

Shine like stars in the world
Philippians 2:15

WESTERN Recorder

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Oneida Baptist Institute
 Father's Day Offering
 See insert

FOR THE RECORD

Kentucky
 Louisville-based ministry aids widows, orphans of war-torn Rwanda. *Page 2.*

Baptists
 Floyd announces GCR Task Force recordings will be sealed for 15 years. *Page 3.*

Opinion
 "Miracle in the Mountains" attests to power of faith. *Page 4.*

Nation
 Evangelical leaders call for bipartisan immigration fix. *Page 5.*

Baptist youth group survives crash in SE Ky.

By Bob Allen

Siler—A youth mission trip from a Southern Baptist church in Georgia took a terrifying turn June 9 when a van carrying 13 passengers crashed head on into a semi-trailer coal truck on a rain-slicked highway in Eastern Kentucky.

Two adult sponsors and three teenagers sustained injuries in the crash on a hairpin curve on Highway 92 in Whitley County near the Tennessee state line. Locals told media outlets the turn is tricky even for drivers familiar with the area.

The driver of the van, Terry Taphouse, minister to students at Belmont Baptist Church in Gainesville, Ga., and his wife, Lois, were most seriously injured. They were airlifted to University of Kentucky Hospital in Lexington. Both are expected to survive.

Three teenagers—Holly Hawkins from Belmont Baptist Church; Derek Worley from Walnut Fork Baptist Church in Hoschton, Ga.; and Morgan Heselup from North Metro First Baptist Church of Lawrenceville, Ga.—were treated and released for lesser injuries, including a hairline fracture, at Jellico Community Hospital in Jellico, Tenn.

□ See Baptist youth ... *Page 2*

Kentucky Baptist dialogue



Kentucky Great Commission Task Force chairman Hershael York speaks to a group of Kentucky Baptists at Central Baptist Church in Winchester during the second of two listening sessions the committee held last week. More than 60 pastors, directors of missions and state convention leaders attended the two meetings. (Photo by Robert Reeves/KBC)

Task force, church leaders talk 'big-ticket' items at listening sessions

By Drew Nichter & Todd Deaton
 News Director & Editor

Elizabethtown & Winchester—One thing is obvious: There are no easy answers to the questions.

Dozens of Kentucky Baptist church, associational and convention leaders turned out for a pair of listening sessions last week hosted by Kentucky's Great Commission Task Force.

According to committee chair Hershael York, the primary question to be answered: "What do you think Kentucky Baptists ought to be doing?"

"If you asked me, 'What would you like to see come

out of this?' I would like to see us doing the things we ought to be doing," York articulated as the committee's primary goal. "I'd like for Kentucky Baptists to know what we are doing, and I'd like them to be joyfully doing it."

About 30 Kentucky Baptists attended each of the meetings, the first at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown last Monday; the second at Central Baptist Church in Winchester the following evening.

Both sessions focused on what York dubbed the "big-ticket items" in Kentucky and Southern Baptist life right

□ See Ky. GCR sessions focus ... *Page 2*

Cumberlands hosts M-Fuge



Williamsburg—More than 400 students and chaperones spent last week at the University of the Cumberlands campus as part of the MFuge camp.

MFuge is the LifeWay Christian Resources-sponsored camp for students in grades 7-12. The weeklong camps provide an opportunity for participants to share Christ's love through mission projects as they also develop skills necessary for leadership in ministry.

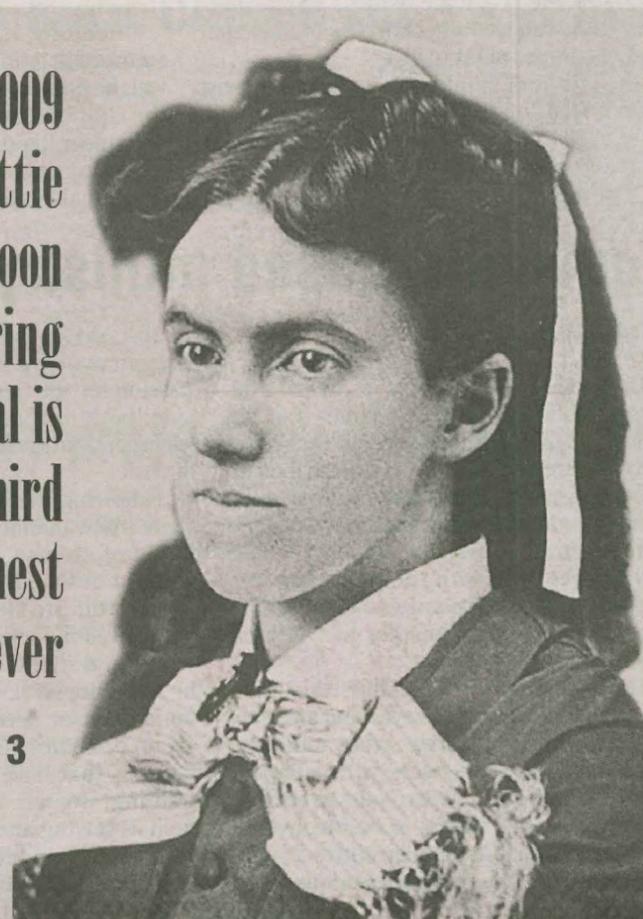
At Cumberlands last week,

MFuge campers worked alongside volunteers from Mountain Outreach, the university's student-led construction ministry. The students completed projects such as painting, yard work and light construction for local families who, for physical or financial reasons, could not complete the work themselves.

University of the Cumberlands is one of nine host sites for this summer's MFuge camps. The campus will host six more camp weeks through July 22.

2009
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 third
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 ever

Page 3



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Ky. GCR sessions focus on Cooperative Program

Continued from page 1

now: the Cooperative Program—specifically where it goes, how it gets there and why it still matters.

One of the primary concerns expressed among pastors at last week's meetings was the Cooperative Program budget distribution among Kentucky Baptist and Southern Baptist Convention causes.

Currently, the split is 62.68 percent for Kentucky Baptist Convention ministries, with the remaining 37.32 percent going to SBC causes. On Sept. 1 when the KBC's 2010-11 fiscal year begins, that split shifts to 62/38. For some pastors, that allotment keeps too much money in the state.

"I love the Cooperative Program, (but) I'd personally be a little more excited about it if I saw more going to the nations," noted Josh Howell, pastor of Vine Run Baptist Church in Dry Ridge. "At every fork of the road, more money's staying local than we're sending to the nations, and that's a concern to me."

"I think a 50/50 (split) is a good starting place in terms of allocation of CP," noted Jonathan Akin, lead pastor of Highview Baptist Church's Valley Station campus in Louisville and son of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary President Daniel Akin, a member of the SBC's Great Commission Resurgence Task Force.

The younger Akin suggested that too much money is spent on state convention-level consultation services for church ministries such as evangelism, music, youth and Sunday school. He recommended utilizing local churches that do such ministries well to consult with and train fellow churches.

On the flip side, Gordon McDowell, director of missions for Lynn Baptist Association, expressed concern that if more money goes to SBC causes, that would mean less for Kentucky Baptist agencies and institutions. "Can we afford that?" he asked.

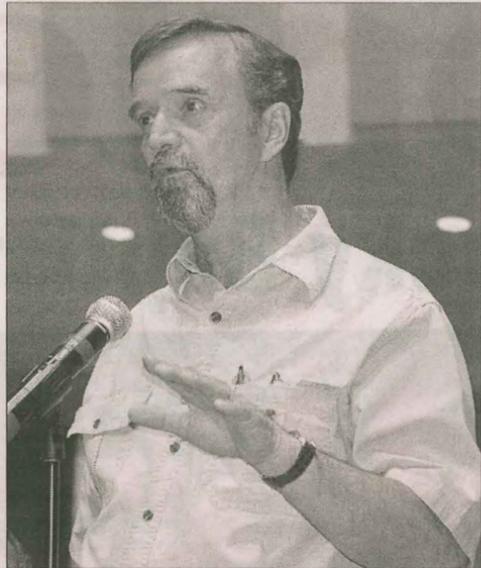
"We both need 63 percent," McDowell joked, "but it just doesn't work that way."

However the state convention opts to allocate its Cooperative Program funds, most who attended the listening sessions agreed churches are not giving enough to Southern Baptists' missions funding channel.

York pointed out that during the last decade and a half, the percentage of Kentucky Baptist churches' undesignated giving to CP has declined from 10 to 7 percent. That has prompted the task force to focus on the question, "How can we rally churches to have that kind of commitment to give?"

The pastor of Frankfort's Buck Run Baptist Church went on to say that churches should strive to give at least 10 percent of their undesignated receipts to the Cooperative Program.

"I'm not going to make the case that (10



Q & A TIME John Ryder, director of missions for Boone's Creek Baptist Association poses a question at last week's listening session in Winchester hosted by the Kentucky Great Commission Task Force. Much of the discussion at the two meetings centered around the Cooperative Program. (Photo by Robert Reeves/KBC)

percent) is biblically mandated, but I am going to say it's reasonably mandated, and it's from our hearts," he noted.

Although very little of the discussion focused on the SBC's GCR debate, York was asked about the Great Commission Giving category recommendation and how that might affect Kentucky Baptists' CP giving.

"I think at the end of the day, it's not going to make a beans-bit of difference on what an individual church does," he added. "I think the CP will and should remain the standard."

As for the culprit of the giving decline, the general consensus among Kentucky Baptist leaders at both meetings seemed to be a lack of knowledge about what the Cooperative Program is and what it accomplishes.

Hardinsburg Baptist Church Pastor Doug Miller suggested the giving dearth stems from the observation that pastors and church leaders "really don't care" about promoting CP.

That lack of attention from pastors to the giving issue then trickles down to the people in the pews, one pastor indicated, which makes how to solve the giving puzzle extremely difficult.

"Honestly, most of our people are so disconnected, even at the state level, we might as well be finding out how to stop the oil leak" in the Gulf of Mexico, said Andrew Dyer, pastor of Pioneer Baptist Church in Harrodsburg.

"Pastors can't pass down to their churches what they don't embrace (and) what they

don't understand," echoed Alan Dodson from Lexington's Cornerstone Baptist Church.

When it comes to boosting Cooperative Program giving, many Kentucky Baptist leaders agreed that missions education and experience—especially among younger Christians—is a key starting point.

Task force member Charles Barnes, a former KBC president, expressed concern about a "generational gap" of CP understanding and appreciation among the younger generation and their predecessors.

In response, Ekron Baptist Church Pastor Jammie Vance said bluntly: "The younger generation's not committed to the institution."

Matt Stevens, an associate pastor at Ekron Baptist, explained it further saying that older generations were invested in church, while his and his father's generations merely participated in church, almost as entertainment.

"I think whenever (younger people) have an investment in a church, they would have an investment for our state and for missions abroad," he noted.

Hardinsburg pastor Miller referred to the SBC as an unmarketable product for the younger generation.

"We can't sell the brand. The brand is dead," he said. "But we can sell the work. We can sell the passion that has to go with that."

