

Shine like stars in the world
Philippians 2:15

WESTERN Recorder

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FOR THE RECORD



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Chitwood is nominee to become next KBC exec

Mission Board will convene for vote June 2

By Todd Deaton
Editor

Louisville—Paul Chitwood, pastor of First Baptist Church of Mount Washington, will be presented as the nominee for executive director-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention at a special-called meeting of the KBC Mission Board June 2 in Louisville.

If elected, Chitwood, 41, will succeed Bill Mackey, who is retiring as executive director May 31 after 13 years. Chitwood would be expected to begin his duties July 1.

In a news release, search committee chair Paul Badgett, pastor of First Baptist Church of Pikeville, said the group unanimously agreed to recommend Chitwood during its May 12 meeting.

"Michelle and I are honored and humbled that the search committee will be recommending me to the Mission Board as the next executive director," Chitwood told the Western Recorder.

Chitwood, who has served at First Baptist, Mount Washington for seven years, has filled several elected KBC posts, including convention president in 2005-06, first vice president in 2003-04 and president of the state Pastors' Conference in 2002.

Chitwood also is the immediate past chairman of the International Mission Board's trustees, an assistant professor of evangelism and church growth at Southern Baptist

Theological Seminary, and an adjunct professor at University of the Cumberland.

Prior to Mount Washington First Baptist, Chitwood served three other Kentucky pastorates: First Baptist Church of Somerset, First Baptist Church of Owenton, and South Fork Baptist Church in Owenton.

"All of the churches have experienced growth and renewed vision under Chitwood's leadership," Badgett said in the news release.

With a resident membership of 1,844, First Baptist, Mount Washington is the largest congregation in Nelson Baptist Association. During Chitwood's tenure, the church has added a third morning worship service, a second

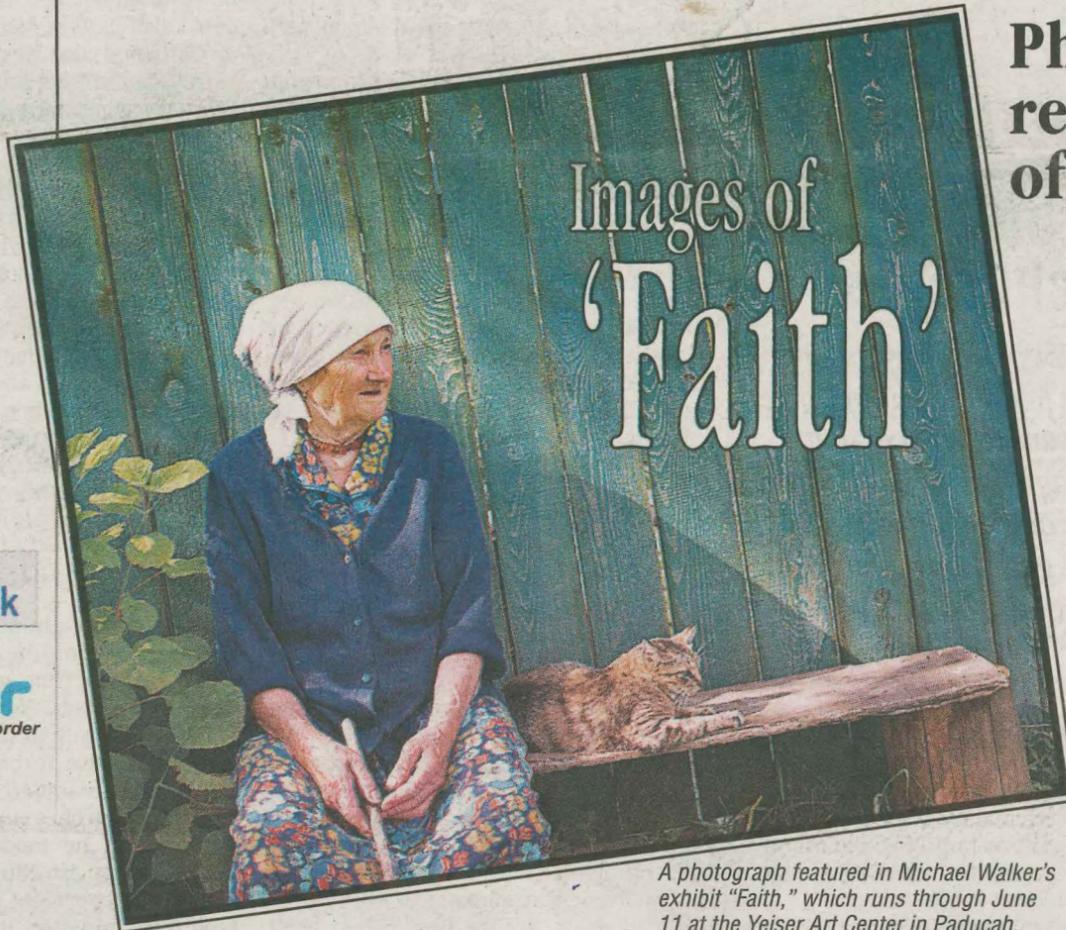
Bible study hour, and purchased a 27-acre tract of land for a planned relocation. In 2010, the congregation reported 54 baptisms, placing it among the state's top 40 churches in total baptisms.

According to KBC Business Services Team Leader Lowell Ashby, Mount Washington First contributed \$106,989, (8.18 percent) of its \$1,307,928 in undesignated receipts to the Cooperative Program in 2009-10. In other missions giving last year, the church contributed \$37,324 to the Lottie Moon offering for international missions; \$9,125 to the Annie Armstrong offering for North American missions; and \$5,892 to the Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions.

"Should the Mission Board confirm that it is God's will for me to
□ See Chitwood ... Page 2



Paul Chitwood



A photograph featured in Michael Walker's exhibit "Faith," which runs through June 11 at the Yeiser Art Center in Paducah.

Photo exhibit displays resilience, faithfulness of Russian Baptists

By Robin Bass
Partnerships Director

Paducah—Nadia refused to let anyone take away her joy. After living through decades of religious intolerance and even persecution of fellow believers in her country, the elderly Russian widow was at last witnessing an unbelievable sight—a Baptist church being built in Klintzy.

Nadia was so delighted with the prospect of being able to freely worship God in an actual church that she routinely gave her pension toward the construction efforts. Her monthly contribution only was the equivalent of \$25 in U.S. currency, but she wanted to do her part.

When church leaders learned that Nadia essentially was giving all she had toward the building, they decided it was time to have a chat with the old widow. The deacons felt it was not right for the church to accept her pension money. They trusted God would be faithful and provide.

Nadia respectfully listened to the concerns of the pastor and deacons, but a few days later the widow greeted them at the construction site. The deacons might not want to take her money to purchase bricks and wood, but they could not stop her from buying a bus ticket every day and showing up to work.

It was because of believers like Nadia that photographer Michael Walker began documenting the steadfast members of the Baptist church in Klintzy, Russia. His photographic exhibit "Faith" is on display at the Yeiser Art Center in Paducah through June 11.

"I was taken aback by their faith and just the people themselves," Walker said. "They had such stories of persecution, not only during Soviet times, but by the Orthodox Church as well. They would experience these waves of religious tolerance only to be followed by waves of persecution."

One of the many waves of persecution coincided with the beginning of World War I when Evangelical Christians were considered politically dangerous. In a historical account that accompanies the exhibit, Walker explained that Baptist and other evangelical churches were closed while their preachers were arrested and exiled to Siberia.

After a brief period of religious freedom, the Soviet government declared in 1929 that evangelical churches were a front for capitalist and anti-Soviet activities. Reli-
□ See Photos show resilience of Baptists ... Page 7

New technology brings copyright concerns

By Ken Walker
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Portland, Ore.—Modern technology makes copying music, printed scores, audio or TV shows and film clips so convenient that many Christians think it must be all right.

Not true. And, with more churches podcasting or streaming video of worship services, copyright infringement issues could re-emerge 25 years after a \$3 million lawsuit alerted Christians to the problem.

"I do think this is the next frontier," Paul Herman, marketing manager for

Christian Copyright Licensing International, said of Internet-driven violations. "From what I understand, there are a number of lawsuits pending for things posted on YouTube."

This frontier particularly impacts music since digitization has challenged every part of the music industry, said Mike Harland, director of LifeWay Worship.

He said churches must understand that music isn't free and never has been.

Illegal copying of CDs and photocopied music diminishes the ability of its creators
□ See Developing technology ... Page 2

Kentucky Baptists reach CP milestone, top \$700 million

Louisville—Kentucky Baptists have reached a milestone in supporting missions through the Cooperative Program.

As individuals and churches, Kentucky Baptists have provided more than \$700 million through the Cooperative Program since 1925 when the Southern Baptist unified giving plan began.

"It means so much to me to see Kentucky Baptists reach this milestone before my retirement," said KBC Executive Director Bill Leves, who leaves the post May 31 after 13 years.

"Kentucky Baptists are kingdom-minded Christians who make possible the spread of the gospel here at home, across North America and to the ends of the earth," he added.

At a KBC Board meeting in Louisville May 10, board members, staff and guests received word from Lowell Ashby, the KBC's business services team leader, that the \$700 million mark would be surpassed by month's end.

"We praise the Lord for the historical, gracious giving of Kentucky Baptists to the Cooperative Program," Ashby said.

He added later that it was a contribution from Good Hope Baptist Church in Campbellsville on May 4 that put the total beyond \$700 million.

Without generous giving in April, Kentucky Baptists would not have reached the milestone in May, Ashby reported.

In April, Kentucky Baptists contributed \$1,953,577 through the Cooperative Program, exceeding gifts made during the

Kentucky Baptist CP gifts at a glance	
Giving for April 1-30, 2011 & Year-to-Date	
Monthly budget goal:	\$1,958,333
Actual giving:	\$1,953,577
Under budget:	\$ 59,331
Year-to-Date budget goal:	\$15,666,667
Year-to-Date actual giving:	\$15,042,774
Under budget:	\$ 623,893

same period last year by nearly \$60,000.

"Total Cooperative Program for the fiscal year remains nearly 4 percent behind budget and only 2.7 percent behind last year's receipts through April," Ashby noted.

Billy Compton, KBC's executive associate for Cooperative Program and resources, said the recent upswing in gas prices makes breaking the \$700 million mark especially meaningful.

"Once again Kentucky Baptists prove they are willing to make sacrifices so others can hear and respond to the gospel," Compton said. "I think reaching this milestone is an indication that the best days of the Cooperative Program could be ahead of us as churches participate in the More for Christ campaign in 2011 through 2014."

Developing technology brings new copyright concerns for churches

Continued from page 1
to develop more, the LifeWay executive added.

"The technology has developed faster than the laws governing copyright have developed, creating a harsh reality for owners of songs," Harland said. "Studies demonstrate that a majority of music acquired today is done so illegally."

He encouraged all Southern Baptists to evaluate the ways their ministries deliver copyrighted material to comply with the law. For instance, even though CCLI recently began offering a podcast license that enables churches to post worship music online, there are certain limitations, Harland said.

"CCLI gives full explanations through its website that can help churches know what rights the license grants," Harland said. "Any publisher would welcome a phone call or e-mail regarding use of one of their songs if there are questions."

Not a new issue

Copyright infringement by churches burst onto the national scene in the mid-1980s when a music publisher sued the Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago for photocopying sheet music without its prior authorization.

Despite that landmark case and tens of thousands of licenses that OneLicense.net has issued since then, an official with the Chicago-based firm said confusion still exists in many churches.

