

Shine like stars in the world  
Philippians 2:15

# WESTERN Recorder

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## FOR THE RECORD



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## 'Who is my neighbor?'

### Young, middle-class families immerse themselves in God's call to love the poor

By Drew Nichter  
News Director

**Louisville**—At the corner of Ormsby and Jackson streets, Lauren Taylor greets three elementary-school girls from the neighborhood. Each one of them gets a great big hug.

The girls tell Lauren about their day, as the 28 year old listens intently. She lets them know if they ever need help with their homework to come by her house just down the block. She also offers the girls a ride to church the coming Sunday.

Meanwhile, Glenn, a neighborhood fixture, rides up on his bike. Lauren's husband, Jeremiah, strikes up a conversation with him, discussing the best way to handle car repairs.

The Taylors are out for a neighborhood stroll with the Eubanks family—Jesse, Lindsay, 3-year-old Evangeline and 7-month-old Justus. They all wrap up their brief visits with hugs and handshakes and move on toward home.

It's a common-enough scene played out time and time again on Sunday afternoons in suburbia.

A quick glance around, however, does not reveal manicured lawns, picket fences and towering swingsets.

This is inner-city Louisville, namely the Shelby Park neighborhood. It is home to more than 3,000 people, mostly blacks with little money, fewer jobs and even less hope.

The residents of this several-block area bounded by Kentucky Street and Interstate 65 are inundated by crime outside their homes—and a variety of addictions inside.

In spite of the neighborhood's ills, families like the Taylors and the Eubankses, members of Louisville's Sojourn Community Church, are trying to reclaim Shelby Park for Jesus Christ, planting themselves in the middle of it all and growing among their neighbors.

"Everyone's trying to get out of the city," said Jeremiah Taylor, who has lived in the area for about a year. He has a different rally cry for his fellow Christians: "Come on guys, let's go in."

The Eubankses have lived in Shelby Park for about five years now. They moved from Louisville's trendy Highlands neighborhood, where they lived only a block from the home where the annual Barnstable-Brown party is held, considered the pinnacle of Kentucky Derby glitz and glamor.

Jesse said even though he grew up in a middle-class setting, living there as an adult yet feeling called by God to serve



Jesse Eubanks (left) and his wife, Lindsay (second from left), take a walk around their Shelby Park neighborhood with their children Evangeline, 3, and Justus, 7 months, and Lauren (third from left) and Jeremiah Taylor. The families said they have felt called by God to live in the inner-city Louisville neighborhood. (Photo by Drew Nichter)

the poor and hurting caused a struggle for both him and Lindsay.

"We really found that when we weren't in those environments, we just didn't think about it—we didn't care," he recalled.

"Life is so busy that we figured out the only way to stay in tune with God's heart and His love for the poor was to immerse ourselves in the middle of it."

**"Life is so busy that we figured out the only way to stay in tune with God's heart and His love for the poor was to immerse ourselves in the middle of it."**

Jesse Eubanks

And others like the Eubankses have felt called by God to follow suit. In the past few years, several young families from Sojourn have moved into inner-city Louisville neighborhoods like Shelby Park, Germantown and Smbketown, all of which border each other.

Recently, a survey released by a crime-tracking website named Smoketown the 14th most dangerous neighborhood in the United States. It stated that 1 in 9 people living in the area could be the victim of a violent crime—murder, rape, robbery or assault—in the coming year.

Shelby Park has its dangers, too, Eubanks noted. "Gunshots go off in our neighborhood," he said, adding that just recently a woman was shot and killed during an argument on his block.

Fellow Sojourners Jeff and Vicki Rogers  
□ See 'Who is my neighbor?' ... Page 3

## Upward Sports foots the bill for military families

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

**Cadiz**—Although more than 20 months have passed since Shelby Kesty's family received a scholarship that paid her son's Upward basketball fees, the gesture still brings a smile to her face.

"We didn't really need the money, but it was very thoughtful of Upward to give it," said Kesty, whose husband was stationed in Iraq that year. "We were thankful for it and pleased that they honored us."

Now 10 years old, Kesty's son is one of about 950 elementary-age children nationwide who have received military scholarships to defray the cost of their participation in the Christian-based sports program, a number of whom live in Kentucky.

Upward Sports launched the initiative in 2007 to provide help for youngsters whose parent or legal guardian is serving overseas.

"We don't want to take the blessing of freedom for granted," said Upward president Caz McCaslin, the featured speaker during the evening session of this week's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting in Lexington.

"We don't ever want our military men and women to feel they are 'out of sight and out of mind.' The very least we can do is to say 'thank you' to them by making opportunities available to their children for this type of scholarship."

□ See Upward scholarships ... Page 9



**IN THE GAME** Upward leagues are popular at Cadiz Baptist Church where 146 kids are registered for basketball and cheerleading in January. More than a dozen kids with parents serving in the military overseas have had their fees paid for by Upward Sports over the past two years. (Photo by Monty Stagner)

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, Nov. 17

## A look back with KBC President Don Mathis

# Second go-round garners historic aspects

By Todd Deaton  
Editor

**Bowling Green**—From the start, Don Mathis' election was of historic note, marking the first time since 1961 that a former Kentucky Baptist Convention president would serve a second time.

Now, as the Bowling Green evangelist's term winds down, it looks as though it will conclude that way as well, with Kentucky Baptists poised to consider the recommendations of the Great Commission Task Force and the recent retirement announcement of KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey.

"It's been a humbling experience," Mathis said of his second go-round as president. "I've been reminded of how we are standing on the shoulders of those who have gone before."

"When you look back at 1837—when George Waller was elected as first moderator (KBC president)—that was before the Civil War. It was before baseball, basketball or American football; they didn't have automobiles, radio or the telephone," Mathis observed.

"You wonder how in the world they ever managed to communicate with one another to meet, and what in the world they talked about," he mused.

Through the years, Kentucky Baptists have had a sitting governor, a U.S. Congressman, a federal judge and several medical doctors—but mostly pastors—as presidents. Several were elected multiple times, including J.S. Coleman, who served 16 terms over a stretch of 37 years.

Around 1888, service seems to have been limited to two consecutive terms, but several were elected again after being out of office for a few years. In 1961 a decision was made that no president could succeed himself.

While he considers the opportunity to serve a second time a blessing, Mathis said it also has been "a reminder of how quickly life goes by, and whatever we are going to do for

the Lord, we had better do it now."

A full-time vocational evangelist since 1999 who has served as pastor of five Kentucky churches, Mathis first served as KBC president in 1985-86.

"Obviously, at that time, I was a young guy, and most of the leadership was a good bit older," he recollected. "Now guys are younger and more energetic."

Kentucky has the unique situation of having more young leaders than most state conventions, he noted. "That's a good thing," he added. "They have a lot of energy, vision and, prayerfully, wisdom as well."

During his first term, Mathis said he felt "like I basically took hold and held on."

"The second time through has been more enjoyable because I have had a better grip on what was expected and how I should lead," he explained. "It's been a real joy to visit with Kentucky Baptists. They are an especially good and godly people. We've got some diversity, but we work together amazingly well."

While the Great Commission Task Force was set in motion by his predecessor, Mathis noted that be-

ing a part of the group's process "has been amazing."

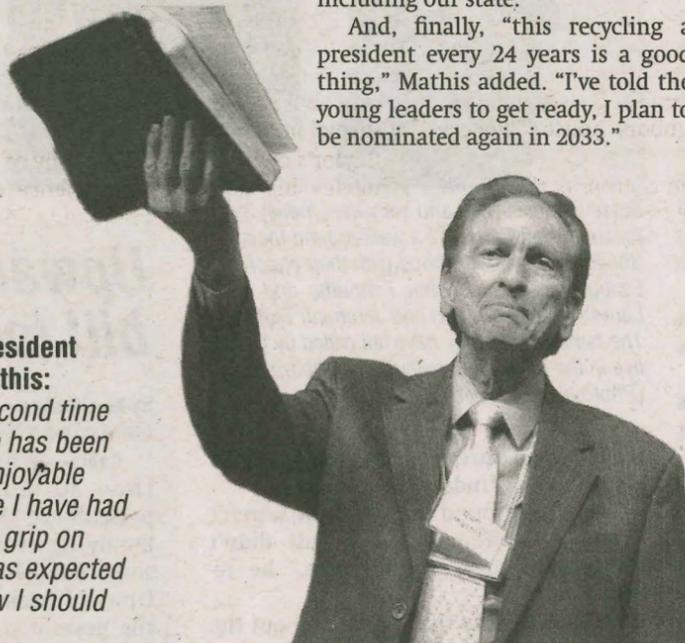
"However we come out of this, I believe we have been strengthened by taking a new look at the Cooperative Program and focusing on the need for spiritual revival and a passion to reach the state and world with the gospel," he said.

The biggest surprise, however, was the announcement of Mackey's plans to retire. Because they are "somewhat similar in age," Mathis said he wasn't completely shocked by the news. "Still, when you come down to final aspects of any announced retirement, you realize that a fantastic era in Kentucky Baptist life is coming to an end—although we pray that the new days will be even better."

As far as words of wisdom for the next KBC president, Mathis offered these pearls: "Take the assignment serious, but don't take yourself seriously. Maintain a sense of humor, and take the time to get to know Kentucky Baptists, never assuming that one person can speak for all of us."

To Kentucky Baptists: "Love Jesus; love one another; love a lost world, including our state."

And, finally, "this recycling a president every 24 years is a good thing," Mathis added. "I've told the young leaders to get ready, I plan to be nominated again in 2033."



**KBC President Don Mathis:**  
*"The second time through has been more enjoyable because I have had a better grip on what was expected and how I should lead."*

## KBC launches statewide network to provide youth ministry mentorship

**Richmond**—Steve Coleman is older than the pastor of his church, but the veteran youth minister hasn't let age keep him from reaching young people for Christ.

"I find such pleasure and joy when students 'get it,'" said the 52-year-old minister to youth at First Baptist Church of Richmond. "I get excited watching them grow in their faith."

Mentoring youth is only part of Coleman's ministry, though. About 10 years ago he began mentoring fellow youth pastors.

"I can take all that knowledge to the grave but it doesn't do me any good," he said. "What I'm trying to do now is work with young guys and say, 'How can I help you?' I can be a resource to a lot of pastors. I've tried a lot of things."

Coleman is one of 14 volunteer mentors in the new Kentucky Youth Ministry Network formed by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's youth ministry department.

According to Joe Ball, KBC youth strategist, the network is an effort to formalize mentoring relationships and provide additional guidance for all youth pastors and

leaders serving Kentucky Baptist congregations.

"We have to get more training and expertise to the church," Ball said. "There are only so many people who can come to a conference."

Youth pastors or leaders who need assistance are encouraged to visit the Youth Ministry Network website, [www.KyBaptist.org/YMN](http://www.KyBaptist.org/YMN), to request a consultation with a coach.

Whether it's a new church seeking to launch a youth ministry or a ministry leader needing prayer about a specific challenge, Ball said the coaches will provide whatever advice and support they can. Consultations can be over the phone, via the web or face to face. The network is made possible, in part, through gifts to the Cooperative Program, so there is no charge for most assistance.

"This is just a way to get more people out there," said Ball, noting that the youth leadership mentors will be available to churches in their respective regions. "These are guys I've been relying on anyway. They're

still in the trenches every day."

To qualify as mentors, coaches need at least six years in youth ministry, but most have far more experience; all of them currently serve in youth ministry. Ball said he hopes to see the network expand to around 20 coaches in the coming year so there are mentors in virtually every part of the state.

Matt Flanagan, minister to students at Parkway Baptist Church in Bardstown, also is a coach. At age 38, he has been working with students for 19 years. He said he is excited about the Youth Ministry Network.

"Too many times we get focused on big events or sending people to training without realizing we can be an asset for one another," Flanagan noted. "Talking about what's going on in their church or family allows me to be an asset to other youth ministers."

In addition to the web page, the network has a Facebook group, "Kentucky Youth Ministers," with more than 400 youth pastors, exchanging ideas, encouragement and resources.

The goal of supporting and equipping

youth ministers is, of course, a component of the larger mission of sharing Christ with youth and discipling new believers, Ball said.

"This is a huge paradigm shift for how we've done youth ministry for 30 years," he said. "Every student needs four or five adults speaking into their lives, offering spiritual training and knowing their name."

Youth ministry leaders and pastors sharing ideas and experiences with the goal of more effectively serving students works, said Coleman, who came to Richmond three years ago from western Kentucky.

"When I was in Hopkinsville, we had an informal network that worked really well," he explained. "We would walk through things together. I would ask things like, 'Have you thought about this situation?' or 'Are you consistent in your discipline?'" Coleman said in many discussions with fellow ministers he realized he had "been there and done that."

Ball and the other coaches said they pray such wisdom will make an eternal difference in the lives of Kentucky's youth.

## October CP gifts down, fiscal year starting slow

**Louisville**—Kentucky Baptists' gifts to the Cooperative Program dropped significantly in October, falling short of September's total by nearly \$320,000.

The total for October's CP gifts was \$1,485,219 compared to \$1,804,020 in September.

"One reason for the low receipts in October is that the month ended on a Sunday," said Bill Mackey, executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. "Consequently the churches were unable to forward their gifts from that Sunday to the KBC before Nov. 1."

"We are grateful for all churches that support missions through the Cooperative Program," Mackey continued. "It is my prayer that CP gifts will be strong in November."

The annual budget goal for the new fiscal year that began Sept. 1 is \$23.5 million. As of Nov. 1, gifts to the Cooperative Program were running more than \$627,000 behind budget.

"This is the slowest start to the first two months of our fiscal year since 2001-02," according to Lowell Ashby, KBC's business services team leader. "The downturn in the economy is again having an impact on our churches' support of the Cooperative Program and other designated offerings."

"I pray for Kentucky Baptists, their families and their generous hearts as they strive to contribute to reaching our nation and the world for Jesus Christ," Ashby added.

KBC's Executive Associate for Cooperative Program and Resources Billy Compton noted, "This is an important time in the history of CP. The economic situation is becoming increasingly difficult, but individuals and churches continue to sacrifice for our mission causes. We want all of our churches to know that their investments through CP are reaching a waiting world with the good news of Jesus Christ."

### Kentucky Baptist CP gifts at a glance



#### Giving for Oct. 1-31, 2010 & Year-to-Date

Monthly budget goal:	\$1,958,333
Actual giving:	\$1,485,219
Under budget:	\$473,114
Year-to-Date budget goal:	\$23,500,000
Year-to-Date actual giving:	\$3,289,239
Under budget:	\$627,428

## 'Who is my neighbor?'

### Young Christian families opt for inner-city life over middle-class security

Continued from page 1

and their twin daughters moved to a house near the Shelby Park/Germantown boundary in 2007. Jeff said they knew what they were getting into when they moved there. "We took whatever precautions we could," he said, including a "robust" home-security system and a privacy fence.

He insisted, however, "as Christians, we cannot allow ourselves to be ruled by fear. What can't we risk for the gospel?"

That doesn't give believers license to behave recklessly, he said, "but if it's for the kingdom, it's for the kingdom. And if the Lord's going to require your life of you in the process, He's going to give it back better than you had it."

So often in the Bible, "you see Christians walking toward where the gunfire is," Eubanks pointed out. However, Christians today, "we're always running away from it. We're always trying to protect ourselves."

Eubanks cited the example of the Good Samaritan in the Gospel of Luke as the impetus for heeding God's call to serve the poor and hurting.