York agreed, saying that the Baby Boomers and those before who grew up Southern Baptist learned about what that meant through Royal Ambassadors and Girls in Action where the Cooperative Program was emphasized.

With today's generation, "that doesn't work," he said. "They have to be convinced this is worth giving to and that it is not just because that is what Southern Baptists do."

"We're not going to grab the younger generation with business as usual," York added. "I think we've been asking for contributions, but what we need to ask for is laying down your life. ... I think that catches their vision."

When asked about the status of a report from the task force, York said the group is not close to putting one together. He did indicate that one would be ready well in advance of the KBC's November annual meeting.

"But I want to remind you, we will have no authority to change a thing," York said. "We will only bring a recommendation."

As several Kentucky Baptists repeated during the sessions, change only will happen on a grassroots, local-church level and, most importantly, through revival.

"It's not a matter of dollars or percentages, it's a matter of passion for Jesus' heartbeat," declared Jim Castlen, director of missions for Three Forks Baptist Association. "If we have the passion for our Jerusalem, our Judea, our Samaria and the ends of the earth, the dollars will take care of themselves."

Baptist youth group survives crash in SE Ky.

Continued from page 1

Though shaken, the youth group of junior- and senior-high students decided to continue their week-long mission trip, which ended June 12. The group worked last week with Friends for Families, an outreach ministry led by Melany Hanrahan, a Mission Service Corps missionary based in Corbin.

Friends for Families focuses mainly on home repairs in the Corbin and Williamsburg areas in Whitley County, one of the poorest counties in Kentucky. They also do projects like vacation Bible school and other events for children and youth.

The Georgia group enlisted to work with four different churches doing VBS, backyard Bible clubs, screening the movie "Fireproof" and leading worship on Sunday morning.

The 13 passengers on the van were part of a 29-member mission team, mostly teenagers. Witnesses at the scene, including another group of students following in a separate van, called it a miracle that no one was killed.

"It was a bad one, one of the worst ones we've had in a while," Patterson Creek Fire Chief Tim Vanover told WKYT-TV in Lexington.

Crash scene photos showed a crushed driver-seat compartment. Taphouse reportedly was pinned by the steering wheel and dash, forcing rescuers to take a significant amount of time to extricate him.

The driver of the coal truck was not injured.

According to the Belmont Baptist Church website, Taphouse has been involved in youth ministry in various capacities for 20 years. Before coming to the church in October 2007, he was a volunteer youth leader at Rolling Hills Baptist Church in Buford, Ga. He met Lois, his wife of 24 years, while both served in the Air Force. (ABP)

Louisville-based ministry aids widows, orphans in war-torn Rwanda

By Todd Deaton
Editor

Louisville—Their ministry in Rwanda follows a biblical injunction: James 1:27 instructs, "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress."

And though Kentuckians may struggle some in pronouncing the leaders' names, they can resonate with the ministry's stated goal: "to point humanity to the one who alone is able to give hope for life" (1 John 2:25).

Through Gate of Hope Ministries International, Jean de Dieu Nzeyimana and Pauline Mukeshimana, natives of Rwanda who now live in Louisville, work with a Baptist pastor in Rwanda, Abel Serukato, to encourage American Christians to be involved in short-term missions opportunities to provide relief to those in tremendous need

in the African nation. Mukeshimana and Nzeyimana have a heart of love and compassion for the families torn apart by genocide; both of them lost immediate family members—fathers, brothers, sons—to tribal strife.

Following the genocide during the civil strife in Rwanda in the 1990s, tens of thousands of women and children were left without husbands and fathers.

According to Mukeshimana, who recently received a doctorate of missiology in intercultural studies from Western Seminary in Portland, Ore., Gate of Hope has three main focuses: feeding and clothing children, providing Christian counseling to families that have been traumatized, and training women with marketable skills, such as sewing and gardening, so they can earn a living and feed their families. "Help us help their children," she urged.

Nzeyimana, a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, speaks Swahili and French and helped start a Burundi congregation in Louisville that now draws 40 to 45 people. He promotes awareness of an opportunity for Baptists and others to help the Gate of Hope ministry purchase a permanent facility in Rwanda. Approximately \$60,000 is needed to provide adequate space where some 300 women and children currently involved in the ministry's programs can find safe haven for education, social activities and recreation, he said.

Gate of Hope is "a ministry of reconciliation," Mukeshimana said. "When women work together they can pour out their hearts to each other. When they sit down together, those from rival tribes find out that they have the same miseries and problems. They can work through their bitterness. It fosters peace and builds bridges."

For Serukato, who has helped start 45 churches in Rwanda, Burundi and Congo during his 42-year ministry, teaching young boys Christian values in a safe environment is just as vital.

"One person can make a great impact" on his home or community, he said, emphasizing the need for godly role models to help prepare them for a better tomorrow.

After the war, Serukato became convicted, "Either there is something God wants us to accomplish or something we have to get started." Sharing Christ through Gate of Hope Ministries has become "a calling on our lives," he said.

Mike Stoltz, a member of Crestwood Baptist Church, and Phyllis Platt, wife of Crestwood Baptist's associate pastor, Chris Platt, serve on the board of Gate of Hope. For more information about the ministry, contact Stoltz at (502) 241-6712.

Randy Davis elected Tenn. Baptist exec

By Lonnie Wilkey
Tennessee Baptist & Reflector

Brentwood, Tenn.—Randy Davis, president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, was elected unanimously as the convention's next executive director, effective July 1, during a called meeting of the TBC executive board June 2.

Davis, 53, pastor of First Baptist Church of Sevierville, Tenn., also had been the unanimous choice of both the search committee and the administrative committee of the executive board.



Randy Davis

On June 7, Davis resigned as president of the convention. Poly Rouse, pastor of Hermitage Hills Baptist Church in Hermitage, Tenn., and convention vice president, assumed the TBC presidency.

After his election, Davis noted that when he talked to the search committee he told them he must have "a clarity of call and a desire for purpose" in order to leave the pastorate of a local church, especially the one he currently was serving.

"As we walk together I will need more than just your confirmation," Davis told the board. "I need your commitment to lift us up in prayer ... and to help us reach as many people for Jesus Christ as we can in our state and around the world and to take them to heaven with us," he said.

A native of Mobile, Ala., Davis has served in Tennessee since 1992 when he became pastor of First Baptist Church of Morristown. During his tenure there, the church averaged more than 150 additions each year. The church also increased its Cooperative Program giving from \$32,897 (4.2 percent) to \$188,373 (9.8 percent).

Davis accepted the call to First Baptist, Sevierville in 2001. The church has 4,300 members with an average attendance of 1,975. During Davis' tenure, the church has had more than 900 baptisms. Cooperative Program giving has increased from \$105,000 (4 percent) in 2001 to \$388,000 (8.3 percent) of current budget with a goal of moving to 10 percent.

At the Southern Baptist Convention level, Davis has served as a trustee of the International Mission Board, the SBC's Committee on Committees and the Committee on Nominations.

Davis holds degrees from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and the Southern Baptist Center for Biblical Studies in Jacksonville, Fla. (BP)

Lottie Moon offering receives \$148.9 million

Third-highest total likely staves off immediate missionary-force reductions

By Don Graham
International Mission Board

Richmond, Va.—Southern Baptists stayed true to their passion for telling the world about Jesus in spite of a weakened economy and sluggish recovery, giving \$148.9 million to support international missionaries through the 2009 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. It is the third-largest Lottie Moon offering in history.

"We are not disappointed as God proves His faithfulness through Southern Baptists, and giving through Lottie Moon reflects the heart of our churches and their Great Commission commitment," said Jerry Rankin, International Mission Board president. "Constituting more than half of the IMB's annual budget, the Lottie Moon offering dramatically impacts our ability to take the gospel to the lost world.

"I am deeply grateful for the increase in giving, some \$7.6 million above the 2008 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, and for the sacrifice made by Southern Baptists during these difficult economic times."

More than \$4 million of the \$7.6 million increase came from a special "over-and-above" offering challenge issued last summer by Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary President Daniel Akin and others. The extra funds allowed the IMB to send missionaries placed on hold by financial shortfalls earlier than planned and prevented even deeper reductions in the IMB's global missionary force.

Because of Southern Baptist support, missionaries and their national partners were responsible for baptizing more than 506,000 believers and starting 24,650 new churches across the globe in 2008.

"For this year's total to be the third highest of the history of the offering is remarkable given the economic challenges that continue to impact many across the U.S.," said Wanda Lee, Woman's Missionary Union executive director. "It is truly a testimony to the faithfulness of God and the deep-rooted commitment among Southern Baptists to share Jesus with those around the world who have yet to hear of His love."



HELPING HAND Missionary Delores York comforts a patient at a medical clinic in Jimani, Dominican Republic, who was injured during the Jan. 12 earthquake that struck Haiti. Southern Baptists' gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering enable York and other IMB missionaries to share Christ's love around the world without the burden of raising their own financial support.

While the \$148.9 million offering meets the requirements for the IMB's 2010 operating budget, it does not allow room for growth or reversal of budget cuts.

"This offering will allow us to meet our operational needs but most of our capital needs will be postponed for another year," said IMB financial chief David Steverson. "With our other major sources of income holding steady or only slightly declining, we are grateful that, for now, we don't anticipate further reductions in our missionary force below 5,000."

Last year IMB trustees were forced to curb appointments of new missionaries and suspend two short-term missionary programs entirely, initiating a gradual reduction in the IMB's global missionary force. The reduction will lower missionary numbers from approximately 5,600 reached in 2009, to 5,000 but

will not involve recalling any personnel because it will be accomplished through attrition—completions of service, retirements and resignations.

"We are grieved that budget limitations will force us to continue to restrict new missionaries being appointed," Rankin said. "This is not just a disappointment to individuals and families called of God to serve overseas, but it means many unreached people groups will be deprived of hearing the gospel yet another year. We are rethinking our strategy and adjusting our organizational structure for greater efficiency in order to stretch our budget as far as possible."

More than 70 percent of the IMB's budget is spent on missionary support, including housing, salaries, medical care and children's education. It averages \$43,800 annually per missionary. (BP)

GCR Task Force recordings to be kept closed for 15 years

Nashville, Tenn.—Audio recordings of Great Commission Resurgence Task Force proceedings will be placed in the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives in Nashville and kept closed for 15 years.

GCR task force chairman Ronnie Floyd told Baptist Press the group is following the pattern set by the Southern Baptist Convention's Peace Committee.

"As with the Peace Committee, the recordings will be deposited at the SBC Historical Library and Archives, where they will

be maintained until opened to researchers," Floyd said in an e-mail to Baptist Press executive editor Will Hall.

Audio recordings of Peace Committee proceedings, which consisted of about 135 cassette tapes, were held by the Historical Library and Archives until 1997, the library's director Bill Sumners said.

The 22-member special committee, labeled early by media as the Peace Committee, was established by the SBC annual meeting in Dallas in 1985 to study the

sources of the controversies that began in the SBC in 1979 and to bring findings and recommendations that would help Southern Baptists effect reconciliation. The committee deliberated for two years and presented its report, which was adopted at the annual meeting of the SBC in St. Louis in June 1987.

