

Shine like stars in the world  
Philippians 2:15

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## FOR THE RECORD



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## the power of prayer

### Baptists intercede for Udmurts

By Blake Williams  
International Mission Board

During one of his mission trips to Udmurtia, Jack Gilliland, pastor of Rea Valley Baptist Church in Flippin, Ark., asked a local believer, "Are we making any difference? Are we just coming and entertaining you, or is this helping?"

"Every time you come," the man responded, "it's like you drop a rock in a pool and whatever foggy, murky stuff that's on the top brushes away a little bit—and we see a little more clearly."

Today Gilliland volunteers from his Arkansas home as an International Mission Board virtual strategy coordinator, which he describes as "filling in where the missionaries can't go or live."

Southern Baptists' Day of Prayer & Fasting May 23

The Udmurts, an unreached people group in Russia, were the focus of Southern Baptists' Day of Prayer and Fasting for World Evangelization emphasis in 2007. Since then, answers to those prayers have brought living water to the spiritually thirsty in the Republic of Udmurtia.

Around the world people have come to Christ, doors have opened to allow witness in places where missionaries cannot go, and the faith of believers has strengthened. The common thread? Prayer—focused on one people group at a time for nearly 20 years of Day of Prayer and Fasting emphases.

In 1995, prayers were lifted up for Mongolia. Now more than 400 churches and about 45,000 believers call Jesus Christ Savior. Tibet had no churches in 1996 when the Day of Prayer focused on that Buddhist country. Today there are 19 churches and more than 600 believers. And the stories continue for each group that has received the benefit of targeted prayer.

One of the 2007 prayer requests asked Southern Baptists to pray that God would call an individual to coordinate efforts among the

See The power of prayer ... Page 6

## NAMB's Page recommended to lead Exec. Committee

Nashville, Tenn.—Frank Page, vice president of evangelization for the North American Mission Board, will be nominated as the next president of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, the chairman of that group has announced.

Randall James, assistant pastor of First Baptist Church of Orlando, Fla., said he was thankful for strength and guidance from God in the completion of the assignment.

"Our search team of committed servants of the Lord, which includes six men and one woman, has worked and traveled many long hours since last September in search of God's man for the job," James told Baptist Press. "In the face of much lobbying, yet striving to be still and lis-

ten to the Holy Spirit, we are unified in our belief that God has indeed revealed to us His man to replace Dr. (Morris) Chapman."

A vote on Page's nomination will be held June 14. If elected, he will succeed Chapman, who will retire Sept. 30 after 18 years in the post.



Frank Page

Page told BP he was humbled to be named, and praying about his possible new role.

"I'm honored to be considered for such an important position," he said. "My prayer is that in some small way I might help in bringing unity to our convention."

Page, who was elected to the North American Mission Board position in October 2009, is a former Southern Baptist Convention president and was pastor of First

See Page recommended ... Page 8

## Kentucky Baptist is LifeWay's No. 1 store manager for 2009

By Brooklyn Lowery  
LifeWay Christian Resources

Lexington—A multi-photo frame hangs on the wall of Mark Reiss' office. It displays three separate images of three young men each holding a one-word sign.

"Best Boss Ever" the signs together announce.

Leaders of LifeWay Christian Stores agreed with the employees who gave Reiss those framed images. He is their pick for 2009 Store Manager.

Mark Reiss, LifeWay's 2009 Store Manager of the Year.



er of the Year. Selection of the annual award recipient is based on criteria including financial performance, customer service feedback, leadership and operational efficiency.

"I feel extremely blessed," Reiss said, noting that the recognition caught him off guard. "Honestly, I don't deserve it—nobody does. But it's the Lord being faithful. To be honored in this way was definitely God showing up and being faithful to me."

Reiss joined LifeWay in 2002 as an assistant manager for one of the Columbus, Ohio, stores. His family relocated four years later when Reiss accepted a promotion to store manager for the Lexington store.

"I love this job because of the variety," Reiss said. "I love the interruptions, and I love the mystery."

The "mystery," he said, is helping customers uncover the book or CD for which they are searching when they don't know quite enough details to locate the item on a shelf.

See LifeWay's top manager ... Page 7

# Baptisms, church attendance increase following Find It Here

By Ken Walker  
Kentucky Baptist Convention

**Bowling Green**—Five people who accepted Christ last month were baptized immediately at Hillvue Heights Church in Bowling Green, joining 28 others who came to Christ in the weeks leading up to Easter.

However, that isn't the full story behind the church's Find It Here initiative. Those 33 baptisms were followed by 40 more the next three Sundays, a wave of activity staff member Jeff Reynolds said symbolizes the campaign's most exciting quality.

"I really believe that through this effort God has awakened people to the power of His Holy Spirit and awakened people to His reality and love for them," said Reynolds, associate pastor of adult faith development at Hillvue Heights.

## Find It Here by the numbers

With approximately 1,700 churches participating, volunteers distributed 1.4 million gospel brochures as part of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Find It Here evangelistic campaign in March and April. That represents 88 percent of the state's nearly 1.6 million homes.

A \$182,000 media campaign backed the distribution. According to KBC Communications Director Robert Reeves, the campaign was estimated to have reached 85 percent of Kentucky's adult population, with more than 2.8 million adults seeing Find It Here television ads an average of three and a half times.

Nearly 4,000 people visited the Find It Here Web site during the campaign, and 405 Kentuckians called the national Evangelism Response Center for spiritual guidance, Reeves reported.

By late April, nearly 2,000 people had returned response cards from the brochures, with 553 indicating a profession of faith and nearly 900 expressing a desire to re-dedicate their lives to Christ.

The response has increased attendance at many churches, including Hillvue Heights. Reynolds said the church plans to follow up on this excitement in several ways.

First, it is encouraging volunteers to revisit neighborhoods. This summer, members of its men's ministry will do maintenance and repairs at various homes to show Christ's love in tangible ways.

"I believe we've only begun to see what God's going to do with this effort," Reynolds said. "Regardless of results so far, every home in Warren County has been touched by the gospel, whether face to face or by reading the (gospel) brochure."

Hillvue Heights also is discussing potential cooperative projects with Jeff Crabtree, director of missions for Warren Association of Baptists.

Similar planning is underway at First Baptist Church of Barbourville, which baptized 12 converts in late April.

Pastor Shane Nickell said the Knox County congregation will hand out brochures and other church information throughout



the town in September.

"Our people got really excited about going out," Nickell said. "We had people who got involved with Find It Here who had never gone on visitation or been involved in door-to-door outreach."

One reason people are interested in repeating this activity is the sense of empowerment they gained, the pastor noted. Though some were hesitant about exploring Scripture or sharing their faith, they felt capable of passing out material and praying, he said.

## Pastors 'encouraged'

A member of the KBC Mission Board, Nickell also praised congregational participation, saying it has provided a heightened sense of awareness of Baptist churches.

"It really encouraged me to see a large percentage of our churches getting on board," Nickell said. "I think it reflected good leadership and showed the KBC is not just about us as a church—that we can work together."

The baptisms at Barbourville were among 65 reported during March and April

from churches in Southeastern Kentucky's Knox County Baptist Association.

Director of Missions Seymour Wattenbarger quoted one pastor who said Find It Here has breathed a fresh breath of life into his church.

"This is the best thing that's ever happened," Wattenbarger said. "Several churches are so excited about this they set up visitation programs. I've got pastors who want to do it next year whether the KBC does or not."

At High Point Baptist Church in Mayfield, Pastor Rick Hatley soon will start a Sunday evening class for eight new Christians and others who have joined the church in recent weeks.

High Point's emphasis included a late March revival featuring evangelist and KBC President Don Mathis the week after its brochure distribution efforts.

"The first day of the revival our Sunday school director told me we had 17 first-time visitors," said Hatley, the KBC's second vice president. "He said, 'I've been here for years and I've never seen 17 first-time visitors in one day.'"

Its brochure distribution helped stir the excitement. Although Hatley had hoped to reach 1,000 homes, so many members responded that it wound up contacting 2,300.

"The excitement and the fact it got our folks to work together," Hatley said of the greatest things God did through Find It Here. "For me, that was worth it all."

## State churches to collect buckets for HIV-affected families in Africa

**Louisville**—Kentucky Baptists once again have the opportunity to help provide relief to millions of Africans afflicted with the HIV virus and AIDS by participating in the Home Care Kits for Africa project this summer.

Organized by Baptist Global Response, Southern Baptists' humanitarian aid organization, the goal of the effort is to distribute essential health care items to caregivers and disease victims in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Individuals and churches can participate in the effort now through July 18 by purchasing requested items, packing them into five-gallon buckets and bringing them to a participating Kentucky Baptist church. Items include a variety of medical and hygiene supplies such as soaps, vitamins, healing ointments, bedding and more.

Baptist Global Response is seeking to collect 5,000 filled buckets from Southern Baptists nationwide. During the 2009 project, 3,200 buckets were collected and sent to Africa for Southern Baptist missionaries to distribute.

"We know this request comes in the same year that Kentucky Baptists helped to provide buckets of food supplies for Haiti, but the need for home health care kits in Africa is still great," said Coy Webb, KBC's disaster relief associate. "Each kit will cost about \$100 and would be a great missions project for an individual or a group."

The Kentucky Baptist Convention's Baptist Men on Mission department and Kentucky's Woman's Missionary Union again are organizing the statewide collection.

"We are grateful for the generous giving of Kentucky Baptists to meet needs around the world through hands-on

projects like the Buckets of Hope for Haiti and now the Home Care Kits for Africa," said Joy Bolton, Kentucky WMU executive director. "These kits will bring help and the hope of Christ to some of the world's most hopeless."

From July 19-23, churches will collect the buckets of designated items and transport the buckets to one of five drop-off locations across the state. The locations include:

**Bowling Green**  
Warren Baptist Association office, 6448 Scottsville Road.

**Lexington**  
Elkhorn Baptist Association office, 1161 Red Mile.

**London**  
First Baptist Church of London, 804 W. 5th Street.

**Madisonville**  
Little Bethel Baptist Association office, 445 Thompson Avenue.

**Morehead**  
First Baptist Church of Morehead, 123 E. Main Street.

Baptist Global Response then will pick up the buckets from the specified locations July 26-30 and will deliver them to BGR's offices in Richmond, Va.

