

Shine like stars in the world
Philippians 2:15

WESTERN Recorder

July 27, 2010
Vol. 184, No. 28

FOR THE RECORD

Kentucky
Kentucky Baptist disaster relief teams deployed to help with Eastern Kentucky flooding.
Page 2.



Missions
South Carolina missions team starts a "RIOT" at Bell County prison.
Page 3.



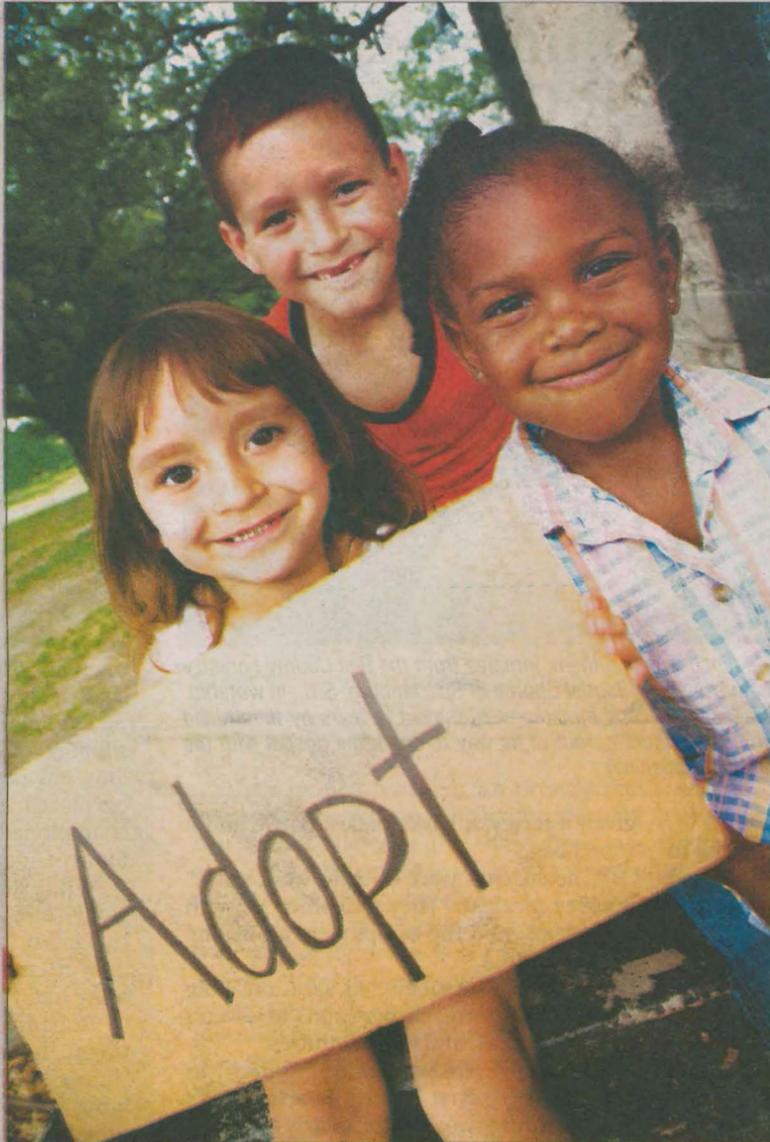
Ministry
Saddle Up!: Texas cowboy church lives "Saddle Ridge Ranch" VBS theme.
Page 6.

Find us on Facebook

and on twitter
as westernrecorder

An Adoption Resurgence?

Agencies say interest on the rise thanks to Christian focus



By Michael Foust

The adoption agency Bethany Christian Services says interest in adoption by couples is significantly ahead of what it was last year, a trend that is showing up elsewhere and, according to adoption leaders, is an example of a growing adoption movement among Christians.

International adoption placements through Bethany are up 66 percent this year compared to last year, while inquiries about international adoptions are up 95 percent, the agency reported July 19. Domestic infant adoption interest also is up: Applications have jumped 23 percent and home studies are up 15 percent.

Representatives from Nightlight Christian Adoptions and Buckner International—two Christian-based agencies—say they, too, have seen an uptick in interest from couples wanting to adopt.

The increased interest comes as ministries and churches renew their focus on adoption.

The Southern Baptist Convention's Pastors' Conference in June had a special emphasis on adoption and donated its offering "overage" to adoption scholarships for pastors and missionaries. Saddleback Church hosted a Forum on Orphans and Adoption in May, and the Christian Alliance for Orphans in April held its sixth annual Summit conference, an event that has grown each year.

□ See Southern Baptist ... Page 7



SAYING GOODBYE Jerry and Bobbye Rankin chat with North Carolina trustee Rick Byrd during the July 20-21 International Mission Board trustees meeting in Richmond, Va. It was Rankin's final board meeting as IMB president.

IMB trustees honor Rankin, take action on GCR report

By Don Graham
International Mission Board

Richmond, Va.—International Mission Board trustees moved toward the future while honoring the past during their July 20-21 meeting in Richmond, Va. Trustees voted unanimously to recommend modifying the agency's primary ministry assignment to reach people groups globally, including North America, and formally recognized Jerry Rankin for 40 years of service.

The meeting was Rankin's last as IMB president.

Trustees honored Rankin with the title of president emeritus and paid tribute to his 23 years on the mission field and 17 years as the mission board's president during a banquet in his honor.

□ See IMB trustees honor ... Page 6

Historical boxes tell CP story at Murray's First Baptist Church

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Murray—Like so many antiques, the hardwood boxes had been stowed away and forgotten in a back room.

And also like so many antiques, these boxes held a compelling story, one Southern Baptists today are taking to ends of the earth.

In front of First Baptist Church of Murray stands a historical marker detailing the church's connection to the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists' unified plan of giving to missions and ministries. Part of it reads:

"The church adopted what was known as the 'box plan of giving' for the financial support of the church. The placement of offering boxes at each door encouraged God's people to 'walk by faith' depending upon Him."

That was in 1900.

Today, the boxes have reoccupied their rightful place in the church foyer, beckoning members to "walk by faith" in giving to the Cooperative Program.

"It's a great opportunity to, once again, tell the story of what we do as Southern Baptists," Pastor Sam Rainer said.

After arriving at the church nearly a year ago, Rainer learned of the boxes, as well as their rich history and First Baptist, Murray's link to the formation of the Cooperative Program.

Before coming to the church, "If you were to ask me where the Cooperative Program began, I would have given you a very vague history of it dating back to 1925," Rainer said.

That, of course, was the year the Southern Baptist Convention adopted the unified budget plan that came to be known as the Cooperative Program.

□ See Historical boxes ... Page 3



Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, July 28

State DR teams deploy to flooded Eastern Kentucky counties

Pikeville—Kentucky Baptist disaster relief volunteers are helping residents in Pike and Carter counties clean up their homes after floods July 17-18.

Coy Webb, disaster relief associate for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, said an initial team of 13 volunteers arrived in Pike County last Wednesday. A second group was dispatched to Olive Hill in Carter County the following day.

He said he expects additional workers to join the group, bringing the Kentucky Baptist contingent to 40-60.

"Two big storms came through and

dumped a lot of rain in a short period of time," Webb said. "In Eastern Kentucky, there's no place for water to go but down these knobs and into the hollows.

"We've got a huge number of people that lost their homes," he added.

Thousands affected by rain

According to the National Weather Service, two people were killed in flash floods that stemmed from heavy rains July 17 and in the early morning hours of July 18 when up to seven inches of rain fell over parts of central Pike County.

Local officials called the Pike County flooding the worst in years. More than 1,000 residents lost electricity and some 12,000 were without running water when a major water intake plant was damaged. As many as 25,000 local residents on the Mountain Water District System were placed on a boil-water advisory. Most power and water has since been restored.

Meta Baptist Church in Pikeville is providing its facility as a base of operations for the Kentucky Baptist volunteer effort. The disaster relief team is led by Harold and Karen Smith, members of Pleasant

Grove Baptist Church in Shepherdsville.

Because many Pikeville roads were washed out, Webb said Southern Baptist Disaster Relief will not mobilize any feeding units because delivery is impossible. Instead, the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army will provide MREs (meals ready to eat).

Trained Kentucky Baptist disaster relief workers available to serve are encouraged to contact Cindy Henderson by e-mail at Cindy.Henderson@KyBaptist.org.

Compiled from reporting by Dannah Prather of the KBC and Mickey Noah of NAMB

Baptist chaplain accuses South Carolina mission team of touching off a 'RIOT' at Bell Co. prison

By Todd Deaton
Editor

Middlesboro—For more than 40 years, a South Carolina church has been steadfastly committed to assisting churches, schools and needy persons in two Eastern Kentucky counties.

This summer, in addition to various ministries at more than 30 sites, ranging from leading vacation Bible schools, doing light construction and painting projects, conducting basketball camps and providing food support, a 240-member team from First Baptist Church of Spartanburg, S.C., allegedly instigated a prison RIOT—"Revival In Our Town"—according to chaplain Mitch Bradshaw.

"What impressed (the inmates) the most ... was that the team would work it in their schedule to visit such a remote place and display the love of Jesus with them," said Bradshaw, who works at the Bell County Forestry Camp, a minimum-security correctional facility near Pineville.

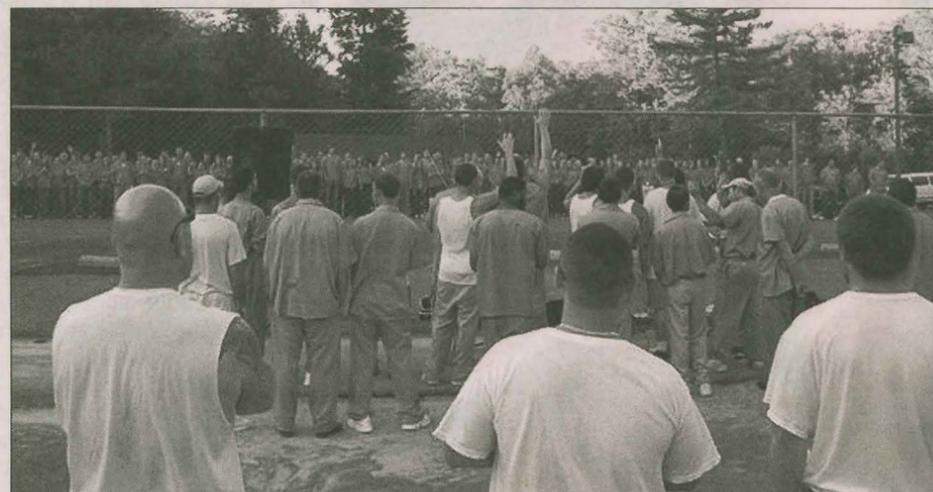
"They were shocked at the number of volunteers who showed up on the final day of their journey in Kentucky to sing to the inmates," added Bradshaw, who also is pastor of East Cumberland Avenue Baptist Church in Middlesboro. "It brought tears to many eyes; it gave the inmates a sense of self-worth and encouraged them dramatically."

