

Shine like stars in the world
Philippians 2:15

WESTERN Recorder

May 11, 2010
Vol. 184, No. 18

FOR THE RECORD

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Kentucky Baptists respond



Floodwaters surround Bradfordsville Baptist Church in Marion County. Two feet of water entered the sanctuary and 30 inches saturated the church's education space. (Photo courtesy of Will Pierce/Bradfordsville Baptist Church)

Disaster relief teams deployed throughout Kentucky following floods

By Erin Roach
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Louisville—Disaster relief volunteers have been deployed in several areas of Kentucky after many homes and a few churches sustained water damage from heavy rainfall during the first weekend in May.

"I would say we have about 30 volunteers around the state that are working right now, and we have made a call to the North American Mission Board for some help from other states," said Cindy Henderson, ministry assistant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Baptist Men on Mission department.

So far, the targeted areas for relief have included Bowling Green, Mercer County, Olive Hill and Bradfordsville.

Mud-out teams were winding down their work in Mercer County, Henderon said, but work soon would pick up in Bowling Green and the Nelson County area as waters recede.

In Marion County, a team was helping local residents clean up, as well as assisting at Bradfordsville Baptist Church, where water was two-feet deep throughout the sanctuary and about 30 inches deep
□ See Heavy rains, flooding prompt ... *Page 3*

GCR Task Force final report calls for new CP, NAMB focus

Nashville, Tenn.—The Great Commission Resurgence Task Force's final report, issued May 3, calls for "a new level of sacrificial giving" among Southern Baptists by "celebrating and empowering Great Commission Giving" and affirming the SBC's Cooperative Program giving channel "as the most effective means of mobilizing our churches and extending our reach."

The report also continues its call for phasing out cooperative agreements between the North American Mission Board and state Baptist conventions. It also continues the call for state conventions to "take the lead" in promoting the Cooperative Program and stewardship.

The report says that while "so much good work is being done" by Southern Baptist congregations and entities, the average Southern Baptist gives only 2.5 percent of annual income to the local church and beyond; local churches retain an average of 94 cents of every offering plate dollar; and approximately 63 percent of all Cooperative Program receipts remain in the state conventions—the greatest percentage in states with the largest Southern Baptist populations.
The report calls on Southern

Baptists "to celebrate all giving to our common work" by recognizing "the total of all monies channeled through the causes of the Southern Baptist Convention, the state conventions and associations as Great Commission Giving." It also calls on Southern Baptists "to recommit to the Cooperative Program as the central and preferred conduit of Great Commission funding, without which we would be left with no unified and cooperative strategy and commitment to the Great Commission task."

The report also focuses significantly on asking Southern Baptists to evaluate budgets at every level and maximize giving to Cooperative Program causes. It challenges Southern Baptists to meet considerable goals for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions (\$200 million annually) and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions (\$100 million annually) by 2015.

The final report also continues its call for the North American Mission Board to be "refocused and unleashed for greater effectiveness," retaining the Feb. 22 preliminary report's emphasis on making a priori
□ See Final GCR report ... *Page 6*

IMB prepared to name Meador its interim president

Chicago—International Mission Board trustees, meeting in Chicago, continued their search for a successor to IMB President Jerry Rankin and made arrangements for interim leadership if the search extends beyond Rankin's July 31 retirement.

Should a new leader not be in place by the end of July, trustees tapped IMB Executive Vice President Clyde Meador as interim president, beginning Aug. 1, "to serve until a new president is elected and assumes his responsibilities."



Clyde Meador

Meador, 65, has been executive vice president since July 2003, directing many of the board's day-to-day operations. A veteran missionary and missions administrator, Meador and his wife, Elaine, served in multiple assignments in Asia for more than 25 years before he joined the IMB home office staff in 2001.

Meanwhile, the presidential search committee is continuing its work. Committee chair Jimmy Pritchard said there was no firm timetable for a selection. (BP)

KBC board, Mathis reaffirm CP

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Bagdad—On the heels of the release of the final report from the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force, the Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board declared its support for the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists' primary missions funding channel.

The GCR Task Force released its final report and recommendations May 3, just prior to the start of last week's Mission Board meeting. Thus, much of the discussion centered around the report's details.

Recommendation No. 3 in the report calls for Southern Baptists to adopt a "Great Commission Giving" structure. According to the GCRTF report, "Great Commission Giving" would include "all monies channeled through the causes of the Southern Baptist Convention, the state conventions and associations"

Prompted by this recommendation, Mission Board members adopted a resolution to reaffirm the Cooperative Program as Southern Baptists' "funding methodology to support a wide array of Great Commission ministries and missions."

"We, as Kentucky Baptists, dedicate ourselves to finding the resources to reinforce the Cooperative Program as the essential avenue of support for missions and ministries," the resolution states.

In remarks to Mission Board members, KBC President Don Mathis urged Kentucky Baptists to resist any effort to group Cooperative Program giving with that of other missions giving, "even under the banner of 'Great Commission Giving.'"

"When we place other giving on the same level as Cooperative Program, that will be the destruction of the Cooperative Program," he warned.

□ See KBC Mission Board, president ... *Page 2*

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, May 12

Mission Board endorses budget, names Baker as team leader

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Bagdad—Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board members voted last week to endorse the details of a \$23.5 million Cooperative Program budget for 2010-11.

Meeting May 3-4 at Cedarmore Camp and Conference Center, board members also named a new KBC staff team leader and approved the creation of a multiethnic missions and ministries department.

The CP budget goal, approved by KBC messengers last November, is a 4 percent decrease over the current \$24.48 million budget. It does, however, represent a 2.1 percent increase over the \$23 million working budget the KBC has been operating under this fiscal year because of the economic downturn.

The KBC downgraded next year's budget goal in order to get in line with giving during the current economic slump, noted Lowell Ashby, KBC's business services team leader.

The 2010-11 budget does, however, include a 0.63 percent increase in Cooperative Program funds being shifted from Kentucky Baptist to Southern Baptist Convention causes. The percentage allocation will be 62 percent for KBC ministries, while SBC ministries will receive 38 percent.

The budget proposal came amid a slightly more positive report that Cooperative Program receipts had moved ahead of last year's by about 1.6 percent.

According to Ashby, CP giving through March is right in line with the \$23 million adjusted fiscal year budget.

While a great deal of discussion at last week's meeting centered on the Cooperative Program's future in the wake of the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force's May 3 report, Ashby reiterated Kentucky Baptists' "high dependence" on CP.

"Nothing affects the work in Kentucky more than Cooperative Program," he said, adding that 90 percent of the KBC budget

comes from Cooperative Program gifts.

Board members also addressed a pair of personnel matters at last week's meeting.

Larry Baker was approved as the KBC's missions growth team leader. He has led the team in an interim capacity since January following the retirement of former team leader Randy Jones last year.

Baker has served as the KBC's new work and associational missions department director since 2004, overseeing church planting and ethnic ministries across the state. He will maintain those duties in addition to his role as missions growth team leader.

"I was concerned about overloading him, but he seems to have the capacity to manage this with the help of a great team," KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey said of Baker.

Prior to his convention work, Baker was director of missions for Christian County Baptist Association. He also served as an International Mission Board missionary to Ecuador and Peru.

New department approved

In his new role, Baker will oversee the KBC's new multiethnic missions and ministries department, which the Mission Board approved the creation of last week.

Ethnic work in Kentucky has expanded rapidly since the KBC began an intentional shift from ministry to church planting with Hispanics back in 2005, Baker said.

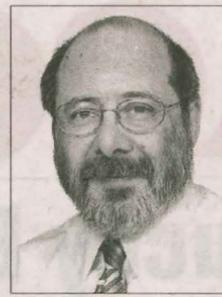
Since that time, "we have seen just a tremendous influx of other ethnic groups coming into Kentucky," he noted, adding that the KBC currently is working with nearly 20 church plants of various people groups.

The department will be headed by Carlos De la Barra, whom the Mission Board approved unanimously as its director. De la Barra, a Chile native, has served as the KBC's ethnic associate since 2008.

As director of the multiethnic missions and ministries department, De la Barra



Larry Baker



Carlos De la Barra

will supervise six Hispanic regional missionaries, a South Asian Indian missionary and a deaf missionary. He also will oversee four church planting specialists from the Nehemiah Project, a joint venture of the KBC, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and the North American Mission Board.

"I think it's a historic day when we can say to all our Kentucky Baptists that we care about the people groups that we find right here in our own state," Baker said.

Find It Here report

Mission Board members also heard reports and up-to-date tallies from the statewide Find It Here campaign that culminated on Easter Sunday.

Ross Bauscher, KBC's evangelism growth team leader, reported that as of late April, 1,939 response cards distributed through the door-to-door packets had been received by the convention.

Of those responses:

- 954 people indicated they would be willing to explore more about faith in Jesus Christ.

- 553 people made a decision to come to faith in Jesus Christ.

- 366 people said they wanted to make their faith in Christ public.

- 898 people said they wanted to restore a relationship with Christ or rededicate their lives to Him.

- 165 people said they wanted someone from a local Southern Baptist church to contact them.

- 160 people indicated they wanted follow-up visits from a Southern Baptist church.

John Mark Toby, pastor of Beacon Hill Baptist Church in Somerset, reported that 1.4 million Kentucky households were reached through Find It Here; 68 of 71 state Baptist associations participated, encompassing approximately 1,700 churches; and as many as 2.8 million Kentuckians were reached at least three and a half times by the Find It Here advertising campaign.

"I saw a cooperative spirit—a sense of unity between churches, associations (and) state conventions," Bauscher said. "I saw pastors cooperating with one another, not competing against one another. There was a kingdom mindset that has been renewed in Find It Here."

In recognition of that cooperative spirit, board members approved a resolution of appreciation for Kentucky Baptists' Find It Here efforts. The statement applauded the work of Kentucky pastors, directors of missions, church members, as well as the KBC staff and NAMB.

In other business:

- Board members approved a resolution of appreciation for Kentucky Baptists' disaster relief efforts for Haiti following the devastating Jan. 12 earthquake. The resolution recognized the 9,650 Buckets of Hope for Haiti donated by Kentucky Baptists, as well as the \$490,000 in relief funds given through the KBC.

- Alan Dodson, pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church in Lexington, will become chair of the administrative committee, filling the role vacated by Corbin pastor Darren Gaddis, who has accepted a call to become pastor at First Baptist Church of Ocala, Fla. Gaddis, a former KBC president, served as administrative committee chair for three years.

