

Shine
like
stars
in the
world
Philippians 2:15

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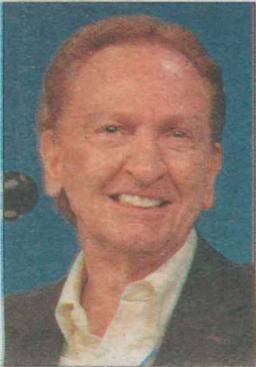
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WVU Kentucky Notes



See insert

FOR THE RECORD



Kentucky
KBC President Don Mathis discusses what he looks for in SBC presidential candidate.
Page 2.

SBC Annual Meeting
With the field of nominees pretty well set, SBC candidates discuss convention's hot topics.
Page 6.

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'The world coming to Kentucky'

*Ministry opportunities
abound for world's
largest equine event*

By Ken Walker
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Lexington—Although preparations have been under way for two years, June marks peak recruiting season for outreach efforts during the Alltech-FEI World Equestrian Games, Sept. 25-Oct. 10.

The international horse competition at the Kentucky Horse Park just north of Lexington is expected to attract 600,000 visitors. That will make it the state's largest sporting event in history.

"There's never been an experience like this in Kentucky," said Larry Martin, director of Affiliated International Ministries and a consultant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention's missions growth team.

"This effort hopefully will bring a greater awareness of the magnitude of the opportunity for equestrian ministries. We literally have the world coming to Kentucky. We expect visitors from more than 100 countries and athletes from more than 60 countries."

Martin said AIM hopes to attract at least 500 volunteers to implement such ministries as "More Than Gold" pin distribution, Christian-based entertainment, educational programs and providing housing for volunteers.

It has earmarked June 27 as "Blitz Day," when it is asking churches to help focus attention on the games. AIM is requesting that churches set aside five minutes during June 27 services to build awareness of the ministry and challenge members to get involved.

"We are encouraging churches to pray, too," Martin said. "That's the key thing. We have had five

□ See Volunteer ministry ... Page 2



GCR chair encourages messengers to vote with 'open heart'

By Mark Kelly

Lawrenceville, Ga.—Acknowledging that many Southern Baptists have mixed feelings about the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force's recommendations, the group's chairman said he hopes people will approach the matter with an "open heart" when they travel to Orlando, Fla., to vote on it.

"Here's the thing we've got to come to: What does God want us to do? How can we get there together? Is this going to give us an opportunity to at least move toward change?" Ronnie Floyd said during a conference call sponsored by the Network of Baptist Associations.

Floyd was responding to results of an online poll conducted by NOBA that showed members of their network in favor of some elements of the report, opposed to others and divided over most.

The poll, which program host Bobby Gilstrap, director of missions for Huron and Southeastern Baptist associations in Michigan, acknowledged was not based on a scientifically reliable sample, indicated:

■ About 60 percent of the respondents are not satisfied with what they currently understand about the GCRTF report.

■ About 65 percent would vote against the report if it was brought to a vote as one item.

■ More than 80 percent of respondents support the new mission statement and core values proposed in the report.

■ More than 60 percent oppose the proposals on "Great Commission Giving" and refocusing the North American Mission Board.

■ More than 60 percent favor the idea of increasing the International Mission Board's share

of Cooperative Program dollars to 51 percent.

■ By a 53/43 split, respondents support the proposal to allow the IMB to work in North America.

■ By a 50/45 split, respondents support the idea of giving state conventions primary responsibility for promoting Cooperative Program giving and stewardship.

When asked to respond to the high percentage that would vote against the recommendations if presented as a single item, Floyd said all he could think to say was to ask how many of those people "were employees of Baptist entities."

Floyd also said he felt people were forming their opinions without reading the report.

"The only thing I am seeing that does concern me is that so many people have not taken time to read the final report," Floyd noted. "They are de-

□ See Floyd urges 'open heart' ... Page 3

With SBC looming, Mathis undecided on presidential vote

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Louisville—With the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting only two weeks away, Kentucky Baptist Convention President Don Mathis still does not know how he will cast his vote in the SBC presidential race.

Nearly one month after stating he would no longer vote for any officer candidate in Southern Baptist life who did not lead his church to contribute at least 10 percent to the Cooperative Program from undesignated receipts, Mathis said he is evaluating the candidates.

With the presidential slate likely set, Mathis will choose among four nominees: Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention Executive Director Leo Endel; Alabama pastor Jimmy Jackson; Florida pastor Ted Traylor; and Georgia pastor Bryant Wright.

"Truthfully, I have not come to a final decision as to which one I will vote for. I know some good things about all four" candidates, Mathis said.

But as the vocational evangelist weighs his decision, one factor that is sure to figure prominently is support of the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists' unified plan of missions support.

Reaffirming CP

As KBC Mission Board members gathered last month at Cedarmore, the agenda consisted primarily of convention-related business.

But what really had church leaders in the room talking was the unveiling of the final report from the SBC's Great Commission Resurgence Task Force.

What was generated by the report was a concern for its Component Three: a call to adopt a new "Great Commission Giving" category which would "celebrate" churches' designated gifts to Southern Baptist missions causes.

Since the report's release, there has been much discussion about the effect such a move would have on the Cooperative Program. Proponents say the new giving category actually spotlights important gifts to

missions. Those on the other side argue it will cause the destruction of the SBC's long-standing missions funding channel.

In response, the KBC Mission Board adopted a resolution reaffirming the Cooperative Program "as the essential avenue of support for missions and ministries" within the Southern Baptist Convention.

KBC President Don Mathis, in his opening remarks to the Mission Board, expressed his own concerns.

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

He went on to say that Southern Baptists should be led by those who value the Cooperative Program, stating he would only vote for candidates who lead their churches to give at least 10 percent of undesignated receipts to CP.

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

In an interview last week with the Western Recorder, Mathis called his statement a principled one in support of CP—but in no way legalistic.

"If a candidate was leading his church to increase its Cooperative Program giving and would indicate that the direction is toward increasing Cooperative Program giving (to 10 percent), I would not necessarily be legalistic on that," he noted.

The four SBC presidential candidates' CP giving numbers are as follows (according to 2009 SBC Annual Church Profile data):

- Endel, a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Rochester, Minn., 11.62 percent of undesignated receipts.

- Jackson, pastor of Whitesburg Baptist Church in Huntsville, Ala., 4.64 percent.

- Traylor, pastor of Olive Baptist Church in Pensacola, Fla., 10.1 percent.

- Wright, pastor of Johnson Ferry Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga., 3.9 percent.

Considering Mathis' statement in its most literal sense (at least 10 percent given to CP), the evangelist's choice would be between Endel and Traylor.

But, Mathis cautioned, it's not that sim-



WEIGHING THE OPTIONS Kentucky Baptist Convention President Don Mathis presides over the KBC Mission Board meeting last month at Cedarmore Camp and Conference Center. At that meeting, he stated he would no longer vote for an officer candidate in Southern Baptist life who does not lead his church to give at least 10 percent to the Cooperative Program from undesignated receipts. With four men vying for SBC president, Mathis said he still has not decided for whom he will cast his vote. (Photo by Kristie Randolph/KBC)

ple. He said he also would look at other ACP-measured statistics, primarily baptisms. "It's an overall picture."

However, Mathis said, the most important qualities in a convention president are integrity, character and belief in the Bible. "Those are non-negotiables," he declared.

"Beyond that, then we begin to look at what they do and what they lead their churches to do," Mathis added. "The person is more important, of course, than what they or their churches do."

The KBC president said he has no concerns about any of the candidates in regard to their integrity and devotion to the word of God.

"But I am concerned that we do elect leaders who show their confidence in the Cooperative Program by leading their churches either to have gotten to high levels (of CP support) or are moving in that direction," he said.

State convention leadership

That includes those who lead on the state convention level as well, Mathis said.

Although he has emphasized a 10 percent level of CP giving as a benchmark for Southern Baptist leaders to achieve, Mathis pointed out that KBC officers consistently have met that challenge.

"We've had a pretty good pattern ... of the candidates for president having a good CP record," he said.

Over the past three years, all KBC officer candidates have run unopposed. However, the Cooperative Program giving percentages for the three men elected KBC president met or exceeded the 10 percent mark (according to ACP data at the time of their nominations).

2007—Bill Henard, pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, 15 percent of undesignated receipts to CP.

2008—John Mark Toby, pastor of Beacon Hill Baptist Church in Somerset, 10 percent.

2009—Mathis, staff evangelist at Eastwood Baptist Church in Bowling Green, 13.2 percent.

Mathis said despite his strong challenge for CP support, he expects the trend of KBC officer candidates who hold CP giving in high regard to continue.

"I would certainly hope and pray and believe that whomever is nominated ... would have a good, consistent record of Cooperative Program leadership," he noted. "And 10 percent is a good place to start."

Whether it is on the SBC or KBC level, "since the funding of the organization ... is through the Cooperative Program," Mathis said, "it just seems to me to be logical that leadership ought to show a record of supporting the organization of which he or she is about to lead. I just think that's a principle of life."

Volunteer ministry opportunities plentiful for fall's World Equestrian Games

Continued from page 1

prayer gatherings for the games and will have had many more by the time of the games."

July 1 is the deadline to volunteer. Individuals can sign up at www.AIMKY.org, while groups can print out a form from the site that must be completed and mailed to the AIM office. There are fees for materials, plus housing if needed.

Roy Mundy, chairman of AIM's Lexington leadership team, said they expect numerous Christians from other states to join Kentucky's volunteers.

A member of Lexington's Porter Memorial Baptist Church, Mundy said whenever people get involved in a cooperative mission, God provides numerous possibilities to bring the good news to others.

"This continues to show the power of the Lord," Mundy said. "Every time we've said, 'Lord, we need a resource,' whether it is public relations or volunteers, the Lord's always provided that resource."

"I also have a conviction that the Lord has put us as Christians at such a place for such a time as this," Mundy added. "You just don't have the opportunity that often where the Lord brings the world to you and you have an opportunity to minister to different cultures."

Outreach opportunities will include: working at community events, prayerwalking, doing language translation, providing

transportation and staffing booths.

AIM will work in eight different venues during the games, such as an exhibit booth at the trade show inside the Kentucky Horse Park, during entertainment at the Equine Village and at the Georgetown Equine Expo.

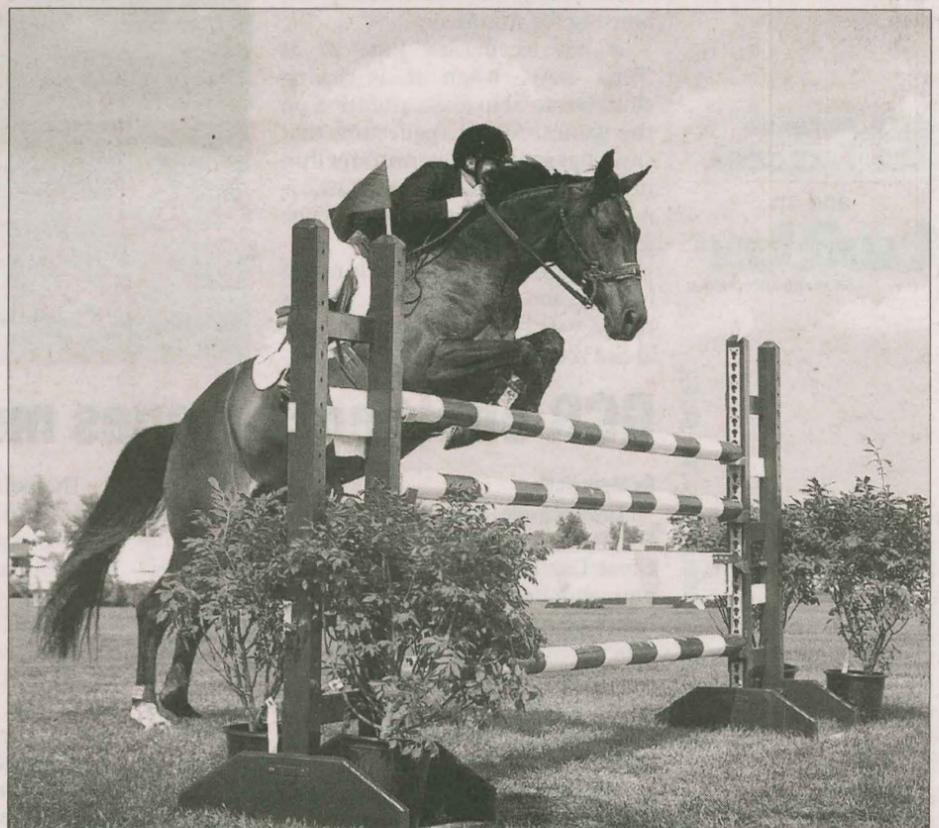
The latter will mark the largest site for AIM. Situated in tents five miles from the horse park, the expo will feature a Wild West Show from Sept. 24 to Oct. 10. AIM will have a booth and provide various Christian performers for the shows.

The impact of the World Equestrian Games will last long beyond October, Martin said, pointing out that the event will help strengthen 20 existing equestrian ministries and create new ones.

He said he hopes the games also will raise awareness of the importance of praying for the world, as demonstrated by 350 Asteens who prayed over each stadium seat in April as they cleaned prior to a spring event at the park.

"When you have that many girls praying for people who will sit in those seats, that has a powerful effect," Martin said. "When you have people prayerwalking and praying for people from 100 countries, that has a powerful effect."

Promotional resources for Blitz Day are available from the KBC's missions growth team by calling (502) 489-3525, or toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3525.



TAKING FLIGHT Jumping is one of the eight disciplines that will be featured during the World Equestrian Games coming to Lexington in September. With as many as 600,000 visitors expected for the games, Affiliated International Ministries is looking for at least 500 volunteers for a variety of ministry opportunities during the games.

Floyd urges 'open heart' when voting on GCR proposal

Continued from page 1

termining what they believe about it based off what they read in one of our Baptist papers or in the blogosphere or what some Baptist employee determines he is going to share with them. We want people to base their convictions on the report itself, not off someone else's interpretation of it."

Task force member Mike Orr, pastor of First Baptist Church of Chipley, Fla., said concerns are misplaced that a new emphasis on "Great Commission Giving" will diminish support for Southern Baptists' primary giving channel, the Cooperative Program.

"I am convinced it will increase Cooperative Program giving," Orr said. "In our church family, we are giving almost 20 percent to the Cooperative Program. We are giving over 4 percent of our undesignated receipts to our local association. ... This report is a challenge to all Southern Baptists to give sacrificially to CP."

