

Shine like stars in the world  
Philippians 2:15

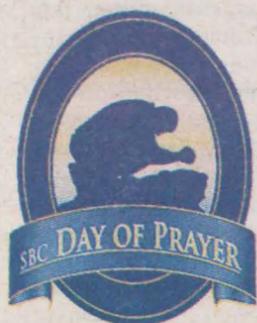
# WESTERN Recorder

December 7, 2010  
Vol. 184, No. 47

## FOR THE RECORD

**Kentucky**  
Creation Museum founders announce plans to build Noah's Ark theme park in northern Kentucky. *Page 2.*

**Baptists**  
Executive Committee announces department mergers, Baptist Press director Will Hall let go. *Page 3.*



**Baptists**  
SBC President urges fellow Southern Baptists to gather in solemn assembly in January. *Page 7.*

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Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, Dec. 8

## 'God's Time for Cuba'



Baptists in Cuba are known for their zeal for evangelism. Here, Cuban Baptists Ricardo Tadeo Soria Perez (left), 58, and Osvier Acosta Ferrero, 72, prepare to bike down rugged roads in Cuba's countryside. They bike for miles on end, traveling to rural communities to share the gospel.

*Church planting, music ministries spark surge of new believers in Cuba*

When Osvier Acosta Ferrero, 72, and Ricardo Tadeo Soria Perez, 58, pedal down dirt roads on their bicycles, they're not out for exercise. They're praying for Cubans who need Christ.

The Baptist men sing hymns as they cycle for miles, traveling to rural communities to lead Bible studies. "If someday God sends us to another country, we'll go," Ferrero said. "We have the joy of evangelization, always asking God for wisdom, a love for people and the joy of proclaiming His word."

Their zeal is typical among Christians in Cuba who are seeing one of the most rapid rates of church growth in the world.

How vast is that growth? Cuban Baptist churches numbered 210 in 1960. Over the next 30 years, that total increased to only 238. In the 1990s, a church-planting movement began sweeping the island nation; today, there aren't enough churches to hold all the believers. The number of Cuban Baptist traditional churches, missions and house churches exceeds 6,200. More than 5,000 of those congregations worship in houses, garages, yards or on rooftops.

### Lottie Moon helps train leaders

The remarkable growth has created a huge need for more church leaders. To help meet that need, a team of International Mission Board missionaries travels periodically to the island to help Cuban Baptists train leaders. The ministry is supported by gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and the Cooperative Program.

"This is God's time for Cuba," one of the IMB missionaries said. "Pray God will raise up church leaders for the harvest. Pray a sufficient number of leaders will be trained."

God already is answering in remarkable ways. One is through music and the training of worship leaders.

An estimated one of every five people in Cuba is involved in music in some way. When the Holy Spirit sparked the church-planting movement in Cuba, many musicians began accepting Christ.

In response, Cuban Baptists and IMB missionaries developed several schools  
□ See Cuban Baptists ... *Page 6*

## Dreaming of a Gaither Christmas

### Renowned gospel singer bringing holiday homecoming to Louisville

By Robin Bass  
Partnerships Editor

Louisville—Southern Gospel lovers will be able to celebrate the season in four-part harmony when Bill Gaither's Homecoming Christmas Tour makes a stop at Freedom Hall Dec. 11. The holiday concert is one of only seven this year for the legendary singer with the Louisville show sandwiched between performances in Birmingham, Ala., and Huntington, W.Va.

Gaither will play host this weekend to some of the top artists in the genre, including The Issacs, The Martins and Kentucky's own Larnelle Harris.

"Larnelle Harris is one of the greatest singers I've ever heard. He's unbelievable," said Gaither, who has helped propel the music careers of numerous Christian singers during

his lifetime, including Michael W. Smith and Amy Grant. Many of these emerging artists now command the stage as headliners of their own tours. Several regularly make appearances at Gaither's popular Homecoming concerts.

The crowd-pleasing line-up at the Christmas Homecoming also  
□ See Bill Gaither ... *Page 2*



Southern Gospel legend Bill Gaither



## Every penny given to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

is used to support more than 5,000 Southern Baptist missionaries as they share the gospel overseas. This year's offering goal is \$175 million

The 2010 emphasis is a celebration of what God has done in recent years, praising Him for allowing Southern Baptists to be a part of His work. Are we there yet? Not yet, but reaching those who remain untouched by the gospel is a doable task. They will be the hardest to reach, requiring that we pray, go, partner and give as never before.

## Noah's Ark theme park to be built in Grant Co.

Frankfort—The same group behind the northern Kentucky Creation Museum is partnering with another group to build a full-scale version of Noah's Ark that will anchor a family-oriented Bible-themed attraction costing an estimated \$150 million.

The "Ark Encounter" is scheduled to be completed in spring 2014 and will be built on 800 acres in Grant County along Interstate 75, about an hour south of the Creation Museum, located in Petersburg. By comparison, the 3-year-old museum cost \$27 million to build.

The Ark Encounter also will include live animal shows, an aviary, a replica of the Tower of Babel with exhibits, a children's interactive play area, a 500-seat 5-D special effects theater, a lookalike first-century Middle Eastern village and a "Walled City" much like was found in ancient times," according to a press release.

Answers in Genesis—the non-profit Christian ministry that built the Creation Museum—is partnering with a group called Ark Encounter LLC, a for-profit outfit based in Springfield, Mo., to build the Ark complex. It

will be privately funded and will provide up to 900 full- or part-time jobs.

"We are very pleased to be a part of this new project," Ken Ham, president and founder of Answers in Genesis and the Creation Museum, said in a statement. "AiG has been blessed to see the Creation Museum host over 1 million guests in three years.

"Based on our experience and success operating the large, state-of-the-art Creation Museum, our board believes the time is right to partner with the Ark Encounter in building a full-scale Noah's Ark," he continued. "We hope that this fun and educational complex ... will become another popular tourist destination for the state."

Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear also applauded the effort.

"We are excited to join with the Ark Encounter group as it seeks to provide this unique, family-friendly tourist attraction to the commonwealth," Beshear said in a statement. "Bringing new jobs to Kentucky is my top priority, and with the estimated 900 jobs this project will create, I am happy about the

economic impact this project will have on the northern Kentucky region."

According to a Louisville Courier-Journal report, park developers could get as much as \$37.5 million in state tax incentives under the Kentucky Tourism Development Act. The governor said at a press conference last week that the developers likely will qualify for the incentives.

The governor rebuffed any suggestion that the incentives would violate any church-state separation issues since the tourism act does not differentiate among religions.

Noting that as long as the developers' application adheres to state laws, "there is nothing remotely unconstitutional about a for-profit organization coming in and investing \$150 million to create jobs in Kentucky and bring tourism to Kentucky," the Courier-Journal quoted Beshear as saying.

Opened in 2007, the Creation Museum is a 70,000-square-foot museum that gives a scientific explanation for an orthodox interpretation of the Genesis creation account. (BP)

With additional reporting by News Director Drew Nichter

## Paris appoints chairs for '10-'11 KBC committees

Louisville—In his first official action as Kentucky Baptist Convention president, Floyd Paris last week appointed 14 Kentucky Baptists to chair 15 convention committees for the coming year.

The pastor of Unity Baptist Church in Ashland tapped 11 pastors, a director of missions, a layperson and a vocational evangelist to head the committees through 2011. Five of the men appointed also are former KBC presidents.

The number of committees is one fewer than in years past because of the constitutional change that combined the standing order of business and arrangements committees into the new Committee on the Annual Meeting. Convention messengers approved the move at the 2009 annual meeting at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

Those individuals appointed to chair the state convention's seven standing committees are:

**Jeff Crabtree**, director of missions, Warren Association of Baptists in Bowling Green, Committee on Credentials.

**T.J. Francis**, pastor, First Baptist Church of Walton, Committee on Committees.

**French Harmon**, pastor, First Baptist Church of Somerset, Committee on the Annual Meeting.

**Tim Harris**, pastor, Woodburn Baptist Church in Bowling Green, Committee on Resolutions.

**Bill Henard**, pastor, Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, Committee on Constitution and Bylaws.

**Ronnie Mayes**, pastor, Rose Hill Baptist Church in Ashland, Committee on Nominations.

**Kevin Milburn**, pastor, Union Baptist Church, Committee on Public Affairs.

Kentucky Baptists appointed by Paris to head KBC Mission Board committees are:

**Paul Badgett**, pastor, First Baptist Church of Pikeville, missions growth.

**Charles Barnes**, member, Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville, business and finance.

**Paul Chitwood**, pastor, First Baptist Church of Mount Washington, nominating.

**Alan Dodson**, pastor, Cornerstone Baptist Church in Lexington, resource development and communications.

**Chad Fugitt**, pastor, First Baptist Church of Monticello, leadership development.

**Rick Hatley**, pastor, High Point Baptist Church in Mayfield, agencies and institutions.

**Don Mathis**, vocational evangelist from Bowling Green, administrative.

**Mayes**, church development and evangelism.

## Bass joins Western Recorder staff

Louisville—Robin Bass has been selected to serve as the new partnership editions editor for the Western Recorder. She officially assumed the role Nov. 22.

"I am pleased to have Robin Bass joining our staff," said Western Recorder Editor Todd Deaton. "Robin has extensive experience as an award-winning photographer, column and news feature writer and page designer, and she will make significant contributions to our ministry efforts among Kentucky Baptists."



Robin Bass

Bass, 41, will be responsible for providing editorial and design services for six partnership newspapers for pioneer state conventions in Colorado, Hawaii, Iowa, Minnesota-Wisconsin, Pennsylvania-South Jersey and Wyoming. In addition to producing 43 editions annually, she also will assist the Western Recorder with news coverage as needed.

During the administration of her duties, Bass said she plans to develop close working relationships with each of the state conventions and work diligently to produce professional news products.

"Reaching readers, that is our most important task as journalists," Bass said. "Providing an informative and engaging news product may start with the written word, but it is the total package—the photographs and layout design—that draws them in and keeps their attention."

Bass joins the Western Recorder staff after serving as the editor of the Spencer Magnet newspaper in Spencer County. Prior to becoming editor at the weekly paper, Bass worked as a reporter and photographer. She has 14 years experience in the newspaper industry and has worked for daily publications in Crystal River, Fla., and Charleston, S.C.

Bass graduated from the photojournalism program at Western Kentucky University in 1992. She is a native of Louisville and has a daughter, Morgan, 11. They attend Plum Creek Baptist Church in Taylorsville.

Bass succeeds Dannah Prather who left the Western Recorder staff in July to assume the role of marketing and media relations associate for the Kentucky Baptist Convention's communications department.



**BAND OF BROTHERS** The Gaither Vocal Band has had many different line-ups over the years. The current incarnation consists of (from left) David Phelps, Wes Hampton, Bill Gaither, Mark Lowry and Michael English.

## Bill Gaither and friends to make stop in Louisville on holiday tour

Continued from page 1

will include performances by the Gaither Vocal Band currently consisting of Mark Lowry, Wes Hampton, David Phelps, Michael English and the man himself—Bill Gaither.

