

Shine like stars in the world
Philippians 2:15

WESTERN Recorder

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FOR THE RECORD

Kentucky
KBC administrative committee told impact of CP funds shift will exceed \$1.3 million next fiscal year. *Page 2.*



Missions
More than 80 new missionaries and chaplains appointed by NAMB. *Page 3.*



People
Kentucky WMU honors retiring KBC exec Bill Mackey and his wife, Kay. *Page 7.*

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Kentucky WMU urged to 'go forward' for missions

By Robin Bass
Partnerships Director

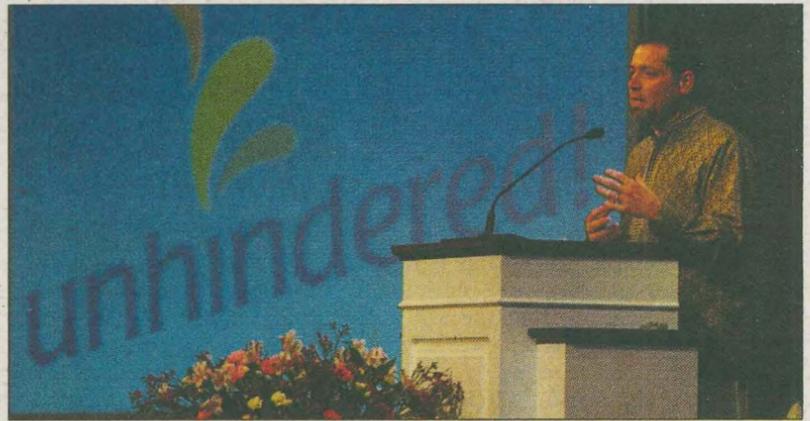
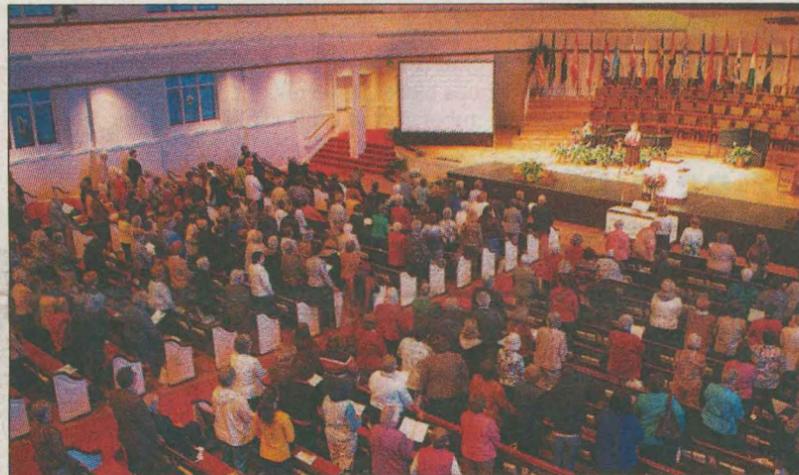
Bowling Green—Baptist women across Kentucky were challenged to "go forward" in furthering the call of missions during the 108th annual meeting of the Woman's Missionary Union March 25-26.

Echoing the words of WMU founder Annie Armstrong, Kentucky WMU Executive Director Joy Bolton issued the clarion call to more than 600 missions-minded women attending the two-day event

at First Baptist Church of Bowling Green.

"It is awesome to be a part of an organization that has not only lasted, but has grown to be a presence in over 40 countries," Bolton said. "That has not only grown, but stayed absolutely true to the purpose for which we were formed: missions."

Financially supporting missions efforts in Kentucky is the Eliza Broadus Offering, which Bolton said surpassed its giving goal for a third straight year in 2009-10. Last year's



average of \$168,500 allowed for a variety of state missions projects.

"Because of your generous giving, whenever you hear a Find It Here radio ad in April, know that you are hearing Eliza Broadus Offering at work," Bolton said.

Other missions areas that benefited from the increased giving include:

- Youth and young adult evangelism.
- A disaster relief shower unit, as well as DR vehicle maintenance, database systems and other expenses.
- A church plant in the Canada Town area of Whitley County.
- Needs of the R/6 mentoring program at a transitional house in Mayfield.

Totals for the current fiscal year, however, are lagging behind the 2010-11 goal of \$1.2 million. As of

MISSIONS EMPHASIS ■ Above: Craig, an international missionary from Kentucky who serves with his family in southeast Asia, tells Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union members what it's like to live "unhindered" for God among Muslims. ■ Left: More than 630 Kentucky Baptist women gathered at First Baptist Church of Bowling Green for the 108th Kentucky WMU annual meeting March 25-26. This year's theme was "Unhindered" (Photos by Robin Bass)

March 23, the offering total was slightly more than \$1 million.

Rather than dwell on the present, Bolton opted to look ahead to the coming year.

"Our goal is \$1.25 million and every dollar will be used for missions and missions education in Kentucky," Bolton continued. "Our theme this fall is 'Chain Reaction,' □ See Kentucky WMU ... *Page 6*

Study: Young adults can get fat at church

Evanston, Ill.—Young adults who regularly attend religious activities are 50 percent more likely to become obese when they reach middle age than their nonreligious peers, a new study shows. Based on the findings, researchers at Northwestern University think churches should be a focus in the fight to prevent obesity.

"It's possible that getting together once a week and associating good works and happiness with eating unhealthy foods could lead to the development of habits that are associated with greater body weight and obesity," said Matthew Feinstein, the study's lead investigator.

The study, which tracked 2,433 people for 18 years, compared those who attended a religious activity at least once a week to those with less participation. It found that young adults ages 20 to 32 with normal weight who were frequent attenders were 50 percent more likely to be obese in middle age.

Researchers noted their findings do not indicate that people with significant religious involvement are likely to have worse health overall. For example, religious people, who often smoke less than nonreligious people, generally live longer. (RNS)

Cooperative Program Sunday April 10

Hard times lead church to give more through CP

By Meredith Day
Illinois Baptist

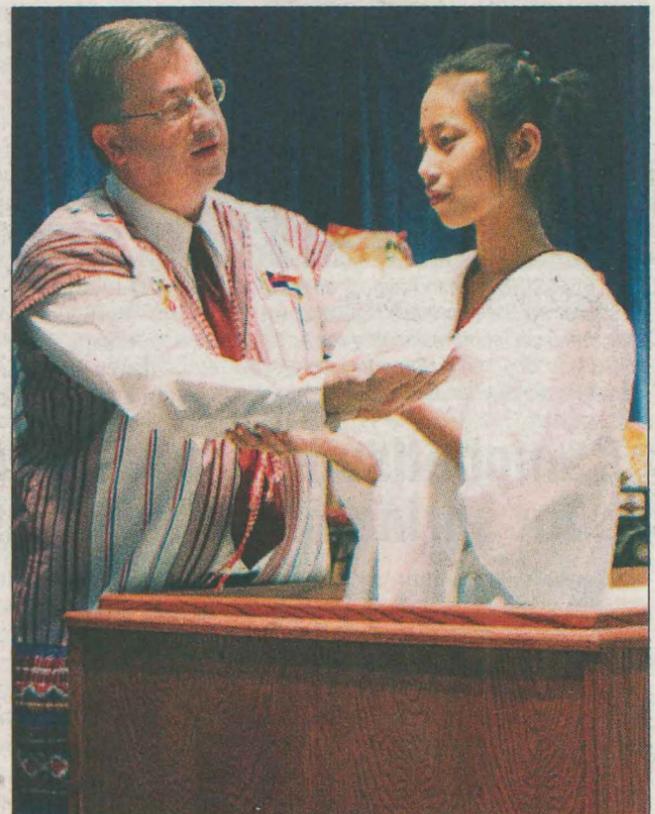
Machesney Park, Ill.—The struggling U.S. economy hasn't been kind to Winnebago County in extreme north central Illinois.

Winnebago, with the highest unemployment rate in Illinois, is home to the state's third-largest city, Rockford. Several major plant closings over the past few years have impacted many of the county's communities, including Machesney Park, where Kevin Kerr is pastor of First Baptist Church.

"We've had people who have lost jobs, and some of them have stayed and tried to find lower-paying work or fewer hours," Kerr said. "Some have had to move away, and that has impacted our attendance as well as our offerings."

Those facts make First Baptist, Machesney Park's place on the Illinois Baptist State Association's list of top-giving churches through the Cooperative Program even more notable, though Kerr is quick to downplay the 17 percent giving increase over 2009. The church wants to be higher on the list, the pastor said, even while balancing the needs of an aging building and a multifaceted ministry to the Karen (Burmese) congregation it planted in 2008.

Some people in the Karen congregation also have lost jobs or had their hours cut back. First Baptist has ramped up its financial contributions to the younger congregation, continuing to provide transportation, English as a Second Language classes □ See Church increases CP gifts ... *Page 8*



LIVES CHANGED Kevin Kerr (left), pastor of First Baptist Church of Machesney Park, Ill., baptizes a member of Karen Mission, a congregation that First Baptist planted to reach immigrants from Myanmar (formerly Burma). Kerr led First Baptist, Machesney Park to increase giving to the Cooperative Program in 2010 by 17 percent over the previous year.

Impact of CP funds shift to exceed \$1.3 million in first year

Admin. committee also agrees to move Nelson Baptists to new region

By Todd Deaton
Editor

Louisville—More than \$1.3 million in Cooperative Program funds will shift from the Kentucky Baptist Convention to Southern Baptist causes in the 2011-12 fiscal year, as the KBC begins its 10-year move to a 50/50 CP split between the conventions.

The KBC also will redraw one of its eight regional boundaries for greater parity in representation on boards and committees, if a recommendation from the KBC's administrative committee is approved at the Mission Board's May meeting.

In a March 24 meeting, KBC Business Services Team Leader Lowell Ashby updated the administrative committee on the implementation of the convention's plan to move toward a 50/50 percentage split of CP receipts with the SBC over the next decade. Calling it "a monumental year" for the KBC, he noted that in the first year, the KBC will experience a significant impact of \$1,301,649 from a 5.54 percent shift, moving from a current split of 62/38 to a 56.46/43.54 percentage allocation.

In a series of charts, Ashby showed the

committee that while the International Mission Board allocations will increase by \$671,288, the North American Mission Board will gain \$296,646 and the SBC's six seminaries will get \$285,321 more, the KBC Mission Board will lose \$880,024 and its agencies will lose \$492,884. More specifically, its agencies each will see an average total allocation drop of \$19,000, while the Woman's Missionary Union will drop \$26,000. The KBC's two universities each will lose \$168,000, while Clear Creek's allotment will be reduced by \$32,000 and Oneida's by \$21,000.

CP gifts remain behind

Meanwhile, at the halfway point of the fiscal year, Kentucky Baptists' gifts through the Cooperative Program are nearly \$800,000 (6.8 percent) behind the convention's annual budget of \$23.5 million, Ashby reported. The amount is the largest at this point that the KBC has been behind in its budget as far back as 2005, he noted. The KBC's spendable budget for this fiscal year has been reduced by 5 percent to accommodate the shortfall.

Through the first two weeks in March, CP receipts totaled \$1.23 million, and convention leaders are hopeful for a good month. Yet, because receipts only averaged \$1.825 million during the first half of the year, monthly giving will need to average \$1.895 million in the second half to meet a

working budget of \$22.325 million, Ashby reported.

Gifts to all missions offerings during the first half of the year also are well behind last year's marks, Ashby noted. The Lottie Moon offering is \$450,000 below its goal; Eliza Broadus is down \$190,000; and Annie Armstrong is behind \$112,000. But each of the offerings was significantly impacted by legacy gifts last year, he explained.

"Bad news is we're behind budget; good news is we're operating within our means," committee chairman Don Mathis of Bowling Green remarked, referring to the fact that many of the necessary budgetary adjustments already had been made.

