

Shine like stars in the world  
Philippians 2:15

# WESTERN Recorder

January 11, 2011  
Vol. 185, No. 1

FOR THE RECORD



**Kentucky**  
Crisis pregnancies are an issue for every Kentucky community. Page 2.



**Ministry**  
Inmates across Kentucky become 'Malachi Dads' thanks to western Kentucky ministry. Page 3.

**Nation**  
Ten Southern Baptists sworn in as newest United States representatives. Page 6.

Find us on Facebook

and on

twitter  
as westernrecorder

## Turning the Page

### 2010 was year of transition for Ky., Southern Baptists

By Drew Nichter  
News Director

The calendar may have read 2010, but so much of what happened in Kentucky and Southern Baptist life during the previous 365 days will have significant implications for the years that follow.

Jan. 1 marked not only the beginning of a new year, but the start of new realities for Southern Baptists in Kentucky and nationwide. Some transitions already have begun; others will take place in a few months.

What is most clear, however, is when this year is viewed in retrospect more than 300 days from now, the changes that will have sprouted certainly had their roots in 2010.

The Western Recorder takes a look back at the top events of 2010 in the Kentucky and Southern Baptist Conventions.

#### Great Commission focus

No two words likely touched Southern Baptists' lips in 2010 more than "Great Commission."

In an effort to return the SBC to a focus on Jesus' commandment to reach the world's population with the gospel, Southern Baptist messengers overwhelmingly adopted a report from the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force, the crux of which transfers more money to international missions efforts.

The report received a great deal of attention, garnering debate on both sides of the aisle. Proponents of the plan said it was necessary to bol-

ster a dwindling International Mission Board missionary force, which was scaled back in 2010 due to budget constraints. Those opposing the report claimed it did not do enough to affirm the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists' primary missions funding channel, instead endorsing a Great Commission giving category.

In the end, the report passed as presented with one amendment intended to uphold and honor CP giving among churches.

Little more than two months later, Kentucky Baptists' own Great Commission Task Force, itself a response

to the Southern Baptist committee, released its report.

Unlike the SBC report, the Kentucky group repeatedly affirmed the Cooperative Program, but lamented its decline in the past decade and a half.

"Cooperative Program giving has not kept up with the blessings that our churches have received," task force chairman Hershael York said last August.

"We must reverse that trend or else we can just mathematically project what year CP dies."

Assuming a challenge from the



**'GREAT' CHANGES** Members of Kentucky's Great Commission Task Force stand with chairman Hershael York as he delivers the group's report at November's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting. The task force's report, which calls for a move to a 50/50 Cooperative Program allocation between the KBC and the Southern Baptist Convention, a series of budget cuts for the convention and its agencies, institutions and auxiliaries, and a renewed emphasis on CP giving among state churches, was unanimously passed by KBC messengers. (Photo by John Foster)

SBC task force, the Kentucky group called for the KBC to move to a 50-50 allocation of CP funds between the state and national conventions within seven years.

The reallocation plan would be precipitated by an across-the-board budget cut of at least 6 percent for the KBC and its agencies, institutions and auxiliary in 2011-12.

Many Kentucky Baptists voiced  
□ See Year in Review ... Page 2

## Barna study: When setting New Year's goals, Americans focus on selves rather than God

Ventura, Calif.—Churches can help Americans achieve goals that surpass the typical New Year's resolutions, which are self-centered and often doomed to fail, according to David Kinnaman, president of the Barna Group.

In a study released last week, the Ventura, Calif.-based research organization reported that Americans overwhelmingly focus on themselves when making resolutions at the start of a new year, and many are discouraged by their past lack of success in reaching similar goals.

The top pledges for 2011, Barna found, relate to weight, diet and health (30 percent); money, debt and finances (15 percent); personal improvement (13 percent); addiction (12 percent); job and career (5 percent); spiritual or church-related (5 percent); and educational (4 percent).

Barna also found that younger adults are more likely than older adults to make resolutions, perhaps because they are less affected by past failed resolutions, and disengaged adults do not bother

with resolutions. Such adults include those who are non-voters, unchurched adults, atheists and agnostics and those who have never been married, Barna said.

Most people who make New Year's resolutions don't plan on having accountability or a support system in place to help them keep their commitments, according to the study.

"While people concentrate on themselves when making priorities for the new year, it is telling that so few Americans say they want to improve relationships with others," the Barna study stated.

"There were virtually no mentions of volunteering or serving others; only a handful of comments about marriage or parenting; almost no responses focusing on being a better friend; and only a small fraction of people mentioned improving their connection with God."

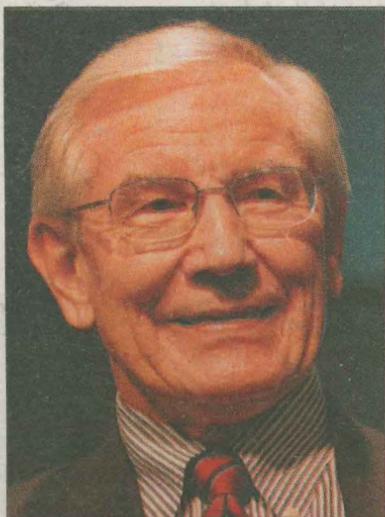
Kinnaman noted that only 9 out of 1,000 survey respondents listed getting closer to God as one of their goals in 2011. In the rare instances when people mentioned spiritu-

al goals, he said, usually the goals pertained to activity undertaken for God rather than a personal pursuit of God.

"Americans maintain a love-hate relationship with New Year's resolutions: millions of people make them, but they rarely report success as a result," Kinnaman explained. "This research underscores that most humans want to experience some sort of personal change in their lives, but achieving such objectives is both difficult and uncommon."

"Maybe most problematic, Americans hinge their efforts at personal change by focusing almost exclusively on themselves, rather than realizing that lasting change often comes by serving and sacrificing for others," Kinnaman said.

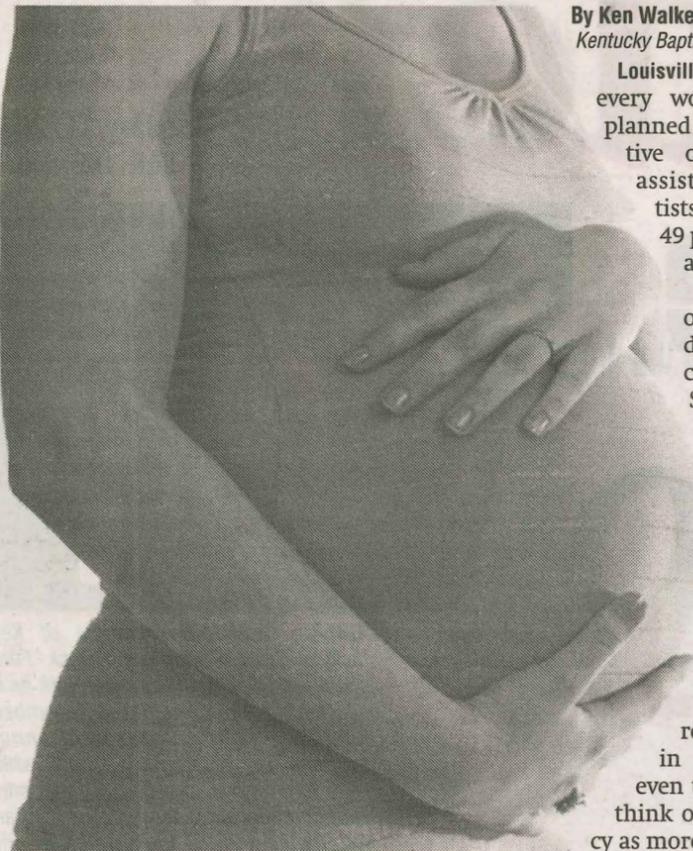
"Churches and faith communities have a significant opportunity to help people identify what makes for transformational change and how best to achieve those objectives—especially by relying on goals and resources beyond their individualism." (BP)



**COUNTING DOWN** Bill Mackey announced last October that May 31 will be his final day as executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. The 69-year-old Mackey has served as convention exec since 1998. (Photo by Drew Nichter)

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, Jan. 12

## Crisis pregnancy an 'issue' for every Kentucky community



By Ken Walker  
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Louisville—In an effort to give every woman facing an unplanned pregnancy a positive option and practical assistance, Kentucky Baptists are partnering with 49 pregnancy care centers around the state.

The spotlight falls on these ministries during January when churches across the Southern Baptist Convention emphasize Sanctity of Human Life Sunday on Jan. 16 and mark the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion on Jan. 22, 1973.

Hope Cross, director of Agape House in Columbia, said that even today many Christians think of unplanned pregnancy as more of an issue for the in-

ner city, but that there are women and families with needs in every area of the state.

"It happens in our community, not just big cities like Louisville, Lexington or Chicago," Cross said.

Located in an office building near Columbia's town square, Agape House opened its doors in 2007. It offers a series of parenting and other classes, mentoring, informal counseling, and supplies such as diapers, maternity clothes and food.

An all-volunteer effort, the ministry operates on less than \$25,000 a year, with only a few regular volunteers and board members. The latter include President C.J. Simpson and Jennifer Thompson, both members of Columbia Baptist Church.

### Serving women of all ages

Despite its modest finances, Agape House recorded about 640 client visits during 2010, with most women in their teens and early 20s. The youngest was 13.

However, with some grandparents being forced to return to parenting roles, they also saw women in their 40s and 50s seeking assistance and support.

Last year about 500 women sought pregnancy tests, diapers, clothing and other assistance at Hope Clinic in Benton, located about 30 miles southeast of Paducah.

Although most clients of the pregnancy counseling ministry typically range between 17 and 22, lately clinic staff has seen increasing numbers of girls as young as 14, said longtime director Lisa Holland.

"The pregnancy rate in Marshall County is pretty high," said Holland, mentioning the presence of 50 expectant mothers among 1,500 students at the high school. "We do abstinence education in the schools to try to address the problem."

Formerly known as Haven of Hope, the clinic opened in 1998. It now has a full-time director and clinical services manager, two part-time employees and 15 volunteers.

In addition to material assistance and pregnancy tests, Hope Clinic offers studies on personal and parenting issues, tests for sexually transmitted diseases and limited ultrasound testing.

For women who have had abortions, it has a 12-week class twice a year called "Save One," a study that seeks to help them find God's forgiveness and healing.

Among congregations that will observe Sanctity of Human Life Sunday is First Baptist Church of Calvert City, which will dedicate its Jan. 16 service to pro-life issues.

"I want that to be the focal point," said Pastor Jim Ewing. The church held its first Sanctity of Life Sunday a year ago, with Holland as the speaker.

□ See Crisis pregnancies ... Page 3

## Year in Review: 2010 marks transitions for KBC, SBC

Continued from page 1

concern over the swiftness of the reallocation and severity of the budget cuts, prompting an 11th-hour change by the Great Commission Task Force to decrease the percentage cuts and increase the reallocation timeframe.

Despite vigorous debate before and during the KBC annual meeting, messengers overwhelmingly approved the task force's report.

### Mackey announces retirement

Bill Mackey, who has served as KBC executive director for nearly 13 years, announced last October that he will retire May 31.

The 69-year-old Mackey came to the KBC in 1998 from South Carolina where he was director of the leadership development and evangelism growth teams for that state's Baptist convention.

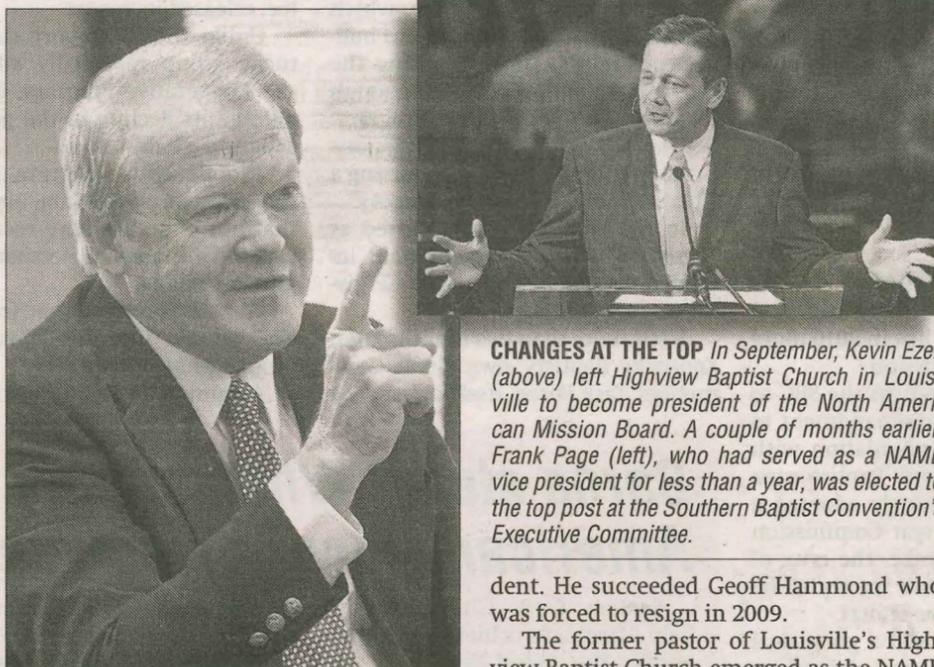
"It has been one of the greatest privileges of my life and ministry to serve our Lord Jesus Christ by serving the Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board and Kentucky Baptists as executive director-treasurer for almost 13 years," Mackey said in a letter making the announcement.

Mackey's tenure has been one marked by a strong emphasis on evangelism, missions and church planting. Under his leadership, Kentucky Baptists developed missions partnerships with fellow Baptists in Tanzania, Poland and Brazil, as well as with the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware. The KBC also has developed the "High Impact" church planting emphasis in recent years.

At the KBC annual meeting last November, Mackey delivered his final address to KBC messengers, urging them to carry on the spirit of cooperation that has been so evident during his time as executive director.

Despite geographical and theological differences among state Baptists, "each challenge has just presented one more opportunity for us to find new ways to work together," Mackey told messengers.

Kentucky Baptists, in turn, showed their appreciation for Mackey's leadership, passing a resolution of appreciation and voting to dedicate the 2010 KBC annual publication to Mackey and his wife, Kay.



**CHANGES AT THE TOP** In September, Kevin Ezell (above) left Highview Baptist Church in Louisville to become president of the North American Mission Board. A couple of months earlier, Frank Page (left), who had served as a NAMB vice president for less than a year, was elected to the top post at the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee.

dent. He succeeded Geoff Hammond who was forced to resign in 2009.

The former pastor of Louisville's Highview Baptist Church emerged as the NAMB search committee's choice in late August. He was elected by mission board trustees Sept. 14 by a 37-12 margin.

The selections of both Page and Ezell were met with criticism from certain Southern Baptists.

There were some who did not approve of Page's voiced objections to the national Great Commission Resurgence report. There also were some who were critical of his brief tenure at NAMB.

Ezell's nomination met with even stronger disapproval. Several prominent Southern Baptist leaders, including a pair of state convention executive directors, urged NAMB trustees not to elect Ezell, citing Highview Baptist's poor Cooperative Program giving record.

Ezell has continued to take heat for a number of changes during his brief tenure, many without NAMB trustee approval, prompting one board member to resign in protest. By the end of last year, nearly 100 NAMB employees had accepted an early-retirement package that was offered shortly after Ezell took over.

