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stars
in the
world
Philippians 2:15

WESTERN Recorder

November 9, 2010
Vol. 184, No. 43

FOR THE RECORD



KBC Annual Meeting
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Pair of Southern Baptist chaplains discuss Vietnam service, reaching soldiers

By Kellie Etheridge
Fort Knox Turret

Fort Knox—The Vietnam War officially ended in 1975. But for many veterans, the 10-year conflict still lives in their minds as if it happened yesterday. Those memories often include the hostile treatment and cold reception they received from fellow Americans upon returning home.

"There was no reception," recalled Southern Baptist Chaplain (Col.) Roger Criner. "When I came home, we came home (one at a time). ... The only person that met me at the airport was my wife."

Criner said he even had a difficult time getting a job because he was seen as a killer. "It was almost as though you had an incurable disease that was contagious," he said.

Fellow Southern Baptist Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Mickey Foxworth, who was serving in the Air Force when he was sent to Vietnam, arrived in the U.S. at Los Angeles International Airport in uniform only to be jeered at and even have someone spit in his face.

Both men were stationed in Vietnam when they were 20 years old, but had different experiences. Criner was a combat medic in the Army; Foxworth was an intelligence analyst for the Air Force—their service as chaplains came much later.

Criner recalled how he was injured in Vietnam on Dec. 13, 1970. He and his recon unit had been called in and were involved in ground fire with the Viet Cong when his platoon leader called in Cobra gunship helicopters, which came from the opposite direction, causing Criner and his unit to receive friendly fire.

"There were 20 wounded, to include the platoon leader. I got shrapnel in the back and legs," Criner said.

He talked about a fellow soldier, Sgt. Bernard Wilcox.

"We got into the contact ... and the Cobras got on top of us. (Sgt. Wilcox) got shrapnel in the back of his head and his brain was protruding out of his skull, and I bandaged him up," Criner recalled.

"I went to the 93rd Evac Hospital seven days later to see about him. The attending physician told me that he would never walk again, he'd never talk again and he'd never see again because of his brain injury.

"A few weeks went by ... and I got the address to his mother, and I wrote her a letter and I explained in detail what happened," Criner continued. "I wasn't supposed to do that, but I did. And I received a thank you letter from his mother shortly thereafter."
□ See Army chaplains ... *Page 6*

Pastors: Churches are instrumental in stemming tide of military suicides

By Erin Roach

Fort Hood, Texas—The number of U.S. military members who have committed suicide has increased dramatically in recent years, with the Army battling a suicide rate that doubled between 2005 and 2009.

At Fort Hood in Texas, officials have documented as many as 14 confirmed suicides and six suspected suicides among soldiers so far this year, including four suspected suicides during one weekend at the end of September. Fort Hood had 11 suicides last year and 14 total in 2008.

Sara Horn, a military wife who founded a support network called Wives of Faith, said the suicides are directly related to a problem of the heart.

"When the heart has no hope, it's very hard to see a future. This should serve only as one more wake-up call, one more plea to our local churches and believers to reach out to our military and their families," Horn noted. "We know the hope we have in Jesus. We have to share that hope with others."

More than 1,000 troops have taken their own lives in the past five years, driving the Army suicide rate above the civilian rate for the first time since the Vietnam War. Admiral Mike Mullen, chairman of the

Joint Chiefs of Staff, warned the problem will get worse before it gets better as more soldiers return home from war.

"Things that have been pent up, or packed in, or basically suppressed or sucked up—whatever term you want to use—we're going to start to see that as well," Mullen said in a Sept. 30 Time magazine article.

An independent study ordered by Congress found the Pentagon's suicide prevention efforts to be inadequate, with fewer soldiers dying in combat than by their own actions, including suicides and accidental deaths from high-risk behaviors.

The report, released in July, said the "hidden wounds of war"—the psychological and emotional injuries—have placed unprecedented demands on the Armed Forces and military families. While the military has increased efforts to curb suicides, the response has lacked the coordination necessary for sustained success, the study found.

Jerry Jewell, a pastor near Fort Hood, suggested the increase in suicides is a result of a generation of soldiers raised in a society without the truth of the Scriptures.

"They don't know Jesus, yet they're trained to go and kill," said □ See Reversing military ... *Page 6*

Kentucky Baptist universities contemplate future with potential budget cuts looming

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Lexington—The midterm elections have come and gone, but Kentucky Baptists still have some big decisions to make next week.

When the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting convenes Nov. 16 in Lexington, the agenda will include a report from the Great Commission Task Force.

In that report, KBC messengers will hear a recommendation to reallocate Cooperative Program funds in a way that results in a down-the-middle split of that money to KBC and Southern Baptist Convention missions and ministry causes by 2017-18.

To achieve such a move, the task force is calling for an across-the-board 6 percent budget cut for the convention and its agencies, institutions and auxiliary beginning in 2011-12. Some groups will absorb further reductions.

The KBC's two liberal-arts institutions, Campbellsville University and University of the Cumberlands, would see the greatest reductions in their budgets, losing an additional 7 percent on top of the baseline 6 percent cut.

Should the report pass, the two schools' budgets would be reduced by approximately \$192,000 starting next year, according to task force chairman Hershael York. That would nearly equal the amount of CP funds the two schools have received since Georgetown College's departure from the convention last year, he noted.

Even though the report has yet to be voted on, the presidents of both Campbellsville and Cumberlands are weighing how their schools will compensate for the impending reductions.

"I knew that this economic dole drum that was sweeping the nation couldn't help but impact the institutions and agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention," University of the Cumberlands President James Taylor noted.

"We're very supportive of the committee's work, and I realize if they're going to go to a 50/50 (CP funding split), they've got to make some changes," said Michael Carter, president of Campbellsville University.

"At the same time, we're trying to figure out how we handle this."

Since 2005-06, both Campbellsville and Cumberlands have been receiving their share of CP funds that were redistributed following Georgetown's departure from the KBC. The funds were distributed at 25 percent per year over four years until the start of the 2009-10 fiscal year when the reallocation plan ended.

According to the 2005-06 KBC budget—the year the Georgetown CP reallocation plan was established—Campbellsville received \$1,381,094 in convention funds; Cumberlands' allotment was \$1,345,149.

Last year, according to data provided by the KBC's business services team, Campbellsville received \$1,553,357 from the convention (which includes Cooperative Program and Restricted Kentucky Only funds)—an additional \$172,263 from 2005-06. Meanwhile Cumberlands received \$1,512,935—an increase of \$167,786 from four years earlier.

Should the report pass, the current fiscal year will mark the end of any additional funds the schools have received from the Georgetown College reallocation.

Carter said that while he is thankful the budget cuts are not more than what they are, he would have preferred a phase-in period for the reductions.

"It would have been nice to have had it

phased in (at approximately) \$50,000 a year over four years," he suggested. "That didn't happen, and that's OK, but we've still got to find a way to make that up."

Both presidents noted the lost funding will affect the areas of financial aid. Taylor and Carter said their schools have been putting the reallocated CP funds from Georgetown into scholarships, earmarked primarily for Baptist students.

"I don't think that a lot of people really understand the amount of aid that we have to provide to our students," Taylor said, noting he has to raise around \$5 million a year for financial aid. "Now it's going to be \$200,000 harder to meet the students' needs."

Taylor and Carter each suggested their respective schools likely will raise tuition and will need to boost fundraising efforts in the coming years.

"We'll have to pass some more costs on to the students or raise some more (funds), spend some more time out on the road," Taylor noted.

"We're going to do our best to find ways to be creative," Carter added.

Options up for discussion

A potential solution both presidents expressed their support for is the addition of non-Baptist trustees to their respective boards.

"We would love to see that discussion take place. We think that would really help," Carter said about the non-Baptist trustees option.

"If there are people who like to give to a Baptist institution, for goodness sake, let's take their money and use it for Baptist causes," Taylor said.

Of course, the topic is not a new one, Carter pointed out, referring to the 2003 report from the KBC Mission Study Committee.

One of the recommendations from that report—which came to be known as Kentucky Baptists Connect—was to allow the trustee boards of Campbellsville, Cumberlands, Georgetown and Clear Creek Baptist Bible College to consist of up to 25 percent of individuals who were not Kentucky Baptists.

That constitutional change was soundly rejected by KBC messengers at the 2004 annual meeting. Those who spoke against the motion expressed concern that non-Baptists would lead the schools down liberal paths.

Carter suggested messengers thought 25 percent was too high a number for non-Baptist trustees. Campbellsville has 44 board members, which would mean 11 trustees could come from non-Baptist traditions. Cumberlands has 26 trustees, which would allow for about 6-7 non-Baptist board members.

"So, the question is, 'What is a comfortable level that might be out there?'" Carter asked. He said some individuals have recommended adding three non-Baptist trustees, to which he's replied, "If you think three non-Baptist trustees will make up \$200,000, forgive me, but it just isn't going to happen."

The Campbellsville president said at least eight to 10 board members from outside Baptist life is necessary "to begin to have a fighting chance."



Michael Carter



James Taylor

Both Carter and Taylor acknowledged the prevailing concern of Kentucky Baptists that not allowing non-Baptist trustees would cause one or both of the schools to follow Georgetown and separate from the state convention.

Following the 2004 messenger vote, Georgetown College trustees voted the next year to become a self-perpetuating board, reverting to its pre-1942 status. The move led to the formation of a workgroup that drafted a new working agreement between the KBC and Georgetown. The partnership was approved by messengers to the 2005 annual meeting.

In a 2005 interview with the Western Recorder, Georgetown President Bill Crouch acknowledged the rejection of the non-Baptist trustees option as one of several reasons for the school's move to separate from the KBC.

Solid relationship

Great Commission Task Force chair York is not one who believes Campbellsville and/or Cumberlands will follow the same path.

"I'm confident that the relationship that exists between Campbellsville and the KBC and Cumberlands and the KBC is a different relationship than existed between Georgetown and the KBC when they left," explained York, who was convention president in 2004-05 and appointed the workgroup that brokered the amicable split.

"I had the sense that Georgetown wanted an exit strategy," he said. "That's why I don't see this as the same thing."

York said he has spoken with both Carter and Taylor about exploring the non-Baptist trustees option, but only as a Kentucky Baptist, not as a representative of the Great Commission Task Force.

"I want to help them in any way that meets all of our goals," said York, who is pastor of Buck Run Baptist Church in Frankfort.

