

Shine like stars in the world
Philippians 2:15

WESTERN Recorder

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WMU Kentucky Notes



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FOR THE RECORD

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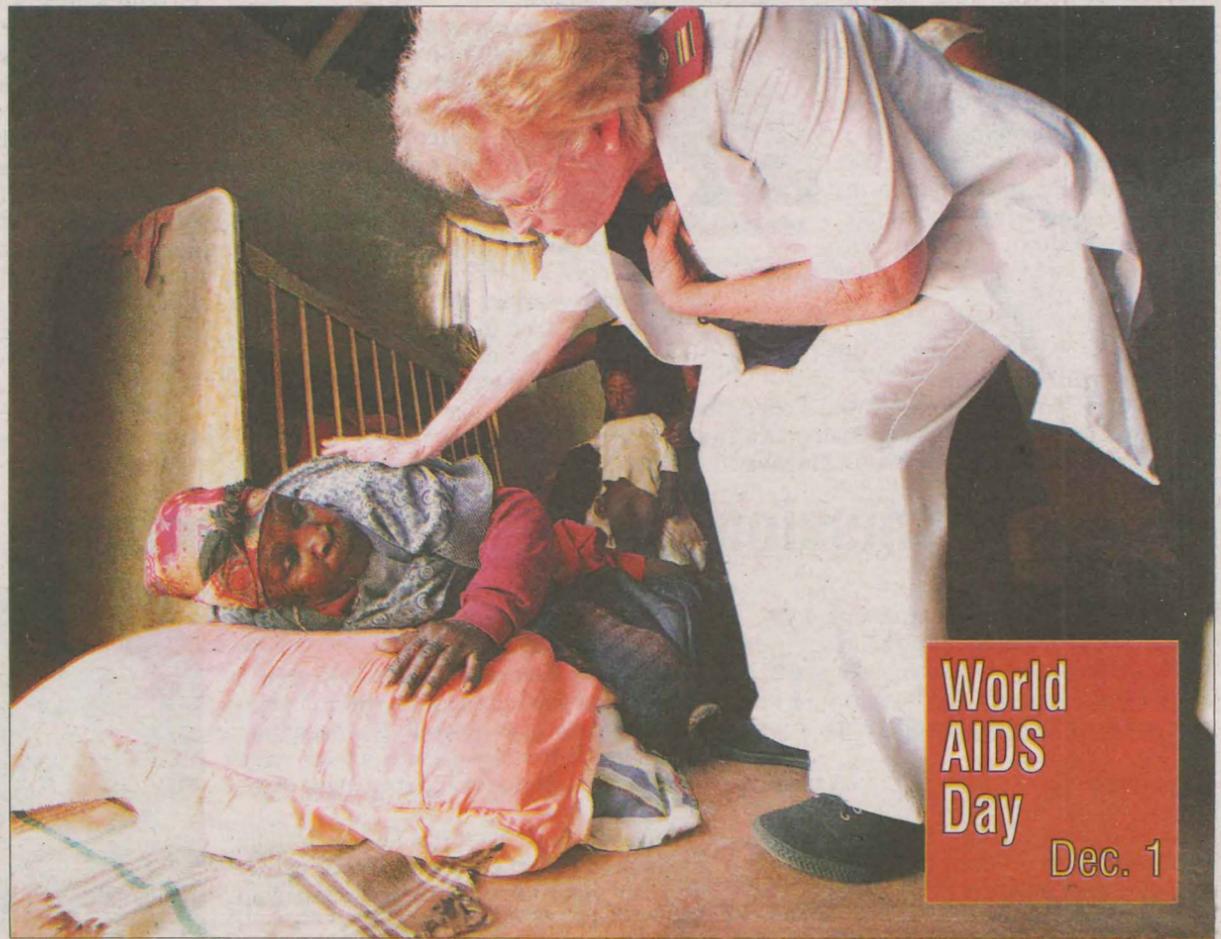
AIDS in South Africa

Life is not so sweet in Sweetwaters

Sweetwaters, South Africa—Walk the dusty paths of Sweetwaters, a rural community nestled in the hills of South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal province, and death is practically everywhere. Nearly every house has up to a dozen graves in the yard—most are only a few years old, and most are there because of AIDS.

Young Bongwiwe plays in her front yard while her 16-year-old sister Xoliswa washes clothes in a metal tub. Nearby, 11 graves bear mute witness to the fact that all the adults in their family are dead because of AIDS. Xoliswa now cares for the little ones.

Earlier this year, infant Seth and his 3-year-old brother Nzuzo were



World AIDS Day
Dec. 1

buried alive by their mother, who was dying of AIDS. A neighbor discovered them, rescuing the brothers from certain death. Seth has AIDS. Their mother now is dead and the location of their father is not known.

Recently 17-year-old Msizi, seven months pregnant and an AIDS patient, died. Her baby still was alive within her, but there was no way to deliver it. AIDS claimed two victims that day, not just one.

South Africa has around 5.7 million people infected with HIV/AIDS—the world's highest number—and

Tabitha Ministries founder and director Gail Trollip, a registered nurse, examines a patient during regular visits to terminally ill AIDS patients in Sweetwaters, South Africa. The province has one of the highest HIV/AIDS infection rates in the world. (Photo by Charles Braddix/IMB)

the province has the highest infection rate in South Africa. In Sweetwaters, more than 50 percent of the population has the disease.

Southern Baptists—through Baptist Global Response, an international relief and development organization, and Tabitha Ministries, a humanitarian organization in Sweetwaters—are helping make a difference in the lives of people suffer-

ing from the effects of HIV/AIDS in Sweetwaters.

In Sub-Saharan Africa alone, more than 22 million people live with HIV/AIDS, and 1.5 million die each year. The number infected on a global scale is more than 33 million, with 2 million deaths per year.

Dec. 1 is World AIDS Day, focusing not just on those affected by See AIDS in South Africa ... *Page 4*

Ky. Baptist crosses denominational lines to help young mission

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Louisville—Even though Servant's Heart West is an Assembly of God mission, the unusual outreach in northwest Louisville has prospered thanks to the generosity of a Kentucky Baptist.

Located in an area known as Portland, Servant's Heart West now owns five houses in the neighborhood surrounding its building.

Four of the five have been donated over the past three years by Jim Jones, a real estate broker and member of Louisville's Broadway Baptist Church.

"I don't live in Portland but I've done a lot of business in Portland and feel I owe something back to them," said Jones, who intends to donate another house by the end of December. "I'm 83 and am getting ready to retire. I can't maintain all of them."

Chris Caldwell, pastor of Broadway Baptist, said Jones has a ser-

vant's heart that stems from his faith and years of serving the nation in the military.

"It was there that I believe Jim learned what it means to go above and beyond the call of duty when circumstances require it," Caldwell noted.

While the pastor celebrates what God does through Kentucky Baptists, he said he also is pleased that Jones' vision for missions is broad enough to appreciate how God can work through others.

"A member of a church I formerly served once said, 'A person all wrapped up in himself makes a pretty small package,'" Caldwell said. "I'd say the same is true of someone who gets all wrapped up in their denomination alone."

Dave Heigl, pastor of sponsoring Servant's Heart Church in Jeffersonton, said Jones' donations have provided housing for ministry volunteers and residents who have See Louisville mission ... *Page 2*



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT Members of Servant's Heart West mission in Louisville's Portland neighborhood host a block party for neighbors. The event was hosted at one of the Assembly of God mission's five buildings, all of which were donated by Jim Jones, a real estate broker and member of Louisville's Broadway Baptist Church. (Photo courtesy of Jared Miller)

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, Dec. 1

Former Georgetown president Patterson dies

Novato, Calif.—Morgan Patterson, a historian who taught at four Southern Baptist seminaries and was president of Georgetown College, died Nov. 19 at his home in Novato, Calif., where he had been treated for pancreatic cancer. He was 85.

Patterson was president of Georgetown College from 1984 to 1991. During that period the college had the highest enrollment in its 162-year history, doubled its endowment to \$16 million and undertook renovation of five buildings.

"Anyone who dedicates a portion of their life to leading an institution is a person with a servant heart," Georgetown President William Crouch said of Patterson, whom Crouch succeeded in 1991.

Patterson "will be forever remembered at this place and we thank God for his time as our leader," Crouch added.

Before his tenure at Georgetown, Patterson served from 1976 to 1984 as dean of academic affairs at Golden Gate Baptist Theolog-

ical Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif. He taught church history at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville from 1959 to 1976 and was acting dean of the School of Theology in 1971. He was assistant professor of church history at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary from 1956 to 1959.



Morgan Patterson

Patterson was pastor of Stapleton Baptist Church in Alabama and Progress Baptist Church in Mississippi. He also served as an interim pastor of numerous churches in Kentucky, California, Indiana, Louisiana and Mississippi.

In 1969 he wrote "Baptist Successionism: A Critical View," in which he challenged a doctrine widespread among 19th century Baptists that modern-day Baptist churches stand in a direct line of succession from New Testament times. He also co-edited "Professor in the Pulpit" in 1999, a collection of sermons preached by faculty in chapel at Southern Seminary.

After retiring from Georgetown College,

Patterson was visiting professor of church history at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisiana College and New Orleans Seminary. He also taught at Oklahoma Baptist University. He served several years as scholar in residence at Campbellsville University and taught as a senior professor at Golden Gate Seminary. He and his wife, Ernestine, returned to California in 2009.

"The Campbellsville University family has been greatly enriched as a result of Dr. Patterson's service for a number of years as a visiting scholar. We will miss him tremendously," Campbellsville President Michael Carter said.

A native of New Orleans, Patterson graduated from Stetson University in DeLand, Fla., before earning master's and doctorate degrees at New Orleans Seminary. Stetson named him a distinguished alumnus in 1992. The following year he received a distinguished service award by the Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Patterson is survived by his wife and two sons. A memorial service was held Nov. 28 at Tiburon Baptist Church in California. (ABP)

Louisville mission gets help from Kentucky Baptist

Continued from page 1

themselves dealing with tough times.

One couple who both lost their jobs lived in one house until they were able to get back on their feet financially. A prisoner who is due to be paroled soon has been offered the use of another.

Assembly of God missionary Steve Link just moved into the home most recently donated by Jones, around the time he started a weekly Bible study. It is aimed at helping people deal with such life-controlling issues as alcohol and drugs.

"It's been pretty exciting," said Link, who moved to Louisville about a year ago from Washington.

"We did street ministry awhile back ... so I'm not a rookie at this," he added. "I don't know everything when I go on the streets, though, because the Holy Spirit changes things around."

Mission leader Jared Miller said Link's relocation shows the difference Jones' gifts have made. The houses have enabled them to bring others into Portland to make a difference, he pointed out.