During its January meeting, the administrative committee eliminated seven part-time contracts in campus ministry, plus five full-time and 19 part-time Mission Board positions in anticipation of a major shift in Cooperative Program percentages from KBC to Southern Baptist Convention ministries starting in 2012, as approved by convention messengers at last year's annual meeting.

Regional changes

At the March meeting, committee members approved switching one association, Nelson, from Region 3 to Region 4, bringing all eight regions closer in terms of the total resident membership of their affiliat-

ed churches. Currently, the regions range in size from Region 3, with 78,448 resident members among 10 associations, to Region 4, with 51,031 resident members in two associations.

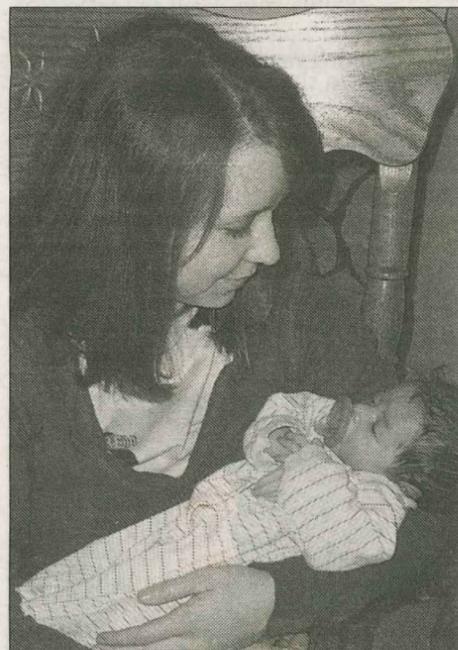
A recent study—mandated by a Mission Board stipulation when the current regional lines were adopted about eight years ago—found that realigning Nelson Baptist Association would represent a shift of about 10,900 resident members. The move will drop Region 3 to around 67,500 and boost Region 4 to nearly 62,000 resident members, explained Steve Thompson, KBC assistant executive director. On average, each of the regions now has 61,650 resident members, according to data from the Annual Church Profile.

The action, if approved, will not affect those currently serving on the Mission Board or members of KBC committees or agency boards, Thompson noted.

Other business

In other action, the administrative committee approved conducting Coy Webb's interview by video in lieu of an interview during the Mission Board meeting. Webb, who will be nominated as director of the Baptist Men on Mission department, will be in Zimbabwe then. The committee also delayed action on setting the May Mission Board meeting sites for 2012 and beyond, opting to poll its members next month.

UC students tour Kentucky ministries over spring break



TINY BLESSING Magan Atwood, director of University of the Cumberlands' Appalachian Ministries, holds an infant resident of the Angel House at Galilean Children's Home in Liberty. (University of the Cumberlands photo)

Williamsburg—University of the Cumberlands Baptist Campus Ministry students spent spring break serving those in need in the commonwealth.

Nine Cumberlands' students, along with Magan Atwood, UC's director of Appalachian Ministries, traveled to three different ministries in Kentucky: Galilean Children's Home in Liberty, Refuge for Women in Lexington and Jefferson Street Baptist Center in Louisville.

"I chose to go on this trip because I wanted to see the different ministries that are active very close to us here in Kentucky," said LeAnn Wright, a junior at University of the Cumberlands.

While at the Galilean Children's Home, the team worked with the Blessings House, which cares for mentally handicapped adults. In addition, the team helped at the Angel House, which cares for babies and toddlers whose mothers are in prison. There, team members were able to hold, feed and change the babies and play with the toddlers.

Refuge for Women is a place for women to escape from the adult-entertainment industry, providing them with a place to stay in a family-like atmosphere with Christian

mentors and encouragement. While there, the team made bracelets that are used to raise money for the ministry. The students said they also were blessed by the testimony of a resident there.

"One of the girls from the Refuge for Women shared her story, and it was amazing what God had brought her through in the past few months," said junior Stephanie Lawless. "She literally was transformed from darkness to light."

The team wrapped up its trip with a stay at the Jefferson Street Baptist Center in Louisville, where the students completed odd jobs such as cleaning, caulking and painting. They also were able to visit and play cards with the shelter's residents.

"I learned the most at the homeless shelter," Wright said. "I met a few people who were so far from the (homeless) stereotype that it blew my mind."

The Cumberland BCM students also heard a testimony from one of the men at the homeless shelter.

"He talked about how he lost everything he had and basically hit rock bottom," Lawless recalled. "Last year, he got saved in jail and he was telling everybody about the Lord."

City of Louisville continues its crack-down on strip clubs

Louisville—Law enforcement officials in Louisville have cited three sexually oriented businesses under an ordinance that took effect this year.

About 25 of the area's sex-themed businesses had asked the U.S. Supreme Court to side with them in their seven-year fight against the regulations but the court declined. The ordinance eliminates alcohol sales and all-nude dancing, and forces strip club owners and employees to pay licensing fees.

Daniel Weiss, director of research and national outreach at Reclaim Our Culture Kentuckiana, said years of hard work by family advocates are paying off.

"Citizens stood strong. The city council stood strong, and now they're starting to clean up their city," he said. "Communities need to realize that they can pass very strong, constitutionally sound ordinances—and they can start doing that today." (BP)

Campbellsville students travel globe for spring break mission projects

Campbellsville—A number of Campbellsville University students spent their spring breaks doing missions work in different areas of the U.S. and even abroad.

"We were waiting in the dark, and then we saw all these flashlights coming from over the hills," Becca Saylor said of her experience on a spring break mission trip in Costa Rica.

"They were people coming to church in the dark and rain from hours away," the freshman from Lexington recalled.

Saylor traveled to Costa Rica with a group of Baptist Campus Ministry students. The team worked with the Ngabe people,

teaching English in schools and going around to homes sharing testimonies.

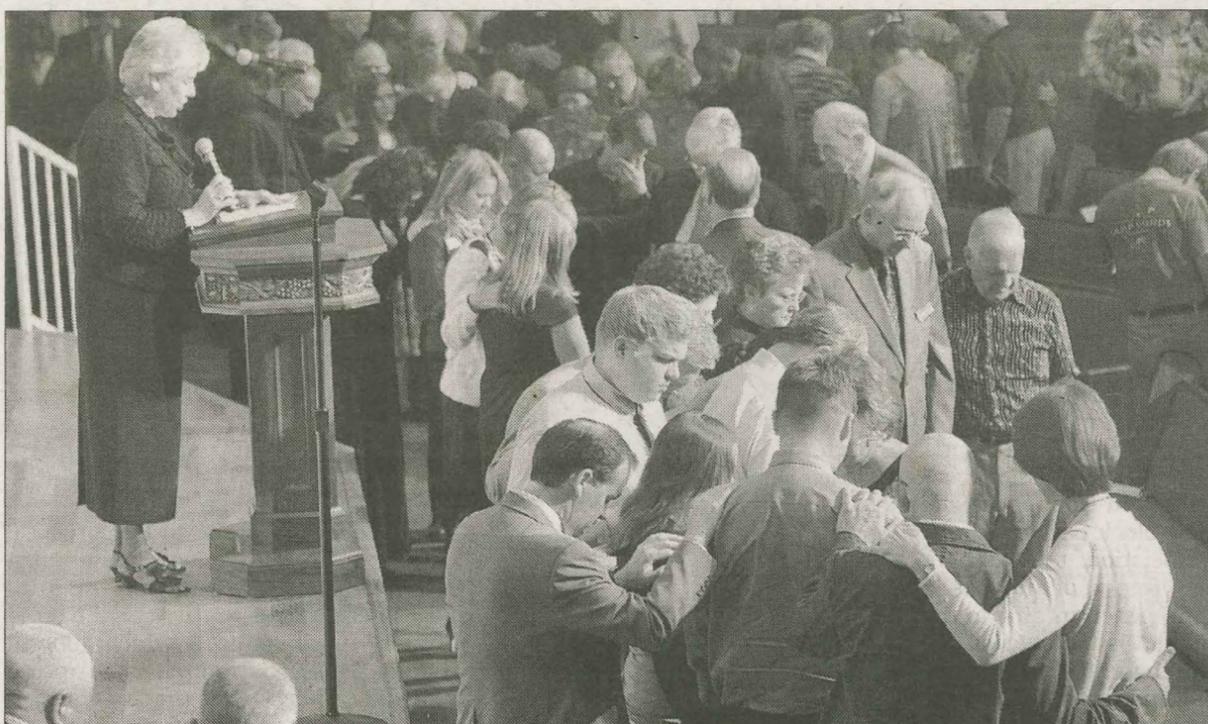
In Dearborn, Mich., Seth Pierce, a senior from Bardstown, said, "This mission trip is not much like others because you don't see results; you don't see fruit."

In one of the largest Muslim communities in the U.S., students met with Muslims who "were not open to Christianity," Pierce said, "but they were open to friendships."

Pierce said members of the team were able to build friendships with the Muslims and will continue to pray for and stay in contact with them, and "maybe break through to them in a few years."



UNIQUE RELATIONSHIPS Campbellsville students Kristina Wallace (second from left), a senior from Hopkinsville, and Ashley Boyd (far right), a 2010 graduate from Simpsonville, built friendships with Muslims in Dearborn, Mich., during their spring break mission trip. The city has one of the largest Muslim populations in the country. (Campbellsville University photo)



Woman's Missionary Union Executive Director Wanda Lee (left), prays as hundreds of members of First Baptist Church of Brandon, Fla., lay hands on 81 new missionaries commissioned March 20 by the North American Mission Board. (Photo by John Swain/NAMB)

NAMB commissions 81 new missionaries

By Mickey Noah
North American Mission Board

Brandon, Fla.—The North American Mission Board commissioned 81 new missionaries and chaplains at a March 20 commissioning service at First Baptist Church of Brandon, Fla.

In his first-ever missionary commissioning sermon, Larry Wynn, NAMB's new vice president for evangelism, drew applause when he looked out over the pews of missionaries and told them that "you are the real heroes."

"You are sacrificing to go where God is calling you. You're leaving family, friends, familiar surroundings, your comfort zone and the things you love, to go and make a difference. We're going to reach North America because of men and women like you," Wynn said.

Arnold and Teresa Wong were commissioned as Mission Service

Corps missionaries for church planting in Richmond Hill, Ontario. The Wongs formerly were International Mission Board missionaries in China.

"We'll be planting churches among the 60,000 Mandarin-speaking Chinese in the Richmond Hill area," Wong said, noting that "99.9 percent of them are non-Christians. They've never been exposed to the gospel."

"It's a challenge to make them understand the gospel," he continued. "First, we have to be their friends because being from communist China, they're suspicious of other people. They have to trust us first. We have to win the right to share the gospel."

Wong said the Mandarin Chinese to whom he'll be ministering—highly educated professionals such as computer experts and accountants—are basically amoral and don't understand the sacrificial, unconditional love of Christ and Christians.

Among those also commissioned was U.S. Navy chaplain Stephen Griffin and his wife, Julie, of Portsmouth, Va. Stationed at Norfolk Naval Station, Griffin soon will leave Julie and their 2-month-old daughter, Tierzah, for active duty in Afghanistan where he will minister to U.S. Marines.

"Julie and I prayed and cried over my assignment, but finally we just came to the conclusion that it's an opportunity God is putting out there for us," Stephen said. "We just said, 'Roger that, God, we'll do it.' But we're sober about the difficulties."

Julie and Tierzah will stay behind in Portsmouth during Stephen's six-month deployment. (BP)

Southern dean Moore is lone Kentuckian on SBC resolutions team

Phoenix—Southern Baptist Convention President Bryant Wright has named the members of the Resolutions Committee who will serve during the June 14-15 SBC annual meeting in Phoenix.