"The morale of the prisoners is higher, and their countenance has changed," said Seth Buckley, minister to students at First Baptist, Spartanburg. "I pray God is using us to offer real hope. I feel like that's happening."

Prison ministry

Buckley led daily chapel services at the prison during the last week of June that were attended by as many as 65 inmates, Bradshaw reported. On Friday, the entire missions team gathered at a parking lot just outside the prison fences to sing and share testimonies with inmates.

The Spartanburg team's objective was to create a core group of inmates to reach other prisoners with the gospel. Buckley said he sees a possibility of beginning a monthly ministry to the inmates by partnering with



WORSHIPPING TOGETHER Even with a fence between them, inmates from the Bell County Forestry Camp join the 240-member mission team from First Baptist Church of Spartanburg, S.C., in worship. According to prison chaplain Mitch Bradshaw, several inmates were moved to tears by the unified display of worship and that the church group would go out of its way to share the gospel with the incarcerated men. (Photo courtesy of Mitch Bradshaw)

churches in the Bell County area.

"We want to encourage them to seek to honor God, even in the midst of the bad times; then something beautiful can come from it," Buckley said.

"Don't let this define you as a person," he urged the inmates. Even though they made mistakes, they can "determine from this past what you will become," he explained, emphasizing that God still can use them even now.

Buckley anticipated that First Baptist, Spartanburg will continue to partner with Bradshaw in the future, possibly even investing in constructing a new chapel at the Bell County correctional facility. Speaking of Bradshaw, Buckley observed: "God is using him in a huge way; he's making a real difference."

Upward camps

The Spartanburg team also conducted basketball camps, working with the coaches from area high schools, including Middlesboro, Bell County, Pineville, Knox Central and Barbourville. Partnering with Upward Basketball—which originated at First Baptist, Spartanburg—each of the nearly 400 children who attended the camps was

given a jersey, a basketball, a bottle and a sports bag.

"The coaches were a joy to work with," Buckley recalled. "They welcomed us with open arms, and the camps were a blessing to the children."

Also, team members led vacation Bible schools and outreach programs at several churches in Bell and Knox counties.

At Chapel Grove Baptist Church in Corbin, where First Baptist, Spartanburg's members have worked for nearly 10 years, they assisted Pastor Jim Elliott, providing a needed boost to summer ministry programs for youth and children. And, at Mount Mary Baptist Church in Middlesboro, which typically sees about 50 people in worship, they visited in the community and used two of their vans to transport kids to a vacation Bible school that averaged about 115 children daily.

"It was inspiring to see all those young people interested in church," said Paul Gibson, pastor of Mount Mary Baptist. "It really meant a lot to us."

As a result of the week's work, the Spartanburg team worked with approximately 1,600 children and witnessed more than 100 professions of faith, Buckley estimated.

Campbellsville partners with Central District Baptists

Louisville—Campbellsville University has established a partnership with Central District Baptist Association in Louisville, a move which school officials say will strengthen the university's relations with Louisville-area communities.

Central District Association consists of 146 churches in the Louisville Metro area and is the largest district association of Missionary Baptist churches affiliated with the General Association of Baptists of Kentucky. Eric Johnson, adjunct professor of theology

at Campbellsville's Louisville campus and pastor of Greater Galilee Church, serves as the moderator for the association.

"The purpose of the district is to stimulate Christian development and fellowship, strengthening of leadership within the district churches and to provide resources for various persons, leaders and pastors to serve this present age," he noted.

Johnson said he was interested in increasing the impact of the Catalyst Conference, a Central District-sponsored leader-

ship event. Meanwhile, the university saw the conference as "an opportunity to reflect its commitment to be part of the community in Louisville," said Keith Spears, Campbellsville's vice president for regional and professional education.

"We are excited to be in partnership with CU and we look forward to the conference next year," Johnson noted. "This year was sort of the embryonic stage; next year we hope bring in more people and do great things with CU."

Horse racing group fights for 'casino-style' game at tracks

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Lexington—In an effort to bolster the state's horse racing industry, the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission last week approved regulations that would bring a new slot-machine style game to the state's racetracks.

Supporters of the game, known as Instant Racing, say it is simply a pari-mutuel game that allows people to wager on past horse races chosen at random by a computer. Unlike when placing bets on live races, players compete against each other, not the house.

The regulations have garnered the support of Gov. Steve Beshear, who long has pushed for slot machines to be placed at racetracks. He also has championed—unsuccessfully thus far—expanded gambling in Kentucky.

While some lawmakers support the game, one anti-gambling group said this latest move is just another "back-door attempt to bring casino-style gambling into the state."

"Casino gambling is unconstitutional in our state. Instant Racing is simply another form of casino gambling and it is, therefore, unconstitutional," Martin Cothran, senior policy analyst for the The Family Foundation of Kentucky, said in a statement. "Simply calling it something else doesn't make it something different than what it is."

"This is not just putting lipstick on a pig; this is giving the pig a full makeover," he added.

However, despite the horse racing commission's approval, the move has received less-than-enthusiastic reaction statewide.

The Louisville Courier-Journal reported that Churchill Downs officials have not yet committed to using the game at its tracks.

The game also has to make its way through a grinding legal process. Because of its resemblance to a slot machine, state courts must decide if it indeed falls under the pari-mutuel wagering definition. If not, it would be declared unconstitutional.

In his statement, Cothran pointed out that earlier this year Attorney General Jack Conway said Instant Racing is not considered pari-mutuel wagering.

According to the C-J, Kentucky Horse Racing Commission chairman Bob Beck said the legal process could take at least six months to resolve.

Historical boxes tell Cooperative Program at FBC Murray

Continued from page 1

"But I didn't know the birthplace (or) where the ideas originated," Rainer added.

The genesis of CP came from two boxes placed just inside the doors of First Baptist, Murray in 1900, the brainchild of then-pastor Harvey Boyce Taylor.

According to numerous accounts, churches operated on what often is referred to as a "societal approach" to giving. Committees were appointed to solicit gifts for everything from missions causes to the pastor's salary to general maintenance needs.

Beyond the local-church level, most Southern Baptist entities—mission boards, schools, children's homes, etc.—would visit churches to make special appeals on their own behalves.

"The one that had the most emotional, heart-tugging story usually got most of the money, and a lot of worthy causes got left out. There wasn't a bigger picture," noted Billy Compton, executive associate for Cooperative Program and resources for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

In 1900, after coming up short on its budget for three years, Pastor Taylor presented to the Murray church a unified budget—the "box plan of giving."

The boxes were stationed at the front of the church where members would place "volunteer gifts of His people for the support of the church," according to an account by Taylor.

An excerpt from the book "A Heart for Missions" by Ira Birdwhistell further details Taylor's description of the box plan:

"A box was put at each church door; all subscriptions and solicitations of funds were done away with; all running expenses of the church were paid and the pastor got what was left."

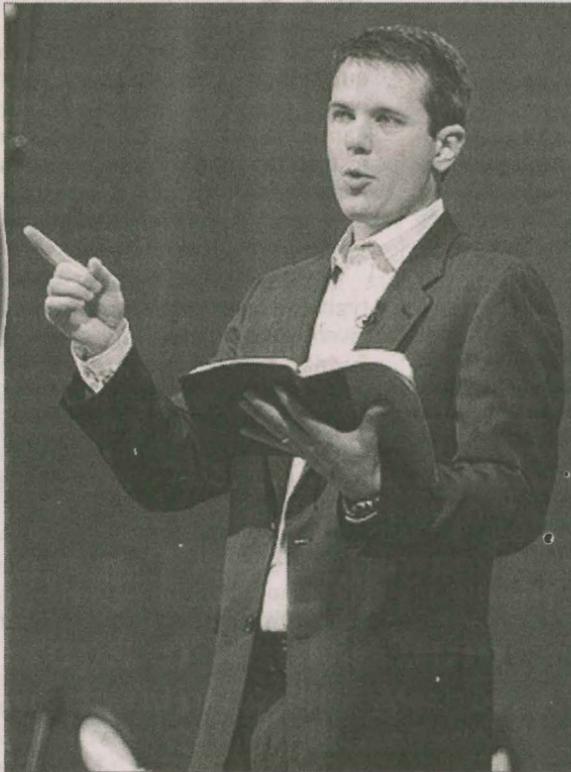
After one year of the box plan, church deacons wanted to return to the "old plan," Taylor said. But after preaching a message which "the Holy Spirit set His approval on," a near-unanimous vote was taken to keep the box plan.

"The plan stuck and it has worked gloriously as all God's plans will if tried in faith and dependence upon Him," Taylor later wrote.

"What happened there at First Baptist, Murray, they created an orderly way to sup-



THEN & NOW Harvey Boyce Taylor (left), then-pastor of First Baptist Church of Murray, developed the "box plan" idea which led to the creation of the Cooperative Program. Today, Pastor Sam Rainer is utilizing the historic boxes to teach church members about CP.



port ministries together," Compton said. "They also ... assisted the church in seeing missions causes as a whole."

The box plan allowed members' gifts to be collected and distributed by the church to various needs on a percentage basis.

An example of First Baptist, Murray's 1914 budget distribution, noted on the KBC's website, was: missions, 50 percent; pastor's salary, 25 percent; assistant pastor's salary, 5 percent; Sunday school: 10 percent; miscellaneous, 5 percent; the poor, 5 percent.

The box plan created "an orderly and balanced method of supporting ministry together, so they can give some intentional thought and prayer to what is the bigger picture here," Compton said.

Five years later, Taylor began a 20-year stint on the Executive Board of the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky (now known as the KBC). He used his position to promote his church's unified budget plan to fellow congregations and the convention as a whole.

In 1914-15, Taylor and F.B. Perkins, a layman serving on the Executive Board, toured the state promoting the unified budget plan. Their efforts led to its adoption by the Kentucky General Association at its 1915 meeting in Jellico, Tenn.

And as the marker outside First Baptist, Murray reads, Kentucky's unified budget plan "became the model for the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program."

Fast forward 85 years: The boxes are back. First Baptist's building certainly is different, but the boxes and their mission remains the same. "It's just a neat way to keep everything at the forefront of people's minds of why we do what we do," Rainer said of the boxes.

Earlier this month, Rainer brought the boxes before the congregation, recalling their history and importance. He used a term he attributed to the church's children's minister: texture—"visible, prominent things that we can use to tell a story."