"The main thing that people don't get is because a church owns 800 copies of a hymnal they think it's OK to make copies of any song in the book," said administrator Tim Redmon. "It's not. You always have

"I get a lot of calls from folks who want to do it right but give up because they feel that complying with the law is too much trouble—or they just don't get permission."

Larry Brannin, media production associate for the Kentucky Baptist Convention

to ask."

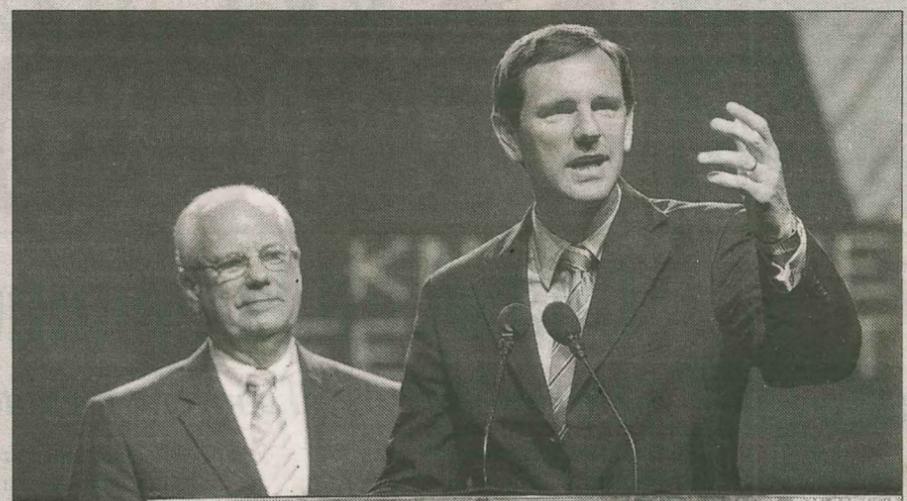
It isn't only music that can catch Christians in a legal snarl. For example, CCLI offers licenses for week-long special events, a video license that allows churches to use film clips or a sponsor for movie events, and a mobile license for traveling evangelists and musicians.

What about making copies of a DVD or CD to distribute to homebound members or others? That also requires permission from the copyright owner, said Larry Brannin, a media production associate with the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

"When we use a song in one of our KBC videos, we have to pay a fee," Brannin said.

"I get a lot of calls from folks who want to do it right but give up because they feel that complying with the law is too much trouble—or they just don't get permission."

However, some church concerns are addressed through the podcast license, which OneLicense.net has offered for three years and CCLI instituted in March. Alabama-based Christian Copyright Licenses has a streaming license for churches that covers numerous secular and Chris-



KBC EXEC NOMINEE Paul Chitwood, who was International Mission Board trustee chairman from 2008-10, recognizes former IMB president Jerry Rankin at first year's Southern Baptist Convention in Orlando, Fla. Chitwood, pastor of First Baptist Church of Mount Washington, will be nominated as Kentucky Baptist Convention executive director-treasurer at a special-called Mission Board meeting June 2.

Chitwood is KBC exec nominee, Mission Board will vote June 2

Continued from page 1
serve in this role," Chitwood said, "I will accept the challenge of building on the good work of Bill Mackey."

According to the search committee's current "reality" of Kentucky Baptist life, the next executive director "must be even more enthusiastic about our cooperative endeavors."

"My desire is to serve the pastors and churches of the KBC to expand God's kingdom on earth for His glory alone," Chitwood added.

A native of Jellico, Tenn., Chitwood is a 1992 graduate of Cumberland College (now University of the Cumberlands), where he also serves as a trustee. He earned a master of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1995 and a doctorate from the school in 2001. He and his wife, Michelle, have three children, Daniel, Anna and Cai.

Serving with Badgett on the search committee are Charles Barnes and Pat Reaves, both of Louisville; Debbie Cook of Corbin; Alan Dodson and Richard

Gaines, both of Lexington; Linda Polley of Elizabethtown; Ronny Raines of Cold Spring; Steve Rice of Shelbyville; Nick Sandefur of Hopkinsville; Ben Stratton of Farmington; Jerry Tooley of Owensboro; and Ray Wood of Glasgow. Owensboro are former KBC president Don Mathis of Bowling Green and current KBC President Floyd Paris of Ashland.

Chitwood also was a member of the search committee, but was removed in February when he became a candidate for the position.

Mathis, who appointed the committee last October, said those who serve on the committee are precluded from consideration for the job. He noted, however, that several search team members felt Chitwood should be a candidate for the position, and he then was asked to allow himself to be included for consideration.

"After praying about it and (Chitwood) consented, then we dismissed him from the committee, and he did not serve on the committee in any fashion after February," Mathis said.

With additional reporting by News Director Drew Nichter

tian songs.

These licenses allow congregations that have restricted webcasts to their pastors' sermons now to legally stream or podcast their entire worship service.

Fees are reasonable; a CCLI license for churches with fewer than 200 average attendees is \$50 a year. That compares to a traditional music license that runs \$109 for congregations of less than 100 and \$185 for average attendance of 100-199.

The podcast license is required even when a church has a traditional license that allows it to store lyrics in a computer or project them on a wall or video screen if the church also is planning to post its services on the Internet.

Useful resource

With the Internet's increasing prominence, staff members who have purchased a podcast license or plan to investigate the situation, are delighted it is available.

Central Baptist Church in Corbin is in the process of upgrading its website. When launched, the site will include live broadcasts and podcasts of Sunday services, complete with hymns and praise songs.

Before he learned about CCLI's new license, associate pastor and music minister Ron Green spent six months investigat-

ing how to legally post Central Baptist's entire service online.

"We had a time getting that worked out," Green said. "Now we're ready to go. It's a big answer to prayer. Before, it was cost prohibitive to broadcast your music online. This is something I would encourage more churches to get into."

Although he fields many calls from Kentucky Baptist churches, Brannin also is aware of copyright concerns as a volunteer tech minister at Crestwood Baptist Church. The congregation is planning to acquire a podcast license so it will be able to post more than sermons online.

"Most churches that have done podcasts only did the sermon because there's no copyright involved," Brannin said. "This is going to allow churches to put the service online from the first song to the last and the pastor's message."

No matter what they post at their websites or do during services, though, Harland cautioned congregations to be as concerned with ethics as financial issues.

"We want to do everything 'decently and in order,'" said LifeWay's Harland, referencing 1 Corinthians 14:40. "That includes how we steward our use of the songs that today's writers and creators are producing."

As floodwaters recede, Kentucky Baptists prepare to serve

Disaster relief clean-up teams could be needed in western Kentucky for extended length of time

Smithland—Kentucky Baptist disaster relief is coordinating its first group of volunteers to serve in western Kentucky as floodwaters finally recede.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention and Ohio River Baptist Association are organizing teams to help residents in Smithland, Ledbetter and elsewhere in Livingston County remove mud and debris and then pressure wash their houses.

Potter's House Baptist Worship Center in Smithland will host the teams and provide headquarters for the effort.

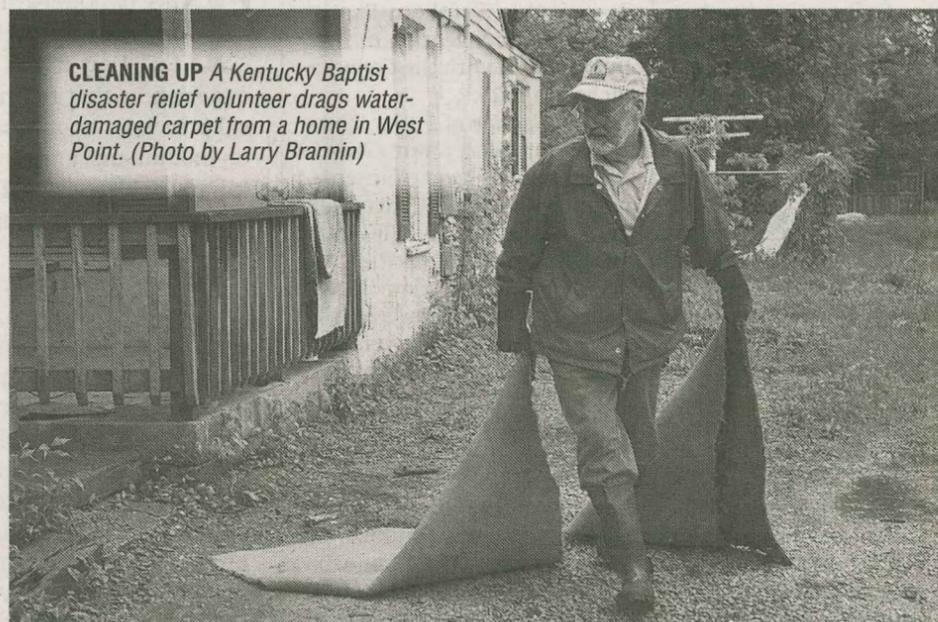
Cindy Henderson, a KBC ministry assistant and disaster relief coordinator, said an initial group of about 10 volunteers is being organized and that additional workers will be called upon to respond to area

residents' needs.

Henderson also said that more teams may be requested to serve in Paducah, but damage assessment is just getting underway there.

Trained Kentucky Baptist disaster relief volunteers may be needed in the western Kentucky region for some time, so Henderson said she is encouraging teams to stay informed through the Kentucky Baptist disaster relief and Kentucky Baptist Convention Facebook pages, as well as the KBC website, www.KyBaptist.org/DR.

Recently, Kentucky Baptist disaster relief teams have helped residents in West Point clean up after flooding, and served in Henagar, Ala., following an outbreak of tornadoes.



CLEANING UP A Kentucky Baptist disaster relief volunteer drags water-damaged carpet from a home in West Point. (Photo by Larry Brannin)

Noah's Ark theme park gets OK from Ky. officials

Frankfort—State officials gave final approval May 19 to tax incentives for a full-scale reproduction of Noah's Ark that will be built in Grant County and cost nearly \$150 million.

The state's Tourism Development Finance Authority unanimously approved tax incentives that will allow Ark Encounter LLC to recover up to 25 percent of its construction costs through sales tax rebates if it meets attendance and sales projections.

Groundbreaking in Williamstown for the Bible-themed attraction is tentatively set for August, with an opening targeted for 2014.

Answers in Genesis, the same group that is behind the Creation Museum, is partnering with another group to build the Ark Encounter. Private funds are being used, various media outlets have reported.

According to a press release, the attraction will include a walled city, a first-century Middle Eastern village, a tower of Babel and a petting zoo. The idea is to attract visitors who will want to attend not only the Ark reproduction but also the Creation Museum.

An analysis by Hunden Strategic Partners shows the ark will draw 1.2 million visitors the first year and have a \$119 million impact on the state in the first 10 years.

Gov. Steve Beshear has publicly supported the theme park project which he has said will bring nearly 900 jobs to the state, more than 500 of those full time.

Other lawmakers have criticized the park's tax breaks, saying the incentives represent a religious preference and likely will be challenged in court. (BP)

Campbellsville honors pair of Kentucky Baptist leaders

Campbellsville—Campbellsville University honored a pair of Kentucky Baptist leaders during commencement ceremonies at the school May 13-14.

Bill Mackey, the retiring executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, was presented the Campbellsville University Leadership Award. Kevin Cosby, president of Simmons College of Kentucky and pastor of St. Stephen Church in Louisville, was presented an honorary doctorate of humanities at the school's undergraduate commencement.

Mackey, who was the commencement speaker for the graduate ceremony, was given the leadership award by Campbellsville President Michael Carter, who said Mackey has demonstrated "strong support of the Christian higher education mission of Campbellsville University."