"These buckets will meet a tremendous need for families ministering to terminally ill relatives at home," Webb said. "This project will offer the hope of Christ to thousands of victims and their families as they battle HIV, cancer, tuberculosis, malaria and other life-threatening diseases."

More information and a complete list of needed items is available at [www.KyBaptist.org/AfricaProject](http://www.KyBaptist.org/AfricaProject), or by contacting the KBC's Baptist Men on Mission department at (502) 489-3527, or toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3527.



**HONORED** Sam Porter (left), state disaster relief director for Oklahoma and chairman of the North American Mission Board's disaster relief steering committee, presents the Joel W. Phillips Outstanding Achievement Award to longtime Kentucky Baptist disaster relief volunteer Dallas James.

## Kentucky Baptist honored for 17 years of disaster relief volunteer service

**Green Lake, Wis.**—Longtime Kentucky Baptist disaster relief volunteer Dallas James recently was awarded the Joel W. Phillips Outstanding Achievement Award for his service and leadership.

Sam Porter, a steering committee member with the North American Mission Board's Disaster Relief organization, presented the award to James during the group's spring roundtable meeting April 26-29 in Green Lake, Wis.

According to Coy Webb, disaster relief associate for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, James "is a long-term member of Kentucky Baptist disaster relief and has had a significant impact on the development and growth of the ministry."

James has served as a disaster relief volunteer for 17 years, and currently is serving on the state's leadership team in volunteer development and as a regional coordinator. He also has led in the development of the KBC's disaster relief kitchen unit that is capable of producing up to 20,000 meals a day, Webb said.

Each year, NAMB presents the Joel W. Phillips award to two individuals. Qualifications for nomination require the individual to have demonstrated outstanding leadership in Southern Baptist disaster relief work and to have a proven exceptional ability or accomplishment as a disaster relief volunteer.

"Dallas has been a positive witness for Christ through disaster relief for almost two decades," Webb said. "He is a strong leader who effectively leads with a spiritual emphasis, and through his servant actions and Christ-like attitude has been a positive witness to countless victims of disaster."

According to Webb, over his 17 years of service, James has served in disaster relief responses during the great Mississippi River flood, the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Hurricane Katrina, the Midwest floods, Hurricane Ike, and countless other responses across the nation.

James is a resident of Henderson and is a member of Audubon Baptist Church.

## Ky. Baptists tapped for SBC roles

Orlando, Fla.—Ten Kentucky Baptists have been selected to serve on Southern Baptist Convention boards and committees.

SBC President Johnny Hunt, pastor of First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga., appointed four Kentucky Baptists to serve on committees during the SBC annual meeting June 15-16 in Orlando, Fla.

The Kentuckians named to the committees are:

**Ed Amundson**, pastor of High Street Baptist Church in Somerset, Credentials Committee.

**Steve Hussung**, pastor of Rich Pond Baptist Church in Bowling Green, Committee on Committees.

**Ronny Raines**, pastor of First Baptist Church of Cold Spring, Tellers Committee.

**Roger Williams**, pastor of Annville Baptist Church, Committee on Committees.

Members of the 2009-10 Committee on Nominations, includ-

ing **Art Beasley**, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Winchester, and **Kriston Jervis**, a member of Hawk Creek Baptist Church in London, nominated six Kentucky Baptists to serve on various SBC boards.

Kentuckians nominated to a first term of service are:

**Skip Alexander**, pastor of Campbellsville Baptist Church, Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

**Rose Harris**, a member of Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, Southern Seminary.

**Paul Strahan**, pastor of First Baptist Church of Owensboro, International Mission Board.

**Dan Summerlin**, pastor of Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah, Executive Committee.

Kentuckians nominated for a second term are:

**Frank Broadus**, a member of Ninth and O Baptist Church in Louisville, Southern Seminary.

**Bill Haynes**, pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Somerset, Southern Seminary.

## SBC's Chapman lists 'grave concerns' about harm to CP

By Will Hall

Nashville, Tenn.—Morris Chapman, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee released a document May 7 expressing "grave concerns" about how the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force's "Great Commission Giving" category will impact the Cooperative Program.

Chapman said the task force has given "lip service" in praising the Cooperative Program because its final report "takes away with the left hand what it affirms with the right."

The task force "elevates designated contributions" to mean the same in terms of cooperation as "contributions made to the whole" of Southern Baptist work through the Cooperative Program, Chapman claimed. Moreover, he challenged those who agree with his concerns to attend the annual meeting "as a messenger from your church" and oppose the recommendation to create the new category of giving.

Chapman said the GCRTF proposal makes the Cooperative Program "just another component of a conglomerate category" and devalues CP and its name.

Cooperative missions and ministries are what define Southern Baptists, not what individual congregations do alone, Chapman noted. Calling the Cooperative Program a "brand" known by Christians around the world, he said CP not only provides support for SBC missions and ministries, but "the name and methodology historically have defined Southern Baptists as cooperating for the Great Commission."

"Sadly, the 'bait' of 'Great Commission Giving' will lure unwary Southern Baptists to 'switch' from cooperating with the whole of our missions and ministries," Chapman wrote, adding that this would lead to "a revival of the old Independent Baptist model of societal giving."

He also said the switch to the new terminology and emphasis would cause churches already giving low percentages through the Cooperative Program to give even less.

"They certainly would not be motivated by the new giving category to give more through the Cooperative Program," Chapman argued. In effect, he said, the new category creates a new metric for measuring participation in the convention.

"If the GCRTF is as serious as it says it is about retaining the primacy of the Cooperative Program," he wrote, "it would seem logical not to create any new category of support that would threaten to displace Cooperative Program as the metric of participation in the convention."

Chapman said he has biblical concerns about the task force's position that churches need the motivation of receiving "greater recognition for designated gifts."

"It seems an odd contradiction to propose a giving model that is based on receiving recognition (Matthew 6:1-8)," Chapman wrote.

"It also seems oddly contradictory to give more recognition to those who are less cooperative in their giving than those who are more cooperative (see 2 Samuel 24 and 2 Corinthians 8)," he added. "Our greatest successes for God's kingdom have come when we worked together cooperatively."

Chapman also wrote that the task force's recommendation of reallocating funds from the Executive Committee to the International Mission Board "is not the answer."

The reallocation would increase the IMB budget by 0.062 percent but decrease the CP allocation to the Executive Committee by almost 30 percent, according to Chapman.

The full text of Chapman's document can be found at Baptist2Baptist.net/GCR/Articles by clicking on the "What's in a Name?" link. (BP)

## Floyd: GCR report no threat to CP

### Task force behind SBC's unified giving plan '100 percent'

By Mark Kelly

Dahlonega, Ga.—Southern Baptists who worry the Cooperative Program will be undermined if the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force recommendations are adopted should ask whether the Cooperative Program isn't already in more danger than they realize, the chairman of that task force said last week.

Whether promoting undesignated contributions under a new "Great Commission Giving" banner would harm Cooperative Program giving is "a very legitimate question," said Ronnie Floyd during an online panel discussion hosted by CAA Ministries May 12. "But if they think the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force report is a threat to the Cooperative Program, then the Cooperative Program is in more danger than any of us realize."

Task force member Robert White, executive director of the Georgia Baptist Convention, said the GCRTF report—which will be considered by messengers to the June 15-16 SBC annual meeting in Orlando, Fla.—is intended to state "very succinctly and with pristine clarity that the task force 100 percent believes in and supports the Cooperative Program."

"Some have feared that with the word 'celebrate' we would elevate designation and diminish the Cooperative Program," White noted. "I think there is a unified desire to see the Cooperative Program grow and continue to bless this ministry in the years ahead, but also to express appreciation to churches for what they will do to bless kingdom ministries" through the SBC.

White also said he strongly supports the task force's proposal to turn more North American missions money away from states with established state conventions toward areas where Southern

Baptist work is newer and not as strong.

"We have state conventions—some that have been in existence for 50 to 100 years—that are heavily dependent on support from the North American Mission Board because of the need to plant more and more churches," White said. "They acknowledge this need. They are doing a great job in their state conventions, but us older and larger state conventions would like to see a greater concentration of funds going to these new work states."

"States like Georgia, Florida, Alabama and others are saying, 'We see the need to penetrate the darkness in these darkest areas of our country,'" White added. "We're willing to return to the North American Mission Board a total of between \$11 and \$14 million, to see those dollars sent to our new work areas for the purposes of evangelism and church planting."

The task force recommendation would end NAMB's cooperative agreements with all 41 state and regional conventions and with Canada totaling \$51 million direct support and about \$62 million overall. About \$48 million of the overall amount would be taken from 36 pioneer states and Canada—some with large populations and global urban centers—and reprioritized by NAMB.

Task force members also responded to a question about churches that may think the task force report offers too little change at too slow a pace.

"This is a very, very large ministry and we can't throw everything away because everything is not a problem. In fact, most of what we do is not a problem," Floyd said. "This is not about good versus evil choices. This is about what's good and what's best. That's why it's so tough for all of us to get our arms around it at times and to go together in those tough areas." (BP)

### SBC PREVIEW

**Pastors' Wives Conference**—June 14, 8:30-11:30 a.m., Valencia Ballroom at the Orange County Convention Center. Theme: "Greater Things." Keynote speaker: Bobby Rankin, wife of International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin. A panel discussion featuring several ministry wives will be led by Susie Hawkins, wife of GuideStone Financial Resources President O.S. Hawkins.

**Directors of Missions Conference**—June 12-14, Rosen Plaza Hotel. Theme: Celebrating 50 Years of Partnership in Kingdom Work." Keynote speakers: Frank Page, vice president of evangelization for the North American Mission Board, will speak June 12, 2:30 p.m. Ed Stetzer, director of LifeWay Research, will preach at a worship service June 13, 10:30 a.m. O.S. Hawkins, president of GuideStone Financial Resources will speak prior to the June 13 afternoon business session, while IMB President Jerry Rankin will speak during an anniversary celebration in the afternoon session.

**Evangelists' Conference**—June 11-12, Embassy Suites Hotel. Theme: "Family Reunion." Keynote speakers: Page, NAMB's vice president of evangelization, will speak during a banquet honoring the latest inductees of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists Hall of Faith. The COSBE worship service will be held June 16, 2-5 p.m., in the Chapin Theater at the Orange County Convention Center, featuring Jay Strack, president of Student Leadership University, and evangelist Bailey Smith. A baptism celebration will be held for those who accept Christ during Crossover.