The IMB presidential post remains unfilled. VP Clyde Meador is the interim.

A search team charged with finding Mackey's successor already is in place and has been accepting resumés. Fifteen Kentucky Baptists are on the committee which is chaired by Paul Badgett, pastor at First Baptist Church of Pikeville.

### Top SBC posts vacated, filled

2010 saw the departure of two longtime SBC leaders from posts they had held for many years.

Jerry Rankin retired July 31 after 17 years as president of the International Mission Board, while Morris Chapman ended his 18-year tenure as president of the SBC Executive Committee in September.

Filling Chapman's shoes in Nashville, Tenn., was former SBC president Frank Page. He was elected to lead the Executive Committee by a 44-30 vote in June, a day before the SBC annual meeting.

Less than one year earlier, Page left a successful pastorate at First Baptist Church of Taylors, S.C., to become the vice president of evangelization for the North American Mission Board.

Meanwhile, Kentucky Baptist pastor Kevin Ezell was tapped as NAMB's new presi-

## Deacon ministry workshops kick off next month

Lexington—Beginning next month, the Kentucky Baptist Convention is hosting four opportunities in 2011 for deacons and pastors to learn more about Successful Strategies for Deacon Ministry.

The one-evening workshops will feature Bob Sheffield, who served for 14 years as LifeWay Church Resources' national consultant in deacon ministry. Sheffield has authored or compiled 12 books on various aspects of the role of deacons in the church.

"Deacons are servant leaders who help God's church minister and carry out the Great Commission," said Mike James who coordinates the KBC's discipleship efforts.

Deacons, James noted, "become a key component of a church's vitality and health."

The first event Feb. 7 will be held at Broadway Baptist Church in Lexington. The Feb. 8 workshop is at Eastwood Baptist Church in Bowling Green. Check-in begins at 6 p.m., local time. Training concludes at 8:45 p.m.

"Training helps everyone, regardless of where they are now, to become more effective for the Lord," James said. Whether a deacon has just been ordained or has served for many years, anyone "can improve in their caregiving to the body of Christ."

Two additional events are scheduled for the fall: Oct. 3 at Main Street Baptist Church in Williamsburg and Oct. 4 at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

The workshops are \$10 per person with a maximum charge of \$50 per church group. Online registration is underway at [www.Kybaptist.org/DeaconTraining](http://www.Kybaptist.org/DeaconTraining).

## Ky. inmates become 'Malachi Dads'

*Western Kentucky-based ministry making difference at prisons statewide*

By Chip Hutcheson  
State Correspondent

Louisville—Prison doors are opening in Kentucky—at least for one ministry which seeks to share the gospel while helping rebuild families.

HR Ministries, based in Princeton, recently completed a four-month "Malachi Dads" program at a halfway house in Louisville. Now doors appear to be opening for the ministry at two more facilities—Green River Correctional Complex and Kentucky State Reformatory. That is in addition to an ongoing "Rubies for Life" program for female inmates at the West Kentucky Correctional Complex near Fredonia.

"We plan to start classes in late January at both Green River and KSR," said HR Ministries Director Harrell Riley on the heels of coordinating a Malachi Dads graduation ceremony in November at a Dismas House Charities facility.

"We started with 27 men, and had a graduating class of 11. We had nine for the final ceremony—two had already left to go home on parole," Riley noted.

"We try to connect families from the inside out. Our goal is to put the role of the father back in place, for them to take on the responsibilities and challenges" of being a father.

HR Ministries began Malachi Dads when the West Kentucky Correctional Complex housed male inmates. The success of previous Malachi Dads programs has been the guiding factor in corrections officials wanting to initiate similar programs in other institutions. Riley explained that while the recidivism rate hovers around 85 percent, statistics show that inmates who make it through a Malachi Dads program

are much less likely to return to prison.

That achievement is what has sparked interest from people in the corrections field, who know that 1.7 million children across the country have a parent in prison. The ministry efforts are designed to help stem the troubling statistic that the number of children with a father in prison grew by 77 percent from 1991 through mid-2007.

Riley pointed to the fact that seven of 12 men in the first graduating class at West Kentucky Correctional Complex have been out for more than a year and there have been no problems associated with them. "That is unheard of," he said.

*"We try to connect families from the inside out. Our goal is to put the role of the father back in place, for them to take on the responsibilities and challenges" of being a father.*

Harrell Riley, HR Ministries director

The Malachi Dads program has garnered national attention with a story this past summer in USA Today on work done at Louisiana State Penitentiary in Angola, La. HR Ministries was called on to be involved with that effort.

There is intense discipleship and training in the program, which includes inmates going through a 16-week course titled "Inside Out Dads." Participants are required to write at least two letters a month to their children, and good behavior is mandated in class as well as at the facility. Also, each man has a training session for learning to write his

own testimony. There is another session, "The Journey Begins," which is a four-week spiritual marker journey. The program has proven effective for impacting the lost with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

HR Ministries has had about 140 volunteers helping with its programs at the West Kentucky Correctional Complex. The ministry pattern is to tap into churches and have its members assimilate into the ministry opportunities.

Also, HR Ministries opened "Joseph's Storage Bin" a year ago in Princeton. The outreach center, located in the city's downtown area, gave out \$15,471 in financial aid to 72 people in its first year of operation.

Community residents donate clothing and household items that are then sorted and sold at the store. Money generated from sales is used to support everything from mission trips to individuals or families in need.

Based on the Genesis account of Joseph's storing of grains in preparation for the famine, Riley said the whole idea behind the local store is "helping those in need using the available resources."

"Joseph was able to save those physically and we desire to see people saved spiritually," he added.

The mission of Joseph's Storage Bin is to empower those in need by providing clothing and household items at a reduced price; enabling those in need to deal with and better their circumstances by offering help with such things as budgeting and other educational opportunities; and engaging those in the community who would like to help those in need.

Riley noted that two former Malachi Dads participants have done volunteer work there, and that helped lead them to obtain employment elsewhere.

## KBC to host 'imaginative' conference for children's ministry leaders in Feb.

Bardstown—The Kentucky Baptist Convention hopes to spark conversation and creativity at its first-ever "Imagine" Preschool & Children's Ministry Conference, Feb. 11-12 in Bardstown.

"The name, 'Imagine,' comes from the conference's emphasis on creativity, vision, inspiration and leadership," said John Bennett, KBC's preschool and children's ministry director.

The Friday evening/Saturday morning event hosted by Parkway Baptist Church will provide Sunday school teachers, church volunteers, pastors, parents and children's ministers insight about how to instruct and inspire children to develop a relationship with God.

"The main sessions will include on-stage interviews with some amazing children's ministry leaders," said Bennett, who served previously as children's minister at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

Rex, the "virtual dog," and guest speakers will be part of the large-group sessions. Children who already are using their talents within their church families also will share the Imagine spotlight.

Mary Margaret, described by Bennett as "a 7-year-old storytelling phenom," is among the guests. The first grader from Albertville, Ala., shared a detailed and enthusiastic rendition of the story of Jonah with her home church that was released on the Internet.

The children's performing arts ministry from Severns Valley Baptist also will share their talents.

In addition to large-group sessions, participants can select from nearly two dozen breakout sessions on topics such as how to recruit volunteers, starting a ministry for special-needs children, classroom safety and how to share the gospel with a child.

The "expo," held in the fellowship hall, will include more than 30 vendors and displays. Those attending the conference will have immediate access to materials discussed at the event, in addition to other resources.

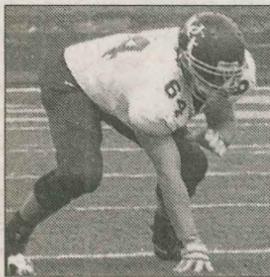
"I really think the expo is going to give people a lot of new ministry ideas," Bennett said.

The conference is \$25 per person until Feb. 4 when the fee increases to \$35. Online registration is underway at [www.KyBaptist.org/Imagine](http://www.KyBaptist.org/Imagine).

For additional information, call (502) 489-3575 or toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3575. The fee covers only a portion of the cost of the event; additional funding is provided by Kentucky Baptists' gifts through the Cooperative Program.

## UC senior lineman McCalmon honored during Sugar Bowl

New Orleans—Two football players from Baptist colleges were recognized at halftime of the Sugar Bowl Jan. 4 for their selection to the 2010 Allstate/American Football Coaches Association Good Works Team.



Madison McCalmon, a senior offensive lineman from the University of the Cumberland, and Jordan Lancaster, a senior offensive lineman from Charleston Southern University, were among 22 selected in the fall for the Good Works Team, which honors football student-athletes for exemplary community service.

The team consists of 11 players from the NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision (I-A) and 11 combined from the NCAA Football Championship Subdivision (I-AA), Divisions II, III and the NAIA. All 22 team members were honored during the Sugar Bowl matchup between Ohio State and Arkansas.

McCalmon, of Ringgold, Ga., is president of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes chapter at Cumberland and has volunteered his time reading at local elementary schools and escorting residents of a local nursing home. He has also participated in mission trips to Ecuador, Jamaica and New Orleans. McCalmon's home church is First Baptist Church of LaFayette, Ga. He attends Main Street Baptist Church in Williamsburg while at college. (BP)

## Crisis pregnancies affect every Ky. community

Continued from page 2

The Marshall County congregation made its first financial donation to the ministry last fall, and Ewing said he plans to encourage more members to volunteer there this year.

"It's one of those opportunities to connect our faith with what God thinks about human life," said Ewing, who became a board member of the clinic last summer. "We can put feet to our beliefs."

Holland said the pastor's participation demonstrates how more Kentucky Baptists can support the work of such ministries. If the pastor has a heart for helping women, more members get excited about it, she said.

Volunteering, making financial donations and getting informed about the issues are all important, Holland said.

"A lot of people don't realize how high the abortion rate is or the effects of abortion," she said. "People need to know the consequences and how it affects people's lives."

Because of their Christian approach, these ministries also are

involved in soul winning. Holland said Hope Clinic made more than 430 gospel presentations during 2010 and through the years has seen a number of clients accept Jesus Christ as Savior.

Last year at Agape House, more than a dozen women rededicated their lives to Christ, Cross said.

"We don't call ourselves a counseling center," she noted. "Most girls come to take classes and get diapers or clothing. But they still open up to us and we are able to help people accept Christ in their hearts. That's what we're looking for, to lead people to Christ."

### How to help

This spiritual focus is one reason the director mentions prayer as the leading method of support that Kentucky Baptists can offer pregnancy ministries.

Cross said churches also can observe Sanctity of Human Life Sunday by planting crosses or flags on their properties to represent lives lost to abortion, and addressing the issue during worship services.

"It opens up people's eyes and lets

them know what has been done," Cross said. "There's a need for the awareness that life starts at conception."

Eric Allen, the Kentucky Baptist Convention's mission services and ministries director, said it is important for Christians to be mindful of the sanctity of human life during the other 11 months of the year as well.

"January shouldn't be the only month that we focus on our pregnancy care centers," he said. Through an initiative called "The Invitation Stands," Kentucky Baptists as individuals and as congregations can develop closer relationships with ministries such as Hope Clinic and Agape House.

Ultimately, the goal of The Invitation Stands is to "share Christ and help women choose life for their unborn children," Allen explained.

For free educational resources, including a year-long plan of support for ministries that serve individuals and families dealing with crisis pregnancies or the aftermath of abortion, visit [www.KyBaptist.org/PregnancyCare](http://www.KyBaptist.org/PregnancyCare).

**Outstanding conference planned**

The theme for the Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference, Feb. 28-March 1, will be "More For Christ," based on Ephesians 6:19. The verse reads, "Pray for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel ...."

**Partners in the Mission**

By Bill Mackey

This verse appears just after Paul's great passage on spiritual warfare and is a prelude to his request to "always keep on praying for all the saints" and his request for prayer that he would fearlessly share the gospel although he is in prison.

To assist Kentucky Baptists in being Great Commission Christians every day, the Evangelism Conference has been carefully planned by Ross Bauscher, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

Alvin Reed, professor of evangelism at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, and a personal friend, will open the conference with the topic "Getting the Gospel." He will be followed by a wonderful evangelist, Steve Hale, who will preach on "Confronting Disappointment in Ministry."

Ed Stetzer, president of LifeWay Research, will close the afternoon session with the message "Do the Work of an Evangelist."

That evening, retired North American Mission Board Vice President Richard Harris will speak on "Partners in Purpose to Share the Gospel." Fred Luter, pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans, will conclude with the challenging message, "What Would Jesus Do?"

Rick Howerton, LifeWay small group consultant, will open the Tuesday morning session, followed by Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee President Frank Page ("Let Down Your Buckets"). Mark Mittelberg will address the topic "Enrolling Every Member of the Church in the Unexpected Adventure."

During lunch, participants who register in advance on the KBC website ([kybaptist.org/evangelismconference](http://kybaptist.org/evangelismconference)) can experience informative and inspirational breakout sessions.

There will also be a session on Tuesday for women and a special conference for youth leaders featuring Stuart Hall.

The Tuesday afternoon session will include a message and challenge by Herb Reavis, senior pastor of North Jacksonville (Fla.) Baptist Church, as well as a preview of "Courageous," the latest movie from Sherwood Films, which produced "Fireproof" and "Facing the Giants." The film is a challenge for men to be spiritual leaders, especially in their families.

This conference will provide outstanding spiritual preparation, inspiration and information for the "Find It Here" outreach leading up to Easter and the major fall outreach to youth and young adults, which is part of the God's Plan for Sharing emphasis for 2012, focusing on attractional events.

Please pray that God will anoint presenters and participants and that all Kentucky Baptists will be blessed to fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

**We need countless more 'knees' like her**

In the "Experiencing God" Bible study, Henry Blackaby refers to a member of one of his former congregations, Ivah Bates, as a "knee," affirming her spiritual gift as a powerful prayer for its student ministry. Though I did not have the good fortune of meeting her, from what I have gathered, the same would be an apt description of Nell Bruce.

In a note to her family, Billy Graham called Bruce one of the great prayer warriors of her generation. "Her prayers for me and my ministry meant more than you will ever know," he wrote. "Her godly life was a wonderful example of a virtuous woman as seen in Proverbs 31." In fact, at his last Louisville Crusade in 2000, Graham mentioned Bruce's name twice, noting that it was her prayers that had brought his team there.

Anne Graham Lotz also affirmed that Bruce's prayer ministry had been "a fruitful vine that has made an eternal difference in thousands of lives." Lotz said, "Nell's faithful witness to the Lord Jesus throughout all her years made her a precious blessing to all who knew her. I praise God He allowed me to be among the number who were privilege to call this beloved saint a friend!"

Thom Rainer, president of LifeWay Christian Resources, also expressed his immense gratitude for her ministry, recalling how she had been his prayer intercessor. Rainer said that some of his most precious memories were of those times when they prayed together. "When Mrs. Nell spoke to the Father, I felt like I was in the presence of a conversation with two people who knew each other well," Rainer said. "Because Mrs. Nell had such an open and powerful relationship with our Lord, her disposition was always one of joy and thanksgiving. ... In fact, just being in her presence lifted my spirits."

And, her former pastor, Kevin Ezell, now president of the North American Mission Board, praised her as a "choice servant" who impacted more ministers, churches and Christians than would be possible to count. "To be in her presence was to experience a special sense of God's presence," Ezell agreed.