"If we can help them find sources of funding that don't compete with the Cooperative Program, and at the same time, don't take them away from the Kentucky Baptist Convention, then that's a win-win situation, he noted.

York did point out, however, that the topic is not one that will come up at next week's convention meeting. "I don't want to water down what we're doing" with the Great Commission Task Force report, he said.

York, Carter and Taylor all noted that safeguards can be put in place to ensure the schools remain partners with Kentucky Baptist. However, those are all details to be worked out in any potential future discussions.

Meanwhile, the two presidents each reiterated their desire to remain partners with Kentucky Baptists and adhere to the convention's conservative values.

"We like very much being associated with the KBC, because it gives us access to one out of every four people (in Kentucky who) is a Baptist," Taylor said.

"Basically what we'd be doing is taking non-Baptist money to help Baptist work," Carter added. "Well, that's good business ... but it frightens some people."

"If we get any more conservative, we're going to drop off the edge of the planet," he said with a laugh. "We're not about to change from that."

Meaningful service drives Mission Board downsizing

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Lexington—Although the Kentucky Baptist Convention is not the largest state convention, it does have the largest governing board.

At approximately 170 members, the KBC Mission Board outranks all of the Southern Baptist Convention's affiliated state bodies.

Next week, Kentucky Baptist messengers will vote to change the criteria by which Mission Board members are determined, thus downsizing it.

The move to scale back the Mission Board started last year at the group's May meeting at Cedarmore. The initial thought was it would provide the KBC with some cost savings by not picking up the transportation and lodging tab for so many representatives.

That's not necessarily the case, according to Steve Thompson, the KBC's assistant executive director.

"Yes, there will be some savings, but I really think the most important factor is to try to make Mission Board service more meaningful to the board members," he said.

Thompson explained that with so many Mission Board representatives, the absentee rate at the group's triannual meetings "is fairly high."

"We suspect that board members feel like, 'Well, my absence is not going to make that much difference on a 170-member board,'" he said.

The proposal requires a change to the KBC's Constitution and Bylaws. It received a first reading at last year's annual meeting and will be put to a messenger vote next week.

It consists of two modifications to Article VII in the KBC's Constitution and Bylaws. The first would change the criteria for Mission Board membership in state associations using churches' combined resident membership rather than total membership. Resident membership "is a smaller number," Thompson pointed out.

Change No. 2 would remove a key phrase from Article VII. Currently, each association is permitted one representative for every 5,000 total members, as well as an additional member for every "major fraction thereof" above 5,000. That means if an association has 7,500 total members, it is allowed an additional Mission Board representative.

The recommendation calls for the "major fraction thereof" phrase to be removed. That would mean an association is only granted a second Mission Board representative if it reaches or exceeds 5,000 more members. For example, if it has 10,000 members, it is allowed two representatives; 15,000 members, three representatives; and so on.

That change has a "further downsizing effect," Thompson said, noting that, in all, the Mission Board would decrease by about 50 members.

Even with approximately 120 representatives, the KBC Mission Board would remain one of the SBC's largest, Thompson said. "We'll still probably be in the top five."

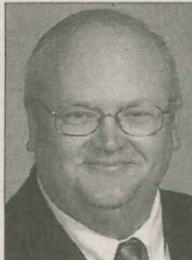
KBC presidential nominees discuss missions, task force report

Floyd Paris: KBC has 'opportunity to lead the way' in missions giving

Floyd Paris has been pastor of Unity Baptist Church in Ashland since 1998. He currently serves on the Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board and the administrative committee and was president of the 2007 Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference.

Q: If you are elected KBC president, what would be your major goals and hopes for the coming year?

My major goal would be to challenge every Kentucky Baptist to be and do more for Christ: pray more, witness more, give more, go more, teach more and serve more. My major hope is that persons across our commonwealth who do not yet know our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in a personal way would see authentic Christianity being lived out by Kentucky Baptists in everyday life, the end result being more opportunities to see lives changed for eternity.



Floyd Paris

Q: What is your perspective of the Kentucky Great Commission Task Force report? Do the recommendations go far enough in achieving the committee's objective to identify "how Kentucky Baptists can work more faithfully and effectively together in serving Christ through the Great Commission"?

The GCTF report is a bold step in leading Kentucky Baptists to be involved to a greater extent in the task of winning our world for Christ. Such a monumental challenge only can be accomplished, however, if all Kentucky Baptists work together by prayerfully giving, going and serving through their local churches.

Q: What are your thoughts on the committee's recommendation to move to a reallocation of Cooperative Program funds between Kentucky Baptist and Southern Baptist ministry causes to a 50 percent split (after shared administrative expenses) by 2017-18?

The 50/50 recommendation shows a great commitment to the Great Commission. The Cooperative Program's roots run deep in Kentucky, beginning with H. Boyce Taylor's concept of a unified budget in 1915, which sparked the movement that eventually led to the SBC's adoption of the funding strategy we know as the Cooperative Program in 1925.

By increasing the percentage of CP funds that go to the SBC, Kentucky once again has the opportunity to lead the way in demonstrating the willingness to give sacrificially so the nations may hear and believe the gospel. It is not enough to call on churches to give more to CP if the KBC is not also willing to lead by example. I believe this move will increase involvement in fulfilling the Great Commission and facilitate the training and sending of more missionaries to reach more people for Christ.

Q: According to the task force, such a reallocation will require across-the-board budget cuts for the KBC Mission Board and its partnering agencies, institutions and auxiliary. Do you believe such cuts are necessary?

The convention also will be voting on

recommendations to "right-size" the state Mission Board, which will generate some financial savings. Our employed KBC leadership and staff have done an excellent job in the area of stewardship, staying under budget in many program areas and making adjustments to result in additional savings. The "More for Christ" challenge, also a part of the task force recommendations, provides a strategy to minimize the financial impact of the reallocation by calling on all Kentucky Baptists to increase their giving, the result of which would benefit both KBC and SBC missions and ministries.

Q: Another report recommendation is to encourage all churches to increase their Cooperative Program giving by 0.25 percent of their undesignated receipts each year over the next seven years. Should messengers adopt the report, would you lead your congregation to increase its CP giving? Why or why not? How would you encourage other churches to follow suit?

I strongly believe that pastors should lead by example, and I do plan to personally increase my giving. Our church also will be giving more to the Cooperative Program, and I pray every KBC church will join us and do likewise. The economic realities around us demand that we work together. If all church members would increase their weekly giving by just a few dollars (perhaps by sacrificing the cost of a lunch) the results would be positive for every level of Baptist cooperation—local church, district association, KBC and SBC. How can we not make such a sacrifice when the need is so great to do more for Christ?

Q: One of the KBC president's primary responsibilities is to appoint three individuals to the KBC Committee on Committees. What criteria would you use to make your appointments?

Prayer and the leading of the Holy Spirit are my criteria for such a responsibility.

Q: How do you identify yourself within the current political/theological spectrum of Baptist life?

I am a simple Baptist who believes in the inerrancy of God's Holy Word. My political affiliations are to the Lord Jesus Christ and Him alone.

Q: What do you consider to be Kentucky Baptists' greatest strengths? Why?

Our greatest strength is found in the hearts and lives of our people. Kentucky Baptists genuinely seek to be faithful to the Lord Jesus and follow His leadership. Great things can be accomplished for the Lord when we cooperate together for the sake of the gospel.

Q: What do you consider to be Kentucky Baptists' greatest weaknesses? Why?

Our greatest weakness is our human tendency to let the enemy divide us rather than remaining united around the gospel of Jesus Christ. We can be so focused on good things that we miss God's best.

Jesus called a wide variety of men to be His disciples. They came from different walks of life with different perspectives and different methods, but they were given the same Great Commission. Whatever decision Kentucky Baptists make concerning the GCTF report, may we focus on what unites us and serve the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. May "More for Christ" truly be our heart cry.

Butch Tanner: Elevating missions education, giving is highest priority

Butch Tanner has been pastor of Red House Baptist Church in Lexington since 2007. He currently is a member of the Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board. He also served as president of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana in 2006-07.

Q: If you are elected KBC president, what would be your major goals and hopes for the coming year?

As president I would encourage every church to raise their level of involvement with missions education. Promoting a giving heart for missions is easier when people are well informed about the impact of missions and the needs of people. Many Kentucky Baptists would be surprised to know that fewer than 50 percent of our KBC churches report having any active missions education programs.

Missions begins in our own backyard. Kentucky Baptists have more than 2,400 churches that serve to share Jesus in this state. If each KBC church were only 75 members, by sharing the gospel once a month, every Kentuckian would hear about Jesus in just 24 months. If one-half of the resident members of Kentucky Baptist churches would share their faith daily, we could touch every person in this state in 16 days.

I also would promote missions giving. As a former IMB missionary, I saw firsthand the vital need for the folks at home to hold the ropes for us. We found the people whom we worked with daily prayed for a strong Christian influence in the U.S. They understood that without a strong home base there would be a diminished missions presence around the world.

Q: What is your perspective of the Kentucky Great Commission Task Force report? Do the recommendations go far enough in achieving the committee's objective to identify "how Kentucky Baptists can work more faithfully and effectively together in serving Christ through the Great Commission"?

I support the report because I believe it sets the groundwork to launch a spiritual renewal among KBC churches. It calls for personal and corporate surrender, witness and sacrifice. Revival always refocuses us on Jesus and His mission.

One place I differ with the report is proposal No. 4. I believe we do not need an additional committee to oversee the process that is separate from the KBC administrative committee and Mission Board. I am in agreement that there needs to be clear supervision of the process, and I believe it can be done by selecting an oversight committee from within the current structure we already have entrusted with the leadership of the convention's work.

Q: What are your thoughts on the committee's recommendation to move to a reallocation of Cooperative Program funds between Kentucky Baptist and Southern Baptist ministry causes to a 50 percent split (after shared administrative expenses) by 2017-18?

I support the move to a 50/50 split, which puts us more in line with the historical proportions of CP. Such a move reflects a heart for reaching the lost in our world. I do believe that as churches buy into missions education and personal missions involvement, the percentage of giving would increase more rapidly than 0.25 percent annually.

Q: According to the task force, such a reallocation will require across-the-board budget cuts for the KBC Mission Board and its partnering agencies, institutions and auxiliary. Do you believe such cuts are necessary?

