

Shine like stars in the world
Philippians 2:15

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FOR THE RECORD



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NAMB appoints six Kentuckians

Lenexa, Kan.—A handful of Kentucky Baptists were among those appointed by the North American Mission Board as missionaries to the commonwealth.

With about 1,000 people in attendance, NAMB held a commissioning service for 71 missionaries and 17 chaplains May 16 at Lenexa Baptist Church in Kansas. The newly commissioned missionaries and chaplains will serve in 32 states and Canada.

NAMB's interim president Richard Harris delivered the commissioning sermon. Referring to John 14:12, Harris told the newly appointed missionaries and chaplains that God wants each of them to be successful in their ministries.

"But when God gives you a vision, you need to move out," Harris declared. "I don't know what's more important in your ministry than praying, 'Lord, what is it You want to do in and through me in the coming days, months and years?'"

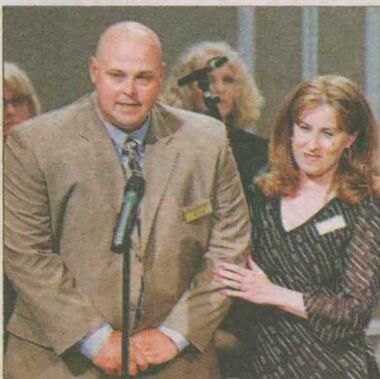
Harris reminded the missionaries of their heritage on a continent where, now, some 258 million people are lost without Jesus Christ.

"You're not here just to have a good religious experience," Harris said, "but to penetrate lostness in North America ... (and) to make a difference in the kingdom."

With the new appointees, NAMB now supports some 5,300 missionaries and 3,000 chaplains across North America.

The Kentuckians appointed are Travis and Christie Lynch of Berea; Eric and Crystal Page of Sonora; and Neil and Amy Wilhelmus of Covington. (BP)

Read more about Kentucky's newest missionaries in the story on page 2.



Travis and Christie Lynch



Eric and Crystal Page



Amy and Neil Wilhelmus

Ky. task force to host listening sessions in June

By Drew Nichter
 News Director

Frankfort—With four meetings under its belt, the Kentucky Great Commission Task Force now is turning its ear to Kentucky Baptists.

The group charged with studying how Kentucky Baptists can "more faithfully and effectively" fulfill the Great Commission will hold a pair of listening sessions next month, according to task force chairman Hershael York.

The sessions will be held June 7 at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown and June 8 at Central Baptist Church in Winchester. Each session begins at 7 p.m. EDT.

The Kentucky Great Commission Task Force "wants to hear how people in Kentucky Baptist churches feel about what we're doing (and) about what our priorities are and should be," said York, pastor of Buck Run Baptist Church in Frankfort and a former KBC president.

The listening sessions will provide opportunities for Kentucky Baptist church leaders and laypersons to ask questions of task force members and to share any concerns they may have about KBC missions and ministries.

"What I want Kentucky Baptists to leave with is a sense that they've been heard and they've had the opportunity to voice their opinions," York said.

□ See Task force ... Page 2

Remembering the Fallen: An American Hero's Final Journey Page 5



Memorial Day May 31

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, May 26

Leaders look to incorporate gospel pins with VBS

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Lexington—As many as 300,000 participants and spectators are expected to arrive in Kentucky this fall for the World Equestrian Games.

And thousands of Kentucky Baptist children may be responsible for helping many of those visitors hear the gospel.

To get gospel-sharing pins into the hands of Kentucky's international visitors, a pair of Kentucky Baptist children's leaders are turning to vacation Bible schools for help.

The "More Than Gold" pins for the World Equestrian Games are the brainchild of Affiliated International Ministries, an association of churches and other ministries working to share the gospel with visitors to the games.

The horseshoe-shaped pins were adapted from the popular More Than Gold commemorative pins used to share the gospel with Olympics Games' spectators for the past several years.

Having used the pins to witness to people at the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City, LaRaine Rice, AIM's volunteer coordinator, said she has seen firsthand the effect the pins can have in gaining a captivated audience for a gospel presentation.

"I've never been on a mission trip where people are just falling all over themselves to hear what you have to say," she said, calling each color-based presentation (see sidebar) a "touch" on someone's life.

AIM has ordered 70,000 pins to hand out to individuals attending several events in and around the World Equestrian Games. And, "for each pin, somebody would hear about Jesus," Rice said.

"You might be able to move somebody part of the way toward Christ, even if it doesn't get them all the way there," Rice explained.

Each pin costs 50 cents, an amount easy for children to comprehend. Rice and John Bennett, preschool and children's ministry director for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, said they think boys and girls will want to take part in the effort.

The two have asked Kentucky Baptist VBS leaders to consider using their VBS missions offerings to collect money for the More Than Gold pins.

"This is an exciting way for kids to be involved if they want to," said Rice, who also is the youth and college consultant for Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union.

Marcia Ballard, who directs VBS for Allansville Baptist Church near Winchester, already is on board.

"I thought it would be nice to try to tie (the offering) to some missions cause that maybe the kids could relate to," Ballard said.

Like many KBC churches, Allansville Baptist is using the Saddle Ridge Ranch VBS curriculum offered by LifeWay Christian Resources. That combined with the World Equestrian Games-related offering completes the equine-based VBS theme, Ballard said.

And as coverage of the World Equestrian Games increases during September and October, Rice said the children who participated in collecting money for the pins can feel like they were part of the games, even if they did not attend.

For information on the More Than Gold missions offering, visit www.AIMKY.org.

The More Than Gold presentation

Affiliated International Ministries volunteers will use the More Than Gold pins to share about a relationship with Jesus Christ. This is what the five colors on the pins represent:

Blue = Hope

You can trust in God. He loves you so much that He wants to give you a great life on earth and eternal life with Him. The Bible states that the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ (Romans 6:23). But before receiving God's gift, we must understand our problem.

Dark Purple = Darkness

Without Christ we are separated from God. The Bible teaches that all have sinned and come short of God's glory (Romans 3:23). God has provided the way for our sins to be forgiven and for the gift of eternal life to be received. Only He can bring you out of darkness.

Red = Christ's Sacrifice on the Cross

Jesus is the way to be forgiven and made whole. He died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins—but the story doesn't end there. The good news is that Jesus was resurrected. He has defeated death. But we must respond by receiving Him as Savior and Lord.

Gold = Eternal Life

You receive eternal life through faith. Faith in Jesus does not mean only believing facts about Him; you must trust Him completely. You can receive Christ now by praying. The Bible says that whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved (Romans 10:3).

Green = Grow

Now you need to grow as a Christian. Sometimes you will feel strong as a Christian and sometimes you won't. God's promises in the Bible are more important than feelings; you can always trust them. To grow, read your Bible, pray, worship and find a church family.



April CP totals stay ahead of working budget

Louisville—Kentucky Baptists gave nearly \$1.9 billion through the Cooperative Program in April, enough to keep totals ahead of pace in order to meet the working budget of \$23 million for the 2009-10 fiscal year.

According to Lowell Ashby, business services team leader for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, a total of \$15,462,008 has been collected for the current fiscal year through April.

The \$1,894,246 received last month was nearly \$7,800 more than the amount needed to stay on pace for the working budget, Ashby reported. In order to stay on pace to meet the adjusted budget through the remainder of the fiscal year, an average of \$1,884,498 is needed each of the four remaining months.

According to Ashby, CP totals remain behind the original fiscal-year budget of \$24.48 million by \$857,992 (5.26 percent). However, because of the challenging national economy, the KBC is operating under the approved working budget of \$23 million for the 2009-10 fiscal year, he pointed out.

"As we head into the last quarter of the fiscal year, we continue to celebrate Kentucky Baptists and their commitment to CP missions and ministries," said Billy Compton, KBC's executive associate for Cooperative Program and resources. "The faithful and sacrificial giving of our churches does not go unnoticed."

Kentuckians among NAMB's newest missionary appointees

Lenexa, Kan.—Three Kentucky Baptist couples were commissioned by the North American Mission Board May 16 as part of the entity's newest crop of missionaries.

The missionaries are:

Travis and Christie Lynch. Travis serves as a Mission Service Corps missionary in Berea. He and his wife, Christie, operate a home for people in need. The couple provides a loving home environment through which they are able to share Christ's love with a hurting world.

The Lynchs also conduct a ministry called the Gilmin (God Is Love Ministry) Group, which was established to share Christ with members of the local community.

Travis and Christie have two children, Andrew, 12, and Gracie, 5.

Eric and Crystal Page. Both Eric and Crystal serve as MSC missionaries in Sonora. Eric has planted a cowboy church which meets at the LaRue County Fairgrounds on Tuesday nights. Through the church plant, the Pages are trying to reach outside of the traditional church walls to engage people with the gospel.

Eric and Crystal have one child, Hope, 9.

Neil and Amy Wilhelmus. Both Neil and Amy are MSC missionaries in Covington where Amy is the director of the Moore Activity Center, a ministry of South Side Baptist Church.

The ministry's goal is to meet basic needs and share Christ in unique ways in the Covington community. This is done through Bible studies, tutoring programs, family events, community service projects and other avenues of outreach.

Neil and Amy have one child, Corran, 2.

Task force wants to hear from Kentucky Baptists

Continued from page 1

The Kentucky Great Commission Task Force has been meeting since January. The committee was approved by KBC messengers to last year's annual meeting in Elizabethtown.

The group's objective, according to the recommendation brought before the convention, is to study "how Kentucky Baptists can work more faithfully and effectively together in serving Christ through the Great Commission."

Thus far, York said, much of the committee's work has been gathering information from KBC Mission Board staff leaders, as well as KBC agency and institution heads.

Only at the task force's May 10 meeting in Princeton did "we begin to get down to the nitty-gritty (and) ... asking the tough questions," York noted.

The question being asked of all Kentucky Baptist missions and ministries: "Has this been effective and should we keep doing it?" York said.

"You don't want to do anything that's ineffective, and you don't want to keep something that's no longer effective," he explained. "We've just begun asking those questions."

Of course, the formation of the

state committee followed the approval of the Southern Baptist Convention's Great Commission Resurgence Task Force at the SBC annual meeting in Louisville last year.

The national committee has generated a great deal of debate since the release of final report May 3. That report—either as a whole or by individual recommendations—will be voted on by SBC messengers June 15 at the annual meeting in Orlando, Fla.

The recommendation that has generated the most discussion is the addition of a "Great Commission Giving" category. Opponents of such a move argue recognizing designated giving in such a way will diminish the Cooperative Program. Those who support the new giving category say it celebrates CP.

However, York insisted, the Kentucky task force is not looking to the SBC group for guidance in their own work.

"We've certainly given a nod to it, but that's the great thing about Baptist polity: We are autonomous at every level," he said.

York acknowledged he is concerned that the national report could be construed as weakening the Cooperative Program, but what concerns him more is Kentucky Bap-

tists' understanding of CP.

York pointed out that in recent years, CP giving from Kentucky Baptist churches has declined to a low point of 7 percent from undesignated receipts. "We really need to reverse that trend," he said.

"The reality is we want it to matter. Really, my fear is people don't care," York noted. "We've got to get people caring. The better educated they are about the Cooperative Program, the Kentucky Baptist Convention, the SBC and the (International Mission Board), I think the more motivated they will be to give."