Russell Moore, dean of the School of Theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and a teaching pastor at Highview Baptist Church in Louisville, is the sole Kentucky Baptist representative on the committee. He served as the group's chairman last year.

Wright named Paul Jimenez of South Carolina as committee chairman. Jimenez is pastor of First Baptist Church of Taylors, S.C.

The other committee members are: Allan Blume, pastor of Mount Vernon Baptist Church in Boone, N.C.; Linda Clark, a member of Graceland Baptist Church in New Albany, Ind.; Stephen Farish, pastor of Crossroads Church in Grayslake, Ill.; Mark Howell, pastor of Houston (Texas) Northwest Church; Tim McCoy, pastor of Ingleside Baptist Church in Macon, Ga.; Michael Pigg, pastor of Philadelphia Baptist Church in Lithonia, Ga.; Jimmy Scroggins, pastor of First Baptist Church of West Palm Beach, Fla.; Carol Yarber, a member of First Baptist Church of Malakoff, Texas.

Proposed resolutions may be submitted as early as April 15 but no later than 15 days prior to the SBC annual meeting, giving the Resolutions Committee a two-week period in which to consider submissions. Resolutions may no longer be submitted during the annual meeting.

Also, proposed resolutions must be accompanied by a letter from a church qualified to send a messenger to the SBC annual meeting certifying that the individual submitting the resolution is a member in good standing. No individual will be allowed to submit more than three resolutions per year.

If a properly submitted resolution is not forwarded by the Resolutions Committee to the SBC annual meeting, a two-thirds vote of messengers would be required to bring the proposed resolution to the convention floor. (BP)

D.C. Baptist convention elects exec in divided vote

Washington—Ricky Creech, once a Southern Baptist missionary and associational director of missions and more recently on the staff of a Georgia United Methodist church, was elected in a close vote March 28 to be executive director of the District of Columbia Baptist Convention.

The unanimous candidate of the search committee, Creech was strongly endorsed by the convention's executive committee, but the full board voted 35-28 with one abstention to call him.

Convention President Yvonne Shinhoster Lamb, who was a member of the search committee, said simply that while the board had "committed people who wanted to make the best decision, not everyone was in agreement."

She said negative votes were united around no single issue, except maybe subconsciously the "change in status quo" that Creech's leadership promises.

"I see God trying to do something different," said Lamb, a member of Dayspring Community Church in Lanham, Md. She said Creech offers something "out of the box" and that he is "creative and different and that captured the attention of the search committee. This isn't status quo."

Creech, 47, was director of missions of Birmingham Baptist Association in Alabama from 1995 until 2006. He left denominational work in 2007 to become a ministry consultant. He currently works as an administrator on the staff of a Methodist church in Decatur, Ga.

Creech is a graduate of Furman University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He was a church-and-community missionary in Montgomery and Birmingham, Ala., for the SBC Home Mission Board (now North American Mission Board) before his election as executive director of the 135-church Birmingham Baptist Association in 1997.

Creech succeeds Jeffrey Haggray, who resigned in 2009 to become pastor of First Baptist Church of Washington.

With 153 churches, the D.C. convention is unique in its affiliation with three denominational bodies, plus the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship: American Baptist Churches USA, the Southern Baptist Convention and the Progressive National Baptist Convention. (ABP)

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QUESTIONS? Call the Kentucky Baptist Convention's
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CP Emphasis Sunday

Cooperative Program Sunday is April 10. Churches are requested to have a special emphasis that will focus on missions in Kentucky, the United States and around the world. Videos and other materials are available through the KBC website at www.kybaptist.org/cpmissions.

Partners in the Mission



By Bill Mackey

We are encouraging church leaders to express appreciation to members for their support of their local church and CP missions. Thousands of lives are being transformed each day around the world for the glory of God.

The new Southern Baptist tagline for the Cooperative Program is "Together, We Are There." This means that through KBC ministries, through the witness of 10,000-plus missionaries, and the equipping of 15,000 seminary students, you are there to share the gospel with a lost world.

Support for missions through the Cooperative Program is one aspect of the broader "More for Christ" emphasis that messengers approved during our convention in November. As part of the launch of this new emphasis, we are preparing a packet that will be mailed to each KBC church. The packet contains information about the "More for Christ" emphasis and a commitment form that will help leaders and committees with planning.

Although CP support is a part of the emphasis, "More for Christ" is not just about money. It is about doing more for Christ as individuals, families and local churches. It is about doing more for Christ in missions and evangelism. It is about more souls for Christ.

KBC President Floyd Paris has been very creative in suggesting plans for involving children, youth and adults in "More for Christ."

Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union is providing leadership for the "More for Christ" plan for involvement of children called "Children Changing the World." It is a plan for children to collect change that would go to missions through the Cooperative Program.

The "More for Christ" project for adults is called "Three More for Christ." Church members are requested to add \$3 to their gifts to their church each week. This is not much for one member, but over 52 weeks it results in \$156. If 100,000 Kentucky Baptists added \$3 each week, the total would be over \$15 million.

Most of these additional offerings would be used by the church for local missions and ministries, but since KBC churches average sending 7 percent of designated receipts to support missions through the Cooperative Program, the result would be an additional \$1 million dollars for CP missions in Kentucky and around the world. A small gift can make a big difference when combined with others.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

WMU 'unhinder' adults and children to experience missions

More than 600 women were challenged at the annual meeting of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union in Bowling Green to become more "unhindered" in ministry and missions education in Kentucky and around the world. Throughout the meeting, Jennifer Kennedy Dean, author of the 2010-11 WMU emphasis book, "Life Unhindered," delivered a series of inspiring theme interpretations, urging the women to sacrifice self on the altar in order to enter an "altered state" of living a Spirit-filled and Spirit-led life.

But even before one entered the sanctuary of First Baptist Church, the spirit of missions was palpable. Parked in front of the church was a new block party trailer for Warren Association, towed to the meeting by Director of Missions Jeff Crabtree. Kentucky Baptists' generous gifts to the Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions helped the association's churches to purchase the trailer to be used in their church planting and community ministry efforts.

Just inside the church foyer, many of the women carried large baskets that had been filled by members of their WMU groups with all sorts of attractive items for a silent auction. High bids for the baskets raised more than \$5,000 for the WMU's Heritage Fund, which supports the ongoing work of Kentucky WMU. They also collected more than \$6,000 for WMU Ministries for Missionaries, which provides a small Christmas gift for missionaries from Kentucky, subscriptions to the Western Recorder, retreat travel expenses for missionary kids, and a missionary parent fellowship.

As one would expect, the evangelistic work of our Southern Baptist missionaries was spotlighted. This year's lineup included Craig, a former staff member at a Kentucky Baptist church, who told about his work among Muslims in Southeast Asia, and Greg, a former electrical engineer, who spoke about how the "Jesus" film enables him to reach the immigrant population of a European capital. They also heard from Pavel Barko, pastor of a Ukrainian mission in Bowling Green; Mary Lou Crutcher, who works with internationals in Louisville; Trent Deloach, a church planter seeking to reach Louisville's large Bosnian population; Pat Gutierrez, an international ministry coordinator in Bowling Green; Tommy Johnson, campus minister at Western Kentucky University; and Bryan Lewis, director of Hope House in Bowling Green.

In her report, President Linda Cooper, who bubbles with energy and enthusiasm for missions and all things WMU, expressed appreciation to Kentucky Baptists for their sacrificial giving to "the three la-

diaries"—Eliza, Lottie and Annie. Every year, these missions offerings enable many to hear of Christ's love all around the world in many languages, she emphasized. As for her part in determining the emphasis, she said: "It was heart-warming reading the requests and seeing so many missions activities going on in our state. There are many people living 'Unhindered'—ministering, giving, serving, going, teaching, leading, caring and loving those they come in contact with daily on the missions field where God has placed them."

A list of EBO special ministry grants in the Book of Reports included more than 75 ministries in 39 associations. WMU Executive Director-Treasurer Joy Bolton com-

mended Kentucky Baptists for exceeding the Eliza Broadus goal for the third consecutive year, making additional ministry funds available which allowed WMU to contribute \$100,000 to purchase Scripture portions and media in support of the 2011 Find It Here emphasis.

But WMU doesn't just lead our churches in praying and giving for missionaries, they also set an example by going on mission. In connection with Kentucky WMU's partnership with Korean Baptists, Bolton and Cooper both traveled to Korea to encourage nearly 800 WMU members attending their annual meeting. They presented a \$1,000 gift to their "House of Love" project, a retirement center for pastors and their wives and female missionaries. Bolton and Cooper also made a trip to Tanzania to speak about the importance of missions education and missions offerings at a regional meeting of the East Africa Baptist Women's Union. And, as Kentucky Baptists are entering a partnership with Puerto Rico this year, WMU will be sending a six-member team there to prayerwalk some of the places where our mission teams will work this summer.

Just from this brief glimpse, it should be readily apparent that it is difficult to attend a Kentucky WMU meeting and not come away with a greater appreciation for how they are supporting the work of our missionaries through prayers and offerings and are encouraging our churches to be more involved in missions and community ministries. Moreover, Kentucky Baptists should be grateful that through missions organizations, camps, retreats and other activities, our WMU leaders always are seeking ways to "unhinder" adults and children to participate in missions education and experiences that foster a heart for reaching others with the gospel.

After Thought

By Todd Deaton



Through Cooperative Program, 'together, we are there'

The words "cooperative" and "together" are familiar to all Southern Baptists, for they best describe how we do ministry and missions most effectively. Collectively we support missionaries, church plants, seminars, disaster relief efforts, and other vital needs-meeting ministries both in Kentucky and literally around the world. Together we are able to push back the darkness both here and there by sharing the gospel, planting New Testament churches, training Great Commission leaders and ministering to "the least of these."

It is undeniable that we can do more together than we can in isolation. No single church is large enough to be able to be actively engaged simultaneously on each and every mission field. Through our cooperative efforts even the smallest of our churches can have a significant part in accomplishing the largest of tasks—the evangelization of the world. Through CP gi-

ving, "we are there."

When a disaster befalls any part of the world, Southern Baptist disaster relief teams are mobilized into action because of the generous Cooperative Program gifts of our local churches. Trained Kentucky Baptist volunteers are deployed in rapid response to bring help and healing to those who have been devastated by life's calamities. Assessment teams are over in Japan now and relief efforts continue in Haiti to this day because, through the CP, we are there.

President's Pen



By Floyd Paris

Here in the Commonwealth, we are seeking to do "More for Christ" together than we have ever done before. Sunday, April 10, has been set aside for our convention as "Cooperative Program Sunday"—a special day to emphasize, educate about and encourage support of the CP. Many of our churches, with the help of WMU, are starting "Children Changing the World," a program where kids will begin collecting loose change for their vacation Bi-

ble school offerings which will in turn go to CP missions. Those children will learn that they can have an active part in reaching their world for Christ by something as simple as collecting change for the Cooperative Program. As they give, others can go, and together, we are there.

As KBC president, let me encourage every church on Sunday, April 10, to celebrate the Cooperative Program by praying for it and taking up a Special Offering specifically to give "More for Christ" through the CP. If you're already giving \$3 more per week, consider giving an extra \$3 for this special CP offering. Let's follow the lead of our children (cf. Matthew 18:3) and show our support for reaching our world for Christ through our financial investment in the CP. As a result, those dollars will be disbursed from Pikeville to Paducah, and from Pakistan to Peru, where lives will be changed and our Lord will be glorified. Yes, through the CP, we are there.

Floyd Paris is president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and pastor of Unity Baptist Church in Ashland.



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

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By cooperating, Baptists accomplish Kingdom-sized ministries

In the opening decades of the 20th century, leaders of Southern Baptist Convention ministries and leaders of state Baptist ministries made frequent financial appeals to Baptist churches for a wide range of ministry needs. The churches being asked to fund the ministries of the Southern Baptist Convention were the same churches being asked to support the ministries of individual state Baptist conventions.

