

Shine like stars in the world  
 Philippians 2:15

# WESTERN Recorder

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## FOR THE RECORD



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## 20 Years of World Changers



*Eighth-grader Cece George of Alpharetta, Ga., paints a window ledge in Charleston, S.C. She was one of 309 World Changers who took part in a Charleston outreach last summer involving painting, roofing, interior renovations and exterior clean-up. (Photo by Susan Whitley/NAMB)*

### Student missions ministry marks two decades, other milestones in 2010

By Mickey Noah  
 North American Mission Board

**Springboro, Ohio**—Two years after sliding off a hot roof in Knoxville, Tenn.—severely breaking his left ankle—World Changers adult volunteer Ted Smith is at it again, leading Ohio high school and college students on an upcoming World Changers project in Cherokee, N.C. And, he wouldn't have it any other way.

"Although it happened back in 2008 and my ankle's still only 80 percent healed, I'll never let it deter me from getting back on a roof and being at World Changers," said the 49-year-old Smith, a regional sales manager for a manufacturer.

World Changers is an intense, hands-on missions experience for students sponsored and managed by the North American Mission Board.

Smith traveled to North Carolina in late April to meet with local project and construction coordinators in preparation for the week of July 12-17 when he and nine other adult volunteers will bring 18-20 students from Springboro Baptist Church in Ohio to Cherokee, a West North Carolina mountain town some 400 miles away. The Springboro students will paint, repair roofs and build disability ramps for the less fortunate—at no cost to the homeowners.

□ See World Changers @ 20 ... *Page 6*

## So. Baptists, in battling malaise, focus on numbers

By Adelle Banks

**Orlando, Fla.**—Ask a Southern Baptist about the state of the denomination and you'll probably get an answer with numbers in it.

Numbers of baptisms in particular. And recently, declining numbers of baptisms.

As members of the nation's largest Protestant denomination prepare for their annual meeting June 15-16 in Orlando, Fla., statistics loom large in their plans to chart a new direction after years of malaise.

"In 2008 we baptized only 75,000 teenagers," reads a new Southern Baptist report called "Penetrating the Lostness." "In 1970 we baptized 140,000. Why? ... Churches in America are losing ground with each successive generation."

Why are Southern Baptists so focused on statistics? Simply put, they view them as a tangible way of tracking how well they are reaching those they call the "lost"—people without Jesus Christ.

"I think the hand-wringing is driven by an angst of do we want to join so many other denominations in decline?" said Ed Stetzer, president of SBC-affiliated LifeWay Research, □ See Southern Baptists ... *Page 3*

## Ky. Baptists form lasting partnership with New Orleans church

### Paducah mission teams helping jump start city's only Upward sports program

By Drew Nichter  
 News Director

**New Orleans**—To hear New Orleans pastor Willie Breaux tell it, he has family in Kentucky.

"They're like brothers from another mother," he said of the ministers on staff at Paducah's Lone Oak First Baptist Church. "I mean literally, my brothers for life."

Breaux and the pastors at the Paducah church have formed quite a bond over the past four years. It is a partnership that has seen countless blessings flow both ways, as well as the rebirth of Breaux's New Orleans congregation following Hurricane Katrina and even the beginning of New Orleans' only Upward Sports ministry.

"We're brothers in Christ, and we're committed to help them reach their community," said Bob Martin, Lone Oak's minister of activities.

Since November 2006, mission teams from Lone Oak First Baptist have traveled at least 15 times to the Crescent City to help rebuild Christian Fellowship Cathedral, a largely African-American congregation affiliated with New Orleans Baptist Association.

Located in the Upper Ninth Ward in New Orleans East, the church building took quite a hit during the 2005 storm. Pounding rain and flood waters poured in, filling the church with four and a half feet of water, Breaux recalled.

The church and its community took another hit after the storm as thousands of people fled the Upper Ninth Ward, leaving behind their flood-ravaged homes and lives to settle elsewhere.

"It's difficult to come home unless you have a reason to come □ See Paducah church ... *Page 2*



**PARTNERS IN MISSION** Team members from Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah do roof work at Christian Fellowship Cathedral in New Orleans, which was heavily damaged by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Lone Oak teams have made 15 trips to help rebuild the church.

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, June 9

## KBC churches encouraged to partner with pregnancy centers

By Erin Roach  
Kentucky Baptist Convention

**Greenville**—By partnering with other congregations in their community to support a pregnancy resource center, members of Second Baptist Church of Greenville have demonstrated that their belief in the sanctity of life is a cause worthy of action.

Diana Anderson, a member of Second

Baptist, Greenville began serving as executive director of Pathway of Hope in 2005, and the church has been a faithful supporter of the ministry.

"They've done supply drives where they bring in baby items and it's like a massive church-wide baby shower," she said. "Everybody brought their items to the altar, and it was a pretty awesome thing because we just covered the altar with baby things."

### More churches involved

Eric Allen, mission service and ministries director for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, is hoping more churches will follow Second Baptist Church's lead.

Through a partnership with the North American Mission Board called "The Invitation Stands," the KBC is urging congregations to visit their local pregnancy resource centers and discover ways they can help share Christ and guide women to choose life for their unborn children.

"We currently partner with 51 pregnancy care centers in Kentucky that are affiliated ministries of KBC

churches and/or associations," Allen said. "It is my prayer that every KBC church would demonstrate that they value human life that God has created (including the unborn) by partnering with local pregnancy care centers."

In addition to providing needed items, Second Baptist Church of Greenville also participates in two annual fundraisers for the resource center, including a baby-bottle blitz running from Mother's Day to Father's Day as a way to collect spare change for the ministry.

"They believe in the sanctity of life and know that since we don't take state and federal funds, our resources are limited to what churches and individuals do," Anderson said.

Anderson is the only full-time staff person at the center, and another woman has been hired for 16 hours per week through a community grant to coordinate an educational program at the center.

### 'Reflect and share Christ'

"The No. 1 thing we want to do is reflect and share Christ. We want to be evangelistic in the way that we minister, but most of all we just want to love them the way Christ would," Anderson said. "People from all walks of life come here, facing a lot of tough choices. With the economy the way it is, a lot of people are really struggling right now to be able to make ends meet."

As long as supplies are available, the center is open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays for walk-in visits and appointments and Wednesdays for appointments only. When the center is unable to meet a need, they make phone calls to help ac-

quire resources and services elsewhere in the Greenville community.

"That's a huge thing that we have seen happen in the last year and a half—the networking of organizations in the community," said Anderson, who is a NAMB Mission Service Corps missionary. "We had a tornado here and then the ice storm and all that, so it kind of opened our eyes to the value of working together."

### Ways to help

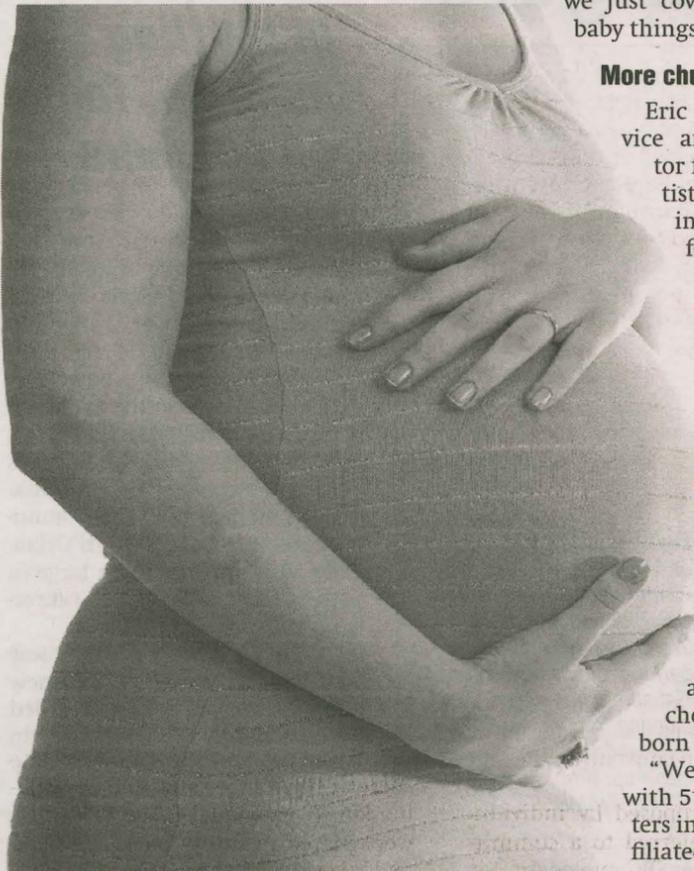
The center offers free pregnancy tests and soon will offer ultrasounds if they are able to move into a larger facility, she said. They average 125 to 140 clients each month, and volunteers from the church help out in a variety of ways.

"They may be greeters. They may sort clothes and diapers and put things away that are donated. We have a laundry room here, and we wash all of the clothes that come in. A lot of times they're doing the laundry," Anderson noted.

Allen suggested that interested churches start by contacting a local center to inform them of a desire to become involved.

Churches can pray for the center's staff as well as for the mothers and their unborn children; meet physical needs by providing maintenance and repairs at the center; collect and donate needed items; volunteer time; give financially; or invite a representative from the center to speak at the church.

For more information about "The Invitation Stands," contact the KBC's mission service and ministries department at (502) 489-3530, toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3530, or visit [www.KYBaptist.org/PregnancyCare](http://www.KYBaptist.org/PregnancyCare).



## Paducah church helps ignite New Orleans' only Upward sports ministry

Continued from page 1

home," Breaux said. "So, if you don't have a reason to come back, why come back?"

Breaux appealed for help with the Louisiana Baptist Convention, a request that then was forwarded on to Operation NOAH Rebuild, the North American Mission Board-coordinated construction ministry.

Breaux's appeal for help made its way nearly 600 miles north to Paducah and Mike Williams, associate pastor at Lone Oak First Baptist.

Williams already had a connection to the city with a daughter and son-in-law attending New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He said he had seen the hurricane's devastation while cleaning up his daughter's rain-soaked apartment only weeks after the storm.

Returning a year later to do initial assessments on the damage at Christian Fellowship Cathedral, Williams said the building "was just about like it was after Katrina."

Over the next three and a half years, Lone Oak First Baptist has sent team after team to New Orleans to restore Christian Fellowship's facility, as well as Pastor Breaux's home.

"It had to be gutted," Williams said of the church. "We just went in there and, except for the studs on the walls, we replaced everything."

### Upward outreach

With the building and Pastor Breaux's home almost completely restored, attention now has turned to community outreach. That has taken the form of Upward Basketball and Cheerleading.

According to Breaux (and confirmed by the Upward Sports website), there is no

Upward ministry within the New Orleans city limits. The closest one is at a church in Kenner, a suburb nearly 20 miles away from the downtown New Orleans area.

What the children of New Orleans know little about is something kids in Paducah have been enjoying for nearly a decade now.

Lone Oak First Baptist's Upward program is one of the nation's largest, regularly hosting leagues for all of the sports Upward offers—basketball, cheerleading, soccer and flag football. Martin said 600-700 kids participate in the church's Upward programs each year.

Lone Oak mission teams take the show on the road, too, conducting Upward camps in numerous cities. They've even gone north and south of the border, organizing camps in Canada and Mexico.