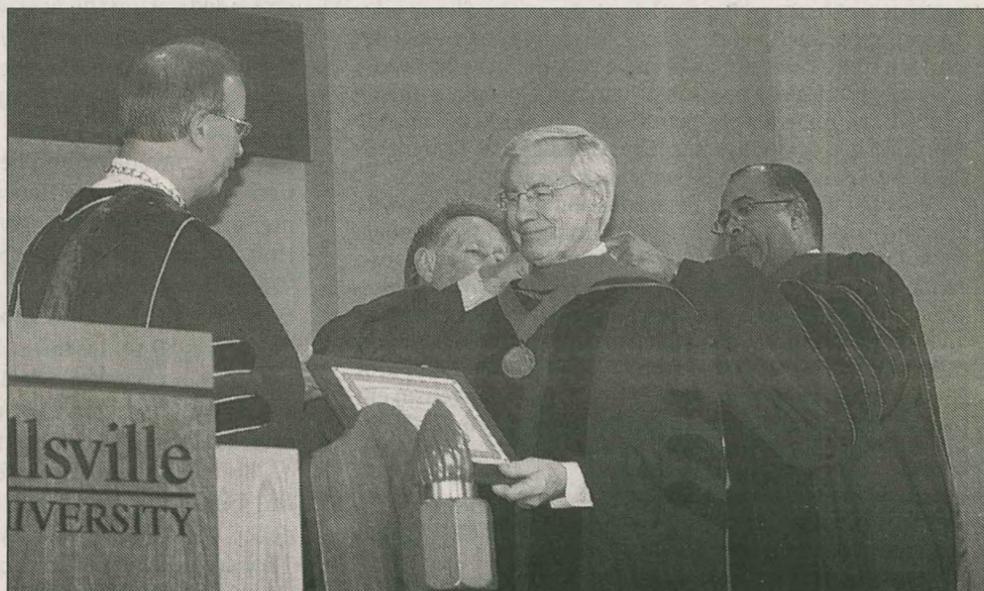
"The Campbellsville University Leadership Award has its roots in the pioneering spirit that brought higher education and its succeeding growth to Kentucky," he added.

Mackey has been the KBC executive director since 1998 and has "served in this capacity with passion, commitment and a servant's heart through the years," Carter noted.

Mackey will retire at the end of the month to spend time with his wife, Kay. They will be moving back to North Carolina to be closer to their five grandchildren and extended family.

"However, there is no doubt that Dr. Mackey will remain active in Christian service and (is) simply moving into a new era of active ministry," Carter said.

In his commencement address, Mackey cit-



A TRUE LEADER Outgoing Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Bill Mackey (center) receives a leadership award from Campbellsville University President Michael Carter (left) at the May 13 graduate commencement. Frank Cheatham (second from left), CU's vice president for academic affairs, and Joe Owens, CU board of trustee vice chair, place a medal around Mackey's neck. (Photo by Joan McKinney/Campbellsville University)

ed Philippians 1:9-11, urging the graduates to lead Christian lives and careers and grow in love for Jesus and one another. "God is at work in you," he said.

Cosby, who addressed the undergraduate commencement ceremony, was given an honorary doctorate, which Carter called "the greatest honor and recognition given by any

university."

"The honorary degree is given to those individuals who have displayed excellence in leadership, made extraordinary contributions to humanity, and distinguished themselves in their respective professional fields.

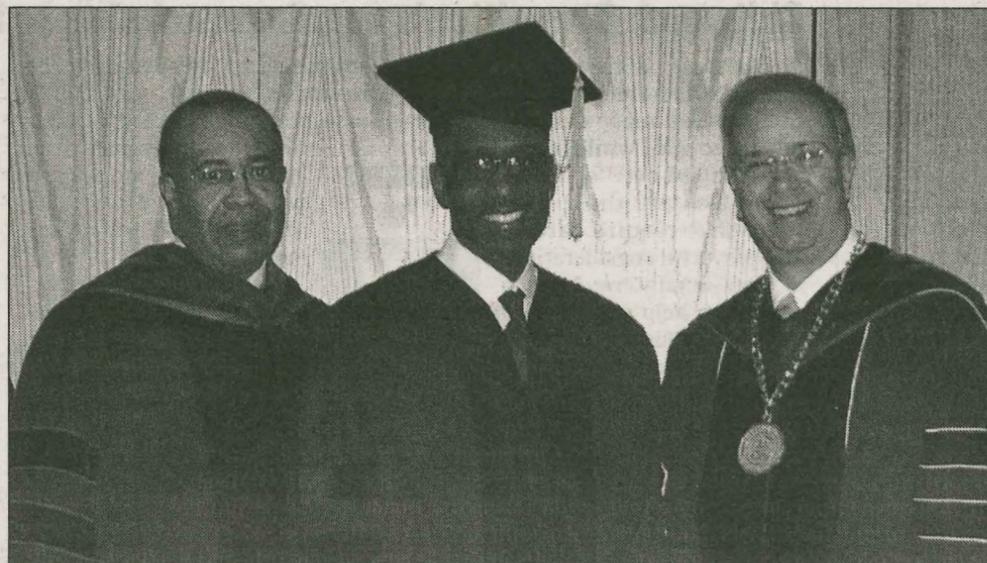
Cosby's address focused on James Hall's book, "Lost Island." He told graduates life is about losing "islands"—places where people experience each part of their lives—and moving from one "island" to another.

Cosby said life can't be stopped and individuals cannot stop changing from island to island, but in order to reach the next island, graduates should realize the value of what Campbellsville University gave them.

"Campbellsville University gave you wings," Cosby said. "Don't let anyone take away your wings. Fly into the orbit of God and his kingdom."

Cosby has served as pastor of St. Stephen Church since 1979. During his tenure, the church has grown from 500 members to approximately 10,000 members. St. Stephen Church has been recognized by Outreach Magazine as one of the top 100 largest churches in the U.S. and by Emerge Magazine as one of the six super churches of the South.

Since 2005, Cosby has served as the president of Simmons College of Kentucky. The school has maintained an educational partnership with Campbellsville University since 2006.



DEGREE HONOREE Kevin Cosby (center), president of Simmons College and pastor of St. Stephen Church in Louisville, poses with Joe Owens (left), vice chair for Campbellsville University's board of trustees, and Campbellsville President Michael Carter prior to the commencement ceremony at which Cosby received an honorary doctorate in humanities from the school. (Photo by Christina Miller/Campbellsville University)

Associations are vital partners

Cooperation has been a key word in Southern Baptist life since before the organization of the convention in 1845 and has been more specifically identified with the Cooperative Program since it was launched in 1925.

Partners in the Mission



By Bill Mackey

In 1984, Peter Wagner of Fuller Theological Seminary introduced our Church Growth II class to the concept of interdependence in Southern Baptist Convention organization. For example, the SBC entities maintain their separate identities and emphasis through convention-elected trustees. At the same time, however, the entities are dependent on the conventions for funding and on the churches for participants (missionaries, students). The same concept is true for state conventions and state entities.

During the work of the SBC Great Commission Task Force, some discussion centered on the organization/structure of the SBC. I agree with David Hankins, executive director of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, who said that there is nothing wrong with the SBC structure (churches, associations, state conventions, Southern Baptist Convention). It is a matter of using the structure well.

One of the best areas to see the interdependence in Southern Baptist life is in the work of the local associations. At its best, the local association is an advocate for all that happens in Southern Baptist life at the national and state convention levels. In some cases the role may be supportive while in other cases it may be to be very directly involved.

Associations develop strategies to reach people, minister to needs, equip believers, coordinate the work and encourage ministers and churches. The associational leaders are the closest denominational persons to local churches.

Associations assist the denomination and churches with church planning, mission trips, training events, language work, disaster relief, On Mission Celebrations, missions education and projects, Bible drills, Super Saturday, camping, promoting the Cooperative Program and missions offerings.

Here in Kentucky, the state convention provides financial support for about 25 associations, coordination of ministries like disaster relief, the "Find It Here" evangelism emphasis, Super Saturday and other training events, Go Metro partnership missions efforts, ethnic work, church planting, research, workshops for leaders and resume services. And much of the funding for state missions comes from the Eliza Broadus Offering for state missions promoted by Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union.

Due to personal involvement in associational work as a pastor and denominational leader for 30 years, I am absolutely sold on a strong partnership with associations in order to fulfill the Great Commission. May God continue to bless the work of associations and DOMs in their vital work for Great Commission advance here and around the world.

I want to encourage you to pray for and get involved with your association in Great Commission ministries.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Rekindling the biblical principles that forged freedom

This past week, I was privileged to accompany my son on a school field trip to Washington, D.C. I say it was a privilege because it afforded experiences that rekindled appreciation for the biblical principles upon which America was forged. Etched on monuments and government buildings in our capital are noble words of our founders that reference divine providence and Scripture.

On the way there, the students stopped at Jamestown, the first successful English colony, which was founded in 1607 some 13 years before the Pilgrims arrived at Plymouth Rock. Three ships—the Susan Constant, Godspeed and Discovery—brought 105 settlers to the Virginia coast. Popularly associated with Captain John Smith and Pocahontas, the colony also is known for having established the first representative form of government. A lesser known fact, though, is that the first church in America, led by Robert Hunt, was at Jamestown. In her book, "We the People," author Carol Sewell notes that upon landing in Virginia, the English settlers knelt in prayer and planted a cross, dedicating the new world to the Lord.

At Williamsburg, Virginia's capital at the start of the Revolutionary War, they heard about Patrick Henry, a member of the House of Burgesses, who later served as a delegate to the Virginia Constitution Ratification Convention and became the commonwealth's first governor. It was Henry who declared, "... (A)s for me, give me liberty or give me death!" Sewell notes that in leading up to that appeal, Henry asserts: "There is no longer room for hope. If we wish to be free, we must fight. An appeal to arms and to the God of Hosts is all that is left us! We are not weak. We shall not fight our battle alone. There is a just God who presides over the destinies of nations; and who will raise up friends to fight our battle for us."

Monticello and the Jefferson Memorial remember the founder who framed the Declaration of Independence, borrowing heavily from popular sermons. Thomas Jefferson, our third President, advanced the belief that government should not interfere with religion by favoring one religious group over another. In 1802, Jefferson penned a letter to a Baptist association in Connecticut that contained the infamous phrase that government should "make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof" Though credited with having established a wall of separation between church and state, Jefferson's intent, according to Sewell, was to calm fears that Congress would choose one denomination to be the state church. Lengthy quotations etched on the memorial's walls lend support to Sewell's view

that "he was devoted to the morals of Jesus, and firmly believed they went hand-in-hand with a representative democracy."

In "We the People," Sewell attributes Samuel Adams as having stated after the signing of the Declaration of Independence: "We have this day restored the Sovereign to Whom all men ought to be obedient. He reigns in heaven from the rising to the setting of the sun, let His Kingdom Come." And Ben Franklin, another signer, charged at a critical juncture during the Constitutional Convention: "In the beginning of the contest with Britain, when we were sensible of danger, we had daily prayers in this room for Divine protection. Our prayers, Sir, were heard, and they were graciously answered. All of us who were engaged in the struggle must have observed frequent instances of a superintending Providence in our favor. And have we now forgotten this powerful Friend? Or do we imagine we no longer need His assistance?"