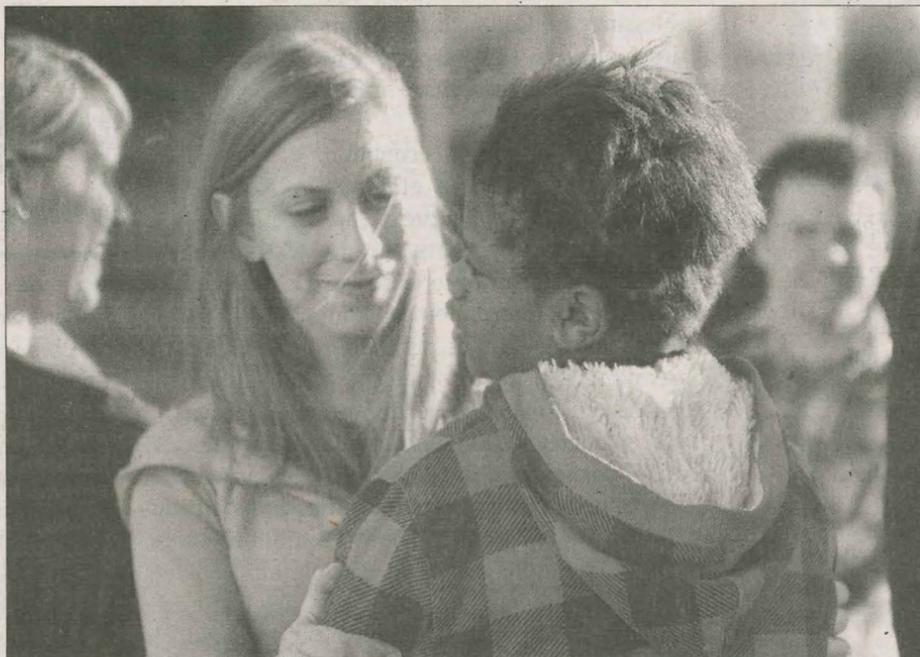
"When the Samaritan stopped to help the man, ... he did it understanding that the robbers could still be there (and) could come back and beat him and kill him," Eubanks said. "He chose to risk it. Why? Because he had compassion on the man that was in need. That's who Christ tells us to be."

The Eubankses, Taylors and Rogerses all are part of a Sojourn Church community group that consists of about 12-14 people, most of whom live in the Shelby Park, Germantown and Smoketown neighborhoods.

Rogers said the small group provides a web of support and encouragement that wouldn't exist if they were on their own.

In the case of the Rogerses' own next-door neighbors, that family has experienced two significant tragedies in the last year and a half.

During the first of those, Jeff and his family were on their way out of the country, headed to the Dominican Republic where they frequently lead short-term mission trips for G.O. Ministries, a Louisville-based global outreach group.



**SHARING LIFE** Lauren Taylor talks to a young girl from the neighborhood. Taylor said she struggles daily with the possibility of the girls she's befriended and others like them heading down a path of addiction and poverty, which they see a lot of in the Shelby Park neighborhood. Taylor and her husband, Jeremiah, simply try to provide the girls with a good example of how a Christ-like family unit works, she said. (Photo by Drew Nichter)

"I was able to call on the community group, who had no relationship with my neighbors at the time, and say, 'Hey guys, can you put some meals together and drop them off at my neighbors' house?'" Rogers recalled.

"They totally came around this family and invaded them with food and did their dishes and just showed up and loved on them."

Rogers said reaching the point of becoming full-on "neighbors" in the area has been a lengthy process. In an area that is predominantly black, young white families tend to stand out, he said.

"American society plays by certain rules," Eubanks noted. "If you're of this economic class, you live in this part of the city. If you're of this race, you live in this neighborhood."

The values of the gospel are not the same as the world's values, Eubanks explained. "So, when we as Christians begin to live by those values, it's deeply confusing

to the world, even (to) other Christians."

And when young, middle-class white families move into traditionally black, low-income neighborhoods, it arises a bit of suspicion, Jeremiah Taylor said.

Taylor's own past parallels many of the struggles his neighbors experience daily—sexual sin, drug addiction and time in jail. The big difference, he said, is "I had a support structure and I had a family who loved me, ... I just was a selfish punk and I did what I wanted to do."

Unlike Taylor, many of the guys he hangs out with on the Shelby Park basketball courts don't have a mother or father who pay attention to them or are crippled by addictions.

"I don't pretend like, 'Hey man, I know exactly what you're going through,' but I understand addiction. I understand making gods out of little things. I understand that struggle."

To see God do in others' lives what He did in Taylor's own life is the ultimate

goal, Taylor said.

"I look at the mess of my neighborhood and ... to love like Christ loved me is to speak into this mess," he said. "It is to step into this mess and embrace this mess and say, 'Hey, God loves you and I love you.'"

Despite the seemingly wide cultural divides that exist between them and their neighbors, Eubanks said it's only through Christ that bridges can be built.

"The weirdest relationship ever built was between God and humanity," Eubanks said. "So, every time we build what is seemingly a weird relationship or a weird friendship, it's a testimony—it's a picture of our relationship to God."

"Jersey" is a testimony. He is a Shelby Park fixture who is known for dealing drugs in the area. Over the years, the Sojourn group has gotten to know him and befriended him.

In retaliation for a \$50 debt, another man recently shot Jersey's dog, killing him. Eubanks said the community group rallied around Jersey in his time of grief.

Taylor said Jersey now has been clean and sober for a month, is seeking help at Jefferson Street Baptist Center and is meeting off and on with the Sojourn group. "It opened his eyes to the community—we're for real," Taylor said.

Each family has its own story of successes and heartaches in trying to reach their neighbors for Christ. Lauren Taylor struggles daily with seeing the three young girls she hugged so tightly in the middle of the street follow the path of addiction and poverty so many around them already have.

"They've just got so many influences that are competing for what they're going to stand on (and) what they're going to believe in," she said.

Even though they are called by God to serve their neighbors, Eubanks insisted they are not heroes who are there to save Shelby Park.

"We moved into the neighborhood because we're trying to learn how to be good neighbors," he said.

"We do it because God has shown us grace and mercy to us, and we desire to show grace and mercy to the world around us," he added. "Out of our salvation, we live like this."

## CU students to scatter across U.S., world for Christmas break missions

**Campbellsville**—Campbellsville University students are making plans to travel far and wide over Christmas break not only to return home, but to serve on mission trips in the U.S. and abroad.

A trip to Haiti is scheduled for Jan. 4-14, 2011. The trip, led by Baptist Campus Ministry intern Trent Creason, and Angie Atwood, a nursing instructor at Campbellsville, will serve as a medical missions journey for several students from Campbellsville's School of Nursing.

The nursing group plans to be in the country for six days, working four of those days at a medical clinic where they will serve approximately 450 Haitians a day, Atwood noted. The group will perform health assessments and provide treatment to adults and children who are suffering from various ailments.

"Students and faculty are thrilled to have the opportunity to provide nursing services and minister God's word with those individuals suffering in Haiti," Atwood said. "During this trip, we will be working with orphans, providing medi-

cal services, and spreading the word of God through crusades. Our hearts go out to those children who walk around homeless, hungry, suffering from illness and without much hope."

Creason said the group will work with minister Ken Bolin, a Manchester native. He has traveled to Haiti 36 times and has a well-established ministry in the country.

"To say the least, the trip will be challenging, busy and a great blessing," Creason said.

A second trip to Haiti is being planned by Campbellsville senior Logan Hazelwood. He will lead a group consisting of fellow CU students to do construction on houses in conjunction with the International Mission Board.

Meanwhile, Campbellsville campus minister Ed Pavy will lead a group of students to Costa Rica, along with a group from Campbellsville Baptist Church.

Campbellsville students have traveled to Costa Rica on several mission trips in the past through a partnership with Bill and Linda Egbert, who are missionaries to

the Central American country.

The partnership between the Egberts and the school developed missions goals with a five-year plan. However, the Egberts are being relocated in May of next year.

"The question now is, what do we do with the little time we have left?" Pavy asked.

Two groups will travel to Costa Rica over Christmas break, one going Dec. 31-Jan. 8; the other Jan. 7-15. Some students will stay the entire two weeks.

During their time in Costa Rica, the groups will serve at a local church, installing a kitchen/Sunday school room that also will serve as a place for the church's pastor to stay overnight.

Currently, the pastor "walks two and a half to three hours down the mountain to preach and pastor the people, then he hikes right back at night," Pavy said.

During the second week, the groups will upgrade a restroom at the church, by building a sewer, drain lines and septic tank, "all by hand without a backhoe

or concrete mixer," Pavy noted.

In addition to the international groups, Campbellsville students will be doing missions across the United States in places like New York, Arlington, Texas, and Charleston, Mo.

The New York group will work with The Journey Church, a multi-campus congregation in the city. Senior Micah White is leading the trip. He said the group will serve in the community every day passing out water and food and inviting people to church.

In Arlington, Texas, a group of CU students will serve at Mission Arlington's Christmas Store, a ministry that hands out presents to families so they will have something to give their children for Christmas.

Sophomore Maribeth Milburn will lead a mission trip to Charleston, Mo., where half of the city's residents live at or below the poverty line. That group will work with inner-city kids through Shining Light Ministries, and help stock a local food pantry.

## Master's Church celebrates remodeling

Master's Church recently celebrated the redesign and remodeling of their facilities in the business park of the Master's Station area of Lexington.

### Partners in the Mission



By Bill Mackey

The Master's Church has completely redesigned its large meeting room, which now has a stage, sound booth, new lighting and sound system, plus baptistry.

The entrance has been expanded to make room for gathering/fellowship with a welcome center, tables and chairs, and a security entrance for children. There are numerous classrooms and a large area for activities and children.

Some of the work was completed by men of the church. The church is to be commended for designing a very functional facility.

Pastor Alex Kinchen was gracious to invite me to speak for the dedication of the remodeled facilities. He explained to the congregation that Master's Church was the first "High Impact" church plant that was supported by KBC through a sponsoring church in 2004. There are now 23 active and growing High Impact church plants.

Master's Church provides Upward Basketball at a local school, which is an excellent outreach for the church. Alex has connections to the Bluegrass due to his basketball background. He attended Georgetown College on a basketball scholarship. While at Georgetown, Alex met his wife, Gretchen, a native of Hyden. Alex was serving as a coach in Florida when God called him to preach.

Having completed his residence for his Ph.D. at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, he moved with his family to Lexington, where his wife entered dental school at the University of Kentucky. God led them to Master's Church.

Then when the founding pastor of Master's Church returned to Indiana in 2005, the church called Alex as pastor.

Alex and Gretchen have two children. Samantha, 15, is a basketball player. Thomas is a fifth grader whose good health is a miracle due to serious issues in his early years.

Youth Minister Marc McLean has enlisted a good number of youth. Joanna Finney recently joined the staff as children's director. The praise music is directed by keyboardist and vocalist Darian Sanders who is a very gifted worship leader.

The church has Sunday school for all ages and has begun small groups to reach out to the surrounding communities.

It was gratifying to note that the young church has given \$131,780 to missions through the Cooperative Program and a total of \$207,500 to missions.

A part of their dedication was an open house for the community on Sunday night.

Please continue to pray for the growth and development of Master's Church and other church plants for the glory of God.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

## Counting Kentucky Baptists' many blessings

Perhaps it is fitting that the Kentucky Baptist Convention is meeting the week before Thanksgiving. While many of us tend to think of material possessions when we "count our blessings," in Ephesians, Paul reminds us that the greatest blessings of God's children are spiritual ones. In that respect, Kentucky Baptists, indeed, have much for which to be grateful:

- In spite of tough economic times, our three missions offerings reached record highs: Kentucky Baptists generously gave \$5,218,716, up 18 percent, to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions; \$1,268,410, up 15 percent, to the Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions; and \$2,104,728, up 3 percent, to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions.

- An estimated 41,000 Kentucky Baptists from 1,685 churches participated in the Find It Here evangelism emphasis, prayer walking communities and distributing gospel presentations to about 1.3 million homes. Nearly 2,100 people requested discipleship booklets and more than 600 persons indicated they had made personal commitments to Christ. Next year, Find It Here will continue, with a goal of involving 67,000 Kentucky Baptists in 21 days of prayer and fasting and with scripture distribution in jails, prisons, schools and nursing facilities.

- Disaster relief teams prepared 1,640 meals, completed 232 mud-out tasks, 52 repair projects and 30 chainsaw jobs, and nearly 5,150 patients were treated by medical teams. Their efforts reaped 189 professions of faith and 47 other decisions. Eighteen DR teams also worked in Haiti following a major earthquake, where an incredible movement of God has seen more than 155,000 professions of faith and 150 churches started. And, through Kentucky Changers, 999 participants from 51 churches in Kentucky, Ohio and Virginia completed 90 projects, resulting in 40 salvations, 69 rededications, and 38 who felt called to ministry.

- More than Gold hospitality bags were provided to approximately 1,000 groomsmen and international media representatives during the recent World Equestrian Games at the Lexington Horse Park. An overwhelmingly positive response to this and other projects coordinated by the Kentucky Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, such as planting flower beds and cleaning seats in the outdoor arena, opened many doors during the Games for Affiliated International Ministries.

- Campbellsville University achieved its 20th consecutive semester of record enrollment, exceeding more than 3,000 students from 34 states, and 37 countries. The university offers 45 undergraduate programs, 16 masters programs and five post-graduate programs on its campus and at its five regional sites. Among its 454 graduates were the first recipients of Master's of Social Work degrees from its Carver School of Social Work.

- The University of Cumberlands saw its inaugural

classes in three master's degree programs—professional counseling, school counseling and physician assistant studies—and a new MBA program conferred 14 degrees. The university also recently dedicated the Ward and Regina Correll Science Complex, and work on a health, wellness and exercise center began this summer. In addition, 790 volunteers were involved in the Mountain Outreach program, which completed three new homes, bringing the total number of houses constructed for area residents to 135.

- Students of Clear Creek Bible College were involved in seeing more than 3,100 people come to know Jesus as Lord. During the year, Clear Creek students were involved in more than 12 community ministries, ranging from adult day care and youth services to food pantries, pregnancy centers and Hospice.

- Kentucky Baptist Assemblies saw more than 8,600 students and adults attend camp at Cedarmore or Jonathan Creek, and at least that number have registered already for next season. Most exciting, though, is that 478 made professions of faith, and 490 indicated being called into ministry.

- Through Sunrise Children's Services, Kentucky Baptists helped provide care for 586 children at its seven residential treatment centers, two psychiatric residential treatment facilities and a crisis stabilization center. Sunrise also cares for almost as many children through its foster or "In-Home Missionaries" homes.

- More than 5,400 students were involved in Baptist Campus Ministries on 30 Kentucky campuses. They participated in 1,708 individual mission trips and camp staff experiences. On campus, 144 conversions were reported, while on the mission field, the students saw 636 people accept Christ. Nearly 1,270 students participated in witness training, and almost 950 were involved in leadership training or mentoring.

- Hispanic work in Kentucky continues to grow, necessitating that Super Saturday events be offered for church leaders now in two locations. The Hispanic Baptist Institute expects to have 57 graduates, and a fourth education center is expected to open soon in Danville.