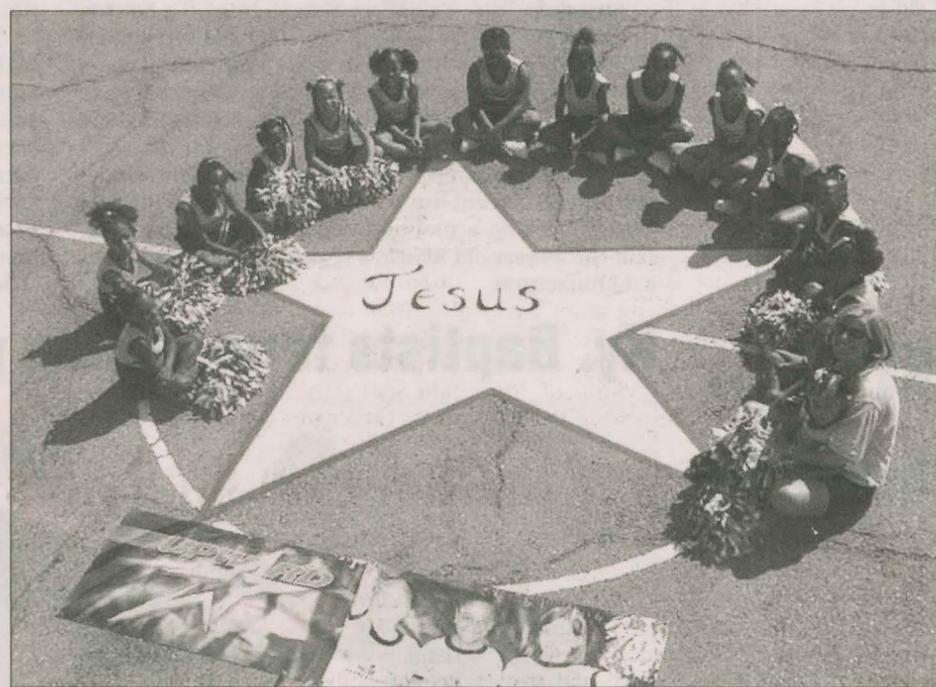
"Every time we do one of these camps, we see somewhere in the neighborhood of 80 to 90 percent of the kids who don't know the Lord come to know the Lord—and it's an absolute miracle," Martin said.

Last summer, Lone Oak members held their first Upward Basketball camp in New Orleans at an outdoor court at a school near Christian Fellowship. About 110 kids from the community participated.

This week, Lone Oak teams are in New Orleans conducting a second basketball camp, this time at a parking lot/basketball court that now belongs to Christian Fellowship Cathedral.

Last year, the church acquired a lot next door. Lone Oak members paved it over to use for parking and to help Christian Fellowship establish an ongoing Upward Basketball and Cheerleading ministry. Upward Sports even donated \$1,000 to the project.

Martin said this week's camp hopeful-



**LOOKING 'UPWARD'** More than 100 kids from New Orleans' Upper Ninth Ward participated in the Upward Basketball camp conducted by Lone Oak First Baptist Church and Christian Fellowship Cathedral. The churches are putting on their second such camp in New Orleans this week.

ly will propel Christian Fellowship into establishing a full-time league or camp. If they do, Upward Sports will provide the league/camp fees for the first 200 kids who join—equal to about \$25,000.

"They have such a vision, not only to reach kids around the world, ... but also for missions," Martin said of Upward Sports.

### Going forward

With the rebuilding phase of the Lone Oak and Christian Fellowship partnership pretty much complete, Williams said he is not sure how they will continue to work to-

gether—but he sure hopes they do.

"I hope we don't end it. I hope we continue to do something with the church there," he said.

Pastor Breaux agreed, saying the partnership between the two churches 600 miles apart "is all part of the Master's plan."

Breaux also offered high praise for his "brothers" at Lone Oak First Baptist and their emphasis on missions.

"If anybody needed to go through basic training to find out what it means to do church, it is the perfect model."

## GCRTF chair wants report voted on as a unit

Task force also urges 'serious time of prayer' leading up to SBC annual meeting

Nashville, Tenn.—With a vote on the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force report just around the corner, the chairman of that group has called Southern Baptists “to enter into a serious time of prayer.”

“Let us pray that messengers to our convention will be guided by the Holy Spirit, united with a common commitment to Christ, and energized by excitement for the Great Commission,” Ronnie Floyd said in a June 1 statement. “May the nations of the world be on our hearts, and may the commitment of future generations be on our minds as we meet in Orlando.”

Floyd released a seven-point prayer guide for the June 15-16 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Orlando, Fla., and announced the task force wants the report's seven recommendations voted on as a unit.

The task force “believes that our seven recommendations form a unified vision that will chart our future together. Therefore, it is our desire to see the recommendations discussed and acted upon together, not separately,” Floyd said in the state-

ment. “However, this will ultimately be determined by the messengers of the convention. We will wholeheartedly support their decision.

“We expect an energetic discussion of our report on the floor of the Southern Baptist Convention, but we also hope for a bold embrace of our report,” Floyd added. “Our greatest hope is to see Southern Baptists leave Orlando with a bolder commitment, a greater excitement, and a clearer vision for Great Commission faithfulness.”

The task force's “Seven Points of Prayer” document offered the following guidance for daily prayer on behalf of the annual meeting:

■ Pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to be poured out upon us during our time of hearing, discussing and determining our actions towards this report and recommendations.

■ Pray that the messengers of the convention will lay aside all personal and preferential agendas and embrace the will and purpose of God as they hear the formal re-

port and recommendations of the GCR Task Force.

■ Pray for the GCR Task Force to make their presentation in the power of the Holy Spirit and to be able to answer any questions and concerns of the messengers, resulting in honor being brought to Jesus Christ.

■ Pray for Johnny Hunt and his presidential message to the Southern Baptist Convention on June 15th at 11:10 a.m. and for God to use him among us powerfully.

■ Pray for Ronnie Floyd and his presentation to the Southern Baptist Convention at 2:45 p.m. as the chairman of the GCR Task Force and for God to use him among us powerfully.

■ Pray for a genuine spiritual revival and awakening to be experienced by the people of God, resulting in a mighty move of God and the resurgence of the Great Commission through each of our lives and churches.

■ Pray for the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the glory of God to extend to all the nations and people groups of the world. (BP)

## Buckets of Hope container clears Haitian customs

By Barbara Denman  
Florida Baptist Convention

Port-au-Prince, Haiti—After sitting in the Port-au-Prince port for more than a month, the first shipping container filled with the Buckets of Hope was released by the Haitian government last week. The container, owned by the Florida Baptist Convention, carried buckets of various necessities donated by Southern Baptists nationwide.

A second container owned by the Florida convention and filled with 41,200 pounds of rice also was released June 2 from the port in Saint Marc, located north of the capital city.

Dennis Wilbanks of the Florida convention's partnership missions department reported that the two containers were delivered to their destinations June 3.

There is urgency to delivering the buckets to Haitian pastors and distributing the contents to their communities as soon as possible, Wilbanks said. “We must give the distribution report to the government officials in order to get more released.”

During the months of February and March, more than 152,000 Buckets of Hope were packed with rice, flour, beans, oil and other food by Southern Baptists as they sought to alleviate some of the hunger after the devastating Jan. 12 earthquake. The foodstuffs were placed in utility buckets, sealed and labeled with the gospel message.

After being collected and sent to locations in Florida and Shreveport, La., the buckets were placed in shipping containers before being sent to Haiti. Only a portion of the containers were sent to Haiti initially, but these have been backlogged for weeks by government bureaucracy.

Wilbanks and other Florida convention staff members have been working their way through the highest Haitian government channels in requesting the release of the containers.

However, Wilbanks cautioned, “The battle is not over; this is just the first one.” He maintained he is resolute that the other containers will be released soon. (BP)

## Pastor calls on SBC to adopt zero tolerance of racism

By Bob Allen

Arlington, Texas—A prominent African-American pastor has announced plans to ask the Southern Baptist Convention to amend its constitution to ban churches that condone racism.

Dwight McKissic, pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church in Arlington, Texas, said in a recent blog and press release that he would ask messengers at the SBC annual meeting June 15-16 to consider amending an article on membership to exclude churches that “act to affirm, approve or endorse ... racial discrimination and bigotry in any form.”

The membership article already bans churches that condone “homosexual behavior” in an amendment added during the 1990s after one North Carolina church licensed a practicing homosexual as a minister and another performed a ceremony blessing a same-sex union.

McKissic said he wants a similar zero-tolerance ban on racism because of “residual racism or latent bigotry” in the na-

tion's second-largest religious body. Part of that is “unrepentant belief” in the “curse of Ham,” theology used historically to mistreat persons of color.

The curse of Ham refers to one of Noah's three sons mentioned in the Bible. In Genesis 9:20-25, Ham enters a tent and discovers his father naked and drunk, then goes back to tell his brothers. They avert their eyes to avoid looking at Noah and use a garment to cover their father's nakedness. After he awakes, Noah curses Ham's descendants to become servants of those of his brothers.

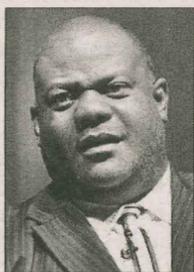
Some scholars view the story as a rationalization for Israel's conquest and enslavement of the Canaanites, presumed to be descendants of Ham. Later some Christians came to believe the story explained different skin colors and used it to justify enslavement of African blacks.

In a related resolution submitted to the SBC Resolutions Committee, McKissic said Southern Baptists need to repent of racist theologies the way they apologized

for condoning racist structures in 1995. Despite progress toward racial unity, McKissic said Southern Baptists “have not yet fully realized the full participation of our vast ethnic diversity in convention life and leadership.”

All resolutions proposed by individual messengers are referred to a committee appointed by the SBC president for study. The committee has options of recommending or declining to recommend them for vote and commonly uses various resolutions addressing a similar theme to write a resolution of its own. Messengers then have opportunity to debate and offer amendments from the floor.

Along with the resolution asking for repentance of racist theology, McKissic is submitting separate resolutions apologizing for past indignities to women, who were not allowed to vote as convention messengers until 1918, and calling for a “solemn assembly,” defined as “a time of intense spiritual discipline, fasting and prayer, for the purpose of seeking God's power in the midst of the important decisions we must make about our future.” (ABP)



Dwight McKissic

## Southern Baptists focus on baptisms in reversing convention numbers dip

Continued from page 1

which compiles and analyzes statistics.

Stetzer has issued blunt assessments of the denomination's baptism rates and membership decline—a reversal of fortunes that some Baptists have had trouble acknowledging. In a May commentary, he reviewed the ups and downs of baptism rates over the last six decades and declared that membership has probably peaked at 16.1 million.

“Blips, untended, become dips ... and dips, untended, become crypts,” he warned in the commentary that appeared on Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary's “Between the Times” blog.

Other observers look at the numbers with worry.

“In our history as Southern Baptists, we've never had the kind of malaise statistically we've had in the last five years,” said Alvin Reid, professor of evangelism at Southeastern Seminary.

The latest baptism statistics—349,737

reported in 2009—represent a 2 percent increase from 2008, when baptisms hit their lowest level since 1987.

The Southern Baptist emphasis on baptisms is rooted in the theological belief—deeply embedded in Baptist DNA—that each baptism is evidence of a new Christian life, said Dale Jones, secretary-treasurer of the Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies.

“They would be looking far more at the baptism rate itself,” said Jones, who directs a research center for the Church of the Nazarene. “Most of us tend to look at attendance or actual membership. Their emphasis is on how many new people they got this year.”

Some Southern Baptists have begun to wonder if some of the numerical focus is misplaced, with a subtle—and sometimes not-so-subtle—belief that bigger is better.

Les Puryear, a North Carolina pastor who recently launched the SBC Majority Initiative, is pushing for a greater repre-

sentation of small churches on Southern Baptist agency boards.

“There is that small church bias that if you're not growing like 100 people in a month or baptizing a lot of people then you're not as valuable, you're not doing something as good as the larger churches and that's just not true,” he said.

Stetzer said Southern Baptist researchers have found that new smaller churches tend to have higher percentages of baptisms than established churches.

Bill Leonard, outgoing dean of the Wake Forest University School of Divinity, said the denomination, known for its conservative-moderate theological battles in the 1980s, is now facing a demographic crisis.

“Finally, after years of trying to avoid their demographic downturn or hoping it was just a glitch on the radar ... the statistics have become so dire in terms of membership and baptisms and funding and connections that they're really having to

revisit who they are and what they're going to be and do,” he said.

Southern Baptists hope part of the solution will be a report from the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force, which seeks a new vision for the denomination.

The recommendations, which call for restructuring Baptist agencies to revive a focus on evangelism, have been met with criticism from some Southern Baptist leaders. Last week, retiring SBC Executive Committee President Morris Chapman harshly criticized the plan, saying it “will demote, devalue, and potentially destroy the cooperative spirit” in the denomination.

In addition to potential restructuring, Southern Baptists are anticipating several key leadership changes, including tapping former SBC president Frank Page to replace Chapman.