The 555-foot Washington Monument honors the Revolutionary War general, the president of the Constitutional Convention and the first President of the United States. Sewell describes George Washington: "He was a man of strong moral character and integrity. He was a selfless and humble man with a supernatural gift of wisdom. ... Most importantly, he was a deeply religious man with a strong faith in the providence of God. He had been raised by a praying mother who taught him to trust God and value prayer." In 1778, Washington wrote to Brigadier General Thomas Nelson: "The hand of Providence has been so conspicuous in all this (The course of the war) that he must be worse than an infidel that lacks faith, and more wicked that has not gratitude to acknowledge his obligations"

Even the Supreme Court's building, across from the Capitol, prominently features Moses and the Ten Commandments on its East Pediment. And perhaps most surprising, John Jay, the first Chief Justice, who served as president of both the Westchester and American Bible societies, maintained, "Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty, as well as the privilege and interest of our Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers."

The words of our nation's founders frequently attest to a firm belief in God and His divine providence as well as a profound respect for God's truth as revealed through Scripture. In teaching history to young minds that will shape our nation's tomorrow, we must never neglect rekindling an appreciation of the biblical foundation upon which our freedom is forged.



After Thought

By Todd Deaton

Chitwood: Committee's unanimous choice to lead Kentucky Baptists

Decisions, decisions, decisions—we make hundreds everyday. Some decisions are made quickly without much thought, while others are agonized over for hours. There also are those decisions that require careful and prayerful consideration.

Occasionally, we have to enlist the help of others in making a decision, as the situation demands more than one person's opinion or discernment. What a wonderful blessing it is when a group of believers can come together under the leadership of the Lord Jesus and collectively and separately discern His will.

For the past seven months, the executive director search committee has been meeting regularly and prayerfully seeking the will of the

Lord in finding the next executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. We received many wonderful resumes from several different states, as well as some great candidates from our own Commonwealth.

We interviewed a number of fine men. Anyone of them would do a good job. We were, however, charged with the task of finding God's man for this time in the life of our state convention. There was great freedom among the committee and great unity. I was blessed to be part of such a great committee.

As the committee was diligent in our search, we also were encouraged by our chairman, Paul

Badgett, to prayerful listen to the leadership of the Lord Jesus. When we voted, it was unanimous that Paul Chitwood was the man that the Lord was leading us to recommend to the Mission Board to lead the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Dr. Chitwood has a proven record of Christ-like leadership that has been recognized all across the Southern Baptist Convention. He has proven himself to be a faithful Kentucky Baptist leader. I wholeheartedly support Dr. Chitwood and believe he is the man the Lord would have to lead us to the most fruitful time of our convention. He will lead us by example to do "More for Christ."

Come on, let's win our world for Jesus.

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

President's Pen



By Floyd Paris

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Dan Summerlin, Paducah.

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

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The last bowl-turner in England fulfills a 'calling'

Last month I wrote in this column about "calling," an idea that Calvin, Luther and Buechner all wrote about. I discuss this with my university students, my seniors and even my freshmen. I have an opportunity in my freshman orientation class to talk with my students about how they envision their lives after graduating from Murray State University. In fact, I have focused on that very thing.

That might seem odd for a class full of first-year students to talk about life after college, but I think it is crucial for students to consider seriously during their college years how they plan to spend the rest of their lives. Is it possible for these bright and hopeful students to discover while here at Murray a life's work, or more than that, a vocation? How does one decide what to do when one "grows up?"

In the 1920s, H.V. Morton perfected the art of travel writing. Jan Morris, an admirer, described Morton as "the much-loved master of the genre, often imitated but never matched." Morton produced books such as "In Search of London," "A Traveler in Spain," "In the Steps of the Master," "A Traveler in Italy," and my favorite, "In Search of England."

I have a friend who reads Morton's "A Traveler in Rome" non-stop. No, I mean non-stop! When he finishes the book, he turns back to page one and begins again. I don't know how many times he has read the book. It's now beyond counting. He simply reads it perpetually.

That brings me to the point of this column. Morton knew much about an idea that is usually reserved for religious folk, for Baptist ministers (I mean those that follow a religious vocation as opposed to a secular job). But H.V. Morton demonstrated through his life and work that one can be called to a vocation without donning religious garb. If anyone was called to write sophisticated, eloquent travelogues, it was Morton. I know of individuals who have been called to be pharmacists, teachers of preschoolers, doctors, veterinarians, lawyers, coal miners, college presidents, farmers and even historians.

In his travels through England, Morton met up with a

man on a country lane carrying, conspicuously, a wooden bowl. "Well," the man called out holding up the bowl, "what do you think of that?" Morton did not know how to respond, although he didn't fail to notice that the "bowl had a marvelous grain" and an unusually "fine smooth finish." "That," the man said, "is the work of the last bowl-turner in England. He lives over the hill at Bucklebury. A most interesting survival. Quite remarkable. You ought to look at his workshop, for you will never see another one like it!"

"Before people used pewter for plates and tankards," he explained, "wooden trenchers, drinking cups, and bowls ... were used by everyone." "Well, in Elizabethan times pewter came in fashion and wooden things were used only by poorer people. Then came china and glass." Now, there was only one maker of wooden bowls left, and Morton was encouraged to meet him. He did as he was told.

And when he found his way to the bowl-turner's workshop and peered inside, Morton wrote that "to say that eight hundred years seemed to have stopped at the door conveys nothing. The room was an Anglo-Saxon workshop!" After the craftsman demonstrated his art, Morton could not help but tell him: "You could make a lot of money if you wanted to."

"Money?" [the artist] said with a slow faun-like smile. "Money's only storing up trouble, I think. I like making bowls better than I like making money."

Astonished, Morton asked him, "Will you say that again?"

"He leaned against the door of the hut, his homely brown face shaded by his green floppy hat, and said it again, slightly puzzled." "I like making bowls better than I like making money."

"But you will have guessed that I wished to hear for the second time the voice of a craftsman," Morton concluded, "the lover of his job, the proud creator of beautiful, common things; a voice that is now smothered by the scream of machines." Morton had experienced the art of an artist who, unable and unwilling to do anything else, lived out his calling as the "last bowl-turner in England."

That is my wish for my students, that during their time at Murray State they will discover a calling, work that they simply cannot live without—work that the Lord calls them to do.

Duane Bolin has been called to teach in the Department of History at Murray State University and in the Pairs and Spares Sunday School Class at Murray's First Church.

A Letter from the Laity



Duane Bolin

Making offering time worshipful

By Doug Strader

In many Baptist churches the offering time gives the appearance that the offering is not related to the service, but is something that is usually placed just before the special music and the sermon. Nothing is actually said to prepare the worshippers for the offering, nor does it appear to be anything special. Sometimes it appears to be an afterthought.

How can you make the offering time a more worshipful time in your church? Is the offering time to be a worshipful time? Or, is it just something that we have been doing the same way as long as anybody can remember; therefore, we need to keep up the tradition?

The offering time should be one of the most meaningful and worshipful times of the service. That is the time when we are giving back to God a portion of what He has given to us the past week. We are offering our best to God our Father because we love Him and we are seeking to be obedient to Him and His word. Therefore, we need to make this time as worshipful as possible.

Several years ago, Talmage Williams wrote a book titled, "The Worshipgiver," which has a section called Giving Statements that are to be used during the preparation time for the offering. He has included 52 statements, one for each Sunday of the year. There is a Scripture that is related to giving or stewardship. The Scripture is followed by a two or three sentences related to the weekly Scripture. We have used these statements in our morning worship service. The statements definitely caused us to focus on the offering, why we give, and how we should give our offerings to God.

This is not the only way to help make your offering time more worshipful, but it is one way. Another approach is to have someone give a personal testimony about the joy and blessings of giving to God. You can come up with your own way to make your offering time more worshipful. How you do it is not important, but the fact that you are consciously making an effort to see that your church worships when you give an offering to God.

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

Understanding hoarding

By Valerie Vincent

For the past 10 years, my sister has increasingly struggled with hoarding. I don't know how to help her. I don't understand why she does this. It truly has taken over her life. It has gotten out of control, but she doesn't see it.

Hoarding is an illness that usually requires professional help. Sadly, hoarding can destroy family relationships, friendships and result in financial loss. The Mayo Clinic offers the following signs to look for and some reasons as to why people hoard:

- Cluttered living spaces.
- Inability to discard items.
- Keeping old newspapers, magazines or junk mail.
- Moving items from one pile to another, without discarding anything.
- Acquiring unneeded or seemingly useless items, including trash.
- Difficulty managing daily activities, including procrastination and trouble making decisions.
- Difficulty organizing items.
- Perfectionism.
- Excessive attachment to possessions and discomfort letting others touch or borrow possessions.
- Limited or no social interactions.

Hoarding behavior may help the person feel safer by being surrounded by things. There can be a belief that the items kept will be needed or have value. Items designated with emotional significance and meaning are collected.

Symptoms can range from mild to severe. There may be little disruption in the life of someone who hoards, or concerns for safety, health, cleanliness and fire may be present.

Scripture instructs us to choose carefully what we value and not to build bigger barns for earthly treasures. For those who hoard, significant emotional meaning and need is related to this behavior. Professional help is often required to explore, understand and manage hoarding behavior.

Reprinted from WR, May 25, 2010. Valerie Vincent is a Christian counselor with Hardy Associates in Louisville.



Mackey: KBC building, work has his fingerprints all over them

By Lowell Ashby

Soon after I came to the Kentucky Baptist Convention in May 1996, Dr. Marshall announced his retirement, and we anxiously awaited the announcement of our next executive secretary-treasurer. (That title was soon changed to executive director.) I first met Dr. Mackey when he was presented to the Executive Board (soon to become the Mission Board) and recognized his statesmanship from the very beginning. One of the initial traits I saw in him was his confidence and stately demeanor. I have always been captured by his articulate presentation of Scripture and the gospel message.

Many of us have been also "captured" by his long renderings of Kentucky's highways and byways, rivers and valleys and numerous accounts of his various travels and visits across our state. Often, two hour meetings turned into four if an ill-thought question slipped out regarding how his weekend was or if he preached at one of our churches on Sunday—which more often than not he did.

Most would be amazed at the number of miles he and Kay drove over his 13-year tenure, the number of churches he visited, and the countless messages he preached while serving Kentucky Baptists. These trips were meticulously noted on his travel log and ex-

pense book, some of which could rival anyone's personal journal. Most trips were very long—sometimes too long to be able to find the next, best gas station, resulting in his car running out of gas at least a couple times that we know about. I guess Kay only knows exactly how many times that happened. Some secrets are best kept just that, a secret.

When I think on Dr. Mackey's tenure here, I remember his relentless pursuit of evangelism, church plants, High Impact Churches and state-wide prayer emphases. His spiritual devotion and commitment to supporting our churches always took priority over management or administrative matters. His hand and involvement was on every ministry and mission work of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. He always amazed me at the amount of detail he knew about each endeavor.

Outside the cyclical, routine work tasks I shared with him for budget preparations, financial reporting, receipt projections and project updates, one particular major endeavor will always stick in my mind about Dr. Mackey's time in Kentucky. About seven years ago, the possibility of KBC remodeling its office building or moving from its more than 50-year-old campus on Shelbyville Road began to surface. Somewhat surprising was the

widespread support in finding a new location and relocating the Mission Board staff and the KBC entities that shared our building—Woman's Missionary Union, Kentucky Baptist Foundation and Western Recorder.

With all the moving pieces needed to solve that puzzle, I knew we had to "divide and conquer," if we were to ever going make that happen quickly. We divided into sub-workgroups for décor and furnishings, technology and communications, finance, legal, transition and moving teams, but one area I knew was not up for discussion. The floor plan was Dr. Mackey's from the beginning. No use wasting time with others on those details. Get the architect and Dr. Mackey together as soon as possible and have them locate and position the teams and common areas. It worked.