Floyd said in spite of much discussion about the health of CP giving over the past decade, contributions remain in a "downward trajectory" and are an indication of the need for change.

"Do we think that keep doing the same thing is going to change it?" he asked. "No. We're going to give an opportunity for Southern Baptist leaders within our associations, our state conventions, our national convention—we're going to give them an opportunity to go out here and give the message of the Great Commission in a brand new way, with actions that are going to get more dollars and cents to the mission field."

Floyd said the change, if adopted during this month's annual meeting, would give church and denominational leaders an opportunity to re-educate Southern Baptists about CP.

"This is going to be an incredible moment—if we can seize the moment," he said.

Floyd also questioned why people keep raising inquiries about the percentage level of Cooperative Program giving of congregations like his.

"Why are we not asking the thousands of churches in our SBC that have not given anything to the Cooperative Program?" Floyd asked. "What about the autonomy of the local church? Where does that fit in? I thought we believed in that."

"Why don't we start asking, 'How many people did your church baptize last year?'" Floyd said. "Let's ask the question, 'How many churches did you plant last year as a church?'"

"We need to gauge commitment to the Great Commission on the basis of what Jesus said in the word and that is penetrating the lostness of the people groups around the world," Floyd explained. "We have perhaps hundreds, maybe thousands of churches that baptize little to no one, and yet they give X percentile to the Cooperative Program and they are lifted up in the SBC."

"The local churches of the denomination will change the region and North America—and ultimately will change the world—because God has called churches to plant churches and we've got to get them involved in that." (BP)

Jackson endorsed by 'SBC Majority' group

Grassroots movement calling for greater SBC representation of smaller churches

Lewisville, N.C.—A grassroots organization has endorsed Jimmy Jackson for president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The SBC Majority Initiative selected Jackson over two other nominees at the time of its May 12 endorsement: Ted Traylor and Bryant Wright. A fourth nominee, Leo Endel, announced his candidacy May 14, but the group's leader, North Carolina pastor Les Puryear, said the organization nevertheless is supporting Jackson.

Jackson is pastor of Whitesburg Baptist Church in Huntsville, Ala., and president of the Alabama Baptist State Convention. He was the SBC's first vice president in 2006-07.

The SBCMI's public endorsement is not without recent precedence. In 2006, Baptist Press reported the endorsement of a previously announced presidential candidate when three seminary presidents—Daniel Akin, Albert Mohler and Paige Patterson—endorsed Arkansas pastor Ronnie Floyd for SBC president. He lost to then-South Carolina pastor Frank Page.

Jackson, in an e-mail to Baptist Press, said he had not met Puryear but spoke with him by telephone.

"I understand where his concerns lie," Jackson said of Puryear's majority move-

ment. "My response to him was that in my appointments as president of the Alabama Baptist State Convention, I never looked at or considered the size of the church. I looked at the size of the person being nominated. ... I do know everyone needs a voice. My desire is to make that possible."

In an interview with Baptist Press, Puryear, who is pastor of Lewisville Baptist Church in North Carolina and a 2008 SBC presidential nominee, said the endorsement of Jackson was decided by responses to an e-mail sent to the 150-plus individuals listed as "supporters" on the SBC Majority Initiative website. Puryear said the organization does not have a board of directors and he acknowledged his role as its "organizer."

Puryear, in his news release, stated that the SBC Majority Initiative will name the candidates it is supporting for first and second vice president one day before the SBC annual meeting in Orlando, Fla.

Majority does not rule

A key push of the SBC Majority Initiative is greater representation of smaller-membership churches among the trustees of SBC entities and committees, which Puryear will propose at the annual meeting in

a motion to change the SBC's bylaws.

According to a news release, Puryear stated, "In a convention where 83.4 percent of its churches are only represented by 22 percent on its boards, it is clear that the majority of the churches in the SBC are not equitably represented." Puryear called for an end to "the era of our convention of small churches being dominated by the minority of big churches."

In an April 20 blog post, Puryear acknowledged responses from critics who said church size doesn't matter in the election of SBC leaders, that the people nominated are more important than the size of the church they pastor, and that leaders from small churches will not lead any differently than leaders from large churches.

"I have nothing against megachurches," Puryear said in the post. "We've lived through many years of megachurch leadership in our national offices and trustee positions. Their leadership has resulted in our younger leaders leaving the SBC in droves, the need for a Great Commission resurgence, and, potentially, the demise of the Cooperative Program."

Puryear has established an Internet presence for the SBC Majority Initiative at www.SBCMajORITY.com. (BP)

BGCT severs ties to Dallas church with gay deacons

Dallas—The Baptist General Convention of Texas executive board severed all ties with Dallas' Royal Lane Baptist Church May 25 due to the congregation's embrace of openly homosexual deacons.

The one-sided vote came nearly three months after the The Dallas Morning News reported about the church's affirming attitude toward practicing homosexuals. The March 5 article was sparked by the church's website displaying the statement, "We are a vibrant mosaic of varied racial identities, ethnicities, sexual orientations and denominational backgrounds." The story quoted a lesbian deacon as saying the website was a "collective coming out," and also quoted Pastor David Matthews as saying Jesus would have no problem with homosexuality.

The board's action means the BGCT no

longer will accept funds from the church and that it will return all funds it has received since Jan. 1. The board also asked the church to no longer refer to itself as a BGCT church. The congregation has about 550 resident members.

'Painful' but not 'difficult'

"This situation has been painful, but it has not been difficult for me," BGCT Executive Director Randel Everett told the board, according to a story by the BGCT communications office. Scripture is clear on the issue, he explained.

The BGCT executive board also took similar action in 1998 against Austin's University Baptist Church which also ordained openly homosexual deacons.

"I think where we need to draw the line is when they are elected to a leadership po-

sition," Leonardo Diaz, pastor of Primera Iglesia Bautista in Hitchcock, Texas, was quoted as saying in the BGCT article.

Dotig Washington, a Royal Lane deacon and BGCT board member, urged the board to allow the church to stay within the convention. The church has two homosexual deacons, he said.

"To say something is wrong with them is to say God made a mistake," Washington told The Dallas Morning News. "I can't buy into that."

Washington said he would be leaving the board, the newspaper reported.

The day before, Dallas Baptist Association also severed ties with the church, saying the congregation had "affirmed a doctrinal position regarding homosexual behavior that is not in harmony" with Scripture. (BP)



LOVE OFFERING Harry Lewis (right), vice president for the North American Mission Board's partnership missions and mobilization group, receives a check for Haiti relief from representatives of the Council of Korean Southern Baptist Churches in America.

Korean churches aid Haiti relief

Dallas—The 850-plus Korean churches in the Southern Baptist Convention raised more than \$107,000 in special offerings this spring for Haiti relief.

Representatives from the Council of Korean Southern Baptist Churches in America, commended Southern Baptists'

"swift response to the calamity and massive relief efforts."

With the offering, the group wanted to show its solidarity with the SBC, said Chongoh Aum, the council's executive director. "We are Southern Baptists. ... I think we must have to help SBC work." (BP)

BAPTIST DIGEST

Jews for Jesus founder dies—Moishe Rosen, a controversial Baptist minister, writer and founder of the group Jews for Jesus, died in San Francisco May 19 at the age of 78. Rosen was born in Kansas City, Mo., to a family of Orthodox Jews. At the age of 21, Rosen met his wife, Ceil, and they both converted to Christianity. Rosen founded Jews for Jesus in 1973 as an organization to "make the messiahship of Jesus an unavoidable issue to our Jewish people worldwide," as stated on the group's website. Rosen and the group have been involved in at least seven lawsuits since 1987 over the distribution of pamphlets, freedom of speech, trademark infringement and Israeli citizenship.

Burroughs nominated as CBF moderator-elect—Colleen Burroughs, vice president of the Passport youth-camping ministry she started with her husband in 1993, will be nominated as moderator-elect of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, the group announced May 24. If elected, she would lead the organization in 2011-12, succeeding Christy McMillin-Goodwin, who is the current moderator-elect and takes over as moderator at the close of this year's CBF General Assembly. Burroughs would become the 10th woman to serve as moderator—an elected leader who presides at meetings of the General Assembly and chairs the CBF Coordinating Council. She would be the first moderator who works for a CBF "partner" agency, a free-standing ministry organization that receives a portion of its support from CBF.

GCR challenges

The report from the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force includes some great challenges for Southern Baptists. As we think about these challenges and recommendations, I believe the original GCR motion provides an excellent framework to help us.

Partners in the Mission



By Bill Mackey

The original motion commissioned the group to bring a report and any recommendations "concerning how Southern Baptists can work more faithfully and effectively together in serving Christ through the Great Commission."

One part of that challenge asks how we can be more "faithful." Southern Baptists have always been committed to the Great Commission, and we must not forget that we are a missionary people. When I think about the Great Commission, I immediately ask how I can be more faithful. I am sure that the task force members have done the same. At a minimum,

I believe this involves tithing through one's local church as well as living and sharing the gospel for a lifetime.

The motion also asked how we can be more "effective." There is no question about the need for every Southern Baptist, church and denominational entity to be more effective. Too much is at stake for our work to be conducted in any other manner.

This is an opportunity to make significant adjustments. State conventions have been challenged to absorb the costs of missions work funded through cooperative agreements with the North American Mission Board. (At present, state conventions and NAMB share these costs.) If approved, Kentucky will need to absorb \$1,017,000, along with insurance benefits for missionaries. At the same time, state conventions are being challenged to increase the percentage of Cooperative Program funds designated for Southern Baptist Convention causes.

NAMB has been given a big challenge to lead the way in church planting, evangelism, discipleship and leadership development to reach North America for Christ. Under the proposed plan, NAMB will have about \$50 million more to work with by ending the cooperative agreements with 42 state conventions. However, it will also have fewer missionaries and fewer total funds to leverage due to the loss of the agreements with the states. NAMB will also need to enlist and train church planters and other staff, and to seek out other partners. The leadership at NAMB and the new president deserve our prayers and best support.

Another challenge in the motion was for Southern Baptists to be more faithful and effective "together." As we seek to move beyond a season of debate that has sometimes involved harsh words and uninformed statements, we must rely on God's grace in order to move forward together. This will require much humility and prayer by everyone.

I encourage Kentucky Baptists to read the report for themselves and to vote according to their convictions in Orlando. This is not a time to pick sides and question motives, but rather to trust our sovereign God and move forward together, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Regardless of how you may vote and how the vote goes in Orlando, I pray we will all determine to grow more faithful and effective in our service to Christ. After all, this is what we should be doing even if there had never been a GCRTF.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

A new way to read your Western Recorder

More than likely, you are among the thousands reading this issue of the Western Recorder in the traditional way, holding a printed copy in your hands. A growing audience, however, has recently discovered a new way to read the paper: our electronic edition, or e-edition for short, which looks just the same but offers several enhanced features.

Since early April, the Western Recorder has been offering its e-edition free to all print subscribers through our redesigned website, www.westernrecorder.org, but those who prefer receiving just the e-edition can subscribe for \$10. With the e-edition, readers download the same weekly issues of the Western Recorder, but unlike the print version, they can click on photos, advertisements, and web addresses, which contain embedded Internet links to access more information, photos, videos, audio files or conference registration forms. Another advantage of the e-edition is that individual pages can be printed out to share with neighbors and friends, pass out to members of a Sunday school class, or post on church bulletin boards.

While it probably will never replace the print version, the e-edition allows a more mobile society access to Kentucky Baptist news anywhere they take their laptop computers. In your den or at the office, in a hotel lobby or an airport terminal, at a conference or by the pool, across town or in another state or country, wherever you have access to the Internet, you now can read every page of the latest issue of your Western Recorder—just as if it arrived in your mailbox, only sooner.

Along with launching an e-edition, the Western Recorder has redesigned its website, making it more graphically appealing and user-friendly. The site is updated regularly with five of our top news articles and photos—important stories that we believe every Kentucky Baptist should know about. To see all of the Baptist news and feature stories, you still need to subscribe, so we've made it easier to do that through the

site. And, you can provide us with your new address if you move, so you won't miss an issue. There's even a way for church or association reporters to upload news items and photos to be considered for publication.

Many churches have long known about the cost and time savings of our church newsletter service, but two new features of our website allow them to easily upload pages directly to our office, and their members not only receive a print version, but they also can view newsletters online anytime—in case they missed or misplaced one. Like the Recorder's pages, church newsletters can be printed out and shared with visitors and homebound or hospitalized members, making both the Western Recorder and your church newsletter an even greater outreach tool. Need more information about our church newsletter service, check out the video on our homepage and share it with your church staff.



After Thought

By Todd Deaton

... wherever you have access to the Internet, you now can read every page of your Western Recorder—just as if it arrived in your mailbox.

If you are a news hound who likes to be the first to know the latest scoop, try following the Western Recorder on Facebook or Twitter. Kentucky Baptists can receive frequent news alerts—knowing the news almost as soon as we do—by clicking on the icons at the bottom of our homepage. For those with relatives or friends in one of our six partnership Baptist conventions—Wyoming, Colorado, Minnesota-Wisconsin, Iowa, Pennsylvania/South Jersey and Hawaii Pacific—which we assist in publishing a newspaper, you can keep track of Baptist work there by reading their e-editions.

Finally, if your church doesn't currently receive the Western Recorder, introduce the paper's ministry to church members with the pre-service, PowerPoint presentation available on our site. Business Manager Tom Townsend and I are happy to speak to congregations about how they can start subscribing. Your state Baptist paper is committed to encouraging all Kentucky Baptists to "shine like the stars in the world" in fulfilling the Great Commission and keeping your church members aware and active in Kentucky Baptist life.

The pursuit of faith and learning in higher education

By Michael Carter

In today's world, we can find some common observations that most people would agree on—no matter their age, ethnic heritage, political affiliation, chosen religion or spiritual commitment. For example, most would agree that our world is changing very rapidly and that

it is difficult for most to stay abreast of the social, cultural and economic change we are now facing. Most are concerned about how to steer this change so that "life is better" or improved not only for tomorrow, but also for our children, grandchildren and their children. And, most see tremendous challenges in order to "improve life" or "make it better."

The Psalmist (Psalm 25:4-5) of long ago wrote, "Show me thy ways, O Lord; Teach me thy paths. Lead me in thy truth, and teach me." This scripture tells us that we must be open to know the "ways" of God and that we will learn these from them being "taught" to us. The Apostle Paul shared in his writing to the Colossians (1:10), "Walk worthy of the Lord" unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God." Again,

we see the emphasis on "learning" as noted in the phrase "increasing in the knowledge of God."

