

Shine like stars in the world
Philippians 2:15

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The members of the Kentucky Great Commission Task Force join committee chair Hershael York on stage during the group's report last week at the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting. KBC messengers adopted the task force's report by a vote of 621-317. (Photo by John Foster)

Ky. Baptists move to 50/50 CP split Messengers vote to do 'More for Christ,' trim budgets

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Lexington—Kentucky Baptists embarked on a new course that eventually will lead the convention to an equitable division of Cooperative Program funds between state and Southern Baptist causes.

After nearly an hour of discussion, the much-discussed report of the Great Commission Task Force was approved by nearly two-thirds of Kentucky Baptist Convention messengers at their annual meeting Nov. 16 in Lexington—but not with-

out some last-minute adjustments.

Delivering the report on behalf of the task force, chairman Hershael York announced significant changes to the group's second proposal.

In it, the group originally called for the KBC to move to a reallocation of Cooperative Program funds to an even 50/50 split between Kentucky Baptist and Southern Baptist Convention missions and ministry causes within seven years.

That target date was extended by three years, aiming now for an even split by the 2020-21 fiscal year.

The change "gives a little more wiggle room, a little more time to strategize and flesh out exactly what this would mean," York said.

The task force amended proposal No. 2 even further, decreasing the required across-the-board budget cuts for the KBC and its partnering agencies, institutions and auxiliary from 6 percent to 5 percent.

In addition, the extra 7 percent deduction for the convention's two liberal-arts colleges—Campbellsville University and University of the

□ See Task force report ... *Page 2*



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Kentucky Baptists honor Mackey, elect Paris as president

Lexington—The 173rd annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention wrapped up last week with messengers adopting a plan to better reach the nations for Christ, honoring an executive director nearing the end of his tenure, and electing an Ashland pastor as their president.

Topping the convention's agenda was the Great Commission Task Force vote. Messengers approved the group's report by a nearly two-thirds majority (see full story above).

The much-discussed report likely precipitated a significant bump in the messenger count at this year's meeting. With 1,185 messengers registered, it was the first time since 2006 convention registration reached four figures.

Many of those messengers were on hand to honor longtime KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey, who will retire May 31, 2011.

To show their appreciation for his nearly 13 years leading the convention, messengers approved a resolution of commendation for Mackey and his wife, Kay. Kentucky Baptists also voted to dedicate the 2010 KBC Annual publication to the Mackeys (see related story on page 6).

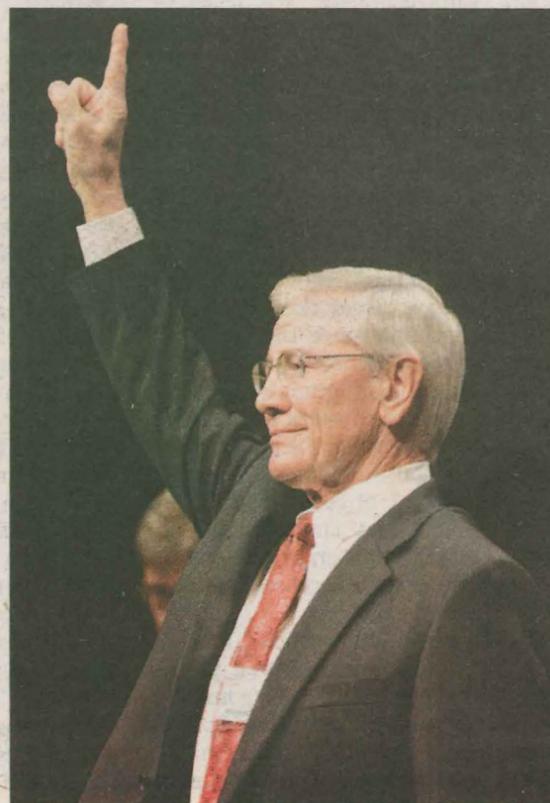
In other business, messengers elected Floyd Paris as their new president. The pastor of Unity Baptist Church in Ashland was selected over Butch Tanner, pastor of Richmond's Red House Baptist Church. It was the first contested elec-



FROM THE KBC ■Above: Newly elected Kentucky Baptist Convention President Floyd Paris (left) receives the gavel from outgoing president Don Mathis. Paris, pastor of Unity Baptist Church in Ashland, was elected over Richmond pastor Butch Tanner. ■Right: Upon receiving a standing ovation following his final annual meeting address, KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey points heavenward, deflecting all praise to Jesus Christ. (Photos by John Foster)

tion for a KBC officer's post in three years (see related story on page 2).

KBC messengers also adopted a \$23.5 million Cooperative Program budget for 2011-12, which is unchanged from this year's budget. It includes a "More for Christ" challenge goal—as dictated by the Great Commission Task Force report—that assumes a 3 percent increase in CP gifts given by Kentucky Baptist churches.



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Messengers elect pastors, DOM as new convention officers

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Lexington—A pair of pastors and a director of missions are the newest Kentucky Baptist Convention officers, elected last week at the KBC annual meeting in Lexington.

Floyd Paris, pastor of Unity Baptist Church in Ashland, was elected convention president in the first contested presidential election since 2006.

Nearly 62 percent of messengers cast their ballots for Paris over Butch Tanner, pastor of Red House Baptist Church in Richmond. The final vote count was 427-266.

The rest of the slate of officers elected Nov. 16 were Dan Summerlin, first vice president; Greg Nimmo, second vice president; Wilma Simmons, secretary; and Pat Reaves, assistant secretary.

"Missions and a memory" were the two reasons Paul Badgett chose to nominate Paris for president. Badgett said that while most churches talk about missions, Paris and members of Unity Baptist "go and they do missions."

"I've always been excited about a pastor that will do that," said Badgett, pastor of First Baptist Church of Pikeville.

Badgett shared, too, about Paris' personal tragedy in the sudden death of his wife, Penne, last year. Paris was set to be nominated for president then, but declined to help his children and church grieve the loss.

"This is his time," Badgett said.

Accepting the gavel from outgoing president Don Mathis at the annual meeting's close, Paris urged Kentucky Baptists to pray for the convention and that "we will do more for Christ this year."

Increasing missions connection

In an interview with the Western Recorder following his election, Paris echoed Badgett's assertion that he is indeed committed to missions.

"I'd like to see our people get more personally involved and connected to missions," Paris noted, adding that engaging Kentucky Baptists in service only stands to benefit missions giving.

"If they get on the mission field once, then they'll see the need and they'll experience it and it becomes real for them—and you won't ever have to talk to them about giving," he said.

Paris has led Unity Baptist Church since 1998. He is a member of the KBC Mission Board, where he serves on the administrative committee and is a past president of the Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference. He also is a certified chaplain with the KBC's disaster relief ministry.

In other elections, Summerlin was elected the convention's first vice president. The pastor of Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah was the only nominee and, there-



KBC OFFICERS The Kentucky Baptist Convention officers for 2010-11 are (from left): Pat Reaves, assistant secretary; Dan Summerlin, first vice president; Floyd Paris, president; Greg Nimmo, second vice president; and Wilma Simmons, secretary. (Photo by John Foster)

fore, was elected by acclamation. He was nominated by Tom James, pastor of Eastwood Baptist Church in Bowling Green.

Summerlin is a member of the KBC Mission Board and serves on the Kentucky Great Commission Task Force. He also is a trustee for the Western Recorder.

In the only other contested election, Nimmo was voted second vice president. The Crittenden Baptist Association director of missions received the nod over fellow DOM Jim Clontz of South District Baptist Association by a 178-115 vote. Nimmo was nominated by T.J. Francis, pastor of First

Baptist Church of Walton.

Nimmo is a Mission Board member, serving on the business and finance committee and the Committee on Nominations. He has been DOM of Crittenden Association since 2005.

The secretary and assistant secretary posts both were re-elected by acclamation. Simmons, a member of Big Spring Baptist Church in Ekron, will serve as secretary for a 20th consecutive year. Reaves, a member of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Louisville, was elected to a second term as assistant secretary.

Task force report adopted with three extra years, smaller budget cuts

Continued from page 1

Cumberlands—was dropped to 6 percent, resulting in an approximate 11 percent overall budget reduction instead of the initial 12.58 percent.

The rest of proposal No. 2 was unchanged, including the elimination of the KBC's contribution to the annuities of pastors and church staff members (approximately \$400,000) and a reduction of Mission Board staff by 12 percent.

York, pastor of Buck Run Baptist Church in Frankfort, acknowledged the 11th-hour changes stemmed from concerns voiced at the KBC Mission Board meeting a day earlier.

Several board members expressed their reservations about the first-year budget cuts called for by the task force.

Even though he supports many of the report's recommendations, Chip Pendleton, pastor of Westport Road Baptist Church in Louisville, said in the meetings the process is "so front-end loaded, it's going to be very demoralizing."

The motion is intended to "make a statement," Pendleton said, but would be "a statement that we're going to cripple the state convention in one year."

Not only was proposal No. 2 a hot topic of discussion for the Mission Board, but has dominated most Great Commission Task Force conversation since the report's release in August, York noted.

That amount of attention was a "major disappointment to this task force, because we really see it as, by far, the less important between proposals No. 1 and 2," he said.

Proposal No. 1, of course, is the three-year "More for Christ" emphasis, described in the GCTF report as "an intentional time of repentance, renewal and redirection for the future" of the KBC.

"This is a spiritual problem," York said, "and you can't solve a spiritual problem through physical means. ... It's going to require a movement of the Spirit of God."

Pointing to the highly successful and well-attended Find It Here campaign earlier

this year, York said the More for Christ campaign could be just as productive.

"If you challenge Kentucky Baptists, they, under the Spirit of God, will respond to that challenge and they'll answer," he explained.

Proposal No. 3 urges all Kentucky Baptist churches to increase their Cooperative Program giving by at least 0.25 percent of undesignated receipts per year, which would result in a 3 percent bump in convention-wide CP gifts annually.