**Seminary Luncheons**—The six Southern Baptist seminaries will host luncheons for alumni and guests June 16. **Golden Gate:** 12:30 p.m., room W303 at the Orange County Convention Center's West Building. Tickets \$10, (888) 442-8709. **Midwestern:** noon, rooms W307A-D at the

Orange County Convention Center's West Building. Tickets \$15, (816) 414-3720. **New Orleans:** noon, Valencia Ballroom B-C at the Orange County Convention Center. Tickets \$20 in advance, \$23 at the convention, (800) 662-8701, ext. 3331. **Southeastern:** noon, rooms W304E-H at the Orange County Convention Center's West Building. Tickets \$25, (919) 761-2203 or www.SEBTS.edu/Alumni/Events. **Southern:** noon, room W415 of the Valencia Ballroom at the Orange County Convention Center. Tickets \$20, (502) 897-4142. **Southwestern:** 12:30 p.m., Valencia Ballroom D at the Orange County Convention Center. Tickets \$20 before June 13, \$25 after June 13, (877) GO-SWBTS or www.SWBTS.edu/SBCLunch.

**Hispanic Baptist Fellowship**—June 13, 2-5 p.m., National Hispanic Celebration, 6-10 p.m., First Baptist Church of Kissimmee, Fla. Keynote speaker: Richard Land, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, will examine the implications of the nation's immigration reform for Southern Baptists.

**National African-American Fellowship**—June 13-14, 4 p.m., at Tangelo Baptist Church. Theme: "LoveLoud Through the Great Commission." Keynote speaker: Erik Cummings, pastor of New Life Baptist Church in Carol City, Fla., and president of the Florida African-American Fellowship. A business session will be held June 14, 4 p.m., in room W307A at the Orange County Convention Center's West Building.

**Messianic Fellowship**—June 11-12, Salon 1-2 at the Rosen Centre Hotel. Theme: "Knowing the Plan." Keynote speakers: Bruce Mills, a founding deacon at Jerusalem Baptist Church in Israel, and H.B. London, vice president of ministry outreach/pastoral ministries for Focus on the Family. RSVP required, e-mail President@SBCMessianic.net.

**Clear Creek Graduation**

There was an inspirational and celebratory atmosphere during the recent graduation ceremonies for 33 students of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College. Family members and friends of the graduates filled the sanctuary of Binghamtown Baptist Church in Middlesboro to commend and rejoice in the students' accomplishments.

**Partners in the Mission**

By Bill Mackey

Most of Clear Creek's students are people who have responded to the call of God to ministry at an average age of 30. Many are already married and have children when they start school. Some graduates met and married their spouses during their student days at Clear Creek.

Most of the students have been involved in ministry during their days at Clear Creek and 85 percent of the students will move immediately into ministry positions.

About 15 percent will continue with seminary training or in obtaining master's degrees in Christian studies.

It was a privilege for me to be invited by Donnie Fox, Clear Creek's president, to preach during the graduation celebration. My challenge to the students, based on II Timothy 4:8, was to determine now to finish well.

I told the students that they have had a great beginning at Clear Creek but that the challenge now is to follow through faithfully throughout their ministries. I encouraged the graduates to realize that they can finish well if:

- they are motivated by the presence of Jesus Christ;
- they preach the Word with urgency;
- they keep their focus on evangelism while managing afflictions and distractions; and
- they keep their faith in Jesus Christ to transform lives to the end.

It was also a privilege to meet the faculty, students and guests. I was impressed with the caring family atmosphere.

Fox has a long history with Clear Creek. He grew up on the campus while his father, Claude Fox, served as a professor. As an adult, he left to serve in a secular position, but then God called him to preach and he returned to the campus as a student. He later served on the college's staff before becoming president in 2007.

Fox has provided excellent leadership expanding the online training opportunities and adding a Master of Theology degree in partnership with Campbellsville University.

Clear Creek has more than 500 graduates serving as full-time and bi-vocational pastors across Kentucky as well as other states and many international countries. Students are involved in preaching and other ministries every week. Students and staff witnessed 436 professions of faith last year.

Clear Creek is another reason for Kentucky Baptist to support missions through the Cooperative Program. CP gifts provide about \$600,000 annually to Clear Creek.

Please join with me in praying for Fox, his wife, Penny, and all of the graduates in ministry as well as for the current students, faculty and staff.

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

**'Are you contagious?' missional leaders want to know**

Most people want to avoid exposing others to a virus. Not Reggie McNeal. He encourages Christians to be contagious, spreading God's love to everyone like an uncontrollable epidemic.

"They don't need to come to us to get it; we need to take the virus (of the gospel) to them," McNeal asserts. Trouble is, Christians are "all bottled up" inside church buildings, where they are a contagion to each other, but "not spilling over" to infect others. "The Great Commission is not about coming. It was always about going out there," McNeal rightly challenges us.

With sharp wit and keen insights, McNeal both entertained and inspired about 100 church leaders and students attending a three-day conference, "Contagious Churches & Leaders," jointly sponsored by Campbellsville University and the Kentucky Baptist Convention, at Louisville's Sojourn Community Church last week.

McNeal was invited to lead the conference because his book, "Missional Renaissance," is one of the seminal works in a "missional" movement that is sweeping across America, according to Jim Woolums, director of the Louisville Education Center of Campbellsville University. "Since McNeal is from our (Southern Baptist) tribe, I felt his voice would be instrumental in challenging and catalyzing future leaders who lead healthy, reproducing, missional churches," he said.

Defining a missional church as "the people of God partnering with Him in His redemptive mission in the world," McNeal views the church "not as a what, but a who." Rather than something outside of us that we support, or a place where we go and invite others to come, the church is something we are: the people of God on mission.

The word "church" needs to be changed from a noun to a verb, McNeal insisted. "We've got to change the game because the game is changing," he advised. Attracting new followers, he argued, is no longer about doing church better—building larger facilities and adding contemporary music—it's about *being* church better in every arena of life.

He makes a valid point: Like an airport, the church is not the destination, but the gateway. "We are not taught to pray 'thy church come,'" he quipped. "What if Jesus was serious about people having abundant life?" McNeal rhetorically asked. Still, the church plays a vital role: helping people find abundant life. To do so, the church must move from being a program-driven institution to becoming a people-development center

that deploys disciples into the community to serve and seek the lost, like Jesus did.

"Who is the seeker?" McNeal asked, referring to Luke 19:10. "It's Jesus. He's the seeker ... and if you are going to follow Jesus, you will follow Him into the streets because that is where He is," he advocated. "You don't go on a mission trip; life is the mission trip."

**After Thought**

By Todd Deaton

Conference participants also had a unique opportunity to talk through Skype—computer software that allows users to make video conference calls over the Internet—with two other key leaders in the "missional" movement: Alan Hirsch and Dave Ferguson.

Hirsch is author of "The Forgotten Ways: Reactivating the Missional Church," "The Shaping of Things to Come: Innovation and Mission for the 21st Century Church," and other leadership textbooks. He founded a missional group called "Forge" that has planted churches across Australia. "Alan is a futurist and researcher who 'sees a vision of the future growth of the church coming about by harnessing the power of the early church, which grew from as few as 25,000 adherents in AD 100 to up to 20 million in AD 310,'" Woolums said.

Ferguson is pastor of Community Christian Church in Naperville, Ill., a multi-site church with 11 sites around the Chicago area. He and his brother, Jon, have written a book for Leadership Network titled "The Big Idea" and recently released "Exponential: How You and Your Friends Can Start a Missional Church Movement." They are also founders of The New Thing Network, which is training church planters. "Dave

talked about reproducing leaders that included a five step process that anyone could follow—Step 1: I Do. You Watch. We Talk. Step 2: I Do. You Help. We Talk. Step 3: You do. I help. We talk. Step 4: You do. I watch. We talk. Step 5: You do. Someone else watches," Woolums recounted.

"The reason these guys were invited into the conversation is that they are on the cutting edge of some of the spontaneous expansion of the church in America and across the world," Woolums said. "Both are convinced that the only way we can change the direction of the western church is to get back to our New Testament roots of being Christ to people in all walks of life: living like Jesus, serving like Jesus, loving like Jesus."

Indeed, they and McNeal are appropriately challenging the church to rethink itself, calling believers to take to heart James' admonition: be doers of the word, and not hearers only. In serving God by serving others, we are worshiping God.

**"You don't go on a mission trip; life is the mission trip."**

Conference leader Reggie McNeal

**Look at CP record**

Your story on May 11 regarding the KBC Mission Board and President Mathis reaffirming the Cooperative Program brings to light the problem of churches that give minimally to the CP.

It was suggested in your story that if each church gave 5 percent more over the next five years, it would add \$4 million dollars to KBC mission funding. Based on the statistical report of the convention, if each church had given 10 percent of undesignated receipts to the Cooperative Program, we would have had roughly \$11 million more CP dollars in one year.

President Mathis said he would no longer vote for any officer candidate in the SBC who does not lead his church to give at least 10 percent to CP. I think we might take that a step farther and say that we

will not vote for any candidate in the SBC, or the KBC, who does not lead his church to give at least 10 percent to the CP.

It would be interesting to know how the leadership of our state convention—Mission Board, Great Commission Task Force, and the various convention committees and boards of the agencies and institutions—would change if the only people serving were from churches that give at least 10 percent.

Before we ask others to give more, we need to look at our own church's record of giving.

Bob Lowery  
Central City

**Sherman remembered**

I was saddened by the news of Cecil Sherman's death. Sherman

taught an inter-term class on the basics of being a pastor at Southern Seminary in the 1970s that has proved so helpful in my 40 years of ministry. I still keep those class notes in a binder on my desk and refer to them from time to time.

Sherman is best known for his political involvement in Baptist life, but he was truly a fine and honorable man. I hope that God will raise up other statesmen who will speak the truth in challenging times.

Jim Hensley  
Lexington

**Forum Disclaimer:** Baptist Forum is provided as an opportunity for Kentucky Baptists to express their viewpoints on a variety of subjects. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Western Recorder's editorial staff, its Board of Directors, or the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Letters should be no more than 300 words in length and will be edited for style, clarity and space. Letters must reflect a spirit of Christian charity and civility.

**WESTERN Recorder**

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

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## Former HMB president speaks out

### 'Task force recommendations not good for SBC'

I adamantly oppose the recommendations of the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force. If approved, I believe it will likely set North American mission work back many years, greatly diminish the Cooperative Program and could unravel the Southern Baptist Convention from top to bottom.

