

Shine like stars in the world
Philippians 2:15

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FOR THE RECORD

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Kentucky pastors see jump in salaries since 2008

Compensation for state's senior pastors edges closer to SBC average, study shows

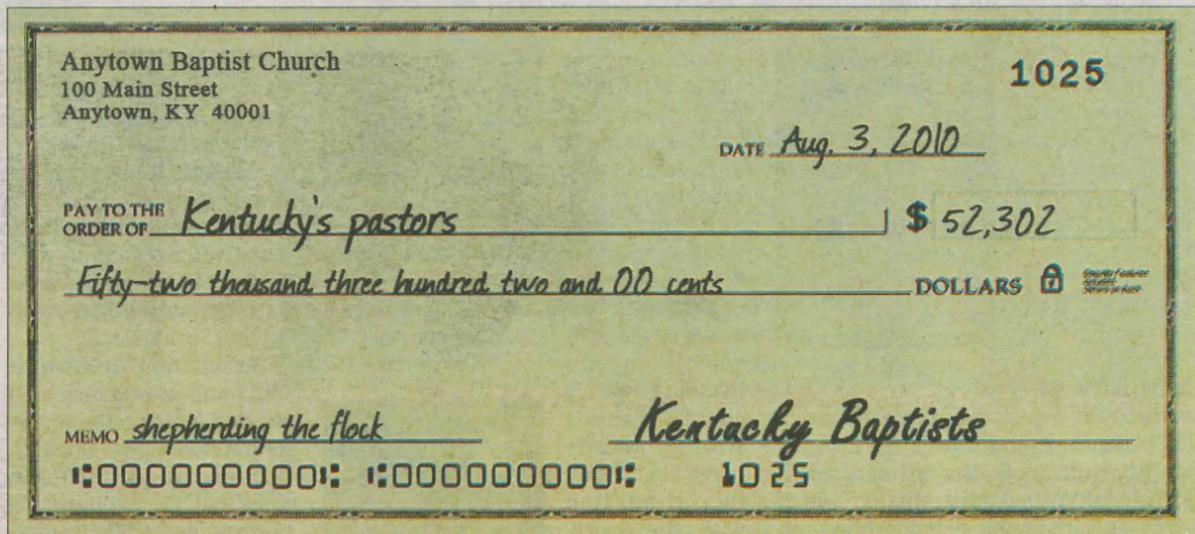
By Drew Nichter
News Director

Louisville—Kentucky Baptist pastors do not get paid as much as the average Southern Baptist pastor—but that pay gap has closed some since 2008.

The average compensation for a full-time senior pastor in Kentucky is \$52,302—\$1,850 more than in 2008. That's compared to the \$55,829 average for full-time senior pastors across the Southern Baptist Convention.

The numbers come from the recently released SBC Church Compensation Study, a biennial survey conducted by LifeWay Research and GuideStone Financial Resources.

This year's study polled 11,674 staff members from SBC churches



nationwide. It is designed to provide churches with detailed information regarding comparable compensation packages for ministerial staff.

"If you're talking about a church of about the same size with the same budget, the (pastors') pay is going to be pretty much in the same ballpark," said Don Spencer, financial

support specialist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

The \$52,302 average compensation (which includes salary and housing expenses) for full-time senior pastors in Kentucky represents a 3.67 percent increase from the \$50,452 they made in 2008.

The paychecks may be larger, but

Kentucky's pastors still lag behind the average Southern Baptist senior pastor, who makes \$55,829 per year. But SBC compensation rose only \$553 (1 percent) from 2008.

Across the SBC, full-time senior pastors in Montana earn the least—\$36,066. On the flip side, Texas' two □ See *Despite U.S. recession ...* Page 2



By Alan James
International Mission Board

A few packed boxes lined the back wall of Jerry Rankin's office at the International Mission Board's Richmond, Va., headquarters in preparation for his Aug. 1 retirement as president.

After 17 years as IMB president—and 23 more on the mission field—Rankin and the 164-year-old organization are no strangers to transition and change.

It was a different time in 1993 when Rankin became the IMB's 10th elected president. The Internet was just getting started, terrorism still was seen as something that happened overseas, a gallon of gas in the United States averaged \$1.16 and Twitter and Facebook didn't even exist.

In the mid to late '90s, Rankin and the organization grappled with new ways to get the gospel into tougher, more restricted places. Though the fall of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of the Soviet Union had opened mission opportunities years before, more and more countries

were beginning to deny access to missionaries.

Rankin's predecessor Keith Parks "had initiated some very creative approaches ... to send missionary personnel into restricted countries and people groups, and initiate nonresidential missionary strategies where people could not actually live among the people they were targeting," Rankin recalled.

"But that had not really gained the traction to have a significant impact on our global strategy ... and literally one-third of the world did not have access to the gospel," he added. "We were still in a paradigm of basically sending missionaries where missionaries were welcome and could serve."

Out of this challenge emerged New Directions, a strategy that focused less on individual countries and more on getting the gospel to all peoples around the globe.

"It was a monumental shift," said David Garrison, who has served with the IMB for 27 years and is its global strategist for evangelical advance.

□ See *IMB has seen its fair share of changes ...* Page 3

True Love Waits' latest update set to launch Sept.

Nashville, Tenn.—True Love Waits will launch the resource's newest chapter during the National Youth Workers Conference next month.

True Love Waits co-founder Jimmy Hester said this latest update came from the brainstorming of student ministry leaders nationwide at a recent summit focusing on how True Love Waits can remain effective.

Summit participants cited the need for more emphasis on parental participation, specifically ways to support parents as the primary spiritual developers of their children.

In response, True Love Waits has created "True Love Waits 3.0: A Path of Purity." In sync with the ministry's sexual-abstinence-until-marriage message, Hester said the new TLW initiative will address a variety of markers students experience, from childhood to young adulthood. Resources for the new phase will help guide parents and church leaders to utilize these markers as teachable moments on purity.

"While the message in society today is one of encouraging teen sex, these leaders (at the summit) emphasized that many parents are in denial as to the scope of the problem and the ways their children are affected," Hester noted. (BP)

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, Aug. 4

NAMB appoints missionaries with Ky. ties

Alpharetta, Ga.—The North American Mission Board has appointed several new missionaries who will be working in Kentucky or have ties to the bluegrass.

The nine new missionaries were part of NAMB's most recent commissioning service at Lenexa Baptist Church in Kansas. That group included 71 new missionaries and 17 new chaplains.

Alyssa Allen is serving as a US/C2 Baptist center missionary serving in Lexington. NAMB's US/C2 program allows recent college graduates to serve two years as missionaries focusing on evangelism and church planting.

A Kentucky native, Allen is a graduate of Campbellsville University. She serves as the associate director of church and community ministries for Elkhorn Baptist Association. Her primary focus is the Irishtown Baptist Mission which serves the Irishtown neighborhood, an impoverished area of Lexington's inner city.

Lacy Cote is an evangelism specialist serving in Princeton. She also is part of the US/C2 program.

A graduate of Mid-Continent University in Mayfield, Cote



Alyssa Allen



Lacy Cote

has served with Hell Is Real Ministries in Princeton since January 2008. The organization shares Christ with people primarily through its prison and job corps ministries.

Katie Goins was appointed as a local collegiate evangelism missionary, also with the US/C2 program. She serves as an associate campus minister at Northern Kentucky University, of which she is a graduate.

Goins previously served as a NAMB Mission Service Corps missionary.

Benjamin Northcutt has been named a church planting missionary pastor who will serve in Paducah. He is part of the Nehemiah Project, a church planting strategy coordinated by NAMB in conjunction with the Southern Baptist seminaries.

A Kentucky native, Northcutt is a graduate of Murray State University and attended New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Jessica, have a daughter, Arabel.

Tanner Turley, a Henderson native, also has been named a church planting



Katie Goins



The Northcutts

missionary pastor through the Nehemiah Project. He will serve with Greater Boston Baptist Association in Medford, Mass.

Turley is a graduate of Kentucky Wesleyan College and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Marsha, also a Southeastern grad, have a daughter, Parker.

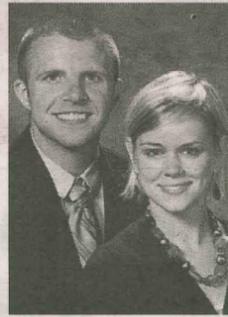
Abigail Elrod (no photo available) has been appointed as a US/C2 church planting team missionary in Greenville, S.C. A native of Owenton, she attended University of the Cumberlands before graduating from Gardner-Webb University in Boiling Springs, N.C.

In addition to Kentucky, South Carolina and Massachusetts, the newly appointed NAMB missionaries will serve in 29 states and two Canadian provinces.

With the addition of the 71 missionaries and 17 chaplains, NAMB now supports some 5,300 missionaries across North America and some 3,000 endorsed chaplains—not only military chaplains, but also chaplains ministering in prisons, law enforcement, hospitals and other health care facilities, and in corporations.

According to NAMB's website, there are more than 400 NAMB-endorsed missionaries and chaplains currently serving throughout Kentucky.

Compiled from reporting by Mickey Noah of the North American Mission Board and News Director Drew Nichter



The Turleys

Kentucky Baptists step up CP giving in June, close gap

Louisville—Increased giving in June helped Kentucky Baptists stay on pace for reaching the Kentucky Baptist Convention's \$23 million annual workable Cooperative Program budget.

According to Lowell Ashby, KBC's business services team leader, Kentucky Baptists gave \$2,070,918 through the Cooperative Program in June, a significant increase from May's total of \$1.6 million.

However, the 10-month, year-to-date total was 1.2 percent less than what was given during the same period last year, putting CP giving virtually equal to the workable budget for the fiscal year that ends Aug. 31.

"We are most grateful to all Kentucky Baptists who have diligently continued their support of the Cooperative Program this year," Ashby said. "These CP gifts have allowed our joint ministry and mission work with our churches and associations to be fulfilled as they were planned and budgeted over a year ago."

From Sept. 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009, Kentucky Baptists gave \$232,529 more than the same time period in the current fiscal year. Total giving for fiscal year 2009-10 is \$9,966 behind a workable budget of \$23 million that was trimmed from \$24.48 million in response to the global economic downturn.

"The faithful and willing investments of KBC churches in our mission causes through the Cooperative Program is an inspiration," said Billy Compton, KBC's executive associate for Cooperative Program and resources. "We continue to celebrate the sacrificial giving that makes our ministries possible."

Despite U.S. recession, Kentucky pastors see pay increase from 2008

Continued from page 1

Baptist state conventions are first and second on the list. The Baptist General Convention of Texas pays its pastors an average of \$68,313, followed by the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention at \$65,022.

Among what are considered to be the 15 "old-line" state Baptist conventions (including the newer Texas and Virginia conservative conventions), Kentucky ranks next to last in pastors' pay, outpacing only North Carolina, which averages \$51,016.