The roster of talented Gaither Vocal Band singers has been rewritten more than a few times, Gaither said. The present band of brothers has been recording and touring together since 2008, while also maintaining their own tour schedules to promote solo projects.

### 'Message in the music'

Over the decades, Gaither, 74, said he has made music with some great friends, but his passion always has been the message found within the songs.

"I believe in the message in the music; that Christ was who He said He was; that He is first and foremost in our lives; that He can make sense in a world that does not make sense; and we can find a way through it with Christ," Gaither said.

To prove his point, Gaither began reciting the lyrics to "Ain't Nobody," a track on the Gaither Vocal Band's recently released CD titled "Greatly Blessed":

"Ain't nobody going to rob me of my joy,  
I've got something that nothing can destroy,  
I've made up my mind when it comes to this old boy,

"Ain't nobody going to rob me of my joy."

Concert goers can expect to have their souls stirred by timeless gospel hits during the first part of the show, Gaither said. After an intermission, the sounds of Christ-

mas will fill the air and the audience becomes part of the show when small, flickering lights are distributed throughout the venue.

"It's a beautiful experience," the singer said.

As a young child growing up in Indiana, some of Gaither's first memories of gospel music were when he would listen to the radio while milking cows. Among his favorites still today is the prolific Albert Brumley who was called the "the greatest white gospel songwriter before WWII" by Smithsonian researchers. The late Brumley composed such classics as "I'll Fly Away" and "Turn Your Radio On."

"It's not easy to write a gospel song," Gaither acknowledged, but "those great old writers like Albert Brumley knew how to write."

Yet, Gaither is credited for composing more than 500 Southern Gospel songs; a tally that jumps to more than 700 when collaborations with his wife, Gloria, are included. For their efforts, the duo have collectively won eight Grammy Awards and garnered almost twice as many nominations. The Gaithers also have received more than two dozen Dove Awards from the Gospel Music Association, earning the title of Gospel Music Association's "Songwriter of the Year" eight times.

Gaither said his wife plans to join him on stage at the Freedom Hall show. Tickets range from \$43.35 to \$54.05 and can be purchased at Ticketmaster.com. The show starts at 6 p.m.

## Executive Committee merges functions, including Baptist Press

By Bob Allen

Nashville, Tenn.—The Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee will eliminate two vice presidents and merge its news and public-relations functions, Baptist Press reported Nov. 30.

Executive Committee President Frank Page announced consolidations and staff reductions in memos dated Nov. 17 and Nov. 29, the news service reported.

The restructuring streamlines the staff of the Executive Committee—an elected board charged with major duties like planning an annual meeting, proposing a budget, disbursing funds throughout the year and acting on behalf of the convention in decisions made between annual meetings—from five divisions to three.

It includes merging Baptist Press and the office of convention relations into a new office called the office of convention communications and relations. Roger Oldham, current vice president of convention relations since 2007, assumes leadership of the office.

### 'Economic challenges' prompt move

The BP release announcing the restructuring cited "unprecedented economic challenges" facing the Executive Committee. This year, the Executive Committee is preparing an SBC operating budget \$500,000 smaller than the current spending plan.

That is before the committee takes action to respond to a motion referred by SBC messengers proposing reduction of the committee's share of the denomination's Cooperative Program budget. Although the reduction—designed as a way to get more funding to international missions—would only be by a single percentage point of the SBC's overall budget, it would reduce the

### Baptist Press Timeline

**1946**  
Baptist Press is founded as a service of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee.

**1987**  
Longtime Baptist Press director Wilmer Fields resigns as SBC's vice president for public relations.

**1990**  
Editor Al Shackleford and news director Dan Martin are dismissed following a dispute with Executive Committee officers over story selection. The move leads to the formation of Associated Baptist Press.

**1991**  
The Executive Committee separates its news and public relations offices and hires Herb Hollinger to lead Baptist Press.

**2000**  
Military veteran Will Hall succeeds Hollinger as the head of Baptist Press.

**2010**  
The Executive Committee opts to re-merge its news and public relations offices, eliminating Hall's position as vice president of news services. Art Toalston will oversee the daily production of Baptist Press.

Executive Committee's operating budget by nearly a third.

For many years, the convention's communications and news functions were handled in a single office. Wilmer Fields served as the SBC's vice president for public relations and director of Baptist Press from 1959 until his retirement in 1987. His successor, Al Shackleford, was dismissed in 1990, along with news director Dan Martin,

after a dispute with Executive Committee officers over the issue of story selection.

The Executive Committee then separated news and convention relations into two offices and in 1991 hired Herb Hollinger, a Baptist state newspaper editor from California, as director of Baptist Press. After Hollinger retired, previous Executive Committee President Morris Chapman, who retired earlier this year, tapped Will Hall to the VP post in 2000, a position that now has been eliminated. Hall's last day on the job was Dec. 3.

Art Toalston, a veteran Baptist journalist who came to work for Hollinger at Baptist Press in 1992, will oversee daily production as editor of Baptist Press.

### Hall's dismissal a surprise

Bob Simpson, immediate past president of the Association of State Baptist papers, said Dec. 1 he understands the rationale expressed for the downsizing, but that he was "shocked" to hear that Hall no longer fits into the Executive Committee's plans.

Simpson, editor of the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware news journal Baptist Life, termed Hall "a man of integrity" and "a gifted leader who has done an excellent job for Southern Baptists during his tenure."

Simpson said Hall "has communicated fairly and skillfully to both Southern Baptists and non-Southern Baptists" and "will be sorely missed."

Hall's leadership became an issue for some Baptist state paper editors this year, when an editorial accused Baptist Press of biased coverage of the Great Commission Task Force which proposed a major reshuffling of the convention's priorities.

At this summer's SBC annual meeting, Marty King, editor of the Illinois Baptist,

made a motion that Baptist Press be separated from the Executive Committee altogether and function as an SBC entity with trustees elected by the convention in order to increase both its editorial freedom and accountability to Southern Baptists.

Citing previous studies on similar proposals in years past, the Executive Committee voted in September to decline to recommend the change, expressing desire that Baptist Press "continue to operate as an integral part of the ministry assignment of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention rather than a separate entity."

The other Executive Committee position being eliminated is a vice president responsible for promoting the Cooperative Program. Created in 1997, the position has been held since 2005 by Bob Rodgers. After Rodgers' last day Dec. 10, Page, who took over as head of the Executive Committee Oct. 1, will oversee that responsibility directly.

Page commended both Hall and Rodgers for their service and said it is never easy to lay people off from their jobs. "This has been an agonizing set of decisions for me to make," he said in the release. He added the cuts "will not be the only ones we will need to make in the days ahead."

In addition to the restructuring, Page also announced hiring of Bill Townes as interim vice president of convention finance. Currently director of development at the North American Mission Board, Townes will be recommended for permanent election to the post when the Executive Committee meets in February.

The finance VP president position has been vacant since 2009, when Clark Logan was asked to resign for unspecified reasons after less than two years on the job. (ABP)

### Baptist editor in Oklahoma resigns

Oklahoma City—Doug Baker, the editor of Oklahoma Baptists' news journal, has resigned after slightly more than 15 months on the job.

Ron Fannin, senior associate executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, said Nov. 19 that Baker resigned Nov. 10 as executive editor of the Baptist Messenger and leader of the convention's communications team.



Douglas Baker

Baker, 41, began the job Aug. 1, 2009. His previous job was executive director of the Council on Christian Life and Public Affairs for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

Before that Baker worked at the United States Naval Academy as a special assistant to then-Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee and as a press secretary for the Louisiana State Education Commission. He also served on the pastoral staff at First Baptist Church of Alexandria, Va.

With a circulation around 73,000, the Baptist Messenger is the third-largest print newspaper in Oklahoma and has the third-largest circulation of 43 Baptist state newspapers that comprise the Association of State Baptist Papers. (ABP)

## Alabama DOMs call for slowdown of GCR changes

By Jennifer Davis Rash  
The Alabama Baptist

Gardendale, Ala.—In an effort to protect funding for work in pioneer areas, as well as ministries traditionally organized for the rural United States, the Alabama Baptist Conference of Directors of Associational Missions has issued an open letter calling for a slowdown in funding changes related to the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force report.

That report recommended phasing out the "cooperative agreements" that govern state convention and local association relationships with the North American Mission Board and has many state conventions and local associations reassessing their vision, strategy and financial plans. The Alabama DOM group wants to make sure they understand the results of "pulling the plug" on some ministries.

The open letter was overwhelmingly approved during the group's annual meeting last month in Gardendale, Ala.

"We want to address the areas that are going to be left out of the Great Commission Resurgence paradigm," said Steve Loggins, president of the conference and director of missions for North Jefferson Baptist Association in Mount Olive, Ala.

Selma Baptist Association DOM Tom Stacey brought the idea to the group's attention. "He is very concerned about work in the pioneer areas of the country," Loggins said of Stacey. "He has been connected to new-work areas since serving as a summer missionary in Wyoming almost 30 years ago."

Stacey said work in pioneer areas is real, "not just observatory" for him. "My dear friends and background are invested

*"We all want to see the gospel go to the ends of the earth, but we can't abandon what we have here. It doesn't have to be an either/or, but a both/and."*

Steve Loggins, president of the Alabama Baptist Conference of Directors of Associational Missions

in this," Stacey added, noting that his association has had an unofficial partnership in a new-work area for 13 years.

After the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force report passed at the Southern Baptist Convention in Orlando, Fla., in June, "I decided I wanted to do something," Stacey said.

### Future of North American missions

Stacey "knows the devastation GCR will have and has shared with us things we needed to hear," Loggins noted. "But we kept our letter focused on the way GCR is going to affect missions in North America because of the changes GCR is going to make to NAMB."

"We hope it will make people stop and think about some areas they didn't think about," Loggins said. "There is a way to do what GCR (advocates) want to do without abandoning the Cooperative Program. We all want to see the gospel go to the ends of the earth, but we can't abandon what we have here. It doesn't have to be an either/or, but a both/and."

"Some people want to abandon everything for just the uttermost, but I don't

see that we have to choose," Loggins added. "We've got to do it all."

While the letter is an expression of support for the Cooperative Program, Loggins said associational directors of missions also are committed to keeping existing ministries in place.

"We are not going to let those ministries being abandoned by NAMB fall through the cracks," Loggins said, noting that the director of the International Ministries Center in Mobile, Ala., is one of the positions for which funding is being eliminated by NAMB.

### Message for all Southern Baptists

The associational leaders want Southern Baptists to hear what they have to say, but Loggins said they didn't want to be confrontational in their efforts. So, they decided an open letter was the best way to share their message.

"We hope all Southern Baptists will have an opportunity to see our heart," Loggins said. "We would like folks looking at giving through the GCR viewpoint to consider what we are presenting here—something beyond that paradigm."

Stacey added: "What I pray happens is that we as Southern Baptists can come together at the table and ... can work out a unified plan that we can all still be on board with."