The Peace Committee collection also included minutes of committee meetings, reports, attachments and 366 letters from Southern Baptists, Sumners said. (BP)

Lester, former Southern Seminary professor, dies June 10

Fort Worth, Texas—Andy Lester, a professor of pastoral care and counseling who was popular with a generation of Baptists attending Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in the 1970s and 1980s, died June 10 after a year-long battle with pancreatic cancer.

Lester, 70, was professor emeritus of pastoral theology and pastoral counseling at Texas Christian University's Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth. He came to that position after teaching from 1977 to 1991 at Southern. Lester was one of several Southern Seminary professors from that era

to leave as control of the Louisville school shifted from moderate to more conservative hands.

Lester wrote several books, including some with his wife of 50 years, Judith, who, like her husband, was a licensed therapist. They also co-taught a popular class on marriage enrichment at Southern that, according to alumni, had a strong impact on many student couples from the era. She survives him.

He wrote widely on subjects related to pastoral care, particularly those dealing with marriage- and family-related

issues, human sexuality and anger.

A memorial service for Lester was held June 13, at Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests a donation in Lester's memory to a charity of choice or to his favorite organizations, which include Brite Divinity School and Habitat for Humanity.

A memorial fund at Brite, the Dr. Andrew D. Lester Memorial Fund, honors his legacy.

In addition to his widow, survivors include two children, three grandchildren, his mother, three sisters and a brother. One sister, Diane Cofer, preceded him in death. (ABP)

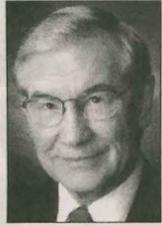


Andy Lester

GC Task Force listening sessions

Two listening sessions were recently conducted by the Kentucky Baptist Convention Great Commission Task Force. About 30 people attended the first session at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, and 38 people attended the second session at Central Baptist Church in Winchester.

Partners in the Mission



By Bill Mackey

Hershael York, pastor of Buck Run Baptist Church in Frankfort and chairman of the task force, presided over the wide ranging discussion. There were several common themes in each session. Attendees expressed a belief that success in obeying the Great Commission must be anchored in personal renewal, revival and brokenness before God. A deeper level of discipleship will be required.

"We are dependent on the Holy Spirit to bring Kentucky Baptists together around a vision for the world," said one participant.

Much discussion at both locations centered on better understanding of the value and ministries of the Cooperative Program. Participants discussed the need to bridge the generational gap of understanding and appreciation for the value of CP.

Joy Bolton, executive director of the Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, suggested that missions education could be better incorporated into mission trips so that participants know that it is missions giving that enables the missionary with whom they are working to be on the field. One young pastor indicated that his church's annual mission trips had helped the church to increase CP giving from 6 percent to 10 percent of undesignated receipts.

Some speakers expressed a desire that more CP funds be shared with Southern Baptist Convention causes. Others expressed concern about important KBC missions and ministries potentially losing funding. This concern included fear that ending the cooperative agreement between the KBC and the North American Mission Board could mean the loss of missionaries in the associations.

One speaker suggested that the state convention could streamline. More theological accountability for all KBC agencies and institutions was also suggested in one session.

It was also suggested that we could be more visionary as a convention. "Do the right thing, share what we are doing, and do it joyfully," the speaker said.

Discussion at both places focused on the need for teaching biblical stewardship. Attendees also shared their concern about evangelism and reaching new people. "Train pastors to see the church as a mission training and sending center and get the world on our hearts," said one participant.

One lay person stated that we can make missions personal by hosting missionaries in our homes during missions fairs and other occasions.

It was a valuable experience to hear Kentucky Baptists express their concerns in their own words. There were many affirming voices of our common work. Please continue pray for the KBC's Great Commission Task Force.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

'Miracle in the Mountains' attests to power of faith

I had not been in Kentucky long before I heard some pretty amazing stories about some "God things" that were happening in the Appalachian Mountains to the east. And, like the eight-year-old lad who Lonnie Riley recalls on the opening page of his new book, "Miracle in the Mountains," I wondered if the stories I heard were really true.

As I read story after story of how God was using Lonnie and Belinda Riley to stir the hearts of more than 30,000 volunteers to become involved in some 20 ministries to care for the tremendous physical and spiritual needs of the hurting people in her hometown of Lynch, chill bumps raced up and down my arms. I contemplated experiencing what it truly means to "walk by faith." But "Miracle in the Mountains" is so much more than a compilation of God's miraculous activities there. On its pages, Riley shares the faith principles that he and his wife have discovered as God changed them from "make-it-happen" people into "living-by-faith" people.

Riley, a former assistant to the president of the University of the Cumberlands in Williamsburg, observes:

"You know, in New Testament times a person who lived by faith would have found the things I have shared to be normal, but in our society if a person lives by faith, he or she becomes 'abnormal,' and people question whether the things they share are really true. When I share stories of faith, I

want the stories to be an encouragement to believers to be normal. From God's perspective, the normal life is the life of faith." Their prayer is that through this book others will be inspired to "allow faith to be the fuel that keeps your relationship with God fresh and releases His power to work in your life."

In 1999, the Rileys arrived in Lynch with no job and no income, leaving behind a successful pastorate and a growing church in Mississippi. "We, however, arrived with something more precious than jobs and income. We arrived with the absolute certainty that we were in the place God wanted us to be and that He would take care of the details," Riley asserts. "The word from God to us was this: 'You won't have a fancy house, cars, or a boat. You won't even have a salary. But you will have Me.' Our response was, 'If we have you, that's enough.'"

Typically, I jot down a list of page numbers on a blank page at the front of a book to indicate where I found significant details or powerful quotes. When finished with "Miracle in the Mountains," I had a long list as God proved his promise over and over again in

response to the Rileys' faithfulness. Several times as I read—while my wife drove on our recent Memorial Day trip to visit my parents in Greenville, S.C.—I felt compelled to share with her one of the more than 50 incredible stories the Rileys tell of how God provides for the people's needs, sometimes before even a need is known.

For example, a woman once came to them asking for bread, and Belinda was troubled that they had none to give. So she prayed about the situation. "For Belinda, the need had become a God-given burden, a burden that only the Supplier could meet," Riley recounts. Twenty minutes later the phone rang, and a woman in Knoxville said she felt the Lord wanted her to bring a truckload of bread there. "The Supplier had been at work in her heart as well as in Belinda's heart," Riley attests. But as scripture affirms, our God is able to do so much more than we can hope for or imagine, and out of that connection a food-distribution ministry, Manna House, was launched that now distributes more than \$300,000 worth of donated food each year.

"God knows the need. He knows what He wants done," Riley affirms. "He is the Supplier; He is enough." Since then, an after-school feeding program, Kid's Café, which also provides Bible games and activities, and a back pack ministry called "Sacks of Love," which sends nutritious foods home with school children on week-

ends, have been started. In fact, within nine years, more than 20 ministries have emerged under the umbrella of Meridzo Center Ministries, such as the Freedom Center, Solomon's Porch, medical and dental missions, home repair, a teen club, an equestrian center, candle-making and sewing, a furniture warehouse, an adult literacy program and Second Chance Surplus, which provides inexpensive building supplies.

"Looking back, only God could have done all that," Riley concludes. "Even in our 'make-it-happen' days, Belinda and I could never have dreamed of nor devised a plan for all that has occurred in Lynch. God has proven time and time again that indeed He is always enough."

"Miracle in the Mountains"—available through the ministry's website at www.meridzo.org or by calling 606-848-2766—is one of those must-reads that should be on recommended reading lists for spiritual formation classes for future ministers and missionaries. Through it, the Rileys tutor fellow believers in how they can "experience things that you will only be able to explain by saying that 'God did it.'"

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"Looking back, only God could have done all that," Riley concludes. "Even in our 'make-it-happen' days, Belinda and I could never have dreamed of nor devised a plan for all that has occurred in Lynch. God has proven time and time again that indeed He is always enough."

"Miracle in the Mountains"—available through the ministry's website at www.meridzo.org or by calling 606-848-2766—is one of those must-reads that should be on recommended reading lists for spiritual formation classes for future ministers and missionaries. Through it, the Rileys tutor fellow believers in how they can "experience things that you will only be able to explain by saying that 'God did it.'"

Most of all, a good father models what it is to be a man, a husband, a father and a child of God. "My father didn't tell me how to live," recalled one thankful son. "He lived—and let me watch him do it."

Erich Bridges is global correspondent for the International Mission Board.

After Thought

By Todd Deaton

"God has proven time and time again that indeed He is always enough."

— Lonnie Riley

Dealing with the Father's Day blues

By Erich Bridges

Hey dads, another Father's Day is coming up. We can hardly wait, right?

If the kids remember Father's Day at all, they'll probably give us cards

humorously noting our physical and mental decline. Maybe they'll take

us to lunch when we'd just as soon hit the couch for a nap (due to the aforementioned physical decline) or watch a ballgame on TV. But we'll go along with a smile, pretending we feel special while the kids pretend they're making us feel special.

Let's face it, guys. Father's Day is the Rodney Dangerfield of holidays, the get-no-respect little brother of Mother's Day. Our special day probably won't ever achieve the popularity or social significance of Mother's Day (cue violins). But that's OK. We're not sensitive Moms; we're macho Dads. We don't need a lot of recognition. That's our story, at least, and we're sticking to it.

Still, Father's Day is a great opportunity to remember what being a good father is about.

"A good father is one of the most

unsung, unpraised, unnoticed, and yet one of the most valuable assets in our society," Billy Graham once said.

A good father takes care of business. He provides food, shelter and physical and emotional security for his family. But that's just the beginning. Within the context of marriage, he loves his wife and the mother of his children—and he makes sure that he regularly expresses that love in front of the children.

A good father loves his children unconditionally. He hugs them—every day. He says the words "I love you"—every day, several times if possible. That's what your children need, even when they become obnoxious teens and pretend they don't. Read 1 Corinthians 13 to see what God's love looks like in action.

FIRST PERSON

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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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Education for Time
and Eternity

2010 Father's Day Offering for...

Oneida Baptist Institute

What is OBI?

Oneida Baptist Institute is a fully accredited Christian boarding school for grades 6-12.

OBI was founded in 1899 and opened its doors on January 1, 1900. We have been ministering to young people for 110 years.

Oneida is a mission field

OBI began as a school for children of the eastern Kentucky mountains. We still welcome day students, many of whom carry on a family tradition by coming to Oneida.

Approximately 50% of our students are from Kentucky. Some 30% are from other states and another 20% are internationals.

Oneida is a place where local, state, North American and international missions are going on -- all at the same time.

Annual offering

This is the sixteenth year for Kentucky Baptist churches to observe the Father's Day Offering for Oneida Baptist Institute.

Would you like to contact us?

P.O. Box 67
Oneida, KY 40972
Call: (606) 847-4111
Fax: (606) 847-4496
Web site:
www.oneidaschool.org

Tours are available.
Call ext. 248 to schedule a visit.

Meet some of the Class of 2010

Kim excelled with faith in God and hard work



Kim enrolled at OBI in June, 2003 as a sixth grader from Ohio.