In many of our churches, we face cuts. These cuts would not be necessary if each Christian cheerfully gave out of God's blessings. When it is estimated that fewer than 10 percent of Christians tithe it is easy to see the results of disobedience and a lack of trust. That same attitude is passed on by the churches in relation to our missions opportunities. As we are spiritually renewed, our people and our churches will give.

Q: Another report recommendation is to encourage all churches to increase their Cooperative Program giving by 0.25 percent more of their undesignated receipts each year over the next seven years. Should messengers adopt the report, would you lead your congregation to increase its CP giving? Why or why not? How would you encourage other churches to follow suit?

Every church should be committed to increasing their impact on our missions efforts at every level. I would encourage our church to increase its CP monies. I have challenged Red House to give 25 percent of its budget to missions, and we are moving toward that goal each year.

I would encourage each church to go beyond the report's recommendation. I would encourage them and their associations to be involved in On Mission celebrations, starting new churches, personal mission trips, increased evangelistic efforts, dedicate three Sundays a year to missions speakers, increase missions education, and keep the needs before their folks. The more people involved with sharing Jesus and seeing the results, the more they will be personally encouraged to give.

Q: One of the KBC president's primary responsibilities is to appoint three individuals to the KBC Committee on Committees. What criteria would you use to make your appointments?

The criteria I would use are: a person whose life shows spiritual maturity exhibiting a Christ-like character; a person of prayer; a person who is biblically focused; a person who is personally evangelistic.

Q: How do you identify yourself within the current political/theological spectrum of Baptist life?

I identify myself as a person who is conservative, Bible-centered, missional and evangelistic. I am not a part of a political group. My emphasis is growing a church that assists and encourages its members in following Jesus daily.

Q: What do you consider to be Kentucky Baptists' greatest strengths? Why?

I feel Kentucky Baptists' greatest strength is its people. God has equipped us with every tool we need to reach Kentucky and beyond through our people.

Q: What do you consider to be Kentucky Baptists' greatest weaknesses? Why?

I believe that our greatest weakness is our lack of obedience in passionately following Jesus. Throughout my ministry I have seen that a people with no resources but personal obedience can radically impact their world. With the spiritual renewal refocusing on Jesus, we will find that God will provide every resource we need to reach our world. It takes us being faithful and trusting our Savior fully.



Butch Tanner

Challenges and opportunities

As we approach the upcoming vote on the Kentucky Great Commission Task Force report, I've picked up on a number of apprehensions that people are feeling about the report. Let me share and comment about a few of these.

Partners in the Mission



By Bill Mackey

One of the biggest apprehensions is with the shift in allocations between Kentucky Baptist Convention and Southern Baptist Convention causes. The plan calls for shifting from a 62/38 percent split between KBC and SBC causes this year to a 55.15/44.85 percent split next year on the way to an eventual 50/50 split. People want to increase support to reach the world for Christ, but they are concerned about the size of the shift in a single year. I think the big first-year shift was recommended because the Task Force felt Kentucky Baptists should have the opportunity to respond to a big vision for missions.

Another concern is about whether our churches will be able to increase support of missions through the Cooperative Program during difficult economic times. This will certainly be a big challenge as it will require the immediate reversal of a trend of reduced CP giving that spans more than a decade. Overcoming this challenge will be vital, however, because SBC and KBC entities and the Mission Board programs of work are also dealing with the reduction of endowment and other income.

As the KBC staff is being very innovative to keep missions funded, and I am very grateful for their efforts.

Some are also apprehensive about the defunding of our cooperative agreement with the North American Mission Board. We know that absorbing the funding of state missions currently shared with NAMB will be an additional challenge.

It is my prayer that the significant sacrifice by KBC missions and ministries will provide an example for all Kentucky Baptists. This report provides an opportunity for individuals to reevaluate their stewardship commitment through their local church and for leaders to be energized to support of missions through CP. If each KBC church increases its CP percentage by just a quarter percent each year, the projected budget will be met and the objective of 50/50 can be achieved.

If the budget established by this plan is met, Kentucky Baptists will see an additional \$1,926,860 go to SBC mission causes. Additional funding will also be available to NAMB as the cooperative agreement is phased out.

It is my prayer that Kentucky Baptists will remain unified in genuine support of the Cooperative Program, regardless of how you may vote or how you may feel about the GCTF recommendation. Adjustments can be made as necessary in future years, but for now, let's move forward together.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Ky. Baptists weigh upside, downside to GCTF report

Decision time is upon us. At 10 a.m. next Tuesday, Kentucky Baptists will vote on the four recommendations from their Great Commission Task Force. While it is hard to imagine ever analyzing a proposal that advocates doing "more for Christ," bear in mind that we are not discussing the imperative of the Great Commission itself, only a set of recommendations from a convention committee concerning how best to accomplish it. With that said, here are some of the upsides and downsides of the GCTF's recommendations to consider:



After Thought

By Todd Deaton

Upside—A proposed spiritual emphasis, "More for Christ," recognizes that the root problem is a spiritual one. While aptly identifying that the financial woes stem from a drop of nearly a third in Cooperative Program receipts from KBC churches during the past 15 years, the task force envisions a three-year emphasis will initiate an atmosphere of repentance, renewal and redirection for the future that will create "a culture of giving" among Kentucky Baptists.

Downside—"More for Christ" is, in effect, defined primarily in relation to international missions. In other words, while doing more for Christ internationally through Southern Baptist Convention causes—if the extended downward trend in CP contributions is not reversed—Kentucky Baptists may not be able to do as much for Christ in their own state.

Upside—A reallocation of Cooperative Program funds will result in a 50/50 split of Cooperative Program monies by 2018, sending more to SBC causes, such as the International and North American mission boards, the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, and the six SBC seminaries.

Downside—To do so, the task force report calls for an immediate, drastic paring from 62 to 53 percent of CP receipts on the part of the Kentucky Baptist Mission Board. This will require the Mission Board to reduce its staff by 12 percent and its budget by 9.85 percent in a single year.

Upside—If churches step up CP gifts as recommended, as much as nearly \$11.8 million more may be made available in seven years to IMB for appointing new missionaries to carry the gospel to yet unreached people groups, and more funds will be available for NAMB church planting efforts in major metro areas in the United States.

Downside—All of the KBC agencies are required to reduce their budgets by 6 percent, likely hampering their ministries. Its two universities will lose an additional 7 percent, for a total loss of about 13 percent, while the Woman's Missionary Union has offered to cut an additional 3.85 percent, matching the KBC's 9.85 percent reduction. Moreover, contributions toward retirement funds for pastors and church staff members, about \$400,000 annually, will be eliminated, possibly leaving many of these faithful servants and their spouses with insufficient funds for medical care, food and housing during their retirement years. While some larger churches might be willing to step up contributions to make up the difference for their ministers, smaller congregations—the vast majority of us—will most likely find it difficult to do so.

Upside—Churches are challenged to increase CP giving. In setting a target of increasing the KBC's overall CP receipts by 3 percent per year for the next seven years, the report suggests that to accomplish

this, churches will need to increase CP gifts by 0.25 percent of undesignated receipts each year. This seems to be a very doable and worthy goal in a down economy.

Downside—Sacrificial cuts demanded of the KBC Mission Board and its agencies are not contingent upon the response of the churches. Regardless of whether or not any churches actually increase their CP gifts, as the task force anticipates, the 53/47 split will be levied. And, the bulk of that reduction will come in the first year, rather than through an intentional, but incremental, step-down plan,

which would allow more time for strategic budgetary adjustments. Furthermore, if downward CP trends are not reversed, the reduction could have even greater negative impact on many of the KBC ministries.

Upside—If all the churches accept the workable plan to steadily increase CP giving, the problem is solved. "The results could be staggering," the report predicts. At the end of seven years, the increase for all SBC causes could total as much as \$23.7 million.

Downside—How likely is this? While hopeful that a majority of the KBC's 2,400 churches will get behind the "More for Christ" emphasis, it is probably unrealistic to expect all will do so. Still, even if two-thirds did, the impact would be profound. Yet, to make up the total difference in the loss of funding for Kentucky Baptist ministries to minimize the impact, overall CP contributions would have to increase by approximately 12 percent in the first year and be sustained.

Upside—The 15-member task force requests that they remain constituted to monitor the plan's progress and make further recommendations as needed. They also would be available to champion the Cooperative Program and promote the new stewardship emphasis, "More for Christ," among KBC churches.

Downside—While eight months of study certainly has made its members among the most knowledgeable people about the KBC's overall ministry program, how responsive will the group that brought the report be in making necessary adjustments, if a sufficient number of churches do not "buy in" to the plan to increase CP giving by 0.25 percent each year, and if undue hardships on Kentucky missions and ministries become evident?

Regardless of where you stand, we all can agree that the task force has done an excellent job by chal-

lenging Kentucky Baptists with a bold vision—one that, if approved, we can rally around: "More for Christ." And, task force chairman Hershael York wisely cautions: "If we make it about money, we're totally missing it." True, if it is to succeed, it must at its core be a spiritual movement that focuses our hearts on getting in line with God's mission. Yes, discipleship often requires significant sacrifice on our parts and we need to be apprised of the costs. The upside, however—regardless of how the vote turns out—is that the task force has heralded "the wisdom and strategic genius" of supporting the Cooperative Program, and Kentucky Baptists are renewing their commitment to accomplishing the Great Commission. Some will emphasize that our witness should begin in Jerusalem and Judea; others will desire we focus more on Samaria and the ends of the earth. It all needs to be done!

The upside, however—regardless of how the vote turns out—is that the task force has heralded "the wisdom and strategic genius" of supporting the Cooperative Program, and Kentucky Baptists are renewing their commitment to accomplishing the Great Commission.

WESTERN Recorder

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Louisville, KY 40253

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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

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

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

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

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

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Be intentional about setting aside some family time

As I look across the landscape of youth ministry, I see youth workers everywhere struggling with the balancing act of doing ministry and spending time with family. There is always one more meeting to attend, one more student to see, or one more event to plan. So I asked some youth workers across Kentucky how they guard their family time.

"You have to be intentional about blocking out family time, otherwise something will pop up to take its place," said Kris Billiter from Walnut Street Baptist in Louisville. "You have to listen to your wife. Sometimes I don't realize how much I've been gone or out, and she gently reminds me that I need to be around a little more, or she asks that we keep some days just for us."