A native of Tennessee and a graduate of New Orleans Seminary, Bruce had been a resident of Louisville since 1987. She died Dec. 27 at age 90, following a period of declining health. Both of her sons are ministers: David is an executive assistant to Billy Graham, and Philip is pastor of Union Grove Baptist Church in Oldham-Trimble Association. Having previously worked

with the Home Mission Board's Prayer and Spiritual Awakening Department, Bruce served as prayer minister at Highview Baptist Church, where she developed a prayer room suite that became a model for scores of churches across Kentucky and many other states. She organized hundreds of members to not only pray for the church's ministries and community leaders, but also for Southern Seminary's faculty and students.

**After Thought**

By Todd Deaton



Calling her "a remarkable woman of prayer," Southern Seminary President Albert Mohler recalled, "She was one determined lady, and a wonderfully gracious Christian. She had one central priority in her life—to glorify Christ through a resurgence of

prayer. I will never forget her making her way through a mass of people on a Sunday morning at Highview Baptist Church, wanting to know why the (seminary) directory was delayed in print one year. She wanted to get her team to praying for our students."

In 1997, Bruce became a prayer consultant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, serving as a contract worker for the Mission Growth Team. Over the next few years, Bruce logged thousands of miles, organizing congregational prayer ministries and training and encouraging prayer leaders. "Prayer is an investment in someone's life or in our own life," she stated then in a Western Recorder article. In her new role, she called all Kentucky Baptists to their knees, asserting that every church ought to have some sort of prayer ministry. Through leading numerous regional rallies, she continually pointed toward prayer as the most vital ingredient for a successful congregation, ministry or one's personal relationship with God.

At her funeral, KBC Missions Consultant Larry Martin offered these reflections: "We continue to experience the power and impact of Nell's prayers and will do so for years to come." Observing that when the Lord does not give an immediate answer, those prayers are never wasted, but "simply are like money on deposit in the bank, waiting for the time when they will be redeemed," Martin asserted, "Nell has prayers on deposit throughout Kentucky and the world. Those prayers will be redeemed for years and generations to come."

Bruce, indeed, left a powerful legacy of equipping and undergirding thousands of churches, ministers, missionaries and community servants with prayer. Her life was a testament to James 5, which promises the earnest prayers of a righteous person have great power and wonderful results. More than ever, we need countless more just like her to rise up and be "knees."

**Make giving 'More for Christ' a priority**

What a joy it is to serve the Lord Jesus Christ in the great Commonwealth of Kentucky! Kentucky is a wonderful place to live, work and raise a family. I am humbled by the opportunity to serve Kentucky Baptists as convention president this year. I covet your prayers as I seek to faithfully follow our Lord's leadership in this new role. The challenges we face can only be met with the wisdom and strength that comes from Him.

Many folks around our state are fearful of the impact our current economic times will have on our work of fulfilling the Great Commission. Many Kentucky Baptists are concerned about what effect the Great Commission Task Force report will have on KBC ministries. Some fellow pastors are hesitant to ask their churches for percentage increases to the Cooperative Program, while others are fearful of divisions arising among us and hindering the Lord's work here.

I am **not** fearful. The Lord has not

given us "a spirit of fear and trembling, but of **power, boldness, and a sound mind**" (cf. 2 Timothy 1:7).

The strength of Kentucky Baptists has always been their reliance on Almighty God and their faithfulness to each other. The KBC should **never** be considered as anything other than a coalition of our people and its ministries as extensions of our local churches. More for Christ is what "we the people" are called to do. The solution for many of our fears is simple: each of us needs to give more for Christ. If we could each manage to give just three dollars a week more for Christ, our state and our world would be changed.

Let's look at some simple math. There are more than 300,000 Kentucky Baptists in church on any given Sunday. If only a third of us would give \$3 more each week, our churches would see an increase in giving that would total more than **\$15 million** this year. Imagine—**every** church and **every** association would

be able to do **More for Christ**—just by giving \$3 more each week. As Kentucky Baptists, we could do more for Christ, and as Southern Baptists, we could do more for Christ. By giving just \$3 more per week, we are helping to reach the world here (our communities), there (all around our Commonwealth) and everywhere (to our nation and every nation).

At Unity Baptist Church in Ashland, I challenged our people to start giving \$3 more each week as part of the "More for Christ" emphasis by saying, "Just add a three to the check you write each week." A lady came up to me after the service and said, "Since I'm on a fixed income, I only write one check a month. If I add three dollars a week it comes out to be \$12, and that has a two at the end." I replied, "Yes, but it will be alright to give a dollar more and make it \$13, if you like." Beloved, you can certainly give more if you like and if you are able. Will **you** join me in making a commitment to give at least \$3 more a week to your local church? Together let's do "More for Christ" in 2011!

Floyd Paris is president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

WESTERN  
**Recorder**Box 43969  
Louisville, KY 40253**DR. TODD DEATON**  
Editor**DREW NICHTER**  
News Director**THOMAS C. TOWNSEND**  
Marketing & Business Manager**Board of Directors:**

**Floyd Price** (chairman), Richmond;  
**Skip Alexander** (vice chairman),  
Campbellsville;  
**Duane Bolin**, Murray;  
**Bill Edmonds**, Louisville;  
**Dan Francis**, Erlanger;  
**Chip Hutcheson**, Princeton;  
**Lanna Kilgore**, Bowling Green;  
**Paul Nunn**, Prestonsburg;  
**Willis Polk**, Lexington;  
**June Rice**, Paintsville;  
**Wayne Spivey**, Harrodsburg;  
**Dan Summerlin**, Paducah.

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

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

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

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

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

[www.WesternRecorder.org](http://www.WesternRecorder.org)

**President's Pen**

By Floyd Paris

## Set some spiritual goals to make this year the best yet

By Judy Woodward Bates

As the New Year rolled around, many folks made New Year's resolutions to change or improve something in their lives. One of the topics that makes every Top Ten list is "get out of debt." But what about spiritual goals? With the Bible as our guide, here are 12 tips and corresponding scriptures to help you make 2011 your best year ever:

■ **Commit yourself fully to Jesus Christ.** God wants more than a relationship; He wants a total commitment. "Happy are those who keep His decrees and seek Him with all their heart" (Psalm 119:2).

■ **Put your commitment to Christ above all else.** Only when Christ has first place in your life can the rest of your life be in right order. "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you" (Matthew 6:33).

■ **Put the needs of others ahead of your wants.** If we look at the life of Jesus, we realize that our time on earth is not about personal comfort, but about being a comfort to others. "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve...." (Mark 10:45a).

■ **Spend time daily in the Word and in prayer.** The Living Word wants you to spend time with Him. Remember that prayer is a two-way conversation; don't just talk to God—sit quietly and wait for Him to speak to you. "Happy

is the man ... delight is in the Lord's instruction ... he meditates on it day and night" (Psalm 1:1-2).

■ **Attend church regularly.** As a member of the family of God, it's important to spend time with and worship with fellow believers. "not staying away from our worship meetings, as some habitually do, but encouraging each other ..." (Hebrews 10:25).

■ **Become a blessing to your pastor and church staff.** There is no end of volunteers to criticize pastors; be one of the rare few who encourage them. "Now we ask you, brothers, to give recognition to those who labor among you and lead you in the Lord and admonish you, and to regard them very highly in love because of their work" (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13a).

■ **Learn your spiritual gifts and use them in specific places of service.** Until you find that perfect fit, just serve wherever and however you can. You're far more likely to find shoes that fit by trying them on rather than by staring at them through the window. "Based on the gift each one has received, use it to serve others, as good managers of the varied grace of God" (1 Peter 4:10).

■ **Consciously seek opportunities to tell others about Jesus.** The day you accepted Christ's offer of salvation, you volunteered for service in the Army of God. And that means active duty—you're on assignment: "... in Christ, God was reconciling the

world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed the message of reconciliation to us" (2 Corinthians 5:19).

■ **Confess your need for Christ's control over your finances.** Everything we claim as our own is simply on loan to us from the True Owner. Commit to follow His guidance in managing all that's been entrusted to you. Only through the leadership of the Holy Spirit can we properly manage money.

"Whoever is faithful in very little is also faithful in much, and whoever is unrighteous in very little is also unrighteous in much. So if you have not been faithful with the unrighteous money, who will trust you with what is genuine? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to someone else, who will give you what is your own? ... You can't be slaves to both God and money" (Luke 16:10-13b).

■ **Determine to live within your income.** Trust God as your Provider and refuse to create credit card debt or any other unnecessary debt. "I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am" (Philippians 4:11b).

■ **Faithfully tithe to your local church.** Like a bucket under a spout, tithing aligns believers to receive God's blessings. "And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19). (BP)

Judy Woodward Bates is an author, speaker and TV personality; visit her website at [www.Bargainomics.com](http://www.Bargainomics.com).

### FIRST PERSON

## Talking about tricky triangles

By James Stillwell

**Q: I've been told that I have problems getting into "triangles" in relationships. What does that mean and what can I do?**

**A:** Relationship triangles happen whenever someone in conflict goes to a third party to reduce their own anxiety rather than going to the person directly with whom they are in conflict.

It makes sense that people would be tempted to alleviate anxiety through such alliances, since disequilibrium begs to be resolved. The problem is that it ultimately does

not work. Rather than eliminating anxiety, it just passes it on to somebody else. It perpetuates the problem and usually makes things worse.

Possibly the most widely known relationship triangle is the Persecutor-Victim-Rescuer model. In this situation, individuals take on roles which keep all three locked into an unproductive, endless pattern of persecution and rescue.

What's a person to do to avoid relationship landmines such as triangles? Here are a few hints:

■ **Assertiveness.** Speak for yourself to the source, the person with whom you have a problem (Matthew 19:18).

■ **Appropriate ownership.** With every situation, ask whose business this is—yours, theirs or God's? Is it something for which you ultimately are responsible? Take action to that extent. Is it something somebody else ultimately is responsible for? Then let it go. Is it something only God can control? Let that go, too.

■ **Ask God to work.** "Cast all your anxieties on Him, for He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7) suggests that you do what you can do, and give to God what only God can do.

■ **Appropriate listeners.** Professional counselors provide a safe and structured path for getting anxiety out of your head and out where you can deal with it. "Bear one another's burdens" (Galatians 6:2) suggests appropriate people can help you sort through things. "In the multitude of counselors there is safety" (Proverbs 11:14) suggests that utilizing wise people is an important path to success.

Reprinted from *Western Recorder* Nov. 24, 2009. James Stillwell is minister to singles at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington.



## What will you do with your 2%?

By Jeremy White

In the closing days of 2010, the U.S. Congress and President Obama approved significant tax legislation. Most of the media attention summarized this new tax law as extending the Bush tax cuts. While this is true, an important provision was tucked away which affects every taxpayer in a very positive way.

American workers are going to be receiving an increase in their take home pay as a result of a 2 percent cut in their payroll taxes. Intended to stimulate the economy out of the current recession, this 2 percent payroll tax reduction was never part of the original Bush tax cuts.

This 2 percent reduction in the payroll tax, more formally known as the FICA tax representing Social Security contributions, begins with the first paycheck in 2011. The reduction continues through the end of the calendar year. Self-employed individuals, such as ministers, also benefit from this reduction.

The question is, what will you do with this additional 2 percent? Because this represents "found" money, let me offer a few suggestions to help you in meeting your personal financial resolutions for the year:

1. Increase your giving. Perhaps you have not been meeting your current goals of giving in 2010. This will be an excellent opportunity to increase your giving. Or, even if you have been giving your targeted amount, it could be a good chance to stretch and take part of that 2 percent and give more.
2. Pay down credit card debt.
3. Increase your retirement plan contributions.
4. Increase your college savings fund for your children or grandchildren.
5. Start or add to a Roth IRA for yourself or your spouse.
6. Obtain or increase your life insurance.
7. Make additional payments for any mortgage that you have.
8. Get a medical physical and dental checkup for you and your spouse.
9. Buy a gym membership and get some exercise.

Jeremy L. White is a CPA with Blythe, White & Associates in Paducah.



To submit a letter to the editor, mail to Western Recorder, Attn.: Editor, PO Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253, or send e-mail to [Todd.Deaton@WesternRecorder.org](mailto:Todd.Deaton@WesternRecorder.org). Letters should be no more than 300 words. Letters must reflect Christian civility and are subject to editing for style, clarity and space.

## Eleven for eleven: Ideas for student ministry

It seems that everybody is compiling a list this time of year. I have seen reports on the best books of 2010, the best new electronic gadgets for 2011, 11 tips for losing weight in 2011, and on and on. So I thought I would be a part of the movement, so below are 11 ideas for student ministry in 2011.

1. **Read the Bible through this year.** Challenge your students to do the same. We have been good at teaching the Bible in small bite-sized portions to our students. This year let's help them see how it all fits together.

2. **Make family time a priority.** The hectic and odd hours of youth ministry sometimes get in the way of family time. We need to make time with our own family non-negotiable.

3. **Be involved on the school campus.** Students are there every day. It is their culture, their world. For us to be true missionaries to this culture, we have to be involved where they are. This is more than showing up for the Friday night football game. It is investing in the school, talking to the family resource center, adopting a classroom or a team, and pouring yourself and the love of Christ into the school.

4. **Invest in leaders.** It is a lot easier at times to be the lone ranger and do it

all yourself. I know I've been there and survived it. For those of us who put things off, who like to plan later rather than sooner, this is especially true. Find yourself a "Padawan" or two and invest in them. Leaders can only lead if we let them.

5. **Desegregate.** For years the trend in student ministry has been to pull students out of "big church" and segregate them into their own section of the church. If we are to be the family of God, then we must facilitate times that we can be together as family.

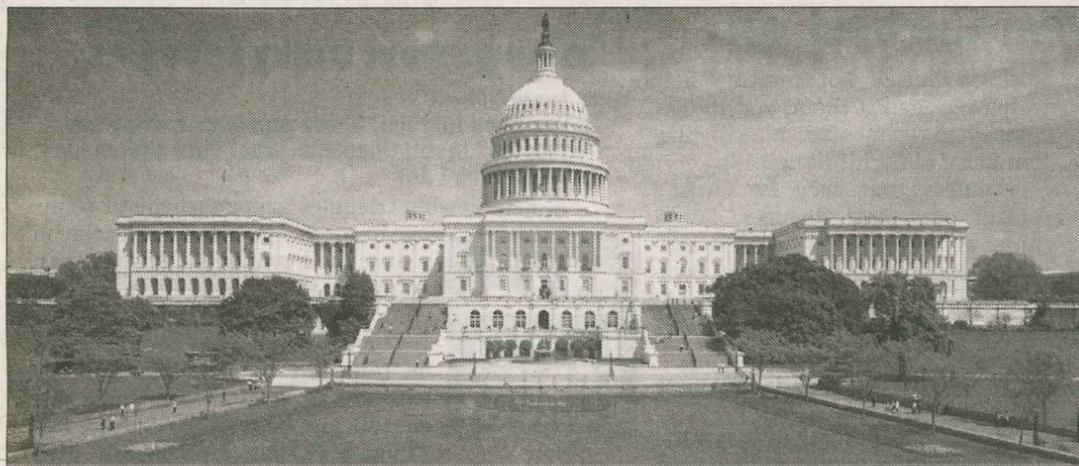
6. **Keep the bus or van in great mechanical shape.** We all have horror stories of the bus breaking down on the way to and/or from camp. The liability involved when we take students off campus is tremendous. We need to make sure that we are doing the best we can to minimize that risk.