According to a LifeWay news release, when adjusted for church size (using average worship attendance numbers), SBC pastors' compensation rose only 0.78 percent from 2008. That was, however, good enough to outpace the 0.67 inflation rate during the past two years.

The pay increases since 2008 at both the state and national levels are considerably smaller than the jumps seen between '06 and '08. In that span, Kentucky's full-time senior pastors' pay increased more than \$3,000, while SBC pastors' made nearly \$5,325 more.

The modest gains made by ministers in the past two years is tied directly to the economic recession that has gripped the United States since early 2008, Spencer explained.

The length of this recession—which may or may not have ended, depending on which economist is polled—is why the compensation numbers have been so significantly impacted, he said.

"We've gone through dips, valleys and peaks and all that before," Spencer said, "but to get such an extended period with the economy like it is, I think is what's created a real challenge."

No where has the economy impacted church staff members than the overall pay packages, which includes insurance and retirement benefits.

Staff pay packages across the SBC actually decreased by \$209, from \$66,484 in 2008 to \$66,275 this year. Kentucky Baptists evidently bucked that trend, enjoying an increase of \$2,707 in their overall pay packages.

Scott McConnell, associate director of LifeWay Research, said the rising cost of benefits in the current economy is making it harder for churches to keep up.

"Difficult economic conditions have been compounded by higher costs for the same benefits the church provided in prior years," he said, according to the LifeWay news release. "Churches have kept salary increases to a minimum, but their care for pastors is seen in increased spending on other benefits."

The news release also pointed out that fewer full-time senior pastors are receiving medical insurance from their churches today than in 2008. Only 61 percent of churches pay—fully or partially—for their pastors' medical insurance, compared to 65 percent two years ago. The cost of medical care rose 3.2 percent and 3.4 percent in 2009 and 2010 respectively, according to U.S. Department of Labor statistics.

Spencer suggested the struggling economy may even have affected the compensation survey itself by trimming the pool of respondents.

In 2008, 12,828 church staff members took the survey; this year, more than 1,000 fewer people participated.

Spencer, who established the compensation study in 1988 and directed it until

handing it off to LifeWay and GuideStone in 2008, said in previous years, response totals typically ranged from 16,000 to 18,000.

These days, he explained, there are fewer church staff members to participate.

"We've seen so many places where they've cut," he said. "It's not dramatic; it's just one here, one there."

But once you consider that scenario is playing out at churches all across Kentucky and the SBC, "it starts adding up," Spencer said.

The study also includes compensation information for Southern Baptist bivocational pastors, as well as full-time and bivocational ministerial staff members, office personnel and custodians.

Kentucky's bivocational pastors exceeded the rest of the SBC in average compensation at \$19,229, an increase of \$862 over 2008. The national average is \$18,971, an increase of \$1,291. The average total pay package for bivocational pastors in Kentucky is \$24,318, which exceeds the national average of \$20,667.

Among full-time church staff ministers, the average compensation is \$48,525 in Kentucky and \$54,150 nationally. The total pay package in the commonwealth is \$58,757; SBC-wide, it is \$64,804.

Among bivocational church staff ministers, the average compensation is \$12,065

Ministers' compensation

	Kentucky	SBC
Full-time pastors		
Average compensation.....	\$52,302	\$55,829
Average pay package.....	\$65,880	\$66,275
Bivocational pastors		
Average compensation.....	\$19,229	\$18,971
Average pay package.....	\$24,318	\$20,667
Full-time staff		
Average compensation.....	\$48,525	\$54,150
Average pay package.....	\$58,757	\$64,804
Bivocational staff		
Average compensation.....	\$12,065	\$14,071
Average pay package.....	\$12,710	\$14,464

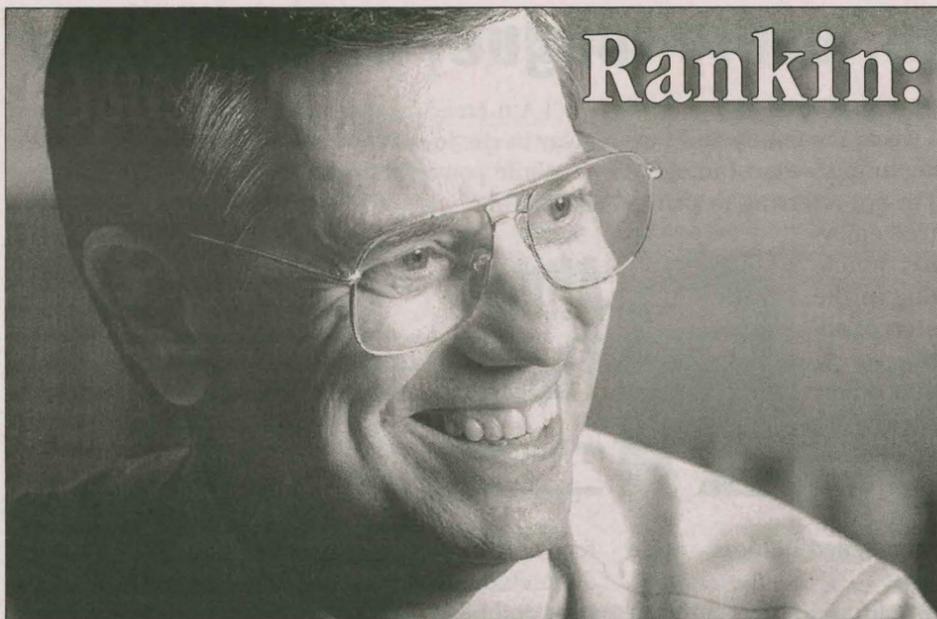
in Kentucky and \$14,071 across the SBC. The average total pay package in Kentucky is \$12,710, while it is \$14,464 nationally.

As the former administrator of the study, Spencer said such a survey always will have concerns with the validity of the data. "It is impossible to avoid having some inaccurate data creep in," he stressed.

However, he encouraged churches looking to hire pastors or staff members to utilize the survey's customizable report feature as a way to get a more accurate compensation comparison.

The SBC Church Compensation Study can be found online at www.LifeWay.com/CompensationSurvey.

For those churches that would like to obtain compensation survey reports but do not have Internet access, call the KBC's church financial benefits department at (502) 489-3521, or toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3521.



Rankin:

40 years of gospel missions

By Alan James
International Mission Board

It was 12-year-old Zachary Rankin's first overseas mission trip. Though he had spent five years in Thailand as a child of missionaries, he had never been to the jungles of Peru—and neither had his grandfather, International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin.

In 2008, the two traveled about five hours by dugout canoe down river to spend a few days in a remote village with the IMB's Xtreme Team missionaries who worked among a remote tribe known as the Yaminahua. They bathed in the river, slept in hammocks and ate monkey with the villagers.

The trip marked the potential beginning of a child's commitment to missions. It also marked the sun setting on one man's 40-year career—17 as IMB president—focused on helping take the gospel to every tribe, tongue and nation.

After going on two more mission trips since then—one in July to Haiti—the young Rankin, now 15, said he plans to continue where his grandfather left off.

Missions "runs in my blood," Zachary said. His grandfather "has been a huge influence on my life. I want to finish what he started."

Missions does seem to run in the Rankins' blood. Zachary's parents, Russ and Angela, served in Thailand with their three children. The Rankins' daughter (who name has been withheld for security reasons) still serves overseas.

True to his word

Wisdom, focus, consistency and a commitment to the Lord's work are a few of the words that longtime friend and IMB Executive Vice President Clyde Meador used to describe Rankin.

Meador recalled a conversation the two men had a few months before Rankin was tapped in 1993 as president of what then was known as the Foreign Mission Board. The organization would change its name in 1997.

"We were in a car, and I asked him, 'What will you do if you're president?'" Meador recalled. "He said, 'That will never happen.'"

After much pressing by Meador, Rankin shared a list of things he'd do if he were elected—but he prefaced it again with, "That will never happen."

The list included unifying the organization's focus, streamlining decision making, restoring a sense of ownership to field staff and better equipping missionaries to do their jobs.

"Most of the things he said are what he has done," Meador said.

Rankin and his wife, Bobbye, were appointed to East Java, Indonesia, in 1970. The couple and their two children spent

the first few years on the field enduring rejection of the gospel, spiritual warfare and illness.

Rankin eventually saw progress in Indonesia before moving through the ranks to associate area director for South and Southeast Asia and to director for Southern Asia and the Pacific in 1987.

Rebekah Naylor, a retired medical missionary who served with the IMB for more than 30 years, reflected on her longtime friendship with the Rankins. Naylor served at India's Bangalore Baptist Hospital during Rankin's years as area director in the late '80s and early '90s.

She fondly remembered the encouragement and support both the Rankins gave her while she was on the field—including thoughtful notes from Bobbye.

"They were not just nice little notes that said, 'I'm praying for you,' but they were very personal, specific notes," Naylor said. "The notes made me feel that she really was praying, concerned and involved."

Naylor commended Rankin's commitment to missions and steady leadership.

"He is definitely a person of prayer," she said. "His faith was evident in all parts of what he did ... his relationships, vision and every aspect of his life. He is a person of vision and is able to communicate that."

Christ-centered focus

Rankin's daughter said she always has admired her father's ability to handle difficult decisions—and the occasional criticism that comes with being the president of the missions organization.

"Things that would crush or overwhelm the average person just seem to roll off his back because he keeps such an eternal perspective," she wrote in an e-mail. "He has a remarkable ability to focus on the Lord."

"He can balance more things in his head than anyone else I know."

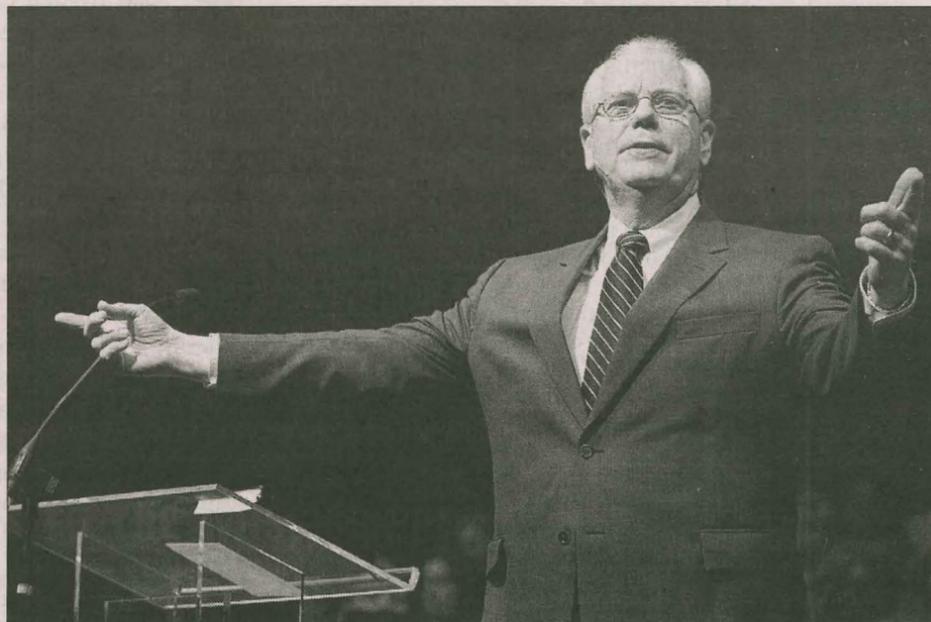
Remaining accountable for his leadership is something Rankin has worked hard to maintain. He recently shared with staff that during his years as president, he annually met with a small circle of friends—mostly pastors—for a time of accountability. Each one in the group could call him at any time to check on his attitude, relationships and personal discipline, he said.