For the first 50 years of our convention, home missions work was done much in the same way the task force recommends. Both state conventions and the Home Mission Board (now North American Mission Board) were doing missions in the same areas, most of the time competitively rather than cooperatively. Both developed their own strategies, fielded their own missionaries and solely funded their own projects. The work was in total disarray. The board struggled constantly for necessary funds, time and again facing bankruptcy and demise. Both state conventions and national entities went with "hat in hand" seeking support.

Isaac Taylor Tichenor, one of the most outstanding of our Southern Baptist leaders, was elected president of the Home Mission Board in 1882 and served until 1899. He was rightly called the "father of cooperation." Tichenor realized how unproductive it was for the board and the state conventions to be doing the same thing in the same place at the same time and how much better it would be to do it cooperatively rather than competitively. He traveled personally by train, stage coach and buggy to every state convention office to sit with their leaders, appeal for cooperation and to work out cooperative strategies. When he took office, the board had only 34 missionaries and receipts totaled \$28,370. When he completed his 17-year tenure, there were 623 missionaries and receipts totaled \$179,564. Best of all, at last state conventions and the SBC had come together cooperatively as separate pieces of the same cloth.

This cooperative approach to home missions has continued ever since with varying degrees of success. For most of the first half of the past century, the board still maintained "regional offices" where they attempted with limited suc-

cess to plan mission strategy and supervise personnel. Efforts at cooperative planning, joint appointments and funding of mission personnel were haphazard and non-structured to say the least. Nevertheless, from Tichenor on, cooperation rather than competition was the way missions was done throughout the United States.

But the funding problem continued. How could Southern Baptist members and churches give through a single channel and be assured no important ministry or cause, especially home and foreign missions, would be neglected? The answer was the "Cooperative Program." Many have declared this, and I believe rightly so, the greatest, most effective mission support system in the history of Christendom. Through this channel, both state convention and SBC causes are funded, the exact appropriations determined after careful study by state convention and SBC leaders.

We have always celebrated and encouraged giving through the Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong missions offerings and special offerings for associations, state conventions, etc. But strong priority has been given the Cooperative Program and every church encouraged to give generously, hopefully at least 10 percent of their undesignated income. This has not only, in large part at least, solved the problem of adequate funding for SBC ministries but laid the foundation for the unprecedented progress made by our denomination in the last half of the 20th century.

In 1954, Samuel Courts Redford was elected president of the Home Mission Board. Redford led Southern Baptists to "get out of Dixie" and develop a strategy to evangelize and start churches in every state. It was Redford who led the effort to accelerate evangelizing and starting churches in ethnic areas, one of the greatest success stories of any denomination in the past century. For the past several years, half of the new church plants reported by Southern Baptists have been either ethnic or African American churches.

Courts Redford and Arthur Rutledge, then director of the missions division of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, were attending a ball game in Atlanta in the late 1950s. As they discussed missions, they lamented the haphazard approach state conventions and the board were using in planning and implementing cooperative strategy. That bright summer day, they drew up the first "cooperative agreement." This worked so well that Redford invited Rutledge to join the HMB staff to develop such agreements with other state conventions.

Cooperative agreements spell out in detail exactly what mission projects and personnel will be cooperatively funded and what percentage each entity will contribute. In each case, the amount is carefully researched and agreed to by both entities. Larger state conventions with more resources contribute a much larger amount and the board much less, both in percentage and dollars. In newer, weaker conventions, just the opposite is true. In those states the board may contribute 90 percent or more of jointly approved projects and personnel—many of them church planters.

In this way, the board leverages their funds with that of the state conventions, doing much more with much less expenditure. Perhaps most important, cooperative agreements with every state convention assured the HMB would have a presence in every state, not just the newer state conventions. This enabled them to develop a national strategy, not just a regional one. For the most part, both the board and the state conventions have seen the wisdom of doing missions cooperatively rather than competitively.

The success of Southern Baptists in America in the last half of the 20th century is a source of admiration of religious leaders around the world. Since the 1950s, while all other mainline denominations were decreasing annually in members and number of churches, Southern Baptists have doubled in members and nearly so in churches. We have grown from a backwoods denomination into the largest Protestant denomination, and from a home missionary force of 754 to a present count of over 5,000. We are now planting over 1,500 new churches every year, far more than any other denomination.

So, why do I oppose the recommendations of the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force?

1. I believe their recommendation that we scuttle the cooperative agreements with state conventions and do missions independently would be a strategic nightmare. It would return us to the 19th century and the days prior to

#### FIRST PERSON



Larry Lewis

#### What if churches sent report cards?

By David Garrard

Report cards are on the way!

Most parents pay attention to report cards and have questions if expectations are not met. After all, school is important. We want our children to do well because we know they will need the tools they are being taught throughout their lives.

We make sure our children get to school—every day, not just occasionally. We do our best to make sure they are on time. We make sure they have their books and assignments. We get our children in bed at a reasonable hour on school nights so they will have the energy they need for schoolwork. We do all of this despite resistance and difficulty and personal inconvenience because we understand the importance of school, and because we want our children to do well.

Here's the big question: As parents, are we as concerned about the development and growth of our child's spiritual life as we are their intellect?

Does your child attend Bible study and church regularly, or sporadically? Are they on time? Do they bring their Bible? Are they fresh and alert, or do they drag in sleepily due to a late Saturday night? Are they disruptive, or do they participate? How well does your child know the Bible? Are any of these things as important to you as say their next test, ball game or dance recital?

What kind of expectations do you have for your child's spiritual development? If your child's church teachers sent home a report card, what would it show?

David Garrard is minister to children at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville.

Isaac Tichenor and the chaos and disarray characteristic of home mission work at that time.

2. Although the GCRTF report states that the North American Mission Board will retain the leadership of reaching North America for Christ, the task force is essentially relieving NAMB of the major responsibility for language and ethnic missions, which would defy and destroy one of the greatest mission endeavors of this century. The success of Southern Baptists in language missions through the HMB/NAMB is unparalleled.

3. The recommendation that we "celebrate" all manner of giving to SBC causes is appropriate but redundant, since we already "celebrate" these contributions. But to suggest anything and everything a church might do is "cooperative" and should be given equal status as the Cooperative Program has the potential of destroying the very "lifeline" of mission support.

4. Worst of all, I believe these recommendations have the potential of "unraveling" the SBC from top to bottom. Until one has served as a home missionary (as I did for 10 years) or on a state convention staff (as I did for four years) or on the HMB/NAMB staff (as I did for 10 years), one may not realize how important these working relationships between state conventions and national entities are. Withdrawing NAMB financial support from these newer state conventions would likely destroy some of them and greatly weaken all of them.

This is not to say everything in the recommendations of the task force is wrong. I think there is much in the recommendations that needs to be studied carefully and prayerfully by the staff and directors at NAMB and by the staffs and boards of the state conventions. I believe the appeal that every state convention direct a larger percentage of Cooperative Program receipts to national and world causes outside their own state is appropriate, and every state convention should move toward that goal. State conventions need to seriously consider how they can be less dependent on NAMB for missions and evangelism staff support so even more funds can be freed for church planting, evangelism and redemptive ministries.

My recommendation is that the report of the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force be referred to the North American Mission Board and the SBC Executive Committee for careful and prayerful consideration and implementation as they think appropriate and that they report to the 2011 annual meeting as to how they have responded. Further that we respectfully request the state conventions to also study the findings and recommendations and invite them to report to the SBC Executive Committee any actions they may have taken in response to the report.

Larry Lewis is a member of First Baptist Church in Centralia, Mo., who served as president of the former Home Mission Board from 1987-97.

#### Financial planning for new parents

By Don Spencer

At this time of year, many churches have baby dedications. This is an especially meaningful time for new parents. Becoming a new parent can be a time of emotional peaks and financial valleys. The financial responsibilities can be overwhelming. This is a perfect time to evaluate several key areas of financial planning:



1. **Family budgeting** takes on a new urgency. According to government statistics, annual spending on a child from birth to age 18 averages in excess of \$9,000 per year. Babies have a way of

changing spending habits. Make a list of income from all sources and corresponding expenses. Seeing expenditures in writing gives you an idea of needed changes.

2. **Health Insurance** strategies should be considered. Make sure the child is added to medical coverage. Generally you have 30 days to add a baby with guaranteed coverage. If husband and wife have separate insurance, examine benefits and costs to determine which policy should cover the child.

3. Re-think **Life and Disability Insurance** needs. You may have little or no life insurance before, but that's another responsibility that comes with parenthood. As a minimum you should have coverage equal to 5 to 7 times your compensation. You're more likely to become disabled than to die prematurely, so don't overlook disability insurance. You should have coverage that would replace at least 60 percent of your income.

4. Evaluate your **savings strategy**. New parents rarely set college savings as a priority, given current financial demands. Savings for an emergency fund and tax-deferred retirement savings will be a priority. After that, start thinking about college. Financial planning can help determine the best strategy and combination of these savings needs. Above all, don't put off saving.

5. Update **your will**. If you and your spouse die prematurely, you want the choice of a guardian for your children. In your will you can choose a guardian to raise your children and manage their inheritance.

Don Spencer is a certified financial planner and directs the Kentucky Baptist Convention's church financial benefits department.

*"Both the board and the state conventions have seen the wisdom of doing missions cooperatively rather than competitively."*

# the power of prayer: *Southern Baptists intercede on behalf of the people of Udmurtia*

*Continued from page 1*  
Udmurts. Shortly afterward, the Lord burdened Gilliland's heart.

He began to pray with believers around the world for God to send someone to Udmurtia to live full time and serve as a catalyst among the churches. Through word of mouth, e-mails and the Internet, Gilliland amassed a prayer network of more than 1,000 people who regularly intercede for Udmurtia.

During the past three years, Gilliland also has led multiple short-term volunteer teams to serve as "virtual missionaries" in the absence of full-time missionaries. Volunteers work alongside and encourage the seven small Baptist churches in Udmurtia and help approximately 200 indigenous believers minister to and present the gospel to villagers. Less than 0.3 percent of Udmurtia's population is considered evangelical Christian.

"You go in and you build relationships," Gilliland said. "You live there like you would at home—just like a missionary does—and you share the Lord."

Gilliland and his prayer network recently saw their prayers answered by two American couples.