Inundated with so many requests from so many legitimate ministries, pastors and churches alike grew weary. Recognizing the drain these requests made on the churches, our Baptist forbears hammered out a plan that both recognized and sought to address the problem of so many special offerings.

The plan was remarkably simple: 1) individuals give their tithes and offerings to their local churches; 2) the churches would forward a percentage of their contributions to their state Baptist convention for ministry in the state; and 3) the state convention would then forward a percentage of its funds to provide support for SBC ministries.

Through a unified, cooperative program of giving, both sets of ministries could be funded—state ministry needs and ministry endeavors of the Southern Baptist Convention. In 1925, this cooperative venture between churches, state conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention was given the name Cooperative Program.

By definition, the "Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' unified plan of giving through which cooperating Southern Baptist churches give a percentage of their undesignated receipts in support of their respective state convention and the Southern Baptist Convention missions and ministries."

As faithful stewards give of their tithes and offerings through their local churches, they partner with other Southern Baptist Christians to accomplish Kingdom-sized ministries:

- Two of the world's largest missionary-sending entities—the SBC's International Mission Board and North American Mission Board—are equipped and resourced to deploy more than 10,000 missionaries across the nation and around the world.

- Tens of thousands of college students are reached with and for the gospel through Baptist Collegiate Ministry, the largest campus ministry organization in America.

- Hundreds of new churches are planted annually in major cities and among multiple ethnic, racial and language groups in the United States through a collaboration of local church, associational, state convention and SBC efforts.

- More than 16,000 future church leaders are trained in the largest theological seminary consortium in the United States.

- Thousands of children are fed and housed through children's homes ministries in multiple states.

- More than 1,600 mobile disaster relief teams, scattered across the states, constituting the third-largest relief organization in the United States, are trained and on ready-alert for deployment whenever a disaster strikes the United States.

The synergy of cooperative ministry is incalculable. It finds illustration in numerous biblical examples. One of my favorites is the Old Testament story of Nehemiah. The collective strength of thousands of individuals working together toward a common purpose, each with a specific set of responsibilities, enabled the people to build the wall around Jerusalem in record time. Together, each accomplished more than any of them could have accomplished alone.

That same kind of synergy empowers the cooperative nature of the Cooperative Program. As Nehemiah's story shows, we each can accomplish so much more when we work together—cooperating for the purpose of penetrating lostness, making disciples and evangelizing the nations with the gospel of Jesus Christ. (BP)

Roger Oldham is vice president for communications and convention relations with the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee.



Roger Oldham

Smelling the Color Nine

By Jeremy White

Chris Rice sang a creative song with the title, "Smelling the Color Nine," that always caught my attention. Something else that catches my attention is how often retailers will use the number 9 in their pricing. Psychologists have concluded—and marketers are well aware—that pricing an item at \$29.95 is more appealing than pricing it at \$30.00. Our brains don't have time to process every single digit that we are exposed to. So, we typically focus on the digit to the left.

I don't think retailers are doing anything wrong, but we need to be aware of their tactics. They count on buyers taking mental shortcuts in order to increase their sales. How many times have you seen an item priced at \$100 or \$101 compared to \$99.99?

Consider the following quick example: You need a pair of jeans. A retailer has a sale on jeans that are regularly priced at \$40. Which offer will give you the best discount?

- A. Buy one get 50% off the second.
- B. 20% off all purchases \$50 or more.
- C. A markdown of \$10 on one pair.

It appears that the discounts are identical at first glance. But the answer is really C. When you buy two pair of pants, you have to spend \$60 to get the discount. If you need just one pair of jeans, then options A and B don't provide any savings. Option C saves only \$10, but you don't end up with pants that you don't need.

Retailers promote "savings" even though their aim is to get you to buy more and more. Whenever stores promise savings if you spend a certain amount or if you buy more than you need, then you really are not saving money. Observe the various psychological ploys and math tricks when you are shopping; you will become a better shopper.

Jeremy White is a certified public accountant with Blythe, White & Associates in Paducah.

REACH for forgiveness

By James Stillwell

Q: I am recently divorced. My minister has mentioned the importance of forgiveness. What's the point of forgiveness if there is no chance of reconciliation?

A: Forgiveness is a tough topic, especially in the context of a marriage that has ended in divorce. So much hurt and pain has occurred. Still, in the end, it is the way of Christ. It is also the best thing you can do for yourself.

Everett Worthington in his book, "Five Steps to Forgiveness," outlines the five things required based on the word REACH:

R—Recall the hurt. Scott Peck said the forgiver has to take out briefs for the defense, briefs for the prosecution, be the judge and jury, put the person on trial and declare them guilty before a pardon can be granted. You have to feel before you can heal.

E—Empathize. Empathy and compassion are the positive emotions that replace the negative emotions of unforgiveness. Imagine your former spouse as a nine-year-old child. Think of the child whose childhood wounds later got played out in adulthood. You can have empathy and compassion for a child more easily than you can for an adult.

A—Altruistic gift of forgiveness. Forgiveness is for giving. Give the gift of forgiveness and you will find that you are setting yourself free.

C—Commit publicly to forgiveness. Billy Graham used to say in his crusades, when you commit publicly it seals the decision and makes it real. Tell someone about your decision to forgive.

H—Hold on to forgiveness. Have something serve as a "touchstone" for you to remind you of your decision to forgive. A small rock or pebble can remind you not to "cast the first stone."

The New Testament teaches that we cannot expect to have an open and forgiven relationship with God whom we cannot see if we cannot forgive our fellow human beings whom we can see. The same God who commands forgiveness will give you the strength to do it.

James Stillwell is minister to singles at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington.



Bleacher Ministry

Over 45 million kids play organized sports in the U.S. each year. That's more than the population of Ukraine!

If your kids play sports, do you sometimes begrudge the many hours spent in practice, tournaments and games? I did. That attitude changed dramatically one day. I was looking around at coaches and players, and their parents, relatives and friends, when I suddenly realized that God had placed me there for a strategic purpose. Here were dozens of people who didn't know Christ, and we would be together in those bleachers for weeks. God had called me to the Bleacher Ministry.

What if every Christian child and parent in your church saw their sports season as a mission, too? Need some fresh ideas?

Fresh Ideas



Diana Davis

Be intentional. Before the season begins, chat as a family about ways God may use you. Ask God to open doors and guide you.

Personalize. Begin on the first practice day to learn names. Study the roster and cheer for players by name. Make a point to introduce yourself to parents. Keep a notebook to help recall names. A simple "Hello Heather" can mean a lot to a lonely mom.

Move it. Sit near different people at the games, and get to know them. Avoid being part of a clique.

Listen well. There are needs all

around you. When problems or crises occur, be ready to act. Send a card. Promise to pray for them.

Live it. People are watching to see if God makes a difference in your life. Smile. Have fun. Treasure your child. Reflect Christ with every word and action. Absolutely avoid criticism or bad sportsmanship. As others observe your life, they'll be drawn to God.

Do more than expected. Be available. Volunteer your yard for a team cookout. Share game photos. Check on a sick teammate. Seize every opportunity to show God's love.

God can use you to impact entire families, if you'll let Him. Has God called you to the Bleacher Ministry?

Diana Davis is author of *Fresh Ideas* and wife of North American Mission Board vice president, Midwest region.

Audit group report

The audit work group of the Kentucky Baptist Convention mission board's business and finance committee met Dec. 14, 2010, to perform its annual review and evaluation of the financial condition and practices of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's affiliated entities and its mission board as reflected in their 2010 audited financial statements.

This annual audit review process is an important way Kentucky Baptists receive an accountability report from the convention and its affiliated entities. Kentucky Baptists can be pleased that this procedure exists whereby the convention and its institutions and agencies can give an ac-

counting of the stewardship of the resources entrusted to them.

These entities include Campbellsville University, University of the Cumberlands, Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Oneida Baptist Institute, Kentucky Baptist Assemblies, Sunrise Children's Services, Baptist Healthcare System, Woman's Missionary Union, Western Recorder, Kentucky Baptist Foundation and the Kentucky Baptist Mission Programs and Subsidy.

Kentucky Baptists also can be pleased and encouraged with the sound financial condition and stability of the institutions and agencies and the level of cooperation demonstrated by them. The work group complimented the board and administrative leadership of the

convention and each of its affiliated entities. Kentucky Baptists are encouraged to increase their support of these institutions and agencies prayerfully and financially.

Members of the audit work group were: chairperson Charles Barnes (Louisville), Gary Ellcessor (Shelbyville), Larry Hill (Williamsburg), Greg Nimmo (Dry Ridge), Business Manager Lowell Ashby, Accounting Services Director Cathi Roy-Sanders and Executive Director Bill Mackey. In addition, a certified public accountant met with the group.

The work group's report was made to the full Business and Finance Committee on March 25, 2011 and approved.

Charles Barnes, chairperson
KBC audit work group and
Business and Finance Committee



Missionaries offer glimpse of their lives

By Robin Bass
Partnerships Director

Bowling Green—While most Baptists grasp the goal of the Woman's Missionary Union spread the gospel through missions, the picture becomes somewhat fuzzy when describing what "doing missions" really looks like.

Participants at the recent Kentucky WMU annual meeting had the opportunity to see the many faces of missions and even received some tips on how to connect with different people groups in their own cities, neighborhoods and churches.

The most obvious image of someone on a radical mission for Christ is the International Mission Board missionary. Someone that has packed up and left the comforts of the United States to spread the message of God's love and forgiveness in a poverty-stricken, Third World country.

But the lost are not only in remote locations, as one missionary explained. The missionary, who preferred to remain anonymous, told of the hundreds of thousands of nonbelievers working and living as immigrants in a European gateway city.

"Like many immigrants (in this city), they come from villages in West Africa. In the village where they come from, there really is no opportunity to make money and support their family," the missionary said. "The villages are not poor in the sense that there is no food to eat. It's not anything like that. There are plenty of food and animals. What they are lacking is any infrastructure that we take for granted. Whether it's health care, transportation or money to buy anything."

The missionary approximated that 500,000 west and north African immi-



MISSIONARY FORUM Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union President Linda Cooper (far left) moderates a panel discussion of missionaries to international peoples living in Kentucky. They are (from second to left) Pavel and Sergei Barko, Mary Lou Crutcher, Pat Gutierrez and Trent DeLoach. (Photo by Robin Bass)

grants are living in this culturally rich European metropolis. Most of the immigrants are Muslim men that live in one of several hundred government-subsidized dormitories. While each room is designed for only two beds, as many as eight men will crowd into one room. By banding together, immigrants will share rent and food expenses in order to send more of their earnings back home to their villages.

"Our ministry is mostly in those dormitories right now because access is free," the missionary said. "Anybody can go in a dormitory. ... We'll go up on each floor and we'll knock on every door and we'll talk to the men in their rooms. Our desire is to share Jesus Christ with them."

One day the missionary encountered an anomaly while handing out DVD copies of the "Jesus" film: a Muslim man who had converted to Christianity. His name was Daouda.

"He said to me, 'This is very important. I love this. I believe in Jesus. I am a Christian. I love Jesus,'" the missionary recalled. That was two years ago, and the missionary said he has been discipling the young Christian ever since.

"Persecution is real and Daouda lives that. They know he's not Muslim anymore." The missionary said when Daouda's room-

mates ask him why he is not participating in Muslim prayers, Daouda answers that he does pray, but "in spirit and in truth." The persecution is never violent, the missionary said, it is more a matter of being cast out of the group.

The missionary, now stateside, said he prays that Daouda someday will be able to truly live and experience an unhindered life for Christ.

