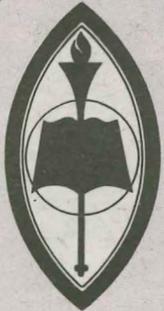


Shine like stars in the world
Philippians 2:15

WESTERN Recorder

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WMU Kentucky Notes



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FOR THE RECORD

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Unique Treasures

Unlike some, Chinese Christians cherish Bibles

By Caroline Anderson
International Mission Board

Southeast Asia—The Chinese man leans against the pier railing, pouring over the Bible he just received in a red packet.

He ignores his wife's pleas to hurry. He slowly turns to the boat, reading as he walks, so engrossed that he misses his dinner boat cruise departure.

It's Chinese New Year and this man is spending it on vacation in Southeast Asia with thousands of other Chinese tourists. More than 50 mission volunteers from six states and two countries are spending this holiday distributing Mandarin Bibles through the Southern Cross Project, a Bible distribution ministry in Asia.

The volunteers hand out a Bible and a red packet filled with Christian literature and the "JESUS" film to Chinese people on vacation. While Bibles are easier to obtain in China than in years past, they still must be purchased through government-sanctioned bookstores. How-



Paul Cox, a Southern Cross Project volunteer from Pulaski, Va., hands a Bible to a Chinese mother and son who are vacationing in Asia for the Chinese New Year.

ever, Chinese traveling abroad are allowed to bring Bibles back with them.

This is one of the best times of the year to pass out Bibles in vacation spots throughout Asia. The Chinese Lunar New Year—or Spring Fes-

tival as it's known in China—is the most important holiday for the Chinese. It marks the beginning of a new year and falls on a different day every year based on the lunar and solar calendar. This year it was celebrated on Feb. 3.

The new year is a time to put away and sweep out the old, and bring in the new. It also is a time for visiting family and ushering in wealth, happiness and prosperity.

Most Chinese give "hong bao," or See Chinese Christians ... Page 6

Sharing Christ and planting churches in the heartland

By Mickey Noah
North American Mission Board

North Platte, Neb.—There are local Southern Baptist associations and then there is Oregon Trail Baptist Association in Nebraska, where missionary Doug Lee works to plant new churches. His association takes up the whole western half of Nebraska. Lee is jointly funded by the North American Mission Board and the Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists.

For the last 12 years, 58-year-old Doug—supported by his wife, Brenda—has served as director of missions for the vast association, based in North Platte, Neb. Geographically, Oregon Trail Association is huge—spanning an area of 400 miles by 200 miles.

WEEK OF PRAYER Husband-and-wife missionary team Doug and Brenda Lee live in North Platte, Neb. A North American Mission Board missionary, Doug serves as regional associational missionary and church planting strategist for Oregon Trail Baptist Association in Nebraska. (Photo by John Swain/NAMB)

To the east, there are farming communities. Ranching is king in the northwest—the Sandy Hills region—the western panhandle and in the southwest corner of Nebraska.

North Platte, where the Lees are based, is the sixth largest city in Nebraska, but only has 24,000 people. The only other "major" cities in the Oregon Trail Association are Grand Island and Kearney.

"We range from very desolate places to little tiny towns to North Platte," said Lee, who typically puts 60,000 ministry miles a year on his Toyota Camry.

On Thursdays, he and Brenda make the 300-mile trek to lead a Bible study in Hastings. Every Sunday night, the couple travels 100 miles round trip to Ogallala, where Lee is pastor of Ogallala Community Church. During harsh Nebraska winters, he drives through blowing snow on icy roads with temperatures as low as 25 degrees below zero.

"One of the biggest challenges we face out here in western Nebraska is distance," Lee said, "not just See NAMB missionary ... Page 7

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A cooperative effort

'Find It Here' effort inspires Nelson Baptists to plant new churches

By Kristie Randolph
Kentucky Baptist Convention

New Haven—Members of Nelson Baptist Association churches were aware that the New Haven area was spiritually underserved, but it wasn't until last spring they realized just how great the need was.

While mapping their evangelistic outreach during the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Find It Here campaign last year, the group discovered the community in southeastern Nelson County only had two active Kentucky Baptist Convention-affiliated churches, and that the combined membership of those churches totaled little more than 100 members, according to Matthew Spandler-Davison, pastor of Bardstown Christian Fellowship.

"Find It Here highlighted that this was an area that needed our help, and it opened our eyes to the opportunity for churches to cooperate," Spandler-Davison said. "The area is larger than the two churches have the capacity to reach."

Nearly one year after the campaign, churches in Nelson Baptist Association still are enjoying the fruit of partnerships created during Find It Here and now are working together to carry out an intense church-planting strategy, according to Stan Lowery, the association's director of missions.

Lowery said the association has set a goal to plant 10 churches in five years. The plan currently includes the New Haven area, two other communities within the association and even two outside of Kentucky.

"The association was already moving toward a church-planting strategy, but Find It Here helped speed up our process," Lowery said. "Both our leadership and laypeople saw the need for more churches."

"Another blessing from Find It Here was the cooperative spirit between churches that developed," the DOM added. "It's been exciting to watch our churches see the benefits of working together. There's a true kingdom focus."

As the planting pastor for Bardstown Christian Fellowship, Spandler-Davison said he is familiar with the challenges facing a new church, as well as the need for partnerships. Now, as leader of Nelson Association's church planting and evangelism team, Spandler-Davison is guiding his congregation and other local churches in their partnership with the existing New Haven churches—First Baptist Church of New Haven and Rolling Fork Baptist Church.

"Find It Here ignited a vision for this. We are getting a view of the bigger picture, and we're drawing on that spirit to reach New Haven," he said. "We want to come alongside the evangelistic efforts of the existing churches. Our goal is the gospel."

Currently, there are six churches planning to participate in Crossover New Haven, an outreach leading up to Easter, Spandler-Davison said. The efforts will include a raccoon hunt, prayerwalking, car show, revival services, gospel distribution and promotion of churches' Easter Sunday services.

Spandler-Davison said he is hopeful that in the next three years, the association will have a core team and a church planter preparing to start the church.

In addition to the New Haven effort, churches in the association are supporting two local church plants, as well as two others outside of the commonwealth. All of the efforts are in keeping with the spirit of partnership, Lowery explained.

Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Shepherdsville is sponsoring Maranatha Community Fellowship, a new work in Shepherdsville that be-



REALIZATION While planning for prayerwalking efforts similar to this one during last year's Find It Here efforts, members of Nelson Baptist Association churches realized some areas of their communities were largely underserved by Kentucky Baptist churches. The awareness has prompted a new church-planting movement within the association. (File photo)

gan meeting in January and now has 26 people involved.

"We're a church to the unchurched, that's our theme," said Ron Lasley, missions pastor at Pleasant Grove. "We want to reach those who have been turned off by church and those who have never been to a church."

Bardstown Baptist Church is sponsoring a Hispanic work, along with financial partners Parkway Baptist Church and Bardstown Christian Fellowship. Averaging a dozen participants, Iglesia Bautista Bardstown currently meets Tuesday nights at Bardstown Baptist's facility, said Dylan Mays, senior pastor of the host church.

Outside Kentucky, Bardstown Christian Fellowship recently commissioned its youth minister, Geoff Kujawa, to plant a church in Toldeo, Ohio.

Additionally, through the KBC's Go Metro USA initiative, Nelson Baptists will assist a church planter in Pittsburgh. Go Metro USA is a church-planting project that matches partnering Kentucky Baptist associations with church planters in metropolitan areas of states outside the Bible Belt. Nelson Association volunteers will work to support the plant in Pittsburgh through prayerwalking, backyard Bible clubs and vacation Bible schools, ministry evangelism, gospel distribution and more.

Details on Go Metro USA can be found at www.KyBaptist.org/GoMetro.

Even as excitement grows for their church-planting efforts, congregations in Nelson Baptist Association still are seeking to reach their own communities with the gospel. Many are planning to participate in the KBC's 2011 Find it Here campaign, Lowery said.

"They had such a good experience last year and were really moved by what they saw happen," he said. "The feedback from last year's campaign has been very positive, and it has helped our people to get outside of the church."

This year's Find It Here campaign challenges Kentucky Baptists to a 21-day period of prayer and fasting for three lost friends or family members, followed by delivery of a copy of selected scriptures to them, as well as an invitation to attend a local church.

Kentucky Baptists also will be delivering the "marked" scripture portions to communities not reached by the initial effort in 2010, including nursing homes, assisted living facilities, prisons and college campuses.

To learn more about Find It Here, visit www.KyBaptist.org/FindItHere, call (502) 489-3528, or toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3528.

Mackey honored



Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Bill Mackey (left) receives congratulations from California pastor Roger Spradlin (right), chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, as Executive Committee President Frank Page looks on. Mackey, who will retire May 31 as KBC executive director, was presented with a copy of a resolution of appreciation passed by the committee last week. (Photo by Morris Abernathy/BP)

SBC Exec. Committee passes resolution of appreciation for retiring KBC leader

Nashville, Tenn.—The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee passed a resolution of appreciation for retiring Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Bill Mackey at its meeting last week.

The 734-word resolution expressed "gratitude to God for the life and ministry" of Mackey, who retires May 31 after 13 years as executive director of the convention. Mackey was presented a copy of the resolution from Frank Page, inaugurated the day before as the sixth SBC Executive Committee president.

The resolution mentioned sev-

eral highlights of Mackey's tenure with the KBC, including national and international missions partnerships, a \$4 million increase in Cooperative Program giving by Kentucky Baptists, and the reorganization of the KBC Mission Board staff to better serve the commonwealth's churches.

The committee also noted Mackey's leadership during periods of transition in Baptist life such as the passage of the Baptist Faith and Message 2000, the KBC's relationship with Georgetown College, and last year's work of the Kentucky Great Commission Task Force.

Lexington pastor, former KBC staffer Jim McGee dies at 74

Lexington—Jim McGee, pastor of East Hickman Baptist Church in Lexington and a former Kentucky Baptist Convention staff member, died Feb. 23. He was 74.

"Jim was my friend, my mentor, my grandfather-in-law, and it has been a great honor to work alongside him for the past two years," said Drew Lee, director of youth at East Hickman Baptist. "He brought revival to this area of Tates Creek (Road). As soon as he got here, things started happening."

McGee answered the call to lead East Hickman in January 2009, Lee said. Within a year, McGee began a campaign to build a new addition that would provide neighborhood children a safe and fun place to learn about Jesus Christ. The project was realized last November when an anonymous donor gave East Hickman \$82,000—meeting the church's goal of \$100,000 in record time.

"We are so glad he got to see that happen," said Pauline Rhineheimer, crisis committee chair at East Hickman. "Bro. Jim became such a strong part of our lives and we definitely were not ready to let him go."

McGee was "an asset to the king-

dom" during his time as a KBC church development strategist, said Alan Witham, leader of the KBC's church development team. "He had a passion for Sunday school. He did a lot to help churches get back to the basics of Sunday school work."

McGee also was a strong advocate for starting new churches, Witham said. With McGee's help, Master's Church in Lexington launched in 2004 as the convention's first High Impact church, a congregation strategically located in an area without a strong evangelical presence.

In addition to his three years of service with the KBC, McGee, a native of Eddyville, served as minister of education at Central Baptist Church, in Corbin and at Porter Memorial Baptist Church and Rosemont Baptist Church, both in Lexington.

McGee is survived by his wife, Sue, two daughters and five grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Feb. 26 at Porter Memorial Baptist Church. Memorial contributions are suggested to Campus Crusade for Christ or the East Hickman Baptist Church building fund.

State execs agree to work toward 50/50 CP allocation

By Tim Yarbrough
Arkansas Baptist News

Williamsburg, Va.—State convention executive directors unanimously agreed to affirm a portion of the Great Commission Resurgence report requesting a 50/50 division of Cooperative Program receipts—after consideration for shared ministry funds—between state conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention.

Frank Page, SBC Executive Committee president, announced the agreement in his report during the last week's committee session.

State convention executive directors agreed to the 50/50 move during their annual meeting Feb. 14-17 in Williamsburg, Va., said Emil Turner, executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and president of the Fellowship of State Executive Directors.

Turner emphasized that state executive directors felt it important to make a statement to affirm their "strong support" of the Cooperative Program in light of the approval of the GCR report by SBC messengers last June.

"State conventions are already in this thing," Turner said. "Several years ago state executive directors agreed to get more money to the Executive Committee. ... Since then, we have all been working together to make that a reality."

The concept of shared ministry funds "has strong historic roots," Turner said, referencing the establishment of the Cooperative Program in 1925. Shared ministry funds differ between state conventions, but include monies set aside for various state-supported ministries. Shared ministry fund allocations are not counted as a part of the 50/50 CP allocation forwarded to the SBC.

Page, addressing the Executive Committee meeting Feb. 22, said the state execs' affirmation of a 50/50 CP allocation represents "a quantum shift in methodology," while acknowledging that "it will take time for some conventions to achieve the goal."

The execs share a commitment "to do more to reach the nations for Christ, and there's not a state executive director here or not here that doesn't want to do that," Page said.

On Feb. 21, the Great Commission Council, which is composed of presidents of SBC entities, voted unanimously to affirm the executive directors' agreement, and after Page's address, the Executive Committee also voted to affirm the milestone.

Turner called the move historic. "What makes it significant is that it is the first time state execs and the Executive Committee have agreed on the principles of shared ministry items," he said.

State conventions are free to set their own timeline for realization of the 50/50 CP allocation, Turner noted.

David Hankins, executive director of the Louisiana Baptist Convention and former vice president in charge of CP promotion at the SBC Executive Committee, said state conventions as a whole send a larger percentage of their receipts to the SBC today than they have in previous years.

The average in 2009 was 38 percent, compared to 37 percent in the 1980s and 1990s, said Hankins, who researched data from SBC annuals.

"The last 10 years it has inched upward about 1.5 percent in SBC's favor," Hankins said. "We are headed to a 39-40 percent range for SBC, and that's in a time when (the) percentage from churches continues to decline rapidly." (BP)

SBC Exec. Committee proposes funding cut

Convention messengers to vote on reduction at annual meeting in June

By Bob Allen

Nashville, Tenn.—The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention will ask messengers at this year's annual meeting to reduce its own share of the Cooperative Program budget by two-tenths of a percent in the first step of a seven-year process proposed by the agency's new president to move toward a "historically appropriate" level of 2.4 percent CP allocation for administration.

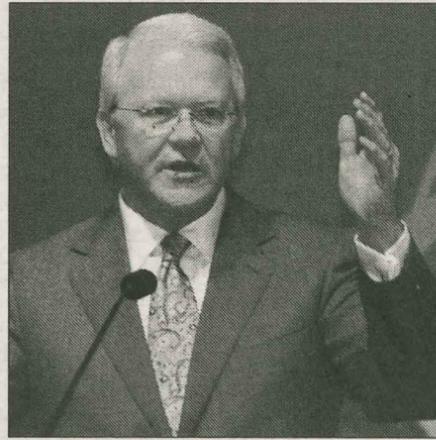
SBC Executive Committee President Frank Page urged committee members to support his vision for modeling "a Christ-like selflessness" to build trust in the struggling denomination.