Charlie and Heather Murphy\*, originally from Searcy, Ark., and Joplin, Mo., respectively, first met Oklahoma natives Will and Marie Thompson\* while attending school together in Texas. Their journeys began when Charlie read the IMB prayer guide for the Udmurts.

"The Holy Spirit moved in me that day when I read that article," Charlie Murphy recalled. At that moment Charlie said he felt the Lord say to him, "I love these people, and that's where I want you to go."

About that same time, Will heard about the great need for people groups in Central and Eastern Europe to hear the gospel. As Charlie and Will shared these experiences with one another, they realized it was not coincidence but the providence of God. They began to pray for and research the Udmurts, and God kindled their hearts for the people group.

The Murphys and Thompsons now

are Russian-language students living in Izhevsk, Udmurtia's capital. They have learned to rely on the Lord through prayer as they transition to the new culture.

"The most difficult thing is wanting so badly to be able to explain the gospel to people but not having the vocabulary to do it," Charlie Murphy said.

"I don't just want to be a language student. I want to be able to share God's love with people, and right now I don't have the vocabulary to do that," he lamented. "That causes a lot of tears some days, just weeping over the lostness and feeling like there's nothing you can really do about it, and then hearing God's still, small voice saying, 'You can pray.' That will forever be the most powerful weapon you have, even when you can speak the language fluently."

The couples said they pray for the day when more Udmurts will put their trust in Christ and boldly share their faith.

A local pastor has said he believes Charlie and Will can be an encouragement to Udmurt believers, inspiring them to evangelize their friends and families.

Gilliland agreed.

"The trails have been blazed, and we've laid some good groundwork," he noted. "We've built a trust relationship with the people so that now it's a matter of them catching the vision."

Gilliland's next project is raising more prayer support for the Murphys and Thompsons and for a church planting movement to start among the Udmurts. Having acquired the names of every village in Udmurtia, Gilliland is enlisting local prayer warriors to commit to praying for a specific village. His prayer is to see at least one Bible study group form in each of those villages.

### May 23 is Day of Prayer

Meanwhile, Southern Baptists will unite again this May 23 on the Day of Prayer and Fasting for World Evangelization to celebrate answered prayers over the years and to continue to pray for God's intervention among the peoples who still need to hear the good news. (BP)

\*Names changed for security reasons



**MINISTRY PARTNERS** ■ Above: Germond, an Udmurt believer, and Kostya, a local pastor, show Russian language students around an Udmurt village in Western Russia. ■ Below: Local pastors conduct a home visit to encourage believers in a small Udmurt village. There are only seven small Baptist churches in Udmurtia ministering to about 200 indigenous believers. Less than 0.3 percent of Udmurtia's population is considered evangelical Christian. (Photos by Matthew Miller/IMB)



**SHARING LIFE** Russian language student Will Thompson (name changed for security reasons) chats with an Udmurt man in Western Russia. Thompson, an Oklahoma native, first heard about the great need for Central and Eastern Europeans to hear the gospel while attending school in Texas.

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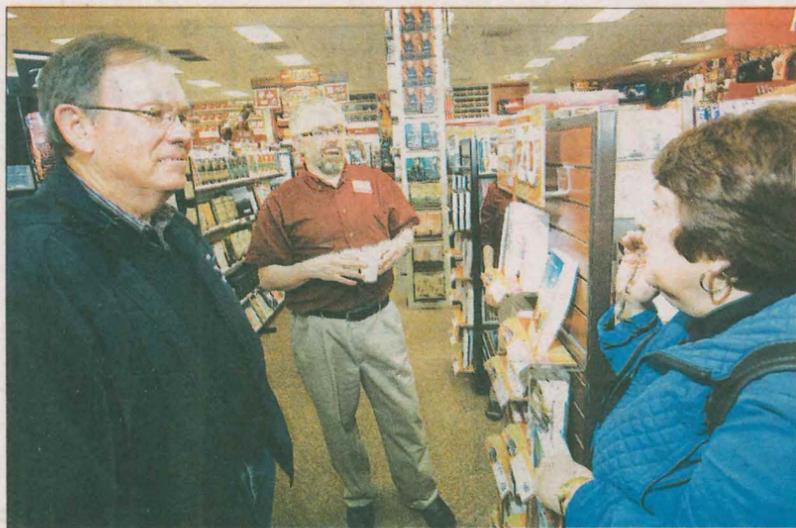
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33 Mules



**CUSTOMER SERVICE** 2009 LifeWay Stores' Manager of the Year Mark Reiss chats with former Kentucky Baptist Convention president Paul Badgett, pastor of First Baptist Church of Pikeville, and his wife, Regina, at the LifeWay Store in Lexington. (Photo by Kent Harville/LifeWay)

## LifeWay's top manager loves 'variety,' 'mystery' of his job

Continued from page 1

"Sometimes they come in and say they heard a song on the radio, but they don't know the name of it and they don't know the artist," Reiss noted. "I sometimes tell them, 'Sing it to me.'"

For Reiss, the request isn't a big deal—he has a degree in music and serves as the interim music director and worship leader at Red House Baptist Church in Richmond—but he admitted it is a rare customer who takes him up on the suggestion. So his next option is the Internet. "It's like having another employee who knows everything," he joked.

Lynn Hall has worked for LifeWay for about 11 years. As the assistant manager at Reiss' store, she has had many opportunities to watch him investigate each customer's request until he reaches a solution. "He always puts customers' needs very high," Hall said. "I've learned (from Reiss) to always go the extra mile. Always go over and above for customers and for each other."

While he certainly values the store's customers, Reiss said his top-priority customers are his employees. "If I treat my employees with honor and respect, they do the same for my customers," he remarked. "I think you need to value who you're working with."

He said this mindset toward his employees is an idea he learned from his father, who managed a John Deere implement when Reiss was a boy. That might be the first, but it isn't the last way Reiss' family has impacted his management style.

"It changed my life when my oldest daughter was born," Reiss recalled. "I didn't realize I had the capacity to love in that way, and it showed me a little about Christ's love." He explained that he realized his job was to tell his daughter about Christ and "present back to Him this gift He gave me."

The realization followed Reiss to other areas of his life.

"I work very hard to put in perspective the things I do that affect my walk with the Lord and the walks of people around me," Reiss explained. "People come in (the LifeWay Store) sometimes at their very worst because they're

looking for something. You have to come in here filled up or else you don't have anything to give."

Reiss "fills up" through quiet time and music. "Music is very helpful for me to be able to express something I can't find the words for. It cracks my heart and speaks to me."

Music and family are two things bound to come up in any conversation with Reiss, so it's fitting that both, in a sense, accompany him to work.

On the wall directly across from the doorway of his office, a poster-sized photo of Reiss' five children—Samantha, Hope, Emma, Grace and Isaac—greet guests.

Look more closely. The photo's green backdrop is the yard of Reiss' Richmond home. In the distant driveway, a camper sits, awaiting its next family fun-filled adventure. And, if you squint, you can just make out a small white ball of fur—that's Scout, the family dog rescued from the Humane Society.

Scattered throughout the rest of his office are other photos, several featuring Lesley, his wife of 21 years. "Lesley taught me about unconditional love and how Christ sees me," Reiss said. "It is her support that allows me to do what I do every day at LifeWay, church and home. She is my favorite person in the world."



**PRESENTATION** Lexington LifeWay Store manager Mark Reiss receives his 2009 Manager of the Year Award from David Pigg, LifeWay Stores' district director.



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## Page chosen to lead Executive Comm.

Continued from page 1

Baptist Church of Taylors, S.C., for nine years before joining NAMB. He is a member of the SBC's Great Commission Resurgence Task Force and was named to President Obama's Advisory Council on Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships in February 2009.

It was during his 2006-08 tenure as SBC president that Page called upon NAMB to lead the convention in a new evangelism initiative that would involve all Southern Baptists in an effort to sweep the continent with the gospel. That initiative became GPS: God's Plan for Sharing, which launched in the United States and Canada this spring.

In the recently released 2009 ACP report, First Baptist, Taylors, S.C., reported 145 baptisms and primary worship service attendance of 2,310. The congregation gave \$652,014 (10.8 percent) through the Cooperative Program from total undesignated receipts of \$6,052,088. According to

the ACP, the church's total mission expenditures were \$1,349,600, with \$185,623 given for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions and \$78,730 for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions.

A native of Robbins, N.C., Page is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and Gardner-Webb University in Boiling Springs, N.C. He is the author of several books, including "Trouble with the Tulip," an examination of the five points of Calvinism, and commentaries on the biblical books of Jonah and Mark.

James said he would encourage Executive Committee members to continue to pray, and he expressed deep appreciation for the work of those with him on the search committee.

"I challenge the EC members over the next 30 days to diligently seek God's face on this matter and respond only according to the leading of His Spirit," James said. (BP)

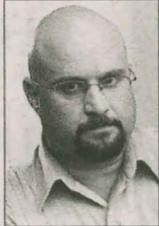
## Liberty to investigate Caner's background

Lynchburg, Va.—Liberty University, the Baptist school founded by the late Jerry Falwell, will investigate claims that its seminary president lied about his Muslim background to make his conversion to Christianity seem more dramatic.

Ergun Caner was named dean of Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary in 2005, when he became the first former Muslim to lead an evangelical seminary, according to Christianity Today. Bloggers and online activists say Caner, 43, has misrepresented key parts of his biography, including where he was raised.

An investigatory committee will issue conclusions by the end of June, according to a statement from Liberty.

In a statement, Caner said: "I am thrilled that Liberty University is forming this committee, and I look forward to this entire process coming to a close."



Ergun Caner

With nearly 4,000 students, Liberty Seminary, in Lynchburg, Va., is one of several flagship schools for conservative Baptists. Enrollment has tripled during Caner's tenure, according to Christianity Today.

But critics say Caner has misrepresented several aspects of his past, including claims he was raised in Turkey, rather than Ohio, and in a devoutly Muslim home, rather than a nominally religious one. They also dispute Caner's claims he was involved in Islamic jihad and has debated dozens of Muslims about religion.

Caner's current biography on Liberty's Web site says he was raised a "devout Sunni Muslim" and converted in high school, but doesn't mention where.