David Preston, who is at Lewis Lane Baptist in Owensboro, commented, "I have a family night that I guard on Thursday nights. On this night, I plan no ministry events, visits, or anything else church-related. I have been doing this for the past seven years of my ministry. It really helps with the busy night schedule of a youth minister when you have student ball-games, visits and other church activities to attend. On this night, we have a meal at home and eat as a family. Also, we spend the evening together watching a movie or favorite TV show or playing a board game."

"My mentor taught me the value of a 'Green Dot Day,'" said Brain Smith, who serves at Eastwood in Bowling Green. "When I first began ministry, he opened up his day-timer and on his day off every week, he had placed a green dot. He told me that those are his family days. He does not do anything on those days without his family's permission. There will always be occasional meet-

ings or situations that arise where you are called in on your day off. I always run those by my spouse first. She always gives me permission because she knows I honor my time with her. I also guard those days off with all that I have. It is very important for your family to know that those days are theirs and to make the most of your day off."

David Buckner from Westport Road Baptist in Louisville said, "I remind myself that my biggest and most important ministry is my family. If I'm not getting it right at home, how can I hope to keep it right anywhere else?"

He continued, "Family things get on the schedule first and are non-negotiable. I've had to learn how to respectfully and graciously say 'no' to some great opportunities. I've also learned to listen when others tell me I need to take/make some time for family. The biggest struggle for me is when I see a legitimate ministry opportunity

and want to participate, but I know that what I need is to say 'no.'"

Billiter added, "There are seasons when ministry is just busy, like summer or around the holidays. Some of it you can't get out of, but that's why it's so important to figure out what you can say 'no' to. The church doesn't need me at everything. Things will go on fine without me. Saying 'no' to the things I don't have to be at helps during the times when I am obligated to be gone quite a bit."

"Now that my two sons are teenagers, it has been a challenge to balance ministry and family schedules," said Preston. "We are a family very much on the go, and sometimes we find it difficult to be together for even one night during the week. It was so much easier when our boys were younger and not involved in band, drama, choirs and so many other things. We are not perfect at this but we fight for our time together. We cherish each moment! The key is not how much time, but what you do with that time together. It's about quality time together and not quantity."

These are great words from some great men.

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

Youth Ministry Corner



Joe Ball

Stopping a spouse's hurtful teasing

By Valerie Vincent

Q: My husband likes to tease me, often saying things in public that embarrass me. His teasing and sarcasm really hurt. How do I get him to stop?

A: He may be teasing in public to try and be funny or to get attention. At home, he may tease for attention or in a veiled way to communicate his feelings. Sarcasm is an expression of anger.

Scripture reminds us to be careful about our words, "Some people make cutting remarks, but the words of the wise bring healing" (Proverbs 12:18).

When you address the issue, he may point the finger at you, saying that you are too sensitive or can't take a joke. Keep in mind that joking is only funny if all parties are enjoying the humor. If you are feeling hurt by his teasing, then it needs to stop. Any teasing that makes someone else feel uncomfortable or upset can damage the relationship.

First, tell him clearly, "I want you to stop teasing me. When you tease me in front of others, I feel embarrassed and hurt. I also become confused about your love for me." Help him to understand the impact of his behavior on you. This may be enough to stop him.

If it is not, then second, choose consequences for his behavior and let him know: "The next time we are in public and you are teasing me, I will walk away from you and leave. I no longer want to be teased. It hurts my feelings. At home, when you tease me, I will let you know that it hurts and then I will walk away from you and leave." These consequences can communicate that you will no longer tolerate hurtful behavior.

As you begin to change your response to his behavior, then initiate an open dialogue with him about ways each of you need to feel loved by the other. Invite him to be honest about his feelings with you. If he is upset or angry with you, it is better to state that clearly then to hint at them with hurtful teasing or sarcasm.

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



Warning signs of too much debt

By Don Spencer

There is a time for the good use of credit. The wrong use of credit leads to many problems. Many of the financial problems in our country now can be traced back to too much debt or the wrong use of credit. One of the major problems, especially for younger couples, is the over use of credit. Too many are in over their heads. Our country will never be clear of financial problems, and you, as an individual, will never have financial freedom as long as you are a slave to debt.

Just because you can pay your monthly bills, including the minimum debt payments each month does not mean you are free of credit problems. Low minimum payments are to the creditor's benefit, not yours. Being able to pay your monthly bills, including debt payments, on time is great, but it can also lead toward a false sense of security about handling debt.

Do you have a problem with debt and credit? Here are some warning signs:

- You make only the minimum monthly payment on your debts.
- Each year, more of your income is going toward paying your debts.
- You have more than two major credit cards.
- You don't have an emergency fund and other savings.
- You're unsure of how much total debt you really have.
- You use cash advances from one credit card to pay another.
- You use credit cards to purchase things that you used to buy with cash.
- You and your spouse tend to fight over money issues.
- Your credit card debt is at or near its maximum limit.
- You've had calls from collectors or been denied credit.

If you answered "yes" to two or three of these, then you may be heading toward credit/debt problems and need to be serious in guarding against getting in deeper trouble. If you answer "yes" to more than three, then you are probably already in over your head and need to get professional help to deal with this problem. The sooner you act the better. The website www.credit.about.com is one among several websites that offer some valuable guidance.

Don Spencer is a certified financial planner and directs the Kentucky Baptist Convention's church financial benefits department

Blessed are the weak

By Tom Ehrich

When Jesus stood in the valley and taught his disciples, he stood among many who were sick and lost, and troubled by evil spirits. He called them "blessed."

In this large assembly, he also saw some who were rich, well-fed, happy, and held in high regard. To these winners in life he said, "Woe to you," for hard days lay ahead.

He wasn't threatening them, as much as speaking the truth that nothing lasts. Good fortune comes and goes. Empires rise and fall.

North America had a century of unparalleled strength and prosperity, but now even we are fading, as power and prosperity shift to Asia. We thought our ascendancy would last forever. But that is always the case mid-glory. We thought we had mastered the forces of history and that God had ordained our nation for eternal greatness. Not so.

When an empire and its way of life collapse, people thrash about in confusion and fear, lamenting what has been lost, wondering whom to blame, feeling betrayed, turning vengeful.

COMMENTARY

Mainline Christianity's golden era in North America ended just as our national economies got strong. People had so much else to do that they didn't need our homespun talent shows and potluck suppers. They had more pleasing ways to explain success.

It could be that Christianity in North America will be "dust in the wind," reduced to tourism, and a steadily aging cadre of people who remember better days.

Or it could be something better, something holier, something more in keeping with God's desire.

It could be that our four decades of woe and gradual decline have prepared us to be useful in the collapses now happening around us:

As people lose their jobs and

their homes, we can assure them that neediness isn't the end of life, but the opening to God's grace.

As people wonder where the glory days went, we can say from our own experience that greater glory lies ahead because God is with us.

It could be that our travail has prepared us to serve, that our time of woe has given us the humility and the grit to make a difference.

Because we have been broken and yet we live, we have hope to share and healing to give. We have learned to sing the Lord's song in a strange land. We have learned to dance even as our hearts were breaking. We have found life in death.

And now we know, perhaps with a clarity and depth that we never knew before, that God is with us. We are not surviving this present wilderness by the works of our own hands, but by the grace of God.

Just hear the song that we can sing to a broken world. (RNS)

Tom Ehrich is a writer and church consultant in New York.

Illustrating the Great Commission

By Bill Fay

As I travel around and speak in churches, I often suggest that the pastor use a visual to remind the church the importance of the Great Commission.

After Share Jesus Without Fear has been taught to the church, I ask the pastor to place a candle at the front of the church and have it lit the following week as the congregation comes in. The congregation is

then told the pastor is going to ask a question before every service begins:

"Did anyone this week share their faith?" If for some reason no hands

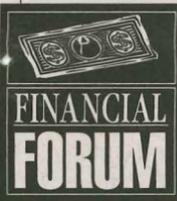
go up, the pastor blows out the candle. "Our light is out," he might say, "our wick is wet." The candle will smoke and stink, and it should, because we have been disobedient to Jesus Christ.

Visuals can be used for baptismal services, too. After a person leaves

the baptistry, hand them a plate with salt on it and have them place salt on their tongue. They'll never forget the taste. And say, "Now, go be salt to the world." Hand them a lit candle as they leave the baptistry and say, "You are now a light to the world."

Sometimes we need to see in order to understand. But the best encouragement you will have is when you see God change a life as you proclaim the gospel. (BP)

Bill Fay is an evangelist and author of "Share Jesus without Fear."





MILITARY MEN Col. Roger Criner and Lt. Col. Mickey Foxworth are North American Mission Board-endorsed chaplains serving U.S. Army soldiers at Fort Knox. (submitted photo)

Army chaplains share Vietnam experiences

Continued from page 1

after. A couple of months went by and I received another letter. It was from his sister, and the last paragraph of the letter was written by Sgt. Wilcox. He was able to walk, he was able to speak and he had (vision) in one eye.

"If I had an address in Florida (for Sgt. Wilcox) ... I'd be on a plane tomorrow," he said. "That's one of the greatest griefs that I carry with me today, and I usually encourage the others, 'Don't make the same mistake.'"

"That's grief delayed," Chaplain Foxworth noted. "When you get back home, you have all this stuff inside, and people outside don't have a clue.

"For a while I was angry. I felt like I had stood up and done what my country asked for, but I was abandoned," he said. "And it angered me that we were slammed in the press, we were denigrated across the board, we were all bunched in one lump and everybody was a baby killer and most of us, ... if we did anything with any babies, we held them in our arms."

Even though neither soldier was a chaplain during his time in Vietnam, it was their experiences with chaplains while in combat that pointed them in the direction of the Chaplain Corps.

After leaving Vietnam, "I always had that tugging at the heart to minister to the military," Criner said. "The Vietnam experience never left me. ... There were times that I yearned so much to see a chaplain and one was not there. And that has motivated me and kept me focused on soldiers and to be present where soldiers are."

Foxworth experienced a similar event with chaplains in a combat zone following the crash of the plane on which he was supposed to have been.

"I tried to get a chaplain to come ... and he wouldn't. That is one of the key reasons I'm in the Army—because I couldn't get the guy out of the chapel to go where" the chaplain was needed, he said. "Not every (Air Force) chaplain in Vietnam was like that, but this particular person was."

While the two chaplains have painful memories of Vietnam, they both acknowledged that they aren't sorry they served—but they do have regrets.