With the passage of the national Great Commission Resurgence Task Force report in June, the International Mission Board stands to receive 51 percent of the SBC's Cooperative Program funds. With a 50/50 allocation plan in place and the fulfillment of proposal No. 3, Kentucky Baptists would contribute as much as \$12 million more to the international mission field, York pointed out. "That's a lot more missionaries on the field."

Proposal No. 4 allows for the Great Commission Task Force to remain in place and report to KBC messengers each year over the next decade.

"We understand a vote here today isn't going to change anything," York noted, adding that if those who voted against the report return to their churches and do not increase their CP gifts, "it doesn't really matter how the vote came out."

During open debate on the convention floor, some messengers expressed their opposition to the measure.

Lynn Traylor, pastor of Buckner Baptist Church in La Grange, said a "no" vote does not mean one is opposed to the members of the task force, the Cooperative Program or the Great Commission, but rather is made out of concern for the future of the state convention.

"Most of our churches in this state have less than 100 (people) in worship, mine included," Traylor remarked. "I depend on the Kentucky Baptist Convention for many ministries and opportunities. Which of them will be cut?"



OPEN DEBATE Jerry Kibbons, a retired pastor and messenger from Salem Baptist Church in Campbellsville, proposes a substitute motion while other messengers wait to speak during debate on the Great Commission Task Force report at last week's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting. His motion was rejected by messengers. (Photos by John Foster)

"We're not just voting about the Great Commission," he added. "We are, in effect, voting to downsize our Kentucky Baptist Convention."

Expressing concern that Cooperative Program funds given to the SBC are channeled to causes other than missions, Traylor said, "I will go back to my church and ask for designated giving to our state rather than CP."

Responding to Traylor, task force member Kevin Smith agreed that voting against the motion does not make one anti-Great Commission, but will send the wrong message to pastors under the age of 40.

"If the only people happy in the Kentucky Baptist Convention have gray hair, it won't last," said Smith, pastor of Watson Memorial Baptist Church in Louisville.

Bryan Burkhead, a younger pastor of West Corbin Baptist Church, spoke in support of the GCTF report.

"All of us, in our hearts, want to be a part of something greater than ourselves," he told fellow messengers. "Before us is a commitment to get the gospel to the world in a much more rapid, effective manner."

In an interview with the Western Recorder after the vote, York acknowledged

the generational divide among GCTF supporters and challengers.

"That's something I'm seeing across the board. The younger pastors ... just have this real passion about reaching the nations," York said. Older pastors, on the other hand, "are much more connected to what is happening here locally."

The final vote tally was 621-317, closer than York said he would have liked. "I do wish the vote had been stronger," he said, noting he had hoped for an 80 percent vote. "But Kentucky Baptists have always found a way to work together after the vote is over."

Newly elected KBC President Floyd Paris agreed. "I think Kentucky Baptists will rally," he said. "I look for churches, even though they're facing hard economic times, (to make) the little sacrifices."

During discussion, messengers overwhelmingly rejected a substitute motion and an amendment to proposal No. 2.

Jerry Kibbons, a retired pastor and messenger from Salem Baptist Church in Campbellsville, moved to replace the GCTF's motion with one that dissolved the task force and increased the KBC's Cooperative Program contribution by 1.5 percent in 2011-12

□ See KBC messengers adopt ... Page 3

Mission Board downsize approved, effectiveness to be studied

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Lexington—A downsizing of the body charged with handling Kentucky Baptist Convention business between annual meetings was unanimously approved last week in Lexington.

KBC messengers meeting at Immanuel Baptist Church adopted changes to the convention's constitution that would decrease the size of the state Mission Board.

At present, the board consists of approximately 170 members, making it the largest of all Southern Baptist Convention-affiliated state bodies.

A pair of wording changes in Article VII of the KBC constitution will scale Mission Board membership back to about 120.

"This is the culmination of a process that has been going on for some time that has roots in requests by the administration to look at ways that we can rightsize the Mission Board," noted Adam Greenway, chairman of the KBC's Committee on Constitution and Bylaws.

Per convention guidelines, the proposals received a first reading at last year's annual meeting in Elizabethtown.

The first of the committee's two proposals changes the criteria for Mission Board membership in state associations using churches' combined resident members

rather than total membership. Resident membership often is a smaller number.

Proposal No. 2 removes a key phrase from Article VII. Previously, each association was permitted one representative for every 5,000 total members, as well as an additional member for every "major fraction thereof" above 5,000.

The adopted change strikes the "major fraction thereof" phrase, meaning associations must have a full 5,000 resident members more in order to receive an additional Mission Board representative.

Clarifying the second proposal, Greenway said each KBC-recognized association still will automatically receive one board representative, but that additional members only will be granted based on increments of 5,000 resident church members.

"We believe that this change is a way to make the Mission Board service more meaningful for members," Greenway said, adding the move also will bring a "modicum of Cooperative Program savings."

The Mission Board meets triannually in May, November and December. KBC assistant executive director Steve Thompson said recently the absentee rate at the meetings is fairly high. He added that the December meeting is the best attended, followed by May and November, respectively.

Even with a 120-member group, Thomp-

son estimated the KBC Mission Board still will be among the five largest of all Southern Baptist state convention bodies.

Effectiveness study approved

At its meeting a day prior to the convention, the Mission Board empowered its administrative committee to examine the function and effectiveness of the board. The motion was proposed by Todd Robertson, pastor of Louisville's Antioch Church.

In other business, administrative committee chair Alan Dodson recommended an extension for the work group formed to assess the relationship between the convention and Georgetown College. Dodson asked that the panel continue its work "through the new KBC year" and report its findings to the Mission Board at one of its upcoming meetings.

The panel was formed earlier this year to review the relationship between the KBC and Georgetown College after five years in the current arrangement as partnering organizations. The covenant agreement between the two was dissolved in 2005 and Georgetown's Cooperative Program funds were reallocated through a four-year plan that ended last year.

In June, the Baptist Seminary of Kentucky, a Cooperative Baptist Fellowship partnering institution, moved to the

Georgetown College campus.

The members of the Georgetown work group are Dodson, who is pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church in Lexington; Greenway, a professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; Charles Barnes, a member of Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville; Rick Hatley, pastor of High Point Baptist Church in Mayfield; Don Mathis, immediate past KBC president; and Chip Pendleton, pastor of Westport Road Baptist Church in Louisville.

Also in his report, Dodson said the administrative committee had approved changes in health insurance coverage for Mission Board staff that will reduce projected cost increases next year from 18 percent to 8.5 percent.

The administrative committee also recommended, and the board approved, a limited retirement benefit for Mission Board staff members. It would permit those staffers who are 59 and a half years of age or older to annuitize some of their retirement savings while remaining employed. The move was in response to GuideStone Financial Resources' announcement that it will reduce its funding rate for annuities from 6 percent to approximately 3.5 percent beginning Jan. 1, 2011.

With additional reporting by Dannah Prather of the KBC's communications department

Kentucky Baptists celebrate 400 years of the King James Bible

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Lexington—Acknowledging its historical importance to many Kentucky Baptist churches, convention messengers adopted a resolution celebrating next year's 400th anniversary of the King James Bible.

The resolution was one of four approved by messengers to last Tuesday's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting in Lexington.

Kentucky Baptists also resolved to commend retiring KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey (see related story on page 6), to call on all state Baptist churches to give "more for Christ," and to show appreciation for the host church, Immanuel Baptist.

In its resolution, the KBC acknowledges the King James Version of the Bible as a "translation that will be used for generations to come, both in our homes and in our churches."

Often cited as a literal translation of the ancient biblical manuscripts, the King James, or authorized, version was commissioned by the Church of England and completed in 1611.

Since that time it has been the most commonly used English translation of the Bible. In recent decades, many contemporary churches moved away from the King James



VOTES CAST Messengers to last week's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting in Lexington cast a vote during a business session. Kentucky Baptists adopted four resolutions Nov. 16 including one commemorating the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible in 2011. (Photo by John Foster)

Version to other translations such as the New International Version and the New Living Translation.

However, as noted in the resolution, the KJV "has been the sanctioned English translation for many Kentucky Baptist churches for decades." The resolution adds: "we affirm all Baptists and Baptist churches that continue to use the King James Version of the Bible."

The motion to honor the KJV was referred to the Committee on Resolutions at last year's KBC meeting.

Rick Reeder, director of missions for Caldwell-Lyon Baptist Association, called for a work group to research the importance of the translation on its 400th anniversary.

In response to the "More for Christ" challenge launched by the Great Commission Task Force, KBC messengers adopted a wide-ranging resolution that calls on Kentucky Baptists and their churches to tackle a whole host of issues, from financial stewardship and credit-card debt to church planting and mis-

sions support.

The resolution calls on churches to "disciple believers on wise financial stewardship," emphasizing personal financial responsibility and debt management.

The adopted resolution implores individual Kentucky Baptists to become more generous and "sacrificially give" of their time, talents and tithes. It also encourages church members to consider providing legacy gifts "for the support of their local churches."

In addition to individual responsibilities, messengers resolved to call on churches to be generous in giving to missions and the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists' funding channel for missions and ministries.

It also stresses the importance of involving church members in missions—local, nationally and international—and planting churches.

"We commit ourselves to loving our Savior so deeply that He has first place in every aspect of our lives," the resolution concludes.

Finally, messengers adopted a customary resolution of appreciation to the host church, Immanuel Baptist, as well as Elkhorn Baptist Association, KBC Mission Board staff and officers, the Great Commission Task Force and the mayor of Lexington.

KBC messengers adopt Great Commission Task Force report

Continued from page 2

budget year as a "good-faith effort" toward a 50/50 CP allocation.