- Thirteen churches from five associations were involved in 28 partnership missions projects in 12 countries. Through their partnership with Tanzania Baptists, Kentucky Baptists assisted in constructing a convention headquarters and establishing a "Cooperative Program" there. Kentucky Baptists also were paired with Mexican Baptists through "Operation G.O. (Gospel Outreach) Mexico!" to distribute 5,000 gospel packets in four days.

So, as we gather around our tables with our families for a bountiful Thanksgiving meal and to watch a good football game, Kentucky Baptists certainly have much more to thank God for than a well-cooked turkey, dressing, sweet potatoes and cranberry sauce. God is good!

## After Thought

By Todd Deaton



## Calling Southern Baptists to pray

By Bryant Wright

As senior pastor of Johnson Ferry Baptist Church and president of the Southern Baptist Convention, my number one goal is to challenge Christians to renew their love for Jesus. Many have forgotten our first love, and we need spiritual renewal and revival in our convention and nation. We need to stop and seek God's direction.

I am thankful that leaders of the SBC have challenged churches in our convention to hold solemn assemblies in January 2011. I urge you to select a Sunday in January that

best fits your church's schedule. The date is secondary. The call to prayer is the primary focus.

At Johnson Ferry, we plan to observe a solemn assembly on Sunday, Jan. 23, as we call our church to a time of prayer, repentance and fasting in all our worship services. We are asking God for a personal and corporate encounter with Him, and our desire is to seek Him with open hearts and to hear afresh from Him.

To prepare for this day:

- Provide a prayer card and seven daily devotions to assist church

members in personal preparation

- Sponsor prayer gatherings with intercessors.

- Ask all students and adults to study a special lesson on repentance in Sunday Bible Study classes and small groups on January 16.

- Sponsor a "Read Through The Bible" weekend through the Men's Ministry.

For the sake of our nation and our churches, I encourage you to join me in this urgent call to prayer. What we need most of all is for Southern Baptist Christians "to return to their first love." (BP)

Bryant Wright is senior pastor of Johnson Ferry Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga., and president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

## WESTERN Recorder

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

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## Thanksgiving before the Pilgrims

Our thoughts turn next week, as our thoughts should turn every week, to thanksgiving. In America, we always associate the first Thanksgiving with the Plymouth Pilgrims, those separatist Puritans who in October 1621 celebrated the harvest with Massasoit and some 90 Wampanoags with feasting and games and prayers (according to the website of the Pilgrim Hall Museum at [www.pilgrimhall.org](http://www.pilgrimhall.org)).

We continue to have cause for Thanksgiving celebrations in 2010, in America and in Kentucky of all places, where we are blessed beyond measure. And certainly, the Pilgrims had cause for a Thanksgiving celebration in 1621. But in 1607, 14 years before that first Thanksgiving, to the south in Virginia, Captain John Smith and his Jamestown settlers found reason to celebrate as they were carving out a European presence in the New World.

Having a few years ago marked the 400th anniversary of the founding of the Jamestown settlement, we tend to remember that significant event in American history from the European perspective, forgetting that America had already been "founded" by the first Americans hundreds of years before the Europeans arrived on the scene.

In his "General History of Virginia," Smith, that Elizabethan soldier-adventurer, documents the Jamestown founding with due emphasis on his own heroics, his own vital role in subduing the wilderness and the people that he referred to as "savages" in the malarial swamps on the coast of Virginia. At one point in the narrative, writing in the third person, Smith relates how "he was beset with 200 savages, two of them he slew, defending himself with the aid of a savage, his guide, whom he bound to his arm with his garters and used him as a buckler, yet he was shot in his thigh a little, and had many arrows that stuck in his clothes but no great hurt, till at last they took him prisoner." Oh my!

Before he was taken prisoner, however, the very first encounter between the Europeans and the Native Americans did not follow the usual script. Smith said that upon first arriving in the New World, "our drink was water, our lodgings castles in the air." But instead of building dwellings, the settlers believed it was necessary to build something else. As Smith described it, "with this lodging and

diet, our extreme toil in bearing and planting palisades so strained and bruised us and our continual labor in the extremity of the heat had so weakened us, as were cause sufficient to have made us as miserable [as in] any other place in the world."

The Europeans found it necessary to build "palisades," a fort, to protect them from the savages. As they were sweating to erect the palisades—you can see a re-creation of the palisades at the restored Jamestown village today—as they struggled to build a fort to withstand the inevitable onslaught of the savages, something very interesting happened. Let's let Smith tell the tale: "But now was all our provision spent, the sturgeon gone, all helps abandoned, each hour expecting the fury of the savages, when God, the patron of all good endeavors, in that desperate extremity so changed the hearts of the savages that they brought such plenty of their fruits and provision as no man wanted."

Imagine that scene! Here the settlers were constructing a fort to protect them from the savages, when, in the midst of their efforts, those very savages came, advancing out of the woods, not with weapons, but with their arms laden with food. Time for a coffee break! Here, let's rest for awhile and get to know each other, over these refreshments.

This is not the way we usually think of the first encounter between European settlers and Native American Indians, the first Americans, but even the arrogant John Smith must have been thankful for that brief respite. And this is not the way in our arrogance that we sometimes think about our mission to spread the gospel to the nations.

As we bear witness to those unlike ourselves, they teach us, too. We seek to understand them, to "encounter the other," in the words of my friend James Axtell, a retired professor of history at the College of William and Mary. Axtell is quick to add that "understanding all does not mean that we forgive all," but as we seek to bring others to Christ, we ourselves are often unexpectedly changed. As we minister, we are ministered to.

As we gather this Thanksgiving with family and friends to enjoy and remember and to count our blessings, we can also be grateful for the Great Commission mandate to bear witness to all that the Master has done and is doing for us.

*Duane Bolin teaches in the Department of History at Murray State University. He may be reached at [duane.bolin@murraystate.edu](mailto:duane.bolin@murraystate.edu).*

### A Letter from the Laity



Duane Bolin

## Teaching generous giving

By Doug Strader

Proverbs 22:6 states, "Train up a child the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it." I am not sure that I have ever referred to this passage in relation to financial stewardship practices. However, according to an article in the November 2010 issue of Church Executive magazine, this verse has implications in one's financial stewardship practices.

Research has shown for several years, according to the Barna Group and others, that only 5 percent of Americans donate 10 percent of their income to Christian/charitable causes. But the latest "View from the Pew" research reveals that most people who donate 10 percent or more of their income today started that practice at a young age. Their research revealed the following statistics related to the age people began giving 10 percent or more of their income to the church:

- 27 percent began when they were children or teens.
- 33 percent began when they were in their 20s.
- 20 percent gave when they were in their 30s.
- 13 percent began when they were in their 40s.
- Only 7 percent started giving 10 percent or more when they were 50 and over.

What can we learn from statistics like those quoted above? Listed below are some of the things that church leaders can take from these findings.

These findings reinforce what we have known for a long time: namely, that it is very important to train our children from a young age to be generous givers to the Lord's work and other benevolent causes.

Churches must be intentional in providing biblical instruction to all age groups about our responsibilities to be committed financial stewards of all that we have.

The Bible does not teach or encourage the true followers of Jesus to be hoarders. In fact, the Bible teaches the very opposite: namely, that we are our brother's keeper and we are to take care of the widows and the fatherless.

Make a commitment now to become a more responsible financial steward of all the Lord has given to you. Doug Strader, retired director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's stewardship department, is pastor of Farmdale Baptist Church in Louisville.



## Making thanksgiving prayers meaningful

By David Garrard

Kimberley Conway Ireton, mother of a four year old and a one year old, shares some thoughts on how prayers of thanksgiving for our food can become more meaningful by becoming more specific.

Conway reminds us that the central ritual of the Christian faith is a shared meal "in which we experience and celebrate our dependence on God and our gratitude for God's faithful and loving provision for us in Christ." In fact, the word Eucharist means "thanksgiving." Conway goes on to say, "As a Christian, I find that eating with mindful attention to the sources of my food ... makes eating even the humblest meal a sacramental act."

For Conway, paying "mindful attention" means thinking about all of the unknown people who labored to bring the food our table. It means remembering the mystery that allows a seed to transform into a plant that becomes our food, and the God who designed that process and makes it all possible. It means remembering the truck driver who hauls the produce to the store; the grocer who puts it on the shelves; and the person who goes to the store and makes the purchase, as well as the person who actually prepares and serves the food.

"Mindful attention" leads to prayers that are much more specific than a simple "thank you for our food." Instead, it causes us to pray, "Thank you for these good ears of corn, and for the farmer who grew them. Thank you for the workers who picked them and got them to the store. Thank you for mom/dad who went to the store and chose them for us. Thank you for the sun and the rain the dirt that helped the corn grow. For all of this, God we give you thanks."

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



## Thank it forward by modeling His love

By Erich Bridges

Richmond, Va.—Gratitude is the memory of the heart, says a proverb.

If that is true, my heart will gratefully remember some of God's servants as Thanksgiving 2010 approaches:

■ The Christian workers and volunteers who ministered—and continue to minister—to the survivors of the earthquakes in Haiti and Chile, the flooding in Pakistan and other disasters this year. Volunteers like Tim Dortch, a bivocational pastor from Mississippi. He contacted the International Mission Board the morning after the devastating Haiti quake and offered his help. He was on the ground there within days, helping distribute water, food and medicine. "God's given me a heart for Haiti," Dortch said.

■ The Southern Baptists who dug deep in tough economic times to give nearly \$149 million to the 2009 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions—and who will faithfully give again this year.

■ Student missionary Jeremiah Johnson, 21, and mission volunteer Bob Finck, 51, who gave their lives in God's service this year. Johnson, from Arizona, was killed April 12 in a motorcycle accident in Mozambique while devoting a college semester to work in the African nation. "We're very proud of Jeremiah," said his pastor. "He was serving the Lord to reach people who were unreached

with the gospel." Finck, from Virginia, died Aug. 9 in a car accident during his third trip to Zambia, where he was working with other volunteers to

lead a Bible conference and minister to young people. "He was very passionate about Zambia," said the director of missions at Finck's church.

■ The 60 retiring IMB missionaries honored in May for 1,730 combined years of mission service. Don and Edith Kennedy, for example, worked among university students in Mexico for 31 years. Hundreds of young Christians they mentored now serve as church leaders in Mexico and missionaries around the world. "Change the university and you change the world," Don said.

■ The more than 200 new IMB missionaries appointed this year, including Michael Kim,\* who grew up in South Korea. As the eldest son, he held the role of family priest, responsible for leading ancestor worship rituals. But he became a Christian believer at age 16, the first in 38 generations of his family. His enraged parents beat him, threatened to disown him and threw his Bibles into the fire. Kim eventually smuggled a Bible into his bedroom and read it while hiding under the sheets. Now an American, he plans to return to Asia to tell other hungry souls about Christ. "In order for me to hear the gospel, there was a long flow of blood, sweat and tears of

Western missionaries to Korea," Kim said when he was appointed earlier this year. "As a debtor of the gospel, I am ... heading to Southeast Asia to share the Good News of Jesus."

■ Doris Kelley, colleague, friend and substitute mom to IMB communication staff members for the past 48-count 'em, 48—years. In the days before personal computers and e-mail, she typed our edited news and feature stories into a hulking teletype machine to send to Baptist Press in Nashville. Many reporters got to know her during her more than 25 years of service in the newsrooms of annual Southern Baptist Convention meetings. She rarely missed a day of work, always greeted people with a smile, watched over her co-workers with love and took care of business without complaint. She retires in December. Without servants like Doris, many churches and ministries would quickly collapse. I hope we can make it without her; I'm not looking forward to trying.

Someone reminded me recently that God's grace is His unmerited favor toward us. We sinners deserve judgment, but we receive the riches of His goodness and mercy at Christ's expense. We also receive the great gift of people who model for us what it means to live in gratitude to God by loving and serving Him. Examples are all around us.

We, too, can live in gratitude to Him—by modeling that kind of love.

*\*Name changed. Erich Bridges is global correspondent for the International Mission Board.*

### COMMENTARY

## 2010 Report of the KBC Committee on Nominations

### SPRING REPORT

#### KBC MISSION BOARD:

- Greenup (Region 8):** 2011 Unexpired Term – Butch Kiger (Ashland)
- Lincoln County (Region 7):** 2010 Unexpired Term – Chuck Jacobs (Waynesburg)
- Ohio County (Region 2):** 2011 Unexpired Term – Eddie Shephard (Beaver Dam)
- South District (Region 6):** 2012 Unexpired Term – Jim Clontz (Danville)
- Taylor County (Region 7):** 2011 Unexpired Term – Jamie Bennett (Campbellsville)

### FALL REPORT

#### KBC MISSION BOARD:

- At-Large (Region 2):** 2011 Unexpired Term – Bob Lowery (Central City)
- At-Large (Region 4):** 2013 Term – David Roach (Shelbyville)
- At-Large (Region 5):** 2013 Term – Kevin Milburn (Walton)
- At-Large (Region 6):** 2013 Term – Pat Skinnemoen (Winchester)
- At-Large (Region 7):** 2011 Unexpired Term – Chad Fugitt (Monticello)
- Allen (Region 7):** 2013 Term – Bruce Gibbs (Scottsville)
- Anderson (Region 6):** 2013 Term – Philip Ritchey (Lawrenceburg)
- Bell (Region 8):** 2012 Unexpired Term – Bruce Walzer (Middlesboro)
- Bell (Region 8):** 2013 Term – Jeff Greene (Middlesboro)
- Blackford/Breckinridge (Region 3):** 2012 Unexpired Term – Doug Miller (Hardinsburg)
- Blackford/Breckinridge (Region 3):** 2013 Term – Bob White (Lewisport)
- Blood River (Region 1):** 2011 Unexpired Term – Sammy Cunningham (Murray)
- Blood River (Region 1):** 2013 Term – Brad Walker (Benton)
- Boone's Creek (Region 6):** 2013 Term – Gary Willoughby (Mt. Sterling)
- Caldwell-Lyon (Region 1):** 2013 Term – Chris Turpin (Princeton)
- Casey County (Region 7):** 2013 Term – Brent Huggins (Hustonville)
- Central (Region 7):** 2013 Term – John McDaniel (Springfield)
- Christian County (Region 2):** 2013 Term – Buddy Slaughter (Hopkinsville)
- Crittenden (Region 5):** 2013 Term – Joe Kitchens (Dry Ridge)
- Daviess/McLean (Region 2):** 2013 Term – Lorenda Bishop (Island)
- Daviess/McLean (Region 2):** 2013 Term – Anthony Cobb (Owensboro)