York said he hopes the listening sessions will be a forum for back-and-forth discussions between Kentucky Baptists and task force members.

He recalled the group's first meeting in January when he urged all task force members to express their feelings openly without fear of being "reviled, ridiculed or rejected."

"I want Kentucky Baptists to feel that. You can come say anything to us," he said.

"If you're leading and nobody's following, you're just taking a walk," York quipped. "We want to make sure that what we're thinking and how we're moving is in line with what Kentucky Baptists are thinking and feeling."

Cumberlands' Mountain Outreach kicks off 'greener' summer program

Williamsburg—Mountain Outreach, University of the Cumberlands' construction mission program which recently began its 27th summer, is headed in a "greener" direction. Instead of a conventional concrete foundation, a home the group recently started working on in Laurel County will feature an insulating concrete form foundation.

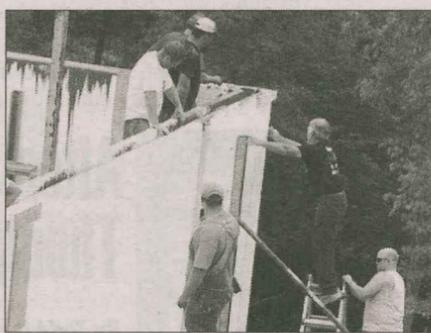
An ICF foundation begins with a conventional concrete footer, but then utilizes large, hollow, Styrofoam blocks, reinforced with steel rebar and filled with poured concrete instead of concrete blocks joined with mortar.

The new process is ideal for Mountain Outreach homes, lowering building costs for the program and energy costs for the new homeowners.

One of those most excited about the new system is Jerry Thomas, youth leader at Coral Hill Baptist Church in Glasgow. He, along with four other volunteers from the Glasgow area, was on hand to begin the program's 133rd home—literally—from the ground up.

"This new foundation has an (insulation) R factor of 40, which will make it much more energy efficient than earlier Mountain Outreach homes," Thomas explained, "and it's much less expensive to build, using only 19 yards of concrete to fill the blocks—and it will be stronger by far."

"This is a first step for our ministry to move toward zero-energy homes. We look forward to eventually building an entire home with this new method," said Marc Hensley, director of Moun-



GOING 'GREEN' Jerry Thomas (on ladder), youth leader at Coral Hill Baptist Church in Glasgow, along with other Mountain Outreach volunteers monitor the pumping of cement into the steel reinforced, Styrofoam foundation blocks of a new home in Laurel County.

tain Outreach.

Working alongside Thomas, the crew completed the Laurel County home's foundation in only three days.

According to those who know him, Thomas is a terrific role model for the students he mentors at Coral Hill Baptist. The father of five and grandfather of 15 puts his love of Christ into action as a regular Mountain Outreach volunteer.

"I love working with Marc and these young people," Thomas said. "This is such a wonderful ministry."

Construction of the floor of the new Laurel County home is scheduled to begin May 31. As that project gets underway, Thomas said he plans to be on hand to put his knowledge and experience to work yet again for God's glory.



INAUGURAL CLASS Campbellsville University's first crop of social work master's graduates from the Carver School of Social Work and Counseling pose for a photo following their commencement ceremony. (Photo by Max Nergui/Campbellsville University)

Campbellsville honors inaugural Carver School master's graduates

Campbellsville—Fifteen students made history May 7 at Campbellsville University as the first crop of social work master's degree students graduated from the Carver School of Social Work and Counseling, the first since the school moved to Campbellsville in the late 1990s.

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

The legacy of the original Carver school began in 1907 when the Woman's Missionary Union established a training school on the Southern Seminary campus to prepare young women to serve in missions and social work. In the 1960s, the training school

merged with the seminary, making Southern the only seminary of any denomination to offer an accredited master's degree in social work.

Dean of the Carver School, Darlene Eastridge spoke to the graduates, while former Campbellsville University president, state Sen. Kenneth Winters, was recognized by university leaders for his vision in bringing the Carver School to Campbellsville.

In her address, Eastridge told the graduates, "You are stepping into a new place tonight, a place where people hold preconceived perceptions about college graduates and what they think your abilities to be."

Eastridge urged the students to "broaden your perspective and realize your true potential to impact the world. ... Hopefully you can identify where it is your passion lies and start a plan to make a difference in the world."

Convention corrects error in annual publication

Louisville—The recently released 2009 annual for the Kentucky Baptist Convention contains an error in the "Mission Board Recommendation" for Cooperative Program goals, as well as the percentages for the division of CP funds between KBC and Southern Baptist Convention causes, found on page 89 of the publication.

According to Steve Thompson, KBC's assistant execu-

tive director, the information contained in the Book of Reports and voted on by convention messengers at the 2009 annual meeting was accurate. The misprint was an error specific to the 2009 annual only, he said.

The corrected information below is what should have appeared in the "Mission Board Recommendation" section on page 89 of the KBC annual.

Mission Board Recommendation

The annual Cooperative Program Goals, as well as the percentages for the division of Cooperative Program funds between Kentucky Baptist Convention causes and Southern Baptist Convention causes, are determined by the Kentucky Baptist Convention in annual session.

Upon recommendation of the Mission Board, the Convention at Lexington November 10, 2008 set the 2009-2010 goals and percentages as shown below. The Mission Board will recommend to the Convention in Elizabethtown November 9, 2009 the 2010-2011 goals and percentages.

	Original 2007-2008 Budget	Original 2008-2009 Budget	Original 2009-2010 Budget	Original 2010-2011 Budget
COOPERATIVE PROGRAM GOAL				
A. OPERATIONAL BUDGET	24,000,000	1.90%	24,000,000	0.0%
1. SBC CAUSES (a)	8,807,318	36.70%	8,890,184	37.04%
2. KBC CAUSES (b)	15,192,682	63.30%	15,109,816	62.96%
TOTAL COOPERATIVE PROGRAM GOAL (c)	24,000,000		24,480,000	2.0%
II. OTHER ESTIMATED INCOME	2,593,950		2,650,606	2.0%
A. RESTRICTED KY ONLY	450,000		400,000	37.32%
B. OTHER	2,143,950		2,290,606	38.00%
III. TOTAL BUDGET GOAL	26,593,950		26,735,460	62.00%

(a) The distribution of these items is voted by the Southern Baptist Convention.

(b) The distribution of these items is voted by the Mission Board, Kentucky Baptist Convention.

(c) Any Cooperative Program receipts in excess of the goal will be distributed at the same percentages.

*To be approved by the Mission Board upon recommendation of the Business and Finance Committee May 3-4, 2010.

Pomp & Circumstance



Oneida Baptist Institute graduates await their entrance to a baccalaureate service May 15 at the Kentucky Baptist-affiliated boarding school. Waiting with them are Oneida President W.F. Underwood (right) and Scott Self (third from left), a co-sponsor for this year's senior class. Oneida's 2009-10 graduating class consisted of 50 students, including 39 who received advanced diplomas, the highest percentage of graduates in one class to achieve such a feat in Oneida's 111-year history. The school's Class of 2010 also represented seven countries, including the U.S., China, Ethiopia, Liberia, Nigeria, South Korea and Thailand.

Great Commission Task Force

Although most of the focus in Southern Baptist life these days is on the Southern Baptist Convention's Great Commission Resurgence Task Force, the Kentucky Baptist Convention's own Great Commission Task Force is also at work. The Kentucky committee's work has now advanced to the place

Partners in the Mission



By Bill Mackey

where the committee is ready to conduct listening sessions with Kentucky Baptists.

These will take place at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown on June 7 and at Central Baptist Church in Winchester on June 8. Both listening sessions will begin at 7 p.m., Eastern time.

Hershael York, chairman of the group, is inviting Kentucky Baptists to participate to allow the Task Force "to hear how people in Kentucky Baptist churches feel about what we're doing, about what our priorities are and should be." This is a great opportunity for Kentucky Baptists to be heard and to assist the committee in its work.

The KBC Great Commission Task Force is composed of 15 outstanding lay people and ministers from all regions of the Commonwealth. York is providing excellent leadership for the group that is made up of both experienced KBC leaders and some representing new generations. Don Mathis, this year's KBC president, and I are serving as ex-officio members.

In the meantime, we await the action by messengers to the SBC annual meeting on the SBC Great Commission Resurgence Task Force report entitled, "Penetrating Lostness."

The GCRTF is to be commended for its prayerful and thorough work in producing a final draft in such a short time frame. The more I read the report the more impressed I am with its scope.

Kentucky Baptists have a natural affinity for the report's emphasis on missions, ministries, church planting, evangelism, the centrality of the local church and the Cooperative Program as well as with other aspects. The challenge section has something for every member, church leaders and all denominational entities.

If approved, many of the specifics of the report implementation will be worked out in the months ahead by various boards and the SBC Executive Committee.

Although we may have reservations about the impact of certain recommendations, this is a time to unite and move forward together. It will be regrettable if all of the energy, debate and print do not result in greater commitment to the Great Commission and our cooperative missions and ministries.

It is good to affirm the Great Commission, but the most important concern is to have a growing commitment to the Great Commission in our hearts and lives. For me that means a stronger commitment to our corporate work through the Cooperative Program and personal involvement in evangelism, missions and compassion ministries to the glory of God.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Testimony, message convey hope for darkest days

Her story is one of senseless tragedy and the heart-wrenching agony that engulfed her family on an otherwise normal Sunday morning. His message encourages us to seek the higher purpose in life's seeming contradictions. Together, Cindy Winters' testimony and Tony Evans Sr.'s message at the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Women's Lifestyle Evangelism Conference in Elizabethtown and Somerset provide bright words of hope found in experiencing God's amazing grace during our darkest days.

Winters recounted the events of March 8, 2009, when a gunman—reportedly suffering from a mental illness—walked down the aisle and opened fire on her husband, Fred, as he was preaching in the early service at First Baptist Church of Maryville, Ill. Fred Winters was a two-time president of the Illinois Baptist State Association and had served on the SBC's Committee on Committees.

On her way to church with one of their daughters that morning, Winters recalled being confused by the congested traffic and emergency vehicles approaching the church. She thought that there had been an auto accident. A friend broke the distressing news as she pulled into the church parking lot. She rushed to the nearby hospital, and as she entered a treatment room, a nurse expressed her condolences. Winters described the overwhelming panic that swept through her at that moment. "It was the most terrorizing feeling ... like being in a haunted house with no exit signs." Her heart surely sank: "The one person who I needed most was not there." Yet, she also felt God speak to her: "What happened here was sheer evil and it was orchestrated by Satan." She resolved then and there: "He's not going to win."

A lump lodged in my throat as this mother relived the heart-wrenching agony of watching the hearts of her two daughters "break into a thousand pieces." She shared how they searched through dirty laundry to find something that smelled like their dad. "It was the saddest thing I've ever experienced," she said.

Since that night, Winters has encouraged them to focus, instead, on the reality of heaven and the wonderful homecoming celebration their father was experiencing because of his relationship with Jesus. Today, she attests to a great truth learned from the ordeal: "I went to the pit, and God was in the pit. ... There is hope in the midst of the storm. There is a peace that is available to us.



After Thought

By Todd Deaton

"A relationship with Jesus is the one thing that makes sense when nothing else does."