"When I left, I wanted to leave Vietnam behind. I didn't want to take anything with me ... (including) contact information of anybody, and I regret that now," Criner said. "I encourage anyone to get contact numbers of closest friends that they have 'walked the halls of hell in combat' with because as they get older they're going to want to share their story with someone who has been there."

"No one understands (who) hasn't been there. And we will forever be trying to find meaning in our life's story," he added. "What better person can help us find meaning than those that walked along beside us?"

As for a recent Vietnam veterans welcome home ceremony held at Fort Knox, the duo agreed it's long overdue.

"Grief for their sacrifices, for all of their challenges they went through, for never being recognized, it's almost like this was done in secret—that, God forbid, I ever reveal this," Criner said. "Grief of, 'Why am I able to be here today and my buddy that died beside me is not able to be here?'"

"I've been to the wall in Washington D.C., and I've seen their names and I'm sure that their names will come to mind," he continued. "And I'm only one. I'm sure that there will be many Vietnam veterans who will see the faces of their closest buddies that they have shared their life's history with."

Reversing military suicide trend requires churches getting involved

Continued from page 1

Jewell, pastor of Living Hope: The Church in the Field in Copperas Cove, Texas. "In the military we train people to kill without giving them any true moral standards to go by.

"In past generations our soldiers were given Bibles. Many of them were grounded in the Christian faith," he said. "Nowadays, most of these young soldiers don't have any idea about God."

When they come home traumatized by what they've seen on the battlefield or what they find is left of their marriages, many soldiers don't know how to cope, and they think, "If I can just kill myself, this will be done," Jewell noted.

Randy Wallace, pastor of First Baptist Church of Killeen, Texas, near Fort Hood, said that while the military has a responsibility to help at-risk soldiers, many times prevention hinges on whether a soldier asks for help.

"My personal perspective is that we've asked too much of these people. We've run them through multiple deployments, and things wear out and they break, including people," Wallace said.

While First Baptist, Killeen ministers to those soldiers and their families who come to the church seeking assistance, Wallace said he finds it difficult to reach others who aren't asking for help because of the restricted access to the Army post.

David Mullis, a chaplaincy coordinator for the North American Mission Board, said pastors need to be prepared to answer questions such as, "How could God love me when I

have done this or seen this?" and "Where is God when ...?" He also emphasized the need to watch for warning signs.

"If a parishioner sits down and says, 'I'm having sleepless nights,' or they talk about recurring dreams of the trauma that they saw in war, ... these are all indicators that there's probably a combat operational stress situation happening," Mullis said. "When these are not paid attention to, what does a person do when they're hopeless? They may say, 'Well, I'll end it all.'"

Mullis suggested pastors consult a resource page at NAMB.net/Chaplain to learn about a biblical response to post-traumatic stress disorder. A crucial way to prevent suicides, he said, is for people to pay attention to their neighbors and to welcome people into church with open arms. "We need to have churches that have their antennae up," Mullis urged.

Bringing problems home

Horn agreed with Mullen's prediction that as more troops come home, more problems will occur.

"The high tempo of deployment our military and their families have faced has created a cycle of stress and other issues in marriages and the home that couples and families have had no time or opportunity to deal with," she said, adding that when the troops return home, "churches need to be there to help" address any problems that evolved during deployment.

Churches also should not assume

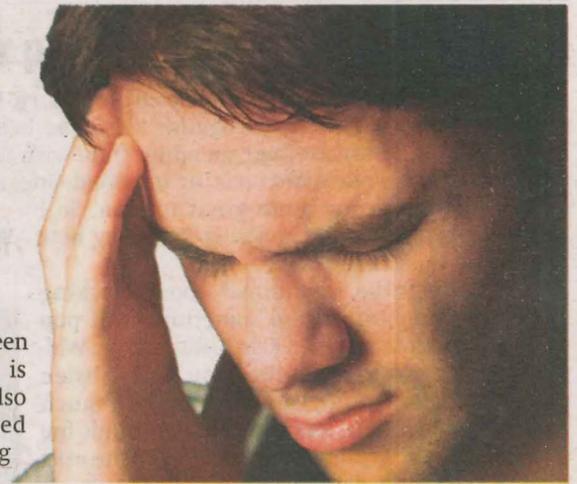
there are no military families in their areas if they don't live near a military installation, Horn said. National Guard and Army Reserve families live in most communities, and they have the least access to resources for military families even as they are being deployed as consistently as active-duty soldiers.

"Let them know you're there to support them, not just in word, but in action," Horn urged.

"Teach your congregation that this is an opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus and not only is it a good thing to do, it's imperative that it's done," she added. "Because when someone is in the military and meets Christ, you've just opened the door for that person to share Christ with who knows how many others he or she serves with."

Likewise, churches in military communities should not assume another church already is ministering to families, Horn said, and that each church needs to invest in the lives of military families, even if those families will be in the community for only a short time.

"Think of the seeds you will plant and the harvest that will happen regardless," she said. "Plus, word travels fast in the military community and if one family is impacted by your love and service, they will tell others who will look for you when they move into your area." (BP)



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Editor's treatment prompts trustee of N.C. paper to quit

Marion, N.C.—A member of the board of the North Carolina Biblical Recorder newspaper has resigned to protest what she described as "pressure" on the paper's editor to slant the news.

Last week, the paper published a resignation letter from Patricia Faulkner, chair of the board's personnel committee. Faulkner wrote she was quitting because the board had accepted Editor Norman Jameson's Oct. 21 offer to resign after a public threat to defund the paper at the North Carolina Baptist State Convention meeting.

"Some of those who wanted to accept (Jameson's) resignation belong to churches that do not even subscribe to the Recorder," Faulkner, a member of First Baptist Church of Marion, N.C., said in her letter. "This resignation was offered because of pressure from a few who do not want any diversity in our congregations. Freedom of the press as we know it died" Oct. 21.

Jameson's resignation came at a Recorder board meeting after Sandy Beck, director of missions for Carolina Baptist Association, wrote convention leaders warning that unless he was removed as editor, a motion would come from the floor of the convention to defund the newspaper in the convention's Cooperative Program budget. (ABP)

NAMB centers in New Orleans to change hands

By Mickey Noah
North American Mission Board

New Orleans—The Rachel Sims Baptist Mission and the Carver Baptist Center—now owned and operated by the North American Mission Board—will close Dec. 31. Effective Jan. 1, 2011, ownership of both properties will transfer to New Orleans Baptist Association.

"The closing of the two ministry centers and the property transfer reflects NAMB's process over the last 12 years of giving NAMB-owned properties to local Baptist associations or churches," said Richard Leach, the mission board's team leader for servant/ministry evangelism. New Orleans Baptist Association is an association of 107 Southern Baptist churches in the New Orleans area.

"For several years, ... our three entities—NOBA, NAMB and the Louisiana Baptist Convention—have discussed a new Southern Baptist ministry strategy for New Orleans," Leach noted.

Under the "2020 Vision" strategy adopted by the association in 2008, NOBA, the LBC and NAMB remain full partners in the "rebuilding of New Orleans for the glory of God." The agreement includes the transfer of assets from NAMB to the association.

"The Baptist community in New Orleans is grateful for the historic partnership we have shared with NAMB," said C. Duane McDaniel, executive director for New Orleans Association.

"Now, five years post-Katrina, we are turning the page to a new chapter," he added. "Building on the foundation that has been laid, we are looking to the future, ex-

cited about the possibilities for partnering with NAMB, LBC and churches across the SBC in a newly envisioned mission/rebuild strategy to reach New Orleans."

The Carver Center, established in 1951, and the Rachel Sims Baptist Mission, founded in 1910, are located 1.2 miles from each other at the edge of the city's Garden District. Both centers primarily are involved in after-school ministries for children.

Leach said Larry Miguez, director for both of the centers, and Linda Middlebrooks, director of programs at Rachel Sims, will retire under the current retirement incentive now being offered to all NAMB employees. Jennifer Fannin, assistant director at the Carver Center, will have the option of accepting a severance package.

A third Southern Baptist ministry center in New Orleans, Baptist Friendship House, will continue to operate as a ministry for homeless women with children. Under the 2020 Vision strategy, the center's ministry may be expanded.

Kay Bennett, the center's director since 1997, will continue in that position—her salary paid by NAMB—although effective Jan. 1, 2011, she will be under joint supervision of NOBA and NAMB.

Leach said Baptists were never more involved in New Orleans than during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Thousands of Southern Baptists from across the United States volunteered their time, talents and resources to help rebuild the city after the hurricane.

"Southern Baptist work in New Orleans today is better and stronger than it has been in the five years since Hurricane Ka-

trina forever changed the city and churches of New Orleans," Leach noted.

As a result of the closings, mission teams that already planned and scheduled 2011 mission trips to the Carver and Rachel Sims centers will be notified and an attempt will be made to reschedule at other venues at a later date.

"NAMB encourages all Southern Baptists to continue to pray for the city of New Orleans, to support the churches of the New Orleans Baptist Association and to send volunteers to partner and work with New Orleans Baptists to meet the great spiritual and physical needs of this mission field," Leach said. (BP)



TRANSFER Carver Baptist Center in New Orleans will close at year's end and be transferred by the North American Mission Board to New Orleans Baptist Association. The Rachel Sims Baptist Mission also will move under the association's control on Jan. 1, 2011. (Photo by John Swain/NAMB)

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It is a little known historical fact that the original manuscript order of both the Old and New Testament books was altered by early church fathers. *The Holy Bible In Its Original Order* includes commentaries that trace precisely how the Bible erroneously came to be in its present 66-book format—revealing how and why its books were mysteriously repositioned from their original order by fourth-century "editors."

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Study: Americans crave forgiveness, but choosy on dispensing it

Kalamazoo, Mich.— Most Americans have a desire for more forgiveness in their lives, but they are more critical when choosing who to forgive, according to a new survey.

Sixty-two percent of American adults said they need more forgiveness in their personal lives, and 94 percent wanted to see more forgiveness in the country, according to a study by the Michigan-based Fetzer Institute.

"Americans express a near-universal desire for a more loving and unified world," according to the "Survey of Love and Forgiveness in American Society," released late last month.

Researchers found that even though the U.S. is composed of people who usually are forgiving, more than half of Americans said there are situations where people should never be forgiven, including abuse, sexual crimes, murder and other intentionally committed crimes. (RNS)

Ky. DOM among supporters of anti-bullying initiative

Grove City, Pa.—Churches are being asked to help prevent bullying, particularly bullying based on homosexuality, after several cases that led to suicide have been in the national spotlight.