"There is so much spiritual ripeness in the neighborhood," said Miller, who lives in an apartment behind Servant's Heart West. "This has given us an opportunity to invite others to come to the neighborhood and not be outsiders. That's why we moved here—so we wouldn't be outsiders."

Although it tried a traditional Sunday church service after taking over the property five years ago, Servant's Heart ultimately opted for unconventional ministries.

Mission teams go out most Friday nights to pray for those with physical problems and

other needs. Miller and some volunteers regularly visit a nearby tavern to pray with customers and discuss Scripture.

The mission recently applied to become a Dare to Care food distribution site and plans to open three days a week. Since another church in the area also operates a food center three other days, that would cover most of the week, Heigl said.

Servant's Heart West has hosted clothing giveaways, medical clinics and block parties at its sanctuary, located near one of the main thoroughfares through Portland.

It also sponsors several home Bible studies. And, Miller and his wife, Brianne, host a weekly fellowship dinner for neighbors and team members.

Since it doesn't have a weekly service, the mission allows Bible Community Fellowship to use its sanctuary on Sunday mornings. Pastor C.L. Jordan comes from a Southern Baptist background.

"Jordan told me he's been able to baptize people who wouldn't have come to church otherwise because of the ministry they received on the street," said Miller, who operates a construction business to support his young family.

Although under AG leadership, the mission has an interdenominational flavor that includes Kentucky Baptist participation.

Michael Barger, a student at Boyce Bible College and an elder at Guiding Light Baptist Church, is an active member of the mission team.

He also has benefited from Jones' donations. Barger and his wife have been living in one of the houses this year until they can complete renovations on their own home.



PLACE TO CALL HOME Jared Miller (left), head of the Servant's Heart West mission in Louisville's Portland neighborhood, and Steve Link, an Assembly of God missionary serving in the area, both have benefited from the generosity of Kentucky Baptist Jim Jones. (Photo courtesy of Jared Miller)

"Many times when we ask someone if they need prayer, God shows up and then it opens the door to share the gospel," Barger said. "God has given us so much favor down here. It's more powerful than anything I've ever seen."

One 55-year-old Portland resident who admits to lifelong struggles with alcohol said after a fight last summer that sent him to the hospital the first people he saw when he woke up were Miller, Barger and Link.

"Jared, Michael and Steve are invaluable to me," said the man whose name is Mike. "They just keep looking out for me. They come by and try to keep my spirits up."

"For people in our neighborhood, we believe that stronger than Sunday morning worship time is a seven-day-a-week connection to the family of God," Miller said.

Hollon to step down as Oates Institute director at month's end

Louisville—The Wayne E. Oates Institute has announced a \$40,000 challenge gift from anonymous donors to honor the leadership of Vicki Hollon, the group's executive director since 1996 who will step down at the end of November.

Hollon currently serves in an interim staff position at Trinity Baptist Church in San Antonio. Her husband, Les Hollon, became the church's senior pastor in 2009, moving from St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville.

Vicki Hollon informed the institute's board of directors in September that she was resigning and recommended her replacement be an executive director able to live in Louisville and serve on location with other staff.

On Nov. 16 the board named Mera Corlett,

a member of the board and retired director of pastoral care at Central State Hospital in Louisville, as interim director.

Hollon to remain involved

Despite her resignation, Hollon said she plans to stay involved as a seminar facilitator and advocate for the organization. Founded in 1993, it was named to honor the legacy of Wayne Oates, a longtime professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary who pioneered a pastoral model of caring for people's body, mind and spirit.

"The Oates Institute is meeting a need not being filled by any other organization or program as we provide a wide selection of dynamic continuing-education courses de-

signed to enhance the quality of care given by chaplains, clergy, therapists, congregational leaders, health ministers, nurses and other caregivers," Hollon said.

The institute offers anywhere from 40 to 50 online seminars a year and an annual forum in Louisville. Other resources include an Oates Journal published six times a year.

Jan Shockley, chairwoman of the Oates Institute board, said the organization's leaders would miss working with Hollon as executive director but looked forward to continuing to expand on the work she began.

Hollon said the couple making the initial seed gift in her honor asked not to be identified publicly and that a matching gift of \$10,000 already has been made. (ABP)

Baptist Men 'Celebrate the Mission' Jan. 14-15

Hopkinsville—"Impacting Our World in Deed and Truth" is the theme of the Kentucky Baptist Men on Mission event, Celebrate the Mission, Jan. 14-15, 2011, at First Baptist Church of Hopkinsville.

Participants can learn how to serve their communities in a variety of ways, including equipping a church facility to be a shelter during times of disaster, mentoring boys and adults, starting an outreach to newcomers to the United States and many other ministries.

Among the guest speakers is Fritz Wilson, disaster relief director for the Florida Baptist Convention, who has coordinated recovery efforts among Southern Baptists around the country seeking to help the people of Haiti following the Jan. 12 earthquake.

Other conference speakers who will be featured are Kentucky Baptist and former international missionary to the Republic of Georgia, Barry Corder, and Baptist Builder Calvin McFarland of Monticello, who coordinated an ambitious, long-term project to improve "My Father's House," a Baptist ministry center in Eastern Kentucky.

According to Coy Webb, Kentucky Baptist Convention's disaster relief associate, Men on Mission selected 1 John 3:18 as the theme verse for this year's event "because we live in a world that does not want us to prove the gospel as much as they want to know if we as believers can live out the gospel."

The Scripture states: "Little children, we must not love in word or speech, but in deed and truth."

"Our witness for Christ needs to be more than words; it should be demonstrated in a changed life," Webb said.

Celebrate the Mission is a time for Kentucky Baptists to "learn about kingdom-building opportunities, be challenged to discover the calling God has for their lives, and get connected with Great Commission ministries," he added.

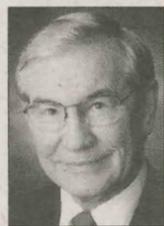
Celebrate the Mission begins with a worship service at 7 p.m. CST, Friday followed by a mini-concert from His Praise Quartet of Hopkinsville. A missions fair also will be held Friday night. Saturday's session starts at 8 a.m. with worship and is followed by three workshop sessions. Participants can choose from eight different ministry topics.

The event is free and is made possible through gifts to the Cooperative Program. Those who wish to participate should register online at www.KyBaptist.org/Celebrate.

Are We There Yet?

The theme for the Week of Prayer for International Missions this year is "Are We There Yet?" with a subtitle that reads: "Boldly Give To Reach All Peoples." It is based on Psalm 67:3

Partners in the Mission



By Bill Mackey

We are not there yet but for the first time in history we can identify the 6,426 people groups that still need to be reached, according to the International Mission Board. It is tragic for anyone to be lost but it is even more tragic when they have not had an opportunity to hear the gospel.

The current 5,000-plus international missionaries supported by Southern Baptists represent one-third of one-tenth of one percent of Southern Baptists. There are millions of us who could be more involved in going, giving and praying. With God's help, Southern Baptists could use their resources to share the gospel with each unreached people group.

If most Southern Baptists could catch the vision for each people group it would not be a burden for any one person or church. We are not there yet but it does not take much imagination to see what could happen.

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering represents 55 percent of the total budget for the support of international missions through IMB. It takes \$43,845 per year to support one missionary and that is only \$120 per day. If just half of Southern Baptists who attend church regularly (an estimated three million) were to give \$120 through this year's Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, the offering would exceed \$360 million.

We are grateful that Kentucky Baptists were faithful in their support of IMB missions through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering last year. Kentucky Baptists gave a record \$5,218,716, up 18 percent over the previous year. The gifts included two legacy gifts which totaled \$384,000.

Kentucky Baptists will also support IMB missions in a greater way through the 2011-12 Cooperative Program budget. The action by the messengers to the 2010 Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting will result in an increase of about \$900,000 for IMB missions if the KBC budget is met.

Last week I received an e-mail from T.J. Francis, the pastor of the First Baptist Church of Walton. Here's part of what he had to say: "Two years ago the church was giving 5 percent through the Cooperative Program. Last year we increased to 7 percent and this year we have increased to 8 percent, with a commitment to make a 1 percent increase each of the next two years. Please pray for our church as we reach out with the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Please join with me as we all pray for every Kentucky Baptist Church as we reach out with the transforming gospel of Jesus Christ.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Remembering those we do not know

Thanksgiving was different this year.

For many years now, my family has traveled to my grandmother's house for either Thanksgiving or Christmas, continuing a family tradition from my childhood. Most of my uncles, aunts, cousins and their children would be there. My aunts gathered in the kitchen, heating up the turkey, ham, biscuits and casseroles in the oven or arranging pies and cakes on the table. My uncles would gather around the television to watch football games, while my cousins played in the yard.

After my cousins married, they brought their own families, and cars quickly filled the front yard, leaving little room for the kids to play outside and hardly any inside the small house—which had once seemed so large—for grownups to mingle. Still, it was a family Thanksgiving.

Because of the distance, we weren't always able to get there every year. (But at the time, we thought there always would be next year.) And, it grew harder to keep track of all of the 2nd cousins and their boyfriends or girlfriends. But it didn't matter—when we're together, they are all family.

Grandma was a matriarch. Papa suffered a stroke many years ago, and was partially paralyzed for as long as I remember. She took care of him until he died about a decade or more ago now. Through the years, she has held our family together, making everyone feel welcome in her home.

Several weeks ago, Grandma, who is 92, suffered a stroke. So, the family didn't gather at her house as usual. She is in a nursing home now.

We visited my grandmother in the nursing home this Thanksgiving, and when she saw my mom, she immediately knew her. She told a nurse, "That's my daughter behind you," motioning with her good hand. She even called her name. And there were flashes of her old wit. She asked why my dad hadn't come with

us. When Mom replied that the car would have been too crowded, Grandma quickly retorted, "Well, you could have tied him to the top." When we left, she told us to tell Dad to "preach well this Sunday." She remembered he was a pastor at one time.

On a shelf in Grandma's room at the nursing home was a picture that she said was of her church, First Baptist, where she had been a stalwart for nearly three-quarters of a century. She recalled attending Sunday school for many years. My mother and father were baptized in that church—as were all of her other children—and they were married there. Her church has always been dear to her, and she passed those Christian virtues to her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and even great-great-grandchildren.

As I later reflected on our Thanksgiving, it occurred to me: Though Grandma may not always know us, we still need to remember her—the warmth of her home, the kindness of her heart, the sharpness of her wit, and most importantly, the Christian faith she modeled for her family.

Yes, Thanksgiving was different. Our family couldn't gather at Grandma's house. But we are still grateful for what she taught us through the many years about family and faith.

