

Shine  
like  
stars  
in the  
world  
Philippians 2:15

# WESTERN Recorder

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## 2010 SBC OVERVIEW

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## History-Making Vote?



Southern Baptist Convention President Johnny Hunt looks out over more than 11,000 messengers to last week's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Orlando, Fla. Via uplifted ballot, messengers overwhelmingly voted to adopt the recommendations of the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force, a major emphasis of Hunt's presidency. (Photo by Matt Miller/BP)

### Southern Baptists look to future, overwhelmingly approve GCR report

Orlando, Fla.—At many Southern Baptists feel was a gathering that will long be remembered, messengers to last week's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting cast their votes to move ahead with a Great Commission Resurgence.

One year after messengers approved Johnny Hunt's push for the formation of a Great Commission Resurgence Task Force, Southern Baptists overwhelmingly adopted the group's seven recommendations.

An estimated 75 to 80 percent of the more than 11,000 SBC messengers—670 of whom came from Kentucky—voted for the task force's report.

Discussion from the floor on the GCR recommendations lasted two hours, in which only one amendment was passed. That amendment added stronger language affirming Southern Baptists' Cooperative Program as "the most effective means of mobilizing our churches and extending our outreach."

Messengers were introduced to the next SBC Executive Committee president, Frank Page. The former South

Carolina pastor will step into the shoes of outgoing president, Morris Chapman, who will retire Sept. 30.

Despite receiving less than 60 percent of the vote from the members of the Executive Committee, Page, who has been vice president of evangelization at the North American Mission Board since last October, gratefully accepted the role. "I do so with a great sense of calling and destiny, my awareness that God has a great future for Southern Baptists," he said.

Georgia pastor Bryant Wright was elected president of the SBC, defeating Florida pastor Ted Traylor in a run-off vote. Bryant won the final vote with 4,225 ballots cast (55.11 percent) to Traylor's 3,371 (43.97 percent).

Wright, pastor of Johnson Ferry Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga., beat out a presidential field of Traylor, pastor of Olive Baptist Church in Pensacola, Fla., Jimmy Jackson, pastor of Whitesburg Baptist Church in Huntsville, Ala., and Leo Endel, executive director of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention.

Complete SBC coverage begins on page 6.

## Mackey, mission board leaders discuss missions priorities

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, June 23



**Q AND A** Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Bill Mackey answers a question during a roundtable discussion hosted by the North American Mission Board at its exhibit at last week's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Orlando, Fla. Flanking Mackey are NAMB interim president Richard Harris (left) and International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin. (Photo by Drew Nichter)

By Mickey Noah  
North American Mission Board

Orlando, Fla.—Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Bill Mackey joined International Mission Board president Jerry Rankin and interim North American Mission Board president Richard Harris for a brief roundtable discussion on future trends in missions during last week's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Orlando, Fla.

The roundtable was one of four hosted by NAMB at its exhibit at the convention. Other discussions included "Reaching Cities in North America," "Church Planting in the 21st Century" and "Reaching People Groups in North America."

Mackey said reaching the increasing numbers of internationals settling in Kentucky is an issue challenging the KBC.

"We are seeing a great influx of Hispanics, a tripling to 300,000 since 2000," he noted. "We're trying to respond to the opportunities in their neighborhoods."

"We're working with journeymen who are coming out of seminary who are experienced with working with people groups throughout the world," Mackey added. "We need them to address the people groups moving into Kentucky. For example, we have seven dialects spoken by Indians in Louisville."

Rankin agreed that "the world is coming to us. You no longer have to go overseas to do foreign missions and reach unreached people groups."

"All of us recognize that it won't be the state convention, IMB or NAMB that reaches these people. See Mackey, Rankin ... Page 2

# Messengers represent Kentucky in Orlando

Orlando, Fla.—Kentucky Baptists had the sixth most messengers of any state convention represented at last week's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Orlando, Fla.

Shortly after last week's convention, SBC officials released an unofficial messenger count of 11,070, the highest total since the 2006 annual meeting in Greensboro, N.C.—670 of those were Kentucky Baptists.

Not surprisingly, Florida had the most messengers represented with 1,886. Georgia Baptists were a distant second with 1,266 participants. Rounding out the top five states were Ala-

bama, 869, Tennessee, 868, and North Carolina, 829.

This year's messenger count, although still unofficial, far surpassed that of the 2009 SBC annual meeting in Louisville, which drew only 8,790 Southern Baptists.

That likely was due to the Great Commission Resurgence vote, as well as a family-friendly site like Orlando, Fla., said Jim Wells, SBC registration secretary.

Official totals for this year's annual meeting will be available by the end of June, Wells said.

Compiled from reporting by Baptist Press



**REPRESENTING THE BLUEGRASS** Unofficial numbers from last week's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Orlando, Fla., showed more than 11,000 messengers—670 of whom came from Kentucky. ■Above: Ed Amundson, pastor of High Street Baptist Church in Somerset, helps Brian Parker, a messenger from Vicksburg, Miss., navigate the messenger check-in process. Amundson served as a member of the Credentials Committee during the annual meeting. ■Below: John Franklin (left), pastor of Post Oak Baptist Church in Russellville, and his wife, Kathy, check out an International Mission Board website with the help of IMB trustee Andy Johnson, an associate pastor at Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Washington. The Franklins visited the IMB exhibit to get information on adopting an unreached people group for their church. (Photos by Drew Nichter)



**BUSINESS AND WORSHIP** ■Above: Deborah and James Wells, messengers from Bethany Baptist Church in Louisville, vote during the Tuesday afternoon session of last week's Southern Baptist Convention in Orlando, Fla. (Photo by Matt Miller/BP) ■Right: Michael Peed of Buffalo Lick Baptist Church in Cadiz raises his hand in worship during a Centrifuge morning worship session June 15.



## Prather leaving WR staff to join KBC media team

Louisville—Dannah Prather, the Western Recorder's partnerships editor, has announced her resignation effective July 1 to accept a position as marketing and media relations associate for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Prather, who has been with the Western Recorder since 2004, has been in Baptist communications ministries for 16 years. She previously served as associate director of communications with the then-Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children (now Sunrise Children's Services) and as communications and grants coordinator for Illinois Baptist Children's Home and Family Services.

In her role with the Western Recorder, Prather coordinates the publication of Baptist newspapers from several network state conventions. They include Colorado, Hawaii Pacific, Iowa, Minnesota-Wisconsin, Pennsylvania/South Jersey and Wyoming.

Prather also has been a frequent contributor to the Western Recorder, winning several awards from Baptist Communicators Association, including first place in 2010 for her feature story on racial diversity at a Louisville church.

"Dannah has been invaluable as our partnerships editions editor, assisting state conventions in pioneer-work areas in producing quality newspapers for their constituents," Western Recorder Editor Todd Deaton said.

"I've really enjoyed my time at the Western Recorder," Prather said. "It is a privilege to work with fellow believers and to write stories about the diverse work of Kentucky Baptists."

Prather will replace Kristie Randolph at the KBC's communications department, who left June 1 following the birth of her first child. She and her husband, John, are leaving Kentucky to lead a church plant in North Carolina.

"We've very pleased that Dannah is going to be joining us in the communications department," KBC Communications Director Robert Reeves said. "I know she will be a tremendous asset as we share the story of how god is at work here in Kentucky, our nation and around the world."

A Kentucky native, Prather is a graduate of Murray State University and has worked for local newspapers in Hodgenville, Campbellsville and Elizabethtown. She is a member of Highview Baptist Church in Louisville.



Dannah Prather

## Mackey, Rankin, Harris discuss missions future

Continued from page 1

people groups. It will have to be a grassroots movement of Christians witnessing anywhere, everywhere to anyone," Rankin emphasized. "IMB's role would be to mobilize, train and equip these grassroots Christians, churches and associations to reach the peoples coming to their communities."

NAMB's Harris said, "You have to identify these folks and find them: where are they and what are their interests? What is their heart language? What are their needs?"

"One area we need to do more in is on university campuses," Harris stressed. "We have to get more career, MSC and summer semester missionaries on campus—to get in there and engage students with campus ministries and try to reach them. They're the ones going into leadership positions. The college campus is a great opportunity."

The three men also discussed the advent of "participatory missions"—whereby more of today's Southern Baptists want to take a hands-on approach to missions, rather than leaving it just to missionaries.

"There's a massive challenge of reaching billions of people overseas," Rankin noted. "We'll never have enough missionaries to reach them all. But if we could mobilize the 16 million Southern Baptists and 45,000 churches to be strategically involved, ... God has raised up the necessary resources to fulfill the Great Commission."

To listen to this podcast or any of the other roundtable discussions, visit [www.NAMB.net/Orlando2010](http://www.NAMB.net/Orlando2010).



# Kentucky Changers

## Helping the community and changing lives

Story and photos by *Katie Jagers*

The name Kentucky Changers was appropriate for a group of 284 students who gathered in Bullitt County last week to serve throughout the area in at least 21 different projects. Students from 15 churches in Kentucky, Ohio and Virginia gathered for the 17th annual event to make a change in the community.

The Changers did everything from roofing, to installing windows, to painting the exteriors of homes. The completed work made a difference in the lives of homeowners who otherwise could not afford to have the projects done.

Patsy and Barbara O'Daniel applied for help from Kentucky Changers to paint the exterior of their home and trim shrubs. According to Barbara, the students accomplished a great amount of work in a small period of time, painting the entire house in just one weekend.

While the homeowners' lives were changed, the students who did the work also were greatly impacted.

"This camp is about more than just working on a house. Students shared their faith with homeowners and made an impact for Christ in the neighborhoods," said Joe Ball, project coordinator for last week's project and youth consultant with the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Participant Heather Shaner said the worship services each night were powerful. "It was great to worship as a group after working during the day," she said.

Shaner participated in Kentucky Changers after witnessing the change it made in her brother's life the previous year. "God changed him, and I wanted to be a part of it, too," she said. "It was great to be able to serve and learn something new."

Shaner worked with college sophomore Nancy Cardwell installing borders around the windows of a home so the siding could be replaced. Cardwell said she bonded with her fellow group members. "There are all types of personalities represented here," she said. "I've gotten to know a lot of people I want to keep in touch with."

The students had to work hard prior to

the camp as well as during the week. Each church group completed study sessions and projects in their own communities in preparation for the weeklong camp. The experiences helped the students bond.

Each night, the students stayed at Zoneton Middle School in Shepherdsville, sharing floor space and making memories, 13-year-old Macy Thompson said.

"One of my friends was rolling around in her chair acting like Superman," she said. "We had a lot of fun."

Fun memories were accompanied by life-changing experiences for some of the students.

Cody Lockhart, a 16 year old from Silver Creek Baptist Church in Berea, had the opportunity to share his faith with fellow members of Kentucky Changers by leading devotionals during lunch breaks throughout the week. He began by referencing Matthew 7:21-23, explaining that a true Christian must follow the will of the Lord. "I joined Kentucky Changers to help people, but I also wanted to make sure everyone I encountered was saved."

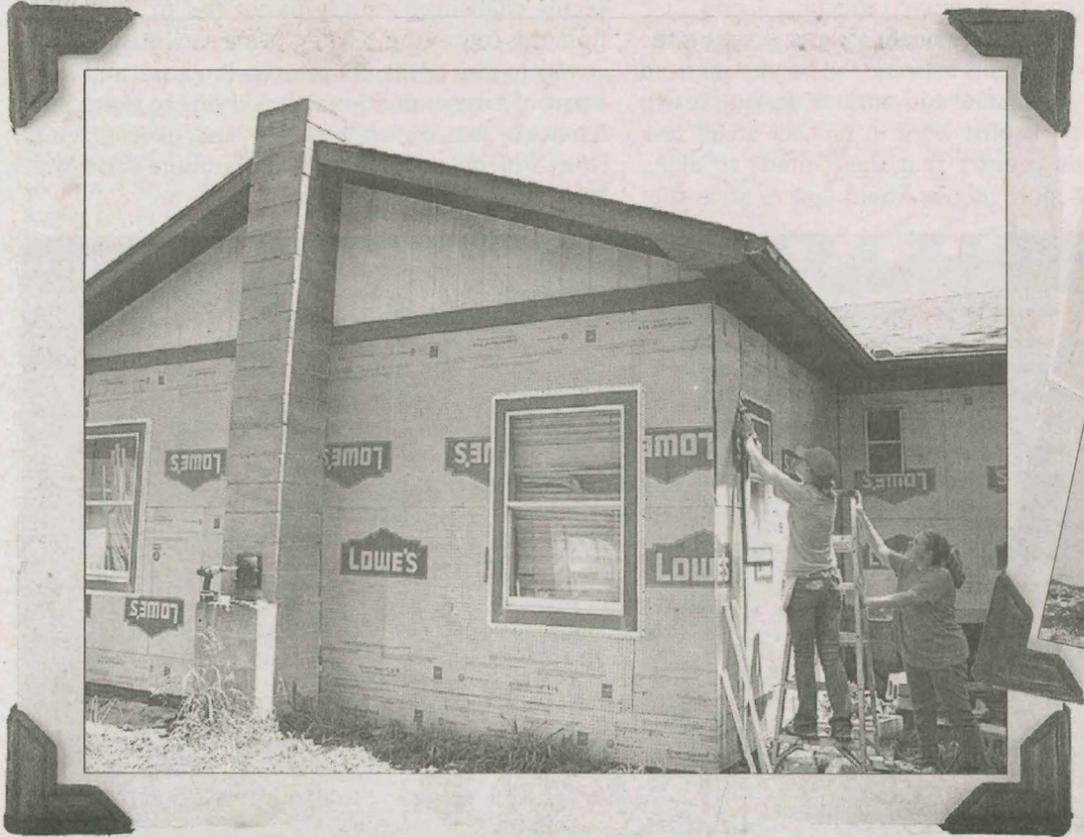
Lockhart's fellow group member Lucas Gordon said he was affected by the support and prayer of everyone involved.

"When I came here I had been thinking about becoming a Christian for a while," the 17 year old said. "My youth minister and other members of my church had been praying for me for a long time."

During the nightly worship service, Gordon heard the song "Holy, Holy, Holy" and decided he wanted to accept Christ. "I just made up my mind right then" to become a Christian, he said.

"We all bonded and became close through my decision and through working together daily," Gordon said. "After this experience, I'm moving forward with a fresh start"—as will so many other Kentucky Changers participants.

This week, Kentucky Changers is working in Princeton and will be doing construction work and sharing the gospel at homes in Crittenden Baptist Association July 3-10. *Katie Jagers is a rising senior at South Oldham High School in Crestwood and the granddaughter of former KBC president Bill Jagers.*



## Report from Orlando

I want to share some words of encouragement from Orlando, especially for those who could not attend the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting.