7. **Leave with dignity.** I know this is an odd place for this—in a list of ideas for the New Year. But the truth is that a good percentage of youth leaders will not be serving in the same position or the same church at this time next year. Some will leave on their own terms; others will be forced to leave. Either way, we always need to take the high road and leave with dignity and honor.

### Youth Ministry Corner



Joe Ball



## Religious profile of 112th Congress largely unaltered after '10 elections

Washington—An influx of Republicans has colored the House red, but the midterm elections did little to alter the religious composition of Capitol Hill.

Like the U.S. public, Protestants make up more than half (57 percent) of the 112th Congress, and Catholics constitute roughly a quarter (29 percent), according to a study by the nonpartisan Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life.

The number of Protestants in Congress has dropped from 394 in the early 1960s to 304 in 2011, declining by several percentage points each decade. This year's congressional class added 12 Protestants, however.

Nearly seven in 10 Republicans in Congress is Protestant; and there remain a greater percentage of Methodists (10 percent), Episcopalians/Anglicans (8 percent) and Presbyterians (8 percent) in Congress than in the American public.

Baptists, by contrast, are underrepresented, according to Pew's study: They make up nearly 17 percent of the population, but less than 13 percent of Congress.

No religious group appears to be as underrepresented on Capitol Hill as atheists, however. About one-sixth of the U.S. population (16 percent) identifies as religiously unaffiliated, according to Pew. While six members of the new Congress don't specify a religious affiliation, none say they are unaffiliated. Rep. Pete Stark, D-Calif., has said he does not believe in God, but identifies his religion as Unitarian, according to Pew.

As the study notes, there are good reasons for representatives to keep quiet about religious doubts. According to 2010 Pew survey, more than six in 10 Americans say it is important for members of Congress to have strong religious beliefs.

There are 156 Catholics, 39 Jews, 15 Mormons, three Buddhists, two Muslims, and one Quaker in the 112th Congress. There are no self-identified Pentecostals, Hindus, Anabaptists, or Jehovah's Witnesses, according to the study. (RNS)

## Ministers to get tax reduction in 2011

Washington—Ministers will receive a small tax benefit from the recent compromise legislation signed by President Barack Obama last month. The SECA Social Security tax rate will fall from 12.4 percent to 10.4 percent for 2011 only, according to analysts at GuideStone Financial Resources.

The additional Medicare tax rate of 2.9 percent remains in effect. For tax purposes, ministers will see their total SECA tax rate drop to 13.3 percent for 2011 only.

American workers in general also will receive a one-year 2 percent cut in their Social Security taxes under the Tax Relief Unemployment Reauthorization and Job Creation Act of 2010. The bill—a compromise between the White House and Republican congressional leaders—keeps the Bush-era tax cuts in place through 2012.

## Ten Southern Baptists sworn in as newest U.S. representatives

Washington—At least 10 Southern Baptists were sworn in for the first time Jan. 5 as members of the U.S. House of Representatives.

In addition, two members of Southern Baptist churches were sworn in to start their first terms in the U.S. Senate. Roy Blunt of Missouri and John Boozman of Arkansas came to the Senate after serving in the House for seven and five terms, respectively. All are Republicans.

The Southern Baptists new to the House are part of the majority achieved by the GOP in the November election. The Republicans hold a 242-193 advantage in the House to begin the 112th Congress. In the Senate, the Democratic caucus has a 53-47 edge.

Here is information on the new House members who have been confirmed to be members of Southern Baptist churches.

**Arkansas:** Rick Crawford, a member of Nettleton Baptist Church, Jonesboro; Tim Griffin, Immanuel Baptist, Little Rock; Steve Womack, Cross Church Pinnacle Hills, Rogers.

**Florida:** Steve Southerland, Northstar Church, Panama City; Daniel Webster, First Baptist of Central Florida, Orlando.

**Georgia:** Austin Scott, First Baptist, Tifton.

**Mississippi:** Alan Nunnelee, Calvary Baptist, Tupelo.

**Oklahoma:** James Lankford, Quail Springs Baptist, Oklahoma City.

**South Carolina:** Jeff Duncan, First Baptist, Clinton.

**Texas:** Bill Flores, Central Baptist, Bryan.

In addition, Rep. Tom Graves, R-Ga., is serving his first full term in the House. He won a special election in June 2010 to replace Nathan Deal, who vacated his seat to run for governor.

Meanwhile, Kentucky Rep. Hal Rogers was one of 17 Southern Baptists who were re-elected to their House seats. Rogers, a member of First Baptist Church of Somerset, was elected to a 15th term last November. (BP)

Additionally, it extends some unemployment benefits and reduces the 6.2 percent OASDI (old age, survivors and disability insurance) tax rate to 4.2 percent for 2011 only.

Ministers normally pay the 12.4 percent OASDI portion of their SECA tax because of their "dual tax status" as self-employed for Social Security tax purposes. The total OASDI portion of their SECA tax represents the combined employer and employee OASDI tax rates.

The cut in Social Security taxes for 2011 will not impact SECA taxes owed for 2010 earned income.

GuideStone will release its annual Ministers Tax Guide in February, which provides specific information regarding ministers' unique tax status, as well as tips on filing a minister's 2010 tax return. (BP)

## Conservative leaders want GOP to keep social issues on front burner

Washington—Southern Baptist ethicist Richard Land has joined nearly 30 other conservatives in calling on Republican leaders in the new Congress not to ignore issues such as abortion and marriage.

The president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission and the other signers urged Speaker of the House John Boehner and his fellow GOP leaders to include social issues as legislative priorities with economic and national defense matters.

"When considering America's fiscal and national defense policies, which are critically important, we believe that social issues, including, but not limited to, the sanctity of human life and the preservation of marriage as the union of one man and one woman, are indispensable," last month's letter stated.

The signers said they believe focusing on all three issues is "essential for America and our future."

"A stool with only one or two legs is unstable," they noted. "All three legs are necessary. We be-

lieve it is critically important that the leadership, and those appointed or elected to lead, embrace all three legs of the stool. A broad-based and sustainable movement requires all three core values."

The 112th Congress opened last week, with Boehner, an 11-term representative from Ohio, taking the gavel as the newly elected speaker of the House. Republicans captured the House majority from Democrats in November's election. Rep. Eric Cantor of Virginia was elected as the House majority leader.

The conservatives' letter was sent to Boehner and Cantor, as well as Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky and Senate Minority Whip Jon Kyl of Arizona.

In September, House Republicans issued "A Pledge to America" in which they said they would institute a ban on all federal funding of abortion and enact conscience protections for pro-life health care providers if they gained majority status in the November election. (BP)

# Imagine

## 2011 Preschool & Children's Ministry Conference

**February 11-12**  
**Parkway Baptist Church**  
**Bardstown, KY**

Join leaders from every walk of children's ministry, from pastors to parents, for a fresh, visionary look at how to minister to children.

**Online registration is underway!**  
[kybaptist.org/imagine](http://kybaptist.org/imagine)

**\$25/person**  
(After Feb 4: \$35)

Questions?  
[children@kybaptist.org](mailto:children@kybaptist.org)  
502-489-3575  
866-489-3575



## BAPTIST DIGEST

**Ga. Baptists to study CP allocation**—A Georgia Baptist Convention study committee will encourage stewardship growth among that state's Baptists while examining the percentage allocation of funds to the Georgia and Southern Baptist conventions. The committee will examine how Georgia Baptists can impact lostness around the world without neglecting those in their own backyard, GBC Executive Committee members told *The Christian Index*, the state convention's newsjournal. A motion to create the study committee was made during a GBC Executive Committee meeting Dec. 14. Pastor Jeremy Morton, who submitted the motion, said its intent is to consider ways of increasing missions support to Southern Baptist mission boards "while strengthening our mission commitment to the work here in Georgia."

**Criswell receives accreditation warning**—A regional accrediting agency has issued an official warning to Criswell College, citing issues regarding "institutional effectiveness" in planning and assessment. The Bible college—established about 40 years ago by First Baptist Church of Dallas and named for its longtime pastor W.A. Criswell—retains its accreditation but will be monitored by the ac-

crediting agency for the next year. A warning is the least-severe public citation the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools issues. The maximum time during monitoring any school can be on warning is two years. The warning grew out of the accrediting agency's regular review of the school, scheduled every 10 years. Three years ago, the accrediting agency placed Criswell on probation for not meeting standards in financial stability and financial control, but it was cleared a year later.

**NOBTS launches public policy institute**—At a time when people of faith often are relegated to the sidelines in public policy discussions, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is launching an Institute for Faith and the Public Square to help reframe the debate. The institute, announced during a meeting of NOBTS trustees last month, will explore the role of faith in the development and application of public policy and provide an open-minded academic forum where the concerns of Christians can be discussed in a thoughtful way. Among the institute's goals is "to apply biblical truth to moral, public policy and religious liberty issues in order to transform American culture."

## Judge rules for Mo. convention in ongoing lawsuit against agency

Jefferson City, Mo.—The Missouri Baptist Convention has won its legal action against the Missouri Baptist Foundation in Cole County Circuit Court after nearly nine years of litigation.

Outgoing Cole County Circuit Court Judge Paul Wilson ruled Dec. 31 that the foundation did not have the right to file amendments it made to its charter in October 2001 without the convention's approval.

The foundation must return to its 1994 charter and articles of incorporation, and trustees not elected under its provisions have 30 days in which to give up their seats, according to the order.

In 2001, the foundation filed amendments to its 1994 charter as a not-for-profit corporation under one Missouri statute. But the entity retained wording that continued to give the MBC the right to elect the Foundation's trustees and to approve any changes or amendments to its articles of incorporation.

The next day, the foundation filed additional

amendments to its charter, but did so under the provisions of a different state law regarding nonprofits. The second filing excluded the portions giving the Missouri Baptist Convention control.

The foundation did not seek convention approval for any of the changes. The convention filed legal action on Aug. 13, 2002, to regain the rights outlined in the 1994 charter.

According to the judge's order, the foundation granted the convention the right to elect trustees and to approve changes when it updated its original 1946 charter in 1957. The foundation retained those rights when its charter was amended in 1989 and in a 1994 revision.

Judge Wilson's order voids the foundation's 2001 amendments and requires the foundation to file notice with the Cole County court and with the secretary of state's office to that effect.

The judge stopped short of voiding all the foundation's actions since 2001 "because of the havoc it would create." (ABP)

## Mo. convention exec resigns, infidelity cited

Jefferson City, Mo.—David Tolliver, executive director of the Missouri Baptist Convention since February 2009, has resigned, according to an announcement by the convention Jan. 7.

"With deep regret we announce, Dr. David Tolliver has resigned as executive director of the Missouri Baptist Convention due to immoral behavior with a woman," according to a statement from the convention.

Jay Hughes, associate executive director of support services for the MBC, will serve as the acting interim executive director until a permanent in-

terim director can be named by the convention's executive board. That group is expected to meet later this week.

"It is disheartening to learn of any fellow believer succumbing to sinful choices. It is doubly so when the individual is in a visible and trusted role of ministry leadership," SBC Executive Committee President Frank Page said.

Tolliver, 60, elected Feb. 3, 2009, had been the convention's interim executive director for nearly 22 months and had served on the MBC staff as an associate executive director since May 2005. (BP)

FEATURING

C.J. MAHANEY: GENERAL SESSION  
&  
CHARLIE HALL BAND: WORSHIP

WITH  
ALBERT MOHLER  
RUSSELL MOORE  
CONCERT BY FLAME  
DONALD WHITNEY  
BRUCE WARE  
TOM SCHREINER  
TIMOTHY PAUL JONES  
MARK COPPENGER  
DANIEL MONTGOMERY  
MIKE COSPER  
DAN DEWITT  
& MORE

RECALIBRATE

GIVE ME AN ANSWER

CREATION · CULTURE · CHURCH

COLLEGIATE CONFERENCE

FEB 11-12

LOUISVILLE, KY

www.sbts.edu/events

# Baptist author's novel helps convey pro-life perspective

By Erin Roach

Jackson, Miss.—Stephanie McAllister's breakup with Sonny Shamrock was so devastating that she never told him of her pregnancy. Instead, she aborted the baby.

Stephanie dropped out of church in the suburban town of Westhaven, Miss., and became a reporter on women's affairs for a metropolitan newspaper.

"A Scent of Jasmine," a novel, begins 14 years later, when health issues bring Stephanie, now 35, back to Dr. Ward's clinic, where her abortion was performed.

There she meets Libby Anderson, the 14-year-old adopted daughter of her former pastor. Libby is picketing against abortion at the clinic.

Stephanie is unmoved by Libby's passion for the unborn but does promise to use her skills as a reporter to help Libby find her biological mother. Stephanie increasingly struggles with her pro-choice views as her love for Libby grows. But the search for Libby's mother is complicated by a death in Westhaven—and as a funeral turns to chaos, Stephanie and the town are forever changed.

"Fiction is not preaching to somebody, so you're writing a story that has to be believable and has to be compelling in its characters," said David Dockery, a Mississippi geologist and author of the new book



## Sanctity of Human Life Sunday – Jan. 16

"A Scent of Jasmine."

"It gave me the opportunity to portray Stephanie, who had aborted her child, as a character that people could associate with. She explains herself in the story in a way that you could understand her and kind of see her side," added Dockery, a member and Sunday school leader at Pocahontas Baptist Church near the Mississippi capital of Jackson.

"Libby provided an alternate view. You can kind of have the debate within a story that is compelling, without feeling like you're reading something you don't want to read."

Though he had written two novels on other subjects, Dockery's thoughts on abortion led to a book he said he hopes will change hearts as part of the pro-life movement.

"As a writer, I try to think of how a reader will react when they have this reality. The story kind of writes itself (through) characters that mean something to you,

and you care about them," Dockery noted. "To have them go through a conversion experience on this issue, that can impact a reader. There are women in all kinds of situations like this, and a fictional story can help them sort this out."

As for how a story like this might affect a woman who feels remorse about an abortion, Dockery said it is best to come to terms with such an act, as painful as that may be, in order to receive forgiveness as well as healing and encouragement from God.

The central theme of "A Scent of Jasmine," he said, is that each unborn child is unique and children hold unlimited promise and hope for their families, their communities and the world.

"There will be a day to come in which we will see what was missed because a child was not here to make a difference," he said.

Dockery told of a 14-year-old girl named Laney Frazier who read the book five times. Frazier's mother works with Pro-Life Mississippi, and the girl has ministered outside of abortion clinics for years. She sings hymns while her mother counsels women to choose life for their unborn children.

The book "touched my life about abortions. It made you want to save the lives of these babies," Frazier said. "Girls who are pregnant can pick up the book and see that there is hope. They should not feel condemned but should turn their life over to Christ." (BP)

## Other recommended pro-life fiction titles

C. Ben Mitchell, professor of moral philosophy at Union University in Jackson, Tenn., recommended a list of five novels with a pro-life perspective:

P.D. James' "Children of Men"

Walker Percy's "The Thanatos

Syndrome"

Kazuo Ishiguro's "Never Let Me Go"

Joseph Bayly's "Winterflight"

Michael J. Huckabee's "Healing

Noelle"

Other novels with a pro-life perspective include:

"False Positive," the third book in a series by William Cutrer and Sandra Glahn. Cutrer, a professor of Christian ministry at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and a medical doctor, said he and Glahn wrote from a Christian perspective on bioethical issues to present biblical truth within an enjoyable, believable storyline.