"It's a way of just being a constant reminder of what we're doing, which ulti-

mately is what the Cooperative Program is about," Rainer explained.

The young pastor credited Henry Webb, an interim pastor who preceded Rainer, with discovering the tucked-away boxes. Webb put them on display and had plaques made up to let church members and others know of their significance.

Rainer said he wanted to take that a step further.

"Rather than making them part of a museum, let's use them, let's make them operational," he said. "And in doing that, let's let the people know, particularly the younger generation ... what it means to be a Southern Baptist and what it also means to support the Cooperative Program."

First Baptist members now have the option of putting their gifts in the offering plates during worship services, or dropping them in the boxes in the foyer.

"I'm intentionally using (the boxes) to tell the story" of the Cooperative Program, Rainer said. It's a story he said he hopes the younger generation and those less familiar with Southern Baptist missions and ministries will take to heart.

"I think we could use a fresh telling of the story," he said. "It's the same story, ... but I think the next generation can champion that and tell it anew and get people excited about what we all should be excited about—winning people for Jesus."

Rainer, who is well known as a speaker on the Southern Baptist circuit and the author of "Essential Church?: Reclaiming a Generation of Dropouts" (which he co-authored with his father, LifeWay President Thom Rainer), said the history of First Baptist, Murray, certainly was a draw to accept the call to lead the church last August.

But the radical ideas that were born in the church with Harvey Boyce Taylor more than 100 years ago still are part of the congregation even today, he pointed out.

"They're still wanting more radical things. They're still desiring to keep putting out new ideas and new ways of reaching people for Jesus," Rainer said.

"You don't have to sell missions at First, Murray," he added. "And a lot of that comes from and is derived from the history of the church. ... That has been the culture of the church for quite some time."

KBC's Congregational Vitality program helps churches on road to recovery

By Ken Walker
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Louisville—Brent Edwards* had only been at the church a few weeks when he realized there were deep-seated divisions among the people.

Recalling spending time at another church that had never resolved its difficulties, the pastor told members they had to decide whether or not they wanted to heal.

"Some churches are so used to conflict that it's become the norm," Edwards said. "I called five key leaders together and said, 'I need to find out what the church's heart is. To a person everyone said, 'We need some help to address this to bring it to a state of better health.'"

At that point, they contacted Karl Babb of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's leadership development team to ask about its Congregational Vitality program.

The initiative was developed two decades ago by current KBC consultant Guy Futral. A four-month-long process, it is designed to help troubled churches get better.

With Edwards' congregation, it helped them resolve some long-standing disputes over finances, worship styles and the passing of leadership roles to younger church members.

"I think the church appreciated them," Edwards said. "They were wise, helpful and compassionate. You could tell they were trustworthy. Even though our folks didn't know them, they trusted them and got involved early on."

Over the past two decades, more than 80 congregations have been through the program. While only consulting with a small number of churches annually, Babb said the effort helps counteract potentially far-reaching, negative consequences.

"You've got three or four churches a year that are healthier and able to move forward," he noted. "If not, they can spiral downward and get into a cycle that impacts ministers, churches and communities. We have seen the value of helping churches."

Though often he is called in after a pastor has resigned or been forced out, Babb said that isn't the only reason churches ask for help with conflict.

Among other sources of disunity are disputes over a church's identity, values, priorities, methods and perspectives.

Because of such problems, churches "become paralyzed, frozen and retreat into themselves," Babb pointed out. "Conflict can have a devastating impact on a church and its ministries. It becomes con-

tradictory of a gospel of love, faith, healing and acceptance."

The program starts with church leaders meeting with KBC consultants. After approving the idea, the church names a task force to facilitate the process and schedules a "listening weekend" where members can air grievances.

The consultants then write a feedback report and schedule a teaching/training weekend to help develop goals for the future. The KBC monitors progress and maintains communication to offer additional feedback.

Most churches will spend about \$1,000 for travel expenses, food for the church training lunch and for the copying and mailing of materials in implementing the process, Babb said.

Several years have passed since Edwards' church completed the program. He said he sees considerable progress. Not only have many members shed an "us vs. them" outlook, they have set up clearer procedures and installed some key leaders who've helped resolve tensions.

"We're not a perfect church but we're much healthier because of the chance to share with somebody objective from outside the church," the pastor said. "I think

the people realized that if the church was going to be healthy, it was going to be the responsibility of every member."

Edwards heartily recommended Congregational Vitality to other Kentucky Baptists, but warned that it will not benefit a church that is satisfied with living in conflict.

Nor can the program fix a dysfunctional church. However, the KBC staff can help churches identify problems and provide some guidance for overcoming them, he explained.

"It's a poor testimony when we say that Jesus loves us and we're not willing to love each other," Edwards said. "If that's the reputation of the church, we ought to hang our heads in shame."

Babb said one of the program's primary goals is to help members grasp that God's plan for His church is relational, not organizational.

"I have a strong conviction the quality of the relationships we live out are important to God," he noted. "It has such an impact on our lives and on our witness to the world. I would hope more churches would be sensitive to that reality. We can be more effective in ministry when our relationships are healthy and dynamic."

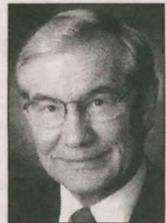
*Pastor's name changed to protect the church's identity

Why attend Super Saturday '10

Is it time for a ministry check-up at your church? Have you been doing the same old thing the same old way for a long, long time?

Whether you've been attending faithfully for years or have never been before, I want to strongly encourage you to participate in this year's Super Saturday church leader training conferences. Super Saturday will be offered in six different locations on four different dates—so there's sure to be at least one that works with your schedule.

Partners in the Mission



By Bill Mackey

The focus will be on helping your church conduct a ministry check-up to ensure that it is being effective in reaching your community. There are new conferences in most of the 19 program areas and a number of new learning emphases, including:

- Tools to diagnose church health.
- Find It Here interfaith witness courses.
- Small groups and Sunday school discipleship.
- High impact events and block parties.
- A study of "Membership Matters" and "Disciplined Warriors" by Chuck Lawless (Lexington and Louisville locations).

Participants will be able to customize their learning experiences by selecting one leadership conference to receive in-depth training in their primary ministry area. They will also be able to select from two afternoon conferences based on their interest and needs.

Past attendees will tell you how helpful Super Saturday is. Here are just a few comments from last year's evaluations:

"Friendly, welcoming faculty."

"It was fantastic! I will recommend to all of our church volunteers."

"I find it so very informative. The information I take back to my church is invaluable."

"Conferences have been very uplifting and I have definitely learned each time. The Lord was present in each class through the teachers and the students because of the interest shown."

"This year was wonderful. Learned new principles; was inspired and challenged."

The new options, creative topics and glowing testimonies have inspired me to get excited about Super Saturday 2010 and to encourage every church leader to participate. A van filled with trained and enthusiastic leaders can be used by God to make a positive impact on your entire church and community.

Super Saturday will be held Aug. 21 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington; Aug. 28 at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville; Sept. 11 at the University of the Cumberlands in Williamsburg and at Lone Oak First Baptist Church in Paducah; and Sept. 18 at the First Baptist Church of Russell and First Baptist Church of Ashland.

Register online at www.kybaptist.org/supersaturday or by calling 866-489-3572. Please join us for these outstanding learning conferences.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Knowing what Baptists believe and why

"What makes a Baptist a Baptist?" It's an important question. At an introductory meeting with a prospective pastor, the question was posed this way: "What do you consider to be the non-negotiables of our faith and our distinctive Baptist beliefs?" As I listened to the minister carefully frame a response, I wondered if the tables were turned, how many laypersons could give a satisfactory answer.

For one reason, not everyone in a typical Baptist congregation on any given Sunday morning—or in your Sunday school class—grew up in a Baptist home, or even a Christian home for that matter. But even among those who did, an appreciation of the significance of the beliefs for which many early Baptists willingly suffered persecution, torture and death to be able to practice and perpetuate appears to be eroding, resulting in a weakened sense of our unique Baptist identity.

"Although those earlier generations treasured the Baptist distinctions as a means of faithfulness to the Lord and suffered to entrust them to the ages to come, relatively few contemporary Baptists seem to have any knowledge of the beliefs that distinguish them from other Christians," observes Dean Anderson, pastor of Trenton Baptist Church for the past 10 years. "Survey after survey reveals that the typical church member has a discouragingly low level of basic Bible knowledge and little understanding of basic Christian doctrine, much less knowledge of the distinctive Baptist beliefs," he assesses.

In "A Sacred Trust," Anderson provides a practical examination of six of those beliefs that collectively set Baptists apart from other Christian churches: biblical authority, soul competency, regenerate church membership, congregational polity, symbolic view of believer's baptism, and religious liberty. Taking its title from a reference to Baptist principles by E.Y. Mullins, a former Kentucky pastor and president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, "A Sacred Trust" likewise contends that "a member of a Baptist church ought to know what Baptists believe, what they are trying to do, and how they are trying to do it."



After Thought

By Todd Deaton

Anderson's study, which grew out of a doctor of ministry project for New Orleans Baptist Seminary, culminated in a sermon series of eight messages aimed at helping the members of his Trenton congregation to value their Baptist heritage and identity. In a clear, readable style, "A Sacred Trust" helps lifelong adherents as well as those still dripping from the baptismal waters to understand what Baptists believe and why, tying it unswervingly to Scripture.

"Through studying and preaching the Baptist distinctives, I have come to cherish more dearly my heritage as a Baptist and the sacred trust of Baptist doctrinal beliefs," Anderson writes. "The response of the congregation, moreover, was overwhelmingly positive," he adds, encouraging other pastors to develop similar sermons. To this end, he provides an extensive annotated bibliography of both historical and contemporary resources by Baptist authors representing a broad array of perspectives.

Joseph Early Jr., a religion professor at the University of the Cumberlands, recently published an excellent companion resource for any such study of Baptist heritage and identity: "Readings in Baptist History." Early's book is a compilation of primary source materials tracing Baptist theology, origins, conflicts, issues and denominational organization over the past four centuries.

Among its numerous documents are ones by early Baptist leaders John Smyth, Thomas Helwys and Roger Williams; articles regarding the founding of the Philadelphia, Charleston and Sandy Creek associations; Isaac Backus' appeal for religious liberty and Thomas Jefferson's "Letter to Danbury Baptist association, and letters from missionaries William Carey and Lotie Moon. Also included are entries on the Conservative Resurgence, the Peace Committee Report, the Baptist Faith and Message Statement of 2000, Calvinism and even the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Together, these valuable contributions by two Kentucky Baptists provide an essential understanding of Baptist thought, personalities, issues and events that have shaped us into a distinctive people of God.