One called after important meetings to check his attitude, Rankin recalled.

"He asks if I am harboring bitterness or resentment toward anyone or if there is a strained relationship I need to clear up," Rankin said.

Another called "out of the blue" to make sure he's spending time with his family. "They always ask about my quiet time to be sure I am not neglecting my time with the Lord," he explained.

Rankin's son, Russ, said his father sees accountability and time with the Lord



as absolute necessities. "He puts a lot of weight into that—a time of being on his face before the Lord and seeking the Lord's direction."

Russ added that his son, Zachary, wasn't the only one affected by that trip he and his grandfather took to the Amazon Basin two years ago.

For Russ, the trip was just another example of why he's grown to respect and

admire his father.

"They end up in dugout canoes down the Amazon and having to eat monkey," he said. "That's what my 67-year-old dad takes his grandson on, and I'm like, 'That is awesome.'"

"It changed my son's life, and that's the kind of guy he is," Russ said. "There's no starched shirt and frills when it comes to that." (BP)

IMB has seen its fair share of changes during Rankin's 17-year presidency

Continued from page 1

"Before this, every country had its own mission ... but all those missions, one by one, dissolved into people group teams," Garrison explained. "For the first time, the IMB engaged the entire world for the sake of the Great Commission, rather than just where we had personnel serving."

In 1993, when Rankin began his tenure as president, the organization saw nearly 4,000 missionaries and their Baptist partners help start more than 2,000 churches in 142 countries. In 2008, more than 5,500 IMB missionaries helped plant nearly 27,000 churches and engage 101 new people groups for a total of 1,190 engaged people groups.

Even with that progress, Rankin and the IMB have seen their share of challenges and heartache.

In the wake of Sept. 11, the IMB lost eight missionaries to both random and targeted Muslim extremist attacks. Bill Koehn, Kathy Gariety and Martha Myers were killed Dec. 30, 2002, by a gunman at Jibla Baptist Hospital in Yemen. Bill Hyde died when a terrorist's bomb exploded in a Philippine airport in March of 2003. David McDonnell, Larry and Jean Elliott and Karen Watson lost their lives nearly one year later, when insurgents attacked their vehicle in the Middle East.

"It brought into focus the reality of the kind of world we live in today," Rankin said.

The tragic events led the IMB to initiate more extensive preparation for missionaries headed to dangerous places.

"Interestingly, it didn't deter the interest in missionary service," he noted. "With each incident we had a prolific spike of applications of people willing to give of their lives, which I think was an amazing factor."

With more than 5,000 missionaries

and all its resources, the IMB will never have enough missionaries to reach the whole world, Rankin said.

But if the denomination could mobilize and challenge 16 million Southern Baptists to be strategically involved overseas, the resources and the potential are there to fulfill the Great Commission, he contended.

In the past decade, the IMB has focused more attention on forming stronger relationships with churches—and personalizing missions for them.

The IMB "has set the tone for getting churches more involved in missions," said J.D. Greear, pastor of The Summit Church in Durham, N.C.

"They are always pushing the envelope, always striving past the nations," he added. "I think what a lot of churches are looking for is not for the IMB to do missions for them, but they want to do missions through them."

In the past eight years, Summit Church has started multiple partnerships with the IMB in difficult places and has more than 50 of its members serving overseas with the organization.

Rankin often has said he hopes his presidency will not be judged for the accomplishments of the organization under his leadership, but for how the organization is poised for the future.

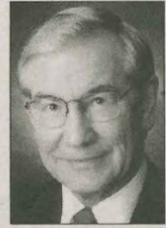
In recent years, the IMB has entered another major reorganization designed to help streamline administrative work, create more cost-effective and focused approaches to fulfilling the Great Commission and reach people groups that have little or no access to the gospel.

"I believe God has blessed Southern Baptists," Rankin said. "We stand on the verge of unprecedented opportunities to complete the task of engaging every nation, people and language with the gospel." (BP)

Teams needed in Haiti

Southern Baptists are beginning to transition the work in Haiti from disaster relief to rebuilding—and teams are needed. Kentucky Baptist Convention Disaster Relief Associate Coy Webb said the goal is for Southern Baptists to rebuild 5,000 block homes in the next year to 18 months.

Partners in the Mission



By Bill Mackey

Webb said the KBC will work in coordination with the Florida Baptist Convention, the North American Mission Board and Haitian Baptist pastors and churches.

He said a team of six to 12 members can build two block homes in one week. The plan calls for the team to construct 256-square-foot homes that are designed in such a way that they can be expanded by the homeowner later. The concrete slab already will be in place when teams arrive to do the construction.

These homes are desperately needed. Currently, many families displaced by the January earthquake still live in tents and other forms of temporary housing.

Rebuilding the homes will provide a great witness for Christ and ministry outreach for Haitian Baptists. The construction of the homes also will provide a great training opportunity for Haitians who assist and can open doors for future employment in construction.

Haitian Baptist leaders also desire discipleship and evangelism teaching and equipping teams. Webb believes equipping new believers is crucial for continuing spiritual vitality among believers and in the churches.

Now is the time for you and your church to plan a trip. Scott Pittman, director of the KBC's partnership missions department, will be the primary coordinator for the Kentucky rebuild teams.

Kentucky Baptists are to be commended for their outstanding response to the disaster in Haiti. Our convention has sent 18 disaster relief teams to Haiti thus far to provide medical services, build temporary housing, remove rubble and assist the people in other ways. Their efforts have directly resulted in at least 170 professions of faith. In addition, more than 540 temporary (canvas-covered) homes have been built and 40,000 Buckets of Hope distributed.

Kentucky Baptists also have provided more than \$400,000 for disaster relief. These funds have provided more than 691,000 meals which were distributed by Haitian Baptist churches, as well as medical supplies, water and materials.

Webb has been involved in the Southern Baptist disaster relief effort since the beginning, having served on the first NAMB assessment team. He said the most gratifying experience has been the response of volunteers and the revival and evangelistic harvest among Haitians. Reports indicate that more than 165,000 professions of faith have been recorded and 150 new churches planted since the earthquake.

Please pray about how God wants you and your church to be involved. Contact the KBC's partnership missions department at Partnership@KyBaptist.org to make arrangements for your team.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Every tribe, every tongue, every nation

Powerful and invigorating. For five days last week, my family and I experienced something akin to what I imagine heaven will be like. No, I'm not referring to sitting under a swaying palm tree enjoying a warm ocean breeze; watching colorful fish swimming in the shimmering, emerald water; or admiring Hawaii's lush flora.

True, the experience no doubt was augmented by the idyllic setting of a pacific isle that often is called paradise. As strange as it may sound for Hawaii, our experience of a bit of heaven happened indoors, inside the Waikiki convention hall.

From the moment we arrived, my children could tell the international gathering was no ordinary Baptist meeting. Angelic voices of Asian children singing praises to their Savior in their native tongue reverberated throughout the hall, welcoming guests from 105 nations to the 20th Baptist World Congress, held this year in Honolulu.

This was our first Baptist World Alliance meeting, yet worshipping shoulder to shoulder with Baptists from around the globe left an indelible impression of unity and solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Surrounding my family during morning and evening celebrations were more than 4,000 Baptists from England, Norway, Brazil, Jamaica, Nigeria, Spain, France, India, Korea, Japan, China and a host of other nations—many from places where to proclaim the name of Jesus means intense persecution or possibly death.

"Hear the Spirit" was the congress theme, and in the voices of 450 children who filled the stage one evening, singing both in English and Korean and performing fan and drum dances in gorgeous native attire, in the rhythmic sounds of a men's chorale from Nagaland, in the "One Heart for God" hula group of Hawaii, and in numerous other groups who participated in an international music fest, we did.

The corporate praise was equally stirring. Several times I was choked with emotion as I listened to the beautiful harmony of every nation and every tribe praising the Lord together, each in his or her own tongue. As I watched a group of Nigerians, donned in beautiful attire, dancing as they sang the lyrics



After Thought

By Todd Deaton

"When the Holy Spirit is truly upon people, Jesus is leading His people and it shows. It produces healthy churches and fruitful mission."

David Coffey, former BWA president

of "I Am Free," I sensed what it means to be swept away in the joy of the Lord. Yes, Baptists do dance!

While powerful messages were preached in English—often with a distinctive accent—they were translated into Japanese, Spanish, French and Portuguese. Speakers often read Scripture and prayed in their own languages. Though we couldn't understand their words, save for an English translation on the screen, we communicated in a richer heart language of the Holy Spirit.

British Baptist leader David Coffey, who completed a five-year term as BWA president, challenged Baptists from around the world to hear and heed the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit rests upon God's people, obedience and service mark their lives, Coffey said.

"When the Holy Spirit is truly upon people, Jesus is leading His people and it shows. It produces healthy churches and fruitful mission," he said. "The Holy Spirit inspires praise and worship. He creates fellowship between diverse people. ... The greatest sign of the Holy Spirit on us is that God makes us part of His action plan for winning a lost world."

John Upton, executive director of the Baptist General Association of Virginia, is the incoming BWA president. A member of the BWA General Council and its executive committee, the organization's two governing bodies, he also has served on the Baptist World Aid committee. The new president attended Averett College in Danville, Va.; Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville; and the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Kerala, India. Upton will serve a five-year term until the next world congress meets in South Africa in 2015.

Many congress participants were from unions and conventions that Southern Baptist missionaries helped start and with which we still work today. After experiencing this energizing fellowship firsthand, I remain hopeful that Southern Baptists will one day rejoin the Baptist World Alliance in an expression of unity and cooperation with their Baptist brothers and sisters from around the world.

For five days last week, the world grew a little smaller and the title "Baptist" expanded exponentially as the name of Jesus was magnified.

Thanks for article

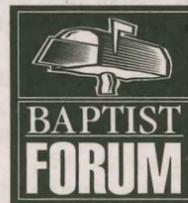
Thanks so much for the excellent page on chaplain Alan Farley (WR, July 20). For nearly 20 years, he and his family have been the spiritual anchor of our Columbus-Belmont Park Civil War re-enactment on the second weekend in October. They are just what the article shows them to be—outstanding witnesses.