As you know by now, the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force's report passed by about a 70 percent vote on a show of ballots. The vote came after 90 minutes of discussion and motions to amend or postpone the vote for more study. The GCRTF report includes seven recommendations that will be implemented by the SBC boards and the SBC Executive Committee over time.

## Partners in the Mission



By Bill Mackey

The task force was gracious in accommodating wording by messengers to amend the report. The most significant change was to indicate that designated giving will be a supplement to, and not a substitution for, Cooperative Program giving.

The gracious way this was handled helped to change the atmosphere on the convention floor from what appeared to be a 50/50 division on the amendment to the place where most messengers were comfortable enough to vote for the report. The language in the report strongly states the priority of Cooperative Program giving.

It was apparent that much prayer had preceded the convention. During the debate a messenger requested that we pause for prayer for God's will to be done and to move us past the division.

I believe Southern Baptists have a grand opportunity to experience a true renewed focus on the Great Commission. If we continue to pray and seek God with all our hearts as we did during and leading up to the GCRTF report and continue to respect and work with one another under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, I am confident that God will permit us to experience a Great Commission Resurgence.

One surprise for me at the convention was that messengers voted strongly for Bryant Wright for president of the SBC in a runoff vote with Ted Traylor who had served on the task force.

I am encouraged that Frank Page was elected president of the SBC Executive Committee. Page understands and supports the work of state conventions and the value of the Cooperative Program. I am confident that he will work very closely with state conventions in promoting the Cooperative Program and stewardship development.

Much of the conversation at the convention focused on the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force report and the Cooperative Program. But I think most messengers believe that the North American Mission Board will work with new-work state conventions to focus on church planting and evangelism.

Please continue to pray for the selection of the top leaders at NAMB and the International Mission Board. Also, continue to pray for the Kentucky Baptist Convention's own Great Commission Task Force.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

## SBC takes 'fresh look' at nation's lostness

Southern Baptists are a Great Commission people—that much is evident even without taking a vote. Still, it has been healthy for us to take a "fresh look" at the lostness of our nation and world through the eyes of our Lord.

"It has caused us to say, 'What can we do to make the most impact with the short amount of time that we believe that we have?'" task force member Ken Whitten of Florida so eloquently assessed following the adoption of the Great Commission Resurgence report. "The great thing about Southern Baptists is this: We learned a long time ago that we don't have to see eye to eye to walk hand in hand," he continued. "This was not Southern Baptists voting against Southern Baptists, and this was not Southern Baptists voting against the Great Commission. Southern Baptists passed that in their hearts a long, long time ago."

Yet, passionate debate swirled around the task force's recommendation to create the new category of "Great Commission Giving." A crucial development for those who were leery of a move that seemingly set designated giving alongside the Cooperative Program was an amendment brought by Jim Waters of Statesville, Ga. His was a welcomed addition for it affirmed that the Cooperative Program is "the most effective means of mobilizing churches" in missions and evangelism. More importantly, it clarified that designated giving is to be "a supplement to" and not "a substitute for" giving to the Cooperative Program.

"In an inelegant way, we ended up with a superior recommendation," Southern Seminary President Albert Mohler acknowledged afterward to members of the press. "Everything he (Waters) wanted said, this task force unanimously wanted to say," Mohler said. "In one sense, if we had received that word prior to the formulation of the final report, I can basically assure you it would have been in there, because we resonate with that language."

The task force's willingness to yield to Waters' counsel was a unifying action. Mohler told reporters, "There is no one on this task force and, I believe, there is no messenger on that convention floor who is not a solid supporter of the Cooperative Program. On that we are absolutely together .... I'm thankful we ended with that statement of unity." I concur.

While some still have qualms about severing the cooperative agreements between the North American Mission Board and state conventions, fearing it will adversely affect Baptist work in pioneer areas, task force members counter that their intent all along has been that more money would flow to areas that

are unreached with the gospel and under-served by churches. Roger Spradlin from California maintained that severing those agreements would lend more to reaching America's cities. Approximately 80 percent of the population lives in 300 cities, he explained, insisting that "to penetrate those urban areas is just a tremendous vision for our convention to adopt."

## After Thought

By Todd Deaton



As for concerns raised about the Executive Committee's loss of nearly a third of its budget and passing along CP promotion to state conventions, Spradlin, the group's newly elected chairman, called it "a powerful statement by our convention to say we want to reshape and refocus our priorities toward the Great Commission." He made a strong case that while it only represents a one percent increase for the International Mission Board, it could mean 46 additional missionaries. "When you talk about some primitive tribe in the Amazon or somewhere in the world that has not heard the gospel ... and you multiply that times 46 different missionaries, then all of a sudden it becomes very significant," he said. "It really represents the heart of the Great Commission."

**"If nothing else, I think God has put in the forefront in all of our minds the tremendous lostness not only of the world ... but also of North America."**

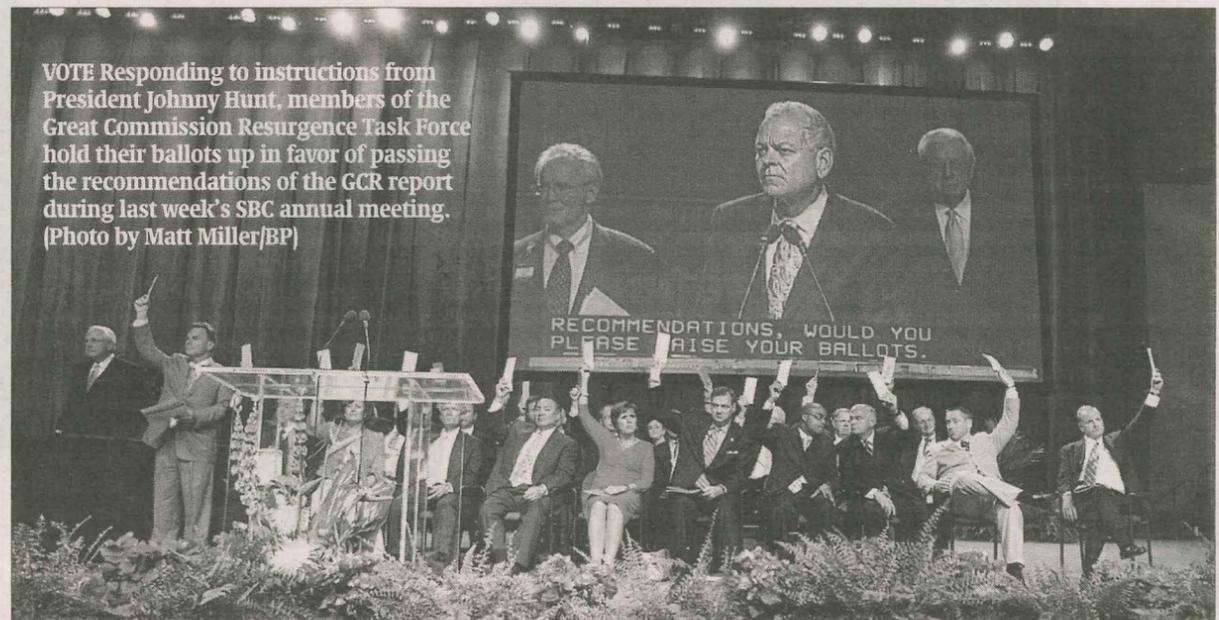
— Roger Spradlin

But the big win, Spradlin aptly observed, did not happen at this convention, but rather a year ago when Southern Baptists first began having conversations about how to be more effective in the Great Commission task. "If nothing else, I think God has put in the forefront in all of our minds the tremendous lostness not only of the world—I think most of us already got that—but also of North America,"

he assessed. "We are a nation of utter lostness."

And regardless of any lingering reservations about how the SBC boards and entities now will implement recommendations, task force member Danny Akin, president of Southeastern Seminary, rightly urged, "We need to be looking forward with an aggressive agenda to penetrate lostness around the world and in North America." Indeed, every one of us should desire to catch a greater vision for what really matters to God: sharing His love with others.

That's the essential ingredient to experiencing a Great Commission resurgence—not denominational restructuring or budgetary realignments, but what happens in the hearts of those in the pew. Whitten keenly challenged, "Every pastor has to walk away from this convention asking, 'What can I do in a greater way to give to the Cooperative Program, and to be a part of a denomination that is trying to make a difference by penetrating lostness?' And, likewise, every church member should ask: 'What more can I give? What can I sacrifice? What can I do?'"



VOTE Responding to instructions from President Johnny Hunt, members of the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force hold their ballots up in favor of passing the recommendations of the GCR report during last week's SBC annual meeting. (Photo by Matt Miller/BP)

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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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## Resuscitation reaffirms 'life is a miracle'

Back home after spending April 29 to May 12 in the hospital for open heart valve replacement surgery and the placement of a pacemaker, I return to writing the "Home and Away" column with the realization that home is better than away. Sometime I hope to tell you this very personal story, which is more than anything a story of how faith, family, neighbors, and friends have sustained me through this ordeal.

I continue to draw sustenance from the writings of Wendell Berry. Perhaps Kentucky's most famous living writer, Berry has created in his Port William stories a rural community of folks trying to make sense of the modern world. Berry's tales are inhabited by farmers and shopkeepers leading lives that are at once filled with struggle and fulfillment. I have read Berry's stories during some of the most challenging times of my life. I have returned to them now.

In the days and weeks before my mother's death in the summer of 2006, I sat with her in the hospital room, reading the Bible, the daily newspaper, or the stories of Wendell Berry. That summer, I read all the Port William stories straight through, many of them for a second time. The stories gave me then, and give me still today, a sense of peace amidst hardship that I rarely find in literature; I continue to return to the Port William

stories again and again when I need to check my priorities or purpose.

In addition to his fiction, Berry also writes beautiful poetry and meaningful essays, and it is one of his essays, "Life Is a Miracle: An Essay Against Modern Superstition," that I refer to today. In this essay, Berry writes about his favorite Shakespeare play, "King Lear." Berry refers to the subplot in "King Lear" in which "the Earl of Gloucester is recalled from despair so that he may die in his full blindness." The old earl has been blinded for his loyalty to the king, and his son Edgar, disguised as a beggar, leads his father to the cliffs of Dover where Gloucester intends to kill himself.

Instead of leading his blinded father to the edge of a precipice, however, he only tells his father that he is at the cliff. There, "Gloucester renounces the world, blesses Edgar, his supposedly absent son, and, according to the stage direction, 'Falls forward and swoons'" (IV, vi, 41 in the Pelican Shakespeare). When Gloucester comes to, Edgar pretending to be a passer-by at the bottom of the cliff, goes to the earl. Gloucester is dismayed that he is still alive, and, refusing Edgar's help, tells him, "Away, and let me die" (IV, vi, 48).

But Edgar does not leave and instead he utters the line in the play that is the subject of Berry's essay as well as the topic of this newspaper

column. Edgar assures his father that instead of dying, he still has some living to do. "Thy life's a miracle," Edgar tells him. "Speak yet again." "Thy life's a miracle. Speak yet again" (IV, vi, 55).

In his essay, Berry concludes that the fact that all of our lives are miracles does not mean that we have it all figured out. To experience life is not to "figure it out" or "even to understand it," but instead "to suffer it and rejoice in it as it is."

"In suffering it and rejoicing in it as it is," Berry writes, "we know that we do not and cannot understand it completely." According to Berry, the issue "is not knowledge but ignorance." And as Berry puts it in his own self-deprecating way, "in ignorance I believe I may pronounce myself a fair expert."

Me too. The more I learn about life, the more I realize how little I really know. Along with Berry and Shakespeare, however, I do know this. "Life is a miracle." I am trying to figure out why I am still here to experience the miracle of life. My neighbors and friends, Alesia and Tony Knight—and other neighbor angels—have allowed me to write this column today and in the coming weeks, to live to tell the tale. "Life is a miracle; speak yet again."

*Duane Bolin teaches in the Department of History at Murray State University. Bolin serves as a trustee of the Western Recorder, and his "Home and Away" column appears weekly in the Murray Ledger & Times.*

### FIRST PERSON



Duane Bolin

## Is your family too busy?

By David Garrard

**Linus:** "School is out! No more school! School is out!"

**Lucy:** "All right, everyone over here for the camp bus! In you go! Hurry it up! Everyone to summer camp!"



**Charlie Brown:** "Whatever happened to going home?"

Summer used to be a time for kicking back, relaxing and enjoying a less frantic pace of life. Not any more. The calendar changes from May to June, school lets out and most families don't even take a deep breath—much less a break. There needs to be some down time.

Eugene Peterson, the translator who provided us with "The Message," has a gift for putting biblical truths in plain language. Peterson says that the Hebrew word for sabbath simply means, "Quit; stop; take a break." In and of itself, the word has no religious or spiritual content. However, when it shows up in Genesis, it shows up in the context of creation: God making heaven and earth. When the work of creation was complete, God stopped speaking and stopped making. He rested.

Peterson says, "The not-doing ... takes place in the context of much-doing." As such, the Bible speaks of sabbath as a lifestyle—a distinctively Christian lifestyle that knows how to focus on what really matters, a lifestyle that prioritizes times of not-doing.

In the context of today's culture, a culture that has families as busy as a three-ring circus, we may need help to make that kind of change. However, I am convinced that such a change will make a huge difference in our families, and in our children.

This summer, find and enjoy some down time for yourself and your family. Who knows? It might even become a way of life.

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

## Steps in family financial management

By Don Spencer

Family financial management for Christians is simply the family participating in the process of basic financial planning done from a Christian perspective. Basic principles of this process are summarized in four stages. It's important for Christians to make sure each stage reflects our Christian values and priorities.

**Step 1—Set short-term and long term goals.** Goals might include reducing or eliminating credit card debt; establishing an emergency fund, saving for college or to purchase a home, or saving enough to have adequate retirement income. Since an entire family is affected by financial planning decisions, the family should be involved in setting the goals.

**Step 2—Assess your current financial status.** Add up total assets and liabilities (debts). Your assets less your liability equals your net worth. A family cannot plan appropriately for the future without a realistic assessment of the church situation. Re-calculate your net worth each year to see if progress is being made. If net-worth goes down without a solid reason, it means there is a need for serious work on your financial plan.

**Step 3—Prepare a three-part family budget.** First, itemize anticipated income from all sources. Second, identify fixed expenses such as housing, utilities, insurance, taxes, etc. Third, estimate flexible expenses. These include food, clothing, entertainment and many other things over which we can make choices regarding the level of expenses we will have. Keep the budget simple enough that it will be used. Remember, family members with no input in making the budget will tend to ignore it.