Rock or sand? Strength of foundation critical in life

By David Jeremiah

Builders and carpenters know "a foundation's main job is to hold up the house" according to home improvement expert Bob Vila. The Carpenter of Nazareth said as much 2000 years ago: "A wise man ... built his house on the rock ... and it did not fall. ... A foolish man ... built his house on the sand ... and great was its fall."

Jesus was stressing the importance of our inward vs. outward relationship with God. Inward godliness is evidenced by humility, uprightness, mercy, purity of heart—doing the will of God. Build your life on a solid, storm-resistant foundation—Jesus Christ.

Two people

There are wise people and foolish people, Jesus said (Matthew 7:24, 26). Verse 24 says, "Whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them." Verse 26 says, "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them." Notice both men heard. The difference is obedience, follow-through, biblical living.

The wisdom Christ spoke of requires acknowledging Him as Lord and Ruler—praying (Matthew 6:6), not worrying, (6:25), avoiding images that stimulate lust (5:27-30), pledging permanence in marriage (5:31-32), forgiving those who offend

us (6:14), investing our resources in His Kingdom's work (6:19-21).

Two buildings

The Lord Jesus proceeded to say that those who hear and obey Him are building their lives on a firm foundation, on a rock. Those who hear but don't obey are building on sand, which leads to tragedy.

A new housing complex was hurriedly built by a Nicaraguan president for hundreds of his poorest citizens to impress a visiting American president. Suddenly Hurricane Mitch hit. The ground didn't provide an adequate foundation for the hastily constructed houses. Two thousand people died when their homes were swept away in mudslides.

No matter how impressive a building appears above ground, it is what is below the surface that counts. Without the right foundation, no structure is safe. Strength of foundation determines quality of life.

Christ is the cornerstone, the sure foundation, the Rock of Ages. If you want a life that endures, build it on Christ. Some people build on friendship, fads, fashion, materialism, money. There are many footings, but only one Rock.

Two storms

"Rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat

on that house" on the rock (Matthew 7:25). Two verses later, Jesus used the same description for the house on the sand. The test comes when the storms strike. We can't escape storms. They're inevitable.

Remember the little chorus we sang in Sunday school? "The rains came down and the floods came up." We didn't realize we were describing the trials we'd encounter in life.

Christians aren't exempt from stormy weather. Sometimes it's a storm of bereavement, loss or financial stress. In this passage, two storms hit the two houses, equally packed with driving rain, winds and heavy floods. Sound like your life?

Two results

As Jesus unfolded this story, the critical thing was not the intensity of the storm, but the stability of the foundation. The house on the rock was secure. People often share with me things like, "When our daughter died, it was hard. But I felt the Lord's presence as never before." I can say the same regarding my cancer.

One of the great benefits of going through life's storms is discovering the reality of the foundation on which our life has been built. When the storm hit the house on sand, it fell, and "great was its fall." But the house on the Rock stands firm. (BP)

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

WESTERN Recorder

Box 43969
Louisville, KY 40253

DR. TODD DEATON
Editor

DREW NICHTER
News Director

THOMAS C. TOWNSEND
Marketing & Business Manager

Board of Directors:

Floyd Price (chairman), Richmond;
Skip Alexander (vice chairman),
Campbellsville;
Duane Bolin, Murray;
Bill Edmonds, Louisville;
Dan Francis, Erlanger;
Chip Hutcheson, Princeton;
Lanna Kilgore, Bowling Green;
Paul Nunn, Prestonsburg;
Willis Polk, Lexington;
June Rice, Paintsville;
Wayne Spivey, Harrodsburg;
Dan Summerlin, Paducah.

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

Western Recorder is published weekly 49 weeks a year by Western Recorder Inc., an agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253. It will not be published the first week of January, the week of Independence Day or the week of Christmas. Periodicals postage paid at Louisville, Ky. (USPS 679-380)

For general information, to give news tips, or to place an advertisement, call (502) 489-3535.

POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to:
Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253.

To subscribe: Send \$12.50 for a one-year, individual subscription. Group subscriptions on the church budget plan are \$10 per year. An additional church newsletter service is available for churches of all sizes.

www.WesternRecorder.org

Doing volunteer missions right requires partners

By Erich Bridges

At least 40 years into the "age of the volunteer" in world missions, debate still rages about whether short termers are a blessing or a curse.

Peruse mission journals, and you will find articles celebrating or questioning the ongoing volunteer phenomenon, which has seen tens of thousands of lay church members travel abroad to preach the gospel.

At one end of the philosophical spectrum are those who believe volunteers have transformed and revitalized missions, returned the global mission task to its proper owner—the local church—and mobilized several generations of believers to take the gospel to the nations. At the other extreme are critics who warn that "amateur missionaries" on vacation with good intentions and poor preparation make little positive impact for the kingdom of God abroad—and do actual harm in some instances.

Early on, some missionaries grumbled about having to take time from their ministries to "baby-sit" visiting volunteers, find something productive for them to do, keep them from causing an international incident, etc. Time passed, however, and more and more lay volunteers came to serve. Open-minded missionaries began to discover how valuable volunteers could be in evangelism, relief work, launching new ministries, even penetrating new regions and people groups with the gospel. When they went home, excited volunteers told

about their spiritual adventures and got churches involved in supporting and participating in missions.

Still, the critics make some valid points about volunteering. There's a right way—and many wrong ways—to do volunteer missions. Church teams that "parachute" into an overseas location, make no attempt to work with or even contact missionaries and local believers and proceed to do their own thing seldom produce real results.

A missionary friend in Southeast Asia has worked for many years in a land that gets many such visitors. They come. They look around. They leave. Few return.

"People come and go by the planeload with great intentions to 'save' the nation, he says. "Nearly every plane that lands has one or two mission teams on it. Many mission trips are little more than 'Christian tourism,' where you hit a few key sites and bypass thousands of less-prominent locations."

He calls it "hit-and-run evangelism." "To really see [this nation] changed, we need people who are called of God and willing to commit their lives here. To gain the trust of the people requires time. To build relationships requires time. To learn a language requires time. To develop key strategies requires time. To have influence requires time."

Besides the love of Christ, time is

the most important thing missionaries can give to the people they serve. Day after day, month after month, year after year—but, ideally, not one hour longer than it takes to prepare local believers to take over the work.

Volunteers who want to make a difference are wise to seek such servants.

"The local church is waking up to its role in the Great Commission, but that doesn't mean we don't need God-called, culturally trained, long-term missionaries who passionately love

and deeply understand the people groups they are assigned to," writes former Southern Baptist Convention President Johnny Hunt in his new book, "Get Connected: Mobilizing Your Church for God's Mission."

Hunt, pastor at First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga., observes: "I see a lot of churches led by enthusiastic young pastors who ride off to the mission field with no vision, no strategic relationship, no plan. They 'fire a shot' here and there and come home with some great stories, but it often ends there. Don't try to be Indiana Jones, the solo hero who barely makes it back alive. Be a team player, a coach and a mobilizer ... Work with a knowledgeable mission partner who knows his field. You'll make a much more lasting impact."

Amen to that. (BP)

Erich Bridges is global correspondent for the International Mission Board.

FIRST PERSON

"Don't try to be Indiana Jones, the solo hero ... Be a team player, a coach and a mobilizer."

— Johnny Hunt

Domestic violence always wrong

By James Stillwell

Q: My husband is very controlling. When he gets angry, he hits me. I love him and he says he loves me. The Bible says the husband is the head of the house, so I must obey him. How do I deal with this dilemma?

A: Domestic violence is never OK. In the home of two people who claim to be Christ-followers, it is doubly repugnant and always wrong.

The epistle to the Ephesians is filled with military metaphors that would be understood by Greek-speaking people in the first century Roman world. The word for "head" used in a hierarchical sense is used only for Christ. Only Christ is "above" the husband and wife in authority. The word usually translated "head" in reference to the husband is a different Greek word. It stands for the "front lines" in a battle, the one out front, protecting the other. That is not what is happening in your case. In fact, it is just the opposite.

Find a good counselor who can hear your story and thereby can give you courage. What has happened does not automatically mean the marriage is over or that you should get a divorce. It does mean the marriage is desperately out of balance and needs immediate attention.

Most states require reporting domestic violence. Calling your county's hotline and getting intervention from a state social worker or law enforcement officer may be the way of getting accountability into your home.

Touch base with relatives or friends who could help you pay for counseling or escape if you are in danger. It is wrong to continue your present situation, especially upon false biblical pretenses.

If your husband is willing, get help for him. If he is not, you still are responsible for taking care of the unique miracle of God that is you, and any unique miracles of God around the house who need your protection. Gather support. God will walk you through this dark valley and bring you to a better place on the other side.

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



FAMILY FORUM

Dealing with consumer debt

By Doug Strader

Consumer debt has become a huge problem for many Americans. This is especially true during a time of economic downturn. What is a person to do?

Many times we feel trapped into using credit to provide for our families during a loss of job or other financial crisis. It is very easy for the American public to go into debt. But creditors fail to provide a disclaimer that when we go into debt, they expect us to pay for our spending whether or not one has a job. It is never as easy to pay the debt, as it is to make the debt.

There are no easy solutions, but there are some steps you can take to ease the situation.

- The first thing to do is to pray and seek God's guidance and direction.
- If you do not already give God a tithe (10 percent) of your income, begin to move toward that goal.
- If you are married, have a family time to talk about the financial situation. Seek to get the entire family on board with a plan to cut spending and be more responsible for all the things God has given to you.
- Set up a family budget. It does not need to be elaborate, but it needs to be workable, one that meets the needs of your family. It will probably take a few months to make it work smoothly for you. Do not make it so rigid that you become discouraged and scrap it after a few weeks or months. A good budget is not as restrictive as it is liberating. It will feel good to have money to take care of expenses as they come due.
- Work out a plan to pay off all your credit card debts as soon as possible. Contact the credit card companies and let them know of your plans. You can ask if they will be willing to forgive some of your accumulated interest, or to stop charging interest while you pay off the debt.
- Then cut up your credit cards and refuse to use them to go into debt again.
- Talk with a financial/credit advisor.

The most important thing you can do now is to develop a plan and work the plan as you seek God's guidance.

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

Ky. students encounter transformational settings

By Bill Noe

As I sit here writing this column, I am looking across the bay at an amazing view of the Golden Gate Bridge—an iconic structure ... the beautiful red lines ... one of the crowning achievements of mankind's intellect and industrial ability. And yet, it can't even begin to compare with the intricacies in the structure of the insect hovering around my foot or the anatomy of the bird chirping in the background. Man's greatest accomplishments can't hold a candle to even the simplest aspects of God's creation, and they also can't compare to the Lord's transforming work in our individual lives.