Just as the seasons in our family's life are changing, I thought of Don Mathis' message during this year's convention in which he reminded Kentucky Baptists of a proverb about the ant, which encourages us to be mindful that life's seasons quickly change and whatever we are going to do for Christ we need to be busy doing it now. This is the Week of Prayer for International Missions. Reaching the people groups who remain untouched by the gospel is a doable task, but it is sometimes easy for us to forget about the billions of people who have yet to hear about Jesus. They may not always know us, but we still need to remember their need to know Him. Let us "Boldly Give to Reach All People."



After Thought

By Todd Deaton

Servant leadership defines Campbellsville experience

By Ted Taylor

Preparing Christian servant leaders is the driving force of Campbellsville University. From the moment you arrive on campus, until you leave, two words that will define your experience are "servant leadership."

Churches and Christ-centered institutions need leaders who are not driven by the world's concept of leadership, but who will adopt Jesus' teaching and example of servant leadership. Campbellsville's mission is to graduate young men and women who strive to be world changers by practicing servant leadership, rather than self-serving leadership.

In Luke 14:8-10 we discover that service, not status, is the goal of a leader who has Christ as Lord. Christ-like leadership is engaged with the crowd, rather than withdrawn to the head table. Leadership through service is the strategy that Jesus taught and used to disciple the men closest to him. Submitting to Jesus and following His teachings is the beginning of true servant leadership. Servant leaders are driven by humility and wait expectantly for God to raise them up.

Servant Leadership 101 is modeled by CU's President, Michael Carter, and his example energizes our campus in service learning and servant leadership. "Humble yourselves, therefore under God's

mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time (1 Peter 5:6)."

Jesus defined greatness when He spoke, "Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all (Mark 10:43-44)." Following Jesus as Lord is the heart of the servant leader. Servant leaders are shaped by obeying the Master, rather than seeking to master others. The Savior taught that this leadership style ultimately means giving up yourself so that others can have the abundant life that God has planned for them.

The most moving servant experience for me each academic year, occurs when the entire freshmen class brings hundreds of Christmas shoe boxes to the altar at Ransdell Chapel during FIRST CLASS, our freshmen program that emphasizes character, development and servant leadership. Observing freshmen preparing boxes for underprivileged children around the world (Operation Christmas Child) makes me thankful to serve at a Christ-centered institution like Campbellsville University.

The Son of God laid aside his rope and picked up a servant's towel (John 12:4-11). The towel was wrapped around his waist and the basin was filled with water. Jesus began to wash the feet of His friends. Meeting the needs of others through picking up the towel

of service stands apart from secular leadership. Rather than throwing in the towel when leadership is difficult, servant leaders take up the towel of servanthood.

A few weeks ago during FIRST CLASS, our speaker randomly chose one freshman student out of the 500 present to wash his feet. The passion at Campbellsville University is to prepare Christian servant leaders. Passion for serving others is in our DNA at Campbellsville University. As I experienced this moving message on service in FIRST CLASS, I remembered the words of Mother Teresa, "We can do no great things—only small things with great love."

Servant Leadership 101 begins and ends with the life, ministry, and example of Jesus Christ. We are joining Him in His ministry to the world by preparing Christian servant leaders at Campbellsville University to carry out the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20).

Ted Taylor is a professor of Christian Studies and Director of Leadership/Character Development Institute at CU. He can be reached at (270) 789-5190 or by e-mail at: gttaylor@campbellsville.edu. Campbellsville University is a widely acclaimed Kentucky-based Christian university with more than 3,000 students, offering 63 undergraduate programs, 17 master's degrees and five postgraduate areas. The Website for complete information is campbellsville.edu.

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

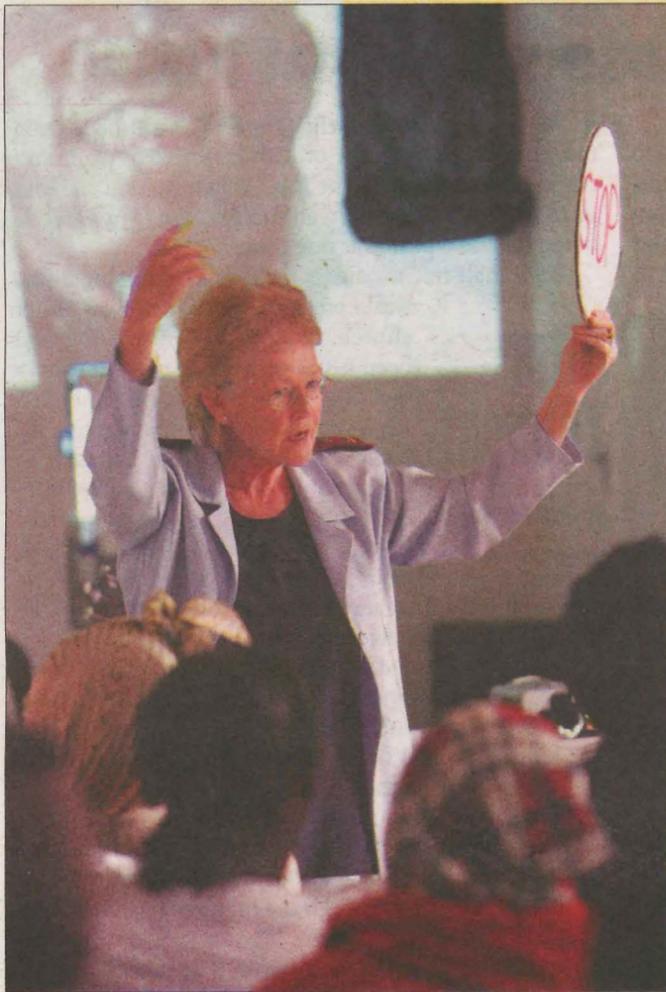
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LEADING THE WAY Gail Trollip, founder of Tabitha Ministries, meets with caregivers and "mobile moms" for encouragement and training. They minister to more than 6,000 AIDS patients and orphans in Sweetwaters, South Africa. (Photo by Charles Braddix/IMB)

AIDS in South Africa

Southern Baptist relief organization teams up with local HIV/AIDS ministry to combat deadly, overwhelming spread of disease through province

Continued from page 1

AIDS around the world, but also highlighting opportunities to make an impact on this deadly disease.

One way Baptist Global Response is attacking the issue is with its In-Home Care Kits (www.InHomeCareKit.org), which provide five-gallon buckets filled with medical and hygiene supplies a hospice caregiver needs to ease the pain of patients suffering through terminal illness in a place where access to such supplies is limited or nonexistent.

AIDS has a cumulative effect, according to Mark Hatfield, who with his wife, Susan, directs work in Sub-Saharan Africa for Baptist Global Response. The disease not only touches an individual and the family, but also the entire community. BGR and Tabitha Ministries help more than 2,000 homes, 5,500 children living in child-headed households and 1,000 terminally ill patients in the Sweetwaters area.

They see 150 deaths a week, and that many new cases in the same timeframe.

"We are really in a killing field right now, where death has become the norm," said Gail Trollip, a registered nurse and Tabitha Ministries founder.

"It's not your normal disaster situation where you have an event and it ends with recovery and rehabilitation," Hatfield said. "This is a disaster that is ongoing, day after day."

The focus of Tabitha Ministries is multi-faceted, according to Trollip. The ministry started with HIV/AIDS training, then quickly moved into in-home hospice care for terminally ill AIDS patients.

From there, the ministry began taking in infants whose parents died of AIDS. Many of the babies themselves are infected or sick. Tabitha now operates two orphanages and is involved with several schools.

A major aspect of Tabitha Ministries is assisting children who are the heads of their households. These children are orphaned because of the AIDS-related deaths of their parents and are left in charge of their homes. Ranging from pre-teens to older teenagers, they are totally responsible for their younger siblings.

Hlengiwe is one such orphan. She began caring

for her seven brothers, sisters and cousins at the age of 11. Her parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles all died of AIDS. As the oldest child, it became her responsibility to care for her family. She now is 14.

The bulk of the relief work is carried out by volunteer caregivers, who visit the terminally ill, as well as "mobile moms" who spend a set amount of hours each week in homes headed by orphaned children.

Through the volunteers, Tabitha Ministries—with assistance from BGR—provides medication, nutritional food packets, school uniforms and shoes to the thousands under their care. They express encouragement and concern and take time to share God's love.

"These caregivers and mobile moms who are giving themselves so selflessly really need an incredible amount of prayer and support themselves because of what they see and experience day in and day out," Trollip said.

"One of the things I see is that HIV/AIDS acts as a magnifying glass or prism over top of the community. You see some of the bad parts magnified," Hatfield explained. "You see some of the results of poor choices and the results of sin. You see the results of people not following God's plan for abstinence before marriage and faithfulness in marriage."

On the other side, he pointed out, "It also brings out the good in organizations like Tabitha Ministries, who sincerely care about the welfare of the people they are ministering to. They care about the lives of these kids who really don't have a future without help, without someone coming alongside of them and empowering them to take care of their own needs and own situation."

Hatfield said he sees the partnership between BGR and Tabitha Ministries as a good fit.

"As Baptist Global Response we want to find partners that have a like heart who are a delivery system and can assure that the resources get to the people in need," Hatfield said. "BGR's tagline is 'Connecting people in need with people who care,' and we believe Southern Baptists are people who care. Tabitha Ministries is a vehicle for being sure we are getting the resources to the most vulnerable and needy."

Cholera becomes No. 1 priority for Baptist relief work in Haiti

By Barbara Denman
Florida Baptist Convention

Port-au-Prince, Haiti—In the wake of massive rainfall and extensive flooding caused by Hurricane Tomas as it skirted western Haiti, disaster-weary Haitians now are coping with an increased spread of cholera worsened by bacteria-filled standing water.

The heightened cholera outbreak has led Florida Baptist officials to focus on the potential epidemic, said Dennis Wilbanks of the state convention's partnership missions department, who traveled to the country Nov. 10-17, just days after Tomas' onslaught.

"It is a potential catastrophic event worthy of keeping an eye on," Wilbanks said, even as the government's and NGOs' efforts in water, health and sanitation have slowed the outbreak.

Haiti's Ministry of Health (MSPP) reports 1,186 deaths and 19,646 cases as of Nov. 16, the last day that analyzed figures were available. Overall, the MSPP reports that 49,418 people have sought medical attention since the epidemic was declared.

Included among the cholera deaths are two pastors of the Confraternite Missionnaire Baptiste d'Haiti, Florida Baptists' partner convention in Haiti: Marc Edrouard Theodore of Eglise Baptiste Par la Foi K-Soleil in Gonaives, located in the Artibonite Association; and Alphonse Joseph of Eglise Baptiste Coupe-a-David in the North Association.