Make sure the budget reflects a Christian perspective. Include the tithe as a fixed expense. Other charitable giving may be listed as flexible expenses.

**Step 4—Implement the plan.** The plan will only be as effective as its implementation. Keep simple but adequate records in order to monitor progress and stay on track with the plan and goals.

"The two great tests of character are wealth and poverty"

—E. C. McKenzie.  
*Don Spencer is a certified financial planner and directs the Kentucky Baptist Convention's church financial benefits department.*



## Time magazine article speaks to evangelicals

By Charles Lawless Jr.

Recently, Time magazine published its annual special issue, "10 Ideas for the Next 10 Years." Trend No. 9—"The Twilight of the Elites"—caught my attention not because of its title, but because of its subtitle: "Why we have entered the post-trust era."

The article starts ominously: "In the past decade, nearly every pillar institution in American society—whether it's General Motors, Congress, Wall Street, Major League Baseball, the Catholic Church or the mainstream media—has revealed itself to be corrupt, incompetent, or both. And at the root of these failures are the people who run these institutions, the bright and industrious minds who occupy the commanding heights of our meritocratic order. In exchange for their power, status and remuneration, they are supposed to make sure everything operates smoothly. But after a cascade of scandals and catastrophes, that implicit social contract lies in ruins, replaced by mass skepticism, contempt and disillusionment."

From there, author Christopher Hayes, the Washington editor of the Nation, critically evaluates why it is that "so much of the country's leadership in so many different walks of life performed so terribly over this decade." While recognizing that no single theory can explain this failure, he nevertheless finds these themes to be recurrent in the failures: the concentration of power in a single person and the erosion of transparency and accountability in the system.

The problem is larger, though, than distrust of leaders, says Hayes.

We live in a complicated society that rightly demands expertise and leadership and elites at times—but if a culture cannot trust its leaders, the result is a loss of authority even when that authority is desperately needed.

That is, all leaders pay a price when other leaders fall.

There is so much here for the evangelical church. First, we ignore this trend only to our peril. How many agonizing stories do we know—the evangelist whose immorality cost him his ministry, the pastor whose financial dealings cast a web that entangled him, the church leader whose unchecked arrogance led to corrupt living—that were marked by secrecy and no accountability?

Perhaps more alarming, how many stories do we not know yet? How many leaders, invested in building their own kingdoms, believe that their success has inoculated them against failure? The evil one who tempted Jesus still offers us a kingdom if we bow to the altar of self.

Second, the accountability inherent in the Body of Christ is non-negotiable, even for leaders—in fact, especially for leaders. The qualifications for elders and deacons in 1 Timothy 3 not only assume examination and accountability; they demand it. Moreover, those qualifications are not simply a checklist to examine a pastoral candidate. They are stated expectations for the leader as he lives today, tomorrow and the future.

The wisdom of shared leadership is clear here. Power centered in a single person breeds demonized independence that is nothing short of idolatry of the self. There are good reasons that the Body of Christ is "not one part, but many" (1 Corinthians 12:14)—one of which is accountability.

Third, the attitude of "we trust him just because he's our leader" no longer works. Indeed, if Hayes is right, the more common attitude today is, "We cannot trust him just because he's our leader." From a secular perspective,

unearned "trust" has fostered the failures that are the source of Hayes' article. From a Christian perspective, the issue is even more basic. "Trust" separated from open vulnerability and intentional accountability is hardly Christian at all; rather,

it is an open door for an enemy who himself sought to dethrone the One to whom we are all accountable (Isaiah 14:13-14). Sin crouches at the door (Genesis 4:7) when leaders are permitted to live unexamined lives.

What frightens me about writing this article? Fear that leaders who need to see themselves in this mirror will miss the needed reflection? Perhaps, but that's not my primary fear. What I fear is that I will not see my own tendencies to lead without accountability and responsibility. I fear that I will see the speck in others' eyes but not see the log of elitism in my own (Matthew 7:1-5). God help me.

*Charles Lawless Jr. is dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.*

### FIRST PERSON

*What I fear is that I will not see my own tendencies to lead without accountability and responsibility.*

# Messengers embrace report, focus on Great Commission



**DISCUSSING THE VOTE** Ronnie Floyd (center) chairman of the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force, answers questions during a press conference after the recommendations by the task force were passed by Southern Baptist Convention messengers last week. (Photo by Matt Miller/BP)

By Norman Jameson  
North Carolina Biblical Recorder

Orlando, Fla.—The Southern Baptist Convention embraced a future uncertain but focused on the Great Commission when a solid majority of messengers adopted the report of the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force last week.

"We are a Great Commission people," Task Force Chairman Ronnie Floyd thundered when the final hand vote showed a 75 to 80 percent majority favoring the seven recommendations of the report, which messengers considered as a whole.

A year after SBC President Johnny Hunt appointed the task force to bring recommendations about how Southern Baptists could work together more efficiently, nearly 11,000 messengers ended months of debate with more than two hours of discussion that remained cordial throughout.

Just as in the months of debate earlier, deliberation focused mostly over the recommendation that would change giving terminology to make the Cooperative Program the primary element of a new category of "Great Commission Giving," rather than be the sole recognized avenue of general missions support.

In the only amendment of several to pass muster, messengers affirmed a motion by Jim Waters of First Baptist Church of Statesboro, Ga., to add language that says Southern Baptists will "continue to honor and affirm the Cooperative Program as the most effective means of mobilizing our churches and extending our outreach. We affirm that designated giving to special causes is to be given as a supplement to the Cooperative Program and not as a substitute for Cooperative Program giving."

Later task force member Albert Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, said the amended language was a welcome addition that expressed the task force's heart.

Reaction to a preliminary report the task force released in February was so vociferous members made themselves available across the nation to speak to groups, answer questions and listen. Input from various groups of Baptist state convention employees, missionaries, associational leaders and pastors found its way into the final report.

Consequently, the overriding theme of the report became "Penetrating the Lostness," and its final six recommendations established a missional vision "to present the gospel of Jesus Christ to every person in the world and to make disciples of all nations."

The other recommendations approved by messengers include:

- Core values of Christ-likeness, truth, unity, relationships, trust, future, local church and kingdom.

- Great Commission Giving, which includes gifts to SBC-related entities to "count" along with Cooperative Program giving as support for Southern Baptist causes.

- "Reinvent" and "unleash" the North American Mission Board to implement a missional strategy to reach high population centers in the United States and Canada. This will involve ending the cooperative agreements that have governed NAMB's work with states over the next seven years.

- Remove geographic limitations from International Mission Board personnel to enable missionaries to serve in the United States among pockets of the people groups they serve overseas.

- Give primary responsibility for Cooper-

## Task force: Approval signals concern for 'lostness'

By Marv Knox  
Texas Baptist Standard

Orlando, Fla.—The Southern Baptist Convention overwhelmingly reaffirmed its intention to spread the gospel throughout the nation and around the world, members of the SBC's Great Commission Resurgence task force said last week.

At least 75 to 80 percent of messengers to the SBC annual meeting ratified the task force's seven-part set of recommendations, chairman Ronnie Floyd told reporters moments after the vote.

The committee drafted the recommendations to turn the convention's focus toward "penetrating the lostness" of the world. They received stiff opposition from Morris Chapman, retiring president of the SBC Executive Committee, as well as leaders of some Baptist state conventions and others who fear the changes will erode financial support for the convention.

"We thank all Southern Baptist for believing in the Great Commission," Christ's mandate to spread the gospel across the globe, Floyd said, flanked by five other members of the task force.

"The convention vote was very clear," stressed Floyd, pastor of First Baptist Church of Springdale, Ark.

"As a convention, we have made some basic statements," added Albert Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

One of those clear statements is the convention's priority for telling people the world over about Jesus Christ, insisted Roger Spradlin, pastor of Valley Baptist Church in Bakersfield, Calif., and new chairman of the Executive Committee.

Spradlin pointed out the convention voted to move 1 percent of the Cooperative Program, the SBC's unified budget, from the Executive Committee to the International Mission Board. One percent of the IMB budget translates to 46 missionaries, who will present the gospel to people all around the world who never have heard of Jesus, he said.

"That represents more than dollars on a spreadsheet," he added. "It represents the heart" of Southern Baptists' passion for the gospel.

Danny Akin, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., has experienced that passion through "two sons who have served as missionaries among Muslims.

"I saw the lostness of the world. I wanted us ... to catch a vision for what matters to God," he said of his motivation for the recommendations.

Even though the recommendations encountered spirited opposition, Floyd predicted Southern Baptists would rally behind their decision and move forward together.

"When Baptists have spoken, Baptists get their hearts in line," he said. "We are optimistic the convention has spoken."

ative Program and stewardship promotion to the state conventions.

- Move 1 percent of the national Cooperative Program allocation from the SBC Executive Committee to the IMB. That 1 percent represents about \$2 million, one-third of the Executive Committee's budget.

The Great Commission Resurgence Task Force report was approved despite significant opposition by SBC Executive Committee President Morris Chapman, who said only moments before debate over the report began, "Under God, I do not want to go in the wrong direction, on the wrong road in the wrong time in our history."

The task force countered, without reference to Chapman, with a detailed presentation focused on "penetrating lostness" and "pushing back darkness."

Task force members continually emphasized only a change of heart will bring about the changes envisioned by their recommendations.

Before debate began on the recommendations, Floyd reminded messengers the task force's responsibility was to establish a vision, but, "it is the responsibility of various boards and trustees to implement these recommendations."

Ultimately, the five substantive recommendations all are directed to the Executive Committee to consider. If considered positively, the recommendations will be passed to the boards of the affected entities to consider implementation.

After a show-of-hands vote, Floyd urged messengers to remember that every person in the room supports the Great Commission. He urged that the differences between those who support the task force report and those who do not "should not be exaggerated."

"We are still brothers and sisters in Christ," he said, who "differ on no article of faith," and are guided by commitment to the gospel."

# SBC approves slightly reduced budget, recognizes retiring executives

By Todd Deaton  
Editor

Orlando, Fla.—Messengers to last week's Southern Baptist Convention in Orlando, Fla., approved a pared-down budget for 2010-11 and honored two agency presidents who will retire this year.

Messengers approved a \$199,822,090 Cooperative Program allocation budget recommended by the SBC Executive Committee—down 1.21 percent from the previous year's budget—with 50 percent directed to the International Mission Board and 22.79 percent for the North American Mission Board.

It earmarks \$44,280,576 (22.16 percent) for the SBC's six seminaries and its historical archives, while setting aside \$3,397,064 (1.65 percent) for the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

Messengers also adopted an SBC oper-

ating budget of \$8,643,951, a decrease of approximately 5.5 percent from last year's budget. The operating budget includes the SBC Executive Committee, the SBC annual meeting and committees, special programs such as Empowering Kingdom Growth, building maintenance and administration.

Messengers also adopted resolutions of appreciation for Chapman, who will retire Sept. 30, and for Jerry Rankin, who retires July 31 as president of the IMB.

Praising his contributions as "enduring, extensive and extraordinary" in helping to change and shape the course of Southern Baptist life, the resolution for Chapman noted that he "has distinguished himself as a consummate statesman."

Under Chapman's leadership, the Executive Committee and the SBC adopted the Covenant for a New Century, calling for a restructuring of the SBC's entities, reduc-

ing them from 19 to 12 and redirecting significant funds into "frontline ministry." The Executive Committee also approved establishment of the Council on Family Life, and the SBC adopted Empowering Kingdom Growth, a vision calling churches and members to pursue the Kingdom of God.

In expressing the gratitude of Southern Baptists, a resolution honoring Rankin pointed not only to his 17-year tenure as IMB president, but also to his 23 years of service with the former Foreign Mission Board, starting with his appointment as a missionary in 1970.

"Under his leadership," the resolution stated, "the International Mission Board saw an increase in its missionary force from 4,000 missionaries in 142 countries in 1993, to more than 5,500 missionaries working with 1,190 people groups."

IMB missionaries and their national

Baptist partners have seen church starts increase annually from 2,000 to about 27,000 and baptisms increase from more than 260,000 to more 565,000 during his tenure, the resolution noted.

In other business, Florida pastor Darrell Orman, chairman of the Executive Committee's communications subcommittee, requested an extension of one year for a study of greater SBC involvement for ethnic churches and leaders in order to provide "a fuller, more meaningful report."

In the past decade, the number of ethnic congregations has grown in the SBC by more than five percent—from 13.5 percent in 1998 to 18.7 percent in 2008.

A resolution approved at the 2008 SBC annual meeting in Indianapolis encouraged all SBC entities to strive to reflect a balanced representation of ethnic diversity on boards, committees and programs.

## Frank Page elected SBC Executive Committee president

*NAMB VP, former SBC president gets less than 60 percent of committee's vote*

By Cameron Crabtree  
Northwest Baptist Witness

Orlando, Fla.—In a closed-door session June 14, the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee voted 44-30 to elect Frank Page as its new president and chief executive officer.

Page, 57, vice president of evangelization at the North American Mission Board since October 2009, was pastor of First Baptist Church in Taylors, S.C., nine years and SBC president from 2006-08. He succeeds Morris Chapman, who will retire Sept. 30 after 18 years of service.

"This has been a soul-searching time for all of us," said Randall James, assistant pastor at First Baptist Church of Orlando, Fla., and chairman of the Executive Committee. "We didn't want to pick who we wanted, but who the Lord Jesus Christ had already chosen before the foundation of the world."

"I deeply appreciate this call—and that's the way I perceive it and have felt it in my heart from the Lord—and I do accept your offer," Page told the Executive Committee after it emerged from more than 90 minutes of deliberation to announce the election. "I do so with a great sense of calling and destiny, my awareness that God has a great future for Southern Baptists."

Page pledged two things to the committee: "I will love you with all my heart and will work with all my might." He suggested making a "spiritual covenant together" in order to be "unified in our passion and in our hearts to see this world won to Jesus Christ."

James announced Page will serve

alongside Chapman as president-elect until Oct. 1.

Standing outside the meeting room while Executive Committee members were praying before their vote, Page described the lengthy question-and-answer session with committee members as cordial.

Committee members asked "substantive questions" about his participation with the SBC's Great Commission Task Force over the past year and his views on various items in the group's recommendations to SBC messengers, Page reported.

"I have been very clear that I did have some concerns about the GCR items," he said. "But I do want to join our president in a call for a Great Commission resurgence" across the convention.

While some committee members viewed his involvement on the task force negatively, Page said, "Others were concerned I didn't support it enough."

### Views on Cooperative Program

Page expressed the need to highlight the importance of Cooperative Program giving to Southern Baptist missions efforts.