During next week's meeting, Southern Baptists also will choose from four candidates—three Southerners and one Midwesterner—as their next president. (RNS)

## Dealing with untimely loss

Recently, one of our Kentucky Baptist Convention staff ministry assistants, Cheryl Frerman, lost her 17-year-old son in a drowning accident. This has been a shock and deep grief experience for Cheryl and her family. It also has been a challenging experience for friends, especially high school classmates.

### Partners in the Mission



By Bill Mackey

The KBC staff has surrounded Cheryl with Christian love and support as has her church family. During a chapel service in which we were praying for the family, one of our accounting staff members, Elyse Taylor, shared an experience of how God works through tragedy to accomplish His purposes.

Elyse also serves as a campus minister at Hanover College in Indiana, and the story she told is also recounted in the current issue of the Indiana Baptist magazine:

"Bobby, a Hanover College student, was asked to lead the weekly Baptist Collegiate Ministry Bible study. While preparing, he struggled with a question and decided to share it, hoping the group would be able to help him find answers. Bobby talked openly and honestly about the death of his younger brother in a car accident the past summer. He had not opened up about his feelings to the group previously, but he shared how he had been questioning God. Bobby is a Christian but his faith was really being shaken. He had seen God work since, but could not understand where God was when his brother's accident happened.

"BCM leader Elyse Taylor told a similar personal story that touched her family, demonstrating that God works in ways we cannot see. Elyse's family attended church once or twice a year until she was 9 years old. Then there was a local school bus accident in which several students were killed. Her mom realized that it could have been her children on that bus, and she began taking them to church and teaching them about the Lord. Through this life event, Elyse and her older sister accepted the Lord.

"About 15 years later Elyse's mom was at a women's conference where personal testimonies were shared in small groups. When her mom shared this story, another lady began crying and left the room. Later, the lady explained that her sister was one of the students killed in the bus accident. All these years her family had not understood how God allowed the tragedy, but finally she realized that her sister's death initiated events that led to the salvation of others.

"A sweet spirit filled the room as the students shared encouraging scriptures and personal life stories with Bobby. There was an openness the group had not experienced before as they encouraged each other. In the end, Bobby divulged that he was beginning to understand where God was in life tragedy."

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

## Orlando attractions: election, EC head, GCR report

Perhaps it is only appropriate the Southern Baptist Convention is meeting in Orlando this year. The agenda abounds with attractions expected to draw one of the largest attendances in a decade or more.

First, four announced candidates are vying for the SBC presidency. Three are pastors from southern states; one, Leo Endel, is executive director of a northern convention, Minnesota-Wisconsin. Endel, Jimmy Jackson and Ted Traylor have served as presidents of state conventions—Iowa, Alabama and Florida, respectively. Jackson and Traylor have been SBC vice presidents. Bryant Wright is pastor of the largest congregation, Johnson Ferry in metro Atlanta, which has a worship attendance of 4,383 and reported 459 baptisms in 2009, while Endel attends the smallest, Emmanuel in Rochester, Minn., which averages 137 in worship attendance and reported six baptisms. From a Cooperative Program vantage, Endel and Traylor represent churches that contribute 10 percent or more, while Jackson and Wright lead churches that contribute less than 5 percent.

Other factors to consider: Endel brings a voice from a pioneer work area that will be affected by the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force's recommendations. Jackson, who has served a Huntsville, Ala., congregation for 31 years, was a member of the SBC Executive Committee, which also stands to be affected. Traylor, who garners a home-state advantage by heralding from nearby Pensacola, is a member of the task force and chairman of the North American Mission Board's presidential search team. Wright has seen marked success as a church planter and may appeal to younger, emerging church leaders.

Second, Frank Page is expected to be installed as president of the Executive Committee. Page is vice president of evangelization for NAMB, where he helped launch the evangelism initiative, "GPS: God's Plan for Sharing." A former SBC president, Page formerly was pastor of First Baptist Church of Taylors, S.C., a mission-minded congregation with a strong reputation for CP support.

Third, the report of the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force, led by Arkansas pastor Ronnie Floyd, will be presented. Since its May 3 release, the report's seven components have drawn both considerable praise and criticism. In addition to casting a "compelling missional vision" and advancing eight core values, it calls for:

- Creating a "Great Commission Giving" category that encompasses both Cooperative Program receipts and designated giving, and setting specific goals for the SBC's two missions offerings.
- Revising NAMB's ministry assignment to make church planting a priority and phasing out cooperative agreements between NAMB and state conventions.
- Removing geographical restrictions to allow International Mission Board missionaries to work with unreached people groups in North America.

- Reassigning the lead role in CP promotion and stewardship education to state conventions, rather than the Executive Committee.

- Increasing the CP allocation for the IMB to 51 percent by using a significant portion of funds previously reserved for the Executive Committee.

A recent e-mail from Floyd pledged to churches and state conventions outside the South that "help is on the way." Floyd wrote: "The GCR Task Force believes we must create greater access to the gospel where two-thirds of the population exists in North America. The churches and conventions in the South can work to reach the South with great intensity and intentionality.

While they are doing that, we pray they will mobilize and help finance a missional movement to the two-thirds of the North American population. We believe the churches in the South will desire greatly to not only reach their region or state, but the regions of North America where lostness abounds."

Although the overarching intention certainly is commendable, the report's recommendations are not without some deserved critique. Most notably, while the commentary attempts to reassure Southern Baptists that the Cooperative Program should be viewed as "the central and preferred conduit," the related recommendation advocates recognizing "all monies channeled through the causes of the Southern Baptist Convention, the state conventions and associations as Great Commission Giving." Opponents contend that the move, in effect, elevates designated giving, thereby undermining a spirit of cooperation, not to mention ministry effectiveness. Surprisingly, while lamenting the current 6 percent SBC average in CP giving, the report fails to set a goal for churches to increase support. Others are equally concerned about dissolving cooperative agreements between NAMB and state conventions, which many believe will jeopardize key leadership and ministries in the under-served areas where the SBC anticipates planting more churches. Still others question the wisdom of the SBC abdicating its responsibilities in promoting CP and stewardship.

In a recent blog post, Mike James, a church development strategist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, aptly observed: "Regardless of the outcome of the vote concerning the task force's recommendations, the most significant thing that could happen is for every pastor and church leader to renew their passion for leading their churches forward in working together with other churches in order to fulfill the Great Commission because that is what a New Testament church does." A cacophony of passionate voices undoubtedly will emerge during deliberations in Orlando next week, but SBC messengers must never lose sight of our ultimate objective: a renewed zeal for sharing the gospel, and unity in working together to penetrate lostness.

## After Thought

By Todd Deaton



## Making wise use of your time

By Judy Woodward Bates

If I asked the question, "How do you earn your living?" I'd get a lot of different responses. Truth is, there's one simple answer: by exchanging your time for money. Whether you dig ditches or perform heart surgery, your time is given to receive payment for services.

How you manage those paychecks and the lifestyle you choose to live determines how much of your time you need to exchange for money. And while working is a healthy part of living, no person should focus so much on acquiring money—or the stuff you then exchange the money for—that he neglects time with those he loves.

Particularly if the Person you neglect is Jesus. He reminds us in Jeremiah 31:3: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with lovingkindness." God never quits on us, so why would we quit on Him?

Some years ago I was talking to a successful car salesman who told me, "I work Monday through Saturday, so Sunday is my downtime when I can stay home and relax. Business is just too good to slow down right now." Today this guy is singing a different song. Business is slow, but he's now required to work even

more hours to maintain his current lifestyle—and even with the extra work, he's really struggling.

Can't a person work like crazy and still spend time with the Lord? Read Hebrews 10:25: "And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of His return is drawing near." Believers need not only individual times of prayer and worship, but corporate prayer, worship and fellowship.

Let's consider once again the whole time thing. What does the Bible say? In Luke 12 and "the parable

of the Rich Fool," Jesus tells about a man who has stacked up so much wealth that he's decided to tear down his old barns and build bigger ones to hold it all. In preparation for a time he'd envisioned when he could kick back, relax and take it easy, this man had spent his entire life focused on nothing but adding to his coffers.

What did Jesus say about this man? "You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you" —Luke 12:20a.

Not one person on this planet knows how long or short his life will be. Yes, doctors can make educated guesses when it comes to certain illnesses, but still they're only guessing. Only the Lord knows how much time we have and, as believers in Jesus Christ, our time should be spent focused on Him and on those He has placed in our lives—our family, our friends, our church and those He would have us reach for His Kingdom. (BP)

Judy Woodward Bates is a speaker, a Birmingham, Ala., TV personality and an author.

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

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## Two graduates blazing trail for lifelong learning

For the past few weeks, it seems that every week brings a report of another graduation. From preschoolers to PhDs, everyone seems to be graduating. In youth ministry we tend to focus on high school graduates, and rightfully so. After all, they are our "kids." But some of the graduates from Southern Seminary this year led me to think about education in a whole new light. Two of these men are lifelong learners who were not satisfied with the knowledge they already had.

The first was Steve Coleman, minister of students at First Baptist Church of Richmond. As I watched Steve, with his chest-length goatee, walk across the stage, I thought of the sacrifices he and his wife, Sula, made so he could go back to school.

When asked about what made him decide to go back, Steve said, "As a lifelong learner"—having read books on youth ministry, culture and studies on scriptures—"and being a veteran youth worker, there was very little that I haven't dealt with over the years. However, as I read about many things, I realized that I knew much of these subject matters, but I felt I may be missing something in the biblical studies."

Coleman continued: "I wasn't sure that I could do school and still be involved in ministry, home and all the other activities that I was involved in,

but I tried it to see. My first class was on Monday morning at 8 a.m. in Louisville—a three-hour drive away and I lost an hour. I had not gone to school in more than 25 years. I was afraid and not sure if I could pull it off.

"My wife was so supportive and just knew that I could do it. She helped me in so many ways. There were things around the house that I normally did, and she did it in my place. The sacrifices that she made while I was reading, studying, writing or researching were priceless," Coleman added.

"When I was down, unsure and wanted to throw in the towel, she was the one that came alongside to help get me back on track," he said. "I am not sure that I could have done it without her!"

"Once the first semester was over and I had read lots of books, written several papers, taken mid-terms and final exams, I had my first grade report and had passed both classes. I was on my way," he concluded.

The second graduate was Nick Stamps, associate pastor at Post Oak Baptist Church in Russellville. When asked about his experience, Stamps remarked, "My first inclination was that I was 'out of my mind' to think that a guy in his late 30s with a wife and three daughters and a full-time ministry position could even think about going back to school. It had been more

than 16 years since I had even had to take notes, much less take a test in a classroom setting.

"Throughout this whole process, my wife and our three girls have been absolutely incredible," Stamps continued. "They have been the ones who have sacrificed the most, but also been the most supportive and unbelievably understanding. I am so thankful for them.

"There were many times that I just wanted to give up and quit, but Julia was always there to encourage, support and love me—and, yes, even check the grammar of most of the papers I wrote," he said. "She has truly been my 'helpmate' and I thank God for bringing such an incredible lady into my life."

Stamps concluded: "While attending, I was so blessed to walk through that experience with five other guys who have become some of my dearest and closest friends. We called ourselves the 'Seminary Six,' and it has been such a blessing and honor to travel this road with them.

"So, if I could encourage anyone considering seminary or additional education, I would tell them to find a friend to walk with them, make friends while there (some of the best friends you will ever find), and don't travel this road alone," he said.

Congratulations you two. You are trailblazers. May your tribe increase.

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

### Youth Ministry Corner



Joe Ball

## Forming Christian friendships

By Scott Wigginton

**Q: Recently I've decided that to be an effective leader in my home I need to focus on spending more time with strong Christian men, but I feel lacking when it comes to forming friendships outside of work. Do you have any ideas that might help?**



**A:** Yes! Let me refer you to some wisdom from one of the most inspiring relationships in biblical history, the friendship between David and Jonathan. As a guy who gets together every week with my close friends Skip and Eric (the Ironmen), let me encourage you that "as iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another" (Proverbs 27:17). When you read the story of Jonathan and David in 1 Samuel, you will notice that Jonathan, the oldest son of the most powerful man in Israel (King Saul) forges a friendship with David, the youngest son of a no-name. Notice some important details:

1 Samuel 18:3-4—Jonathan takes initiative to let David know he is interested in a friendship.

19:2-4—Jonathan is loyal even in adversity.