This connection began through Mississippi River Ministries and has resulted in professions of faith almost every year. Hickman County Judge-Executive Greg Pruitt has stated publicly several times that the chaplain's ministry is the primary reason for the re-enactment, which brings some 10,000 visitors to a little-known park on the Mississippi River, located in a town of 300.

Chaplain Farley also speaks an-

nually at Columbus Baptist Church and often at Second Baptist Church of Clinton, as well as other churches in West Kentucky Baptist Association.

Charles Blair
former director of missions
West Kentucky Baptist
Association



Africa care kits

I want to thank all who assisted in the distribution of information and assisted in the collection of the Africa home-care kits. All of the buckets have been picked up and our final count of buckets collected in Kentucky was 528.

These buckets will be used by God to impact the hopeless in Africa with the compassion of our Savior and the eternity-changing message of the gospel.

As always, Kentucky Baptists responded in great ways. These buckets represent more than \$68,000 of humanitarian aid to victims of disease and will go to assist Kentucky missionaries Mark and Susan Hatfield in kingdom work in sub-Saharan Africa.

Thank you for all you do for the building of His kingdom!

Coy Webb
Disaster relief associate
Kentucky Baptist Convention

WESTERN Recorder

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

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Nothing worth proving can be proven

By Jim Denison

"Donkeys kill more people annually than plane crashes. No piece of paper can be folded in half more than seven times. Walt Disney, the inventor of Mickey Mouse, was afraid of mice. A duck's quack doesn't echo—no one knows why. Women blink twice as much as men. Elephants are the only animals that can't jump. It is physically impossible to lick your elbow."

A friendly recently e-mailed me these statements. I had no way to test the truth of any of them (except the part about licking my elbow). So I did some Internet searches and discovered that everything my friend sent me is wrong—except the fact that elephants are too heavy to jump. I even watched a girl lick her elbow on YouTube, checking off yet another item on my bucket list.

On the other hand, how do I know that the articles I found are any more correct than the e-mail I received? I'm not sure how the YouTube video could have been faked, but I'm forced to take the rest of my discoveries on faith.

Upon reflection, I realize that I don't really know most of what I know. I learned recently about the largest star yet discovered. Scientists tell us that it is 10 million times brighter than our sun and has a mass 265 times greater. But how do we know that it's really so? You can't see it even with a rooftop telescope. And if you could, how would you weigh it?

These reflections are of interest to me in light of a recent experience. I was privileged this summer to debate a philosophy professor on the question, "Is religion the basis of morality?" He graciously but firmly maintained throughout our encounter that he does not believe in the existence of God. I was reminded of a church billboard I once saw: "Since I don't believe in atheists, atheists don't exist."

The biggest problem most atheists have with believing in God is that such faith requires them to accept the supernatural. If I am a materialist, certain that supernatural reality cannot exist, no amount of proof or persuasion will convince me of a supernatural being. Once I conclude that the world must be flat, nothing in logic or experience can prove me wrong. The presupposition determines the con-

clusion.

Of course, believing that the supernatural cannot exist is a belief. Materialism is a faith assumption. A materialist cannot prove that the supernatural does not exist any more than a supernaturalist can prove that it does. Both require a commitment which transcends the evidence.

Where is the reality of God a questionable supposition for you today? Atheist Sam Harris is right: The existence of a suffering child anywhere in the universe calls into question the existence of an all-loving, all-powerful God.

Closer to home, are you waiting for such a God to answer a prayer or meet a need? Has He disappointed you in some way? Does He seem more a Sunday sermon topic than a present, transforming reality?

At the same time, I wonder what more God could do to demonstrate His reality to us. There are excellent rational arguments for His existence, showing that faith in God is reasonable. He has interacted with our world throughout history and entered our existence personally. He gave us a trustworthy account of His creative work. He is available personally to every person who will trust Him.

Perhaps it would help if He were to demonstrate His existence physically. But would you believe your senses? Would you trust tomorrow what you experienced today? Would anyone else believe your testimony?

At the end of the day, a relationship with God is like a relationship with anyone else. We examine the evidence, then take a step that transcends it and becomes self-validating. If I had waited until I could prove that my wife, Janet, and I should be married, I'd still be single. If you needed proof that this column was worth your time before reading it, you wouldn't have gotten this far.

Alfred, Lord Tennyson believed that nothing worth proving can be proven. Supernatural reality cannot be proven by natural means, but it can be experienced. What step of faith is God inviting you to take next? (ABP)

Jim Denison is president of the Center for Informed Faith and theologian-in-residence for the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

COMMENTARY

Take the \$50 challenge

By Jeremy White

If you're like most people, you probably can find additional money or identify areas in which to save money. Most of us are too busy or too sloppy to keep a well-run financial ship. So, here's a challenge for you: Find \$50 in the next few weeks. Do it just for the fun of it, not because you're destitute. Then, give half of it away.

Finding \$50 may be easier than you think. Your spare change jar may get you there.

Perhaps you have an old savings bond you bought through your employer. Are you ready to sell that old collection in which your children have no interest? Do you have old albums but don't have a working record player? Sell them.

Take the \$50 challenge on the expense side, too. Perform your own internal audit to see if you can find savings. Remember that eliminating a needed service or reducing the quality of service doesn't really count as savings. Try to identify areas where you're getting the same or better service for a lower price. Or, rid yourself of expenses that are no longer necessary.

Everyone's personal situation is different, but the following may be a good list of ideas to get you started:

- Check insurance plans. Consult your agent to make sure you're getting all the discounts to which you're entitled. Are you duplicating any coverages?
- Review your home and cellphone plans.
- Make sure you're still reading all of the items to which you subscribe—cancel those that are not read.
- Find ways to eliminate postage through auto-pay options or online use.
- Consider if you still need all the bank accounts and credit cards. You may save on charges or annual fees.

Jeremy White is a certified public accountant with Blythe, White & Associates in Paducah.



Ending the arguing

By Valerie Vincent

Q: My husband and I never seem to be able to resolve anything. It has been a long, tiring battle. How do we win it or end it?

There are five approaches to conflict. Some refer to these as conflict-management styles. People tend to prefer one or two styles and use these most of the time. Learning new styles offers a different approach to conflict.

The five styles are: collaboration, competition, accommodation, compromise and avoidance.

Collaboration involves working on a solution to both party's satisfaction (win/win style). Competition is where one wins and the other loses. Accommodation is when one makes concession to the other (lose/win). Compromise involves both parties giving up something to resolve the conflict (lose/lose). The avoidance style results in the conflict not being acknowledged or addressed.

There also are some clear steps that can be used in resolving conflicts:

- Set a distraction-free time to deal with conflict.
- Be direct and honest when sharing your thoughts and feelings.
- Actively listen to thoughts and ideas similar and different from your own.
- Accept responsibility for thoughts and feelings.
- Focus on the issue rather than on each other's personality characteristics.
- Show empathy to your spouse. Show you understand his or her perspective.
- Be supportive in your choice of words.
- Look for areas of agreement within the conflict.
- Focus on the issue and all that relates to the issue. Shift from taking a side and digging in your heels to a desire to fully understand the issue.
- Brainstorm as many ideas as you both can without criticism, evaluation or judgment of the ideas. Truly be open to every idea voiced.
- Evaluate the ideas and possible solutions.
- Choose one solution to try. Give the solution a reasonable amount of time to begin to work. If it doesn't work, review other solutions and choose one.

Valerie Vincent is a Christian counselor with Hardy Associates in Louisville.



Why it is important to become a media-wise parent

By Rebecca Hagelin

Arlington, Va.—A friend of mine recently hosted a summer barbecue with two close friends and their families. The kids all matched up in age—teens and preteens—and soon enough were talking music, movies and TV. Although they hung out on their own, the kids' voices (unknown to them) were audible at times to the adults.

An older teen turned the conversation to a recent music video she'd seen, the popular Lady Gaga song, "Telephone," which featured images of prison sex, lesbianism and more.

Shocked and embarrassed, her parents stepped in to halt the conversation, but not before it became obvious that several of the other kids also had seen the video, unbeknownst to their parents.

These are good kids, from concerned families who try to protect them from explicit content. But media content is moving with lightning speed toward the extremes.

And our jobs, as parents, just got more difficult.

In mid-July, the U.S. Second Circuit Court of Appeals struck down the Federal Communications Commission's controversial "decency policy." The policy has been under fire from broadcasters for years, especially since 2004, when the FCC warned broadcast TV stations that they would face fines for airing spontaneous expletives or unscripted "indecent" incidents on live TV (remember Janet Jackson?). The Second Circuit Court sided with the broadcasters: It held that the policy was so "vague" it was unenforceable and violated the broadcasters' right to free speech.

What's galling about the decision

is that the policy itself only aimed to regulate indecent content during the hours when children might be watching. The rest of the time, broadcast TV stations already push the envelope.

The real impact of the decision is symbolic. It signals to media content producers that they face little risk in pushing past existing boundaries.

And it signals to families that we cannot depend on the government to help us protect our children.

We never should depend on government to save us. Our kids need us to step up and safeguard them from the profanity, sexual depravity and extreme violence saturating popular media.

First, recognize the new contours of the media landscape. It's ugly. None of us really wants to sit down and watch the most popular teen TV programs, search the latest music videos on the Internet, or read through the lyrics of the songs on our kids' iPods. But spend the time we must.

So, practically speaking, spend 20 minutes today on the Internet: Visit the Parents' Television Council website to quickly size up the most popular and problematic TV shows. Check the music videos and lyrics of your kids' favorite songs. And even if your kids aren't allowed to have free rein with popular media, they will be exposed, to some degree, through carpools, soccer practices and Facebook. So ask them what's popular with the other kids. Then clear the room and educate yourself. You will be shocked.

When you've picked yourself up from the floor, assess your media restrictions. The 20 minutes you just spent should provide all the motivation you need to make any need-

ed changes. Use all the parental control tools available. Limit the time spent on screens. Control access to data plans and Internet downloads on their phones.

Third, don't repeat mistakes. When it comes to TV, videos or movies, I've heard parents give in and allow mature or explicit content saying, "Well, he saw it already, so there's no point in saying 'no.'" Or, "What can I do? She'll see it at her friend's house anyway." Repeated exposure literally imprints objectionable images in our children's minds and hearts over and over. Just because your child may have seen something inappropriate already, doesn't mean you should throw in the towel and let him or her see it again.

Fourth, talk through with your children why some of their peers' favorite songs or shows are so harmful. And if they've already seen material you wish they hadn't, they need your perspective on it. They need to see it with your eyes and to reframe their interpretation in light of your adult insights and wisdom. In the process, we shape our children's hearts and teach them to be protective of themselves.

Finally, set a coherent example. Teens set their "hypocrisy detector" on high and quickly dismiss adults who don't practice what they preach.