"I'm a strong CP supporter," Page said. "While a lot of people talk about the Cooperative Program, I've been raising millions through it because I do believe in it."

He acknowledged puzzlement at sensing God leading him to the Executive Committee after being at NAMB less than a year.

"I have no idea why the Lord did that to me," Page said, but noted it provided some advantages for his new task.



**A NEW ERA** Randall James (right), an assistant pastor at First Baptist Church of Orlando, Fla., and Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee presidential search committee chairman, speaks with Frank Page, newly elected to the position of president of the SBC Executive Committee. Page will replace Morris Chapman, who will retire Sept. 30 after 18 years in the position.

"I think God gave me that time to see the inside of a denomination better than I would have as a pastor," he explained.

"Secondly, I think being a part of the GCR at the same time helped me provide a perspective to say NAMB has a unique missiological need, and I think that was an encouragement to some on the committee to see that NAMB does have a place separately than IMB.

"Third, I would have to say the biggest reason I think God brought me to NAMB was to help legitimize and motivate and encourage people in the GPS strategy," Page said, referring to NAMB's multi-year evangelistic campaign known as GPS.

Page promised to use his influence at the Executive Committee to bolster the national effort. "I would be one of the most enthusiastic pro-

ponents," he said.

At a press conference following his introduction to SBC messengers at the annual meeting in Orlando, Fla., June 15, Page noted the diverse opinions currently characterizing the convention were reflected in the divided vote on his election.

"It's indicative of the reality of where we are," Page said. "Trust takes place over time. I (will) work hard to build unity in that body."

Page said he has two hopes for his service to the convention—unity "unlike anything we've ever seen before" and a positive public perception of the SBC.

"Southern Baptists have long been known for what we are against," Page stated. "The vast, vast majority of people in our convention are men and women who are loving and caring."

### Kentuckians named to SBC's Committee on Nominations

Orlando, Fla.—Ken Felty, associate pastor at Corinth Baptist Church in London, and Martha Parker, a member of First Baptist Church of Murray, were among the individuals elected last week to the Southern Baptist Convention 2010-11 Committee on Nominations.

The 70-member committee is responsible for recommending trustees next year to serve on the boards of SBC entities.

Kentucky Baptists who served on this year's Committee on Committees that nominated Felty and Parker were Steve Hussung, pastor of Rich Pond Baptist Church in Bowling Green, and Roger Williams, pastor of Annville Baptist Church.

In other business, messengers elected David Platt, pastor of The Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, Ala., to preach the convention sermon at next year's annual meeting June 14-15 in Phoenix.

Convention messengers also voted to change the 2013 annual meeting site from Nashville, Tenn., to Houston, and agreed to hold the 2015 meeting in Columbus, Ohio. The 2014 SBC meeting site of Baltimore was approved by messengers two years ago.

## Georgia church planter elected SBC president in run-off vote

By Jennifer Davis Rash  
The Alabama Baptist

Orlando, Fla.—In a surprise move, Southern Baptists said no to two well-known presidential candidates and elected a church planter from Marietta, Ga., to lead them in the coming year.

Bryant Wright, pastor of Johnson Ferry Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga., beat Ted Traylor, pastor of Olive Baptist Church in Pensacola, Fla., in a run-off ballot, 4,225 to 3,371. Bryant's votes represented 55.11 percent of the 7,667 votes cast, while Traylor's represented 43.97 percent.

Traylor and Jimmy Jackson, pastor of Whitesburg Baptist Church in Huntsville, Ala., entered the race as the frontrunners, particularly in what many labeled a pro/con Great Commission Resurgence report presidential race. Traylor served on the task force. Jackson was outspoken against the group's report that was approved by convention messengers just minutes before the presidential election results were announced.

Wright and Traylor garnered a combined 66.02 percent of the original vote against Jackson and Leo Endel, executive director of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention.

In the initial vote, Wright received 3,433 votes, (36.84 percent)



**SBC OFFICERS** Newly elected SBC officers (left to right): First vice president Ron Herrod from Tennessee, president Bryant Wright from Georgia, recording secretary John Yeats from Louisiana, registration secretary Jim Wells from Missouri and second vice president Eric Moffett from Arkansas (inset). (Photo by Matt Miller/BP)

while Traylor received 2,719 votes (29.18 percent). Jackson received 2,482 votes (26.64 percent) and Endel received 589 votes (6.23 percent).

Wright started Johnson Ferry Baptist 28 years ago and has been the church's only pastor. The church routinely leads Southern Baptist congregations in giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and has a strong missions emphasis inside the church.

Previous reports have noted the church plans to give 3.5 percent of its undesignated receipts—more than \$600,000—to the Cooperative Program. Regarding the relatively low percentage to the SBC's unified budget, Wright said because his congregation is so missions-minded,

key leaders of the church questioned why so much of the Cooperative Program stays in the United States.

"We had a stewardship issue and had to make a decision," Wright said during a news conference following his election. "We wanted the majority of the money to wind up on the missions field where the witness for Christ is not as prevalent.

"I don't plan to encourage churches to bypass CP," Wright said. "I do think we need to reprioritize the CP as far as where the funding goes. ... More people would be more passionate about the CP if that would happen."

Wright said his priorities as president will revolve around reprioritizing the funding structure of the

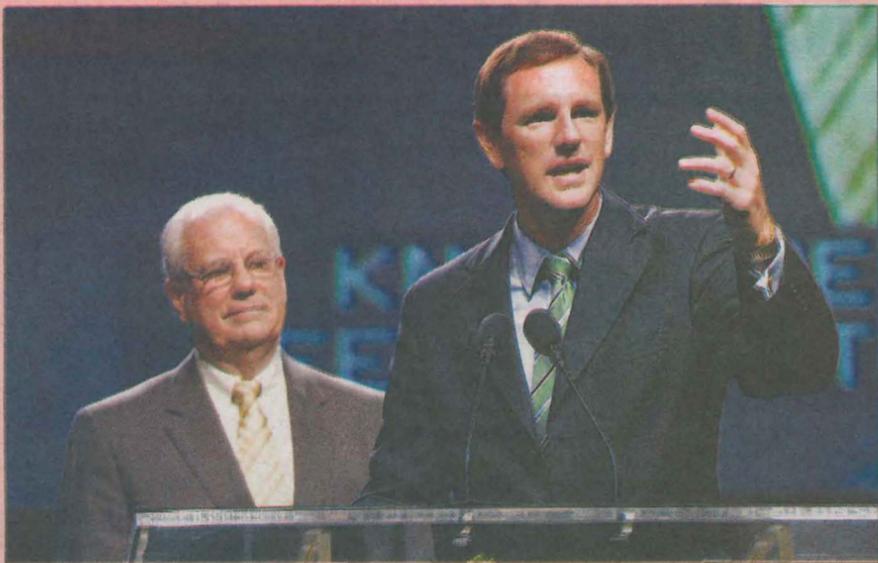
Cooperative Program, fulfilling the Great Commission, encouraging every church—and particularly every pastor—to experience a mission trip and urging Southern Baptists to "return to our first love for Christ."

In the first vice president's race, Ron Herrod, president of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists, was elected 1,653 to 1,117 over Jim Drake, pastor of Brushfork Baptist Church in Bluefield, W.Va.

Eric Moffett, pastor of First Baptist Church in Sparkman, Ark., was elected second vice president 706 to 689 over Jim Goforth, pastor of New Life Baptist Church in Forsyth, Mo. Moffett and Goforth received 66.69 percent of the vote in the first ballot of four candidates.

In the first vote, Moffett received 436 votes while Goforth received 423 votes. Ray Newman, ethics and religious affairs specialist for the Georgia Baptist Convention, received 245 votes, and John Copeland, pastor of First Baptist Church of Fulton, Ala., received 171 votes.

Two officers were re-elected: John Yeats, director of communications for the Louisiana Baptist Convention, as recording secretary, and Jim Walls, director of missions for Tri County Baptist Association in Missouri, as registration secretary.



**LIFETIME OF SERVICE** Kentucky pastor Paul Chitwood (right), chairman of the International Mission Board's trustees board, leads Southern Baptists in recognizing outgoing IMB President Jerry Rankin for his 17 years of leadership. The commendation took place during the IMB report at last week's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Orlando, Fla.

## Rankin notes missions progress, but So. Baptists 'not there yet'

By Lonnie Wilkey  
Tennessee Baptist & Reflector

Orlando, Fla.—When it comes to reaching the world for Christ, Southern Baptists “are not there yet,” said Jerry Rankin, president of the International Mission Board.

In his final report to the Southern Baptist Convention last week, Rankin observed he has had the honor of seeing more than 10,000 missionaries being sent to minister during a time in which “God has chosen to work in unprecedented ways.”

Rankin, who will retire in August after 17 years at the helm of the IMB, cited statistics that indicate progress. But, he asked, “Are we there yet?”

Success on the mission field cannot be measured by the record number of missionaries sent, church growth statistics overseas or the number of new believers baptized, Rankin said.

The only way to determine success is to determine the job that still is to be done, he continued. “How many people have yet to be touched by the gospel?”

Rankin informed Southern Baptist messengers there are 11,000-plus distinct, ethnic people groups in the world, and more than 6,400 of those still are unreached with less than 2 percent of them that have heard the gospel.

Rankin stressed the only way these people can hear the gospel is to send missionaries who are willing to answer God's call.

The IMB leader related that after sending out more than 900 new missionaries in 2008 and reaching a record level of 5,624 missionary personnel overseas, the IMB is having to cut back to no more than 5,000 missionaries by the end of 2010 due to budget restrictions.

And this is happening despite Southern Baptists having given almost \$149 million to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering in 2009, an increase of more than 5 percent over the previous year's offering. “We will still have to restrict appointments and restrict our missionary force,” he said.

After showing a video presentation describing the work being done, Rankin challenged Southern Baptists to do more than ever before to reach the world for Christ. “Have we walked every road, climbed every hill, told every soul?” he asked.

God has blessed Southern Baptists in numbers and in resources, but we are not there yet, he emphasized.

Rankin challenged Southern Baptists to resolve that “reaching His people with the gospel of Christ” is the calling that “God has placed on each of us.”

## Chapman uses final address to chide GCR recommendations

By Lonnie Wilkey  
Tennessee Baptist & Reflector

Orlando, Fla.—Speaking just before messengers adopted the Great Commission Resurgence report, Morris Chapman warned it could have negative repercussions for the Southern Baptist Convention.

In his final report as president of the SBC Executive Committee at last week's annual meeting, Chapman extolled the virtues of the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists' unified giving plan.

While acknowledging the Cooperative Program has never given every entity all it wanted or needed, he insisted it has given every entity some funds to do the work God called them to do.

“The Cooperative Program has survived many years of tough times. It has brought us through every time,” said Chapman, who will retire from his position Sept. 30. With the approval of the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force, he warned, the Cooperative Program will not retain the unique place it has held. “It will be one of several offerings, not one of a kind.”

Chapman recalled the “conservative resurgence” of the 1970s and 1980s as a “return to Southern Baptists' roots theologically.”

Chapman said he fears that the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force report will lead Southern Baptists' from its funding methodology.

“If we abandon our methodology of cooperation, we will become independent Baptists, not autonomous, cooperating Baptists,” he advised. “If you want to be independent tomorrow, you can declare it so.”

“Failure to fulfill the Great Commission is not a structural problem and it cannot be accomplished with a structural solution,” he stressed. Failure to fulfill the Great Commission is a “heart problem, a spiritual problem, a stewardship problem,” Chapman stressed.

He also told messengers: “We can't manufacture a resurgence of God's power because someone declares it to be so.”

In referencing the task force's report, Chapman spoke specifically against the last five recommendations of the report:

- Request the SBC Executive Committee to consider recommending to the convention the adoption of the language and structure of Great Commission Giving as described in the report in order to enhance and celebrate the Cooperative Program and the generous support of Southern Baptists channeled through their churches.

- Request the Executive Committee to consider any revision to the ministry of the North American Mission Board that may be necessary in order to accomplish the redirection of NAMB as outlined in this report.

- Request that the Executive Committee and the International Mission Board consider a revised ministry assignment for the IMB that would remove any geographical limitation on its mission to reach unreached and underserved people groups wherever they are found.

- Request the Executive Committee to consider working with the leadership of state conventions in developing a comprehensive program of CP promotion and stewardship education in alignment with this report.

- Request the Executive Committee to consider recommending an SBC Cooperative Program allocation budget that will increase the percentage allocated to the IMB to 51 percent by decreasing the Executive Committee's percentage of the SBC allocation budget by 1 percent.

“The last five recommendations will never bring resurgence to the Southern Baptist Convention,” Chapman told messengers. Instead, he continued, those recommendations “will bring more confusion and chaos” to the convention. They need more thought, study and prayer, he asserted.

However, he did not dismiss the entire report. There is great truth in the “urgency” pointed out by the task force, Chapman said. “We must be urgent in penetrating the darkness.”

Chapman also called for the adoption of the challenges listed at the end of the task force report.

“The challenges will inspire us to a higher calling, a greater vision,” he said. “These two sections can form the foundation of where God wants us to go together.”



Morris Chapman

## NAMB report mum on president's departure, but claims bright future

By Jennifer Davis Rash  
The Alabama Baptist

Orlando, Fla.—The North American Mission Board report was silent on the biggest news event coming out of the Alpharetta, Ga., office during the past year—the forced departure of President Geoff Hammond in August 2009.

Hammond resigned Aug. 11 after enduring charges of leadership issues that undermined the morale and effectiveness of NAMB. The resignation came during a special called meeting of the board of trustees to deal with the problems.

One veiled mention of this came when messenger Larry Thomas of Southside Baptist Church in Heber Springs, Ark., asked why NAMB hired outside experts to deal with “the August meeting.” Thomas also wanted to know how much money was spent and from where it came.

NAMB board of trustees chair Tim

Dowdy, pastor of First Baptist Church of Eagle's Landing, Ga., noted that while he was not chair last August, he did know that money from the agency's Annie Armstrong Easter Offering was not used for the expert.

“The reason was so we could have someone with an objective view to guide us through the process in the most expert way,” Dowdy said. Hammond's name never was mentioned.

What was mentioned during the report was that NAMB trustees are searching for a new leader and that a transition is taking place. The report also highlighted “God's Plan for Sharing,” or GPS, NAMB's decade-long evangelism strategy unveiled by Hammond at last year's SBC.

Another emphasis woven throughout NAMB's report and the presentation which followed it was a Great Commission resurgence, “penetrating the lostness” and

reaching North America with the gospel.