The very essence of Christian higher education, especially in the Baptist tradition, is in the degree that we allow the transformational teachings of the Christian faith to permeate the learning environment of the university. In recent years, college and university trustees, administrators, faculty, staff and coaches have been engaged in numerous conversations via conferences, publications and workshops to assist one another in the quest of how to be increasingly effective in view of our rapidly changing world.

This quest to examine and assess "how we do Christian higher education" is one of the foremost initiatives at Campbellsville University. In our daily work, our five-year strategic plan and our blueprint for the future, "Vision 2025: Preparing Christian Servant Leaders," we are dealing with the issues that directly affect us as Christians in a world where daily change is the norm.

We are asking the difficult questions and exploring the ethical dilemmas that face each of us who

profess the Lord Jesus as our Savior and Lord. Some of these discussions are difficult as families and individuals face the challenges brought from living in this age (whether personal issues stemming from addictive behaviors or the economic challenges of ministering to the "least of these"). At Campbellsville University and other Baptist universities, we are sincerely trying to wrestle with these issues from a compassionate and Christian perspective.

This is why Baptist higher education is so important and why it is really a contemporary form of "missions." Our mission is about excellence in the classroom, lab or wherever the setting, but we are about so much more. We are also about the quest to bring our faith through our relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, led by the Holy Spirit, to the world in which we live. Pray for the work of the trustees, administrators, faculty, staff and coaches at Campbellsville and similar universities—as we pursue the integration of our Christian faith and academic learning and as we work to help students of all ages to "find their calling."

Michael Carter is president of Campbellsville University.

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Chip Hutcheson, Princeton;
Lanna Kilgore, Bowling Green;
Paul Nunn, Prestonsburg;
Willis Polk, Lexington;
June Rice, Paintsville;
Wayne Spivey, Harrodsburg;
Dan Summerlin, Paducah.

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

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GCR Task Force report has a missing link

There is much to be commended in the final report of the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force.

I like the mission statement: "to present the Gospel of Jesus Christ to every person in the world and to make disciples of all nations."

I agree with the core values: Christ-likeness, Truth, Unity, Relationships, Trust, Future, Local Church and Kingdom (although I think "Faithfulness" would be a better word than "Future," but that's just the editor in me.)

I am not opposed to an improvement of the system of cooperative agreements between the North American Mission Board and state conventions, as long as NAMB's primary strategy remains supporting and undergirding the work of the state conventions throughout North America where the job is being carried out. That means money needs to continue to flow from NAMB to the state conventions, especially those that are unable to generate enough funds on their own to have necessary basic staff and services.

Two problems with the report

My primary points of disagreement with the report are in (1) the establishment of a new category called "Great Commission Giving" and (2) the intentional omission of a percentage target recommended for churches to give through the Cooperative Program.

First, the term "Great Commission Giving" as proposed would include "designated giving" from churches that decrease their CP giving in order to purposefully route funds around the budget approved by messengers to their state convention and to the Southern Baptist Convention.

As a pastor, when a tithing family gives a designated gift over and above their tithe for a special need in our church, I rejoice and thank God for their generosity. When a non-tithing family gives a designated gift because they would rather decide how their money is spent than submit it to the decision-making process of our church, I grieve over their lack of cooperation.

I like the term "Great Commission Giving," but if we are going to use it in the SBC, then let's use it for undesignated gifts through the Cooperative Program and continue to call other contributions what they are: designated gifts.

After all, the report itself acknowledges that the Cooperative Program is "the most effective means of mobilizing our churches and extending our reach . . . without which we would be left with no unified and cooperative strategy and commitment to the Great Commission task." According to that, it sounds like Cooperative Program giving is the real Great Commission Giving.



David Williams

The missing link

Second, I was disappointed that the task force failed to challenge churches to consider 10 percent Cooperative Program giving as a base line. The report challenges individuals to give 10 percent of their income to their church, state conventions to pass 50 percent of their receipts on to the SBC, and the SBC to allocate 51 percent of their budget to the International Mission Board. But there is no percentage suggested for churches to give through the Cooperative Program. That is the missing link in their proposal.

When I asked task force members about the omission, I was told it was because local churches are autonomous. And yet the report gives my autonomous local church a list of 31 things to do, ranging from calling a Solemn Assembly in January 2011 to adopting an unreached people group. These are wonderful things to do, as are the rest of the 31 challenges, but so is giving 10 percent through the Cooperative Program. And making that challenge would intrude no more on my church's autonomy than any of the 31 challenges the task force included. I believe my church would respond positively to such a challenge.

The report challenges churches "to grow and increase in sacrificial Cooperative Program giving." That statement misses the mark. Without establishing a recommended percentage base line of 10 percent, that statement tells churches already giving 10 percent they should give more while failing to challenge other churches to rise to at least that level.

A stronger recommendation

A more challenging and more effective proposal would be to encourage:

- Every Baptist to tithe, giving 10 percent undesignated to their local church, and to give offerings, over and above the tithe, to Southern Baptist missions as the Lord directs.
- Every church to give 10 percent of their undesignated receipts through the Cooperative Program to their state convention, to give 3 percent to their local association, and to promote missions offerings for IMB, NAMB and their state convention.
- Every state convention to work toward a goal of sending 50 percent of their undesignated receipts to the SBC.
- The SBC to increase the percentage allocated to the IMB to 51 percent now and strive for an even higher percentage in the future. The growth this plan will bring to the Cooperative Program will enable us to increase the percentage for IMB while still increasing the dollar amounts for other areas of our work, including the North American Mission Board and the seminaries. The solution is not just changing how we slice the pie. The solution is a bigger pie.

Moving across country for mate

By James Stillwell

Q: I found someone online who might be "the one." What do you think about moving across the country to live in the same town so we can see each other frequently?

A: Take a moment to hit the "pause" button and ask these questions:

- 1) How do I know this person is telling me the truth and representing their true self? Online personas can be invented. It's huge if this is entirely based on fantasy.
- 2) Has prayer entered into my planning, from the perspective of a Jesus-follower and the kingdom of God? Have you at any time prayed, "Thy will be done," and had a positive answer?
- 3) If you move and it doesn't work out, will you resent this person? Perhaps it is God's leadership for you to move no matter what. If the answer to the question is yes, then it is a much easier thing to decide.
- 4) Has the relationship progressed to the point of discussing long-term plans and marriage? Engagement includes a ring and a wedding date.
- 5) Are you planning to live your best Christian values when it comes to living arrangements? Statistical success for couples and the New Testament agree: Living together before marriage is not a good idea.
- 6) What's your "plan B?" If you haven't thought through "what if it doesn't work out," then stay where you are until this has been done.
- 7) How are you finances? A "lateral" financial move nearly always loses money. Check cost of living in the prospective city.
- 8) What are your job prospects? This would be a good question even if you were married. From a Christian perspective, the question becomes, "What is your calling to move?"
- 9) Finally, pray. Making the biggest move of your life needs to be done under the hand of God.

James Stillwell is minister to singles at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington.

And that bigger pie comes from each Baptist tithing to reach their Jerusalem, each church cooperating through 10 percent undesignated giving to reach their Judea, each state convention forwarding half its CP receipts to the SBC to reach their Samaria, and the SBC investing an increasing percentage of its income in spreading the gospel to the ends of the earth. Now that's Great Commission Giving.

Let's get it right

I urge messengers to the SBC in June to send a real message by doing three things: (1) elect officers who have demonstrated they believe in and support the Cooperative Program; (2) amend the report to apply "Great Commission Giving" to undesignated gifts only, continuing to call designated gifts what they are; and (3) amend the report to add a challenge to all churches to move toward 10 percent giving through the Cooperative Program.

That would greatly strengthen this report and give us a handle for challenging ourselves, our churches and our conventions to give cooperatively and sacrificially for the sake of God's Kingdom.

David Williams is editor of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist and pastor of First Baptist Church of Flower Mound, Texas.

Giving generously and creatively

By Jeremy White

Sally Keith of Tuscon, Ariz., celebrated her 90th birthday by giving a pair of shoes to needy children at a local school for each decade of her life.

She had told herself, "I want some new shoes; mine need updating." But then she thought, "I don't need any shoes, but I bet there are some kids who have tattered or borrowed shoes."

School officials chose nine elementary school boys to meet her at a sporting goods store. Some had never owned cleats to play soccer or properly fitted sneakers. The boys gave Mrs. Keith cards, hugged her and sang "Happy Birthday."

After paying the bill, she said, "I have everything I want. Instead, I decided I wanted to have some fun. I'm celebrating this way."

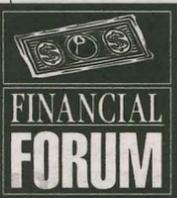
Giving is not only an expectation from God, but it also is vital to our overall financial and stewardship well-being. Our giving to churches, ministries and charities is most practically done by monetary gifts. Periodically, however, I believe it is wise to give our time, treasure and talent in creative ways, like Mrs. Keith did. It exercises our giving muscles, energizes us, inspires others and indicates to the recipients they are special. Creative giving doesn't just have to be through complicated trusts and estate planning.

For the person who has everything, give a creative gift in their honor. This could be the purchase of Bibles from the Gideons or to a particular cause. Rather than give chocolates or other unneeded Christmas gifts to clients to express appreciation, I've begun buying livestock animals, school supplies and soccer balls for needy children through Samaritan's Purse, World Vision or similar organizations.

I've heard stories of people who have given a month's worth of diapers to a crisis pregnancy center. Hunters can donate meat to rescue missions. Retired teachers can tutor.

I don't suggest stopping your regular monetary tithes. Instead, I'm encouraging you to think differently about giving generously and look for unique ways.

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



Summer-rise: 'oodles of opportunities' to make impact

God's work doesn't take a sabbatical during summer months! How can your church seize the unique evangelism and fellowship opportunities of the season? Try some of these fresh summertime ideas:

Plan a "summer nights series" of outdoor worship and fellowship. Stage an outdoor Christian music concert or produce a dinner theatre production. Invite the church neighborhood for a homemade ice cream party. Do a free outdoor family movie night, projecting on a large exterior wall.

Challenge every church member to plan a "Cookout with Your Neighbors" at their home during July to

develop friendships and invite neighbors to church. Morph your church-wide picnic into a city-wide event, with invitations to VBS and church daycare families. Invite the community to attend kids' camps, vacation Bible school or Wednesday night suppers.

For July 4, one church plans a "red, white and blue jean" Sunday. Another invites the community to view fireworks from their parking lot. Honor local government leaders during Sunday worship.

Form a jump-rope team for girls, jumping to Christian music or rhymes. Plan day trip adventures for moms and kids. Start a Wii bowling league. Organize a bike ride

that ends at the church or a Christ-focused teens' art day-camp.

Invite the community to join you for outdoor tournaments, such as volleyball, horseshoes, softball, bocce ball, 3-on-3 basketball. Plan a father and kids' campout on the church lawn or a huge kids' sprinkler party. Your teens can organize a drive-through to pass out free snow cones and worship invitations.

Summertime offers oodles of ways to impact your community for Christ. The key is to invite your community to join you for events at your church and welcome them joyfully. Instead of a "summer-slump" this year, why not plan for a "summer-rise."

Diana Davis is the wife of Indiana Baptists' executive director and an author.

Fresh Ideas



Diana Davis

The men who would be president

With field likely set, the four SBC presidential hopefuls discuss convention's hot topics

Leo Endel

GCR proposal may speed 'crumbling' of Cooperative Program

The strengths, weaknesses and unintended consequences of the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force should be considered, and greater ethnic, regional and cultural perspectives must be included to reach under-served areas of North America, according to SBC presidential candidate Leo Endel.

The executive director of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention said the most pressing issue for Southern Baptists is to "renew our love for lost people" and that he would work to unite Southern Baptists around "missionally, strategically and lovingly sharing the gospel with North America."

Endel acknowledged that he has been a committed prayer partner of the GCRTF from the beginning, but that he has "serious reservations" about approving the group's report.

"We can all embrace the biblical call to a recommitment to the gospel and the Great Commission," he noted.

Endel also cited the good in the report that affirmed local churches, associations, state conventions and mission boards, and he applauded the conversation the task force has started about personal and corporate giving, the cooperative agreements between the North American Mission Board and state conventions, and how "the conversation has caused us to rethink our priorities and retest our effectiveness."



But the state exec also pointed out that the conversation has had "precious few voices from new work areas, from our ethnic groups or from small churches" and has created unintended consequences. The report is "short on details" and "uncertainty has sent shockwaves through the new work areas at a critical time of transition." He also said the discussion "has had the unintended consequence of undermining trust in the Southern Baptist family."

Endel's strongest worry was that the GCRTF may accelerate the "crumbling of the (Cooperative Program) ... that holds our mission work together."

Endel expressed concern about "Great Commission Giving" using the assumption that churches couldn't operate on a system that celebrated designated giving over unrestricted tithing to the general budget. In such a system, he explained, funding falls apart such that bake sales would be needed to pay the bills, but there would be more than enough people wanting to contribute to the youth pastor's salary. "Conflict and competition will soon kill a church funded like that," Endel stressed.

Endel also took issue with the recommendation that would result in the elimination of funding for CP promotion and stewardship education by the SBC's Executive Committee, saying the plan has saved Southern Baptists millions of dollars. (BP)

Jimmy Jackson

SBC changes should come from the bottom up, not top down

Change initiatives should develop from the bottom up, not from the top down, and there should be greater leadership representation from small- and medium-size churches, as well as ethnic congregations, according to SBC presidential candidate Jimmy Jackson.

The pastor of Whitesburg Baptist Church in Huntsville, Ala., indicated that his greatest concern was for spiritual revival among Southern Baptists and that he would work to bring Southern Baptists together for a convention-wide effort of "prayer and fasting, Bible study and spiritual focus."

"Until we individually and corporately humble ourselves before God, we cannot expect Him to bless us with greater fruitfulness and effectiveness as a convention," he said.

Regarding the Great Commission Resurgence initiative, Jackson said he supported the need to "come together for spiritual revival resulting in a major turnaround in reaching people" with the gospel. But he expressed concerns about the process and the structure of the GCR Task Force.

"I am in favor of change where it is needed," Jackson said, "but change in the SBC should come up from our churches, not down from a select few."

"A plan that has shown signs of recommendation born out of anger and creating discord should not be imposed upon the vast majority of churches and pastors."