KBC Mission Board, president reaffirm commitment to Cooperative Program

Continued from page 1

Acknowledging the growing trend among Southern Baptist churches away from giving to CP, the Mission Board's resolution decrees Kentucky Baptists must "recommit ourselves to leading our churches to wholehearted and increased support of the Cooperative Program."

Mathis suggested that if all Kentucky Baptist churches gave at least 5 percent more of their undesignated receipts to CP over five years, there would \$4 million more for Kentucky Baptist missions and ministries. That even factors in a 50-50 split among Kentucky and Southern Baptist causes, he explained.

Kentucky Baptists also would be able to contribute millions of dollars more to both mission boards and the seminaries, Mathis noted.

"We do not need to be arguing over the pie; we need a bigger pie," he said.

Noting that the SBC and KBC need leaders who value the Cooperative Program, Mathis said he no longer would vote for any officer candidate in SBC life who does not lead his church to give at least 10 percent to CP.

"We must have leadership that reflects by example—sacrificial Cooperative Program support," he said.

Addressing other aspects of the GCRTF report, Mathis said he did not want to see the dissolution of the cooperative agree-

ments between the North American Mission Board and state conventions.

The report calls for phasing out the agreements—which provide more than \$50 million from NAMB to state convention work—over seven years. The task force initially proposed a four-year phase-out period.

Without the agreements, Mathis pointed out, the KBC would lose out on \$1 million—4.3 percent of next year's budget.

"Could we live without it in Kentucky? Absolutely," he said. "It would be difficult, but we still ... do not need to lose that."

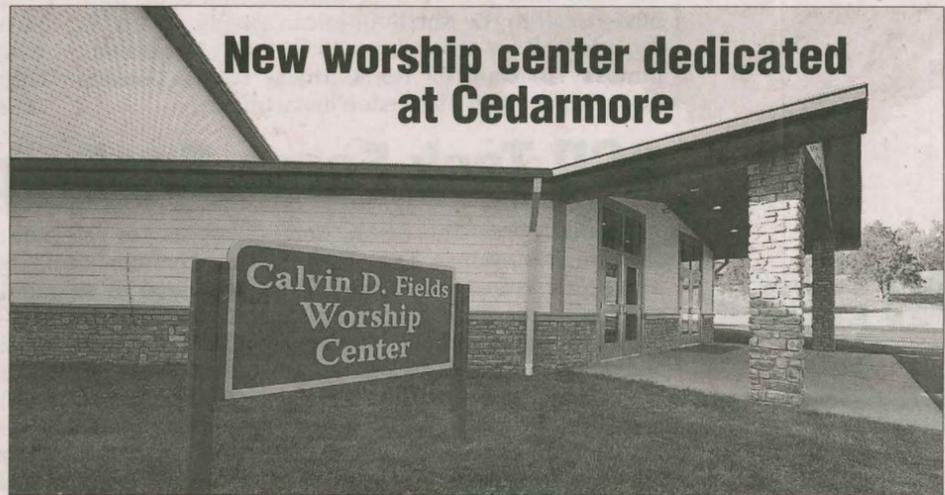
But the effect on neighboring state conventions would be devastating, Mathis said, pointing to West Virginia, Ohio and Indiana.

"All of the oxygen would be taken out of their bodies if the cooperative agreements are gone," he warned.

Suggesting that even 99 years would not be long enough to phase out the cooperative agreements, Mathis insisted they should remain because they have unified Southern Baptists through the years.

"I'm convinced that the Cooperative Program and the cooperative agreements probably held us together when we did not agree on a lot of other things," he said. "Let's not dissolve it at all."

New worship center dedicated at Cedarmore



Bagdad—As part of last week's Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board meeting, Kentucky Baptist Assemblies held a dedication ceremony for the new Calvin D. Fields Worship Center at Cedarmore Camp.

The 15,432-square-foot facility was completed in time to host the Mission Board, making it the first group to meet there.

The worship center is named for Calvin Fields, who served for nearly 16 years in the KBC's Brotherhood (now Baptist Men on Mission) department. But, Fields may have been best known as leader of Cedarmore's Royal Ambassadors Camp for many years.

Recognizing the long history of Cedarmore, Assemblies President David Melber said the numerous stories of Fields' impact on children's lives over the years should inspire all Kentucky Baptists.

"You think about how many kids ... listened to (Fields) give direction, offer them correction and share the love of Christ," Mel-

ber said. "And to hear people in this room today share the stories of what it meant for him to be their leader, it challenges me. It should challenge all of us to consider what we are doing with our time."

Fields' youngest son, Randy, a member of Crestwood Baptist Church, said his father, who also served as a pastor for several churches, "was not focused on big things."

Randy said his father believed a church should grow to only 250 members and then split. With the worship center bearing his name capable of seating 750 people, Randy joked that the facility would have violated one of his father's fundamental principles.

Noting that more than 10,000 students and adults will attend Crossings Camps at Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek this summer, Randy Fields said, "The exciting thing for me is the opportunity for more people to continue to be reached for His kingdom in this facility. It just thrills my heart."

Louisville pastor promoted to Air National Guard colonel

By Todd Deaton
Editor

Louisville—Tom Curry, pastor of Parkland Baptist Church in Louisville for more than 25 years, was promoted to the rank of colonel in the Kentucky Air National Guard during a May 2 ceremony.

With 24 years of traditional military service—all of which has been as a chaplain for the 123rd Airlift Wing—Curry recently was named as an assistant to the command chaplain at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois.

During the promotion ceremony, Norman Mitchell, a deacon at Parkland Baptist, recalled how as a boy, Curry's heart had quickened at the sound of a roar overhead as a silver object blazed a trail across the sky. "Some saw an airplane; Tom saw a dream," Mitchell said.

But the Lord had a different plan for his life, and Curry followed as God led, Mitchell explained. Then in 1984, when Curry returned to Louisville after serving in Louisiana, "God showed Tom how to accomplish his love for flying and the ministry," Mitchell said.

Lt. Col. Bob Williams, a retired chaplain with the 123rd Airlift Wing, urged Curry to consider joining the Air National Guard as a chaplain. Curry said he quickly

realized that God was bringing together his childhood dream with his spiritual calling.

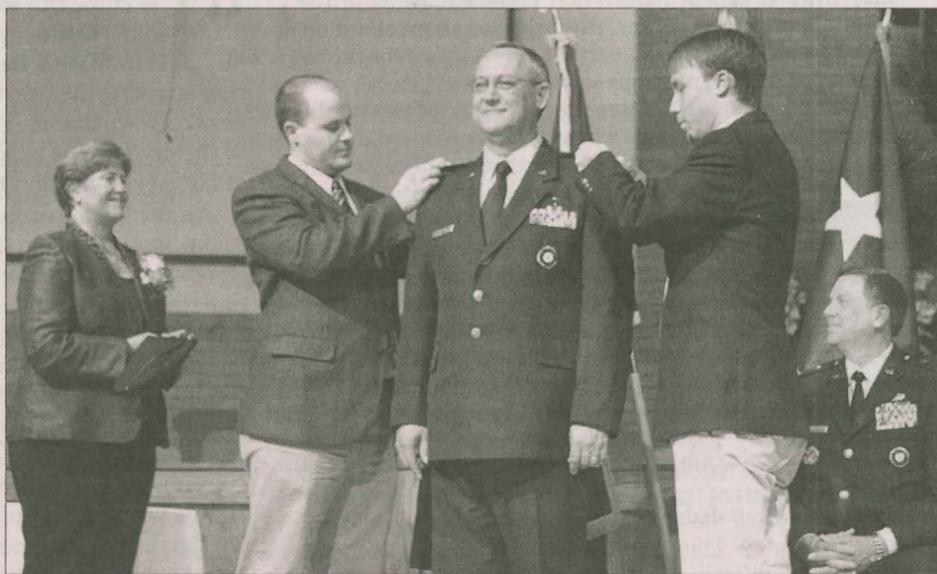
"God put both dreams together though (Williams') pointed finger," Curry told the Parkland congregation. "But without your support for 24 years, I could not wear this uniform, and I am grateful for all of you," he said, after his wife, Linda, and sons James and Daniel pinned the "full-bird" eagle insignia on his cap and uniform.

"You are a prime example of a church on mission; I salute you for being a Great Commission congregation," Curry added. "You have afforded me with an opportunity to minister in the best of both worlds."

Maj. Gen. Edward Tonini, adjutant general of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, expressed his deep appreciation to Parkland Baptist members for "giving up their pastor so freely to serve the people who wear the blue uniform."

A rare accomplishment

In the Air National Guard, achieving a rank of colonel is very difficult, Tonini observed. For Curry, the promotion recognizes not just extensive service to Kentucky, but also his being elevated to a national post at the Air Mobility Command, Tonini said. Fewer than 1 percent of all Air Force



AT ATTENTION Lt. Col. Tom Curry, pastor of Parkland Baptist Church in Louisville, stands proud as his sons James and Daniel pin the "full-bird" eagle insignia on his uniform, while Curry's wife, Linda, pins the insignia to her husband's hat. Seated behind them, Maj. Gen. Edward Tonini, Kentucky's adjutant general, looks on. (Photo by Todd Deaton)

officers earn the rank, he noted.

Calling Chaplain Curry "a brother who walks with you as the rest of the world walks on," Tonini and Col. Conrado Navarro, command chaplain for the U.S. Trans-

portation Command and Air Mobility Command, with whom Curry will be working, commended Curry for being a steady source of support, comfort and encouragement to countless Kentuckians.

Heavy rains, flooding prompt Kentucky Baptist disaster relief call-out

Continued from page 1

in the education space of the facility.

"The water came up in just a couple of hours and went down just as quick," said Will Pierce, pastor of Bradfordsville Baptist. "It turned over all the pews and we lost over half the hymnals and Bibles that were in the pews."

"Of course the carpet was all ruined. We pulled up the carpet and carpet pad and the previous layer of carpet and found some old maple hardwood floors that we're trying to sand and see if we can't just work with that for the time being," Pierce noted.

Despite damage to its building, the church has been heading up a feeding program at the local civic center to minister to people whose homes were affected by the flooding. In a town with just more than 300 people, Pierce reported about 20 homes sustained major damage.