"It seems that the cholera actually started in the Artibonite Valley where the water flow decreases and becomes stagnant in the rice fields," Wilbanks said.

The Florida convention is working in partnership with CMBH churches to help prevent and curb the spread of the disease in the churches and their communities.

The convention has allocated \$30,000 to purchase water, water purification tablets and IV bags for churches in five CMBH associations, with the largest funding given to the Artibonite Association.

Additionally volunteers at the

convention-owned mission house in Port-au-Prince will begin assembling plastic bags with sugar, salt and water purification tablets to distribute through the churches to needy families.

The convention staff has printed 50,000 brochures in both French Creole and English on prevention and treatment of the disease which will be distributed through the churches, drawing on resources prepared by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

"Education is a key ingredient in the prevention and treatment of cholera," Wilbanks said. "Prevention is most critical."

Additionally, Wilbanks said hydration is necessary to help those who have the disease to overcome it. With bags of water supplies, church members with cholera can be treated by remaining hydrated to lessen the need for treatment at overcrowded hospitals.

While in Haiti, Wilbanks heard reports and assessed damage from Hurricane Tomas. While there were "limited deaths due to the flooding, every association experienced some damage mostly from flooding and rushing water," he said. Many new churches lost their tarp roofs.

The FBC has been caring for the hunger needs in the hardest-hit areas, Wilbanks reported.

Freight containers of Buckets of Hope have been moved into the areas and currently are being distributed to families. The buckets, filled with a week's supply of food aid, were prepared by Southern Baptists in response to the January earthquake. Many of the containers shipped from the U.S. were held up by Haitian customs officials who were overwhelmed by the volume of humanitarian shipments after the quake.

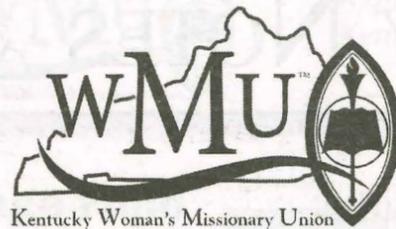
"Our response to meet the needs of the Haitian people has been proactive," Wilbanks said. "Our food distribution is at least a week ahead of where we would have been because we had rice located throughout the country and Buckets of Hope scheduled for distribution," he added. (BP)

KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Seeking: To fill the position of executive director to provide visionary leadership to the Kentucky Baptist Convention. The executive director will give direction to the KBC Mission Board ministries and staff, promote the ministries of the KBC and Cooperative Program, conduct all fiduciary responsibilities of the office, and build working relationships with Kentucky Baptists and all partners.

A minimum of a Master of Divinity degree from an accredited institution, or equivalent, is required. Please submit resumes no later than January 3, 2011, by mail to kbcsearch@gmail.com or by mail to KBC Executive Director Search Committee, P.O. Box 460, Elizabethtown, Ky. 42702-0460.

KENTUCKY NOTES



A quarterly publication of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union
P.O. Box 436569, Louisville, KY 40253-6569 • (502) 489-3534 • Toll-free (866) 489-3534 • www.kywmu.org
Supplement to Western Recorder

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Are We There Yet?
Week of Prayer for
International Missions
Nov. 28 - Dec. 5, 2010

Lottie Moon Christmas
Offering Goal: \$175 million

Kentucky churches
gave \$5,218,715.61
during 2009-10.

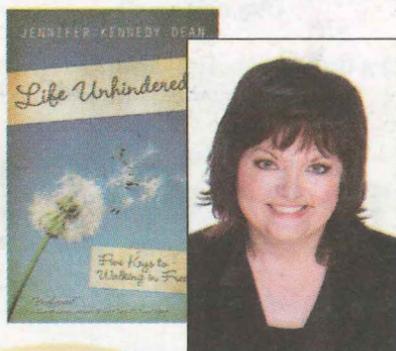
Can we give more this year?

Winter 2010

unhindered!

2011 Kentucky WMU Missions Celebration & Annual Meeting
March 25-26, 2011, First Baptist Church, Bowling Green

- **Theme Interpretations**
Jennifer Kennedy Dean,
author of *Life Unhindered*
- **Special focus**
Ministries to
internationals in
Kentucky. Meet Kentucky
missionaries reaching people from around
the world. Enjoy international music and
testimonies.
- **Ministry Projects Serve in Bowling Green**
on Friday and Saturday.
- **Silent Auction Proceeds go to the Heritage**
Fund supporting the work of Kentucky WMU
- **Missionaries, displays, great music and**
more!
- **Sessions on Friday morning, afternoon,**
evening and Saturday morning



The Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting is the gathering place
for everyone who cares about missions. Be there!

First Baptist Church, 621 East 12th Street, Bowling Green, KY 42010

Watch for publicity and registration information to be mailed in early January.

A Personal Word

From our founding in 1845, Southern Baptists have embraced the Great Commission as our "marching orders." Through the years we have rallied to the call to go into all the world. This past year we were challenged again by the lostness of our world and the need to make the Great Commission our priority.

The 2010 International Missions emphasis asks the probing question, "Are we there yet?" The IMB is focused on taking the gospel to every known people group on earth. Our prayers, gifts to international missions and personal involvement in sharing the gospel are crucial to reaching this goal.



Joy Bolton
Executive
Director-Treasurer

Let me offer three prayer challenges for the year ahead:

Adopt an unreached people group for prayer. Prayer opens doors for the gospel! Just ask Wickland Baptist Church in Nelson Association. When they adopted the Sokoto Fulani people group of West Africa, they had no known Christian witness. After they began praying, a Journeyman was appointed. Later, the church sent a mission team and supplies. Their story has been featured in an IMB video and is a testimony to the impact one church can make through prayer. Contact the IMB about adopting an unreached people group.

Pray daily for our missionaries using the Missionary Prayer Calendar. Did you know that in a year's time you can pray for more than 10,000 missionaries! The Prayer Calendar and a daily devotion are found in *Missions Mosaic* and *Open Windows*.

Keep praying for the 2010 state missions prayer requests. Pray throughout the year using the prayer guide, which focuses on lostness in Kentucky. Create a "lost list" and pray for these people by name on a daily basis.

I also ask that you become a spokesperson for the Cooperative Program in your church. It has been said that CP reflects the logic of Southern Baptists while missions offerings reflect the heart. Through CP, we support all of our work without having to send representatives to each church from every area to make an appeal. In the old system, the ministry that told the most heart-stirring story received the money. Through CP, we provide support where needed in a variety of ministries within our state, nation and around the world. CP support needs to grow!

I close with a word of thanks. In a time of continuing economic uncertainty for many, you have given to missions generously. Our 2009-10 offerings for international, national and state missions were the largest ever. A year ago, I challenged you to give 10 percent more to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. You gave 18 percent more, and we exceeded the \$5 million mark for the first time.

The Eliza Broadus Offering was 15 percent higher than the previous year, exceeding the \$1.1 million goal, and making additional ministries possible. The 2009-10 EBO total was \$1,268,410.32, the largest amount ever given for Kentucky missions! The average will fund Find It Here 2011, disaster relief, a church plant in Whitley County, evangelistic outreach to students, and R/6 ministries to released offenders. Thank you, Kentucky Baptists!

Churchwide

Have you planned something and it conflicts with another event in your church? Nothing says "uh oh" like everyone not being on the same page. It happens from time to time. Then we are stuck trying to work it out with those it affects. We have good intentions, but miscommunication or non-communication can lead to mess-ups and embarrassment. We just get so excited about what we are doing that we fail to let folks who need to know ... know!



Here are a few things to keep in mind when planning an event:

1. Pray about what God wants you to do to lead your church to understand and embrace being "Unhindered" through missions and missions education in your church.

2. Work with your church and ministry leadership teams. Remember to include all age level organizations in the events. Connect with everyone. Present your church staff a quarterly (yearly is best) calendar of events for all WMU organizations in the church. This is a great reason to have one annual leadership team meeting in the summer and then quarterly meetings.

3. If you are unsure about what to do or have questions, contact your associational WMU director, state WMU resource team member or a state staff person. Contact information is listed in the Kentucky WMU supplement/calendar.

4. Celebrate the event and the positive results it achieves.

Events on the horizon include Week of Prayer for International Missions, Focus on WMU and Hispanic WMU Event, March 19 at First Baptist Church of Mt. Washington.

As we enter the time of celebrating our Savior's birth, may you experience the peace, joy and blessings He gives.

Wanda Walker

Scholarships Available

Kentucky WMU offers scholarships to Acteens and young women who are pursuing a college or seminary education with ministry in mind.

The deadline is February 15. Please visit the scholarship page on our website, www.kywmu.org, for full details.

Adults

God leads us into serving Him through Women on Mission. Sometimes we are led to engage our audiences in different ways.

Recently I had a conversation with a lady from a church in my home association. She wanted to start WMU and Women on Mission in her church. God told her,



Youth

The 2010-11 Kentucky Acteens Panel recently held a retreat to plan Exalt. Panel members include:

- Sarah Baldauff, Forest Park Baptist, Bowling Green.
- Maggie Ballou and Cassie Couch, Central Baptist, Corbin.
- Courtney Ford of First Baptist, Williamstown.
- Morgan Horn and Megan Pinkston, Bethel Baptist, Harrodsburg.

The panel selected "Contagious" as the theme. Based on Acts 1:8, it projects the idea that we should be contagious with our faith, starting in Kentucky and extending to the world. Exalt will be held April 1-2 at Forest Park Baptist in Bowling Green.

"Let's do this now!" She was hosting a kitchen wares party in her home and had a group of 15 women from her church. She thought, "Here is our group."

So, before the fun and fellowship of the party began, a fellowship in prayer began her party as she told her friends, "Let's pray for our missionaries." After praying, she shared with the women about being called to start WMU in her church. Imagine, a group of women began their party in a prayer for missions and a women's mission education group was the result.

Knowing that many of you are saving money for Blume, the national conference for Acteens and teenage girls, we are making Exalt as affordable as possible. Groups can even spend the night at the church. The gym floor has some give to it. We also will block some rooms at local hotels for those of you who prefer to stay there. We will have the same shirt for Exalt and as the Kentucky shirt for Blume. So, if you come to Exalt, you won't need to buy another shirt for Blume.

Speaking of Blume, registration opened on Oct. 1. Blume will take place July 13-16 at the Walt Disney World Coronado Springs Resort. You can learn more



God truly was in that place.

As you are making plans for the 2011, there are three retreats to attend: April 8-9 at Laurel Lake Baptist Camp in Corbin and April 29-30 at Camp Schaffer in Hawesville. Gayla Parker will lead both of these retreats on "The Proverbs 31 Woman." October 7-8, our statewide fall retreat will be at Jonathan Creek. Our theme is "Shaped to Serve."