"We're praying (NAMB President) Kevin Ezell will start understanding more and that these entities and agencies will do some studies before they pull the plug on whatever they are going to pull the plug on," Stacey said. "We are backed into a corner and we are trying to be as gentlemanly as we can." (BP)

## Thanksgiving and concerns

During this Advent season, I am grateful for the gracious and generous giving by Kentucky Baptists that set a new total giving record of \$36.5 million for 2009-10. I also have some concerns about our present and future funding challenges.

### Partners in the Mission



By Bill Mackey

The record giving came through several avenues. The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering increased 18 percent over last year with a total of \$5,218,716 going to the International Mission Board from Kentucky Baptist churches. (Cooperative Program gifts pushed the total amount to \$9,346,141.)

Additionally, the Eliza Broadus Offering for state missions reached a record \$1,268,409 and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American missions reached a record of \$2,104,728. (With CP gifts added, the North American Mission Board received \$3,755,698 from Kentucky.)

Substantial giving was also received for Haiti disaster relief and from two legacy gifts for international and North American missions. We were also pleased to receive \$271,495 from churches through Restricted Kentucky Only gifts although this amount was down by 19.3 percent.

We praise God for all of these gifts but the challenge for the current and future years certainly remains great. I want to appeal to Kentucky Baptists to maintain their level of CP giving and to increase CP giving if at all possible.

As we look at a 5.5 percent shift in CP funds from KBC missions causes to SBC missions causes next year, the Mission Board will need to make significant reductions. These could be managed, if it were not also for the recession-caused reduction in investment and other income and the need to absorb planned cooperative agreement funding reductions from NAMB.

It is my prayer that Kentucky Baptists will increase their CP gifts, as a number of churches are doing, so the \$23.5 million operating budget can be met and the additional reductions avoided. It will create great challenges for our missions causes if those who may have had concerns about the Great Commission Task Force report approved by messengers were to react by reducing gifts and CP giving was to actually drop.

I was recently encouraged about the future by Dr. Floyd Paris, our new KBC president, as he shared excitedly about several practical ideas to help increase giving by church members so the local church can increase missions giving. He has enlisted the help of the Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union and several KBC departments to assist and will share his ideas with the Mission Board Dec. 13-14.

He believes that Kentucky Baptists must act with urgency in order to maintain strong KBC ministries. Please pray for Dr. Paris as he continues to give shape to these plans under the banner of "More for Christ."

*Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.*

## Look who's building an ark now

You may want to start paying attention to the weather reports. The governor wants us to start building an ark.

Before you get your bright yellow rain coat and galoshes out of the hall closet, it's not a deluge of biblical proportions he's anticipating. It's a boatload of tourism dollars that he's expecting to flood the state.

The proposed \$150 million attraction to be called Ark Encounter will feature a 500-foot-long replica of Noah's Ark, complete with live animal shows. Plans for the park, which may be built in Grant County, also include a replica of the Tower of Babel, a 500-seat 5-D theatre, an aviary and a first-century walled city.

Really? Why not add Noah's Petting Zoo—where kids can pet donkeys, camels, llamas and goats—and a botanical garden with enclosures for lions, tigers and bears? Oh my! We could have Noah's Big Boat Adventure, a boat ride that travels along a track with ancient flood scenes, waterfalls and rapids. What about a log flume ride for the more adventuresome teenagers that plunges from the top of a replica of Mt. Ararat? The Tower of Babel could begin to shake and crumble, sending huge blocks crashing to the ground around us, like one of those Tower of Terror disaster attractions—and riders could wear earphones with announcers retelling the story in many languages. High above it all, we could fly in a plastic dove-shaped glider, soaring and dipping in search of an olive branch. Then at ice cream stands, we could buy rainbow popsicles and ocean-blue slushies with tiny umbrellas sticking out the top.

What's next? An Israelite and Philistine battleground, where soldiers don ancient garb and weaponry to reenact David and Goliath squaring off? A Red Sea Encounter with Egyptian chariot rides and a Hebrew wave pool? A laser show that ignites Elijah's wet wood and disperses the false prophets?

Yes, I'm kidding. These are outlandish exaggerations, of course. No one has gone so far as to seriously suggest these ideas ... yet. But the point is made: If taken to extremes, such amusements can quickly border on the ludicrous at best or appear sacrilegious at worst. Still, well-designed biblical attractions and museums certainly do have a place, so long

as the intent is to encourage people to thoughtfully encounter the truth of the gospel and foster a richer, more meaningful expression of faith.

And, please don't get me wrong: I'm all for creating jobs, especially in a down economy, and the Ark Encounter could create 900 more. By some estimates, the park could have an annual economic impact of \$250 million. The state's budget could sure stand a boost from sales taxes paid by park visitors on tickets, food and souvenirs—not to mention hotel accommodations and local restaurants.

But be wary of unintended consequences. In a news release, Gov. Beshear stated that he would "certainly be open" to talking with Muslim or atheist groups that want to build their own tourist attractions in Kentucky. Would you feel the same about a Buddhist Temple replica or Japanese Pagoda exhibit? The state cannot discriminate among religions in giving an advantage to one faith group that it doesn't grant to all. Furthermore, does granting \$37.5 million in tax incentives to construct a theme park that promotes a Judeo-Christian worldview not prompt an intriguing church-state separation dilemma?

Before we turn our sincere faith in the wonder-working power of Almighty God into an attraction at a theme park, be careful the message that is being conveyed to a watching nation is respectful of the gospel and not just an appeal to an entertainment-craving culture. This should be one tourist attraction that has a greater purpose than turning a profit; and developers should be encouraged to be sure what they build inspires awe and brings glory to God's name. If this theme park somehow brings someone who would not otherwise attend a church into a right relationship with God by making one ponder the gravity and consequences of sin, the holiness of God and His righteousness judgment, and the wondrous grace and mercy found in His provision of salvation through Jesus Christ alone, then it's a worthwhile project to pursue, indeed.

Ultimately, that is what's at stake: Will the Ark Encounter just be another amusement, or can it somehow contribute to leading a person toward repentance and faith in God and our nation to experience revival?

## After Thought

By Todd Deaton



## WESTERN Recorder

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

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## Bring-in-the-New-Year music marathon

Sing in the New Year with this fresh idea. Start off 2011 with a Christian music marathon at your church.

Recruit 12 capable coordinators to enlist musicians and sound techs for a full hour of Christian music, and then advertise a 12-hour music marathon to bring in the New Year. Begin at noon New Year's Eve and have continuous Christian music until midnight.

Who will sing all this Christian music? Include as many different ensembles, soloists, choirs and musicians as possible. Give an open invitation to your church members to participate individually or by forming a group. Ask everyone who sang in church last year to sing a song. Invite every choir or praise team or singing group in your church—from preschoolers to adults.

Form lots of new temporary ensembles to prepare a song or two for the event, such as senior adults, singles, various Bible classes, ushers, fifth graders, committees, teens, women's Bible class, men's ball team, staff, deacons and wives, a youth band, and so on. Instrumentalists—even children—can offer a Christian song on the program. Include a wide variety of music styles, with every song pointing the listener to God.

### Fresh Ideas



Diana Davis

To avoid dead time, arrange two platform areas on opposite sides of the stage. A congenial master of ceremonies for each hour could be planned, but should keep chatter and introductions to a minimum and focus the time on praising God. Each half hour may begin with a Scripture or a brief salvation testimony.

The music marathon's audience is God. Each song is given as an offering of praise for His love and the blessing of a New Year. Whether there is one person or hundreds in the pews, the music is an offering to Him alone. Some musicians may invite congregational participation.

Print a "Sing in the New Year" music marathon schedule and distribute it in worship the previous Sunday. Make exterior signs and personal invitation cards to invite listeners to come and go as they wish. Use a sign-in sheet at the door, and assure that guests receive a warm welcome and an invitation to Sunday worship along with their printed program.

The pastor may enjoy introducing the first singer and closing the marathon with a final midnight praise song and New Year celebration.

*Diana Davis is the author of Fresh Ideas. Her husband is Indiana Baptist Convention's executive director.*

## Why the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering matters

By Chuck Lawless

When I was a college student in Oxford, Ohio, I knew "Lottie Moon" only as the name of a local bar named after a Confederate spy during the Civil War—not the missionary whose name our annual missions offering bears.

During my first pastorate, I regret that "Lottie" still meant little to me, as our church gave scant attention to what was then known as the Lottie Moon Offering for Foreign Missions.

During my second pastorate, though, Lottie Moon took on more significance. Confronted by a Woman's Missionary Union director who challenged me to love missions "if you're going to be my pastor," I began to learn about God's work around the world. It was also during that ministry that I married my wife, Pam, who had been raised as a GA and an Actean and who greatly loved the story of missionary Lottie Moon.

Knowing Lottie and promoting the offering named after her were no longer optional.

Now many years later, Lottie Moon is increasingly important to me—not because of stories I have read, but because of people I have met. I think often of a van driver in an Asian country where I traveled as consultant for the International Mission Board. Seldom have I met anyone as considerate as he was. He greeted us at the airport, carried our luggage, opened our doors and helped us from the van. Were a man judged eternally on his willingness to assist others, this man would be first into heaven. But this kind man did not yet know Jesus—and apart from Christ, he had no hope.

In another country, we visited the burial place of a holy man of another world faith. When we inquired about this man's life, it was clear why he was perceived to be holy. The response to our next question, though, revealed much about this man's religion. We asked the caretakers of the grave if the holy man were in heaven, and their best answer was "We don't know for sure, but we hope so." According to their religion, they could only hope that his good works outweighed the bad. Their wrongly directed faith gave no

assurance of eternity, even for one thought to be holy.

Who will confront this darkness?

There are, of course, committed Southern Baptists who have accepted this calling. No missions organization does the task perfectly, but God continues to work powerfully through our missionaries. In fact, I could write all day about their stories: the young couple who are raising their preschoolers in the shadow of a pagan temple in one of the darkest countries

I have ever visited ... the single adult working quietly but persistently in the danger of a war-torn country ... the veteran missionary who told me that after many years of ministry, her team is still "picking up rocks so the soil is ready to plant seeds" ... the faithful family who returned to serve even after a young daughter barely survived a serious illness contracted on the field ... the older couple who took early retirement to take the gospel where others had not gone.

Because we have met and worked alongside so many of these unrecognized heroes of the faith, giving sacrificially to the Lottie Moon Offering is hardly a sacrifice anymore.

Even more powerful to me, however, are the testimonies of believers whose lives have been changed by the ministries of Southern Baptists.

Again, the stories could fill column after column: the Asian Christian whose father first heard the gospel from a missionary, led his family to the Lord and then escaped persecution by boat ... the African student who now understands that Jesus—not animals—is the sacrifice for his sins ... the tsunami victim who embraced us heartily, thanking Southern Baptists for bringing the gospel and relief aid to his village ... the refugee in the States whose family first met Christ while under the oppression of a dictator's rule.

We have seen firsthand the changing power of the gospel, and those experiences remind us that Lottie Moon dollars are still making an eternal difference.

What keeps me awake at night, though, are those who have never heard or who do not yet believe. More than 6,000 people groups around the world have no gospel witness. Some 6 billion people are lost without Christ.