Probably nothing contributed more to us going from an April closing date to an August move-in date than getting the floor plan laid out before the closing. Credit Dr. Mackey for making it happen. We will forever have Dr. Mackey's fingerprints all over our building, and on every portion of God's work sent out from this location. Thanks, Dr. Mackey, for your attention to detail and your desire to excel in every service glorifying our Lord and Savior.

Lowell Ashby is business team leader for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.



SBC Phoenix annual meeting preview

June 14-15

This year's gathering to focus more on Great Commission, increased fellowship, community outreach



By Mark Kelly

Phoenix—"A Great Commission People with a Great Commandment Heart" is the theme for the June 14-15 Southern Baptist convention annual meeting in Phoenix that will be more compact and offer more opportunities for fellowship.

A broad range of auxiliary activities also will be held, from Crossover 2011 evangelistic outreach events to the annual Pastors' Conference, as well as the Woman's Missions celebration, as well as the Woman's Missions celebration.

The SBC's business sessions at the Phoenix Convention Center will include messengers' consideration of recommendations from the SBC Executive Committee's review of ethnic church and ethnic church leadership participation in the ethnic church.

SBC President Bryant Wright said last year's emphasis on a "Great Commission resurgence" laid the foundation for this year's challenge to fulfill Christ's disciple-making command.

"I'm very thankful for what Johnny Hunt and the GCR Task Force did in calling attention to the fact that we're not baptizing as many, we're not growing, that we're not doing our part of fulfilling the Great Commission," Wright said. "Now that we understand that, the fulfillment of the Great Commission is going to be front and center at the convention."

In January, the SBC's Committee on Order of Business announced significant changes in the annual meeting schedule, including holding two missionary appointment services, fewer business sessions and no night sessions. Wright said the changes are designed to allow a greater focus on the Great Commission and free up time for fellowship, discussions and family.

"We've asked the North American Mission Board and the International Mission Board to commission new missionaries during the meeting," Wright said. "It's very seldom that a church is able to experience a commissioning service. This is going to allow the churches of the convention to take part."

"Days at the convention are long and an important part of the annual meeting is fellowship, so you go to eat dinner with somebody that you haven't seen in five years and the next thing you know it's too late to get back to the evening session," Wright said. "We're going to go a little longer in the afternoon so people can have the evening free for fellowship with friends."

The main addresses during the annual meeting, combined with a Pastors' Conference focus on church planting, will inspire and challenge participants to take the gospel to a world in desperate need of good news, Wright noted.

"I realize Southern Baptists are just one part of God's kingdom. It takes Bible-believ-

ing Christians all around the world to fulfill the Great Commission," he said. "But we really do have a wonderful opportunity to put the Great Commission front and center for Southern Baptists."

While Phoenix is a long way for most Southern Baptists to travel, Wright said he believes those who attend will be glad they got away from the day-to-day responsibilities of the local church to let the Lord speak to them.

"It's good for Southern Baptists to go to places like Phoenix for our convention because it gives us a presence and it's a way to encourage the churches in those communities," Wright said. "When we come together, we also sense God moving among us with a passion to reach the unreached people groups (and) to plant churches in areas where there's not a lot of witness for Christ. Being there together, the Holy Spirit just works among us to give us a catalyst to move forward in faith."



Crossover 2011 evangelistic outreach events will assist local churches and strengthen new congregations.

Dozens of congregations will join volunteers at 70 ministry venues throughout the Phoenix-Tucson corridor, a 120-mile stretch encompassing 5.2 million residents. Volunteers will share the love of Christ as they participate in block parties, prayerwalking excursions, Intentional Community Evangelism outreach projects and other acts of kindness.

Crossover 2011 also will directly impact and strengthen 10 new churches that are just starting in the five Baptist associations in the corridor.

Among the Crossover events will be outreach efforts and block parties hosted by 16 of the state's 23 Baptist churches. The group will gather June 5 for a Hispanic rally of local churches, spend the week doing outreach to Spanish speakers, finish with block parties throughout the city, and hold a celebration of the week's successes during the weekend before the SBC annual meeting.

To learn more about Crossover 2011, visit www.Crossover2011.org. To assist new church plants in the Phoenix area, visit www.ChurchPlantingVillage.net/Crossover2011. For those unable to travel to Arizona this summer, Southern Baptists can join in an online prayer community at Facebook.com/SBCPray4AZ or by following Twitter.com/SBCPray4AZ.

Ethnic participation study

Messengers to the annual meeting will receive recommendations from the SBC Executive Committee's review of ethnic church and ethnic church leader participation in the con-

vention. Those recommendations, adopted by the committee Feb. 22, are designed "to foster conscious awareness of the need to be proactive and intentional in the inclusion of individuals from all ethnic and racial identities within Southern Baptist life."

Based on a motion presented at the 2009 SBC meeting in Louisville, an Executive Committee study group examined "how ethnic churches and ethnic church leaders can be more actively involved in serving the needs of the SBC through cooperative partnership on the national level."

The group reviewed all resolutions adopted at annual meetings regarding ethnic participation and relationships; analyzed the ethnic identities of program personalities on the platform at recent annual meetings; studied the ethnic identities of entity staff, mission board personnel, seminary faculty and recent graduates; and heard testimonies from ethnic leaders.

Also part of the study was a review of the numbers of ethnic congregations and ethnic members within the SBC, pictorial representations in convention literature, coverage of ethnic diversity in convention publications and a review of the ethnic identities of Southern Baptist committees, boards and commissions.

Annual meeting registration

Registration for the Phoenix annual meeting once again will provide churches with the opportunity to register their messengers online at www.SBC.net.

The traditional registration method also is available. Registration cards are available from state convention offices.

For further information about online registration, hotel options and parking and shuttle services for the SBC annual meeting, visit www.SBCAnnualMeeting.net. (BP)

Va. pastor Ethridge to be Pastors' Conference nominee

New Orleans—Grant Ethridge, pastor of Liberty Baptist Church in Hampton, Va., will be nominated as president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference at its June 12-13 meeting in Phoenix, New Orleans pastor Fred Luter announced.

"Dr. Ethridge has been a pastor for over 27 years, serving churches in Georgia, Arkansas and Virginia," said Luter, who is pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans. Ethridge also is a former president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

"Under his leadership, Liberty has grown to five worship services each Sunday," Luter said of the 6,000-plus-member

church Ethridge has led the past five years.

Liberty has received designations as one of the top 100 fastest-growing churches in the U.S., Luter noted, and has been the leading church in the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia convention in Cooperative Program giving, in giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions, and in yearly baptisms.

"With the emphasis today on unreached people groups and church planting, Dr. Ethridge and Liberty have led by example," Luter said. "Liberty has adopted UPGs (unreached people groups) in north Africa,

northwest Africa and the Middle East."

Luter added a personal reason for his nomination of Ethridge.

"The next SBC Pastors' Conference will meet in my home city, the great city of New Orleans," he said. "When our church was destroyed, out of all the churches that called and helped, my friend, Grant Ethridge, was the first pastor to contact and help me and my congregation financially when Hurricane Katrina hit."

"In my humble opinion, it is therefore fitting that he serve as president of the Pastors' Conference in the city of New Orleans, where he has proven he has a heart to encourage and help fellow servants of God."

Ethridge and his wife, Tammy, have four children. (BP)



Grant Ethridge



IMAGES OF 'FAITH' Photographs of Baptists in Klintzy, Russia (above, below right), are part of a photographic exhibit by Michael Walker titled "Faith." The exhibit runs through June 11 at the Yeiser Art Center in Paducah. Walker is a member of Immanuel Baptist Church in Paducah, which has a missions partnership with a Baptist church in Klintzy. Walker took the photographs during Immanuel Baptist mission trips to the Russian city in 2008 and 2010. (Photos courtesy of Michael Walker)

Photos show resilience of Baptists in Russia

Continued from page 1

gious organizations were forbidden to offer religious training for children or engage in public ministries.

This history of religious intolerance was repeated in 1935 and again in 1958.

After the fall of the Soviet Union, Walker noted that Christians were able to worship in homes, but often under the watchful glare of the KGB.

"Evangelical Christians and Baptists in Russia were viewed with deep suspicion. Children were taught outlandish things about these religious groups through official Communist propaganda," Walker states in his exhibit. "For being Baptist Christians, young people received lower marks in school, were denied a university education, and endured persecution by classmates."

Even today, Walker said the persecution of Russian evangelicals continues in the form of police harassment and government scrutiny of church activities.

"In 2008, I witnessed the harassment first hand when I was arrested and detained for six hours along with my interpreter and three others for simply taking photographs with a Baptist group in a public square," Walker recalled. "The tensions are still there."

But like the faithful in Klintzy, Walker continued to persevere. After his most recent visit in 2010, the photographer finally felt he had captured the spirit of people he now calls family.

"My goal first is to tell their sto-



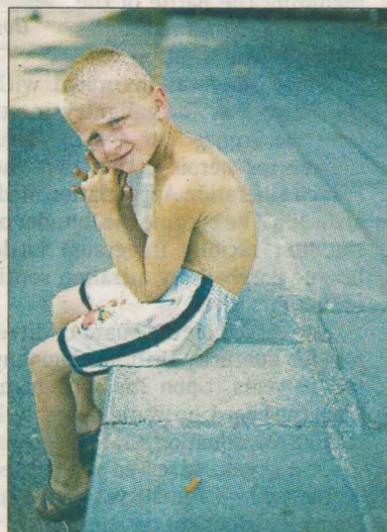
MISSIONAL CHURCH Jamie Broome (left), pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Paducah, wrote a supporting narrative that accompanies Michael Walker's (right) photo exhibit. Immanuel Baptist has had a missional relationship with the Baptist church in Klintzy since 1995. Walker took the photographs during two visits to the city.

ry," Walker said, adding he hopes visitors to the exhibit will reflect on the strength of their own faith in Jesus Christ and be uplifted by the unwavering trust shown by the Klintzy Baptists.

"Through this all, I have learned that resilience of faith has a lot to do with the individual," he noted. "I'm not sure the same resilience would be seen here. It seems like minor things, like the loss of a job or the death of a family member, cause people to lose their religion. Hopefully, by seeing what these people have endured, others will realize the pettiness of their faith."

Walker is a photographer and business owner from Paducah. The photographs of Baptist believers in Klintzy, Russia, were taken during two visits in 2008 and 2010. Walker has traveled to Klintzy with his church, Immanuel Baptist in Paducah, a total of seven times and plans to return.

Immanuel Baptist began a relationship with the Baptist church in Klintzy in the fall of 1995 with an initial \$5,000 gift toward the construction of the church. Since May 1996, more than 90 Immanuel Baptist members have made a summer mission trip to the Russian city to help with the building project and offer encouragement. The church's pastor, Jamie Broome, wrote the supporting narrative that accompanies Walker's photographic exhibit.



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Iowa Baptist leader Barrentine announces retirement plans

By Richard Nations
Iowa Baptist

Des Moines, Iowa—Jimmy Barrentine announced his upcoming retirement as Baptist Convention of Iowa executive director during the May 12-13 meetings of the convention's Executive Board.

The board received Barrentine's retirement letter, setting Oct. 31 as the effective date, and appointed an executive director search committee. The board announced a search for an interim executive director, with the aim of naming that person by the next scheduled board meeting in September.

Barrentine, now in his 46th year of ministry, has served as the second executive director of the BCI since it was organized as a convention in 1995. He succeeded O. Wyndell Jones, who retired in 2001.