Serving in southeast Asia

Meanwhile, Kentucky natives Craig and Angie are serving as missionaries in an undisclosed southeast Asian country, also among Muslims.

After sharing the gospel with a Muslim woman in their city, Craig said the woman apologized and explained to him that the Koran says Jesus is, in fact, a Muslim.

"He's our prophet and you guys have sort of hijacked him," Craig has heard other Muslims tell him.

"We just realize these are not people who have heard the gospel and then rejected it," Craig said, "these are people who have never, ever heard the gospel before."

Craig compared Americans' treatment of their Christian faith to that of the lepers in 2 Kings 7:3-9 who come upon an Aramean camp, finding plentiful food, gold and

silver. The four men begin to horde the treasure for themselves and hide it away.

The men then realize they are not doing right and decide they must share the good news they have stumbled upon or face punishment.

As Christians, "we have stumbled into this incredible camp. We have stumbled into this incredible blessing," Craig said.

That leaves two options: tell no one or share it with as many people as possible.

"If we don't share, we surely will be judged for not sharing," Craig said.

Global missions at home

God does not call everyone to international missions as He did for these missionaries, but Jesus did command every believer to intentionally reach out to the lost. During a panel discussion, ministry leaders presented advice on how Kentucky Baptists could begin an international ministry that does not require the use of a passport.

After praying for the vision and focus of a new missions venture, Trent DeLoach suggested a prayer that he said God never has failed to answer.

"It's basically, 'God give me the opportunity to share your love with somebody,'" DeLoach recited. He then recommended simply: *See International, state ... Page 7*

Kentucky WMU challenged to 'go forward' for missions at home, globally

Continued from page 1

and we will be looking at the impact that one person can make to start a chain reaction in missions."

During the annual meeting, Kentucky WMU members gave an additional \$6,000 in offering for the Ministries to Missionaries. This offering pays for a variety of missionary expenses including a \$50 Christmas gift to career and emeritus international missionaries from Kentucky. Members also generated another \$5,000 during a silent auction for the Heritage Fund. Monies received for the fund are used in developing, promoting, strengthening and sustaining the work of Kentucky WMU.

In another challenge, Bolton urged Kentucky WMU members to look forward and seek out evangelistic opportunities in the coming year.

"I believe that God is giving Kentucky WMU some great opportunities to challenge a new generation to embrace the Great Commission," Bolton said. "I believe that there are three things we need to do to capture the hearts and imagination of our young people: mentoring, modeling and mobilizing."

Mentoring. Investing time in the lives of children and youth through Children in Action, Girls in Action, Royal Ambassadors, Youth on Mission, Acteens and Challengers.

In March, the North American Mission Board announced that responsibility for RAs and Challengers was being shifted to national WMU. "Since WMU founded RAs, we are excited the RAs are coming home,"



WMU LEADERS ■Left: Linda Cooper was re-elected as Kentucky WMU president for 2011-12. ■Right: Executive Director Bolton delivers her report at the March 25-26 Kentucky WMU annual meeting. (Photos by Robin Bass and Drew Nichter)

Bolton said.

Modeling. By studying scripture together, praying together and working together, young people are able to witness faith at work.

"They listen to how we pray. They see how we spend our time. They watch how we spend our money and how we give for missions," Bolton noted. "A missional lifestyle is both taught and caught."

Mobilizing. Providing leadership and encouragement for children and young adults to be missional now, not just when they grow up.

Young people will have an opportunity to see what they can accomplish during the coming months when they are challenged during the Children Changing the World

campaign. Beginning April 10 and continuing through vacation Bible school, children will be asked to collect change for the Cooperative Program.

"We believe they can lead the way as we all seek to do more for Christ," Bolton said.

More information about Children Changing the World will be sent to all Kentucky Baptist Convention churches in the coming weeks.

With the responsibility of the Royal Ambassadors and Challengers programs being transferred to WMU, Kentucky's executive board approved the creation of a boys missions/missions education position. Bolton said the plan is to fill the position in the next few months.

Other changes in WMU office staff include employees that are moving forward in new life directions. Financial Coordinator Donna Dye will retire after 15 years of service. Her last day is May 31. LaRaine Rice, youth/college consultant, will conclude her tenure with Kentucky WMU April 8 after 12 years of service. Rice said she has accepted another assignment, that of caring for her husband and their two recently adopted infant children.

Called to fill Rice's position is Maryanne Lee, who currently is serving with Alabama WMU. Lee is a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, has served as a NAMB Journeyman in Kazakhstan, and was an Acteens leader at Parkland Baptist Church in Louisville while at seminary.

WMU members also elected a new vice president and re-elected two other officers.

Susan Bryant was voted as vice president for 2011-12. She is a member of Graefenburg Baptist Church in Waddy. Linda Cooper from Bowling Green and Marcia Ballard from Richmond were re-elected president and recording secretary, respectively.

The WMU also elected several new executive board members. They are Cathy Terrell of Barlow, Region 1; Jenifer Shearon of Hopkinsville, Region 2; Betty Coppage of Guthrie, Region 3; Pati Hoskins of Louisville, Region 4; Linda Devine of Harrodsburg, Region 6; and Maribeth Shelton of Burkesville, Region 7.

WMU Executive Board members voted at the meeting to launch a Kentucky WMU Leadership Network, designed to more effectively involve people in missions. Bolton said the network would be comprised of volunteers who provide the vision, planning and implementing missions education and ministry involvement. Teams of trained leaders and representatives of various missions and ministry opportunities would be created according to need and would work with Kentucky WMU staff to develop outlets for missions involvement.

"I hope you are as excited as I am," said Bolton of all the coming possibilities for Kentucky Baptists to reach people for Christ. "I believe that the courage of Kentucky WMU to expand rather than retreat could generate a renewed passion for missions in our churches. I would encourage you to support our work through your prayers, your contributions and your participation."



Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union Executive Director Joy Bolton (left) says a few words before presenting Bill and Kay Mackey with a gift on behalf of the WMU. Bill Mackey will retire as Kentucky Baptist Convention executive director May 31. (Photo by Robin Bass)

Kentucky WMU honors Mackeys

Bowling Green—With little more than two months before his retirement becomes official, Bill Mackey received a warm sendoff from Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union.

At the group's recent annual meeting, state WMU Executive Director Joy Bolton presented the outgoing Kentucky Baptist Convention exec and his wife, Kay, with a gift on behalf of Kentucky WMU.

Bolton recalled a meeting between her and Mackey in 1997 when Mackey informed he was returning to Kentucky as the convention exec after nine years in South Carolina and urged her to seek the same position with Kentucky WMU which, at the time, was vacant.

It wasn't until 15 months later that Bolton got the job, but she credited Mack-

ey's encouragement for her pursuit of the position.

"I was really just personally touched by the confidence that you placed in me," Bolton told Mackey.

In his remarks, Mackey thanked Kentucky WMU members for their faithfulness in fulfilling the Great Commission in the commonwealth in partnership with the KBC.

"You have been great partners in the mission of missions in Kentucky and North America and around the world," he said.

"Keep your focus on Jesus and the mission to which He has called us and God will bless you and God will be honored and glorified through all that you do," Mackey added.

Project HELP: Human Exploitation

Advocate: Human trafficking is 'portrait of hopelessness'

By Robin Bass
Partnerships Director

Bowling Green—"What does the face of human trafficking look like?" Mary Richie asked those attending the recent Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union meeting in Bowling Green.

In a word: despondent.

"It is the portrait of hopelessness," Richie said. "No emotion. No smiles. No tears. It is the face of someone who has been beaten down to a shell of a person."

Richie, speaking on behalf of WMU's Project HELP: Human Exploitation emphasis, told of seeing young female prostitutes in India wearing traditional sari dresses, pink lipstick and waiting with blank faces for their next customer. But the problem reaches far beyond sex, Richie noted, it is a crime that can be committed against anyone that is vulnerable, and it does not discriminate against gender, age, race, social status or education.

"We all have vulnerabilities and that's what human trafficking takes advantage of. This is a crime that plays on hope," Richie said. Victims "are not usually held with violence, but shackled by chains of mental coercion. They are forced to work as nannies (and) in hotels and restaurants. Sometimes it's about money, but not always."

"So why does human trafficking exist?" she asked. "It exists because there is a demand for cheap labor and a demand for sex."

Billion-dollar business

Richie, who serves as a program coordinator and victim case manager with the Women's Crisis Center in northern Kentucky, estimated that global profits from human trafficking exceed \$9 billion a year, primarily because a human being can be sold or used over and over again.

"Human trafficking wouldn't exist if there was not a demand," Richie said, ex-



TRAFFICKING'S TOLL Mary Richie, a program coordinator and victim case manager with the Women's Crisis Center in northern Kentucky, shares with Kentucky WMU members about the significant toll of human trafficking both in and outside of the U.S. Richie said human trafficking exists because of a high demand for cheap labor and sex. (Photo by Drew Nichter)

plaining that human trafficking touches many of the items Americans buy.

Coercion in this manner also can be found in the United States, Richie said. Need proof? Look for the hopelessness in the faces of people working in restaurants or cleaning hotels, she urged. Look at the faces of foster children and runaways.

Richie encouraged Kentucky Baptists to take action by educating themselves, volunteering at related agencies and praying. She also warned parents against letting someone else teach their children about sex.

If nothing else, Richie said, be nice to people. Let them see real Christian love.

Human trafficking victims "are made in the image of God. As a country we need to treat them that way," Richie concluded.

International, state missionaries share experiences with Ky. WMU

Continued from page 6

ply tagging on the end of the prayer: "somebody from another culture. When you have that opportunity, God will give you the words to say. A lot of it is simply sharing the wonderful message of Jesus with a smile on your face."

DeLoach has spent six years sharing the message of Christ amid the Bosnian immigrant community in Louisville. But he said he recognized many other nationalities also are represented in the city.

"The world is really coming to us in Louisville," DeLoach said. "We have over 100-plus different nationalities, 96 languages spoken in our school system. We're really trying to mobilize people to engage some of these unreached ethnic groups that are now our neighbors."

DeLoach said it often takes time to build relationships with internationals and break through the thick walls of lostness. Ask questions about their homeland, food and customs, he suggested. It also may be helpful to research about their native country's political history.

When starting an international outreach, Mary Lou Crutcher suggested finding out the number of immigrant children being served by the local schools. Crutcher

volunteers with Friendship International of Louisville, a ministry of Long Run Baptist Association that Kentucky WMU founded in 1975 to reach Vietnamese refugees. She also said frequenting international restaurants is a great place to build relationships with immigrants.

"Be aware. Be intentional when you walk through stores," Crutcher said. "Be bold and speak to them."

And don't assume there will be a language, Pat Gutierrez added. "Don't be afraid. They will always want to speak with you. Don't ever doubt that."

Gutierrez said God has blessed their boldness at First Baptist Church of Bowling Green to include ministries to Cambodians, Vietnamese, Ukrainians and Koreans.

Above all, the panelists agreed internationals living in Kentucky need to be shown Christian love.

"Everybody needs love. God is love and God is in us," said Sergei Barko, who ministers to Russian-speaking immigrants. He and brother Pavel Barko represent the Ukraine Church at Hillvue Heights Church in Bowling Green. They also are involved in Russian-speaking church plants in Louisville and Nashville, Tenn.

With additional reporting by News Director Drew Nichter

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The registration fee covers only a portion of the costs associated with this event. The remainder is provided by Kentucky Baptists' gifts through the Cooperative Program.

Church increases CP gifts in face of harsh economy

Cooperative Program
Sunday
April 10

Continued from page 1

and other support, along with donations of furniture and clothing for those who are new to the United States.

The increased costs and continued economic impact have forced the Machesney Park church to adjust its budget continually, make priority decisions and present pressing needs to the congregation, Kerr said.