Messengers also turned away London pastor Dennis Hammonds' proposed amendment to proposal No. 2 that would have adjusted the KBC Mission Board's budget by equal, incremental percentages over the 10-year period, in order to

attain a 50/50 CP allocation.

Budget matters

The Great Commission Task Force's last-minute changes created a dilemma for the proposed 2011-12 budget that was to be presented to KBC messengers. However, following the report's adoption, York presented a substitute budget which

was approved by KBC messengers.

The \$23.5 million budget calls for 52.46 percent of Cooperative Program receipts to be distributed to Kentucky Baptist causes and 43.54 percent to go to Southern Baptist ministries.

The budget also includes a "More for Christ" challenge that assumes 3 percent growth in Coop-

erative Program receipts in 2011-12—an additional \$705,000.

Factoring in the "More for Christ" targets, the total CP goal for 2011-12 is \$24,205,000, 51.86 of which would stay in the state, 44.14 percent of which would go to the SBC.

With additional reporting by Todd Deaton and Dannah Prather

KBC to return to Paducah in 2013

Lexington—Last week, Kentucky Baptist Convention messengers voted to hold their 2013 annual meeting in Paducah for the first time in more than two decades.

The convention will convene at Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah in three years. The annual meeting was last held in Paducah in 1990 when messengers gathered at the city's First Baptist Church.

The 2013 annual meeting also will be the first time it has been held at a far-western site since messengers met in Murray in 2001. In recent years, the convention primarily has met at cities along Interstates 64 and 65, alternating exclusively between Elizabethtown and Lexington since 2007.

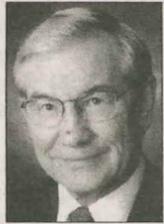
The convention will meet at Florence Baptist Church next year, the first meeting at a northern Kentucky site since 1999. It will return to Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington in 2012.

In other business, KBC messengers elected Tom James, pastor of Eastwood Baptist Church in Bowling Green, to preach next year's convention sermon. Florence Baptist Pastor Tim Alexander is the alternate.

A parting challenge for Ky. Baptists

With my upcoming retirement approaching on May 31, last week's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting in Lexington was my last as executive director. It was a privilege for me to share a final challenge as part of the Mission Board staff report.

Partners in the Mission



By Bill Mackey

Here is a summary of what I shared with the messengers and guests:

Remember who you are as a great missions people. In the past, Kentucky Baptists dealt with the anti-missionary movement and later the Campbellite movement and remained true to preaching the gospel, planting churches and cooperating in missions work. We need to continue to keep our missions focus.

Continue to find ways to cooperate.

There are those who think that cooperation belongs to a former day and is irrelevant. I believe cooperation is biblical and, when focused on the Great Commission, is always relevant. One of the things that I love most about Kentucky Baptists is that although they still have their pioneering spirit, they are willing to work hard and trust God for ways to work together for the gospel mission.

Continue to strengthen the foundations for world evangelism and missions. The local church is the foundation for world missions. I am grateful for the excellent work of the Mission Board staff and of the associations to help encourage and strengthen local churches.

Continue to affirm and support the Cooperative Program as the best way to fund missions. Due to our confidence in Kentucky Baptists, our commitment to support missions through the Cooperative Program, and our trust in God to provide, Kay and I plan to start an endowment fund with the Kentucky Baptist Foundation for the Cooperative Program. We have tried to be good stewards of what God has provided and want to give to support this channel for funding missions that we believe in so deeply.

Continue to make the most of every opportunity to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. Most church financial needs could be met through evangelism and discipleship. Paul was in prison but he prayed for an open door to proclaim the mystery of the gospel (Col. 4:2-6). In Ephesians 6:19, he requested prayer that he might "fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel."

The last words of my last report were, "Kentucky Baptists, make the most of every opportunity to share the gospel of Jesus Christ." My prayer is that God will help me as well as Kentucky Baptists to remember these words in the days ahead.

Kay and I praise God for the privilege that He has provided for us to serve with some of the most loving and committed Christian people in the world. We thank you for all of the words and expressions of appreciation we have received!

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

More than a vote, GCTF nod entails a resolve

As a Royal Ambassador leader at several times during the past 25 years, I often have helped boys cut out, sand, assemble and paint pine-wood racecars. On race day, each boy is eager to see if his car will fly down the track. But almost always, one or two are disappointed when the wheels, which are held on by small nails, come off and their cars slide down the track to a halt.

Last week, the Great Commission Task Force placed Kentucky Baptists on a 10-year track to reach a 50/50 split of Cooperative Program dollars between Southern Baptist Convention and Kentucky Baptist Convention causes. A key component calls for KBC churches to increase their CP giving by a quarter of a percent each year. Indeed, it is imperative that we all understand that a move to increase the SBC portion must be accompanied by an increase in CP support by our churches. For without this sacrificial and steadfast commitment from our churches, the wheels on our Great Commission racer will come off.

One quality that dominates Kentucky Baptist life is a heart for missions and a passion for the glory of God, task force chairman Hershael York observed. "Yet so much remains to be done!" he exclaimed. The Kentucky Baptist Convention is a great convention, he declared, affirming its unity in purpose and spirit and its effectiveness in a host of ministries. And yet, there's a nagging problem: 2 billion people need to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ. To reach the nations with the gospel will require a movement of the Spirit of God, and to that end the task force report urges that a sacrificial attitude of "More for Christ" become the byword of every Kentucky Baptist.

During the 25-minute debate that followed their presentation, however, discussion focused solely on the reallocation of Cooperative Program funds. One view was represented by Jerry Kibbons and Dennis Hammonds, who advocated incremental increases for the SBC to avoid detrimental effects on KBC ministries. The other was represented by Robert Franklin and former International Mission Board chairman Paul Chitwood, who emphasized the urgency of taking the gospel to the world.

In a strategic and conciliatory move, the Great Commission Task Force backed away somewhat from its original proposal, extending the time frame by three years and lessening upfront cuts for Kentucky ministries by 1 percent. The change "still moves us forward, but with a little less pain," York said. The last-minute gesture was appreciated and seemingly softened the hearts of some messengers in allowing

"a little more wiggle room" and more time for the Mission Board and its agencies and institutions to strategize on how to best meet the challenges without hampering essential ministries.

In the end, the task force's revised plan was adopted by a 2-to-1 margin. With its approval, the Kentucky Baptist Convention joins only a handful of others that have either reached a 50/50 split or set themselves on a course to do so. Both the fledgling Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia and the Southern Baptists of Texas conventions started with an even distribution. At their recent annual meetings, Florida Baptists voted to move to a 50/50 distribution of CP funds within four to seven years, while Tennessee Baptists approved moving toward the mark "over a time frame so as to enhance, not inhibit, the ministry of the TBC as well as the SBC." Meanwhile, in North Carolina, the executive director has come out in favor of making the move "over a protracted period."

Affirming that CP is "absolutely the best way" for Kentucky Baptists to work together, York and the other task force members maintain, "We can catch the imagination, vision and commitment of the upcoming generation if we show them we are serious about getting the gospel to the nations." Yet, we cannot lose sight of the fact that the older generation has been sacrificially supporting the ministries that God has called us to do together as a state convention through the years. More pointedly, if a church wants a strong voice in determining how CP dollars are used, then it needs to be a strong giver. Speaking directly to the churches, York urged, "We really need you to be on board and embrace this."

While resetting CP allocations, the convention's action really won't change anything as far as increasing the amount of Cooperative Program dollars. "We have to understand that this doesn't happen merely by (convention) vote," York rightly noted. "This happens through sacrifice, through giving, through a heart and a passion from ourselves and our churches that we are going to do more for Christ. And that's going to be reflected in a renewed commitment to the Cooperative Program." Now that the GCTF proposals have been adopted, the simple truth is if Kentucky Baptist churches follow through on increasing their CP giving, there won't be a problem: Both the SBC and KBC will have more funds for their missions and ministry. That's the ideal!

The decision is made; our course set. Now our resolve must be firm.

After Thought

By Todd Deaton



Gray hair dilemma

Ouch! Sounded like the "gray hairs" were put in their place and told to go sit in the back of the Kentucky Baptist Convention bus at the 2010 annual meeting.

Since I am a "gray hair," I felt it necessary to ask, "Could my gray hair be impeding convention work? Am I the problem?"

As I meditated on my return trip from Lexington, my first thought was to stop and purchase a bottle of Clairol "Nice 'N Easy" hair coloring. As I drove I even began singing, "I'm gonna wash that gray right outta my hair."

After all, I know other preachers and friends who regularly undergo the "treatment." It hasn't necessari-

ly improved anything for them, but it's always entertaining to see the color of their hair.

I admit, I'm a novice when it comes to hair coloring and several questions came to mind. What color would be best: "Brandishing Brown," "Ripe and Reddy," "Sparkling Blond"? Is it proper etiquette to ask the cashier to conceal my purchase in a plain brown paper bag for fear that someone I know would see me as I left the store?

This would all be funny—if it weren't so tragic.

Thankfully, most of the gray-haired faithful in Kentucky Baptist life were not present to get bashed on Tuesday morning. They will continue to quietly do what they've always done—serve the Lord and sup-

port the work through the churches and the missions of Southern Baptists and the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

As for me, in the end, all this hair coloring stuff is just too much trouble. I'll stay gray and be proud. After all, it beats bald any day of the week.

Terrell Bradley
London

Forum Disclaimer: Baptist Forum is provided as an opportunity for Kentucky Baptists to express their viewpoints on a variety of subjects. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Western Recorder's editorial staff, its Board of Directors, or the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Letters should be no more than 300 words in length and will be edited for style, clarity and space. Letters must reflect a spirit of Christian charity and civility.

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Chip Hutcheson, Princeton;
Lanna Kilgore, Bowling Green;
Paul Nunn, Prestonsburg;
Willis Polk, Lexington;
Wayne Rice, Paintsville;
Wayne Spivey, Harrodsburg;
Dan Summerlin, Paducah.