I am in the middle of one of those transformational environments now, as I minister alongside 15 college students through the 1:8 Leadership Experience. This team is made up of students from a variety of colleges throughout our state. They applied through the Baptist Campus Ministry on their campuses and are now spending their summer on-mission, as they seek to follow the teaching of Acts 1:8 by ministering to individuals within their own communities, throughout our country, and even to the corners of the globe. They have ministered across geographical borders, reached across cultural lines, and have experienced the power of God's indwelling Spirit all along the way.

- A few of their experiences include:
- Serving with a local church's multi-housing ministry in Denver, Colo., by ministering to a group of children and single mothers.
 - Becoming a part of an incarna-

tional homeless ministry in the inner-city of San Francisco.

■ Growing as disciples through the intentional teaching times of mature Christ followers in all of the cities where they have ministered.

■ Entering into some of the most impoverished areas of our state as they share the hope of Christ with the people of eastern Kentucky.

Through a variety of experiences, these students have experienced the kind of transformational community that the gospel allows.

One student, Madison Wesley, a student at the University of the Cumberland, said, "This summer has really opened my eyes and allowed me to see people for who they really are. It's enabled me to grow in my ability to live in love and recognize the opportunities I have to share the gospel with the individuals God brings into my life."

"Everyone has something deeper going on inside than we really know about," she added. "Learning this lesson during the summer allows me to know how to minister to others more effectively."

Daniel Gifford, a student from Western Kentucky University, indicated that he, too, had learned the importance of discovering people's stories this summer and said, "This experience is preparing me for ministry back on my campus."

He has been learning about God's will for his life. "I'm discovering that God's will is not some magic formula, but is found in obediently following Him day by day, both in the big and small decisions," Daniel said.

Not only are these individual students' lives being affected through this experience, but God's transformational work in the lives and communities where they have served has been evident as well.

Daniel mentioned the joy he had in serving alongside the volunteers from the church in Colorado where the team worked with a multi-housing ministry. "They were an encouragement to us, and we were able to see how our partnership brought a new sense of joy into their lives and ministry," he said.

"They said they were starting to feel a little overwhelmed with the needs in their community and had been praying for help. It was great to know that through our obedience as a team, God allowed us to be an answer to their prayer," Daniel added.

While serving alongside brothers and sisters in Christ in a variety of places, many of them have commented on God's work through the 1:8 team.

Jim Walters, pastor at Bear Valley Church, where they ministered in Colorado, said, "Over the years, I have been on many mission trips and have hosted many teams. This team of Kentucky college students was the most outstanding group of young adults doing ministry that I have ever witnessed. They were an absolute delight and encouragement to our church, our multi-housing workers, and scores of residents who are lost and lonely."

Thanks for your support, Kentucky Baptists, in investing in the lives of the students of our state.

Bill Noe is the Baptist campus minister at the University of Louisville.



FINANCIAL FORUM



FAITH ON CAMPUS

Saddle Up!

Texas cowboy church lives 'Saddle Ridge Ranch' VBS

By Polly House
LifeWay Christian Resources

Whitney, Texas—The kids from Whitney, Texas, didn't ride their horses to Saddle Ridge Ranch. Most came in pick-up trucks and SUVs. But, regardless of their transportation, come they did.

Could there be a more appropriate setting for "Saddle Ridge Ranch," LifeWay's 2010 vacation Bible school curriculum, than Open Range Cowboy Church?

Probably not.

The church's rural setting, barn-shaped sanctuary and rodeo arena (its version of a family life center) made it hard to tell where the VBS decorations ended and the church's regular decor began.

Open Range hosted VBS earlier this month for about 120 children from pre-K through sixth grade. While the church didn't have VBS for the youth, the teenagers served as "ranch hands" for the children.

Open Range's children's team director Ronna Rightmer, who also served as VBS director, gave last-minute instructions to the teens: "Make sure you interact with the kids at all times. Help with snack, with crafts, and help the kids that may have trouble paying attention. Be sweet to them."

She even added some specific practical advice before the first night's snack time: "Don't let them go crazy with the squirt cheese."

Friendliness is a trademark of Open Range. Joan Davis, an adult helper and women's ministry team leader, made it a point to help a mother feel comfortable leaving her two children at VBS.

"Hello," she said. "Welcome to Cowboy Church. Is this your first time here?"

When the mom said it was and confirmed they didn't attend church anywhere, Davis let her know when services took place, when a women's group met and that she could wear whatever she wanted. "After all," Davis added, "this is Cowboy Church."

Then Davis escorted the young mom to meet some other women who continued to make the woman feel welcome and comfortable about her children attending VBS.

Applauding the curriculum

Lonny Davis, Joan's husband, taught the lessons for the fifth and sixth graders. A retired football and volleyball coach, he had a great rapport with the kids. Even with a full room of kids, he kept their attention.

"I really like the questions that we talk about each night," Davis said. "The first night it was 'Who am I?' The second was 'Does God care about me?' Then, 'What is God's plan for me?' 'How can I be like Jesus?' and 'What do I do now?' Those are all questions that kids think about and need to figure out."



PINT-SIZED COWBOYS Cowboy Layton creates a paper horse during vacation Bible school at Open Range Cowboy Church in Whitney, Texas. (Photo by Kent Harville/LifeWay)

Open Range Pastor Gerald Dudley said, "About half of the kids at VBS don't ordinarily attend here. This brings them in."

Community outreach

Rightmer added that, by far, VBS is the largest evangelistic outreach activity the church does.

She said in each of the three years she has been involved with VBS at the church, the children have responded well to the invitation to receive Jesus Christ.

"There are a lot that come forward," she noted. "I always talk with the parents

of the children who have come forward to make a profession of faith, explaining everything about it."

If Rightmer isn't certain that the child making a decision understands it, her conversation with the parents might be asking for them to encourage the child as his or her understanding grows. "Whatever the decision is, we take it seriously," she stressed.

Rightmer added that if she senses the parents are open to it, she talks with them about baptism. "We want the kids to be baptized, of course, but nothing happens without the parents' approval and support."

Having the opportunity to talk with the parents can lead to sharing the gospel with them as well. "I always get aggravated if someone else talks to the parents first," Rightmer said with a laugh. "I want to be the one to get to share Jesus with them."

'It's all about Jesus'

Best friends Emma and Seaira, both 9, said they were excited about what they were doing at VBS each evening. The first night Emma, who brought first-timer Seaira with her, said, "I just know this is going to be so great."

And great it was. By Thursday night, both of the girls had received Christ as their Savior. By week's end, 35 children had made professions of faith. Rightmer said that as much fun as the kids—and the adults—have at VBS, it isn't just about that.

"It's all about Jesus," she said, her eyes brimming with tears. "It's all about these kids getting saved and knowing Him. That's the reason we do this—it's Jesus."

IMB trustees honor Rankin, take initial action on GCRTF's recommendations

Continued from page 1

Al Gilbert, a former assistant to Rankin who now is pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, N.C., described the outgoing president as a man of vision and passionate prayer, intensely focused on the singular goal of making Christ's name known among all peoples.

"You've poured out your life. It's been a sweet aroma to heaven's throne, and I'm glad I could be nearby and watch you do it," Gilbert said.

Rankin, who will retire July 31, was joined by his wife, Bobbye, in expressing gratitude for those with whom they've served.

"It's not about a job, a title or responsibility—it's all about relationships and what each of you has invested in who we are," Rankin said.

Rankin shared how God had called him to faith in Christ and to missions at age 10 during a Billy Graham crusade in Jackson, Miss. "I remembered thinking, 'I wish everyone in the world could know Jesus.'"

He added that one of his greatest disappointments as president is leaving the IMB without bringing gospel access to all of the world's people groups—a task he'd hoped to see achieved by the end of his tenure.

"That's the goal we're striving for," Rankin stressed. "We're not there yet, but as I leave the future is in your hands, and I pray that you would maintain that focus and be found faithful in the task."

As for who will permanently fill Rankin's shoes, the presidential search committee still has not chosen a candidate to present to trustees.

Clyde Meador, IMB executive vice president, will step in as interim president Aug. 1 while trustees, serving on the search committee continue their work. Trustee chairman Jimmy Pritchard, who leads the search committee, said progress is being made.

"God will make His man known to us at the right time," said Pritchard, pastor of First Baptist Church of Forney, Texas. "We have a good heart,



SURROUNDED BY PRAYER International Mission Board trustees, including Kentucky pastor Hershael York (standing, pink shirt), pray over outgoing President Jerry Rankin (seated, left) and his wife, Bobbye, as well as Executive Vice President Clyde Meador (seated, right) and his wife, Elaine, at the conclusion of the July 20-21 board meeting in Richmond, Va. Rankin will retire July 31. Meador will begin serving as interim president the following day.

our committee is together and committed to finding God's man. We're just not quite there yet."

In addition to honoring Rankin, trustees took action on recommendations from the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force report, which was approved by messengers at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting last month.

Trustees voted unanimously to recommend that the SBC's Executive Committee modify the IMB's primary ministry assignment, removing wording that excludes the organization from working with people groups in North America.

"The world continues to change, and unreached people groups aren't defined by geographic boundaries," said Gordon Fort, IMB's vice president for global strategy. "Our strategies and structures must also change if we want to maintain an effective gospel witness. Historically, there's been a clear distinction between home and foreign missions, but those lines are blurring." (BP)

14TH ANNUAL

FALL JUBILEE

2010

Live

FROM THE
GATLINBURG CONVENTION CENTER
IN BEAUTIFUL
GATLINBURG
TENNESSEE

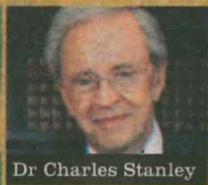
THE OLD TIME GOSPEL SINGIN' LAUGHIN' & PREACHIN' CONFERENCE FOR MATURE & SENIOR ADULTS

1-800-616-8863
JUBILEECONFERENCES.COM

3 DAYS & 2 NIGHTS AS LOW AS \$119 PER PERSON



Randy Travis



Dr. Charles Stanley



Johnny Hunt



Dino

2 DATES TO CHOOSE FROM
SEPTEMBER 27-29
OR
SEPTEMBER 29-OCT 1



Gold City



Lynda Randle



The Perrys



Dennis Swanberg



The Inspirations

3 DAYS & 2 NIGHTS AS LOW AS \$119 PER PERSON

CALL TODAY FOR A FREE BROCHURE || 1-800-616-8863
JUBILEECONFERENCES.COM

Southern Baptist leaders at forefront of adoption movement

Continued from page 1

Ron Stoddart, executive director of Nightlight Christian Adoptions, said there's "no doubt" there is a growing adoption movement among Christians. Nightlight is a member of the National Christian Adoption Fellowship, which is comprised of nine adoption agencies and programs. All nine, he said, have seen an increased interest this year from couples wanting to adopt.