Six billion lives at stake, and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering provides almost 55 percent of the IMB's annual budget to engage this lostness. Clearly, Lottie Moon still matters. (BP)

*Chuck Lawless is dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.*

### FIRST PERSON

## Providing perpetual support

By Laurie Valentine

You do not have to be a millionaire to be able to provide financial resources that will change peoples' lives in the Lord's name. Providing support that will continue to give until the Lord returns for your church; state, national and/or international missions; ministries to hurting children and their families; disaster relief; and/or other causes important to you can be accomplished through the creation of a new endowment fund or by making gifts to an existing endowment fund.

An endowment fund is a permanent, perpetual fund managed either by the cause benefited by your gift or another entity such as the Kentucky Baptist Foundation. Only the earnings from the endowment fund are distributed for use by the cause(s) you have designated; the original value of what you give is never spent.

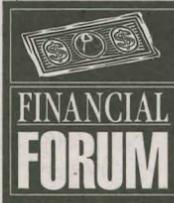
A large gift is not required to establish an endowment fund with the Kentucky Baptist Foundation. It can be started with any amount, to which you may add from time to time over your lifetime. This permits even those of modest means to do much more than they ever dreamed possible. As the endowment fund grows, more lives will be touched and blessed through the support provided.

Endowment fund giving does not have to be an all or nothing proposition. You may want to use a life income gift to fund an endowment fund. Life income gifts allow you to make a gift now that will provide an income stream to you and/or others for life with the endowment fund funded with the remainder of your original gift at your death.

Establishing (or adding to) an endowment fund during your lifetime may provide income tax savings if you itemize deductions and capital gains tax savings if you use appreciated assets to fund your gift.

All with which we have been blessed comes from God. Establishing an endowment fund, whether through a single large gift or a lifetime of more modest levels of giving, permits you to demonstrate your gratitude for God's blessings and your desire to be involved in touching lives in His name.

*Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.*



## Recovering your Christmas joy

By Scott Wigginton

**Q: Christmas was easy to take for granted when I was married. Now, after a divorce, I only have my teenagers for part of the holiday season. While my ex-spouse and I accommodate each other's schedules, it is still not easy. How can I keep from being alternately sad and irritated?**

**A:** Life is difficult," writes Scott Peck, in his very first line in "The Road Less Traveled." This is a great truth, he continues, "because once we truly see this truth, we transcend it." Whether our struggles in life have to do with sin (personal or corporate), self, or Satan, there is no doubt that existence is filled with challenges.

Does it not just make sense that some of the darkest spiritual warfare would come around the celebration of the Light of the world? Make no mistake; there is an enemy and your ex-husband is not him! With all believers, not just you, he will use whatever means he can to put a damper on the party so that preoccupation supplants glorification.

Let me encourage you in this season to walk with flexibility, to think with great discernment, and to worship with reckless abandonment. If you would observe the extra-biblical beatitude, "Blessed are the flexible for they will not be bent out of shape," you will not be overly troubled by unexpected shifts in plans and schedules. Refusing to stubbornly cling to routine will free you to enjoy Spirit-initiated moments of joy.

Thinking with discernment will help you to reject divorce-focused lies such as:

- I have to compete with my ex-spouse.
- Christmas can never be special again.
- I must make everything perfect for the kids.

When you are willing to worship with reckless abandonment whenever and wherever, you will find that even a holiday song in Target can cause your soul to soar and the mundane moments ringing a Salvation Army bell can at moments echo the singing of angels. May you think His thoughts, trace His steps, and be reminded again and again of the One who has invited you to a sacred romance.

*Scott Wigginton is associate professor of pastoral ministries and counseling at Campbellsville University and minister of counseling at Campbellsville Baptist Church.*



## Give a priceless gift to someone this holiday season

By Chuck Bentley

We are living in an unprecedented time of economic fear. I see the demand for gold and its resulting price as a way to measure people's fear and uncertainty in man's economy. For example, since 1970, when the price of gold was \$36 an ounce, the price of gold has risen and fallen in tandem with economic uncertainty. Today the price is well above \$1,300 an ounce!

Security is something we all want and need, especially right now. But, we also know that gold cannot make anyone truly secure. Real security comes from living in God's Economy.

As you consider the gifts you will share with friends and loved ones through the holiday season, consider giving gifts that will alleviate insecurity and be more precious than gold.

Maybe we can call this the "Biblical Gift Guide for the Holiday Season":

### 1. Give from what you do have.

Remember when the beggar outside the temple gate in Jerusalem asked Peter and John for money? Although he was crippled from birth, the beggar was focused on money as the solution. This story is a picture of the superiority of the treasures we have in knowing Christ. Peter's reply to the beggar should ring in our ears:

"Then Peter said, 'Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk'" (Acts 3:6).

And the crippled man walked!

Imagine that electrifying moment.

God did not send Peter and John on a mission to give away money. He sent them on a mission to give away Jesus.

This year, you may not be in a position to give gifts that people are expecting from you; but this can be your opportunity, like Peter and John, to give from what "you do have." We have the glorious treasure of the gospel that gives sight to the blind and heals every broken heart.

### 2. Give apples of gold in settings of silver.

A few years ago, a personal friend became CEO of one of the largest companies in the world. The story broke in The Wall Street Journal, Forbes, and Fortune. His success in business was very impressive by all measures.

In a conversation with my father, I mentioned how delighted I was for my friend's rise in the business world. Dad's response will never leave me.

"Well, son, that is impressive, but what you are doing is more important. I would rather you do what you are doing than be CEO of the world's largest company."

Those words blessed my soul so much that I had to fight back the tears as he looked at me with pride and joy. I knew that he meant it.

Solomon said, "A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver" (Proverbs 25:11).

My dad has given all of his children many tangible gifts throughout our

lives. In 1980, he gave us all an ounce of pure gold for Christmas. While I appreciate all of those gifts, those kind words of affirmation were worth far more than a \$1,300 ounce of gold to me—they will always be priceless.

Think of the approaching holiday season as your opportunity to give affirmation to those you love.

### 3. Give real security.

Freedom from fear and insecurity is in short supply. But, regardless of how much gold you have, it will never be able to deliver what is promised to those who fear God. Listen to the promises in Psalm 112:

"Praise the LORD. Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who finds great delight in his commands. His children will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed. Wealth and riches are in his house, and his righteousness endures forever.

"Even in darkness light dawns for the upright, for the gracious and compassionate and righteous man. Good will come to him who is generous and lends freely, who conducts his affairs with justice.

"Surely he will never be shaken; a righteous man will be remembered forever. He will have no fear of bad news; his heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD. His heart is secure, he will have no fear; in the end he will look in triumph on his foes" (Psalm 112:1-8).

*Chuck Bentley is CEO of Crown Financial Ministries.*

# Reaching the world: 'Are we there yet?'

It's a beautiful vision: People who speak Simaa, Hindi, Tatar and Yi, Arabic and Karaja—all knowing and praising God. Are we there yet? Not yet.

But this vision found in Revelation 5:9 of people from every tribe, language, people and nation praising God is coming closer to being realized. Every year Christians continue to seek unreached people groups to tell them the story of Jesus. In the past decade, International Mission Board missionaries and their Baptist partners have brought the hope of Jesus Christ to people in more than 1,000 people groups previously untouched by the gospel.

According to the IMB's 2009 statistical data,\* there were 506,019 baptisms and 24,650 new churches started in 2008. Church membership overseas now stands at 10.7 million.

Sometimes progress comes in stunning ways. It may come in the form of 1,400-plus new churches in India—born after

Christians gave generously to aid the survivors of the devastating tsunami in 2004.

It may come in the form of a single believer in Mali who responded after two missionaries spent nearly two years crafting a set of recorded Bible stories in the man's language.

Along with charting progress, now also is the time to take a fresh look at the challenges ahead and be ready to finish the task.

## The world by the numbers

Here's a global snapshot of the challenges ahead of us:

■ 4,743 people groups not engaged at all with the gospel.

■ 6,426 unreached people groups (those with less than 2 percent of people who profess to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ).

■ 1.7 billion people with little or no access to the gospel.

■ 1.5 billion Muslims—22 percent of the world's population.

■ 950 million Hindus in the world.

■ Christian witness among China cities less than 1 percent.

■ 355 million in South America do not know Christ.

■ Less than 1 percent Christian among more than 270 million living in the Central Asia region.

■ 97 percent of all Palestinian people are Muslim.

■ 89 percent of North African and Middle Eastern people groups are unreached.

■ 311 people groups in India have no known evangelical believers.

God has used Southern Baptists to help make inroads with the gospel to difficult places. Scores of dedicated churches have provided a continuous foundation in a supporting role, giving faithfully to international missions through the Coopera-

tive Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Many churches are exploring how they might take on a more direct role in reaching people groups.

Through partnering relationships, some churches have taken bold steps to reach the toughest, most remote places. The task is doable, but it will take a cooperative effort.

## Get involved

What can you do? You can pray strategically and give boldly to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and the Cooperative Program. You can lead your church to own the Great Commission as never before to see that all peoples know Him.

To learn more about the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions, visit [www.IMB.org/Offering](http://www.IMB.org/Offering).

\*Data from IMB's 2009 Annual Statistical Report.

(Note that all data reflects end-of-year 2008 figures.)

## Chinese man waits 20 years for gospel

Ray Aker\* had spent the past two years sharing Jesus in a rural area of China without seeing a single salvation.

God had brought Aker and a small team of Southern Baptist volunteers to a man named Solomon\* who lived with his family in a dirt-floored shack in an isolated mountain village. Aker told the gospel story and Solomon immediately believed.

But it was what he said afterward that Aker could not forget.

"Twenty years ago, I understood in my heart that there was one God above all," Solomon told Aker. "But I didn't know anything about Him. So I prayed every day that He would send somebody to tell me who He was. ... God answered my prayer today when He sent you to me."

"That was probably the single-most powerful experience that I've ever been a part of in ministry here," Aker said. "I didn't do anything special. ... God ordained that moment in time."

Immediately Solomon began telling others and quickly led six villagers to faith, including his wife and two daughters.

The local witchdoctor took notice. If Solomon didn't stop sharing, the witchdoctor threatened publicly, he would be cursed and die in three days. Solomon refused to be silent, and on day four when vil-

lagers saw that he was still alive, they wanted to know why.

Aker said Solomon told the whole village about Jesus. In one day 80 people gave their lives to Him.

"These people live in daily fear of evil spirits," Aker explained. "Everything they do (is) based on trying to appease these evil spirits. ... The fact that Solomon didn't die rocked their worldview."

Four years later, God has used Solomon's influence to bring more than 400 people to faith across three neighboring villages.

"We went from zero (believers) ... to 147 in about five months," Aker noted. "I will never make it to every single village of our people group. ... That's why we have to train and raise up believers ... to reach the rest."

"God had been preparing Solomon for 20 years, ... I'm just thankful God allowed me to be a small part of it."

\*Names changed for security reasons



**Lottie Moon  
Christmas Offering**  
**National Goal:  
\$175 million**

## Cuban Baptists experiencing revival

Continued from page 1

to teach musicians to grow as disciples and use their skills in leading worship. Today, there are more than 50 of these schools. They train about 1,000 Cuban Baptists each year. Some of the musicians even organize music mission trips across the country.