An initiative called the Golden Rule Pledge, which began two years ago to advocate for the application of the Golden Rule in schools, has made lesson plans and class activities available for free download to help churches address bullying.

Warren Throckmorton, a psychology professor who co-founded the Golden Rule Pledge, said some Christian conservatives believe legislation prohibiting bullying based on homosexuality in effect communicates approval of it.

"My view is that evangelicals need to put ideological worries aside and become part of the solution," Throckmorton, of Grove City College in Pennsylvania, wrote for CNN.com last month.

Throckmorton said he hopes youth leaders can use the Golden Rule resources to raise awareness about the need to treat all people with respect, regardless of differences of opinion.

"A middle school student who is bullied every day doesn't care about religious differences," Throckmorton said in a news release.

Available at GoldenRulePledge.com, the resources are designed for use in youth group or Sunday school settings, and the materials encour-

age adherence to the Golden Rule and other teachings on civility and mutual respect.

"Christians and Bullying Prevention" can be conducted for youth in grades 7 through 12, providing exercises to dramatize the problem and solutions, as well as a biblical basis for bullying prevention.

"Bullying Role Play" uses the story of the Good Samaritan, while "The Freshman in the Lunchroom" is a skit intended to prompt dis-

cussion and help students recognize the roles within a bullying scenario.

"Recent headlines with regards to students taking or attempting to take their lives should be a wake-up call to all Christians to train our youth to not only stand against all forms of bullying, but to equip them to be used of God in putting an end to it in the schools where they attend," said Bob Finch, director of missions for Pike Association of Southern Baptists.

Finch has been outspoken about his own struggle with same-sex attraction during his childhood. Last year, he led a workshop at one of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Super Saturday training events about how Christians should appropriately respond to homosexuals.

"I believe this program can be used to equip and empower them to do just that in a way that will also show their classmates the love of Christ," Finch said. (BP)



Bob Finch

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Students' patriotic duty

FFA nearly doubles goal at second annual 'Support Our Troops' fundraiser

By Denise Day Spencer
OBI publications

Oneida's Future Farmers of America students thought they were setting a generous goal for their second annual "Support Our Troops" bake sale on Oct. 15. Their \$1,000 goal, however, was nearly doubled by proceeds that totaled \$1,879. It was a huge jump from last year's total of \$836.

"Support Our Troops" is a fundraiser promoted by the state FFA. The money raised will benefit a unit of the Kentucky National Guard stationed in Afghanistan on an agricultural mission. The unit works in education, technical support, agronomic assistance and irrigation development. The funds will be used to purchase support items, tools and educational materials.

Last year FFA chapters across the commonwealth raised a total of \$3,600 for the "Support Our Troops" project, and OBI was the highest-raising chapter. FFA advisor Jennifer Griebenow (OBI '02) said she hopes we will again be first in proceeds.

"The state FFA suggests different kinds of optional fundraisers all the time," Griebenow explained. "We usually don't do them, but this one appealed to me because it was 'Support Our Troops.'"

Griebenow did much of the food preparation herself, baking and freezing items ahead of time. Other faculty and staff members contributed baked goods, as did a few volunteers. FFA members took turns going to Griebenow's home in the evenings and doing their part. For

example, the students frosted and decorated more than 300 cupcakes.

In addition to sweet treats such as cookies, coffee cakes, dessert cups and cheesecake slices, several faculty ladies brought other kinds of food: chicken and rice, "dirty rice," potato soup and sweet tea. Two staff members recently had volunteered at the World Equestrian Games, and they both donated their Equestrian Games T-shirts to be auctioned off.

Because our chapter came in first among the fundraisers last year, the students were recognized at the state FFA convention in June.

"I was really encouraged by what the Major General said about our FFA chapter when he presented the award," Griebenow recalled. "He said the other chapters should look to us for guidance. He was talking about Oneida. I was blown away."

Griebenow shared that one of her dreams has been for OBI's FFA to receive more statewide recognition, and this was definitely an important step toward meeting that goal.

The bake sale is just one of several school-wide activities the Oneida FFA typically spearheads each year. Other events include a Harvest Breakfast in the fall for faculty, staff and volunteers, a holiday "Walk to Bethlehem" for OBI and the local community, plus a petting zoo, apple bobbing and caramel apples at the campus Fall Festival.

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

Not the average student

19-year-old student is sort of a rarity at Clear Creek

Historically, one of the unique things about Clear Creek is the average age of our students. Each semester the average age of the students who come to us usually is around 32 years old. This semester is no different. But we are starting to see younger students come to us right out of high school.

First-year student Josh Slagle from Jonesville, Va., would not be considered one of our "average" students because he came to us as an 18 year old fresh out of high school last year. He may be young, but Josh likes to share about God's

call on his life that brought him to Clear Creek. "I actually knew that God was calling me into the ministry when I was 16," Slagle recalled. "I knew God was calling but I didn't really surrender until a little over a year ago. I went to an Extreme Youth Conference in Gatlinburg, Tenn., with my youth group at church. It was during the conference that I felt this overwhelming conviction in my life that God had something for me to do. I didn't know exactly what it was, but I knew God was calling me to surrender to Him. That night I made a commit-

ment to God's call on my life, and I asked him to show me what it was He wanted me to do.

"After we got back to church, I talked to my pastor who is a Clear Creek alumnus," Slagle said. "He told me a lot about Clear Creek, and we scheduled a visit to the campus so I could come and check things out. When I toured the campus and visited with different people, it seemed as though things just clicked and I knew this was where God wanted me to be. So, I (applied) to Clear Creek and enrolled as a student.

"I know that God has definitely called me to youth ministry," Slagle said. "I have this tremendous urge to minister to the youth of today. I want to do my part in making sure future generations are more evangelistic. I want to do my part to help turn our country back to God."

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

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

Continued blessings

God continues to provide for Crossings' camp ministry

The fall season seems strange this year as the warm weather stayed much longer than I would have preferred. With the extended "summer," it seems odd that Christmas will be here soon, and we will soon begin another year of Crossings in 2011.

Similar to last year, 2010 represented another record year in attendance, decisions and growth with the camp and conference side of our ministry. I want to express our deepest thanks to all those who have attended Crossings. We are humbled that you would entrust us with your camps and retreats.

The reality is I never would have imagined that we would be where we are. It literally makes no sense. God continues to provide exactly what is needed at the appropriate times, especially over the past two years as we have been in the midst of a very challenging economy.

The window between the summer of 2010 and the summer of 2011 is, without question, the busiest that we have ever experienced in terms of construction and improvements. At Cedarmore, we are constructing three new buildings and doing renovations in Boone

Lodge. In addition, we are renovating the interiors of five buildings at Jonathan Creek. We also will be adding some new recreation activities at both properties for use next year.

With all this going on, we need your prayers and support more than ever. Each year we serve larger crowds, and next year's registration numbers already exceed this year's attendance. Furthermore, large crowds and construction usually do not go well together and place a fair amount of stress on our property staff.

We need your prayers for the construction process to be completed on time and within budget; for strength and wisdom for our staff during these stressful times; and as always, for the guests we are serving—that they would experience Christ while at Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek.

I would encourage you to visit Cedarmore or Jonathan Creek just to see what is happening and to join us in celebrating what God is doing at these properties. It certainly has been amazing to see, and the future continues to look brighter each day.

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

Ky. Baptist Assemblies



David Melber

ELECTION 2010 RECAP

Midterm election is mixed bag for social conservatives

By Robert Marus

Washington—The 2010 midterm congressional elections were a clear victory for those devoted to fiscal conservatism, but they were more a mixed blessing for religious and social conservatives. Religious conservatives, however, still may use the results to highlight their issues over the next two years in Congress.

Republicans took about 60 seats from Democrats Nov. 2 to reclaim the majority in the House of Representatives. They picked up significant-but-short-of-a-majority gains in the Senate. Both gains were attributed largely to the influence of the Tea Party movement with its anti-government, anti-tax and anti-spending message.

Few voters cited social issues like abortion rights and gay rights as major motivating factors, however, and several of the most outspoken social conservative candidates carrying the Tea Party banner lost their elections.

In congressional contests, several outspoken social conservatives won. Arkansas Sen.-elect John Boozman (R) defeated conservative Democratic Sen. Blanche Lincoln. Missouri Sen.-elect (and former House Minority Whip) Roy Blunt (R) bested Missouri Secretary of State (and fellow Baptist) Robin Carnahan (D).

Several pro-life Democrats who were targeted by social conservatives because they voted for a health care reform bill that some opponents claimed would fund abortions lost.

"Tonight's election results point to the significant impact of the natural alliance between the Tea Party, social conservatives and other Americans disillusioned by Washington's politics as usual," Tony Perkins of the Family Research Council said. "This alliance is not based just upon issues, although there are some shared policy concerns. The synergy is found in the common interest they have in replacing those elected officials, both Democrat and Republican, who have ignored the limits of the Constitution and have forgotten the founding principles of our nation."

Social conservatives experienced significant wins in several states. In California, voters rejected Proposition 19 by a 56-to-44-percent margin. The ballot initiative would have legalized and regulated the recreational use of marijuana.

In Oklahoma, a constitutional amendment to prevent judges in the state from relying on Islamic law also passed. The amendment says Oklahoma judges should rely on federal and state law when deciding cases, forbids them "from considering or using international law" and bans them "from considering or using Sharia Law." It defines Sharia as legal codes "based on two principal sources, the Koran and the teaching of Mohammed."

Many legal experts derided the amendment as unnecessary and said it will invite costly lawsuits against the state because it targets a single religion, in possible contravention of the federal Constitution.

Social conservatives picked up a big win in the Hawkeye State, where national groups opposed to gay rights spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to oust three justices of the Iowa Supreme Court because they were among the members of the

court who unanimously decided last year to legalize same-sex marriage.

Chief Justice Marsha Ternus and associate justices David Baker and Michael Streit all lost their bids to gain new eight-year terms on the high court. They were the only members of the court up for retention elections this year. Each lost by a margin of about 55 to 45 percent.

"Activist judges everywhere have been put on notice," said Gary Bauer, whose Campaign for Working Families joined the National Organization for Marriage in targeting the justices. "Judges do not have the right to legislate from the bench. Nor are they the supreme authority of the land. The voters of Iowa made that clear."