20:18-33—Jonathan protects his friend and keeps his confidence.

20:32—Jonathan can appreciate the greatness in his friend without feeling inferior and envious.

20:41-42—Jonathan and David know the importance of self-disclosure and the gestures of friendship.

23:16—Jonathan and David's friendship has its deepest roots in a relationship with God.

2 Samuel 9:1-13—The fruit of real friendship always makes one more welcoming towards others.

Pay attention to men in your church and community who are walking with Christ, committed to their family, and who seem open to spending time to get to know you. Don't be afraid to take initiative to invite them to lunch, to go fishing, or to ride a bike. Find your Ironmen!

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

## Stewardship and family business

By Laurie Valentine

Planning is the key to being a good steward of your estate. One aspect of estate planning that may not receive the time and attention it deserves is planning for succession of a family business.

A survey of family businesses several years ago in Planner, newsletter of the AICPA, reported 68 percent of the companies said the senior generation of family owners had a good understanding of the amount of estate taxes that would be due at their death, and 81 percent had completed their estate planning. However, less than half of those businesses conducted regular formal valuations of company share values or had a formal redemption/liquidity plan.

Failure to keep tabs on the current value of your business can result in your family being faced with a larger-than-expected death tax bill at your death. Lack of a formal redemption plan can result in family disharmony, lack of sufficient financial resources outside the business to pay the death taxes and/or the possibility the business may not stay in the family.

Buy-sell and shareholder agreements can play an important role in accomplishing your wishes for succession of the ownership of a family business and help avoid some of the pitfalls a lack of planning can create.

Such agreements can create a right or obligation of either the company or the other owners to purchase the deceased owner's interest, thereby providing funds required to pay death taxes and better assuring the remaining owners have some say about with whom they will be in business after your death. Funding for the buy-out can come from business-owned or other-owners-owned life insurance or through a combination of an up-front cash payment and installment note from the purchaser(s).

If the deceased owner's estate is obligated under the agreement to sell the business interest at a fixed or formula-determined price to the business or other owners and that price applies for both lifetime sales as well as those at death, the price established in the agreement should be honored in establishing the estate tax value of the business interest.

*Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.*

## Are we serious about penetrating lostness?

By Bob Rodgers

As part of a recent data call to each entity that receives Cooperative Program distributions, the International Mission Board was asked, "What additional resources does IMB need to reach all of the unreached people groups?" IMB's response was 3,000 more missionaries and additional resources of approximately \$200 million more per year. How could Southern Baptists come up with an additional \$200 million for IMB? The answer is quite simple.

The difficulty in fixing things is knowing what to fix. What we tend to do is focus on fixing the symptoms and not the disease. It is like my do-it-yourself approach to auto repair. I keep replacing parts until I find one that solves the problem—an expensive approach.

We Southern Baptists sometimes do the same thing. For example: Our proposed solution to providing more financial support for reaching a lost world is to tinker with the Cooperative Program and other perceived needed repairs such as the state/SBC split, or to restructure the Executive Committee in order to give IMB maybe \$2 million dollars more a year, even when IMB's stated need is over \$200 million more per year.

We need to address our actual disease. We have a heart disease, not a wallet disease. We have a heart disease, not an organizational disease. Our heart disease is well defined in Mathew 6:21, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

By any reasonable estimation, 75-80 percent of Southern Baptists are in bondage to money, mammon and debt—however you want to characterize it. The vast majority of Southern Baptists are slaves to the demands of this world, which renders them unable to fully serve our Lord, Jesus Christ. This is a crisis in the life of the SBC, and one proposed solution is to use my approach to auto repair.

Now back to getting IMB another \$200 million per year. Using the Empty Tomb Inc. analysis, church members, on average, give 2.56 percent of their "disposable income" (after-tax income) for congregational finances and supported ministries. In 2008, that amount for all Southern Baptists was \$11.1 billion in total gifts. Therefore, under the analysis of Empty Tomb Inc., this \$11.1 billion represents 2.56 percent of Southern Baptists' disposable income.

To determine the approximate total disposable income for all Southern Baptists we merely need to divide \$11.1 billion by .0256, and that equals about \$434 billion. We are taught to tithe on gross income and not disposable income. If gross income is about 15 percent higher than disposable income, then gross income for Southern Baptists is about \$499 billion.

If Southern Baptists tithed, total gifts would be about \$49.9 billion. The impact of tithing for every SBC entity is staggering. If the gifts forwarded by SBC churches through CP remained the same as they were in 2008 (6.08 percent), the states would receive \$3.03 billion of CP gifts. If the states forwarded to the SBC the same percentage they did in 2008 (37.34 percent), the CP Allocation Budget would be \$1.132 billion. This is over five times the amount now received!

Using the same allocation percentages that are applied to the CP Allocation Budget today, IMB would receive \$566 million in CP distributions versus the \$100 million that they now receive. Not only would the SBC meet IMB's need for \$200 million per year more, IMB would receive another \$266 million of CP in addition to that. And NAMB would receive \$258 million, and theological education would receive \$251 million. Compared to the underwhelming \$2 million reallocation now being recommended, this solution is a serious and meaningful strategy for the SBC to provide needed resources for all of its cooperating missions and ministries.

Robbing God, which is what we do when we fail to tithe, is a disease of the heart, not the wallet. We can tweak around the edges of CP. We can believe that we are doing something meaningful by realigning CP promotion, and we can reorganize until the cows come home, but it won't help cure what ails us, and it won't make a dent in our capability to reach a lost world for Christ.

Are we serious about penetrating lostness on a global scale? If we are, let's put the first thing first for Christians: addressing the Lordship issue of serving God, not robbing Him. Let's tithe. Then God will allow His blessings to flow through us to accomplish His purpose.

*Bob Rodgers is vice president for Cooperative Program & stewardship with the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.*



### ANALYSIS

**We need to address our actual disease. We have a heart disease, not a wallet disease. We have a heart disease, not an organizational disease.**

# Louisiana Baptist chaplains deployed along oil-marred coast

By Karen Willoughby  
Louisiana Baptist Message

Alexandria, La.—The Louisiana Baptist Convention has begun dispatching disaster relief chaplains to the oil-beleaguered Gulf Coast areas of the state beginning this week.

Responding to a request from emergency management officials, “we are sending 12 DR chaplains a week for the next few months or as long as needed,” said Gibbie McMillan, disaster relief director for the Louisiana convention. The chaplains will be stationed in Grande Isle, Venice and other Louisiana coastal cities affected by the oil spill.

James Carson, the convention’s disaster relief chaplaincy coordinator and director of missions for Caldwell, Deer Creek and Richland Baptist associations, contacted the regional DR chaplaincy coordinator, Joe Arnold, who is director of missions for Bayou Baptist Association, to alert DR chaplains in the area to prepare to be called out the week of June 7.

“Everyone is engaged in vigorous conversation,” said Duane McDaniel, executive director of the Baptist Association of Greater New Orleans. “Everyone recognizes that there is a disaster unfolding, and we’re just seeing the tip of the wellhead (of need). We’ll be dealing with the devastation for the long term.”

A gathering of Southern Baptist disaster relief coordinators from the entire Gulf

Coast region also has been called for this week.

“We know what to do with hurricanes, but this manmade disaster has hidden victims,” Arnold said. “This is going to be a long-term thing—we’re talking years. ... Right now the tension is so touchy down there. There’s a lot of frustration.”

“Everything is just too fluid to see how it’s going to play out,” noted Eddie Painter, a commercial fisherman and pastor of Barataria Baptist Church. “Everybody’s pretty tense.”

The oil spill resulting from the explosion of the Deepwater Horizon oil rig on April 20 has affected an estimated one-third of the fishing waters in the Gulf of Mexico.

“This is not an overwhelming crushing-moment crisis; it’s prolonged,” said pastor Craig Ratliff of Celebration Arabi Church in St. Bernard Parish. “You wake up tomorrow and wonder if it’s going to be worse than today.”

Thus, ministry to help alleviate that tension has become the initial way Southern Baptists are responding to the disaster, according to Louisiana Baptist disaster relief personnel, pastors and directors of missions, several of whom did on-site assessments of the situation over the Memorial Day weekend.

“Southern Baptists care, and they want to show their care,” McDaniel said. “It’s in the long run—through the relationships



**LONG-TERM RECOVERY** A worker uses a shovel to clean up oil that washed ashore in Louisiana. As the oil spill continues to take a toll on Gulf Coast communities in Louisiana, the state’s Baptists have begun dispatching chaplains to interact with people about the uncertainty they face. (Photo from BP’s corporate website)

built—that we show we care. The pastors there are talking about the psychological and spiritual wellbeing of the families. The tensions are there and it could be an explosive powder keg situation down the road.”

Logistics and health and safety issues need to be worked out before large groups come to minister along the Gulf Coast, Maxwell said.

The big need, all said, is for trained disaster relief counselors who will sit and listen to people talk about losing not only their livelihood but also their heritage and who will remind people that with the strength of Jesus in their hearts, this too they can get through.

Southern Baptist DR-trained counselors have waited to get involved in the disaster until being asked by emergency management officials to do so, McMillan said. (BP)

## World Changers @ 20

### NAMB ministry kicks off its 20th summer providing short-term mission projects for students

Continued from page 1

Smith, in his ninth year as a World Changers leader, has his reasons for devoting a week each summer to the outreach.

“A lot of our kids are relatively affluent by world standards,” Smith said. “We want the kids to understand that it is God’s will for them to be on the trip, and that service to other people and giving back is a good thing. And although they will bring a lot of blessings to needy people, in the process a lot of the kids will wind up getting more blessed than the people they serve.”

Smith also recommends World Changers for other adults who want to share God’s love in a practical way.

“You’re stepping out of your comfort zone, realizing that life is about more than yourself and showing people that God really does care for them,” Smith said.

World Changers will mark a number of key milestones this summer, not the least of which is its 20th anniversary. World Changers launched its first community project in Briceville, Tenn., near Knoxville, back in 1990.

Between now and July 31, the 2010 edition of World Changers also will celebrate its 300,000th student participant, its 10,000th church youth group, the 100th summer project in Alabama and Georgia, the 400th house to be renovated in Casper, Wyo., and some \$2 million raised through small contributions by the thousands of students who have participated in World Changers over the last 20 years.

That \$2 million has gone solely to fund even more NAMB ministries across North America, said Jonathan Wilson, NAMB’s strategy development coordinator for World Changers and its companion ministry, PowerPlant.

“We want this summer to be one big celebration—for the 20th anniversary as well as to celebrate the thousands of Southern



**ON MISSION** Stephen Kaerwer (left) and Audra Wrisley, both of Richmond, Va., are two of some 288,000 students and adult leaders who have participated with the World Changers missions initiative since its launch 20 years ago. (Photo by Kathleen Murray/NAMB)

Baptist churches that have partnered with us over the years by sending their students to join us. We couldn’t have done it without them.”

This summer, World Changers will mobilize 21,000 student and adult volunteers to work in 85 cities on 97 projects across the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico. Students from middle school to college age will serve on a team that will repair and renovate inner-city homes. Despite sweltering summer heat, students will paint houses, repair or replace roofs, do minor carpentry and complete yard work.

“With 21,000 registered students, we’re pleased in light of the current economy,” Wilson noted, adding that NAMB reduced the World Changers fee this year in recog-

nition of tighter money for both churches and families. World Changers also was cut back from seven days to a Monday-Saturday schedule. The \$249 fee covers a week’s food, lodging, local transportation and materials. Participants provide their own transportation to and from the project.

“Going to the five-day model will allow our staff to facilitate more projects, streamline operations and help us use our resources more wisely,” Wilson said. “We’ll still be able to offer a great missions experience, one that will challenge the students to live ‘an unhindered life for God’—this year’s theme.”

“Our Baptist churches have responded in a tremendous way to the changes,” he added. “They understand we’re trying to be

good stewards of our resources. Our team at NAMB works hard at providing the best missions experience we can.”