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

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Kentucky Baptists celebrate busy year for missions, evangelism

Lexington—Kentucky Baptists celebrated a busy year of service at last week's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting in Lexington.

Through a trio of videos, messengers relived the missions and evangelism efforts of Kentucky Baptist churches and associations in 2010.

Disaster relief in Haiti

A busy 2010 began early with the devastating earthquake that struck the island nation of Haiti in mid-January. The 7.0-magnitude quake leveled the capital city of Port-au-Prince, killing or injuring more than 300,000 people and leaving more than 1 million homeless.

Southern Baptist disaster relief responded first with assessment teams sent in by the North American Mission Board. The KBC's disaster relief coordinator, Coy Webb, was part of the first group to evaluate the Haitians' needs.

"It was almost beyond belief and comprehension," Webb said, recalling the thousands of homes and business that were destroyed.

Kentucky Baptists responded by sending a series of medical teams to Haiti. The doctors, nurses and chaplains provided Haitians with basic triage care for a variety of injuries and ailments.

As time went on, KBC disaster relief efforts restructured. Clean-up, repair and reconstruction. The Southern Baptist Convention has since pledged to build 5,000 new homes in

the country.

Through Southern Baptist work in the country, more than 140 churches have been planted and more than 140,000 people have accepted Christ as their Savior.

Find It Here

In what was called the "single-most ambitious evangelistic effort ever attempted" in the state, Kentucky Baptists pulled off the collaborative Find It Here campaign, taking the gospel to more than 1.3 million state households.

Backed by a multimedia ad campaign, members of nearly 1,700 churches in 68 associations delivered gospel materials and an invitation to a local church on Easter Sunday to 83 percent of households in the commonwealth.

In the video, messengers heard the story of Mary, an elderly woman who connected with First Baptist Church of Sandy Hook through Find It Here.

Mary visited the church, accepted Christ and was baptized. Just minutes after her baptism, she began having seizures, slipped into a coma and died soon after.

"Had it not been for the Find It Here program, ... Mary would've not been saved and would not be in heaven today," Pastor Kendall Brainard said.

World Equestrian Games

This fall, the world's largest

equine sporting event was held in Lexington. The World Equestrian Games brought athletes from 58 countries to compete at the Kentucky Horse Park.

"The world literally came to Kentucky," said Larry Martin, director of Affiliated International Ministries, an interdenominational group formed to minister to World Equestrian Games athletes and visitors.

Through a variety of events, including concerts in and around Lexington, a free shuttle service and pin trading, AIM volunteers shared the gospel with thousands of people during the games.

"Several shuttle drivers said they had been on numerous international mission trips, but had never had as many opportunities to share their faith as they did here," Martin said.

AGENCY REPORTS

Campbellsville University—With student and pastor Micah Spicer at his side, Campbellsville University President Michael Carter told Kentucky Baptist Convention messengers the school, now its 104th year, continues "to serve by keeping Christ first on our campus." The school currently has 3,225 students, marking the 21st consecutive semester of record enrollment. It also was honored again by U.S. News & World Report as one of the top colleges in the South and an "up-and-coming" school. Campbellsville also launched its Vision 2025 campaign this year, designed "to prepare Christian servant leaders for the future."

Clear Creek Baptist Bible College—There currently are more than 500 Clear Creek Baptist Bible College graduates serving in Kentucky Baptist churches, school president Donnie Fox told KBC messengers. According to a video report, Clear Creek students last year preached 7,400 messages, most of them in Kentucky Baptist churches; taught 2,100 local-church classes; distributed 17,800 pieces of evangelistic literature; and shared their faith 9,600 times. As a result, 3,170 people made professions of faith in Christ. Standing in an empty classroom on campus, Fox said in a video report the empty room "only means that our students are now out on the field using the training that our Cooperative Program support has provided for them."

Kentucky Baptist Assemblies—David Melber, president of Kentucky Baptist Assemblies, said in the last year, students who attended Crossings Camps at Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek have given more than \$6,000 to a missions project in South Asia that operates through the International Mission Board. The project, which feeds and educates about 250 impoverished children daily, was about to be closed before Crossings got involved. The kids pass a Hindu temple each day to "go to a house where they hear the gospel preached," Melber said. As a result of being exposed to missions and the gospel at Crossings Camps, 2,186 students recently have accepted God's call to full-time ministry, Melber said.

Kentucky Baptist Foundation—Barry Allen said he wants to lead a revolution in which Kentucky Baptists "collectively view estate planning and the estate planning process to be an act of biblical stewardship to do more for Christ." Using the illustration of two jars of pennies—one small, representing cash assets, the other large, signifying non-cash assets—the president of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation urged Christians to consider tithing from their non-cash assets rather than their cash assets. "Advancing the kingdom cannot be funded solely by Christians writing checks and placing them in the offering plate on Sunday morning," he said. "Kingdom advancement will require Christians to steward out of both the big jar and the little jar."

Oneida Baptist Institute—As he does most every year, Oneida Baptist Institute President Bud Underwood thanked the KBC for its support of the school, then allowed some of his students to tell the Oneida story. With one student portraying OBI founder James Anderson Burns, the teenagers relayed the history of the school, which was formed to stop mountain feuds among clans

and create a school for their children. The students told KBC messengers that now only half of Oneida's students hail from Kentucky, with 30 percent of the student body coming from other states and 20 percent from other countries.

Sunrise Children's Services—Bill Smithwick, director of Sunrise Children's Services, reminded Kentucky Baptists of the tens of thousands of children who are victims of abuse and neglect. Through a video presentation, the benevolence agency conveyed from a child's perspective what it feels like to be one of those victims. "I hope that when you feel what it is like, it will move you, and you will remember it when you take up a Thanksgiving Offering for Sunrise Children's Service," Smithwick urged. Through its seven residential treatment centers, two psychiatric residential treatment centers, three counseling centers and in-home services for families, Sunrise served more than 2,000 clients last year, providing 141,402 days of care.

University of the Cumberland—Fall enrollment at University of the Cumberland stands at 3,311, making it the fastest-growing private educational institution in Kentucky, and soon to be the largest, President Jim Taylor reported. The university's Baptist Campus Ministries, Mountain Outreach and Appalachian ministries regularly provide students with ministry opportunities. This year, the Mountain Outreach program constructed its 135th home and completed a number of wheelchair ramps and other renovation projects. This past summer, Cumberland welcomed more than 3,000 M-Fuge campers, and 2,000 youth attended a variety of other camp programs.

Western Recorder—Since 1826, the Western Recorder has been "encouraging Kentucky Baptists to share the gospel with those in their communities," noted Editor Todd Deaton. But in keeping with the faster-paced lifestyles of readers, the newspaper has developed an online edition that can be read anywhere. The changes also included a redesigned website launched earlier this year and the inclusion of color on the newspaper's front and center pages. Harrodsburg Baptist Church Pastor Wayne Spivey, a Western Recorder trustee, touted the benefits of the newsletter program, which allows churches and associations to print their news on the back pages of the Western Recorder. The program provided a house, Spivey said.

Woman's Missionary Union—The 2009-10 edition of the Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions set yet another record, noted Joy Bolton, executive director for Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union. Kentucky Baptists gave more than \$1.25 million dollars to the offering, far exceeding the \$1.1 million goal. The average of more than \$51,000 was used for a variety of ministries, including the Find It Here campaign, student evangelism and disaster relief efforts, Bolton said. The WMU report also included video testimonies from Girls in Action leaders and participants. The video, titled "Why Learn?", is part of the WMU's 2010 state missions emphasis which highlights the lostness in Kentucky as the reason Kentucky Baptists do state missions.



Christmas should be a special time in the life of a child, but for many of the children of Sunrise, their lives have been spent in homes where abuse and neglect have taken the place of love and laughter. While in our care, we want to fill their holidays with happiness and joy. There are several ways you can help:

- Shop from a child's Christmas wish list. Call (800) 456-1386 or e-mail info@sunrise.org for more information and to receive a child's wish list. Shop from the list, spending around \$100-\$200, and return the gifts to the closest Sunrise program by December 7th.
- Make a monetary or gift card donation and we'll do the shopping for you. Mail your gift to 300 Hope Street, P.O. Box 1429, Mt. Washington, KY 40047, or donate online here. Be sure to put "Christmas sponsorship" in the Comments field.
- Please remember to keep our children and their families in your prayers this holiday season.



Sunrise Children's Services
(800) 456-1386
www.sunrise.org

Mackey's legacy honored

Joined by his wife, Kay, Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Bill Mackey is overcome with emotion following his final address to KBC messengers.



Retiring KBC exec delivers final address, receives tribute

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Lexington—Stepping away from the pulpit after uttering his final words to state convention messengers, Bill Mackey briefly soaked in the thundering applause being sent his way.

A moment later, he raised the index finger on his right hand and pointed it heavenward, publicly acknowledging: It's all for Christ.

It was a befitting gesture from a man who has spent more than 40 years in ministry relentlessly pointing others to Jesus Christ.

Kentucky Baptists honored the retiring executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention during last week's annual meeting at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington.

Mackey will step aside May 31, 2011, after leading Kentucky Baptists for more than a dozen years. Next year's annual meeting will be the first without Mackey since 1998.

Years ago while the two were pastors on opposite ends of the state, Don Mathis said he would check the state baptismal reports each year and find First Baptist Church of Whitesburg, which Mackey led from 1969-79, among the top churches annually.

Mathis, who wrapped up a second term as KBC president last week, said he has been asked why he would opt to be convention president a second time. His response: "So I would have the opportunity to work with Bill Mackey."

"He's been a blessing to me personally and to all you across the building," Mathis told KBC messengers.

Following his final Mission Board report, Mackey was treated to a "This Is Your Life"-style video tribute, featuring memories and well-wishes from his three ministry stops.

"I hope God blesses you every day with blessings that you can't carry off in a bushel basket," said Clyde Collins, a member of First Baptist, Whitesburg.