Jackson emphasized that the catalyst for change should arise from the churches "that are doing the bulk of the work to support the whole of the work."

"It is their Cooperative Program, and they should have the majority say in what it should look like," he stressed. "They should not be brought in at the end and asked to give an up or down vote to someone else's plan."

Jackson also expressed this point in terms of leadership representation.

"While I applaud our mega-churches and their very capable leadership, ... I do believe that we need a more representative balance of input and leadership from all of the churches in the convention," he noted.

Jackson said his greatest concern with the GCRTF report has to do with Cooperative Program giving.

"Although the GCRTF report calls for a renewed emphasis in the giving to the CP," he said, "it also places it under the heading 'Great Commission Giving.' The CP becomes a way to give, not 'the' way. Such a change is risky at best."

Jackson said the move to further "celebrate" designated giving would be at the expense of CP and that in the past he, too, was concerned that the Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong contributions by his church were not given the same attention that his church's CP giving received. (BP)



Ted Traylor

GCR report is logical for CP resurgence; vision inspires giving

Great Commission resurgence is the proper focus following the conservative shift, and a Cooperative Program resurgence should naturally follow, according to SBC presidential candidate Ted Traylor. "As Baptists are called to a compelling vision, they will give as never before."

The pastor of Olive Baptist Church in Pensacola, Fla., said the most pressing need is for spiritual awakening and leaders who are "deeply committed servants of Christ."

As a way to move Southern Baptists toward spiritual awakening, Traylor said he would seek to call Southern Baptists to solemn assembly in January 2011 and "explore the possibility of incorporating the solemn assembly model in our SBC annual meeting." He also said he would promote the use of NAMB's evangelism initiative, God's Plan for Sharing.

Traylor is a member of the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force which voted unanimously to present its findings and recommendations to SBC messengers at the annual meeting later this month.

The Florida pastor said he "cannot fathom why any Southern Baptist would oppose studying how we can all work more faithfully and effectively in serving Christ through the Great Commission." He stated his support of the report because it provided a healthy dialogue about corporate and individual "responsibility for reaching the



lost," "lifts up the Cooperative Program," "is true to Baptist polity," gives a "sharpened focus for NAMB with priority on church planting and evangelism" and "focuses on the centrality of the local church and the Great Commission."

Regarding the report's recommendation about "Great Commission Giving" and CP, he said he was "astonished at the confusion."

"No one I know desires to make Independent Baptists out of our churches, much less move to a societal approach to giving," Traylor said. "Great Commission Giving' celebrates all that our churches are doing in and through Southern Baptist endeavors."

The GCRTF report affirms the Cooperative Program "no less than nine times," Traylor pointed out, but introduced a new phrase to "replace Total Missions (Expenditures) on the (Annual Church Profile) report form that churches are asked to fill out annually" and limit the reporting of designated gifts "to Southern Baptist causes."

Traylor said the example of CP giving by Olive Baptist Church provides him an opportunity to ask Southern Baptists to consider giving more.

"I do not believe the autonomous local church should be told by any convention or officer what they should give," he said, "but we can set an example and lift up a vision that rallies them to want to do more." (BP)

Bryant Wright

Radically reprioritize CP funds & connect with young leaders

Southern Baptists must escape a culture of materialism and personal love of money, as well as reprioritize Cooperative Program funds so more goes to the unreached overseas and in North America, according to SBC presidential candidate Bryant Wright, pastor of Johnson Ferry Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga.

Individuals within the churches must return to Christ as their first love, Wright said in naming the most critical need in the Southern Baptist Convention. The lack of tithing reveals the idolatries of materialism and hedonism among evangelicals, he noted, adding that the epidemic of sexual immorality has weakened the church.

Wright proposed greater direct missions involvement to galvanize individuals and churches, and advocates that state conventions "keep less in the state and send more dollars to the IMB and to other areas of the country where lostness is so prevalent."

He said he supports the work of the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force, but sees their efforts as a first step.

"As a former church planter here at Johnson Ferry," Wright said, "I am encouraged that the task force sees the importance of church planting in the areas of greatest need in the United States—particularly our pioneer states and our large cities. Also, I agree with the task force that every

church should be a 'missional center.'"

Wright said he also would challenge local churches to participate in mission trips, as well as to focus on their immediate communities as their mission fields.

"The local church needs to reprioritize reaching its local mission field and get re-focused globally through praying, giving, going and partnering in missions where the needs are greatest," Wright noted.

The Georgia pastor expressed his desire that leaders be appointed who have a passion for Christ, commitment to the word and a vision for seeing the Great Commission fulfilled.

"I would seek to nominate folks that represent a broad spectrum of SBC life: pastors, church staff, laypeople, mainline states, pioneer states, larger churches, smaller churches, seasoned veterans and young leaders," he said.

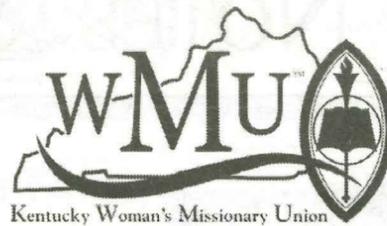
He also noted his drive for connecting with young leaders.

"Young leaders, like all people, are motivated by vision," Wright said.

"Jesus gives us the right one: Go to all nations and make disciples. That means getting real serious with our time, talents and resources to fulfill this vision. Younger leaders are willing to make a radical commitment to Christ's vision, and the SBC needs their passion for Christ and their fresh perspective on our world." (BP)



KENTUCKY NOTES



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Eliza is over the goal again!!

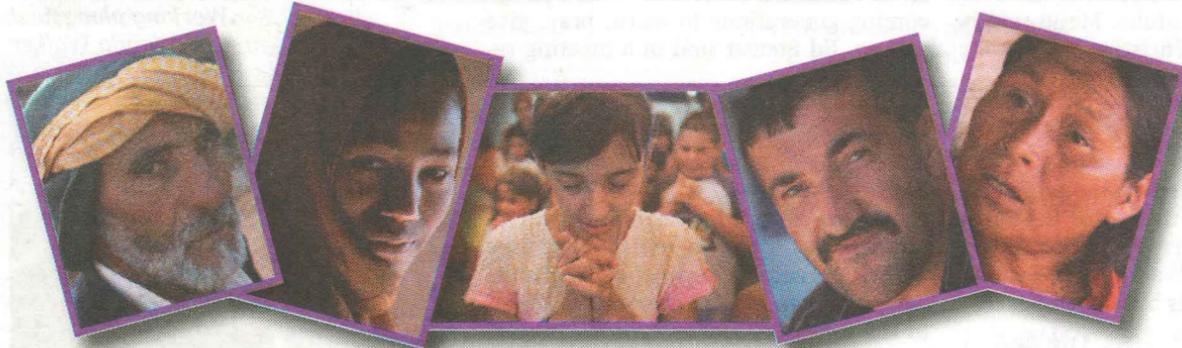
2009-10 Eliza Broadus Offering for Kentucky missions

\$1,220,703.56 given as of May 18 (and still counting thru 8/31/10)

Thank you, Kentucky Baptists!

Summer 2010

World Missions Unlimited 2010



July 16-17 First Baptist Church of Richmond

July 23-24 First Baptist Church of Henderson

Please note the change in locations/dates

Friday 6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Saturday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Attend workshops for basic training and strengthening leadership skills at World Missions Unlimited. Workshops for church leaders of all WMU organizations as well as Baptist Men on Mission (formerly Brotherhood) organizations will be provided.

Sessions focusing on preschool, children, youth, and adult areas will be available for leaders. During both days of World Missions Unlimited, there will also be numerous workshops dealing with special areas of interest. A special training track is designed for associational WMU leaders. Associational leaders are encouraged to attend both Friday and Saturday to receive the full benefit of this training.

The cost is \$5 per session, with three sessions: Friday evening, Saturday morning and Saturday afternoon. The Friday evening and Saturday morning sessions includes WMU/ Baptist Men on Mission resources. The Saturday afternoon session includes lunch. The registration deadline for Richmond is July 9 and for Henderson is July 16. After the deadline, please add \$7 to the total cost.

For a registration brochure, visit www.kywmu.org/worldmissionsunlimited.

For more information or a brochure by mail, contact Kentucky WMU at (866) 489-3534.

A Personal Word

The 2010 Annual Meeting at Westport Road Baptist Church was an awesome experience as we focused on being "Called to Love." The speakers, music and ministries were outstanding. Yet there was an urgency about missions education for preschoolers, children and youth that ran throughout the meeting. From GA girls who said their pledge, to beautiful Acteen panelists who shared their testimonies with grace and confidence, we were reminded how important it is to invest in the next generation.



Joy Bolton
Executive Director-Treasurer

The report of a 14.5 percent decrease in WMU enrollment as reported on the 2009 Annual Church Profile added to the urgency. In the executive director report, I shared that the drop in WMU enrollment probably represents two trends. First is the trend toward doing the work of WMU (missions promotion and education) primarily on a church-wide basis. Age-level groups have become a secondary approach

or not done at all in many churches. But missions offerings are the strongest ever in Kentucky, which shows that churches still embrace praying and giving for missions. Second is the trend of churches to use programs from a variety of sources in an attempt to reach children and youth. Some churches do incorporate missions into these programs, but these other programs are not reflected in WMU enrollment and do not provide comprehensive Southern Baptist missions education.

My challenge to you is to make teaching preschoolers, children and youth a priority. Invest in sharing the gospel with a lost world by first investing in students. Get to know them by name. Don't assume that teaching them is someone else's job. Studies show that students who have relationships with many different adults in the church tend to stay involved as they mature. Plan missions projects and trips that students and adults can do together. Shared experiences enhance relationships and give students a foundation in ministry.

We welcome Linda Cooper as our new president. Please pray for her as she learns all of the responsibilities that are now hers. Additionally, pray for a study committee that has been appointed to do a thorough review of how Kentucky WMU is organized, how we select and use board members, and how our staff does their work. Periodic reviews of this nature help us determine priorities and how to focus our energies for greater effectiveness.

Thank you for surpassing the Eliza Broadus Offering goal for 2009-10. We have exceeded the goal by more than \$100,000 and will be working with Dr. Mackey to determine the greatest needs in state missions. It will be exciting to see how the EBO overage will make an impact in reaching lost people across Kentucky. We will begin to receive the 2010-11 Eliza Broadus Offering on Sept. 1, and our goal is \$1.2 million.

I urge you to attend summer training at one of our World Missions Unlimited Conferences as we introduce the new WMU emphasis, Unhindered, and the new Project HELP, Human Exploitation. Everywhere we turn, the problems of bullying, human trafficking and pornography are in the news. The WMU Project HELP emphasis will give you practical helps for working with these problems.

Meet new Kentucky WMU President, Linda Cooper

Linda Cooper of Bowling Green was elected as the 38th president of Kentucky WMU on April 9 in Louisville.

Linda is a registered dental hygienist and has worked for Benson Family Dentistry for more than 30 years. Linda and her husband, Jim, are active members of Forest Park Baptist Church in Warren Association of Baptists. Linda sings in the choir, serves as church clerk, leads discipleship classes, assists with Acteens and GAs, and serves as church WMU director. Linda also serves as associational WMU director. Linda and Jim have two



Linda Cooper

adult children and are expecting their first grandchild in August.

Linda's WMU experience includes serving in church and associational WMU leadership as WMU director, Baptist Young Women's director, Women on Mission facilitator, Missions Action, Support and Study leader, and other positions. Linda served on the Kentucky WMU Executive Board from 2006-09 as a representative from Region Three and served as chairperson of the nominating committee in 2007-08 and chairperson of the personnel/administrative committee in 2008-09. Linda is also a member of our Kentucky WMU resource team in the area of church-wide WMU work.

Linda has participated on mission trips to Jamaica, Mississippi and Eastern Kentucky. She also helps with Operation Christmas Child and is the chairperson for the missionary residence of Forest Park Baptist Church.

Linda was saved as a 12-year-old and says that going to church has always been a part of her life and that she strives "to walk with Him daily by staying in His Word, praying, sharing Christ verbally, and by the way I try to live." In describing her WMU involvement, Linda says "Although I know and believe that mission trips are life changing, I believe our real mission is to live a missions lifestyle each day on the mission field where God has planted us. I am fortunate in the fact that in our dental office, we have prayer before work and I am free to share Christ."

We welcome Linda to this new leadership role with Kentucky WMU.

Churchwide

The summer months are upon us, and the list of things to accomplish has started. What is on your WMU summer checklist?

Here are some suggestions:

- Enlist leadership for all age level organizations.



- Complete your curriculum order from national WMU for the fall. Make a goal to increase your subscriptions. Order age appropriate literature for church staff. (*Start* or *GA World* for Children's Minister or *The Mag* for Youth Minister or *Missions Leader* for the pastor.) Include a copy of *Missions Mosaic* for all staff.

- Register your leadership team for the World Missions Unlimited closest to you.

- Complete the annual church profile information for your church. Don't know what this is? Ask your church clerk, or Kentucky WMU can help you!

- Make your schedule for WMU leadership team meetings throughout the year.

- Meet with your pastor and/or church staff to engage them in missions education for the coming year.

- Enlist experienced women to mentor younger women.

- Enlist younger women to mentor teen girls.

- Promote age level organizations for the fall.

- Promote web-based missions education.

- Have a missions education kick-off and enroll the preschoolers, children and teens. Have an adult activity or mission project. Give away *Missions Mosaic* to adults.

Kentucky WMU is now offering training on-line for all age level organizational leaders. Visit the Kentucky WMU website: www.kywmu.org/onlinetraining.

Have a great summer.

Making a list and checking it twice!
Wanda Walker

Update contact info

Be sure Kentucky WMU has current contact information for WMU leaders in your church. Provide updates by:

- Completing the WMU Leadership Form sent to your church clerk with the 2010 Annual Church Profile (ACP).

- Providing your WMU leadership information to your associational WMU director (or other leader) when contacted for this information.

- Calling or e-mailing Kentucky WMU with your updates (any time of the year). Phone: (866) 489-3534 or email: kywmu@kybaptist.org.

Adults

I was given an opportunity to attend Exalt this spring. The one thing I saw among these young ladies was their compassion to love as Christ loved us. These young ladies had been taught and mentored to be *Called to Love*. What an inspiration! It reminds me of the responsibility we all have as adult women and men to invest our time into the lives of teens and young adults. Mentoring is an investment all Christians make for



Kingdom growth.