The schools also spurred a renewal of corporate worship, which God is using to draw more people to Christ. A special addition to that worship is the first Cuban Baptist hymnal—"Alabanza Cubana"—published in 2005 with the help of several IMB missionaries.

God also is at work among professional musicians. Many are committing their lives to Christ and, in turn, finding creative ways to share their faith with colleagues.

"It's incredible what God is doing," noted an IMB missionary working with musicians. "There's no telling where He's going to go with all of this." (BP)



**FOR THE KINGDOM** A Cuban Christian musician (left) leads a fellow Cuban to saving faith in Christ during a worship service at Betel Baptist Church in Vueltās. As a church-planting movement sweeps across Cuba, a renewal in corporate worship in Cuban Baptist churches is attracting many lost people to services.

## 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](mailto:kbcsearch@gmail.com) or by mail to KBC Executive Director Search Committee, P.O. Box 460, Elizabethtown, Ky. 42702-0460.

# A Call to Prayer

*Southern Baptists urged to gather in solemn assembly in January*

By Mark Kelly

Nashville, Tenn.—Southern Baptists are being called to “solemn assembly” in January 2011—a time of seeking God in prayer and repentance—by key leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Following the lead of Bryant Wright, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, members of the SBC’s Great Commission Council—which is composed of the heads of the convention’s entities—issued a letter last month asking Southern Baptists to observe a Sunday in January as a day of prayer.

“We live in desperate times. Our lives, our families, our churches, our communities and our nation reflect the ruinous effects of our sinful ways,” the letter stated. “To some degree we all have pursued the things of the world and stand guilty of worshipping the created, not the Creator. ... We must repent and come before the Father with a contrite heart. We need a heal-the-land kind of blessing.”

In a video posted on his website, [www.Pray4SBC.com](http://www.Pray4SBC.com), Wright said the call to solemn assembly “is about returning to our first love of Jesus Christ.”

“In our convention, in our churches and our lives, we have allowed ma-

terialism, we’ve allowed hedonism, workaholic and busyness, technology obsession, all kinds of other interests of the world to just invade and, really, become bigger priorities than the priority of our relationship with Jesus Christ,” Wright said. “We need to fall in love with Jesus again in a new and fresh way. We need to return to our first love.”

Wright said gathering in solemn assembly—an element of the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force report adopted in June—could be the turning point for renewed passion among Southern Baptists for Christ’s Great Commission command to make disciples among all the world’s people.

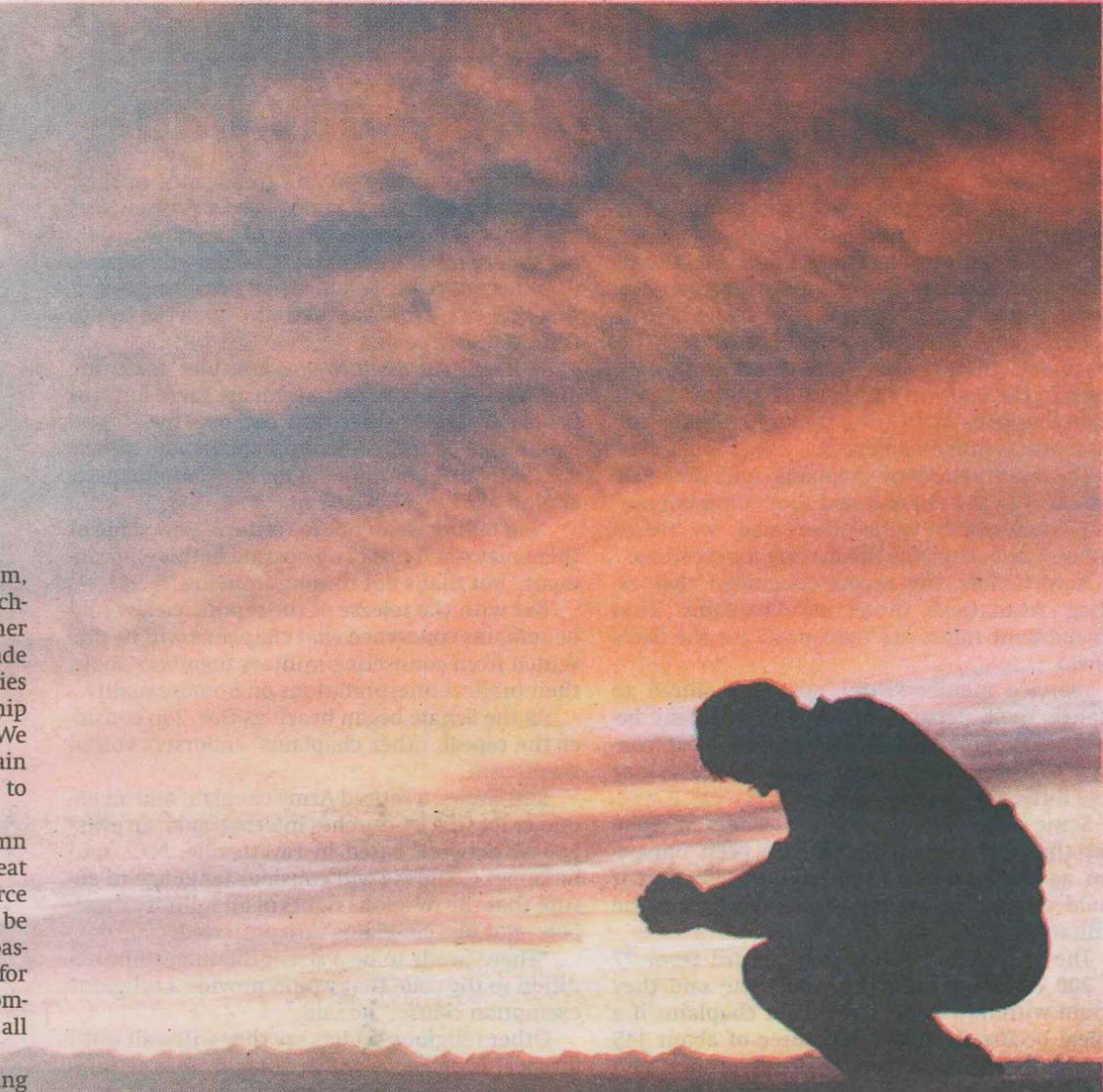
“It is my hope that, by following the charge the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force has put before our convention ... that people by the thousands—hopefully by the millions—around the Southern Baptist Convention will return to the first love of Jesus Christ.”

The solemn assembly call to prayer and repentance was established in the Old Testament as a gathering in which the people of God were called to account and prayer, said Frank Page, president of the SBC’s Executive Committee.

“It is time for Southern Baptists

to join in this biblical pattern of serious spiritual accountability and praying for our nation, our families and our life like never before,” Page told Baptist Press.

“Around this nation is a small group of people who are committed to serious, earnest prayer. I have seen these pockets of serious prayer warriors as I have traveled around this nation,” Page noted. “Let us join them in a call to our Lord for a genuine Holy Spirit revival. It is our only hope.” (BP)



## NAMB website offers ‘Day of Prayer’ resources

In preparation for the Southern Baptist Convention’s Day of Prayer in January, the North American Mission Board has launched a website with resources to help Southern Baptists answer the call to prayer.

“If Southern Baptists return to biblical, obedient prayer, not only will it bring God’s power as we have not seen it in a long time, but I believe it will change us in ways we cannot imagine,” NAMB President Kevin Ezell noted. “It’s our privilege to support Bryant Wright’s call to prayer in this way.”

The website, [www.NAMB.net/SBCDayofPrayer](http://www.NAMB.net/SBCDayofPrayer) offers an eight-step guide on how to incorporate a prayer emphasis one Sunday during the month of January.

“Thanks to the PrayerLink leadership, we’ve developed a simple one-day plan for pastors to introduce prayer through the application of solemn assembly in their churches,” said Richard Leach, NAMB’s team leader for servant and ministry evangelism.

PrayerLink, the work group of the state prayer coordinators across North America, developed several resources that are available online. The prayer guides offer suggestions on what to incorporate into a time of concentrated prayer:

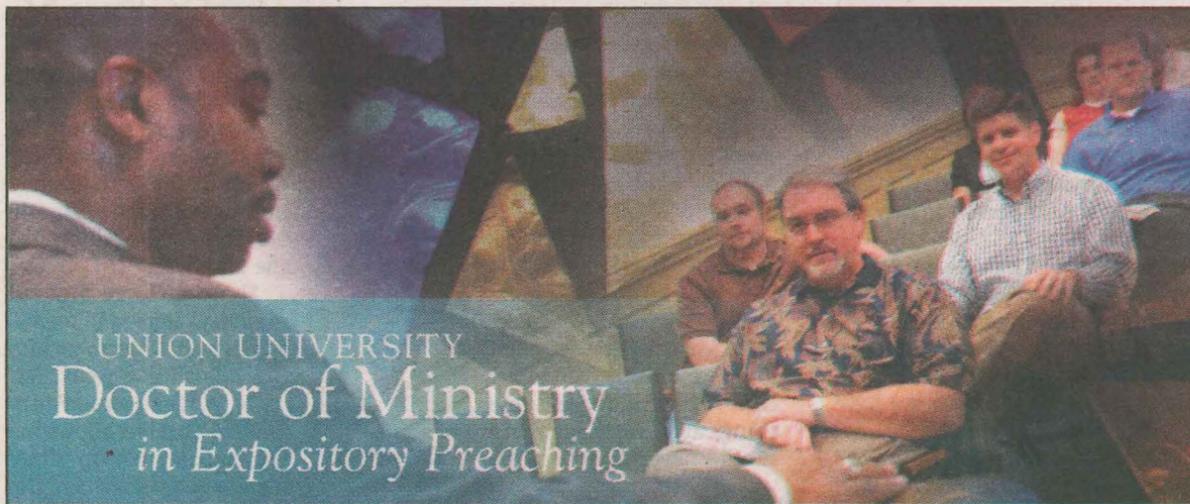
- Personal cleansing and preparation.
- A time of worship.
- Corporate confession, repentance and prayer.
- Renewal of covenant commitments to Jesus Christ.
- Celebration of Christ and the new covenant Christ has provided.

Other website resources to help churches in the observance include: “Guidelines for Fasting and Prayer,” “How to Lead a Solemn Assembly” and “Church Renewal Prayer Weekend.”

PrayerLink leaders will be introducing these and other resources in their states, Leach said.

“It’s been over 100 years since the last Great Awakening,” he pointed out. “In 1905 Christians began to pray because of economic stress, debauchery—everything that we see in our world today.”

“We have had in this nation, over the last 30 years, a growing call to prayer,” Leach added. “It’s been coming from churches, denominations and other Christian organizations. I pray we are going to see another awakening in our nation.” (BP)



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## Military chaplains voice 'intense' views on armed forces' gay ban

By Adelle Banks

Washington—A long-awaited report on the possible repeal of the military's ban on openly gay members says the chaplains corps has "some of the most intense and sharpest divergence of views" on the issue.