"I met with one of our groups yesterday, and I said, 'You know, every wonderful ministry that has come before you today needs more money,'" Page told committee members involved in the process of building a budget to propose at this year's SBC annual meeting in Phoenix.

"And they do," he said. "The Executive Committee doesn't. Not only do we not need more, we are going to operate on less."

Page, who has been on the job for five months, already has reduced the EC staff by 19 percent.

In 2011-12 the Executive Committee is proposing a new SBC operating budget reduced from the current 3.4 percent CP allocation it has received since assuming responsibility for stewardship education and promotion in 2007 to a 3.2 percent level.



'HISTORICALLY APPROPRIATE' Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee President Frank Page unveils his Vision 2020 program, part of which involves a recommendation to reduce the EC's share of Cooperative Program dollars by 0.2 percent next year. (Photo by Morris Abernathy/BP)

el. The International Mission Board, meanwhile, would see its share of the Cooperative Program pie increase from 50 percent to 50.2 percent in the coming year.

The transfer is less than a recommendation last year by the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force that called for reducing the Executive Committee allocation by a full 1 percent while increasing the IMB portion to 51 percent as a symbolic reordering of denominational priorities.

The Executive Committee recommendation, to be presented at the SBC annual meeting June 14-15 in Phoenix, expresses hope for further reducing the Executive Committee's allocation in years to come and also encourages trustee boards of SBC seminaries and the North American Mis-

sion Board to consider likewise voluntarily adjusting their allotments in favor of international missions.

Page recommended the budget cut as part of a decade-long program called Vision 2020 aimed at restoring trust and celebrating methodological and generational differences while affirming the doctrine of biblical inerrancy.

The Executive Committee also considered another GCR recommendation to change the IMB's ministry assignment to allow it to work with international people groups within the United States. IMB trustees already have voted to request the change, but the Executive Committee opted to hold off on a final recommendation until its meeting prior to the annual meeting in June to allow more time for conversation between the IMB and NAMB.

Both mission boards, along with the Executive Committee, are going through leadership transitions. For that reason, leaders said, the various entities need more time to work out details, but they already agree in principle about the two organizations working in concert.

The total SBC budget being recommended by the Executive Committee is \$186 million. The current budget is just less than \$200 million. Last year the convention took in \$191 million through the Cooperative Program. Through January, receipts were lagging 3 percent behind the same time period last year.

The 2.4 percent benchmark for the SBC operating budget proposed by Page would return the Executive Committee to roughly the CP allocation it received until the Southern Baptist Foundation was transferred to its control in a denominational restructuring in 1996. (ABP)

Page presents 'Vision 2020,' decade-long plan for SBC

By Erin Roach

Nashville, Tenn.—Frank Page, president of the Executive Committee, cast a "Christ-centered, Bible-based" vision Feb. 22 for how Southern Baptists can work with God to accomplish His purposes in North America and around the world during the next decade.

Though he has come to a new leadership position during an economic downturn that has impacted the convention, Page said he doesn't want Southern Baptists to adopt a mentality of retreat.

"As we all know, our convention over the last decades has taken a stand for biblical inerrancy," Page said. "But I believe that now a unified understanding and a call for an affirmation of an inerrant, infallible word of God shall lead us to an even greater obedience of that word. I believe that is where we need to be focusing now."

First, Page said he wants to see the International Mission Board receive more support than it has received in its history.

"I'm not satisfied with just every unreached people group hearing the gospel in some way that they're reachable," Page noted. "I want us to reach them with the gospel."

Page also expressed support for the North American Mission Board and said he wants to see each person on the continent reached for Christ through evangelistic church planting and encouragement of existing churches.

Another component of the vision is for Southern Baptists to recommit to "quality, Bible-based, Christ-centered theological education."

Also within Vision 2020 are principles of operation, Page said, starting with the

principles of trust, honesty and integrity.

"For too long there has been suspicion, turf protection and kingdom building," Page said. "It is time for us to rebuild trust; that when we say something, we accept each other's word as the truth. ... I promise you that I'm going to do everything in my power to rebuild in this convention a covenant of trust."

"I believe it's time for us as brothers and sisters to be honest with each other and not to hide our feelings (or) our thoughts, that which we think may not be acceptable or even agreeable," he added.

"I want our world as well as our own people to be able to trust that which is

said, that which is written and that which is even intimated," Page continued. "I want us to be able to so have principles and persons of integrity at the helm that we know that they are speaking the truth and not trying to obfuscate in any way."

Page also pledged a principle of intergenerational appreciation and understanding in which Southern Baptists appreciate what has worked in the past and understand the present realities, while showing sensitivity to the future.

Page said these principles resonate as what Southern Baptists must do if they're going to see God's work accomplished in this decade. (BP)

In other Executive Committee business...

No biennial meetings—The committee recommended against changing from an annual meeting to holding its convention every other year. Responding to a motion from last year's convention to move from an annual to biennial gathering, the EC said the change would save several hundred thousands of dollars, but would create numerous constitutional problems. "Southern Baptists are not a hierarchical group and therefore need to meet annually to discern the will of the messengers through God's leading to effectively and efficiently facilitate our cooperative mission endeavors to reach a lost and dying world with the gospel of Jesus Christ," convention leaders said. Other reasons cited in the motion are that SBC bylaws require annual ministry and financial reports.

Alliance member churches safe—The committee decided that membership in a group that welcomes and affirms gays does not automatically disqualify a church from participation in the Southern Baptist Convention. Two years ago the SBC expelled a Texas church for violating a membership requirement banning churches that "affirm, approve or endorse homosexual behavior." Last year, a motion was referred to the EC to take similar action against churches that choose to affiliate with the Alliance of Baptists, an organization that has adopted statements supporting gay marriage and welcomes members regardless of sexual identity. Convention leaders said it would be unwise to disqualify a church simply because the alliance claims it as a member.

Encouraged and concerned

Following recent meetings with fellow executive directors and the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, I find myself both encouraged and concerned.

Partners in the Mission

By Bill Mackey

LifeWay Christian Resources, the International Mission Board, the North American Mission Board, GuideStone and the SBC president all shared reports at the State Executive Directors Fellowship.

I am very encouraged by the leadership that Frank Page is providing for the SBC Executive Committee and Southern Baptists. In collaboration with state Cooperative Program and stewardship leaders, he has proposed a new national plan for promoting CP. The plan has been unanimously affirmed by SBC entity leaders and state executive directors.

I am also encouraged by the nomination of Tom Elliff as president of the International Mission Board. He has the leadership and missionary experience and respect of Southern Baptists to provide a strategic and compelling direction for international missions.

One of the most challenging leadership roles in Southern Baptist life today is at the North American Mission Board. NAMB President Kevin Ezell needs the support and prayers of all Southern Baptists as he provides visionary and strategic leadership. I am encouraged by his priority focus on church planting, especially in the nontraditional Baptist areas of North America.

My concern, however, is that funding will be shifted from new work state conventions to church planting. These state conventions will then lack funding for church development and work in other vital ministry areas.

Thom Rainer, president of LifeWay Christian Resources, shared that he expects churches will continue to feel the results of the economic recession for more than two years.

It was out of this concern about slow economic recovery that the SBC Executive Committee recommended that the shift of 1 percent of its budget to the IMB as called for by the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force report be implemented over time rather than all at once. The Executive Committee voted to shift two-tenths of a percent this year.

My concern is that the KBC is dealing with a significant shift of about \$1.3 million from KBC mission causes to SBC mission causes as well as the reduction in church receipts due to the recession. I want to appeal to Kentucky Baptists to remain faithful in financial support of their local churches so their churches can remain faithful and generous in support of missions through the Cooperative Program.

The KBC Mission Board and state entities have already made reductions to shift funds to SBC missions. If the present CP trend continues, the KBC Mission Board and entities will experience additional reductions in missions and ministries that will be significant. It is my hope and prayer that Kentucky Baptists can reverse this trend through faithful and generous support of their churches.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Offering basic training for Kentucky's church planters

About 70 church planters received some essential "basic training" this past week for starting churches in Kentucky. Led by KBC Missions Growth Team leader Larry Baker and KBC Church Development Team leader Alan Witham, they were encouraged to plant churches that will plant more churches. They also were pointed toward some crucial mileposts to gauge progress in reaching a preferred vision that glorifies God and is right for the place and the people.

While the content of the three-day "Basic Training Journey"—offered in the spring and the fall, both in English and Spanish—will no doubt prove invaluable, just as beneficial will be the prayer support, encouragement and insights of those who are on the same journey. And, it was invigorating to hear of some of the new works that are being launched across our state:

Tracey Royalty of Lawrenceburg recently led in starting Sovereign Grace Church. Originally from Wilkesburg, Royalty was associate pastor at First Baptist Church when he sensed that God "just really put a passion on my heart" for beginning a church. "It's been a lot of work—not all easy—but it has been joy filled in fulfilling what God has called us to do," he said.

Sovereign Grace held its first service on Dec. 8 in the basement of a team member's house with a core group of about 25, but about a month ago they moved into a theater in West Park Shopping Center. "Our vision is to be a people who actually go out into the community and meet people's needs, and through doing that try to meet their greatest need—that's hearing the gospel," Royalty said.

Shawn Edwards, pastor of Hebron Baptist Church, near the Cincinnati airport, attended the seminar with fellow staff members Dale Campbell and Chris Flora to explore how their church can be involved in planting churches. Through participating in a "Thy Kingdom Come" study conducted by KBC staff member Richard Adams, Hebron has identified starting a new congregation as a possible goal because of the area's rapidly growing population, Edwards said.

Flora noted that the average age of people within a five mile radius of Hebron Baptist Church is 34, and the

community is expected to approach 20,000 by 2015. Located in the state's fastest growing county, Flora noted that "as far as our market share, if we average 350 people on a Sunday, that's only 0.5 percent of the population, which means there are plenty of people who we are not reaching."

Campbell is excited about the possibilities. Once a mission of a nearby church, the Hebron congregation is now 50 years old and at a point in its history where "it just seems like a natural step to begin looking around us to see where a good place for another church would be and to begin praying for that," he said.

For Edwards, though, one start is only a beginning. "I am hoping and praying that, by the Lord's will, many church starts can originate out of what God is doing in and through Hebron Baptist and Northern Kentucky Baptist Association," he said. "It's needs to happen."

Vincent Rivera of Consolidated Baptist Spanish in Lexington attended the Hispanic sessions. Rivera, a chaplain who worked with 53 area horse farms for more than four years, has discovered that many of the 70,000 Hispanics working on thoroughbred farms in a five-county area are unchurched. He hosts a radio program on 1440 AM called Radio Vida to reach them.

A native of Mexico City, Rivera, earlier served as a minister at two racetracks in Illinois. He was working with a ministry to the homeless, when Consolidated Baptist, an African American congregation, approached him about leading services for Hispanics. The services now are drawing 65 adults and 18 children.

Grant and Gina Hasty launched a new church, Crossroads Community, this past Sunday in McCreary County at a former restaurant. In coming weeks, Crossroads anticipates opening a soup kitchen since more than 50 percent of the area's children live in poverty, Hasty said. Crossroads also will be coordinating the work of about 400 volunteers on 12 mission teams who will be coming this summer to assist with home repairs.

For individuals and churches, the Basic Training Journey provides not only critical skills and essential information to help them be successful in planting a church, but also forms some prayer partners for much-needed encouragement along the way.

After Thought

By Todd Deaton

**The Christian divorce rate myth**

By Glenn Stanton

"Christians divorce at roughly the same rate as the world!" It's one of the most quoted stats by Christian leaders today. And it's perhaps one of the most inaccurate.

Based on the best data, the divorce rate among Christians is significantly lower than the general population.

Here's the truth ...

Many people who seriously practice a traditional religious faith—be it Christian or other—have a divorce rate markedly lower than the general population.

The factor making the most difference is religious commitment and practice. Couples who regularly practice any combination of serious religious behaviors and attitudes—attend church nearly every week, read their Bibles and spiritual materials regularly; pray privately and together; generally take their faith seriously, living not as perfect disciples, but serious disciples—enjoy significantly lower divorce rates than mere church members, the general public and unbelievers.

Professor Bradley Wright, a sociologist at the University of Connecticut, explains from his analysis

of people who identify as Christians but rarely attend church, that 60 percent of these have been divorced. Of those who attend church regularly, 38 percent have been divorced.

Bradford Wilcox, a leading sociologist at the University of Virginia and director of the National Marriage Project, finds from his own analysis that "active conservative Protestants" who regularly attend church are 35 percent less likely to divorce compared to those who have no affiliation. Nominally attending conservative Protestants are 20 percent more likely to divorce, compared to secular Americans.

Professor Scott Stanley from the University of Denver, working with an absolute all-star team of leading sociologists on the Oklahoma Marriage Study, explains that couples with a vibrant religious faith had more and higher levels of the qualities couples need to avoid divorce:

"Whether young or old, male or female, low-income or not, those who said that they were more religious reported higher average levels of commitment to their partners, higher levels of marital satisfaction, less thinking and talking about divorce and lower levels of negative in-

teraction. These patterns held true when controlling for such important variables as income, education, and age at first marriage."

These positive factors translated into actual lowered risk of divorce among active believers.

The take-away

The divorce rates of Christian believers are not identical to the general population—not even close. Being a committed, faithful believer makes a measurable difference.

Saying you believe something or merely belonging to a church, unsurprisingly, does little for marriage. But the more you are involved in the actual practice of your faith in real ways—through submitting yourself to a serious body of believers, learning regularly from scripture, being in communion with God through prayer individually and with your spouse and children, and having friends and family around you who challenge you to take your marriage's seriously—the greater difference this makes in strengthening both the quality and longevity of our marriages. Faith does matter and the leading sociologists of family and religion tell us so. (BP)

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Wayne Spivey, Harrodsburg;
Dan Summerlin, Paducah.

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

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Another church-made film hits theaters

By Michael Foust

When David Evans walked out of the theater in 2008 after watching the hit movie "Fireproof," he had a thought that many would have quickly dismissed—"I wonder if my church, too, can make a film."

Fireproof, after all, was made by Sherwood Baptist Church, a congregation that also made the 2006 surprise hit "Facing the Giants."

Last weekend, Evans' dream hit the big screen when "The Grace Card"—made largely by volunteers from Calvary Church, a Nazarene congregation in Memphis—is released. It apparently is the first church-based, nationwide theatrical release inspired directly by Sherwood's films.