In February, Caner released a statement saying he had "never intentionally misled anyone," but said he may have "misspoke" during his more than 20 years in the pulpit. (RNS)

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## May is Foster Care Awareness Month

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## Meet the class of 2010, part 8

### After enduring a tumultuous home life, 'Terrie' and her sister find stability at

It's difficult to provide a profile of our student body and lump most of them into a particular group. It's true that our students do have many similarities, and the majority do fit into certain profiles. If there is one characteristic that fits the vast majority of our students, it would be that they come from broken and/or single-parent families.

Frankly, from my experience with our students, I don't know which is more difficult, being a young person living in a blended family or growing up in a single-parent home, usually with the mother. It's a very difficult balancing act to be a mom wanting to do those things that God instinctively created her to do, and at the same time to have to be the dad, which many moms don't do very well. The only thing that appears to be worse is when a dad has to be both mom and dad. I'm sorry dads, but moms usually do a much better job of balancing the two responsibilities.

"Terrie" (not her real name) was not doing well in a family of five with no father. Here is part of her senior essay:

"I live in a family of five which includes one sister, two brothers and my mom. ... Before I came to Oneida my mom and I ... would argue about everything. My sister was always in the middle of my mother and me, which she didn't like very much.

"However, my mom did try her very best to take care of (us), which meant she worked from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. After work she went straight to school and wouldn't get home until 11 p.m., so of course I took full advantage of that. ... I would

never do my homework and I would always procrastinate.

"The thing that put the icing on the cake was that fact that my mom and I would get into terrible arguments. That's when she decided to send my sister and me to a boarding school. I never believed she would until she started putting my things in the car.

"When I first came to Oneida, I didn't think I was going to like it, but I have met some wonderful friends. The person who has been like a friend/mother was Ms. Rhone (an OBI houseparent). She taught me to work hard in everything I did and also try to break the African-American stereotype. ... I thank her for listening to all my problems, reading all my essays and helping me change into the person I am today.

"This year I learned the biggest lesson of all and that is to have faith in Christ Jesus. I have seen the Oneida family struggle a lot this year with the death of Mr. Garrett from cancer (an OBI houseparent for nearly 25 years) and then Mr. Spencer getting cancer and passing away (OBI's campus minister for 17 years). Through these struggles the OBI family stuck together because of their faith in Christ.

"The thing that has meant the most to me about being at Oneida is being here with the greatest sister in the world. She has been my big sister even though I am the oldest. She has taught me that I am not in this world alone. ... She has made my Oneida experience the best. ... I don't know what I am going to do in college without her."

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

### This is Oneida



W.F. Underwood

## Used by God

### Alumni family serves victims of Haiti's deadly earthquake

Alumnus Kevin Bruns and his wife, Susan, along with their four children Jessica, Susan, Josiah and Skyla, are enjoying a break for a few weeks on our campus since returning to the U.S. after serving as missionaries in Haiti. Susan uses her nursing degree to serve in a burn clinic. Kevin helps drill wells for clean water. Their family had only been in Haiti for seven months when the earthquake struck. Susan's nursing skills would be desperately needed.

"We heard this rumble in the distance and it got louder and louder," Susan recalled. "It was very hard to move around. It felt like walking on a trampoline while someone else is jumping on it. We heard dishes crashing, bookshelves slamming. The children were very scared and crying and screaming."

After everything settled down the Brunses barely had time to grasp what had just happened before some of the first victims began to arrive at the burn clinic where Susan serves. The first person to arrive at Susan's home was carrying a toddler who had been hit in the face with a falling stone block. Then badly burned people started arriv-

ing from a local flourmill that had caught fire.

Susan and another nurse from the clinic started soaking burns and treating people for shock. People who could help began gathering towels, water and supplies to treat the wounded. Doctors from a nearby clinic that had collapsed in the quake came over and started helping patients.

"The scope of the human suffering and devastation caused by the earthquake was overwhelming," Susan said.

During those first few hectic hours, Susan recalled that her faith and the desperate need around her carried her through.

"It was hard and it was overwhelming but I really feel like God gave us the grace to get through it. You had no time to think it through. You just had to keep going," she said.

After their break in the U.S. the Bruns family intends to return to Haiti. Thanks for your support that enables us to equip students all over the world.

Adapted from information in the Middlesboro Dailey News

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

### Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

## Great Commission & discipleship

### Call to become disciples is So. Baptists' greatest need

Early in Matthew's Gospel (4: 18-20), Jesus called the first two of His disciples, namely, the fishermen brothers, Peter and Andrew. He called them to leave their nets and to follow Him to become fishers of men. Matthew's Gospel closes dramatically and forcefully with the resurrected Jesus giving His 11 disciples the Great Commission.

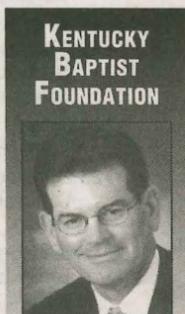
As critical as the concern for man's salvation is in the Great Commission, we in the church have been so preoccupied with the lost world we have failed to focus on that aspect of the Great Commission that is the call to be brought under Christ's discipline and to be taught to obey all that has been commanded by the One to whom all authority had been given. The call to discipleship is the call to submit to the kingly rule of God in our lives (6:33).

Therefore, we in the church must realize a lot of spiritual maturing had to take place between Jesus' call to Peter and Andrew to become fishers of men and His commission to them and the others to go and make disciples of all nations. The same is true for us

today. There's a huge amount of teaching from Jesus between Matthew 4 and Matthew 28. Before we can effectively go and teach others to be obedient to Jesus and all He commanded, we ourselves must become obedient—and we have not.

I agree with Henry Blackaby's assessment of where we are as Southern Baptists and where we ought to go from here. He has said, "If Southern Baptists want to see a Great Commission resurgence, we need to focus on the relationship between disciples and the living Lord Jesus, not launch a new emphasis on evangelism. Southern Baptists have focused on evangelism and missed discipleship. The heart of the Great Commission and discipleship is to teach them to practice everything I have commanded you."

Finally, at the heart of discipleship is financial stewardship for kingdom advancement about which Jesus had more to say than any other discipline (6:19-21,24).



Barry Allen

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

## U.S. Immigration Debate Evangelicals unite for reform push

By Adelle Banks

Washington—In the shadow of Arizona's strict immigration law, a broad range of evangelical leaders are speaking in support of comprehensive immigration reform, with more specifics than some were able to embrace before.

At the same time, the No. 3 Democrat in the Senate, New York's Charles Schumer, is hoping evangelicals will nudge their allies in the GOP to push an on-again, off-again immigration bill through Congress.

The renewed push came in the form of a full-page ad in the Capitol Hill newspaper Roll Call, paid for by the National Association of Evangelicals, and a three-page policy proposal from Liberty Counsel, a conservative Christian legal firm.

The NAE statement calls for keeping families intact, securing national borders, and establishing a path to legal citizenship for qualified people who want to become permanent residents.

"Initiatives to remedy this crisis have led to polarization and name calling in which opponents have misrepresented each others' positions as open borders and amnesty versus deportations of millions," the ad reads. "This false choice has led to an unacceptable political stalemate."

The Liberty Counsel blueprint was even more specific, calling for a "just assimilation" of those seeking legal citizenship that includes lessons in English and U.S. history. It says temporary worker visas recognize the need for "field workers to engineers" in U.S. companies.

"America deserves a just immigration policy," the statement said, "one that begins with securing, not closing, our borders, one that provides a temporary guest-worker program, and one that offers a pathway for earned legal citizenship or tem-

porary residency."

Mathew Staver, founder of Liberty Counsel and a signatory on both the ad and the statement, said there has long been consensus on the need to secure the nation's southern border, but evangelicals now are focusing on the future of the nation's estimated 12 million undocumented immigrants.

Southern Baptist ethicist Richard Land said the Arizona law—which gives local authorities new powers to round up suspected illegal immigrants—has prompted evangelicals to feel more strongly about the need for federal reform and to speak up for their Hispanic "brethren."

"I think evangelicals have said 'Enough is enough is enough,'" the Ethics & Religious Liberty head remarked last week in a teleconference call hosted by the group Conservatives for Comprehensive Immigration Reform.

Land included his name on both the ad and the policy proposal, as did Samuel Rodriguez, president of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference. Others signing the ad include NAE President Leith Anderson; megachurch pastors Bill Hybels and Joel Hunter; and civil-rights veteran John Perkins.

Even so, some of the most prominent umbrella groups for religious conservatives have not added their names to the new statements.

Focus on the Family spokeswoman Monica Schleicher said the Colorado ministry is "currently investigating the issue" but declined comment.

Christian ethicist David Gushee said the new energy surrounding immigration reform by non-Hispanic conservatives reflects a reaction to the Arizona law and long-term friendships that some have cultivated with Hispanic Christian leaders. (RNS)

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## Cross at center of court debate reportedly stolen

Las Vegas—A simple metal-pipe cross in the middle of the Mojave Desert that inspired a passionate Supreme Court debate about religious freedom reportedly has been stolen.

The cross—successor to one first erected as a World War I memorial in 1934—stood atop Sunrise Rock, next to a road in a remote part of California's Mojave National Preserve.

Several news agencies—including The Los Angeles Times, The Las Vegas Sun and the Associated Press—reported May 11 that the cross disappeared at some point late May 9 or early May 10.

Although several crosses erected by private groups have stood on the spot over the years, the most recent version was built of painted metal pipes by a local resident in 1998. Federal officials covered it with a plywood box to comply with court orders while the monument's fate wound its way through the courts.

According to the AP report, National Park Service officials said the crime was discovered May 10 when a service employee was sent to replace the wooden box, which itself had been destroyed by vandals over the weekend prior to the theft.

The employee discovered the cross missing, with the bolts that had connected it to its concrete mount cut.

Motives for the theft, the Park Service said, could range from a protest against the April 28 Supreme Court ruling in the cross's favor to a case of common thieves seeking scrap metal.

But the Liberty Institute, a conservative religious legal group that argued in favor of the cross declared the theft vandalism and appealed for funds to erect a replacement.

That group, along with the VFW, the American Legion and several other veterans' organizations are offering a \$25,000 reward for information leading to the capture of those responsible for the theft.

Groups that opposed the cross standing on government land denounced the crime. Peter Eliasberg, the American Civil Liberties Union attorney who argued on behalf of the retired National Park Service employee who originally sued to remove the cross from the preserve, told the AP, "We believe in the rule of law and we think the proper way to resolve to any controversy about the cross is through the courts." (ABP)

## Supreme Court nominee Kagan has scant record

By Robert Marus

Washington—President Obama's latest Supreme Court nominee has an exceedingly thin paper trail on some of the legal questions most important to people of faith.