In addition to an upswing in interest both internationally and domestically, Nightlight also has seen an increase in interest in its embryo adoption program, in which couples adopt donated frozen embryos.

"I think the reason for the upswing in ... the number of families that are applying is because of this increased awareness within the church of the need to take care of kids," Stoddart told Baptist Press.

Estimates of the number of orphans worldwide varies wildly, although all stats put the number in the millions.

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's Russell Moore and his wife, Maria, adopted two boys from a Russian orphanage. He since has written a book on the topic, "Adopted for Life," and he often speaks to groups about adoption.

"The Spirit of Christ is on the move among evangelicals, and this is just the beginning," said Moore, dean of Southern Seminary's school of theology.

"Many Christians are awakening to the radical nature of the gospel itself. We, the gospel says, were adopted," he pointed out. "This reality tears down any artificial notion that adoption is some kind of 'less-than' or 'Plan B' family."

"Christians are also waking up to what Jesus and His brother James define as pure religion: the care of the least of these, orphans and widows."

Other factors are at work, Moore said. Christians have seen "the

plague of fatherlessness" and have been convicted to make a difference. There's also a snowball effect: As couples adopt, their friends see that adoption isn't so "strange" and they, too, begin to "pray and ask God if this is where He's leading them," Moore explained.

Pastors also are leading the way, he said.

"Pastors are starting to preach the whole counsel of God about the Father's love for the orphan, and calling churches to support the effort in all sorts of ways. Not every Christian is called to adopt, but every Christian is called to care for widows and orphans," Moore said, pointing to James 1:27. "I literally do not go five minutes these days without hearing from at least one family, via e-mail or social media, who testify that God has called them to adopt."

Kevin Ezell, who served as president of this year's Pastors' Conference, has seen firsthand that pastors are taking action. He expected around 70 Southern Baptist pastors and missionaries to apply for the adoption scholarships; twice that number actually did.

"I've never been more proud of SBC pastors than the last month," said Ezell, pastor of Highview Baptist Church in Louisville.

Although the funds were limited for the scholarships, Ezell said he is trying to find enough money to cover everyone who is eligible.

Church members who see their pastors adopting a child will be more likely to do the same, noted Ezell, whose family has adopted three children.

"If a pastor does it, it changes the atmosphere of the church," he said.

Buckner International, which places children in families through domestic and international adoptions, also has seen an increase in inquiries and applications this year, according to Debbie Wynne, director of Buckner Adoption and Mater-



nity Services. She credited much of it to churches adding adoption, foster care and orphan ministries.

"There is a grassroots movement of churches building these advocacy ministries to support and inspire their church members to actively help 'the least of these,'" Wynne said.

The Haiti earthquake also impacted couples. Buckner's international adoption program received more than 3,800 inquiries in January and February about adopting children from the earthquake-stricken country, Wynne said.

A representative at Bethany Christian Services said the Haiti disaster had a substantial impact in demonstrating to Christians the plight of orphans.

"The figures Bethany released show strong improvement as we confront the global orphan crisis, but the need still remains as there

are still an incredible number of orphaned children who wait for their 'forever family,'" Bethany President Bill Blacquiare said in a statement.

Stoddart, of Nightlight Christian Adoptions, said despite the positive increase in interest, some children—older ones and minorities, for instance—remain the toughest to place with families. The outlook is not good for an orphan from a foreign country who never finds a home.

"That still is a great need," he noted. "With those kids, if they're not adopted, we know what happens when they age out of the orphanage. They become victims of one sort or another."

"Here in the United States we have kids that have problems during their teen years and rebel, but there still is that family that is there as a safety net," Stoddart added. "When you get out of an orphanage at age 17 or 18, there is no family." (BP)

LEADING BY EXAMPLE

Kevin Ezell, pastor of Highview Baptist Church in Louisville, has encouraged pastors to lead by example when it comes to adoption. He and his wife, Lynette, have adopted three children in recent years. Pictured in this 2008 photo are Kevin, son Taylor, and Lynette; second row, daughters Shelly and Anna Catherine; and front row: daughters Libby, who is from China, and Micah Lyn, who is from Ethiopia. Not pictured is a son, J.M., whom the Ezells adopted from the Philippines earlier this year. (file photo)

PRAYER IS POWERFUL

DO YOUR PRAYER MEETINGS REFLECT THIS?

DVD RESOURCE NOW AVAILABLE: "How to Lead a Powerful Prayer Meeting"
In this video, Dr. John Franklin provides helpful instruction for pastors and prayer leaders who desire to see God move during times of corporate prayer.

VIDEO HIGHLIGHTS: Theology of prayer | Effective practices of a praying church
Importance of corporate prayer | Planning a powerful prayer meeting



Just \$12 (includes shipping)
Order online today at: www.kybaptist.org/prayerdvd
Or contact us at 502-489-3530 or 866-489-3530 (toll free)



Kentucky Baptists' SBC messenger total good for sixth most in Orlando

Nashville, Tenn.—Kentucky Baptists sent 673 messengers to last month's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Orlando, Fla., the sixth most of any state convention.

SBC registration secretary Jim Wells recently released the official messenger tally for the SBC annual meeting. A total of 11,075 messengers attended, confirming earlier unofficial results which showed a boost in registered messengers compared to 2009.

The more than 11,000 messengers came from 4,466 churches in 49 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Only North Dakota did not have any registered messengers.

The messenger count was up nearly 26 percent

from the 8,795 messengers that attended the 2009 convention in Louisville. This year's crowd was the largest since the 2006 annual meeting in Greensboro, N.C.

By comparison:

2009 Louisville: 8,790 messengers.

2008 Indianapolis: 7,277.

2007 San Antonio: 8,630.

2006 Greensboro, N.C.: 11,639.

2005 Nashville, Tenn.: 11,641.

As expected, Florida had the most messengers in attendance with 1,868, accounting for 16.87 percent of the registration total. The next four leading states were Georgia, 1,251; Alabama, 872; Tennessee, 872; and North Carolina, 833. (BP)

BAPTIST DIGEST

ABP news service marks 20 years—Associated Baptist Press celebrated its 20th anniversary July 17. The independent news service was created during what was viewed as a tumultuous time within the Southern Baptist Convention. The entity was formed in 1990 following the dismissal of two top editors at Baptist Press over what trustees believed to be a bias against conservatives in BP's news coverage. Shortly thereafter, Jeff Mobley, a Nashville, Tenn., attorney and member of the city's First Baptist Church, announced the formation of Associated Baptist Press. The news service's inaugural issue was published Sept. 26, 1990. Greg Warner became ABP's full-time employee as its executive editor in 1991, a position he held until resigning because of health problems in 2008.

Virginia Baptist college names new president—E. Clorisa Phillips, associate provost for institutional effectiveness at the University of Virginia, was elected July 20 as the 17th president of the Virginia Baptist-affiliated Virginia Intermont College. Phillips will assume her new po-

sition Aug. 1. An administrator with more than 30 years of experience in higher education, Phillips succeeds Michael Puglisi, who unexpectedly resigned last January. Phillips has held a variety of administrative roles at UVA, including assignments in admissions, human resources and the president's office.

Hannibal-LaGrange seeks university status—Hannibal-LaGrange College will be known as the University of Hannibal if messengers to the Missouri Baptist Convention annual meeting this fall approve the measure. The MBC executive board approved the recommendation unanimously July 13 at the request of the school's president and board of trustees. According to a report, the college has considered a name change for several years. Trustees voted unanimously to change from "college" to "university" during a meeting in May. If the convention approves the name change, it would take effect immediately after the vote, although school officials said they would not make the switch until Jan. 1, 2011.

'One small step at a time'

Mission trip to earthquake-stricken Haiti is life changing for Oneida staffer

By Missy Nichols
OBI donations coordinator

I have watched the number of volunteers at Oneida grow over the last 26 years. I often have thought about the sacrifices they make in order to come to OBI and work for a few days or more.

In the last few years, I had wondered where I could be used in the same way. My pastor had made many trips to Haiti and I told him I wanted to go. But the Lord never seemed to open the doors. When the earthquake hit Haiti, my heart turned to fire instantly. I cried out to God to please use me in Haiti or take the burning desire from my heart.

I shared my burden with my pastor. He said, "Get your stuff in order. I don't know when we will go, but be ready." God made things fall into place, and six weeks later I was in Haiti.

I was overwhelmed when I stepped onto Haitian soil. I had heard people talk of their own experiences there and I had looked at many pictures, but nothing could really prepare me for the confusion and devastation these people live in every day.

It wasn't just knowing, but seeing it, feeling it and smelling it in the air. No person or thing was left untouched by the earthquake. The Haitians looked beaten down, emotionally and spiritually. But it seemed as though a small glimmer of hope appeared on their faces with each passing foreigner there to offer help.

I ministered to children while they or their parents waited to be seen at a medical clinic. The Haitians were eager to find some relief in a world

turned upside down. Many had simple ailments but no cure, causing the problems to get bigger.

The first morning, I held an infant who was unable to be consoled by the young girl carrying her. After many failed attempts to soothe her, I learned, through the help of an interpreter, that the young girl was a relative and the infant's mother was too sick to nurse. The baby was hungry. She was cared for that day, but the mother was too far away for anyone to check on her. Each day some of the patients had walked one or two hours to get there. The clinic saw about 2,500 people in five days.

The children and I sang, laughed, learned and danced. I always was guaranteed a hearty laugh every time I "danced." After looking at videos of me "dancing," I completely understood their laughter. But if some overweight, funny, white girl with no rhythm could bring a giggle to a child in need of a good laugh, I would do

it over and over again.

I think the most life-changing thing that I experienced while in Haiti were the worship services. The Haitians knew a Higher Authority had allowed the earthquake to cross over their country, yet they came into the Heavenly Father's presence longing and expecting to worship and meet Him in all His glory. The Haitians do not seem to sweat the small stuff as I and many others Americans do.

I alone cannot change the situation in Haiti or even here in Oneida. But arm in arm with fellow believers led by the Heavenly Father, we work to advance His kingdom one small step at a time.