Peace, Joy & Blessings this Christmas!
Wanda Walker

about it at www.blumeforgirls.com.

Please remember that a special scholarship is offered for Kentucky girls and leaders. Register for Blume, have a subscription to the Mag or Acteens Leader, send Kentucky WMU proof of registration and your subscription, and we will send you a check for \$100! You can use the money for transportation and housing.

The Season of Prayer for International Missions is here. This year's focus is on Thailand. You can get the teaching guide for students at www.wmystore.com.



LaRaine Rice

Preschool & Children

This winter, preschoolers, children and their leaders can be involved in mission study and mission action!

The International Mission Study in December focuses on missions in Thailand. Teaching guides for preschoolers and children are available from Woman's Missionary Union and the International Mission Board. This study corresponds with the December units for Girls in Action, Children in Action and Mission Friends.

Focus on WMU, Feb. 14-20, is a wonderful opportunity to spotlight the importance of Mission Friends, Girls in Action and Children in Action. On Feb 19, children and adults across America will participate in Children's Ministry Day. The theme for 2011 is Neighbor to Neighbor. The possibilities for service are endless! Host a block party

for a neighborhood in your community. Deliver goodie bags to store clerks, or have a free yard sale at your church.

Kentucky WMU would like to know your plans for Children's Ministry Day. Put your plans on the Kentucky WMU Facebook page, www.facebook.com/kywmu. Visit www.wmu.com/children to learn more about Children's Ministry Day and the resources available.

Stacy Nall



Kentucky Baptists will follow up the highly successful 2010 Find it Here door-to-door evangelistic campaign by distributing a booklet featuring the books of John and Romans to places not reached by the original effort.

Targeted sites include nursing homes, assisted living facilities, prisons and college campuses.

Kentucky Baptists also will deliver the Scripture portion to specific friends and neighbors for whom they will have been praying. In addition, Hispanic and deaf populations will receive the Scripture portions.

The Find it Here campaign will take place in the weeks leading up to Easter 2011.

Kentucky Baptists will be asked to conduct prayer walks or drives along every street in the state, praying for the people living and working in that

area. Find it Here 2011 resources are already posted on the web at www.ky-baptist.org/findithere.

Resources include a pastor/church preparation guide, a DOM/association checklist, a commitment card to fast and pray for three lost friends, and a sermon titled "The Way to a Man's Heart is Through His Stomach."

Once again, WMU should be "front and center" in the Find it Here 2011 effort.

Our prayer is to see many lost people saved because WMU members cared enough to pray, fast, deliver Scripture portions and share the gospel. What a welcome sight for our pastors to see people coming to faith in Christ, accompanied by the friend who cared enough to fast, pray and witness. Will you be the one?

President's Perspective

World Missions Unlimited and association training have taught us to be "Unhindered" as we start a new missions year. We do this by throwing off those things that would hinder us from being and doing all that God intends for us. And God intends great things through WMU.

A new Mission Friend born, South Korea, the World Equestrian Games, semi-annual association meetings, Kentucky WMU executive board meeting, and a women's retreat are some of the things God has been doing in my life since my last article.



Linda Cooper
Kentucky WMU
President

On August 11, a new Mission Friend was born, my grandson, Carter Braden Cooper. Pray that we will teach him to love Jesus and to love others as children all around our state learn each week when leaders like you teach in Mission Friends.

Also in August, Joy Bolton and I traveled to South Korea to formally end our partnership with Korea Baptist WMU. Joy and I attended their annual meeting, where nearly 800 women attended. I brought greetings from Kentucky and Joy spoke about the partnership we have enjoyed these past 5 years. We presented a gift from Kentucky WMU to the KBWMU for the "House of Love" project, a retirement center for pastors and wives and female missionaries built by Korea Baptist WMU. We also visited other Korea Baptist mission points. Although this partnership has officially concluded, Kentucky WMU will continue to pray for them, encourage their work, and help them in any way we can. We have gained lasting friendships.

A Kentucky WMU team of 18 rode off to the World Equestrian Games in September when the world came to Kentucky. We shared with visitors to the games that a personal relationship with Christ is worth more than gold by using a colored horseshoe-shaped pin. We shared of the hope we have in Christ, but explained that we all have a sin problem. But Christ shed His blood on the cross as payment for our sins and desires for us to accept Him through faith and receive eternal life. He then wants us to grow as a Christian. Many people heard the Word. Please pray with me that it fell on fertile soil. Thank you team for your willingness to serve, and thank you Kentucky for praying for us.

Hopefully you attended your association's fall semi-annual meeting. I had the opportunity to speak about

Continued on page 4

Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund

July 1—September 30

The following people were honored or remembered through gifts to the Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund during the third quarter of 2010. Our thanks to each person who gave in honor of or in memory of someone significant to you and WMU. Please note that the 1000² Campaign will conclude on December 31, but the opportunity to give in support of Kentucky WMU will continue! Our thanks to all who responded to the challenge.

In Honor of:

Rita Thompson
Mildred Johnson

Brian & Christa Carpenter
Dianna Ackerman
Dianna Ackerman

In Memory Of:

Margaret Picheloupe
Mary Chamberlin

AnnLangley

Eloise Burns
Harold Matthews
Gladys Stokes

Mary Ellen Batsel

Patricia Ritchie
Louise Perkins
Wilma Weinel
Brenda Harris

Donor:

Shirley Rhoton
Ten Mile Baptist Association
WMU (1000² Campaign gift)

Cheryl Hatfield
Phyllis Fuchs
Women's Ministry, FBC
Richmond

Donor:

Wanda Walker
Peggy Grossman Women on
Mission, Lewis Lane Baptist
Church

Albright Women on Mission,
FBC Shelbyville

Grace Baptist Church WMU
Clara Matthews
Georgetown Baptist Church
WMU

Christian County Baptist
Association WMU Leadership
Team

FBC Highland Heights WMU
FBC Highland Heights WMU
FBC Highland Heights WMU
Marcia Ballard (1000²
Campaign gift)

1000² Campaign Contributions (includes \$1,000 gifts, pledge payments, and other campaign gifts):

Twyla Sheffield
Bill & Charmaine Nichols
Nancy Buchanan
Kentucky WMU Staff
Hempridge Baptist Church WMU
Parkway Baptist Church WMU
New Salem Baptist Church WMU (PGDL Circle)

Learn more ways to support Kentucky WMU
and National WMU at
www.facebook.com/SupportKyWMU

Heritage Fund at Work throughout Kentucky

In 2009-10 the Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund was at work in 46 Kentucky Baptist churches to provide How-To Guides, WMU Year Books and other resources to 60 church starts.

This included the following groups:

- 14 Mission Friends.
- 14 Girls in Action.
- 12 Children in Action.
- 5 Acteens.
- 5 Youth on Mission.
- 10 Women on Mission.

Since September 2010, the Heritage Fund has been at work in 21 churches to start 28 new WMU groups.

This includes the following groups:

- 8 Mission Friends.

- 4 Girls in Action.
- 9 Children in Action.
- 2 Acteens.
- 2 Youth on Mission.
- 2 Women on Mission.
- 1 Adults on Mission.

In follow-up calls to some of the new organizations, Pre-school/Children Consultant Stacy Nall learned that the Children in Action group at Audubon Baptist is running 18 in attendance. At Vine Run, one of the new Mission Friends refers to his group as "Fishin' Friends."

Your gifts to the Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund are supporting our work in missions education and providing resources to start new groups. Thank you.

Calendar

November/December

28-12/5 Season of Prayer for International Missions & Lottie Moon Offering

February

14-22 Focus on WMU
19 Children's Ministry Day

March

4-5 Creative Ministry Festival & Youth Missions Workshop, Louisville
6-13 Season of Prayer for North American Missions & Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
19 Hispanic WMU Event, First Baptist Church, Mt. Washington
24 Kentucky WMU Executive Board Meeting, Bowling Green
25-26 Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting, First Baptist Church, Bowling Green

April

1-2 Exalt, Forest Park Baptist Church, Bowling Green
8-9 Regional Women on Mission Retreat, Laurel Lake, Corbin
15-16 Kentucky WMU Resource Team Training, Baptist Building, Louisville
29-30 Regional Women on Mission Retreat, Camp Schafer, Hawesville

Eliza Broadus exceeds goal

Generosity funds slate of missions projects

"It's Harvest Time!" The theme of our 2009 state missions emphasis says it all as we celebrate the total of \$1,268,410.32 given to the 2009-10 Eliza Broadus Offering. This is the largest Kentucky state missions offering ever given!

The overage of \$168,410.32 was rounded up by the Kentucky WMU Executive Board to \$168,500 and will be allocated as follows:

- \$100,000 for scripture portions and media expenses for Find It Here 2011. Booklets with John and Romans will be distributed in places not reached in 2010, including nursing homes, assisted living facilities, jails and college campuses. Media, including billboards and radio ads, will be used in the spring of 2011 during the Find It Here emphasis throughout Kentucky.

- \$35,000 for special "MAZE" student evangelism events in 2011-12. MAZE uses astonishing illusion, multi-media, relational campaigns and apologetics to illuminate the truth of Christ to university students and the unchurched.

- \$15,000 for a new shower unit to be used by Kentucky disaster relief and associational ministries. The total cost of this unit is \$22,000, and Kentucky directors of missions are providing the additional \$7,000.

- \$12,000 for new computer software, vehicle maintenance and other response expenses for disaster relief.

- \$4,500 for a church plant in South Union/Mt. Zion Association. This church plant is reaching out to Canadatown in Whitley County.

- \$2,000 for the R/6 ministry to released offenders. Funds will be used for needs at the transitional house in Mayfield.

This is a remarkable report and is the third year in a row we have exceeded the state offering goal. In the midst of difficult economic times, this is cause for great rejoicing. Thank you!

As we receive the 2010 Eliza Broadus Offering, the state missions materials are focused on the lostness of Kentucky. The 2010-11 EBO will be received through through August 31, 2011.

Our prayer is to exceed the goal again and provide resources for ministry and evangelism in Kentucky.

MissinsFEST

VOLUNTEER CONNECTION

Kentucky MissionsFEST: September 10-17, 2011

For over 10 years, men and women have served communities together through MissionsFEST. In 2011, we will partner with National WMU, Bell County Baptist Association (Middlesboro/Pineville area), Baptist Nursing Fellowship and Appalachian Regional Ministry. We hope you can join us!