"I've been here less than a year, and obviously this wasn't included in the seminary training," said Pierce, a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. "But it's going to be good for our church. It's brought us already a lot closer together, working with a common purpose of being a light to our community."

"We're working on getting our church back together so we can worship together on Sunday," Pierce said. "It will be a 'bring your own seat Sunday' because the pews have been taken out to dry out at somebody's house."

At Lancaster Baptist Church in Garrard County, water ruined the carpet in the basement where the nursery and children's classrooms are located. Michael York, the church's associate pastor, attributed the flooding not to a local body of water overflowing but to storm drains backing up when the area received about seven inches of rain in four hours May 2.

"Thankfully we've got a great group of deacons who, since the flood, have been up here quite a bit checking things and doing as much work as they can so they can save the church money," York said.

At Buck Run Baptist Church in Frankfort, church members were relieved that water from Elkhorn Creek only entered

the crawl space under the church and covered the first step of their entrance. The creek, which normally flows at four feet, was flowing at 13 feet by last Wednesday and water remained in the church's parking lot.

The KBC's Henderson said several volunteers were on site in Rowan County, working in Olive Hill and other areas. Also, residents were stacking sandbags in Livingston County ahead of expected flooding there.

"Because of the problems down in the Nashville area, they are not able to let water through the dams in Kentucky," she explained. "The water is backing up and just now causing problems in a lot of areas."

Henderson said only mud-out teams had been deployed as of last Thursday.

"Most of the local churches are pitching in and helping to feed our volunteers

as well as feeding community members," she said. "No feeding units are out. There just aren't enough people in the shelters to warrant that right now."

Kentucky Baptist volunteers involved in the effort have come from across the state, including: Ashland, Bowling Green, California, Campbellsville, DeMossville, Ewing, Grayson, Hartford, Lebanon, Lewisburg, Lexington, Louisville, Mercer County, Maysville, Monticello, Morning View, Richmond, Shepherdsville, Simpsonville, Somerset, Williamstown and Utica.

Call for volunteers

Additional volunteers still are needed for the effort. Those who are interested should call the KBC's Baptist Men on Mission department at (502) 489-3527, or toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3527, or by e-mail at Cindy.Henderson@KyBaptist.org.



WATER EVERYWHERE The church sign at Bradfordsville Baptist Church is nearly swallowed by floodwaters after the area received heavy rainfall May 2. In the town with just more than 300 residents, about 20 homes sustained major damage. (Photos courtesy of Will Pierce/Bradfordsville Baptist Church)



CLEAN-UP BEGINS Members of Bradfordsville Baptist Church clean pews after removing them from the sanctuary, which sustained damage from two feet of water throughout the facility. The pews were transported to a nearby garage to dry out.

Appreciation to directors of missions

May 16-22 is Baptist Association Emphasis Week in the Southern Baptist Convention. This provides an excellent opportunity for me to express heartfelt appreciation for the association directors of missions serving in Kentucky.

Partners in the Mission



By Bill Mackey

DOMs were at the center of two resolutions passed by the Mission Board during the May 3-4 meeting at Cedarmore. One expressed appreciation to Kentucky Baptists for the Buckets of Hope project for Haiti food relief. The second focused on appreciation to all who assisted with the Find It Here campaign, which depended on local associations to enlist churches.

Please join with me in celebrating what God did through Find It Here in Kentucky as you read this resolution:

"WHEREAS, the Kentucky Baptist Convention embraced a sowing process called

Find It Here as part of the 10-year God's Plan for Sharing evangelism initiative of the North American Mission Board; and

"WHEREAS, 68 Kentucky Baptist associations embraced and coordinated a plan to pray down every road and street in Kentucky and place 1.4 million salvation brochures and invitations to attend Easter services on the doors of homes in every county of Kentucky; and

"WHEREAS, nearly 1,700 Kentucky Baptist churches and an estimated 42,000 Kentucky Baptists of all ages and physical abilities participated in praying down every street and road in Kentucky and sowing down nearly 1.4 households with a gospel presentation;

"NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we express our gratitude to the North American Mission Board for initiating the vision for God's Plan for Sharing (GPS); and

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our heartfelt gratitude to the Kentucky Baptist Convention staff who worked effectively across KBC teams to contextualize the Find It Here process for Kentucky; and

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our deep gratitude to the associational directors of mission who led their associations to adopt the Find It Here process and develop the logistics to conduct the prayer walking and sowing events; and

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we commend the pastors and leaders of the 1,700 KBC churches who led their churches to look outside the walls of their church buildings and to reach out with love and compassion to the de-churched and far from God; and

"BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that we express joy and appreciation for the thousands of Kentucky Baptists who participated in the prayer walking, gospel distribution and many other activities related to this Great Commission endeavor in an effort to reach every home in Kentucky with a gospel presentation."

Praise God for all that He has done and for the work of our Kentucky Baptist associations. I am so grateful for these vital partners in fulfilling the Great Commission.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Warning sounded over GCR recommendations

"I've come this morning to sound a word of warning," Kentucky Baptist Convention President Don Mathis began. "Who could have believed that studying the Great Commission by anybody would be of concern to some of us?" From his opening remarks to the unanimous adoption of a resolution at the close of last week's Mission Board meeting, it was readily apparent that key Kentucky Baptist leaders have strong reservations about some recommendations being advanced by the SBC Great Commission Resurgence Task Force.

Kentucky Baptists were urged to resist any effort to place the Cooperative Program in any group of missions giving in such fashion as to make it appear to be a subset—even under the banner of "Great Commission Giving." Mathis warned that placing other giving on the same level as the Cooperative Program will lead to its destruction. Such a move dilutes its foundational importance as the denomination's unified giving plan for supporting missions and ministries. Putting CP on the same par with designated giving also might give impetus to a societal approach in which churches direct gifts only to favored interests and causes.

In a May 4 conference call with state editors after the release of the task force's report, when asked why its members persisted in making such a distinction under the Great Commission Giving banner, Albert Mohler, president of Southern Seminary and a task force member, responded, "Because the Cooperative Program is a tightly defined means of giving." Rather than changing the way the Cooperative Program is defined, they chose to recognize the difference between CP giving and designated giving. "They are not the same thing; that's why Cooperative Program giving is privileged and is stated first," Mohler noted. "But we do want to recognize other giving, and we want Southern Baptists to be able to celebrate all giving that is to Southern Baptist causes at the associational, state or SBC levels," he explained. The Cooperative Program is not set over against Great Commission Giving, but rather is viewed as "its first and central component," he maintained.

Another reservation of KBC leaders concerns the demise of the cooperative agreements between state conventions and the North American Mission Board. Dissolving these agreements does not just mean a loss of dollars that could threaten some of the work of state conventions—particularly in pioneer states—it also disintegrates essential, long-standing working relationships, Mathis argued. "The cooperative agreement brings together the state conventions with NAMB in a fashion that we don't want to lose, because it allows us to do, as 42 state conventions in harmony, that which God has laid on our hearts through NAMB and through the state conventions in a fashion we would not be able to do otherwise," he explained.

Many state convention executives in pioneer regions

fear losing funding for key personnel and vital ministries as NAMB shifts its focus toward the nation's urban areas. Task Force Chairman Ronnie Floyd, however, insisted this fear is unfounded. NAMB leaders have identified a metropolitan region in each of those states, he objected. "Obviously, our heart is to go where the people are and make as big a difference as we can," he added. "But we also said we want to reach the underserved areas"—which by implication includes pioneer areas.

Mathis advocated a better solution: "What we really need is CPR—a Cooperative Program resurgence."

Echoing a common outcry, he assessed, "We do not need to be arguing over the pie; we need a bigger pie." Mathis boldly declared that he would no longer vote for anybody running for SBC office who does not lead his church to give at least 10 percent to CP. "We must have leadership that reflects by example—sacrificial Cooperative Program support," he urged. "Leadership must be modeled, or it's not leadership at all."

The task force's report regrettably refrained from promoting a call for all churches to move toward giving 10 percent to CP. In the Mission Board's resolution, however, Kentucky Baptists recommitted themselves to leading churches to wholehearted and increased support of the Cooperative Program through the giving of a percentage of undesignated receipts. And, they likewise pledged to "give our best efforts to raise up, train and elect leaders who demonstrate a sacrificial commitment to the Cooperative Program."

A welcomed addition to the GCR's final report is the host of challenges aimed at individuals, families, pastors, churches, associations, state conventions, agencies, SBC leaders and others. Floyd explained, "I think it comes down to a real desire to make the GCR personalized—a desire to give specific actions to people." SBC President Johnny Hunt added, "We realize that until it gets back to a deeper and greater commitment to the Great Commission on the part of the local church, it is never going to happen. ... When we begin to challenge our people, I believe everything will rise."

In a Mission Board devotion, Darren Gaddis, outgoing chairman of the KBC administrative committee, insightfully observed, "There are many wonderful and admirable things that I've seen in the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force report, but the heart of what I think this Great Commission resurgence ought to be about is a return to the understanding of what it means to be a disciple." Indeed, the key to experiencing a resurgence is understanding that the gospel is a call to discipleship that includes—not as an option, but as requirement—sharing the good news with others. Gaddis is right: "If we will just embrace this one truth, we will receive the greatest resurgence in the life of our convention that has ever been seen."

After Thought

By Todd Deaton



Tennessee journalist: 'A flood I'll never forget'

By Lonnie Wilkey

Like many residents of West and Middle Tennessee I closely monitored the weather and all the related activity that went on two weekends ago. I have lived in Nashville almost 28 years and have never seen so much rain in such a short time. After living through our recent flood, I certainly have a greater appreciation for Noah and his family.

We only had two intense days of rain and flooding. Imagine what Noah must have felt after 40 days and 40 nights. What's more, he had a lot of company on that ark. Fortunately, we could live through this flood, knowing of God's promise never to destroy the earth again by flooding.

But we were reminded of the pow-

er of God and His control over nature. The sights we saw that weekend will be forever etched on my mind.

One in particular stands out. A portable classroom from a Christian school broke from its foundation and ended up floating along I-24. Television cameras soon picked up its path and aired the drama. Soon the swift currents began slamming cars into the building and before one's eyes, it literally fell apart.

Hundreds of people had to be rescued and thousands of people were evacuated from their homes. At least 18 people were killed due to the flooding throughout the state.