- Daviess/McLean (Region 2):** 2011 Unexpired Term – Dennis McFadden (Owensboro)
- Elkhorn (Region 6):** 2013 Term – Trent Snyder (Lexington)
- Elkhorn (Region 6):** 2013 Term – Tony Shouse (Georgetown)
- Elkhorn (Region 6):** 2013 Term – Sue Megee (Nicholasville)
- Franklin (Region 5):** 2013 Term – Vernon Carpenter (Frankfort)
- Graves County (Region 1):** 2013 Term – Ben Stratton (Farmington)
- Grayson County (Region 3):** 2013 Term – Robert Wright (Leitchfield)
- Green Valley (Region 2):** 2013 Term – Steve Custer (Morganfield)
- Greenup (Region 8):** 2013 Term – Jim Nichols (Worthington)
- Knox (Region 8):** 2013 Term – Kevin Roach (Corbin)
- Laurel River (Region 8):** 2013 Term – Robert Wyatt (London)
- Lincoln County (Region 7):** 2013 Term – Chuck Jacobs (Waynesburg)
- Little Bethel (Region 2):** 2013 Term – Ron Hensley (Dawson Springs)
- Logan Todd (Region 3):** 2013 Term – Dean Anderson (Trenton)
- Long Run (Region 4):** 2013 Term – Don James (Louisville)
- Long Run (Region 4):** 2013 Term – Brian Croft (Louisville)
- Long Run (Region 4):** 2013 Term – Billie Payne (Louisville)
- Long Run (Region 4):** 2013 Term – Derek Yelton (Louisville)
- McCreary County (Region 7):** 2013 Term – Daniel Wightman (Stearns)
- Monroe (Region 7):** 2013 Term – Ron Norrod (Fountain Run)
- Nelson (Region 3):** 2013 Term – Doug Williams (Sheperdsville)
- Northern Kentucky (Region 5):** 2013 Term – Johnnie Holloway (Elsmere)
- Northern Kentucky (Region 5):** 2013 Term – David Foley (Covington)
- Ohio County (Region 2):** 2013 Term – Don McLemore (Fordsville)
- Ohio Valley (Region 1):** 2012 Unexpired Term – Dale Ford (Sturgis)
- Oldham-Trimble (Region 5):** 2013 Term – Lynn Traylor (Buckner)
- Owen County (Region 5):** 2013 Term – Steve Delaney (Owenton)
- Pulaski (Region 7):** 2013 Term – Patrick Butcher (Science Hill)
- Severns Valley (Region 3):** 2013 Term – Nathan Whisnant (Elizabethtown)
- Severns Valley (Region 3):** 2013 Term – Jim Shaw (Radcliff)

- Severns Valley (Region 3):** 2013 Term – Gerald Murphy (Hodgenville)
- Tates Creek (Region 6):** 2013 Term – Sam Newman (Richmond)
- Three Forks (Region 8):** 2013 Term – Daryl Cornett (Hazard)
- Warren (Region 3):** 2013 Term – DaWayne Capps (Oakland)
- Warren (Region 3):** 2013 Term – Tony Brown (Bowling Green)
- West Kentucky (Region 1):** 2013 Term – James Presson (Cunningham)
- West Kentucky (Region 1):** 2013 Term – Mark Burnett (Bardwell)
- West Union (Region 1):** 2013 Term – Larry Lewis (Paducah)
- Whites Run (Region 5):** 2012 Unexpired Term – Steven Scherer (Worthington)

### Kentucky Ethics League (Trustees)

- 2012 Unexpired Term (1): Rick Reeder (Princeton); 2013 Terms (5): John Chowning (Campbellsville); Jim Clontz (Danville); Wilbur Powell (Russellville); Lester Watson (Cadiz); Greg Moore (Frankfort).

### Oneida Baptist Institute (Trustees)

- 2013 Unexpired Term (1): Kathy Davis (Cecilia); 2014 Terms (6): Jerry Bevil (Beaver Dam); Orville Birch (Lexington); Bruce Davidson (Manchester); Neville Smith (Manchester); Barbara Rogers (Elkton); Bettie Wright (Barlow).

### Sunrise Children's Services (Directors)

- 2012 Unexpired Term (1): Jennifer Oldham (Elizabethtown); 2014 Terms (6): Paul Barrick Jr. (Lawrenceburg); Eric Oliver (Elizabethtown); Marketi Perry (Danville); Billy Riley (Smithland); Cory Samsil (Benton); Stephen Walters (Pikeville).

### University of the Cumberlands (Trustees)

- 2012 Unexpired Term (1): J. Hunt Perkins (Lexington); 2014 Terms (7): Paul Chitwood (Mt. Washington); Maureen Henson (Manchester); David Huff (Corbin); Roland Mullins (Mt. Vernon); Carolyn Petrey (Snellville, GA); Charles Roesel (Temple Terrace, FL); Paul Steely (Williamsburg).

### Western Recorder (Directors)

- 2012 Unexpired Term (1): Linda Polley (Elizabethtown); 2014 Terms (3): Duane Bolin (Murray); Chip Hutcheson (Princeton); Lana Kilgore (Bowling Green).

### Preacher of 2011 Annual Sermon:

- Tom James (Bowling Green)  
**Alternate:** Tim Alexander (Florence)

### Recommended by Committee on Nominations:

- Committee Members:** Rick Hatley (Chairperson), Andrew Dyer (Vice-Chairperson), Kay Atchison, Ken Brown, Brian Burkhead, Kenny Chyle, Tim Cole, Bill Cook, Ron Davis, Chad Fugitt, Chuck Henderson, Damon Jones, Mike Jones, Brandt Lyon, Ronnie Mayes, Greg Nimmo, Shelby Reynolds, Joed Rice, Paul Schmidt, Jerry Shacklett, Gary Taylor, Thomas Webb, and Norm Workman.

- Ex Officio Members:** Executive Director, Bill Mackey and Convention President, Don Mathis

### BOARDS OF AGENCIES & INSTITUTIONS:

#### Campbellsville University (Trustees)

- 2012 Unexpired Term (1): Chris Reynolds (Campbellsville); 2014 Terms (11): Barry Blevins (Campbellsville); Steve Branscum (Russell Springs); Donnie Gosser (Elizabethtown); J. Chester Porter (Mt. Washington); Ronald Rafferty (Campbellsville); Matthew Smyzer (Louisville); Hayward Spinks (Beaver Dam); Tommy Turner (Magnolia); Shirley Whitehouse (LaGrange); Leon Wilson (Oklahoma City, OK); Jane Wheatley (Campbellsville).

#### Clear Creek Baptist Bible College (Trustees)

- 2012 Unexpired Terms (2): Paul Atchinson (Winchester); Rick Hatley (Mayfield); 2014 Terms (8): Esther Bailey (Stanford); Durwood Beatty (Murray); Julia Blocker (Shawnee, TN); Ken Felty (London); John Moore (Arthur, TN); Floyd Paris (Ashland); Bo Ryser (East Bernstadt); Bobby Sellers (Earlington).

#### Kentucky Baptist Assemblies (Trustees)

- 2011 Unexpired Term (1): Kevin Pugh (Cunningham); 2014 Terms (3): Bill Clark (Independence); Randy Fields (Crestwood); Cathy Stafford (Frankfort).

#### Kentucky Baptist Foundation (Directors)

- 2012 Unexpired Term (1): Ken Winters (Murray); 2013 Unexpired Term (1): Mike Melloan (Owensboro); 2014 Terms (4): Willis Henson (Paducah); Sky Tudor (Lancaster); Leslie Sanders (Franklin); William Walters (Richmond).

## 2010 Report of the KBC Committee on Committees

- ♦ **Committee on Annual Meeting:** 2013 Terms – Howard Atkinson (Paducah) and Steve Gray (Lexington)

- ♦ **Committee on Constitution & Bylaws:** 2013 Terms – Luke Bray (Louisville), George Davis (Ashland), and Brian Mulberry (Cynthiana)

- ♦ **Committee on Credentials:** 2013 Terms – Todd Gray (Oak Grove), Steve Rice (Shelbyville), and Charlotte Smith (Manchester)

- ♦ **Committee on Nominations**  
**Region 1:** 2012 Term – Kevin Roberts (Cadiz)

- Region 2:** 2012 Term – Bob Haile (Hopkinsville); 2013 Term – Bill Patterson (Henderson)

- Region 3:** 2012 Term – Jamie Ward (Bowling Green)

- Region 4:** 2011 unexpired Term – Pat Reaves (Louisville); 2012 Term – David Roach (Shelbyville); 2013 Term – Rick Bowden (Louisville)

- Region 5:** 2012 Term – Susan Hutcherson (Frankfort)

- Region 6:** 2012 Term – Matt Perry (Lexington); 2013 Term – Bob Ehr (Lawrenceburg)

- Region 7:** 2012 Term – Ed Amundson (Somerset); 2013 Term – Mark Shelton (Burkesville)

- Region 8:** 2012 Term – Jim Castlen (Hazard)

- ♦ **Committee on Public Affairs:** 2013 Terms – Daryl Cornett (Hazard), Allen Harrod (Nicholasville), and Mike Stacey (Somerset)

- ♦ **Committee on Resolutions:** 2012 Terms – Josh Hildebrand (Cynthiana) and Lindell Ormsbee (Lexington); 2013 Terms – Todd Brady (Paducah) and Michael York (Lancaster)

### Persons to Report – 2011

- ♦ **Cooperative Program:** Bill Langley (Elizabethtown); Alternate – Sam Rainer (Murray)

- ♦ **International Mission Board:** David Sills (Louisville); Alternate – Stan Lowery (Mt. Washington)

- ♦ **North American Mission Board:** Arnold Moon (Elizabethtown); Alternate – Mark Keith (Elkton)

- ♦ **Obituaries:** Greg Swack (Bowling Green); Alternate – Dot Crace (Ashland)

### Recommended by Committee on Committees:

- Committee Members:** Wesley Noss (Chairperson), Paul Chitwood, George "Buddy" Crabtree, Phil Fisher, T.J. Francis, Floyd Paris, Steve Rutherford, Dan Summerlin, and Hershael York  
**Ex Officio Members:** Executive Director – Bill Mackey and Convention President – Don Mathis

## Hunt recalls recent bout with spiritual, physical emptiness

By Allen Palmeri  
Missouri Pathway

Branson, Mo.—Johnny Hunt said he experienced a spiritual, emotional and physical “dryness through duty” a couple of months ago after completing an intense two years as president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Hunt, pastor of First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga., took time during a recent Timothy & Barnabas Pastors’ Conference in Branson, Mo., to relay several transparent statements about his recent bout with emptiness.

After advancing a set of reforms on the denominational level known as the Great Commission Resurgence, Hunt said he found himself experiencing a “meltdown of biblical proportions,” much like the Old Testament prophet Elijah in 1 Kings 19.

Hunt talked about how he gradually found himself being separated from his wife of 37 years, Janet, because of all of the “busyness” that came his way. The concept of Sabbath rest had become a stranger to him, he said.

“I would start my day at 4:30 or 5 o’clock on Sunday and finish at 10 o’clock that night, go get in bed, and be up early the next

morning and head for the airport to get to something with GCR or speaking engagements,” Hunt recalled. “I was violating time and it bruised me.”

In January Hunt underwent surgery to have a cancerous prostate removed. It may have been the Lord trying to get his attention, he said. But there were many more important meetings, activities and strategy sessions to attend.

In September, Hunt preached a sermon at First Baptist, Woodstock on his two-year journey. In that message, he said he was “leading on empty.” Since then, he said he has experienced the grace, love and healing of God as his priorities have been realigned.

Hunt said lately he has been thinking about his legacy. In the recent case of the Chilean miners who were trapped underground, Hunt said they asked for gospel preaching to be piped in and received the Spanish-translated words of Adrian Rogers, who died in 2005. Hunt said Rogers is like Abel (Hebrews 11:4) who by faith still speaks, even though he is dead. “I want to keep giving the devil hell after I’m in heaven,” Hunt said. (BP)

## IMB interim: Question is being asked, ‘Is anybody else coming?’

By Alan James  
International Mission Board

Greensboro, N.C.—“Is anybody else coming?” was the question posed by Clyde Meador, interim president of the International Mission Board, to trustees during their Nov. 10 meeting in Greensboro, N.C.

The IMB encounters the question more and more as it treks through an ailing economy and reduces its overseas missionary force through attrition from a high of 5,600 to a target of 5,000.

“All around the world, millions of lost people are asking the question, ‘Is anyone else coming to tell us the message of hope?’” said Meador, who shared the story of a former missionary couple who encountered that question among the South Asian people group they were working with before they retired.

Trustees adopted a 2011 budget of \$308.5 million, \$9.1 million less than 2010’s budget. While many missionary positions remain unfilled, IMB trustees appointed 57 new missionaries. Calvary Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, N.C., hosted an appointment service Nov. 10, and some of the new appointees will participate in a commissioning service this week on the campus of Oklahoma Baptist University.

“We are still sending new personnel, contrary to rumors that we sometimes hear,” Meador said, noting that the missionary force has been reduced solely by sending fewer replacement personnel when there are retirements, resignations or completed terms.

“We look forward to a day when financial support reaches the point when we can increase the number of new personnel being sent to the field each year,” he added.

Trustees also heard reports of spiritual victories led by Southern Baptist missionaries and Baptist partners on the field.

In 2009, IMB missionaries reported 360,876 baptisms, 29,237 new churches and 96 newly engaged people groups. These new numbers, Meador noted, usher in a more focused approach to reporting the IMB’s missionary work.

The organization’s annual report now is separated into two parts, with the numbers cited by Meador reflecting work by IMB missionaries and those with whom they directly relate.

Trustees also received a report from 133 overseas Baptist conventions that listed 136,422 baptisms and 2,151 new churches. The report could have some overlap with the IMB report.

“We are focusing more than ever on the work done specifically by our personnel and those with whom they work most closely,” Meador said, “which will enable us to better understand how God is using us and how we can better serve.”

For the third consecutive year, IMB trustees adopted a decreased budget from the previous year’s budget.

Though the IMB pulled \$7.5 million from its reserves to balance last year’s budget, the trustee finance committee said it was committed to not repeating that move.

According to IMB officials, the mission board is sending about 30 percent fewer long-term personnel than would be sent if there were no financial constraints. The IMB still anticipates sending 300 new long-term personnel and 200 to 250 new short-term personnel in 2011.

As Cooperative Program dollars continue to slip, trustees focused on ways they also could cut costs in the stateside budget, which accounts for a little less than 15 percent of the overall budget, Fowler said.

The IMB recently offered qualifying staff members in Richmond, Va., a voluntary retirement incentive to take effect by the end of 2010. (BP)



Clyde Meador

### BAPTIST DIGEST

**Florida Baptists adopt report, 50/50 CP goal**—Messengers to the Florida Baptist State Convention overwhelmingly approved the recommendations of the Imagine If Great Commission Resurgence Task Force which included a recommendation to move to a 50/50 distribution of Cooperative Program funds with the Southern Baptist Convention within four to seven years. Six recommendations were approved in one vote after messengers rejected a motion requesting separate debate and votes on each recommendation. During the 25-minute debate, only the recommendation to move to the 50/50 CP distribution was discussed by messengers. In the end, a small number of messengers voted against the report. The Florida group’s report parallels the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force report adopted in June by messengers to the SBC annual meeting in Orlando, Fla.

**Call for non-Baptists on HBU board defeated**—Messengers to the Baptist General Convention of Texas annual meeting rejected a proposal that would have allowed Houston Baptist University to elect non-Baptist trustees. Messengers turned aside a BGCT Executive Board recommendation that the state convention revise its agreement with Houston Baptist University, allowing HBU to elect a minority of non-Baptist Christian trustees. HBU has related to the convention by special agreement since 2001. That agreement allows HBU to elect 75 percent of its own trustees, with the BGCT electing the remaining 25 percent. All trustees HBU elects must be Baptist but not necessarily from BGCT-affiliated churches. The revised agreement would have allowed up to one-third of the trustees elected by the university—one-fourth of the total board—to be non-Baptist Christians.

