hook looked very different. The water had turned a murky brown color, a green slime was growing on the walls, and the colorful fish that liked to play there were gone.

"What happened? The Nibble Hook is a mess," Solomon asked as Seamore swam up the walk in front of Solomon's house.

"I don't know," answered Seamore, "but I think it has something to do with the shrimp leaving."

"Why did the shrimp leave?" asked Solomon.

"Syd and Sunny were mean to the shrimp and they stopped coming to the Nibble Hook," Seamore told Solomon. "But I don't know why everything looks so bad," he added.

"Shrimp eat the food that falls onto the sea floor, and they clean the gills on the colorful fishes," Solomon explained.

"So, to clear up the murky water and get rid of the green slime, we have to be nice to the shrimp," Seamore concluded. "Then maybe the colorful fish will come back, too."

"That's right," Solomon agreed. "We must not let 'shellfish' pride keep us from treating others well. We should care about them as much as we care about ourselves."

Treasure Hunt

How did Sunny Starfish and Syd Squid treat the shrimp?

Why were shrimp important?

What happened after they left?

How can our pride keep us from caring about others?

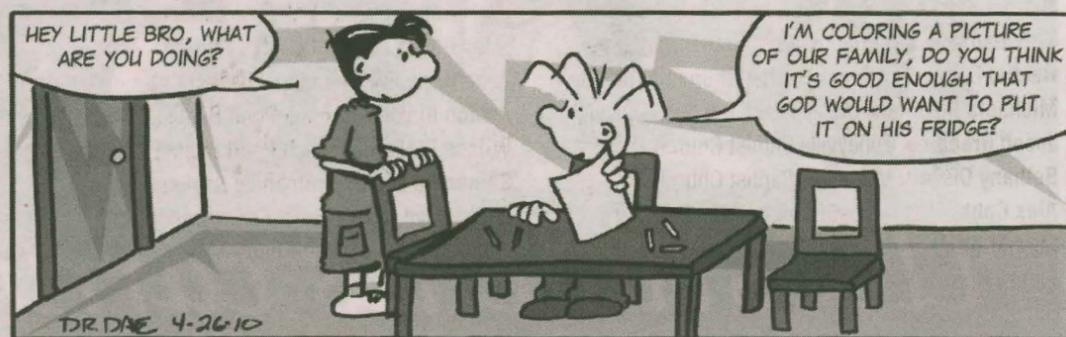
Read Philippians 2:3-4 together.



For Heaven's Sake



Preacher's Kids



Bible Crosswords

By Elizabeth B. Smith

Across

- 1 "I ___ not want" (Psalms 23:1)
- 6 "The sucking child shall play on the hole of the ___" (Isaiah 11:8)
- 9 Father of Hophni and Phinehas (1 Samuel 2:27, 34)
- 10 "Lie down in green ___" (Psalms 23:2)
- 14 "Then I will ___ your flesh" (Judges 8:7)
- 16 "___ the people together" (Deuteronomy 33:17)
- 17 Mother, for short
- 19 Sandwich shops
- 21 Maiden name
- 22 "I will fear no ___" (Psalms 23:4)
- 24 "All the days of my ___" (Psalms 23:6)
- 26 "He will not ___ thee" (Deuteronomy 31:8)
- 28 "Thy rod and thy staff they ___ me" (Psalms 23:4)
- 31 "Thou preparest a ___ before me" (Psalms 23:5)
- 34 Yukon Front, abbr.
- 35 Mined matter
- 37 "Even unto the ___ of the jubile" (Leviticus 27:18)
- 38 "Lord, be not ___ from me" (Psalms 35:22)
- 40 What?
- 42 "Thy ___ and thy staff" (Psalms 23:4)
- 44 "Valley of the shadow of ___" (Psalms 23:4)
- 46 "None that doeth good, no not ___" (Psalms 14:3)
- 47 Maryland's neighbor to the south, abbr.
- 49 Flightless bird
- 51 "In ___ time Christ died for the ungodly" (Romans 5:6)

1	2	3	4		5		6	7	8	
	9				10		11			12 13
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					26		27			
28	29	30					31		32	33
34			35				36		37	
		38	39				40	41		42
43		44				45		46		
47	48					49	50			51 52 53
54		55		56		57		58		59
	60					61				

- 54 "To lie down in ___ pastures" (Psalms 23:2)
- 57 Assistant, abbr.
- 59 Not Jr.
- 60 Edible root
- 61 Inhabitant

Down

- 2 "___ maketh me to lie down" (Psalms 23:2)
- 3 Height, abbr.
- 4 "___ down in green pastures" (Psalms 23:2)
- 5 Organization for veterans, abbr.
- 6 Preposition indicating when or where
- 7 "I ... will ___ with him, and he with me" (Revelation 3:20)
- 8 Fruit
- 10 "Thou ___ a table before me" (Psalms 23:5)
- 11 "Beside the ___ waters" (Psalms 23:2)
- 12 Wind direction
- 13 "The Lord is my ___" (Psalms 23:1)
- 15 In the year of our Lord, Lat. abbr.
- 17 "___ shall follow me" (Psalms 23:6)
- 18 Audio-visual, abbr.
- 20 Yes, Sp.
- 23 "___ hath sent me unto you" (Exodus 3:14) (2 words)

- 25 "___ their skin from off them" (Micah 3:3)
- 26 "Fear no evil: ___ thou art with me" (Psalms 23:4)
- 27 "God saw that ___ was good" (Genesis 1:10)
- 29 Not on
- 30 "Dwell in the house of the Lord ___" (Psalms 23:6) (2 words)
- 32 "The well ... is between Kadesh and ___" (Genesis 16:14)
- 33 Southeast Asian
- 36 Myself
- 39 Paid announcement
- 41 "I will dwell in the ___ of the Lord" (Psalms 23:6)
- 43 Medium, abbr.
- 45 "Anointest my ___ with oil" (Psalms 23:5)
- 48 "Thou ___ with me" (Psalms 23:4)
- 50 Social worker's graduate degree
- 52 "___ not vain repetitions" (Matthew 6:7)
- 53 "Do not ___, my beloved brethren" (James 1:16)
- 55 Apiece, abbr.
- 56 "I will fear ___ evil" (Psalms 23:4)
- 58 Thallium, chem. symbol

Last week's solution

1	W	E	S	T	E	R	N	R	E	C	O	R	D	E	R	16
2	A	V	E	R	A	G	A	B	U	S	17	18	19	20	21	22
3	B	M	A	N	A	E	H	T	E	R	23	24	25	26	27	28
4	K	A	R	E	C	A	P	M	I	A	29	30	31	32	33	34
5	K	A	D	E	L	E	G	A	N	35	36	37	38	39	40	41
6	U	N	I	T	L	E	S	A	U	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
7	R	N	H	A	L	H	S	E	P	49	50	51	52	53	54	55
8	A	N	A	N	A	M	I	H	R	O	S	56	57	58	59	60
9	M	N	O	A	H	R	O	E	L	61	62	63	64	65	66	67
10	H	E	S	M	I	A	M	A	L	68	69	70	71	72	73	74
11	B	U	R	V	G	O	T	A	D	75	76	77	78	79	80	81
12	C	O	F	E	D	O	N	A	M	82	83	84	85	86	87	88

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

— Matthew 28:19-20 NIV



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