Obama formally nominated Kagan—who has served for the past year as the government's chief advocate before the high court—May 10. "Elena is widely regarded as one of the nation's foremost legal minds," he said, adding that his nominee is "an acclaimed legal scholar with a rich understanding of constitutional law."

But her unusual record for a modern-day Supreme Court nominee—she would be the first nominee without any prior experience as a judge placed on the court in nearly 40 years—leaves little record to comb for her views on many legal questions. Among them are issues particularly important to people of faith that are likely to come before the court during her term.

Her previous experience in academia, in the Obama and Clinton administrations and as a clerk to late Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall only provides a few clues as to her views on thorny questions around church-state separation, abortion rights and gay rights.

Most recently, Kagan argued in favor of government efforts to protect a cross on federal land in California's Mojave Desert. Lower federal courts ruled against display of the cross and Congress' attempts to protect it, but a splintered Supreme Court decided in favor of the cross.

However, the case may not offer any clue to Kagan's personal views. Obama's Justice Department inherited the case from the previous Bush administration. And the solicitor general's job is to defend laws and government policies from legal attacks—even in cases in which he or she may disagree with the government's legal position.

In regards to gay rights, Kagan, who served as dean of Harvard Law School before becoming solicitor general, briefly banned military recruiters from using the school's main student-recruitment office because of the Pentagon's policy against allowing gay soldiers and sailors to serve openly in the armed forces.

On abortion, Kagan has said little that is public knowledge. In her confirmation hearing as solicitor general, she allowed only that she would respect court precedent when it came to abortion rights. (ABP)

## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

- **BRADFORDSVILLE**—Bradfordsville Church ordained **Jerry Abel** as a deacon May 16. **Will Pierce** is pastor.
- **CORBIN**—First Church ordained **Alice Tremaine** to the gospel ministry May 16. **Jim Hunter** is pastor.
- **FREDONIA**—**Bill Gross** recently resigned as pastor of White Sulphur Church.
- **KUTTAWA**—Suwanee Furnace Church recently called **Jeremiah Burdon** as pastor. He previously was pastor of Pinckneyville Church in Salem.
- **LONDON**—Victory Church recently ordained **Kevin Grant, Don Lawson** and **John Philpot** as deacons. **Brian Bond** is pastor.
- **LOUISVILLE**—Forest Park Church ordained Associate Pastor **Rich Bassett** to the gospel ministry May 16. **Ronnie Caswell** is pastor.
- **MIDDLESBORO**—Longtime Kentucky Baptist pastor **Truman DeBord** died May 8. He was 70. DeBord served as pastor of Elkhorn City Church, Old Yellow Creek Church in Middlesboro and Trinity Church in Middlesboro. He also served on various committees with the KBC and Bell Association. At the time of his death, DeBord was a member of East Cumberland Avenue Church in Middlesboro. He is survived by his wife, Phyllis, a daughter and two grandsons. Funeral services were held May 10.
- **PIKEVILLE**—Mayflower Unity Church will hold revival services May 23-26 with **Charles Trout** as evangelist. **Tim McClanahan** is pastor.

## Spotlight on ...

## Radcliff



Mill Creek Church will host a "Walking in Triumph" Women's Conference May 22, 9 a.m., featuring author, singer and speaker **Kenna Turner West**. The cost to attend is \$20 per person which includes lunch and child care. For more information or to register, visit [www.MillCreekBaptist.com](http://www.MillCreekBaptist.com), or call (270) 351-3524.

## Wooton, former WR, KBC employee dies

**Cullman, Ala.**—Former Western Recorder and Kentucky Baptist Convention employee **Shirley Wooton** died May 11 in Cullman, Ala. She was 69.

After moving to Louisville when her husband, **Bob**, retired in 1991 from IBM in Lexington, Shirley became a perpetual temporary assistant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Mission Board, the Western Recorder and the Kentucky Baptist Foundation. She also served in part-time positions with the KBC's music department and the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.

"Shirley had excellent professional skills and was able to pick up new things right away," recalled **Jim Hawkins**, former KBC assistant executive director. "She was very capable at meeting challenges, had a great personality, was very cooperative and always had good suggestions for

improving her work."

**Barry Allen**, president of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, noted that when property that ceased being used for a fire station reverted back to her family, Shirley and **Bob Wooton** established an endowment fund for the perpetual benefit of the KBC's Missionary Assistance Program, which provides salary and benefit supplements to directors of missions and mission pastors in Kentucky.

"By their own testimony, they are just plain, simple, modest people who have received countless blessings from the Lord, and wanted to demonstrate through this experience their love for Him and for those in need of Him," Allen wrote of the Wootons in a 2004 article for *Living Legacy*, the Foundation's newsletter.

## Campbellsville students and faculty take 'awe-inspiring' trip to Holy Land

By **Drew Tucker**  
Campbellsville University

**Campbellsville**—Walking in many of the same places Jesus once walked proved inspirational for a group of Campbellsville University students and faculty who recently toured the Holy Land.

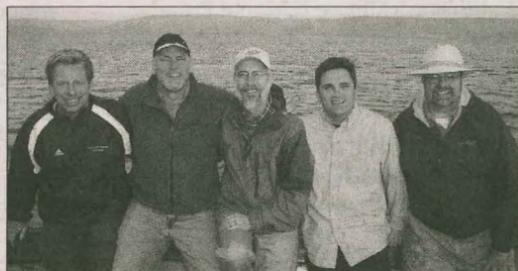
The 10-day trip with Pilgrim Tours, an evangelical travel group based in Pennsylvania, was held in March during the university's spring break. The Campbellsville group traveled to a number of sites, including the Mediterranean Sea, Mount Carmel, Caesarea, Dan, Capernaum, Qumran, Masada, Ein Gedi, Nazareth, Galilee, Bethlehem, the Jordan River, the Dead Sea, Golgotha, as well as locations in Jerusalem including the Garden of Gethsemane and the Garden Tomb.

"I could have stayed at the Garden Tomb all day long," said CU student **Marcus Stanfield**. "To see Golgotha and ponder on the crucifixion, then to walk over to what is quite possibly the tomb where our Lord laid for three days was breathtaking and awe-inspiring."

For **Ted Taylor**, professor of Christian studies, being part of a Jordan River baptism experience was deeply meaningful. Taylor even gathered some water from the river and brought it back to Campbellsville. Upon his return, he baptized four young girls, pouring the water into the baptismal waters of Columbia Baptist Church.

The trip to Israel originated last spring out of a conversation between **Scott Wigginton**, Campbellsville's associate professor of pastoral ministries and counseling, and student **Garett Lowry**, who had asked Wigginton about a possible mission trip to Ukraine.

"When I told him that this was not currently in my plans, he asked what was," Wigginton said.



**AT SEA** Campbellsville University School of Theology faculty members pose for photo during a boat trip on the Sea of Galilee. They are (from left) **Ted Taylor, Scott Wigginton, John Hurtgen, Shane Garrison** and **Dwayne Howell**.

"My immediate reply was that I had considered a trip to the Holy Land for some time."

A meeting was held in early fall to gauge interest and hopefully gain ten participants. To Wigginton's surprise, dozens attended and 29 eventually signed up, a group which included seven Campbellsville professors, a staff member, 13 students and five friends from outside the university.

"What a tremendous blessing it was to have an opportunity like this one, in which so many biblical themes became amplified by our surroundings and discussions," Lowry noted. "It is unusual to be able to get to know your professors at a personal level and to see what they are like outside of class."

"The Holy Land has truly served as a kind of fifth gospel to help me understand and appreciate God's word and the life of Jesus," Wigginton said. "The opportunity to travel to the land where Jesus lived and taught was a priceless experience for each of us who long to walk in His steps each day of our lives."



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## May

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.

For more information, call (800) 266-6477 or visit [www.kybaptist.org](http://www.kybaptist.org)

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**RETREATS:** Church retreats/church work project, \$15 per night, bunkhouse lodging. (800) 392-0152; [www.timberlineresort.com](http://www.timberlineresort.com).

**RETREATS:** Ski package, \$99—lifts, rentals, 5 meals, bunkhouse lodging. Timberline, W.Va. (800) SNOWING (800-392-0152); [www.timberlineresort.com](http://www.timberlineresort.com).

**SEEKING:** Part-time youth pastor for small but growing Spirit-filled Southern Baptist church. Must be mission-minded, ready to lead energetic youth group approximately 20 hours a week. We are willing to work around school/work schedule. Please send resumé to Valley Baptist Church, 4482 Copper Creek Road, Berea, KY 40403; or e-mail [sheltonbrodhead@windstream.net](mailto:sheltonbrodhead@windstream.net).

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor. Little Mount Baptist Church in Taylorsville, Ky., a small, rural Southern Baptist congregation, is accepting resumé for pastor. Resumés should be sent to [hazelti@shelbywireless.net](mailto:hazelti@shelbywireless.net); or mailed to Pastor Search Committee, 650 Buckley Lane, Shelbyville, KY 40065.

**SEEKING:** Part-time worship leader/minister of music. Send resumé with cover letter to: Buckner Baptist Church, PO Box 85, Buckner, KY 40010, Attn: Personnel Team; or e-mail [bucknerbaptistchurch@insightbb.com](mailto:bucknerbaptistchurch@insightbb.com).

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

**SEEKING:** Pastor for Faith Decision Baptist Church in Paint Lick, Ky., a Christ-centered church in Southern Madison County focused on reaching the lost through outreach and missions. Please mail resumé and letter of interest to: PO Box 902, Berea, KY 40403.