Cindy Winters

"I had to determine one thing: 'Is knowing Jesus enough?' It is," Winters emphatically declared. "A relationship with Jesus is the one thing that makes sense when nothing else does," she affirmed.

Evans then introduced the notion of seeing God's transformational power at work through "intentional contradictions." Like an NFL coach throws out a challenge flag when he thinks an official has made a bad call, "if the truth be told, there have probably been times when we've wanted to throw out a challenge flag on God," Evans said. Acknowledging that it sometimes is easy to become discouraged and feel disappointed by our circumstances, he spotlighted two women, Mary and Martha, who threw out a challenge flag on Jesus in John 11. "In everyday English," they were saying, "It's your fault. We wouldn't be hurting like this if you would have been here," Evans elaborated.

In their anguish, disappointment and dismay, they had good reason to feel this way, he noted. After all, Lazarus had become gravely ill, and they had taken their problem to the Lord. Jesus had responded, "Don't fret; I've got it covered," Evans continued. Then everything turns really bad. Jesus stayed where he was for two more days, and Lazarus dies. "That sounds like a contradiction to me," Evans declared. "It doesn't make sense."

But in Scripture, whenever God is ready to do something unique and out of the ordinary that will really blow everyone's mind, Evans observed, "He would always create a contradiction—a situation that made no sense." The good news, though, is "something's up." And "intentional contradictions" are just the times "when God jumps off the page and becomes real in your experience."

Lazarus was allowed to go to the point of death, "so Mary and Martha might discover the one who raises the dead." Through their experience, we encounter a greater reality: "I am the resurrection," Evans asserted.

So why would God allow us to go through troubling contradictions? "To give us an experience with Him that we would not have otherwise. He becomes real," Evans explained. "Isn't that what we need and want?"

While it doesn't make life's heartaches any less painful to go through, knowing that God is there with us even then—providing comfort, strength and amazing grace and all the while leading us to discover profound truths—is a bright source of hope for our darkest days.

God uses 'nobodies' as His nobility

By David Jeremiah

God doesn't take the majority of His workers from the ranks of the wise, mighty or noble. First Corinthians 1:26 says, "For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called."

Continuing in verse 27, "But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen."

Paul says to get His job done, God uses things which are foolish, things which are weak, things which are base, things which are despised.

The foolish

God is able to work through the non-intellectual things in this world. D.L. Moody was an uneducated and uncultured man. With no educational advantages, he established the Moody Press, Moody Bible Institute, the Moody radio stations, and the list goes on. He's an example that God's

power is not resident in our wisdom. God uses the foolish things of the world to confound the wise.

The weak

Weary, feeble, powerless—sometimes when we feel physically or spiritually weak, we're tempted to take a "time-out," thinking that God

will use us again when we are stronger. In Judges 6, we're introduced to Gideon who was taking a "time-out." It was wartime, and Gideon was hiding when an angel of the Lord appeared to tell him that he would be the one to save Israel. Imagine Gideon's astonishment: "How can I save Israel? Lord, I come from a nobody family, and I'm the lowest nobody in my family. And You're going to use me?"

After God enlisted the nobody Gideon, He got a nobody army. God took nobodies and won the battle. God takes us in our weak state and uses us so He alone can be glorified.

The base

Of the four women in Christ's genealogy, one played the harlot, Tamar; another was a Gentile, Ruth; an-

other, an adulteress, the wife of Uriah; and the fourth, a harlot named Rahab—living proof that God can use anyone, regardless of their past actions, class or occupation.

Why does God delight in using nobodies as His nobility?

The first reason is found in 1 Corinthians 1:29: "that no flesh should glory in His presence." When we get to heaven, not one of us will be able to say we got there on our own merit. We're saved simply by the grace of God. The second reason is found in verse 31, "He who glories, let him glory in the Lord." If we operate in our own strength and not God's, we risk taking the glory and credit for ourselves. Scripture tells us that we must be weak and low enough in order for God to use us.

God wants to teach us that if there is any power, it is the power that is in God, not us. God doesn't need to make us into performers or superstars to use us. Instead, He's looking for men and women who have hearts that say, "Lord, I'm a nobody. I'm nothing without You. Will You use me?" When God finds such a heart, something extraordinary happens—that nobody is promoted to the ranks of God's nobility. (BP)

David Jeremiah is senior pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church in El Cajon, Calif.

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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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Brewster family, Honduras affected by BCM

By Tommy Johnson

A 16-member group from the Western Kentucky University Baptist Campus Ministry spent part of their winter break in Comayagua, Honduras, where they served at the Children's Home of Nazareth. Students and staff from the BCM demonstrated the love of Christ by sharing the gospel, playing soccer, teaching dance and giving plenty of hugs at the orphanage, which serves up to 200 children.

Led by BCM Intern Emily Brewster, the project proved to have a strong Brewster family connection. The BCM team joined Emily's parents, Greg and Janet Brewster, who in 2009 left their home in Louisville to move to Comayagua to serve as full-time missionaries at the Home of Nazareth. The Brewsters direct the House of Hope, a transitional living program that provides support and assistance to youth who graduate from the children's home.

Once hesitant to give up Christmas with her family in Louisville to go with her parents on a trip to the Honduran orphanage, Emily soon became captured by the needs of the children at the Home of Nazareth. She changed her major from mathematics to Spanish, and upon completing her BCM internship, Emily will join her parents in Comayagua. She will teach English in a nearby school.

Emily credits her involvement in Baptist Campus Ministry with helping prepare her for missions. She

explains, "My involvement at the BCM has taught me to be a follower of Christ, not just someone who knows about Him. As a freshman, I was blessed with the example of older students who cared about reaching our campus and our world for Christ. Their passion was contagious. Through discipleship, that same passion was passed on to me and, I pray, is still being passed on to students."

One of Emily's goals is to start "discipleship groups," short for discipleship groups, with the girls at the Children's Home of Nazareth. She plans to draw on her BCM experience: "The BCM has shown me both the meaning of discipleship and the importance of it. Intentional, life-sharing discipleship helps followers of Jesus go and share the gospel and make new disciples."

"My discipleship group is a place where we pray together, study Scripture, and hold each other accountable," she said. "Members have encouraged me during the tough times and challenged me when I have not been willing to challenge myself."

Emily's brother, Ben, also was very involved in Baptist Campus Ministry, having served as student president and a campus ministry intern. He since has joined the staff of Hillvue Heights Church in Bowling Green, where he serves as university pastor.

Ben shares what BCM has meant to him: "The BCM was a critical provision that, at first, I did not even re-

alize I needed. I did not understand the need for an on-campus ministry. I also did not understand the need for engaging myself and the people in my life daily with the gospel. The BCM really opened my eyes to see what it means to follow Christ, to offer one's life to His service because of one's love for Him.

"I also learned more about how to read and study God's Word and how to teach God's Word," he said. "Being exposed to the Scripture over three years in my discipleship group really changed me."

Ben now sees how his involvement in the BCM has contributed directly to his ministry. "The BCM encouraged my local church involvement, which created relationships with the pastors where I now serve on a church staff," he said. "I would say that without an urging by those I respected on campus to be involved in the local church, I may not have been as inclined to step out and do so."

From Honduras, Greg and Janet Brewster share what the BCM has meant to their family: "We feel that has God blessed our children through the leaders and students of the BCM at Western Kentucky University. Our children were welcomed, loved, affirmed, and their faith was strengthened through the relationships they formed."

Tommy Johnson is the campus minister at Western Kentucky University.

FAITH ON CAMPUS

Understanding hoarding

By Valerie Vincent

For the past 10 years, my sister has increasingly struggled with hoarding. I don't know how to help her. I don't understand why she does this. It truly has taken over her life. It has gotten out of control, but she doesn't see it.

Hoarding is an illness that usually requires professional help. Sadly, hoarding can destroy family relationships, friendships and result in financial loss. The Mayo Clinic offers the following signs to look for and some reasons as to why people hoard:

- Cluttered living spaces.
- Inability to discard items.
- Keeping stacks of newspapers, magazines or junk mail.
- Moving items from one pile to another, without discarding anything.

■ Acquiring unneeded or seemingly useless items, including trash.

■ Difficulty managing daily activities, including procrastination and trouble making decisions.

■ Difficulty organizing items.

■ Perfectionism.

■ Excessive attachment to possessions and discomfort letting others touch or borrow possessions.

■ Limited or no social interactions.

Hoarding behavior may help the person feel safer by being surrounded by things. There can be a belief that the items kept will be needed or have value. Items designated with emotional significance and meaning are collected.

Symptoms can range from mild to severe. There may be little disruption in the life of someone who hoards, or concerns for safety, health, cleanliness and fire may be present.

Scripture instructs us to choose carefully what we value and not to build bigger barns for earthly treasures. For those who hoard, significant emotional meaning and need is related to this behavior. Professional help is often required to explore, understand and manage hoarding behavior.

Valerie Vincent is a Christian counselor with Hardy Associates in Louisville.



Serving Him by helping others

By Doug Strader

As far as I know the only recorded words of Jesus outside the Gospels is found in Acts 20:35 when He said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Of all the things that the Holy Spirit could have recorded by the writers of Scripture, He chose one about stewardship. We may think that He was speaking of financial stewardship; however, He could have been referring to a myriad of other stewardship possibilities. I am thinking about this quote from Acts as it relates to financial stewardship.

If Christianity is about anything, it is about giving—all types of giving. Christianity is a reality today because God gave His only Son to be our Savior. When Paul was writing to the Corinthian Church, he broke into praise when he said, "Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift!" Of course, he was referring to the gift of Jesus as a sacrifice for our sins and as a means of our redemption. From the beginning Christianity has been about giving.

Why is it more blessed to give than to receive? I do not know all the reasons, but I do know some reasons:

■ Think about trading places with a homeless person or a hungry person and see if you do not feel how blessed you are.

■ It also means that God has blessed you and allowed you to have enough for yourself and even more than you need so you can help another person.

■ It probably indicates that you are healthy, that you are gainfully employed, or you have retired and still have enough income to meet your needs and still have enough to share with other people.

■ In all probability it denotes that you have a heart for other people. Instead of being a hoarding, selfish person, you are genuinely serving the Lord by helping other people.

■ It also means that you are faithfully using the gifts and abilities that God has given you by living a productive life. You are thinking about others and not yourself.

The next time you have an opportunity to help another person pause a few minutes and thank the Lord that He has made it possible to serve Him by helping others.

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



Chaplain takes final journey with American hero

By Manuel Biadog Jr.

After the long journey from Afghanistan via Dover Air Force Base in Delaware, U.S. Marine Corps Private First Class (PFC) Kyle Coutu is finally back at home in Rhode Island with his grieving family. It was my job as a Navy chaplain to make this final trip with him.

Kyle and 10 other Marines were recently killed in action during a major combat offensive against the Taliban in Afghanistan's Helmand province. He was assigned with the 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force based out of Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Similarly sad journeys take place almost every day across the United States as America pays tribute to its fallen military service men and women. On a recent cold and rainy afternoon in February, Kyle's final trip home became a sobering reality for the Coutu family and the more than 40 others who witnessed the dignified homecoming of his flag-draped casket at T.F. Green Airport in Warwick, R.I.