The World Changers website—www.WorldChangers.net—is the best source for information on the ministry and this summer’s 97 projects, Wilson said. Every project site will have a blog that will be updated daily. Streaming live video, including video of nightly worship services, also will be available at some locations.

#### PowerPlant & Families on Mission

Another 2,500 or so students have signed up for PowerPlant projects in 19 cities across the United States and in Ottawa, Ontario, between now and July 24. PowerPlant students gain real-world experience in church planting and evangelism. First-time PowerPlant cities will be Philadelphia, Los Angeles and Madison, Wis.

For additional information on NAMB’s PowerPlant ministry, visit www.PowerPlant.net.

The third of NAMB’s trio of summer group missions ministries is “Families on Mission,” now in its fifth year. FOM is a pre-packaged, five-day missions opportunity for families. It provides families with a hands-on experience of mission projects including prayerwalking, light construction, painting, yard work, vacation Bible school, sports camps, block parties, acts of kindness and other evangelistic initiatives.

Some 800 family members are expected to participate in one of seven FOM mission trips: Blue Ridge, Ga., this week; Big Stone Gap, Va., June 13-18; Helen, Ga., June 20-25; Bryson City, N.C., June 27-July 1; Hannibal, Mo., July 11-16; Broken Arrow, Okla., July 18-23; and Shelby County, Ala., July 25-30.

For more information on Families on Mission, visit www.NAMB.net/FOM, e-mail FOM@NAMB.net or call toll free (800) 462-8657, ext. 6456. (BP)

## What do Southern Baptists really think about **The Cooperative Program?**

By Bob Rodgers

Sometimes we will fill in our knowledge gaps with anecdotal information and hold it to be true. Resulting opinions are thrown around like they were fact. Anecdotal evidence, when used as fact, may cause some people to draw incorrect conclusions and/or make bad decisions.

### ANALYSIS

A lot of statistical data generally applies to Southern Baptists. For example, a Barna study released in the spring of 2008 revealed that only 5 percent of adults in America donated 10 percent or more to their churches and charitable groups. Evangelicals ranked higher, with 24 percent tithing.

Empty Tomb Inc., in its study called the State of Giving through 2007 (the study analyzed giving for 44 denominations in America), revealed that the average giving in support of congregational finances and supported ministries by church members across America was 2.56 percent of personal disposable income (after-tax income).

While these studies generally apply to Southern Baptists, it is a reach to say that these studies specifically apply to Southern Baptists. Having said that, I have seen nothing in Southern Baptist Convention life that would lead me to believe the above studies aren't about right for Southern Baptists as well. My own experience as chairman of church finance committees leads me to believe that it is rare for an SBC church to have more than 20 percent of its members tithe. But then again, that is anecdotal, and my small sample generalization should not be applied factually to all Southern Baptists.

If you traveled around and spent time in Southern Baptist churches, you would receive a lot of feedback about what is wrong with the SBC. One of the most frequent comments I receive as a rationale for not giving more through the Cooperative Program is that too much CP money stays in the state conventions. I heard this so much it started to create a truth in my own worldview about SBC life.

If you read the early iterations of what the leaders of the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force have stated, you will find they too believed that most Southern Baptists thought too much CP money stayed inside state conventions.

Some Southern Baptist leaders recently have stated in essence that most Southern Baptists feel that at least 50 percent of Cooperative Program dollars should be going overseas to international missions. They must be drawing their conclusions that most Southern Baptists believe that 50 percent of CP dollars should go to international missions based on anecdotal evidence, because I have seen no facts to support the claim. If the facts are there, they have never surfaced for public scrutiny.

By late 2007, I was very frustrated by not knowing what Southern Baptists actually thought and believed about the Cooperative Program. Morris Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee, came to my rescue by commissioning a survey that reached out to every church in the SBC. LifeWay's Research Division, led by Ed Stetzer, conducted the survey, analyzed the input and produced the survey results.

There were more than 9,020 respondents to the survey, well beyond the number required for statistical reliability. And since every church was invited to participate, there was no survey bias that might

### Preferred Cooperative Program Allocation Budget

#### Mean Preferred Allocation:

|                      | Current Allocation | Pastors | Other Ministers | Laity  |
|----------------------|--------------------|---------|-----------------|--------|
| IMB                  | 50.00%             | 49.51%  | 48.79%          | 48.09% |
| NAMB                 | 22.79%             | 24.67%  | 24.36%          | 24.62% |
| SBC Seminaries       | 22.16%             | 20.28%  | 20.84%          | 20.95% |
| ERLC                 | 1.65%              | 2.10%   | 2.28%           | 2.43%  |
| SBC Operating Budget | 3.40%              | 3.43%   | 3.72%           | 3.91%  |



*They must be drawing their conclusions that most Southern Baptists believe that 50 percent of CP dollars should go to international missions based on anecdotal evidence, because I have seen no facts to support the claim.*

Bob Rodgers, SBC Executive Committee's vice president for Cooperative Program and stewardship

be found if only a sampling of the SBC were conducted.

There is a lot of anecdotal evidence out there, but we have empirical data from this survey. Some of the findings are counterintuitive. Some of the findings dispel my own preconceived notions about the level of discontent over the state/SBC split as well as other notions. For example:

**Misconception 1.** That state conventions keep too much of the CP gifts for state missions and ministries.

**Misconception 2.** That most Southern Baptists believe 50 percent of CP dollars should go to support international missions.

What the survey revealed:

- More than 87 percent of responding pastors generally were satisfied with the Cooperative Program.

- Approximately 76 percent of responding pastors strongly believed that CP allows their churches to support more mission endeavors than they could do on their own.

- More than 90 percent of responding pastors agreed that CP supports SBC entities, missions and ministries that their churches value.

- 85 percent of responding pastors agreed that CP supports state entities, missions and ministries that their churches value.

- Seven out of 10 responding pastors agreed that CP allocates contributions among state, national and global ministries, missions and entities appropriately.

- More than 60 percent of responding pastors agreed that the division of contributions between state conventions and the SBC is appropriate, and 80 percent of responding laity believed the division is appropriate. Only 18 percent of responding pastors disagreed with the division.

- Only 29 percent of responding pastors believed the percentage forwarded to the SBC should increase, and only 11 percent believed that the percentage retained by the state should increase.

#### Revealing results

The most counterintuitive survey results are found on the chart provided above. Some SBC leaders and I currently hold the view that most Southern Baptists believe that CP and international missions virtually are synonymous with each other. The survey reveals an entirely different SBC view.

Respondents were given the opportunity to change the current CP allocation budget any way they chose. The results showed an average of all respondents in each category of pastors, other ministers, and laity. When given the choice, pastors reduced IMB's allocation by 0.49 percent and theo-

logical education by 0.88 percent and re-allocated most of it to NAMB, with ERLC receiving a 0.55 percent increase and the SBC operating budget receiving a 0.03 percent increase.

The categories of other ministers and laity made even more reductions to IMB's CP allocation with NAMB receiving the bulk of the reallocation, followed by the ERLC and the SBC operating budget.

Most Southern Baptists do not believe 50 percent of CP gifts from their churches should go to international missions (the amount received by the states prior to the division between the state and the SBC).

The survey also revealed that of the responding pastors:

- 18 percent would reduce the CP allocation to IMB, 65 percent would leave it at its current allocation, and 16 percent would increase the allocation.

- 18 percent would reduce the CP allocation to NAMB, 19 percent would leave the NAMB allocation at the current level, and 63 percent would increase the allocation.

- 60 percent would reduce the CP allocation for the seminaries, 20 percent would leave the seminary allocation at its current level, and 20 percent would increase the allocation.

- 31 percent would reduce the CP allocation to the ERLC, 22 percent would leave the allocation at its current level, and 46 percent would increase the allocation.

- 51 percent would reduce the CP allocation for the SBC operating budget, 24 percent would leave the allocation for the budget at its current level, and 25 percent would increase the allocation.

The sample of pastors used in the CP survey is a census; there is no sampling error in selecting the invitation list. Southern Baptists do not have to speculate, suggest or imply fact; we have them as a result of this survey.

# Baptist ethicist calls Gulf of Mexico oil spill a moral issue

Nashville, Tenn.—A Baptist ethicist says the catastrophic oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico is a moral issue, although few Americans have framed the issue in moral terms.

"Yes, the BP disaster is a moral issue, one that goes to the very heart of our economic and cultural crisis about energy and the environment," Robert Parham, executive director of the Baptist Center for Ethics, wrote in a June 1 commentary at the Washington Post's "On Faith" blog.

BP officials estimated the flow—which has been ongoing since an April 20 explosion that killed 11 workers—at 800,000 gallons a day, nearly four times as much as the 5,000 barrels a day long maintained by BP and the U.S. Coast Guard.

Parham, executive editor of the BCE

website EthicsDaily.com, said the ecological disaster—now being described as the worst oil spill in U.S. history—contains elements of three of the seven objectionable vices described since early Christian times as the Seven Deadly Sins.

"Traditional Christianity identifies greed, sloth and pride as three deadly sins—sins that manifest themselves in BP's disaster," Parham said.

He said BP, the third largest energy company in the world, is "driven by corporate greed, the kind of greed that takes shortcuts to maximize profits, the kind of greed that takes risks at depths where problems can't be managed."

Americans in general, he continued, "are driven by sloth or moral indifference."

"We are unwilling to protect the environment, an undeniable biblical imperative, by breaking our energy dependence on dirty oil and supporting a climate bill that will invest in clean, renewable energy," Parham wrote. "Slothfulness finds expression among those who don't care if the government regulates the oil industry and foolishly trust Big Oil to do the right thing."

Finally, Parham said, is the sin of pride.

"BP was certainly prideful about its technological infallibility," he wrote. "BP couldn't imagine failure."

Parham quoted a BP official who said the company had not built a container device before the blowout because it "seemed inconceivable" that the preventer mechanism would fail and acknowledged, "I

don't think anybody foresaw the circumstance that we're faced with now."

"BP has proven repeatedly through its failures to shut off the gusher that it was unprepared," Parham said. "Why was BP unprepared? It arrogantly believed its technology wouldn't fail."

"Loving one's neighbors means ensuring that they have a decent place to live—now and in the future," Parham concluded. "The moral choice is ours—we can take advantage of the current crisis to take the right steps or we can evade our responsibility for the common good."

The Justice Department announced June 1 it had begun a criminal investigation to determine if any laws were broken. (ABP)

## Critics: Obama's gay proclamation 'marginalizes' Christians' beliefs

Washington—President Obama again has proclaimed June as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Month, a declaration critics say marginalizes the beliefs of conservative Christians and ignores the fact that countless numbers of people have left homosexuality and consider themselves ex-gay.

Obama's proclamation is similar to the one he issued last year, although it does call for the repeal of the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act, a law that requires the federal government to define marriage as the union of one man and one woman. If it is overturned, then state laws that prohibit same-sex marriage also could be repealed.

The proclamation recounts Obama's accomplishments for the homosexual community—including his signing of a sexual orientation hate-crimes law—and says Obama is committed to helping the community reach "full equality."

Bob Stith, the Southern Baptist Convention's national strategist for gender issues, said the proclamation is disappointing and "marginalizes" the beliefs of not only Christianity but other religions.

"Some of the most joyful, Christ-like Christians I know are those who've walked out of homosexuality," said Stith, who also is a representative of the denomination's Task Force on Ministry to Homosexuals. "Those of us who have never struggled with this issue could learn much from them. Unfortunately their story is not accorded the same respect either by this administration or the secular media."

It is not prejudiced or discriminatory, Stith said, to stand up for biblical teachings about marriage and the family. Obama's proclamation "doesn't allow for a genuine sincerely thought-out opinion" based on Scripture, Stith noted. (BP)

## Judge says no to church graduation

Washington—A federal judge ruled May 31 that a Connecticut school board's decision to hold graduation ceremonies inside a megachurch violated the U.S. Constitution.

Commencements for two schools in Enfield, Conn.—Enfield High School and Enrico Fermi High School—were to be held in late June at The First Cathedral, a non-denominational congregation in Bloomfield, a suburb of the state capital of Hartford.