"A Perfect Persecution" by James R. Lucas, published by B&H Publishing Group. The plot: An underground group seeks to rescue as many babies as possible at a time when the moral landscape is rapidly deteriorating and babies are being aborted because they do not meet certain criteria for "social contribution."

# The Invitation Stands

## Consider This Your Invitation to Save a Life.

If you believe in the sanctity of life but aren't sure what to do about it, this invitation is for you. Southern Baptists across the nation are seeking to build closer relationships with our pregnancy resource centers, for the purpose of evangelizing center clients and helping women to choose life for their unborn children.

### How to Help Your Local Pregnancy Care Resource Center:

- Donate baby clothing, baby furniture, car seat, or formula
- Provide food, clothing and a safe place for an expecting mother
- Train ladies in the church to mentor expecting mothers
- Sponsor a baby shower for the center with gifts of clothing, furniture, diapers or formula
- Partner with the center to teach young women good parenting skills
- Plan a mission trip to the center for maintenance, painting and re-decorating, if needed

### How Do I Get Involved?

- Find a pregnancy care center near you.
- Pray that God will use that center for his glory.
- Contact the center to see how you can help.

To find a center near you, visit [www.kybaptist.org/pregnancycare](http://www.kybaptist.org/pregnancycare) for a list of Southern Baptist-affiliated ministries in Kentucky.



For questions, please contact the Mission Service & Ministries Department 502-489-3530 or 866-489-3530 (toll free in Kentucky).



# Bridging the gap

By Adelle Banks

Janine Winkler loves reading books to her 2-year-old grandson Judah, but instead of sitting on her lap at her home in Michigan, he's usually half a world away in Nigeria, where his father works for Wycliffe Bible Translators.

What connects them is Skype, the free online telephone and video service, that has made expensive phone calls and lengthy periods of no contact a distant memory for many missionaries abroad and their families back home.

"I've told people that I think God waited to send them until ... the technology got to where it was," said Winkler, who never had a camera on her computer or used Skype before her son left the country. "I couldn't imagine just waiting to get letters from them."

Missionaries say the new technology can bridge the thousands of miles between home and the mission field, often for free and in real time.

In a recent survey of more than 800 of its missionaries, Wycliffe found that about one-third use e-mail daily to communicate with family and friends back home. More than half said the Internet connections have made it possible for them to stay in the field longer.

Wycliffe President Bob Creson recalls the days when he was a missionary in Cameroon in the 1980s, when a staff of 200 would sign up to use the one landline phone to call home on weekends. Now texting, Facebook and Twitter are available to his employees.

"The world really has flattened out so that people in these very, very remote areas have contact," he said.

Aid workers and missionaries from other organizations also report improved ability to work abroad and stay in touch with family.

"It certainly does allow there to be instant and constant communication, where

before the ability to communicate with family was limited and expensive," said Wendy Norvelle, a spokeswoman for the International Mission Board.

Jim, who has served as a Southern Baptist missionary in Asia for 15 years, said technological advances have allowed him and his wife to keep in better touch with their children, who returned to the U.S. as adults. When his granddaughter recently started walking, his son in Virginia alerted him that it was time to get on Skype.



"Actually, she walked very poorly because she was distracted by Grandma and Grandpa talking to her," said Jim, who couldn't be identified by last name because he "serves in a place where there are government gatekeepers in religious matters," the missions agency said.

Despite technology's benefits, some experts say there's a downside, especially with young missionaries.

"I know of several cases where young missionaries have been asked to spend much less time online, especially in the first year," said Todd Johnson, director of the Center for the Study of Global Christianity at Gordon-Conwell Theological Semi-

nary in Massachusetts.

They're supposed to be doing language learning and being out among the people and they're spending like 50, 60 hours online" each week, Johnson pointed out.

Norvelle said there is "supervision and accountability" for Southern Baptist missionaries, but said there are no specific rules on the number of hours that can be spent online.

Even so, blogs, Facebook and video conferencing are key for connecting everyone from aging parents back home to growing families overseas, missionaries say.

Chris Winkler alerted his parents back in Michigan that a second grandchild was on the way by having Judah wear a shirt with the words "Big Brother" as they talked on Skype. Other friends found out when he and his wife posted an ultrasound image on their blog.

**CLOSE TO HOME**

Missionaries Chris and Christie Winkler (left) use Skype to keep in touch with his parents, Janine and Chuck Winkler, back home in Michigan while they serve Wycliffe Bible Translators in Nigeria. At far right is the couple's son, Judah, 2.



## Manhattan Declaration supporters still fighting for iPhone app approval

Ashburn, Va.—Apple has rejected an iPhone/iPad app that had been resubmitted by signers of the Manhattan Declaration, further frustrating Christian leaders who fear the controversy signals a growing societal intolerance of orthodox Christianity.

Conservative leaders are calling the company's policy "appalling" and suggesting it reflects hostility toward Christian beliefs.

At issue is an iPhone/iPad software program containing the text of the Manhattan Declaration, a 4,700-word document that includes basic Christian teachings and Bible verses on marriage, life and religious liberty. Key leaders such as Charles Colson, James Dobson, Richard Land, Albert Mohler and Timothy Dolan signed the document in 2009, and more than 480,000 people subsequently signed it online. Among its stances, the document opposes gay marriage, abortion and embryonic stem cell research.

Apple pulled the free app from its online store in November, saying it violates "developer guidelines by being offensive to large groups of people."

That led Manhattan Declaration officials to resubmit a tweaked version of the app in early December, leaving the text of the document untouched but removing a four-question survey that contained such questions as "Do you support same-sex relationships?" and "Do you support the right of choice regarding abortion?" Some bloggers had called the questions objectionable.

The Manhattan Declaration website posted a statement late last month saying Apple had rejected the tweaked version of the app.

"Inasmuch as the Manhattan Declaration simply reaffirms the moral teachings of our Christian faith on the sanctity of human life, marriage and sexual morality, and religious freedom and the rights of conscience, Apple's statement amounts to the charge that our faith is 'potentially harmful to others,'" a statement at ManhattanDeclaration.org reads. "It is difficult to see how this is anything other than a statement of animus by a major American corporation against the beliefs of millions of Protestant, Catholic and Orthodox citizens.

"It is our sincere hope that Apple will draw back from this divisive and deeply offensive position," the statement continues. "The corporation's leaders must be made to understand that they do the country no good service in capitulating to efforts to stigmatize, marginalize or defame people on one side or the other in important moral debates."

Manhattan Declaration leaders say they will resubmit the app to Apple's App Review Board this month.

Apple originally gave the app a "no objectionable content" rating, but changed its mind after roughly 7,700 people at the website Change.org e-mailed Apple and asked the company to remove the app. Meanwhile, about 47,000 people signed an online petition at ManhattanDeclaration.org asking Apple to reinstate the app. (BP)

Successful Strategies for  
**DEACON MINISTRY**

**FOUR TRAINING EVENTS FOR DEACONS AND PASTORS in 2011!**

- February 7  
Broadway Baptist Church  
Lexington
- February 8  
Eastwood Baptist Church  
Bowling Green
- October 3  
Main Street Baptist Church  
Williamsburg
- October 4  
Severns Valley Baptist Church  
Elizabethtown

6:30 - 8:45 p.m.  
local time

Register at  
[www.kybaptist.org/deacontraining](http://www.kybaptist.org/deacontraining)  
KBC Discipleship & Assimilation Department  
(502) 489-3581 or (866) 489-3581 (toll-free in KY)

\$10 / person  
Maximum \$50 / church

SBC DAY OF PRAYER—JANUARY 2011

# LEADING A SOLEMN ASSEMBLY

Orlando, Fla.—An admonition for churches to host a solemn assembly in January 2011 is among the challenges to local churches and pastors in the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force report approved by the Southern Baptist Convention last June.

The event is to be “for the purpose of calling Christ’s people to return to God, to repentance, and to humility in service to a renewed commitment to Christ and the Great Commission,” and the challenge was reiterated by SBC President Bryant Wright and the leaders of the convention’s entities.

At [www.namb.net/sbcdayofprayer](http://www.namb.net/sbcdayofprayer), Southern Baptists are called to pray corporately and individually on a date in January that best fits a church’s needs. The reason for the challenge, according to the website, is because “we have forgotten our first love (Revelation 2:4) and need revival in the SBC. We need God’s direction.”

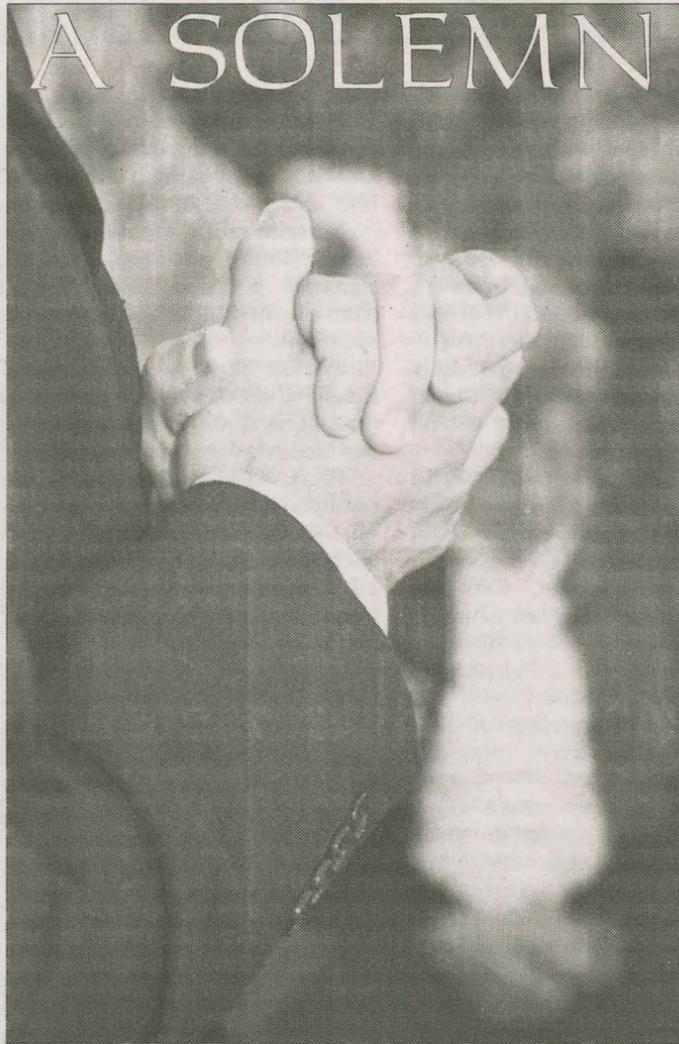
‘BE STILL, AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD.’

“The goal is for all of us to ‘Be still and know that God is God’ as a sign of our humility and desire to wholeheartedly return to Him,” the website says. “By our being still before Him (see Psalm 46:10), we exalt our God and position ourselves to obey the Great Commandment found in Mark 12:29-31 and the Great Commission our Lord gave in Matthew 28:18-20.”

Among the SBC Day of Prayer resources available on the [www.namb.net/sbcdayofprayer](http://www.namb.net/sbcdayofprayer) site is a document titled “How to Lead a Solemn Assembly” which contains suggestions to assist pastors in leading a time of repentance and renewed commitment to Jesus.

First, a pastor might prepare for solemn assembly by identifying and enlisting a leadership team of two or more people including himself, the document says. Then he could study “The Call to Prayer and Solemn Assembly” issued to Southern Baptists in 1989 and available on the website.

As he prepares for a solemn assembly, the pastor also might pray for God’s specific directions for his church and communicate to the entire membership the necessity of participation. The pastor may reproduce or purchase copies of “Consecrate the People,” a booklet for students and adults available at



[www.lifeway.com](http://www.lifeway.com).

The Sunday prior to the solemn assembly, the pastor could make the case for such a time, the website says, by using the example of revival in Nehemiah 8 and 9. The pastor might explain the goals of becoming the people God desires them to be and consecrating themselves to Him for His divine purposes. He also may explain the importance of preparing individually and corporately to be holy and acceptable, living sacrifices (Romans 12:1). On that day, he could distribute Consecrate the People and challenge the congregation to use it during the coming week.

During the week, the website recommends that the pastor work through Consecrate the People, renew his first love for Christ, confess and repent of known sin and prepare to renew his covenant commitments to Jesus. He should provide a small group opportunity for people to share victories, confess sin to one another in same-gender groupings of two or three, and pray for one another in final preparation for the solemn assembly.

## RECOMMENDATIONS :

- Distribute personal preparation guides and instruct every church member on how to use it through the day.
- Plan a solemn assembly or a concert of prayer for the whole congregation or the entire association.
- Hold prayer gatherings by Sunday School classes or Bible study groups.
- Encourage families to have a focused prayer time acknowledging God alone is God.
- Challenge every Sunday School class or Bible study group to tithe time to contrite prayer for spiritual awakening.
- Preach a sermon on prayer, stopping at each point to lead the congregation in application praying.
- Ask your members to pray daily for tens of thousands of SBC congregations to participate in the SBC call to solemn assembly.

other in same-gender groupings of two or three, and pray for one another in final preparation for the solemn assembly. This could be done in Sunday School classes prior to the solemn assembly.

On the day of the solemn assembly, the website suggests that the pastor acknowledge God’s presence, holiness, sovereignty, love and mercy. He should lead the congregation in remembering Christ’s love demonstrated by paying for their sins on the cross, and they should reflect on the difference He has made in their lives because of forgiveness, redemption and salvation.

The website recommends that the pastor identify Jesus’ invitation to consecration and full surrender to Him and that he provide time for corporate confession, repentance and prayer. For example, the pastor could invite people to confess sin by standing if they have identified idols of the heart. Then he could ask a leader to pray for cleansing, forgiveness and restoration for those standing.

Next the pastor could guide people to make final preparations in a time of prayer and meditation and then extend an invitation for people to acknowledge their consecration and full surrender to Christ.

In closing the pastor could read Scriptures and guide the congregation in responsive commitment to be the people God asks them to be based on page 16 in Consecrate the People. Then they could celebrate Christ and the New Covenant He has provided by His blood. (BP)

### THE CALL:

*Southern Baptists have been called upon to pray together and as individuals for a time of repentance and renewed commitment to God.*

### When:

January 2011 (Choose the specific date that best fits your congregation’s needs.)

### What:

Solemn Assembly - Fasting, Prayer and Repentance

### Why:

We have forgotten our first love (Revelation 2:4) and need revival in SBC. We need God’s direction.

### Objective:

The goal is for of us to “Be still and know that God is God,” as a sign of our humility and desire to wholeheartedly return to Him. By our being still before Him (see Psalm 46:10), we exalt our God and position ourselves to obey the Great Commandment found in Mark 12:29-31 and the Great Commission our Lord gave in Matthew 28:18-20.

# SENIOR LIVING CELEBRATIONS

CELEBRATING THE CHARACTERS IN OUR LIVES!

**MAY 3**  
HOPKINSVILLE  
EDGEWOOD BAPTIST  
\*\*\*\*

**MAY 5**  
BARDSTOWN  
PARKWAY BAPTIST  
\*\*\*\*

**MAY 6**  
RICHMOND  
RICHMOND FIRST  
BAPTIST

Be an Early Bird!  
Register by 4/8 for  
\$15 per person!