Tolerance for explicit media in our culture is growing. But the needs of children have not changed. They deserve to have their innocence protected so they can mature on their own timetables, unpressured by premature and intrusive sexual references and images. (BP)

Rebecca Hagelin is a pro-family advocate, speaker and author. Her latest book is "30 Ways in 30 Days to Save Your Family."

FIRST PERSON

BWA admits Vietnamese Baptists, says farewell to Coffey

By Marv Knox
Texas Baptist Standard

Honolulu—Some of the globe's most persecuted Christians found an international home when the Baptist World Alliance admitted the Baptist Churches in Vietnam into the global organization.

The BWA's General Council voted full membership July 28 to the Vietnamese organization, as well as to Baptist groups from Zambia and the District of Columbia in the U.S., as delegates gathered in Honolulu for the 20th Baptist World Congress.

"This is a historic moment and a fruitful moment," BWA President David Coffey said as General Council members prepared to vote on the Vietnamese Baptists. He reflected on the persecution and struggles faced by Christians in Vietnam during the latter part of the 20th century.

He pointed to a 2006 human-rights visit—conducted by representatives of the BWA and Texas Baptists—as a pivotal event in securing government recognition for Vietnamese Baptists.

They trace their heritage to the work of Southern Baptist missionaries in the country, reported Alistair Brown, chairman of the BWA's membership committee.

The Baptist Churches in Vietnam received government recognition in 2008. The organization includes 509 churches with about 30,000 members.

Admission into the BWA marks a historic and emotional milestone for Vietnamese Baptists, stressed Giam Nguyen, gener-

al secretary of the Baptist Churches in Vietnam.

"Most of the population of Vietnam was born during the persecution period," from 1975 through 1995, Nguyen said. "All they have experienced has been persecution. So this affirmation and acceptance gives us hope.



David Coffey

"Politically, this is important, because it demonstrates to our government that we have international support. This shows we are not merely a grassroots movement. We've been waiting for so long."

The General Council also affirmed admission of the Baptist Fellowship of Zambia and the District of Columbia Baptist Convention.

The Zambian fellowship was founded in 1995 and affiliates with about 1,500 congregations, making it the largest Baptist group in the African nation, Brown said.

The D.C. convention dates to 1877 and includes churches in the federal District—the U.S. capital—plus parts of neighboring Maryland and Virginia. It includes 112 churches and 34 mission congregations and numbers 66,000 members.

The D.C. convention affiliates with multiple other Baptist groups, including the Alliance of Baptists, American Baptist Churches USA, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Progressive National Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention.

Coffey out, Upton in

Coffey, whose term as BWA president ended at the conclusion of the Baptist



WORLD ON DISPLAY The children's choir from Suwon Central Baptist Church in Seoul, South Korea, performs in the lobby of the Hawai'i Convention Center in Honolulu, site of last week's Baptist World Congress. Suwon Central's pastor is Billy Kim, a former BWA president. (Photo by Rand Jenkins)

World Congress, presided over his last General Council session.

"We see the world from a different perspective," he said of the experience brought about by attending the Congress with fellow Baptists worldwide.

Coffey's successor, President-elect John Upton, also presided at a General Council session.

He compared the BWA to the origin of the Harlequin clowns of Europe, based on a story about a poor boy whose mother sewed

together scraps from his friends' costumes so he could attend a ball. The story is a metaphor for BWA, Upton said. "We're all different, with different colors, shapes and languages. Maybe God wants to use each of us to make that unusual thing called BWA. Bring your own distinctive colors, talent, style and heritage.

"A miracle is going to happen, and it will look like dancing. You know who will be the one dancing? It will be Jesus, clothed in the love of His children." (ABP)

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Willis, retired missionary, creator of 'MasterLife' series, dies

Bella Vista, Ark.—Avery Willis, former Southern Baptist missionary and administrator who perhaps was best known as the creator of the "MasterLife" discipleship training materials, died July 30 after a battle with leukemia. He was 76 years old.

Willis retired as senior vice president for overseas operations of the International Mission Board in 2004. Prior to that appointment, he led the adult discipleship training department at the Sunday School Board (now LifeWay Christian Resources). "MasterLife" training materials have been translated into more than 50 languages and continue to be published by LifeWay.

"The author of 'MasterLife' is with the Master," LifeWay President Thom Rainer said. "Avery Willis was a Baptist statesman

'par excellence.' His contribution to the cause of missions and missions education will have sustained impact for generations to come. He will be missed by all, and my prayer is that the Lord raises up others to continue where he left off for the cause of global missions and kingdom growth."

In January of this year, Willis was diagnosed with an aggressive form of leukemia. Doctors, however, were surprised by a quicker-than-expected remission in February, which allowed Willis to return his attention to discipleship. During the next several months, he campaigned for a return to the Bible storying form of discipleship. Often used as a disci-

pleship tool among oral cultures, Willis believed Bible storying could be an effective method in the United States as well.

Willis and other proponents of this discipleship method organized DNA 21: Reclaiming Discipleship in the 21st Century, which launched in April.

"I have known Avery Willis for more than 30 years," said James Draper Jr., former president of LifeWay. "When I struggled to have a plan to help disciple converts in our church, it was on the back of an envelope at the Dallas/Fort Worth airport that Avery first drew and explained the basic concept of 'MasterLife.' This wonderful discipleship pro-

gram has changed the face of discipleship in the offerings LifeWay has provided over the years."

Also while at LifeWay, Willis was instrumental in the release of "Experiencing God" by Henry Blackaby and Claude King, another important Bible study resource that now has been translated into more than 70 languages and recently marked its 20th anniversary in print.

"He was God's gift to Southern Baptists and his influence is truly global," Draper continued. "It was my privilege to call him friend and partner in ministry and to serve with him at LifeWay for several years before he went" to the IMB.

Willis is survived by his wife, Shirley, five children and 15 grandchildren.



Avery Willis

Baptist World Congress to be held on African continent for first time in 2015

Honolulu—For the first time, the Baptist World Congress will be held in Africa in 2015, according to an announcement from Baptist World Alliance General Secretary Neville Callam.

Speaking on the eve of last week's 20th Baptist World Congress in Honolulu, Callam said the South African port city of Durban would host the 21st quinquennial gathering of global Baptists. The meeting is scheduled for July 2015.

"It will be an honor to the Baptists of South Africa and to Africa to host the Baptist World Congress," said Paul Msiza, president of the All Africa Baptist Fellowship

and general secretary of the Baptist Convention of South Africa.

The event marks the first time the 105-year-old umbrella group for the world's Baptists has held its biggest meeting in Africa. African Baptists are growing rapidly. However, the high cost of international travel—particularly to far-away Western destinations like North America and Western Europe—has made attending past congresses prohibitive for many leaders.

A crowd of approximately 4,000 was expected at the Honolulu meeting, compared to about 13,000 who attended the 2005 congress in Birmingham, England. (ABP)

Gospel singer Doug Oldham dead at age 79

Lynchburg, Va.—Doug Oldham, a prolific gospel singer and ministry partner of the late Jerry Falwell, died July 21 at the age of 79.

Oldham, who was a soloist at Falwell's Thomas Road Baptist Church and helped the evangelist raise money to start Liberty University, died at a Lynchburg, Va., hospital while awaiting back surgery.

"My father and Doug Oldham were an evangelistic team who brought the gospel to nearly every home in America every Sunday morning on the 'Old Time Gospel Hour,'" said Liberty University Chancellor Jerry Falwell Jr.

"The names Jerry Falwell and Doug

Oldham were synonymous as Billy Graham and George Beverly Shea. ... His passing represents the end of an era at Thomas Road Baptist Church and Liberty."

Oldham recorded more than 60 albums and was the first to perform "He Touched Me," a song written by colleague Bill Gaither.

"Doug's resonant voice and vibrant spirit moved people at a very personal level," Gaither recalled. "He possessed that rare balance between polished professionalism and authenticity."

Oldham was inducted into the Gospel Music Association's Gospel Music Hall of Fame in 2006. (RNS)

HEARTS ON FIRE XXIV

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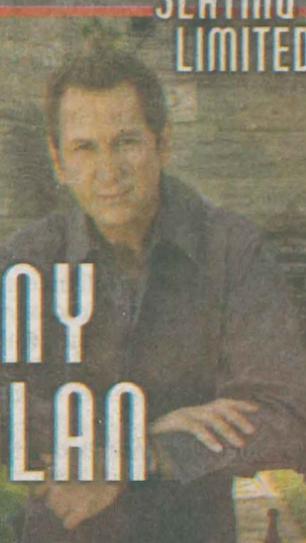
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Groups: Government's defense of Natl. Day of Prayer lacking

By Michael Foust

Washington—A coalition of legal and pro-family groups says the U.S. Justice Department is putting forward an inadequate defense of the National Day of Prayer, and have asked a court to allow them to participate in oral arguments.

At issue is an April ruling that the National Day of Prayer is unconstitutional and tantamount to a government establishment of religion. The Justice Department appealed the case to the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals and filed its brief in early July, but the groups say the government's brief is lacking in certain areas.

In short, the groups say the Justice Department failed to cite three specific Seventh Circuit cases, all from 2007 and 2008, that are binding precedent on the three-judge panel and would lead to a quick dismissal of the case. The Freedom from Religion Foundation, which filed the lawsuit, lacked standing to sue, the groups claim.

"Even if we're not allowed to participate (in oral arguments), we are hopeful that, with these cases being brought to the court's attention, that they will quickly come to the conclusion that they lack jurisdiction to hear this case, and that the lower court lacked jurisdiction to hear it," Ken Klukowski, director of the Family Research Council's Center for Religious Liberty, told Baptist Press.

The groups' argument focuses on a technical legal question at the heart of the three Seventh Circuit cases and a 2007 U.S. Supreme Court case, *Hein v. Freedom from Religion Foundation*. Those three circuit court cases—citing the Supreme Court's decision—ruled that an Establishment Clause challenge could not be brought if Congress did not appropriate any funding in the challenged statute. Because Congress did not set aside any money for the National Day of Prayer when it passed the statute, the lawsuit should be dismissed, the groups say. The Justice Department's brief does not make that argument.

Asked if he thought the Justice Department's failure to cite the cases was intentional or simply an oversight, Klukowski said, "At this point, I would want to give them the benefit of the doubt. They did present an argument that would result in a win in this case. But, nonetheless, the argument that we put forward in our brief would be a much broader and robust victory to protect the First Amendment rights of Christians and people of all faiths." (BP)

Arizona immigration law blocked

Faith leaders, Senate Democrats call for comprehensive overhaul

By Robert Marus

Washington—A federal judge in Arizona blocked the most controversial parts of Arizona's new immigration law July 28, one day before it was scheduled to go into effect. The same day, faith leaders opposed to the bill and senior Senate Democrats called on Congress to break its impasse and vote for comprehensive immigration reform this year.

U.S. District Judge Susan Bolton temporarily enjoined the state's officials from enforcing parts of the law that would require legal immigrants to carry papers proving their status at all times, and would force police officers to arrest and check the immigration status of anyone suspected of being an illegal immigrant.