Ministries include:

- Prayerwalking
- Light construction/repairs/ home winterization
- Block parties
- Servant ministries
- Medical ministries

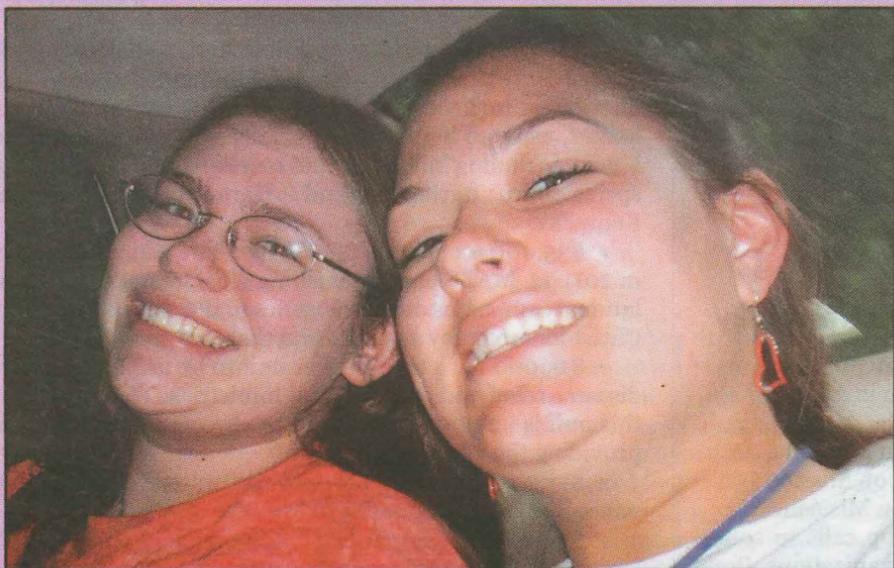
Registration opens December 1

facebook

Become a "fan" of Kentucky WMU on Facebook to get all the latest information, www.facebook.com/kywmu.

YOU

can make a difference for Christ!

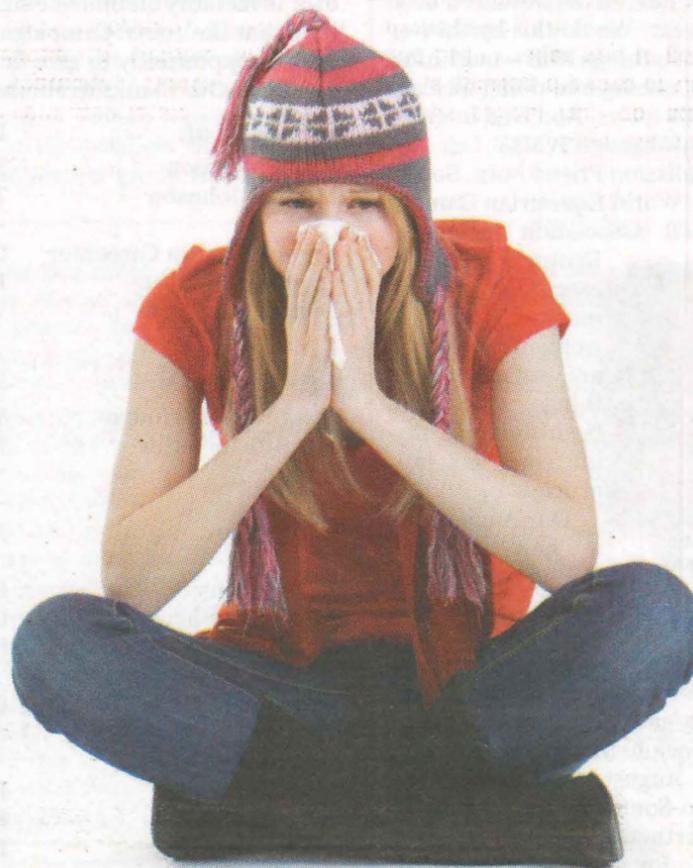


Join the Mission Adventure Camp Staff!

Staff positions include: recreation leader, worship leader, kitchen coordinator, fellowship leader, crafts leader, nature leader, lifeguard, technology leader,

For more information contact Stacy Nall:
Stacy.Nall@kybaptist.org, (502) 489-3454
Visit www.kywmu.org

Contagious



Exalt 2011
The Event for Teenage Girls!
April 1-2
Forest Park Baptist, Bowling Green

President's Perspective: Christmas missions, offering and representing WMU in Tanzania

Continued from page 3

WMU work in two of those meetings.

Association meetings, for me, are all ways exciting times of reflection of what God has been doing around us for the past few months. Join Him where He is at work in your association.

Our Kentucky WMU executive board meeting in October was productive and informative. We felt the Holy Spirit guiding us the entire weekend. It was my first to preside as president, and I just want to thank our Kentucky WMU staff and executive board members for all their hard work and for allowing God to lead us. I am so blessed to work with such mission-minded people who love the Lord so much.

In November, I spoke at a women's retreat in Western Kentucky. It's amazing what you can learn about each other around a campfire! We had a great time in the Lord learning to "Love Well."

By the time you read this, GA JAM

and Operation Christmas Child will have passed. I hope you were a part of both of them.

With Christmas upon us, I pray you have studied about Thailand in the International Mission Study and are collecting the Lottie Moon Christmas offering so the "called" can "go" all around the world sharing the love of Christ. Maybe God hasn't called you to go, but we can all pray and give.

Please pray for Joy and myself as we travel to Tanzania to attend the December meeting of the Baptist Women's Union of Eastern Africa, Dec. 12-19. Please pray for our safety and how God will use us as we represent Kentucky WMU on the other side of the world.

Are **you** living "Unhindered" so that you can minister, give, serve, go, teach, lead, care and love those you come in contact with daily on the mission field where God has placed you? I hope so.

If I can be of help to you or your association, please let me know.

'More for Christ'

KBC messengers challenged to give more in legacy gifts

Messengers to the recent annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention approved the four recommendations of the Great Commission Task Force, one of which was for a three-year emphasis called "More for Christ." This is intended to be an intentional time of personal repentance, renewal and redirection for the future, as well as a personal and corporate commitment to Christ and to the Great Commission.

More for Christ is intended to mean for each of us Kentucky Baptists:

- More of myself in personal surrender, personal witness and personal sacrifice.
- More of my family.
- More for the lost.
- More for the needs.
- More for the nations.

Alongside the approval of the four recommendations, messengers also approved a resolution on "Giving More for Christ." This resolution calls upon each of us to examine closely our hearts and lives to determine how we can give more sacrificially of our time, talents and the financial resources the Lord has entrusted to us to further His kingdom through service

in our local churches and church-related ministries.

The resolution also calls upon each of us to consider making legacy gifts for the support of our churches and the Cooperative Program, which is a recognition that advancing the kingdom in the future cannot be funded solely by us Christians putting checks in the offering plates on Sunday morning.

Advancing the kingdom in the future will require us to steward out of our income as well as out of our assets, which includes estate stewardship. The characteristics of a legacy gift are: it can't be put in the offering plate; it's a gift of a cash or non-cash asset; it's a gift normally made in light of one's overall estate and financial plans; it uses tax-advantaged methods to achieve the giver's objectives; and it may require the assistance of a professional adviser to complete the gift.

As the Lord leads you to give more for Christ via a legacy gift, please give us the privilege of assisting you. Laurie Valentine and I are just a toll-free call away.

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

Thanks for support

Kids are reached at Sunrise through Ky. Baptists' giving

By the time you read this, even the leftovers from last week's Thanksgiving dinner will be gone and much of our focus is now on the upcoming Christmas season. However, Thanksgiving is more than just a meal and more than just a day—it's an attitude that we as Christians should harvest all year long.

Thankfulness deepens our appreciation for a loving God, and it also fosters within us a desire to share His love to others. Opportunities to reach out to those

less fortunate than us abound during this time of year, but just like the Thanksgiving holiday, giving should be an attitude that is not limited by a date on the calendar.

Most of us have reasons to be thankful every morning when we wake up in a home filled with love, support and security. But for thousands of children in Kentucky, their reality is one of abuse and neglect. Sunrise Children's Services exists to care for these children in our statewide network of foster homes, residential programs and counseling services. But our efforts are impossible without your support.

Kentucky Baptists have supported this agency since our founding in 1869, and they continue to be a vital part of our care for children. We rely on churches for prayer and financial support, and a big part of

that support comes through Sunrise's Thanksgiving Children's Offering.

This offering also is not limited to a date or a month on the calendar, and many churches have found the spring to be a good time to make Sunrise a focus of their giving. Just like other missions giving initiatives, churches might find it more effective to make the offering a month-long effort and to set a specific goal for the offering.

As always, Sunrise would be happy to have someone come to your church and speak about the agency and how your support directly impacts the lives of so many young people.

Our gratefulness extends to the many churches who faithfully support Sunrise. Their prayers, financial gifts and volunteer efforts to Sunrise truly make an impact on the lives of the children in our care. Our hope is that other churches will prayerfully consider ways they can take part in this ministry.

Another way you can support Sunrise is to sponsor a child for Christmas. Time is of the essence, but you can call us at (800) 456-1386 or visit Sunrise.org and click on the "Ways you can make a difference" link to find out about our Christmas sponsorship program.

We thank you for your support, and we wish you a very Merry Christmas.

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

Sunrise Children's Services



Bill Smithwick

Barna study suggests Calvinism not as strong in SBC as thought

Other Protestants indicate more Calvinist bent

By Will Hall

Ventura, Calif.—The Barna Group released findings recently that noted despite what "observers and journalists have described as ... a significant trend" in terms of a Calvinism movement, the number of Calvinists among Protestant pastors is not greater today (31 percent) than a decade ago (32 percent).

The research includes four studies conducted from 2000 through 2010, each involving a minimum of 600 phone interviews with random, representative samples of clergy.

Barna's results about the broader Christian community seemingly stand in stark contrast to reports released by Southern Baptist Convention entities showing a surge in identity with five-point Calvinism in Southern Baptist life.

In 2007, the North American Mission Board's Center for Missional Research released findings that nearly 30 percent of seminary graduates from 1998-2004 serving as church pastors identified themselves as Calvinists. Details about the sample methodology and size were not released and the study is not available for public review.

This compared to 10 percent of all Southern Baptist pastors who affirm the five points of Calvinism, according to a 2006 LifeWay Research study of a cross-section of 413 randomly selected SBC pastors.

Is Calvinism a 'growing influence'?

At the release of the research, Ed Stetzer, who directs LifeWay Research, said the findings show "a growing influence" of Calvinism in SBC life and "certainly a growing influence in the graduates of our seminaries."

Also, Christianity Today has described what it termed as a "comeback in Calvinism" in articles pointing to the SBC as "ground zero" for this resurgence and as having a "bulwark of reformed theology."