Appropriately, U.S. Marine Corps PFC Peter Lang also escorted his longtime buddy home. Peter had been Kyle's childhood schoolmate and best friend since their fourth-grade days at Curtis Elementary School. Coutu and Lang enlisted and trained together at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C., last June and graduated last September.

What stood out most vividly in my mind and moved me to tears the day Kyle's body returned home was seeing countless citizens—young and old, military veterans, state and local police, firefighters and many others—

lining the streets and highways, waving large and small American flags. These patriotic Americans waved the flags and welcomed their hero home. Rhode Island Gov. Donald Carcieri ordered all flags at half-staff in honor of the young Marine—the same Old Glory that PFCs Coutu and Lang had saluted and promised to defend with

their lives. And, as it turned out, Kyle did just that.

Kyle grew up in Pawtucket, R.I. He was a son, grandson, nephew, cousin, friend, classmate, student, fiancé and

a Marine. Kyle was an all-American kid, awesome athlete, a patriot, a hero and a God-fearing loyal American. While in Afghanistan, Kyle knew there was no turning back. He threw himself into the fight and knew what bravery and courage were all about.

Unlike many other military service members like myself who have spent 20 or more years in the military, Kyle served a short eight months before giving the entire 20 years of his young life for this nation. In fact, Kyle was born in 1990, the same year I was first commissioned in the United States Navy. But Kyle—like so many other young men and women in the military who have given the "fullest measure of devotion"—will never know what it's like to be a parent, grandparent or even a husband.

Kyle's funeral service was at once a heartbreaking and heartwarming experience for the citizens of Pawtucket and Rhode Island. The young man's fi-

nal homecoming brought many people together from all walks of life, paying their homage and respect to an American hero. More than 500 people packed the church for Kyle's funeral Mass, celebrating and remembering his good and honorable life. As a final tribute to his longtime friend and fellow Marine, Lang recited the Marine Corps Prayer.

An American flag had also journeyed more than 6,000 miles from Afghanistan to Rhode Island draped over Kyle's casket. Eventually, the flag, folded into a triangle, would be given

to Melissa, Kyle's mother, by U.S. Marine Corps Master Sgt. John Knight, who would also convey solemn and thankful words on behalf of the president of the United States, the commandant of the Marine Corps and a grateful nation for her son's service to

his country and the Corps. Melissa would also receive the Purple Heart Medal posthumously awarded to her brave son.

God bless you PFC Kyle Coutu and your family. Thank you for your sacrifice and faithful service to God and to the United States of America. I considered it a distinction and remarkable honor to be part of your final journey home. Semper Parati! (BP)

Editor's Note: An endorsed Southern Baptist chaplain, U.S. Navy Chaplain Manuel Biadog Jr. serves as command chaplain at the Newport, R.I., Naval Station. The North American Mission Board is the SBC endorsing entity for 1,500 military chaplains.

What stood out most vividly in my mind and moved me to tears ... was seeing countless citizens ... lining the streets and highways, waving large and small American flags.

FIRST PERSON

A cup of water in His name

Kenyan villagers celebrate clean water provided by Southern Baptists

By Sue Sprenkle
International Mission Board

With her chin jutting out and eyes slightly closed, Nduri Isandap bobs to the low, resonating music. The shrill a cappella chorus quickly gains momentum and volume. Layer upon layer of beaded necklaces clank in perfect rhythm with each bouncing dance step the women take.

In the center of the tight circle, Isandap feels the excitement of the music. She lets out a "yelp" and jumps straight up, stiff as a board, yet beautiful and regal. A smile slowly spreads across her weathered face, though her eyes remain sad. It's been a long time since Isandap has had anything to smile about, let alone celebrate.

It's been a rough year. When her husband died, she and six children were left to fend for themselves during one of the worst droughts in Kenya's history. Without adequate water, most of their livestock died and food is scarce. There hasn't been much cause for celebration—until today.

Today, water came to her desert village. Today, thanks to a Southern Baptist water project, everyone will bathe and have enough to drink. Today, Isandap didn't walk seven miles to the hand-dug well or worry about how to make 20 litres (5.2 gallons) of water stretch for household chores, seven people and a few goats.

"We are dancing because we very much appreciate what has been done for our village," Isandap said, pointing to the four donated water tanks.

The project brought water closer for 4,000 people. While that's just a small drop in the ocean when compared to the World Health Organization's estimates of 1 billion people without access to safe water, the difference it makes in Isandap's village is significant. The closest hand-dug well is about a two-mile walk. When it dries up—which happens every dry season—Isandap treks seven miles to a deeper well.

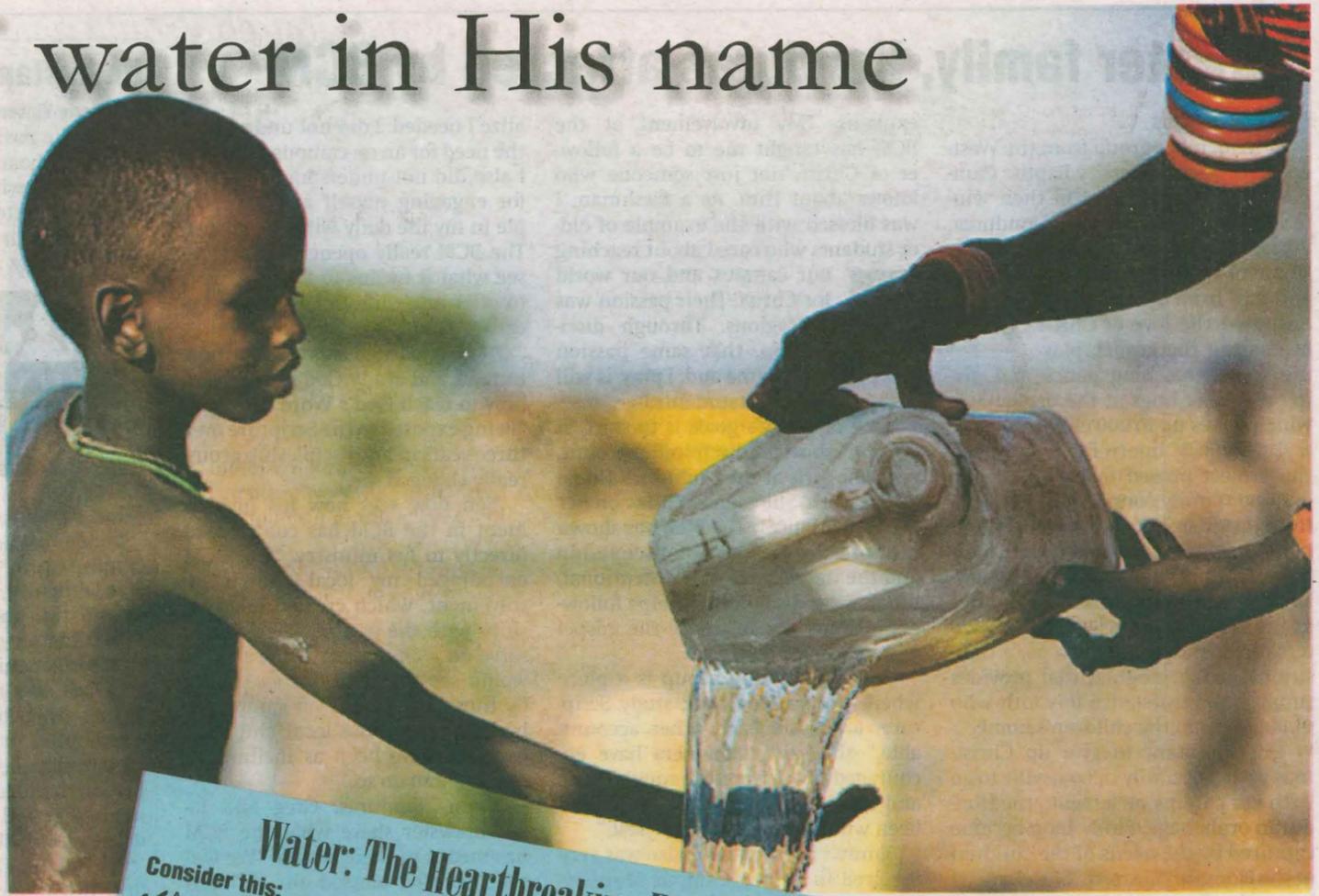
With clean water access increasingly scarce, the burden of securing a daily water supply has become a daunting task for women and young children in rural sub-Saharan Africa.

When water is scarce

Isandap and her pastoralist clan live in gumdrop-shaped thatch huts scattered across the sandy plateau, herding animals to survive. Even in a good year, life here is extremely precarious. Average daytime temperatures hover around 100 degrees.

In an effort to beat the heat, Isandap bends through the small opening of her hut just as the sun peaks out from the horizon. She grabs her scratched-up 20-litre yellow jug and leans back into the smoky hut, giving last-minute instructions to her still-sleepy teenage daughter. Then she's off to the well.

The footpath rises and falls with the gentle sandy slopes, weaving around pesky thorn bushes. Sun-bleached remains of once-mighty herds of goats, sheep and camels that died of thirst are scattered as far as the eye can see. The piles of bones are a constant reminder of how important water is. A person can survive without food for 30



Water: The Heartbreaking Facts

Consider this:

- ✓ An American taking a five-minute shower uses more water than the typical person living in a developing country's slum uses in a whole day. (source: United Nations Development Programme)
- ✓ 1 billion people in the world do not have access to safe water, roughly one in eight of the world's population. In Africa, two out of five people lack clean water. (source: World Health Organization/United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund)
- ✓ The average North American uses 158.5 gallons of water a day. The average person in the developing world uses between 2.6 and 5.2 gallons a day for drinking, washing and cooking. (source: U.N. Human Development Report)
- ✓ The average weight of water women in Africa carry on their heads is 50 pounds, the same as the average airport checked luggage allowance. (source: U.N. Human Development Report)
- ✓ Every year there are 4 billion cases of diarrhea as a direct result of drinking contaminated water, resulting in 2.2 million deaths each year, equivalent to 20 jumbo jets crashing every day. (source: World Health Organization)
- ✓ 98 percent of water-related deaths occur in the developing world. (source: World Health Organization)
- ✓ 1.4 million children die every year from diarrhea caused by unclean water and poor sanitation. That's 4,000 child deaths a day or one child every 20 seconds. (source: United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund)
- ✓ About 2 in 3 people lacking access to clean water survive on less than \$2 per day, with 1 in 3 living on less than \$1. (source: World Health Organization)
- ✓ The water and sanitation crisis claims more lives through disease than any war claims through guns. (source: United Nations Development Programme)
- ✓ 84 percent of water related deaths are in children ages 0-14. (source: World Health Organization)

days. Without water, survival is possible for only five to seven days.

The arid lands of Northern Kenya have been the hardest hit by the drought. In some villages, it has not rained in years. Isandap's village is one of the fortunate ones. Even if it's only a sprinkle here and there, rain dramatically changes the area. But, this day, more importantly, the closest well—a 17-minute walk—has water. Just a week ago, the well was bone dry.

"Even last week I walked to the other well. I left at 7 a.m. and returned home at 7 p.m.," Isandap said. "The lines were long because it was the only well with water. Some women spent the night there so they could keep their place in line."