Tennessee Baptists, along with other denominations, stepped to the forefront by providing emergen-

cy shelters to people displaced from their homes. No doubt that in the months ahead, disaster relief volunteers will be called upon to provide cleanup from the damage caused by the flooding and high winds.

As I reflect on the weekend, I don't see how anyone can doubt the power of God and the fact that nature is under His control. There was a lot of damage and some lives were lost, but it could have been much worse. The Bible tells us over and over we are not exempt from trouble and tribulation. But it also tells us to "fear not" for He has overcome the world (John 16:33).

Continue to pray for those affected and assist where you can, showing the love of Christ as you go. (BP)

Lonnie Wilkey is editor of the Baptist and Reflector, newsjournal of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

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June Rice, Paintsville;
Wayne Spivey, Harrodsburg;
Dan Summerlin, Paducah.

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

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

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

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

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

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'Gap year' provides opportunity for missions, service

I still remember the summer that I spent in Alaska in 1983. I was 20 years old, had just finished my first year at Campbellsville College after two years of community college, and I was going to win the world with the gospel—or at least all of Homer, Alaska. The lessons I learned that summer about me and about ministry have shaped me and my ministry from then on.

That is why this May, when I usually write about saying goodbye to our seniors and suggest steps to help them transition to college, I want to offer a deeper challenge. Don't misunderstand me: It is still very important that we have a plan and people in place to walk our students through this transition. We do tend to lose track of students between the last year of youth group and their first year of being adults in the congregation, and we do need to do a better job of helping them to transition.

But this year, let's begin the process of challenging our students after they graduate high school and before they start college to spend between six months and a year in service to God. Go overseas, work in an orphanage in Africa or with an IMB missionary in Greece, move to a different part of our country and work in a community center, or work alongside a church planter. Get out and go.

Richard Ross, professor of student

ministry at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, calls this period "a gap year." It is a year to refine who you are, to serve God and man selflessly, to give more than you take, and to discover more of who you are in Christ.

Why now and not later? One reason is the boldness of teenagers at this age. Another is that they aren't afraid of much of anything, and many have enough self confidence already to conquer the world. Yet another reason is that stu-

life. No college loans, no mortgage payments or household expenses. Yes, it may tax us as parents to have to carry the loan on their car or not to have them down the hall for a little while longer, but they are ready.

Through the armed forces, we train 18 year olds in eight weeks to protect our country's freedom all over the world. At 18, we allow them to vote and help to determine the political future of our nation and also hold them legally accountable for their actions. But as a church and as parents, we are reluctant to let them lead, serve or do.

I have heard Ross call for a gap year for a while, and maybe it hits home a

little more this summer than in the past because our daughter Karen is heading off to Alaska. It's a different stage of life for her, and life obligations have presented some challenges for her to deal with that would not have been there five years ago when she graduated high school.

This isn't her first journey either. She started giving up her summers after her junior year of high school. She has been on the camp staff for Kentucky WMU at Cedar Crest, working with GA's and Acteens. She spent a summer in Slovenia and two summers as a youth and children's intern in Kentucky.

In many ways, this is her gap time. She's not coming home on weekends or working with people I already knew, and maybe it's the one way ticket that we purchased with no return date in mind.

The biggest hurdle in the gap year idea is the parents. Letting our sons and daughters take off for a year can be frightening. They have scholarship offers they may lose, they will get behind their peers who go straight to college, or there are a thousand other reasons we think it's not a good idea. Not everyone will do it and initial reactions may be mixed, yet it "only takes a spark to get a fire going."

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

Youth Ministry Corner



Joe Ball

Let's challenge our students to spend between six months and a year in service to God.

Topics for premarital counseling

By Scott Wigginton

Q: My girlfriend and I recently became engaged and are planning to marry in December after her graduation from college. How long should pre-marital counseling take and what it should include?



A: Consider pre-marital counseling a prep school as you ready yourselves to enter marriage—potentially one of God's greatest schools of higher education. Ideally, if your pastor has the time and has been motivated to do adequate preparation, he is a great person to help you prepare for marriage.

There are a variety of options in the way Christian marriage preparation is delivered. You may take classes, read books, take assessments, receive counseling, or watch tapes. Following are topics which may be addressed:

- ×Biblical perspectives on marriage—includes proper and improper reasons for marriage, God's purposes for Christian marriage, biblical headship and submission.
- ×Intimacy and the languages of love—includes how to understand intimacy, communication, gender differences and love languages.
- ×Financial management—identifies scriptural principles of stewardship and money management, encourages couples to identify strengths and growing edges.
- ×Goals, roles and decision-making in marriage—helps couples reflect on the importance of the goals, the roles they assume, and decision-making styles.
- ×Conflict management—encourages couples to think biblically about how to handle anger and anxiety.
- ×Personality inventories—assists couples to understand how they are alike and different, and to utilize this knowledge in working together.

Ideally, I like to have three to six months before the wedding to prepare, doing six to eight sessions.

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

Flexibility in timing charitable gifts

By Laurie Valentine

A Donor Advised Fund is a giving plan that provides the giver immediate tax benefits and the input on future distributions. A DAF is established through gifts to a public charity under an agreement in which the giver retains for himself/herself, and possibly others, the right to make recommendations for future distributions out of their DAF to other charitable organizations. Those recommendations can be for distributions of the DAF's income and/or principal.

Gifts to a DAF are deductible in the year they are made, whether or not there is any charitable distribution out of the DAF during that year.

A DAF is a good charitable giving plan for people who want flexibility in timing their charitable support. A gift can be made to your DAF at a time when it may be most advantageous for tax-planning purposes without having to immediately decide what charitable causes/projects the gift will ultimately support.

A DAF can also be an excellent tool for teaching philanthropy to children. Including children as "advisors" of the family's DAF gives them the opportunity to learn first-hand, as the family makes decisions about charitable distribution recommendations together, how their parents approach philanthropy, which organizations they value most and why, and what their parents expect from charitable organizations they support.

Children should be encouraged to share their own distribution recommendation suggestions during the annual "family conference." Older children and teens should be expected to present information about the organization for which they are recommending a DAF distribution and why they believe that organization deserves the level of support they are recommending.

Encouraging older children to not only be part of the decision-making, but also donors to the DAF results in even more "buy in." They are not just making decisions about giving away mom and dad's money, but also their own. Donor advised funds provide flexibility in timing philanthropic support to charitable causes important to you and a method for "growing" giving children.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.

The 'hypocrisy' of 'Great Commission Giving'

By Les Puryear

Recently, in a conversation I had with a SBC seminary president, he told me that "gracious giving" begins with giving 10 percent to the church undesignated. He was quick to make the point that "gracious giving" should not be limited to 10 percent but should be greater than that.

In a blog post, I solicited quotes from SBC leaders in support of storehouse tithing. These leaders included, among others, Al Mohler, Danny Akin and Johnny Hunt. Every one of these SBC leaders teaches that church members should give at least 10 percent of their income undesignated to their local church. I agree wholeheartedly with the positions on giving that these men preach and teach. That is why I am so disappointed in the recommendation of the GCR task force in regard to "Great Commission Giving."

The concept of Great Commission Giving sounds so noble and good and right. It sounds like an innovative way to get more money to missions. This is something with which we all agree, right? The only problem with Great Commission Giving is that underneath the rhetoric about giving more to missions is the fact that this concept is nothing more than advocating designated giving at the expense of undesignated giving.

If church members practiced Great Commission Giving in their church, I dare say these same pastors would howl and scream against such an unbiblical practice.

The final report of the GCRTF is filled with rhetoric about the Cooperative Program being the main channel of giving in the SBC. But at the same time, the report seeks to legitimize designated giving to missions as well. Now if the report had said that every church is encouraged to give at least 10 percent to the Cooperative Program and every penny above that can be contributed in a designated fashion and the combination of these would be a new giving paradigm known as Great Commission Giving, then I would shout "Hooray!" But that is not what the report advocates.

Most small church pastors are doing their very best to keep their churches financially solvent. Many are striving for this at great sacrifice to themselves and their families. But most small church pastors tithe because they believe it is biblical and they believe they should model biblical principles to the church where God has placed them.

The ongoing ministry of small churches (83.4 percent of all SBC churches) depends upon tithing for the church to survive. What would happen to these small churches if everyone decided to ignore the biblical concept of undesignated giving of the tithe and changed to designated giving to their favorite cause? The church would not be able to pay its bills, salaries, upkeep on the property and would, eventually, die.

The concept of Great Commission Giving is the same as undesignated giving in the local church. This is equivalent to the disgruntled church member who, because he disagrees with what the church is doing, redirects his giving to his pet projects and gives nothing for the daily operations of the church. This attitude seems to be prevalent among more affluent members of the church. They use their giving as a weapon to get what they want done. The constant threat is, "If you don't do what I want, I'll stop giving." Is this attitude any different in the framers of Great Commission Giving?

In the title of this article, I purposely used the word "hypocrisy." Now this is a strong word, but I think it is an accurate word. Although most of our affluent churches teach and preach undesignated tithing to the local church, they do not practice undesignated tithing to the SBC. Is it not hypocritical to preach tithing to the local church and not practice tithing through CP?

When affluent churches do not tithe to CP, they are saying that the ministries that depend on CP giving are not as valuable as their favorite ministries. They are saying that state conventions are not valuable to their needs, so they choose not to cooperate for the good of all churches.

I think that is the bottom line here. Affluent churches don't see the value of cooperating with other churches through CP giving. There is nothing in it for them, so why should they give more through CP?

Great Commission Giving demonstrates that the spirit of cooperation, which used to be a hallmark of the SBC, is fading away into "How is this going to accomplish what I want to do?" Instead of our churches impacting the culture around us for Christ, the culture has had more impact on us. Perhaps this is the real reason that SBC churches are doing so poorly in accomplishing the Great Commission. (BP) Les Puryear is pastor of Lewisville (N.C.) Baptist Church.



FIRST PERSON

Is it not hypocritical to preach tithing to the local church and not practice tithing through CP?

GCRTF report includes 'challenges' for all Southern Baptists

Nashville, Tenn.—In addition to its list of seven recommendations, the final report of the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force also includes a list of "challenges" spanning all areas of Southern Baptist life.

The nine-page challenge section encompasses 10 different groups, from individual Christians, to churches and pastors, local Baptist associations and state Baptist conventions, various Southern Baptist Convention entities and SBC leaders.