"There is a substantial likelihood that officers will wrongfully arrest legal resident aliens," she said in her order. "By enforcing this statute, Arizona would impose a 'distinct, unusual and extraordinary' burden on legal resident aliens that only the federal government has the authority to impose."

However, she let other parts of the law stand—including one that

makes it a crime to pick up illegal day-laborers in a car and one that allows citizens to sue law-enforcement agencies and officials for what they believe is insufficient enforcement of immigration laws.

Leaders of a group of faith-based activists who had traveled to Arizona to protest the bill as it began enforcement responded in a teleconference with reporters shortly after Bolton issued her ruling.

"We are pleased about today's injunction, but we believe we still need a fix to our immigration crisis," said Kim Bobo, executive director of Interfaith Worker Justice.

Senior Senate Democrats—in a question-and-answer session with religion reporters prior to Bolton's ruling—lamented the fact that partisan posturing in a midterm-election year seems to have doomed any comprehensive fix to the immigration problem this term.

Several prominent Republicans who had been working with Senate Democrats on comprehensive immigration reform—most notably Arizona Sen. John McCain and South Carolina Sen. Lindsay Graham—have

stepped away from the table in recent months. They have cited concerns over rising drug-cartel-related violence in Northern Mexico spilling across the America's porous southern border and say now is not the right time for a reform bill.

Their departure from the playing field means that reform is dead due to filibuster threats. Democrats do not have a large enough majority to garner the 60 votes needed to break a filibuster from a unified Republican caucus.

Nonetheless, an unusually broad array of faith groups—including conservative evangelical leaders like the Southern Baptist Convention's Richard Land—have expressed support for comprehensive reform.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) has signaled a possible piecemeal approach to the problem. Also on July 28, Reid announced that he would bring the DREAM (Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors) Act to a floor vote before the year is over. The bill would provide a pathway to permanent legal residency for non-citizen children of illegal immigrants. (ABP)

N.J. Supreme Court declines to take gay marriage case

Trenton, N.J.—Supporters of gay marriage said they would press on with their fight despite the New Jersey Supreme Court's decision July 26 not to hear a case in which six same-sex couples asked for the right to marry.

Though the court said it won't consider the case now, it left open

the possibility it could hear it in the future. The justices said the case needs to be filed anew in Superior Court and wind its way back up.

In 2006, New Jersey's Supreme Court ruled that same-sex couples were due the full rights and benefits of heterosexual married cou-

ples, but left it up to the state's legislature to provide those rights, leading to the 2006 civil-union law.

John Tomicki, president of the New Jersey Coalition to Preserve and Protect Marriage, said he wants voters to decide if marriage should be defined as a union between one man and one woman. (RNS)

25 years in the 'real world'

What was thought to be temporary stop became a season of life for houseparent

By Suzi Garrett
Retired OBI houseparent

When my husband, Gary, and I came to Oneida in 1985, we thought we would stay a year or two and then go back to the "real world." That was 25 years ago. We soon discovered that the "real world" was at OBI.

Atop a mountain in Clay County is a microcosm of the entire world, complete with students from 15 countries and almost as many languages spoken every day. Where else do teens get exposed to so many different cultures before they go to college?

When I was growing up in Louisville, my high school had a foreign exchange student for one semester. We thought that was so cool! But at OBI, the student from another country might be your roommate. You may be helping him learn English as he teaches you about a culture you know almost nothing about.

Occasionally we get students who, under normal circumstances, would not get along. In 1986 we had a boy from Iran and a boy from Iraq in the same room. At home they would have been sworn enemies, but in the hills of Eastern Kentucky, they actually became friends. With God all things are possible.

No matter where the students come from, they have the same problems any kid living away from home has. Many arrive not knowing how to do laundry, make a bed or even use a microwave. That is where houseparents try to help.

In addition to enforcing the rules, a houseparent does many things. I have dispensed med-

icines and proofread essays. I have given laundry demonstrations and sewn on many buttons. I have taught young people how to iron a shirt. My husband gave lessons in cleaning toilets, mopping floors and shining shoes. And both of us took many young people to a fishing hole to catch the first fish of their young lives.

The best part for me always took place at our dining room table when we were allowed to take five or six students home for a meal. The kids always looked forward to a home-cooked meal served in a family setting, and we have served many meals over the years.

After dinner, usually during dessert, a question about Jesus always seemed to come up. It gave us an opportunity to share our testimonies with a smaller and more personal group than in a classroom. They didn't hesitate to ask questions.

Since about 20 percent of our student body is international, many of them do not know Jesus and have never considered having a relationship with Him. There is no telling how many decisions are made for Jesus, starting at someone's dining room table.

Gary passed away last December after a short illness. I was not ready to let him go, but I know where he is and who he is with, and I am recovering. After graduation I moved to Florida to be closer to our family. I spent five months packing and talking with Jesus. I know Him better than ever and He has helped me so much. As I adjust to life away from OBI, I look back at all I am grateful for and I thank each of you for the part you have played in that. God bless you.

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

'God has changed my life'

Mission trip to Japan proves life-changing for student

The summer break at Clear Creek allows students an opportunity to spend time on short-term mission trips. These trips give them valuable practical ministry experience as they prepare for God's calling on their lives. For first-year student Ian Watkins, a trip to Japan affirmed God's call to missions.

"I was privileged to take part in a mission trip through the International World Changers," Watkins said. "The ministries that we focused on were prayerwalking; train evangelism and ministry; park evangelism and ministry; café evangelism and ministry; distribution of the Gospel of John in Japanese; free Japanese Bibles; and a movie about Jesus' life in Japanese. God moved and 3 people were saved."

"Our main ministry focus was something called '5-minute English practice,'" Watkins recalled. "We would hold signs that said, 'Free English practice, 5 minutes' in Japanese. When people would stop to practice we would introduce ourselves and then ask the person questions in English and have them respond in English."

"One of the questions we would

ask was: 'What is your favorite book?' We received many responses from this, mostly Japanese books. The stranger would then ask us the same question in English in which we would respond, 'the Bible.' Then we would ask them, 'Can I share with you what Jesus Christ has done in my life?' Once given permission to move on, we would share our personal testimonies and lead the person through a Japanese/English tract called 'Steps to Peace with God.' I was personally able to lead one man to Christ through this method.

"God has changed my life through this trip," Watkins said. "He has used this trip to confirm for me where I am called to be a full-time missionary. I am hoping to lead a trip back to Japan each summer while I am a student at Clear Creek. I will never look at evangelism the same. I have already begun learning Japanese ... for God's work that He has in store for my family in Japan."

Thanks for your support which enables us to equip our students to fulfill the Great Commission.

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

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

Bequest language

Wise Christian estate plans can impact world for Christ

One of our convictions is every adult Christian should have a Christian estate plan. Another is how we Christians plan our estates likely will be the single most important act of financial stewardship we shall ever make. Through a carefully and prayerfully prepared estate plan, each of us can impact the world for Christ, regardless of our financial stations in life.

The simplest and most commonly used method for having a Christian estate plan is by including a bequest(s) in one's will.

This is something everyone can do. Among the services we provide all Kentucky Baptists—without cost or obligation—when needed is the bequest language your estate planning attorney will need to include in your will to make gifts at death to those ministries you want to benefit.

Here are two samples should you want to make a bequest to the Kentucky Baptist Foundation to establish a perpetual endowment for the perpetual benefit of one or more of those ministries near and dear to you.

First, to bequeath a specific sum

of money, investment or property:

"I give, devise and bequeath to the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, located at 13420 Eastpoint Centre Drive, Louisville, KY 40223, [the sum of \$___ / ___ shares of (investment) / the following real property:] to establish the [your name] Endowment Fund, the income from which shall be distributed at least annually to [insert name(s) of ministry or ministries] to be used for _____."

Second, to bequeath a specific percentage:

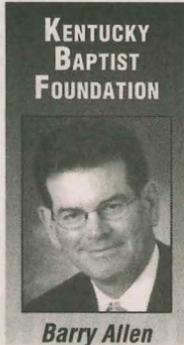
"I give, devise and bequeath to the Kentucky Baptist Foundation ... ___% of the rest and residue of my estate to establish"

Similar language can be used in beneficiary and payable on death designations of life insurance, brokerage accounts and retirement accounts.

Although it is not required, it would be helpful to us to be notified if you have included the KBF in your estate plan. Of course, such information would be kept confidential.

Call Laurie Valentine toll free for the bequest language you need in your will.

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



Barry Allen

Environmentalists push for closure of Jesus' Jordan River baptism site

By Bob Allen

Jerusalem—Israel's tourism ministry said July 27 that water at a spot traditionally regarded as the baptismal site of Jesus was "fit for baptism," countering claims by environmentalists that it is polluted, unsafe and should be closed to tourists.

According to the Jerusalem Post, Israeli health officials are reportedly considering erecting signs warning: "Polluted Waters, Entry Forbidden" at Qasr al-Yahud near Jericho. Tradition holds Jesus was baptized there 2,000 years ago, making it one of Christianity's holiest sites.

A group called Friends of the Earth Middle East, however, said that due to decades of mismanagement and drought, elevated levels of raw sewage in the lower Jordan River pose a health risk to pilgrims who immerse themselves in the waters.

All four Gospels report that Jesus went to the Jordan River to be baptized by John the Baptist, but no one today is certain of the exact location.

Kathy Dehoney-Evitts of Dehoney Travel in New Albany, Ind., said Qasr al-Yahud is not on the itinerary of their Holy Land tours.

"This area is actually not very accessible on the Israeli side, so we instead make our visit to a very nice facility just south of Tiberias where the Jordan River flows out of the Sea of Galilee," said Dehoney-Evitts, who is the daughter of the late Wayne Dehoney, former Southern Baptist Convention president and longtime pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville. "Most evangelical Christian groups from North America would use this Yardenit site for a visit."

Located in an area between Israel and Jordan's border fences, Qasr al-Yahud is accessible only with military permit and escort. It still draws more than 100,000 visitors each year, however. Israel's tourism ministry has been spending about \$2 million a year improving the site after years of neglect.

Tourism officials said water samples collected July 25 tested for 88 fecal coliform bacteria per 100 milliliters of water. That is within health ministry standards of 1,000 fecal coliform bacteria per 100 milliliters of water.

"The Tourism Ministry ascribes great importance to tourists' sense of security and to the service provided to tourists who choose to visit Israel, and is making every effort to ensure that the experience of their visit is the best possible," Tourism Minister Stas Misezhnikov said in a press release.

Friends of the Earth Middle East renewed its call for baptisms to be banned on the lower Jordan River, saying that bacteria levels in flowing water vary from hour to hour and that other tests have shown pollution levels to be far higher.