**Johnson elected Criswell president**—Acting on the recommendation of the presidential search committee for Criswell College, the school’s trustees unanimously elected former president Jerry Johnson to fill the post he left two years ago. Johnson became president in 2004 and resigned in 2008, when Criswell still was under the ministry umbrella of First Baptist Church of Dallas. Now the school is self-governed and independent. Johnson’s second stint as Criswell president begins this week, though he will continue serving Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, which he joined in 2009, two days a week through the year’s end. He previously served in various roles at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville and was dean of Boyce College, served on the seminary’s executive cabinet, was assistant director of development and a trustee from 1989-98, serving as board chairman two of those years. During Johnson’s previous stint as president of Criswell College student enrollment increased by more than 50 percent, from approximately 300 to almost 500.

**Reprise of New Baptist Covenant discussed**—A repeat of the 2008 Celebration of a New Baptist Covenant meeting in Atlanta could be in the offing as early as next year, according to participants in a recent meeting of North American Baptist leaders called together by former President Jimmy Carter. Several of those present at the meeting last month at the Carter Center in Atlanta have written, spoken publicly or posted Twitter messages about the meeting in the week since it took place. The 2008 event drew approximately 15,000 Baptists from across racial, denominational, theological and ideological lines to talk about common themes of loving God and neighbor.

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# The Evolution of the Creation Museum

Three years in, center moves from curiosity to full-fledged destination

By Dennis O'Connor

Petersburg—Ken Ham, the Australian-born creator of the Creation Museum, looks around the throng of about a thousand guests on a recent morning and notes that “for a Tuesday, this is not a bad crowd.”

In fact, more than three years after it opened in a remote corner of Kentucky, the 70,000-square-foot “walk through the Bible,” consisting of animatronic displays, video features, theaters and restaurants has evolved into a thriving enterprise.

“We have consistently surpassed our own forecasts for attendance,” said Mark Looy, a co-founder of the museum and spokesman for the center. In August, the Creation Museum counted more than 1.2 million guests since it opened in 2007, he added.

While Ham and Looy expected attendance to be high for the first year because of the curiosity factor—there were about 500,000 guests in the museum’s first year—no one predicted the continuing growth in attendance.

Ham, who was instrumental in the start-up of the museum’s sponsoring organization, Answers in Genesis, said despite the economic recession, families, individuals, church groups and even bus tours continue to pour into the Creation Museum, often spending a couple of days in the region to sample other attractions in the Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky market.

“The recession has not in any way affected us,” Ham said. “Many people who were going to come here were going to make this their destination anyway. Add to that people who decided instead of taking an expensive vacation in Florida, they wanted to either stay in this area or make the trip here. Either way, the museum has really helped the local economy more than people may realize.”



**NO SLUMP** Creation Museum founder Ken Ham says business is booming, despite the economic recession, with 1.2 million people visiting the northern Kentucky site since it opened in 2007. (Photos by E.L. Hubbard/RNS)

Tom Caradonio, president of the Northern Kentucky Convention and Visitors Bureau, said that one of the Creation Museum’s greatest strengths is the interest and support it has garnered from evangelicals.

“When Answers in Genesis did their demographic studies for the museum, they obviously knew that they had a group of people who would be highly motivated to visit,” Caradonio said.

Pastor Brad Bigney of Grace Fellowship Church in Florence, said another reason for the museum’s steady flow of guests is Ham’s frenetic schedule, which puts him on the road up to 250 times a year.

“He’s a great spokesman for the museum, and he plants the seed for individuals and groups to make the trip to northern Kentucky,” Bigney said.

Just four years ago, the museum was beset by feuds over zoning issues and opposition from many corners of the scientific community.

That sideshow has not gone away, Ham said. Anti-creationist bloggers continue to pan the facility, and some critics have taken shots at the museum’s concept and staff. The pinnacle of ridicule came in the

form of cable television star Bill Maher, who snuck into Ham’s office one day to do a taping for his movie “Religulous.”

But the biggest doubt over Answers in Genesis’ project was questions about whether organizers could raise the \$27 million it would need to launch the project, Caradonio said.

“If you go back to the issue of private funding—there was no government money involved in this project—you will see that about \$5 million came from big donors, but by and large the other contributions came from individuals who were giving \$25 or \$50 from all over the country,” Caradonio said.

“With that many people invested in the project, you have built a huge audience that says, ‘Hey, I’ve put some money into this, and now I want to see the place.’ That became a tremendous incentive for people to visit.”

Looy said that more than half of the museum’s visitors come from outside a 250-mile radius of the region, which has bolstered the bottom line for numerous hotels in and around the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport.

“That has been kind of a surprising development, with the hotel packages for museum visitors,” Caradonio said. “It goes back to this whole issue of the kind of people the Creation Museum attracts: wholesome family-oriented people who the hotel folks love to have. And their arrival has helped make up for the loss in business because of the cutbacks” at Delta Airlines’ hub operations at the airport.

Ham estimated that the museum has generated \$65 million in overall financial impact on the community, helping support more than 2,000 jobs in the region.

Ham and co-founder Looy said that the museum’s success has allowed them to plan for expansion, including transforming warehouse space into additional room for a theater, and a new hall for visiting exhibits.

Ham noted that museum staffers also are planning for 20,000 guests to visit for the annual live Nativity exhibit, a substantial increase from last year’s attendance, which was about 15,000.

“We are growing,” Ham said. “And we don’t see that stopping any time soon.” (RNS)



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**ON THE COURT** Boys participate in Upward basketball at Cadiz Baptist Church in western Kentucky. About a dozen children at the church have benefited from Upward Sports' military scholarship program for children whose parent or legal guardian currently are serving overseas. (Photo by Monty Stagner)

## Upward scholarships are 'thank you' to military kids

Continued from page 1

Jason Strickland, minister of students and children at Cadiz Baptist Church, called the military scholarships a fantastic opportunity for families.

About a dozen have received scholarships there the past two years. Strickland, the league's co-director said he expects others to apply from among the 146 children registered for the basketball and cheerleading season that starts in January.

"I think it's a great way to say 'thank you' for your service to our country," Strickland said. "It hasn't made a huge difference as far as kids registering. But as far as perception and something we try to do to recognize (military) families, it helps on that front."

In Kesty's case, the scholarship came in the form of a refund of her son's registration fee at the end of the 2008 season.

The family was recognized at the league's awards ceremony, which Kesty said made her son feel very special.

Upward also cemented their involvement with Cadiz Baptist. All three of her children attend youth classes and activities there. Kesty volunteered at the concession stand during the several years her son played in the league. He is taking a break from Upward this winter because of a martial-arts class that meets four times a week.

"We tried to determine a way, but it was hard to figure out how to do both," Kesty said.

Upward's military scholarships have created warm feelings elsewhere in Kentucky.

Kelly Keeney, whose husband is serving in Afghanistan, recently enrolled her 6-year-old son for the upcoming basketball season at Spring Creek Baptist Church in Clarksville, Tenn.

Located near Fort Campbell, the Southern Baptist church has several Kentucky families registered, with anticipated enrollment of more than 100 children.

"It's just one more thing," said Keeney, whose husband has been in Afghanistan for six months. "It's

nice to know there's something my kids can do and I don't have to pay for it. It's one more thing we're able to afford while their dad is gone."

Keeney picked up a flyer about Upward at her church, Friendship United Methodist in Clarksville. Recently, she talked to a neighbor about signing up her child for the league.

In addition to the financial help, Keeney said she appreciates the opportunity to get her child involved in community-based activities that help him form friendships outside the military.

"Scholarships are good; you're reaching out," she said. "We're a church family and go to church. With military scholarships, for some of the kids it may plant a seed for kids who don't get that at home. They need a positive environment."

This will be Spring Creek's first season of Upward, which associate pastor Stephen Grubbs worked with in the past at a church in North Carolina.

"I have been very impressed, not only with the military scholarships but Upward in general," said Grubbs, pastor of students and the family life center director. "It's obvious that the main focus is to see families and churches impacted for Christ."

Roy Cantrall, director of activities at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown has seen a number of families benefit from the scholarship program at his church, located just south of Fort Knox. Severns Valley operates Upward leagues throughout the year in soccer, flag football and basketball.

"I think it's a great thing," Cantrall said of military scholarships. "It gives Upward a good name and shows support for military personnel."

Although he said the scholarships haven't made a significant difference in their number of participants, they help in other ways.

"Where it does make a difference is that others know that people doing what we do care about the individual," Cantrall said. "We're not just going out there to play basketball for 10 weeks and go home."

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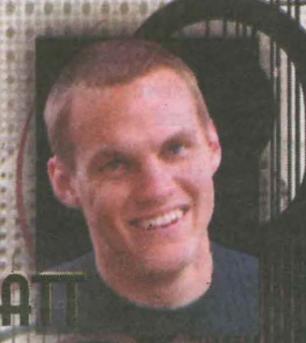
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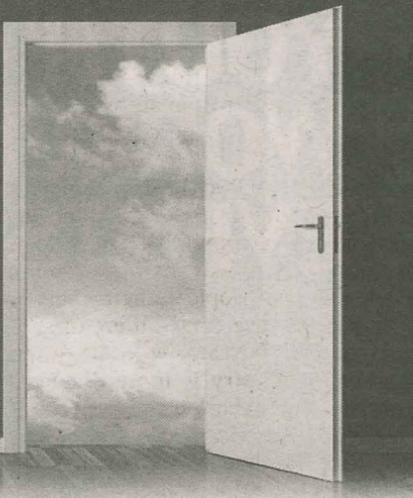


## Also coming in the spring: Iron Sharpening Iron Tour 2011



# CLOSING THE BACK DOOR

*Why do people leave churches?*



By Bob Allen

Nashville, Tenn.—Many churches and denominations put a lot of effort into attracting new members only to lose many of them through a “back door”—a term used to describe people who regularly attended a church in the past but stopped.

“Churches have gone to great extreme effort to get people in the front door of the church,” Brad Waggoner of LifeWay Christian Resources said in a 2006 podcast. “There’s been some success numerically in that strategy, but very few people are talking about the back door of the church. That is: ‘Where do the people go that slip out of the life of the church?’”

“The back door is just as important as the front door in determining the health of a local church.”

LifeWay President Thom Rainer described in an article on Church Leaders.com a meeting with more than 200 church leaders where nearly 90 percent indicated their churches had a problem with closing the back door.

“For years, the primary focus in many churches has been on the ‘front door’—people coming into the church,” Rainer said. “While such an emphasis remains the Great Commission priority, our research shows that churches and their leaders must not neglect the issue of the back door.”

George Bullard of The Columbia Partnership, a Columbia, S.C.-based organization that helps churches pursue and sustain vital ministry, said churches face an “assimilation challenge” in the first year after new people begin attending to influence whether they become part of a community or slip through the back door.

“Church growth is a pretty simple concept,” Bullard said. “You get more people who have not been regular attendees and members to become regular attendees and members. You get more regular attendees and members to deepen their involvement in their church and its disciple-making activities. You get less-regular attendees and members to become bored, apathetic or offended and leave the church. If the second thing does not happen, the third thing is likely to happen.”

Mike James, discipleship and assimilation coordinator for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, said in a blog that assimilation is the difference between a church that is like Velcro—where people stick—or Teflon—where people join but stop attending.

Every church should have a strategy for getting first-time visitors to return, James said. It begins by placing value on guests. “Scripture tells us to be warm and friendly to the people we meet,” he noted.

The simplest and most effective way to attract guests is to invite them, James said. Polls show that between 75 percent and 90 percent attend church because a friend or relative invited them.

“Churches must be intentional in this process, or we become a revolving door with as many people going out the back door as we have coming through the front door,” James said.

Four things need to happen within the first year for people to assimilate into a new church,

Bullard said.

## Make attendance a habit

First, he said, they must have established a pattern of regular attendance. By today’s standards, “in a culture that no longer sits around on Sundays,” Bullard said, regular attendance is between 39 and 42 Sundays a year.

Research indicates that American churches, by and large, went through a period of more than 10 years when they significantly lowered their expectations of members and attendees, Rainer said. The result was an exodus of people from the church.

“Why would I want to be a part of something that expects nothing of me?” Rainer quoted a former active church member saying to the research team.

## Get connected

Second, Bullard said, they must have connected with some kind of teaching/learning experience such as a small group or Sunday school class.

“Churches that close the back door seek to get as many of their members as possible into small groups,” Waggoner said. “The key issue, according to our research, is that the small group is an open group, meaning it has no predetermined termination date, and anyone can enter the group at any point.”

mined termination date, and anyone can enter the group at any point.”

## Develop deep relationships

Third, Bullard said, they need to have developed friends “they call at 3 a.m.,” a reference to Hillary Clinton’s presidential campaign national-security ad featuring a ringing phone in the White House at 3 a.m. and posing a question to voters about who they want answering the phone.

Win Arn, a pioneer in church growth, showed years ago that if somebody can make five friends at a church, they are much less likely to drop out, Waggoner noted. “We need to create opportunities for people to build friendships and to get to know folks,” Waggoner said. “Just sitting in the pew is never God’s intention for any Christian.”

## Go to work

Finally, Bullard said, they need to get “some kind of job” in the church, whether elected, appointed or as an ongoing volunteer.

“There’s no doubt about it that when you involve people in the ministries of the church, they are much more likely to give and much more likely to stay,” Waggoner agreed. “If they’re just pew sitters, they are more vulnerable to become disillusioned, and we’ll lose some of the people.”

The earlier a new member or attendee can get involved in a church’s ministries, the higher the likelihood of effective assimilation, Waggoner said. “Churches that close the back door have a clear plan to get people involved and doing ministry as quickly as possible.”

While not a primary motivation for assimilating new people, Bullard said an “unintended consequence” is that people who buy into the church with their time give five times more money than those who do not invest their time. (ABP)

## ‘Unchurched’ studies seek answers

By Bob Allen

Nashville, Tenn.—Seeking to develop strategies to prevent formerly active members from leaving through the so-called “back door,” LifeWay Research has conducted surveys to better understand why people leave.

“I think we have a lot of strategies for getting people into the front door but not necessarily (for closing) the back door,” Brad Waggoner, vice president of the Broadman & Holman Publishing Group, said in a podcast.

In the summer of 2006, LifeWay Christian Resources conducted a survey of “formerly churched adults” who regularly attended a Protestant church as an adult in the past but stopped attending somewhere along the way.

Most (59 percent) cited “changes in life situation” as the reason they stopped attending church. Some of those changes came down to personal priorities. One in five (19 percent) said they were “simply too busy” to attend church or cited conflict with responsibilities related to family and home.

The second-most-common reason adults gave for leaving the church (37 percent) was “disenchantment” with the pastor. Common reasons were that church members “seemed hypocritical” (17 percent) or that the church members “were judgmental of others” (17 percent) or “the church was run by a clique that discouraged involvement” (12 percent).

Just two of the top 10 reasons named for leaving the church had to do with spiritual causes. Nearly three in 10 said either “church was not helping me to develop spiritually” (14 percent) or they

“stopped believing in organized religion” (14 percent).

Another LifeWay study looked at “church switchers,” Protestant Americans who have attended more than one church regularly as adults.

“There are two types of people who slip out through the back door of the church,” Scott McConnell, associate director of LifeWay Research, said. “One group is probably leaving church permanently, and the other group is going to find a new church.”

Other than moving, researchers found that people change churches for one of two reasons: they are fleeing their former church or being drawn to another. The former most often is the case—58 percent said the greatest impact on their decision to move was “my need/desire to leave my previous church.”

The most common specific reason given was that the old church “was not helping me to develop spiritually”—cited by 28 percent of church switchers. Another 20 percent said they left because they “did not feel engaged or involved in meaningful church work.”