"My great aunt found this school on the internet and thought it would help us learn and grow. My mom was a single mom taking care of four kids by herself, which was not easy," Kim said. She was afraid to leave home but having three siblings at Oneida with her made it an easier adjustment.

Kim never imagined she would stay and graduate from OBI. She said, "I just thought it was while we were in the hard place we were in as a family. I'm glad I stayed here." Two siblings graduated from OBI—Michael in 2008 and Jessica in 2009.

For seven years, Kim worked on the farm as her daily

job and was an FFA member.

"I liked working with the animals on the farm. It taught me important things like leadership and responsibility. Plus, it was fun spending time with people who had the same interests that I did. I fit in there," Kim said. At the 2009 state FFA proficiency contest, she placed second in diversified livestock production.

Kim also participated in cheerleading and tennis for six years, yearbook staff for four years, Student Government Association, drama, choir and dorm devotions. She represented OBI at the 2009 Kentucky Baptist Convention and graduated as this year's salutatorian. She is planning to study nursing.

Michelle Barnes worked with Kim in yearbook and cheerleading. "In many girls today know what it means to be a lady, but Kimberly does. I told her she was the definition of an 'overachiever,' and she responded that I was an 'under-expector.' Kim believes that if you're going to do something, you may as well do your best," Barnes said.

Farm supervisor and FFA advisor Jennifer Griebenow said, "I've watched Kim grow up. As she got older, we gave her leadership roles. It was like applying direct sunlight to a plant.

Like all OBI kids, she needed structure and encouragement for everything she already had in her to blossom."

Kim appreciates OBI's caring staff. "At OBI, you [the student] are the entire reason the staff is here. It makes you feel like you belong here, like you have a purpose. At OBI, I've learned that I can accomplish things on my own. I've also learned that I am valuable and I do have talent. I was really young when I came here and I felt miniscule and unimportant. Being here has taught me that I have worth and value."

"The most important thing I learned at OBI is that if I rely on God and give everything that I have and everything that I am to Him, I can't be a failure." ■



Top left: OBI FFA president for three years. Above: 2009 Yearbook Queen.

Sibling 'staff kids' graduate with top honors

Just 15 months apart in age, Caleb and Miriam have always been in the same grade. Their parents are OBI teachers who moved to Oneida...twice.

Their grandparents had been donors to the Oneida ministry. Caleb said, "I was two and Miriam was one when we moved here." About four years later, they moved to California, near family. Caleb and Miriam enjoyed some home-schooling years and the birth of their younger brother. When they were in the fourth grade, the family returned to Oneida.

Caleb recalls being welcomed by the other "staff kids." He liked the rural environment which made it convenient and "relatively safe" to meet with friends outdoors. Miriam agreed, "I like the hills in Oneida. I like hiking, riding my bike and being able to have animals." Caleb noted, "The world isn't like this enclosed little village, but I feel like Oneida helps you get to know people better, to reach out and discover people."

Caleb and Miriam enjoyed having Christian friends and teachers. "At OBI, there are good Christian examples to look up to and a lot of ways to be an example yourself or to help others," Miriam said.

Both Caleb and Miriam were active in sports at OBI. Miriam joined the tennis team in the fifth grade and competed at state in grades 9-12. She believes God answered her prayers for strength when she competed. She received the MVP and Coach's awards in tennis.

Caleb competed with the OBI swim team for four years and played soccer for one. Miriam played soccer on a mostly boys' team for four years and swam for two years.

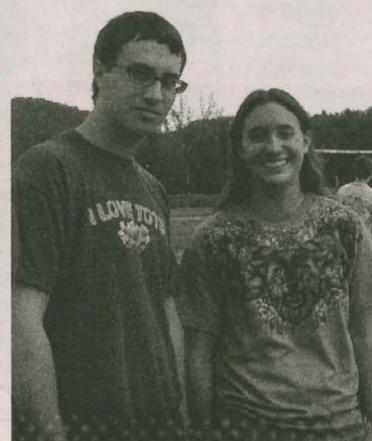
Swimming and soccer coach Scott Self described Caleb as a hard worker who was passionate about swimming. Of Miriam he said, "She strove to be excellent and to do what was right. She received large amounts of playing time in soccer because of her work ethic and ability to

do what was asked of her."

Pursuing an interest in drama, Caleb acted in four plays in 11th and 12th grades. Miriam joined him for one play last fall.

OBI's 2010 valedictorian, Miriam took advanced placement courses and would like to major in zoology in college.

Caleb took three years of commercial art classes and plans to study graphic design in college. He would also like to explore theater, English, poetry and writing. ■



Seong Ho found hope for his future by coming to OBI



Seong Ho contributed his musical talent to the pep band.

From South Korea, Seong Ho had experienced an academic setback. "All through middle school I tried to get into a certain high school, and I failed," he explained. He felt like his future was hopeless.

Seong Ho's mother suggested he attend a school in America. A friend suggested OBI as a good school for international students because it was a Christian school with a safe, structured environment.

The idea of studying in the U.S. opened an unexpected door of opportunity for Seong Ho, who enrolled at OBI as a sophomore in 2007.

With improved English skills, Seong Ho excelled in advanced placement courses this year and graduated in the top ten. The faculty voted him the Most Studious junior boy and the senior boy who is Most Likely To Succeed. He plans to study biotechnology in the U.S.

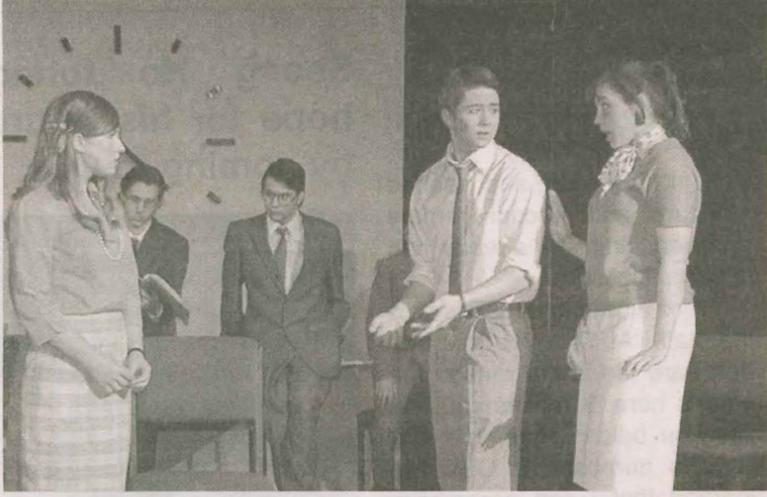
Seong Ho was the pep band's bass player and Student Government Association president. He received awards in piano class at OBI and played at the Oneida Baptist Church.

"Seong Ho is a humble and serious young man who is a... gifted pianist. His standards are very high and he works diligently to achieve his goals. He used his gifts for the glory of God by accompanying congregational singing and providing preludes and offertories at Oneida Baptist Church. It has been a joy to assist him in his progress," said OBI piano instructor, Dr. Paul Davidson. ■

Left: Caleb & Miriam were named Mr. & Miss Oneida, top senior honors voted by OBI faculty.

Oneida Baptist Institute

OBI a 'good fit' for Samantha



Samantha (right) enjoyed fine arts and sports at OBI

After several moves when she was younger, Samantha's family settled in the Oneida area just after seventh grade. "Mom knew about OBI and liked it. It was a nice school," Samantha said. Actually, her mother graduated from OBI.

Samantha was in the eighth grade and her younger brother in the sixth grade when they enrolled as day students at OBI.

Both enjoyed the many cocurricular options offered at OBI. "Swimming and tennis were activities I had never had the opportunity to do. I was excited about all the extras here," Samantha said.

In high school, she acted in

five school plays receiving the Director's and the Best Supporting Actress awards. A member of the advanced art class this year, she contributed her skills to projects like a forest mural for the fall play and backdrops for the Christmas program.

OBI drama director Tamar Cochran said, "Samantha is a dependable, behind-the-scenes, positive person every team needs. Always prepared and ready to work, she assisted the productions in countless ways both on and off stage."

A cheerleader for two seasons, Samantha received the team's highest honor, the Proverbs 31 award. She earned the

Most Improved and Best Attitude awards in tennis and highest GPA awards in swimming and tennis. "I'm not that great of an athlete, but I have fun and enjoy the competition. Sports kept me in good physical condition," she smiled.

The faculty named Samantha the senior girl who is Most Likely To Succeed. Graduating in the top ten, she appreciated having motivated teachers. "The teachers made it interesting, and then learning came easily," she said. Advanced placement courses were an added benefit. "That was really nice. I definitely liked the opportunity to earn college credit," she added. She plans to study languages and cultures.

After school and sports or drama practices, Samantha often remained on campus to participate in Baptist Campus Ministry weekly meetings or Creative Ministries skit rehearsals. "I was a Christian already, but I hadn't been having a relationship with God. My OBI friends, the teachers and just being on campus so much helped my beliefs grow stronger. It's just happy here," she said.

"The more I attended OBI, the more I liked it. It was a good fit and a blessing that we got to go here." ■

OBI a 'new leaf' for Tundun



Tundun was a reliable worker and peer role model in the dorm and at her jobs.

Like many of our students, Tundun had to adjust to daily living at OBI. "In America, I had to clean up after myself. It made me much more responsible. Now, I don't depend on my mom for everything," she said.

If you didn't know she was from Nigeria, Tundun would be like any other typical teenager from a middle class American home. She comes from a hard-working, Christian family looking for the best educational opportunities for their children.

OBI's affordability opens the door of opportunity to teenagers like Tundun.

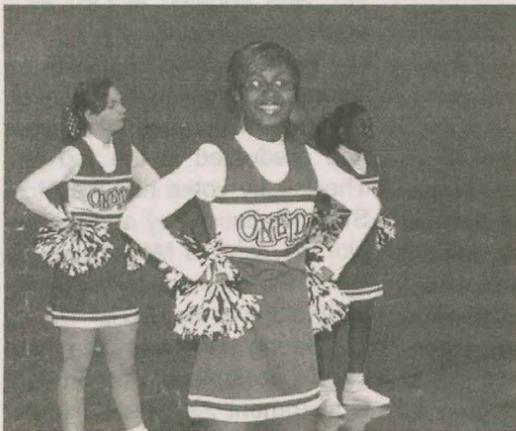
"My mom was looking for a private school for me. A friend in Nigeria attended OBI. I wanted to come here. I really wasn't doing so well in my old school. My mom knew I was smart, and she wanted to take me out of that stressful situation. Coming to OBI was a new leaf for me to start over and to get better grades. Plus, it was cheap, so that was a bonus," Tundun said. She was a sophomore when she enrolled. ■

By her senior year, Tundun was known for her responsibility and leadership in her activities which included track, volleyball, choir, cleaning crews, campus grill and dorm hall monitor. She received Outstanding Worker awards, letters in her sports and academic awards.

Tundun sang with the choir as a junior but worked as the director's assistant this year. "Tundun is a very nice young lady who is hard working, courteous, and kind," said choir director Tim Cochran.