Register ONLINE at  
[www.kybaptist.org/seniorcelebration](http://www.kybaptist.org/seniorcelebration)

QUESTIONS? Call the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Leadership Development Team Office at (502) 489-3570 or toll-free in KY (866) 489-3570

# Court rules war memorial cross unconstitutional

San Diego—A federal appeals court ruled Jan. 4 that a veterans' memorial featuring a 43-foot cross on California's Mount Soledad is unconstitutional.

"The use of such a distinctively Christian symbol to honor all veterans sends a strong message of endorsement and exclusion," wrote Judge M. Margaret McKeown for the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. "It suggests that the government is so connected to a particular religion that it treats that religion's symbolism as its own, as universal."

The unanimous three-judge decision stated that the memorial—located on public land in the upscale La Jolla suburb—violates a clause in the U.S. Constitution that prohibits government's establishment of religion. The ruling reverses a lower court decision, but does not determine what will happen to the cross. "This result does not mean that the memorial could not be modified to pass constitutional muster, nor does it mean that no cross can be part of this veterans' memorial," McKeown wrote.

The case (*Jewish War Veterans v. City of San Diego*) has weaved through the courts for two decades. The legal saga began in 1989, when a local atheist and Vietnam veteran, Phillip Paulson, sued the city for removal of the structure. He argued that the monument was intend-

ed as a religious symbol and that its prominence in a city park suggests unconstitutional government preference for Christianity. He died of cancer in 2007, but fellow opponents continued the case and related suits.

Efforts to keep the cross include a 2006 bid by Congress and President George W. Bush to declare it a national veterans' monument.

Attorneys for the city have argued the monolith is simply a monument to veterans. Although some version of a cross has stood on the spot since 1913, the present version was dedicated as a Korean War memorial on Easter Sunday in 1954. It gradually came to include plaques and walls with the names of casualties from the Korean conflict and other wars.

But the plaintiffs have argued that the private group that maintains the site did not add the commemorative elements until after controversy over the monument began in the 1980s and that the cross continues to play a prominent role in Christian worship services.

David Blair-Loy, legal director for the American Civil Liberties Union of San Diego, said the Ninth Circuit's decision validated core legal ideas.

"This is about fundamental principles and freedom of religion," Blair-Loy said, according to the

Union-Tribune. "Our view has always been the best way to protect freedom of religion is to keep government out of religion."

Legal groups that supported the memorial, including Liberty Institute and the American Center for Law and Justice, called the decision a "slap in the face" to military veterans.

"This is a flawed decision that not only strikes at the heart of honoring our military veterans, it reaches a faulty conclusion that this iconic memorial—part of the historic landscape of San Diego—is unconstitutional," said Jay Sekulow, chief counsel for the conservative American Center for Law and Justice, in a blog entry.

"We believe the appeals court got this decision wrong and we look forward to the case going to the Supreme Court where we're confident this decision will be overturned," he continued.

Sekulow's group filed a friend-of-the-court brief in the case defending the cross. Plans are to file another amicus brief at the high court on behalf of members of Congress.

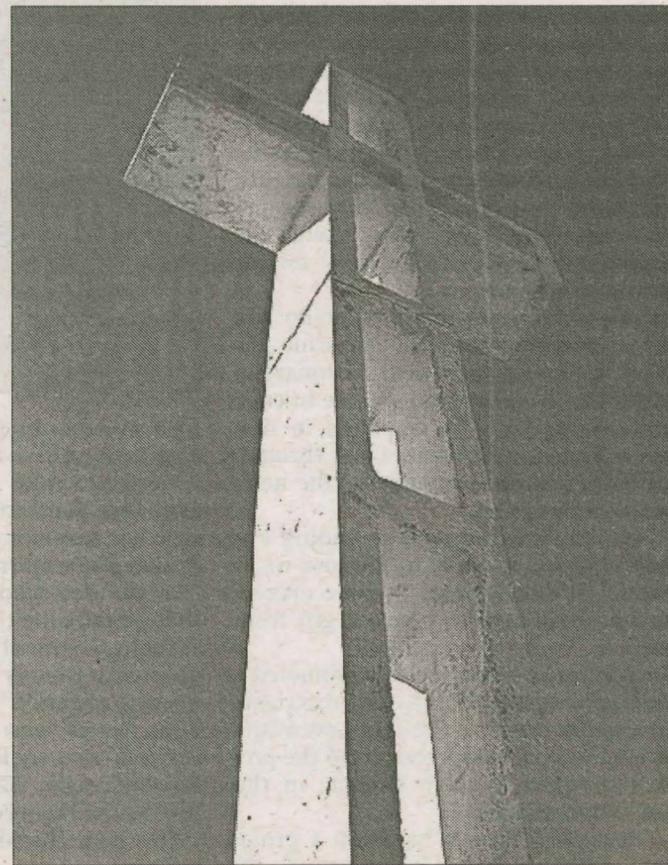
A second case involving a controversial monument in Southern California also remains in the courts.

Last April, the U.S. Supreme Court permitted a war memorial cross to remain at the Mojave National Preserve and told a lower

court to further consider a congressionally approved transfer of the cross to private land.

Compiled from various sources, including Religion News Service, Baptist Press and American Baptist Press.

This 43-foot cross located on Mount Soledad in San Diego, Calif. has been deemed unconstitutional by a federal court.



Travel with other Baptists and your Baptist Chaplain, Rev. Roy Myers

## Ireland

Depart July 21, 2011

Enjoy the Cooler Irish Weather!

12 Days from \$1608\*

Visit the best of Ireland on this comprehensive tour of both Northern and Southern Ireland, visiting all the major highlights.

Arrive in historic Dublin, capital city of the "Emerald Isle." Enjoy an included city tour including Trinity College (housing the Book of Kells), Dublin Castle, and St. Patrick's Cathedral built in 450 AD, then rebuilt in 1191, still the largest church in Ireland. Take a scenic drive across the southern part of Ireland and see the Rock of Cashel, a cluster of historic ruins atop a towering hilltop. Visit Cobh, a pretty seaside town, set above a harbor that was the Titanic's last port of call. Visit Cork, the Blarney Castle and Blarney Stone, and tour Killarney with a leisurely boat cruise on one of Killarneys' many lakes. You'll also visit Kenmare, and Tralee; drive the "Ring of Kerry" and tour a restored Mansion, and Bunratty Castle, built in 1425. Travel the coast of Galway, Limerick, visit the Cliffs of Moher, Kylemore Abbey, and Sligo. Tour Belleek Pottery, Enniskillen, Ulster, Belfast, The Giant's Causeway and more. Fly home from Dublin. Includes 16 meals. This tour has been designed for the first time American visitor. YMT has included all the major highlights of this beautiful island. \*Price per person, based on double occupancy. Airfare is extra.

For information, reservations, brochure and letter from Rev. Myers with his phone number call:

YMT Vacations It's time to travel. 1-800-736-7300

## Obama signs DADT repeal, crowd cheers

Washington—President Obama signed into law Dec. 22 a repeal of the ban on open homosexuality in the military.

By enacting the reversal of a 17-year-old law known as Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT), the president kept a promise he had made in his first year in office. DADT barred homosexuals from serving openly but also prohibited military commanders from asking service members if they are homosexual or about their "sexual orientation."

The signing ceremony came only days after both houses of Congress approved the repeal during the lame duck session. The Senate's 65-31 vote occurred Dec. 18, three days after the House of Representatives approved the measure in a 250-175 roll call.

Obama called it "a very good day" as he signed the legislation into law before a cheering crowd of about 500 people.

"People will look back on this moment and wonder why it was ever a source of controversy in the first place," he said.

Southern Baptist ethicist Richard Land called it a "very sad day."

"I am extremely concerned this is going to significantly degrade the effectiveness of our military," said Land, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

More than 60 retired chaplains had signed a letter to Obama and Secretary of Defense Robert Gates warning that a repeal would marginalize "deeply held" religious beliefs of military personnel and present a conflict when some chaplains,

**"People will look back on this moment and wonder why it was ever a source of controversy in the first place."**

President Barack Obama, after signing the repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell

while preaching or in a counseling session. They also warned the repeal would harm morale by making "bigotry comparable to racism."

Christian legal organizations already have promised to defend any chaplains who encounter problems.

Advocates for homosexual rights applauded the bill's signing.

Rea Carey, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, called it "a tremendous victory."

"This cannot happen fast enough," Carey said in a written statement. For Carey and her allies, their hope is that repeal of DADT is another step toward the gaining of rights in other areas—including marriage.

The Pentagon's survey of military personnel found significant resistance to a repeal from those serving on the front lines. More than a third of Marines (38.1 percent) and nearly a fourth of all personnel (23.7 percent) said they would either leave the military or think about doing so earlier than planned if the policy is reversed. That number jumped to 48 percent for Marines on the front lines. (BP)

## Are marriage laws next?

Washington—With the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell, some of the nation's top homosexual leaders are focusing on legalizing "gay marriage" nationwide. The New York Times reported Dec. 19.

A new group, Equality Matters, is being formed and will launch in January with the goal of promoting "gay marriage." The group is a spinoff of another liberal group, Media Matters. Richard Socarides, a former domestic policy adviser to President Clinton, will lead it.

"We will celebrate this important victory for five minutes, and then we have to move on, because we are the last group of Americans who are discriminated against in federal law and there is a lot of work to do," Socarides said.

Media Matters founder David Brock said Equality Matters would "expose right-wing bigotry and homophobia wherever we find it." (BP)

# Singer, longtime purity advocate Rebecca St. James engaged

By Erin Roach

Nashville, Tenn.—Singer-songwriter Rebecca St. James, a longtime supporter of the True Love Waits abstinence movement, announced Jan. 3 she is engaged to be married.

"St. James will wed the man she's been waiting for—Jacob Fink—on a date soon to be announced," according to a news release from her publicist. "The Christmas Day proposal came at Rebecca's family farm in Franklin, Tenn., where she was presented the brilliant, solitaire diamond ring. The groom-to-be asked her parents, David and Helen, for their blessing prior to him surprising Rebecca with the engagement ring and his request for her hand in marriage."

Fink is originally from Colorado and now resides in southern California. After spending two years as a missionary in South Africa, he earned a degree in communications with an emphasis in film production, and the couple met through mutual friends in Los Angeles, the news release stated.

"We are truly amazed at finding our dreams and ideals met in the love we've found," St. James said. "We are exceedingly grateful for this precious gift from God."

For years St. James, 33, has promoted a lifestyle of sexual purity until marriage, lending her talent to the True Love Waits movement and, most recently, to the pro-life movement through starring in the film "Sarah's Choice."

"Rebecca St. James has been a prominent, positive example for sexual abstinence for many young people during her teenage and young-adult years," True Love Waits co-founder Jimmy Hester told Baptist Press. "She was one of the first Christian artists to support and encourage True Love Waits and has stayed true



to her commitment to remain sexually abstinent until marriage.

"Rebecca has participated in many True Love Waits rallies and events. ... And now her testimony will be even stronger as she enters married life," Hester added. "For students who face the challenges of living a pure life that includes remaining sexually abstinent until marriage, Rebecca gives testimony that it can be done and is worth the wait."

St. James' new studio album "I Will Praise You" is set for release April 5, with the first single, "Shine Your Glory Down," hitting the radio Feb. 11. Her ninth book—"What Is He Thinking?"—is due out in September.

In 2006, St. James discussed her commitment to purity with Baptist Press, admitting that she dreamed of marriage but had to hand over control of her dream to God.

"What He was wanting me to do is

just trust that He's going to take care of me no matter what, whether that means having a husband or whether that means fulfilling me in another way," St. James said. "That was probably one of the hardest things I've done in my life; to actually give that dream over to God and let go of the control."

During the tough times, she said she was able to stand on God's word because it is solid truth.

"If I'm going to believe that the Bible is true, which I do, then I need to trust it because that's where push comes to shove," St. James said. "If I believe it, then I'm going to stand on it."

Richard Ross, another True Love Waits co-founder, told Baptist Press at the time that St. James was an ideal role model for teens struggling to abstain from sex in today's sex-saturated culture because she walks in their shoes.

"God has been gracious to allow some

*"For students who face the challenges of living a pure life that includes remaining sexually abstinent until marriage, Rebecca gives testimony that it can be done and is worth the wait."*

True Love Waits co-founder Jimmy Hester

of us middle-aged married people to speak out for True Love Waits. But I am so thankful teenagers also have heard other voices," he said. "Rebecca St. James has been one of the most valuable of those voices. She is young, full of life and single—what a platform on which to stand for purity."

A decade ago, St. James released her landmark single "Wait for Me," which helped spur the purity movement by challenging young people worldwide to wait honorably for the spouse God may have for them.

"I think deep down young people do know that waiting is the right way to go, and they just want encouragement to wait," St. James told Baptist Press. "I think for a lot of girls that heard it, 'Wait for Me' became kind of their song that they were singing to their future husbands that encouraged them to be strong. I also think we girls are such romantics at heart, and it's a song that is romantic but also pure. I think that's why it connected."

Lots of young men have thanked her for recording the song, too, St. James noted.

"It's a pretty well-known fact that guys would like to marry a virgin. I think the whole idea that a girl is singing that song and is waiting really appeals to them, too, and helps them to strive to be men of honor," she explained.

Ross said the song played a large role in the success of True Love Waits.

"'Wait for Me' has been one of those pillar songs for True Love Waits. Both the words of the song and the purity of the artist behind it have carried great weight with Christian teenagers," Ross said. "We know from the Reformation and the Great Awakenings that music fuels movements. Rebecca's 'Wait for Me' would be an example of that phenomenon in our day." (BP)

## Some special people

### Oneida faculty & staff start new year sharing students' successes, honors

There are many ways to end one year and begin another. Needless to say, a lot of people appreciate having an extra day off to celebrate the holiday. For the past 28 years I have spent the last day of December or the first day of January with my Oneida peers in a meeting that takes most of the day.

Each academic year we have two meetings, one just before our students return from their Christmas break and another in mid-April, to discuss the progress of our students—every student! In order to have the meeting, our staff usually must return a day or two early from their Christmas breaks. Frankly, I don't know of too many people who would willingly give up some of their vacation time to return to work and, in our case, spend the day discussing students.

In the Dec. 31 meeting, we discussed students who deserved to be considered to receive a variety of awards to be presented later in the academic year or at graduation in May.

The first several awards were for seniors, including Mr. and Miss Oneida. The criteria for students considered for these two awards is that they have to be outstanding in Christian character, show strong effort in academics, demonstrate concern for others, and be trustworthy. These seniors have to best characterize the Oneida spirit and be students with whom we are proud to have worked.

Next was the "Most Likely to Succeed" award. Our definition of success is not based on the world's view of success. We agree this student may never acquire wealth, fame or position in

life, but we believe he or she will find happiness because of a commitment to Christ and doing what God would have him or her do. This award is given to one boy and one girl in the senior class.

The third senior award is "Most Versatile." This award is given to one boy and one girl who has taken advantage of the many opportunities OBI provides; students who have been involved in a broad range of activities and have shown talent and ability in many areas.

Next is "Most Outstanding," given to one boy and one girl in grades 6-11. Simply stated, we believe these students are most outstanding in overall character, attitude, academics and conduct.

The final award is "Most Studious," awarded to one boy and one girl in grades 6-12. These students are known to have worked hard for the grades they receive. They may not necessarily have the highest grade-point averages in their classes but have put forth much effort, though

they may be falling short in earning the highest grades.