The comprehensive review, issued Nov. 30, concluded that "special attention" should be given to the concerns among the approximately 3,000 chaplains in the military services when and if a repeal is implemented.

The report said some chaplains condemned homosexuality as a sin and said they could not support homosexuals, while others said "we are all sinners" and chaplains should care for everyone.

Nevertheless, the report concluded that existing regulations protecting chaplains' First Amendment rights are "adequate" for the ban's repeal.

"Service members will not be required to change their personal views and religious beliefs," the report said. "They must, however, continue to respect and co-exist with others who may hold different views and beliefs."

Some retired chaplains and leaders of agencies that endorse chaplains have been outspoken against a repeal, with some predicting it could prompt an exodus of chaplains from the military.

The report said the military heard from 77 of 200 endorsing agencies, and none said they would withdraw endorsements of chaplains if a repeal occurred. It said just three of about 145 chaplains who took part in focus groups said they would seek to leave the military if there was a repeal.

Officials of some chaplains' organizations that have opposed the repeal questioned the report's claims of sufficient protections for chaplains who oppose homosexuality.

"I do not expect that anyone who holds fast with the truth, as it is in the word of God, ... to be

allowed to continue on and to advance in their career as I did," said James Poe, a retired Navy captain and former secretary of the International Conference of Evangelical Chaplain Endorsers.

Other retired chaplains seem unwilling to suggest that chaplains should walk out on the troops if the ban is repealed.

"I have said, 'Before you consider resigning and leaving, recognize that you are there for your people in the positive and the negative,'" said Paul Vicalvi, a retired Army chaplain who directs the Chaplains Commission for the National Association of Evangelicals.

"I'm telling them not to retire. ... Now some of them may say, 'I just can't operate in this environment,' but that's not coming from me."

But with the release of the report, Vicalvi said he remains concerned that chaplains will be prevented from counseling military members about their biblical interpretations on homosexuality.

As the Senate began hearings Dec. 2 to consider the repeal, other chaplains' endorsers voiced skepticism.

Ron Crews, a retired Army chaplain and an endorser for Grace Churches International, an evangelical network based in Fayetteville, N.C., said he hopes Congress will consider language to ensure that the religious rights of all military members—not just chaplains—are protected.

"There needs to be a strengthening, some addition to the code that would provide a religious exemption clause," he said.

Other religious leaders say they will wait until a repeal is enacted—which is far from a certainty—to determine their next steps.

"We're all going to wait to see what actually transpires," said retired Chaplain Douglas Lee, a retired U.S. Army brigadier general, who endorses chaplains for several denominations, including the Presbyterian Church in America.

"Will there be able to be open and free pluralism?" he asked. (RNS)

## 'Reservations for 288, please'

### Thanksgiving meal at Oneida Baptist Institute always is a unique occasion

For the past 18 years, I have tried to give our friends some insight into Thanksgiving at Oneida. I suspect there are few gatherings in the U.S. quite like ours. As a boarding school, we always have some students who live too far from Oneida to travel home for Thanksgiving. Every year, we also have some who simply cannot afford to make the trip. A few boys and girls would rather spend the holiday with us, since being at home may not always be a good experience.

Then there's our faculty and staff. Many of them choose to spend Thanksgiving here with the students. Like our students who come from all over the U.S., for some of our staff the distance or the expense is too great to make the trip to be with their families and friends. Additionally, we are blessed every year to have many of our friends and supporters—some from as far away as Tennessee—share the meal with us, as well as the families of some of our students.

The most interesting part of being at OBI on Thanksgiving is hosting so many international students. Every year, we have several who are new to the country. Since Thanksgiving is an American event, these students never have experienced the holiday.

I would like to be a fly on the wall in one of our dormitory rooms when an international student who has spent other Thanksgivings with us tries to explain the special day to a new international student. From considerable experience I can tell you that no one has to explain what to do after the blessing has been said.

### This is Oneida



W.F. Underwood

Just seating everyone takes a little time. So keeping the food warm is very difficult, but our cooks do a great job. As soon as the "Amen" is said, the boys don't waste much time uncovering the bowls, but the girls usually are a little more careful when removing the foil. In seconds, the food starts being passed from person to person. For many of our students, this is the first meal since coming to Oneida that did not come from one of our serving lines. So just being able to have the food on the table and pass it from person to person makes the meal special.

We try to keep our Thanksgiving meal simple and stick to the basics. Turkey and dressing are the centerpiece of every table. Gravy, sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes, green beans, cranberry sauce and salad and dinner rolls. And yes, we have desserts with plenty for seconds.

All in all, we had reservations for 288 guests. My memory is not always reliable, but I believe this is the largest group we have had in many, many years.

For me, no Thanksgiving would be complete if I did not take time to think of the many friends who support our work and make this meal possible. I wish every friend of our school could share the meal with us, but I know that's not feasible. I'm more than humbled as I reflect on how God has blessed us and surrounded us with a host of friends who make our work possible. I'm truly thankful for all that God has done and for all of our friends who support our efforts to share not only our food with our students, but also the love of Christ. God bless!

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

## Conservatives call on Apple to restore declaration app

Washington—Conservative Christians are upset that an app for their proclamation opposing gay marriage and abortion has been plucked from Apple's popular online store.

"With 300,000-plus available apps, it is surprising to us that there couldn't continue to be an app focused on ... views that millions of Americans have in common," said Charles Colson, an evangelical leader and co-drafter of the statement, known as the Manhattan Declaration.

The app took users to the 4,000-word statement released last year that urges Christians to safeguard human life from conception to natural death, and to defend traditional marriage and religious liberty.

The declaration, which vows civil disobedience when those positions are threatened, has been signed by 478,000 Christians, according to its drafters, including a number of prominent evangelicals.

Apple posted the Manhattan Declaration app in its iTunes and iPhones stores in October, saying it had "no objectionable content," according to publicists for the declaration.

But liberal groups criticized Apple for approving the app, which they call "anti-gay." More than 7,700 people signed a petition asking the company to remove it. They particularly disliked the app's quiz, which scored users on the "correct" answers to hot-button questions about same-sex marriage and abortion.

An Apple spokeswoman confirmed to CNN Dec. 1 that the company removed the app from its iTunes and iPhone stores in late November. "It violates our developer guidelines by being offensive to large groups of people," Natalie Kerris told CNN, adding Apple had heard from "large groups of people," who complained about the app.

Three of the declaration's drafters—Colson, Princeton University scholar Robert George, and Beeson Divinity School professor Timothy George—have written a public protest letter to Apple CEO Steve Jobs.

"We hope that you will see how wrong it would be to let one side shut down the opposing side in a debate by slandering their opponents with prejudicial labels such as 'bigot' or 'homophobe,'" the letter states.

Nearly 25,000 people have signed a petition asking Apple to restore the app, according to the Manhattan Declaration's website. (RNS)



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## Sharing the message of hope

### Harris loves sharing about how God changed her life

Our campus is filled with testimonies of how God has dramatically changed peoples' lives and is now using them to share a message of hope with others. First-year student Rebekah Harris, from Johnson City, Tenn., loves sharing how God has changed her life.

"I was raised as a preacher's kid," Harris said. "We have all heard the jokes about how the preachers' kids are usually the worst ones; well it was true in my case. I got involved in some things at an early age that I should never have been involved with.

"By the time I was 14 years old, I was a full-blown alcoholic and drug addict," she continued. "I played sports in school and it cost me my sports career. Throughout the earlier years of my life, I was in and out of jail and rehab. I can remember one point in my life where I just didn't think there was any hope left for me.

"I remember going to a revival where evangelist Ronnie Owens was preaching," Harris recalled. "I would go because I wanted some kind of hope, but I wanted someone to prove to me that what they had in God was better than what I had.

I had seen a lot of miserable Christians, but I kept going because I wanted something different.

"On March 19, 2004, I went to another revival with Ronnie Owens. It was during that revival that I asked the Lord into my life and I have never been the same since."

Now God is using Rebekah while she is at Clear Creek to share that same message of hope with others who are searching like she once was.

"I am involved in a jail ministry here in town," Harris said. "I get to go into the jail once a week and speak to the women prisoners. The jailer allows me the opportunity to share my testimony with the

women, and I also get to share the gospel with them every week. We have already seen several professions of faith.

"God changed my life. Now I love to share the gospel and tell people there is hope for them, too."

### Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

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

## State convention annual meeting round-up

### Georgia Baptists again oust church with female pastor

Albany, Ga.—For the second year in a row, the Georgia Baptist Convention has withdrawn fellowship from a historic member church for calling a woman as pastor.

Meeting last month at Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany, Ga., GBC messengers endorsed a March vote by the convention's executive committee declaring that Druid Hills Baptist Church in Atlanta is not a "cooperating church" under the denomination's articles of faith that mirrors the Southern Baptist Convention's Baptist Faith and Message 2000 statement that restricts the role of pastor to men only.

Mimi Walker, co-pastor of Druid Hills with her husband, Graham, has been listed as a pastor in the state-convention's annual record book since 2003. Last year, convention leaders viewed that as "a matter of concern," said executive committee member Tom Rush, prompting a

meeting between leaders of the convention and congregation.

Following the vote, the convention will no longer receive funds from the church and will not allow messengers from the congregation to the annual meeting. That ends a historic relationship dating back to the congregation's founding in 1914.

Last year, Georgia Baptists took similar action against First Baptist Church of Decatur, Ga., a longtime church in the convention until it called Julie Pennington-Russell as pastor in 2007.

#### Alabama

Alabama Baptist State Convention President Jimmy Jackson appointed that convention's executive committee as a special committee to "study ways to better focus our resources" in the coming decade, calling it the "Decade to Make a Differ-

ence." "We want to have thoughtful and deliberate planning to help Alabama Baptists focus our resources and conduct Great Commission Ministries through the coming decade," Jackson said. Jackson said the executive committee will conduct its study for at least two years and bring a preliminary report to the 2011 convention meeting, with any appropriate recommendations to be considered at the 2012 gathering.

#### Alaska

Alaska Southern Baptists marked a transition in their state convention's executive leadership during their annual meeting in September. Messengers expressed gratitude to David Baldwin, who is retiring after 10 years of service as Alaska Baptist Convention executive director and more than 29 years of service in the state. The convention also welcomed Mike Procter as its new executive director, effective Jan. 1, 2011. Procter, formerly the convention's director of missions and men's ministries, has served in Alaska for 24 years.

#### California

Messengers to the California Southern Baptist Convention approved a 12-member task force to study the state convention's efforts in fulfilling the Great Commission during its recent annual meeting. Following the Southern Baptist Convention in seeking a Great Commission resurgence, the motion authorized the CSBC president to appoint a "Focus 21 Task Force," charging the committee with the assignment of discerning how California Southern Baptists can "most efficiently and effectively focus our efforts for the glory of God in fulfilling the Great Commission." It also asked for a progress report at the 2011 annual meeting and requested the newly-elected president to extend the task force for a second year and bring a final report, and any recommendations, to the CSBC annual meeting in 2012.