A cooperative effort of Jordanian, Palestinian and Israeli environmentalists, Friends of the Earth



UNSAFE? Environmentalist groups claim Qasr al-Yahud, the Jordan River location believed to be the site of Jesus' baptism, is too polluted and should be closed. The Israel landmark is popular among Christian pilgrims who wish to be baptized there.

Middle East said the ecological degradation of the lower Jordan has been decades in the making but has gone largely unnoticed.

"The lower Jordan River is arguably the most famous river in the world (and) of international significance to more than half of humanity due to its rich natural and cultural heritage and its symbolic value and importance to three monotheistic religions," the group said.

The Jordan has been steadily drained over the past half century to provide drinking water and irrigation for the people of Israel, Jordan, Syria and the Palestinian territories. Most recently it has been taxed by construction of a tributary dam on the Jordanian-Syrian border, completed in 2006.

On top of multiple nations siphoning the river basin, Friends of the Earth Middle East said, severe drought has reduced the lower Jordan to a dirty trickle.

It also is the most significant factor in the demise of the Dead Sea, the surface area of which has shrunk by a third in the past 50 years. Its shoreline is receding at the rate of one meter per year.

One idea under discussion to stabilize water levels is a controversial Red-Dead Sea Conveyance Project. It involves digging a canal and a series of water-pipeline conduits 100 miles from the Gulf of Akaba in the Red Sea.

Friends of the Earth Middle East said the huge public-works project could cost \$5 billion to \$10 billion and would do nothing to protect the livelihood of Jordanians, Palestinians and Israeli settlers in the Jordan Valley who depend on the lower Jordan for water.

They say the project would not be needed if nations bordering the Jordan would begin putting water back into the river through conservation programs and public policy. (ABP)

Ugandan churches check IDs after attacks

Masindi, Uganda—Ugandan church leaders are asking Christians to produce identity cards and agree to security checks before entering some churches after two terrorist attacks at World Cup viewing parties left more than 70 people dead.

"We are taking these new measures to ensure that the worshippers are safe. We do not want the wrong people to enter into our churches," Anglican Bishop Stanley Ntagali of the Masindi-Kitara Diocese told ENInews.

The security measures follow bomb attacks on July 11 in Kampala at a rugby club and an Ethiopian restaurant, where people were watching the final match of the World Cup soccer championship.

Al-Shabab, a radical Somali Islamic group, claimed responsibility for the blasts and said there would be more attacks.

The Ugandan government has urged owners of buildings and other public facilities, including churches, to ensure their premises have adequate security measures, such as guards, metal detectors, cameras and lights.

The security measures for churches are intend-

ed for high-risk targets, but no congregations will be forced to implement the checks.

"Worshippers have been cooperating. This is for their good. Everyone was shocked by the attack," Ntagali said.

"We are going to register our church members and provide them with proper identity cards. No stranger will be allowed to attend any prayer session," Pastor David Kiganda, vice-chairperson of the Uganda National Fellowship of Born-Again Churches, told Uganda's Daily Monitor newspaper.

Church leaders say they back the government's call for new security precautions, which include having police and private guards patrolling church sanctuaries during services.

Some churches opened only one door for worshippers to enter the building but later opened a second door for exiting. Police have been seen patrolling the bigger churches in Kampala.

In other security measures, all-night prayer rallies and crusades, which are popular with Pentecostal and evangelical churches, now will end at midnight. (RNS)

CU PASTORS AND CHURCH LEADERS CONFERENCE

Characteristics of Effective Church Leaders

Designed for laypersons as well as pastors and other church staff ~ All are encouraged to attend.

September 23 & 24, 2010

Thursday, Sept. 23 – 2:00 p.m. First Session

Thursday, Sept. 23 – 7:00 p.m. Second Session

Friday, Sept. 24 – 10:00 a.m. Third Session

Breakout Sessions

Sept. 23 at 4:00 p.m. and Sept. 24 at 8:30 a.m. will focus

on the theme with emphasis on:

family, integrity, transparency, and loving the people

Featured speakers: Rev. Fred Luter, Jr., senior pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans which has grown from 65 members to its current membership of 7,000 plus, and Dr. Hershael W. York, senior pastor of Buck Run Baptist Church in Frankfort, Ky., who *Preaching Today* has included among North America's most effective preachers. Dr. Alcingstone Cunha, associate dean and assistant professor of music in the CU School of Music, will serve as worship leader for all three sessions.

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World Baptists honor Lotz for human-rights advocacy

Honolulu—To be true to their heritage and principles, Baptists must continue the fight for religious liberty for all people, insisted Denton Lotz, who received the Baptist World Alliance's Human Rights Award July 30 in Honolulu.

Lotz, the Alliance's retired general secretary, accepted the award on behalf of his predecessors and BWA presidents.

Lotz has been a persistent human-rights campaigner, reported Emmanuel McCall, a BWA vice president.

"Denton has been a visionary leader who led the BWA to commit a decade, beginning in 2000, to combating racism and advocating for human rights," McCall said.

Lotz helped draft proclamations and covenants that bound Christians and others to speak on behalf of persecuted people all over the globe, McCall added. He said Lotz has confronted ambassadors and other government leaders, pleading for freedom for religious minorities.

"God has blessed (the BWA) because we have been faithful to the word and united," Lotz said of Baptists' advocacy for human rights. "Where there is unity, there is strength."

He cited 20th century Baptist theologian E.Y. Mullins, who maintained: "Where religious liberty is denied, all liberties are denied."

"Baptists have stood for religious liberty" through the generations and across borders, Lotz said, listing a litany of religious freedom advocates.

The battle continues, he added. He pointed out that the U.S. government denied travel visas to hundreds of world Baptists who wished to attend the BWA meeting in Hawaii. (ABP)

Listen to the Spirit, Coffey urges Baptist World Congress

By Ken Camp
Texas Baptist Standard

Honolulu—Human effort and creative strategies lead to futility apart from an anointing by God's Holy Spirit, British Baptist leader David Coffey told the Baptist World Congress July 28 in Honolulu.

Coffey, who completed his five-year term as president of the Baptist World Alliance at the quinquennial gathering, challenged Baptists from around the world to hear and heed the Holy Spirit.

"We can be a purpose-driven church. We can be a seeker-sensitive church. We can be an emergent and creative church. We can be a justice-and-peace church. We can be a conservative Calvinist church. But if we fail to hear the Holy Spirit of the living God, then all our serving will be futile and fruitless," he said.

Baptists run the risk of having "the appointing without the anointing," he warned.

From His virgin birth to His empowered ministry of teaching, preaching, healing and perfect obedience to God's plan, the Holy Spirit rested upon Jesus, Coffey said.

"The Holy Spirit is integral to the birth, the identity and the mission ministry of Jesus," he said. "So, why is it we so often choose to go it alone?"

When Baptists choose to follow their own methods and timing rather than God's, they fail to follow in the footsteps of their forebears, Coffey noted. He cited the example of early English Baptists John Smyth and Thomas Helwys, missionary Lotie Moon and civil-rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

God wants the Spirit-filled ministry of Jesus Christ to continue through His people, Coffey said.

"The essence of the Holy Spirit's ministry is to bring the presence of Christ to His people. His purpose is that Jesus is known, loved, honored and praised," he said.

The Spirit of God brings attention to the Son of God, exalting Christ and making Him known, he said.

To be the people God has called them to be, Baptists should be able to testify that the Holy Spirit lives within them and rests upon them, Coffey said.

"If you can't say, 'The Holy Spirit is in me,' then you cannot be truly part of God's family. If you can't say, 'The Holy Spirit is on me,' you cannot be truly effective in ministry," he said.

When the Holy Spirit rests upon God's people, obedience and service mark their lives, Coffey noted.

"When the Holy Spirit is truly upon people, Jesus is leading His people and it shows," Coffey said. "It produces healthy churches and fruitful mission."

"The Holy Spirit inspires praise and worship. He creates fellowship between diverse people. ... The greatest sign of the Holy Spirit on us is that God makes us part of His action plan for winning a lost world. ... He has called and equipped us to be the actors in His great drama."

When God's people are anointed by God's Spirit, they have no call to think of themselves as "nobodies," Coffey insisted.

"Friends, the people of God are never a little people. The world may despise and hate us. The world may persecute us and seek to destroy us. The world may exercise might without morality and power without compassion," he said.

"But the truth is when the world has left the battlefield, the last people standing will be those who can exclaim, 'The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed me.'"

At a news conference prior to the Baptist World Congress, Coffey characterized the global Baptist fellowship as a people of "praying hands and dirty hands"—people who seek the Holy Spirit for vision but who face the world as it is and seek to



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

- **BOAZ**—Hardmoney Church recently called **Aubert Rose** as temporary church growth consultant. **Faris Sahawneh** is pastor.
- **LYNNVILLE**—Rhodes Chapel Church recently called **Ronny Glisson** as pastor. He previously was pastor of New Concord Church in Melber.
- **MAYS LICK**—**David Cheek** recently resigned as pastor of Mays Lick Church to become pastor at Green

- Pond Church in Polk City, Fla.
- **SOMERSET**—High Street Church will celebrate its 95th anniversary with weeklong festivities Aug. 7-15 featuring former pastors and staff members. For more information, call (606) 678-8973. **Ed Amundson** is pastor.
- **WICKLIFFE**—Southside Church recently called **Joe Skinner** as interim pastor.

Welcome First Baptist, Mount Vernon Church Newsletter Plan William Nation, pastor

make it better.

Coffey reflected briefly on his five years as BWA president and a few words of counsel for President-elect John Upton. "We don't have to make the gospel relevant, but we do have to demonstrate its relevance."

Baptists also need to respond to the challenge to "demonstrate the

ongoing vitality of being a Baptist," Coffey concluded. "The next generation may not want to inherit our institutional structures, but they want our vision."

Coffey, a former Baptist pastor, was general secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain for 15 years before retiring. (ABP)

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

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

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

SEEKING: Director of facilities (custodian), a 32-hour-a-week position with Fern Creek Baptist Church. Mail resumé by Aug. 13 to Fern Creek Baptist Church, 5920 Bardstown Road, Louisville, KY 40291, Attn: Personnel Committee.

SEEKING: Full-time senior pastor. Provides ministerial/spiritual and administrative leadership for the church, pastoral care to congregation and community, disciples members. Responsible for leading all worship services and ministries; oversight of staff; assistance in operation of facilities, programs, and ministries through established committees and deaconate. Requirements: Successful candidate will be called by God; preach the word of God; devoted to prayer and Bible study; proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ; ordained minister; prefer graduate of an accredited college, university or seminary. Compensation commensurate with qualification and the area. Gardenside Baptist Church, 1667 Alexandria Drive, Lexington, KY, 40504. For more information: www.gardensidebaptist.com. Submit resumé: gbcpastorsearch@gmail.com. (859) 277-7391.

SEEKING: Bivocational pastor for Oneida Baptist Church. Send resumé to Ruth Ann Powell, 578 Newfound Road, Oneida, KY 40972.