I watched a screener of it, and it is impressive. The acting is as good as that in Fireproof, and the story, which spotlights the racial tension between a white cop and a black cop, is gripping. With the exception of Louis Gossett Jr., you probably haven't heard of any of the actors, but you likely will walk away impressed. Sure, there are things I would have changed in the film, but that's true in just about any movie.

It is part of a growing church-based film-making movement that started at Sherwood, a Southern Baptist congregation in Albany, Ga.

Evans—an optometrist who directs Calvary's yearly passion play—studied and essentially copied Sherwood's model for movie-making. (No need "to re-invent the wheel," he said.) He relied on a largely all-volunteer cast and crew, mixing in a few professionals who were paid. He asked the cast and crew about their faith and accepted only Christians who were committed to the project.

Provident Films, the same company that released Fireproof, is handling The Grace Card.

"People are really hungry for movies that inspire them, movies that have a message," Evans, a graduate of South-

west Baptist University, told Baptist Press. "I call it entertainment with a purpose. You don't want people to come to theaters and feel like you're forcing medicine down their throat, so we're very careful at what points we place our message. There has to be entertainment, but we want people to walk out of

the theater saying, 'I'm not extending grace like I need to. I am not forgiving people like I need to.' ... It's a niche that's evolving that was started by Sherwood, and I think other people are realizing that there's a demand for this caliber of wholesome, faith-based entertainment with a purpose."

Evans estimates that volunteers contributed about 15,000 total hours to the project. Other churches helped as well, with about 50 congregations in the area sending members to the auditions. It was filmed in 30 days and received help from the Memphis Police Department.

Already, he says, the movie has had an impact on people who have watched screenings. The film spotlights "Mac," a white cop who struggles with racism and gets paired up with a black cop, "Sam," a bivocational preacher.

"We've heard many people say, 'Our son is just like that guy' or kids say, 'My dad is just like Mac in the movie. He's angry at everybody and blames everything on other races.' I believe it will help relationships across the country, as we're already hearing from the screenings. So many movies today don't have a clear message, and if there is a message in the movie, it's often not one that we want to promote to our children or churches.

"... Oftentimes, if people will just extend a hand of grace as we give a few examples of that in the movie, it can make significant changes. Our prayer is that it will have an impact on people across our country, and even other countries. Feelings of hate and resentment are universal." (BP)

Michael Foust is associate editor of Baptist Press. For information about "The Grace Card," visit TheGraceCardMovie.com.

FIRST PERSON

Some good books on marriage

By Valerie Vincent

Q: Are there any new books coming out on Christian marriage?

A: Here are some recent and upcoming publications for Christian marriage education, devotion, finances, and counseling. Be sure to carefully review these resources to see if they are right for your relationship needs.



■ "Becoming Your Husband's Best Friend: Secrets to Loving the Man You Married" by Lisa and David Frisbie. Release date: Jan. 1. 224 pages.

■ "When Couples Walk Together: 31 Days to a Closer Connection" by Cindi and Hugh McMenamin. Release date: Jan. 1. 208 pages.

■ "30-Day Marriage Makeover: How to get closer, communicate better, and experience more passion in your relationship by next month" by Doug Weiss. Release date: Feb. 1. 256 pages.

■ "Money and Marriage: A Complete Guide for Engaged and Newly Married Couples" by Matt Bell. Release date: March 15. 224 pages.

■ "Counseling Couples in Conflict: A Relational Restoration Model" (Christian Association for Psychological Studies Partnership Book) by James Sells and Mark Yarhouse. Release date: April 4. 280 pages.

■ "If Only He Knew: Understand Your Wife" by Gary Smalley. Release date: April 26. 176 pages. (newly revised and expanded).

■ "Love and War: Find Your Way to Something Beautiful in Your Marriage" by John and Staci Eldrige. Release date: May 17. 240 pages.

Valerie Vincent is a Christian counselor with Hardy Associates in Louisville.

Joyful privilege of stewardship

By Doug Strader

To some people stewardship is not one of their favorite words or concepts; however, the Greek word for stewardship is a good word.

The word actually comes from the idea that a steward is a household manager for the house owner. The steward is responsible to the owner for managing his affairs.

The New Testament writers picked up on that idea in explaining our responsibility as a manager of all that God gives to us. Actually, everything that we have belongs to

God, and He allows us to manage it for Him as long as we live. Stewardship is not just about money and possessions but everything we have.

First, we are to be good stewards of the gospel. The greatest thing that God has given to us is the opportunity to hear and respond to the claims of the gospel of Jesus Christ. We are not only responsible for our response to the gospel message, but we also are responsible for sharing the gospel with our family, friends, neighbors, and even the strangers with whom we come in contact. Responsible stewards of the gospel do not keep the gospel to themselves, rather they share it with others.

Second, we are responsible for the spiritual gifts, abilities and the time we have been given. We are to use the spiritual gifts that come from God to each of His children. I Peter 4:10 tells us that each believer in Jesus has been given a gift to be used in serving others—as good stewards of God's varied grace. We are put on this earth to bring glory to God, and one of the best ways to do that is to serve the Lord by ministering to one another.

The third area of our stewardship responsibilities is regularly and systematically giving tithes and offerings to the Lord through His church. God only asks for our tithes, and then we can give Him an offering that is over and above our tithe. When we are faithful stewards of the gospel, our giftedness and time, and the material possessions, the Lord will bless us in ways that we never dreamed about. We should count it as a joyful privilege to be a servant of the Almighty God of our universe.

Doug Strader, retired director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's stewardship department, is pastor of Farmdale Baptist Church in Louisville



During hurt and pain, the church should 'be real'

My father died Dec. 8. I will never forget that date. For me, the Christmas holidays are changed forever. Going home to Washington, D.C., will never be the same again. However, I will always appreciate the pastoral and church "moment" that my father's death provided our congregation.

Life is real

Some pastors feel the need to be spiritual "cheerleaders," always seeking to keep their people high and happy. Others like an atmosphere of frivolity and lightness. This thrust is unhelpful and unbiblical. It creates a false expectation among disciples of Jesus Christ. Subsequently, when the ups-and-downs of life come, many are not equipped to deal with troubles in a Christ-honoring, gospel-declaring manner.

Have we forgotten that we have but a few days and they can be full of trouble (Job 14:1)? Have we forgotten that our Lord said we would have troubles in this life (John 16:33)? Pastors should not be prophets of doom and gloom. However, neither should they give the sheep false hopes for a pain-free, trouble-free and problem-free life.

Despite the best efforts of the health, wealth and prosperity preachers, trouble still finds its way to the door of the faithful. I never thought that some would find it instructive to see something "bad" happen to the preacher.

I have served this church for almost seven years. This "bad" thing in my life has given me the privilege of having the most substantial conver-

sations about life, death, pain and the gospel of Jesus Christ with members who have perhaps felt previously that you should not talk about that kind of stuff if you are a victorious Christian.

Pain is real

"I'm hurting!" "I'm scared." "I'm confused." How often do we hear those words in our happy American churches? I certainly do not like pain, hurt and grief. However, our congregation was built up and instructed as they watched (and watch) me grieve the death of my father. I cherish the night when several men (of various levels of Christian growth) stopped by my house and just sat with me while I reflected, cried and read Scripture. I did not feel like I needed to "put on" a happy face for them.

It is unfortunate that some of the most prominent faces in American Christianity have only one expression—silly smile. This so robs the faithful of the liberty to acknowledge that pain is real.

Godly women can have breast cancer. Godly men can lose their livelihood in a bad economy. Faithful parents can have trouble with their children. All of this is painful and the church should provide an environment where one can smile or cry, and feel fully connected to the Body of Christ.

Also, we should be sensitive to the differences in individuals as they experience and deal with pain. My pastor used to say, "When a person gets

hit, you can't tell them how loud to holla." My father's death hurt (still does), and some in our church were encouraged when they heard me say it.

Joy is real

In Psalms 34:1, David said, "I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth." This is one of my favorite scriptures (if favorites are allowed). Our congregation had a glorious time praising the Lord on the Sunday after my father's death. So many members were glad to see me and some were surprised.

For some reason, some Christians think a time of grief is a time to stay away from the gathered congregation.

Have we created that feeling? Is the congregation a safe place to grieve or will you mess up the happy mood?

I told them that at my greatest time of pain I would prefer to be in the midst of God's people—singing His praises and hearing His Word. ... Even through pain and tears, the singing was strengthening, the preaching was encouraging, and the fellowship was priceless.

ored to have had a "real" moment as the leader of a flock of God's sheep.

Hey, pastor, leader or disciple-maker, don't hesitate to be real about life's ups-and-downs, about pain in your life, and about the joy in Christ which passeth all understanding. (BP)

Kevin Smith is pastor of Watson Memorial Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky., and assistant professor of church history at Southern Seminary.



Kevin Smith

FIRST PERSON

Chinese Christians 'treasure' Bibles

U.S. group uses Chinese New Year to get gospel to vacationers

"They treasure Jesus at the expense of their life."

Mei Zhou, a Taiwanese believer talking about the risks Chinese Christians face for their faith in Christ

Continued from page 1

red envelopes with money inside, during New Year festivities. The color red in Chinese culture symbolizes good luck to ward off evil spirits. The Chinese character for blessing usually is printed on these envelopes and on door fronts.

What the Chinese man who missed his boat found out is that "the blessing" he's searching for already has arrived. Volunteers like Mei Zhou*, who is from Taiwan, came to share this blessing.

"It's a joy for me," Zhou said about handing out Bibles. "God is love and God wants everyone, mainland Chinese or Taiwanese, to know God cares for everyone."

A volunteer behind Zhou proclaims as tourists walk past: "Free Chinese Bibles, a gift for you, that you can take back legally to China." The offer catches the attention of one tourist.

"It's free, and in Chinese?" the tourist asks, pausing to flip through the pages.

Southern Cross volunteer Xia Hua Zhang*, also of Taipei, Taiwan, said people always ask in amazement if the Bibles really are free, believing that nothing in life really is free.

Bible availability in China in the last 15 years has increased, yet they remain difficult to obtain. The group Voices of the Martyrs estimates there is only one Bible for every 222 people in the country, making them a rare commodity.

Bibles are not sold in bookstores, but are primarily distributed through government-sanctioned Three-Self Churches. House church pastors and believers who buy Bibles in China can be monitored. Chinese are allowed one personal copy of the Bible, so the returning Chinese tourists can take the Bibles they received from Southern Cross back with them.

A man holds his new Bible close to his heart and says "thank you."

"In Taiwan, people take things for granted, their Bibles sit on the shelf," Zhou said, noting that she's heard of many mainland Chinese staying up long nights to read the Bible in its entirety.

"They (Taiwanese) don't treasure

it as the mainland Chinese do. They treasure Jesus at the expense of their life," Zhou said, referring to many Chinese Christians who still are persecuted in that country.

For many tourists, this is the first Bible they've ever owned. Others pick up the Bibles so they can give them to friends and family back home, like one Chinese woman from Singapore. She explains that she has a Bible, but her mother needs one. The Southern Cross volunteer hands a Bible to the mother and offers another Bible packet to her husband.

"No, no, don't waste it," the mother insists, waving off the extra Bible. "We can share."

Zhou smiles and quickly replies, "It's OK. We want you both to have one. Or you can share it with someone else."

Another volunteer from Taipei, Xia Hua Zhang*, said the next step after passing out the Bibles is prayer.

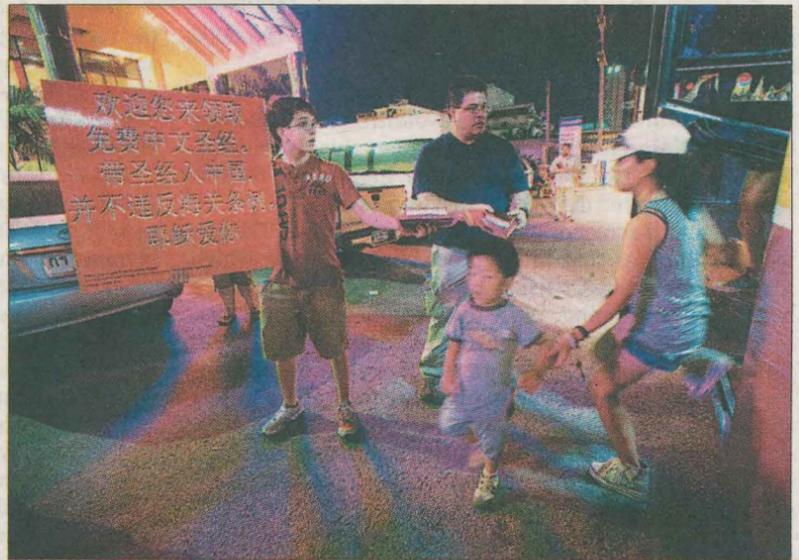
"Pray for them to open their hearts and minds, to come to Jesus," Zhang says.

She was praying for a woman she met while distributing Bibles. Zhang shared the entire gospel message with the 30-year-old woman. Her grandmother and 13-year-old daughter also listened.

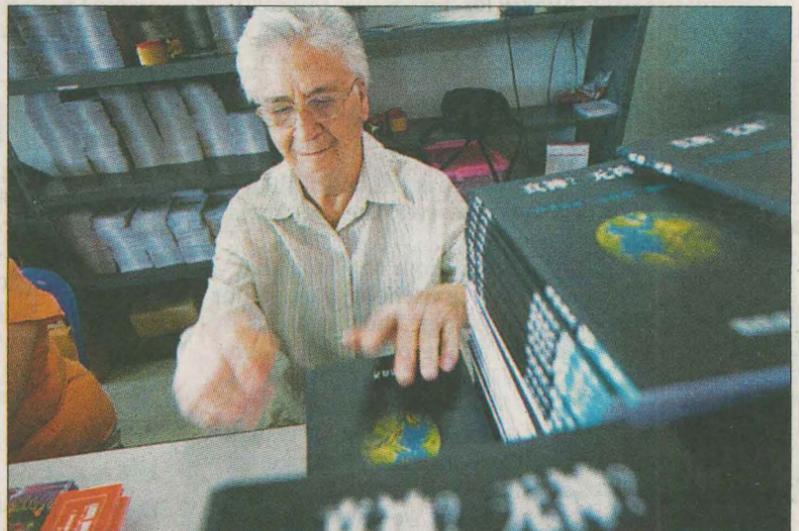
The woman comes from a Christian family—her grandmother is a believer. The woman wasn't ready to accept the gospel that evening but Zhang prayed that she will read the Bible her grandmother took.