"We are not a rich congregation. We don't have anybody that has lots of money. People are just hard working and they are willing to sacrifice and give," he said.

Last year, First Baptist took up a "Barnabas offering" modeled after a New Testament church method of giving in which people sold what they had in order to give toward the

apostles' ministry. Kerr challenged church members to consider selling things they weren't using, from smaller household items to boats or vacation homes. The offering went toward major expenses and freed up more dollars for missions.

"Whenever we have to consider our CP giving, it is an agonizing thing for us, because it will be very committed to that," Kerr said. "So, we just laid out before our people what the needs were, and as their giving increased, it resulted in more dollars we were able to give."

CP front and center

Part of the church leadership's giving strategy is to keep Cooperative Program giving in front of the congregation so that even those who are

younger and have had less exposure to CP can understand its importance. Every Sunday, Kerr and other leaders at the church present an aspect of CP giving, whether through a video clip, missions story or special offering emphasis.

The church also puts its missions mindset into action, engaging in several ministries in their community like the Rockford Rescue Mission, a local pregnancy care center and an elementary school the church adopted several years ago.

Church members also are involved with Southern Baptist ministries in other parts of the state, like the Christian Activity Center in East St. Louis and Illinois Baptist Children's Home in Carmi.

Church members are responding to international missions opportunities by working with people

in nine language groups who come to First Baptist for ESL classes each week, and by planning for 2011's Lottie Moon Christmas Offering a year in advance. In January, families began a year-long giving plan, committing to collect their offering in Chinese food takeout containers. If those families collect just a quarter a day, Machesney Park will collect more than \$9,000 for the offering by December.

The Lottie Moon plan, like its weekly emphasis on CP giving, reflects First Baptist's strategy of systematic, planned giving to the things they've set as priorities, Kerr noted.

"We've done a consistent job of challenging the people, keeping it before them," he said, "and they've responded." (BP)



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Aftershocks

Tragic events in Japan reach all the way to hearts of students on Oneida campus

By Paul Davidson
OBI campus minister

Just because it didn't make the headlines doesn't mean it didn't happen or it wasn't important. The recent earthquake and tsunami that caused such devastation and heartache in Japan also reached right into the heart of the OBI family with powerful, life-altering effect. Why? Because currently we have a student from Japan.

Thankfully, this second-year OBI student's family was not affected directly by the earthquake's convulsive power or by the overwhelming sweep of the tsunami's waves. Nevertheless our student's life was shaken to its core and a barrier-breaching flood of devastating emotions crashed into her heart.

Even as I write this, some 11 days after the catastrophic event, our students, faculty and staff continue to minister to this student with prayers, words of encouragement and the silent ministries of touch and presence. Extra patience, extra care, extra understanding—all of these have come together to seek to help this precious young lady while she (as yet without Christ as her Savior) ponders what will be the future of her nation, her family and herself.

The impact of the natural disaster in Japan has had other aftershocks here in the OBI community as well. Numerous students have asked questions about signs of Jesus' return because of things they have heard or read about earthquakes being part of the end-time events. We remember former students from Japan and prayerfully wonder about their situations.

This is Oneida



W.F. Underwood

As a school with students from more than a dozen countries on various continents, we have been stirred awake to increase our prayers for those affected by the events that shake our world daily. We teachers lead our students to look at maps with keener interest and pay greater attention to places that once were just names in geography textbooks.

If you look at a map of the world, Oneida, Ky., may seem to be a tiny dot "in the middle of nowhere," but OBI is in the middle of the world as far as the work of God is concerned. Our school has a lengthy history of responding financially and personally to world crises. For many years, money has been raised regularly for disaster relief. Last year, two of our staff members spent a week each in Haiti as part of efforts to help that nation.

As I shared with the students in chapel a few days after the tragic events in Japan, the Bible teaches us that, No. 1, each person should make sure he or she is ready spiritually for a crisis such as that of the tsunami which ended thousands of human lives almost without warning; secondly, we should pray for those directly affected by any such disaster; and thirdly, we should give financial and personal assistance, if possible.

To that end, our Baptist Campus Ministry has scheduled a fundraising dessert auction for the end of April to collect funds for the relief of those affected by the tragedy. Please pray for us and with us for a world in need because of events like these. And, if possible, go and minister—or give to those who do so in the name of Christ.

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

Another Fruitland connection

Sutton grateful of opportunity to continue studies at CCBBC

First-year student Eric Sutton is experiencing the Clear Creek campus for the first time, but he is not new to the college environment. Eric is another of our transfer

students from Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute in Hendersonville, N.C. He is one of many students from Fruitland who now take advantage of the agreement between both institutions that transfers Fruitland's associate degree work to Clear Creek's fully accredited bachelor's degree program. Fruitland students can continue right on with their educations and graduate with a bachelor's degree just a short time after they leave Fruitland.

"God has placed a call on my life to be here at Clear Creek to advance my studies," Sutton said. "While I was still attending Fruitland, God confirmed in my heart that He wanted me to continue on with my education to make preparations to actually come back to Fruitland and be able to teach some classes one day.

"Since Fruitland awards only the associate's degree, I knew I needed to find somewhere that I could get the additional training I needed to

also be able to teach at Fruitland.

"I know that God has called me to feed His sheep," Sutton continued. "I now understand that feeding can take place in many different ways.

"I resisted God's call to preach for a long time. I saw many pastors falling by the wayside because of circumstances in their lives during my earlier days of serving through the local church. But God ultimately showed me that I was not following a man but His plan for my life.

"When I finally realized that, I surrendered to God's call on my life to preach the gospel," Sutton said. "It was then that I believe God also placed the burden of teaching on my heart to not only use as a pastor, but to also use as a place like Fruitland one day. I am thankful that God has provided me the opportunity to advance my studies here at Clear Creek so I now can be prepared to follow His plan for my life as a pastor and a teacher."

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

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

Report: Small churches feeling financial squeeze

Carol Stream, Ill.—Almost all U.S. churches witnessed a change in the financial giving they received in 2010 compared to 2009, with smaller churches feeling the squeeze but larger churches faring relatively better, according to a new report.

Only 12 percent of churches reported unchanged giving from 2009, according to the State of the Plate survey released March 30, while 43 percent of churches experienced a giving increase and 39 percent reported a decrease.

Smaller congregations were more likely to see a decrease in giving, said Matt Branaugh, an editor at Christianity Today International, which helped gather the data for the State of the Plate over the past two years.

"We do see smaller churches continuing to struggle, it seems more so than larger-

sized churches," Branaugh said.

The report found that about 40 percent of churches with fewer than 249 attendees experienced a drop in giving. Only 29 percent of megachurches, with an average weekend attendance of more than 2,000, reported a decrease in giving, according to the report.

The percentage of churches that reported a drop in giving in 2010 rose slightly from 2009, from 38 percent to 39 percent. Churches that reported an increase in giving rose from 35 percent in 2009 to 43 percent in 2010.

The State of the Plate survey was launched in 2008 when Brian Kluth, founder of Colorado Springs, Colo.-based Maximum Generosity, realized there was minimal solid data on church finances.

The following year, Kluth's financial

consulting firm recruited Christianity Today International in compiling the report. The Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability joined both organizations this year to analyze self-reported 2010 data from churches.

Almost all responding churches (91 percent) expressed concern over the potential of a government revision of the rules for charitable deductions. Kluth said the Obama administration's proposal to reduce tax deductions for high-end charitable donors will impact gifts given to churches.

"If the government's plan to change the rules on charitable tax deductions goes through, giving to charities and churches and the help they give to others will likely be negatively impacted at a time it is needed the most," Kluth said in a statement. (RNS)

U.S. campus ministries sign unity covenant

Nashville, Tenn.—Leaders from 17 college campus ministries have signed an agreement aimed at keeping their work cooperative rather than competitive as they seek to point students to Christ.

The Chicago Agreement, which was drafted last fall during a meeting at the InterVarsity Press offices in Illinois, includes eight basic points of unity in mission that were unanimously approved earlier this year.

Organizations represented include Baptist Collegiate Ministry at LifeWay Christian Resources and the North American Mission Board, as well as InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, Campus Crusade for Christ and Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

"I think the document is helpful because it expresses the intention to work with other likeminded groups to help reach our campuses with the good news of the gospel message of Jesus Christ," said John Moore, national collegiate ministry leader for church and network partnerships at LifeWay.

The ministries agreed to teach their staff, volunteers and faculty and student leadership eight specific principles about relationships with other Christian groups in accordance with John 13:34-35.

The agreement is an update of an earlier document approved by leaders of Campus Crusade for Christ, Navigators, Young Life and InterVarsity in 1971.

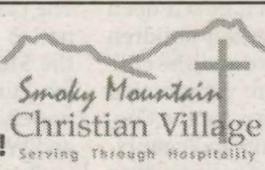
Jim Lundgren, senior vice president and director of collegiate ministries for InterVarsity, said the leadership group plans to meet every three years in order to modify the agreement as necessary. (BP)

Come be still and know
that He is GOD...



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New and improved connectivity

Foundation has developed new ways to connect with Ky. Baptists

What a pleasure and a privilege it is to communicate with those individuals, families, churches and church-related organizations to which we are seeking to encourage, educate and enable about solutions to the stewardship issues related to faith, family and finances. We use a variety of communication channels because of the variety of channels used by those we seek to serve. Those channels include personal visits, telephone, e-mail, group presentations, direct mail, the Western Recorder, a quarterly newsletter and the Internet.

As the ways and the speed with which people communicate continue to change dramatically, we are adapting to those changes in order to stay connected with and add to our constituents. Did you know almost 80 percent of Americans have Internet access in their homes? Did you know the fastest-growing group of Facebook users is people age 55 and older?

I am excited to announce we have launched a new website. It is much more user friendly, more interactive, has more useful information relevant to a broader multi-generational audience, and is integrated with our new Facebook presence

Ky. Baptist Foundation



Barry Allen

and blog. It was designed with and will be maintained using the latest technology.

Let me encourage you right now to visit www.KyBaptistFoundation.org and browse. Whether you are seeking information for yourself or for your church or organization, you will be impressed immediately with the simplicity of the home page from which you can navigate through the channels in which you have an interest.

From the website you can access easily our Facebook page, which includes regularly changing articles and updated news. Or, you can access the page at [Facebook.com/KentuckyBaptistFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/KentuckyBaptistFoundation). Either way, click

"like" and enter your e-mail address in the "subscribe" box to receive automatic updates. If you decide later you do not want the automatic alerts, you can unsubscribe at any time.

Laurie and I will be writing the blogs and would welcome the opportunity to converse with you at www.KentuckyBaptistFoundation.blogspot.com, or click the "blog" link from Facebook.

Let's stay connected!

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

Kentucky Baptists' Hispanic ministries

As Kentucky's Hispanic population grows, so does need for EBO funds

Hispanic ministry has grown in Kentucky over the past 20 years. Started initially as a ministry to migrant farm workers, as Hispanics have made Kentucky home, our work has developed into church planting and discipleship.

For 2010-11, the Eliza Broadus Offering will provide \$116,500 for language missions through the Kentucky Baptist Convention's multi-ethnic missions and ministries department. While our language church planting includes additional language groups, the largest number is among Hispanics. This total also includes funds for the Hispanic Bible Institute which provides training for Hispanic pastors and leaders.

Hispanic ministries also were among the 2010-11 Special Ministry grants provided by EBO. Blood River Baptist Association received \$1,500 for ministry to Hispanic farm workers. This ministry takes place each year from August through November while workers are in Marshall and Calloway counties. The grant will help purchase Bibles, study materials, songbooks and other items.

Horse Cave Baptist Church holds a Hispanic Health Fair each year to reach fam-

ilies in Hart and Barren Counties. An EBO grant of \$800 was used to provide child-safety seats for a servant evangelism project, educating Hispanic parents on Kentucky seat belt laws. At the event, the gospel is shared not only with Hispanics, but also with volunteer doctors, dentists and translators.