Serving as a mentor does not mean you have figured it all out or have reached the final level of maturity. It means that you are open to serving Christ, open to His leadership while on your journey to spiritual fulfillment. Therefore it is a lifetime experience for you, too. But there is someone you know who will grow as they learn from you and your life experience.

The same implications are there for leading young adults in missions education. We need experienced, growing missions education mentors to lead our upcoming generations to learn, pray, give and go. Ed Stetzer said in a meeting re-

cently that when we stop learning about missions we stop doing missions. Adults must teach young adults, teens, children and preschoolers. Bring up the next generation of missions educators who will lead the generations that follow them. Pass on your passion!

Adults are committed to sharing the story of the greatest love. As we come to a close of *Called to Love*, lead adults to embrace it long after the emphasis is over. We must never lose sight of understanding God's unconditional love, responding to God's love, and sharing God's love.

Working alongside!
Wanda Walker

Youth

Exalt 2010 centered on the cross and serving others. The theme for the April 16-17 event was *Scarred Warrior*, based on Isaiah 53. Girls and their leaders learned that life hurts but Christ heals at Georgetown College.

A highlight of the weekend was when everyone placed their heartfelt concerns on paper hearts and taped them to crosses. These crosses were returned to the Kentucky Baptist Building, and the hearts were prayed for during chapel and then placed in the prayer room.



Another highlight of the event was the emphasis on ministries for the World Equestrian Games.

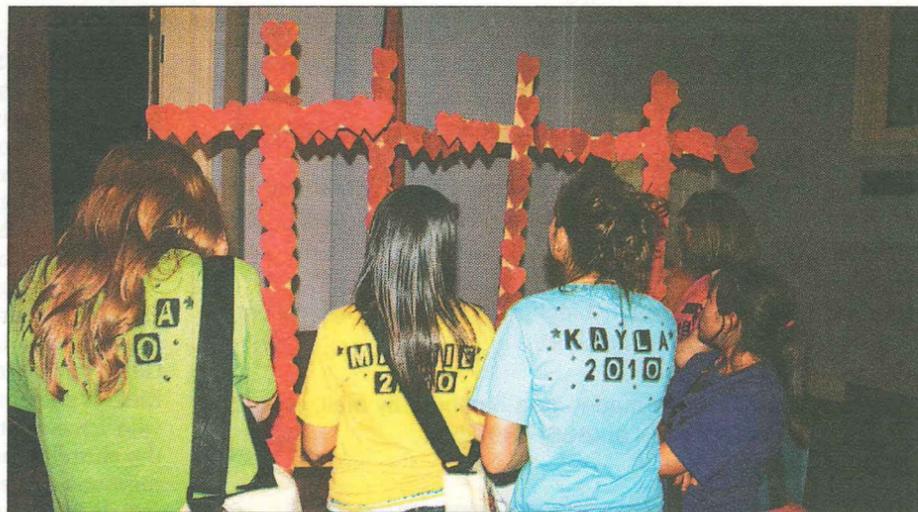
Pat Day shared his testimony, and an offering was taken to rent booth space at the Georgetown Festival of the Horse. Saturday afternoon everyone headed to the Kentucky Horse Park to "prayer-clean" the outdoor stadium. Exalt participants were the first volunteers to serve through Affiliated International Ministries. They cleaned the 7,300 seats while praying for the people who would fill those seats during the Rolex Three-Day Event and the World Equestrian Games. It was an amazing sight to see. We ended the day with a brief worship service in the stadium.



At Exalt, we announced that all Kentucky girls and leaders who subscribe to the *Mag* or to *Acteens Leader* are eligible to receive a \$100 scholarship to Blume. Acteens and Youth on Mission group leaders will receive information in the mail this summer.

This summer promises to be an exciting one for Acteens. The first ever Acteens Overnight will take place at Cedar Crest June 17-18. The overnight will feature worship, missions and a ride on the zip line. Acteens Splash will take place at Jonathan Creek. Olivia Wallace, Kentucky Acteens Advisory Panel member, will lead the music. There will be plenty of splashing and we will focus on how we can live out God's love.

LaRaine Rice



HARTFELT PRAYER Youth at the Exalt 2010 event place their concerns on crosses after writing them on hearts.

Preschool & Children

Our summer calendars are filling up, so be sure to include time for missions education for preschoolers and children. In addition to weekly missions groups, involve preschoolers and children in missions activities unique to summertime. Invite preschoolers and their families to a picnic in the park. Bring children to **Mission Adventure Camp at Cedar Crest or Overnights at the Creek**. (See page 4 for details.) Lead your missions organization to plant flowers at a nursing facility. Take children on an overnight missions trip to a ministry center in Kentucky.

Are you interested in strengthening your Mission Friends, Girls in Action and Children in Action? Are you inter-

ested in beginning missions education in your church? Attend **World Missions Unlimited!** You'll discover the basics of missions education for preschoolers and children as well as information about the curriculum and the new WMU emphasis, "*Unhindered*."

In September, preschoolers and children can participate in the **Season of Prayer and Offering for State Missions**. The study and prayer material for preschoolers will focus on campus ministries. Children will find out why it's important for us to learn, pray, give and go.

Teaching preschoolers and children is a special blessing from God! From children, adults are reminded what the Kingdom of Heaven is like:

- Children don't worry about tomorrow; they live in the moment.
- Children don't hold grudges; they forgive.
- Children look to their teachers for

Children in Action Missions Day Camp

For boys and girls in grades 1-6

Meet missionaries, participate in a ministry project, make new friends and have lots of fun!

Location: Pleasant View Baptist Church in Waynesburg

Date: Saturday, September 18

Time: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Cost: \$10 per person

direction; they trust.

Be thankful for the opportunity to teach preschoolers and children. Allow them to teach *you* about the Kingdom of Heaven.

A special thanks to Brenda Price for helping us experience the joy of teaching preschoolers and children.

Stacy Nall



President's Perspective

Shock, disbelief and humility were what I felt when I got the call to consider becoming the next president of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union. I immediately asked for time to pray. I have been a part of WMU for many years, but never did I feel I would be considered a candidate for president. To say I was shocked would be an understatement. I am also humbled at the confidence the Executive Board, the nominating committee and you have in me. The task at hand is large, but with God's help and guidance, I will do my best. Missions is my heart.



Linda Cooper
Kentucky WMU
President

With 7,200 people dying every hour, most without Christ, raising a Great Commission generation is vital. I believe that's what WMU is all about. We teach praying, mission action and witnessing, learning, supporting, participating in the work of the church and the denomination, and developing spiritually toward a missions lifestyle. Every time we step outside our doors we encounter lost people. Beginning with Mission Friends at birth and continuing through Women on Mission/Adults on Mission, we learn to love people with all our heart, soul and mind (Matt. 22:37-40), so to lead them to Christ becomes natural.

We just had our annual meeting in Louisville. How **awesome** it was to hear our missionary to Asia, who was called to missions as a GA, tell us how she led a 103-year-old man and many more to Christ. Without missions education, how will the next generation go, learn, give, participate and have a missions lifestyle? I want to personally thank every missions leader in our state. You are training our next missionaries.

On April 16-17 more than 340 Acteens and leaders gathered for Exalt in Georgetown. It was so awesome to see girls from all over the state come together for worship and missions. Our missions project was to clean the seats at the horse park, and as these girls cleaned they also prayed over each seat in the stands. What an awesome site. Only God knows how many lives will be changed during the World Equestrian Games this fall because Kentucky Acteens gave of themselves and prayed. Acteens, you truly **rock!**

It's been a whirlwind of activity since I was elected. Thanks to all of you who have already been such an encouragement to me. Please continue to pray for our staff and me, as we seek God's will for Kentucky WMU.

The national WMU meeting is June 13-14 in Orlando. I hope to see you there. If not, I hope to meet you as I travel our state as God leads.

Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund

Jan. 1—March 31

The following people were honored or remembered through gifts to the Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund during the first quarter of 2010. Our thanks to each person who gave to the Heritage Fund in honor of or in memory of someone significant to you and WMU. In addition, we received many gifts for the 1000² Campaign. Please note the pledge gifts in our report each quarter, which may also be given in honor or memory of someone. This is the final year of our 1000² Campaign, so make a pledge or gift today!

In Honor of:

Pat Reaves

Jamie, Brad
& Jennifer Cooper
Melissa Mae Bean
Burgin Baptist WMU
Mt. Carmel WoM Members

Brenda Price
FBC Lawrenceburg WMU
Mabel Wilson

Donor:

Adeleru Women on Mission,
Bethlehem Baptist Church
Jim & Linda Cooper

Denise Bean*
Joy Bolton
Mt. Carmel Baptist Church
(1000² Campaign gift)
Bonnie Cecil
Pat Reaves
Little Clifty Baptist Church
WMU

In Memory Of:

Brenda Harris
Barbara Hall
Dennis Decker
Chessie Hale

Clara Pulliam
Clara Pulliam

Donald Farabee
Clara Pulliam
Elizabeth Pendergrass
Jean Pardue

Kathleen Strader
Boots Williams
Mary Pat Price

Donor:

Marcia Ballard*
Robert & Hallie Gomer
Kentucky WMU
Christian County Association
WMU Leadership Team
Ann Helen & Nan Lee Clark
Hembridge Baptist Church
WMU

Ruth Briscoe
Ruth Briscoe
Bonnie Cecil
Friend's WoM Prayer Group,
FBC, Hopkinsville
Maritza Grant
Pat & Dudley Reaves
Maribeth & Horace Hambrick

* Toward pledge

Other Gifts:

Dr. & Mrs. Barry Allen
Mary Williams Circle, Bethel Baptist Church
Little Mount Baptist Church WMU
Betty Sue Nutter

1000² Campaign Contributions (includes \$1,000 gifts, pledge payments, and other campaign gifts):

- Westport Road Baptist WMU
- Cropper Baptist Church WMU
- Parkway Baptist Church WMU
- Twyla Sheffield
- Cheryl Hatfield
- Three Forks Association WMU
- Bill & Charmaine Nichols
- New Salem Baptist Church WMU, PGDL Circle
- Kentucky WMU Staff
- Shelby Baptist Association WMU
- Oakland Avenue Baptist Church WMU
- Roundtable Mission Group, Central Baptist, Winchester
- Patty Renfrow
- Pat & Dudley Reaves

1000² Campaign in Final Year

The campaign to enlist 1000 donors (individuals or groups) who would donate \$1,000 to the Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund is in its final year. It's not too late to make a donation or complete a pledge. Contact Kentucky WMU to get a pledge card or Heritage Fund envelope.

Calendar

June

- 13-14 National WMU Missions Celebration Annual Meeting, *Orlando*
- 14-18 Mission Adventure Camp for girls, grades 3-6, *Cedar Crest*
- 15-16 Southern Baptist Convention, *Orlando*
- 18-19 Mother/Daughter Overnight, grades 1-3, *Cedar Crest*
Acteens Overnight, grades 7-12, *Cedar Crest*
- 21-25 Mission Adventure Camp for girls, grades 3-6, *Cedar Crest*
- 25-26 Mother/Daughter Overnight, grades 1-3, *Cedar Crest*
Mother/Daughter Overnight, grades 1-3, *Jonathan Creek*
GA, Overnight, grades 4-6, *Jonathan Creek*
Acteens Splash, grades 7-12, *Jonathan Creek*
- 26 Baptist Nursing Fellowship Summer Meeting and Continuing Education Session, *Louisville*
- 28-30 Express Camp, boys & girls grades 3-6, *Cedar Crest*
- 30-7/2 Express Camp, boys & girls grades 3-6, *Cedar Crest*

July

- 5-9 Student Mission Trip, grades 7-12, Ministry in Preparation for World Equestrian Games, *Georgetown College*
- 16-17 World Missions Unlimited, *First Baptist Church, Richmond*
- 23-24 World Missions Unlimited, *First Baptist Church, Henderson*

August

- 21 Super Saturday, *Lexington*
- 28 Super Saturday, *Louisville*

Online training

Have you ever wanted to participate in WMU leader training at a time and place that was convenient for you? Perhaps at home, in your pajamas? Or late at night? Or on a free day?

Now you can through online training with Kentucky WMU! Through interactive courses, you will learn leadership essentials, receive personalized feedback from the course instructor, and be able to take the course at your own pace.

A \$10 fee per course will provide you with the resources needed for completing the course activities.

Courses include:

- How to Involve Preschoolers in Missions
- How to Involve Children in Missions
- How to Involve Students in Missions
- How to Involve Adults in Missions
- How to Involve Your Church in Missions

Learn more at: www.kywmu.org/onlinelearning

PROJECT HELP: HUMAN EXPLOITATION

Project HELPSM is a call to action. It is a call to get involved in social issues.

Human Exploitation is the unethical, selfish use of human beings as a means to an end for the satisfaction of personal desires and/or profitable advantage.

2010-2012 begins a new opportunity through Project HELP. Human exploitation will be an issue that hits right where we are now. It is real. It is wrong.

Human exploitation often is associ-

ated with only the poor and desperate. Yet this issue hits every socio-economic class, age, culture, race and ethnic group. Human exploitation includes human trafficking, prostitution, pornography, land exploitation, labor exploitation and bullying.

Be informed. Be prepared. Lead your church into action to advocate, intervene and win the lost to a loving and accepting Savior.

Why?

Season of Prayer for State Missions and Eliza Broadus Offering
September 2010; Offering Goal: \$1.2 million

? Why do we do what we do in state missions? The 2010 video and print materials will help your church understand the lostness of people in Kentucky and why we learn, pray, give and go.

? A packet of state missions teaching materials, DVD, poster, offering envelope and promotional ideas will be mailed to WMU directors (or to the church if there is no director) in July.

? An additional DVD will be mailed to pastors.

? DVD includes: Mission Study Video; Promotional Video Clips; new "Why?" song written by Bo Warren; plus computer files of all print materials and graphics.

? Please return the order card for additional envelopes, prayer guides and posters.

? All state missions materials are provided free of charge.

? The material is undated and may be used any time during September.

? Suggested date: September 12-19.

Discover how to

Live! Love!

at Missions Camp this summer!

Mission Adventure Camp at Cedar Crest*

Girls in Action Camps

June 14-18, girls grades 3-6

June 21-25, girls grades 3-6

Express Camps

June 28-30, boys and girls, grades 3-6

June 30-July 2, boys and girls, grades 3-6

Acteens Overnight

June 18-19, girls grades 7-12

Mother/Daughter Overnights

June 18-19, girls grades 1-3

June 25-26, girls grades 1-3

Overnights at Jonathan Creek June 25-26*

Mother-Daughter Overnight, girls grades 1-3

GA Overnight, grades 4-6

Acteens Splash, grades 7-10

*Chaperones required at each event.