Jimmy Barrentine

Prior to the organization of the Iowa convention, three executive directors served the Iowa Southern Baptist Fellowship: David Bunch, Robert Stuckey and Jones (who served both the fellowship and the convention). Southern Baptist work in Iowa first was led by Avery Wooderson, superintendent of missions for Iowa Baptist Association, an affiliate of the Missouri Baptist Convention.

In his letter to the board, Barrentine stated, "We intend, so long as the Father gives us life and strength, to continue in His service. We also intend to continue to advocate on behalf of the Baptist Convention of Iowa and for other state conventions such as this one. We covet your prayers and promise ours."

Barrentine moved to Iowa from Little Rock, Ark., where he had served as the Ar-

kansas Baptist State Convention's missions team leader.

Barrentine also has served as a director of missions in Arkansas and Texas and as a missionary to Paraguay for the Foreign (now International) Mission Board. Prior to his missions and denominational service, he was a pastor in Texas and Mississippi.

His wife, Joan, also announced her resignation, effective Sept. 30, as the partnership and ministry consultant for the Iowa convention's missions team. She served for the past year in the capacity as a part-time employee and for several years previously as a volunteer.

The Barrentines plan to move to Clinton, Miss. (BP)

Billy Graham returns home from hospital after bout with pneumonia

Asheville, N.C.—Evangelist Billy Graham returned home May 15 after a five-day hospital stay for pneumonia.

Graham, 92, has regained strength after treatment with antibiotics, according to his doctors at Mission Hospital in Asheville, N.C.

"He has responded very well to treatment, with progressive improvement since his admission," Graham's primary care physician Lucian Rice said in a statement.

"We expect continuing recuperation at home with very gradual recovery, returning to normal activities over several weeks. I'm delighted that he has come back this fast."

In a statement, Graham said he appreciated the care by the staff at the hospital close to his home, as well as the prayers of well-wishers.

"I am deeply touched by the prayers and best wishes of so many people for me, and I look forward to returning home and resuming my normal activities soon," he said.

The mostly homebound Graham has suffered from age-related ailments, including hearing loss and macular degeneration, in recent years. From his home, he regularly studies the Bible with his pastor and family members and has worked on writing projects, including a first-person look at aging. (RNS)

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Getting Oneida students home during school breaks can be great challenge

By Susette Clark
OBI student coordinator

Several times a year I become the OBI "travel agent" instead of just the student coordinator. I organize the travel plans that parents/guardians make for their students to leave campus on breaks. There are tickets to purchase and travel/luggage money to mail and TSA regulations to follow. It can be overwhelming, especially to parents/guardians of first-time boarding students.

We have students attending OBI from several countries and many states. I have to be sure each one has transportation and travel money to leave the campus at the required times.

Starting about three weeks before a break, each dorm student fills out a form to tell me to where and how they are traveling. (They already should have planned this with their parent/guardian, even if tickets are not purchased.) The information is posted in the dorms to keep the students updated. If their pick-up person is approved or their tickets are purchased, they get an "OK" on the list.

The last week before break usually is time for final exams and not a good time for the students to be worried about how they are leaving. There always are, however, a few last-minute tickets or travel money to handle.

Homegoing day is exciting and busy. School is dismissed at 11 a.m. Many cars arrive for pick up, houseparents are scrambling to sign students out, and I am loading buses. Currently the school provides complimentary buses to the Lexington airport and the Greyhound stop in London. I

have one or two adults available at the airport to make sure students get checked in and to provide escorts for any minors we may have.

At the Greyhound stop I usually have two bus drivers, their spouses and myself. Sound like overkill? At Christmas we had 104 teenagers in Burger King waiting for their Greyhound. Buses rarely are on schedule; we have waited as long as four hours.

This is Oneida



W.F. Underwood

Weather also plays a big role in travel. One spring break we had most flights cancelled. We are more than two hours from the airport, so we called on friends of Oneida who live in Lexington, and several took in our students and shuttled them back and forth to the airport for one to three days until they got flights.

Because of snow, Greyhound stopped running north to Cincinnati, so some of our students were able to re-route through Knoxville to go northeast, but others had to be brought back to campus and stay with the staff until the next day.

During spring break last year, we had about 30 students get stuck in the Pittsburgh Greyhound station for two to three days because of snow. The saying "you can't get there from here" sometimes is a reality for us.

I feel like the Lord put me in this job because of my organizing skills and my sense of adventure. It is amazing to think that God brings together adults with all kinds of skills from all over the country to work with students from as far away as China or as close as London, Ky., in this little piece of eastern Kentucky. Only God can make it all work.

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

Dedicated servant

Former Clear Creek trustee Hoe remembered for service

Clear Creek and the town of Middlesboro have been touched by the passing of former trustee Harry Hoe, who's family business, J.R. Hoe and Sons, manufactures iron castings, structural fabrications and machined parts. Virtually everyone in Middlesboro knows someone who works or has worked at the Hoe foundry.

Hoe's influence went far beyond his business accomplishments. A World War II veteran, he fought in five major European campaigns, including the Battle of the Bulge, and he served under General George Patton.

Harry Hoe was decorated with the Silver Star for gallantry in action, the Bronze Star, the Oak Leaf Cluster for heroic action and the French Liberation Appreciation Medal. In 1953, he became the founder of the first racially integrated Little League Baseball organization south of the Ohio River.

Hoe served on the board of directors for Kentucky Utilities Company for 19 years. Upon his retirement from the board, he was honored with a \$100,000 donation that was given to Clear Creek. He served as a trustee of the college for 20 years and as board chairman for two terms.

Hoe's accomplishments also included service as general chairman for the dedication of the Cumberland Gap National Park in 1959, director of the Kentucky Mountain Laurel Festival Board for more than 50 years, chairman of the board of directors for Kentuckians for Better Transportation, and was twice director of the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce.

In 1964, Hoe was elected to Kentucky's House of Representatives, where he served for six years. In that role, he authored and helped pass a drunk-driving bill. Hoe was the minority whip and the assistant minority floor leader, and spent 12 years serving on the Kentucky Republican State Central Committee. He was inducted into the Republican 5th Congressional District Hall of Fame.

As a member of First Baptist Church of Middlesboro, he served as a deacon, Sunday school teacher and choir member. Hoe was preceded in death by his wife, Mary.

Clear Creek is thankful for Harry Hoe's years of dedicated service to this ministry.

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

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

During flood, National Guard bonds with church

By Jennifer Archdekin
Missouri National Guard

Caruthersville, Mo.—A Sunday evening service with members of First Baptist Church of Caruthersville, Mo., and citizen soldiers from the Missouri National Guard turned into an exchange of gratitude and indebtedness between the two groups as well as a time of praise to God.

Just outside the door of the community center where soldiers had been living and working, the Mississippi River still was swollen but had been contained.

During a hymn, the audience was invited to shout out what they were thankful for. Without missing a beat, people named the National Guard, receding waters, sunshine, each other and food.

Church members had provided lunch for a week to the guardsmen. About 350 meals were made daily for the soldiers and other volunteers helping with the town's flood situation. People rotated into the church to eat, and those who could not leave their stations had meals delivered to them.

"We wanted to make sure these guys got fed," said Susan Pinkerton, mission coordinator for First Baptist, Caruthersville.

Typically, soldiers on missions such as this receive two hot meals a day and generally eat an MRE, or meal-ready-to-eat, for lunch. But Pinkerton and other church members wanted to show love and appreciation by giving back.

Pinkerton said the church tried to plan a mission trip to Haiti earlier in the year but their funds did not come together and the trip was put on hold.

"We felt like God would tell us what we needed to do," Pinkerton said.

Little did they know God would call them to serve in a mission field literally in their own backyard.

When asked what the evening meant to her, Pinkerton fought back tears.

"Thank you," she said. "I can't even tell you what it means."

Though the community is quick to give

credit to the National Guard, they also give glory to God for His protection during a difficult time.

"I'm thankful for the hand of God that pulled back two feet of water," said Doug Boyd, pastor of First Baptist, Caruthersville. "We praise God for that."

The sentiment was echoed by the troops and Capt. Juan Valencia, commander of the 1140th Engineer Battalion, which is based in Cape Girardeau, Mo.

The success of a mission, Valencia noted, can be attributed in part to high morale. The high spirits of his troops were a result, in large part, of the meals and affirming words from the townspeople.

"The morale has been through the roof," Valencia said. "I know my soldiers, that when they're hungry, they get really grouchy—and that never happened. We're taking home a lot of good memories and a couple of extra pounds."

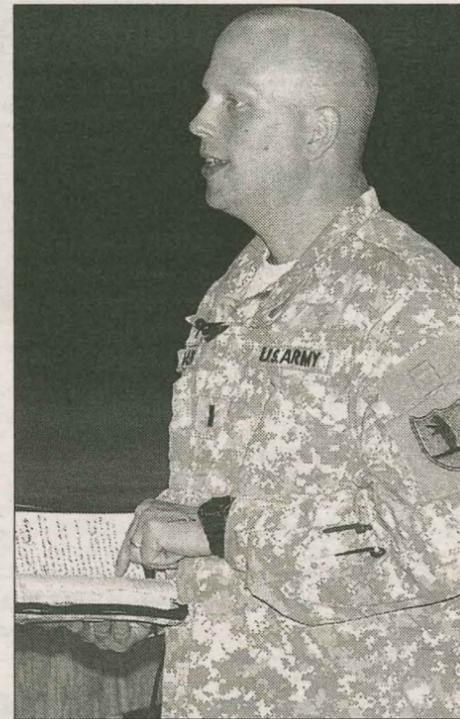
In a short time, these Missourians quick-

ly forged a bond with each other. As a final thank you, the church presented a video reflecting not only on the destruction of the flood but showcasing the work the National Guard did in helping save their town. The images that flashed on the screen showed more hope than devastation.

That night, 1st Lt. Jeffery Plair, a Missouri National Guard chaplain, closed his sermon with another word of appreciation.

"We are overwhelmed with everything you all have done," Plair said. "I haven't ever seen anything or experienced anything like it. They talk about morale when you go on missions. This one has been through the roof. Out of 10 it has been an 11, and it's just been because of the people here." (BP)

WORDS OF THANKS 1st Lt. Jeffery Plair, a Missouri National Guard chaplain, offered gratitude to First Baptist Church of Caruthersville, Mo., during his sermon. (Photo by Missouri National Guard)



South's residents find hope amid chaos

By Adam Miller
North American Mission Board

Tuscaloosa, Ala.—Armando Sesena, his wife and daughter now are staying with family, but their house is gone—swept away three minutes after they ran to their basement.

"Three minutes," Sesena said. "We were in the basement three minutes then 'whoosh.'"

He pointed to what might be part of a wall of his former home, but in a field of spilled-out houses in Tuscaloosa, Ala., it's hard for those with upturned lives to tell or care what's theirs. An EF-5 tornado churned up the town on its multi-state path April 27, making a long, belabored cut through downtown Tuscaloosa.

The storm destroyed whole communities across parts of Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia killing more than 300 people.

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief crews rolled in the next day from Alabama, then from nine other states, hearing stories of how looters created fresh wounds in an already-wounded city.

But they also heard stories of people caring for one another.

As an SBDR chainsaw team from Texas cut away an oak that crushed her Birmingham home, Tia Graham said she remembers her prayer of gratitude.

"We put a helmet on my granddaughter and hid in the laundry room. I'd heard of tornados. They said you hear a freight train, but it was five times louder than a freight train. We thought, 'This is it,'" Graham said. "Then everything went quiet and we realized we were still here. There was debris falling everywhere. We prayed and thanked God we were alive."

"Everybody came and checked on us," she said. "It was amazing how much peo-

ple cared."