"We hold to an ecclesiology that honors and affirms both autonomy and cooperation. The Great Commission Resurgence Task Force is well aware of this, and we realize that we cannot direct individual Christians, local churches, associations or state conventions to take any particular or specific action. This is as it should be," the task force stated in a note regarding the list of challenges.

"However, our doctrine of the church does not prevent us from challenging and encouraging, admonishing and advising, one another at all levels of SBC life for greater passion and effectiveness in pursuing the Great Commission," the note continued. "With all of this in mind, we wish to put forth the following as challenges for the future of the SBC that we might bring greater glory to the Lord Jesus as we seek to disciple all nations in the fulfillment of Matthew 28:18-20."

Among the GCRTF's challenges are:

For individual Christians

- Return to God in deep repentance of and brokenness over sin, denying self and coming to God with complete humility.

- Bear witness to the gospel through personal evangelism, seeing every individual as a sinner in need of the salvation that comes through Jesus Christ alone.

- Participate in a North American or international mission trip sponsored by your church or association at least once every four years.

- Grow in giving as a faithful financial steward with at least 10 percent of your income going to your local church. However, see 10 percent as a place to begin in grace giving but not the place to stop.

- Determine to exercise a greater level of stewardship through estate planning and planned giving, leaving a percentage of your estate to your local church, the Cooperative Program and to a faithful Baptist entity such as NAMB, IMB, a Baptist college or our seminaries.

For families

- Emphasize biblical gender roles with believing fathers taking the lead in modeling Great Commission Christianity and taking the primary responsibility for the spiritual welfare of their families.

- Recognize that parents have the primary responsibility of educating their children and helping them cultivate a Christian worldview way of thinking and living.

- Develop strategies as a family for praying for, serving and sharing the gospel with neighbors, co-workers and others with whom family members come into

regular contact.

- Adopt a different unreached people group each month and pray as a family for IMB missionaries working with the people group; for the conversion, baptism and discipling of countless individuals within the people group; and for the establishment of biblical churches among the people group.

- Spend a family vacation participating in a local church or association-sponsored mission trip.

For churches & pastors

- Lead your church by calling a Solemn Assembly in January 2011 for the purpose of calling Christ's people to return to God, to repentance and to humility in service to a renewed commitment to Christ and the Great Commission. We request that the newly-elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention lead Southern Baptists in this effort.

- Become knowledgeable of the mission field of your specific region, identifying the various people groups and developing a strategy to penetrate the lostness in your region. Be intentional in working with your local association, state convention and NAMB in pursuing this task.

- Work to cultivate a Great Commission atmosphere that is contagious in your church and becomes the DNA of the pastor, staff, adults, students, youth and children of your local body of Christ.

- Working with the IMB and NAMB,

On the Web ...

Read the entire list of challenges from the GCR Task Force online at WesternRecorder.org

Final GCR report calls for changes in NAMB, Cooperative Program focus

Continued from page 1

ty of church planting, reaching cities and "underserved regions and people groups" and clarifying NAMB's role "to conduct and direct a strategy of reaching the United States and Canada with the gospel and planting gospel churches."

The Feb. 22 report proposed that NAMB decentralize operations into seven regions and recommended releasing the entity from cooperative agreements with state conventions over the course of four years to free up money for national strategy. The new report recommends decentralization, but without a specific number of regions, and suggests phasing out cooperative agreements in their current form over seven years.

The final report acknowledges that partnerships between NAMB and the state Baptist conventions are essential, but calls for the cooperative agreements to be replaced "with a more appropriate structure and pattern of cooperation." It calls on NAMB to budget for a national missions strategy and to "establish a new pattern of strategic partnership with the state conventions that will penetrate lostness and ensure greater responsiveness to the Southern Baptist Convention and greater effectiveness for NAMB in the appointment of missionary personnel and church planters."

The final report also urges NAMB to adopt a strategy that shifts priorities toward under-evangelized areas of the country. "If we are going to reach the 258 million lost people in the United States and Canada, we must address the fact that the vast majority of our Cooperative Program mission funds devoted to North America are expended in the most evangelized regions of our work," the report says.

The final report continues the call of the preliminary report for state Baptist conventions to "take the lead" in promoting the Cooperative Program giving channel and educating Southern Baptists in the area of stewardship.

The report asserts that promotion of the Cooperative Program originally lay with the states and

it was only in the 1995 "Covenant for a New Century" SBC reorganization that CP promotion was assigned to the Executive Committee. It notes that state conventions "have the mechanisms in place to collect and promote the Cooperative Program" and that CP "has been their historic role and continuing passion."

However, the final report also acknowledges that the national convention must be involved in promoting both cooperative missions giving and stewardship. "This means an important and continuing leadership role for the SBC Executive Committee as well," the report states. "We strongly encourage the Executive Committee ... to work with the state conventions, charged with the responsibility of Cooperative Program and stewardship education, in developing a strategy for encouraging our churches to greater participation and investment in the Cooperative Program."

"Our hope is that a unified strategy with clearly established goals will be in place" by 2013.

The final report also calls on Southern Baptists to raise the percentage of Cooperative Program funds received by the International Mission Board to 51 percent "through a reduction in the budget granted to facilitating ministries, thus making a statement about our commitment to reduce denominational infrastructure in order to set the pace for growth in commitment to reaching the nations." The SBC Executive Committee is responsible for such facilitating ministries as the planning for each year's SBC annual meeting and Baptist Press, the SBC's news service.

In addition to offering a new mission statement and core values for messengers to the June 15-16 annual meeting in Orlando, Fla., to consider, the report makes five specific recommendations related to the matters above. It closes with a long section of challenges (see story above) addressed to virtually every segment of Southern Baptist life: individual Christians, local churches and pastors, local associations, state conventions, SBC entities and "all Southern Baptist leaders." (BP)

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Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting

June 15-16 Orlando, Fla.

Much-discussed GCR report tops annual meeting agenda

Orlando, Fla.—The final report of the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force will highlight the Southern Baptist Convention's 153rd annual meeting when the two-day event convenes June 15 at the Orange County Convention Center (pictured below) in Orlando, Fla.

The report has been the centerpiece of discussion in Southern Baptist circles since messengers to last year's meeting in Louisville authorized the SBC president to appoint the task force. The public conversation has intensified since the task force released its final report last week. Some have hailed it as innovative, while others expressed concerns that the reports proposals would negatively impact cooperation with state conventions and hurt giving through the Cooperative Program.

While the task force expects to present its report June 15, it has not announced whether the recommendations will be offered as a single motion or as several.

Another matter of major interest is the fact that three Southern Baptist entities (International Mission Board, North American Mission Board, SBC Executive Committee) have presidential search committees at work. Candidates for any or all of those positions may be announced and voted on by the respective trustee boards

before the SBC annual meeting convenes, although none of the three committees has released information that would suggest that possibility.

Convention theme

SBC President Johnny Hunt has selected "LoveLoud through the Great Commission" (1 John 3:18) as the theme for this year's sessions.

"We've got to 'Love Loud,'" said Hunt, pastor of First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga. "Loud love moves beyond the four walls of the church. I hope to encourage our folks to roll up their sleeves and get after it."

"Our theme verse is clear," Hunt said of 1 John 3:18, "My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth."

"It is not simply enough to say; we must do," Hunt added. "We have embraced what we believe. It is now or never to engage this generation with what we believe—the gospel. Our nation is lost. We have the answer. Let's do it!"

Program highlights

Among the highlights planned for this year's program:

- Musical features throughout the meet-

ing presented by the worship choir and orchestra from First Baptist, Woodstock, Ga., and a 1,000-voice combined choir and 200-piece combined orchestra.

- Opening session reports by Morris Chapman, retiring president of the SBC Executive Committee, and the presidential message by Hunt.

- The election of officers June 15. Candidates for president, at press time, were Jimmy Jackson, pastor of Whitesburg Baptist Church in Huntsville, Ala., and president of the Alabama Baptist State Convention; Ted Traylor, pastor of Olive Baptist Church in Pensacola, Fla.; and Bryant Wright, pastor of Johnson Ferry Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga.

- The convention message by Mac Brunson, pastor of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla., on Wednesday morning and a closing sermon that evening by Southern Baptist evangelist Tony Nolan.

Other highlights

- Crossover Orlando 2010 participants will take evangelistic block parties door to door and do street witnessing the weekend prior to the convention in Orlando and throughout a surrounding three-county region. In conjunction with Crossover, a Hispanic family festival will be held at the

Central Florida Fairgrounds in Orlando.

- Registration for the annual meeting once again will provide churches with the opportunity to register their messengers online at www.SBC.net to avoid waiting at the counter upon arrival at the convention. The traditional registration method also is available.

- Messengers wishing to propose resolutions must submit them at least 15 days prior to the annual meeting, giving the Resolutions Committee a two-week period in which to consider them. Detailed guidelines on submitting resolutions are available at www.SBCAnnualMeeting.net (click on "Resolutions"). Resolutions may be submitted online but must be followed up by a letter of credentials from the submitter's church.

- Shuttle service will be available to and from the hotels on the official housing list posted at www.SBCAnnualMeeting.net. Shuttle passes can be purchased for \$10 at the convention center for buses running June 15-16. Complimentary shuttle service will run from the convention hotels to the convention center, beginning June 13 at 2 p.m. and continuing Monday.

- Information on child care and student programs also is available at www.SBCAnnualMeeting.net. (BP)

WMU to celebrate 'unhindered' missions

Orlando, Fla.—"Unhindered!" will be the theme of the June 13-14 Woman's Missionary Union Missions Celebration and annual meeting preceding the Southern Baptist Convention in Orlando, Fla.

The missions celebration, to be held in the Orange County Convention Center's Chapin Theater, will include main sessions Sunday and Monday.

This year's speakers include:

- Jennifer Kennedy Dean, executive director of The Praying Life Foundation in Marion, and author of this year's WMU emphasis book, "Life Unhindered: Five Keys to Walking in Freedom."

- Frank Page, evangelism vice president for the North American

Mission Board and former president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

- Gen. Douglas Carver, chief of chaplains for the U.S. Army and a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Kaye Miller, who is completing a five-year term as Woman's Missionary Union president, will deliver her final presidential address during the Monday morning session. Her successor will be elected at the end of the Monday morning session during the missions celebration. (BP)

Pastors' Conference features diverse lineup

Orlando, Fla.—Under the banner of "Greater Things," the 2010 SBC Pastors' Conference will explore the prospect of a bright future for Southern Baptists, conference president Kevin Ezell said.