“One thing I ask is that you pray for us in the next few months,” Dowdy said. “We are under one of the crucial (times) for us as we search for a new leader of the North American Mission Board.”

“In the meantime, we have been blessed to have Richard Harris, vice president (of missions advancement), as interim. He has provided rock-solid, stable leadership for NAMB in this time.”

“Your North American Mission Board is moving forward,” Harris said. “It has a bright future. We have focused on starting churches, sharing Christ and sending missionaries.”

“We've been attempting to move forward to fulfill the Great Commission. At the forefront is GPS,” he said, noting 10,000 churches are participating and 24,000 TV ads and 7,000 radio ads have aired. “We are leading Southern Baptists to reach the 258

million lost people in North America.”

Harris said NAMB is ready to lead Southern Baptists to “penetrate the lostness” and will be focused on church planting, evangelism, discipleship, leadership development and metropolitan missions.

The NAMB presentation featured three of these focus areas by highlighting the work done by a diverse group of NAMB representatives. Each segment began with a video story of a NAMB representative and lives that are being changed. Following the video, the representative and one or more of those featured in the video were interviewed live by Harris.

Those featured included NAMB missionary Jalil Dawood, who works with the Iraqi population in Dallas; Andrew Mann, NAMB missionary in Bronx, N.Y.; and Sammy Gilbreath, director of evangelism for the Alabama Baptist State Convention, who said he has seen tremendous success with GPS.

## Pastors' Conference speakers affirm GCR Task Force report

Orlando, Fla.—The Great Commission Resurgence is a “natural and spiritual outgrowth of the conservative resurgence,” seminary president **Danny Akin** told participants at last week’s Southern Baptist Pastors’ Conference.

Akin, a member of the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force and president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, was one of several speakers who either explicitly endorsed the recommendations of the task force or more subtly underscored its importance.

“The conservative resurgence was never just about affirming an inerrant Bible. It was also about getting an inerrant gospel to the nations so that they might be saved,” Akin said.

Preaching from Hebrews 12, he outlined the elements needed and those that need to be discarded to run the Christian race well, whether as individuals, churches or denominations.

“We must guide our people to run in faith unhindered the race God has put before us,” he said. To run with endurance means staying focused on Jesus, Akin added. Staying focused only on the essentials means “getting rid of any excess baggage, anything that can weigh you down, even in the denomination.”

Even though **David Platt**, pastor of The Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, Ala., did not mention the Great Commission resurgence or the task force’s report, he referenced aspects of the debate that has surrounded it.

“We stand at a crossroads, and our participation in the global mission of God hangs in the balance,” he said. “We have a holy obligation to take the gospel to people who have never heard it before.”

“The word of God is calling us to sacrifice. God help us if we cannot sacrifice percentages and programs when he has asked us to sacrifice our lives.”

**David Uth**, pastor of First Baptist Church of Orlando, Fla., described the convention as facing a defining moment that will determine its legacy.

“We must hand to the next generation a convention that is fully committed to the Great Commission, fully committed to go to the ends of the earth for our Lord,” he said.

“When we hear 4.5 billion (people) do not know Christ ... does that bother you?” he asked, noting now is the time for action. “All the pretending and imagining and wishing and wanting doesn’t get you there.”

**Andy Stanley**, pastor of NorthPoint Community Church, Alpharetta, Ga., said



**PASTORS' CONFERENCE OFFICERS** The elected officers for the 2011 Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference are (from left to right): Dean Fulks, pastor of Lifepoint Church in Columbus, Ohio, vice president; Mike Holcomb, pastor of Iron City Baptist Church in Aniston, Ala., treasurer; Vance Pitman, pastor of Hope Baptist Church in Las Vegas, president. Pitman was the only candidate who ran opposed, beating out Alabama pastor Troy Gramling. (Photo by Bill Bangham/BP)

many Southern Baptists merely are flirting with the Great Commission.

“Some of you are married to SBC life, and you flirt with the Great Commission,” he said. “Are you going to continue to be in love with a model of ministry and simply flirt with the Great Commission, or are you willing to fall in love with the Great Commission and let go of the ministries that aren’t making a difference?”

**Steve Gaines**, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Cordova, Tenn., said he is for the Great Commission resurgence, but what really is needed is “a red hot, Holy Ghost revival from God.”

The church is not excited about its ministry like it once was, and members “dabble instead of do,” he noted. It is time for churches and the SBC to wake up, Gaines urged. It’s not about living off the momentum of the past, he said, noting what once had life now is lethargic and what once was real now is deceptive. “The passion we once had has been turned into a program.”

**C.J. Mahaney**, pastor of Covenant Life Church in Gaithersburg, Md., and president of Sovereign Grace Ministries, encouraged pastors to take care of themselves and not let the work of being a pastor wear them down. Preaching from 1 Peter 5, Mahaney said, “When there is diminished gladness and eagerness, because you have been worn down ... give immediate attention to your soul.”

**Matt Chandler**, pastor of The Village Church in Flower Mound, Texas, challenged pastors to make sure the essence of the gospel is saturating everything they do and say and to preach sanctification along with justification.

“If all you are selling is the law, all you are going to get is a group of young men and women who try to obey the law, fail because they can’t do it, and bail.”

**David Landrith**, pastor of Long Hollow Baptist Church in Hendersonville, Tenn., challenged pastors not to lose sight of the greater things.

Basing his message on Psalm 73, Landrith observed the psalmist was going through a difficult time in his life because he had an earthly perspective. When the psalmist went “into the sanctuary,” he gained a heavenly perspective. God did not change the psalmist’s situation; the psalmist’s perspective changed, Landrith said.

**Francis Chan**, founder of Cornerstone Church in Simi Valley, Calif., delivered a confessional sermon.

“Ministry has gotten pretty complicated for me the last couple of years,” Chan said. “I’ve gotten caught up with accomplishments, praying for my ministry and haven’t been thinking about my relationship with (Christ) and haven’t been pursuing intimacy with (Him) like I used to.”

“I just want to know Jesus, no matter what I do.”

**Tony Evans**, pastor of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship in Dallas, challenged the church to remember that it is “a little bit of heaven a long way from home.”

Preaching from Matthew 16:18–19, Evans said the church of Jesus Christ has been operating on the defense when it should be thinking offensively. Jesus is say-



Andy Stanley

ing that He is building His church, and hell is trying to stop Him, Evans noted.

“The way you know that your church is not His church is that you are trying to stop hell, and hell is prevailing,” he explained.

**Albert Mohler**, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, challenged pastors to examine themselves to make sure they know God.

“Might it be that there are some conservative preachers that are ... not born again?” Mohler asked. Preaching from John 3, he said: “You are dead, and you must be born again. ... Without the conversion there is no gospel. ... An unconverted ministry (leads to an) unconverted church, to unconverted people.”

**Ken Whitten**, pastor of Idlewild Baptist Church in Lutz, Fla., asked pastors to identify with King David in dealing with the death of his dream to build a temple. “I



Albert Mohler

know you have dreams. You’re not where you thought you would be in your ministry, are you?” he asked.

Whitten reminded pastors that God called them, but “somewhere along the line we lost the wonder of our calling.”

**Ravi Zacharias** suggested pastors emulate the Old Testament character Joseph, whom he described as “a man for all seasons.” Zacharias noted Joseph was firmly grounded in his belief in the face of temptation; he demonstrated a spirit of peace when he was in pain; and he showed a “generosity of spirit” when he was in a position of power.

“Unless our gospel is seen, it will not be heard,” Zacharias said.

Compiled from reporting by Jennifer Davis Rash of The Alabama Baptist, Lonnie Wilkey of the Tennessee Baptist & Reflector, Chris Mills of the Alabama Baptist Convention and Bill Webb of the Missouri Word & Way

## Pastors advocate for orphans at conference

By Bill Webb  
Missouri Word & Way

Orlando, Fla.—The Southern Baptist Pastors’ Conference took up the cause of orphans June 14 with the creation of a fund to defray the cost of adoptions, a presentation by a choir of Ugandan orphans, a sermon on the theme and a testimony by conference president Kevin Ezell, the father of adopted children.

Ezell, pastor of Highview Baptist Church in Louisville, who has adopted children from China, Ethiopia and the Philippines, said the Adoption Fund for Ministers will make \$2,000 scholarships available to Southern Baptist ministers and missionaries who want to adopt a child.

Offerings collected at the conference that aren’t needed to cover expenses to host the event will be designated for the adoption fund. During one session, conference participants contributed more than \$26,000 to the adoption fund goal of \$1.5 million.

Ezell introduced a couple—Buff and Cissy McNickle, Floridians who recently adopted twin boys—as the first grant recipients. He surprised them by announcing a donor had provided \$10,000 to pay off the remaining cost of their adoptions. Buff is a minister at Idlewild Baptist Church in Lutz, Fla.

A website for the program,

www.SBCAdoption.com, says its vision is “to help ministers bring their children home and ignite a culture of adoption in churches across the country.”

Families at Highview Baptist have been inspired by the Ezells’ example to adopt a total of 130 children in the past seven years.

“Our church has become very mission-minded because they see missions,” Ezell said. “Adoption is missions.”

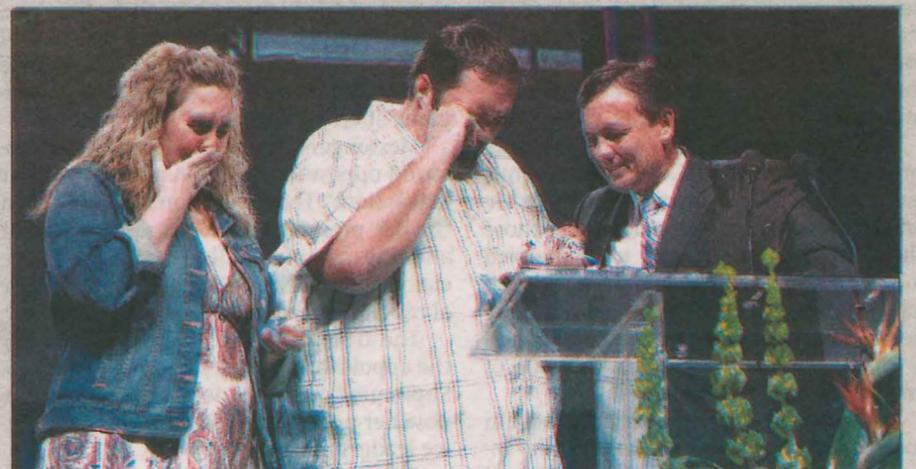
In a sermon at the conference, Russell Moore called for churches to change the world by challenging every family in the congregation to pray about what God would have them do to reach out to orphans and widows.

Moore recalled his own experience when he and his wife, Maria, adopted two boys from a Russian orphanage.

“Adoption and orphan care is 1.0t charity; it is about gospel and mission,” said Moore, dean of the school of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

“We don’t think about the fatherless and orphans because we forget that we are orphans,” he charged. “We have a Father who came looking for us, a Father who has given us the gospel.”

Pastors also heard the touring Watoto Children’s Choir, made up of orphaned and vulnerable Ugandan children, as they sang and danced energetically.



**OVERWHELMED** Cissy and Buff McNickle, who recently adopted twin boys, hear for the first time that a donor paid the couple’s adoption debt of \$10,000. The news was broken by Kevin Ezell (right) president of the Southern Baptist Pastors’ Conference. Ezell encouraged other pastors to adopt and announced the creation of the Adoption Fund for Ministers Pastors’ Conference which will make \$2,000 scholarships available to Southern Baptist ministers and missionaries who want to adopt a child. (Photo by Bill Bangham/BP)

# SBC resolutions highlight Gulf oil leak, family, homosexuality

By Marv Knox  
Texas Baptist Standard

**Orlando, Fla.**—The Southern Baptist Convention decried ecological catastrophe in the Gulf of Mexico, focused on the family and opposed the normalization of homosexuality as messengers approved seven resolutions with no debate during the SBC annual meeting in Orlando last week.

A resolution on the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico lamented the deaths of 11 oil rig workers and pledged to pray for their families. It also called on Southern Baptists and other Christians “to pray for the end of this catastrophe and for the homes, lives, cultures and livelihoods in the Gulf Coast region.”

It urged the government to end the crisis, ensure corporate accountability to clean up and restore the Gulf region, plan contingencies to respond to future oil spills and “promote future energy policies based upon prudence, conservation, accountability and safety.”

Messengers called for “ways to lessen the potentiality of such tragic accidents and of such devastating pollution in order that we may protect what God loves and safeguard the lives, livelihoods, health and wellbeing of our neighbors and of future generations.”

Although the resolution did not explicitly call for lifestyle changes to decrease dependence on oil, that concept is implicit, said Russell Moore, chairman of the SBC Resolutions Committee and dean of the school of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

The resolution’s call for improved energy policies and assertion that humanity’s “God-given dominion over the creation is not unlimited” point to individual and societal responsibility to reduce petroleum consumption, Moore said.

The resolution also urged Southern Baptists to assist Gulf Coast communities and churches with the same vigor that characterized their response to the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

## Focus on families

Two SBC resolutions targeted the health and wellbeing of families.

“On the Scandal of Southern Baptist Divorce” cited two studies on divorce. One demonstrates conservative Protestants divorce at the same, if not higher, rate than the U.S. population. The other reveals regions where Southern Baptists predominately have higher divorce rates than regions without a strong evangelical witness.

“Even the most expansive view of the biblical exceptions allowing for divorce and remarriage would rule out many, if not most, of the divorces in our churches,” the resolution insisted. It cited “cultural accommodation” as the reason for accelerating divorce rates among Southern Baptists.

The resolution called on churches to “proclaim the word of God on the permanence of marriage,” provide marriage enrichment opportunities, marry “only those who are biblically qualified to be married to one another,” emphasize the gravity of marital vows, minister to couples and families in crisis, and demonstrate compassion to “those who have been left in the wake of family brokenness.”

“We call on our churches to proclaim God’s mercy and grace to all people—including those who have been divorced without biblical grounds—due to the truth that the blood of Jesus can atone for any sin,” it said.

A related resolution encouraged churches and families to “rekindle the spiritual discipline of family worship.” This practice “has the capacity to nurture stronger fam-

ilies, a stronger church and a stronger nation,” it added.

It particularly called on fathers to “fulfill their divinely mandated responsibility to lead their families toward spiritual maturity.”

## Confronting homosexuality

The resolutions that opposed the normalization of homosexuality in American society targeted an effort to repeal the U.S. military’s homosexual policy and the proposed Employment Non-Discrimination Act introduced in Congress.

The resolution on homosexuals in the military noted, “The Bible describes homosexual behavior as both a contributing cause and a consequence of God’s judgment on nations and individuals.”