Mission Adventure Camp Staff: Cedar Crest

Director: Stacy Nall

Recreation Leader: Melanie Jones

Worship Leader: Amanda-Grace Richey

Technology Leader: Andrea Montgomery

Missions Leader: Anna Ovenell

Fellowship Leader: Betsie Phillips

Lifeguard: Jessica Mason

Nature Leader: Shana Gill

Crafts Leader: Brandie Nelson

For more information, contact the WMU office: (866) 489-3534.

Kentucky WMU staff assumes expanded roles

With the retirement of Brenda Price, various members of the WMU staff are taking on additional roles as approved by the Kentucky WMU Executive Board in April.

• **Stacy Nall** has served as the Kentucky WMU Camp Director since 2004. Her first year was in a part-time capacity, becoming full-time in January 2005. In addition to camp, Stacy has had responsibilities for Kentucky WMU ministries to missionaries, scholarships and archives. In April Stacy's title was changed to Preschool/Children/Camp Consultant. Stacy is an experienced Girls in Action and Mission Friends leader. She has been a writer for GA curriculum and is also experienced in associational GA work, making her a natural choice to assume the role of Preschool and Children's Consultant. She will continue as Camp Director in the summers and with responsibilities for ministries to missionaries.

• **LaRaine Rice**, Youth/College Consultant, will now oversee the application process for Kentucky WMU scholarships and work with the college and seminary scholarship committee.

2010-11 Kentucky WMU Executive Board

President: Linda Cooper

Vice-President: Sandra Duguid

Recording Secretary: Marcia Ballard

Region 1: Marjorie Yandell, Mitzi Noel, Brenda Williams

Region 2: Jo Pelham, Tina Nicely, Joyce Wilcox

Region 3: Mary Lauer, Patty Renfrow, Lesa Keown

Region 4: Cathy Mattingly, Laura Morris, Amanda-Grace Richey

Region 5: Jessica Childers, Joy Roberts, Darlene Schadler

Region 6: Mary Lou Ray, Marilyn Creighton, Donna Fegenbush

Region 7: Kim Price, Teresa Vanzant, Annette Story

Region 8: Lisa Nickell, Andrea Cable, Judy Short

Baptist Nursing Fellowship President: Charolette Rock

Development Specialist: Twyla Sheffield

Board.

• **Glenda Triplett** will add responsibilities for archives to her work as our Office Assistant.

• **Joy Bolton** will take the lead in coordinating World Missions Unlimited, summer leadership training for WMU and Baptist Men on Mission leaders.

Please pray for all of our staff as they carry out their many duties to serve the Lord and Kentucky Baptists.

Kentucky Baptist Nursing Fellowship Luncheon

Summer Meeting & Continuing Education Session

End of Life Issues

Saturday, June 26
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Severns Valley Association Office, 500 College Street, Elizabethtown

\$15 for BNF members
\$25 for non-BNF members

Contact Wanda Walker at the Kentucky WMU office for more information.

facebook

Become a Fan of Kentucky WMU on Facebook to get all the latest information

Pastors say more Haitian churches needed in U.S.

By Mickey Noah
North American Mission Board

Alpharetta, Ga.—While the deadly Haiti earthquake has dominated the news since Jan. 12—and rightfully so—another Haitian disaster is brewing in North America.

Only 1.5 percent of the 3 million Haitians who have immigrated to the United States and Canada are members of a Southern Baptist church while another 3.5 percent are members of other evangelical denominations, according to Mark Hobafcovich of the North American Mission Board's urban church planting team.

That means 95 percent of Haitians in North America may not know Christ personally, which Hobafcovich calls an eternal, spiritual disaster.

Hobafcovich invited 14 of the Southern Baptist Convention's top Haitian pastors and leaders to NAMB to strategize new ways to reach Haitians with the gospel in North America.

During the recent conference, those pastors created a Haitian Mission Network and came to a consensus that 400 new Haitian SBC churches must be planted by the year 2020.

The obstacles to reaching Haitians can be traced back to the poor island country itself: the impact of non-Christian spiritual beliefs on the Haitian culture, poverty, corruption and other social issues.

Hobafcovich described voodoo as "widely practiced in the Hai-

tian culture" and "ingrained in the psyche of the Haitian people." Catholicism was "unable to stamp it out," he said. "It's clearly wrong and unbiblical. We Christians have a hard time comprehending why Haitians don't see that, but ... unless there's a major transformation, starting with individuals who say it's wrong, nothing will change."

There is a silver lining, Hobafcovich noted. Because of the spiritual component of the Haitian psyche, they are receptive to spiritual things.

"I think that's why we've planted so many Haitian churches in the Southern Baptist Convention, almost 400," Hobafcovich said. "But the bigger challenge is to reach the second- and third-generation Haitians in the United States, who are as American as anyone else. But there's no one reaching them. We need to train churches and laypeople to present the gospel to them in a meaningful way."

But of the 3 million Haitians in the U.S. and Canada, only 106,000 of them are members of Christian churches.

Southern Baptists must concentrate on Haiti's young people and children, said Florida pastor Fritz Fontus. "We must teach them how to earn their own living so they won't be dependent on others. And when it comes to the voodoo, under which our people live in fear, we need to teach them that in Christ they finally can be free." (BP)

Investing for eternity

This life is only temporary, do not get too attached to it

Since life is a temporary assignment, we must make the best use of it.

I like what pastor Rick Warren advises us Christians to do to make the best use of our lives. He says we must never forget these two truths.

First, compared to eternity, life is extremely brief. Second, earth is only a temporary residence. We will not be here very long, so don't get too attached to the things of this world.

All throughout the Scriptures, life on earth is compared to living temporarily in a foreign country. As believers, we know earth is not our final destination—heaven is our homeland.

We know life abundant and eternal has nothing to do with material abundance and success. We know we are not to focus on temporary crowns about which we are warned in 1 Peter 2:11: "Dear Friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul."

And yet, we are regularly and severely tempted to adopt the values, priorities and lifestyles of the

world around us—to live for the here and now versus the abundant life Jesus offers in John 10:10: "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

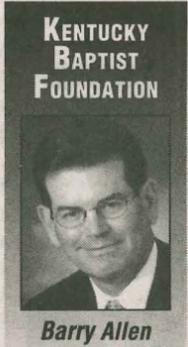
James warns us about this spiritual adultery: "You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God?" (James 4:4).

When we grasp the truth that our identity is in eternity, and when we recognize life is a test, a trust and a temporary assignment, then, and only then, will we stop worrying about having it all on earth. Then, and only then, will the appeal of

the things of this world lose their grip on our lives. Then, and only then, will we live as if this world is not our final destination. Then, and only then, will we start investing for eternity with our lives and the financial resources God has entrusted to us.

Please call Laurie Valentine or me to assist you in investing for eternity.

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



Barry Allen



**JUNE 27
MISSION:DIGNITY
SUNDAY**

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Mission:Dignity Sunday.

"My husband would be so grateful to know that Mission:Dignity is helping me when he's no longer here to help me."

— Fannie May Barton, widow of Paris Barton

Mission:Dignity.

They call it Dignity. We call it a Mission.

Paris Barton pastored small churches for more than 53 years. Before he passed away, Paris worried about how Fannie May would make ends meet financially once he was gone. That's when Mission:Dignity stepped in to help.

GuideStone's Mission:Dignity ministry provides critical financial assistance to thousands of retired Southern Baptist ministers, workers or their widows. But we can't do it without you.



Mission:Dignity™
Assisting Retired Ministers and Spouses

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» twitter.com/GuideStone

Texas textbook standards approved

By Ken Camp
Texas Baptist Standard

Austin, Texas—Despite vocal protests, the Texas State Board of Education voted May 21 to approve social-studies-curriculum standards that urge high-school students to examine church-state separation critically—a move that may affect textbooks nationwide.

A motion to postpone until July a vote on the statewide standards failed. The new standards—for high-school-level classes in history, government and other social studies—passed along party lines, with the board's nine Republicans favoring and five Democrats opposing them.

In the days leading to the vote, more than 200 people registered to testify before the board, voicing their opinions about language of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, a state-mandated set of learning objectives for public-school students.

Those standards not only influence textbooks in Texas, but also have an impact nationally because Texas is one of the top two buyers of textbooks in the United States, and many publishers

craft their books with the Texas market in mind.

Prior to the board's vote on curriculum standards, some religious leaders had voiced concern about proposed language that would downplay constitutional protections for religious freedom.

"Our Founding Fathers understood that the best way to protect religious liberty in America is to keep government out of matters of faith," said Roger Paynter, pastor of First Baptist Church of Austin, Texas.

"But this state board appears hostile to teaching students about the importance of keeping religion and state separate, a principle long supported in my own Baptist tradition and in other faiths."

But some conservative Christian groups hailed the vote as a victory for religious freedom.

"The new addition to have students compare and contrast 'separation of church and state' with the actual words of the Constitution is an excellent idea and will be a real service to the students," said Kelly Shackelford, president of the Liberty Institute. "It takes a true liberal extremist to oppose students reading the Constitution." (ABP)

Supreme Court to hear Ariz. tax-tuition case

Washington—The U.S. Supreme Court will review the constitutionality of an Arizona program that provides state tax breaks for donations to private school scholarship programs.

As part of the 13-year-old tax-tuition program, taxpayers receive a dollar-for-dollar reduction in state income taxes for their donations to not-for-profit school-tuition organizations.

Last year, 91.5 percent of the \$52 million collected in Arizona went to religious schools, according to The Arizona Republic newspaper. Opponents, including the American Civil Liberties Union and others, argue the program violates the First Amendment, which prohibits government establishment of religion.

"Arizona's convoluted scheme is a backdoor way of subsidizing religious education," said Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for the Separation of Church and State.

The Christian legal group Alliance Defense Fund will defend Arizona's tax-tuition program. ADF attorneys said the program "is constitutional because it involves individual, private choices and funding, not government action or money."

While the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals declared last year that the Arizona program violated the separation of church and state, the Supreme Court has upheld cases that give parents public funding for private institutions.

In a 2002 case, the Supreme Court upheld a Cleveland case that allowed public school vouchers to be used for parochial schools. Other states with tax-tuition programs include Florida, Georgia, Iowa and Pennsylvania.

Two cases, Arizona Christian School Tuition Organization v. Winn, and Garriott v. Winn, are being consolidated into one appeal for review by the Supreme Court this fall. (RNS)

Poll: Pro-life Americans outnumber those who identify as pro-choice

Washington—Americans described themselves as more pro-life than pro-choice on abortion for the second straight year, according to a new Gallup Poll.

The survey showed 47 percent of Americans consider themselves pro-life, while 45 percent say they are pro-choice, Gallup reported May 14.

Gallup referred to the results—first evidenced in May 2009—as the "new normal."

"While the two-percentage-point gap in current abortion views is not significant, it represents the third consecutive time Gallup has found more Americans taking the pro-life than pro-choice position on this measure since May 2009, suggesting a real change in public opinion," Gallup's Lydia Saad wrote. "By contrast, in nearly all readings on this question since 1995, and

each survey from 2003 to 2008, more Americans called themselves pro-choice than pro-life."

In May 2009, Gallup's polling showed 51 percent of adults said they are pro-life, while 42 percent identified themselves as pro-choice. It was the first time a majority of Americans had called themselves pro-life since Gallup began asking the question in 1995. Until then, no poll had shown more than 46 percent of Americans saying they were pro-life.

In July 2009, the Gallup poll showed a 47 to 46 percent advantage for the pro-life identification over the pro-choice one.

The survey also found an increase in pro-life sentiments since 2005-06 among Republicans, independents who lean toward neither political party, Americans under 30 years of age and adults age 50-64. (BP)

Oberammergau 2010

From a Christian View

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Meet the class of 2010, part 10

Oneida accepted 'Andy' just as he was, which has made the difference for him

This is the final article about some of the students from the Class of 2010. By now the students have received their diplomas and their Oneida experiences are a part of their pasts. Many things they have learned at OBI will be with them most of their lives. Some of the experiences seemingly made little sense when they were here, but will become more relevant in the years ahead.

I have tried to give readers insights into the diverse backgrounds of the teens who find their way to this little speck on the planet we affectionately call Oneida. We who are privileged to work with these young people know how important our work is. Our hearts break when students leave us without taking advantage of all that we offer, especially when it comes to their spiritual needs.

However, Christians know all too well that the cross was part of the experience Christ had to endure. Those who were at the foot of the cross that day were broken-hearted, discouraged, confused and uncertain about tomorrow. That hopelessness was replaced three days later when it all began to make sense. We do not understand when we seemingly have failed in our efforts. However, we also are deeply blessed when we experience the transformation that takes place in a changed life.

Here is part of the senior essay written by "Andy" (not his real name): "My life before Oneida was ... a typical life, at least with my family. But when it came to school it was a completely different story. I'd been to eight different schools before coming to Oneida.

This is Oneida



W.F. Underwood

"I came to Oneida in the summer of my eighth-grade year. I stayed through the end of ninth grade and then decided to go back to my old school, but I was kicked out because of poor grades. ... I finally came back to Oneida in the middle of my 10th grade year and have been here since. I'm really glad. ... Of all the schools I've attended, Oneida is the only one where I've truly felt at home.

"Oneida has completely changed me for the better. When I first came to OBI, I had lots of hours (punishment for misbehaving), I was suspended all the time, I failed room check almost every day, my grades were low and I smoked. Now I rarely get hours and my grades are much better. I haven't been suspended and I almost never fail room check. But the most impressive thing I have done is quit smoking. ... Oneida has taught me how to be a leader, how to take charge of my life, and has brought me closer to God. OBI has truly helped me and I am truly grateful."

Just a follow-up in regard to Andy's comment about smoking: I fully understand when people are critical about our policy of accepting students who are smokers. Many do not understand how we could accept students in a Christian school and allow them to smoke if they already are smokers.

Our philosophy is that we can't help someone if we are not willing to accept him just as he or she is. We cannot lead a lost teenager to Christ if we will not allow her to enroll because she is not a Christian. We can't help smokers or students with failing grades if we are not willing to accept them just as they are.