EBO also assists our regional Hispanic ministries. Ken Roberts serves as regional hispanic strategist for the south central region. An EBO grant of \$2,000 will be used for evangelism materials and other ministry supplies. Pete Rivera serves as a strategist for central region hispanic ministry where a \$1,000 grant will assist with evangelism and training.

As we welcome the world to Kentucky, EBO is at work providing resources in the heart language of Hispanics and other language groups. And most exciting of all, many of our Hispanic congregations are using state missions materials in Spanish, and they also are giving back through the state missions offering as EBO comes full circle.

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



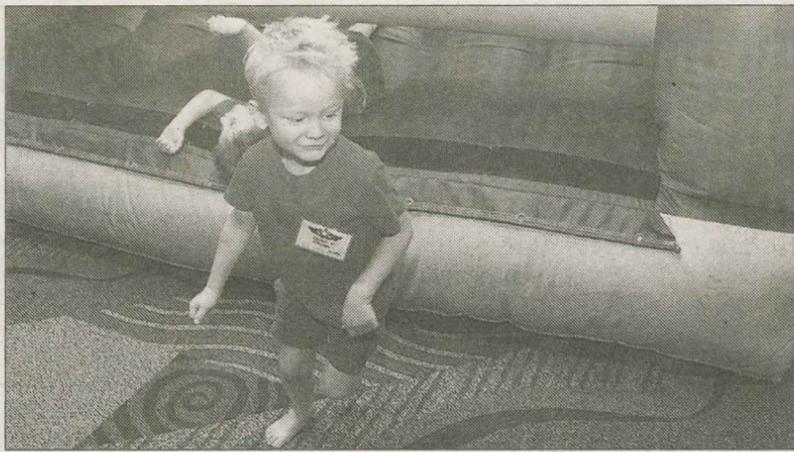
Joy Bolton



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April

- 7-8 Joshua Cluster Celebration, Hilton Garden Inn, Louisville.
- 8-9 Team Leader Training for International Missions, Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 8-9 Women on Mission Regional Retreat, Laurel Lake Baptist Camp, Corbin.
- 9 Disaster Relief Regional Training, Beacon Hill Baptist Church, Somerset.
- 14-15 Quarterly Prayer Meeting for Spiritual Awakening, Northside Baptist Church, Mount Vernon.
- 14-16 Ministers in Transition, Louisville.
- 16 Youth Bible Drill and Speakers' Tournament, Northside Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.
- 26 Developing and Managing People Workshop, Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 29 Children's Bible Drill, St. Matthews Baptist Church, Louisville.
- 29-30 Sunday School Growth Academy, Paroquet Springs Conference Center, Shepherdsville.
- 29-30 Women on Mission Regional Retreat, Camp Schafer, Pellville.
- 29-5/1 All-State Children's Choir—East, Cedarmore Camp and Conference Center, Bagdad.
- 29-5/1 All-State Children's Choir—West, Jonathan Creek Camp and Conference Center, Hardin.
- 29-5/1 Equestrian Trail Ride, Mammoth Cave National Park.



FAMILY AFFAIR The Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, in Phoenix this June, can be a family venture with activity-filled child care for children up to age 3, as well as a children's program for ages 4-12 and a Fuge camp for students in grades six through 12. (BP file photo)

SBC child care registration open

Phoenix—Registration now is open for families to enroll their children in preschool child care and the children's conference in conjunction with the June Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Phoenix.

For all information regarding registration, visit www.SBCAnnualMeeting.net and click on "Children & Students."

Preschool child care

Child care for newborns through 3 year olds will be available from Sunday evening through Wednesday. There is a non-refundable registration fee of \$10 per child for preschool care. This fee is in addition to the session fees for the convention.

The cost per session is \$5 per child, not to exceed \$40 per family, plus the \$10 non-refundable registration fee. Lunch also will be available for preschoolers on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at \$5 per meal.

Registration is being handled exclusively online.

The deadline for preschool child care registration is June 1 and is limited to 150 children per session. Questions about this year's child care can be directed to ChildCare@SBC.net.

Children's conference

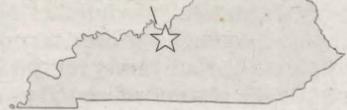
Children ages 4-12, meanwhile, can participate in the children's conference at the SBC annual meeting.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

Spotlight on ...

Owensboro



Longtime Kentucky Baptist pastor **Guy Gordon** died March 23. He was 82. Gordon died in western Kentucky and the Louisville area during his 57 years in ministry. At the time of his death, he was a member of First Church of Owensboro. Gordon is survived by his wife, Nancy, three children, six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held March 26 at Pleasant Grove Church in Owensboro.

■ **BARBOURVILLE**—East Barbourville Church recently called **Fred Cummings** as interim pastor.

■ **CADIZ**—New Jerusalem Church recently called **Mark Choate** as pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Cloverleaf Church will host **The Dills** in concert April 9, 7 p.m. For more information, call (502) 367-0218. **Geoffrey Lacefield** is pastor.

Walnut Street Church will host **No Other Name** in concert April 10, 8:30 & 10:50 a.m. For more information, call (502) 589-5290. **Rusty Ellison** is pastor.

■ **MAYFIELD**—First Church recently called **John Wesley Fowler** as pastor.

■ **WILLISBURG**—Willisburg Church will hold revival services April 10, 11 a.m. & 7 p.m.; April 11-13, 7 p.m., with **John Simpson** as evangelist. **Jay Hatfield** is pastor.

Children's Conferences International will provide an age-graded, Scripture-based conference for all children ages 4-12. This year's theme, "Ride the Waves!" will include songs, crafts, stories, skits and games.

The cost for children ages 4-6 is \$50 per child for the four days of the children's conference, Sunday evening through Wednesday. The regis-

tration for Monday through Wednesday is \$45 per child, \$40 per child for Tuesday through Wednesday.

Questions about the children's conference program can be made to Children's Conferences International at (317) 447-8213 or (586) 879-8421 or e-mailed to Info@ChildrensConferences.com. The deadline for enrollment is June 1 and is limited to 400 children. (BP)

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

SEEKING: Bivocational pastor for West Covington Baptist Church. If interested, please send resumé to West Covington Baptist Church, 1003 Highway Avenue, Covington, KY 41011.

SEEKING: Associate pastor for children at Tabernacle Baptist Church in Carrollton, Ga. An M.Div degree (or equivalent) is required from an accredited seminary. Candidate must have experience in planning, developing, supervising and coordinating a ministry to children from birth to sixth grade. For more information, visit www.tabernacle.org. To apply, submit resumé by April 30, 2011, to: Search Committee, Tabernacle Baptist Church, 150 Tabernacle Drive, Carrollton, GA 30117; or e-mail: linda.bohannan@tabernacle.org.

SEEKING: Full-time youth minister for a growing congregation in Gracely, Ky. Candidate will work with the youth committee to plan and promote activities. Candidate should be passionate about reaching youth and their families for Christ. Responsibilities include discipleship, outreach, and leading our youth to be mature Christ-followers. Resumés should be sent to: Gracey West Baptist Church, PO Box 154, Gracely, KY 42232.

SEEKING: Full-time financial coordinator for Kentucky WMU staff. Responsibilities include all accounting functions, cash management and human resources. Accounting degree required with experience in non-profit accounting preferred. Ideal candidate also will be involved in WMU/missions education. Send resumés by April 29, 2011, to Executive Director Joy Bolton, Kentucky WMU, PO Box 436569, Louisville, KY 40253-6569; or e-mail: Joy.Bolton@kybaptist.org.

SEEKING: Full-time Royal Ambassadors/Challengers/church staff relations counselor for Kentucky WMU. Looking for an individual with experience in missions education with boys, specifically through Royal Ambassadors and/or Challengers. Position also will include additional duties in support of the total work of Kentucky WMU. Qualifications: Masters degree, strong public speaking, event planning, writing, and strong computer skills. Ability to travel and work weekends required. Send resumés by April 29, 2011, to Executive Director Joy Bolton, Kentucky WMU, PO Box 436569, Louisville, KY 40253-6569; or e-mail: Joy.Bolton@kybaptist.org.

SEEKING: Youth minister for small SBC church, 10-15 hours per week. Send resumé to David's Fork Baptist Church, 3245 North Cleveland Road, Lexington, KY 40516; or e-mail bro_mickeydfb@hotmail.com.

SEEKING: Bivocational pastor for Elliston Baptist Church (small rural church in Grant County, Ky.) Send resumé to: Mr. Gary Richardson, 1170 Hwy. 467E, Glency, KY 41046; or call Gary at (859) 643-5776.

SEEKING: Pastor for First Baptist Church of Park Hills, Mo. Please submit resumés by June 1, 2011: First Baptist Church of Park Hills, 12 North Coffman, Park Hills, MO 63601.

SEEKING: Part-time associate pastor of worship at Gilead Baptist Church, Glendale, Ky. Responsibilities include planning, leading worship, and leadership of all aspects of the music ministry (choir, ensembles, etc.) Candidates should demonstrate a heart for ministry and musical leadership/ability. Pursuit/completion of a seminary degree, musical training, and ministry experience preferred. Candidates may submit their resumés to info@gileadbaptist.com.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of students for Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Somerset, Ky. Candidate must be a God-called man who can provide leadership to all student ministries of PHBC from preschool through 12th grade. He must be competent in the areas of teaching, administration, and student pastoral care. Church Website is phbc-somerset.com. Send resumés to Personnel Committee, PHBC, 1685 Hwy. 3091, Somerset, KY 42503; or e-mail phbc@newwavecomm.net.

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

SEEKING: Full-time minister of education/associate pastor for Olive Branch Baptist Church in Hanson, Ky. Resumés should be sent to: Olive Branch Baptist Church, 400 Olive Branch Church Road, Hanson, KY 42413; or e-mail to olivebranch552@bellsouth.net. For more information, call Bro. Gary Taylor at (270) 322-8251. Job descriptions are available.

SEEKING: Full-time children/educational minister for First Baptist Church, Hodgenville, Ky. Hours of work: 8 a.m.—4:30 p.m. during the week with scheduled day off, plus weekend ministerial duties to include coordinating Upward, VBS, etc. Starting salary commensurate with education and experience, with a range of \$35,000—\$42,000. Contact Sally Lewis at (270) 358-3193.

SEEKING: Pastor. Beaver Dam Baptist Church is a historic church at the heart of a small, rural community in Western Kentucky. BDBC is widely known for both its music ministry and youth ministry, led by two full-time minister, and a growing Christian education ministry, including a preschool and K-6 elementary school. In 2010, BDBC contributed more than \$100,000 to local, state and international missions, with \$660,000 in undesignated receipts. BDBC affirms the 1963 Baptist Faith & Message. For more information or to submit a resumé, please contact the BDBC Pastor Search Committee, PO Box 242, Beaver Dam, KY 42320; or bdbcpsc@gmail.com.

Mike Morgan

7 lessons we can learn from critics

I really don't like to be criticized. A criticism can make my entire day gloomy. I have to wonder how someone so thin-skinned ended up in the position where I am today.

FIRST PERSON

Still, when it's all said and done, I have to say that I have benefited in many ways from criticisms. Indeed, part of my training to be a better leader comes from dealing with critics. Let me share with you seven lessons I have learned from them.

1. Not all personal criticisms are personal. I know. My statement sounds contradictory. But many personal attacks take place because the critic is having his or her own problems.



Thom Rainer

I once spoke with a vociferous critic on the phone who said some terrible things to me and about me. Though I was restrained, I hung up the phone pretty mad. For some reason, I called him back just a few minutes later and told him that I should have prayed for him, that I wanted to apologize for being insensitive. He began to weep, telling me that his adult daughter had been killed in an automobile accident just two weeks earlier.