The American Civil Liberties Union joined Americans United for Separation of Church and State to represent two Enfield High School students and their parents who opposed the use of the religious venue. The school board said its decision was a matter of space and price.

Enfield Public Schools previously joined four local schools that agreed

not to use the church for graduation. However, they repealed their decision in April.

On May 31, U.S. District Court Judge Janet Hall said the venue would force the school district to "unconstitutionally entangle itself with religion," especially when school officials promised to cover up religious symbols at the church.

The decision followed three years of complaints by students at Enfield High School; last year, 90 percent of the graduating class had voted against graduation at the cathedral, according to a letter to the school board from Americans United and the ACLU.

The letter also included a list of nearby facilities that could accommodate the graduating class within the school's budget for the summer commencement ceremonies. (RNS)

## A labor of love

### Oneida's faculty and staff are driven by something other than money

As Father's Day approaches, it is a reminder to Kentucky Baptist churches that the annual Father's Day Offering is very near. You likely know that Oneida does not send monthly reminders in the mail requesting your support.

I confess that I get annoyed when I'm asked over and over for additional funds from the various ministries Kay and I help support. We prefer to believe that our friends support Oneida because they believe in what we are doing and they appreciate our efforts to reach out to the young people who could benefit from the ministry we provide. Many of our friends have expressed their gratitude for not being asked over and over for financial support.

Friends of this ministry know that Oneida is a unique one. We break nearly all the rules of traditional Christian schools. We accept boys and girls who are not Christians; we accept young people who have failing grades; and we take students who have made some wrong turns in life.

If you were to visit our campus and randomly ask our faculty and staff why they are here, they would quickly tell you they are here as a "labor of love." Even our new students quickly learn that our faculty and staff are different.

My staff does not boast about their modest salaries, but our student body is generally aware that the Oneida staff work for a small fraction of what they could earn in many other places. Students are smart enough to know that if a person is not here because of a big salary then there must be some other reason. That reason is love!

That love may be expressed by giving a struggling student extra time and help to understand the lesson. A boy or girl having a bad day in the dormitory can experience that love when a houseparent steps aside from their regular responsibilities to simply listen. When a coach encourages a student who is not a particularly gifted athlete, that student can clearly sense the love that comes from Jesus. A young person having a difficult time with a job assignment can feel the warmth of love when a gentle hand is placed on his or her shoulder, along with additional instructions.

However, no expression of love compares to the message of God's love a student hears in one of our daily chapel or Sunday services. The concept of God's unconditional love is a new message to most of our students.

We know the expressions of love are not always received or welcomed, and some students are even a little suspicious.

However, most of our students cannot ignore the consistency of the love they find here. A prayer before class begins, devotions in the dorms, the lessons taught at the Baptist Campus Ministry meetings all work together as expressions of His and our love. Oneida is a labor of love!

However, nothing we do would be possible if it were not for the support of our friends. Please encourage your church to participate in the Father's Day Offering. The offering materials should have arrived at your church several weeks ago. (Please note: If you are going to play our DVD on a computer, click on the heart graphic to start the video. If you're using a DVD player, simply press play.)

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

### This is Oneida



W.F. Underwood

## Summer at the Creek

### Volunteers help with much-needed jobs around campus

Although the average age of our students is 32, there always is one thing they have in common with students of any age: They look forward to their summer break.

Summer brings a welcomed respite from the year-long grind of intense academic studies for our students. It's a little slower pace around campus after our graduation. Even though classes are out, the administrative offices are in full swing with the day-to-day operations of the campus.

Summer also brings many groups of volunteer workers to our campus. These groups are a vital part of our campus as they provide much-needed skills and labor for many projects with which we need assistance.

One of our long-standing policies is that we operate debt-free. These volunteer groups make it possible for us to complete projects that we would not be able to undertake without their help.

As I write this, we have a group of volunteers on campus from North Carolina. They have come to help us clear some tree damage from the winter storms. These folks gave up their Memorial Day holiday

break to come to campus and clear trees that needed to be removed.

As the summer continues we will have other teams from Florida, Georgia, Kentucky and Mississippi. These folks will provide skilled labor on one of the student apartment buildings we are renovating.

Some groups will paint our student housing facilities to get them ready for new students coming in the fall. Other groups will paint our library, while some will do landscaping around our campus and work at our Family Life Center.

Many of these groups actually will provide us with financial support to purchase supplies for the projects on which they will be working. Some groups even write us a check for the meals we prepare for them while they are here volunteering.

These folks are special to us here at Clear Creek. Without them we would not be able to do a lot of the things we do around here during the summer. We praise the Lord for their willingness to serve.

### Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

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

## The final push

### Crossings staff puts final touches on camp program

The past days have been quite hectic as the last rush before the start of camp continues. Each year I am amazed at how we witness God's provisions on a daily basis, and they are especially needed when so much is taking place prior to camp. In spite of the significant progress that is being accomplished, it always seems like there is a great deal more to be done, and our desire to improve continues to press our schedules to the limit.

I must say that I am incredibly blessed for numerous reasons. One, that my family understands the pressures of "camp life." They are very flexible and supportive during this time.

Secondly, I am blessed because of the Crossings staff. In the weeks leading up to camp, I spend most of the time out of our Louisville office. The weeks are consumed with time at each property with random stops in the office for short visits. Our central office staff knows what needs to be done and they are proactive to complete all of the tasks that arise. At Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore, we have staffs working

long hours and they always seek to do everything with excellence.

As I reflect back on the past weeks, I must say there is no way I could be in such a job without a supportive family and the hard-working staff with which I am privileged to serve. Service in Christian camping continues to be ever-changing which is incredibly exciting to me and our staff. Each year God has blessed us with growth in numbers and, most importantly, growth in decisions that take place while students are at camp.

We continue to need your prayers on a daily basis as the next 60 days will be over before we know it. Our attendance easily will exceed 10,000 students, so safety always is a need. I am very blessed that God allows me to serve in a ministry that offers many benefits, and some of the greatest ones are the people I serve with day in and day out.

### Ky. Baptist Assemblies



David Melber

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

## Churches scramble to meet FCC rules on wireless mics; deadline is June 12

By Fernando Alfonso III

Washington—American churches have until Saturday to change their wireless microphone equipment or face more than \$100,000 in fines.

In January, the Federal Communications Commission mandated that anyone using wireless microphones on the 700 MHz band must stop by June 12 in order to make room for use by police, fire and emergency services.

An unlicensed person or business—which includes churches—using microphones on frequencies between 698 and 806 MHz must stop or face action by the FCC. Violators could face up to \$112,500 in fines or imprisonment for continued violation, according to the FCC. Violations will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Since December 2008, Shure Inc., a Niles, Ill.-based audio-visual company, has worked with churches to replace their audio equipment.

"It's like being told that you got to replace your dishwasher even though it's working just fine," said Chris Lyons, manager of educational and technical communication at Shure. "It affects any church that has any number of microphones that work in the 700 MHz band. For the last several years, that has been one of the very popular parts of the band."

The Village Church of Gurnee in Gurnee, Ill. uses its 24 wireless devices for drama productions, music, preaching and children's ministry. Because of the cost, the church only replaced half of its devices. "If we were to replace every single channel and piece of equipment we have ... it's gonna cost us about \$50,000 total," said Jason Carter, the Village Church's pastor of worship ministries. "It really is changing the dynamic of how we do ministry here on Sunday mornings."

At Lakewood Church in Houston, Texas, the country's largest church, technical director Reid Hall spent \$26,000 to replace 35 of its wireless systems. "It was a long, strategic plan," Hall said. "There are many churches in similar situations that just can't run out and plop down three or four thousand for new wireless systems."

Lakewood Church, Village Church, North Heights and 76 other houses of worship have petitioned Congress to pass the Wireless Microphone Users Interference Protection Act. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Bobby Rush, D-Ill., would allow churches, educational facilities, recording studios, museums and the like to register their spots on the television airwaves, or "white spaces," that their wireless microphones operate on.

"The white space is sort of this open area right now," Carter said. "It's kind of like, you go to the beach ... you just find an empty spot and sit down. But, if you get up and go to the concession stand ... and come back, somebody else is in your spot. There is no legal recourse for you to get your piece of sand back."

In his letter to Congress, Lakewood Church pastor Joel Osteen said churches "must have the right 'tools' and the tools must operate properly and without interference."

Mark Brunner, senior director of global brand management at Shure, said the problem was, in many ways, unanticipated in a rapidly changing technological landscape.

"Licenses were not on the radar of the FCC until they recognized that, in order to share this spectrum with new broadband devices, we're going to need to know where these (microphones) are," Brunner said. "And if they don't know where they are, they can't run air traffic control." (RNS)

## Kendricks address biblical fatherhood in new film, 'Courageous'

By Michael Foust

Albany, Ga.—If it were a Hollywood film, they already would be advertising it as "bigger" and "better."

But the makers of "Fireproof" and "Facing the Giants" say their next movie, "Courageous"—being filmed in and around Albany, Ga.—will be better only if God blesses it.

There is no doubt it is bigger.

The budget of at least \$1 million is twice the size of Fireproof. There will be car chases and shootouts, a first for a film from Albany's Sherwood Baptist Church.

It will be filmed on nearly twice as many locations as was Fireproof, will have about twice as many cast members, and will be filmed on a new and more-advanced camera, known as the Red digital camera, that will produce a higher-resolution picture and allow more freedom during the editing process.

It has a number of professional actors—a big leap for Sherwood whose last film had only one, Kirk Cameron.

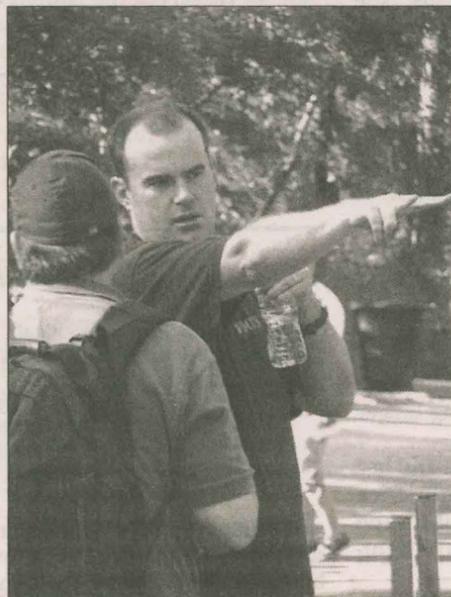
About half of the Courageous cast are professional actors who had to meet the same requirements of actors in Sherwood's other movies: committed Christians who are passionate about the project. Some of them are getting paid.

And, like the other movies, Courageous will implement dozens of volunteers—on screen and off—whose work is integral to the project. They make sandwiches and cookies, and work in makeup, wardrobe and sets—tasks essential for a big screen film.

Filming is scheduled to finish the week of June 21 for a release date of sometime in 2011.

"I hope it will look like a \$5- to \$10 million movie," Courageous producer Stephen Kendrick said.

Courageous follows four police officers and their journey to be better fathers. Ken-



CASTING A VISION Alex Kendrick is back as director in the fourth film by Sherwood Pictures. "Courageous" follows four police officers dealing with crime and fatherhood. The film is scheduled for release in 2011. (Photo by Michael Foust)

drick said the film will show the consequences of fatherless homes, the storyline involves gang life, and it also what a home with a God-fearing father can look like.

Too many dads in the current generation "have fallen asleep at the wheel" and have left the mom "trying to keep the family alive and going," Kendrick said. The film, he said, will call fathers to responsibility and leadership.

The Courageous script is one that has 33-year-old Robert Amaya, who plays "Javier" in the movie, excited. The real-life dad of a 1-year-old daughter, Amaya is one of the professional actors on the set.

"I know specifically within my culture, there's definitely a need ... for men, to hear

that message (about fatherhood)," said Amaya, who is Latino and normally does theater in Miami. He said he was a "huge" Sherwood Pictures fan before even learning of the new movie.

"If I know that at least one man can watch this film, turn back and come to his family and stay there, I'd be a happy man," he said.

According to Census data, one in every three children in America lives apart from his or her biological father. Children in fatherless homes are four times more likely to live in poverty and twice as likely to drop out of school, according to government data. Such children also are significantly more likely to abuse drugs and alcohol and end up in prison, according to the government data.