#### Missouri

A move to end a nearly nine-year-long legal battle against agencies formerly affiliated with the Missouri Baptist Convention met strong resistance at the MBC's annual meeting. Messengers defeated a move to immediately end all legal action against agencies and individuals. The convention filed legal action against Windermere Baptist Conference Center, The Baptist Home, Mis-

souri Baptist Foundation, Missouri Baptist University and the Word & Way newspaper in 2002 in an effort to rescind changes each had made in their charters to allow them to elect their own trustees without MBC approval. In 2008, a judge ruled Windermere had acted legally—a ruling the Missouri Appeals Court for the Western District upheld in 2009. The MBC voluntarily dropped legal action against the Word & Way earlier this year.

#### Nevada

Nevada Southern Baptists endorsed a proposal to merge their state convention and four associations into one entity. The move was in response to a recommendation brought by a convention-approved task force which calls for the Nevada Baptist Convention to invite all four of the state's Southern Baptist local associations "to unite into one ministry entity called the Nevada Baptist Network." The invitation asks those decisions be made by July 2011. The task force's report also calls for the state convention to move to a 50/50 split in Cooperative Program receipts over the next five years.

#### Tennessee

Tennessee Baptist Convention messengers overwhelmingly adopted a recommendation from the TBC Executive Board to begin moving toward a 50/50 distribution of Cooperative Program funds with the Southern Baptist Convention. The vote begins the process of moving toward a 50/50 distribution to begin "no later than the 2012-13 budget year and continue in a manner and over a time frame so as to enhance, not inhibit, the ministry of the TBC as well as the SBC." Tennessee Baptist messengers also welcomed new Executive Director Randy Davis, who was elected to the position earlier this year, succeeding James Porch, who retired in July.

#### Virginia

At their annual meeting last month, messengers to the Baptist General Association of Virginia adopted a resolution decrying versions of American history that minimize or deny the role of church-state separation. The resolution was passed following considerable debate. Virginia Baptists should "regard it as a threat to the flourishing of religious liberty when any version of our nation's history minimizes or denies the historical basis" of church-state separation, the resolution states. It also says Virginia Baptists should "be diligent in resisting and correcting any such mistaken version of our history." Rob James, who chairs the BGAV's religious-liberty committee, said the resolution was prompted in part by recent attempts by a conservative Christian majority on the Texas State Board of Education to amend standards for the state's social-studies textbooks. The majority accused the old standards of undermining Christianity and conservative values.

Compiled from reports published by Associated Baptist Press and Baptist Press

### Texas convention hosts NAMB commissioning

Corpus Christi, Texas—Messengers to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention recent annual meeting re-elected a president, approved a budget and passed five resolutions.

But for messengers and guests at the closing session, the commissioning of 36 North American Mission Board missionaries headed for ministry in places such as Vancouver, British Columbia, and Madison, Wis., was a stirring addition to this year's proceedings.

The meeting in Corpus Christi, Texas, Nov. 15-16, drew 820 messengers and 403 registered guests for business sessions, preaching, a prayer focus tied to this year's theme and the commissioning service that featured a charge to missionaries from new NAMB President Kevin Ezell.

Following Ezell's sermon—an exhortation from Mark 2 that encouraged believers to get people to Jesus with the same determination shown by the four men who overcame the crowd to get a paralytic to Jesus—those in the auditorium gathered in groups and prayed audibly over the missionaries. The commissioning was the second of Ezell's tenure.

In closing the commissioning service, Richard Harris, NAMB vice president for missions advancement, prayed that the missionaries would "change the population of heaven," adding, "Father, they can't do everything in reaching the 258 million lost people in North America, but they can do something." (BP)

## Fulfilling a vital mission

### Future financial resources depends on estate planning

When you consider your involvement in accomplishing the Great Commission, you likely do not consider involvement through the Kentucky Baptist Foundation to be a part of that effort. And yet, at the heart of the foundation's mission is teaching disciples of Jesus Christ to obey the biblical mandates of financial stewardship to the end that more financial resources will be available for accomplishing the Great Commission.

Reaching the world for Christ takes money, and it will take more in the future than it has in the past and present. Every component of our cooperative missionary, educational and benevolent enterprise will require more money to fulfill its part of the Great Commission effort. Churches and associations will need more money. Baptist colleges, academies, schools and seminaries will need more money. Baptist children's and other benevolent ministries will need more money. Mission boards and missions support organizations will need more money.

Providing the financial resources to accomplish the Great Com-

mission by putting checks and cash in the offering plates on Sunday mornings will not be sufficient. Only when Christians en masse begin to practice what we proclaim we believe will significant progress be made in accomplishing the Great Commission. We proclaim we believe God is the owner of all things, and He has entrusted us to be His stewards for His purposes. However, there is a huge disconnect between what we proclaim and what we do.

We believe the single most important act of financial stewardship Christians likely will ever make is how we plan our estates. Furthermore, we believe through faithful estate stewardship more resources will be available to accomplish the Great Commission.

So, I invite you to get involved in the foundation's vital mission by becoming a friend. Since our traditional sources of support no longer will provide the resources necessary to fulfill the mission, we need friends who believe in what we do to begin to provide support. Call us to learn how to become a friend.

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

#### KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

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## Campbellsville has 21st consecutive semester of record enrollment

Campbellsville—Campbellsville University has achieved its 21st straight semester of record enrollment, school president, Michael Carter, announced recently.

The fall semester enrollment stands at 3,225 students, compared to 3,006 last year—a 7.3 percent increase. The number of students living in residence halls on campus has increased 7.4 percent, from 883 students to 948 students. Also, degree-seeking undergraduate students saw an 8.9 percent increase from 1,888 to 2,056.

Students transferring from other schools to attend Campbellsville increased 18.9 percent from the 191 students who transferred in last year. In addition, the total number of new CU students is up 4.8 percent.

Campbellsville University officials anticipated the new enrollment growth last year, adding a new residence hall for men students to accommodate 90 students.

"We have seen an increase in enrollment because CU is very intentional in growing and expanding the higher-education experience," said Dave Walters, vice president for admissions and student services. "We are providing more services, more opportunities, more facilities, more academic programs and an increased emphasis on spiritual development."

"It's no secret that everyone wants the most for their money," Walters added. "In this economy, we understand that we have to deliver the highest-quality educational experience and the entire faculty, staff and administration work tirelessly toward that objective."

"With a mission that points toward excellence and a strategic plan to guide CU in the process, we feel like these elements are leading factors in the enrollment success of the institution."

## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

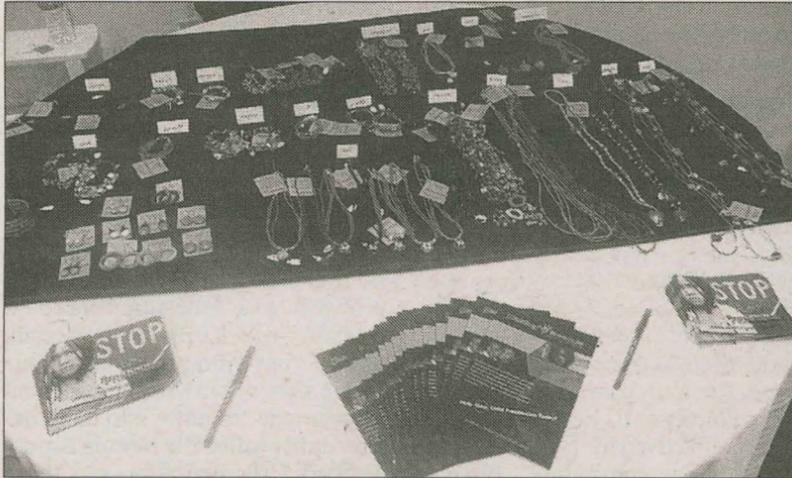
■ **BOONEVILLE**—Upper Buffalo Church recently ordained Pastor **Barry Lee Hubbard** to the gospel ministry.

■ **JEFFERSONVILLE**—**Steve Creech** recently resigned as pastor of Jeffersonville Church.

■ **MANCHESTER**—Lytleton Church recently ordained **Roger Gilbert** as a deacon. **John Boley** is pastor.

■ **MOUNT STERLING**—**Steven Robinson** recently resigned as youth pastor at Macedonia Church.

■ **PETERSBURG**—Bullittsburg Church recently called **Robert Boster** as pastor. He previously was youth pastor at Harvestland Community Church in Hodgenville.



**FOR GIRLS IN NEED** Jewelry made by women and girls worldwide who have been rescued from prostitution is sold at a recent Christian rock concert at University of the Cumberlands. Kelli Garvin, a junior at Cumberlands, set up the table to sell the jewelry for *Destiny Rescue*, an organization that rescues women and girls from human trafficking situations around the world.

## Cumberlands student sells jewelry to help save women

By **Laura Silvers**  
University of the Cumberlands

**Williamsburg**—Each year, an estimated 2 million children across the world are trafficked into prostitution. Kelli Garvin has a passion to help reduce that statistic.

Garvin, a junior at University of the Cumberlands, has joined forces with *Destiny Rescue*, a nonprofit organization that, according to its website, rescues girls and young women who have been prostituted and gives them a safe home, education, training and—most importantly—love. The youngest girl that the organization has rescued is 5 years old.

Garvin, a Boyd County native and member of Fairview Baptist Church in Ashland, said she first found out about *Destiny Rescue* a few summers ago at Ichthus, the longstanding Christian music festival in Wilmore.

"They had a booth set up, and I stopped to look at the jewelry and got some information," Garvin recalled. "I bought a bracelet and that kind of sparked my interest in the issue of childhood trafficking."

One way *Destiny Rescue* raises money is through the sale of jewelry, Garvin pointed out.

"Once the girls are rescued, they make the jewelry themselves. They aren't forced to make it, but they have the opportunity to do it to raise money to help start a life for themselves," she said. Volunteers then sell the jewelry, and all of the money is sent directly back to the girls.

After researching *Destiny Rescue's* website, Garvin said she knew she wanted to get involved.

"Online they offer the option of

having jewelry parties, which is just a one-time thing, but I wanted to get more fully involved with this ministry," she explained.

Garvin said she quickly discovered her friend, Allison Swarts, also had a passion for the abused women and together they decided to get involved with the rescue organization.

The young women sent an e-mail the organization, explaining their desire to help. They said that since they had friends in a band, they would be able to set up a booth at concerts to reach a wider group of people.

"We got an e-mail back and they were very enthused about us selling the jewelry," Garvin said. A few weeks later the girls received a box of jewelry in the mail.

In three weeks, Garvin has sold \$1,200 worth of jewelry just around campus and at various events, including a recent Todd Agnew and Pocket Full of Rocks concert on campus. It is a significant amount of money, considering the bracelets, necklaces, earrings and headbands range in price from \$5 to \$25.

"They are so aimed at helping the girls," Garvin said. Each piece of jewelry has its own unique name, which are names of girls who have been rescued.

"God has placed a passion on my heart for this issue and just wanting to help girls in general," Garvin explained. "I've had a love for nonprofits for a while and would love to work closely with one in the future and maybe start my own one day."