He recalled the day Mackey, then a young preacher from Middlesboro, was called to lead the church in 1969. When Mackey left 10 years later, Collins said Mackey "ceased being my pastor, but God blessed me with a wonderful man that I love and enjoy."

Mackey left Whitesburg in 1979 to join the South Carolina Baptist Convention's staff, first as its evangelism director and later as the leader of its leadership development and evangelism growth team.

Carlisle Driggers was the SCBC executive director during Mackey's final years in the state. When the KBC began looking at Mackey in 1997 as a candidate for its executive director position, "I wasn't too happy about that, because I didn't want to lose Bill on our staff," Driggers joked.

"Your work in Kentucky has been so very, very fine and you can always be proud of it and grateful for what God did for you and with you during those years," Driggers told Mackey.

Mackey began his tenure as KBC exec in February 1998. His office at the Kentucky Baptist Building shares a wall with Assistant Executive Director Steve Thompson.

Mackey's "love for the Lord and for people has expressed itself in his passion for evangelism and missions," Thompson said. "He's earned the respect of the broad spectrum of Kentucky Baptists."

Resolution of appreciation

KBC messengers even went on the record in their recognition of Mackey, adopting a resolution commending him and his wife, Kay, for their "excellent service to Kentucky Baptists."

According to the resolution, Mackey "has provided superb, godly leadership known for a strong emphasis on evangelism and missions."

The resolution also noted the slew of ministries either developed or expanded during Mackey's tenure. Under his watch, the KBC has developed several international and domestic missions partnerships; increased its emphasis on church planting through the "High Impact" program; reorganized the Mission Board staff into a team structure that adopted a "servant approach" to meeting churches' needs; and engaged in numerous disaster relief responses.

"Dr. Mackey has been known as an encourager of Kentucky Baptists to stay focused on the mission of sharing the gospel with the people of our state, nation and world and to work together cooperatively," the resolution states.

In addition, messengers approved a motion by Alan Dodson, pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church in Lexington, to dedicate the 2010 edition of the KBC annual publication to Dr. and Mrs. Mackey "in recognition of 13 years of visionary and dedicated leadership, and with gratitude for modeling a Christ-like spirit of love and integrity."



END OF AN ERA ■ Above: Retiring KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey, in his final annual meeting address, challenges Kentucky Baptists to continue to find ways to work together. ■ Left: Mackey prays with Pikeville pastor Paul Badgett, chair of the search committee charged with finding Mackey's successor. Joining Badgett are fellow search team members (from left) Pat Reaves, Ronny Raines, Jerry Tooley and Paul Chitwood. (Photos by John Foster)

Mackey's charge to Ky. Baptists: Carry on a spirit of cooperation

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Lexington—Echoing the Apostle Paul's words to the Colossians, Bill Mackey issued one final charge to Kentucky Baptists: "Don't miss an open door to share the mystery of the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Delivering his final annual meeting address to Kentucky Baptist Convention messengers, Executive Director Mackey praised the spirit of cooperation Kentucky Baptists have exhibited over the past 12 years.

Despite geographical and theological difference among state Baptists, "each challenge has just presented one more opportunity for us to find new ways to work together," he said.

Mackey recently announced his plans to retire next May. He has served as executive director of the convention since 1998.

Delivering the report on behalf of the KBC Mission Board, Mackey applauded the state convention staff for their work.

He also commended Kentucky Baptists' giving over the past year. Including the Cooperative Program, special mission offerings, contributions made to disaster relief efforts in Haiti and several legacy gifts, Kentucky Baptists gave more than \$35 million in 2009-10, a new record for total gifts.

"In a time of economic decline, that is phenomenal," Mackey said.

Noting the importance of the KBC's commitment to the Cooperative Program, Mackey pointed out that the "old-line" state Baptist conventions, including Kentucky, provide 91 percent of CP and special missions projects.

"It is significant what 14 states do in the support of the greatest missionary organization in the world," he remarked.

Mackey urged messengers not to lose sight of the Cooperative Program's significance and its support of missions worldwide.

"It's not enough just to say you support the Cooperative Program and that you support missions; you've got to make a personal commitment about what you're going to do," Mackey said.

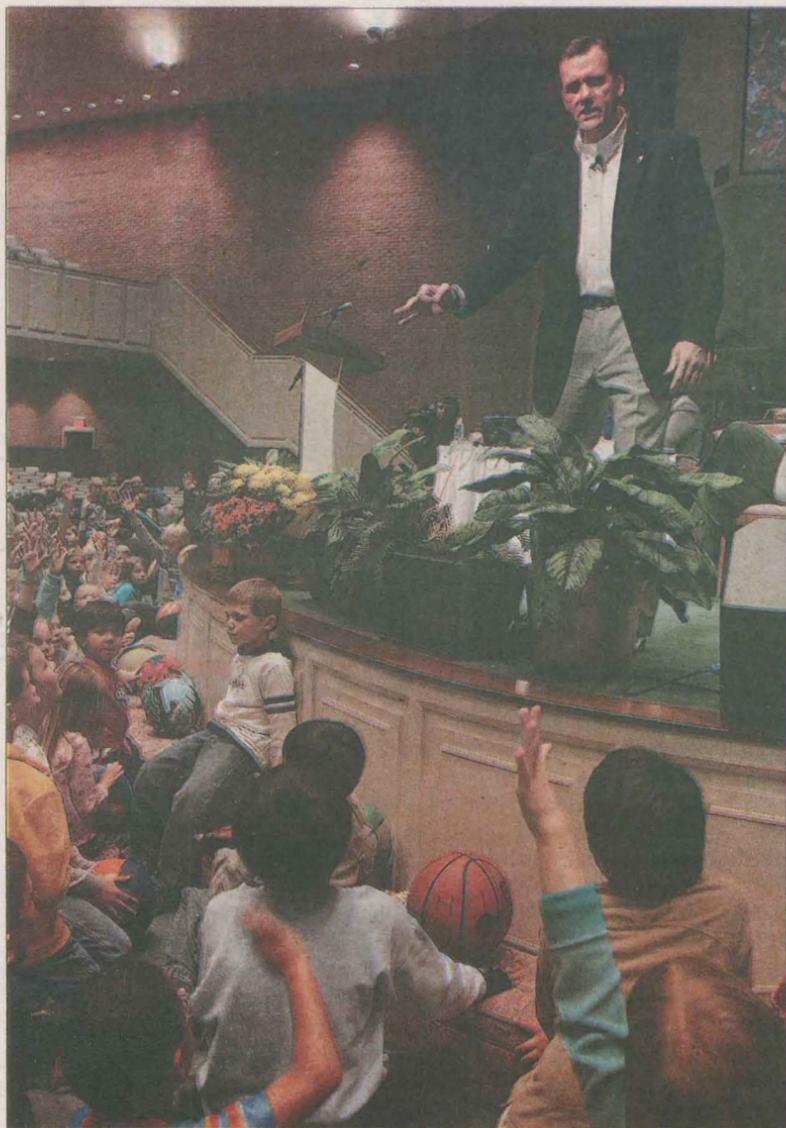
As part of his own commitment, Mackey said he plans to establish an endowment fund through the Kentucky Baptist Foundation for the support of the Cooperative Program. He said he and his wife, Kay, felt called to make such a financial commitment in spite of their own needs in retirement, as well as family needs.

"I have felt led of God to trust Him with those needs, because I can't anticipate what they're going to need—and I can't provide" for them, he said. "Only God can do that."

Noting that most problems Kentucky Baptists experience with finances can be solved through evangelism and discipleship, Mackey offered a final word to KBC messengers.

"Share the gospel and disciple the believers and God will be honored, heaven will be populated, and there will be unbelievable resources for accomplishing the Great Commission."





CONNECTING GENERATIONS Caz McCaslin talks to a crowd of Upward Sports kids from several local Kentucky Baptist churches prior to his closing address at the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting Nov. 16. The founder and president of Upward reminded the kids that, in life, our actions speak louder than our words. (Photos by John Foster)

McCaslin to Ky. Baptists: 'Do something you've never done'

By Dannah Prather
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Lexington—Focusing on the theme of "Connecting Generations in Christ," Upward Sports founder and president Caz McCaslin offered a word of encouragement to participants and coaches involved in the Christ-centered basketball, soccer, flag football and cheerleading leagues.

"This state is reaching more children through Upward Sports than any other state per capita," McCaslin told Kentucky Baptists at their annual meeting last week in Lexington.

More than 200 Kentucky Baptist Convention-affiliated congregations offer the sports leagues as a way to meet members of their communities who perhaps do not attend church or never have heard the gospel.

Each year, an average of 22 people per church—most of them children—accept Christ as their Savior through the 3,200 Upward Sports ministries in 46 states.

Prior to the evening session, local Upward coaches, participants and parents attended "Upward Family Fun Night" at Immanuel Baptist Church. They enjoyed a pizza supper, games and jumping on inflatables.

Boys and girls then entered the sanctuary dribbling basketballs and soccer balls, demonstrating some of the athletic skills they have learned through Upward.

What they have learned spiritually is more important, McCaslin said.

Referencing a survey by George Barna, he noted, "The vast majority of people who come to know Jesus Christ do so between the ages of 5 and 13.

"By the time the child turns 14 years old, he's decided everything he needs to know about God," McCaslin continued, paraphrasing the study. "Ninety-eight percent will take that belief all the way to the grave."

Getting some 'AIR'

Using the acronym "Air," McCaslin said churches must be "aware, intentional and ready," if they are to fulfill Christ's mandate to share the gospel with others.

"We have to be aware that there are lost people all around us. We have to be intentional about going after them."

Genuine concern for others is key, he said, adding that most people "are looking for friends, not necessarily a friendly church."

McCaslin said churches must be ready to do a good job hosting programs such as Upward Sports. "The 'R' could be a big tragedy if we didn't do it. We'd better be ready."