"This is a critical time in the life of our convention," said Ezell, pastor of Highview Baptist Church in Louisville. "We're thankful for the past, but we really do believe the best is yet to come and God has greater things for us as a convention and, hopefully, for ministers—in their personal lives, in their ministries, and in our mission as a whole."

The program, which opens June 13, features a wide range of speakers from diverse backgrounds, Ezell said.

That diversity is reflected in a lineup that ranges from Tony Evans, pastor of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship in Dallas, to C.J. Mahaney, pastor of Covenant Life Church in Gaithersburg, Md.

Other speakers include noted apologetics author Ravi Zacharias and Francis Chan, teaching pastor of Cornerstone Church in Simi, Calif.

For a complete list of speakers, visit www.SBCPC.net. (BP)



Widespread Tennessee flooding not just limited to Nashville

More than 20 counties across West, Central Tennessee declared disaster areas; Baptist relief teams in action

By Michael Foust

Nashville, Tenn.—President Obama declared 11 counties in Tennessee major disaster areas last week, bringing the total number of statewide counties receiving the designation to 21, and making it clear that the record flood damage stretches well beyond the Nashville area.

The counties span from West to Middle Tennessee and the list likely will grow. The designation makes homeowners—many of whom had no flood insurance—eligible for federal aid.

The Tennessee death toll from the May 1-2 flood has reached nearly two dozen. More than 13 inches of rain fell during the two-day period in the Nashville area, flooding streams and rivers and damaging thousands of homes. Some have called it a “once-every-500-year” flood.

The flood was so immense that last Thursday—four days after the rain stopped—dozens of roads throughout West and Middle Tennessee remained closed. Yet even when the water does recede, some of the roads will remain impassable because of major damage to the pavement.

The flooding and road closures in Montgomery County, Tenn., have prevented Cumberland Baptist Association, based in Clarksville, about an hour northwest of Nashville, from getting a full assessment of the damage. Officials with the association estimate there are hundreds of houses in Montgomery County alone with flood damage. The county is one of the 21 that have been named disaster areas.

The Cumberland River that did so much damage to Nashville also slices through Clarksville.

“Every major road in Clarksville has been flooded and we only had one street where we could reach downtown,” said Dennis Pulley, associational missionary for Cumberland Association, which is made up of about 50 churches. “The traffic has been horrendous. Any time you try and go some place, it’s a nightmare, like a parking lot.”

The river is receding, Pulley said, but “not as rapidly as we would like.”

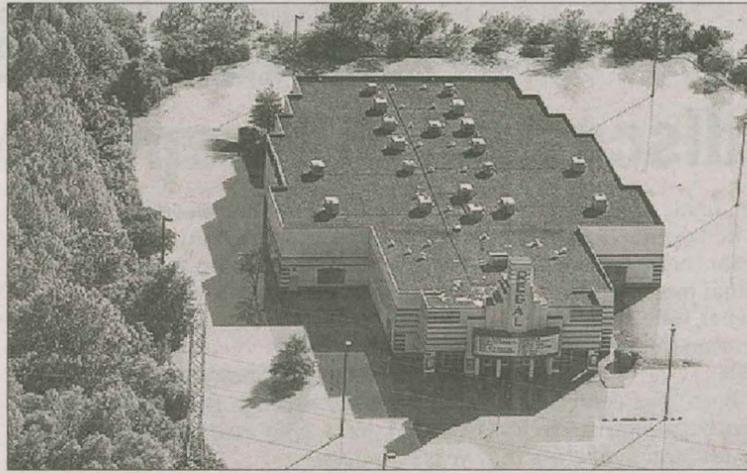
Cumberland Association and associations like it throughout the area have listed on their Web sites ways people can help. The associations also have online forms for flood victims requesting help.

Meanwhile, Nashville Mayor Karl Dean estimated the city suffered at least \$1 billion in damage. But David Acres, director of disaster relief ministries for the Tennessee Baptist Convention, said the flood is far from a Nashville-only problem.

“You’ve got so many different areas that have been affected,” he told Baptist Press.

Churches across the region are stepping up to the challenge. Two churches—Judson Baptist Church in Nashville and Poplar Heights Baptist Church in Jackson—are hosting disaster relief feeding units that are preparing around 10,000 and 5,000-7,000 meals a day, respectively. Southern Baptist disaster relief units are preparing the food and the American Red Cross is taking the meals into the surrounding communities.

The flood has provided some unique opportunities for churches. Two Rivers Baptist Church in Nashville will host the Grand Ole Opry May 14-15 after the Opry House was flooded, interim pastor Ed Stetzer told church members in an e-mail last week. The



EXTENSIVE DAMAGE
The Nashville, Tenn., flood damaged not only homes but also businesses, including this movie theater in the Nashville community of Bellevue. (Photo courtesy of Tennessee Emergency Management Agency)

church has “been assured that the content will be appropriate for our setting,” according to Stetzer’s e-mail. Two Rivers is located less than a mile from the Opry House. Two Rivers also is hosting the final weeks of the school year for Donelson Christian Academy’s middle and high schools as well, serving as the command post for Samaritan’s Post.

Elsewhere in the state, the Tennessee Baptist & Reflector newsjournal reported:

■ The People’s Church in Franklin, Tenn., provided an American Red Cross Shelter May 1-4. The first night the shelter housed 11 families.

■ Bellevue Baptist Church in Nashville began serving flood victims May 4 in coordination with the mayor’s office, Tennessee Baptist disaster relief and Nashville Baptist Association. The church had distributed about 250 family food boxes from Second Harvest Food Bank.

Church members also prepared and served three meals a day beginning May 5 and distributed meals. The church also served dinner to about 100 people.

Bellevue Baptist pastor Mike Shelton

said about half of the church’s members had flood damage to their homes, “but everybody’s safe as far as I know.”

■ Three Baptist churches in Goodlettsville, Tenn., and Hendersonville, Tenn.—both located just north of Nashville—were flooded. Madison Creek Baptist Church in Goodlettsville received about four feet of water on its lower level, pastor Jim Ryan reported. New Hope Baptist Church in Hendersonville had about three feet of water in its sanctuary and one foot in the rest of the building.

Bledsoe Creek Baptist Church in Bethpage, Tenn., also was flooded. “I’ve seen tears shed,” said Mike Pennington, director of missions for Bledsoe Baptist Association, based in Gallatin. “People put so much effort into their churches.”

■ First Baptist Church of Millington, Tenn.—20 miles north of Memphis—began serving as an American Red Cross shelter May 3 when it housed 98 people despite a roof leak at the church. Water entered the church’s foyer and flooded the 1,650-seat sanctuary, said pastor David Leavell, but the rest of the six-year-old facility was dry. (BP)

Meet the class of 2010, part 7

Korean student ‘Tha’ puts tumultuous past behind him, finds discipline at OBI

Sometimes it takes a tragedy to get our attention. It would be easy to think those life-shaking situations only happen to America’s youth but that’s not true. When a young person has one of those once-in-a-lifetime experiences it’s important to not only take advantage of the opportunity, but also to give that young person the opportunity he or she needs.

“Tha” (not his real name) came to OBI from South Korea. Since arriving at Oneida, he has been on the honor roll and has been a work program supervisor. I’m sure most of my staff have no idea that he came to us from a troubled and tumultuous background. It has been school policy for many decades that we do not tell our faculty and staff about the backgrounds of the students. That gives our staff the opportunity to work with students without bias or prejudice. Here is part of what Tha wrote in his senior essay:

“Before I came to Oneida Baptist Institute, I was the biggest troublemaker in my elementary and middle school. I didn’t know what to do, so all I did was just fool around like a child. I really didn’t know what was right and what was wrong. I was more like a crazy horse than a human being before my friend went to jail.

“That friend went to jail because he hit a woman one night on a street while riding his bike (motorcycle). He was scared and didn’t know what to do, so he ran away. The woman died a few days after the accident and the court gave him 10 years in jail. That accident shook my mind really bad.

After the accident, I started thinking about my life more carefully, because I didn’t want

to end up like my friend. Some of my immature friends thought that going to jail was cool. But I didn’t think it was cool at all.

“So, I thought about leaving that environment and moving somewhere else so I could have a second chance. I told my father that I really wanted to have a second chance in a place where no one knew me. That is why I came to Oneida, which became the turning point of my life. (It) was the best decision my father could have made.

“Like some others who come to OBI, I had trouble living here my first year. I really didn’t know the rules and I couldn’t eat the American food. During my second year, I started feeling more comfortable and I started to like this school. As long as I followed the rules and listened to the staff, Oneida was actually a nice place to live.

“Oneida has taught me a lot of things. I learned to be a more mature person, how to follow the rules, and Oneida has given me memories that I will never forget. ... Going through life, you have to be with different people. If I don’t learn how to work with those people, I will have conflicts.

“I also learned how to follow rules at Oneida. I learned that when I don’t follow the rules, I will get into trouble and I don’t like to get into trouble. ... I really want to say thank you to all my teachers and houseparents. ... Four years can be a long time for some and a short time for others. But for me, the past four years have been my happiest.”

Thank you to our friends who make it possible for us to give young people a second chance.

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

All around the world

Faculty & students travel abroad sharing the gospel

Clear Creek faculty and students recently traveled to “another part of the world” visiting believers from earlier trips and to make arrangements for some of our students to move to the area later this year to teach English and start a church.

One day during the trip, they encountered a flock of sheep blocking the road. They didn’t see a shepherd, and someone mentioned the story of the 90 and nine from the Bible—maybe the shepherd was out looking for a wandering sheep.

They finally saw the shepherd coming across the meadow with his staff in hand, guiding one belligerent ewe. They asked how many sheep he had and he said, “100.” He said the ewe with him was a problem sheep that he had to keep watch over all the time.

They asked if they could give him a gift and he accepted it. They turned to Luke 15:1-7 and read the passage. He laughed and said it sounded just like him. He thanked them for the gifts of a New Testament and a “JESUS” film DVD.

The Clear Creek group went on to a restaurant and began to talk to three people they met. The group told them about meeting

the shepherd and his sheep. Group members gave the locals gifts and turned to Luke 15:1-7 to show them the story they found so amazing. They asked them if they knew why Jesus had to die. The locals replied that he was only a prophet.