At the well, the widow joined some friends already in line and heard the latest news. A rock python, measuring nearly three feet in diameter, strangled two boys last night. They were watching the family goats at the livestock camp in the hills. The women quickly switch the topic in an effort not to worry about their own sons at the

camp trying to find water for the remaining herd.

They manually lower makeshift buckets down the 30-foot well and back up again using homemade ropes. Isandap is eerily skinny from the tough year, yet her arm muscles ripple as she repeats the process twice more, filling the container with muddy, arsenic-laced water. She straps the 44-pound jug onto her back and starts the arduous trek home. Isandap and her daughter will make this trip three more times today.

In sub-Saharan Africa, UNICEF estimates 40 billion hours of labor are wasted each year carrying water over long distances. The tragedy is that the water they work so hard to collect is often dirty and polluted.

Women trapped in this situation have little time for other activities, such as child care, rest or productive work. So when water gushes out of the nearby water tanks provided by Southern Baptists, word spreads quickly among the women.

The cost of clean water

Now, an almost giddy atmosphere surrounds the water tanks at Isandap's village. Women smile, laugh and tease. Mothers give their toddlers a good washing. Boys plop down in the mud, building dams and mud pies. Girls playfully splash each other.

The tanks and series of pipes connecting to the borehole miles away cost around \$20,000, provided by the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund. It takes about \$6 worth of diesel—an expense the community intends to cover—to run the borehole long enough to fill all four tanks, which hold enough water for two days.

Village elder Andrew Amalo insists that raising their own money is, in fact, local custom and exactly how they want it, even though the World Health Organization estimates that two-thirds of those without access to safe water live on less than \$2 a day.

"That is how it is done here," Amalo insisted. "When a boy goes off to school, the entire village collects money to support him. Whether it is 5 shillings (6 cents) there or 20 shillings (26 cents) here, we pull our resources together. Everyone shares."

This type of partnership between Southern Baptists and Isandap's vil-

lage allows the community to have ownership over the project. They decide when water is needed most.

No one knows when the tanks will be filled again, so everyone tries to get as much as they can. In less than an hour, Isandap and her children gather enough water for two days. (BP)



State convention exec Endel is nominee for SBC president

Milwaukee, Wis.—Leo Endel, executive director of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention, will be nominated for president of the Southern Baptist Convention during next month's annual meeting in Orlando, Fla.

Endel will be nominated by Wes Jones, area missionary/church starter strategist for Northwest and Southwest Iowa Southern Baptist associations. Endel is the fourth announced nominee for SBC president, joining Georgia pastor Bryant Wright, Alabama pastor Jimmy Jackson and Florida pastor Ted Traylor.

Both Endel and Jones compared Endel's candidacy in a field of prominent pastors from Southern states to David taking on Goliath.

"For many reasons I was reluctant to allow the nomination; I did not see myself in that kind of role and doubted my ability to be a strong voice in a conflicted and confused convention," Endel said. "It would be a David and Goliath-style miracle for a new-work leader, ... to be elected to this role."

The Great Commission Resurgence Task Force's report—particularly its call to phase out cooperative agreements between the NAMB and state conventions—is of keen interest to a leader of a pioneer state convention, an area that would be directly affected.

The MWBC has a 2010 budget of \$2.05 that includes about \$1.1 million in cooperative agreement funding from the NAMB, as well as anticipated Cooperative Program receipts of about \$500,000 from its 150 churches and missions.

"I've heard the concerns from many in this part of the upper Midwest that there needs to be a new-work perspective brought into (the GCR) conversation," Endel said. "It's not an anti- or pro-GCR sentiment, but the idea that there needs to be some leadership out of a new work area."

Endel became the Minnesota-Wisconsin convention's executive director in May 2002. Before that, he was pastor of Southern Hills Baptist Church in Sioux City, Iowa, for 11 years.

Information from the 2009 Annual Church Profile for Emmanuel Baptist Church in Rochester, Minn., where Endel and his family are members, lists six baptisms and primary worship service attendance of 137. The church gave \$35,698 (11.62 percent) through the Cooperative Program from total undesignated receipts of \$281,291. According to the ACP, the church also received \$4,622 for the Lottie Moon offering for International Missions and \$3,460 for the Annie Armstrong offering for North American Missions. (BP)



Leo Endel

SBC Annual Church Profile report

Baptisms up, membership down

Nashville, Tenn.—The Southern Baptist Convention reported a slight increase in baptisms in 2009, after four consecutive years of decline, but leaders say the denomination still needs to regain its focus on evangelism.

Baptisms in the nation's largest Protestant denomination totaled 349,737 last year, a 2 percent increase from 2008, according to LifeWay Christian Resources.

The 2008 baptism total was the lowest recorded since 1987.

"The fact that more people were baptized this year than last year gives us a reason to hope we're on the right path," LifeWay President Thom Rainer said in a May 14 announcement of the Annual Church Profile statistics.

"At the same time, we as Southern Baptists continue to show signs of drifting from our historic commitment to evangelism, as reflected in the fact that it still takes 46 Southern Baptists to lead one person to faith in Christ."

Total membership for 2009 dipped slightly—by 0.42 percent—to 16.1 million.

Ed Stetzer, president of LifeWay Research, said the denomination's membership may al-

ready have peaked.

"We are a denomination in decline," he wrote on the "Between the Times" blog sponsored by Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

"Some don't like to admit it. But, the decline of SBC membership is not a matter of debate. It is a matter of math."

Despite a dip in membership, ACP data revealed a slight rise (0.36 percent) in the number of Southern Baptist churches, to 45,010, and an increase of 0.37 percent in primary worship attendance, to 6.21 million.

Giving to missions totaled \$1.33 billion in 2009, a decline of 1.8 percent, likely a result of the country's economic downturn.

Other impacted categories and their 2009 totals include:

- Woman's Missionary Union enrollment: 726,031.
- Men/boys missions education enrollment: 397,541.
- Total tithes, offerings and special gifts: \$10.83 billion.

Compiled from reporting by Religion News Service and LifeWay Christian Resources

Pitman to seek Pastors' Conf. presidency

Jacksonville, Fla.—Vance Pitman, pastor of Hope Baptist Church in Las Vegas, will be nominated for president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference next month in Orlando, Fla., Mac Brunson, pastor of First Baptist Church in Jacksonville, announced May 4.

According to Brunson, Hope Baptist began in 2001 as a church plant of First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga., which is led by Johnny Hunt, president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"God has put on Vance's heart the gospel for the nations," Brunson said, adding that since the SBC is "meeting out West next year, the election of Vance would send a strong message to our pastors and churches that they are such a vital part of our Southern Baptist family."

Pitman said the Southern Baptist Convention is an "incredible platform from which we can engage the nations with the gospel."

Pitman is the second announced candidate to

lead the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference, which meets two days prior to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention. Troy Gramling, pastor of Flamingo Road Church in Cooper City, Fla., is the other candidate.

According to information from his church, Hope Baptist has planted nine churches in the last seven years, with another church planned in the Las Vegas area.

Information from the 2009 Annual Church Profile for Hope Baptist Church lists 117 baptisms and primary worship service attendance of 1,670. The congregation gave \$61,888 (2.47 percent) through the Cooperative Program from total undesignated receipts of \$2,497,299. The church's total mission expenditures were \$1,436,838, with no gifts reported for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions. (BP)

So. Baptist volunteers serve Tenn. flood victims

Nashville, Tenn.—Preparing some 10,000 meals per day, Southern Baptist disaster relief teams have set up feeding units at churches in Middle Tennessee for flood victims.

More than 30 volunteers set up in the parking lot of Judson Baptist Church in Nashville, Tenn., May 12. They represented just a handful of the 88,000-plus Southern Baptists who are trained for disaster relief, ready to head to any disaster location at a moment's notice.

"Once you start, you love to do it," said Charlie Sherwood, a member of Second Baptist Church of Clinton, Tenn. "I hate for a disaster to happen, but it's a joy to go out and help people."

Southern Baptist disaster relief volunteers don't just prepare meals. Among other things, they remove downed trees, clean and help rebuild flooded homes, provide portable hot showers and, of course, minister in the name of Christ to people who often have lost everything. The volunteers make up one of the nation's three largest disaster relief efforts, the other two being the Red Cross and Salvation Army.

In Nashville, Sherwood and the rest of the feeding unit crew woke up around 5 a.m. each day to serve people in the area, which saw thousands of homes flooded May 1-2 and experienced at least \$1.5 billion in flood damage in the city alone.

The unit—owned by the Tennessee Baptist Convention—ran like clockwork, with volunteers wearing color-coded hats, depending on their tasks. Those in white and blue caps were the leaders, while those in yellow caps—the predominant color—were the workers. (BP)



STIRRING THE POT Becky Clark, a member and secretary at Lebanon Baptist Church in Talbott, Tenn., stirs a pot of peas and carrots at the Tennessee Baptist disaster relief feeding unit based at Judson Baptist Church in Nashville. (Photo by Royce DeGrie)

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Last jailed Baptist home from Haiti

Port-au-Prince, Haiti—Convicted of arranging illegal travel, Southern Baptist missionary Laura Silsby last week became the last of 10 Americans released for trying to take 33 children out of Haiti after the January earthquake.

Silsby, released in the capital of Port-au-Prince, was sentenced to the three months and eight days she already spent in jail, according to the Associated Press. Prosecutors had called for six months of imprisonment on charges of kidnapping and criminal association.

"I'm praising God," Silsby told AP after the trial. The 40-year-old businesswoman attends Central Valley Baptist Church in Meridian, Idaho. She had led her group, comprised of members from her church and other Baptist churches, to Haiti to move children to an orphanage she planned to operate in the Dominican Republic.

During the trial, Silsby stated her occupation as the manager of an orphanage, and said she thought the Haitian children did not have parents. However, CBS News reported that the children had

come from the devastated village of Callebas, where families told reporters they handed over their children because the missionaries promised to educate them and allow visitation.

Silsby landed in Miami last Monday, according to Fox 12 in Idaho. The local television news station visited Central Valley Baptist Church, where members of the congregation were ecstatic about her return.

"With her coming back there will be some better feelings for future missions and things," church member Jerry Hamilton told Fox 12. "That's very, very big in the Baptist faith."

Central Valley Baptist Pastor Paul Thompson said Silsby's release served as a reminder of others who face similar challenges.

"I think Southern Baptists should use this moment to be reminded of the unknown numbers of believers around the world who are in jail right now for the cause of the gospel, and we need to be constantly in prayer for them," he said. (RNS)

With additional reporting by Baptist Press

IMB personnel in Thailand reportedly safe



DANGEROUS SITUATION Violence that erupted in Bangkok last week spread to Northern Thailand, where masked protestors stormed and ransacked a police post in Chiang Mai, setting it on fire. Two fire trucks were set ablaze and exploded near a major intersection in the downtown area. International Mission Board representatives reported that all IMB personnel in Thailand are safe despite the escalating violence. (IMB photo)

Chiang Mai, Thailand—With violence escalating in the Thailand capital of Bangkok last week, International Mission Board representatives in that part of the world reported May 19 that all IMB personnel were safe.

"All of our (personnel) in Bangkok are all right," said Dwight Chittum*, an IMB risk management consultant in Thailand. "They are weary but prepared for what lies ahead. There is no power in some parts of the city, which includes the office compound."