Social conservatives were handed several losses in Congress and on the state level as well. Four Tea Party-endorsed Senate candidates who prominently featured their Christian faith and social conservative beliefs lost.

In Delaware, GOP Senate nominee Christine O'Donnell lost by a wide margin to Democrat Chris Coons. In Colorado, incumbent Sen. Michael Bennet (D) beat Republican challenger Ken Buck by a few thousand votes. Both O'Donnell and Buck made national headlines in the final weeks of the campaign with comments criticizing church-state separation as a principle not found in the U.S. Constitution.

Nevada GOP Senate nominee Sharron Angle—who made similar comments criticizing church-state separation—also lost one of the evening's most-watched Senate contests, her bid to defeat Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid.

In Alaska, Republican Senate nominee Joe Miller—an outspoken opponent of abortion—appeared to have lost to incumbent Sen. Lisa Murkowski, who launched a write-in campaign after Miller defeated her in the GOP primary.

Social conservatives also failed, for the second election cycle in a row, to attach a "personhood" amendment to Colorado's constitution. Like a similar proposal that failed in 2008, it would have defined life as beginning at conception and given unborn fetuses full rights under state law.

The vast majority of voters cited economic issues as the most important factors influencing their vote in exit polls. Only a handful cited issues like abortion rights, same-sex marriage and religion in the public square as important.

Although voters seemed little concerned with social issues, many interest groups in the conservative coalition are likely to find receptive ears for their issues among members of Congress.

However, Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission said the election results were not an "affirmation of the Republican Party."

"It was a decision by a majority of the American people to give the Republicans one more chance to cut the size of government, cut government spending, and repeal and start over with health care reform," Land said. "The Republican establishment in Washington would do well to listen to the 60-plus House freshmen who are coming to Congress straight from the real world." (ABP)

Court extends 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' enforcement

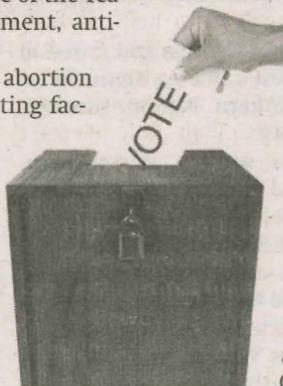
Washington—The U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals last week extended its postponement of a federal judge's suspension of the ban on open homosexuals serving in the military, meaning the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy will remain in effect while the case is being appealed.

The panel of Ninth Circuit judges voted 2-1 to continue indefinitely its Oct. 20 temporary stay of judge Virginia Phillips' Oct. 12 ruling that invalidated the 1993 federal law and ordered its enforcement to cease.

The appellate court's extension of the stay means homosexuals still may not enlist in the

Armed Forces and may be discharged if they already are in the military. The policy prevents homosexuals from serving openly but also prohibits military commanders from asking service members about their sexual orientation.

Supporters of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" welcomed the decision. "I join millions of other Americans in being grateful the Ninth Circuit has kept our elected representatives' policy in place until it can be further reviewed by our elected representatives and the Supreme Court," said Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. (BP)



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THE WESTERN RECORDER ... THE ONLY PLACE TO GET KENTUCKY BAPTIST NEWS

Fair Haven Quartet to open Pastors' Conference

Lexington—Fair Haven Quartet, a gospel group from Laurel County, will lead in worship during the opening session of the 2010 Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference Nov. 15 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington.

Regulars on the Brush Arbor Jubilee syndicated television show and "Gospel Tonight" at Renfro Valley Red Barn Theater, Fair Haven performs extensively throughout Kentucky, Tennessee and Ohio. Recently the group was a guest on "The Gospel Greats" with Paul Heil.

Members Troy Baxter, Alan Coppock, Mel Scarberry and Andrew Young formed the quartet in 2004 and currently record under the Riversong Recording Label out of Nashville, Tenn.

The first session of the pastors' conference begins at 2 p.m. with speakers Floyd Paris, pastor of Unity Baptist Church in Ashland, and Adam Dooley, pastor of Dauphin Way Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala. The final speaker of the afternoon is Frank Page, who recently began as president of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee.

The evening session begins at 6 p.m. Lexington's Consolidated Baptist Church Choir will lead in worship. Speakers are Danny Akin, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.; and Johnny Hunt, pastor of First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga., and immediate past president of the SBC. The final speaker is Alistair Begg, senior pastor of Parkside Church near Cleveland, and host of the "Truth For Life" radio program.

Immediately following the pastors' conference is a reception for retiring KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey at the Summit on the Immanuel Baptist Church campus.

For additional details on the Pastors' Conference and other annual meeting events, visit www.KyBaptist.org/AnnualMeeting.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **BOWLING GREEN**—Warren Association will host the "SPOKEN: God's Word About the Word" youth conference Nov. 13 at the Western Kentucky University campus. Kevin Smith, pastor of Watson Memorial Church in Louisville will be the featured speaker. For more information, contact Kevin Hash at

KevinHash@insightbb.com.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Campbellsville University's Jazz Ensemble will perform Nov. 11, 8 p.m., at the Gheens Recital Hall in the Gosser Fine Arts Center on campus. The concert is free and open to the public. For more information, call the School of Music at (270) 789-5237.

Former Long Run DOM West dies at 95

Louisville—G. Allen West, who led Louisville's Long Run Baptist Association for 13 years, died Oct. 29 at the age of 95.

A native of Georgia and raised in Florida, West came to Kentucky to attend Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

While a student at Southern, West served Bagdad Baptist Church as pastor before being called to lead Woodmont Baptist Church in Nashville, Tenn., as its first pastor, a position he held for 25 years.

West returned to Louisville in 1967 when he accepted the call to become director of missions for Long Run Baptist Association. He

served in that role until his retirement in 1980.

In the years following his retirement, West served the Kentucky Baptist Convention as its assistant secretary from 1984-91 and helped coordinate a missions partnership between the convention and Kenya. He also was a member of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville.

West is survived by his wife, Jean, whom he married in 1982, two children, 10 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. His first wife, Catherine, died in 1980.

A memorial service was held Nov. 2 at Woodmont Baptist in Nashville, Tenn.



New Life Baptist Church in Hawesville dedicated its new building Oct. 24. The facility was built with the help of Baptist Builders. Before the new building was finished, the congregation had met in a double-wide trailer, even though the church has nearly doubled in size in recent months. Wallace Gooch is pastor. (Photo by Coy Webb/KBC)



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November

12-14 All-State Junior High Choir, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

13 GA Jam, Calvary Baptist Church, Lexington.

15 KBC Mission Board Meeting, Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington.

15 Kentucky Baptist Music Conference, Versailles Baptist Church.

15 Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference, Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington.

15 Youth Ministers' Fall Meeting, Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington.

16 KBC Annual Meeting, Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington.

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

Justus leaves his mark on Porter Memorial Baptist

Lexington—If he had so desired, Bob Justus could have had a church in Kenya named for him.

During a mission trip to the African nation in 1987, the associate pastor of Lexington's Porter Memorial Baptist Church and a handful of other believers worshipped in a hotel room in the town of Kwale, about 50 miles from Mombasa.

It was the first official meeting of what came to be known as Kwale Baptist Church. The congregation now runs about 300-400 in worship each week, a significant number for such a small community.

In the Kenyan culture, it is customary for those responsible for starting a church to name it, Justus said. Those in the church suggested it could be named for him.

"I told them I did not wish for it to be named after me in any way," he recalled. "I just said, 'Name it after your community.'"

"I think that shows his genuine humility," noted Bill Henard, Justus' boss and pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist. "Bob is one who would want Christ exalted."

Last Sunday marked Justus' last as a staff member at Porter Memorial, a role he has dutifully filled since 1978. He is retiring after 32 years at Porter Memorial and more than 40 years in ministry.

Justus began his ministry career as pastor of New Hope Baptist Church in Folsom, La., while a student at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He later served as an associate pastor at a church in Georgia, before joining J.K. Pierce's staff at Porter Memorial.

In his early days, Justus directed the church's educational department and later moved on to work with senior adults.

"Bob is loved by everybody because of his gentle spirit and pastor's heart," Henard noted.

Justus said it will be tough for him to step aside after being at one church for so long, but he cherishes the memories and friendships he's made.

"I hope they would say that my life was a picture of Christ," Justus said of his legacy. "I just want people to know that God has a plan for their lives."

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SEEKING: Bivocational pastor for Oak Grove Baptist Church in Monroe Baptist Association (southern Kentucky). Looking for a called man of God to lead and help grow our small, rural church. Contact the deacon chairman at (270) 427-4387; or send resumé to Oak Grove Baptist Church, 1330 Cedar Hill Road, Mount Hermon, KY 42157.

SEEKING: Senior pastor for SBC-affiliated Northside Baptist Church, Elizabethtown, Ky. Minimum requirements

include Master of Divinity degree from an SBC seminary; five or more years of pastoral experience; ability to provide skilled leadership for eight church staff members. Candidate should have excellent communication and personal relation skills, expository preaching skills and a pastor's heart for congregational ministry. Candidate also should be comfortable with a blended worship style and affirm the statements of the SBC-adopted Baptist Faith & Message. If you meet these minimum qualifications, please prayerfully and with confidentiality submit your resumé to: Search Committee chair, PO Box 1121, Elizabethtown, KY 42702, by Dec. 15, 2010.

SEEKING: Part-time youth minister to plan, organize and lead a growing youth worship ministry at Oakland Baptist Church. Responsibilities include weekly leadership of youth instruction, activities and counseling, as well as seasonal events. Please submit resumé to John Smith at Oakland Baptist Church, PO Box 154, Oakland, KY 42159; or to johnwayne623@windstream.net before Nov. 15, 2010.

SEEKING: Qualified applicants for part-time youth minister at Locust Grove Baptist Church in Cadiz, Ky. Locust Grove BC is a loving church serving a living Lord. All applicants: please submit resumé to lgbcpastor@yahoo.com;

or mail resumé to 73 Locust Grove Church Road, Cadiz, KY 42211.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of education for Horse Cave Baptist Church, Horse Cave, Ky. See job description on Website: www.horsecavebaptistchurch.com. Send resumé to Minister of Education Search Committee, Horse Cave Baptist Church, 301 E Main St., Horse Cave, KY 42749; or e-mail hbc@scrtc.com no later than Nov. 30, 2010.