An A student at OBI, she plans to study law at a U.S. college. ■

Melody chose OBI for an educational experience that would lead to productive life



Melody experienced a wide range of cocurriculars and jobs including cheerleading, choir, FFA and working in the campus grill.

When she attended her older sister's graduation ceremony at OBI, Melody heard the success stories being read, saw student accomplishments being honored and became very interested in having this kind of educational experience.

"I liked the school. I wanted to actually do something with my life. My sister had always talked to me about this school, and my dad liked it because they made the children work. He said that

helps them in life." Melody enrolled as a freshman from New York.

At Oneida, Melody said her new friends encouraged her to make the honor roll. "They made a big deal out of it," she recalled. She has been an honor roll student since her first OBI grade card. Extra help from teachers helped, especially in her science and math classes.

"At Oneida, you can be focused on academics. There is

[nightly] study hall, and your friends in the dorm can help you. The teachers take time to explain things to you if you don't get it. I really like that about our faculty," she said. The faculty voted her the Most Outstanding sophomore girl.

As a senior, Melody took two advanced

(Melody continued p. 3)

A day in the life of an Oneida student . . .



Most students choose to **start the day** with breakfast. Before going to school, beds must be made and dormitory rooms must be clean.

At OBI, our **academic program** has a wide range of classes from advanced placement courses...



...to math and reading help in our Tutoring Lab.



After third period each day faculty and students meet for **chapel**.

Songs, preaching and special programs keep God at the center of each day and provide a nice break.



After school it's time to check for mail and packages, make a **phone call** or go to the student bank and campus store.

Oneida Baptist Institute

(Melody continued)

placement courses plus a chemistry class. Her course load meant more homework at night and sometimes going to school early to ask teachers for help. With plans to study medicine in college, Melody noted, "If it wasn't for Oneida, I don't think I would have even graduated."

Melody was a member of the choir for two years and received perfect attendance awards and fine arts letters both years. She was selected to participate in All Festival Chorus. She was a manager for the basketball team for two years. Her senior year, she joined cheerleading and received the Rookie of the Year award plus the team's top honor, the Proverbs 31 award.

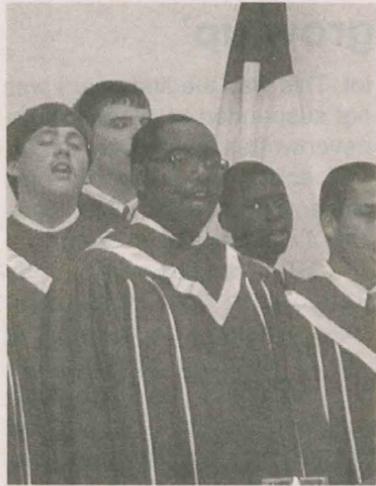
During a three-week summer work program, Melody worked on the farm. "It was fun; I liked it," she said. She joined the FFA to maintain involvement in ag-related activities plus community outreach projects.

Her main after school job has been working in the campus grill. "I liked working with Mrs. Winters, so I stayed," she explained. Grill assistant manager and English teacher Debbie Winters said, "Melody is one of the sweetest young ladies I have had the privilege to work with during my 30 years at OBI. She stands firm in her Christian faith and displays it daily."

Melody was a Christian before she enrolled at OBI. "But I wasn't really focused on God unless I needed something. Here, I learned to thank Him for things," she said. She liked attending "church" more than once a week and being around other Christians on a daily basis. She was a regular at weekly Baptist Campus Ministry meetings, Thursday night Bible study and dormitory devotions.

"Chapel every day and houseparents who relate everything to Christianity helped me get closer to God," she said. ■

Tim learned responsibility, focused on his future



Tim was a three-year member of the OBI choir.

Following in his cousin's footsteps, Tim enrolled at OBI as a sophomore. At home in Georgia, Tim's family was a little skeptical about the boys being away at boarding school together. "Frank and I were partners in crime," Tim smiled.

"When I got here it was totally different. I just did my work and followed the rules. My mom sent me here, and I paid her back by doing what I was supposed to do," he added.

The daily job requirement at OBI took Tim by surprise at first. "At home, I never had to work," he said. "It came pretty easy. I have a pretty good work ethic," he said. He enjoyed having his hard work rewarded with trust and responsibility. Tim was promoted to supervisor positions on his cleaning crews and became a hall monitor in the dorm.

Tim also joined soccer, track and basketball. He earned letters in each and a Most Improved award in track.

Tim joined the Oneida choir, which travels most Sundays. For three years, he was one of the choir's strongest male singers. He was also a member of the choir's "monologue team," performing a short monologue

describing a typical Oneida student. Tim acted in a school play his first year at Oneida.

Having grown up attending church, Tim noted that it was his Bible class at Oneida that boosted his faith walk. "It has given me a lot of insight about what the Word actually says," he said. OBI's Christian environment simply kept him pointed in the right direction. "I've changed my ways. I'm trying to go down the right path and do what's right. It's up to me to make the decision," he added.

Tim's grades showed improvement with smaller classes and one-on-one help from his teachers at Oneida. "I stayed here, because I figured I would not do as well if I went home. I would slack off and not focus on what I needed to do to graduate. I did it for myself and to make my family proud—especially my mom," Tim said.

OBI houseparent Brian

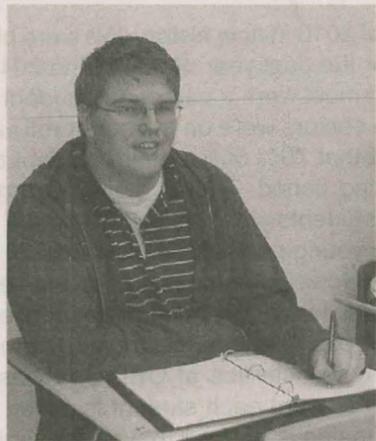
Bolduc noticed, "Tim has come a long way in just the last few months. He's grown up a lot and put aside a lot of that 'going along with the boys' attitude."

Graduating with an advanced diploma, Tim believes that being at Oneida helped to shape his goals. "If I had stayed at my old school I probably would not have focused on going to college. Now I think maybe I have an opportunity to actually get somewhere in my life," he said.

"[Being at Oneida] has been a good experience. I'll be out on my own soon, and this was getting me ready to take care of myself," he said.

Tim plans to study graphic design or business in college. ■

OBI was the best option for Burchell to achieve academic goals



Burchell found his niche on the yearbook staff.

Burchell is a day student who lives 15 minutes away from the OBI campus. He has attended OBI since the seventh grade.

"A lot of things factored into my decision to come here. First, I heard really good reports about OBI, and I didn't have to get up at 5:30 a.m. to catch a bus. My parents wanted me to get a proper education with proper foundations," he explained. "I liked it, so I stayed."

He benefited from Oneida's smaller classes which made it easier for students to get extra help. He liked attending school with teenagers from varied backgrounds. "You can learn different things from different people and make good friends with people from other places," he said.

Burchell was surprised when the faculty voted him the Most Outstanding and Most Studious eighth grader. "I thought, 'They actually give awards for

that?' It's nice that they show they care that you're doing well and excelling," he said.

Graduating in the top ten of his class, Burchell plans to begin a pre-med program in college. "I've always wanted to do something in the medical field. I want to do something constructive with my life and help people. Everyone has the option to study and succeed or not," he said. He has been on the honor roll the entire time he has attended OBI.

Burchell was a member of the yearbook staff for three years. Sponsor Michelle Barnes said, "Burchell has quietly grown into a young man while at OBI. He is not the student you see on the front lines getting all the glory, but he works hard in the background. That's his niche.

Whether setting up decorations for the Yearbook pageant or designing a detailed spread for the yearbook, Burchell gave 100%. His quiet dedication to his work won him the respect of his teachers and peers."

Opening a Bible for the first time as a student at OBI plus attending daily chapel services gave Burchell the opportunity to think about spiritual topics. "It's interesting to hear what people [chapel speakers] think about things... Why would they make a whole school around this, if there wasn't something to it?" he observed. ■

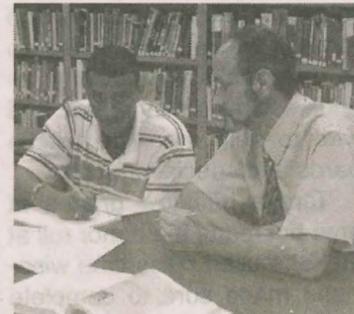
Each Oneida student must have a daily job. Many **co-curriculars** meet the requirement.

Teens who participate in the **student work**

program may do yardwork, clean classrooms, serve food in the campus grill, work on the OBI farm or clean in the dining hall and dormitories.



"Free time" is a chance for our young people to enjoy recreation in the gym. Students often have the option of attending a sports event or the computer lab.



Every student not on the academic honor roll must attend **nightly study hall**. Teachers take turns coming to study hall to be available to help students.

After evening chores it's time to climb into the bunk **bed** to get some shuteye before starting another day.



Oneida Baptist Institute

Following Christ

Unlike many Christian schools, OBI welcomes teens who do not know Jesus. At OBI they hear the gospel message daily. If we reach them for Christ, they can take the good news around the world.

OBI's funding

Approximately 9% of Oneida's funding comes from the KBC Cooperative Program. Another 35% comes from student fees. The remaining 56% comes from income from our modest investments, churches and individuals who choose to invest in the lives of young people.

A multi-faceted ministry

OBI has an 11:1 student/teacher ratio, a Tutoring Lab with a 2:1 student/teacher ratio and nightly study hall.

We have a full array of co-curricular activities and a unique student work program. Many teens find their niche in the work program.

Many OBI students are not Christians when they enroll. We share the gospel through daily chapel, Sunday worship, Bible classes and campus ministry.

More about Oneida

- OBI's average enrollment is 325.
- We have 150 faculty and staff.
- OBI has an 850-acre campus, including a 200-acre farm.
- We enroll students throughout the year.
- OBI provides affordable Christian education.

Meet some of the Class of 2010

Teresa needed a fresh start OBI helped Aron 'grow up'



Art classes gave Teresa a creative outlet and a chance to develop her talent.

Teresa came to Oneida from Maryland. "My mom and I weren't having a good relationship, and I was getting into trouble at school."

It can be difficult for parents to know the right way to handle hard situations. Teresa said she did not know she was coming to school in Kentucky until they arrived in Oneida. Having been expelled from her last school, she knew her options were limited. During the admissions process, Teresa decided, "O.K., I'll give it a chance." She was a sophomore when she enrolled.

Teresa chose to stay busy and keep her mind occupied by having at least two daily after school commitments. She played soccer and softball. In the dorm, she was a hall monitor and worked on cleaning crews.

"I liked the feeling that I was earning trust with the staff," she said. Teresa received the Outstanding Worker and Cleanest Room awards. In softball, she received a letter, the Best Attitude award and was named to the All Conference team.

One of her jobs this year was cleaning a classroom for middle school teacher Emily Kelley who said, "Teresa was such a blessing and a dedicated and thorough worker. She would do the daily tasks without any reminders. She is very artistic and loved to help me with bulletin boards and special projects."