Finally, LifeWay Research focused in 2007 on young adults ages 18-30. That research found more than two-thirds of young adults who attend church at least a year in high school stop attending church regularly for at least a year between ages 18 and 22.

The vast majority (97 percent) of reasons young adults gave for leaving church related to changes in life situation. The most frequent reason was self-imposed change: “I simply wanted a break from church” (27 percent). (ABP)

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## Poll: Americans of all faiths see civility problem in U.S. politics

By Nicole Neroulis

Washington—Whether they rally behind Fox News' Glenn Beck to "Restore Honor" or Comedy Central's Jon Stewart to "Restore Sanity," Americans agree on one thing: our political system has a civility problem.

Four out of five Americans, regardless of party or religious affiliation, think the lack of respectful discourse in our political system is a serious problem, according to a PRRI/RNS Religion News Poll released last week.

The findings echo sentiments expressed by a range of religious leaders, including Richard Mouw, president of Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif., and author of "Uncommon Decency: Christian Civility in an Uncivil World," and Rabbi Steve Gutow, president of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs.

Alarmed by the 2010 campaign season, which 4 in 10 Americans consider more negative than past elections, Mouw, Gutow and others are calling for a kinder, gentler tone—even on hot-button topics like Islamophobia, homosexuality and abortion.

"We've had heated public debates be-

fore, but the level of discourse in this campaign and even following the campaign has been atrocious," Mouw said, citing as an example Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell's pledge to prevent President Obama's re-election, as opposed to advocating for policy shifts.

"There's a real hostility now, and Christians with very strong and more conservative convictions really don't seem to be contributing much to a civil discourse and a calming of the heated discussions in the larger culture," Mouw said.

In fact, white evangelicals and Republicans are less likely than other Americans to say the 2010 election's tone was more negative than past campaigns, which PRRI research director Daniel Cox said may reflect their satisfaction with the outcome.

Mouw has another theory: some evangelicals are more accustomed to provocative rhetoric from the pulpit, and therefore don't see it as a problem in politics.

Other findings from the poll, conducted shortly after the recent midterm elections, include:

- One-third of white evangelicals report that the election was more positive than

past elections, a figure that's significantly higher than among white mainline Protestants (17 percent), the unaffiliated (17 percent) or Catholics (23 percent).

- Two-thirds of Americans say that people in their local community work well to overcome differences, and more than 8 in 10 Americans who attend religious services say people in their congregations work well to overcome differences.

- Nearly 6 in 10 Americans think the country is more divided over politics today than in the past; more than four in 10 Americans said the country is more divided over religion than in the past.

- About half of white evangelicals and black Protestants think the country is more divided over religion than it was in the past, compared to less than 40 percent of Catholics and white mainline Protestants.

- Young adults (50 percent) are less likely than seniors (61 percent) to say Americans are more divided over politics, but more likely to say Americans are divided over religion (42 percent of young adults and 33 percent of older adults, respectively).

Americans are justifiably afraid and upset about the stagnant economy and terror-

ism, Gutow said, but he agreed with Mouw that 24/7 cable-news channels and the blogosphere have encouraged and magnified negative, fear-based rhetoric.

"I don't think this country, and I don't think our community, are going to make good decisions if people can't talk to each other rationally and pragmatically," Gutow said. "We need to lean back, talk to each other, look each other in the eye and respect each other's humanity."

Calls for civility have clear religious roots. In Judaism, Talmudic study encourages back-and-forth conversation, Gutow noted. In the New Testament, Mouw pointed out, the Apostle Peter tells Christians to express their convictions "with gentleness and reverence."

"In the world where our Savior has not yet returned to make all things right, we're going to have to find our way of coping in the present and trying to do as much good as we can without oppressing other people (and) without bearing false witness against other people," Mouw noted.

"We have to defend the faith, that's clear, but it says to do it with 'gentleness and reverence.'" (RNS)

## Coalition seeks right of moral objection to war

Washington—On the eve of Veterans Day, religious leaders and veterans called for a reconsideration of conscientious objection to war, saying military members should have the right to object to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan for moral reasons.

In a report issued last Wednesday, the Truth Commission on Conscience in War called on the military to revise its rules to include "selective conscientious objection," and urged religious leaders to address issues of conscience during wartime.

"Training has made it so that our soldiers are much more reflexive than they are reflective about things that happen on the battlefield," said Herman Keizer, a retired Army chaplain who once oversaw chaplains in

the European Command.

"And when they do get an opportunity to reflect, that's when the moral issues really begin to roll."

Jake Diliberto, an evangelical Christian who co-founded the group Veterans for Rethinking Afghanistan, said he believes the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq have become protracted and violate just-war criteria.

"What started as Operation Enduring Freedom has turned into Operation Enduring Obligation," said Diliberto, who served with the Marines in Iraq and Afghanistan. "I still remember my friends who got killed. I still remember their faces, and I remember the Iraqis who got killed."

The report states that current rules about conscientious objection

require an objection to "war in any form," creating a conflict for those who may have specific moral objections to the ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"It denies freedom of religious practice and the exercise of moral conscience to those serving in the military who object to a particular war based on the moral criteria of just war, which the military itself teaches and upholds as important," the report reads.

The report notes that military rules dating to the time of the Vietnam draft leave no legal basis for objection for someone who believes "participation implicates them in an immoral war or in war crimes." (RNS)

## Survey: Wellbeing rates higher in religious Americans

Washington—The most religious Americans also have the highest rates of wellbeing, according to a new Gallup survey.

The finding is based on a survey of more than 550,000 people about their physical and emotional health and their work environments.

Overall, the very religious received a score on Gallup's wellbeing

index of 68.7 percent, while both the moderately religious and the nonreligious received a score of 64.2 percent. The very religious were defined as those who said religion is an important part of their daily lives and they attend worship services at least every week or almost every week.

Researchers did not determine why the very religious had higher

levels of health and happiness.

"It is possible that Americans who have higher wellbeing may be more likely to choose to be religious than those with lower wellbeing," the organization said in a report announcing the findings.

But it also is possible that being religious can contribute to higher levels of personal wellbeing. (RNS)

### NATIONAL NOTES

**Poll shows faith response to N.Y. Islamic center**—Christians are more likely to say a proposed Islamic center in lower Manhattan should be built farther away from Ground Zero than Muslims, Jews and other non-Christians, according to a new Gallup Poll. Park51, a proposed Islamic cultural and community center that includes space for Muslim prayers, has sparked controversy because of its proposed location a few blocks from the site of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. The greatest resistance to the Islamic center came from Christians, according to the poll: three out of five Catholics and Mormons, and almost half of Protestants, said the center should be built at another location farther from Ground Zero. In contrast, 25 percent of Jews, 42 percent of atheists, 43 percent of Muslims and 41 percent of other non-Christians said the center should be built on the proposed location. Gallup analysts said disagreement over where and how the center should be built persists even within some of the faith communities, which complicates finding a solution that will satisfy everyone.

**Legality of Christian flag debated**—In the small town of King, N.C., thousands of people have marched to show support for the return of a Christian flag to a war memorial in a local park. The traditional Christian flag flew for six years next to the American flag, as well as the North Carolina flag, the city's flag and several others. When a citizen complained about the Christian flag's presence and complaint letters followed from the American Civil Liberties Union of North Carolina and Americans United for Separation of Church and State, the city's attorney warned of a costly lawsuit if the flag were not removed. The King City Council voted 3-1 in September to take down the flag. Many people, to show support for the Christian flag, have started flying it at their homes and businesses, according to the Winston-Salem Journal. On Nov. 1 voted 4-0 to develop a policy to eventually fly the Christian flag as part of a display allowing religious flags recognized by the U.S. military.

**Religious majors on the rise**—On campuses across the nation, religion is becoming a popular subject of study. The Buffalo (N.Y.) News recently cited several local colleges that have expanded their courses in response to increased interest in the topic. The newspaper noted a 22 percent increase in the number of college students enrolled as religious studies majors compared to the previous decade, and said that while many students do not describe themselves as religious, they are intrigued by religion. Patrick Lynch, chairman of the department of religious studies and theology at Canisius College, said he suspects the current economy, threats of terrorism and the war in Afghanistan have steered more students toward examining questions about values and the purpose of life, the newspaper reported. "They see the global ramifications of religion and as a result, they're really very interested," said Marianne Ferguson, a religious studies professor at Buffalo State University.

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# IMB challenge: Pick a people group

By Alan James  
International Mission Board

Richmond, Va.—Seeing the faces and names of 6,426 people groups unreached by the gospel—like the Warnang of Sudan—gave college student Kaci Dills a sense of urgency to do something.

While attending a collegiate ministry event at LifeWay's Glorieta Conference Center in New Mexico, Dills and other students stopped by the International Mission Board's display booth bearing this year's Lottie Moon Christmas Offering theme, "Are We There Yet?" There, students saw the "Getting There" challenge to reach the ends of the earth with the gospel—a large wall covered with tan stickers bearing the names of people groups that are fewer than 2 percent evangelical Christian. Those who visited the IMB booth were challenged to pick a sticker and pray for the unreached people group.

"God has burdened my heart," said Dill, a junior at Southeastern Oklahoma State University, who plucked the Warnang people group sticker from the display wall.

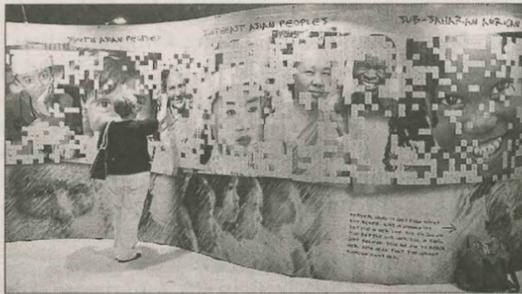
"Now I see them more as brothers and sisters, rather than strangers across the world," added Dill, who is a member of Western Meadows Baptist Church in Durant, Okla. "I hope to visit them someday."

Many of the people groups represented at the IMB booth do not have access to Bibles. They have no churches. There are no missionaries working among them.

The "Are We There Yet?" display lets students put their hands on something tangible to help them relate to the prayer need, said Suzanne Lillard, associate director of collegiate ministries for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma.

"This generation needs to feel like 'I'm doing something that's going to impact the world,'" she said. "The more individually connected a student can get, the better it is for them."

Many in this younger generation believe they can do anything, she added, but there are limits. Students must be steered toward realistic, yet significant, goals.



**CHALLENGE ACCEPTED** A woman takes a people group name from the International Mission Board's "Are We There Yet?" display at the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting in Orlando. The mission board's "Getting There" initiative challenges Southern Baptists to pray for the 6,426 remaining unreached people groups around the globe. (IMB photo)

"Whenever we challenge students to do some things that are possible—but have worldwide potential—that grabs their heart," Lillard said. "When students get passionate about something, they get active. It empowers them."

Clark Carter, campus minister at Charleston Southern University in South Georgia, grabbed 700 people group stickers to distribute to students from the IMB display at the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting in June.

"We're giving them real, practical ways to put their faith into action," Carter said. "Every week I have students stopping by saying they want to go" visit their people group.

Since the IMB display made its debut at the Orlando meeting, all 6,426 unreached people group stickers have been selected.

The challenge, however, has just begun, said Ed Cox, the IMB's director of global prayer strategy.

"There are people where no one is working, and they're on no one's radar," Cox said. "Their only hope is that people are praying for them."

To register a people group that has been selected or to learn about how to pray for an unreached group, visit [IMB.org/GettingThere](http://IMB.org/GettingThere). (BP)

# WESTERN Recorder

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

## 'It's 4:30 a.m., time to get up'

### Oneida's choir students endure early wake-up call for long trip to perform

That's what our choir students heard first thing Sunday morning. I don't know of many things more difficult to do than getting a teenager up before 6:00 a.m.

The reason for the early call was our first long choir trip of the year. Most of our students do a pretty good job of getting up on time because leaving late is not an option. As the bus driver, I set the departure time for our choir trips.

Having made hundreds of trips across the commonwealth, I know within a few minutes how long it takes to get to nearly any community in Kentucky. Planning a departure time includes not only how long it takes to get there, but how many restroom breaks there will be, whether or not we will eat breakfast on the road, and shooting for an arrival time of approximately 30 minutes before the service begins. One blessing of traveling early on Sunday morning is that there is virtually no traffic.

The students were instructed to be at the bus at 5:15 a.m. so we could take roll and leave promptly at 5:30. One of my boys has had a difficult time being on time when we have left later in the morning, so I was very concerned that he would have more trouble getting up two hours earlier. I'm happy to say all of the students were on time, and we even were ready to leave five minutes early.

It only took about 10 minutes for nearly all of the students to snuggle under their covers and go back to sleep. One of my most peaceful moments is when we are traveling early on a Sunday morning and the kids are fast asleep. No phone calls,

no one asking me to make a decision, no e-mails—just some real quiet time to think and do some mental problem solving.

Every bus driver knows that planning a restroom break is important. From experience I know that two hours is just about the maximum travel time before someone—and it only takes one—has to use the restroom.

On this trip, because we left so early, the first restroom break also included breakfast. Our choir director called in our breakfast order 30 minutes before we were to arrive at the fast food restaurant. While the students were taking care of their business, the choir director was getting their sandwiches to eat on the road. When the students boarded the bus, they got some bottled water and snacks to eat with their sandwiches.

Shortly after eating, they were back to sleep until the next stop two hours down the road. The final stop was not only a restroom break but also a time to change clothes. The students wear regular school clothes on the early trips and change into their church clothes before arriving. You can imagine what their church clothes would look like after traveling, eating and sleeping for nearly six hours on the bus.

We arrived a few minutes early, which gave the students plenty of time to get their robes and do a little practice singing before the morning service. In addition to the choral presentation, several of the students presented monologues depicting some of the reasons students find their way to our campus. After lunch it was time to make the six-hour trip back home.

W.F. Underwood is president of Oneida Baptist Institute, Box 67, Oneida, KY 40972; [www.oneidaschool.org](http://www.oneidaschool.org); e-mail: [president@oneidaschool.org](mailto:president@oneidaschool.org)

### This is Oneida



W.F. Underwood

## 'I had Jesus in a box'

### Fisher excited to share good news of Christ with others

First-year student Bruce Fisher, from Kingsport, Tenn., convinced his parents to let him do something that literally changed his life.

"I was raised in church for most of my life," Fisher said. "When I was about 18, I convinced my parents that I needed about a year off from church. During that time, one of my high school friends invited me to church and I went. When I went to that church, I began to see that the people there had something different in their lives than what I had.

"The Lord began convicting me about my relationship with Him," Fisher recalled. "My friend began to notice that God was dealing with me and he started sharing the plan of salvation with me. He told me that just because I was a good person did not mean that I would go to heaven when I died. It was during this time that I realized I needed a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and I trusted Him as my Savior.

"I settled into church for years and grew in my personal faith, but I started to realize that I was not sharing my faith with others like I

needed to. I was 30 years old and I came to realize that I had Jesus in a box," Fisher said. "I joined another church and they were very evangelistic. I started going on visitations and got involved in ministry opportunities in the community.

"It was during this time that God's call to a full-time evangelism ministry began to grow in my heart. I knew that sharing the gospel was what God wanted me to do with my life. God had placed me at this church to show me how He wanted to use me.

"I'm thankful for a place like Clear Creek," Fisher said. "There's a peace once you get here that you just can't explain. You just know you're where God wants you to be. I also feel a sense of responsibility. We are delivering God's word and representing His kingdom. I am excited to be here and I'm looking forward to what God has for me in the future."