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

A year in the life of a student body

Students stay busy during school year with service

One of the things I am most proud of about Clear Creek is the emphasis we place on practical ministry training. The classroom is very important, but we also realize that what takes place outside of the classroom is an important part of the educational process. We realize the importance of practical training for our students. That is why we include a Christian service requirement for each student the entire time they are enrolled as a student at Clear Creek.

This requirement gives the opportunity for our students to be involved in spreading the gospel throughout the academic year, while also involved in their classroom studies. We track the results of these activities so we can make people aware of what our students are involved in while they are here. We have just completed our 2009-10 academic year, and I would like to share with you what a typical year in the life of the student body is like.

This year, our students were involved in preaching 7,400 gospel messages. Clear Creek students take advantage of every opportunity to preach wherever they can. These messages were preached in a variety

of places during the year: in the local church, on television and radio, in the jails and on the streets. Students also were involved in teaching 2,161 classes.

Clear Creek students were involved in making 4,135 visits during the recent academic year. These visits were, again, made in a variety of places: homes, nursing homes, jails, hospitals and bus ministries.

Our students took advantage of many opportunities God gave them to make an abundance of evangelistic contacts. This year our students distributed 17,871 pieces of literature with a gospel presentation. Students also were involved in 9,631 witnessing opportunities with a total of 27,502 evangelistic contacts.

The Clear Creek student body traveled a total of 200,753 miles during the year completing their Christian service assignments. As a result of these activities, our students were involved in seeing 3,170 people make professions of faith.

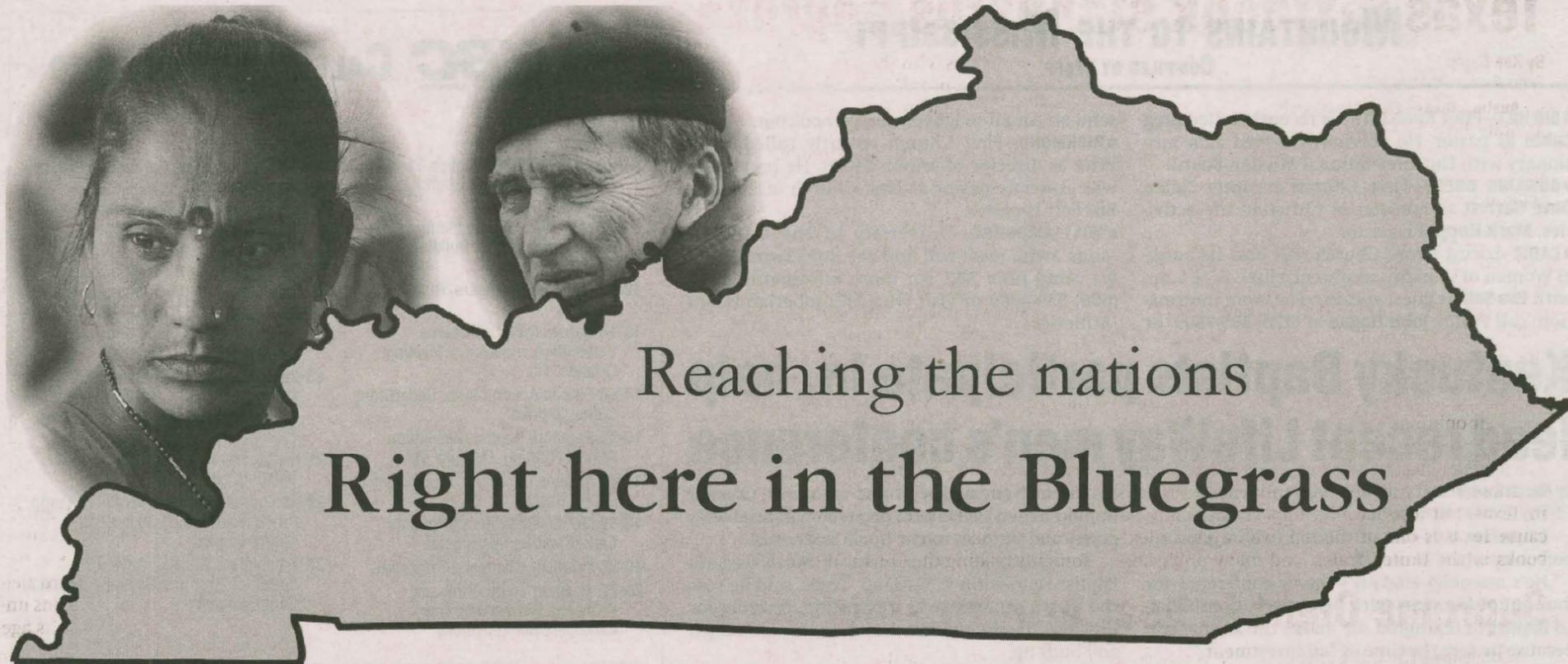
Thank you for your support that enables us to equip our students for kingdom work.

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

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox



Reaching the nations Right here in the Bluegrass

Kentucky Baptists, other Christians make immigrants, refugees their mission field

By Peter Smith
Louisville Courier-Journal

Louisville—In a Southside Drive church basement, dozens of people gathered for a Sunday-night barbecue followed by worship. They sang hymns and read Bible verses flashed on a screen—not just in English, but in Arabic, Hindi and Swahili.

Few in the mostly young, white, American-born congregation understood the foreign words. But joining them on this April night were a handful of natives of the Middle East, South Asia and other foreign lands.

Multiplying that handful comprises the express purpose of Antioch Church. The Southern Baptist congregation organized last year to spread Christianity, in word and deed, among the expanding international population of southern Louisville.

That means help with transportation, English lessons and looking for jobs.

It also means evangelizing—sharing their beliefs in hopes that their Muslim, Hindu and other immigrant neighbors become Christians.

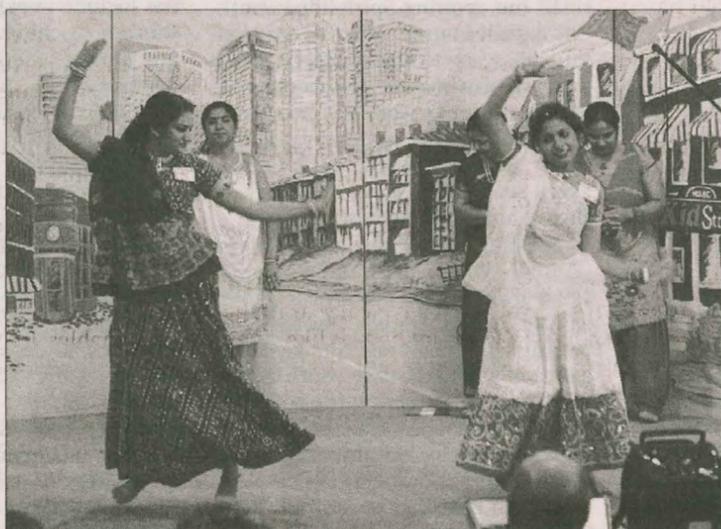
The 'uttermost' is here

Similar evangelical churches and organizations are doing the same thing throughout Louisville and the United States.

They say America's fast-growing international populations have revolutionized their centuries-old strategy of sending missionaries to fulfill the biblical mandate to "make disciples" in the "uttermost parts of the world."

WORLD MINISTRY

Indian women perform native dances at the 35th anniversary celebration of Friendship International Ministry at Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville. Friendship International is one of several Kentucky Baptist-affiliated ministries and churches reaching out to Louisville's growing international population. (Photo by Todd Deaton)



"In the 21st Century, the 'uttermost' is coming to our back door!" Keith Inman wrote on a website of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, the state affiliate of the Southern Baptist Convention, where he is associate leader of evangelism growth.

Not everyone shares the enthusiasm. Many church groups offer social services without proselytizing. And some worry that evangelistic efforts will intimidate refugees who have fled religious persecution or manipulate newcomers needing food or clothing.

"When you've lost family and you've been tortured and you've lost your homeland because of your faith, and then somebody proselytizes you here, you don't know what the consequence of saying no is," said Liz Kaznak, executive director of Kentucky Refugee Ministries.

The ministry, which has resettled thousands of refugees in Kentucky, forbids proselytizing in its programs.

"We're unapologetic about the fact that many of us are Christian," Kaznak said, but view the ministry's job as not to convert "but rather to serve others."

For those at churches like Antioch, however, serving others requires evangelism, as well as meeting physical needs.

"The most loving thing we could do is live out the gospel and to share it with them," pastor Todd Robertson said. "If I really believe what I say, what I believe about Christ, how arrogant to keep the most precious truth to myself."

Said Trent DeLoach, a member of Antioch: "We don't believe in pressuring. ... Obviously we would like to see more peo-

ple follow Jesus, but at the end of the day, if they're content being Muslim, we should still be friends and respect each other."

But Marian McClure Taylor, executive director of the Kentucky Council of Churches, encouraged groups mixing evangelism and social service among immigrants "to think through very carefully how they approach that so that they're not even accidentally being coercive."

Growth strategy

Throughout the country, churches evangelizing internationals are opening coffee houses, offering English classes, starting clothes closets and sometimes going door to door to meet immigrant and refugee newcomers.

On college campuses, they're starting discussion groups and other ministries geared toward international students.

Nationwide, at least 74 evangelical organizations from various denominations have 3,757 people doing missionary work among immigrants, according to a 2009 survey by the Southern Baptists' LifeWay Research.

The Southern Baptist Convention—the nation's and Kentucky's largest Protestant denomination—puts ethnic ministry high on its strategy. A 2009 LifeWay report predicted the denomination would shrink in half by 2050 unless it breaks out of its historic constituency of non-Hispanic whites, with their low birthrate and rising average age.

Twelve percent of U.S. residents are foreign-born, as are 4.5 percent in the Louisville area, according to a 2006 report by the Urban Institute, a Washington-based think tank.

At the recent Sunday night service at Antioch, some Iraqi refugees who had converted from Islam gave testimonies. None wanted to be identified for interviews out of concern for a backlash in their communities.

Robertson said converts understand the seriousness of breaking with their heritage.

"The call for us as a church is not only to share our message and say, 'I hope it works out for you,' but to be family for them ... for the long haul," he said.

That's why several families in the church, including Robertson's, have moved to southern Louisville.

"It's missionary living," he said. "The

only difference is geography."

Other churches have similar outreaches to internationals.

He Visto la Luz Christian Church meets in the Iroquois Manor shopping center. Founded to reach Hispanics, it now also draws Bhutanese, Eritrean and other refugees to everything from monthly dinners to classes, dental clinics and youth sports clinics.

Pastor Philip Molestina said the church seeks "a healthy balance" of evangelism and meeting physical needs.

First Alliance Church on Bardstown Road hosts the International Christian Center, with foreign-language congregations, English classes and other outreach.

In March, it hosted hundreds of people at a daylong seminar offered by Fouad Masri of the Indianapolis-based Crescent Project, which teaches Christians to share their faith with Muslims.

Common ground

Masri, a Lebanese-born convert from Islam, told the group that Christians share common ground with Muslims, recognizing an all-powerful God and many biblical prophets. But they must also go "beyond common ground," Masri said, such as Christians' belief that Jesus is divine and not just a prophet, as Muslims believe.

"Everybody wants to hold hands and sing 'Kum Ba Yah' with Muslims. And that's true, we want to build bridges. Yes, we want to love Muslims. But at the end of the day, I want to share with them the hope I have."

Immigrant leaders of Louisville-area religious groups say they have good relations with Christians here and don't feel coerced to alter their religious views—no more than they would try to force theirs on anyone else.

"As a Muslim, we are only urged to convey the message ... and not to coerce or even to entice anyone," said Maqsood Ahmed, vice president of the Council of Islamic Organizations of Kentucky.

Thich Hang Dat, abbot of the Ten Thousand Buddhas Summit Monastery in Harrison County, Ind., said tensions can grow if any group proclaims, "Mine is the best and yours is the worst."

"We must build our trust, respect and understanding with each other through proper dialogue, sharing, and communication."

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MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **BIG HILL**—Pilot Knob Church recently called **Greg Lakes** as pastor. He previously served as a missionary with the International Mission Board.

■ **BOWLING GREEN**—First Church recently called **Dave Garrett** as minister of Christian life activities. **Mark Hopper** is pastor.

■ **CADIZ**—Locust Grove Church will host its annual Women of Worship conference June 5, 10 a.m., with **Eva Self** as guest speaker. For more information, call Pastor **John Hagan** at (270) 235-7599, or

send an e-mail to lgbcpastor@yahoo.com.

■ **RICHMOND**—First Church recently called **Floyd Price** as director of senior adults. He previously was associate pastor at First Church of London. Bill Fort is pastor.

■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—University of the Cumberland's swim team will host the 2010 Swim America camp June 7-17. For more information, call (606) 539-4389 or visit www.UCumberland.edu/Athletics.

Kentucky Baptists participate in, help lead recent LifeWay men's conference

By Micah Carter
LifeWay Christian Resources

Ridgecrest, N.C.—Jamahl Glaze knows a good opportunity when he sees it.

He's attended LifeWay's men's conference for four out of five years with his church, Consolidated Baptist in Lexington. He makes the annual trip because he sees the time as "an investment."

"I need to invest in myself as a man by gathering with other men who love Jesus and are trying to live for Him," Glaze explained.

Glaze assembled with 630 like-minded men at LifeWay's Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina last month. Its focus—"I'm the Man"—called on men to embrace their God-given roles of leading, protecting, mentoring and serving.

Jay Wells, director of black church relations at LifeWay, organized the event with a specific goal in mind. "We wanted to create an experience where the affirmation of men happens," he said. "We wanted to see men changed through a concentrated dose of God's presence in a compressed, focused time of teaching and encouragement."

Inspirational worship, powerful preaching and insightful breakout groups came together to foster that experience.

"We have to have a place where men can talk about being men in an environment that affirms who we are," Wells said. "We chose to focus on a man's experience as central, not around the personality of a specific man—even though we invited quality speakers to be with us."

The lineup of speakers and leaders included, among others, Eric Johnson, pastor of Greater Galilee Baptist in Louisville, who challenged men from 2 Corinthians 4 to place themselves at the disposal of their Creator and to face life's difficulties with courage.

"You must be determined to keep on climbing," he stated. "Because God has given you a ministry, you can't quit now. You might be in misery, but you still have mercy, so keep climbing."

Mark Croston, pastor of East End Baptist Church in Suffolk, Va., echoed this sentiment of perseverance when he spoke from Judges 13-16, inviting each participant to be a "true player for real." Unlike Samson, who floundered and failed because of

his impulsiveness, desires and emotions, Croston implored men to live out their true potential with power and purpose under God's leadership.