Zhang and Zhou said they pray this will be the year of blessing for the Chinese tourists who receive Bibles—the year their old selves will be swept out the door and new life will be ushered in. (BP)

*Names changed for security reasons

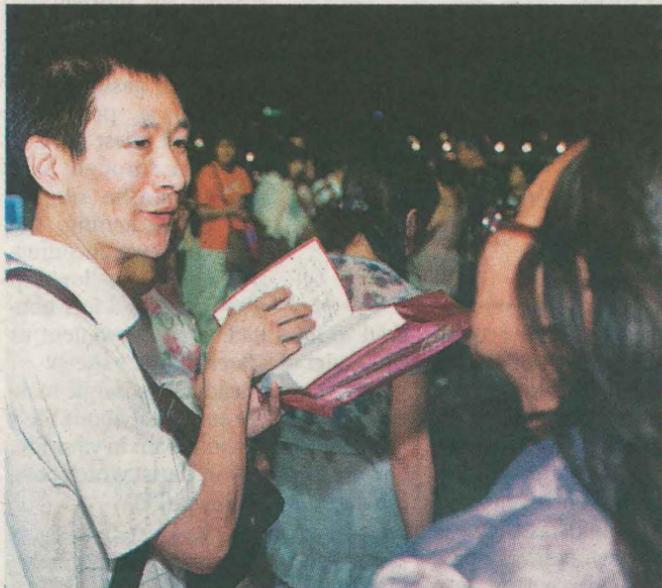


GOSPEL IN ACTION ■Above: Obadiah Hedrick, a pastor from Ripley, Tenn., and his 12-year-old son Jack—on their first international mission trip together in Asia—offer Bibles to Chinese tourists exiting a bus. When Jack handed out his first Bible Saturday night, nothing could wipe the smile off his face. He returned someone God's word. ■Below: Merti Smith, a volunteer from Sharon, Tenn., is a return volunteer with the Southern Cross Project that distributes Bibles and other Christian material to Chinese tourists in Asia. Smith is among the volunteers staffing the warehouse where red packets of the materials were assembled.



CONVERSATION

On a pier in Southeast Asia, a primary Southern Cross Project Bible distribution point, Mei Zhou, a Chinese-speaking volunteer from Taipei Taiwan, speaks with a Chinese tourist holding an open copy of the Bible he had just received. Volunteers have a very short window of time to interact with tourists while they are waiting for busses after dinner on floating restaurants.



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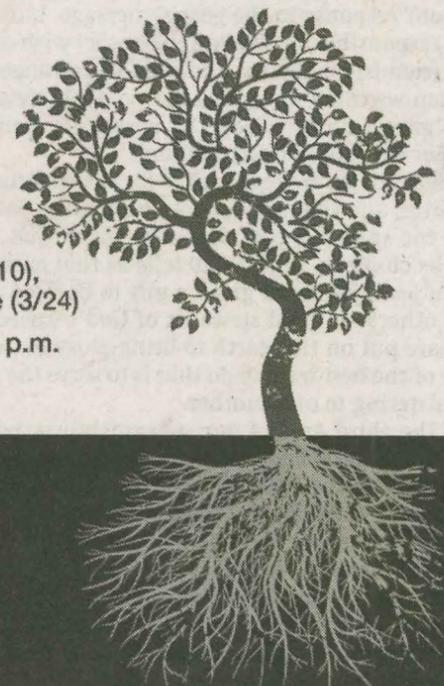
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NAMB missionary shares gospel in America's heartland

Continued from page 1

for me but for the others planting churches out here."

The Lees are two of more than 5,000 missionaries in the United States, Canada and their territories supported by the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions. With the theme of "Start Here," the 2011 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering's goal is \$70 million, 100 percent of which benefits missionaries like the Lees.

Annie's impact

What does the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering mean to Doug and Brenda Lee?

"AAEO provides part of my salary and helps to cover our expenses, enabling Brenda and I to minister to pastors, churches and do hands-on church planting in western Nebraska," said Lee, whose goal is to plant at least 10 new churches in the association over the next 10 years.

Lee's overarching strategy is to meet the people where they are—on their terms and turf. For example, he holds Bible studies or worship services on Sunday nights for those he calls the "shift workers"—individuals who may work in restaurants or retail and can't come to church on Sunday mornings.

And instead of force-fitting a new church plant on local folks—regardless of their needs, wants and circumstances—he begins with a Bible study at the home of a "family of peace." Once that group blossoms and grows, it will turn into a Sunday school and worship service.

"The people living out here in western Nebraska have a strong work ethic," Lee said. "A lot of that comes from the early days when the settlers came. There was nothing here—no towns, no schools, no railroads. They built things from scratch, so people here are very independent and self-sufficient."

But Anglos are not the only ones here with a pioneering spirit and strong work ethic. There are the Native Americans in Nebraska who arrived first. Nebraska's first Hispanic immigrants came years ago to work in the soybean and potato fields. A second wave came in later to work in the meat-packing plants.

Add an influx of Sudanese, Indians and city dwellers—moving out of Omaha and Lincoln to rural areas—and Lee's mission field suddenly becomes very diverse, requiring the planting of various new churches—those meeting the needs of different people groups, cowboy churches and churches in mobile-home parks and apartment complexes.

"The diversity opens up an opportunity to minister to people in a number of ways," Lee said.

"For instance, one of the things the Hispanic folks like—especially the kids—is soccer. All we have to say is we're holding a soccer camp and they show up. This gives us the opportunity to share Christ with not only the Hispanic kids but the Anglo kids as well, who are getting more and more into soccer here."

Lee said he is ever mindful that western Nebraska is sparsely populated, and time, money and energy is limited. So why should he even bother? Lee, a former police officer, had a quick response.

"Well, there are not many people here, and I guess it would be more cost-effective to go to heavier populated areas. I'm all for reaching the urban areas. But we can't forget the rural areas. Jesus died for the individuals in the rural areas as much as for those in the cities."

Terry's transformation

As he drives across Nebraska's vast plains, pastureland and hill country, Lee said he knows he only may encounter a person once or twice, so he intentionally makes it a high priority to witness for Jesus Christ wherever he goes. Lee is particularly proud of one convert, Terry Howell in Ogallala, about 50 miles west of North Platte.

Lee first heard about Terry from a mission team doing door-to-door surveys in Ogallala about five years ago. The team came across Terry, who had a beer in one hand and a six-pack nearby. But Terry told them he was interested in the Bible.

"Terry Howell is an awesome story," recalled Lee, who soon launched a Bible study Terry and his girlfriend Virginia attended. The couple—committed to each other but



MAN OF ADVENTURE NAMB missionary Doug Lee prays with youth from area associations—about to leave for a two-day "float" trip—at First Baptist Church of Valentine, Neb., which is located in extreme north Nebraska near the South Dakota border. Lee puts some 60,000 ministry miles a year on his car. (Photo by John Swain/NAMB)

still unmarried—ultimately would rededicate their lives to Christ.

But now as professing Christians, Terry and Virginia had some unfinished business to handle: they needed to be married. Lee later married them and—at their suggestion—even shared the gospel at their wedding. Thanks to the newlyweds' wish, five guests accepted Christ that day.

Terry Howell's transformation from a beer-drinking, swearing, hard-working, hard-playing, good old Nebraska boy into a leading member of Ogallala Community Church, was nothing short of a miracle, Lee said.

"You don't hear him swearing anymore. He really works on it. We've seen that change in his life," Lee said of Terry. "He's at church—even if Virginia has to work. He comes early to set up and is the last one to go. Terry's not only a good church man, he even alerts me when it's time to go visiting if I don't contact him first."

"When I see a person like Terry changed, it's rewarding and brings excitement to me. It helps me realize what it's all about. And when it's slow out here, I know to keep pushing because there's another Terry coming down the road. Terry is making a real difference in Ogallala."



At a Glance

Why Give to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering?

To support the North American missionaries in their efforts to reach for Christ an estimated 259 million North Americans who do not have a personal relationship with Him; that's three out of four people.

What amount of the offering is used to support missionaries & their work?

100 percent directly supports NAMB missionaries and their ministries. Woman's Missionary Union holds the trademark to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and specifies for what the money can and cannot be used. There is high accountability in making sure that all funds are only used to support NAMB missionaries and their ministries.

What are some ways AAEO-supported missionaries use those funds?

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- Serving the physical and spiritual needs of people through evangelism ministries.
- Serving in Baptist associations as associational missionaries or staff.

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SBC Executive Committee inaugurates new leader

By Bob Allen

Nashville, Tenn.—Leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention gathered Feb. 21 to witness a new chapter in denominational life with the inauguration of Frank Page as president of the SBC Executive Committee.

Page, a former pastor and SBC president, is one of a trio of key leaders taking reins in a pivotal time for the nation's second-largest faith group. Kevin Ezell recently took over at the North American Mission Board, while the International Mission Board is poised to consider former pastor and missionary Tom Elliff as the successor to Jerry Rankin, who retired last July.

Page was elected last June to lead the standing committee that functions on behalf of the SBC.

Page, who was SBC president in 2006-07, assumes leadership in a denomination doctrinally united but fragmented by factors including mission strategy, ethnicity, generation and waning support for denominations in general.

"I believe God's calling upon Southern Baptists is to be closer than we ever were before, to be purer than we've ever been before, (and) to be more passionate than we ever have been before about sharing the good news with a lost and dying world," Page said.

"I will tell you, 'Yes, I believe the inerrant word of God,'" Page said. "And I believe the Bible tells us the truth about what heaven is like and what hell is like, and we ought to do everything we can to reach this world for Christ."

Morris Chapman, who retired as Executive Committee president last September, challenged his successor to "lead Southern Baptists from a position that is like none other in the convention."



"Southern Baptists are among God's finest in all the earth, and they will follow you as you follow Him," Chapman said.

The inauguration service also included encouragement from representatives of various state and national entities of the SBC.

"We appreciate you taking CEO and changing it from chief executive officer to 'chief encouraging officer,' because I think that is a role greatly needed in Southern Baptist life at this juncture," Rick Lance, executive director of the Alabama Baptist State Convention, said on behalf of Baptist state conventions.

"We want you to know we are going to be your friends as state executive directors, not your foes," Lance said. "We are going to be your colleagues and collaborators, not your competition."

"Be our encourager," urged Richard Land, president of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission. "You are the person who really ... is at the apex of Southern Baptist life in terms of what people see. If there are controversial and difficult things to be done, let us do them. You be the encourager."

Most recently Page was vice president for evangelization at NAMB, a job he took after serving 30 years as a pastor at churches in North Carolina, Texas, Georgia and South Carolina.

He was a member of the Great Commission Task Force that last year recommended a reprioritizing of SBC programs, including a significant reduction of the Executive Committee budget to transfer those funds to international missions.

In 2009 Page served on President Barack Obama's Council on Faith Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. (ABP)



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Light at the end of the tunnel

Signs that spring is right around the corner are everywhere on OBI campus

For the past two weeks there have been serious hints that spring is not far away. Not only was the weather much warmer than it had been and we had two weeks without snow, but the baseball and softball teams were on the fields practicing. It's always a sure sign of spring when the fields are busy with boys and girls trying to hit a home run, make the catch that saves the day, or get the person out trying to take an extra base.

The track teams also were getting ready for another spring, and the tennis courts were busy with two dozen boys and girls hitting balls back and forth.

By the time you read this, the basketball season will have come to an end, at least for our team. Like most schools, we have our good and not-so-good years. The past few years have not been the best for us, but I'm always proud of our teams as long as they have done the best they can. There's no purpose in complaining about being a small school that has to compete with the much larger county schools. After all, we are not the only small school around.

I took my dog for a walk this weekend. We walked along the edge of several of our cornfields. The edge of one field is the bank of the Red Bird River and the other fields are bordered by Goose Creek. Here and there I could clearly see signs of spring. The grass is beginning to grow and it is a darker green than it was two weeks ago. I'm sorry I don't know my flowers but they, too, were pushing their way up through the soil. Several beautiful blue flowers already have bloomed and in a week or two they will be joined

by others. Just because I don't know the names of the flowers doesn't mean I don't know they'll be blooming soon.

Another sure sign of spring is our spring break during the first full week of March. Our students are making plans to spend nine days at home. That means they will be sleeping in their own beds, sleeping much later than they can here, and staying up much later than they are allowed to here. And yes, there will be Mom's cooking! Nearly every mother is planning to prepare that special meal she knows her son or daughter loves. It may not be anything special as meals go, but it is a very special meal for a boy or girl who has not eaten home cookin' since Christmas.

Not all of our students will be going home for spring break. Nearly 50 international students will spend the nine-day break with us. The trip home simply is too long and often too expensive for most of them.

The international students who will be spending the break with us also will get to sleep much later and stay up later than usual. We won't be able to prepare that special meal for them like mom would, but we will take them shopping one day in Pigeon Forge, Tenn., followed by a day of shopping in Lexington and later a day in London, Ky. The shopping trips also give the students opportunities to eat a special meal or two at their favorite restaurants and purchase some food at a few specialty stores to snack on when they are back on campus.

Yes, spring is in the air. Pretty soon it will be too hot and dry!

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

This is Oneida



W.F. Underwood

New class settling in

Get to know little about Clear Creek's new crop of students

We now are into the first few weeks of the spring semester. Our new students are settling in and adjusting to the task of balancing family, work, ministry and studies. It always is exciting to meet the new students God sends our way and hear them share how He is working in their lives. They always are excited about getting started with their studies and preparing for God's call on their lives.

This spring we praise the Lord for 15 new degree-seeking students who have affirmed to us they are following God's call to Clear Creek. We count it an honor to be used of God to provide training for these students. Please continue to pray for each of them as they try to balance their time between all they need to do this semester. Since most of our students are of non-traditional ages, it can be a major life adjustment they are working through.

God continues to call Clear Creek students from all walks of life, all over the country and to different avenues of study. Six of these students will live on campus and study full time. Three of the students will enroll as commuters spending only one night a week away from home.

Six more of our new students will study completely online, taking advantage of our new online bachelor's degree.

The average student age for the new spring semester class is 34. Nine of our students are married and six are single. These new students come to us from 10 different states. We have three students each from Kentucky and North Carolina; two each from Ohio and Alabama; and one each from Georgia, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee and Utah. Eight of the new students have previous college experience.

The students' previous occupations include: secretary; Navy sailor; maintenance worker; firefighter; exterminator; restaurant owner; pastor; nurse; warehouse associate; child care worker; housekeeper; health care worker; and a retail employee.

We count it a privilege to be the Bible college of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Thank you for your support that enables us to fulfill our mission to equip these God-called students for ministry.

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

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

Conservatives vow to fight same-sex marriage if president won't

By Adelle Banks

Washington—If President Obama and the U.S. Department of Justice no longer want to defend the Defense of Marriage Act from challenges by gay-rights activists, who will?

Leading conservative law firms say they're eager to defend the 1996 law that defines marriage as between a man and a woman—but that may not be so easy.

Could a conservative firm like Liberty Counsel, a Florida-based group that often opposes the Obama administration, be the stand-in for the U.S. attorney general before a judge hearing DOMA challenges?