Tuscaloosa resident Gloria Reed broke down amid piles of pines stacked high by a Texas SBDR chainsaw crew.

"I'm 72 years old, a widow, it was just terrible," Reed said. "When a train passes I jump. Even that little roar of jet sounds different."

"These people showed up. They were a gift from God," Reed added, referring to the SBDR team cutting down, cutting up and hauling trees to the street and away from her home. "I don't know what I would have done if they hadn't shown up."

To date, SBDR units have reported:

- 13,469 volunteer days.
- 259,451 meals prepared.
- 1,738 chainsaw jobs.
- 17 mud-out jobs.
- 532 chaplaincy contacts.
- 383 gospel presentations.
- 53 professions of faith. (BP)

Food lines now a thing of the past

After nearly 50 years, Boone Lodge gives way to new camp dining hall

Recently I ate my last official meal at the Boone Lodge dining hall. Two days later, I ate my first meal at the new dining hall at Cedarmore.

I must admit I felt a little nostalgic as I thought about how many meals and how many people have come through the serving line at Boone Lodge since 1963. With nearly 50 years of camp and retreat guests, that certainly represents a great deal of history.

The new dining hall is named in honor of Wiggie Fields Thompson. Wiggie, as she was affectionately called, was married to the late Calvin Fields for whom the Fields worship center is named, which appropriately is located next door to the new dining hall.

The new dining hall is quite impressive with a seating capacity of more than 375, multiple serving lines, and more than 150 linear feet of glass walls that overlook two ponds. Additionally there is a large deck along the water's edge of one of the ponds.

While I am thankful for the many years of use at the Boone Lodge dining facility, this new-and-improved dining hall facility certainly will be much appreciated and enjoyed by thousands of camp guests

Ky. Baptist Assemblies



David Melber

for future generations.

As we continue to prepare for the summer, buildings do play a key role, but the fact is that our focus is on creating an environment where our guests can come to know Jesus Christ or more fully experience Him. To that end, facilities that are comfortable and actually hold the growing crowds certainly remove barriers that can be distractions to hearing the gospel. In short, all of you who have stood in long lines at Boone Lodge, be of good cheer—the lines are over!

The 2011 camp season now is upon us, please come and see how God is working through camp ministry at both Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek—I know you will be blessed. And if you come to Cedarmore, stop in and have a meal with us—you will certainly enjoy the view.

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

Foster parents recognized

Foster care families help influence lives of children who need support

Earlier this month, we celebrated Mothers' Day and hopefully we remembered to honor the women who did so much for us. Next month we'll have the same opportunity to recognize our fathers. Those of us fortunate enough to have grown up with loving parents realize the importance they played in our lives, and we should take any and every opportunity to let them know we are thankful for their influence.

Sadly, many children in Kentucky grow up in homes without loving mothers or fathers or in homes where parents are dealing with addictions, emotional problems or other issues that render them unable to be the type of mom or dad their kids need and deserve.

In many cases, these children are removed from these unstable homes and placed in foster homes. At Sunrise, we make sure that when a child arrives at one of our foster homes, they are greeted by a foster parent who is loving, supportive, patient and willing to give them the security and stability for which every child longs.

Sometimes, a foster child is in a home for only a brief stay. Other times, the place-

ment will last years and often leads to adoption. Regardless of the duration, it's not uncommon for us to hear of former foster children who maintain contact with their foster parents even after their discharge.

Sunrise Children's Services



Bill Smithwick

Foster parents, just like biological or adoptive parents, have opportunities to help mold the lives of young people in very positive ways. For many children, it's an opportunity for them to observe how families are supposed to operate, a lesson they hopefully can carry over into their adult lives when they have families of their own.

May is National Foster Care Awareness Month, and we would like to take this time to say thank you to the foster parents across Kentucky who are having a positive impact on the lives of children.

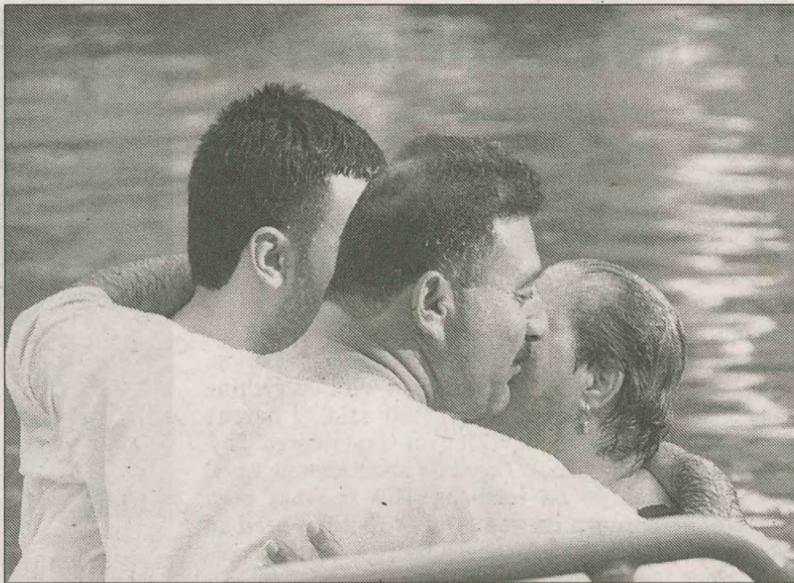
If you would like more information about foster parenting, you can contact Sunrise Children's Services at www.Sunrise.org, or call toll free, (855) 33-ICARE.

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



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- June**
- 4 Church Weekday Education Seminar, Crestwood Baptist Church.
 - 11-17 Kentucky Changers, Bullitt County.
 - 12-13 National WMU Missions Celebration and Annual Meeting, Phoenix.
 - 14-15 Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, Phoenix.
 - 18-24 Kentucky Changers, Paducah.
 - 19-26 All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra Retreat and Tour, Campbellsville University.
 - 20-24 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls, CedarCrest Camp, Bagdad.
 - 24-25 Acteens Splash, Jonathan Creek Camp and Conference Center, Hardin.
 - 24-25 Courage 2011, Camp Joy Baptist Assembly, Brownsville.
 - 24-25 Girls in Action Overnight, Jonathan Creek Camp and Conference Center, Hardin.
 - 24-25 Mother/Daughter Overnight, CedarCrest Camp, Bagdad; Jonathan Creek Camp and Conference Center, Hardin.
 - 25 Kentucky Baptist Nursing Fellowship Summer Meeting and Continuing Education Session, Louisville.
 - 27-7/1 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls, CedarCrest Camp, Bagdad.
- July**
- 1-2 Acteens Overnight, CedarCrest Camp, Bagdad.
 - 1-2 Mother/Daughter Overnight, CedarCrest Camp, Bagdad.
 - 2-9 Kentucky Changers, Maysville.
 - 5-8 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls and Boys, CedarCrest Camp, Bagdad.
 - 13-16 Blume 2011, Walt Disney World Resort, Orlando, Fla.
 - 23 Disaster Relief Phase I Volunteer Training, Porter Memorial Baptist Church, Lexington.
 - 29-30 Excel WMU Leadership Development Event, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.



SEEING LIVES CHANGED A baptism in the Sea of Galilee reflects the ongoing work of Southern Baptists after 100 years of outreach to both Arabs and Jews.

100 years of Baptist work in Israel is celebrated with baptisms and unity

By Ava Thomas
International Mission Board

Nazareth, Israel—Hiba* used to pore over the Quran, trying to sort out life's problems.

Then she bumped into some Christians in her hometown a few years ago. She agonized for days about which was the real book, the Quran or the Bible. "And then God showed me," Hiba recalled.

Thanks to local Baptists discipling her, Hiba said she now knows it's Jesus who changed her life. This lasting legacy of Baptist work was honored May 12-14 at the 100th anniversary of Baptists in Israel, celebrated in Nazareth where the nation's first Baptist church was planted.

Hiba was baptized in the Sea of Galilee to close the weekend celebration.

Before the first believers were baptized through Baptist work in Nazareth a century ago, Baptists "had nothing in the Middle East," said Drew Carson*, a Christian leader in the region.

In 1911, Shukri Mosa—a Palestinian who came to follow Christ at First Baptist Church of Dallas—traveled to Nazareth and led two people to faith and baptism. He faced persecution from the town around him, but eventually a church was planted in the 1920s.

The International Mission Board partnered with the work in Israel soon after it began, helping nurture the church. IMB workers continue to reach out among the different Jewish and Arab people groups in the nation.

"Shukri Mosa's connection with First Baptist, Dallas provided a bridge for us to come over here and plant our lives and get deeper and deeper into this part of the world," Carson said.

"We should never underestimate the first step of the journey. What happened here 100 years ago resulted in untold lives across the Arab and Jewish world being touched by the salvation of Jesus Christ."

The work in Nazareth sparked a

movement of American-led Southern Baptist work in the region. And it produced many Arab believers who took the gospel to other countries when war in Israel dispersed part of the nation's Palestinian population in 1948.

"Many believers scattered when war happened, but they were able to take the message with them where they went," said Dale Thorne*, a Southern Baptist representative in Israel.

Baptist work in Israel dwindled nearly to extinction immediately after the war, but then new ministry doors opened, Thorne said.

"A large number of Arabs fled to Nazareth, which had surrendered to the Jews, and so the town boomed in population," he said.

A Baptist school was founded in the Arab community, and it still is going strong with 1,000 students, Thorne noted. Roughly a couple hundred Baptist congregations, both Messianic Jewish and Arab, exist in Israel today.

"I hope that this time of celebrating 100 years is an encouragement to Baptists here not only to look back, but also to accept the challenge of moving forward into the future," Thorne said.

Gordon Fort, the IMB's vice president for overseas operations, challenged Baptists to keep reaching out across their regions and the world.

"Israel has a genuine faith living among its Baptists for 100 years. Years ago someone brought that genuine faith to you. It is your responsibility to share this faith with others," Fort said.

Baptists are striving to do this, showing Christ's love through unity across deep cultural divisions, said Bader Mansour, secretary of the Association of Baptist Churches in Israel.

"I am thankful for the Lord and what He's done in our lives. He's commanded us to be one in body, one in mind, one in spirit," Mansour said. "We are in a time of miracles."

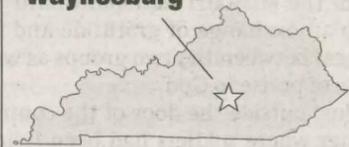
*Names changed for security reasons

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

Spotlight on ...

Waynesburg



Pleasant Point Church will celebrate its 200th anniversary May 29 with a meal, special music and guest speakers. Ed Bray is pastor.

- **Mobley. Jonathan Grizzell** is pastor.
- **LOUISVILLE**—Walnut Street Church will host the Honoring Wondrous Women brunch May 28, 9:30 a.m., featuring a scarf and jewelry auction, in the dining room in the church's activities building. Tickets for the event are \$10.
- **WINCHESTER**—New Hope Church recently called **Randy Stone** as pastor.

- **BARDWELL**—Mississippi Church will hold revival services May 29-June 3 with **Ricky Burr** as evangelist. **Mark Burnett** is pastor.
- **CADIZ**—Cadiz Church will host the **African Children's Choir** in concert May 26, 7 p.m. For more information, call (270) 522-6002. **Kevin Roberts** is pastor.
- **GRAHAM**—Unity Church will hold homecoming services May 26, 11 a.m., with **Johnny Davis** as guest speaker. **Richard Browning** is pastor.
- **GREENVILLE**—Roland Memorial Church will host Muhlenberg County Association's evangelism rally May 26, 6:30 p.m., with **Bill Saye** as evangelist. **Danny Mooneyhan** is pastor.
- **HOPKINSVILLE**—Second Church recently called **David Tucker** as pastor. He previously was pastor of Sherman Church in Dry Ridge.
- **HUSTONVILLE**—Hustonville Church will hold revival services May 29-June 1, 7 p.m., with Evangelist **Joe**

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Call (502) 489-3428;
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FOR SALE: 29 church pews 10-foot and 12-foot long; \$80 and \$90. Call (270) 779-7101.