Sherwood Pictures and its film partners are working with family and fatherhood organizations to get the message out about the film and to underscore the need for fathers to fulfill their role. A host of likeminded organizations and individuals—including police officers—have visited the set, offering their unique take on the need for fathers.

Four current or retired New York Police Department employees visited the set in mid-May.

"The reason kids are committing these crimes is because they don't know that they have to be responsible for their actions and they're not taught that at home," said Ed Pinero, an officer in east Harlem who also is president of the New York chapter of Police Officers for Christ. "It's going to be too late then when they're in jail. It all boils down to discipline and having a father figure in their lives."

Pinero said young children and teens are like a "bucket of wet cement" that needs to be molded. "Once it hardens up, it's going to be difficult" to change them, he said.

Donald Sanchez, a retired detective with the NYPD, said gangs serve as the family for teens and young men from broken homes.

"It gives them a sense of purpose—no matter what criminal enterprise they're involved with, whether it's selling drugs, stealing cars, doing robberies or burglaries, kids have a sense of 'This is my role in this gang,'" Sanchez said. "So all those needs are being met, but they're being met in a dysfunctional way. I'm hoping that this movie sends a message that fathers are really important."

Craig Dodd, chief investigator for Dougherty County Sheriff's Department in Georgia, agreed.

"Generally speaking, most of the gang members we deal with, most of the criminals, do not have a good family structure," he said. "Very few of them have a father in the home or ever had a father in the home. And a large percentage of them, frankly, don't know who their father is. I know that sounds terrible, but it's just a fact of life in America today."

Boys, Dodd said, "need a father figure in the home. They can be raised without one—and some of them are very successful without a father—but that takes a very strong mother figure or grandmother," he said.

But the movie's storyline doesn't focus simply on gangs and crime. The film's goal, Kendrick said, is to convict any father who has not been following the biblical commands for responsibility and leadership.

"In this movie, we do not downplay or undermine the importance of moms," Kendrick said. "We want to go back to, 'What does God's Word say needs to be going on here?' God calls men to spiritual leadership in their homes. We're just lifting up the biblical standard."

The filmmaker predicted, "There will be some men getting very convicted when they watch this movie." (BP)



### Campbellsville names Frazier new academic affairs vice president

Campbellsville—DeWayne Frazier, former dean for international education at Campbellsville University, will return to the school as its associate vice president for academic affairs, President Michael Carter announced recently.

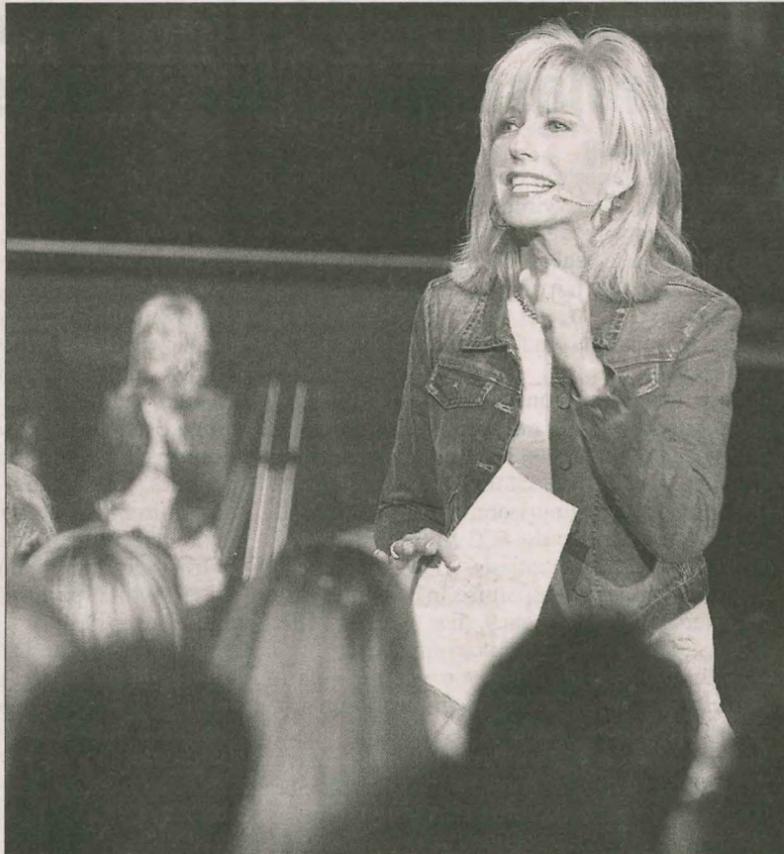
Frazier will begin his duties July 5. He will assist in providing leadership in the areas of curriculum development, program review, assessment and accreditation. He will have the responsibility for the strategic development, growth and leadership of the university's graduate programs and will chair the university's graduate council.

Frazier previously served CU from 2005-07. A 1998 graduate of the school, he returns to Campbellsville after serving for the past three years as senior vice president for international programs at Upper Iowa University.

Frazier "has been very successful in his vice presidency at Upper Iowa University as he has been in each position he has held in higher education," President Carter said.

"We are pleased that Dr. Frazier is willing to join us at Campbellsville University and help provide strong leadership for our academic programs along with Dr. Frank Cheatham (vice president for academic affairs), our deans and faculty.

In addition to his previous role as a dean, Frazier served as an assistant professor of international studies at Campbellsville and also served as director of the school's honors program.



Beth Moore gets down on the floor and walks among the women attending the Living Proof Live event held in Grand Rapids, Mich. Approximately 7,500 women from 24 states and Canada attended the May 21-22 event. The tour will make a stop at Rupp Arena in Lexington Aug. 13-14. (Photo by Kent Harville/LifeWay)

## Christian women encouraged to go out on a limb for Christ

By Polly House  
LifeWay Christian Resources

Grand Rapids, Mich.—It might appear ironic for almost 7,500 women to be singing praise songs in an area where thousands are out of work and struggling. But the women attending the Living Proof Live event in Grand Rapids, Mich., didn't sound worried at all.

The event, led by best-selling author and Bible teacher Beth Moore, was a welcome respite for the women. The time of praise and worship led by Travis Cottrell let them let loose with raised hands.

LifeWay Christian Resources sponsored the event May 21-22. Grand Rapids was the fourth stop of a 12-event Living Proof Live schedule this year. The tour will be making a stop at Rupp Arena in Lexington Aug. 13-14.

Amy Cato, one of LifeWay's women's event coordinators, admitted she was surprised at the attendance.

"Given how hard Michigan had been hit with job losses and the state of its economy, we thought it was realistic to expect a smaller gathering," Cato said. "But when we began seeing the registration figures rise, we were thrilled. When pre-registration hit about 7,300, we knew God was blessing beyond our expectations."

### Trees?

Moore, who presents a different Bible study topic at each LPL event, chose "Lessons from Out on a Limb" for this event. She said as she prayed and God gave her that topic, her first thought was "trees?"

But in doing some research on the state of Michigan, Moore discovered that about 50 percent of the state is forested.

Using the Scripture passage from Luke 19:1-4 as her base, Moore com-

pared LPL participants to Zacchaeus, the man who climbed up in the tree to get a better view of Jesus when He entered Jericho.

"We all want a look at Jesus," she said. "But are we willing to climb higher to see Him? Are we willing to go up a tree and out on a limb for it?"

Moore also spoke from Judges 9 about Jotham's fable, a scriptural metaphor using personification of trees looking for a king to reign over them. She said this biblical principle reveals that as much as people like to rule, their deepest heartfelt desire is to be ruled over.

"Like those trees, we want, we long, to be reigned over," she said. "We want to have something bigger than ourselves."

She told about a time she and her husband, Keith, were in South Africa staying in a small safari hut on the plains. The area had no electric lighting, so no light pollution.

"Keith woke me up during the night and said, 'You've got to come see this,'" Moore said. "It was a really cold night. He had a pot of coffee ready for us. We took the blankets from our room, wrapped them around us and had our coffee in our hands. We had a small porch on our hut that was right on the edge of a bluff overlooking a large lake. I walked out on the porch, looked at the sky and it absolutely took my breath away. I have never seen so many stars. It looked like the sky was a sheet of black crepe with holes punched in it. We could really see why the galaxy is called the Milky Way.

"Then, when we looked down, the lake was perfectly still and all those stars were reflected in it. So, here were the stars—above us and at our feet. I have never, never felt so small in my life. I couldn't breathe."



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### June

- 12-18 Kentucky Changers, Bullitt County.
- 13-14 National WMU Missions Celebration and Annual Meeting, Orlando, Fla.
- 14-18 Girls in Action Camp, CedarCrest Camp, Bagdad.
- 15-16 Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, Orlando, Fla.
- 18-19 Acteens Overnight, CedarCrest Camp, Bagdad.
- 18-19 Mother/Daughter Overnight, CedarCrest Camp, Bagdad.
- 19-26 Kentucky Changers, Princeton.
- 20-27 All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra Retreat and Tour, Campbellsville University.
- 21-25 Girls in Action Camp, CedarCrest Camp, Bagdad.
- 25-26 Acteens Splash, Jonathan Creek Camp and Conference Center, Hardin.
- 25-26 Courage for God's Mission, Laurel Lake Baptist Camp, Corbin.
- 25-26 Girls in Action Overnight, Jonathan Creek Camp and Conference Center, Hardin.

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

## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

- EDDYVILLE—David Little recently resigned as pastor of Second Church.
- FULTON—Russ Pruiett recently resigned as minister of music and media at First Church.
- LONDON—Old Salem Church recently ordained Casey McKeehan as a deacon. Craig Morgan is pastor.
- LOUISVILLE—Cloverleaf Church will host the Tribute Quartet in concert June 11, 7 p.m. For more information, call (502) 367-0218. Geoffrey Lacefield is pastor.
- PRINCETON—Jerry Holeman recently resigned as pastor of Sugar Creek Church.
- WEST PADUCAH—Larry Davidson retired as pastor of Mount Zion Church May 23. He served the church for 25 years.
- WILLIAMSBURG—University of the Cumberland's men's basketball team will host a youth basketball day camp June 14-18 for children ages 8-14. For more information, call (606) 539-4389 or visit

### Spotlight on ...

#### Franklin



Calvary Church will celebrate its 45th anniversary June 13, 10 a.m., with H. Ray Jones, the church's first pastor, as guest speaker. A 120-page book detailing the church's history will be given to families that attend the worship service. Wyman Copass is pastor.

[www.UCumberlands.edu/Athletics](http://www.UCumberlands.edu/Athletics).  
■ CORRECTION—Matthew Swain recently resigned as minister of music at Carlisle Avenue Church in Louisville. George Sanders is director of outreach ministries at the church.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

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**SEEKING:** Volunteers to participate in mission trip to Poland July 1-12. For details, contact Tom Baker with Arrow Ministries in Murray, Ky.; [tom.acrosspl@gmail.com](mailto:tom.acrosspl@gmail.com); [www.acrosspl.org](http://www.acrosspl.org); (270) 761-6301.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of music for Fuquay-Varina Baptist Church, a vibrant, growing Southern Baptist Church located 20 miles south of Raleigh, N.C. The following qualifications are strongly preferred: Masters degree from an accredited Baptist theological seminary with a concentration in church music; a minimum of 5 years experience leading the music ministry in a church of 500-plus attendance; and experience leading an orchestra. Also must be an ordained minister in the Southern Baptist Convention. Please send resumé via e-mail to [jobs@fvbaptist.org](mailto:jobs@fvbaptist.org), Attn: Music Search Team.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of education who will focus on youth but have input in the religious education of all members for Point Pleasant Baptist Church of Paris Landing, Inc. Also will assist the pastor in various tasks. Website is [www.pointpleasantbc.com](http://www.pointpleasantbc.com). Submit resumé to Mrs. Jolene Howell, corporation secretary, 408 North Crestwood Drive, Paris, TN 38242; or e-mail to [fhowell@bellsouth.net](mailto:fhowell@bellsouth.net).