Churches must be willing to try new things to reach their neighbors and the world with the gospel, McCaslin urged.

"If you want something you've never had, then you're going to have to do something you've never done."

President's address

Mathis: Find wisdom for difficult days from four little creatures

By Todd Deaton
Editor

Lexington—Don Mathis, outgoing president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, offered some "wisdom for difficult days," spotlighting the four creatures in Proverbs 30 in his address to messengers at Lexington's Immanuel Baptist Church.

"From the Garden of Eden down 'til today, we could argue correctly that man has gone downward morally and spiritually, but in every other arena of life we've made great advances," Mathis began, highlighting great feats in travel, watching sports on television, walking on the moon and cell phones that communicate worldwide.

"With all our accomplishments, something has desperately gone wrong," said the Bowling Green evangelist. "The problem is the same problem that began in the Garden of Eden which affects all of us: the problem of sin."

Our world has a great deal of knowledge, but not wisdom, he observed. "If wisdom is coupled with knowledge, it's wonderful; if they are separated, it's tragic," he added.

Mathis said if one does what the four little creatures in Proverbs 30:24-28 do instinctively, "in spite of all of our sophistication, we would quickly learn that life isn't really that complicated."

From the ant, one learns not only the importance of organization and preparation, but also makes a sobering discovery: namely, "that life is short and whatever we are going to do (for Christ), we had better do it now," Mathis said.

"By the power and blessing of God, we have not been twiddling our thumbs," Mathis affirmed, pointing out that in the last 25 years, Kentucky Baptists gave more than \$510 million through the Cooperative Program—75 percent of the amount they had given since its origin in 1925.

Drawing comparisons between 1985—when he was first elected president—and now, Mathis noted that through international missions work then, there were 156,326 overseas baptisms in 14,791 Baptist churches with 1.9 million members. In 2009, there were 506,019 overseas baptisms in 204,192 churches with 10.7 million members.

Meanwhile, gifts from Kentucky Baptists for world missions through the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon offering in the past 25 years have totaled more than \$178 million, and gifts for national missions through CP and the Annie Armstrong offering totaled more than \$85 million.

Mathis affirmed the generosity of Kentucky Baptists, but said he had "discovered a problem." In 1985, KBC churches gave an average of 11.69 percent of undesignated receipts through the Coop-

erative Program. In 2009, however, they gave an average of 6.83 percent through CP. Pointing out the nearly 5 percent drop in CP giving, Mathis charged, "The problem is us," calling for spiritual renewal.

"What if?" he queried, before emphasizing that if Kentucky Baptists gave at the same level today, nearly \$39 million would have been received, providing a boost of \$16 million for the Cooperative Program. With a 50/50 split between KBC and Southern Baptist Convention missions causes, it would have meant more funds for the International Mission Board and 136 more missionaries appointed.

Returning to the four creatures in the proverb, Mathis observed that the cony, a rabbit-like animal native to Asia and Africa, finds safety from predators by making its burrow among the rocks.

Of a state population of 4.3 million, more than 2.7 million Kentuckians apparently do not know Jesus, the Rock of Salvation, Mathis observed.

"In your county last week, 83 percent were not in Sunday school or worship," he emphasized. "Shame on us if we don't do everything we can to tell them about Jesus. ... We ain't been fooling around. But can we do more?" Mathis asked. "Absolutely!"

From locusts, Kentucky Baptist can learn to go in a single direction and commit to accomplishing more by working together, Mathis said. "We made some decisions this morning. Some of you liked them; some of you didn't," he acknowledged. "But we are Kentucky Baptists. We are in this together," he said, urging them to stay together and give more for Christ.

Finally, the fourth creature reminds one that real wisdom has a sure destination, Mathis concluded. Like a "low-down, filthy spider" that finds itself in the palace of a king, Mathis rejoiced that because of Christ's love, "dirty, rotten, filthy sinners" have the possibility of one day finding themselves basking in glory of the King of Kings.

"My question is this: How many are we going to take with us?" he challenged.



Don Mathis

Summerlin: Are Baptists 'gazing or going'?

Lexington—Harry Truman was warned.

The late owner of the Mount St. Helens Lodge at Spirit Lake became a national celebrity 30 years ago when he refused to leave what scientists considered to be a danger zone for the churning volcano's impending eruption.

When Mount St. Helens blew its top on May 18, 1980, Truman was buried under 150 feet of volcanic debris, never to be seen again.

Dan Summerlin said he believes many Baptists are just like the stubborn Truman.

"They have the warning: Jesus is going to return—but they're acting like they don't believe it," the pastor of Paducah's Lone Oak First Baptist Church told Kentucky Baptist Convention messengers last week.

Preaching the convention sermon, Summerlin said inactivity has been a Christian staple since the very moment Jesus Christ ascended into heaven. As He disappeared into the clouds, the disciples stood staring at the sky.

Only moments earlier, Jesus had told them

to share His gospel with the nations—the Great Commission. Not until two angels descended upon them and snapped them from their trance did they get moving.

But, Summerlin pointed out, the disciples had an "impossible task" before them. "How many times have churches been told of God what to do and they don't do anything because they don't know where to begin?"

"God loves to give us impossible assignments," Summerlin said, because "we can't do it, He has to do it, and when it's over with, He gets the glory and credit."

Too often, Summerlin said, Baptists act like the disciples looking skyward with their feet in quicksand, or, like Truman, refuse to move.

But a day will come when all Christians will give an account for what they did to fulfill God's greatest command, Summerlin warned.

"One day Jesus is going to return, and the question will be: Will He find us gazing or will He find us going?"

Cooperative Program 'pacesetters' recognized at conventionBy **Dannah Prather**
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Lexington—Former Kentucky Baptist Convention stewardship promotion director Jesse Stricker was presented the 2010 Distinguished CP Leadership Award at the 173rd annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention Nov. 16.

Nearly two dozen Kentucky Baptist congregations also were recognized as top supporters of the Cooperative Program, the unified fund to support missions at home and around the world.

For 22 years, Stricker, now 85, helped Kentucky Baptist churches educate and equip members to manage their money properly and support Christian causes. In his role he also helped churches adopt best practices for their own budgeting and accounting.

"There are people who have gone before us who are pacesetters," said Billy Compton, KBC's executive associate for Cooper-



GIVING MILESTONE Bill Langley (right), pastor of *Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown*, receives an award from *Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Bill Mackey*, honoring the church for reaching the \$10 million mark in Cooperative Program gifts.

ative Program and resources, as he introduced Stricker to KBC messengers attending the afternoon session.

Stricker "always accepted challenging assignments," Compton said, noting that during his tenure, Stricker traveled to all parts of the commonwealth to "promote biblical stewardship."

The Cooperative Program "isn't a sacred cow, it's a sacred 'how,'" Stricker said as he accepted the CP award. "It's how we get the job done."

Stricker encouraged Kentucky Baptists always to consider gifts as made "through" the Cooperative Program and not "to" CP. "It really is a channel that goes out to the entire world."

In a 1975 article in the *Western Recorder*, Stricker was quick to note that sound finances are only one part of a lifestyle of stewardship.

"Stewardship is more than money," the Missouri native said in the article. "It's an acknowledgement that God is the owner of everything and that we're simply trustees of an endowment from Him."

During his tenure, Stricker also served as president of the State Stewardship Directors Association of the Southern Baptist Convention. Prior to joining the KBC staff in 1965 as a Sunday school associate, Stricker was pastor of Memorial Baptist Church in Frankfort.

2009 CP awards

Kentucky Baptist churches receiving awards for top giving to the Cooperative Program in 2009 were:

- Living Hope Baptist Church, Bowling Green, \$404,998.48.
- Lone Oak First Baptist Church, Paducah, \$288,665.69.
- Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown, \$236,000.03.

Churches giving the most per capita to



CP HONOREE Jesse Stricker, former stewardship promotion director for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, urges KBC messengers to give "through" the Cooperative Program rather than "to" it. (Photos by Brenda Smith/KBC)

CP in 2009 were:

- Mexico Baptist Church, Marion, \$258.55, total \$102,384.47.
 - Emmanuel Baptist Church, Jenkins, \$252.31, total \$13,624.89.
 - Countryside Baptist Church, Morganfield, \$225.76, total \$9,256.35.
- Several congregations reached cumulative CP giving milestones in 2009. At \$1 million in total gifts were:
- Hardin Baptist Church, Owensboro.
 - Hickory Grove Baptist Church, Independence.
 - Corinth Baptist Church, London.
 - First Baptist Church, Clay.
 - Calhoun Baptist Church.
 - Immanuel Baptist Temple, Henderson.

■ Valley Creek Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

Reaching the \$2 million mark were:

- Hillcrest Baptist Church, Hopkinsville.
- Crestwood Baptist Church.

First Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg reached \$3 million mark last year.

Achieving \$4 million in 2009 were:

■ Lone Oak First Baptist Church, Paducah.

- First Baptist Church, Henderson.
- First Baptist Church, Madisonville.

The host congregation, Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington, was recognized for reaching the \$8 million mark in cumulative CP giving.

As of 2009, Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown has given \$10 million to the Cooperative Program.

'Can I sleep just a little longer?'**With so much to do, everyone at Oneida stays pretty busy on Saturday mornings**

On Saturday morning, most people like to get a little extra sleep. I guess I did that once upon a time, but for the life of me, I can't remember ever sleeping in on a Saturday morning.

Today at 6 a.m., our cross country team left for the state competition at the Lexington Horse Park. My granddaughter, a seventh grader, and a grandson who is a junior, were among those heading for the horse park. My granddaughter's mother is gone this weekend, so my wife was concerned she may not get up on time. But when the phone rang at 5:30 a.m., we knew she was awake.