Teresa had low grades at home but made the honor roll at OBI. She used class time wisely and made sure to complete homework. "My friends [at OBI] made me realize that education is important," she added.

Teresa and her mother enjoy an improved relationship. "We have better communication now. She showed me that she cares by calling me every day." ■

From Tennessee, Aron has attended OBI since the eighth grade. His older brother was already a student at OBI when their mother suggested that Aron enroll. "I didn't want to go at first, because of my friends and stuff, but I was having problems back home," he said.

He agreed to try Oneida for one year but he returned to his old school his freshman year and got into more trouble. He said, "Nothing was working out at home. I realized that OBI was the place I needed to be."

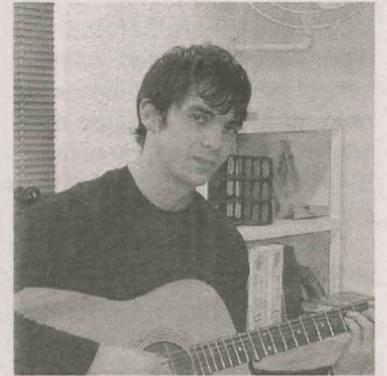
He returned to Oneida but still had trouble following rules like keeping a clean room and getting to class on time. Despite struggles in the dorm or at school, Aron thrived in daily jobs like mowing crew, dorm cleaning crews, the farm and sports. He even earned the 110% award in both soccer and baseball.

Aron said, "I've improved a

lot. This was the first year I was not suspended at all, and I was never written up for room check. OBI ended up being the best place for me after all...it basically helped me to grow up."

OBI houseparent Jady Rankin said, "One of the pleasures of being a houseparent at OBI is watching students mature. About two years ago, Aron surprised me by stepping up to take responsibility for a poor choice he had made. It was like a changing point. He stopped getting into so much trouble after that and if he did, it was minor. I've been really proud of him, especially this past year. We've had a lot of good talks."

By his senior year, Aron became a "key man" for the boys' work program supervisor. He was responsible to unlock classroom buildings for the cleaning crews and double check their work and lock up. Only respon-



Guitar class was a creative outlet in Aron's school day.

sible students are selected for this job. "Having a job keeps us busy, and I think it gives us a good work ethic," he said.

Being immersed in a Christian environment helped Aron mature in his spiritual life as he was developing discipline in other areas. A professing Christian since age six, Aron said, "I learned how to live what I believe and not just say it." ■

Friends of Oneida help students achieve success



The class of 2010 is now history. We were blessed to have those students and many others for the past year. Some of the 2010 graduates were only with us for a short time but most were a part of our student body for years. I am happy to say that 90% of the seniors were on the honor roll just before graduation. I am equally happy to report that 70% of the entire student body was on the honor roll during the same grading period. That is especially important when one considers that many of these students were making D's and F's prior to enrolling at Oneida.

Most of the young people in the class of 2010 were able to afford the modest fees we charge. However some were not and needed additional scholarship funds in order to attend. Two of our graduates enrolled in the sixth grade and were not able to pay any fees to attend. Both came from broken homes. Both were active in a wide variety of activities at OBI. One was the salutatorian for the class of 2010. While the amount each student is asked to pay is much less, the average actual cost for a student to attend Oneida is about \$16,000 per year. That means those two students benefited from scholarships worth about \$224,000 over the past seven years. If it were not for our wonderful family of friends we could not have provided those two students, and many others, with the scholarships needed to attend Oneida Baptist Institute.

The Father's Day Offering helps to provide the scholarships needed to assist all of our students but especially those from low income families. In this insert we have highlighted the accomplishments of several seniors. After reading these stories I trust you will be pleased in knowing that you helped make their successes possible. Thank you for supporting our efforts to help prepare these and many others to be successful in life. Most importantly, many students in this class have come to know Christ as their Lord and Savior while at Oneida. What a wonderful opportunity we have to mold the lives of young people while they are still sensitive to their spiritual needs.

May the Lord richly bless all who make our efforts possible, including those who give through the Father's Day Offering.

— Dr. W. F. Underwood, OBI President and class of 1963

What can YOU do to help with this ministry?

Share the good news of what's happening at OBI. Do you know of a child in grades 6-12 who could benefit from our ministry? Tell the family about Oneida Baptist Institute.

Make sure your church has received our box of Father's Day Offering materials. Offer to take charge of distributing the posters and flyers. Show our informational DVD.

Volunteer with us for a short-term missions project.

Visit our campus and bring a group from your church. We love for people to see what we're all about.

Give as God leads. Your financial gift is an investment in the lives of young people. Other donations of all sorts help us in a variety of ways.

Pray for our faculty and staff as well as for our students. We need prayer support to undergird all that we do.

Oneida: Love in action

Baptists' contributions help boarding school 'love loud'

The theme for the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Orlando, Fla., this week is "LoveLoud through the Great Commission." The theme verse is 1 John 3:18: "Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth."

SBC president Johnny Hunt has issued this pre-convention challenge to all Southern Baptists: "We've got to Love Loud! Loud love moves beyond the four walls of a church. I hope to encourage our folks to roll up their sleeves and get after it."

Among Kentucky Baptists' Great Commission service ministries that are loving loudly is Oneida Baptist Institute, a private academy for 6th through 12th graders located in Oneida.

Among the ways you and I can "love loud" beyond the four walls of our churches is by supporting the life-changing mission of OBI where president Bud Underwood, his faculty and staff quietly roll up their sleeves 24/7 as a labor of love in sharing the unconditional love of Jesus Christ with the students in their care.

That love may be expressed by a

teacher giving a struggling student extra time and help to understand the lesson; a houseparent stepping aside from his or her regular duties to listen to a student whose had a bad day; a coach encouraging a student who is not a particularly gifted athlete; and a chapel speaker daily sharing the message of God's love. The consistency of OBI's circle of love in action is extraordinary and deserves our prayerful and financial support.

I encourage you to join my wife and me in making a generous contribution to the annual Father's Day Offering this Sunday through your church. For those of you whom God is leading to make an over-and-above legacy gift—perhaps through your estate plan—to perpetuate your support of this important Great Commission love-in-action ministry, please give Laurie Valentine, our trust counsel, or me the privilege of assisting you. Call us toll free.

For more information about OBI, call President Underwood's office at (606) 847-4111.

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

Evangelical leaders call for bipartisan immigration fix

By Tom Strode

Washington—Evangelical Christian leaders said at a forum on Capitol Hill June 9 that both political parties should come together soon to enact a strategy of comprehensive immigration reform that increasingly is supported by grassroots evangelicals.

Southern Baptist ethicist Richard Land and other evangelicals called for Congress and President Obama to set aside partisanship and special interests to resolve the controversy and problems of illegal immigration.

The immigration crisis "is fanning the flames of hostility and animosity and distrust between various elements in our society, and it is time for our representatives in Congress and our president to put aside partisanship, to put aside narrow political interests and do what is best for the country," said Land, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

Both parties have failed on the issue, according to Samuel Rodriguez, president of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference.

"Democrats are willing to save the auto industry, the housing market, health care and banks but somehow do not find time or the political will to save children from being separated from their parents, securing our borders and integrating 12 million (people) into a legal status that would reconcile our communities," Rodriguez said.

While there is disagreement from some, "there is significant agreement" among evangelical and faith-based leaders for comprehensive immigration reform that se-

cures the country's borders and integrates illegal immigrants by providing "a pathway for earned, legal status and/or citizenship for those seeking" it, said Mathew Staver, chairman of the Liberty Counsel.

Among white evangelicals, there was "a disconnect between the pulpit and the pew" the last time immigration reform was attempted by Congress in 2006-07, Rodriguez told reporters and others in attendance.

Because of the leadership of the National Association of Evangelicals and others, as well as the "just integration strategy" backed by Land and Staver, "I think we're acquiring an incredible amount of support now from those in the pews," Rodriguez indicated.

Radio hosts who oppose comprehensive reform still influence evangelicals, "but I think that number is continuing to diminish in light of very prominent, very respectable leaders rising up in support of immigration reform," he added.

No one on the eight-member panel mentioned Arizona's law that has put immigration reform in the spotlight since it was enacted in April. The measure requires police to check with the federal government on a person's status if they suspect during a stop, detention or arrest that he or she might be in the country illegally. Critics claim the law legalizes racial profiling and have called for a variety of boycotts of the state.

Meanwhile, no legislation to reform immigration is moving in Congress. Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., is seeking support for a proposal he has yet to introduce, and Staver referred last week to a version in the House of Representatives. (BP)

Majority find homosexuality morally OK for first time, poll shows

Washington—A slight majority of Americans view gay or lesbian relations as morally acceptable, a first since Gallup pollsters started asking about the issue in 2001.

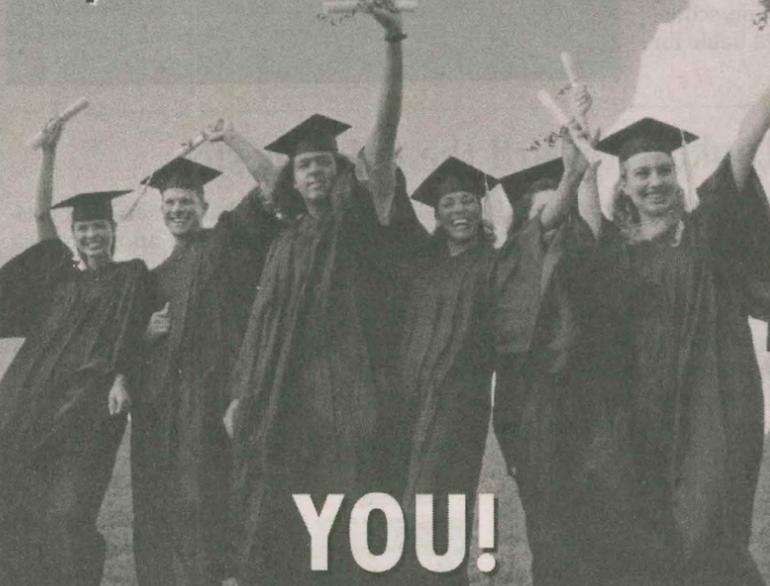
In a recent survey of 16 different behaviors or social practices, pollsters found that 52 percent of Americans accept gay or lesbian relations, a steady increase since a form of the question was introduced nine years ago. The percentage of Americans who find it "morally wrong" dipped to its lowest point: 43 percent.

Sixty percent of Democrats and independents accept of gay or lesbian relations, compared to 35 percent of Republicans.

Americans were tied, at 46 percent, regarding the morality of doctor-assisted suicide—a stark contrast to the 77 percent who believe suicide is morally wrong.

Sending a strong message, only 6 percent of respondents said marital infidelity is morally acceptable. (RNS)

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Graduating high school is a major accomplishment that takes years of dedication, hard work and support. The challenge is even greater for children who have been victims of abuse or neglect in their own homes.