Also, all IMB personnel serving in Northern Thailand, where violence erupted among anti-government protestors, are accounted for, Chittum said.

"We are taking the matter seriously and carefully monitoring the situation," he added. "We are trying to keep (our personnel) informed as events unfold, and they are all doing well under the circumstances." (BP)

College mission team members serving in Haiti injured in crash

Port-au-Prince, Haiti—Fourteen students and a faculty sponsor from Baptist-affiliated Hannibal-LaGrange College were injured May 16 in a vehicle accident while on a mission trip in Haiti.

The students—nine women and five men—were riding in the back of an open-air truck with 15 Haitians down a mountain near Port-au-Prince when the vehicle's brakes failed. The driver managed to steer the vehicle into an embankment only a few feet away from the edge of a cliff.

Several students were ejected from the vehicle, while others were jostled from side to side in the back of the truck. Injuries ranged from bruises, cuts and "road-rash" abrasions to broken bones and concussions.

The most serious injuries were to Christina Brennemann, an assistant professor of communication arts at the Hannibal, Mo.-based school and the faculty sponsor for the eight-day mission trip, which was scheduled to end May 17.

As of May 19, she remained in serious condition in the intensive-care unit of a Miami hospital, according to a school press release.

The trip, sponsored by Blessing Hearts International, a Haitian missions organization, was originally scheduled for spring break but was rescheduled for May after the Jan. 12 earthquake devastated the area. The students were there to help with earthquake relief and to work with an orphanage and school.

One nursing student who graduated only days before the trip, despite suffering a head injury of his own, began triage procedures and was credited with saving lives. Had the truck not crashed, it likely would have gone over the cliff, killing all 30 passengers.

"The Lord was with them and spared them any more serious injuries," Hannibal-LaGrange College President Woodrow Burt told the Quincy (Ill.) Herald-Whig newspaper. (ABP)

J.H. Spencer Historical Society Spring Meeting

May 27, 6:30 pm

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Ashland KY

- Harold Cathy
Speaking on Baptists and Baptism
- Stan Williams
Speaking on The Baptist Distinctives

Everyone is invited

Meet the class of 2010, part 9

Oneida staff children face many of the same adjustments as boarding students

Like it or not, our staff children are deeply affected by the decisions their parents make about being part of the Oneida ministry. Over the years I have watched staff children struggle with many of the same adjustment issues as our boarding students. Leaving family members and friends hundreds of miles behind to move to a new environment can be a very difficult challenge. At least our boarding students know that home is still there. They can return during school breaks and when school is out for the summer. But for our staff children, this is home.

The experience seems to be less challenging for younger children, but for teenagers it can be very difficult. Sometimes staff members are not able to stay with us because their teenage children are not willing to adjust to a new school, a new home, living in the country and being away from family and friends. I spend much time explaining those problems to potential staff who have teenagers.

Even if staff children come to OBI at a younger age, they can become a little resentful about their Oneida experience during their teenage years. Household income often does not permit staff children to have many of the things their peers enjoy. Vacations often are shorter in time and distance, the nearest McDonald's is 17 miles away, and the nearest cinema is 40 miles from Oneida.

The following is part of a senior essay written by one of our staff children and the valedictorian of the Class of 2010. Her name is Miriam—and that is her real name!

This is Oneida



W.F. Underwood

"We heard about Oneida through one of my relatives, so we made our journey down those nauseating, curvy roads when I was around 2 years old. While here, my mom wanted to homeschool my brother and me, but both parents have to work here if they are on staff. So, after three years at Oneida, my parents saw fit that we had to move, this time to the other side of the country to California, which is where most of my dad's family lived. ... But after three or four years, my parents informed us that we were moving back to the 'boondocks' because God was leading them back to Oneida.

"There are a boat-load of things I have learned in this tiny town, both spiritually and academically, but moreso spiritually. One lesson I learned (and one that most people learn eventually) is that changes will occur and only God is constant. ... My Oneida experiences have definitively made my relationship with God stronger. Through the daily chapel services

to the struggles that burden me down once in a while, my hope is in the Lord and He has gotten me through.

"I enjoy playing soccer and tennis. One probably wouldn't think that sports could get someone closer to God, but for me it has. When I ask Him for help, He gives it. And when He guides my winning shot or perfect pass, I feel like I'm cheating because He is my strength.

"Oneida Baptist Institute is not perfect, but neither am I. My life and the memories that I have acquired at Oneida have equipped me with the things I'll need to face challenges later on."

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

Graduation day

Clear Creek grads transition to new areas of ministry

Graduation day certainly is an exciting time each year for a specific group of our students. Each year at this time, we are privileged to watch a group of our students complete a season of God's calling on their lives as they finish their studies here.

It is the best of days for me personally, yet it also is a time when I realize that a group of people who the Lord has allowed in my life for a few years now are going to transition on to another "season" of God's calling on their lives. I do get a little sad when I think about them leaving.

It's the best of days because I have been able to watch a group of men and women who were called of God to a place like Clear Creek grow and mature in that calling to where they are now—ready to transition into another area of ministry. Each year at this time, I think of years earlier when this group of students sat before me at orientation, and I can see it in their eyes—they are wondering what they have gotten themselves into.

Each year I share Jeremiah 29:11 with them and remind them that this experience they are beginning is a calling and that God

has a plan for their lives. It is nice to be able to watch God's plan unfold over the years as they work toward their graduation day. So now, here I am a little sad that another group of graduates is leaving, but proud and excited to see how God has grown them over the years they have been with us.

God is using this group of graduates literally all over the world as they leave us. Most of them are transitioning straight to the local church field to do ministry. Some of the graduates are transitioning to other parts of the world to share the gospel. A group of our graduates also will pursue their master's degrees at the seminary level.

You can be proud, too. Through your support for Clear Creek you have invested in kingdom work through these graduates. Thanks for enabling us to fulfill our mission to equip these students for ministry.

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

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

Here it comes again ...

With summer near, camps get set for record numbers

It is hard to believe but camp is here again. This summer will be yet another record year for Crossings, as we will see the largest crowds ever. We are anxious to see our worship centers full and thankful for the new Calvin D. Fields Worship Center at Cedarmore and the expanded A.M. Johnson Worship Center at Jonathan Creek.

The past weeks honestly have been the busiest I can ever remember, and we do not see any slowdown as summer attendance will have our facilities completely filled. With so much going on, it is hard to maintain priorities, and the business of ministry can take the place of our personal walks with Christ.

As we battle to maintain correct priorities, our staff is in need of your prayers and support throughout this busy time. Each year, we have learned that prayers should be specific in nature as when they are answered, it is obvious God is the source of the solution.

For those who would like to pray for Crossings this summer, here are some specific areas in which we certainly need your support.

- Safety for campers and staff.

- Clear and understandable presentation of the gospel to all our guests.

- Spiritual and physical strength and health for our staff.

- Wisdom in counseling our guests.

Ky. Baptist Assemblies



David Melber

- Unity among our staff members.

- Great numbers of decisions for Christ and calls to full-time ministry.

- And in all that we do, for God to be glorified.

While I could list other areas, these are key to having a successful summer. Our camps run basically seven days a week, so your prayers are needed literally around the clock throughout June and July.

I also would like to invite you to come and see camp in action this summer. We do ask for you to call ahead and let us know you are coming as we do have restricted access to the property during camp weeks. As Kentucky Baptists, you can be excited about how God is reaching students through camp—and participate yourself through prayer.

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

May is Foster Care Month

Foster care has evolved, but remains a biblical mandate

We recognize the month of May as Foster Care Appreciation Month. This does not rank high on the Baptist calendar of events. You likely won't read anything on a Baptist Web site or in the Sunday worship guide about Foster Care Appreciation Month. Why? Because these days, state government runs the foster care system.

But did you know it has not always been this way?

"Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction and to keep oneself unstained from the world." James 1:27 is a familiar text to us. I refer to this text often in my efforts to convince Kentucky Baptists they should provide said care through the local church to support our ministry to Kentucky's victimized kids.

Did you know the people of God were providing foster care long before James 1:27? The National Foster Parent Association Web site, www.NFPAInc.org, cites documented cases of kids being cared for in foster homes as far back as the Old Testament. The early church provided accommodations with "worthy widows" for the orphans and dependent kids—and received offerings to pay for it. Before the state cared for dependent kids, the saints already were involved.

The English Poor Law eventual-

ly led to the regulation of foster care in the U.S. It was not a great system because poor kids placed with families could be indentured (serve as laborers for a fixed period of time) until they became adults. This was far from a perfect system but it was a step in the right direction.

Benjamin Eaton, age 7, became the first foster child in the U.S. in 1636. In 1853, Charles Loring Brace began the foster-home movement that evolved into the system we know today. Brace, a minister and director of the New York Children's Aid Society, sought to move immigrant children into homes and off the streets. This program was not perfect either, but by the early 1900s, agencies began to supervise foster parents and keep records of the kids.

Sunrise began as the Louisville Baptist Orphans' Home. But before the orphanage was established, families kept kids in their homes. Today, Sunrise cares for more children through foster homes than residential care. We don't think of our families as foster families but as in-home missionaries called of God, equipped through the Spirit and just as much on mission as any other believer.

Maybe this is God's calling for your life? Want to find out more? Give us a call. Want to do something special? Recognize the foster families in your church this month.

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

Sunrise Children's Services



Bill Smithwick

So, the Supreme Court would have no Protestants ... But does that really matter?

By Adelle Banks

Washington—As Solicitor General Elena Kagan prepares for confirmation hearings to make her the newest member of the U.S. Supreme Court, her nomination changes the religious makeup of the nation's highest court.

But does it matter that the bench would include six Catholics and, with her confirmation, three Jews and no Protestants?

Observers say it's a historic turning point for a court once comprised of Protestant elites to have no Protestants following the retirement of Justice John Paul Stevens. But the shift may say more about how the country—rather than the court—has changed.

"I think that this means that this is an extraordinarily tolerant country religiously, and I think we should stop for a moment and appreciate that," said Boston University professor Stephen Prothero. "It wasn't long ago that Protestants were burning down Catholic monasteries, and it wasn't long ago that the Holocaust happened."

As times changed, presidents used the nomination process to determine who should fill a "Catholic seat" or a "Jewish seat" or even a "woman's seat" on the court. Now, even those limitations are archaic, Prothero insisted.

If Kagan is confirmed as expected, she will join fellow Jews Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen Breyer on the court. Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Antonin Scalia, Anthony Kennedy, Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito and Sonia Sotomayor all are Catholics.

Religious affiliation "immaterial"?

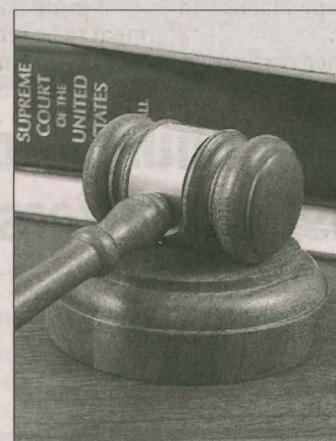
Religious affiliation has become, in recent weeks, the newest wrinkle in the long-running Washington parlor game of sketching the profile of top-level nominees that often starts with race, ethnicity, gender and ideology.