Tony Mathews, senior pastor of North Garland Baptist Fellowship in Garland, Texas, said he sees the men's conference as a prime opportunity for him and the men in his church to be encouraged and built up.

"I came here and brought some men with me because the conference has a reputation for being bibliocentric and relevant," Mathews said. "Here we can receive timely encouragement and solid biblical teaching that deals specifically with men's issues."

Mathews emphasized that the resources he gains are well worth the trip. "Beyond the academic, I gather pastoral, personal, practical and spiritual resources that help me retool and replenish my ministry focus for the men in my care."

One such resource came in the form of a breakout group designed specifically for pastors and simply titled "How to Pastor Men." Kevin Smith, pastor of Watson Memorial Baptist in Louisville, led the group.

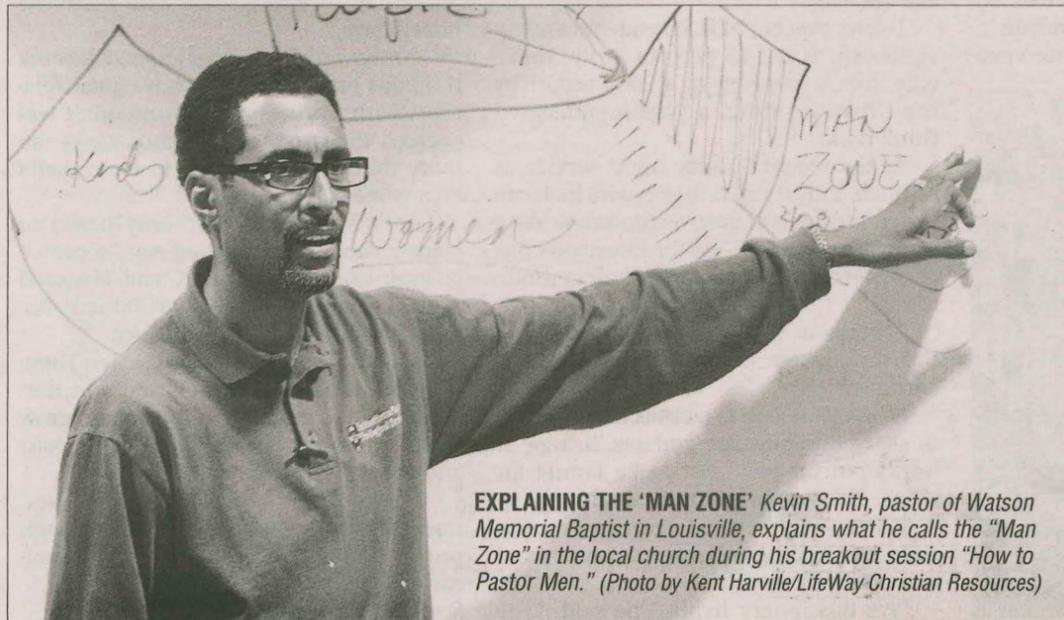
Smith lamented that most churches overlook men or have no intentional focus for them. "Men are unique and distinctive," he said. "That means that leading men must be unique and distinctive."

"Pastors need to make a priority out of moving the mind of God into the men of God to make them mighty for God," he said.

Smith argued that even though Jesus liberated and elevated women, He devoted much of His time and teaching to 12 men. Men's ministry is not a program—it must be the DNA of your ministry, Smith noted.

"You're not going to make a man of God overnight," he added. "It is a patient process—just look at Jesus and the way He disciplined men. It takes time."

Smith suggested pastors should let their men know "you're trying to equip them to lead, protect, mentor and serve—so that they can make a difference in their homes, church and community." If men grab hold of that vision to empower them for ministry and leadership, pastors will begin to see changes, he said.



EXPLAINING THE 'MAN ZONE' Kevin Smith, pastor of Watson Memorial Baptist in Louisville, explains what he calls the "Man Zone" in the local church during his breakout session "How to Pastor Men." (Photo by Kent Harville/LifeWay Christian Resources)



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.

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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.

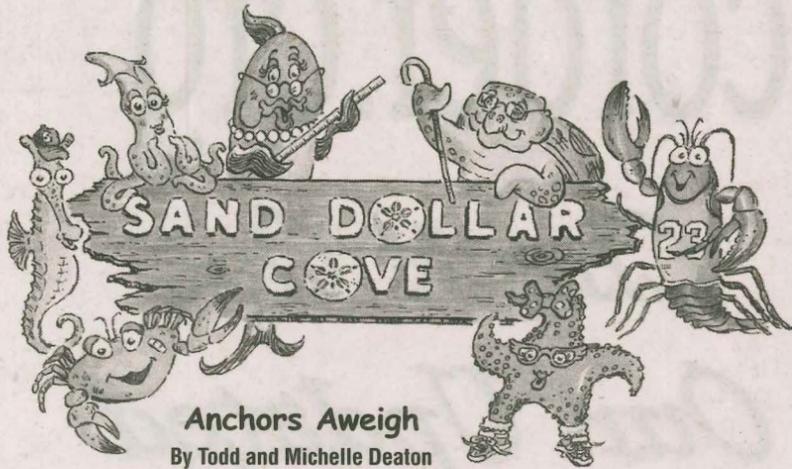
SEEKING: Pastor for Faith Decision Baptist Church in Paint Lick, Ky., a Christ-centered church in Southern Madison County focused on reaching the lost through outreach and missions. Please mail resumé and letter of interest to: PO Box 902, Berea, KY 40403.

SEEKING: 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.

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WANTED: 40-passenger bus for East Hickman Baptist Church. Call (859) 806-9291.



Anchors Aweigh

By Todd and Michelle Deaton

One windy day, Lenny Lobster invited Seamore Seahorse to go sailing. Seamore had never been on a sailboat before, and he was a little worried.

"I'll teach you everything you need to know," Lenny said. "It's easy. You just put up the sail and catch a breeze."

"I guess so," Seamore said, but he still worried. "What do I need to take on a sailing trip?" he asked.

It was a bright, sunny day. But Seamore worried, "It might rain later. I'll take an umbrella."

Seamore went home to search for an umbrella. While he looked, he saw his jacket. "If it gets cold, I might need it," he thought.

"And if I get wet, I might catch a cold," he worried. "I'd better go to the store and get a box of tissues, just in case."

On the way, Seamore met Sunny Starfish, who was rollerskating on the sidewalk. "Lenny told me that you are going sailing," she said.

"Sailing is fun," she added as she rolled past him. "But all that exercise will make you hungry."

"Maybe I should pick up a few snacks," he worried. "I'll buy some peanut butter and crackers, some apples and drinks."

Then Seamore began to worry that he might miss supper. "I'll get some hamburgers and chips. We'll need buns, cheese and ketchup."

While Seamore was checking out, he thought, "I'll need an ice chest to keep the hamburgers cold and a grill to cook them."

Syd Squid rode by on her bike while he was walking home. "I've never been sailing. What do you do besides float around?" she asked.

Seamore began to worry about getting bored. "I'd better take some books," he thought. "Maybe Lenny would like to play checkers."

"I'd take a radio if I were you," Syd yelled.

"That's a great idea," Seamore replied. "I'll take some CDs, too."

Next, Seamore saw Craig Crab. "Be careful, mate. The waves get rough on the high seas," Craig laughed, trying to sound like a pirate.

"Do we have a first aid kit?" Seamore wondered. "We'll need life jackets and maybe a life raft if the boat sinks," he decided.

"What's up?" asked Ollie Oyster as he and Clarice Clam swam up. "Seamore's going sailing with Lenny," Craig replied.

"I went sailing once with my dad," Ollie said. "The wind stopped blowing, and we had to paddle back."

"I'd better make sure we have some oars," Seamore thought.

"What do you do if there's too much wind?" asked Clarice.

"The wind might topple the boat over," Seamore worried. "Perhaps I should get an anchor," he thought.

When Lenny arrived at the dock, Seamore had piled the sailboat so full of supplies that water was spilling into the boat.

"What is all this?" Lenny asked, horrified at the sight of his sinking sailboat.

"I thought we might need a few things," Seamore shrugged.

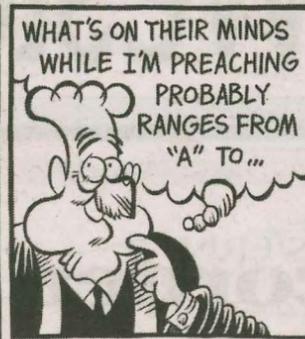
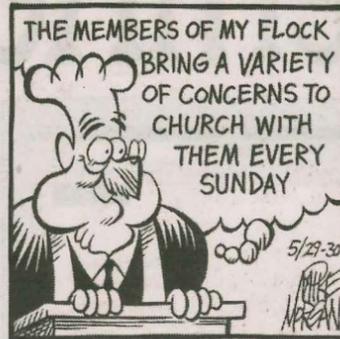
"You worry too much," Lenny laughed. "With all this stuff, the boat won't even be able to move."



What were some things that Seamore Seahorse thought he might need for the sailing trip? Did he need all these things? What happened to the boat? When is worrying not helpful? Read Proverbs 12:25 together.



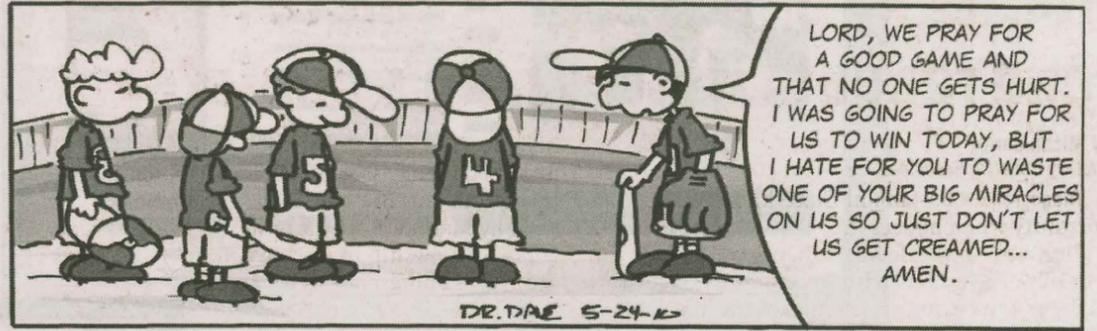
For Heaven's Sake



Mike Morgan

Preacher's Kids

David Ayers



Bible Crosswords

Across

- 1 "Give ear, O ____ of Israel" (Psalms 80:1)
- 8 Animal fat
- 11 "And now abideth faith, ____, charity" (1 Corinthians 13:13)
- 12 "Every ____ shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low" (Luke 3:5)
- 14 Gold, chem. symbol
- 15 Revise
- 17 Direction
- 18 Dental surgeon, abbr.
- 19 "Make the ____ for fire" (Ezekiel 24:9)
- 20 Advantage, resource
- 22 Over (poetic)
- 24 Father
- 26 What the doctor wants you to say when you open your mouth
- 27 "To him ... who liveth for ____" (Revelation 4:9)
- 30 "They shall fall, and ____ rise" (Amos 8:14)
- 33 Abijam's son (1 Kings 15:8)
- 34 Foreign
- 36 A cereal grain
- 37 Three letters of Latin anagram for Christ
- 38 Chemical warfare, abbr.
- 39 Old Testament, abbr.
- 40 Longing
- 42 Land measurement
- 44 Larger, abbr.
- 46 "The four and-twenty elders, which sat before God on their ____" (Revelation 11:16)
- 48 A snake-shaped fish
- 49 "The veil of the temple was ____ in the midst" (Luke 23:45)

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44	45		46				47	48	
	49		50		51		52		53
54				55			56	57	
58				59					

- 51 Paul was a ____-maker
- 53 Building wing
- 54 "What then? are we ____ than they?" (Romans 3:9)
- 56 "He shall suck the poison of ____" (Job 20:16)
- 58 Exclamation of disgust
- 59 "Cattle shall feed in large ____" (Isaiah 30:23)

- 23 "Elias verily cometh first, and ____ all things" (Mark 9:12)
- 25 "I am the God of Bethel, where thou ____ the pillar" (Genesis 31:13)
- 28 Very large
- 29 Color again
- 31 Passport
- 32 European Community, abbr.
- 33 Alcoholics Anonymous, abbr.
- 35 Inhabits
- 36 "Hurt not the wine and the ____" (Revelation 6:6)
- 38 Crawls
- 41 "Take, ____, this is my body" (Matthew 26:26)
- 43 Common Era, abbr.
- 45 Gregory, for short
- 46 "There is but a ____ between me and death" (1 Samuel 20:3)
- 47 Tin, chem. symbol
- 50 New Testament, abbr.
- 52 Black sticky material
- 54 Abbreviation for a dry measure
- 55 Royal Academy, abbr.
- 57 Direction

Down

- 1 "Put your trust in my ____" (Judges 9:15)
- 2 "Peace be to thine ____" (1 Samuel 25:6)
- 3 Estimated position, abbr.
- 4 Chick's sound
- 5 "Turn ye from your ____ ways" (Ezekiel 33:11)
- 6 Scored
- 7 550, Romans num.
- 8 Part of an eye or a camera
- 9 Affirmative votes
- 10 "Deliver our lives from ____" (Joshua 2:13)
- 13 "Narrow is the way, which ____ unto life" (Matthew 7:14)
- 16 "Pharisee besought him to ____" (Luke 11:37)
- 21 "He that hath an ____, let him hear" (Revelation 2:7)

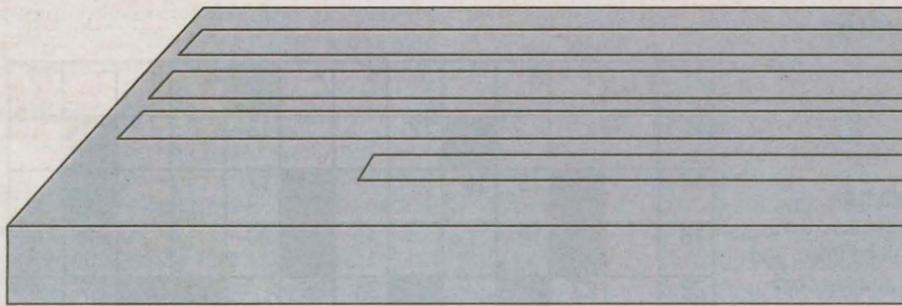
Last week's solution

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M	A	R		S	A	I	O		P	A	D	S			
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