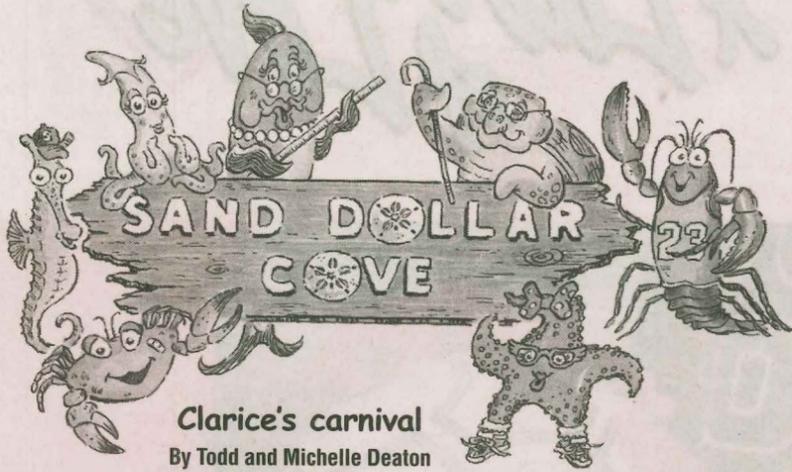
**SEEKING:** Part-time youth pastor for small but growing Spirit-filled Southern Baptist church. Must be mission-minded, ready to lead energetic youth group approximately 20 hours a week. We are willing to work around school/work schedule. Please send resumé to Valley Baptist Church, 4482 Copper Creek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

**SERVICES:** TC's Lawn Services. Residential, commercial; mowing, mulching, bushhogging, landscape maintenance. Insured. Louisville firefighter owned and operated. Satisfaction every time. (502) 718-0960.

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

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

Mike Morgan



**Clarice's carnival**  
By Todd and Michelle Deaton

On a beautiful, sunny day at Reedy Bottom School, Clarice Clam suggested, "Why don't we have a carnival with games and rides on the last day of school?"

"That's a great idea!" agreed Mrs. Tuna Tidewater. "Your assignment will be for each of you to plan a fun activity," she instructed the class.

The Cove Kids thought and thought.

Lenny Lobster was the first to think of a fun activity. "I'll ask the sea gull, who helped me fly like an astronaut, to give rides to the other Cove Kids," he said, recalling the day he flew to school inside an empty coconut shell.

"That will be great!" said Seamore Seahorse. "It will be kind of like a balloon ride."

"Hey, that gives me an idea," Seamore added. "I'll make a coconut carriage and hook it to me with a harness."

"Oh, I get it. A sea horse and buggy," Lenny laughed.

"I'll ask Fisherman John to give us boat rides," suggested Clarice.

"Just don't fall asleep and get lost again," Craig Crab teased, reminding the others about how he had "rescued" her one night.

"What can I do?" asked Syd Squid. "That's easy," Lenny replied. "Remember the recess when you used all your arms to help me and Craig Crab get the ball out of the weeds, push Sunny Starfish and Clarice Clam on the swing, and play cars in the sand box with Ollie Oyster—all at the same time?"

"Yes, but what does that have to do with a carnival?" Syd asked.

"I was thinking," explained Lenny, "what if you used all your arms as a ride? You know, like a scrambler. We could ride in seashells."

"Awesome!" Craig exclaimed.

"Can anyone think of some entertainment or food they could make?" Mrs. Tidewater asked.

"I'll organize a play," offered Sunny.

"That way she can be the star," Seamore chuckled.

"I could build a pie-making machine," Ollie offered.

"I hope it works better than your pearl-making machine did, or we'll be eating mud pies," Craig teased.

"At least I'm doing something," Ollie objected.

"Well, I can't think of anything," Craig whined.

"We need someone to sell tickets," Mrs. Tidewater suggested. "You're good with a hammer," she added. "Why don't you make a ticket booth and paint some signs?"

"Sure," Craig agreed.

"It's going to be a great carnival," Mrs. Tidewater smiled. "I'm pleased how each of you is pitching in."

## Treasure Hunt

What were some activities that the Cove Kids planned?

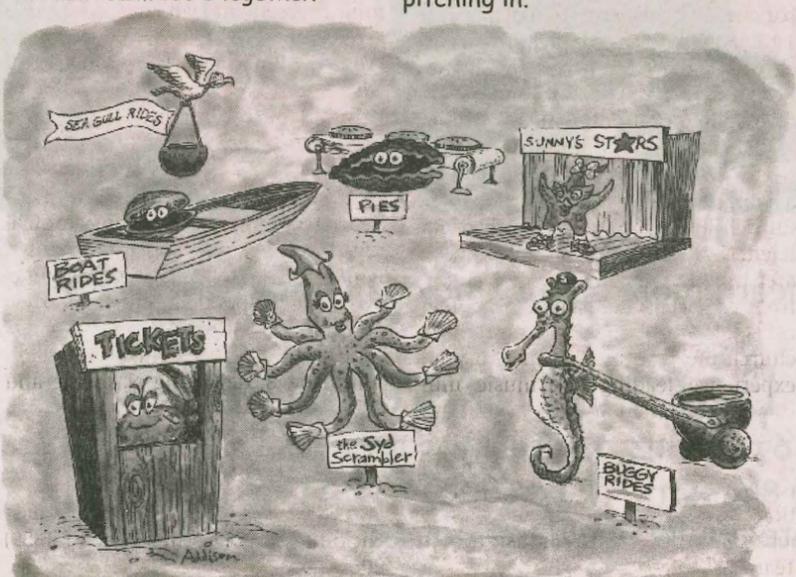
Why did they choose these activities for their carnival?

Why was Mrs. Tuna Tidewater pleased?

What ride would you create for this carnival? Why?

Read Psalm 133:1 together.

Read Psalm 133:1 together.



## For Heaven's Sake



## Preacher's Kids



## Bible Crosswords

### Across

- 1 God told Adam and Eve to be fruitful and \_\_\_\_ (Genesis 1:22)
- 8 Without, Fr.
- 12 What Samuel does to Saul to show he'll be Israel's king
- 13 Clothing that covers the back
- 14 The prodigal son almost ate their food (Luke 15:16)
- 15 "\_\_\_\_ not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne" (Matthew 5:34)
- 17 A metal burned by fire (Numbers 31:22-23)
- 18 Eleven, Romans num.
- 20 "I am Alpha and the Omega, beginning and the \_\_\_\_" (Revelation 22:13)
- 21 Ma's husband
- 22 To trap
- 24 Gideon saw men lapping water like this animal (Judges 7:5)
- 26 Address abbreviation
- 27 A rough rock where the eagle dwells (Job 39:27-28)
- 29 At the end of the world we will hear about these and rumors of these (Matthew 24:6)
- 32 Large feline
- 34 Dover is the capital of this state, abbr.
- 35 A soft, lustrous fabric made by worms
- 38 Hebrew custom of allowing the poor to follow the reapers and gather grain
- 40 Jesus said not to speak these kind of words (Matthew 12:36)
- 41 The initials of the man who came up with the theory of relativity
- 42 After eight days, Jesus was circumcised and \_\_\_\_ (Luke 2:21)

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| 14 |    |    |    |    |    | 15 | 16 |    |    |    |    |    |
| 17 |    |    |    | 18 | 19 |    | 20 |    |    | 21 |    |    |
| 22 |    |    |    |    |    | 23 |    | 24 |    | 25 |    |    |
| 26 |    |    |    | 27 |    |    | 28 |    | 29 |    | 30 |    |
|    |    | 31 |    |    | 32 |    |    | 33 |    | 34 |    |    |
| 35 | 36 |    | 37 |    |    | 38 |    |    | 39 |    |    |    |
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|    |    |    |    | 57 |    |    |    |    |    | 58 |    |    |

- 45 Negative
- 46 Tensile strength, abbr.
- 47 To direct the course
- 48 Gideon hoped this would be wet, then dry
- 50 Exclamation of surprise
- 51 A name for Mother
- 52 Ourselves
- 53 Homonym of sew
- 54 A tall pasture grass
- 56 A printer's measure
- 57 A Levitical city in the hill country of Judah (Joshua 15:51)
- 58 Briefly lowers the head

- 11 Produces hot, moist air
- 13 "God ... shall \_\_\_\_ his angel" (Genesis 24:7)
- 16 Us
- 19 Supply with water by artificial means
- 23 If we wait upon the Lord, we will mount up with wings like these birds
- 25 Seventh son of Jacob, firstborn of Zilpah (Genesis 30:11)
- 28 Word to make a horse turn to the right
- 30 What Christ did for us
- 31 Everything
- 33 "The Son of man came ... to give his life a \_\_\_\_" (Matthew 20:28)
- 35 Marked by sin
- 36 "Little children, keep yourselves from \_\_\_\_" (1 John 5:21)
- 37 City in south Judah, conquered by Joshua in the northern campaign (Joshua 12:22)
- 39 Prophet during the reigns of David and Solomon
- 43 Myself
- 44 Persian coins (Ezra 2:69)
- 49 The sound of a dove
- 54 The opposite of stop
- 55 The article that precedes words beginning with a vowel

## Last week's solution

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |   |
| S | H | E | P | H | E | R | D | L | A  | R  | D |
| H | O | P | E | V | A | L | L | E | N  | E  |   |
| U | E | D | I | T | E | N | E | A |    |    |   |
| D | S | P | I | L | E | A | S | S | E  | T  |   |
| O | E | R |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |
| W | E | V | E | R |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |
| A | S | A |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |
| O | A | T | S |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |
| I |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |
| L | G | R |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |
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### Down

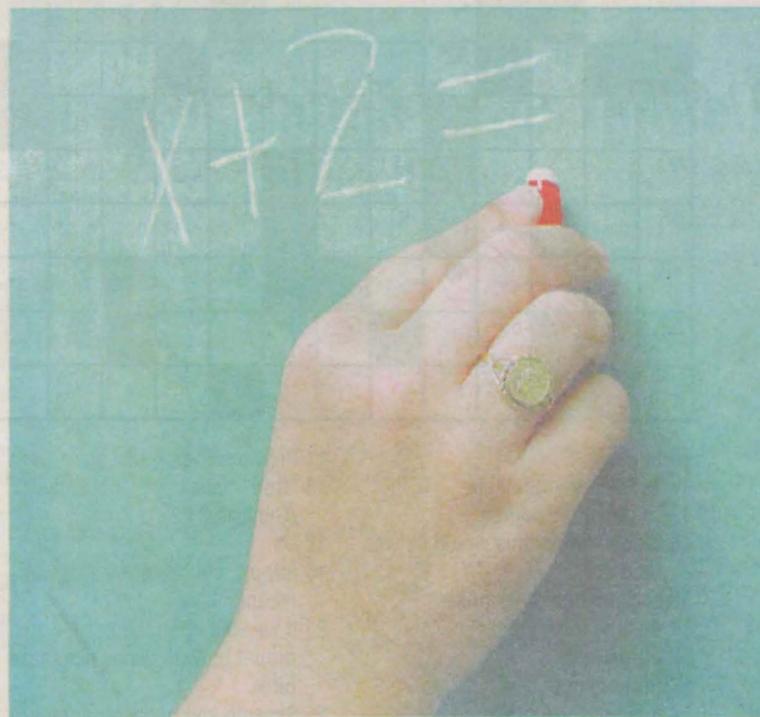
- 1 Ruler, lord, teacher (Matthew 8:19)
- 2 To reverse the winding
- 3 When you wear the armor of God, you should have your \_\_\_\_ girt with truth (Ephesians 6:14)
- 4 A soft metal
- 5 Not exact
- 6 Two cups, abbr.
- 7 Life support system, abbr.
- 8 "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the \_\_\_\_ of death" (Psalms 23:4)
- 9 Jesus spoke of the fowls of the \_\_\_\_ (Matthew 6:26)
- 10 Not rated, abbr.

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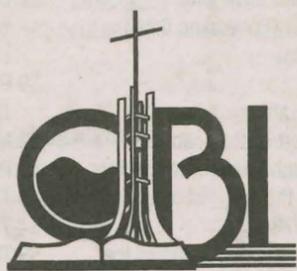


*Remembering without ceasing your work of faith and labour of love and  
patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ~ 1 Thessalonians 1:3*



*Share the labor,  
share the love.*

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