The Constitution specifically forbids a "religious test" for government office, and that's the way it should stay, said Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

"Religious affiliation," he said, "is immaterial."

First Amendment Center scholar Charles Haynes said Kagan's nomination—and the rather ho-hum consideration of the court's religious makeup—is an indication of the country's maturity.

"I think we have grown up," he noted. "And I think we now realize that first, we are a very diverse country and, secondly, that there are core principles that we need to look to when selecting a justice, and religious affiliation has really little relevance."



The loss of a "Protestant seat" on the Supreme Court shows how traditional religious labels no longer apply, Haynes said. Religious conservatives, for example—from evangelicals to Roman Catholics to Orthodox Jews—are more likely to forge alliances based on ideology, not church attendance.

"They're less concerned now about the religious affiliation and more concerned about those social and political values," Haynes explained.

Even so, the dearth of Protestants on the court has not gone unnoticed. Author and scholar Diana Butler Bass, who has written about the importance of mainline Protestantism in the country's history and culture, said the shift on the court is one more indicator of America's statistical slide from a majority Protestant country. According to the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life, the percentage of self-identified Protestants in the U.S. is a bare majority of 51 percent.

Bass said there is a "Protestant empathy" for individual conscience, the power of symbols and the separation of church and state.

"It doesn't mean that Jews and Catholics can't interpret these things," she said. "It just means that they're going to interpret them rather differently than a Protestant."

Bass said the change should be marked—but with sadness, not anger. She also noted, with a bit of irony, that Protestants who were so devoted to church-state separation now may have separated themselves from the nation's highest court.

"We're so successful that we're putting ourselves out of business," she quipped.

Still others said it was perhaps too much to expect a Protestant judge—of evangelical, mainline or African-American persuasion—to fully represent the diverse range of American Protestant churches.

"It's difficult to think of sort of a monolithic Protestant worldview and to think that any one justice from any one denomination could be representative of Protestantism in America," said Barbra Bennett, a lawyer and adjunct professor in the religion department of Elmhurst College in Illinois.

But Prothero, author of the new book, "God Is Not One," said while Americans should be "pating themselves on the back" for their country's openness to Catholics and Jews, the court still does not fully represent the religious diversity of the country.

Eventually, he said, there should be an atheist or Muslim nominee, along with other Protestants. "We only have two religious traditions now on the court in a country that has many," he said. (RNS)

NATIONAL NOTES

Mention of 'God' in presidential oath upheld— A federal appeals court ruled May 7 that a California atheist lacked legal standing to strip the phrase "so help me God" from the presidential oath of office. Atheist lawyer Michael Newdow sought to prevent Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts from asking Obama to repeat "so help me God" at the end of his oath. The words are not part of the oath or affirmation required by the Constitution, but a tradition of adding them dates, by some accounts, to George Washington. A three-judge panel said Newdow's claims regarding the 2009 inauguration were moot, because it had already occurred and is no longer "an actual controversy" that can be decided by law. The court also denied Newdow's challenges to future inauguration ceremonies in 2013 and 2017 for technical reasons. Newdow said he plans to appeal the court's decision.

Louisiana bill would allow guns in church— Guns should be allowed in Louisiana houses of worship as a way to protect congregants from attacks, if the pastor or head of the religious body approves, state lawmakers said. The state House voted 74-18 for the bill May 12, sending it to the Senate for debate. State Rep. Henry Burns, a Republican, said the bill is "a matter of choice" and leaves it up to each synagogue, mosque or church to decide whether to implement it. "Every church in Louisiana (still) will be gun-free" as state law now dictates, unless a house of worship decides to allow certain members qualified to carry concealed weapons to bring them to church as part of its security plan, Burns said. The bill would require church leaders to tell worshippers verbally or in bulletins that it will have armed security in the congregation.



Cumberlands taps Woods for newly created dean post

Williamsburg—University of the Cumberlands alumna Peggy Woods has returned to the school as its dean of student employment. In the newly created role, Woods will coordinate and supervise the school's Federal Work-Study program. Also, as part of a plan to restructure and improve University of the Cumberlands' student workforce, Woods will be responsible for identifying and posting positions and job descriptions and assigning jobs to each department, as well as training and maintaining communication with labor supervisors. "Our students and staff will benefit from Ms. Wood's knowledge as she works to support both student employees and supervisors in this newly created position. This position is greatly needed on campus," said Steve Morris, Cumberlands' vice president for business services.

Woods, who recently assumed the new post, brings experience gained from a career with the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Human Services. Following her retirement from the state agency, she became a training specialist for Eastern Kentucky University.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **DUNMOR**—New Hebron Church recently called **Todd Webster** as pastor. He was ordained to the gospel ministry May 23 at Cave Springs Church in Greenville.
■ **LOUISVILLE**—**George Sanders** recently resigned as director of outreach ministries at Carlisle Avenue Church.
Linda Blincoe recently resigned as childhood education minister at Walnut Street Church.

Welcome
Farmdale Baptist, Louisville
Church Newsletter Plan
Doug Strader, pastor

E-town church to host state Christian writers' conference

Elizabethtown—Author and Kentucky native Virginia Smith will be the keynote speaker at the 14th annual Kentucky Christian Writers Conference, June 11-12 at Northside Baptist Church in Elizabethtown. Smith is the author of 14 Christian novels, as well as 50 shorter works. Her writing has garnered national attention, including the 2008 Mount Hermon Christian Writers Conference Writer of the Year award. "Stuck in the Middle," the first book in Smith's Sister-to-Sister series, was a finalist for the American Christian Fiction Writers' 2009 Book of the Year award, and "A Taste of Murder" was a finalist for the 2009 Daphne du Maurier Award of Excellence in the mystery/suspense genre. In addition to Smith's address, the inter-denominational conference will feature workshops and concurrent sessions on a variety of topics, from fiction writing to devotionals to writing for children. Con-

ference faculty will be available for a limited number of private appointments and will serve as mentors for writers who wish to hone their craft. New to this year's conference are workshop tracks in which participants will have the option to focus on a specific area. Those areas include fiction, non-fiction and marketing/organization. Registration for both days, with most meals provided, is \$180; one-day registration is \$105 per day. Walk-in registration will be accepted both days, but meals and private faculty appointments are not guaranteed for registrations made after May 28. Complete details on registration and individual workshops can be found at www.KyChristianWriters.com. Participants are encouraged to pre-register through the Web site. For more information or to request a brochure, e-mail kcwinfo@gmail.com or call (502) 330-2773.

Men's chorale serves



Members of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Men's Chorale take a moment to pose in front of the Solomon's Porch Retreat Center in Lynch. Last month, the chorale, made up of about 20 Kentucky Baptist men from across the state, conducted their yearly tour, incorporating missions work as well. According to group leader Rod Ellis, the men's chorale spent two days doing servant-missions activities, such as cleaning and repair jobs, with Meridzo Ministries in Harlan County. The group also performed four concerts during the trip, singing at Immanuel Baptist Church in Pikeville, First Baptist Church of Hazard, Clear Creek Baptist Bible College in Pineville and the Paul E. Patton Veterans' Center in Hazard. (Photo courtesy of Rod Ellis)



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June

- 5 Church Weekday Education Seminar, Hurstbourne Baptist Church, Louisville.
- 5 Kentucky WMU Estate Planning Conference, Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 12-18 Kentucky Changers, Bullitt County.
- 13-14 National WMU Missions Celebration and Annual Meeting, Orlando, Fla.
- 14-18 Girls in Action Camp, CedarCrest Camp, Bagdad.
- 15-16 Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, Orlando, Fla.
- 18-19 Acteens Overnight, CedarCrest Camp, Bagdad.
- 18-19 Mother/Daughter Overnight, CedarCrest Camp, Bagdad.
- 19-26 Kentucky Changers, Princeton.
- 20-27 All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra Retreat and Tour, Campbellsville University.
- 21-25 Girls in Action Camp, CedarCrest Camp, Bagdad.
- 25-26 Acteens Splash, Jonathan Creek Camp and Conference Center, Hardin.
- 25-26 Courage for God's Mission, Laurel Lake Baptist Camp, Corbin.
- 25-26 Girls in Action Overnight, Jonathan Creek Camp and Conference Center, Hardin.
- 25-26 Mother/Daughter Overnight, CedarCrest Camp, Bagdad; Jonathan Creek Camp and Conference Center, Hardin.
- 26 Baptist Nursing Fellowship Summer Meeting, Louisville.
- 28-30 Express Mission Adventure Camp for Girls and Boys, CedarCrest Camp, Bagdad.
- 30-7/2 Express Mission Adventure Camp for Girls and Boys, CedarCrest Camp, Bagdad.

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

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SEEKING: Part-time worship leader to plan, organize and lead a growing church to a full-time worship ministry at Calvary Baptist Church, which has a blended style of worship. Responsibilities include weekly leadership of worship and teaching the flock. Please submit resumé to Tom Adams at Calvary Baptist Church, PO Box 747, Maysville, KY 41056; or e-mail to marilynadams@dragonbbs.com.

SEEKING: Pastor for First Baptist Church, Williamsburg, Ky. Beautiful, small-town setting located near University of the Cumberlands. Diverse membership with an average Sunday attendance of 140 and active youth group. Must be able to work with both SBC and CBF. Parsonage available. Seeking individual with a minimum of M.Div. degree and pastoral experience. Send resumé to First Baptist Church, 230 S 5th St., Williamsburg, KY 40769.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for First Baptist Church, Princeton, Ky. Please mail resumé to Pastor Search Committee, 209 Cherry Lane, Princeton, KY 42445.

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

SEEKING: 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.

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.

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

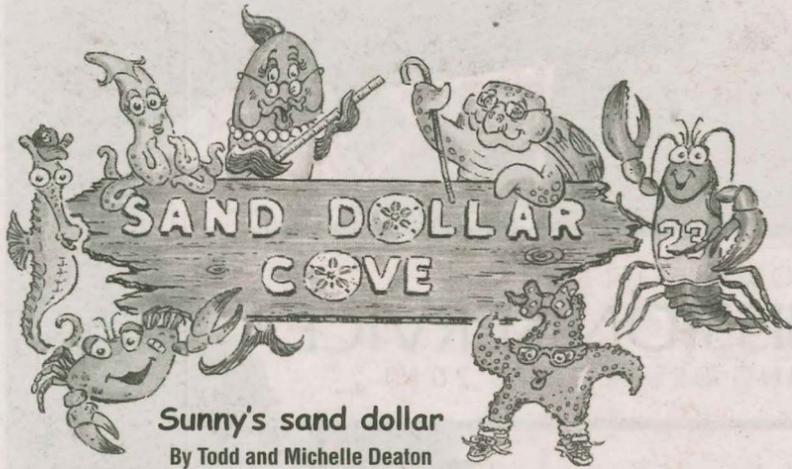
SEEKING: Pastor for Faith Decision Baptist Church in Paint Lick, Ky., a Christ-centered church in Southern Madison County focused on reaching the lost through outreach and missions. Please mail resumé and letter of interest to: PO Box 902, Berea, KY 40403.

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

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

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

TOURS: 10-day deluxe Holyland tour, Nov. 8, departing Nashville and Atlanta. Only \$2,685. Contact Pastor Jack Studie, (270) 889-7604; or jstudie@aol.com for a color brochure. We offer experience you can trust.