The Clear Creek group began to share the gospel with them about how Jesus died for the sins of the world and anyone who would accept His death as payment for their sins, and whoever prayed to receive Him as Lord and Savior would receive eternal life.

All three of the locals were astonished and asked why no one had ever told them this before. The team had some evangelistic cards it used to share how Jesus made a bridge for us to God by dying on the cross. The three locals were eager to pray for Jesus to come into their hearts. The Clear Creek team went on its way, praising the Lord for three more believers.

Thank you for your support which enables us to equip our students to share the gospel all over the world.

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

One man's enduring legacy

Worship center is example of Fields' kingdom impact

We have just finished the dedication of the Calvin D. Fields Worship Center at Cedarmore. The significance of this project has made it one of the most special events I ever have experienced. The dedication took place May 3 in conjunction with the Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board meeting at the camp.

Throughout the day, people would come and share stories of how Calvin touched their lives in one way or another. As Calvin went to be with the Lord nearly 28 years ago, I must admit that I was shocked at the vivid detail of each story that was recounted. The fact that someone made such an impact on so many different people, and they still tell the stories nearly three decades later is nothing less than amazing.

Over the past five years I have been privileged to get to know the Fields family and to witness the fruit of Calvin's life as it lives on through them. As you hear the stories and life practices that Calvin was so faithful in living, you literally see his mark on his family. Calvin's life was, in part, guided by his "10 Ways" which will be on permanent display at Cedarmore.

As we seek to instill values in our children, I am reminded that these values will live on through them, hopefully, well into the future. Much of the Christian life is centered upon the passing of beliefs and practices to our kids which should produce other generations that, in turn, repeat this process.

The Bible says we are merely a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Our time is short, therefore we should make the most of it by choosing to invest in others—specifically the youth, as they really are the future.

We are forever indebted to the Fields family and to Calvin—the one who began traditions that continue to produce fruit even today and for decades to come. At Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek, we are preparing for the largest summers in their history—no doubt due to those who have gone before us and set biblical examples for us to follow by seeking to reach the youth of our state and many others.

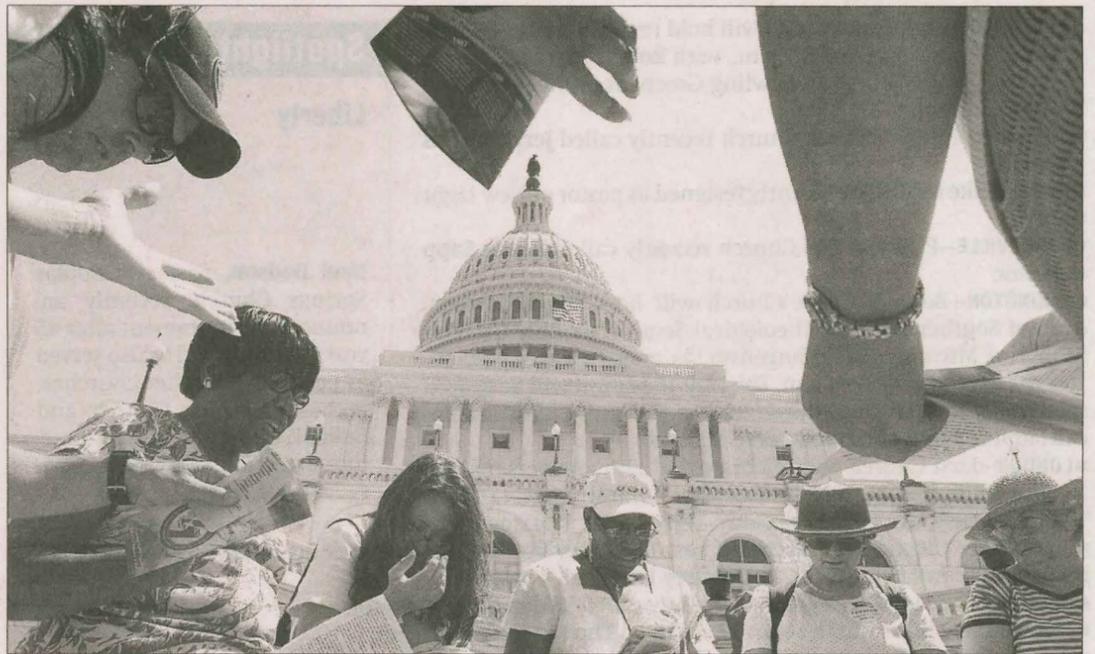
Ky. Baptist Assemblies



David Melber

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

National Day of Prayer



The Annual National Day of Prayer is marked by a small gathering on the west front of the U.S. Capitol. (Photo by Nikki Kahn/The Washington Post)

Washington—Despite a recent ruling that the day is unconstitutional, National Day of Prayer organizers said more than 40,000 events were scheduled to be held May 6 at parks, churches and courthouse steps—more than any other year and an increase of more than 15 percent from last year.

Shirley Dobson, leader of the National Day of Prayer Task Force, said she is thankful the Obama administration is appealing the April 15 decision by Wisconsin federal judge Barbara Crabb—who ruled observances could continue as the decision is appealed.

In his keynote address at a prayer event in Washington, Evangelist Franklin Graham acknowledged that people "of other faiths" might hear his message but he could only speak as a "minister of the gospel."

"I don't want to be offensive to anyone," he said, "but I only know how to pray and I only know how to preach the way that the Bible instructs me."

The audience of about 400 prayed for the White House, turning in its direction down Pennsylvania Avenue and reaching out their hands in prayer. (RNS)

Louisiana shrimping town threatened by oil spill buoyed by prayer

By Erin Roach

Venice, La.—Residents in the small shrimping community of Venice, La., are uncertain about their futures amid reporters who have crowded into the state's southernmost town to cover the massive oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

"It's pretty much chaos. We have people from all over the country here—lots of reporters. I've talked to reporters from Spain and from Germany," Steve McNeal, pastor of First Baptist Mission in Venice, told Baptist Press last week. "The president's motorcade came down the other day."

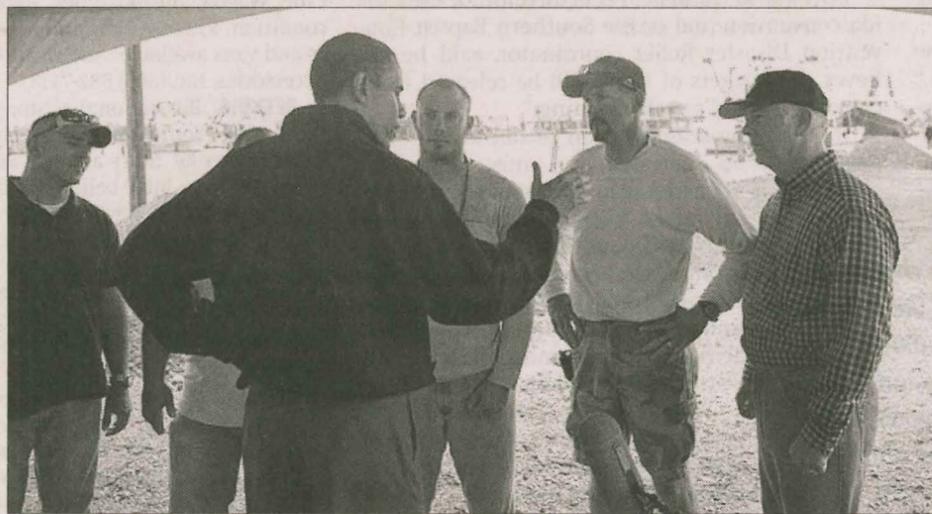
At the same time, people who have relied financially on the shrimping industry and the sports fishing industry in Venice fear the blows that could be dealt to their businesses.

"There are folks not knowing where their next dollar is coming from," said McNeal, who also works as a firefighter. "One good thing is that there are a lot of clean-up jobs. It's hard, dirty work, but money is coming in. So I guess some folks that haven't even had jobs in the past are now getting jobs."

British Petroleum, the company that leased the offshore oil rig that exploded April 20 and sank to the ocean floor, now is hiring locals to help remove the oil as it threatens the marshes and shorelines of the Gulf Coast.

"A lot of these folks have been shrimping all their lives, and now they're going to have to do something else. All they've ever wanted to do is shrimp, so there's an emotional trauma, I guess, as well as some folks just not knowing what's going to happen tomorrow or next week," McNeal said.

As of last week, the oil had not yet reached Venice, and the most obvious ways the town had been affected by the spill were that the hotels, restaurants and streets were full of media representatives



DEBRIEFING President Barack Obama talks with local fishermen about recovery efforts along the Gulf coastline in Venice, La., May 2. Steve McNeal, pastor of First Baptist Mission in Venice, reported a pervasive sense of uncertainty in the community as oil threatens to disrupt the shrimping industry and wildlife. (White House photo by Pete Souza)

attempting to relay the story to the rest of the world, the pastor said.

But, "there's definitely a smell in the air. The waters are very rough, and I think they're kind of aerating the oil and the wind is picking it up," he noted. "You can smell it somewhat."

McNeal explained that Venice is about 25 miles from where the oil is making landfall, mostly in the marsh areas of the delta where few people live.

First Baptist Mission, with an average of 12 people in attendance on Sundays, currently meets in a living room, McNeal said, but a building of their own is under construction. A couple of volunteer teams are scheduled to pitch in during June.

"I'd like to get several other teams lined up if I could to come down and help us get it built maybe a little bit quicker so we can get in and start reaching out to people."

Church members hosted an impromptu prayer service shortly after the oil started heading their way, and several people who normally do not attend stopped by. "We were able to pray with them, and that eased their distress for a while," McNeal said.

First Baptist Mission still is trying to determine what role the church can play if the oil comes ashore as expected.

"It's probably going to be going on for months and perhaps even years. So we're going to try to finish the church building as quickly as possible so we'll have a better facility with which to do whatever it is that God is going to lead us to do," McNeal said. "We don't know exactly yet what opportunities are going to open to us other than prayer."

As he talks to people in the community, the pastor said he has encountered those

who wonder whether their lives are going to be totally destroyed by the oil—and he reminds them that God is in charge.

"This didn't surprise Him. He's got a plan and sometimes we just have to be flexible to go along with His plan," McNeal explained.