"That's what we're pursuing," said Mathew Staver, founder of the firm and dean of Liberty University School of Law in Lynchburg, Va. "Somebody has to step in and do the job when the attorney general and the president will abandon theirs."

Liberty Counsel had filed friend-of-the-court briefs in two DOMA court cases and now is strategizing with members of Congress to intervene on their behalf to defend the law that bans federal recognition of same-sex marriages.

"It's early in the process," said Staver,

whose firm has litigated dozens of cases related to marriage—including DOMA—and represented Congress, state legislators and private organizations on other issues.

"We're still doing a lot of preliminary discussion."

DOMA decision decried

Staver and other conservative lawyers have harshly criticized the announcement last week by Attorney General Eric Holder that Obama had determined that DOMA is unconstitutional when applied to same-sex couples married legally under state law.

Last month, the Alliance Defense Fund submitted a brief on behalf of House Judiciary Committee Chairman Lamar Smith, R-Texas, in response to a Massachusetts challenge of DOMA being heard in a federal appeals court. Now it could be turning its attention to the cases in Connecticut and New York that prompted the administration's new decision.

"I have no doubt that the Alliance Defense Fund and other organizations will involve themselves in these cases," said Austin Nimocks, senior legal counsel for the Ar-

izona-based firm. "The question is what is going to be the nature of the role. If somebody with (legal) standing to intervene in these cases wants ADF to represent them, we will certainly explore that with them."

California's Proposition 8—which ended same-sex marriages in the state but later was ruled unconstitutional by a federal judge—offers some clues to the road ahead.

The ADF is representing the group ProtectMarriage.com to defend the 2008 voter referendum after the state's governor and attorney general opted not to defend it; the California Supreme Court is weighing whether the group has legal standing to step in as the case heads to a federal appeals court.

The American Center for Law and Justice, a law firm founded by religious broadcaster Pat Robertson, also is mulling its role in the fight over DOMA.

Jordan Sekulow, a lawyer and policy director with the Washington-based firm, said attorneys are in private discussions with members of Congress and could represent some by filing amicus briefs or more directly representing them in court.

"It's possible that because of the politically charged nature of this that it's more likely for organizations who have taken a stand on this issue to lead the defense," he said.

Sekulow's firm has represented dozens of members of Congress in recent cases, from opposing Obama's health care plan in Virginia and Florida to supporting the National Day of Prayer and disputed crosses erected in California.

But do these groups have a chance if they try to pick up where Justice Department lawyers left off?

John Witte, director of the Center for the Study of Law and Religion at Emory University in Atlanta, said conservative activists simply don't have the firepower or the "unrivaled" political power of administration lawyers.

"There's just no substitute for having the federal government's attorney general and Office of Legal Counsel involved in these cases," he said.

"Maintaining DOMA once the administration steps away ... is going to be much harder." (RNS)

Supreme Court rejects Ky. Ten commandments case

Washington—The U.S. Supreme Court last week chose not to re-examine its decision to strike down displays of the Ten Commandments in two Kentucky courthouses.

The high court ruled in 2005 that the Ten Commandments displays outside the McCrory and Pulaski county courthouses violated the Constitution's First Amendment. After that ruling, the counties attempted to revise and repurpose the displays as secular.

"This case presented the opportunity for the Supreme Court to bring sanity back to the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment," said Liberty Counsel, a conservative Christian law firm representing the Kentucky counties.

The Supreme Court offered no comment as to why the case was not heard. (RNS)

Pro-lifers condemn conscience provision repeal

Washington—Pro-life leaders have denounced the Obama administration's decision to invalidate nearly all of the conscience protections for health care providers established barely two years ago during George W. Bush's final month in the White House.

The Department of Health and Human Services issued a new regulation that rescinded safeguards for workers and entities who object on moral or religious grounds to providing, for instance, abortion-causing drugs or birth control, although it maintained longstanding, congressional safeguards for those who object to participating directly in the performance of abortions and sterilizations.

The result of the HHS' revocation is to empower federally funded state and

local governments, hospitals and health plans to refuse to permit doctors, nurses, pharmacists and other workers to opt out of procedures and prescriptions that violate their convictions.

Not surprisingly, leaders in the pro-life and evangelical communities responded with opposition.

Charmaine Yoest, president of Americans United for Life, said the rights of health care professionals should not "be held hostage to political interests."

"The protection of the basic civil right to provide care without participating in life-destructive activities must not be dependent on the whims of an administration that has made expanding abortion central to its mission," she said in a statement.

Tony Perkins, president of the Family

Research Council, said the action was "a blow both to medicine and the right to practice one's deeply held convictions."

One concern expressed by foes of the new rule is the possibility of medical workers leaving their professions to avoid violating their consciences.

"Losing conscientious health care professionals and faith-based institutions to discrimination and job loss especially imperils the poor and patients in medically underserved areas," said J. Scott Ries, a Christian Medical Association vice president. "We are already facing critical shortages of primary care physicians, and the Obama administration's decision now threatens to make the situation far worse for patients across the country who depend on faith-based health care." (BP)

Estate tax roller coaster

Impact of the 2010 Tax Act makes re-evaluating financial plan critical

The 2010 Tax Act, signed into law by President Obama in December, represented the most significant change in the estate tax rules in more than a decade. As a result, it is extremely important for us Christians to understand the impact of the changes in the estate tax rules on our financial circumstances and our stewardship responsibilities and plans. After all, everything we have belongs to God, and He has entrusted it to us to manage in His behalf.

Furthermore, estate stewardship likely will be the single-most significant and important act of biblical stewardship we shall ever make. And, finally, through estate stewardship, each one of us can impact the world for kingdom advancement, regardless of our financial stations in life.

The advice of the Apostle Paul is instructive in this context. In 1 Timothy 5: 8, Paul advised the early Christians then—and advises us today—to provide for our relatives and especially our immediate family. The correct sense of the translation "to provide" is the sense of "forethought." In other words, we are to take care of tomor-

row today. We are to anticipate future realities and make plans for them now. That's what Christian estate planning is all about: prayerfully seeking God's will for how to steward what He has entrusted to you as it relates to your family, including your spiritual family.

It is important to note the new estate tax rules end in 2012, and in 2013, unless there is action by Congress, the rules revert back to what they would have been in 2011, if Congress had not adopted the 2010 Tax Act. Because of the ramifications of the 2010 Tax Act, we encourage you to review your estate plans and documents with your advisors. We discourage anyone from adopting a "wait-and-

see" approach. Do it now. Laurie Valentine, our trust counsel, and I are available to conduct a Christian estate planning seminar for your church or church group, which will provide helpful information about the estate tax rules. Call us toll free.

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

Ministries focus on saving, changing lives

Pair of Kentucky ministries receive support from gifts to Eliza Broadus

Unique and challenging ministries are taking place across Kentucky. The Eliza Broadus Offering is helping in many locations, and it is exciting when some of them are featured in national publications such as Missions Mosaic.

Choose Life Ministries, led by Mission Service Corps missionaries, Doug and Jodi Cullen, was featured in the January 2011 issue of Mosaic. This ministry seeks to build a culture of life and has a call to go first to churches to counter the influence of the world's view of human life. CLM also takes the message of the sanctity of human life to schools, shelters, job corps and other settings. They have seen people saved and countless others who have changed their thinking concerning abortion and life.

EBO recently provided a grant of \$500 to help Choose Life Ministries purchase literature and Bibles. When speaking with children, CLM tries to be sure that every child has a Bible and knows the truths of creation. With youth, CLM provides materials that support the message of purity and abstinence. With adults, CLM provides resources that will help them take a stand

for life. Grants for CLM also were provided in 2009 and 2010.

Arlene Miller was a Missions Mosaic "Missionary of the Week" on Feb. 5—her birthday. An MSC missionary in Hopkinsville, Arlene directs the work of Impact Ministry, a food and clothing ministry of Christian County Baptist Association. The ministry serves 150-200 clients each month and averages 12 professions of faith each year.

Arlene also is the co-coordinator of CCBA Christian Women's Job Corps, a ministry of WMU to provide a Christian context in which women in need are equipped for life and employment in a missions context and where women help women. Impact Ministry and CWJC are housed in the same building in Hopkinsville and reach out to people throughout the community.

EBO recently provided Impact Ministry a grant of \$2,000. This is the sixth year EBO has provided a grant to help with items including food, baby items, Bibles, Christian literature, hygiene products and school supplies.

Joy Bolton is executive director-treasurer of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, PO Box 436569, Louisville, KY 40253; (502) 489-3534; www.kywmu.org

EBO at Work



Joy Bolton

KBC
KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

- 3 Growing Ministries Tour, Northside Baptist Church, Mount Vernon.
- 4-5 Creative Ministries Festival, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.
- 5 All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra Auditions, Central Baptist Church, Corbin; First Baptist Church, Walton; Lewis Lane Baptist Church, Owensboro; Mount Zion Baptist Church, Paducah; Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.
- 5 Vacation Bible School Clinic—West, Edgewood Baptist Church, Hopkinsville.
- 8 Growing Ministries Tour, Crittenden Baptist Church.
- 10 Developing Multi-Housing Ministries That Last, Crestwood Baptist Church.
- 10 Growing Ministries Tour, First Baptist Church, Whitesburg.
- 11 Developing Multi-Housing Ministries That Last, West Union Baptist Association, Paducah.
- 12 All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra Auditions, First Baptist Church, Mount Sterling; First Baptist Church, Scottsville; First Baptist Church, Walton; Lewis Lane Baptist Church, Owensboro; Lone Oak First Baptist Church, Paducah; Parkland Baptist Church, Louisville; Rose Hill Baptist Church, Ashland.
- 12 Disaster Relief Regional Training, May's Lick Baptist Church.
- 12 Region 8 RA Congress and Rally, First Baptist Church, Russell.
- 12 Vacation Bible School Clinic—East, Porter Memorial Baptist Church, Lexington.
- 15 Growing Ministries Tour, Horse Cave Baptist Church.
- 15 Understanding Other Beliefs, Oldham-Trimble Baptist Association, Crestwood.
- 16-20 Adult Kentucky Changers West, TBA.
- 17 Growing Ministries Tour, Northside Baptist Church, Mayfield.
- 19 Hispanic Woman's Missionary Union and Evangelism Conference, First Baptist Church, Mount Washington.
- 19 Region 6 RA Congress and Rally, Kirksville Baptist Church, Richmond.

More volunteers needed for upcoming Adult Ky. Changers project at Jonathan Creek

Hardin—For Kentucky Baptists who have graduated high school, or perhaps have helped their children or grandchildren participate in Kentucky Changers each summer, an upcoming missions project could be the opportunity to put the carpenter's belt on for themselves.

Volunteers are needed for the March 16-20 Adult Kentucky Changers project at Jonathan Creek in western Kentucky. Participants will stay and serve at the Kentucky Baptist camp and conference center.

"We will be doing some new construction, repairs to the buildings on campus and some general cleanup of the facility," said Peg-

gy Murphy, Kentucky Changers coordinator and ministry assistant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Baptist Men on Mission department.

"All that is needed is a willingness to serve," she added. "No matter how skilled or unskilled you are, there will be jobs for you."

Murphy also said that men and women who wish to serve but cannot take three days off from work are encouraged to come to Jonathan Creek Thursday evening to participate on Friday and Saturday.

Dinner followed by a worship service and fellowship time are part of each day's schedule.

The \$75 per person registration fee includes lodging, meals and a T-shirt.

Registration is underway online at www.KyBaptist.org/KyChangers; look for "Adult Changers."

Another Kentucky Changers event for adults is planned for Sept. 28-Oct. 2 in Louisville.

For additional information, contact the Baptist Men on Missions department at (502) 489-3527 or toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3527.



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Call (502) 489-3428;
or visit www.WesternRecorder.org.
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AVAILABLE: South-central Missouri pastor seeks church in Kentucky. 30 years small rural church experience. Supports SBC, state convention and local association. Parsonage needed. (417) 938-4739.

FOR SALE: Six-tier lighted patriotic singing flag—used for choir cantatas. Manufacturer's construction/lighting instructions included; photos available. POC: John Rice (Elizabethtown, Ky.), john@severnsvalley.org or (270) 765-7822.

FOR SALE: Seventeen 15-foot solid oak pews. Contact Rodney Vincent at First Baptist Church, Bowling Green, (270) 842-0331; or by e-mail: rvincent@firstbaptistbg.org.

FOR SALE: Christian, military and patriotic neckties: \$6. Humor book: "Laughter Doeth Good Like a Medicine," \$6 (1,300 sold). Annette's "200 Original Italian Recipe Cookbook," \$20. Free postage. (606) 285-6051.

FREE: Large brass chandelier needs new church home. Contact Joyce at (270) 534-1400 for more information.

OPPORTUNITY: Start your own newspaper for as little as \$3,500. Includes website, social media, hosting for first year, and first 1,000 10-page newspapers. (859) 559-3703; www.Save4Missions.com.

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

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Campbellsville University's Kentucky Heartland Institute on Public Policy will host **Wayne Barnard**, director of student ministries for International Justice Mission, as guest speaker March 8, 5 p.m., in the banquet hall of the Badgett Academic Support Center on campus. The event is free and open to the public.

Saloma Church will hold a joint worship service with Pleasant Hill Church in Campbellsville March 6, 11 a.m., with Pleasant Hill Pastor **Michael Caldwell** as guest speaker. **John Chowning** is pastor.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Immanuel Church will host a community-wide music worship service March 6, 4

p.m., featuring choirs from several Lexington-area churches. A love offering will be taken during the event to benefit **Mission Lexington**, which operates a medical and dental clinic for the city's impoverished population. For more information, call **Chris Skidmore** at (859) 254-3491 or e-mail, Chris@MissionLexington.org.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Mount Nebo Church will host a 1 Voice Prayer Movement meeting March 4, 6 p.m. **Benny Williams** is pastor.

■ **PERRYVILLE**—**Raymond Kilby** recently resigned as minister of music at Perryville Church.

■ **PRINCETON**—Northside Church recently ordained **Randy Cullen** as a deacon. **Jeff McCarty** is pastor.

UC conference to feature Lawless

Williamsburg—University of the Cumberlands will host its sixth annual Franklin P. Owen Conference on Missions and the Church March 7-9. The conference will feature **Chuck Lawless**, dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions and Evangelism at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, as its keynote speaker.

Lawless, a 1985 graduate of Uni-

versity of the Cumberlands, also will be the featured speaker at Monday and Wednesday's convocation services held at 10 a.m. on March 7 and 9, and will speak to several classes as well.

For more information or to register for the conference, please contact **Bob Dunston**, chair of Cumberlands' religion and philosophy department, at (606) 539-4227.