Everyone has needs and problems—even our critics. Maybe sometimes we really need to listen to them.

2. A quick, emotional response usually backfires. I do better to say less than more. When I speak quickly to the critic, it usually is an emotional response that I regret later. I'm learning to keep quiet. It's tough.

3. Criticism helps me to become a better person. Sometimes the remarks make me look in the mirror, and I don't always like what I see. I also have learned that I'm not helped if everyone agrees with me on all that I say and do. Critics help refine me as a leader—to be a better person, though the process is always painful.

4. Criticism helps me to think twice before I criticize others. I know the hurt that comes when a critic comes after me with an unfounded accusation. If I don't like that pain, why should I inflict it on others?

I recently spoke with a pastor who was lamenting the level of criticism he receives. But this pastor has a blog that is inevitably critical of someone almost every time he writes. He does not see the inconsistency in his behavior and the way he would like to be treated.

5. "Consider the source" is a good guideline. I have learned that some people are just negative. They seem stuck in that one disposition. They skip the reading of Philippians 4 because the text mandates we "rejoice in the Lord." Some critics should be heard. Many should not.

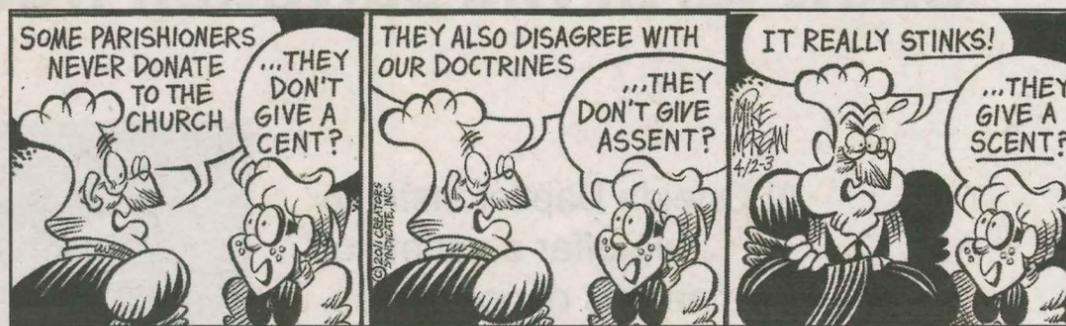
6. Criticism can lead us to greater depths of prayer. I wish I were the man of prayer that I should be. But I fall short, very short of where I need to be. Criticism hurts me. Sometimes the pain is more than I can handle, so I turn it over to my Lord to handle it for me. I wish I did that all the time. Sometimes the criticism is extremely painful and just what I needed. It drives me to pray even more fervently.

7. Sometimes the critic is right. Yes, it's painful to be criticized. But on more occasions than I'm comfortable admitting, I've had the additional pain of learning that I indeed needed correction. The Bible can be pretty straightforward about it: "Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but one who hates correction is stupid" (Proverbs 12:1). Call me stupid. Criticism hurts. But it can be for our benefit. The critic can be right.

God, give me the discernment to know when to listen to my critic so that I might learn and change.

Thom Rainer is president of LifeWay Christian Resources.

For Heaven's Sake



Preacher's Kids

David Ayers



Bible Crosswords

By Malina D. English

Across

- 1 Bottommost parts of faces
- 6 Having to do with either the North or South Poles
- 11 The sister of Tubal-cain (Genesis 4:22)
- 12 Lets up
- 14 Preposition
- 15 "The soldiers ... his side" (John 19:34)
- 17 Military police, abbr.
- 18 Man's name
- 20 Not the clergy
- 21 7, Romans num.
- 22 Paul's original name
- 24 Root-mean-square, abbr.
- 25 One hundredth of a dollar
- 26 Motors
- 28 "The ____ of the wicked have robbed me" (Psalm 119:61)
- 29 "I will surely do thee ____" (Genesis 32:12)
- 30 Steal
- 31 Mix together
- 33 "The ____ of death are fallen upon me" (Psalm 55:4)
- 36 Rodents
- 37 Jesus is the ____ of man
- 38 Chocolate sandwich cookie
- 39 Article that precedes a vowel
- 40 "I have ____ ashes like bread" (Psalm 102:9)
- 42 Astronomical unit, abbr.
- 43 Selfish part of the psyche, according to Freud

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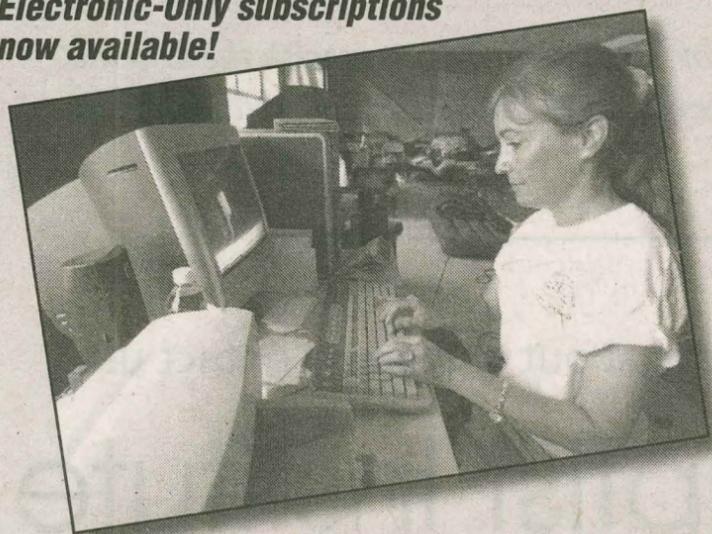
- 44 "We were ____ of God to be put in trust with the gospel" (1 Thessalonians 2:4)
- 46 Physician, in other words, abbr.
- 47 "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a ____, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom" (Mark 10:25)
- 49 Washes away
- 51 "The angel appeared to (Joseph) in a ____" (Matthew 1:20)
- 52 Person who gives something

- 9 Preposition
- 10 Call to memory
- 11 "Make a joyful ____ unto God" (Psalm 66:1)
- 13 Expels saliva
- 16 Edges
- 19 Small chunk of gold
- 21 Seller
- 23 "Faith ... stopped the mouths of ____" (Hebrews 11:33)
- 25 Egyptian capital
- 27 Biblical land (Genesis 4:16)
- 28 Rod
- 30 Made fresh
- 31 Organ of thought
- 32 Alit
- 33 Dorothy's dog
- 34 Peruser of books
- 35 Turns acid
- 37 Melchizedek was king of this (Genesis 14:18)
- 40 Girl's name
- 41 Roman emperor
- 44 Lemon drink
- 45 Donald, for short
- 48 More, suffix
- 50 "____ thou that which is good" (2 Kings 10:5)

Last week's solution

1	J	A	C	O	B	6	M	O	S	E	S	10	
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**Sing unto the Lord, bless His name;
Show forth His salvation from day to day.** ~ Psalm 96:2

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we offer a variety of
fine arts opportunities.

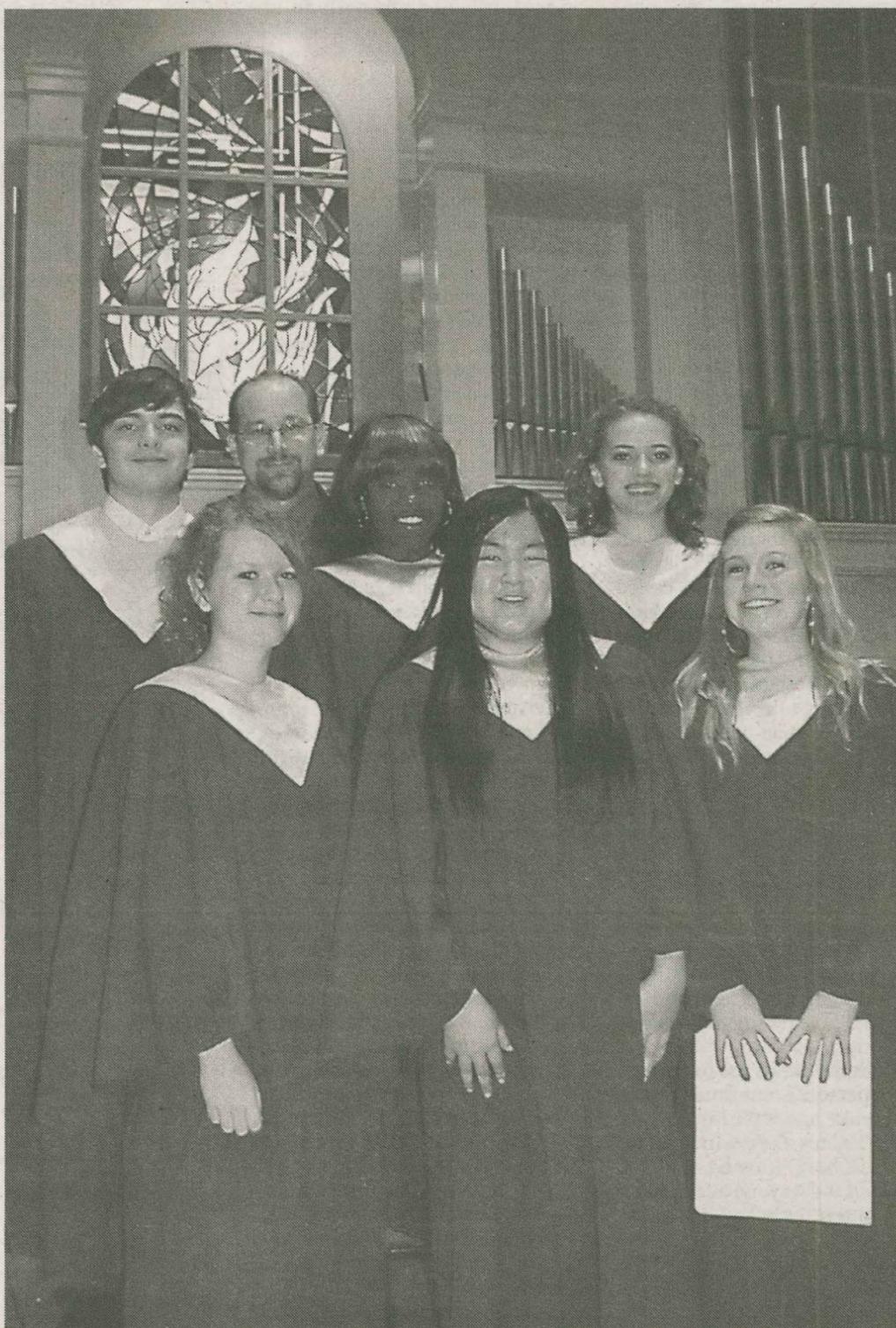
High school students may take
classes in art appreciation, choir,
piano, instrumental music,
percussion and stagecraft.

After-school cocurriculars
include pep band and drama.

The OBI choir travels most
Sundays from October to May.
They share their music in
churches across Kentucky,
"singing unto the Lord and
blessing His name."

Since all of our teachers, coaches
and sponsors are Christians, working
with our students in these and other
capacities is an opportunity to "show
forth His salvation from day to day."

Please pray for us as we bring the
good news of Jesus Christ to
teenagers in grades 6-12.



*OBI choir director Tim Cochran poses with the Oneida
students who participated in the 2010 All-Festival Chorus.*

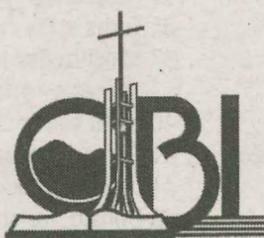
Would you like to learn more about Oneida? Contact us!

Oneida Baptist Institute

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Education for Time and Eternity