### 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](http://www.ccbcc.edu); e-mail: [dfox@ccbcc.edu](mailto:dfox@ccbcc.edu)

## In Bush memoir, faith is a small but constant factor

By Adelle Banks

Washington—Former President George W. Bush made no secret that his politics were tinged by his religious faith, but now says he never would have made it to the White House without a fateful—and faith-filled—decision to quit drinking in 1986.

“I could not have quit drinking without faith,” Bush writes in his memoir, “Decision Points,” released last week. “I also don’t think my faith would be as strong if I hadn’t quit drinking.”

Across 497 pages, Bush recalls the ways religious faith shaped his life and his politics. While religion is not a central thrust of the book, it’s nonetheless a constant theme.

Attending Presbyterian and Methodist churches in Midland, Texas, Bush writes that “religion had always been a part of my life, but I really wasn’t a believer.”

That changed with his decision to quit drinking a year after evangelist Billy Graham visited the Bush vacation home in Maine in 1985.

At that time, Bush said, he was an occasional reader of the Bible, which he viewed as “a kind of self-improvement course.” During that well-known walk with Graham, the evangelist said the point of the Scriptures was to follow Christ, not just to improve himself.

“Billy had planted a seed,” Bush wrote.

Months after returning to Texas, Bush joined a weekly Bible study. He soon started reading the Bible every

*“I could not have quit drinking without faith. I also don’t think my faith would be as strong if I hadn’t quit drinking.”*

Former President George W. Bush writes in his new memoir “Decision Points”

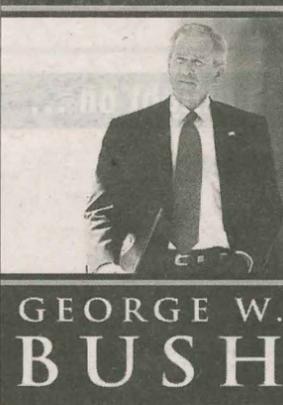
morning, a practice he continued throughout his time at the White House.

While Graham helped Bush overcome alcohol, it was a Texas pastor who inspired him to pursue the presidency. At a service to mark his second inauguration as Texas governor, Bush heard Mark Craig, pastor of First United Methodist Church in Austin, recall the biblical story of a once-hesitant Moses leading the Israelites into the Promised Land.

“We have the opportunity, each and every one of us, to do the right thing, and for the right reason,” Bush recalled Craig preaching. At the other end of the pew, Barbara Bush mouthed to her son, “He is talking to you.”

Once in the White House, Bush’s faith played a role in both presidential and personal decisions. His push for global AIDS relief was fueled by his visit to a Ugandan clinic, where he left feeling challenged by the biblical admonition: “To whom much is given, much is required.” When he knelt at the casket of Pope John Paul II in 2005, he prayed for ailing ABC anchorman Peter Jennings.

### DECISION POINTS



His moral views also contributed to his decision to ban federal funding of embryonic stem cell research. Bush revealed that as a teenager, he drove his mother to the hospital after a miscarriage as she held the fetus in a jar.

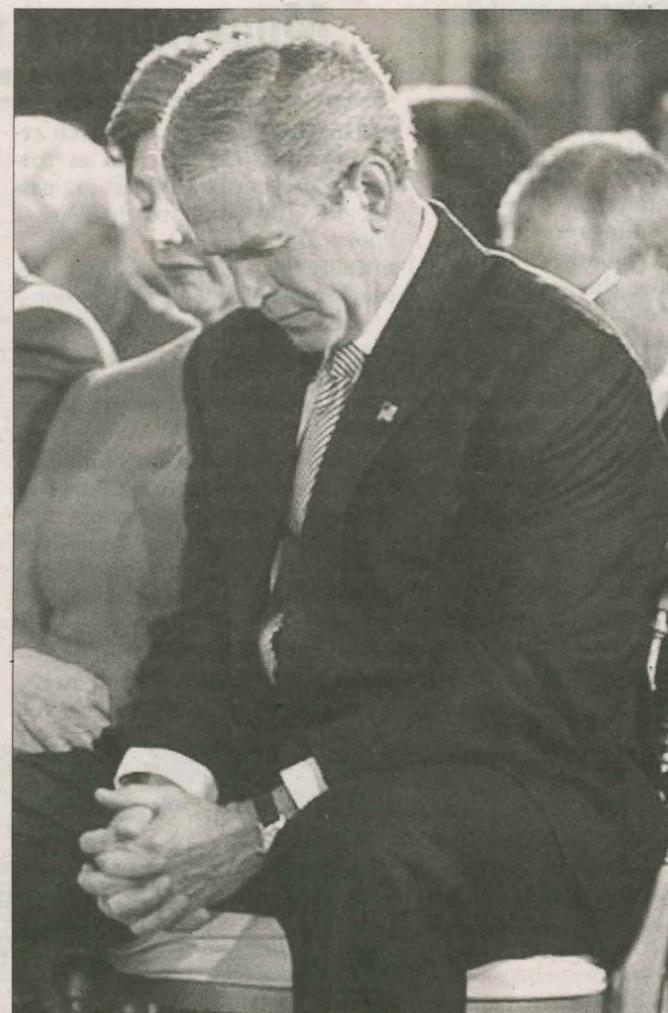
“I remember thinking: ‘There was a human life, a little brother or sister,’” he writes.

In a meeting with Pope John Paul, he told the pontiff that his church’s “steadfast support of life provided a firm moral foundation on which pro-life politicians like me could take a stand.”

When he decided in 2001 to ban the use of federal funds “to support the destruction of life for medical gain,” Bush said he was struck by the personal nature of the criticism that followed.

“They mocked my appearance, my accent and my religious beliefs,” he wrote. “I was labeled a Nazi, a war criminal, and Satan himself,” but Bush says the “shrill debate” never prompted him to second guess his decision.

Bush also defends his Office of Faith-based and Community Initia-



tives, which he said helped more than 5,000 charities receive federal grants.

As president, his reliance on faith continued through his last day in the White House.

“I began Tuesday, January 20, 2009, the same way I had started every day for the past eight years: I read the Bible,” he wrote in the book’s epilogue. (RNS)

**A LEADER’S FAITH** Former President George W. Bush and wife, Laura, pray during a 2003 National Day of Prayer service at the White House. (White House photo)

### ‘Noble work’

#### Kentucky’s abused children deserve our care, support

Recently a friend showed me a souvenir of the 24th anniversary of the organization of the Louisville Baptist Orphan’s Home held on June 30, 1893. It included a letter from Mary Hollingsworth, superintendent since its 1869 beginning.

It stated: “A year ago we had 58 children dependent upon our charity; today we have 82 children to care for, and children are coming almost daily. This means additional burdens for us as a people, and we must do this noble work God has placed in our care, for to Him we are indebted for all that we have, and we must help these dear children by giving liberally of our substance. Our work is increasing each day, and of course our expenses of necessity will increase. We appeal to the friends of our home everywhere, to give liberally for the support of the home, as we need that help now.”

Just last week I received a communication from Bill Smithwick, president of Sunrise Children’s Services, successor of the Louisville Baptist Orphan’s Home, with some startling statistics about children today.

Do you realize thousands of Kentucky children go to bed each night and wake up in homes where proper love and concern are absent; where physical, sexual and emotional abuse is common; and where the hope for a brighter tomorrow grows dimmer with each day?

There have been more than 15,000 confirmed cases of child abuse and neglect, and Kentucky led the nation last year in the rate of child abuse and neglect deaths.

Since 1869 we Kentucky Baptists have been caring for children through this vital ministry. Last year more than 2,000 turned to Sunrise for help. Although the types of care required have changed since Superintendent Hollingsworth appealed in 1893 for financial support, the necessity of “giving liberally of our substance” has not changed.

Please join my wife and me in making a liberal contribution to Sunrise’s Thanksgiving Children’s Offering on which this ministry depends. Make an impact for Christ’s sake and for the sake of these children.

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



## Professor launches website that targets biblical illiteracy

Jackson, Tenn.—Greg Thornbury teaches Old and New Testament survey courses to some of the brightest students from some of the most respected churches in the Southern Baptist Convention.

But he has discovered a surprising problem: They don’t know their Bibles.

“There have been some moments where I’m talking about a biblical story and am getting that stare like, ‘I’m not really following you here,’” said Thornbury, dean of the school of theology and missions at Union University in Jackson, Tenn. “I began to realize that (teaching) what happens in the Bible—story for story, scene for scene—is just not something that is really being done that well in churches.”

Thornbury began administering a Bible facts quiz on the first day of class, asking for information such as the name of Isaac’s brother and a list of the Ten Commandments. Most students failed.

Yet Thornbury said he believes he has found a remedy to such biblical illiteracy by partnering with a coalition of evangelicals, including several Southern Baptists, to launch BibleMesh.com, a website that teaches the Bible as a single storyline focusing on Jesus.

Published by former American Standard CEO Emmanuel Kam-

pouris, the website tells the entire biblical story through 90 minutes of video animation anchored by New York pastor Tim Keller, author of the bestseller “The Reason for God.” The website also features commentary by a plethora of noted evangelicals. Hundreds of one-page articles introduce key Bible ideas while short teaching videos explain crucial points.

A personalized learning tool tests users’ knowledge, shows them what they need to study and monitors their progress.

Access to the Biblical Story Course is \$49.99 for individuals, with discounts for church groups. Pastors receive free access for one year if they sign up on the site before Jan. 1, 2011.

“BibleMesh is not just facts. It’s a whole-Bible theology approach to learning the Bible,” said Thornbury, the project’s theological editor. He added that he plans to use the site in Old and New Testament survey courses, biblical theology classes and even his adult Sunday school class.

Among the other Southern Baptists on the BibleMesh editorial team are Mark Coppenger, professor of Christian apologetics at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, and C. Ben Mitchell, also a professor at Union. (BP)

### Newest NIV Bible version now online

Grand Rapids, Mich.—The newest update to the New International Version Bible now is online, and scholars, pastors and everyday Christians are debating the changes to what has been the most popular modern English translation.

The NIV first was released in 1978 before being revised in 1984. Last year, Biblica, Zondervan and the Committee on Bible Translation announced that another revised NIV was in the works. It won’t be available in print until 2011 but can be read online at BibleGateway.com.

The revision is being closely watched because Zondervan’s most recent major NIV revision, the TNIV, was controversial due to gender-neutral language. The TNIV is being discontinued, as apparently is the older NIV. (BP)

## Christian musician is advocate for adoption

Nashville, Tenn.—While performing concerts around the country, Dove Award-winning recording artist Mark Schultz often shares his testimony and personal story of adoption in hopes of raising awareness for orphan care and helping young families recognize the desperate need.

"It must have been so hard for my biological mother to give birth to a baby and say with tears in her eyes: 'There's so much I want to give you that I can't. So, I'm going to love you by giving you to someone who can take care of you,'" Schultz said.

"That's amazing to me, and every day I'm grateful for the parents who adopted me when I was 2 weeks old and helped me to become the person I am today."

Schultz said he hopes that having his songs featured on TV programs such as "48 Hours" and "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" will provide opportunities to spark conversations with non-Christians and lead them into a relationship with Christ.

Desiring to help make a difference in the lives of orphans, Schultz rode his bicycle 3,500 miles across America in 2007. He raised more than \$250,000.

As a strong advocate for adoption, Schultz and his wife, Kate, who is a doctor, are considering adopting children with special needs.

"My wife came home one day from the hospital and brought up the subject," Schultz said. "She asked me what I thought about adopting children with special needs, even children that the doctors believed would only live a short time on this Earth."

"The more I thought about it, I realized that as Christians, we are called to love," he added. "If that means loving a baby that will be here seven minutes or 70 years, it's showing love that makes a difference." (ABP)

## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **FRANKFORT**—Crestwood Church recently called **Michael Hail** as pastor. He previously was teaching pastor at Southside Church in Warner Robins, Ga.

■ **HENDERSON**—Advance Church recently called **Bob Whitter** as pastor.

■ **Glen Morris** recently resigned as pastor of Ambassador Church.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Southside Church recently called **Harold Garrison** as pastor.

Trinity Church recently ordained **Tonya Hawkins** and **Doug Hayes** as deacons. **Jay Robison** is pastor.

■ **LONDON**—East Pittsburg Church recently ordained **Jake Brock** to the gospel ministry. **Denny McCowan** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Audubon Church recently called **Dan Hatfield** as pastor. West Broadway Church recently

### Spotlight on ...

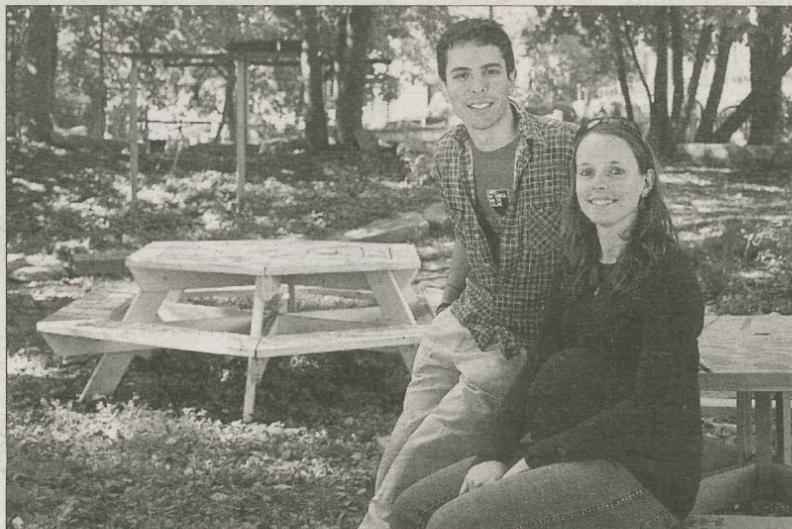
#### Radcliff



Mill Creek Church honored Pastor **Jim Shaw** Oct. 31 with a reception. He has served the church for more than 20 years.

called **Tim Beougher** as pastor.

■ **OLMSTEAD**—Dripping Spring Church will hold fall revival services Nov. 19-20, 7 p.m.; Nov. 21, 10:30 a.m., with **Bob Pitman** from Alabama as evangelist. The **Mike Speck Trio** will provide special music. **Jeff Noffsinger** is pastor.



Mission Service Corps missionaries Rob and Heather Glass moved from Tennessee to Boston to start Shawmut Springs Church and reach the growing population of college students. (Photo by Peter Field Peck)

## Renewed community garden connects church with locals

By Marie Travis

Boston—Four decades ago, a fire broke out in a Boston neighborhood. Homes were leveled to ash and lots were left empty. The community banded together and transformed the area into something positive.

A group of neighbors, in collaboration with a local school, created an urban garden—an infusion of green space and art. But with time, weeds took over the area. Rather than being a place of rest and solitude, it became known for dodgy activities.

But that began to change last year when Shawmut Springs Church in Boston was awarded a grant to help rebuild that portion of the community. Church members saw the restoration not only as a way to improve their community but a means to reach out and minister.

Together with neighbors, church members and student volunteers, the space was cleared and made ready to fulfill the potential planned 40 years earlier.

"To combat the drug use and sexual activities that were going on (in the garden) ... we decided to take what had gone to ruin and restore it," said Rob Glass, a North American Mission Board Mission Service Corps missionary and pastor of Shawmut Springs.

The group of volunteers planted

trees and flowers, painted stepping stones and refinished benches and chairs—a complete makeover from its drab foundation.