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Full-time director of administrative services for large, growing church (First Baptist Church, Richmond, Ky.) Successful candidate will have experience in supervision, human resources and finances, with a strong calling to work in this area of ministry. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, First Baptist Church, 425 Eastern Bypass, Richmond, KY 40475; or e-mail: fbcresumes@firstbaptistnet.com.

SEEKING: Minister of worship and education for First Baptist Church of Blountville, the county seat of Kingsport and Bristol, Tenn. FBC has two blended morning worship services; minister will be responsible for coordinating all musical presentations, leading some groups, as well as planning special events such as our Spirit of Christmas dinner theater. Education will include working with teams to coordinate Bible study, VBS, camps and adult education opportunities. Please submit resumé to Minister Search Team, PO Box 587, Blountville, TN 37617; or online at fbcbtn@embraqmail.com.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of youth, children and families. Woodburn Baptist Church is a growing, medium-sized, multi-generational and multi-site SBC church. Proven strengths in leadership and administrative management skills are essential. Previous successful experience in local children and student ministries, and an applicable bachelor's degree are required. Pursuit of a seminary degree is preferred. A detailed job description may be found on our website: www.woodburnbaptist.org. Submit a cover letter and resumé via e-mail to: personnel@woodburnbaptist.org; or by mail to Woodburn Baptist Church, PO Box 38, Woodburn, KY 42170, Attn: Personnel Committee.

SEEKING: Senior pastor for Glasgow Baptist Church. Prefer 10 years experience and seminary degree. Lead both contemporary and traditional services. Send resumé to **Jesse R. Brown**, 107 Karakal Drive, Glasgow, KY 42141.

SEEKING: Paid summer camp staff coordinators and a camp director, starting on or about June 1 and ending July 29, 2011. Must be 18 or older with a Baptist background. If you are interested, call **Boone's Creek Baptist Association**, Winchester, Ky., at (859) 744-0037 for an application.

SEEKING: Hosparus chaplain. Part-time opening to cover Bowling Green and surrounding area. Responsible for meeting the spiritual needs of patients and families. Chaplain participates in on-call services in regards to assisting at the time of death of a patient and giving support to family members. Requirements: masters degree in divinity and a minimum of two clinical pastoral education units. Submit resumé to hrdept@hospices.org; or fax: (502) 719-4213.

SEEKING: Senior pastor for SBC and KBC-affiliated Northside Baptist Church, Elizabethtown, Ky. Minimum requirements: Master of divinity degree; 5-7 years senior pastor experience to lead two ministerial and six support staff while shepherding a 500-plus congregation; comfortable with blended style of worship and affirming of SBC-adopted Baptist Faith & Message. If you are interested in pursuing God's continued call on your life as a senior pastor, please submit your resumé, along with photo and the number of current church members under your pastoral care, ministerial staff you have led or currently lead, and two or more recent sermons on DVD. You may submit your resumé prayerfully and confidentially to: Search Committee, PO Box 1121, Elizabethtown, KY 42701.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music and worship to serve the church by developing, coordinating and administering an effective and well-rounded music ministry program, and providing leadership to and supervision of staff members and volunteers involved in this ministry. Contact **Central Baptist Church**, 829 High St., Paris, KY 40361; or e-mail to slrbc@bellsouth.net; or call (859) 987-3951.

SEEKING: Exciting, passionate leader to direct children's ministry and oversee daily activities of family life center. Must have vision and desire to share the love of Christ with children and families through God-given spiritual gifts. Experience preferred, college degree a plus. Please send cover letter and resumé to: Search Committee, **Marion Baptist Church**, PO Box 384, Marion, KY 42064; or e-mail to: searchcommittee@marionbaptistchurch.com.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music who will be responsible for planning weekly worship services, working with the adult choir and all instrumentalists, and overseeing the entire music ministry of the church. Contact **Pastor Rodney Bice** at **Bardwell Baptist Church**, (270) 628-3645; or bbcpastor1@windstream.net.

SEEKING: Full-time associate pastor of education and discipleship at First Baptist, Owensboro, a multi-generational downtown, church. FBC (www.fbcowb.org) is strongly mission-minded and a leading support of the Cooperative Program in Kentucky. The associate pastor for education and discipleship will be responsible for all aspects of adult education, discipleship, outreach, leadership development, assimilation of new members, and will assist the pastor with pastoral care. Send resumé to: resume@fbcowb.org; or PO Box 904, Owensboro, KY 42302.

Daytona winner outspoken Christian

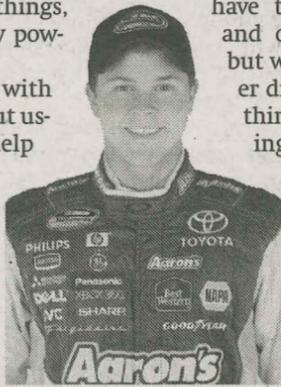
By Tim Ellsworth

Twenty-year-old Trevor Bayne—an outspoken Christian who often uses social media like Twitter to talk about his faith—became the youngest driver ever to win the Daytona 500 Feb. 20 at the Daytona International Speedway.

Bayne testified about the Lord in his post-race interviews.

"We said a prayer before," Bayne said in one interview. "We pray a lot, and we expect a lot of things, but this just shows how powerful God is."

In another interview with ESPN, Bayne talked about using his winnings to help support friends working on the mission field, and specifically mentioned his desire to donate to an organization called Back2Back Ministries that does mission work in Mexico.



Trevor Bayne

"I can't even describe it," Bayne said about his victory. "This is our first time ever coming here, so to win in our first time, I feel a little undeserving."

A native Tennessean, Bayne attends Fairview Baptist Church in Corryton, Tenn., outside Knoxville when he's home visiting his family.

"Trevor's a great young man," said Wayne Davis, associate pastor at Fairview. "He tries to live his faith. You noticed he was talking about how this was something that God worked out for him, and he truly believes that."

A Baptist Press Sports story in October by Lee Warren featured Bayne, and addressed the ways he witnesses to those around him.

"We all push ourselves," Bayne said in the story. "The biggest fear for a Christian is to be lukewarm, and we've learned how to get out of our shell. One example is, before every race I got to the point where the guys wanted me to say a prayer with them."

"The outreach needs to happen here so much because this community—from the outside looking in—people think it's a Christian southern sport, but on the inside it's really not," he continued.

"So there's a lot of outreach to be done here. And to have a brotherhood—we call ourselves modern day disciples—we try to help each other and encourage each other and if it were just me, I probably wouldn't have the strength to go out and outreach to these guys, but when you've got four other drivers thinking the same thing you are, and encouraging it, then it makes it a lot easier."

Bayne also uses social media sites like Facebook and Twitter to talk about the Lord. In October, he had about 4,000 followers on Twitter. Now, after his historic victory in Daytona, he has almost 24,000.

After the race, Bayne wrote on Twitter, "Sayyy what! I'm blown away at how amazing God's plan is! 500 winner :) can't believe it!"

In recent days, he has also posted, "Until we realize that Christ is our only satisfaction, we will continually be lusting for more of something that will never satisfy!" and "Feelin like it was a pretty successful day even though we didn't get the result! So thankful for the platform God is using me on!"

"I get the chance every day to update my status and tell them whatever I want to tell them—what I'm experiencing that day and how God's helping me and I've got a lot of response from that," Bayne said in Baptist Press Sports about his social media efforts. "That motivates me every day to know that He's given me those people with their eyes on me to be able to outreach to them." (BP)

Tim Ellsworth is director of news and media relations at Union University in Jackson, Tenn.

3 DECADES Victor Stansbury was honored recently for 30 years of service as pastor of Muldraugh Hill Baptist Church in Lebanon. Before going to Muldraugh Hill in 1980, he served churches in Madison, Henry and Spencer counties. He is also an adjunct professor of biblical studies at Campbellsville University and moderator of Central Baptist Association. His wife, Joan, works with the campus ministry program at Campbellsville.



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 in an e-mail attachment to Smile@WesternRecorder.org or through our website at www.WesternRecorder.org/info/submit-items.

For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



Preacher's Kids

David Ayers



Bible Crosswords

By John H. Thornberg

Across

- 1 "Sacrifice ... _____ of turtledoves" (Luke 2:24) (2 words)
- 5 Bashful
- 7 "(David) feigned himself _____" (1 Samuel 21:13)
- 10 "Sword of the Spirit, ... the _____ of God" (Ephesians 6:17)
- 11 Also known as, abbr.
- 12 Information
- 13 "Ye do _____, not knowing the scriptures" (Matthew 22:29)
- 14 Triple Sugar Iron agar, abbr.
- 15 Male singing voice
- 16 Jewish scriptures
- 18 "Neither shall the cruse of _____ fail" (1 Kings 17:14)
- 19 "Be it unto _____ according to thy word" (Luke 1:38)
- 21 "_____ unto them that call evil good" (Isaiah 5:20)
- 22 "The staff of his _____ was like a weaver's beam" (1 Samuel 17:7)
- 24 "A thousand shall fall _____ thy side" (Psalm 91:7)
- 26 To fill with joy
- 28 "Though he slay me, _____ will I trust in him" (Job 13:15)
- 30 "_____ and feather him!"
- 32 "Sharper than any two-edged _____" (Hebrews 4:12)
- 34 A beaver _____
- 36 "Shut the doors, and _____ them" (Nehemiah 7:3)
- 38 Accomplish
- 40 "_____ weapon that is formed against thee" (Isaiah 54:17)
- 42 Motion picture
- 44 "Cain ... dwelt in the land of _____" (Genesis 4:16)
- 46 "Where two _____ three are gathered" (Matthew 18:20)
- 48 Flying mammal
- 49 Southern Israeli desert

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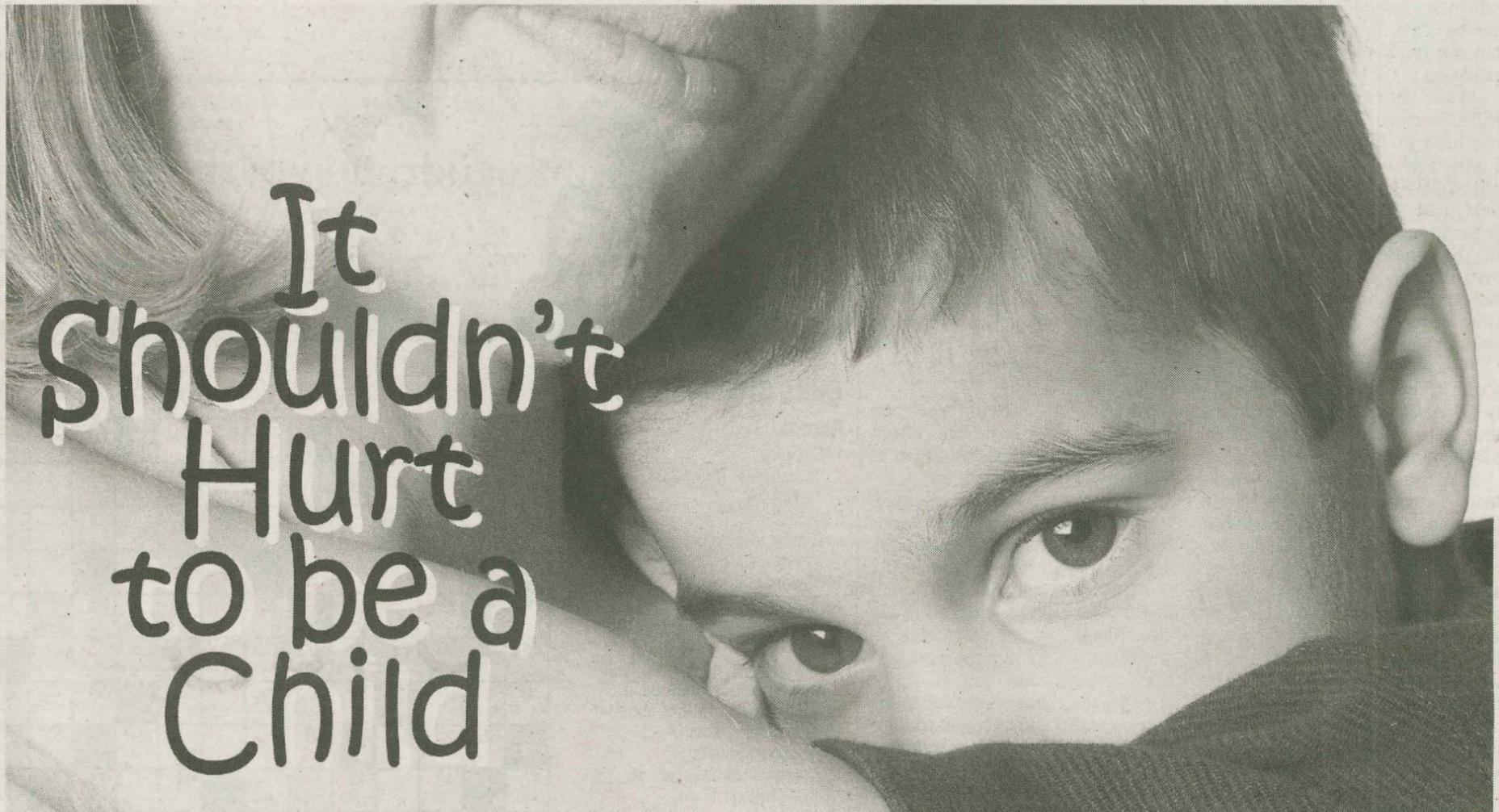
- 51 Regulation decreed by a church council
- 53 Animal pelt
- 54 Motorized coach
- 56 "Soul of Jonathan was _____ with ... David" (1 Samuel 18:1)
- 57 "Cast him into the bottomless _____" (Revelation 20:3)
- 58 "(Samson) _____ not that the Lord was departed" (Judges 16:20)
- 59 "The trees of the Lord are full of _____" (Psalm 104:16)
- 60 "Held in with _____ and bridle" (Psalm 32:9)
- 61 Trivial

- 14 Chinese ounces
- 15 "_____ them about thy neck" (Proverbs 6:21)
- 17 "The loving hind and pleasant _____" (Proverbs 5:19)
- 18 Musical drama
- 20 A large tub
- 22 A furnace
- 23 "Though they be _____ like crimson" (Isaiah 1:18)
- 25 Small flap
- 27 "Their laying _____ was known of Saul" (Acts 9:24)
- 29 Light brown
- 31 Isaac's replacement on the altar
- 33 Restaurant
- 35 Unruly throng
- 37 Mechanical monster
- 39 Piece of timber
- 41 "Defence shall be the munitions of _____" (Isaiah 33:16)
- 43 Mover's truck
- 45 Shortfall
- 47 A genus of frogs
- 49 "A tough _____ to crack"
- 50 "Pike's Peak or _____!"
- 52 "_____ in the bud"
- 53 "Men of war _____ for the battle" (1 Chronicles 12:8)
- 55 A pig _____
- 57 3.14, the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter
- 58 "_____ beseech thee" (Psalm 80:14)

Last week's solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8			
9	S	I	E	V	E	E	R	I	L	E
10	T	B	E	L	I	E	V	E	I	W
11	A	T	E	I	L	E	T	I	E	I
12	N	L	I	V	E	G	Z	E	A	L
13	D	E	L	E	P	I	G	S	B	D
14	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
15	J	O	Y	B	A	R	R	A	R	
16	S	O	N	S	C	A	L	E	B	N
17	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43
18	A	S	T	A	R	E	O	V	I	D
19	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
20	S	H	O	E	A	S	A	I	T	S
21	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52
22	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and your church can start planning now to help Sunrise Children's Services draw attention to the children who need hope and a refuge.