Every teacher and houseparent has the opportunity to nominate a student for any award. Normally three or more students are considered for each award. Everyone present has the opportunity to share the reasons they believe the nominees should or should not be considered. During the discussions, it's common for more than a few tears to be shed as various staff share how they have seen progress being made and how proud they are to have worked with the student being discussed. It's a joy to work with such dedicated people!

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

### This is Oneida



W.F. Underwood

## 'We are partners in the ministry'

### Student Lake is thankful for husband as ministry partner

One of the exciting things about Clear Creek is getting to watch how God works in the families He sends here. In many instances the wives of our married male students end up

enrolling as students themselves to prepare for ministry opportunities with their husbands. First-year student Amy Lake is enjoying her time preparing for ministry opportunities with her husband, Adam, who also is a student here.

"My mom always told me God had a purpose for my life," Amy said. "I always felt like God was going to use me, but I also said I would never marry a preacher. Well, we know what happens when we start telling God we're never going to do something. I found God's purpose in my life was to marry a man who was already called to the ministry. We were married but it took us four years to get to Clear Creek. God kept telling us to wait. We came here two years ago, and in April of last year God opened the door for me to enroll as a student, too."

"I am so thankful that God has put my husband and me together as a team," Amy continued. "He has always said from the very beginning

of our marriage that we are partners in the ministry wherever God sends us. We counsel together and we even take our son with us when we go out sharing our faith. We have an awesome ministry partnership. I love the opportunity to do ministry with my husband.

"God has also given me a desire to help and support other women," Amy said. "I want to be able to minister to women wherever we serve. I want to show them the need to be in God's word and seeking more out of life than just to exist. I have found that many times women think we can't make a difference for God. I just have a burning desire to help women see how much they can do for God."

"I am thankful for the family environment we have here at Clear Creek. This is a wonderful place that affords us many opportunities where we can learn to minister together as a family."

### 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

## Don't ask, don't tell

### Church leaders, members keep quiet on gift of giving

When it comes to financial stewardship too many churches operate under a "don't ask, don't tell" policy. It's what I call the financial stewardship paradox. Jesus had more to say about our relationship to money than any other spiritual discipline, yet church members and church leaders do not want to discuss it at all. Both the pastor and the people dread the annual stewardship sermon (mutual intimidation).

This unspoken attitude is a self-serving attitude in that stewardship in churches has been narrowed to institutional fundraising, concentrating solely on the church's immediate needs, and the task of raising so much money for the church budget to the neglect of the larger meaning of money in our lives and how this reality should be regarded in an overall philosophy of life.

Author Randy Alcorn has observed we regularly witness the gifts of teaching and prayer, but we rarely hear stories of church members exercising the gift of giving

money. So, how do young people in the church learn to give? Where can they go to witness what giving looks like in the life of the believer captivated by Christ? Why are we surprised when, seeing no other example, they take their cues from a materialistic society?

Somewhere between Jesus' teachings in Matthew 6:1 and Matthew 5:16 is the appropriate place for stewardship testimonies. In Matthew 6:1, Jesus teaches us not to give in order to be seen by men; in 5:16, He teaches us to let our lights shine before others that they may see our good deeds and praise our Father in heaven.

Be instructed and encouraged by the Apostle Paul to the Macedonian Christians recorded in 2 Corinthians 8:7: "But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving." Remember, the grace "of" giving also is the grace "for" giving.

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

### Ky. Baptist Foundation



Barry Allen

## Evangelist Billy Graham reflects on life, ministry in rare TV interview

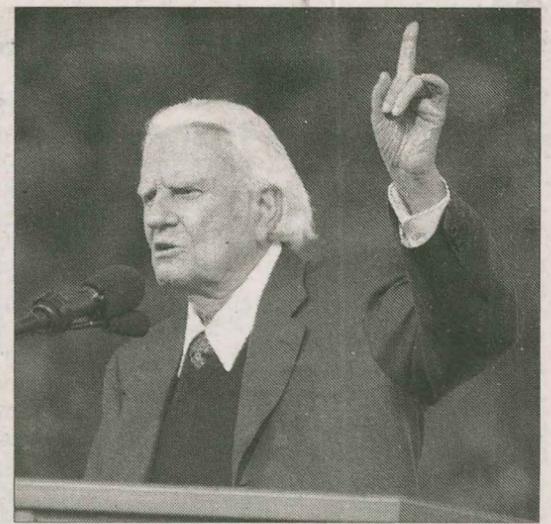
By Erin Roach

Charlotte, N.C.—Billy Graham granted his first interview in several years just before Christmas, telling Fox News' Greta Van Susteren that if he could do it over again, he would spend less time traveling and more time in meditation and prayer.

The renowned evangelist, now 92, spoke to Van Susteren just before meeting President George W. Bush and his wife, Laura, along with Franklin and Jane Graham, for lunch in Charlotte, N.C. The Bushes were at the Billy Graham Library to sign copies of their autobiographies.

Van Susteren asked Graham if he has hope to which Graham replied he has a tremendous amount of hope because he is a believer in Jesus Christ, who was raised from the dead and "is alive right now."

"My wife is already in heaven. I look forward to seeing her definitely in the near future because I'm 92 now and I know that my time is limited on this earth," Graham said. "But I have tremendous hope in the fact I'll be in the future life. And I'll be there because of what Jesus Christ did for me on



**GRAHAM REFLECTS** Evangelist Billy Graham speaks at a 2005 crusade in New York City. The 92-year-old preacher told Fox News' Greta Van Susteren last month he knows his remaining time on earth is limited. (RNS file photo)

the cross and by the resurrection. And this gives me a great deal of hope."

If Graham had the opportunity to live his life over again, he said there are things he would do differently.

"I would study more. I would pray more, travel less, take less speaking engagements. I took too many of them in too many places around the world," he explained. "If I had it to do over again, I'd spend more time in meditation and prayer and just telling the Lord how much I love Him and adore Him and (am) looking forward the time we're going to spend together for eternity."

Van Susteren inquired about what age Graham realized he wanted to be a preacher, and he said it was around age 18 or 19 when he was a student at a Bible school near Tampa, Fla.

"I used to walk the streets in this area that had completely disintegrated because of the (Great) Depression at that time. And I would pray and I would ask God for a direction for my life and for the genuine purpose of my life. What am I here for?" Graham recalled.

One night at a nearby golf course, as he was lying on the 18th green amid the palm trees, he said he heard God's call.

"The Lord seemed to call me and say that I was to preach the gospel. And from that time on, I began to prepare," Graham said.

Over the years, as he spoke to millions, Graham said he was surprised by the numbers who gathered to hear his messages. He also passed along some advice to young preachers.

"Spend more time in study and prayer. That's the secret of successful evangelism," he said. "If you neglect that, you've neglected the very heart of God's call to you."

Van Susteren asked about Graham's relationship with the Bush family, and Graham recalled he first met Bush's grandfather, Prescott Bush, in Florida and then was invited by Bush's grandmother to answer biblical questions and pray with a group of neighbors in her home. Through that meeting, "I began to meet the rest of the family," Graham said of Dorothy Walker Bush.

President George H.W. Bush and his wife, Barbara, "became very close friends to Ruth and me," Graham noted, and it was during a visit in 1985 that he met their son George. Graham had been asked to conduct a Bible study for the family, and Bush stood up to ask questions. Later the evangelist and the future president went on walks and played tennis together.

"I remember he was very interested in spiritual things, and he asked a lot of very deep questions about the Bible and about the Christian faith. And I tried to answer as best I could," Graham told Van Susteren.

The evangelist was able to lead Bush from being a man full of questions to one with some peace about God.

"He helped change my life. He truly did," Bush said of Graham. "And I was a questioning person. I was drinking a lot. And religion was—you know, I used to—I put in the book 'I would listen but never hear.' And Billy Graham helped me understand the redemptive power of a risen Lord." (BP)

## Historic time for Crossings

### 2011 shaping up to become camps' biggest year ever

This has been a historic time in the life of Crossings Ministries. Earlier this month, we exceeded 10,000 students registered for Crossings' 2011 camps.

It is hard to imagine that not many years ago the future of the camps was in question. In fact, the future of camping itself was—and still is—in question as school schedules continue to encroach on the summer and students' sports camps and jobs continue to compete for teenagers' limited summer time.

In spite of all the obstacles, I still am amazed that only five years ago, Crossings' summer attendance was barely more than 3,000. Who knows exactly how many will be in attendance this summer as we still have several months for more groups to register.

In the last five years, we have witnessed nothing short of a miracle as God has grown the summer camping program beyond what all logic said could take place. In the midst of unprecedented economic issues coupled with declining national camp trends, we have experi-

enced increase and, as a matter of fact, the greatest growth has occurred since the economic downturn began.

I want to personally thank all who have served on the Crossings Ministries' board of trustees, especially the original eight incorporators—Steve Ayers, Calvin Bohannon, Jeff Eaton, Willis Henson, James Jones, John Lang, Harold Pike and Bill Tichenor.

I also would like to thank all those who have served on the Crossings staff, whether in a full- or part-time capacity. One fact is that no matter what our roles, we all stand today due to great sacrifice and service from those who have gone before us paving the way.

God is to receive all the glory and honor for what is taking place, and it only is by His power and provision that we are experiencing the blessing of great numbers of students coming to camp each summer. Please pray that we clearly present the gospel of Jesus Christ to all who attend Crossings in 2011 and beyond.

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

### Ky. Baptist Assemblies



David Melber

## Graham ministry partner Shea to be honored with lifetime Grammy

Los Angeles—George Beverly Shea, longtime soloist for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, will be honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award in conjunction with the 2011 Grammy Awards.

Shea, who will turn 102 the week before the Feb. 13 awards telecast, learned of the honor just before Christmas, according to a statement released by Shea's publicist.

"I was surprised to receive the call from The Recording Academy president before Christmas and am honored for the recognition," Shea said in the statement. "The music has been for God's glory."

Shea still performs publicly, having sung at several Christmas concerts near his home in Asheville, N.C., the statement note. In November, he joined longtime colleagues Billy Graham and Cliff Barrows at an event in Charlotte, N.C., celebrating the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

Over his 80-year career, Shea produced more than 70 albums of hymns, including nine CDs, the statement said. He has received 10 previous Grammy nominations and one Grammy Award in 1965.

According to The Recording Academy's website, the Lifetime Achievement Award honors lifelong artistic contributions to the recording medium, and is determined by vote of The Recording Academy's national board of trustees. (BP)



Shea



Because the Web was made for more than just singing cartoons and buying stuff.

WESTERN Recorder

**Gallup: More religious equals more healthy**

Washington—Americans who are “very religious” are more likely to practice healthy behaviors than those who are less religious, a Gallup survey shows.

The new findings are based on a survey of more than 550,000 people who were asked about their decisions related to healthy eating, smoking and exercise.

Overall, very religious Americans scored 66.3 on a “healthy behavior index,” compared to 60.6 among the moderately religious and 58.3 among the nonreligious.

The very religious were defined as those who consider religion to be an important part of their daily lives and say they attend worship services at least every week or almost every week.

Researchers found that the nonreligious were 85 percent more likely to be smokers than the very religious.

Gallup said a variety of factors could contribute to the link between religion and healthy living, including Americans following religious doctrine about shunning smoking, alcohol or gluttony.

“It is possible, of course, that the noted relationship between health and religiosity could go in the other direction—that people who are healthier are the most likely to make the decision to be religious,” the organization said in an announcement of its findings last month.

The survey, conducted Jan. 2-July 28, 2010, was the result of a partnership between Gallup and Healthways, a Tennessee company focused on health. (RNS)

**MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI**

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Campbellsville University will hold a Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. memorial service Jan. 19, 7 p.m. at the Ransdell Chapel on campus with **Kevin Cosby**, pastor of St. Stephen Church in Louisville and president of Simmons College of Kentucky, as guest speaker. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call **John Chowning** at (270) 789-5520.

■ **FANCY FARM**—**Jon Allred** recently resigned as pastor of Beulah Church.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—**Nell Bruce**, well known throughout Kentucky for her commitment to prayer ministry, died Dec. 27 at the age of 90. Bruce served several years as a consultant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention’s missions growth team, helping local churches develop and maintain prayer ministries. She also served as a prayer minister for Highview Church in Louisville. Prior to her time in Kentucky, Bruce served in prayer ministries through the Home (now North American) Mission Board and the Tennessee Woman’s Missionary Union. She and her late husband, Paul, were church planting and church pastoral missionaries with the HMB from the mid-

**Spotlight on ...**

**Olmstead**



Dripping Spring Church will hold a “Marvelous Monday” revival service Jan. 17, 6:30 p.m. with Junior Hill as evangelist. Jeff Noffsinger is pastor.

1940s to 1979. Bruce is survived by her two sons, five grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Memorial services were held Dec. 30 at Highview Church.

■ **McDOWELL**—First Church recently called **Slade Stinson** as pastor.

■ **NEWPORT**—First Church recently called **Michael Turner** as pastor.

■ **RICHMOND**—Peytontown Church recently called **Johnathan Tussey** as pastor.

■ **SALYERSVILLE**—**Dustin Sims** recently resigned as pastor of Licking River Church.

■ **SMITH MILLS**—Mount Pleasant Church recently called **John Young**

**Missionaries seeking help for young Taiwan churches**

By Debra Weikel

Taipei, Taiwan—A desperate plea for help is ringing out to churches across the United States. Most churches have not heard the call and others have not considered they could be the answer. Across Taiwan, the church is wavering. The resources are available, but the training and vision are lacking.

International Mission Board missionaries Jim and Brenda Schexnayder are attempting to solve this problem. In 2006, they began working with local Taiwanese churches in leadership development and evangelism training.

“In America, people have a good

background of what a Christian is—but they don’t have that here,” Schexnayder said.

Schexnayder would like U.S. churches to connect and become a direct model for churches in Taiwan. These churches need a good model so they can start to grow.

Jim and Brenda receive numerous requests from churches for help, but their time is limited.

“The American church could come just once or twice per year and partner with one or two local churches by providing advice and materials, as well as just a mirror for the church to see what it should be doing,” Schexnayder said. (BP)

**KBF board officers named**



The Kentucky Baptist Foundation’s board of directors elected its officers for 2010-11 at a meeting last month. This year’s officers are (from left to right) Laurie Valentine, trust council for the KBF, assistant secretary; Barry Allen, KBF president, treasurer; Leigh Jones, a member of Berea Baptist Church, chairman; and Harvey Coggin, a member of Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington, vice chairman. Not pictured is Jan Shockey, a member of St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville, who was elected secretary. (Photo courtesy of Barry Allen)



**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**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.

24-26 Basic Training Journey for Church Planters, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.

28-3/1 Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

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



**+ Your church newsletter**

TWO GREAT PUBLICATIONS, ONE LESS POST OFFICE HEADACHE

**CLASSIFIED ADS**

**To place an advertisement:**

Rates are available upon request.

Call (502) 489-3428;

or visit www.WesternRecorder.org.

Claims made by advertisers are not necessarily those of the Western Recorder’s staff or directors.

**AVAILABLE:** Hello friends. My name is Billy Jones and I love to worship God. He has given me may wonderful ministry gifts (I’ve been in ministry for over 20 years) and I would love to share them with you. Please visit my Website: www.louisvillegospel.com (or call (502) 403-4438); in the search window (upper-right corner), type in “billyjones.” I am Refugee Ministries. Some of my songs may be found down and to the left.