Glass, who coordinated the garden project, and his wife, Heather, have served in Boston for four years.

"I was drawn to Boston mostly because I wanted to help make communities of faith among college students," the Tennessee native said. "The garden has been a big avenue for us to practically love our neighborhood. It has helped us to break down prejudice that people have about Christians and to build relationships with them."

Last year as Glass sat reading in the newly revitalized garden, he noticed a woman admiring the flowers. He greeted her and they began talking about the park's facelift. She gushed at how beautiful the volunteers had made the area.

"And they are a church?" Glass recalled the woman asking in astonishment. She found this peculiar since they hadn't forced the community to listen to "stuff about Jesus" or asked for any money. The woman assured him it was a good thing.

"For me that was so encouraging as it was really evident that we were breaking down some walls that had been built up in her heart," Glass said. (BP)



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### December

13-14 KBC Mission Board, Baptist Building, Louisville.

### January

14-15 Celebrate the Mission, First Baptist Church, Hopkinsville.  
20-22 Shepherding the Shepherd, Hilton Downtown Hotel, Lexington.

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

## Rangers All-Star recalls story of ups and downs, God's grace

Dallas—Texas Rangers outfielder Josh Hamilton told a Texas Baptist megachurch Nov. 7 that he would not have overcome the alcohol and drug addiction that nearly cost him his baseball career without God's help.

Coming off a season in which he won the American League batting title and led the Rangers to their first World Series, Hamilton, 29, told worshippers at First Baptist Church of Dallas that the best part of his MVP-caliber year was the platform it gave him to talk about his faith in Jesus Christ.

"That's what I enjoyed most about the entire year," Hamilton said. "Not the awards, not going to the playoffs, going to the World Series, ... but it was about sharing Christ with as many news people as I could."

Hamilton, who recalls his faith story in a 2008 book titled "Beyond Belief," told the congregation he went to church on and off while growing up, but most of his interests revolved around sports. He accepted Christ after his rookie season but did not become grounded in his faith.

After injuries suffered in an automobile accident forced him out of baseball, Hamilton started hanging around tattoo parlors, where his friends introduced him to alcohol and drugs.

After that, he said, he was on and off of drugs for the next three years but got suspended from baseball after failing a couple of drug tests.

He stayed clean for several months, got married and started a family before a relapse forced a separation in his marriage and a restraining order against him to keep him out of his home.

He hit bottom when his grandmother confronted him for using drugs in her house and, for the first time, made him understand how he was hurting people who loved him. He pulled a Bible from a closet and recommitted his life to Christ.

Hamilton said the experience brought about a complete reordering of his priorities, which before than had been exclusively about baseball.

Hamilton said he has to take safeguards to keep from falling off the wagon. He consciously surrounds himself with people who care about him and want the best for him.

"It's an everyday battle," he admitted. "I've got to get up every morning and take my cross up. I've got to just wake up in the morning and tell myself with God's help and Christ's help I'm going to be a responsible man, husband, father today." (ABP)

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**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of education for Horse Cave Baptist Church, Horse Cave, Ky. See job description on Website: [www.horsecavebaptistchurch.com](http://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 [hcbsc@scrtc.com](mailto:hcbsc@scrtc.com) no later than Nov. 30, 2010.

**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-faceted music program and extensive programs for all age groups. For more information, visit [www.fbcfrankfort.org](http://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:** 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](mailto: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.

Mike Morgan



## What's Thanksgiving without a dinner?

By Todd and Michelle Deaton

"Good grief!" Sunny Starfish exclaimed after Craig Crab knocked a bag of flour onto the floor and all over her.

The Cove Kids had decided to treat their parents to Thanksgiving dinner. They had only been in the kitchen for 15 minutes when Craig's mishap, the first of many problems, happened.

"This will be delicious!" Syd Squid said excitedly, as she pulled the seaweed soufflé out of the oven. The soufflé was puffed up like a blowfish's belly.

But as she put the soufflé on the table to cool, Lenny Lobster's head bumped into the overhead pot rack. All of the pots came crashing down. The warm soufflé collapsed like a marshmallow in a microwave. "Lenny!" Syd yelled.

Lenny was trying to get a frying pan for Seamore Seahorse, who was cooking the plankton patties. "At least I got the pan for you, Seamore," he winced.

They were having lots of fun flipping the plankton patties when Seamore flipped one too hard. It landed in the middle of the papayas that Sunny was peeling to put in a sweet papaya pie, her favorite.

"Yuck!" Now I'll have to peel three more," she said.

Seamore flipped another patty. This time, it headed directly for Craig, who jumped out of the way and knocked the plate of patties that Lenny had made onto the floor.

"Craig! Now we won't have the main dish," Lenny scolded.

"Well, it was Seamore's fault," Craig said, pointing at him.

"We won't have any of the other dishes either," Sunny wailed. "They're all ruined!"

"Clarice Clam left the kelp casserole in the oven too long, and it burned to a crisp," she continued. "Maybe we can just have dessert."

"Well, you can forget about the coconut milk," Ollie Oyster said. "Lenny just drank it."

"Well, we still have the sweet papaya pie," Sunny smiled. But as she reached for the whipped cream in the refrigerator, she slipped on the flour and grease from the half-cooked plankton patties. The pie flew high into the air.

SMACK! The pie landed on Craig's head, and papaya filling dripped down his face.

"Oh, no!" Sunny screamed.

"Mmm, this is good," Craig laughed.

"Hey, save some for me!" Lenny exclaimed.

Hearing the commotion, Sunny's mom ran into the kitchen. "What happened?" she asked.

"We ruined Thanksgiving," Sunny cried.

"No, you didn't," her mom comforted her.

"What's Thanksgiving without a dinner?" Sunny asked.

"Thanksgiving isn't about what you put in your stomach, Sunny. It's about what comes from your heart," her mom replied.

That evening when the Cove Kids presented their Thanksgiving feast of pineapple jelly sandwiches and lemonade, Sunny suggested that they all tell one thing they were thankful for.

"My mom and dad," Syd began.

"My friends," said Seamore.

"I'm thankful we don't have to eat what we just cooked," Craig laughed.



"Well, it was Seamore's fault," Craig said, pointing at him.

"We won't have any of the other dishes either," Sunny wailed. "They're all ruined!"

"Clarice Clam left the kelp casserole in the oven too long, and it burned to a crisp," she continued. "Maybe we can just have dessert."

"Well, you can forget about the coconut milk," Ollie Oyster said. "Lenny just drank it."

"Well, we still have the sweet papaya pie," Sunny smiled. But as she reached for the whipped cream in the refrigerator, she slipped on the flour and grease from the half-cooked plankton patties. The pie flew high into the air.

SMACK! The pie landed on Craig's head, and papaya filling dripped down his face.

"Oh, no!" Sunny screamed.

"Mmm, this is good," Craig laughed.

"Hey, save some for me!" Lenny exclaimed.

Hearing the commotion, Sunny's mom ran into the kitchen. "What happened?" she asked.

"We ruined Thanksgiving," Sunny cried.

"No, you didn't," her mom comforted her.

"What's Thanksgiving without a dinner?" Sunny asked.

"Thanksgiving isn't about what you put in your stomach, Sunny. It's about what comes from your heart," her mom replied.

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## Treasure Hunt

What were some mishaps that the Cove Kids had while making Thanksgiving dinner?

What do you think Sunny's mom meant when she said that Thanksgiving is not about what you put in your stomach, but what comes from your heart?

Read Psalm 100:4 together.

It's about what comes from your heart," her mom replied.

That evening when the Cove Kids presented their Thanksgiving feast of pineapple jelly sandwiches and lemonade, Sunny suggested that they all tell one thing they were thankful for.

"My mom and dad," Syd began.

"My friends," said Seamore.

"I'm thankful we don't have to eat what we just cooked," Craig laughed.

## For Heaven's Sake



## Preacher's Kids

David Ayers



## Bible Crosswords

### Across

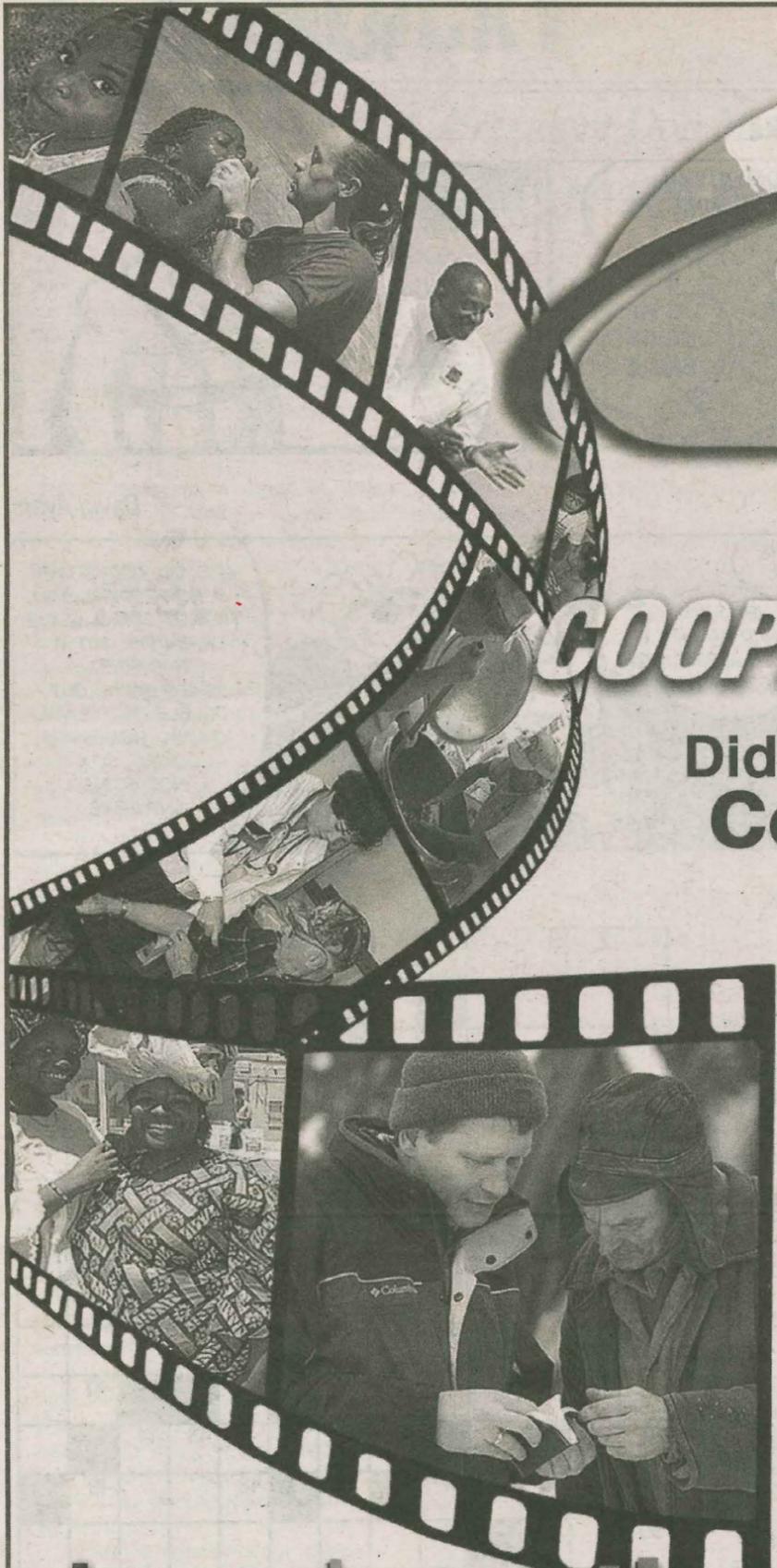
- 1 Jesus is the good \_\_\_\_
- 8 Thank you, Br.
- 10 Jesus made water into this at Cana
- 11 Prophet in Jerusalem that warned Paul he would be arrested (Acts 21:10-11)
- 14 To set apart for a duty of the church
- 15 "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood ... but ... against the \_\_\_\_ of the darkness" (Ephesians 6:12)
- 16 To have a strong smell
- 17 The people of Athens had an altar to an \_\_\_\_ God (Acts 17:23)
- 19 This servant of God must be the husband of one wife, grave, and not double-tongued (1 Timothy 3:8-12)
- 20 "\_\_\_\_, and ye shall receive" (John 16:24)
- 23 Tower where Jacob (Israel) camped on his way to Canaan (Genesis 35:21)
- 25 The opposite of live
- 27 Poisonous snakes (Deuteronomy 32:33)
- 29 Myself
- 30 Where Israel was held in bondage for centuries until Moses led them to freedom
- 31 Remaining residue after something has been burned
- 33 Pertaining to farming, prefix
- 34 A servant of the high priest lost this momentarily to Peter's sword
- 36 God asks us to improve or \_\_\_\_ our ways (Jeremiah 7:3)
- 37 "Teaching them to \_\_\_\_ all things" (Matthew 28:20)
- 40 \_\_\_\_ and fro

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10					11	12	13	
14					15			
16				17	18			
		19					20	21
	22				23	24		
25	26		27	28		29		
30				31	32		33	
			34	35		36		
37	38		39					40
41				42		43	44	
45	46		47			48		49
50			51					

- 41 Second note of the musical scale
- 42 People sacrificed this to atone for sin
- 45 Helped Moses speak before Pharaoh
- 48 Revise
- 50 One who held up Moses' hands at the battle of Amalek (Exodus 17:12)
- 51 "Let us draw near with a true heart in full \_\_\_\_ of faith" (Hebrews 10:22)
- 18 Negative
- 21 "Seek ye first the \_\_\_\_ of God" (Matthew 6:33)
- 22 Swine
- 24 God's name for Himself: I \_\_\_\_ (Exodus 3:14)
- 25 The fourth of Israel's judges, a woman
- 26 Sight organs
- 27 Ancestor of family of porters who returned from exile (Nehemiah 7:45)
- 28 "Children, obey your \_\_\_\_ in the Lord" (Ephesians 6:1)
- 32 "Is not my word like as a fire? saith the Lord; and like a \_\_\_\_ that breaketh the rock" (Jeremiah 23:29)
- 33 Sluggards should learn from this insect
- 35 Assyrian region from which Sargon brought men to populate devastated Samaria (2 Kings 17:24)
- 38 Boyfriend, Fr.
- 39 The conscious self
- 43 Woman's name
- 44 Linear, abbr.
- 46 Railed transportation, abbr.
- 47 Sodium, chem. symbol
- 49 Technetium, chem. symbol

## Last week's solution

1	G	I	F	T		N	O	T		6	T	R	U	E							
2										11	B	O	R	N							
3	O	L	I	G	H	T				14	G	E	M								
4	12	D	W	E	L	T				18	O	S	E								
5							19	G	I	R	L		20	T	O	O					
6	21	H	R	H				22	N	A	I		23								
7	24	E	L					25	R	E	C	E	I		26	V	E	D			
8	28	A	D	A	M					31	E	V		32	I	V					
9	33	R	B	A	A	L	S			34	E			37	N	E	W				
10	39	D	A	R	K	N	E	S		41				42	E	R	O				
11										43	R	E	E	S	T						
12	48	B	E	A	R	W	I	T		49	N	E	S		50	S					
13	51	O	N	S						52	E	T	O		53	T	R	U	T	H	
14	55	W	A	T	E	R				56	C	H			57	N	A	Y			



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