For more information on how to get involved with *Destiny Rescue*, visit the website at [www.DestinyRescue.org](http://www.DestinyRescue.org).



Kelli Garvin



## 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.

### February

3-5 Southeast Conclave, Chattanooga, Tenn.

5 Disaster Relief Regional Training, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

7 Successful Strategies for Deacon Ministry, Broadway Baptist Church, Lexington.

8 Successful Strategies for Deacon Ministry, Eastwood Baptist Church, Bowling Green.

11-12 Preschool and Children's Ministry Conference, Parkway Baptist Church, Bardstown.

19 Kentucky Changers Volunteer Training, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.

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

## SBC officer Wells faces cancer

**Nixa, Mo.**—Jim Wells, registration secretary for the Southern Baptist Convention, has been diagnosed with cancer and will undergo treatment this month.

Wells, director of missions for Tri County Baptist Association in Nixa, Mo., has served as the convention's registration secretary since 2002. In a Nov. 23 e-mail, Wells expressed gratitude for the outpouring of concern he has received.

A doctor at Barnes Hospital in St. Louis delivered the diagnosis Nov. 22, telling Wells he had a sarcoma malignancy in his left hip muscle.

"The good thing is that it has not affected the sciatic nerve," Wells said. "It should not affect my mobility afterward. I will have surgery for its removal on Dec. 14. ... It is a two- to three-day hospital stay and standard procedure is for radiation treatment to follow." (BP)

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**SEEKING:** Bivocational pastor for Bethlehem Baptist Church in Bethlehem, Ky., 40 miles NE of Louisville. E-mail Search Committee: [lindamroberts@bellsouth.net](mailto:lindamroberts@bellsouth.net).

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister to students to serve alongside four full-time ministers at First Baptist Church, Tullahoma, Tenn., a conservative Southern Baptist church. Minister will focus on middle school, high school and college students. Contact Pastor Herb Hester at 108 East Grundy St., Tullahoma, TN 37388; or [hester.herb@fbc.tullahoma.org](mailto:hester.herb@fbc.tullahoma.org).

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music. Send resumé to Great Crossing Baptist Church, 1061 Stamping Ground Road, Georgetown, KY 40324.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor of students at Zion Baptist Church in Henderson. Candidate must have 5 years leadership experience, be visionary in student ministries, a team player, highly relational with students and families, and passionate about reaching youth and families for Christ. Responsible for development and leadership of all student ministries, middle school through collegiate. Resumés should be sent to Zion Baptist Church, 8158 Hwy. 351, Henderson, KY 42420.

**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](mailto:cropperbaptistchurch@insightbb.com).

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

**SEEKING:** Church secretary for Beechland Baptist. Strong computer and organizational skills are essential; 35 hours per week. Salary TBD. Please send resumé to [bbcbbishop@bellsouth.net](mailto:bbcbbishop@bellsouth.net).

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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@gbclxington.org](mailto:dfoley@gbclxington.org) by Dec. 15, 2010.

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

Mike Morgan



**Craig's wild adventure**  
By Todd and Michelle Deaton

"Oh, yeah! Here comes a big wave!" Craig Crab exclaimed as he bodysurfed along Sand Dollar Cove beach.

Nearby a young boy was building a sand castle. Craig crawled toward the castle for a closer look. Suddenly, the boy jumped up. "Cool! A crab!" he exclaimed. He raced toward Craig and scooped him up into a yellow sand bucket. "Mom, look what I found!" the boy shouted as he spilled the bucket into his mom's lap.

"Get it off me!" she squealed. The boy howled with laughter. "Where did he go?" the boy asked, searching in the sand. But Craig was nowhere to be found. He had fallen into a beach bag.

"It's time to go to the pavilion," his mother said, picking up the beach bag. Craig swung back and forth wildly as the two raced toward an amusement park.

When he heard carnival music and squeals of delight, Craig grew curious. He peaked out of the beach bag just as the two reached the top of a Ferris wheel. "Whoa!" exclaimed a dizzy Craig as it dipped downward. Next, the mother and son rode a roller coaster. "I'm going to be sick," Craig groaned, turning yellowish green.

Then, they rode the scrambler. "I've had enough of this!" Craig exclaimed. Just then the ride switched directions, flinging him onto a lady's straw hat. She was sitting at a picnic table, and Craig looked down to see a chili cheese dog and fries.

"Now, this is more like it!" he thought. When she wasn't watching, Craig snuck down and grabbed a fry. The startled woman knocked Craig off the table. He landed in a blue-striped baby stroller that was passing by.

When the stroller stopped, Craig crawled out onto a long, narrow patch of green carpet. He heard a loud rumbling sound behind him. He turned just in time to see a red ball only inches away. "Yikes!" he screamed, dashing toward the doorway of a tiny windmill. "Boy, that was close!" Craig panted, looking back to see a man hit a green ball with a long stick. The ball headed straight for him.

"Hey!" he yelled, leaping up to grab a fan blade to get out of the way. The blade flung him high into the air, and Craig landed in a backpack next to a bicycle. Before he knew what happened, a girl slung the backpack over her shoulder and hopped on the bike. "Whee!" Craig squealed as they sped away.

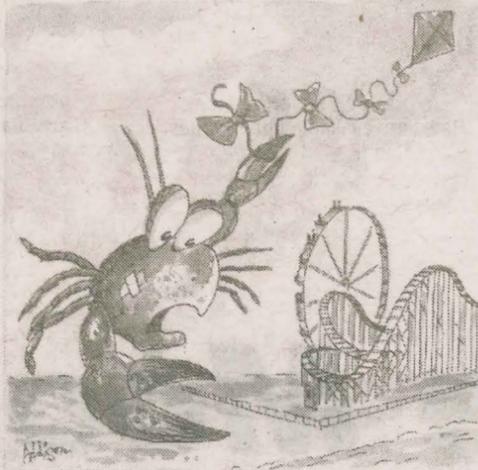
The girl hit a big bump, and Craig tumbled onto a beach towel and rolled into a paper cup. "Oh, no!" he cried. "How am I going to get out?"

Craig was starting to panic when a small rope dropped down from the sky above. "Yeah! I'm saved!" he cheered. But before he reached the top of the cup, the rope began to rise. Up and up it went. "Yikes!" he screamed. "It's a kite!

He was hanging by a claw high over the beach when the wind swept the kite out over the ocean. The breeze stopped, and the kite dove suddenly toward a wave. Craig let go just before it plunged into the water.

Craig heard a familiar voice. "Are you lost, Craig?" It was Solomon, the wise sea turtle.

"Boy, am I glad to see you!" Craig exclaimed. On the way home, he told Solomon all about his wild adventure. "I never knew there was so much to see and do," he said. "God sure made a wonderful world!"



## Treasure Chest

Where were some of the places that Craig Crab went during his wild adventure? What did Craig learn about the world? Read Genesis 1:1 together.

Craig heard a familiar voice. "Are you lost, Craig?" It was Solomon, the wise sea turtle. "Boy, am I glad to see you!" Craig exclaimed. On the way home, he told Solomon all about his wild adventure. "I never knew there was so much to see and do," he said. "God sure made a wonderful world!"

## For Heaven's Sake



## Preacher's Kids

David Ayers



## Bible Crosswords

### Across

- 1 "Thou art an \_\_\_\_\_ people unto the Lord" (Deuteronomy 7:6)
- 3 "The Holy \_\_\_\_\_ shall teach you" (Luke 12:12)
- 7 "They went ... from \_\_\_\_\_ ... into Canaan" (Genesis 11:31)
- 8 A short laugh
- 9 Moses and \_\_\_\_\_ went before Pharaoh (Exodus 5:1)
- 10 "\_\_\_\_\_ is the way, which leadeth unto life" (Matthew 7:14)
- 12 Three, prefix
- 13 Des Moines' state, abbr.
- 15 One of the twelve tribes (Numbers 1:38)
- 16 David reigned there (2 Samuel 2:1)
- 17 Antimony, chem. symbol
- 19 Twelve months
- 21 Europium, chem. symbol
- 22 Northeastern region of the U.S., abbr.
- 23 Earned runs, abbr.
- 25 Sixth note of the musical scale
- 27 "The eyes of Israel were dim for \_\_\_\_\_" (Genesis 48:10)
- 28 "If thy brother \_\_\_\_\_ against thee, rebuke him" (Luke 17:3)
- 32 Pa's wife
- 34 Poem
- 35 Bonds
- 37 "\_\_\_\_\_ of every sort shalt thou bring into the ark" (Genesis 6:19)
- 39 "Being reviled, \_\_\_\_\_ bless" (1 Corinthians 4:12)
- 41 "God saw that \_\_\_\_\_ was good" (Genesis 1:10)
- 42 An unclean thing (Leviticus 11:29)

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			55					56			

- 45 Coal scuttle
- 47 Gym, in other words, abbr.
- 48 Colorado's neighbor, abbr.
- 49 "A land whose stones are \_\_\_\_\_" (Deuteronomy 8:9)
- 51 Mongrel
- 53 "As \_\_\_\_\_ as blood" (2 Kings 3:22)
- 55 "My flesh is clothed with \_\_\_\_\_" (Job 7:5)
- 56 Sash worn with a kimono
- 20 "A bruised \_\_\_\_\_ shall he not break" (Matthew 12:20)
- 24 Regarding, abbr.
- 26 Airspeed indicator, abbr.
- 27 God's name for Himself: I \_\_\_\_\_
- 29 "I am the \_\_\_\_\_ and the offspring of David" (Revelation 22:16)
- 30 "He revealeth his \_\_\_\_\_ unto his servants" (Amos 3:7)
- 31 Stitches
- 33 "One \_\_\_\_\_ or tittle shall in no wise pass from the law" (Matthew 5:18)
- 36 "When we shall \_\_\_\_\_ him" (Isaiah 53:2)
- 38 "If any \_\_\_\_\_ have children ... let them first learn to shew piety at home" (1 Timothy 5:4)
- 40 "The noise of a \_\_\_\_\_" (Nahum 3:2)
- 43 Great work
- 44 Zaccur's father (Nehemiah 3:2)
- 46 Either
- 50 "To be sin for us, who knew \_\_\_\_\_ sin" (2 Corinthians 5:21)
- 51 2000, Romans num.
- 52 "Given \_\_\_\_\_ hospitality" (Romans 12:13)
- 54 "Without me ye can \_\_\_\_\_ nothing" (John 15:5)

## Last week's solution

1	C	A	T	T	L	E	F	A	S	A					
2	R	A	I	N	S	F	O	R	M	E	R				
3	E	E	T	D	I	R	E	M	A	L	E	T			
4	A	P	S	C	R	E	A	T	E	O					
5	I	O	M	U											
6	U	C	A	W	A	T	E	R	S						
7	R	O	S	E	S	M	O	R	N	I	N	G	O		
8	E	T	A	R	E	I	N	T	O						
9			38	39	E	G	I	N	I	N	G	O			
10			41	S	E	A	S	T	O		43	G	I	R	D
11			45	S	T	A	R	E		47	H	O			
12			50	A	U	S	T	E	R	E		53	G	O	D
13			55	T	H	I	R	D		56	E				



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