On a recent Sunday, a media crew filmed part of the worship service at First Baptist Mission and interviewed McNeal. He was able to emphasize the power of prayer in such an overwhelming situation.

"I was able to basically tell them that we've been praying and since we've been praying, things have changed," McNeal said. "One day that we prayed was right after they found out there was not going to be shrimping anymore, so we prayed and the next day they announced that they were going to use the shrimpers as part of the clean-up and pay them a pretty good amount to use their boats and their crews to go out and clean up."

"There was another member of the church who was working with a guy building a new shrimp dock, which the community really needed. He had everything invested in this and now all of a sudden there's not going to be a use for the shrimp dock. So, he was looking at perhaps not getting any of his return, and now it turns out that BP is likely going to lease that facility from him."

"All of that happened just right after we prayed, and I was able to share with the reporters that prayer works," McNeal added.

As Southern Baptists watch coverage of the oil spill on the news, McNeal urged them to pray for Venice and other coastal residents whose lives will be impacted.

"There's a lot of uneasiness and a lot of opportunities for our church to follow God's guidance to show us where He's at work and join Him there to make something good out of this," McNeal noted. (BP)

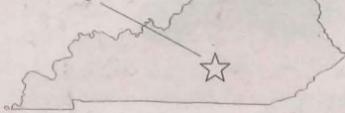
MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

- **BOSTON**—Rolling Fork Church will hold revival services May 16, 11 a.m. & 7 p.m.; May 17-19, 7 p.m., with **Robert Tarrence**, pastor of Plum Springs Church in Bowling Green, as evangelist. **Bruce Nichols** is pastor.
- **BURNSIDE**—Neeley's Creek Church recently called **Jerry Frye** as pastor.
- **CADIZ**—**Mike McKinney** recently resigned as pastor of New Light Church.
- **FORDSVILLE**—Pleasant Hill Church recently called **Kenny Sapp** as pastor.
- **LEXINGTON**—Boone's Creek Church will host **Chuck Lawless**, dean of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's Billy Graham School of Missions and Evangelism, as guest speaker May 15, 10 a.m.; May 16, 9:45 & 11 a.m. The May 15 session will be geared specifically toward area church leaders. For more information, call (859) 263-5466. **Matthew Perry** is pastor.
- **LONDON**—First Church will celebrate its 125th anniversary May 16 with **Hank Brooks**, pastor of Coastal Community Church in Virginia Beach, Va., as guest speaker. **Terry Lester** is pastor.
- **LOUISVILLE**—Cloverleaf Church will host **The Toney Brothers Quartet** in concert May 16, 7 p.m. For more information, call (502) 367-0218. **Geoffrey Lacefield** is pastor.
- **OLATON**—McGrady Creek Church recently called **Jordan Sapp** as pastor.
- **PENDLETON**—Sligo Church recently ordained **Tim Moore** as a deacon.
- **REYNOLDS STATION**—Deanfield Church recently called **Joe Colburn** as pastor.
- **SHEPHERDSVILLE**—Immanuel Church will hold spring revival services May 16-19 with **Charles Frazier**, pastor of Zion's Cause Church in Benton, as evangelist. **Carl Thomas** is pastor.
- **SOMERSET**—Barnesburg Church will hold revival services May 16-19, 7 p.m., with **Jason Moore**, pastor of Ferguson Church, as evangelist. **Austin Campbell** is pastor.
- **WINCHESTER**—Providence Church recently ordained Pastor **Anthony LaBona** to the gospel ministry.

Spotlight on ...

Liberty



Noel Dodson, pastor of Poplar Springs Church, recently announced his retirement after 45 years in ministry. He also served as pastor of six other churches, including McKee Church and Eubank Church, and was director of missions for Casey County Association.

Haiti disaster relief efforts

Ministry on devastated island moving country from 'tragedy to triumph'

By Barbara Denman
Florida Baptist Convention

Port-au-Prince, Haiti—With 152,000 Buckets of Hope en route, 85,000 professions of faiths and 64 new churches, John Sullivan has declared it's "Hallelujah time in Haiti!"

"Only the Father knows the great impact for the gospel that is emerging out of this earthquake," said Sullivan, executive director of the Florida Baptist Convention. "He is allowing us to share in moving a nation from tragedy to triumph."

In the months since the Jan. 12 earthquake that devastated Haiti, Florida Baptists have worked alongside their Haitian brothers and sisters and Southern Baptists from across the country to distribute food, staff medical clinics, provide counseling and fill countless physical and spiritual needs.

"Our feeding and food distribution continues at full speed," Sullivan said. "On an almost daily basis we are sending food supplies of rice, beans and pasta, having processed over 200,000 pounds of rice, 85,000 pounds of beans and 7,500 pounds of pasta."

Volunteers have been able to accomplish this, Sullivan said, through the generosity of Southern Baptists nationwide. By May, some \$4 million in contributions had been received.

At the request of Haitian pastors who yearned to reap a spiritual harvest while the hearts of their countrymen are open to the gospel, Florida Baptists have underwritten the cost of regional and local crusades throughout the country, resulting in more than 85,000 professions of faith and 64 new church starts.

Craig Culbreth, director of the Florida convention's partnership missions department, said he expects to send a team each week to partner with specific Haitian congregations.

Culbreth reported that the Buckets of Hope sent from Southern Baptists—nearly 10,000 of those from Kentucky Baptists—containing rice, beans and other food commodities have arrived and are awaiting release from customs.

The group has tried to unclog the bureaucratic

channel by several methods, including a meeting between high-ranking government officials and Delouis Labranch, director of ministry of the Confraternite Missionnaire Baptiste de Haiti.

Fritz Wilson, disaster relief director for the Florida convention and onsite Southern Baptist Convention Disaster Relief coordinator, said he believes the Buckets of Hope will be released from customs in "God's perfect timing."

Haiti's rainy season began in late April. "The people will be depressed and must determine whether it is safer to stay in their temporary housing or go back into their homes," Wilson said, noting that food on the ground will become wet and illness will breed. "Then these dry containers with a supply of dry food will arrive in their communities. It will be huge for the Haitian people."

Wilson said relief efforts "have gotten past urgency. There are still many and great needs throughout Haiti, but people have settled in and look to the long-term efforts."

Medical teams which have served cities across the nation will subside in May, Wilson noted. Teams conducting chaplaincy training will be increased to help Haitian pastors comfort their congregations, along with rebuilding and ministry teams.

Florida Baptists' efforts in the aftermath of the storm have brought visibility to the CMBH convention leadership, Wilson said, noting, "Their prominence has been elevated within the Haitian government. I believe that will help our relief efforts and their credibility in Haiti for years to come."

Wilson said all of the relief work has been done "through the CMBH with the Haitian face in the forefront. That is the way it is supposed to be. They will be here to minister to their nation when the recovery is over."

Overall, Sullivan said, "Our Haitian pastors believe that at least 200 new churches will be planted this year. Each church will serve as a distribution center for the gospel, a distribution center for counseling and hope, and a distribution center for meeting humanitarian needs." (BP)

Since the Jan. 12 earthquake, Southern Baptists have witnessed 85,000 professions of faith and 64 churches planted among the Haitian people, and have sent 152,000 Buckets of Hope—nearly 10,000 of those from Kentucky Baptists alone



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May

- 15 Kentucky WMU SALT, Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 17 Women of Worth Lifestyle Evangelism Conference, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.
- 17 Iron Sharpening Iron, Moonlite Bar-B-Q, Owensboro.
- 18 Women of Worth Lifestyle Evangelism Conference, First Baptist Church, Somerset.
- 24-25 Youth Ministers' Spring Retreat, Georgetown College.

June

- 5 Church Weekday Education Seminar, Hurstbourne Baptist Church, Louisville.
- 5 Kentucky WMU Estate Planning Conference, Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 12-18 Kentucky Changers, Bullitt County.
- 13-14 National WMU Missions Celebration and Annual Meeting, Orlando, Fla.

- 14-18 Girls in Action Camp, CedarCrest Camp, Bagdad.
- 15-16 Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, Orlando, Fla.
- 18-19 Acteens Overnight, CedarCrest Camp, Bagdad.
- 18-19 Mother/Daughter Overnight, CedarCrest Camp, Bagdad.
- 19-26 Kentucky Changers, Princeton.
- 20-27 All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra Retreat and Tour, Campbellsville University.
- 21-25 Girls in Action Camp, CedarCrest Camp, Bagdad.
- 25-26 Acteens Splash, Jonathan Creek Camp and Conference Center, Hardin.
- 25-26 Courage for God's Mission, Laurel Lake Baptist Camp, Corbin.
- 25-26 Girls in Action Overnight, Jonathan Creek Camp and Conference Center, Hardin.
- 25-26 Mother/Daughter Overnight, CedarCrest Camp, Bagdad; Jonathan Creek Camp and Conference Center, Hardin.

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

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SEEKING: Bivocational pastor for a great little Southern Baptist church in Northern Ky. Start as soon as possible. We are a Bible-believing church needing a Bible-believing pastor who affirms and teaches Baptist doctrine and supports the Cooperative Program. Please submit your resumé to Dave Combs, chairman of Licking Valley Baptist Church Search Committee, 950 Rock Road, Foster, KY 41043.

SEEKING: Full-time senior pastor to lead growing, missions-focused church in Northeast Nelson County. Church currently has two full-time associate pastors. Worship attendance: approx. 300 (two services); Sunday school: approx. 185. Candidates must have earned master's level or higher degree from an accredited seminary, and have demonstrated experience in leading a growing church. Send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, Bloomfield Baptist Church, PO Box 217, Bloomfield, KY 40008; or e-mail to bfdbc@bardstown.com.

SEEKING: Accompanist for Parkway Baptist Church in Lexington. Requires Sunday mornings and evenings, plus Wednesday evenings. Call Brenda Ulery at (859) 253-9229; or send resumé to 1915 N. Broadway, Lexington, KY 40505.

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

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

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

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 resúmes 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: 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.

*Celebrating open arms
and open homes*



May is Foster Care Awareness Month

Love makes a house a home and for many children in Kentucky, that place is found in a Sunrise Children's Services foster home.

May is Foster Care Awareness Month. We'd like to thank the many wonderful families across the Commonwealth who have opened their hearts and homes to a child in need of both.

If you'd like to learn more about becoming a foster parent or just would like to learn more about how you can assist Sunrise in its ministry of helping abused and neglected children, contact us by phone or our website.



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