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

This is Oneida



W.F. Underwood

Campbellsville UNIVERSITY

January Bible Study Preview

Campbellsville University's School of Theology & Church Relations Council present
the January Bible Study Preview of Paul's Letter to the Galatians
Thursday, August 5, 1-7:45 p.m., in CU's Banquet Hall

Featuring Speakers from the Campbellsville University School of Theology:
John Hurtgen (Dean, School of Theology & Professor of NT and Greek); Ted Taylor (Director, of CU's First CLASS & Professor of Sports Ministry); and Shane Garrison (Professor of Educational Ministries & President, Maple Trail Ministries)

Event is free. \$10 meal charge is payable that day.

(270) 789-5520 or sddouglas@campbellsville.edu (270) 789-5029 or mehatfield@campbellsville.edu

Carpenter BUS SALES

going the extra mile since 1955

We Rent Buses!
15 to 41 Passenger
Buses Available
Call for Rates



LifeWay
CHURCH BUS SALES
Biblical Solutions for Life
A Service of LifeWay Christian Stores

Visit www.carpenterbus.com to see over 100 New & Used Buses In Stock. We buy buses and welcome Trade-Ins.

CALL TOLL FREE: 800.370.6180



New! **WESTERN Recorder.org**

Lessons learned

Clear Creek student shares about mission experience

One of the aspects about Clear Creek Baptist Bible College that I am most proud of is the emphasis placed on practical ministry training for our students. One of the ways we offer this is through opportunities for summer mission trips. These trips are great opportunities for our students to experience other parts of the world and learn about other people and their cultures. It's always a joy to talk with some of our students after they return from a mission trip to another country and listen to them tell about things God has taught them.

Third-year student Cliff Cullen recently traveled on one of these mission trips and shared about some surprising lessons he learned.

"The most surprising thing to me was the fact that it's really not all that different when it comes to meeting people of other countries," Cullen explained. "I was expecting a lot more of a culture shock, a lot more of a change, as far as the people who I was going to meet were concerned."

"I guess the most surprising thing that God showed me is that people are friendly in other coun-

tries, too," Cullen said. "In fact, the people I met were just as friendly, if not friendlier, than people I am used to being around on a day-to-day basis."

"We would go to a store somewhere and the people would invite us in and serve tea and they would just want to sit there and talk to us," he recalled. "They told us they didn't care if we bought anything or not, they just wanted to talk. They were really open to talking about faith issues. So it actually made it very easy to share our faith with them. They were that friendly."

"God also taught me how much He has a hand in just the little things

we do and the places we go as we serve Him," Cullen said. "Our guide wanted to find a friend he hadn't seen in a long time to give him a Bible. We were in a city with a population of millions of people. When we stopped to get some ice cream at a store, our guide's friend walked in and we were able to give him a Bible."

Reprinted from Western Recorder, July 21, 2009

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

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

Not a typical summer vacation essay

Camp staffer understands what it is to be used by God

By Maggie Casillo
Crossings summer staff

I always have heard people talk about their lives being empty vessels that the Lord has filled and used, but I had never understood what that meant until my summer at Crossings Camp at Jonathan Creek.

As a staff, we struggled daily with stress, fatigue and hurt. But it has been incredible to watch those weaknesses transformed into strength by the grace of God, and the hurt melt into healing and redemption. He took us—empty vessels—and filled us with everything we needed for each day. I now know what it means to be used by Christ, being a servant and letting His love shine through me.

There's a song we've sung throughout the summer which says: "And if our God is with us, then what could stand against?" I have seen the truth of these lyrics lived out every week at Crossings. We are in a battle every day for our strength and perseverance. The students who come here are in a bat-

tle for their lives against sin and temptation. Satan is strong, but our God is stronger. No one can stand against us when we have Christ on our side.

It has been a privilege to be a part of something so significant in the furthering of Christ's kingdom. I have watched lives cross from broken to healed, lost to found—and from death to life. This summer God has taught me to fear Him more, and to fear life less.

God promises when we are in His will, though we might struggle to the point of breaking, that even then we will realize more than ever that Christ is the one who is constantly carrying us. He is constantly lifting us up, giving us strength and making us new.

As Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15:10: "By the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain. I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me."

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



WHAT WOULD JESUS DO? Dent Boykin (right) and Mike Sellers of Mobile, Ala., place their hands over their hearts as the National Anthem is played in Spanish Plaza in downtown Mobile, Ala., during a Tea Party rally. Many religious progressives have questioned whether the Tea Party's anti-big-government philosophy is actually anti-biblical. (Photo by Bill Starling/Mobile (Ala.) Press-Register)

How biblical is Tea Party message?

Movement's advocates, critics debate if it's what Jesus would do

By Alfredo Garcia

Washington—When conservative broadcaster Glenn Beck warned churchgoers to "run as fast as you can" if their pastors preach about "social justice," was he also encouraging them to run from the Bible?

That's what some progressive Christian leaders are arguing as battle lines are drawn for the 2010 midterm elections. They say Beck and his Tea Party followers are, in a word, unbiblical.

Not so fast, say Tea Party activists, who claim biblical grounds for a libertarian-minded Jesus. He didn't like tax-based welfare programs, they claim, and encouraged His followers to donate from the heart.

The insurgent Tea Party movement threatens to usurp the political prominence of religious conservatives, whose focus on hot-button social issues has been overshadowed by the Tea Party's fight against big government.

"I think that the general ideology of the Tea Party is not a Christian one," said David Gushee, professor of Christian ethics at Mercer University in Atlanta and co-founder of the New Evangelical Partnership for the Common Good, a faith-based nonprofit group.

Gushee described the Tea Party as "an uneasy marriage between the libertarian conservative strand and the Christian right strand" of American politics. In this "uneasy alliance," however, he said the Christian side has taken a backseat to the movement's libertarian impulses.

According to a recent Bloomberg poll, 44 percent of Tea Party activists are self-identified born-again Christians, a group that generally takes close to heart Jesus' instructions to feed the hungry and clothe the naked.

Tea Party activists say the question is not whether to follow Jesus' words, but how.

Lloyd Marcus of Deltona, Fla., a spokesman for the Tea Party Express, is a born-again, non-denominational Christian who says flatly that "Jesus was not for socialism."

"Yes, the Bible advocates giving, but out of the goodness of our own hearts, not out of government confiscation of wealth or redistribution of wealth," he explained.

Joseph Farah, founder and CEO of the website WorldNetDaily and author of the new "Tea Party Manifesto," agreed.

"When Jesus talks about clothing the naked,

feeding the hungry, He's talking to us as individuals," Farah said. The Bible does not "suggest that government is the institution that he designed to help the poor."

Government social welfare programs are akin to "coercively taking money from people and redistributing to other people, which, at the end of the day, is legalized stealing," he noted. "And the Bible is pretty firm on stealing."

But the Bible, and particularly the Hebrew prophets, also are firm on the need to protect the vulnerable, which sometimes requires government action, said Simon Greer, president of Jewish Funds for Justice, which helped fuel the progressive backlash against Beck.

Greer said his New York-based group is founded on "the fundamental religious call to care for others," which in turn is based "on the belief that we're all made in the image of the Divine."

"The only sensible conclusion is that we need mechanisms like effective government ... to solve the pressing problems that our country faces," he said.

Gushee framed his vision of government as "the community acting collectively," with religious groups playing a key role. Religious groups have been active supporters of government

programs to fight disease, poverty and HIV/AIDS in the developing world—programs that would not exist without the resources of the federal government.

For his part, Farah said he puts his faith in the generosity of the American people and supports church-based welfare over government-run programs. The data, however, tell a different story.

According to Illinois-based empty tomb, inc., which tracks charitable giving, American churchgoers gave only about 2.5 percent of disposable income to churches in 2007; of that, only about 0.37 percent—roughly \$100 per member—went to charities beyond the church. Those figures are down by about half since 1968.

Michael Lindsay, a sociologist at Rice University and author of "Faith in the Halls of Power," said he doesn't have much hope for individual charity.

"I would like to think that Christians are generous," he said in an interview, "but sadly the truth of the matter is that their rhetoric is much stronger than their action." (RNS)

Everyone's responsibility

Ignoring abused, neglected children is criminal offense

Getting involved with the children we serve through Sunrise Children's Services is not optional. If you or I suspect the abuse or neglect of a child, we must report it immediately or we are in violation of Kentucky law.

The law states: "Any person who knows or has reasonable cause to believe that a child is dependent, neglected, or abused shall immediately cause an oral or written report to be made." It reads "any person"—not just teachers, physicians, social workers or preachers. That includes all Baptists.

There are consequences for "any person" who fails to report child abuse or neglect. "Any person intentionally violating the provisions of this chapter shall be guilty of a Class B misdemeanor, which carries a penalty of up to 90 days in jail and/or a fine of up to \$250."

The priest and Levite in the Good Samaritan parable (Luke 10: 25-37) walked by human suffering violating their conscious and moral obligation to help another in need—but they did not break any laws. The same cannot be said of us if we suspect a child is not safe.

I often tell Baptists, "We do not care for the kids in our care the way we did a few years ago." Not only do we not care for them then, how we receive the kids has changed, too. In the not-so-distant past, Kentucky kids were referred to Sunrise by local pastors, teachers, friends and other concerned people. State government was not involved; it was a

private matter.

Such procedures seldom are the case today. If children are at risk due to neglect or abuse, you and I must make a report to local authorities. That is why 99.9 percent of the children in Sunrise's care are in the state's custody. If you suspect a child is neglected or abused, call (800) 752-6200.

In the days when large numbers of children lived with us at Spring Meadows and Glen Dale, many of the kids simply were dependent. Their families could not care for them for any number of reasons. Today, few dependent children are in residential care because of foster homes and community-based resources that are available. The kids

who do live with us have significant issues to overcome.

How the kids come to us and how we care for them has changed. What has not changed is that through our ministry, these kids find hope and healing. We care for them with the same sense of mission and love we always have. For 141 years, this ministry has provided a way for children of all ages to get through difficult times in their lives and become successful adults.

It should not be state laws that compel our involvement with these kids. Our motivation always should be the love of the Lord God Almighty driving us to reach out and help each child. You can help. To find out how you can get involved with Sunrise, visit www.sunrise.org, or call (800) 456-1386.

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

Sunrise Children's Services



Bill Smithwick

Christine Daley, wife of WR's editor emeritus, dies

Statesboro, Ga.—Christine Rachels Daley, wife of the Western Recorder's editor emeritus C.R. Daley, died July 18 at a nursing home in Statesboro, Ga. She was 92.

A Georgia native, Mrs. Daley was a graduate of the Georgia State College for Women (now Georgia College and State University) in Milledgeville, Ga. After graduating, she taught music at a high school in Hiltonia, Ga.

While there, she met a fellow teacher and the school's principal, C.R. Daley. The two were married in 1942.