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

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

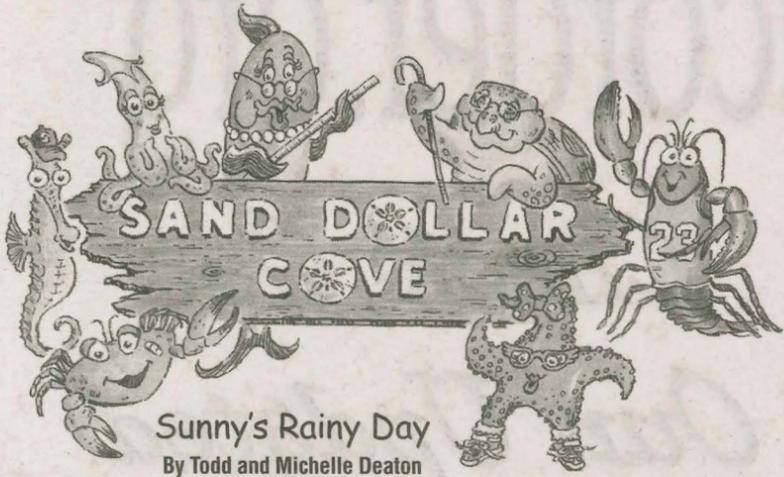
SEEKING: Church pianist for Bullitt Lick Baptist in Shepherdsville, Ky. This is a paid position. If you are interested in more information, please contact secretary@bullittlickbaptist.org.

SEEKING: Bivocational minister of music and worship (up to 18-25 hours/week) for Friendship Baptist Church in Paducah, Ky. Friendship is a mission-oriented church averaging 225-250 in two blended morning services. For more information, visit our website at friendshiponthenet.org. Resumé to Music Search Team, 146 South Friendship Road, Paducah, KY 42003; or info@friendshiponthenet.org no later than Sept. 30, 2010.

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: Full-time pastor of worship. Applicant must be a worship leader experienced in working with various styles of music. Zion is a dynamic, growing church that currently averages a total of 750 in two blended Sunday morning services. Candidate must have strong spiritual maturity and leadership skills, must be able to lead all aspects of worship ministry including congregational worship, praise team and band, choir of all ages, and creative arts ministries. Requires a seminary degree with at least five years experience. Send resumé, references and letter of interest to: Zion Baptist Church, 8158 Hwy 351, Henderson, KY 42420, Attn: Worship Pastor Search Committee.

TOURS: "Footsteps of Jesus" Tour, departing Nashville, March 14, only \$2,889. Contact Pastor Jack Studie, (270) 889-7604; or jstudie@aol.com.



Sunny's Rainy Day
By Todd and Michelle Deaton

One Saturday, Sunny Starfish planned to have a picnic at the beach. She invited Craig Crab, Lenny Lobster and Syd Squid. "After the picnic, we will go swimming, and then we will camp out in my backyard," she told each of them.

Sunny had looked forward to this day for nearly two weeks. She awoke early, straightened her room without her mother having to ask her to, and put on her favorite pink tennis shoes.

"I can't wait," Sunny told her mom, as they packed a picnic basket.

Seamore, Lenny and Syd arrived at 4 o'clock, and they were heading out the door for the shore, when it began to rain.

"Oh no!" Sunny cried. "Not now!"

"Maybe it will stop soon," Seamore hoped.

"Come on. It's only a few drops," Lenny urged. "Besides we're sea creatures, and a little water won't hurt us," he laughed.

But before they made it far, the drizzle turned into a downpour. The clear water became muddy, and the rain pelted them through the waves, making it hard to swim.

"Let's go back to Sunny's house!" Syd yelled.

Everyone ran. Everyone, that is, except Sunny. She kicked at the waves and sulked. "It's ruined!" she cried, as she walked in the door.

"Maybe not," her mom replied. "You still have your friends."

"So," Sunny whined.

"You can still have a picnic, play games and camp out," her mom said.

"How?" Sunny asked.

"You'll see," her mom smiled.

Lenny and Seamore set up a card table and chairs in the den. Syd and Sunny spread a checkered tablecloth and set out plates and cups. Then they all helped Sunny's mom make homemade pizzas.

"That was fun," Sunny said after the picnic. "What do we do now?"

"We could watch movies," Seamore suggested. "Do you have any about spacemen?"

"That's boring. What about a love story," Syd asked.

"Yuk!" exclaimed Craig. "Let's watch one about pirates."

"Since we can't seem to agree, let's have a water day," Sunny's mom suggested.

"A water day?" the Cove Kids asked, looking puzzled.

"We can go outside since it isn't raining hard or lightning," Sunny's mom explained. She then led them on a "slip, slide and slosh" hike. They stomped through the mud, and they climbed on one side of the large seashells and slid down the other side.

"This is great!" Lenny shouted as he slid down a shell. Seamore was waiting at the bottom, and he stomped just as Lenny arrived. Mud sloshed all over Lenny and Craig.

"Nasty!" Syd squealed with delight as Lenny shook himself off and Seamore chased her, trying to give her a big, muddy hug.

"I have one more surprise," Sunny's mom said as they cleaned the mud off themselves with towels. Sunny's dad had used old sheets to set up two tents in the den. He even made a campfire by placing flashlights upright and leaning some red books against them.



Treasure Hunt

What kept Sunny Starfish from doing what she had planned? How did she react?

How did the Cove Kids have a good time in spite of the rain?

Are you able to keep a good attitude when things don't go as planned? Read Psalm 34:1 together.

"Cool!" exclaimed Seamore and Lenny at the same time.

"How about I tell some stories?" Sunny's dad offered.

"Will they be scary?" Syd asked.

"I hope so!" said Lenny.

Sunny's dad shrugged and smiled.

"Mom, this is the best picnic and campout ever!" Sunny exclaimed as she curled up in her mom's lap to listen.

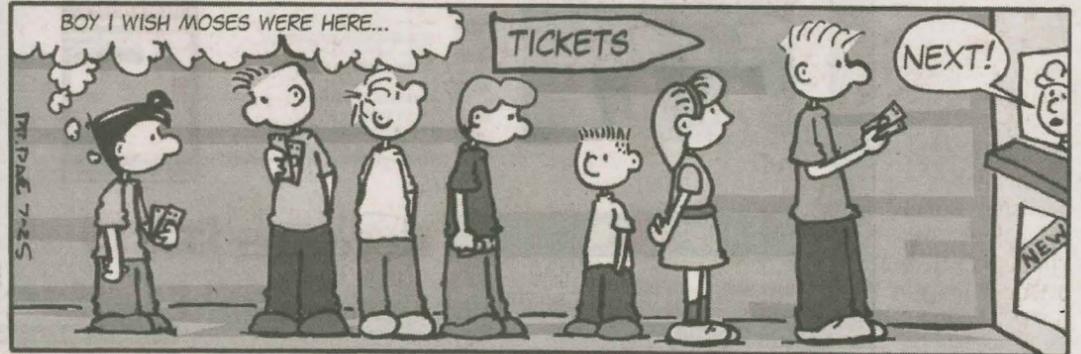
For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Preacher's Kids

David Ayers



Bible Crosswords

Across

- 1 "___ the lilies" (Matthew 6:28)
- 8 Woody Guthrie's son
- 11 Ann, Russ.
- 12 Moses' brother
- 13 Indianapolis' state, abbr.
- 14 Roman Catholic, abbr.
- 15 "They ___ unto them" (Exodus 12:36)
- 17 Bean curd
- 19 Apiece
- 21 Sews quickly
- 23 Turns away from sin
- 25 House of Lords, abbr.
- 26 The writings that contain the new covenant, abbr.
- 28 "Hole of the ___" (Isaiah 11:8)
- 29 Nickel, chem symbol
- 30 High male voices
- 34 "Every ___ of doctrine" (Ephesians 4:14)
- 36 "He took ... the ___ out of the house" (2 Chronicles 33:15)
- 37 Three, prefix
- 38 More, suffix
- 39 "Pure ___ of water of life" (Revelation 22:1)
- 41 Overeaters Anonymous, abbr.
- 42 New England state, Concord is the capital, abbr.
- 44 Evergreen

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

- 45 Perform
- 46 Caleb's brother (Joshua 15:17)
- 50 "He riseth ... and took a ___" (John 13:4)
- 52 Grievance
- 54 Metal thread
- 55 "Get thee hence, ___" (Matthew 4:10)
- 56 The meal's last course
- 20 Rural route, abbr.
- 21 Noblemen, below a baron and above a knight, abbr.
- 22 Snake
- 24 Not applicable, abbr.
- 27 Tellurium, chem symbol
- 31 Modern Bible translation, abbr.
- 32 Poem
- 33 Sea level, abbr.

Down

- 1 Joseph's profession (Mark 6:3)
- 2 One time
- 3 The Empire State, abbr.
- 4 Girl's name, for short
- 5 Bilhah's son (Genesis 35:25)
- 6 "They work, and ___" (2 Thessalonians 3:12)
- 7 Railed transportation, abbr.
- 8 Small insects
- 9 Throw out the ___
- 10 Burden
- 16 Chinese ruler
- 18 Son of Shemaiah (1 Chronicles 26:7)
- 34 "___ of heaven" (Malachi 3:10)
- 35 Small drip
- 37 Black sticky substance
- 40 Within, prefix
- 41 "Cake of ___ bread" (Exodus 29:23)
- 43 Howard, for short
- 44 Womanly, abbr.
- 46 Officers of the Guard, abbr.
- 47 Head covering
- 48 National Vision Associates, abbr.
- 49 Man's name
- 51 To make a mistake
- 53 Born, Fr.

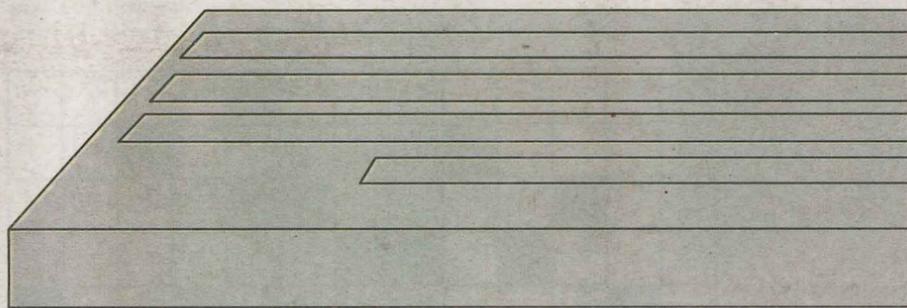
Last week's solution

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71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	
S	E	A	T	S	N	O	T	E	W	E
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	
Q	R	E	D	E	N	S	H	A	D	
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	
A	N	Y	N	O	S	E	P	A	S	S
101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	
I	S	A	N	T	S	A	R	T		
111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	
J	T	R	E	E	E	R	A	S	E	R
121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	
A	M	O	K	D	E	L	A	Y	N	A

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