The Barna study appears to show that despite what has been reported as a spike in the numbers of Calvinism adherents among recent SBC seminary graduates, there hasn't been a groundswell in the broader Christian community over the last decade. The number of those identifying themselves with Calvinism or Reformed Theology has held fairly steady at around 31 percent.

However, the longitudinal study showed a much greater variation year to year in the number of pastors who identified themselves as either "Wesleyan" or "Arminian," with a drop from 37 percent to 32 percent when comparing 2000 with this year.

The Barna Group study did not define the theological identities, but left that interpretation to each participating pastor.

Other findings released Nov. 15 by the Barna research team include:

- On average, weekly adult attendance in Re-

How Pastors Describe Their Church's Theology

% of pastors who describe their churches in these terms	2000	2002	2003	2010
Wesleyan or Arminian	37%	26%	35%	32%
Calvinist or Reformed	32%	31%	29%	31%
Sample Size	610	601	601	600

Source: Barna Group | PastorPoll™ | 2010
Read more at www.barna.org/pastorpoll

formed or Calvinist churches grew from a median of 80 in 2000, to a median of 90 in 2010—an increase of about 13 percent. During that same period, weekly adult attendance in Wesleyan or Arminian churches increased 18 percent, growing from a median of 85 in 2000, to a median of 100 in 2010.

■ Among pastors 27 to 45 years old, 29 percent described themselves as Reformed compared to 34 percent who self-identified with the Wesleyan tradition. Those between 46 and 64 years old were evenly split theologically, with 34 percent claiming Reformed roots and 33 percent citing a Wesleyan perspective. Pastors 65 and older were least likely to place themselves in either camp, with only 26 percent naming a Reformed background and an almost equal number—27 percent—pointing to a Wesleyan foundation.

■ Reformed churches were most common in the Northeast and least common in the Midwest. Wesleyan congregations were equally likely to be in each of the four regions of the U.S.

■ Forty-seven percent of pastors of mainline churches (American Baptist Churches, Evangelical Lutheran Churches in America, the Episcopal Church, the United Methodist Church, Presbyterian Church USA, and United Church of Christ) named their congregations as Wesleyan or Arminian compared to 29 percent of mainline pastors who chose a Reformed or Calvinist label.

■ Among pastors of non-mainline churches, 35 percent said they were Reformed or Calvinists, and 30 percent said they were Wesleyans or Arminians.

■ Among charismatic and Pentecostal denominations generally viewed as coming from Wesleyan or Holiness traditions (Assembly of God, Vineyard, Foursquare, Church of God-Cleveland), 31 percent called themselves Reformed/Calvinists compared to 27 percent who called themselves Wesleyan/Arminian.

■ A greater number of Reformed/Calvinist pastors identified themselves as theologically liberal (17 percent) than did Wesleyan/Arminian pastors (13 percent).

■ Of the pastors who took part in the Barna study, 65 percent of Wesleyans/Arminians reported having completed seminary, and a statistically equivalent 62 percent of Reformed/Calvinists said they had as well. (BP)

Arkansas Baptist newspaper calls new editor

Little Rock, Ark.—Directors of Arkansas Baptists' newspaper have elected a Southern Baptist North American Mission Board official as the publication's new editor.

The board of the Arkansas Baptist News Nov. 18 elected Tim Yarbrough as editor effective Jan. 1. Currently coordinator of NAMB's Acts 1:8 Challenge, Yarbrough has extensive experience in journalism and communications.

He will succeed the retiring Charlie Warren, who has served as editor for the past 11 years.

"I am deeply humbled to be called as the next editor of the Arkansas Baptist News," Yarbrough said. "It has become increasingly evident to me over the past several weeks that God wants my family and me back in Arkansas. It will

be a privilege to serve alongside our friends in the state, in addition to making new friends."

Prior to coordinating the Acts 1:8 program Yarbrough served as NAMB's media strategist and director of church relations. From 1995-2002 he was communications director for the Missouri Baptist Convention. From 1989-95, he edited a magazine, books and other publications at the Baptist Brotherhood Commission, which later merged with NAMB. He also is a graduate of Murray State University.

"Tim brings with him experience, leadership and journalism skills and a wealth of ideas to creatively communicate Christ's story to the masses," said Erby Burgess, chair of the paper's board and pastor of Park Hill Baptist Church in Arkadelphia, Ark. (ABP)



Tim Yarbrough

DOM elected to lead Michigan Baptists

Fenton, Mich.—The Baptist State Convention of Michigan elected Bobby Gilstrap, director of missions for Huron and Southeastern Baptist Associations in Michigan, as its fourth executive director. Gilstrap will succeed Michael Collins, who will retire at the end of December after 16 years of service to the Michigan convention.

"I've been here 10 years and love it," Gilstrap said of his time in the state.

Upon his election at the Michigan convention's annual meeting Oct. 27, Gilstrap spoke about the Gospel of Matthew, comparing much of the state's residents to the 33 Chilean miners who were trapped below ground for 69 days.

"Michigan is a state where more than 80 percent of our population

is trapped in a spiritual mine with no hope. The problem is they don't know that they are in the spiritual mine," Gilstrap said. "It is our job to help Michiganders realize that they are trapped in the spiritual mine with no hope and help them meet the person who is eternal hope, Jesus Christ."

Gilstrap, who will officially assume leadership Jan. 1, said the state of Michigan has a rich history of churches being started and lives being transformed.

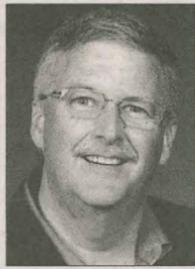
"While northern industrialization expanded, we saw the dynamic growth of churches across our state as we saw a harvest of souls," he said. "However, today we must face the harsh and brutal realities that we are no longer living in the 1950s and

'60s. We must face the reality that things are different now. We have too many churches that are saying, 'God, I remember when,' rather than, 'God, how can we reach them?'"

Michigan has more lost people than 42 other states have in total population, he said, and every Michigan Baptist would have to lead 653 people to Christ for the convention to reach the state. They can do that, Gilstrap said, if they realize the resources are in the harvest.

"How do we make a difference? One person at a time," he urged. "We must have top leaders to lead the change."

In his 29 years of ministry, Gilstrap has been pastor of four churches. He is a graduate of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and Oklahoma Baptist University. He and his wife, Brenda, have two sons. (BP)



Bobby Gilstrap

Ezell, state execs discuss future direction, partnership

Atlanta—Executive directors from 10 Southern Baptist state convention entities met earlier this month with North American Mission Board President Kevin Ezell. The meeting was held to discuss how state conventions and NAMB will partner in the future.

"The conversation was forthright and candid on everyone's part," said Jim Futral, executive director for the Mississippi Baptist Convention, who acted as spokesman for the executive directors. "We discussed a wide range of concerns and sought together the best way we could go about reaching North America for Christ."

"I was very encouraged by the straightforward, very fair exchange

we had," Ezell said. "I appreciate their willingness to be patient with me on my steep learning curve."

Ezell will continue conversations with state leaders in meetings scheduled between now and mid-February's annual meeting of state executive leaders, where Ezell also will speak.

Futral and Ezell described the meeting as the beginning point to conversations about how NAMB and state Baptists will work together.

"Kevin is in the early days of listening and learning, dreaming and designing an effective plan," Futral said. "No one came to the meeting thinking he would have all of the answers for every question and need in every

state convention. He has a pretty steep learning curve, but there is no lack of openness and desire to hear from us.

"It was the beginning of a process," Futral said. "It's a process that opens the door to great possibilities for the days ahead as we press forward together in the Lord. ... We left feeling we had met with a partner and together we could make a difference."

Ezell expressed similar optimism. "I would encourage Southern Baptists not to underestimate what God can do and all that can be accomplished as we work together," he said. "It's a new day, a new NAMB and a new way of relating between states and entities." (BP)

The three 'R's & much more

Oneida has all kinds of programs geared toward all kinds of students

By Denise Day Spencer, OBI publications

When Oneida Baptist Institute was founded in 1899, many Kentucky mountain children did not have access to education. They flocked to the new school on foot, in wagons and on muleback. Our campus has seen many changes through the years, but still we are, first and foremost, a school.

Our curriculum is designed to meet the needs of students with ability levels ranging from below-average to exceptional. We provide English as a second language classes for international students and advanced-placement courses for students with above-average abilities.

In high school, students are required to take four years of English and math; three years of science and social studies; one year of health/physical education, Bible and fine arts; and two quarters of computer literacy. The balance of required credits may be earned from academic or vocational classes and fine arts. Middle-school pupils study language arts, literature, Bible, history, math and science. Our younger students also take an enrichment course each quarter.

Some 65 percent of our graduates go on to institutions of higher learning. We offer the ACT three times a year. Transportation is provided to area colleges for the SAT or the TOEFL. Our guidance counselor is available to assist students with applications for colleges and scholarships.

Seniors earning a standard diploma participate in a field placement program up to four hours a day for up to four credits. In an on-campus supervised job, students can gain experience

in areas such as office work, print shop, agriculture, tutoring, auto maintenance, child care or food service.

We require a one-hour evening study hall Monday through Thursday for students who are not on the academic honor roll. Many teens express gratitude for this part of our program as it helps them learn self-discipline and study skills. Each quarter, the names of students earning 'A' or 'B' averages are announced in chapel. Being publicly honored helps motivate them to do their best.

OBI always has reached out to students who struggle academically. Some simply need an opportunity to catch up. Others cannot concentrate in a large classroom. Most students come to us with low grades and improve quickly. Our 11:1 student-to-faculty ratio allows youngsters to get the attention they need and build a closer rapport with the teachers. Discipline may be more easily handled in a smaller class, which promotes an atmosphere of concentration and learning.

Students with low reading or math skills find help in our tutoring lab. Staff tutors work with one or two students at a time, individualizing the work to meet the needs of their particular pupils. The lab also offers a supervised study hall for up to four students each hour. The length of time a young person remains in the tutoring lab depends on his or her own learning pace.

We are blessed to be able to teach "reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic" in a Christian environment where the gospel is proclaimed daily, offering our teens an "education for time and eternity."

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

Thank You!

Expressions of thankfulness from the Clear Creek campus

On behalf of the students, faculty and staff here at Clear Creek, we would all like to say "thank you" for all you do for us as we are now into the holiday season. As you read this article, our students already have been blessed by a church that provided groceries for every family on campus. We had two Baptist associations provide a turkey, stuffing and vegetables for every family for Thanksgiving.

Hundreds of our alumni, friends and churches will provide another turkey, potatoes and a cash gift for our students, along with Christmas presents for a shopping spree for some of our students and other families in students' churches. Your kindness provides our students the opportunity to experience a blessed Thanksgiving and Christmas when they normally would not be able to at this time.