**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 [bfdb@bardstown.com](mailto:bfdb@bardstown.com).

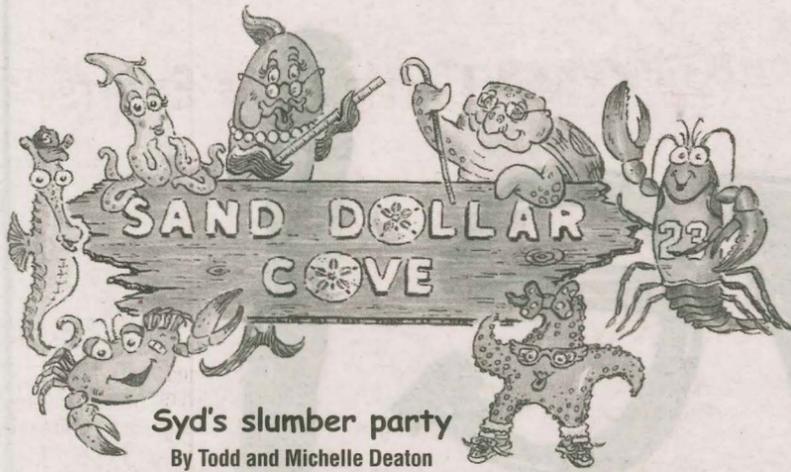
**SEEKING:** Accompanist for Parkway Baptist Church in Lexington. Requires Sunday mornings and evenings, plus Wednesday evenings. Call **Brenda Ulery** at (859) 253-9229; or send resumé to 1815 N. Broadway, Lexington, KY 40505.

**SEEKING:** Beechland Baptist is accepting resumé for a part-time minister to children. Submit resumé to [bbcishop@bellsouth.net](mailto:bbcishop@bellsouth.net).

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of children and family life (recreation). Candidate should be energetic, self-motivated, well organized and a creative team player who has the ability to relate to children, families and other adults on a personal and spiritual level. Send resumé to **Dr. Stephen C. Rice**, First Baptist Church, 1516 Midland Trail, Shelbyville, KY 40065; or e-mail to [srice@fbcshelbyville.com](mailto:srice@fbcshelbyville.com). Phone: (502) 633-1317. Website: [www.fbcshelbyville.com](http://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](mailto:bradl@cvillebaptist.com); or 420 N Central Ave., Campbellsville, KY 42718.



**Syd's slumber party**  
By Todd and Michelle Deaton

On her birthday, Syd Squid invited her best friends—Sunny Starfish, Clarice Clam and Crystal Crab—to a slumber party. For several weeks, all Syd could talk about were her plans for the party. "I'm going to have a mermaid cake, we'll play Pin the Fin on the Fish and have a treasure hunt!" she told everyone. After all the guests arrived, Syd's mom said, "Let's start the treasure hunt. Look for these items that are hidden in the backyard: a crown, a pink shell, a gold necklace, a blue and green hair bow, and jewels."

"I know where they all are," Syd yelled as she ran out the door. She had watched from her bedroom window as her mother hid the items. She ran ahead of the group and snatched up all the prizes. "No fair!" complained Sunny. "We didn't get a chance." "So?" Syd shrugged. "It's time to open my presents."



Before the others entered the room, Syd grabbed the biggest present and ripped it open. It was a red blouse with two yellow stripes on the front. Clarice had taken a long time at the store to pick it out. She was sure Syd would love it. "Aw," Syd whined, "I thought it was a toy!" Clarice frowned. Her feelings were

hurt, but Syd was already ripping open the next gift and didn't notice. Crystal had given a gold necklace with a huge seashell pendant to her. "It's just like the one I have," Syd blurted out. "What do I need with two?" Her mother cringed at Syd's ungrateful attitude. After opening all the presents, the girls settled in the family room to watch videos. "I want the big, blue chair," Syd shouted, pushing Sunny out of her way. "I'm the birthday girl." Soon it was time for bed, and the girls spread their sleeping bags on the floor. Everyone, that is, except Syd. She stretched out on the couch. "Why don't you sleep on the floor with the others?" her mom asked. "It's too hard," Syd whined, "and Crystal spilled the popcorn everywhere." Sunny and Clarice looked at each other in amazement. They knew that Syd had hogged the whole bowl of popcorn. The next morning, while they thought Syd was still asleep, Sunny whispered to Crystal, "Syd was so rude yesterday." "Her party wasn't any fun," Clarice added. Syd was awake and heard them. She stomped out of the room. "See if I invite you to my house again," she yelled. As Syd sat crying, her mom asked, "What's the matter?" "They said my party wasn't any fun," Syd whined to her mother. "They may be right, dear," her mom nodded. "What do you mean?" Syd asked.

"How do you think they felt when you insisted on always being first and getting your way?" her mom asked. "You didn't tell them that you like their gifts, did you?" Syd shook her head. "There are a few hours still left before the party ends. I'll try to make it up to them ... somehow," she decided.



## Treasure Hunt

What did Syd Squid do that made her friends unhappy at her party? Why do you think she behaved this way? What should Syd have done differently to make them feel welcome? Read 1 Peter 4:9 together.

## For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



## Preacher's Kids

David Ayers



## Bible Crosswords

By Evelyn Boyington

### Across

- "A stormy wind shall \_\_\_\_ it" (Ezekiel 13:11)
- "Jonah was gone down \_\_\_\_ the sides of the ship" (Jonah 1:5)
- Ration
- "My cup runneth \_\_\_\_" (Psalms 23:5)
- "Every one had \_\_\_\_ faces" (Ezekiel 1:6)
- "A vineyard of \_\_\_\_ wine" (Isaiah 27:2)
- Prevent
- To be announced, abbr.
- "Nathan the prophet and Shimei, and \_\_\_\_" (1 Kings 1:8)
- "Prince of the power of the \_\_\_\_" (Ephesians 2:2)
- "Neither will I \_\_\_\_ an offering at your hand" (Malachi 1:10)
- "Those virgins arose, and \_\_\_\_ their lamps" (Matthew 25:7)
- "The \_\_\_\_ was come to the place of the arrow" (1 Samuel 20:37)
- Charged particles
- The disciple who denied Christ
- Interrogatory syllable
- "I have stretched out my hand, and no \_\_\_\_ regarded" (Proverbs 1:24)
- "Number all the firstborn of the \_\_\_\_" (Numbers 3:40)
- Fruit drink
- "The children of Gad called the altar \_\_\_\_" (Joshua 22:34)
- "But ye are a chosen generation, a \_\_\_\_ priesthood" (1 Peter 2:9)
- Colored layer of the eye
- "A third part shall be at the gate of \_\_\_\_" (2 Kings 11:6)
- December 31
- "They shall take up a lamentation for thee, and \_\_\_\_ over thee" (Ezekiel 27:32)
- Cup
- "\_\_\_\_, even the ancient high places" (Ezekiel 36:2)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
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46				47		48		49	50	51	52
53				54			55		56		
57				58					59		

- Anger
- "\_\_\_\_, Mahalaleel, Jered" (1 Chronicles 1:2)
- "Bring unto thee pure \_\_\_\_ olive beaten for the light" (Leviticus 24:2)
- "I went down into the garden of \_\_\_\_ to see the fruits of the valley" (Song of Solomon 6:11)
- "He went into a city called \_\_\_\_" (Luke 7:11)
- Sun, Sp.
- Equipment
- "And came to the strong hold of \_\_\_\_" (2 Samuel 24:7)
- Edge
- "I will \_\_\_\_ it" (Philemon 19)
- Auto
- "I set him a \_\_\_\_" (Nehemiah 2:6)
- "Whither have ye made a \_\_\_\_ to day" (1 Samuel 27:10)
- "There was no room for them in the \_\_\_\_" (Luke 2:7)
- "Thou shalt no \_\_\_\_ to offers" (Exodus 22:29)
- "Ziph, and \_\_\_\_ and Bealoth" (Joshua 15:24)
- First garden
- "Hairs of your \_\_\_\_ are all numbered" (Luke 12:7)
- "Thou shalt seek me in the \_\_\_\_" (Job 7:21)

### Down

- "Thy \_\_\_\_ and thy staff they comfort me" (Psalms 23:4)
- "The serpent beguiled \_\_\_\_" (2 Corinthians 11:3)
- "The fishes that are taken in an evil \_\_\_\_" (Ecclesiastes 9:12)
- "The diviners ... have told false \_\_\_\_" (Zechariah 10:2)
- "\_\_\_\_ they shall enter into my rest" (Hebrews 4:3)
- "\_\_\_\_ by might, nor by power" (Zechariah 4:6)
- Large wind instrument
- "Unto them were committed the \_\_\_\_ of God" (Romans 3:2)
- "Cause me to understand wherein I have \_\_\_\_" (Job 6:24)
- "\_\_\_\_ thou not silence" (Psalms 83:1)
- Blue-pencil
- Latin expression of greeting
- "Ye tithe mint and \_\_\_\_ and all manner of herbs" (Luke 11:42)
- "The king's commandment was \_\_\_\_" (Daniel 3:22)
- "I am \_\_\_\_ and despised" (Psalms 119:141)
- Diving bird
- East Asian country
- "Uzzah and \_\_\_\_ the sons of Abinadab" (2 Samuel 6:3)
- "That was the \_\_\_\_ Light" (John 1:9)
- Approximate time of arrival, abbr.
- "I tell you \_\_\_\_; but rather division" (Luke 12:51)
- "Meet the Lord in the \_\_\_\_" (1 Thessalonians 4:17)
- Compass point
- Twelfth-grader, abbr.

## Last week's solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
S	A	L	T	A	N	E	A	S	L	O
A	G	A	I	N	S	T	A	C	R	E
I	R	O	N	S	A	C	R	E	D	R
N	E	D	H	U	M	P	T	Y	I	
T	E	I	L	R	D	A	N	O	N	
C	A	M	E	L	A	N	T			
S	H	E	M	I	S	L	E	S	H	
C	A	E	D	I	L	E	E	T	U	I
R	E	N	I	A	P	L	Y	A		
I	N	S	T	R	U	C	T			
B	A	T	T	N	E	L	D	E	R	S
E	N	E	M	S	T	A	I	R		
S	M	E	O	I	S	P	E	R	S	E

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# Live!

# Love!

**at Missions Camp this Summer**

**Mission Adventure Camp at Cedar Crest**

**Girls in Action Camps, grades 3-6**

**June 14-18**

**June 22-25**

**Express Camps, boys & girls, grades 3-6**

**June 28-30**

**June 30-July 2**

**Acteens Overnight, girls, grades 7-12**

**June 18-19**

**Mother/Daughter Overnights, girls in grades 1-3 and moms**

**June 18-19**

**June 25-26**

**Overnights at Jonathan Creek, June 25-26**

**Mother/Daughter Overnight**

**GA Overnight**

**Acteens Splash**

**Space may still be available!**

**For more information, contact Kentucky WMU at:**

**1-866-489-3534**

**[www.kywmu.org/camp](http://www.kywmu.org/camp)**