WAYS YOUR CHURCH CAN HELP:

- Pray for the thousands of children who are abused and neglected
- Decorate the pews with blue bows or hand out blue ribbons one Sunday in April
- Organize a group volunteer activity at one of Sunrise's residential programs
- Consider taking part in a Thanksgiving Children's Offering for Sunrise this spring
- Request Child Abuse Prevention bulletin inserts from Sunrise.



SUNRISE CHILDREN'S SERVICES

1-800-456-1386

www.SUNRISE.org

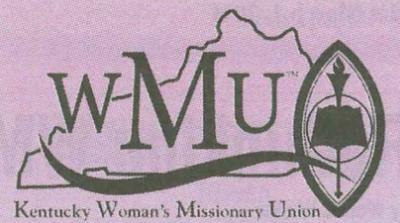
**2011 Annie Armstrong
Easter Offering®**
for North American Missions

Theme: Start Here
Offering Goal: \$70 million

Kentucky Baptist churches gave
\$2,106,646.55 to the 2010 AAEO –
The largest AAEO ever given
from Kentucky!

Can we exceed this in 2011?

Kentucky Notes



A quarterly publication of the Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union • Supplement to Western Recorder • Funding provided by the Eliza Broadus Offering and the Cooperative Program
Contact us: P.O. Box 436569, Louisville, KY 40253-6569 • (502) 489-3534 • Toll-free (866) 489-3534 • www.kywmu.org **SPRING 2011**



unhindered!

Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting

First Baptist Church, Bowling Green
March 25-26, 2011

Music Leaders – Sue Ellen Ballard & Emily Christian
The prelude will begin ten minutes before the start of each session
All times listed are Central Time

Friday Morning: 10:00 a.m.

Theme Interpretation – Jennifer Kennedy Dean
Unhindered in Sub-Saharan Africa
Offering for Kentucky WMU Ministries to Missionaries
Unhindered in Southeast Asia

Friday Noon: Heritage Fund Luncheon and Silent Auction

Box Lunch by pre-reservation
Silent Auction of Association Baskets to benefit
The Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund
Displays, Bookstores Open

Friday Afternoon: 1:30 p.m.

Theme Interpretation – Jennifer Kennedy Dean
State Missions & EBO: Kentucky WMU Camps
Business Session & Election of Officers

Friday Afternoon: 3:00 p.m.

Ministry Projects in Bowling Green
Conferences/Ministry Project at the Church
Book signing – Jennifer Kennedy Dean
Mission Friends Leaders' Coffeehouse
Silent Auction & Bookstores Open

Friday Evening: 6:45 p.m.

Concert – International Musicians
Theme Interpretation – Jennifer Kennedy Dean
Greetings from KBC – Don Mathis
Recognition of Bill & Kay Mackey
Offering for Kentucky WMU Ministries to Missionaries
Reaching the World in Kentucky –
International Ministries Panel

Saturday Morning: 7:00 a.m.

Baptist Nursing Fellowship Breakfast
by pre-reservation

Saturday Morning: 9:00 a.m.

Theme Interpretation – Jennifer Kennedy Dean
Project HELP: Human Exploitation – Mary Richie
Offering for Kentucky WMU Ministries to Missionaries
Unhindered in Bowling Green –
Hope House – Bryan Lewis
Baptist Campus Ministry, WKU – Tommy Johnson
Closing – Linda Cooper

Saturday Afternoon: 12:00 p.m.

Ministry Projects in Bowling Green
Missionary Parents Luncheon
at Ryan's Steak House

Find registration forms at:
[www.kywmu.org/
annualmeeting](http://www.kywmu.org/annualmeeting)



Location: First Baptist Church, 621 East 12th Avenue, Bowling Green, KY 42101
Collection Projects: Bibles for Campus Ministry in Chinese, Arabic, Vietnamese and English.
Items for Community Ministry including socks, bath towels, toiletries, laundry detergent and diapers.
Complete Annual Meeting information and registration form — www.kywmu.org/annualmeeting

A PERSONAL WORD

Join us, be the change

By Joy Bolton
Executive Director-Treasurer of
Kentucky WMU



Joy Bolton

Of change, it is said that there are two things Baptists hate—one is change, and the other is the same old thing. There is no doubt we are in a season of change in our denomination. We are pursuing change in regard to the allocation of Cooperative Program funds. We have a new leader at the North American Mission Board. We anticipate the announcement of a new leader at the International Mission Board. A search committee is seeking a new leader for the KBC as Dr. Mackey retires at the end of May.

An interesting thing about the changes in the ministries and services provided through the Cooperative Program is that some people are excited and others are bemoaning those changes. Those that are excited see the positive in our determination to send more missionaries to unreached places both in the United States and overseas. Yet there is grief in the cutbacks with the loss of a campus minister, fewer events, and less staff in all areas. There is concern that the decision of many churches to retain more funds for local or church-directed ministries has required that services provided by the state convention be cut back.

The answer is **More for Christ**. This is more than a catch phrase. This forthcoming KBC initiative is a call to give more of ourselves, our resources, and our time for Christ and His mission to seek and save the lost. If we choose to give more for Christ, starting with increased giving through our churches, there will be more funds for local church ministries, state convention provided ministries, NAMB, and IMB ministries. Seminaries and the total work of the SBC will be impacted, too.

"Be the Change" was written by Zach Hunter* at age 15. His cause is freeing slaves and changing the world. Zach writes about influence, courage, leadership, passion, endurance and sacrifice. His challenge to young people (and adults need to listen up!) is to look at the needs around you and determine to be the change! One person can make a difference.

How can you be the change for missions? Start where you live. Choose a ministry and get involved. There's a homeless person, lonely child, needy family, or some other special need in your community. Be the change. When your church is talking about how much to give for cooperative missions, speak up for how the Cooperative Program enables ministries in our state and around the world. Be the change. Speak up for ministries in your local association, too!

The vision for the Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting is that Bowling Green will not be the same after WMU comes to town. We want to be the change. Join us!

*"Be the Change: Your Guide to Freeing Slaves and Changing the World" by Zach Hunter. Copyright 2007, Youth Specialities/Zondervan.

Goodbye Glenda, Hello Amanda-Grace

By WMU Staff

In December, Kentucky WMU said goodbye to Glenda Triplett, who retired after 10 ½ years as Office Assistant for Kentucky WMU. In her role, Glenda was responsible for all Kentucky WMU mailings, including offering materials and various mailings to Kentucky WMU leaders. Glenda also worked with an average of 40-50 volunteers each year that assisted with assembling the mailings, filling orders, and assisting with other office tasks.

Prior to her work with Kentucky WMU, Glenda had worked as a church secretary and bank teller. Glenda and her husband, Gary, plan to travel and enjoy retirement together.

On December 1, we welcomed Amanda-Grace Richey as our new Office Assistant/Data Specialist. In her position with Kentucky WMU, Amanda-Grace will be responsible for all Kentucky WMU mailing as well as management of the Kentucky WMU database. She will also assist with the WMU web site and social media pages on the internet.

Prior to joining the staff, Amanda-Grace was a student at Boyce College and a member of the Kentucky WMU Executive Board, the youngest member to ever serve. Amanda-Grace is an Acteens leader at Burks Branch Baptist Church and Acteens Consultant for Shelby Baptist Association WMU.

Rethinking WMU

By Wanda Walker

A phone carrier has on its website "Rethink Possibilities". What would WMU look like in your church if you were to rethink WMU? We often find ourselves as leaders following the same patterns and getting into ruts. And we wonder what the reason is that folks just don't seem to want to get into WMU and its age level organizations.

Friends, it may be time to rethink what and how we do things. Even more so, perhaps we need to look at why we do the things we do. Why do you believe in the work of WMU?

Enough said? This is why I love to work with WMU. It is because it is all about the Great Commission. It is reaching and teaching the world about Jesus Christ. It is the belief that when I pray for God's work around the world, I am praying for the lady in our neighborhood who loves on the families with good deeds and shares Jesus as well as the missionaries in countries that can't speak the name of Jesus. That is what we are called to do.

Are you leading your church to have the passion for missions that you have or are you merely doing a program in hopes that someone will listen. Rethink possibilities. Think about how you are impacting the people in your church to grab onto your passion and why you do what you do.

I believe that God has great things in store for WMU. I have believed it for years. I know He has anointed you to serve him through this awesome organization. If you ever need someone to bounce off new ideas or be creative with, call your associational WMU leaders or the staff in the state office. Together we can "rethink possibilities."

Farewell LaRaine

By WMU Staff

LaRaine Rice, Youth/College Consultant, will conclude her work with Kentucky WMU following Exalt, the State Acteens Conference in April. LaRaine has worked with Kentucky WMU for 12 years. She and her husband, Jeff, adopted two children in November and LaRaine will be spending her time focusing on Christopher and Elizabeth.

Prior to joining the Kentucky WMU staff in 1999, LaRaine was the International Student Ministries Coordinator with the KBC Collegiate Department. From 1996-98, LaRaine served as a journeyman to Russia where she started and developed ministry for one million university students in cooperation with Russian Baptists. She taught English and drama at Nelson County High School and also in Florida. She worked in Campus Ministry at Georgetown College and was also a Centrifuge staffer.

During LaRaine's tenure as Youth/College Consultant she worked with our Kentucky Acteens Panelists and Resource Team. LaRaine led mission trips to Lynch, Kentucky; New Jersey, Slovenia and Maryland. Under her leadership, our state Acteens conference was renamed Exalt in 2001. LaRaine represented Kentucky WMU through the ministries of AIM during the World Equestrian Games in 2010 and had the privilege of developing the More than Gold pin.

We are grateful for LaRaine's energetic work for Kentucky WMU. We will miss her enthusiasm and creative thinking. She has encouraged many Acteens and Youth on Mission leaders, worked with youth ministers and Baptist Campus Ministry leaders. In addition to her consultant role, LaRaine has also taken the lead with WMU publications (*Kentucky Notes* and the Associational WMU Newsletter) and the development of our web site. We wish her the very best as she focuses her attention on family and continues in her service to the Lord in new ways.

Exploitation is real — and you can help

By Wanda Walker

Human exploitation is the new focus for Project HELP during these next few years. For some this is a difficult issue to talk about as it is one of the most hurtful things that humans can do. Human exploitation takes on many different forms: human trafficking, bullying, labor exploitation, pornography, exploiting our land, etc. The list could actually be endless if we thought on it for very long.

As adults we are more aware through media the cruelty that occurs. TV shows focus on crimes of all types. We watch in disgust and anger. I am sure if you are like me, you wonder how such things could go on. Reality is just as we see it. How unfortunate that God's greatest gifts to us are treated in such a manner.

During this first year of Project HELP: Human Exploitation it is hoped that our



churches would become educated about the issue and find ways to help those in the difficult dilemma and advocate for the victims. One of the things you can do is pray.

It is suggested that in May, we set

aside a day of prayer for human exploitation. As you work with the adults in your church, you may want to have someone come to your church to speak on the issue with your Women or Adult on Mission groups. There are several resources or persons in your area. Contact your local social service office or an organization that is specifically working with this population of people.

As you pray for human exploitation, pray for:

- Victims
- Perpetrators
- Parents
- Legislators
- Government officials
- Ourselves

For more information please contact Kentucky WMU or visit the national WMU website, www.wmu.com.

FOR GIRLS ONLY: Camps, laughter and fun

By LaRaine Rice

Contagious. What comes to mind when you hear that word? The flu? Some sort of exotic pandemic? Contagious laughter, perhaps?

When it comes to living a missions lifestyle, that word reminds us of how our faith should be. Our relationship with Christ and the resulting joy should spill over onto others and bring them to Christ.

And that is what Exalt is all about this year: being Contagious for Christ and changing the world. It will take place April 1-2 at Forest Park Baptist in Bowling Green. We will welcome back some Exalt favorites as Katie Richards will be the speaker and Bo Warren will lead worship.

We understand that a lot of groups are going to Blume this year and we want to make Exalt as affordable as possible. The early registration cost is just \$15 and includes a t-shirt that will relate to Exalt and to Blume as well. This will eliminate the need to get a Kentucky t-shirt for Blume. In addition, groups can stay on the "cushioned" gym floor of the church at no cost. Of course, groups that desire to stay at a hotel can do so. Check out www.kywmu.org/exalt for further information and a registration form.

Blume is getting closer all the time! You won't want to miss the opportunity to worship and study the Bible alongside thousands of girls from across the United States. It's not too late to register for the event which will be held July 13-16 at

the Coronado Springs Resort at Walt Disney world. Kentucky WMU would like to help girls from Kentucky attend and has set aside money for that purpose. \$100 will be given to each person who registers and then shows proof of a subscription to the Mag (girls) or the Acteens Leader (adults). You can read more about Blume at www.blumeforgirls.com.

If you can't make it to Blume, there will be exciting opportunities this summer. You can attend Acteens Splash at the Jonathan Creek Camp and Conference Center June 24-25 or the Acteens Overnight at Cedar Crest July 1-2. Both of these retreats provide girls in grades 7-12 the opportunity to grow closer to God in a relaxed, camp like atmosphere.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank God for the blessings He has given me. God has blessed me with a wonderful husband, Jeff. This past November, He blessed both of us with two wonderful children, Christopher and Elizabeth.

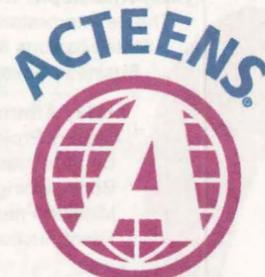
Twelve years ago, He blessed me with the privilege of serving Him through Kentucky WMU as the Youth/ College Consultant. I have enjoyed the friendships, Exalts, mission trips and chances to share with so many of you over the years. So, it is with a mixture of sadness and pure joy that I embrace the new assignment of mother that God has given me. I will conclude my tenure with Kentucky WMU in April following Exalt. However, I will continue to cherish my friends for years to come.