It's a little cool this morning, so the students working on the farm will be moving a little slower than they do after school when it's warmer. I always admire the grit of our farm kids. We have as many girls working on the farm as we do boys. Until the late '90s, we only allowed boys to work on the farm. I had considered allowing girls to work on the farm for years, but I held off until the farm manager and I agreed that we could provide the supervision needed. It was one of the best decisions I've made.

The girls actually are much better at some things than the boys. On a brisk Saturday morning, I suspect the girls would be just as happy as the boys to spend an extra hour or two in their warm beds. I think the girls are just as tough as the boys, and as far as I know, they rarely complain about the hard work, hot days or cold Saturday mornings.

Just as soon as the office opened this morning, several of our international students signed

in to use the computer lab. The best way for international students to communicate with their parents is by e-mail. So, every Saturday our international boys are allowed to use the computer lab from 8-10 a.m., and then the international girls use the lab from 10 a.m. to noon. At this time of the year, our international students are making plans to fly home for the Christmas holidays. It's hard to believe that in less than 30 days our students will be home for Christmas.

It's also time for the students to begin their Saturday morning cleaning chores. Several buildings have to be cleaned every day, and our students do that cleaning. Just like the farm crew, I'm sure the students cleaning this morning also would like to sleep in. And I'm sure when the roll was called, one or two did choose to sleep in. Those boys, and maybe a girl or two, will have to work extra hours to make up for missing their Saturday morning chores.

It only takes about two hours to do the Saturday chores, and then they are free the rest of the day to clean their rooms, do their laundry or go back to bed. Guess which one most choose?

We have some guests coming this morning to bring clothes for our used-clothing store, the Friendship House, and I have a young couple coming in this morning for an interview to possibly be houseparents. They have been here for two days and will be here again tonight working in the dorms to meet our students and giving our students a chance to meet them. All in all, this is just a normal Saturday morning—but not too many here at Oneida were able to sleep in.

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

This is Oneida

W.F. Underwood

A valuable missions lesson**Clear Creek students enjoy hearing from missionaries**

Clear Creek recently had the privilege of hosting some world missions conference speakers in one of our chapel services. The conference took place at Laurel River Baptist Association in London, where Roy Faulkner is director of missions. He offered to bring the missionaries to our campus so they could share testimonies of how God is working in their ministries.

The speakers during chapel service included missionaries from the North American Mission Board, International Mission Board and our own Kentucky Baptist Convention. It was good to have these missionaries speak to our students on the same day we launched the campus-wide emphasis for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

Education about the Cooperative Program and support for missions is stressed heavily to our students in all classes. This also was a wonderful opportunity for our students to see and hear from some missionaries who were a part of the programs and support they have been learning about, and also to hear a challenge the missionaries gave them about the importance of missions in their own lives.

Our goal here at Clear Creek is to share with students and challenge them concerning missions, so when they go out into churches as pastors, missionaries and church leaders, they will take a passion for the Cooperative Program and missions with them and lead their churches to be involved in financial support for CP and also a commitment to doing missions.

I am thankful for the missionaries who were able to come and share how God was working in their lives. As I watched our student body while the missionaries were sharing about their work, I could see the excitement in their faces to learn about how

God is working all over the world. After the service, we hosted the missionaries for lunch. I saw many of them eating lunch with our students and sharing more with them.

A valuable lesson was reinforced to our students that day about how we as Kentucky and Southern Baptists can do so much more together through the Cooperative Program than we can alone.

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

Clear Creek Chronicle

Donnie Fox

Life-changing opportunity

Summer staff selection is lengthy, yet vital process

Our recruiting season for summer staff for the 2011 camping year has about drawn to a close. This always is an exciting time as our program staff interviews hundreds of college- and seminary-age students to select the group that will serve as our camp staff for the upcoming season of Crossings.

Recruiting consists of many regional interviews in which hundreds of students come to spend an intensive 24-hour process of group and personal interviews, activities and random work assignments. While the number of hours that go into these interviews may seem strange, it probably exceeds the hours spent on most job interviews for permanent positions in the adult workforce.

The reason such time is spent is that our ministry, in a large way, rests on the effectiveness of the summer staff during the camp season. It is our belief that serving on camp staff will be the most difficult job these students ever have done, and at the same time, perhaps the most rewarding.

While many of the camp decisions in regard to programming and curriculum are made in ad-

vance, the personnel who execute all the details are the summer staff. They are the ones leading Bible studies and small groups, building relationships, facilitating recreation activities—all while being the continual evangelist throughout the summer.

Each year I am pleased to say we feel like God continues to bring very effective young adults to serve in the capacity of summer staff. While we do speak most about what happens in the lives of campers, however, in the lives of the summer staffers, we also see God do great works. We have witnessed numerous times when God redirects and changes the path of these staff in significant ways, calling great numbers to full-time ministry service.

As we look back over the hundreds that have served on camp staff, we are humbled at how many now are serving in churches as pastors, youth pastors, worship leaders and even overseas as missionaries.

For those considering the job of a summer staff at Crossings, be prepared. God will probably change your life in ways far beyond what just takes place this summer.

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

Ky. Baptist Assemblies



David Melber

2010 Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference

Speakers: 'Preach Christ crucified'

Lexington—Focusing on Paul's charge to the church in Corinth to "preach Christ crucified," several pastors and denominational leaders encouraged Kentucky Baptist ministers to keep those words as the centerpiece of their ministries.

The conference was held Nov. 15 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington prior to the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annual meeting.

In the opening sermon, **Floyd Paris** urged pastors to focus on preaching the gospel.

"We spend far too much time and far too many resources on things that don't matter," said Paris, pastor of Unity Baptist Church in Ashland. Allowing themselves to be distracted from preaching the gospel—the incarnation, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ—is a catastrophic failing, Paris said.

"The greatest sin a preacher can commit is to have a person come to his church spiritually hungry and leave without being fed," he said. "Do not squander your opportunity by preaching what does not matter."

Alistair Begg offered Kentucky Baptist pastors a history lesson: "It is imperative, if we are going to reach the coming generation with the gospel, to learn from history," he declared.

The native Scotsman who leads Parkside Church near Cleveland pointed to the Apostle Peter's words to the high priest in Acts 4:10 after the crippled man was healed. "It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed," Peter says.

"This unapologetic, unequivocal, clear statement stands in marked contrast to a lot of the stuff that is burbling out of contemporary pulpits throughout America," Begg charged.

Begg said if American Christianity is not to collapse "in a morass of religious relativism," three things are required: confession, conviction and compassion.

"It's time to get off our back foot," Begg challenged. "It's time not only to be in the private place in confession, not only to be in the public arena with conviction, but to move amongst our friends and neighbors with compassion."

"Too often we've said to our world, we love you, ... go find your own way; chart your own course," lamented **Frank Page**, the new president Executive Committee of Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee.

"I am convinced that God wants us to do a much better job of sharing the gospel," he said. One reason many believers fail to share the gospel is that they have failed to live up to the calling God placed on their lives, Page observed.

Using the call of Samuel as a text, Page observed that the call of God comes for many reasons and in many ways. "It is not singular in its purpose," he noted, highlighting three types of calls: to salvation; to receive God's loving care, and to service.

Emphasizing Samuel's reply, "Speak, for your servant is listening," Page observed that the call is best received by someone with an impressionable heart. "We must ask ourselves today, are our hearts open to the call of God? Are our ears receptive and our eyes open to the call of God has placed on our lives?" The call of God must not go unheeded, Page insisted.

Samuel was described as one who "let none of His (God's) words fall to the ground," Page noted, adding, "I believe Kentucky and Southern Baptists will see revival come, when somebody grows up and lets none of the words of God fall to the ground."

Verse 15 of Paul's letter to the Romans reveals the three "marks of a Great Commission people," noted **Daniel Akin**, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in North Carolina.

In the passage, Paul tells the Romans he hopes to visit with them on his way to Spain to share the gospel of Jesus Christ there. Following Paul's example, Great Commission-minded people "will be focused on the nations," Akin said.

There are nearly 17,000 people groups in the world today without a gospel witness among



CONFERENCE OFFICERS Chad Fugitt (left), pastor of First Baptist Church of Monticello, is president of the 2011 Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference, while Jeff Noffsinger, pastor of Dripping Spring Baptist Church in Olmstead, is president-elect.

them, the seminary president pointed out—that equals 1.6 billion people.

The issue is not, "Who's lost?" he noted. "The issue has always been: 'Who has access to the gospel?'"

The second mark of a Great Commission people is that they are Christ-centered, Akin explained. Too often, the people in church pews do not fully understand what that means, he lamented.

The third mark is that "Great Commission people will be passionate for the unreached peoples of the world," Akin said.

Adding the number of people groups with a limited gospel witness to those with none, the total exceeds 3.4 billion people, Akin pointed out. "The Great Commission is not an option to be considered, it is a command to be obeyed," he said.

Johnny Hunt, the immediate past president of the Southern Baptist Convention, encouraged pastors to live their lives to the glory of God.

Preaching from James, the Woodstock, Ga., pastor declared: "I believe if the Lord Jesus Christ were to come back in the very near future, ... I'm not so sure that one of the major deals at the judgment seat of Christ for the loss of reward and what would have kept us from doing a better job of fulfilling the Great Commission may not have been our love for pleasure and our hedonism."

Regarding obedience to the Great Commission, Hunt charged, "It is not so much what we are doing wrong, as it is what we are just not doing."

Hunt noted that James 4 cautions that one's attitudes, actions and sayings—if one is not careful—may cause one to live independent of and indifferent to God, ignoring His sovereign will and oftentimes completely disregarding God.

The merchants in James were not faulted for planning, but for leaving God out of their plans, Hunt noted, urging, "What we need to do is humble ourselves before God, find out what the will of God is for our lives, and then attempt to do it."

The longest road is not found on any map; it's the road of life, according to Alabama pastor **Adam Dooley**.

The pastor of Dauphin Way Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala., said on life's highway, "we enjoy the journey far more than we enjoy the destination."