It cited the 1993 law that supports the current “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy as stating no one has a constitutional right to serve in the armed forces.

“It is the seasoned judgment of most military leaders that normalizing the open presence of homosexuals in the military is incompatible with generating, strengthening and maintaining good discipline, unit cohesion and combat readiness,” it stressed.

Messengers affirmed “the Bible’s declaration that homosexual behavior is intrinsically disordered and sinful” and noted “the Bible’s promise of forgiveness, change and eternal life to all sinners—including those engaged in homosexual sin—who repent of sin and trust in the saving power of Jesus Christ.”

They went on record as opposing efforts to change current law to “normalize the open presence of homosexuals in the armed forces.” They also deplored acts of violence related to homosexuality, expressed their “pride in and support for all now serving in the United States armed forces” and commended “loving, redemptive ministry to homosexuals.”

The ENDA resolution characterized the proposed bill as “granting such things as sexual orientation the same employment protections as gender and race, placing these immoral and aberrant behaviors on the same level as the immutable traits of gender and ancestry.”

“Homosexual persons are not our enemies but our neighbors whom we love and wish to see find the same forgiveness and freedom we have found in Christ,” the resolution said.

But it warned “businesses with a religious character,” such as religious bookstores, publishers and parachurch ministries, would not be exempted from policies that would deny them the right to fire or refuse to hire employees based upon sexual orientation. And the law could jeopardize the First Amendment’s protections of religious liberty, it added.

Messengers voted to express “our profound opposition to ENDA and any similar legislation.” The resolution also called on the U.S. president and Congress to appoint and affirm “only nominees to federal judicial positions who will protect foundational religious freedoms.”

The resolution reflects implications for the appointment of Elena Kagan to the U.S. Supreme Court but does not directly oppose her nomination, Resolutions Committee leaders told reporters.

“The committee was concerned about homosexual rights and religious liberty. The Kagan nomination brings that into highlight,” said Barrett Duke, a staff member for the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission and an adviser to the committee.

Specifically, some of Kagan’s writings indicate religious liberty rights should be

trumped by homosexual rights, Duke explained.

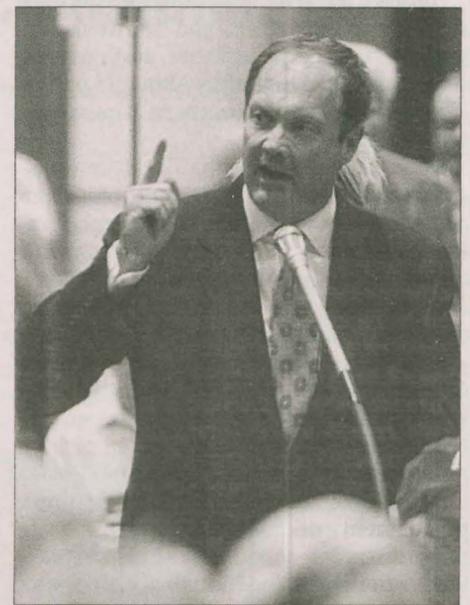
Still, the committee did not directly speak to and oppose Kagan’s nomination, Moore said.

Another resolution affirmed “the centrality of the gospel.”

It called on Southern Baptists to “reaffirm our commitment to the supremacy and centrality of the gospel of Jesus Christ in our churches” and encouraged pastors to “keep the gospel foremost in every sermon they preach.”

It exhorted churches to proclaim the gospel to unbelievers and to “display the gospel by transcending ethnic, racial, economic and social barriers due to our unity in Christ.”

“We recommit ourselves to the glory of the gospel by greater faithfulness to the Great Commission, both in personal witness and in sending more gospel workers to the unreached peoples of the world,” it said. “We commit to speak to the outside world as those who are forgiven sinners, who have received mercy as a free gift, and not as those who are morally or ethically superior to anyone.”



**POINT OF DISCUSSION** James Merritt, pastor of Cross Point Church in Duluth, Ga., voices an opinion about a resolution during the Tuesday afternoon session of last week’s Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Orlando, Fla. (Photo by Kent Harville/BP)

## Messengers defeat attempt to open records of task force proceedings

By Cameron Crabtree  
Northwest Baptist Witness

**Orlando, Fla.**—Messengers to last week’s Southern Baptist Convention meeting defeated an attempt to unseal written and audio recordings of Great Commission Resurgence Task Force proceedings.

The group recently announced it would seal the records for 15 years at the Southern Baptist Historical Library & Archives in Nashville, Tenn.

Jay Adkins of First Baptist Church of Westwego, La., introduced a motion to make the records available “in the spirit of openness and transparency” for review by any interested Southern Baptists.

In debate on his motion, the only one scheduled by the SBC Committee on Order Business, Adkins said Southern Baptists would benefit from “seeing the process” of the task force.

But task force members argued against the effort to open the records immediately, saying it would require them to break promises of confidentiality they made with individuals they consulted with in their deliberations.

“We promised them confidentiality during deliberations,” said Albert Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and a task force member. “This recommendation would require this task force to break its word.” It also would “rob us of our own historical record” and have a chilling effect on future committees, he added.

Calling journalism “the first draft of history,” James Smith, editor of the Florida Baptist Witness, supported the motion, saying history could be written “now and in future weeks.”

But Greg Wills, a church history professor at Southern Seminary and member of La Grange Baptist Church, disagreed, suggesting 15 years “is an entirely reasonable, brief period” for sealing such records. Opening the records now “may serve a short-term political agenda, but we will lose the history of our committees at the most critical time.”

Messengers referred 13 motions to the SBC Executive Committee for future action, including calls for:

■ Changes to be made to the Cooperative Program allocation budget.

■ Parking passes to be made available during SBC annual meetings.

■ The exclusion of churches that are affiliated with the Alliance of Baptists.

■ Amendments to be made to the SBC Constitution, specifically Articles III, IV.1 and IV.2, as well as Article IV to preclude Cooperative Program-supported employees as trustees of SBC entities.

■ Including church membership and Cooperative Program giving information about nominees listed in the SBC’s annual “Book of Reports.”

■ A change in the qualifications for convention officers, requiring them to be members of churches that give a minimum of 10 percent of undesignated receipts to the Cooperative Program.

■ The adoption of the “U.S. Christian Flag” as the SBC’s “banner of purpose.”

■ Baptist Press to become an SBC entity, no longer under the control of the SBC Executive Committee.

■ Resolutions to be posted online prior to SBC meetings.

■ A study of holding the SBC meeting every other year rather than annually.

■ Dwight McKissic of Cornerstone Baptist Church in Arlington, Texas, proposed amending Article III, Section 1 of the SBC Constitution to include “racial discrimination” in the definition of churches “not in cooperation” with the SBC.

Other than the motion to open records of the GCRIF proceedings to the public, McKissic’s motion was the only one eliciting discussion on the floor.

## Agency-referred motions

A motion requesting a strategy for expanding Christian schooling alternatives, was referred to the North American Mission Board.

LifeWay Christian Resources received a motion from asking the agency to “reconsider the validity” of selling books by T.D. Jakes, Don Piper and William Young.

A motion asking the SBC to adopt guidelines for stating positions on partisan political issues was referred to the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

## President's address

### Hunt: GCRTF recommendations will take 'yawn' out of the SBC

By Drew Nichter  
News Director

Orlando, Fla.—Just as Caleb and Joshua delivered a “bold report” to the Israelites about the Promised Land, so has the Great Commission Resurgence task force relayed a “compelling vision” to the Southern Baptist Convention, President Johnny Hunt told messengers prior to their approval of the committee’s report.

Delivering his final address to the convention as its president, Hunt said this year’s annual meeting in Orlando, Fla., finds the SBC at a crossroads.

“Many are saying this could be a history-making convention,” the pastor of First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga., told messengers. “God could use some of the things we do here ... to embolden Southern Baptists to their greatest days.”

Referring to Joshua 14, Hunt compared the report of the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force to the “bold report” Caleb and Joshua brought back to the Israelites after spying out the land of Canaan.

Twelve spies were sent to assess the land promised to them by the Lord; 10 of them brought back “bad reports,” Hunt said. Joshua and Caleb saw things differently.

“Ten of the spies magnified the problems, spent lots of time reviewing the past and, in the process, missed God,” he said.

Caleb and Joshua, however, “magnified the power of God, made so much of the promises of God and desired to lead the people to a brighter future,” Hunt added.

After the Israelites rebelled against Joshua and Caleb’s report, the tribe would not inherit the land the Lord had promised them for another 45 years, Hunt reminded messengers.

Saying the spirit of the task force report mirrors that of Caleb’s, Hunt called the group’s “Penetrating the Lostness” docu-

ment a “compelling vision” for the denomination—“something that will take the yawn out of Southern Baptist rhetoric.”

“I’m tired of yawning. I’m tired of having my membership in a convention that’s declining,” Hunt declared.

And decline is the No. 1 concern. According to the SBC’s Annual Church Profile report released last month, church membership dipped 0.42 percent in 2009.

Most SBC leaders agree the primary reason is the aging of the denomination, and only an infusion of young leadership will stave off a continued slide.



Johnny Hunt

“Look around,” Hunt said. “We’re aging. We’re balding. We don’t have 45 years. ... We’re here to make decisions that will affect what type of convention we offer to the young ones that are coming behind us.”

Hunt, well known for his mentorship of young evangelical leaders through his Timothy + Barnabas Ministry, said he is being challenged by the up-and-coming generation of church leaders.

“I’d like to be a blessing to the ones that went before me that made such an investment in me,” he said. “But I want to grab the young group behind me ... and rally them to our greatest days in Southern Baptist life.”

While many details still are to be ironed out now that the Great Commission Resurgence report has been approved, Hunt said he is convinced it will renew Southern Baptists’ hearts for fulfilling God’s utmost commandment.

“The future of the Southern Baptist Convention will not rest on a single vote alone,” he said. “But who can calculate what it will mean as a waiting world and a rising generation watch to see if we’re serious about emboldened Great Commission faithfulness in the future.”

## Convention sermon

### Refocus on God’s preeminence, Brunson urges SBC messengers

By Todd Deaton  
Editor

Orlando, Fla.—Florida pastor Mac Brunson urged Southern Baptists to refocus on the preeminence of Jesus Christ.

“I’m afraid that in our convention and across the ministry today, we are far better preachers at battling one another, than we are at battling our enemy (Satan),” Mac Brunson, pastor of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla., said in the annual convention sermon, delivered to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Orlando, Fla.

Basing his message on John 3, Brunson exhorted Southern Baptist ministers to proclaim the preeminence of Jesus Christ in their lives and preaching and in relying on God’s resources.

Observing that Jesus’ disciples had become jealous and agitated with John the Baptist, who also was baptizing in the Jordan River, Brunson asserted that it was “all because they had begun to focus on themselves, instead of the preeminence of Jesus Christ.”

Brunson noted a study conducted years ago by former seminary professor Ken Chafin which found a high rate of bitterness and resentment among pastors then.

“That’s what was happening with the disciples,” Brunson explained, noting that Chafin’s survey found three common attitudes: they tended toward being negative, were highly competitive and didn’t like other preachers.

“There is something happening among pastors today that absolutely has the watching world astounded, the devil laughing and our Almighty God grieving,” Brunson asserted.

To rectify this condition, he emphasized a need for preachers to recognize that any success they have in the ministry is because

God gave it.

“I am saved solely because of God’s grace. I have received His salvation,” Brunson said, reminding preachers that “any church growth you have is an act of the sovereign God. You receive it!”

Calling the people of his congregation “a gift from God” that he has received only because of God’s goodness, he asked, “Do you realize, pastor, you are a gift to that congregation ... (and) that congregation is a gift to you?”



Mac Brunson

Brunson reminded pastors they are first servants, referring to 1 Corinthians 3. “If you have been ordained to the gospel ministry, let me let you in on something, you’re just a preacher,” he said. “You may be a denominational official, ... but you’re just a preacher. You may have degrees hanging down your walls like curtains in a mansion, but you’re just a preacher. ... And, there’s nothing better in all the world than that.”

Brunson also underscored a need for ministers to have a proper perspective of their position, pointing out that John the Baptist understood Jesus was the bridegroom, and he was “just the best man, a friend of the bridegroom.”

Drawing out the comparison, Brunson observed that the best man customarily brings the bride down the aisle and places her hand in the groom’s hand. Like John, he explained, ministers must realize all they are called to do is “put their hands in the nail-scarred hands.”

“That’s what will bring joy in your ministry,” he said.

Finally, in emphasizing the preeminence of God’s resources, Brunson observed that the passage speaks of “an actual hell where people are going to go,” but it also declares: “We have a Savior who has everything necessary in those nail-scarred hands to save this world. ... That must be our focus.”



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## Nolan caps convention with salvation message

By Tony Martin  
Mississippi Baptist Record

Orlando, Fla.—Bringing the 2010 Southern Baptist Convention to a close, evangelist Tony Nolan of Woodstock, Ga., issued a simple call to salvation to Southern Baptist Convention messengers in Orlando, Fla.

Using John 10:10 as his focal passage, Nolan said most commentators believe the thief Jesus referred to is Satan, who sets out to steal and destroy. “Satan is a thug,” Nolan said. “He’s not a drug dealer, but he is a hurt dealer.”

Using the “hurt dealer” imagery, Nolan shared his own testimony, recalling that his mother was a “mentally insane prostitute,” and he was given up for adoption at age 3. His adoptive father bought him for \$200, he stated. His father said: “You’ll never amount to anything. I wish I’d never bought you.”

“The hurt dealer uses things like this to tear you apart bit by bit,” Nolan said. He testified how he was on the verge of suicide when a member of a Southern Baptist church shared the gospel with him, and Nolan received Christ.

“Jesus comes to heal the deepest hurt of every human heart,” Nolan said. “The big change for me was that I went from being a sinking ship to a workmanship.”

“This carries the idea of our lives being a canvas on which God wishes to paint a masterpiece of Himself,” Nolan continued. “The Christian experience is nothing more than giving God the brushes. Let Him pick the colors. We allow God to paint a picture for others to see.”

# WMU elects new president, encourages 'unhindered' mission

Orlando, Fla.—Participants at the 122nd annual meeting of national Woman's Missionary Union elected a new president, heard from Sudan's ambassador, honored Kaye Miller's five years as WMU president, and heard missions challenges June 13-14 in Orlando.

Debby Akerman of Ocean View Baptist Church in Myrtle Beach, S.C., was unanimously elected WMU president to succeed Miller. Akerman served as WMU president for the Baptist Convention of New England from 1993-97. In 2007, she received the Del-lanna West O'Brien Award for Women's Leadership Development.