Mrs. Daley followed her husband to Kentucky where he attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. She served primarily as a housewife and mother to the couple's four sons, supporting her husband's ministry as a pastor of churches in both Georgia and Kentucky, as well as a professor at Georgetown College.

The Daley family returned to Louisville in 1957 when C.R. became the editor of the Western Recorder, where he served until his retirement in 1984.

While in Louisville, Mrs. Daley was an active member of Beechwood Baptist Church and Hurstbourne Baptist Church. She often taught women's Sunday school classes and was a member of Woman's Missionary Union. She also was one of the first pianists at Hurstbourne Baptist, where she and her husband were charter members.

Christine was preceded in death by her husband, who died in 1999. She is survived by her four sons, five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held July 23 at Newington Baptist Church in Georgia.

The family requested that memorials be made to the Gideon Bible Society or the Ogeechee (Ga.) Area Hospice.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Campbellsville University will hold a preview session for its January Bible study titled "Dispatches from the Red Hot Letter of Paul to the Galatians," Aug. 5, 1 p.m., led by Campbellsville School of Theology professors **John Hurtgen, Ted Taylor and Shane Garrison**. The study is free, but there is a \$10 meal charge. For more information, call **Sheila Douglas** at (270) 789-5520 or **Betty Hatfield** at (270) 789-5029.

■ **CECILIA**—Cecilia Church will hold revival services each Monday in August, 7 p.m., with **Chris Platt**, missions pastor at Crestwood Church, Aug. 2; **Jamie Ward**, associate pastor of preaching and evangelism at Hillvue Heights Church in Bowling Green, Aug. 9; **Bill Langley**, pastor of Severns Valley Church in Elizabethtown, Aug. 16; **James Jackson**, content editor for LifeWay Christian Resources, Aug. 23; and retired pastor **Gene Waggoner**, Aug. 30, as evangelists. **Erdie Carter** is pastor.

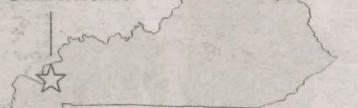
■ **EUBANK**—Bethel Church recently called **Wesley Griggs** as youth minister. **Phil Fisher** is pastor.

■ **EWING**—Ewing Church recently called **Keith Abrams** as pastor. He previously was youth minister at Westport Church.

■ **HARRODSBURG**—**Ashley Webb** recently resigned as recreation and outreach center director at Harrodsburg Church.

Spotlight on ...

Smithland



Fred Lowrance recently announced his retirement as pastor of Potter's House Worship Center. The church will honor him with a reception Aug. 1, 2 p.m. Lowrance has served the church since 2002. He previously was pastor of Friendship Church in Smithland for 27 years.

■ **HOPKINSVILLE**—First Church recently called **David Brown** as minister to students and families. **Rick Stevens** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Springdale Community Church recently called **Jason Autry** as pastor. He previously served as associate director of student care and an adjunct professor at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va.

■ **MANCHESTER**—Zion Church celebrated its 100th anniversary July 18. **Charlie Hubbard** is pastor.

■ **SOMERSET**—Pleasant Hill Church recently called **Paul Hines** as pastor.

■ **VERONA**—New Bethel Church recently called **Eric Simpson** as minister of music. **George Naylor** is pastor.

Mid-Continent student gives Geneva Bible to university

Mayfield—A Mid-Continent University student recently made a donation to the school's library archives. The gift was a complete and well-preserved Geneva Bible, printed in England in 1607.

The Geneva Bible was first published in Geneva, Switzerland, in 1560 by Protestants who were exiled from England. It became the primary English translation of the 16th century Protestant movement.

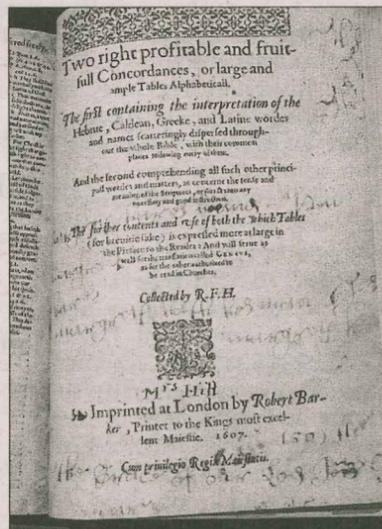
It often is viewed as the first mass-produced Bible made available to the general public, as well as history's first "study Bible" because of its study guides, verse illustrations and book summaries. The Geneva Bible preceded the better-known King James Version, which was completed in 1611.

The copy that was donated to Mid-Continent is bound in leather over wood, although the binding likely was replaced in the mid to late 1800s.

It contains both the Old and New Testaments and the Apocrypha. Inside, there are quill pen-written notes and copied passages on the blank areas of the pages, one of which is signed by a woman and dated 1689. Paper was not easily obtained in that period, so people typically wrote on any blank space of paper they found.

The donated copy is typed in Middle English and appears to be printed by mechanical press, each page done so individually. The Bible is in remarkable condition considering it still is complete and is more than 400 years old.

The Mid-Continent student, who



chose to remain anonymous, obtained the Bible from a relative. The student had kept it for nearly 20 years while searching for a museum or religious organization that would properly preserve it.

After completing the course, "The Life of Christ," through Mid-Continent's Advantage adult-education program, the student said he was so impressed by Mid-Continent and its faculty and staff, he decided the school was the most deserving recipient of the historical text.

Mid-Continent's library and religion departments are researching the extremely rare Geneva Bible. The possibility of scanning each page for the purpose of digital archival has been discussed.

MCU officials said they are humbled by the generosity and personal sacrifice demonstrated by the student's amazing gift.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July

30-8/1 Pursuit Student Leadership Academy, Second Baptist Church, Hopkinsville.

August

21 Super Saturday, Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington.

28 Super Saturday, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

September

4-6 Wrangler Trail Ride, Land Between the Lakes.

11 Super Saturday, Lone Oak First Baptist Church, Paducah; University of the Cumberlands, Williamsburg.

18 Children in Action Missions Day Camp, Pleasant View Baptist Church, Waynesburg.

18 Super Saturday, First Baptist Church, Bowling Green; First Baptist Church, Russell.

20-21 Kentucky Baptist Ministers' Golf Tournament, Cherry Blossom Golf & Country Club, Georgetown.

21 Understanding Other Beliefs, Unity Baptist Church, Richmond.

23-24 Kentucky Baptist Men's Chorale Fall Retreat, First Baptist Church, Owensboro.

24-25 Kentucky Baptist Women's Chorale Fall Retreat, First Baptist Church, Owensboro.

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

Greece Tour/Cruises
Steps of Paul & John

12 wonderful packages - year-round
Excellent value for groups and individuals

Also: Churches of Revelation Tour, Turkey, Italy, Germany, Israel, Steps of Moses
Five Star Nile Cruise, Petra, Mt. Nebo.

www.pilgrimtours.com 800 322 0788
"Christian Fellowship Tours Since 1987"

CLASSIFIED ADS

To place an advertisement:
Rates are available upon request.
Call (502) 489-3428;
or visit www.WesternRecorder.org.
Claims made by advertisers are not necessarily those of the Western Recorder's staff or directors.

RESOURCES: Affordable Web/media solutions for churches, ministries and businesses by Capstone Creations. For more info: www.capstonecreations.com.

RESOURCES: Moms helping moms work from home. No parties, selling, inventory, huge investment. Free website; free training and support. Please visit my website for more info: www.InternetCeoMoms.com/CathyJones.

SEEKING: Western Recorder is currently receiving resumés for the position of partnership editions editor, which provides editing and layout services to assist our six partnering conventions in producing state Baptist newspapers. Resumés may be sent to Western Recorder, PO Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253; or e-mail: Todd.Deaton@WesternRecorder.org. Resumés will be accepted through Aug. 15.

SEEKING: Baptist Convention of New Mexico is currently receiving resumés for the position of executive director of the New Mexico Baptist Children's Home, which is located in Portales, N.M. Resumés may be sent to Baptist Convention of New Mexico, PO Box 94485, Albuquerque, NM 87199, Attn: Children's Home Search Team. For more information on the home, visit its website at www.nmbch.com.

SEEKING: Pastor for Reid Village Baptist Church, Mt. Sterling, Ky. Send resumés to eddiaratliff@roadrunner.com.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music at Bruners Chapel Baptist Church in Harrodsburg, Ky. Send resumés to: hedgespethsmith@hotmail.com.

SEEKING: Full-time senior pastor for Columbia Baptist Church, Columbia, Ky. Please send resumés, DVD, CD or tape of recent sermons to Pastor Search Committee, 201 Greensburg St., Columbia, KY 42728.

SEEKING: Associate pastor of education and church administration to serve White Plains Baptist Church, Scottsville, Ky. Full position responsibilities and requirement may be found at www.wpbc4u.org. Please send notification of interest and/or questions to philrogers@nctc.com.

SEEKING: Part-time youth minister. Send resumés to Eastern Gate Baptist Church, PO Box 6686, Shepherdsville, KY, 40165; or contact information to www.easterngate.org.

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 resumés, references and letter of interest to: Zion Baptist Church, 8158 Hwy 351, Henderson, KY 42420, Attn: Worship Pastor Search Committee.

SEEKING: Church pianist for Bullitt Lick Baptist in Shepherdsville, Ky. This is a paid position. If you are interested in more information, please contact secretary@bullittlickbaptist.org.

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

College Tuition Full Scholarship

APPLY BY FEBRUARY 1



Photo credit:
Jessica Shields.

Parks Scholars 2009-10

Front row, left to right: Elizabeth Metcalfe, Georgetown, KY; Katie Boyd, Mayfield, KY; Hannah Flanery, Ashland, KY; Anna Fiechter, London, KY. **Middle row from left:** Elizabeth Fannin, Inez, KY; Molly Shoulta, Louisville, KY; Caitlin Williams, Murray, KY. **Top row from left:** Jacob Price, Somerset, KY; Phillip Davis, Somerset, KY. Coran Stewart, Paducah, KY is not pictured.

Parks Baptist Scholars Program

The full tuition **Parks Baptist Scholarship** is the most prestigious scholarship offered by Georgetown College. Established as a tribute to Bowling Green, KY, physician and former trustee Dr. Paul Parks '43 and his late wife, Phyllis, the Parks Baptist Scholarship **annually recognizes four highly qualified students** who exhibit intellectual curiosity, global awareness and an appreciation of their Baptist-Christian heritage. It is available to students pursuing undergraduate degrees in preparation for lifelong learning, teaching and Christian service.

For more information on overall qualifications and to receive an application for the fall 2011 Parks Baptist Scholars Program, contact:

Office of Admissions

800-788-9984

admissions@georgetowncollege.edu

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



GEORGETOWN

COLLEGE

Live. Learn. Believe.