Far too often, pastors do not even consider the idea of death in their preaching, Dooley said. "If you are going to preach Christ crucified, a failure to think about death is a failure to prepare for your final destination."

He suggested three key actions for pastors: "Be sure your aspirations are compliant with the Savior;" "make sure your affections are communicated to the saints;" and "be sure your actions are consistent with Scripture."

In the Pastors' Conference business session, Jeff Noffsinger, pastor of Dripping Spring Baptist Church in Olmstead was elected president-elect. He will preside over the 2012 Pastors' Conference. Chad Fugitt, pastor at First Baptist Church of Monticello, stepped into president's role at the close of the conference and will preside next year.

Compiled from reporting by Western Recorder and KBC communications staff

WESTERN Recorder

Attention Pastors:

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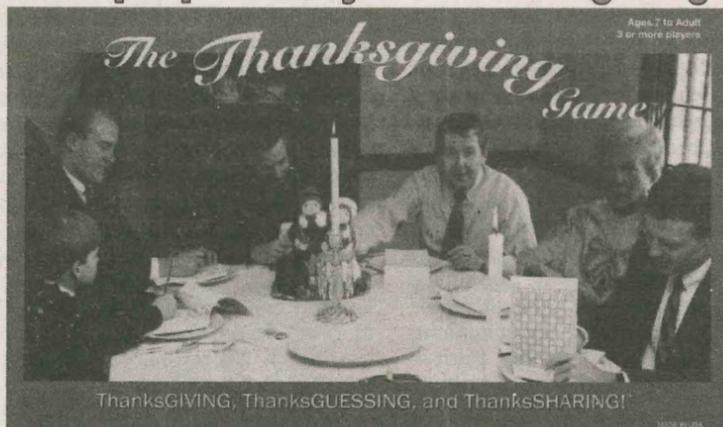
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THE WESTERN RECORDER ... THE ONLY PLACE TO GET KENTUCKY BAPTIST NEWS

18 churches align with KBC

Lexington—Eighteen congregations were welcomed into the Kentucky Baptist Convention at the Nov. 16 annual meeting held at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington.

Messengers approved 13 churches for affiliation and five for watchcare. One of the congregations is Korean, another is Hispanic and two are comprised primarily of African American members.

The new affiliated churches are Agape Missionary Baptist Church, Radcliff; Christ Fellowship Church, Bowling Green; Elevated Baptist Church, Franklin; Epoch Fellowship Church, Owenton; Faith Community Church, Whitesburg; Grace Baptist Church, Garrison; Grace Family Fellowship, Jamestown; Heartland Worship Center, Paducah; Holly Hills Missionary Baptist Church, Calvert City; The Journey Church, Murray; (Iglesia Bautista) Nuevo Amanecer (New Dawn), Crestwood; Pleasant Valley Community Church, Owensboro; River Pointe Church, Munfordville; and Word Missionary Baptist Church, Beaver Dam.

The congregations joining under watchcare status are Bowling Green First Korean Baptist Church; Christ Community Church in Shelbyville; His Way Ministries in Nortonville; and Twin Lakes Worship Center in Benton. Churches under watchcare usually are just beginning their acquaintance with the missions and ministries of the KBC.

Purchase Area Baptist Association also remains under watchcare.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CAMPBELLVILLE**—Saloma Church will host a holiday dinner and Hanging of the Greens service Nov. 28, 5 p.m. **John Chowning** is pastor.
■ **SALYERSVILLE**—**Matthew Gullion**

recently resigned as pastor of First Church to plant Harvest Church in Warsaw.

■ **SOMERSET**—Bethany Church recently called **Kris Absher** as pastor.

Kentucky Baptist leaders warn of renewed expanded gambling push

Lexington—“We are already hearing rumblings now that there will be another push for expanded gambling,” Chip Hutcheson, chairman of the KBC’s Committee on Public Affairs, told messengers at last week’s Kentucky

chasing a money order, Hutcheson challenged Kentucky Baptists: “Can you help? Will you help tell your congregation that this is a dangerous enemy that faces our state.”

Kentucky Ethics League

“There are two demons in this world that are destroying our very souls,” noted Don Cole of the Kentucky Ethics League. The demons of alcohol and gambling industries are not as concerned about our money as they are with getting people addicted to destructive behaviors, because if they do, one will deal with it for the rest of one’s life, he warned.

The editor of the Princeton Times-Leader compared the gambling industry with a scam he recently encountered that was being played on a local, elderly woman, which claimed she had won hundreds of thousands of dollars in a prize giveaway that she would receive if she sent \$2,250 for a processing fee.

“My goodness, is that not what gambling is doing to Kentucky?” Hutcheson thought. “It’s promising we are going to give you lots and lots of money, ... and we are going to get a call that this is legitimate” from “accomplices who stand to profit from expanded gambling.”

But Kentuckians are going to pay a high price with their hearts, their peace of mind and their families, he warned.

Recalling how a concerned citizen had pleaded with him to help explain the scam to the elderly woman and how another had hurried to a bank to try to prevent her from pur-

Asserting that alcohol is causing more harm in our nation than all other illegal drugs combined, Cole told Kentucky Baptists: “If you want Sunday sales of alcohol in your community, just sit back and do nothing.”

The expanded gambling issue will come up again in the form of an appeal to let the people decide, he added. And, it likely will pass, “unless we, as God’s people, call our legislators and tell them up front that we don’t want it,” he urged. “It’s time we demanded righteous leadership from our legislators. Call them, folks. Don’t let it be done.”

KBC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December

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

January

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

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

No Other Name



Christian recording artist No Other Name take the Immanuel Baptist Church stage to lead Kentucky Baptist Convention messengers in worship. The group is brother and sister Sam (left) and Laura Allen and Chad Smith (center). The trio incorporates a strong missions focus with their music, often offering passport applications alongside CDs and T-shirts at their concerts. (Photo by John Foster)

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AVAILABLE: Dr. Craig Loscalzo, retired senior pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington, is available for pulpit supply and interim pastorates. (859) 230-4002. Craig.Loscalzo@gmail.com.

FOR RENT: Gatlinburg condo or cabin. January/winter rates \$80/night; 2BdRm, 2Bath, full kitchen. (832) 922-0401; e-mail: pdw4760@att.net.

SEEKING: Part-time youth pastor for church with growing youth ministry. Send resumé to Search Committee, Northside Baptist Church, 611 Lochrige, Mayfield, KY 42066.

SEEKING: Bivocational pastor for Friendship Baptist, a small, rural church in Campbellsville, Ky. If interested, e-mail barryblevins@windstream.net by Dec. 10.

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

SEEKING: Qualified applicants for part-time youth minister at Locust Grove Baptist Church in Cadiz, Ky. Locust Grove BC is a loving church serving a living Lord. All applicants: please submit resumé to lgbcpastor@yahoo.com; or mail resumé to 73 Locust Grove Church Road, Cadiz, KY 42211.

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

SEEKING: Part-time youth/children’s minister for Grace Baptist Church, Lexington, Ky. Please send resumé to Personnel Committee, Grace Baptist Church, 811 Bryan Ave., Lexington, KY 40505; or by e-mail to dfoley@gbclexington.org by Dec. 15, 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. To apply, send resumé with references to: Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 201 St. Clair St., Frankfort, KY 40601 by Jan. 15, 2011.

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

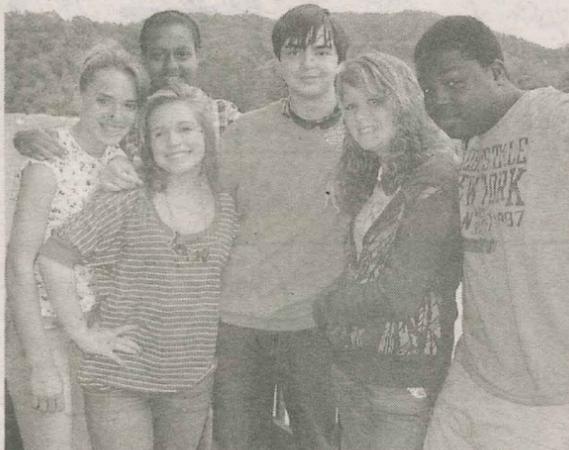
Time of Praise



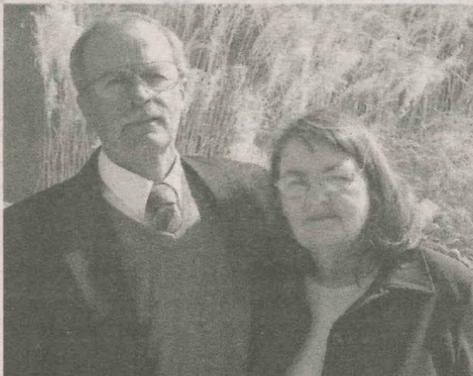
The combined men’s and women’s Kentucky Baptist chorales (above) perform at last week’s Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting. The choir was directed by Mickey Ballard, minister of music at First Baptist Church of Richmond. The group was one of several choirs that helped lead the worship times at the Nov. 16 meeting, including the University of the Cumberland’s chorale (below), directed by David Etter. (Photos by John Foster)



At Oneida Baptist Institute, we are thankful for . . .



Students from near and far.
50% of our teens are from Kentucky, while 30% come from other states and 20% from other countries.



A dedicated faculty & staff.
Some 150 adults work as teachers and support staff. They live sacrificially in order to share God's love with our boys & girls.



Helpful volunteers.
We are blessed with many volunteers who donate time & talents to help us in a multitude of different ways.



Campus visitors.
We are always pleased when folks visit us. Sunday school classes, missions groups and others typically enjoy chapel, lunch and a campus tour.



Friends who support our ministry through:

- * telling prospective students & families about us
- * making monetary contributions
- * donating clothing & other items
- * praying for our students & staff



"We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth."

~ 2 Thessalonians 1:3



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