Akerman, a nurse for 30 years, and her husband, Brad, share a ministry leading Bible studies at Street Reach, a mission in Myrtle Beach that ministers to the homeless and people struggling with addictions.

## Prayer for Sudan

Akec Khoc, Sudan's ambassador to the United States, requested prayer for the African nation torn apart by civil war.



**WMU OFFICERS** Debby Akerman (left) of Ocean-view Baptist Church in Myrtle Beach, S.C., was elected Woman's Missionary Union president, while Rosalie Hunt of First Baptist Church of Guntersville, Ala., was re-elected as recording secretary. (Photo by Cat McDonald/BP)

"Those in the North and South are trying to bring results through the barrel of a gun," Khoc said. "But healing can come only through prayer to God. ... We are appealing to you to pray to our Heavenly Father for the people of Sudan. Only through Him can we find peace. ... Pray that North and South can agree on peace and unity and partnership."

Ken Welborn, North American Mission Board missionary to the United Nations, noted Sudan's civil war has resulted in genocide. The fight is over oil, he said, but Christians in Sudan are fighting for their homeland. A fragile peace accord had been reached, but tensions threaten to break it, he reported. Welborn urged the women to join Sudanese Christians in 40 days of prayer, Dec. 1-Jan. 9, for peace.

## Miller's farewell

In her last address as WMU president, Miller followed the program theme "Unhindered," based on Hebrews 12:1, speaking of facing challenges in God's strength despite hindrances.

Miller, a member of Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock, Ark., said while growing up as a missionary kid in Thailand, she learned that many things try to hinder the work of missionaries on the field.

She recalled how her childhood Thai friend, Sombon, suddenly quit attending school. "She just vanished," Miller said. Years later, Miller saw her in Bangkok.

"Because there was no money in her family, she had been sold into prostitution ... Her father, an opiate addict, sold her services from the time she was about 11 years old," Miller explained. "My heart broke, partly because I felt guilty for not being able to find her earlier, and for all that she had been through. She looked old and used. She was just a shell of who she used to be. ... I never saw her again."

In November, Miller received a letter from Sombon.

"After I saw her, something had stirred in her soul and she knew she had to get out of the life she was living. A Southern Baptist missionary woman who felt called to minister to these trapped women often came by her club to talk with her, ... to share about Jesus," Miller said.

"Sombon escaped from the life of prostitution to a life in Jesus Christ and was able to make a life for herself and her family. She was redeemed in Christ. ... Sombon is now teaching young girls that they too can be all they can be through Jesus Christ."

Human exploitation "is not just happening on the other side of the world," Miller said. "Right where you live, young girls are being trafficked for prostitution or some form of exploitation."

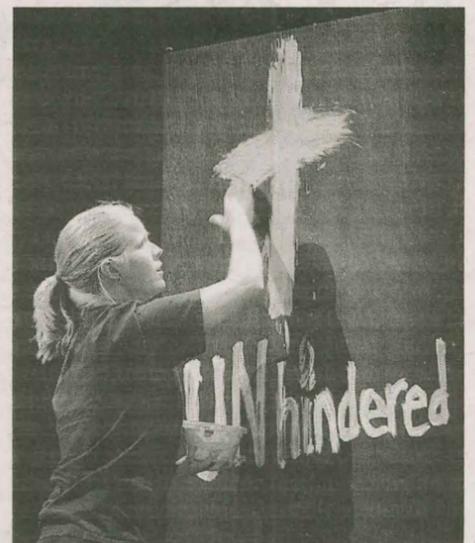
She encouraged WMU meeting participants to open their eyes and hearts, learn about the issues and seek out ways to help.

Reflecting on her term as WMU president, Miller said: "These have been five incredible years of serving the Lord through Woman's Missionary Union. There have been many hindrances along the way, but the Lord continues to have his hand upon WMU and continues to guide and greatly bless us as we continue to be radically involved in his mission to reach the world."

Noting Wanda Lee has completed 10 years as WMU executive director, Miller told the assembly WMU is renaming its Joy Fund—which meets pressing current needs and secures the organization's financial future through the WMU Foundation—as the Wanda Lee Joy Fund.

## Stories from the field

■ A missionary couple who serves in South Asia told of the billion and a half spiritually lost people there. They shared stories of movements of God among Hindu



**THEME INTERPRETATION** Artist Mindy Jaquith paints a piece that illustrates "unhindered," the theme for this year's 2010 National Woman's Missionary Union Missions Celebration and annual meeting.

and Muslim people groups, and they asked WMU to pray that Muslims "will have a holy curiosity about the Bible and about Jesus."

■ Monica Allen, a missionary in Swaziland, described her call and of the needs of that African nation. "Over 40 percent of our adult population has AIDS," she said. "We may become the first nation to wipe itself out through the AIDS epidemic."

■ Sharon Fields-McCormick, a NAMB missionary, addressed the commercial sexual exploitation of children in the United States. Painting descriptive word pictures of the tragedies each girl endures, she challenged WMU to do more to bring justice to these children.

Compiled from reporting by Charlie Warren of the Arkansas Baptist, Jim White of the Virginia Religious Herald and Julie Walters of WMU

## In His time

### Medical relief mission to Haiti shows OBI staffer joy-bringing power of Christ

By Christa Bevil, OBI assistant farm manager

When God called our family to Oneida Baptist Institute two years ago, I knew He wanted us here—but He had given me a heart's desire for foreign missions 10 years prior. We have four daughters and didn't know how God would work out for me to ever do foreign missions. Little did I know that He would prepare me here at Oneida for foreign missions to many different countries.

After the earthquake in Haiti, some of my family members called and told me of an opportunity. A missions group from Western Kentucky called Missions of Love was getting medical people together to serve in a tent hospital in Port-au-Prince. Being an LPN and already having the desire to serve on the foreign mission field gave me the desire to go.

Then I thought about finances, someone to take care of my children and my job here at OBI. But when God has a plan and you seek Him for His will, He brings all things together. In two days' time, without even sharing with anyone about the cost of travel and child care, God provided all—and in abundance. It was unbelievable; for those two days I was in awe of God's provisions.

There ended up being seven of us who went to work in Haiti. Even though I had been watching the news, it still did not prepare me for what I would experience. We stayed in tents in the yard of a home in Port-au-Prince. There were not many store-bought tents in the neighborhood where we stayed. Most were made out

of sheets, clothes, plastic, cardboard, etc. En route to the hospital, we could see people digging through rubble, dragging out remains of family members.

At the hospital we worked from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and never stopped. The lines to get into the hospital were miles long every day. The heat was terrible and almost everyone we saw was dehydrated from lack of water. Each evening we went home saddened by all of the sickness and deaths of the day. But at night, while lying in my tent, I could hear people everywhere having church, singing and praising God. I asked a Haitian man to interpret for me and he said many were being saved at that very moment. It was like that each night for the nine days we were there.

We also visited two orphanages that each were sharing Christ with the children. I had been given Creole-language Bibles and there was a student at OBI from Haiti who taught me some basic words and scripture that I used to share Christ. One older gentleman who I treated in the E.R. accepted Christ and I got to leave a Bible with him. God showed me that even in the midst of disaster and chaos, He can bring joy.

"Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desire of your heart" (Psalm 37:4).

### This is Oneida



W.F. Underwood

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

## Ministers, money and management

### New online class to answer ministers' money questions

Last week I shared about the learning opportunities our new online delivery format is going to bring to the thousands of bivocational ministers all across the Kentucky and Southern Baptist conventions. This week I want to share an example of the kind of learning opportunities we are developing; classes that will be of great value to the bivocational minister who may be seeking help with ministerial financial issues.

Recently, our director of distance education, Jay Barnett, and I attended the National Bivocational Ministers Conference at Del Norte Baptist Church in Albuquerque, N.M. Our goal was to begin networking and get our message out about the new delivery format for our degree.

During the course of our meetings, we became acquainted with Chris Elkins, a representative of the SBC's GuideStone Financial Resources. Chris began to share with us how he had just been assigned to a new area at GuideStone which would focus on developing materials that could be used in a classroom setting to help SBC ministers with all the financial issues they face.

Barnett and I began to talk with Chris about the idea of partnering with GuideStone to develop a class for our online program that would assist bivocational ministers with the financial issues they might face in their ministry settings. Chris agreed to take the idea back to GuideStone and discuss it with others.

We recently received official word from GuideStone President O.S. Hawkins that they would be glad to partner with us to offer this class to ministers.

I am excited to say that the class "ministers, money and management" is currently being developed by GuideStone, and Clear Creek will be able to offer the class online in the fall of 2010. The goal of the class will be to help ministers understand compensation, ministerial tax issues, employee benefit arrangements, and the resources and tools available through GuideStone Financial Resources.

If you would like more information about this class and our online program, contact Jay Barnett at j Barnett@cbbbc.edu.

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

### Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

## Going 'beyond'

### Emphasis urges students to discover God-given passions

The real effect of camp ministry is not based on what happens at camp, but on the future actions of the students and adults. Last year we started a movement called "The Beyond Effect." This simply is a phrase that we use to identify what happens when students "go beyond."

The whole movement is about helping students realize that they possess God-given passions. Their purpose is to identify these passions and connect them to needs—specifically, the needs of those who would be characterized as the "least of these."

Each week students are challenged as they are presented with the fact that much of the world is comprised of children faced with circumstances that are very challenging, from orphans in India and Africa to those in need who are right across the street from their own homes.

We encourage students to connect their passions with the burdens they develop—and then urge them to do something about it. The real key is that no matter how young they are, God can accomplish amazing things through students if only they will step out in faith and follow God's leading.

Over the past year, our staff has been amazed by the stories of students who are doing amazing things to impact people in their communities and around the world. I can only imagine as we have thousands of students challenged with The Beyond Effect each year, what will take place in the future as countless campers go beyond themselves.

Camp is, to some degree, about what does take place while in this unique and temporary environment. Camps serve as markers for countless Christians all over, where eternal and life-altering decisions took place that forever changed the course of their lives.

Even in my life, the call to ministry came at a camp/retreat center when I was 30 years old.

But, the real excitement and proof of camp comes once people have left camp. As we hear stories that are being written from ideas planted last summer, we could not have imagined what students would be doing now. I realize how blessed we are that God allows us to be involved in how He changes people.

You can find out more about The Beyond Effect by visiting [www.TheBeyondEffect.org](http://www.TheBeyondEffect.org).

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

### Ky. Baptist Assemblies



David Melber

## Thanksgiving year-round

### Abused, neglected children need help all year long

Do you know how much of the Cooperative Program money your church gives goes to support the ministries of Sunrise Children's Services? As a participating, cooperating, Kentucky Baptist church, you support the ministries of Sunrise Children's Services through Cooperative Program gifts. But, how much of what you give through CP actually gets to Sunrise? The answer may surprise you.

If your church gives \$1,000 each year to the Cooperative Program, 1.5 percent, or \$15, of that amount reaches our ministry to abused kids. That's right: \$15 of every \$1,000 of Cooperative Program gifts gets to the kids we serve. For the fiscal year 2010-11, the Cooperative Program money budgeted for Sunrise is \$350,483, which makes up less than two percent of our annual budget.

This is not a complaint, just the facts. Many of our pastors and churches believe we receive significant dollars from the Kentucky Baptist Convention through the Cooperative Program. Most are surprised to learn how few dollars actually come to us through the KBC.

The convention provides a way for Kentucky Baptists to supplement Cooperative Program gifts through the Thanksgiving Offer-

ing. Because our CP allocation is so low in relation to the size of our ministry, the Thanksgiving Offering is a way for individuals and churches to give beyond CP.

Each year we promote the Thanksgiving Offering. We remind pastors and churches that receiving the offering throughout the year is acceptable with us. Taking up the offering during Thanksgiving may not be the best time for your church because of the Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions.

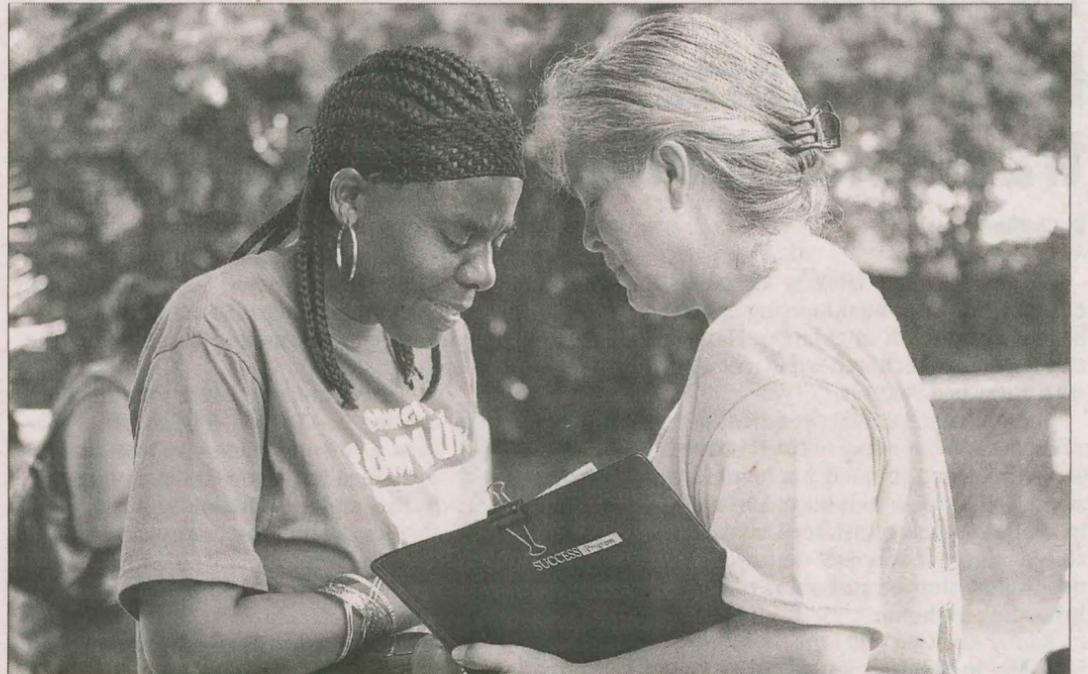
When your church takes up the Thanksgiving Offering or exactly what the CP percentages are is not the real issue. Children robbed of their innocence and childhood by adults, regardless of the reasons, is the real issue we must address. Feeling safe and secure while not feeling hunger, hearing about Jesus for maybe the first time in their lives, and knowing someone is there for them all the time is what the kids we serve really need.