Upcoming events

Exalt
April 1-2
Forest Park Baptist
Bowling Green



Blume
July 13-16
Coronado Springs Resort
Walt Disney World



Acteens Splash
June 24-25
Jonathan Creek Camp

Acteens Overnight
July 1-2
Cedar Crest

How to keep young minds active this spring

By Stacy Nail

Do your preschoolers and children have spring fever? Why not use that excitement to help them learn more about missions? Try some of these outdoor ideas:

- Plant some seeds in pots for nursing home residents or make bird feeders for seniors.
- Lead children to make paper gliders for their neighbors. ("Flying God's Love Your Way" Zowie, New Hope Publishers)
- Host a walk-a-thon to raise money for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

Preschoolers

Even Mission Friends can begin to learn about the WMU Project Help: Human Exploitation emphasis. Teach your preschoolers the difference be-

tween words that hurt and words that help. Help preschoolers appreciate all the different people that God loves.

The "Missions and Me" book series for preschoolers is now available for download at www.wmu.com/preschool. Become a fan of "Molly Missions" and WMU Preschool on Facebook. Share ideas with other Mission Friends leaders on <http://www.wmuforum.com>.

Children

Children across Kentucky and throughout North America participated in Children's Ministry Day on February 19, 2011. This special day, sponsored by national WMU, was an opportunity for children in churches with or without Girls in Action. See *Hands on mission projects ... Page 3*



President's perspective: a full year ahead

The Baptist Women Leaders of East Africa asked that someone come and attend their meeting to help their women learn more about how to do mission work and how to teach missions education. Kentucky WMU's Executive Board felt that Joy Bolton and I should attend. So, on December 12, Joy and I left for Tanzania, Africa.

Eleven countries were invited to the East Africa Baptist Women's meeting that was held in Dar es Salaam, Africa. Three countries sent women: Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania. Some of these women traveled on a non-air-conditioned bus for 2 days just to be there. They stayed on site, slept on a thin mat on the concrete in a non-air-conditioned room with temperatures in the high 80's. They had no showers and had to use a squatty potty...they truly love the Lord!

I shared in depth about the tasks of WMU and Joy shared about some of the history of WMU in the United States and how the offerings are collected and monies managed. The



Linda Cooper

African women are so hungry to learn all they can about missions work and missions education. They hung on every word and wanted copies of what we had shared with them. As a matter of fact, we sent another copy just this week to a leader in Uganda after receiving an email from her with her request. The African women couldn't thank us enough for coming to help their women.

Pray that many will come to know Jesus as a result. I am thankful for our Executive Board encouraging us to go to help their women. We thank God that we played a small role in leading their women to come together to learn more about serving our Lord through missions.

I think about our annual meeting coming up very soon and how easy travel is in our country. I pray that you will be "Unhindered" and are planning to come to Bowling Green on March 25-26 to First Baptist Church as we celebrate missions. We will sit in padded pews, use indoor plumbing, and be comfortable in a climate controlled sanctuary. We are so blessed in this country, but sometimes find excuses to be elsewhere. I am officially inviting you to come and be a part of this year's missions celebration.

Author Jennifer Kennedy Dean will do our theme interpretations. There will be a special focus on ministries to internationals in Kentucky. You will meet Kentucky missionaries who are reaching people all around the world. Also, each person attending will have the opportunity to participate in various ministry projects around Bowling Green. Think of it as a mission trip that has already been planned for you! It will also be my first annual meeting to preside as president of Kentucky WMU! I am asking for your prayer support and your presence. Please come!

Don't forget to send your Acteens to Bowling Green on April 1-2 to Forest Park Baptist Church (my church) for Exalt. During this state Acteens conference, teenaged girls from across Kentucky attend a fun-filled weekend where they will be "contagious" with Christ's love. There will be special interest workshops and a focus on missions. It's always a GREAT time.

Please pray for me as I travel our state in the next few weeks sharing about missions work and missions education and how to be involved in the Great Commission through WMU. If I can be of help to you or your association, please let me know.

Camps? We got 'em

By Stacy Nall

Don't miss this summer's variety of camping events in two locations! Registration forms are now being accepted in the Kentucky WMU office. Please contact the WMU office or visit our website if you need registration materials.

Mission Adventure Camp at Cedar Crest

Learn about missions around the world as we "Set Sail for Missions!" Each group of 1-7 children attending Girls in Action Camp, Children's Camp and Acteens Overnight need to be accompanied by a church chaperone. Contact Kentucky WMU about discounted rates for Girls in Action and Children's Camp chaperones.

Girls in Action Camps \$185*

June 20-24, girls in grades 3-6 and their chaperones.

June 27-July 1, girls in grades 3-6 and their chaperones.

Children's Camp \$140*

July 5-8, boys and girls in grades 3-6 and their chaperones.

Acteens Overnight \$53*

July 1-2, girls in grades 7-12 and their chaperones.

Mother/Daughter Overnights \$53*

June 24-25, girls in grades 1-3 and their moms.



July 1-2, girls in grades 1-3 and their moms

*All rates are Early Bird rates through May 27, 2011. Rates are per person.

Overnights at the Creek

June 24-25, mother-daughter overnight at Jonathan Creek for girls in grades 1-3 and moms \$40*; GA overnight for girls in grades 4-6 and their chaperones \$45*; Acteens Splash for girls in grades 7-12 and their chaperones \$48*.

*All rates are Early Bird rates through May 27, 2011. Rates are per person. Find registration information at kywmu.org/camp.

Camp staff needed

Applications for summer staff at Cedar Crest will be accepted until all positions are filled. Positions include: fellowship leader, worship leader, crafts leader, missions leader, lifeguard, technology assistant, recreation leader, nature leader and kitchen coordinator. Staff members are high school juniors and seniors and college students.

Also, medical volunteers are needed for each week of camp.

Please contact the WMU office for applications. For more information contact Stacy Nall at 502-489-3454 or toll free 1-866-489-3534. E-mail stacy.nall@kybaptist.org.

Hands on mission projects for children

Continued from page 2

tion or Children in Action to participate in hands-on mission projects.

This year, children and their leaders focused on ministering to their neighbors. You can read and post stories about Children's Ministry Day at wmuforums.com.

GA Journey, the new individ-

ual achievement plan for Girls in Action will be available this fall from national WMU. GA Journey provides interesting ideas to help your girls personalize and reinforce the missions concepts they are learning in regular GA sessions.

New award vests and badges will also be available for both Girls

in Action and Children in Action.

Kentucky WMU sponsors two Missions Camps in Kentucky. Mission Adventure Camp at Cedar Crest is held at Cedarmore Camp and Conference Center.

Overnights at the Creek are held at Jonathan Creek Camp and Conference Center. Find out more in the story shown above.



CALENDAR

March

4-5 Creative Ministries Festival & Youth Missions Workshop, SBTS, Louisville

6-13 Season of Prayer for North American Missions & Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

19 Hispanic WMU Event, First BC, Mt. Washington

24 KY WMU Executive Board meeting, Warren Baptist Association office

25-26 KY WMU Annual Meeting, First BC, Bowling Green

April

1-2 Exalt, Forest Park BC, Bowling Green

8-9 Regional Women on Mission Retreat, Laurel Lake, Corbin

29-30 Regional Women on Mission Retreat, Camp Schafer, Hawesville

May

14 KY WMU State Associational Leadership Training (SALT), Baptist Building, Louisville

June

12-13 National WMU Missions Celebration and Annual Meeting, Phoenix, Ariz.

14-15 Southern Baptist Convention, Phoenix, Ariz.

24-25 Overnights at the Creek with Mother/Daughter Overnight, grades 1-3; GA Overnight, grades 4-6; and Acteens Splash, grades 7-12, at Jonathan Creek.

20-24 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls, grades 3-6, Cedar Crest

24-25 Mother/Daughter Overnight, grades 1-3, Cedar Crest

25 Kentucky BNF Summer Meeting, Louisville

27-7/1 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls, grades 3-6, Cedar Crest

July

1-2 Mother/Daughter Overnight, grades 1-3

Acteens Overnight, grades 7-12, Cedar Crest

5-8 Mission Adventure Camp for Children, grades 3-6, Cedar Crest

13-16 Blume (National Acteens Convention) Orlando, Fla.

30-31 Excel (leadership development conference), Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown

Find more at kywmu.org/calendar.

Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund

October 1 – December 31, 2010

The following persons were honored or remembered through gifts to the Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund during the last quarter of 2010. Our thanks to each person who gave to the Heritage Fund in honor of or in memory of someone significant to you and WMU. We also closed out the 1000² Campaign for the Heritage Fund at the end of December.

In Honor of:

Glenda Triplett
Twyla Sheffield
Cynthia Slinker
Patty Renfrow
June Rice
Wanda Riley
Glenda Triplett
LaRaine & Jeff Rice
Twyla Sheffield, Lodema Parsons & Peggy
Lois & Chelsea Williams
WMU Executive Board
Horace & Maribeth Hambrick

Donor:

Patty Renfrow
Joy Bolton
Wanda Walker
Linda Cooper
Cathy Mattingly
Stacy Nall
Mary Lou Ray
Cheryl Hatfield

Linda Cooper
Irma Woodrow
Pat Reaves
Chuck & Frankie Johnson

In Memory Of:

William A. Lamkin
Hershell Haycraft
Brenda Harris
Bob Gray
Doris Henry
All WMU Members

Donor:

Marilyn Lamkin
Burks Branch Baptist Women
Marcia Ballard (1,000² Campaign gift)
Cheryl Hatfield
Johanna Willham
Allansville Baptist Church WMU

1000² Campaign Contributions and Other Gifts

New Salem Baptist Church WMU
Christian County Baptist Association
Irma Woodrow
Kentucky WMU Staff
Charolette Rock
Sandra Duguid
Twyla Sheffield
Patty Renfrow
Mary Lauer
Judy Short
Donna Fegenbush
Kim Price
Jo Pelham
Linda Cooper
Cathy Mattingly
Lesia Keown
Brenda Williams
Teresa Vanzant
Tina Nicely
Annette Story
Darlene Schadler
Marilyn Creighton
Joyce Wilcox
Cheryl Hatfield
Bill & Charmaine Nichols

Heritage Fund at Work

On May 14, Associational WMU leaders will gather at the Kentucky Baptist Convention building for a day of leadership development workshops and updates for the 2011-12 church year. Known as SALT (State Association Leadership Training), the conference provides practical resources for associational WMU leaders and ideas for working with churches to strengthen and develop WMU work. This is a vital outcome because of the ripple effect one conference can have.

Just imagine an associational GA Consultant who attends SALT, returns to her association and encourages a church to start Girls in Action. Out of that church, girls grow up to be missions prayers, leaders, and even missionaries. All because of one conference.

Your gifts to the Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund provide funds for SALT. Associational leaders receive new WMU resources such as posters, books, and resource CD's as well as training led by the Kentucky WMU staff.

For more information on ways you can support Kentucky WMU, visit kywmu.org/support or [facebook.com/supportKyWMU](https://www.facebook.com/supportKyWMU).

Kentucky WMU Ministries to Missionaries

By WMU Staff

Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union sponsors a variety of ministries to international missionaries. These ministries are provided by offerings taken at the Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting, retreats and other events. Individuals and groups may also send contributions throughout the year.

Kentucky WMU ministries to missionaries include the following:

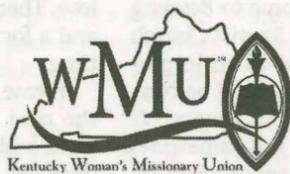
- Christmas gifts to career and emeritus missionaries from Kentucky
- Gifts to Kentucky MKs attending college in Ken-

tucky

- Missionary Parents Fellowship
 - Western Recorder subscriptions to Kentucky international missionaries upon request
 - Appointment gifts for new Kentucky IMB career missionaries
 - Missionary dinner during the Kentucky Baptist Convention
 - Airfare for the MK Re-entry retreat. This retreat, held in different states each year, helps MKs prepare for college.
- At right are some notes from our missionaries:

*Dear Ladies,
Thank you for remembering us this year. We never are off the "Go home and tell" list as long as we can still "get about." Keep telling the story of Jesus and his love!
In Christian love,
Caroline and Herbert Jukes
Emeritus Missionaries to Brazil*

*Dear Kentucky WMU,
We appreciate your Christmas wishes and your financial support, your work to promote missions and your yearly Christmas gift. We appreciate you and know missions would not be the same without you!
Frohe Weihnachten!
Susan and Steven Jett
Missionaries to Germany*



Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union

Find more news and resources at kywmu.org

Welcome to Kentucky WMU

Welcome to the following new WMU groups started September 2010 to January 2011:

Mission Friends—Antioch, Audabon, Central, Elkton, Fort Mitchell, Freemont, Northside, Pilot Knob, Plano, Vernal Grove, Vine Run and Wrigley.

Girls in Action—Oak Grove, Providence, Wrigley and Zions Cause

Children in Action—FBC Cold Spring, FBC Pikeville, Fort Mitchell,

Freemont, Immanuel, Pilot Knob and Plano.

Acteens—Mt. Tabor and Willisburg.

Youth on Mission—Plano and University of the Cumberland

Women on Mission—Freemont, New Beginning, Pleasant View, Riverview and University of the Cumberland.

Adults on Mission—Plano. Churchwide—Siloam.

Leadership development opportunities

WMU Staff Report

S.A.L.T.

State Associational Leadership Training for all association WMU leaders. The Cultural Environment of Our Churches: What Every Associational WMU Leader Needs to Know.

Guest speaker: Patty Lane, Baptist General Convention of Texas.

May 14 at Kentucky Baptist Convention Building, 13420 Eastpoint Centre Drive, Louisville. For more, kywmu.org/salt.

Excel

For all church and association WMU and Baptist Men leaders.

July 30-31 at Severns Valley Baptist Church, 1100 Ring Road, Elizabethtown. For more, kywmu.org/excel.

Shaped to Serve

Fall Retreat (Women on Mission/special interest workshops)

October 7-8 at Jonathan Creek Baptist Conference Center, 3043 Beal Road, Hardin. For more, kywmu.org/retreats.

Living the Noble Life
Women's Getaways

Two Locations:
Laurel Lake Baptist Camp, Corbin—April 8-9
Camp Schafer, Hawesville—April 29-30
Gayla Parker is speaker at both locations.

Cost: \$55 per person
kywmu.org/retreats

Kentucky WMU Trip to Phoenix
June 11-18, 2011

Attend the National WMU Annual Meeting and Southern Baptist Convention
Sightseeing and Overnight at the Grand Canyon

Cost: \$1,100.00 per person (double occupancy)
Includes airfare, hotel, and van/shuttle transportation.
Meals not included.

Application and Deposit (\$500, non-refundable) due by March 15, 2011

Information/application: kywmu.org/phoenix

Contagious
(You'll want to catch this)

FOR GIRLS IN GRADES 7-12

April 1-2, 2011
Forest Park Baptist Church
Bowling Green

Find out more by checking out kywmu.org/exalt