**FOR SALE:** Standard Yamaha ebony Baby Grand. Excellent condition. Call (270) 843-3942 for more information.

**RESOURCES:** Do you need a church pianist? We have piano CDs for churches to sing by. Hymns, Easter, choruses, praise. Special church pricing; free demo. Call Worship Service Resources, (877) 977-6800. www.wsrpianocds.com.

**SEEKING:** Minister of music, Post Oak Baptist Church, Russellville, Ky. Interim or permanent part-time. Send resumé to Jeff White, chairman, 900 Bluegrass Ave., Russellville, KY 42276. (270) 726-6511.

**SEEKING:** Full-time senior pastor for Lancaster Baptist Church, a growing Southern Baptist church near Lexington. Average Sunday attendance: 270. Will minister to a congregation of all ages with strong participation of young adults. LBC seeks a pastor to lead the church in glorifying God by obediently making and equipping fully devoted followers of Christ in Central Kentucky and throughout the world, by the power of the Spirit. Please submit resumé to LBC Pastor Search Team, 201 Richmond St., Lancaster, KY 40444.

**SEEKING:** Pastor of senior adults and shepherd ministries. A detailed job description can be found on our website: www.livinghopewired.com. Click on the “About Us” tab, the “Job Opportunities.” Resumés will be accepted through Jan. 14, 2011. Submit resumés to Living Hope Baptist Church, 1805 Westen St., Bowling Green, KY 42104; or to shepardpastorsearch@lhbg.org.

**SEEKING:** Full-time senior pastor for small rural church in Pembroke, Ky. Approximately 130 enrolled in SS. Send resumé and DVD to Pulpit Committee, Pembroke Baptist Church, PO Box 219, Pembroke, KY 42266.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for Temple Baptist Church, a multi-generational church in central Kentucky. We are prayerfully searching for a man called of God to shepherd God’s flock, who has a strong knowledge of God’s Word, the desire to love and reach out to the community, and the ability to communicate with all ages. Our church embraces the BF&M and all ministries are biblically-based. Seminary degree preferred; prior leadership experience required. Submit resumé to Pastor Search Committee, 1179 Jimtown Road, Springfield, KY 40069; or by e-mail to burns@kywimax.com.

**SEEKING:** Director of missions for Liberty Association of Baptists. The vision of LAB is to assist each church in becoming an Acts 1:8 church, and to assist in strengthening and starting churches. Must be a called man of God, visionary, able to promote unity. Mail resumés to Task Randy Shaw, PO Box 1524, Glasgow, KY 42142; or e-mail to rand@cbcglasgow.com with DOM in subject line. Deadline: Jan. 31, 2011.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of music. Job description on website at www.horsecavebaptistchurch.com. Please e-mail resumé to hcb@scrtc.com; or fax: (270) 786-4650. Deadline is Jan. 28, 2011.

**SEEKING:** Part-time children’s and youth minister at Willow Baptist, a growing rural church with desire to grow current children’s and youth ministries. Lots of potential to grow. Interested candidates should submit resumé to Pastor Mark Ketron at mketron@hotmail.com; or mail to 2535 Powersville-Willow Road, Brooksville, KY 41004; or call (859) 462-2028.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor of students for 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.

## Approaching a new year with prayer

With the dawn of a new year comes an array of emotions, hopes, fears and much anticipation. For about 10 days to two weeks around Jan. 1, we are constantly coming in contact with resolutions of all types for the New Year.

### FIRST PERSON

Personally, I am one who strongly believes in setting goals. I need a destination point—a point that I can look toward and work to achieve over a given period of time. My assumption is that this is true for many; and it carries over into organizations of just about any type. Whether it is a church, a school, or a civic group, goals help to discipline us and move us toward outcomes that make a difference for others.

One of my favorite people is Coach Jack Lengyel. Jack and his wife, Sandy, are two very remarkable people. They now live in Phoenix, Ariz. Some of you may recognize the name. He was an interim athletic director at Eastern Kentucky University several years ago and served as associate athletic director at the University of Louisville. He is a widely recognized leader for integrity and character development in sports.



Michael Carter

Coach Lengyel was also the head football coach who came to Marshall University in 1971 shortly after the terrible plane crash that killed the entire football team, many university officials and football supporters who had traveled with the team to East Carolina on Nov. 14, 1970.

On the way back home, the DC-9 crashed on approach to the Tri-State Airport, which is just outside of Huntington, close to Ashland, in the town of Kenova, W.Va. Seventy-five people lost their lives and all of college football, Marshall University, the City of Huntington and surrounding towns, the State of West Virginia and the country mourned this tragedy—the worst in the history of NCAA sports.

Jack and Sandy came to Huntington, and his task was to rebuild the football program—from scratch. Jack was not a Christian when he came to Huntington, but not long after arriving, he found himself so overwhelmed with the task at hand that he turned to a local parish priest, and the priest led him to know Jesus Christ as Savior.

Jack's story is a remarkable one—so much so that the movie, "We Are Marshall," was made several years ago about the courage that he and others lived out to put a university, a city, and all the friends and supporters back together after this nightmare.

The past two fall semesters, we at Campbellsville University invited Jack and Sandy to share their rather remarkable journey with us. Jack spoke to multiple groups on campus during both visits, and he charged us his going rate for friends of Marshall: \$1.

During each presentation to our

students, he encouraged them to set their goals and commit to living a life that has purpose and service to others. He told every student to carry a note card and on that card they need to have their personal mission statement and goals. He urged them to read it every day.

His message is, if you will take time to make your mission statement and goals a matter of prayer, part of your spiritual life, God will use them in remarkable ways. He told our students: "You will never get to where you want to go, if you don't know where it is you're going!"

Frequently, I talk with Jack either by phone or e-mails. He is one of my heroes for many reasons, but for one personal one. My wife, Debbie, and I were students at Marshall when he was working to rebuild the football program.

We both lived just a few miles from where the plane crashed that terrible foggy night in November 1970. I saw his determination, his compassion, his grit, his "never-say-die attitude," his love for a community and for young people. His personality is one you don't forget.

I think God places people like Jack Lengyel in our paths. The question is: Do we notice, do we learn, do we grow, or do we ignore and focus on selfish attentions?

One of my favorite books is a small classic text on prayer by John Coburn. It is titled "Prayer and Personal Religion" and has been reproduced numerous times. Coburn suggests that prayer for most people moves through three stages: first, "O God, help me, or someone I love;" second, "O God, forgive me;" and third, "O God, thank you."

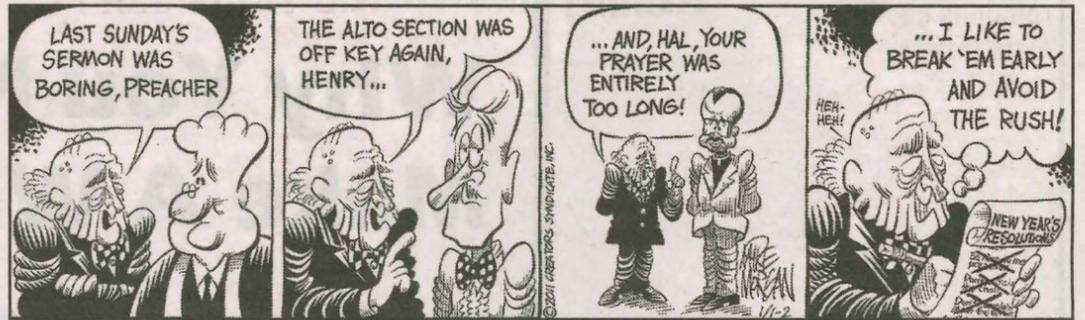
For most of us, we can resonate quickly with this three-stage progression. I know that in the case of Coach Lengyel, he openly speaks of how these three stages were lived out in dramatic form in his life. Today Coach Lengyel travels and speaks as part of his "giving back" for what God has done for him.

You see, Coach Lengyel learned the very lesson that Jesus taught: "If you want to find your life, you must lay your life down in service to others" (Matthew 10:39).

So as we all consider our options for this new year, my prayer is that you will begin this year with prayer. Maybe that prayer will be John Coburn's "O God, help me or help the one or ones who I love." Then lay your own shortcomings before the Lord, "O Lord, forgive, rid me of my selfishness, help me to be humble in all things." Then come to the point where you can say, "O God, thank you," realizing that even in the midst of tragedy, we must ask God through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit to come and guide us, in each of our situations.

Michael Carter is president of Campbellsville University.

## For Heaven's Sake



Mike Morgan

## Preacher's Kids

David Ayers



## Bible Crosswords

By Rebecca Souder

### Across

- 1 Stepped
- 5 "Though ye \_\_\_ not me, believe the works" (John 10:38)
- 11 "His own \_\_\_ him not" (John 1:11)
- 13 Spoke
- 14 Bone, prefix
- 15 "A man sent from \_\_\_" (John 1:6)
- 17 Tissue plasminogen interceptor, abbr.
- 18 Seventh note of the musical scale
- 19 Doctor of Theology, abbr.
- 20 "The express \_\_\_ of his person" (Hebrews 1:3)
- 22 Head, abbr.
- 23 Salvation Army, abbr.
- 24 Nickel, chem. symbol
- 25 "He gave his \_\_\_ begotten Son" (John 3:16)
- 27 The, Sp.
- 29 Preposition
- 31 "\_\_\_ gave names to all cattle" (Genesis 2:20)
- 33 "The \_\_\_ is the world" (Matthew 13:38)
- 35 "The Word \_\_\_ with God" (John 1:1)
- 37 French article
- 38 Canadian province, abbr.
- 40 New Testament, abbr.
- 41 "Full of \_\_\_ and truth" (John 1:14)
- 44 "\_\_\_ no man any thing" (Romans 13:8)
- 47 Not down
- 48 "To whom be glory for \_\_\_" (2 Timothy 4:18)
- 49 "Go ye into all the \_\_\_" (Mark 16:15)

1	2	3	4		5	6		7	8	9	10
11			12					13			
14					15	16		17			
18			19		20			21			
22			23		24			25		26	
	27	28			29			30			
31			32		33			34			
		35		36				37		38	39
			40		41	42			43		
44	45	46		47				48			
49			50		51			52			
	53					54	55			56	
	57				58					59	

- 51 "Jesus \_\_\_ the Christ" (John 20:31)
- 52 That is, Lat. abbr.
- 53 Spirited
- 54 Spares
- 57 Doctor of Science, abbr.
- 58 "Sat down on the right \_\_\_ of the Majesty" (Hebrews 1:3)
- 59 "Tempted like as we are, \_\_\_ without sin" (Hebrews 4:15)
- 21 "\_\_\_ ye therefore, and teach all nations" (Matthew 28:19)
- 26 "Behold the \_\_\_ of God!" (John 1:36)
- 28 "The \_\_\_ was given by Moses" (John 1:17)
- 29 "How shall ye believe, \_\_\_ I tell you of heavenly things?" (John 3:12)
- 30 Widemouthed pot
- 31 "Truly ye bear witness that ye \_\_\_ the deeds of your father" (Luke 11:48)
- 32 Name for Christ: the Son of \_\_\_
- 34 "Neither was any \_\_\_ in his mouth" (Isaiah 53:9)
- 36 "\_\_\_ to shew thyself approved" (2 Timothy 2:15)
- 39 The Anointed One
- 42 "After that he was \_\_\_ from the dead" (John 21:14)
- 43 "So is \_\_\_ one that is born of the Spirit" (John 3:8)
- 45 "The \_\_\_ was made flesh" (John 1:14)
- 46 Historic periods
- 50 Numbering system for library books, abbr.
- 55 Ex dividend, abbr.
- 56 Of age, Lat. abbr.

### Down

- 1 Pledge
- 2 Dwelled
- 3 Fall month, abbr.
- 4 "Put off the old man with his \_\_\_" (Colossians 3:9)
- 5 "In the \_\_\_ was the Word" (John 1:1)
- 6 Doeg was from this tribe (1 Samuel 21:7)
- 7 Exists
- 8 "I have never \_\_\_ any thing that is common or unclean" (Acts 10:14)
- 9 Very important person, abbr.
- 10 "Let us therefore follow after the things ... wherewith one may \_\_\_ another" (Romans 14:19)
- 12 Infinitesimal amount
- 16 District attorney, abbr.

### Last week's solution

1	W	A	T	E	R	5	O	F	6	L	I	F	8
9	O	B	E	D	C	10	B	I	11	V			
12	R	I	M	C	A	R	N	I	V	O	R	E	
16	T	R	A	P	M	A	E	I	19	E	R		
20	H	A	N	S	O	N	I	O	H	S			
	M	Y	S	G	23	G	A	L	A				
	A	C	T	26	H	E							
29	30	I	G	H	31	C	A	B	S	32	B	I	T
33	T	R	I	O	B	L	O	T	U	N	I		
36	R	A	L	L	Y	37	E	R	E	Y	N		
	O	E	O	B	39								
42	43	44	G	R	A	45	46	47	48	N	E		
49	L	I	L	V	50	R	A	R	E	51	G	O	D

Smile! In upcoming issues, the Western Recorder will showcase photos of people and events from our Kentucky Baptist churches, such as member recognitions, ministerial ordinations, significant anniversaries, sanctuary dedications, and missions projects. Submit photos by e-mail or through our web site at [www.westernrecorder.org/info/submit-items](http://www.westernrecorder.org/info/submit-items).



# Why You Need To Make A Will

---

## **Making a Will allows you to choose who will receive your assets and how and when they will receive them after your death**

Will distribution provisions can include specific bequests of particular assets or amounts, as well as general bequests of personal property and the residue of your estate

## **Making a Will allows you to provide for special needs of your beneficiaries**

Children or grandchildren may be too young and other beneficiaries may not be capable of managing what you want to leave to them. A trust provision in your Will may be just the answer—the beneficiary will receive the benefits of your gift (income and principal also, if you wish) without the burden of its management

## **Making a Will allows *you* to name an executor for your estate**

An executor determines what you own at your death, settles your final debts, files final tax returns and then distributes your estate. If you do not make a Will, the court and your heirs will select an executor. This may cause delays in getting the estate open and in handling certain matters that may arise during the estate administration process

## **And, Most Importantly. . .**

## **Making a Will enables you to practice your Christian stewardship beyond your lifetime**

Give back to God a Portion of that with which he has so richly blessed you by including a bequest to one or more Christian causes of a tithe of the date of death value of your estate, a designated asset, or share of the residue of your estate

*To learn more:*

*Visit [www.kentuckybaptistfoundation.org](http://www.kentuckybaptistfoundation.org) and click on "Estate Planning" or go directly to the Estate Plan Organizer at [www.kentuckybaptistfoundation.org/epo](http://www.kentuckybaptistfoundation.org/epo). The Estate Plan Organizer will take you through the estate planning process quickly and easily in about 30 minutes.*

---

Barry G. Allen, President  
Laurie W. Valentine, Trust Counsel

Kentucky Baptist Foundation  
P O Box 436389  
Louisville KY 40253-6389

866-489-3533 (toll-free, KY only)

[www.kybaptistfoundation.org](http://www.kybaptistfoundation.org)  
[www.facebook.com/KentuckyBaptistFoundation](http://www.facebook.com/KentuckyBaptistFoundation)