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NATIONAL NOTES

Connecticut school board to appeal grad ruling—

A Connecticut school board voted June 8 to appeal a federal judge's ruling that holding high school graduation ceremonies at a local church is unconstitutional, reversing a vote a week earlier to lay the matter to rest. The vote to appeal came at the request of a board member who said she wanted to make sure the school district had considered all options before dropping the issue. The American Center for Law and Justice, which is representing the school district, said it would ask the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New York to hear an expedited appeal. The lawsuit claims that holding graduations in a church sanctuary filled with religious symbols and literature while other secular venues are available endorses religion in a way prohibited by the First Amendment.

Gun bill dies (again) in Louisiana—

A law that would have allowed concealed weapons in houses of worship died in the Louisiana State Senate June 8. A Senate judiciary committee killed the bill sponsored by Rep. Henry Burns, a Republican. The bill is dead for the session unless Burns can find a way to attach it to one of several bills still alive dealing with the state's concealed weapons laws, a maneuver he said he is exploring. Earlier this spring, the Louisiana House rejected, then approved the gun bill. The bill would have authorized the leader of a church, synagogue, mosque or other house of worship to designate the individuals who are qualified to carry the weapons and tell parishioners about the plan either from the pulpit or in a bulletin

or newsletter. Burns said six other states have similar laws.

1 in 8 Americans receive food stamps—

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announcing in May that nearly 40 million Americans, nearly one in eight, are receiving food stamps. Reuters reported that enrollment has set a record each month since reaching 31.78 million in December 2008, and the USDA estimates that enrollment will average 40.5 million people this fiscal year, which ends in September, at a cost of nearly \$60 billion. Nationally syndicated columnist Mona Charen pointed out that more than half of all American infants are on the WIC (Women, Infants and Children) nutrition program, and 62 percent of American schoolchildren who eat school lunches receive them for free or a reduced-price.

Mississippi opts out of health care coverage—

Mississippi has become the third state to opt out of a provision in the new federal health care law that would require coverage for abortion in "insurance exchanges." "Mississippi continues to be the safest place to be an unborn child in America today," Gov. Haley Barbour said when he signed the bill May 24. The law allows states to opt out of and bar insurance plans that cover abortions from participating in their exchanges. Mississippi, which Americans United for Life has ranked as the fifth most pro-life state in the country, joined Arizona and Tennessee in barring the use of federal funds for insurance plans that cover abortions.

Rosary beads become popular gang tool, but not often used for prayer

By Daniel Burke

Schenectady, N.Y.—When seventh-grader Raymond Hosier was suspended for wearing rosary beads to school late last month, civil-rights groups rushed to his defense.

"Without question, the continuing action taken by the school district in punishing Raymond for wearing a rosary to school violates the constitutional rights of our client," argued Jay Sekulow of the American Center for Law and Justice.

After Sekulow filed a lawsuit, a federal judge issued a temporary restraining order June 1, telling Oneida Middle School and the school district in Schenectady, N.Y., to allow Hosier, 13, to wear the rosary to class.

Like school principals and superintendents in other states, including Texas, California, Oregon and Virginia, Oneida officials say the no-rosary beads rule is necessary to "protect students from violence and gangs."

They have a point, according to gang experts. After schools began banning gang-related bandanas, clothing and hairstyles about a decade ago, students have turned to rosaries as a subtle and often First Amendment-protected way to signal gang allegiance.

"With the introduction of strict dress codes and the use of uniforms in the school systems, these type of indicators seem to be favored by the gangsters," the San Antonio Police Department says in a gang-awareness handbook.

Gangsters not only wear certain colors—reds for Bloods, blues for Crips, for example—they also arrange the beads to signal their rank in the gang and teach young members to plead religious freedom if they're hauled into the principal's office, said Jared Lewis, a former police officer in California who worked in public schools.

"You are often dealing with gang members who have no inkling or cares about the religious significance of the rosary beads," said Lewis, who now runs Know Gangs, a training group for law enforcement officials. "They are just trying to skirt around school rules under the guise of a religious symbol."

No one is sure which gang started the trend of wearing

rosaries, said Robert Walker, a former head of the gang identification unit for the South Carolina Department of Corrections. "One gang started it—who it was, nobody knows. Another gang saw it and thought it was cool and started using it, too," Walker said. "These things just evolve."

Their adornment by violent gangs is an ironic twist for beads whose use in prayer is praised by Christians as a means to access contemplative calm.

In Christian parlance, the "Rosary" refers to a sequence of prayers and meditations on the life of Jesus, though the word often is used outside the church to refer to the circlet of beads as well.

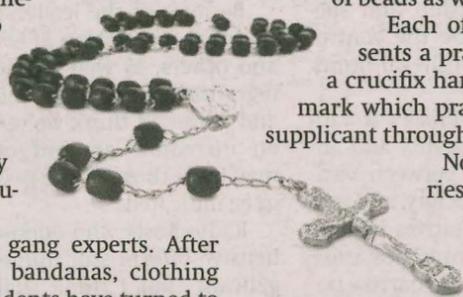
Each of the beads (usually 59 or 155) represents a prayer and is grouped in sets of 10 with a crucifix hanging from a pendant. The beads help mark which prayers have been recited and guide the supplicant through the life of Jesus.

Now cherished by many Christians, rosaries fell out of favor among Protestants because the Roman Catholic Church used them to promote indulgences—papal dispensation from time in purgatory. After the Reformation, the beads became a defiant emblem for Catholic monks and nuns to wear outside their habits and a tactile tool for missionaries to pass on the faith—particularly in Latin America.

Now, Latino gangsters are the most frequent—and creative—wearers of rosaries, Lewis noted. The Latin Kings, for example, use colors to signal members' rank in the hierarchy—five black and five gold beads for members; two gold beads for top dogs. Assassins wear all black.

The Netas, an East Coast gang founded in Puerto Rico, wear 78 red, white and blue beads to symbolize the 78 towns in Puerto Rico. Prospective members wear all white beads until they join the gang.

Lewis said he sympathizes with principals who are torn between respecting religious rights and preventing gang wars in their schools. "We live in a country where, obviously, people should be able to do and say what they want," he said. "At the same time, if something happens on school grounds, the school principal is going to be held liable for not keeping students safe." (RNS)



'Charlie Brown's All-Stars'

OBI houseparent shares frustrations, joys of summer work with students

By Lisa Rhone, OBI houseparent

I often have thought I needed a cattle prod to get work accomplished during our summer work program. For the past four years I have led students in the girls' dormitory in getting the dorm ready for the school year. This involves scrubbing walls, painting, stripping/waxing floors and a myriad of small, tedious tasks.

There's much work to do in a three-week period and often it's difficult to get students motivated. To get them to work quickly would be an even greater task. Working quickly and efficiently is nearly impossible.

There always are a few students who work extremely hard, but more often we get students who move slowly and work half-heartedly. They make careless mistakes and deliberately do things that cause more work for everyone (like putting paint handprints in random places). They are easily distracted.

To get professional-level (or even thoroughly done) work is a seemingly insurmountable challenge when given the group of "Charlie Brown's All-Stars" I often work with. "It would be so much easier to get the dorm ready if the students weren't here," is the very thought that has run through my mind so often over the past four years. But if the students weren't here for this, we would miss the point.

I love the summer work program—though you may wonder why. Every year, a couple of weeks before school ends, the wheels of my mind start rolling and my excitement builds. It's not because I have a love for physical work; moving fur-

niture, taking beds apart and putting them back together is not my idea of a great time. And it's not because I'm uptight around dirt; I don't even notice the inch of dust on top of the cupboards until someone points it out. But I have found that work, together with building relationships and prayer, is an awesome opportunity to sow into the lives of students.

We begin the mornings with Scripture and prayer, and then we talk about our goals for the day. I love the opportunity to genuinely encourage the students when they're doing a good job; to gently challenge them to do better; and to help them see that, yes, we will reach our goals. It's wonderful to see the look on their faces and hear the confidence in their voices when they learn to do something new. And I wonder how what they learn will impact their lives (even when they leave trash lying in the rooms we just worked so hard to clean).

So, I'll take my group of "Charlie Brown's All Stars" and continue to work with them. Eventually the work surprisingly gets done and most students leave with a positive attitude about the work program. After all, the point isn't just to get the dorm ready; it is the growth of the students. And in the work program we get that through learning to work and through inviting the Lord, every day, to help us.

If I can see any small amount of progress in attitude or action, I'm satisfied. In fact, I think I'm satisfied anyway. I believe in what we do here. I believe in the impact it can make in the lives of the students, and I'm blessed to be a part of it.

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

Looking toward the fall semester

School's summer break still is a busy time for some of us

It's a little bit slower pace around campus during the summer months—for the students, that is. Although classes are out, the administrative offices still are busy looking toward the fall semester recruiting and admitting new students. We are excited about the upcoming fall semester and the anticipated growth in enrollment.

This growth is through our new online format centered on bivocational ministers not only in Kentucky, but throughout the Southern Baptist Convention. There literally are thousands of bivocational ministers all across the SBC faithfully serving the Lord and their congregations. We believe that many of these ministers want to obtain an accredited undergraduate ministry degree without having to leave their ministry fields.

That's where Clear Creek comes in. We have a heart for bivocational ministers. We feel the Lord has called us to provide an opportunity for these ministers to acquire a fully accredited degree through the online format which enables them to continue the ministries with which they currently are involved. There is no required on-campus time and we

have classes that run on both a 16-week semester and an eight-week format.

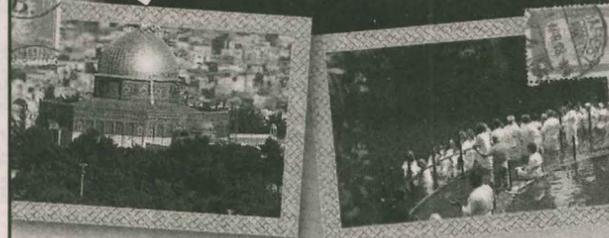
Right now we even are offering an exclusive deal for every new student we admit. We are offering the first class for every new student for \$150. We hope this will encourage many who would like to get started with their studies.

You may be a bivocational minister reading this article right now. You may be a reader who knows a bivocational minister who needs to take advantage of this ministry-training opportunity. Let me encourage you to contact our Director of Distance Education Jay Barnett at jbarnett@cbbc.edu, or call him toll free at (866) 340-3196 and allow him to share with you how we can help you get started with your studies.

In the next few weeks, I will be sharing with you more specific information about our online program. Thank you for your support that enables us to provide ministry training in multiple ways to those called of God to Christian service.

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.cbbc.edu; e-mail: dfox@cbbc.edu

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KBC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June

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.

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

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **BARDSTOWN**—Parkway Church recently called **James Carroll** as pastor.
 ■ **EDDYVILLE**—**John Baker** recently resigned as pastor of New Bethel Church.
 ■ **FREDONIA**—Walnut Grove Church recently ordained minister of youth **Danny Sherrill** to the gospel ministry. **Rich Gardner** is pastor.
 ■ **KEVIL**—**Marion Cornett** recently resigned as pastor of Providence Church.
 ■ **LONDON**—Calvary Church recently ordained **Earl Philpot** as a deacon. **Harlan Avera** is pastor.

Victory Church recently ordained youth pastor **David Daniels** to the gospel ministry June 6. **Brian Bond**

is pastor.