SEEKING: Part-time youth/student minister for Buckner Baptist Church. Individual will have the opportunity to put "fingerprints" on the lives of young people and make a difference for Christ. Please send resumé with cover letter to Buckner Baptist Church via e-mail: bucknerbaptistchurch@insightbb.com; or mail: PO Box 85, Buckner, KY 40010.

SEEKING: Senior pastor to lead a multi-generational historic, downtown CBF church in Kentucky's capital city. The church has an average Sunday school attendance of 170 and an annual budget of \$800,000. We are a very mission-oriented ministry. We operate a free medical/dental clinic and clothes closet onsite, in addition to a satellite mission center in Appalachia, together serving hundreds in need each month. We practice traditional worship with a multi-facet-

ed music program and extensive programs for all age groups. For more information, visit www.fbcfrankfort.org. To apply, send resumé with references to: Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 201 St. Clair St., Frankfort, KY 40601 by Jan. 15, 2011.

SEEKING: Full-time worship pastor for Beacon Hill Baptist Church. We are looking for someone called of God who can supervise a full church music program, including leading weekly worship for two blended worship services on Sunday morning with an average attendance of 600, a traditional service on Sunday evenings, praise team and band, choir, bells, drama, seasonal and special worship events. The candidate needs a knowledge of the technical aspects of a cutting-edge worship service. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Beacon Hill Baptist Church, 4705 South Hwy. 27, Somerset, KY 42503.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music who will be responsible for planning weekly worship services and oversee the music ministry of the church. Contact Pastor Rodney Bice at Bardwell Baptist Church at (270) 628-3645; or e-mail bbcpastor1@windstream.net.

SEEKING: Full-time youth minister/pastor assistant for rural church. Some experience required. Send resumé to Mexico Baptist Church, 175 Mexico Road, Marion, KY 42064.



Eve's invitation

By Todd and Michelle Deaton

Outside Surfside Church, Eve Eel stood peering into the windows of the classroom where the Cove Kids were busy making a craft during Sunday school.

"They look like they are having s-s-so much fun," Eve said to herself. "It looks just like a rain forest in there," Eve thought. She could hear the sound of rain as the Cove Kids shook the rain sticks they were making.

Eve had never been to Sunday school, but it wasn't because no one had invited her. In fact, she had been invited many times by the Cove Kids. They had tried everything they knew, but Eve kept coming up with excuses.

A few weeks ago, each of the Cove Kids sent a post card, inviting her. They also had asked their parents, the deacons, all of the Sunday school teachers and Pastor Porpoise to send cards to her.

"Good grief!" Eve cried, as the mail fish from UPS—Underwater Postal Service—set down a huge bag full of postcards with a big thud.

When Sunny Starfish saw Eve at the playground, she asked if Eve was going to come to church. "I don't know, Eve replied. "My family may be going s-s-somewhere."

Two weeks ago, the Cove Kids tried again. They painted bright colored banners with "Eve Eel, please come to Sunday school" written across them.

They tied the banners to the tail fins of dolphins, which leaped through the waves in front of Eve's cave. The banners sailed through the air behind the dolphins when they jumped.

Eve rolled her eyes. "S-s-seems a bit much, don't you think?" she remarked.

Seamore Seahorse swam up and asked, "So, will you come?"

"I'll s-s-see," she replied.

"Just give up. She's never going to come," Craig Crab complained, throwing his claws over his head.

"No, we can't. We have to keep trying," Seamore urged.

This Sunday morning, Sunny and Seamore arrived early so they could place a trail of Shock Tarts, the favorite candy of electric eels, all the way from Eve's cave to the front door of Surfside Church.

"That ought to get her here!" they giggled in delight.

Sure enough, Eve made her way down the Shock Tart path to the window of the church, where she now stood. The Cove Kids weren't aware that she was watching, but Pastor Porpoise saw her. He quietly walked over to her and remarked, "They're having a lot of fun, aren't they?"



Treasure Hunt

What were some ways the Cove Kids tried to invite Eve Eel to church?

Why did the Cove Kids care whether she came or not? Do you think she attended? Why or why not?

Read I John 4:11 together.

Eve nodded, not taking her eyes off the Cove Kids, who were laughing and playing inside.

"Why don't you join them?" Pastor Porpoise asked.

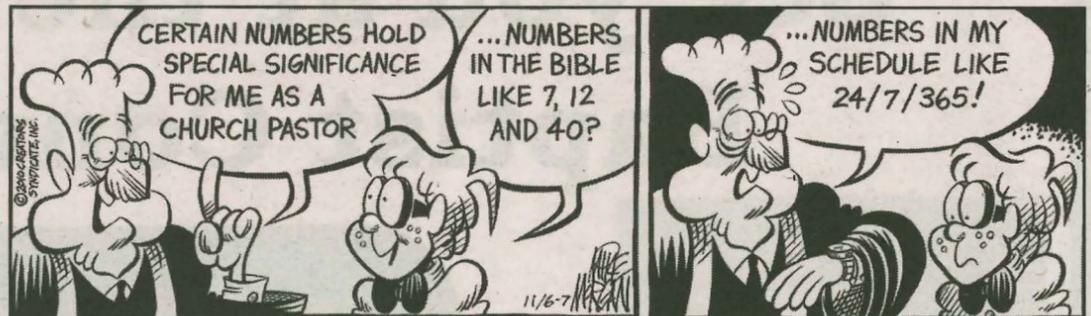
"Why does everyone care s-s-so much about me?" she asked.

"We just want you to know God cares about you," Pastor Porpoise said, quickly adding, "and so do we."

"So what do you say, Eve, will you come?" he asked.

For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Preacher's Kids

David Ayers



Bible Crosswords

By Rebecca Souder

Across

- 1 "The ___ of God is eternal life" (Romans 6:23)
- 4 "Without him was ___ any thing made" (John 1:3)
- 6 "That was the ___ light" (John 1:9)
- 9 "The ___ shineth in darkness" (John 1:5)
- 11 "Which were ___, not of blood" (John 1:13)
- 12 "Was made flesh and ___ among us" (John 1:14)
- 14 Precious stone
- 15 Dock warrant, abbr.
- 17 Chemical suffix
- 18 Young woman
- 20 Also
- 21 His Royal Highness, abbr.
- 22 "Smote the ___ into his temples" (Judges 4:21)
- 24 Hebrew name for God, comb. form
- 25 "But as many as ___ him" (John 1:12)
- 28 The first man
- 31 Electron volt, abbr.
- 32 Four, Romans num.
- 33 Belonging to a Canaanite god
- 37 "A ___ commandment I give unto you" (John 13:34)
- 39 "The ___ comprehended it not" (John 1:5)
- 42 Emergency Relief Organization, abbr.
- 43 To balk, Scot.
- 44 Office of Strategic Services, abbr.
- 47 Year, abbr.
- 48 "But was sent to ___ of that Light" (John 1:8) (2 words)

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- 51 Overseas News Service, abbr.
- 52 European Theater of Operations, abbr.
- 53 "Full of grace and ___" (John 1:14)
- 55 "I come baptizing with ___" (John 1:31)
- 56 Church, abbr.
- 57 Negative vote

Down

- 1 "The Word was ___" (John 1:1)
- 2 "The Word was made ___" (John 1:14)
- 3 "Take thee a ___" (Ezekiel 4:1)
- 4 New England state, abbr.
- 5 A division of Scripture
- 6 Thomas, for short
- 7 Railroad, abbr.
- 8 "To ___ the heavy burdens" (Isaiah 58:6)
- 10 Gross ton, abbr.
- 11 "Them that ___ on his name" (John 1:12)
- 13 "The ___ was made by him" (John 1:10)
- 14 "But ___ and truth came" (John 1:17)
- 16 "In the beginning was the ___" (John 1:1)
- 19 Suffix
- 21 "Two disciples ___ him speak" (John 1:37)
- 23 Fifty-one, Romans num.
- 26 "I am the true ___" (John 15:1)
- 27 "Which lighteth ___ man" (John 1:9)
- 29 Side by side
- 30 "Builder and ___ is God" (Hebrews 11:10)
- 34 "How ye ought to ___ every man" (Colossians 4:6)
- 35 "And ___ out to husbandmen" (Mark 12:1) (2 words)
- 36 Church school, in other words, abbr.
- 38 "Thou art ___, O Lord" (Revelation 4:11)
- 40 Place for competition
- 41 "The only begotten ___" (John 1:18)
- 45 Son of Adam
- 46 Soviet Socialist Republic, abbr.
- 48 "Every knee should ___" (Philippians 2:10)
- 49 "He gave power ___ become" (John 1:12)
- 50 "Did shine as the ___" (Matthew 17:2)
- 54 Tantalum, chem. symbol

Last week's solution

1	P	E	R	F	U	M	E	R	9	B	A	K	E		
11	A	N	Y	O	N	E		12	H	O	O	F	S		
14	L	I	G	U	D	O		16	V	O	A		17		
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23	T	A	D	R		25	B	A	R	B	E	R	S		
26	I	V	E		27	X	U		U	G					
28	N	I	T	R	E		31	R	E	F	I	N	E	R	
35	G	N	A	S	H	I	N	G		36	L	A	D	E	
37	G	B		F						38	O	D		D	
39	M	S	O		41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48			
45	46			47	E	L	N	I	N	O		48			
49	T		50	51	52					53	G	A			
54	T	A	I	L	O	R		55	M	E		56	G	O	D

See you at the Kentucky Baptist Convention!



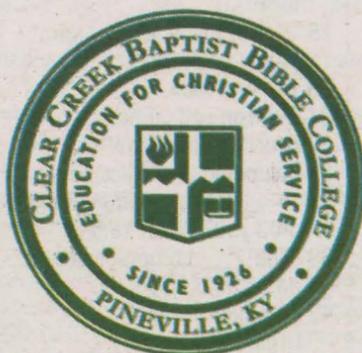
November 16
Immanual Baptist Church
Lexington, Kentucky

Look for our exhibit at booth #32, we hope that you will stop by and visit with us. We would love to talk with you and discover new ways in which we can assist and undergird you in your ministry.

Alumnus Alan Dodson, pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church and his congregation have graciously offered to host our alumni dinner. The dinner will be held at Cornerstone during the dinner break on Tuesday evening at 5:15 p.m. If you would like to participate in this wonderful time of food and fellowship, just stop by our booth and let us know and you will be given directions to Cornerstone Baptist Church.

See you in Lexington!

In the mean time, if we can be of any help to you please call us toll free at 1-866-340-3196, ext. 101



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