At Sunrise Children's Services, we put broken children back together again. Want to help us? If you have not done so already, set a date and a goal for the Thanksgiving Missions Offering any time of the year. The kids need your help. Bill Smithwick is president of Sunrise Children's Services. Contact Sunrise at (502) 538-1000 or [www.sunrise.org](http://www.sunrise.org)

### Sunrise Children's Services



Bill Smithwick



Eva Smith (right) of First Baptist Church of Apopka, Fla., leads Stephanie Moss in a prayer to accept Jesus Christ into her life during a block party June 12 at First Baptist, Apopka. Hundreds of people across the greater Orlando area received Christ through Crossover, a series of evangelical events held prior to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention. (Photos by Cat McDonald/BP)

## Crossover Orlando

### Thousands share hope of the gospel across Central Florida

Orlando, Fla.—A friendly conversation, a story, a realization and a prayer: That's the gist of what happens when one person shares and another accepts the simple gospel of Jesus Christ. And while the methods and venues may have varied, the scene played out more than 1,400 times June 7-12 as Southern Baptists expressed their core message of hope through Crossover Orlando.

The effort, held just prior to the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting last week, involved more than 70 local churches and 1,200 outside volunteers. Venues included weeklong Hispanic Crossover and Intentional Community Evangelism efforts, as well as a one-day blitz June 12 that included 15 neighborhood block parties, visits to homes, food distribution at five churches, free water bottles for tourists on International Drive and a huge family festival for the Hispanic community at the Central Florida Fairgrounds.

"The best thing summing up the week for me was for people to see Southern Baptists at their best—cooperating with one another at association, state and national levels," said Mike Armstrong, executive pastor at First Baptist Church of Winter Park, Fla., and coordinator of Crossover Orlando. "They saw the best of what Southern Baptists truly are, and that is a cooperative people."

Crossover is coordinated nationally through the North American Mission Board.

Bill Faulkner, director of missions for the 168 churches of Greater Orlando Baptist Association, said he believes the benefits will extend far beyond the spiritual decisions that were made.

"Encouraging churches in an event like this will help them see that they can do this all the time," Faulkner said. "It doesn't have to be a special event. It doesn't have to be necessarily with volunteers from outside. They see it and they say, 'Wow, we can do this.'"

Additionally, decisions recorded throughout Crossover are distributed to local churches for immediate follow-up with individuals.

### Hispanic Crossover

The Hispanic Crossover initiative involved about 18 churches during the week before the convention through street evangelism, home visits, evangelistic services, vacation Bible school and an effort to have families invite individuals to their homes to share Christ. A total of 270 professions of faith were reported.

"One of the things that I noticed is the ease with which some people are just opening their doors and accepting Jesus as their Lord and Savior," said Eloy Rodriguez, pastor of Hay Vida En Jesus and one of the coordinators of the outreach.

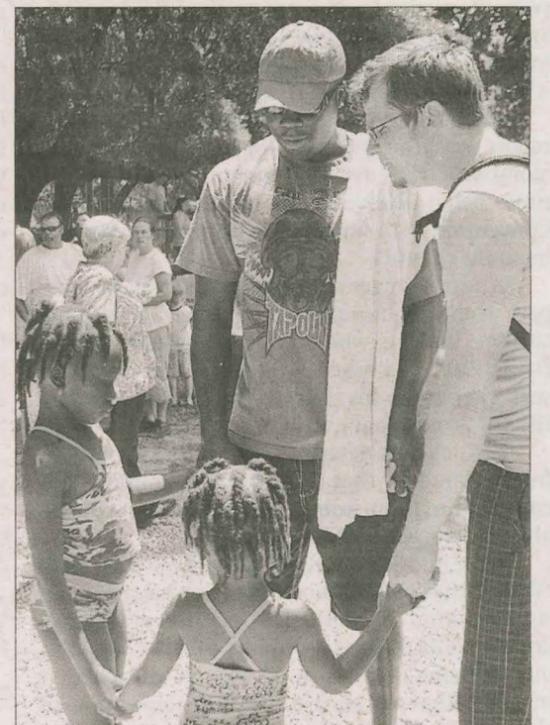
"I guess the times that we're living in, most of the people that we share with are in need. So they're very open to the gospel."

The effort was the largest coordinated outreach ever among Hispanic churches in Orlando, Rodriguez pointed out.

At a two-day soccer clinic at Comunidad Cristiana En Sus Pasos, high school soccer coach Andy Schatz of Marietta, Ga., taught soccer skills with the help of volunteer coaches from the church. The ongoing World Cup competition brought an additional level of interest, as participants were able to watch part of the Mexico vs. South Africa game.

Those attending the clinic also had an opportunity to hear and respond to presentations of the gospel, and by the end of the second day, 80 had made professions of faith—including 15 parents who participated in a closing ceremony.

"Getting them interested with soccer gets them connected, especially with the leaders," said Andrew Snow, part of a youth group helping out from New Providence Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga. "So that way, when we have ministry opportunities they're more likely to listen." (BP)



SALVATION IS HERE Chris Hobbs (right), youth pastor at Southside Baptist Church in Bowie, Texas, prays with a family during a block party sponsored by First Baptist Church of Apopka, Fla., as part of Crossover Orlando.

## LifeWay report

## Rainer, Stetzer highlight entity's transformational church emphasis

By Charlie Warren  
Arkansas Baptist News

Orlando, Fla.—The LifeWay Christian Resources report to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Orlando, Fla., emphasized transformational churches and a new partnership with Sherwood Pictures.

Thom Rainer, LifeWay president, said when floodwaters rising in the Nashville area threatened to flood his home, he asked God to show him hope. Ultimately, while his home sustained considerable damage, it was not destroyed, as floodwaters stopped just short of totally flooding his home.

Rainer said God told him, "Your hope is in Me, in my Son, Jesus, and in the Holy Spirit."

Rainer said just as he needed hope, pastors across America, seeing "the dismal state of churches in America" and even in the SBC, are asking, "Where is the hope?"

He said the hope is in God and in churches transforming communities and transforming lives.

"God is not finished with the Southern Baptist Convention," Rainer emphasized.

## Transforming churches

LifeWay is launching an emphasis on the transformational church, he noted.

Following a video about the transformational church emphasis, Ed Stetzer, director of LifeWay Research, explained how LifeWay identified 7,000 transformational churches in both cities and rural areas that are growing spiritually and

numerically.

"We listened to what pastors of these churches said" in telephone interviews, Stetzer explained. LifeWay consultants went to 250 of those churches to help determine patterns and characteristics the churches share in common.

Three categories were identified, according to Stetzer—the churches discern a mission mentality and passion to change the world locally and globally, they embrace vibrant leadership, and they engage in corporate worship that changes lives.

"Many are struggling with the church," Stetzer said. "Many churches are plateaued. ... But God is not through with your church."

By discerning how God already is at work in these transformational churches, Stetzer said LifeWay hopes to share with all churches so they can incorporate the principles that have made these churches succeed and "change the scorecard" from counting numbers to measuring lives redeemed.

Rainer added that the emphasis on the transformational church "is an initiative we believe will shape our vision and resources at LifeWay."

The report also noted a new partnership with Sherwood Pictures and its new feature film, "Courageous," which models godly fatherhood and accountability for men, according to Michael Catt, pastor of Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany, Ga.

Catt told messengers: "It has been a blessing for LifeWay to give us their energy and resources in partnership. ... We are asking God to start a men's movement out of this movie."



Thom Rainer

## Leaders urge B21 group to stay in the hall

By Norman Jameson  
North Carolina Biblical Recorder

Orlando, Fla.—Supporters of the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force took an opportunity to push their report when they encouraged 1,300 primarily younger pastors attending the B21 conference last Tuesday to leave the luncheon and become fixtures in the meeting hall.

"Please get into that hall, sit in a chair and do not leave until somebody prays and we go eat," said Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President Albert Mohler.

Mohler was one of eight panelists who answered questions presented to them by Jon Akin and Jed Coppenger, two leaders of B21, a movement intended to help participants discern what it is to be Baptist in the 21st century.

The Great Commission Resurgence Task Force report was the primary topic of conversation, along with frank discussions about reasons to continue being involved with the Southern Baptist Convention or to support its Cooperative Program missions channel.

Because changes suggested in the task force report would require painful adjustments in some entities' budgets where priorities would change, David Platt was asked to explain how he made such changes in his church, The Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, Ala.

Platt's church determined to shift \$1.5 million from its budget that was spent on comfort and convenience for members "to go to urgent spiritual and physical needs."

"In the end, it's not really a sacrifice," Platt said. "We still have much more than our brothers and sisters around the world. ... The reality of what we do as a convention is a product of what we do in our churches. When we do that as churches, it informs what we need to do as a convention of churches."

Mohler called the decades of the 1950s through the 1980s "fat" years in Southern Baptist life when they could put money into good ideas.

Today, "everything's got to be provisional" and open for reconsideration in the light of gospel scrutiny, Mohler noted, because "I don't think we're ever going to be there again."

SBC President Johnny Hunt said the urgency voiced by young pastors has inspired him and his wife to examine how they will commit more of their personal resources to missions. To all preachers, Hunt said, "There's got to be more emulation to go with our exhortation."

He said he is encouraged that out of the GCR debate, "the greatest change that will probably happen has already come and that is that God will change our heart."

Jimmy Scoggins, pastor of First Baptist Church of West Palm Beach, Fla., said he resents that "to be considered a good soldier" in Baptist ranks, he has to "cooperate in too many things I don't believe in" and support departments in his state convention he sees no reason to have, "money spent on good things by good people that should be given to the inner city."

"Our convention agencies are going to have to compete for mission dollars," Scoggins said.

"It is a competitive environment," he said and he is going to lead his church to give to "networks that are doing the best job." He said the task force report gives him hope that such a network "will be the Cooperative Program."

Matt Chandler, who affiliates with the SBC and serves on the Acts 29 network board, said the SBC will not be fixed overnight, but the key to his continued support is to discern that it is "headed in a direction."

By the same token, Chandler said of Acts 29, "Anybody who thinks that's a pretty house just hasn't been inside the house."

Ed Stetzer, president of LifeWay Research said, "Southern Baptists are not now evidencing a serious commitment to planting churches."

Southern Baptists plant a lot of churches only because they have a lot of churches already, he said. But per capita, Southern Baptists are low.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## June

25-26 Acteens Splash, Jonathan Creek Camp and Conference Center, Hardin.

25-26 Courage for God's Mission, Laurel Lake Baptist Camp, Corbin.

25-26 Girls in Action Overnight, Jonathan Creek Camp and Conference Center, Hardin.

25-26 Mother/Daughter Overnight, CedarCrest Camp, Bagdad; Jonathan Creek Camp and Conference Center, Hardin.

26 Baptist Nursing Fellowship Summer Meeting, Louisville.

28-30 Express Mission Adventure Camp for Girls and Boys, CedarCrest Camp, Bagdad.

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

## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **INDEPENDENCE**—Hickory Grove Church called **Bill Clark** as pastor June 6. He previously served as an associate pastor and youth minister at the church.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Gardenside Church recently honored Pastor **John Landon** for his 50 years in ministry. He also was recognized for his career in higher education both at the University of Kentucky and the Carver School of Social Work at Southern Seminary. Landon will retire as pas-

tor at the end of the year.

■ **SHELBIANA**—Grace Church recently called **Andrew Smith** as pastor. He previously was associate pastor at Grace Chapel Church in Kingwood, W.Va.

■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—University of the Cumberlands' men's basketball team will host its annual Big Man Camp June 27-July 1 for children ages 13-17. For more information, call (606) 539-4389 or visit [www.UCumberlands.edu/Athletics](http://www.UCumberlands.edu/Athletics).

## Welcome

Buck Run Baptist Church  
Church Newsletter Plan  
Hershael York, pastor

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**RESOURCES:** Affordable Web/media solutions for churches, ministries and businesses by Capstone Creations. For more info: [www.capstonecreations.com](http://www.capstonecreations.com).

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor of worship. Applicant must be a worship leader experienced in working with various styles of music. Zion is a dynamic, growing church that currently averages a total of 750 in two blended Sunday morning services. Candidate must have strong spiritual maturity and leadership skills, must be able to lead all aspects of worship ministry including congregational worship, praise team and band, choir of all

ages, and creative arts ministries. Requires a seminary degree with at least five years experience. Send resumé, references and letter of interest to: Zion Baptist Church, 8158 Hwy 351, Henderson, KY 42420. Attn: Worship Pastor Search Committee.

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister to students. Do you have a passion to pass the faith to the next generation by making disciples with students grades 6-12 and their families? Send resumé by July 1 via e-mail to [staffsearch@hghlandbaptistky.com](mailto:staffsearch@hghlandbaptistky.com); or to Personnel Team, 511 Mt. Eden Road, Shelbyville, KY 40066.

**SEEKING:** Called? Friendly, growing church desires a Christ-centered, passionate, creative team-builder to lead an enthusiastic youth ministry. Will accommodate school/work schedule. Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, 1108 Keene-South Elkhorn, Nicholasville, KY 40356; or [gnortonb@live.com](mailto:gnortonb@live.com).

**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](mailto:bbcpastor1@windstream.net).

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



**KENTUCKY  
BAPTIST  
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**T**

he Kentucky Baptist Foundation is celebrating its 65th anniversary as the trust agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

We strive to bring the highest business and Christian ethical standards and methods as a manager of funds and a facilitator of life-changing legacies for Kingdom advancement.

There are three core convictions propelling the Kentucky Baptist Foundation onward in its vital Great Commission service ministry. They are:

- God is creator and owner of all things, and we are called to be His stewards (managers)
- How we plan our estates likely will be the single most important act of financial stewardship we shall ever make
- Through estate stewardship, each of us can impact the world for Christ

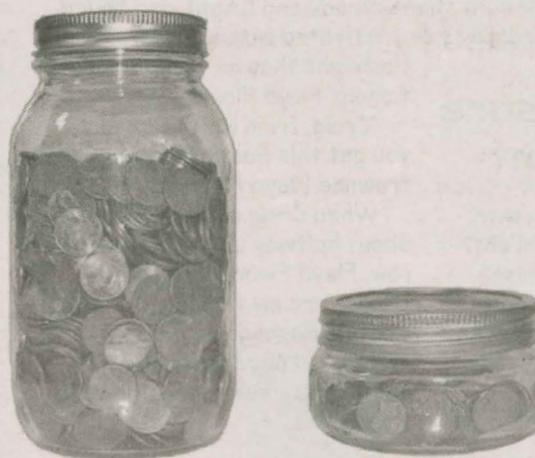
**The Jars of Pennies** illustrates a church member's assets.

**91 percent of a person's assets are non-cash (home equity, retirement assets, etc.)**

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**Most of what is given to the church comes from one of these jars**

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