■ **MURRAY**—First Church recently called **Jordan Richmond** as music and worship pastor. **Sam Rainer** is pastor.

■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—University of the Cumberland's football team will host a youth football day camp June 16-18 for children in first through 12th grades. For more information, call (606) 539-4389 or visit www.UCumberland.edu/Athletics.

University of the Cumberland's swim team will host the 2010 Swim America camp June 21-July 1. For more information, call (606) 539-4389 or visit www.UCumberland.edu/Athletics.

Players, fans not the only ones ready for World Cup 2010 in South Africa

By Charles Braddix
 International Mission Board

Johannesburg, South Africa—What's been called the world's greatest sporting event—the 2010 FIFA World Cup—kicked off last weekend in South Africa.

The first World Cup soccer tournament on the African continent is expected to draw a cumulative global television audience of 26 billion-plus viewers during the month-long tournament, encompassing 64 games in 10 stadiums throughout the country.

In the opening match, the host team, South Africa's Bafana Bafana squared off with Mexico's El Tri in Johannesburg's Soccer City stadium, built to resemble the traditional African pot called the calabash.

Team USA hit the ground May 31, with captain Carlos Bocanegra commenting, "For the players it's been a long time thinking all the way through qualifying, and now it's finally here—we're in South Africa."

Team USA's first match was against soccer powerhouse England June 12, followed by games against Slovenia and Algeria.

"It's going to be a great World Cup," U.S. head coach Bob Bradley said. "It's a tremendous opportunity for us."

FIFA reports that American fans have purchased more tickets than any other country—between 130,000 and 160,000 tickets, more than twice the sales to English and German fans combined.

More than the hardcore fans, however, are gear-

ing up for the World Cup. Those involved in Christian ministry plan to take advantage of an event that happens only once every four years somewhere in the world.

"The world is coming to South Africa," said International Mission Board missionary Wade Coker, a mission strategy leader in Southern Africa. "There is such a passion for the sport that, whenever the World Cup takes place every four years, there is a lot of focus on it. It's on the world stage. We want to tap into the passion they have for that with the passion we have for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Plans are to share the gospel with the hundreds of thousands of fans who will be attending the games, some from countries that have no missionary presence. In addition, efforts will be made to use the event as an avenue to evangelize and plant churches in some of South Africa's major urban centers.

"One of the joys for us here is that people will see South Africa and want to pray for it," said IMB missionary Kurt Holiday, a strategy leader for the urban areas of South Africa and Namibia. "There will be a hunger because of what they see and they will want to come and experience it."

Volunteer teams and prayer support are essential for ministry, Holiday said. "We will have the ability to use soccer to get into areas where it is normally not easy to get into, to be welcomed and have a platform," he noted.

For prayer resources and daily news about World Cup events, visit www.WorldSoccerJourneys.org. (BP)



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SEEKING: Part-time children's director for Cedar Creek Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky. Please mail resumé to Chuck Henderson, 7709 Bardstown Road, 40291; or call (502) 239-2129 for more details. Deadline for submission: July 1.

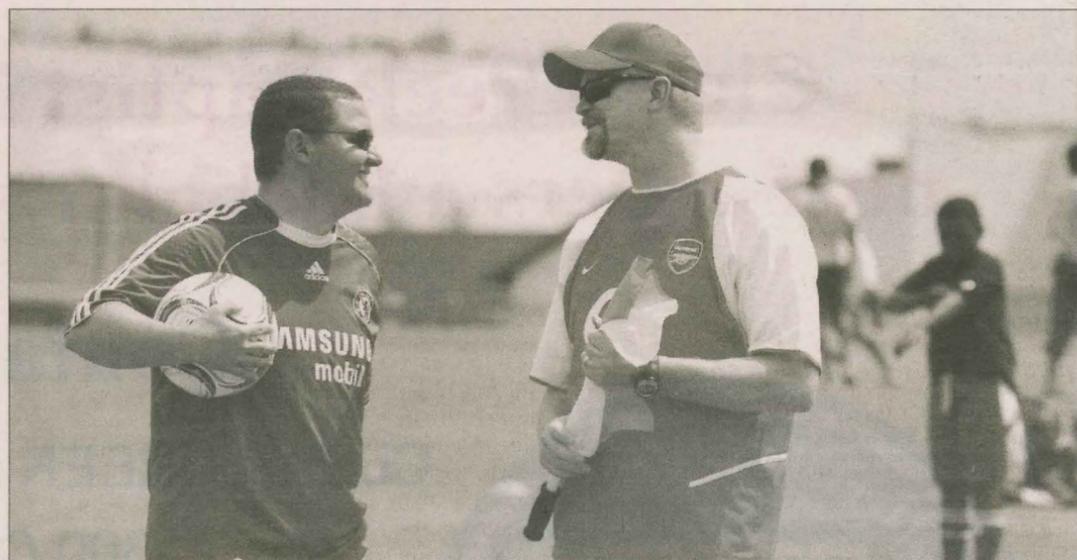
SEEKING: Part-time minister of music who will be responsible for planning weekly worship services, working with adult choir and all instrumentalists. For more information, contact Bardwell Baptist Church at (270) 628-3645; or e-mail bbcpastor1@windstream.net.

SEEKING: Full-time minister to students to serve alongside four full-time ministers at First Baptist Church, Tullahoma, Tenn., a conservative Southern Baptist church. Minister will focus on middle school, high school and college students. Contact Pastor Herb Hester at 108 East Grundy St., Tullahoma, TN 37388; or hester.herb@fbc.tullahoma.org.

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. Submit resumé to Mrs. Jolene Howell, corporation secretary, 408 North Crestwood Drive, Paris, TN 38242; or e-mail to fhowell@bellsouth.net.

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, Attn: Music Search Team.

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FEVER PITCH International Mission Board missionaries Brad Siedschlag (left) and Kurt Holiday enjoy a brief moment while working with school kids at a Soweto soccer camp. Holiday, an urban strategist, plans to have a church planted in the neighborhood sometime during the month-long World Cup tournament in South Africa.

Brazilians sharing gospel at World Cup

Johannesburg, South Africa—Brazilian Baptists are sharing a Christian witness at the FIFA World Cup in Johannesburg, South Africa. A couple hundred Brazilian volunteers working with the 2010 African Connection Project are conducting outreach activities among soccer enthusiasts at the tournament.

The Brazilian Baptist Convention's World Mission Board has organized the project as part of its volunteer program to send Brazilians overseas on short-term mission trips.

Brazilian Baptist pastor Marcos Grava, coordinator of the initiative, noted, "The 2010 African Connection Project is one of the biggest volunteer projects in the history of the missionary church in Brazil."

The goal is to bless the people of South Africa with the gospel message, Grava said. "We ask prayers for local security, volunteers' security and many fruits among the South Africans and tourists," he said.

Some of the planned outreach includes praying and doing personal evangelism in front of

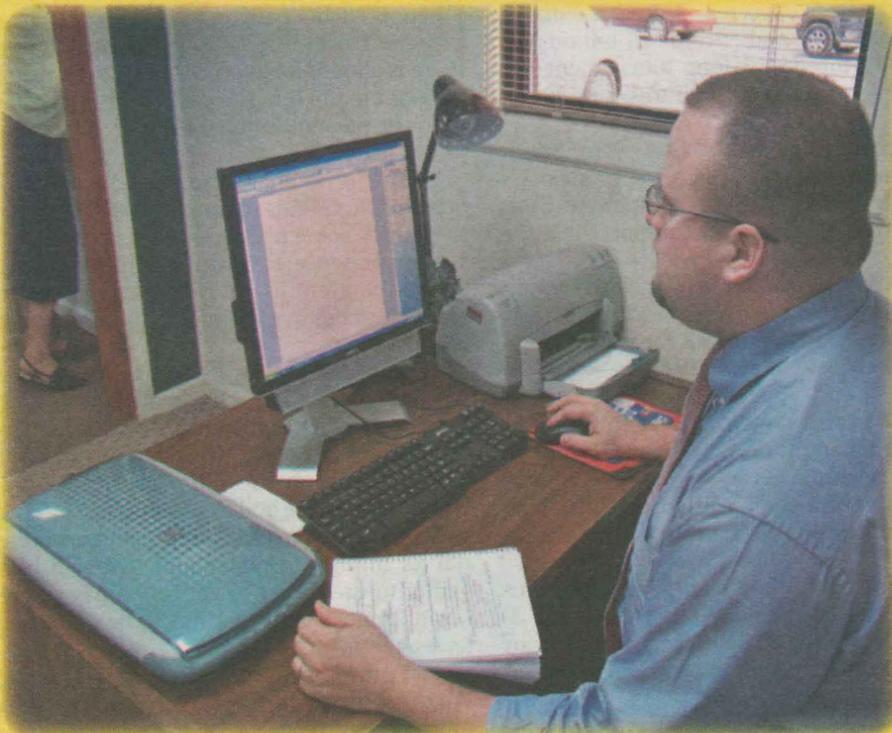
stadiums, conducting arts and sports clinics with spectators, and providing a health clinic for poor communities in Johannesburg.

Grava said he is particularly interested in the opportunity to reach out to players from countries that traditionally are closed to the gospel, along with supporters of those teams.

Grava said he also hopes to prepare a number of Brazilian players to present the gospel to other countries' players on the field when their teams compete against each other. Jorge "Jorginho" Oliveira, assistant coach for the Brazilian team, knows about and supports the outreach, Grava explained. Oliveira is president of Atletas de Cristo, one of the Christian organizations supporting the African Connection Project.

"We have people from different backgrounds and professions," Grava said. "We have different skills and gifts in this group." Ten evangelical denominations are represented among the volunteers, many of whom speak English and Spanish, but some also speak French, Arabic or Korean. (BP)

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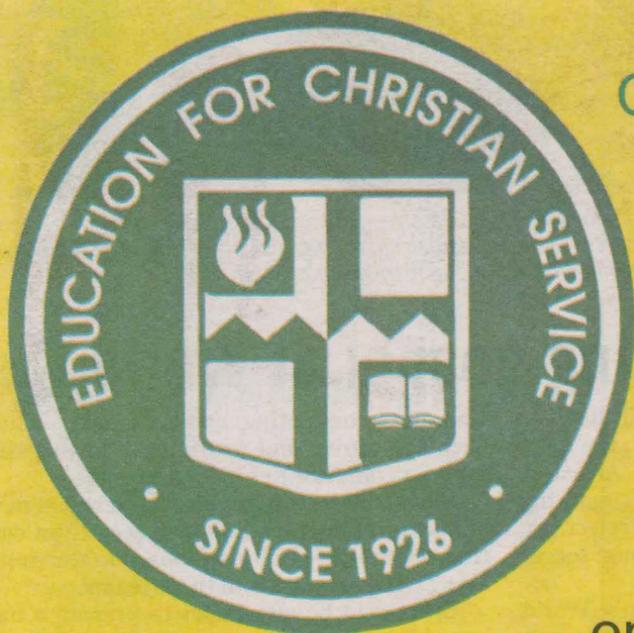
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