We want to thank you for using our students to serve in your churches. Many of our alumni have been called to serve as pastors or in other staff roles in your churches. Many of our students are filling pulp supply roles in churches that are without pastors. Thank you for providing our students valuable prac-

tical ministry experience through these opportunities. We are thankful for the opportunity to be a servant of the churches.

We thank you for your financial support of this ministry. We are proud of the relationship we have with our Kentucky Baptist

Convention as its only Bible college. We are thankful for the support we receive through Cooperative Program giving and numerous individual churches. We only are able to do what we do because of your willingness to support this ministry financially. It always has been a blessing to me to watch how God takes what each one is willing to give, then

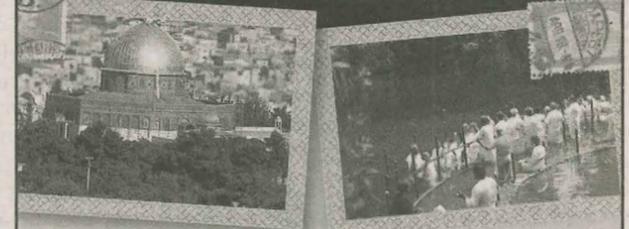
takes that and enables us to use it for His glory here at Clear Creek.

I also want to thank you for praying for us. Everywhere I travel, people always are telling me they are praying for Clear Creek. We want you to know that it encourages and strengthens us to know you are praying for us.

So from all of us here at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College: Thanks for all you do for us!

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

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December

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

January

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

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

Postseason losses end successful gridiron seasons for Tigers, Patriots

Tigerville, S.C.—Separated by nearly 700 miles, the successful football seasons for both Campbellsville University and University of the Cumberland came to a disappointing end Nov. 20.

Playing its first postseason game since 2001, the Campbellsville Tigers came up short in the National Christian College Athletic Association Victory Bowl against North Greenville University, 42-16, in Tigerville, S.C. The win gave the Crusaders their second Victory Bowl title in four years.

The game is the final one each year for teams in the NCCAA, an association of Christian colleges who compete on various levels. Victory Bowl participants are invited based on the teams' final win-loss records and a ratings system ranking. This year was the first that two Southern Baptist-affiliated schools faced off in the Victory Bowl.

Campbellsville, an NAIA school,

ended its season with a 7-5 record. North Greenville, which competes in NCAA Division II, finished 9-3.

The same day, the Cumberland Patriots were overwhelmed in the first round of the NAIA football playoffs, losing to No. 3-ranked St. Xavier University in Chicago, 66-19.

Cumberland kept it close early on, taking the lead after recovering an onside opening kickoff and scoring three plays later. The Patriots trailed 14-13 in the second quarter, before St. Xavier blew the game open, outscoring UC 52-6 the rest of the way.

The loss ended a strong season for the Patriots who finished 7-4 and won their fourth straight Mid-South Conference West title. Several Patriots received individual conference honors, including head coach John Bland who was named MSC West Coach of the Year for the fourth consecutive season.

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SEEKING: Part-time youth and children's minister (20-25 hours per week) at Cropper Baptist Church, Shelbyville, Ky. Previous experience preferred; monthly salary available. Call Jim Cavender, (502) 435-7644; or cropperbaptistchurch@insightbb.com.

SEEKING: Part-time youth director, Livermore Baptist Church. Seeking individual with strong love for Christ, knowledge of God's word and the ability and desire to connect with teenagers and their families in a way that will bring glory to God. Send resumé to Youth Search Committee, PO Box 287, Livermore, KY 42352.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor who will work to build God's kingdom at Liberty Baptist Church. Vision to fill 500 chairs in new family life center. Send resumé to liberty@duo-county.com; or mail to Liberty Baptist Church, 215 Wilson St., Russell Springs, KY 42642.

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

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Tunnel Hill Church will hold a Hanging of the Green service Dec. 5, 7 p.m. The church will serve refreshments prior to the service. **Nathan Whisnant** is pastor.

■ **RADCLIFF**—Stithton Church will host the **Extreme Praise** puppet team from Cornerstone Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Brighton, Mich., Dec. 4, 6 p.m. **Gregg Curtis** is pastor.

Brewer, 86, led Baptist health care system in 1980s

Louisville—Ben Brewer, a longtime health care administrator who led Baptist Hospitals Inc. for a time, died Nov. 20 at his home in Louisville. He was 86.

Brewer served as president and chief executive officer of the multi-hospital Baptist health care system from 1984-88 before retiring.

In the health care industry for 34 years, Brewer joined Baptist Hospitals Inc. in 1958 as the administrator of Western Baptist Hospital in Paducah. In 1965, he became president of Central Baptist Hospital in Lexington. He took on the same role at Louisville Baptist Hospital (now Baptist Hospital East) in 1976.

According to his obituary in the Louisville Courier-Journal, Brewer described his years in the health care industry as "the best job I ever had." He also authored a pair of books on genealogy.

Brewer is survived by his wife, Mary, two sons and five grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Nov. 27 at Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville, where Brewer was a member. He was buried at Louisville's Cave Hill Cemetery.

Biblical council says it will not endorse new NIV Bible

By Bob Allen

Louisville—A group that criticized the New International Version Bible translation for introducing a gender-inclusive edition in 2005 says it isn't satisfied by revisions in the latest edition recently made available online.

The Council for Biblical Manhood and Womanhood was among critics who said Zondervan's Today's New International Version pandered to a feminist agenda and promoted the "egalitarian" view that men and women are equipped for identical roles in the church and home.

The controversy prompted the International Bible Society to scale back attempts to substitute gender-neutral language for masculine pronouns in what had become the most popular modern translation among evangelicals after its initial release in 1978.

Last year Biblica, the new name for a company created by the IBS' merger with Send the Light publishers in 2007, announced it would undertake the first complete update of the NIV since 1984. The print edition is due out next year, but a preview is available at BibleGateway.com.

Wheaton College Bible scholar Doug Moo, head of the Committee on Bible Translation, told the Nashville Tennessean the group tried to create an accurate English Bible while avoiding what were viewed as missteps in the TNIV.

The Council for Biblical Manhood and Womanhood said in a blog Nov. 19 that it reviewed the new edition three weeks before rendering a verdict. While noting "significant improvements" over the TNIV, the group said it still would recommend other translations like the Holman Christian

Standard Bible, New American Standard, New King James or the English Standard Version instead of the NIV.

"Though we are deeply appreciative of the very different process by which our friends at the CBT and Zondervan pursued and unveiled this new version, we still cannot commend the new NIV (2011) for most of the same reasons we could not commend the TNIV," the council said.

"Our initial analysis shows that the new NIV (2011) retains many of the problems that were present in the TNIV, on which it is based, especially with regard to the over 3,600 gender-related problems we previously identified," the council added. "In spite of the many good changes made, our initial analysis reveals that a large percentage of our initial concerns still remain."

One "significant problematic" decision observed in the new translation, the council said, was rendering First Timothy 2:12 as not permitting a woman to "assume authority" over a man. The council, which teaches that men and women are assigned to different roles in the church and home, says a more accurate reading of the Greek text is "have authority."

The translation committee said it sought to leave interpretation open to either "egalitarian" or "complementarian" interpretation, but the council said the change instead "intentionally introduces a crucial ambiguity that is not found in the original NIV."

The council said it would continue to review the translation in greater detail, but initial impressions raised continued concerns "about the frequent omission of the words, 'man,' 'brother,' 'father,' 'son' and 'he.'" (ABP)

'The Love Dare' still NYT bestseller

Nashville, Tenn.—"The Love Dare," published by B&H Publishing Group, has for more than 100 weeks maintained its status as a New York Times bestseller.

The book is featured in the movie "Fireproof," one of the top-grossing independent films of 2008.

"Fireproof" features a husband and wife at the brink of divorce; the fireman husband is much more committed to saving lives through his work than saving his marriage. As part of an intervention, the character's father gives him a book containing 40 daily challenges, or "love dares"—ways to show unconditional love to his wife.

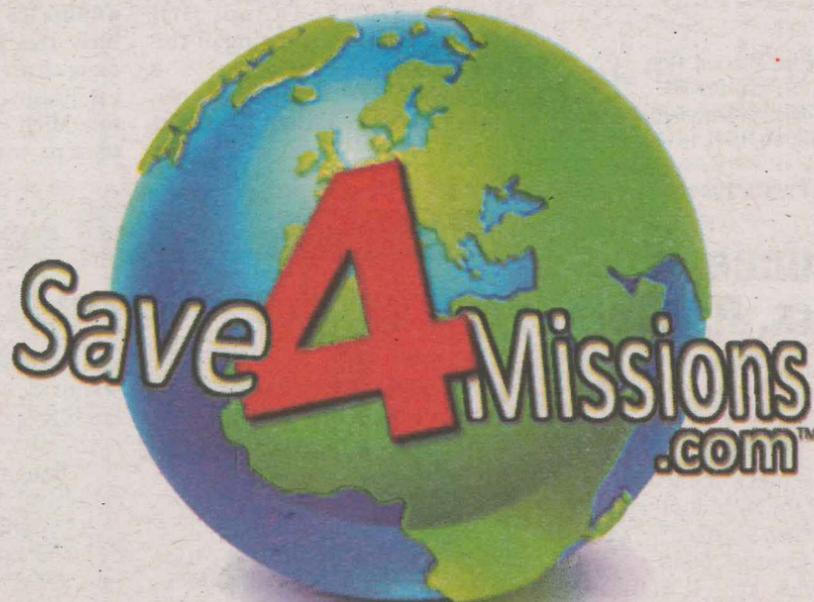
"We knew we would write the book about unconditional love because we knew the need—but, boy, did we underestimate the response," said Stephen Kendrick, who co-wrote "The Love Dare" with his brother, Alex. "Both the movie and the book—their messages—are much bigger than we are."

Now No. 5 on the New York Times' Paperback Advice bestseller list, sales of "The Love Dare" are approaching an estimated 5 million copies since its 2008 release.

"When you consider that a reasonable 'hit' in the Christian book market is 5,000 copies, 'The Love Dare' phenomenon comes into perspective," said John Thompson, director of marketing at B&H Publishing Group, the publishing division of LifeWay Christian Resources. "Translate that to lives affected, relationships deepened and saved, families intact—and its real success leaps off any ledger and into human stories."

Churches and counselors often use "The Love Dare" in marriage and relationship classes, and engaged couples read it to help form right love habits early. Responding to demand, the Kendricks' companion devotional, "Love Dare Day by Day," offers daily opportunities to focus on and practice real love.

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