Sunny's sand dollar
By Todd and Michelle Deaton

One day, Sunny Starfish went for a walk on the beach. She had not gone far when she saw a round object shimmering in the sunlight. "Cool! A sand dollar!" Sunny exclaimed.

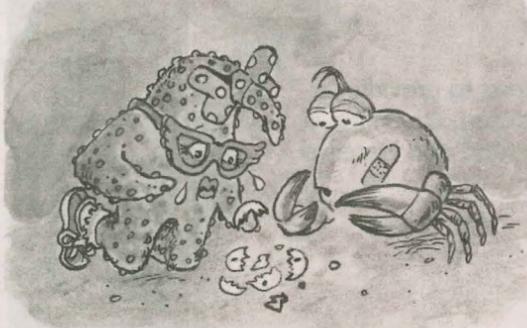
"Sand dollars are special because they have the shape of a star on them," she thought. "Everybody must like them. Why else would they name the Cove after them?"

Sunny wrapped the sand dollar in tissue paper to keep it from breaking, and she placed it in the red, heart-shaped box where she put her most treasured keepsakes.

The next day at Surfside Church, Sunny was glowing with pride as she showed the sand dollar to the other Cove Kids. Although they lived in Sand Dollar Cove, few of them had ever seen one.

"Thanks for bringing the sand dollar so we all could see one," said Pastor Porpoise.

"I don't want to pass it around," Sunny told Pastor Porpoise. "I'm afraid someone might break it," she explained. She placed it gently in the box and set it on the table.



But during the lesson, Craig Crab opened the box while Sunny wasn't watching and pulled out the sand dollar. At first he just looked at the shiny sand dollar. But after a few minutes, he began to roll it

back and forth on its side like a wheel. Then he thought about how much it looked like a Frisbee.

"Watch this," Craig whispered to Seamore Seahorse. Craig tossed the sand dollar toward Lenny Lobster, but Lenny didn't see it in time to catch it. The sand dollar crashed to the floor and shattered into a hundred pieces.

"My sand dollar!" Sunny screamed.

"I'm sorry. I didn't mean to break it," Craig stammered.

"You took it without asking, and you broke it," she cried.

"It's just a sand dollar," Craig whimpered. "I said I was sorry."

"Well, it was special to me. You're not my friend anymore," Sunny said.

"Now, Sunny," said Pastor Porpoise, "I'm sure the sand dollar was special to you, but don't you think your friendship with Craig is even more special? You've been friends for a long time," he added.

"He shouldn't have taken it without asking," Sunny objected.

"No, he shouldn't have," Pastor Porpoise agreed. "But you don't need to break a special friendship because of a broken sand dollar."

"Why not?" Sunny demanded.

"Do you know why the Cove is named after a sand dollar?" Pastor Porpoise asked.

"Because they are so beautiful?" Sunny guessed.

Pastor Porpoise began looking through the shattered pieces of the sand dollar until he found the dove-shaped piece that's in the center of every sand dollar.

"The reason is that the sand dollar reminds us all that it's what is on the inside that matters most," he explained. Holding up the piece, he added, "The dove is a symbol of God's love. He loves us no matter what we've done. And when we have God's love in our hearts, then we should love others, too—no matter what."

"Friends?" Craig pleaded, hoping Sunny would forgive him.

"Friends," Sunny smiled.



Treasure Hunt

How did Craig Crab break the sand dollar?

How did Sunny Starfish feel? Why did Sunny think sand dollars were special?

Why was the Cove named after the sand dollar?

Why are friends more important than things?

Read Proverbs 17:17 together.

For Heaven's Sake



Mike Morgan

Preacher's Kids



David Ayers

Bible Crosswords

By Elaine Okupski

Across

- 1 To damage
- 4 "And Saul _____ unto David" (1 Samuel 17:37)
- 8 Cushions
- 12 "Blessed _____ the meek" (Matthew 5:5)
- 13 Son of Helem (1 Chronicles 7:35)
- 14 Operatic solo
- 15 _____ Goliath (2 words)
- 17 Genuine
- 18 Genesis garden
- 19 _____ of Two Cities (2 words)
- 20 "The wine _____" (Psalms 75:8; 2 words)
- 22 Man of brave deeds
- 24 Female rabbits
- 25 Sealing wax
- 29 Epoch
- 30 Member of the nobility
- 31 Anger
- 32 "Making a noise with psalteries _____" (1 Chronicles 15:28; 2 words)
- 34 "They _____ not the bones till the morrow" (Ephesians 3:3)
- 35 "The _____ are a people not strong" (Proverbs 30:25)
- 36 "Yet offend in one _____" (James 2:10)
- 37 "The _____ of his fire shall not shine" (Job 18:5)
- 40 "_____! for that day is great" (Jeremiah 30:7)
- 41 "The _____ of the Lord was with him" (Luke 1:66)
- 42 David's friend
- 46 Father of Shammah (2 Samuel 23:11)
- 47 Son of Jerahmeel (1 Chronicles 2:25)

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46						47				48		
49						50				51		

- 48 Female sheep
- 49 "Thou shalt not build it of _____ stone" (Exodus 20:25)
- 50 Wagers
- 51 Fourth letter of the alphabet

Down

- 1 "Lo, ye see the man is _____" (1 Samuel 21:14)
- 2 Son of Jether (1 Chronicles 7:38)
- 3 Pastor's title
- 4 Having walls
- 5 "There was _____ sent from God" (John 1:6; 2 words)
- 6 "There was no room for them in the _____" (Luke 2:7)
- 7 Father
- 8 "And he was in the hinder _____ the ship" (Mark 4:38; 2 words)
- 9 Length x width
- 10 Knob
- 11 Garage _____
- 16 The _____ of March
- 19 Son of Dishan (1 Chronicles 1:42)
- 20 Thought
- 21 "As _____ as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter" (Revelation 10:10)
- 22 "We hanged our _____ upon the willows" (Psalms 137:2)
- 23 Greek god of love
- 25 "For we know in _____" (1 Corinthians 13:9)
- 26 "He said, It is _____" (John 19:30)
- 27 Teheran's country
- 28 Salamander
- 30 "Behold, I stood upon the _____ of the river" (Genesis 41:17)
- 33 "_____ not your hearts" (Hebrews 3:8)
- 34 "He shall bring a she _____ of the first year for a sin offering" (Numbers 15:27)
- 36 Schemes
- 37 Middle eastern ruler
- 38 Book leaf
- 39 "_____ heart also will I give you" (Ezekiel 36:26; 2 words)
- 40 "Casting _____ into the sea" (Mark 1:16; 2 words)
- 42 Old Testament book
- 43 Metal-bearing rock
- 44 "Stand in _____, and sin not" (Psalms 4:4)
- 45 Born, Fr.

Last week's solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11						
R	E	N	D		I	N	T		E	K	E					
O	V	E	R		F	O	U	R		R	E	D				
D	E	T	E	R		T	B	A		R	E	I				
				19	A	I	R		21	A	C	C	E	P	T	
23	24	25		26		27	L	A	D							
T	R	I		M	M	E	D									
28				29		30				31		32				
I	O	N	S		P	E	T	E	R		E	H				
33				34		35				36						
M	A	N		M	A	L	E	S		A	D	E				
36				37		38				39						
E	D			R	O	Y	A	L		U	V	E	A			
				39		40				41						
				S	U	R				Y	E	A	R	E	N	D
42	43			44		45				46						
L	A	M	E	N	T					47						
46				47		48				49						
A	H	A		I	R	E				K	E	N	A	N		
53				54		55				56						
O	I	L		N	U	T	S			N	A	I	N			
57				58		59				60						
S	O	L		G	E	A	R			T	Y	R	E			

GEORGETOWN COLLEGE
CHRISTIAN MISSION SERVICE
ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK TRIPS 2010

Each year, students and staff members forego sun and surf to give time, effort, hearts, minds, prayers and muscles to serve others and to learn from them.

Anathoth

Cedar Grove, North Carolina ■ 10 students, 2 staff members

This past spring, one of our groups served at Anathoth, a large church-sponsored community garden. In addition to studying the basics of church-sponsored community gardening, our team learned about the ecological impact of organic versus non-organic farming methods, the spirituality of food and eating justly, community gardens as an evangelism and outreach vehicle for the church, etc.

Camp No More Deaths

Near the Arizona/Mexico border ■ 8 students, 1 faculty, 1 staff

A second group spent a week at Camp No More Deaths taking part in the Camp's humanitarian efforts to provide emergency water, food and medical aid to migrants traveling in the rugged and perilous Sonoran desert. Our hope is that through our work our team was living out Jesus' teaching in Matthew 25 that when we give food and water to the economically marginalized, we are serving Christ himself.

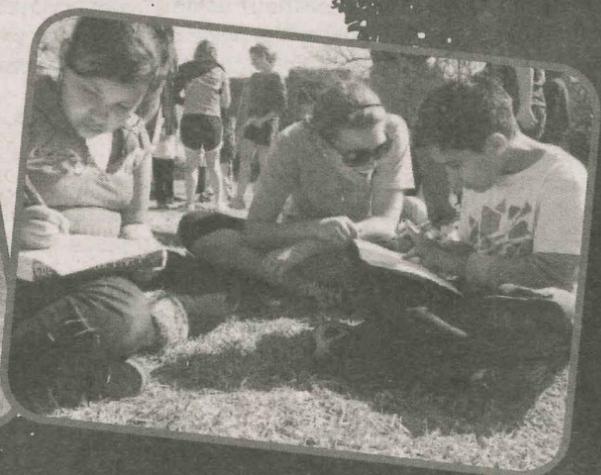
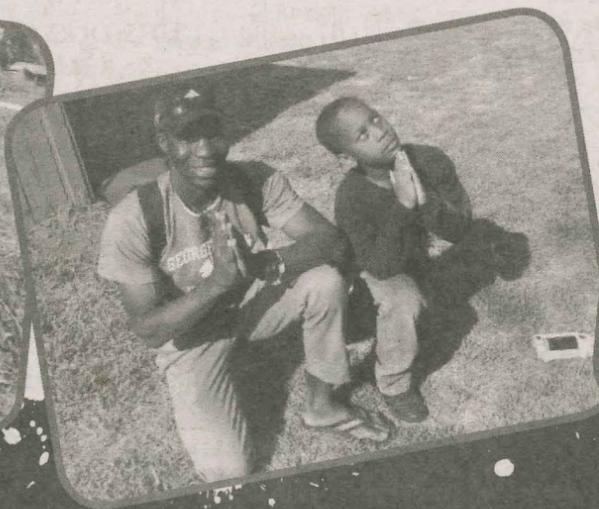
Mission Arlington

Arlington, Texas ■ 24 students, 3 staff

This group spent the week serving backyard Bible clubs in apartment complexes and trailer parks in and around Arlington. They taught the children memory verses from the Bible and Bible songs, played games, made crafts and ate with the children as well.

Coordinated through the Campus Ministry Program, these trips integrate Christian service into the educational experience of our students and develop their servant leadership skills.

We are proud of these outreach efforts by our students and the positive outcomes they produce in service to others.



400 East College Street • Georgetown, KY 40324 • www.georgetowncollege.edu

Georgetown College admits students of any race, color and national or ethnic origin.



GEORGETOWN
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Live. Learn. Believe.