SEEKING: Part-time youth pastor, South Campbellsville Baptist. Experience preferred; possible housing furnished. Send resumé to scbc@windstream.net.

SEEKING: Full-time senior pastor who has a strong prayer life, constantly studies God's word and believes in preaching expository sermons, for Cornerstone Baptist Church (CBC), located in Nicholasville, Ky. (10 miles south of Lexington). CBC is a Southern Baptist church formed seven years ago with approximately 150 members. Our worship style is casual with a blend of contemporary and traditional hymns. The senior pastor must be capable of working closely with an elder body as CBC is elder-led. Candidates must be currently involved in ministry; meet the qualifications of an elder/overseer as defined in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9; and support the Baptist Faith and Message 2000. Pastoral/leadership experience is strongly preferred but not necessarily required. The pastor must seek to cultivate strong relationships with people of all ages. He must be able to lead and motivate, by example, the body of believers at CBC to live out the Great Commission as outlined in Matthew 28:19-20. He also must be someone who can love and grow with us. Interested candidates who meet these qualifications should send a letter of interest, a resumé with references, and a recently delivered sermon on DVD to: Pastor Search Team, Cornerstone Baptist Church, 1067 N. Main Street, PO Box 234, Nicholasville, KY 40356. Information also may be sent electronically to cbcpastorsearchoffice@gmail.com. Resúmes will be accepted through June 30, 2011. We pray God's blessings on each interested candidate.

SEEKING: Senior pastor for Melbourne Heights Baptist Church in Louisville. Prefer 5+ years pastoral experience and seminary degree. Send resumé to Pastor Search Committee, PO Box 6197, Louisville, KY 40206.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music who will be responsible for planning weekly worship services, working with adult choir and all instrumentalists at Bardwell Baptist Church in Bardwell, Ky. For more information, contact Pastor Rodney Bice at (270) 628-3645; or bbcpastor1@windstream.net.

SEEKING: Minister with preschoolers and families for Central Baptist Bearden, Knoxville, Tenn. Previous experience required. CBF/SBC church averaging 100 preschoolers a Sunday. Church profile, position profile, recommendation and application forms available at www.cbcbearden.org; click "Resources," then "Employment."

SEEKING: Full-time student pastor. Will be working with students who are in kindergarten through 12th grade. Resumé deadline is June 8, 2011. Please send resumé to Tusculum Baptist Church, 775 Erwin Hwy., Greenville, TN 37745, Attn: Danny Bentley. Any questions, call (423) 638-8361.

SEEKING: Full-time coordinator of student ministries—including youth ministries for 6th through 12th grades (75%) and college/secondary education ministries (25%) for Gardenside Baptist Church in Lexington, Ky. Coordinator is responsible for planning, developing, implementing and directing outreach, education and discipleship programs for both our youth and college ministries. Coordinator works along with ministry and administrative staff under the supervision of the pastor to build the church's capacity to disciple and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. A degree and/or work experience in youth or student ministries is preferred. Salary commensurate with education. Please e-mail resumé to gbjobsearch@gmail.com. Go to www.gardensidebaptist.com for more information about Gardenside Baptist Church and a pdf version of the full job description.

10 signs that a church is in trouble

By Thom Rainer

Prior to my present place of ministry, I spent more than 20 years consulting with churches across America. I also have had the wonderful opportunity to research churches primarily in the United States. Over time I began to notice certain patterns or signs that would indicate a congregation might be headed for trouble.

FIRST PERSON

After reviewing my consultation notes and research, I found 10 warning signs for churches. If a church had four or more of these signs present, I would let the leadership know that remedial efforts were in order. If six or more signs were present, I was concerned that the congregation was in immediate trouble.

The warning signs below are not listed in any particular order. Nor are they the result of a scientifically accurate study. Though the information is both experiential and anecdotal, I found it immensely helpful in diagnosing the health of a church.

Church leaders should be concerned...

- If the pastor does not have adequate time to be in the Word or if he chooses not to do so.
- If the members are spending time arguing about how money should be spent.
- If none or only a few of the key leaders are actively sharing their faith.
- If there is no clear process of discipleship in place, just a plethora of programs and activities.
- If corporate prayer is not a major emphasis in the church.
- If church members are arguing about worship style or times.

- If church members expect the paid staff to do most of the ministry, instead of the staff equipping the members to do the work of ministry ("Why didn't he visit me in the hospital?")

- If there are ongoing disagreements about matters of the church facilities.

- If the church has more meetings than new disciples.

- If the leadership of the church does not have a coherent plan for what is taught in small groups and Sunday school classes.

There is a common pattern for most of the warning signs. Church members are more concerned about their preferences and desires. They are inwardly focused. They ask what the church can do for them, instead of asking how God can use them sacrificially and radically through the ministries of the local church.

True Christianity is a faith that always seeks to put others first. Sadly, in many of the churches across our land, members are more concerned about getting their own personal needs and preferences met.

I would love to hear from you about any of these signs in your church. I particularly would like to hear from some people how their churches address these matters positively and proactively.

Do some of the items on the warning list take place in your church? Are there others not on the list?

What is your story?

Thom Rainer is president of LifeWay Christian Resources. Visit www.thomrainer.com/2011/04/ten-warning-signs-for-churches.php to interact with this column.

A graduation gift that has uplift

By Diana Davis

Someone you love is graduating? For a gift to encourage a Christian student, try one of these fresh ideas:

A very personalized Bible. Select a nicely bound copy of God's word, such as the NLT slim line leather or HCSB Study Bible. Some bookstores imprint the graduate's name on the cover while you wait.

Prepare a list of influencers—people who've made a significant Christian impact on the graduate's life, such as relatives, school staff, Sunday school teachers, church members, coaches, pastors, youth leaders, neighbors, parents, and so on. Ask each person to select and highlight a Scripture or passage for the graduate, signing their name and a short note in the margin. On a back page, create a handwritten index of friends with the Scripture and page number.

This can be a loving gift from parents, youth workers or an entire church. The personalized Scriptures will challenge the graduate to lean on God's Word for answers and encouragement, remind him or her of your faithful prayers, and even open doors

for a Christian witness to others.

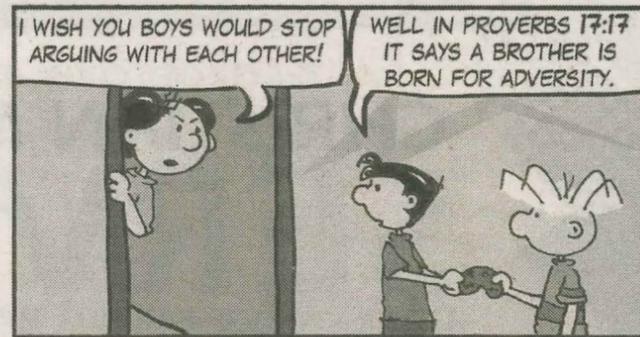
A Blessing Book. Purchase a beautiful blank journal book and a jar of rubber cement. Decorate the cover with these words: "Blessing Book for Blake Matheus—Do not open until May 1, 2015!" (Change the name, of course.)

Pass the book to all of the graduate's Christian influencers (see above), asking each to write a one-page note. It might include Christian encouragements, funny predictions, touching stories, prayers, distant promises, or mushy compliments, and conclude with a Scripture. The writer seals the right edge of his page with a thin line of rubber cement. Here's the unique twist: The graduate will not read the sealed note until four years from now. Write a note of explanation and tie it with a lovely ribbon for a great future blessing.

This is a huge life accomplishment, a turning point, and a great opportunity to "encourage one another and build each other up" (1 Thessalonians 5:11.) Graduation Day is approaching. Encourage a graduate you love.

Diana Davis is an author, speaker and wife of Steve Davis, North American Mission Board's Vice President for Midwest.

Preacher's Kids



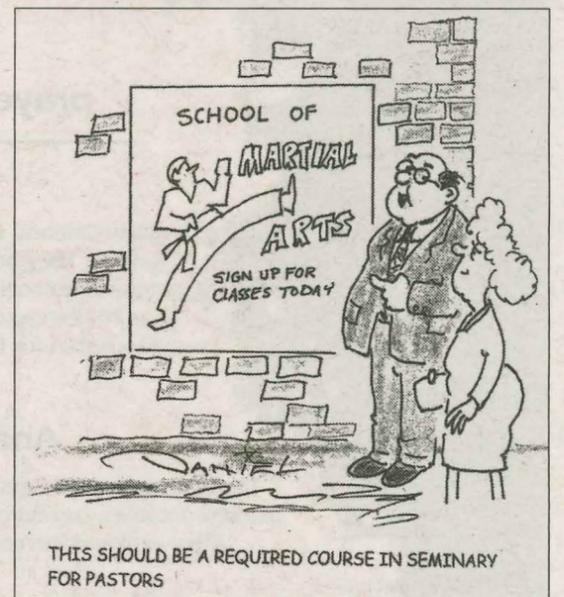
Joe McKeever



Dennis Daniel



Brother Blooper



Bible Crosswords

Across

- 1 "Rule them with a _____ of iron" (Revelation 2:27)
- 3 "At the _____ of Jesus every knee should bow" (Philippians 2:10)
- 6 A bitter compound used in drugs and dyes
- 10 Utah, abbr.
- 11 "The _____ fell upon Jonah" (Jonah 1:7)
- 12 To regard with affection
- 14 Rhode Island, abbr.
- 15 "Go thee one way _____ other" (Ezekiel 21:16)
- 17 "_____ thy mouth wide" (Psalm 81:10)
- 18 For example, Lat. abbr.
- 20 "The days that Adam lived were _____ hundred and thirty" (Genesis 5:5)
- 21 Street, abbr.
- 23 "Jesus died and _____ again" (1 Thessalonians 4:14)
- 24 One who selects the contents of a publication
- 27 Associate in Applied Science, abbr.
- 29 Officer of the British Empire, abbr.
- 30 "Women _____ themselves in modest apparel" (1 Timothy 2:9)
- 32 "We are not _____ to answer thee" (Daniel 3:16)
- 35 Ribonucleic acid, abbr.
- 36 "They _____ unto it a lace of blue" (Exodus 39:31)
- 37 Northeast, abbr.
- 38 "The angels of God _____ him" (Genesis 32:1)
- 39 "_____ that man" (2 Thessalonians 3:14)
- 41 Social Security, abbr.
- 42 Metal containers
- 44 "And the _____ stood still" (Joshua 10:13)
- 46 "The coat was without _____" (John 19:23)
- 48 Anno Domini, abbr.
- 50 "For God _____ loved the world" (John 3:16)
- 52 "Ye do _____, not knowing the scriptures" (Matthew 22:29)
- 54 "All the fiery _____ of the wicked" (Ephesians 6:16)
- 56 "His _____ went to Jerusalem every year" (Luke 2:41)
- 57 "The _____ of all flesh is come before me" (Genesis 6:13)

Down

- 1 "Thou shalt not speak evil of the _____ of thy people" (Acts 23:5)
- 2 Old Testament, abbr.
- 3 "There is none righteous, _____, not one" (Romans 3:10)
- 4 Makes amends for sin
- 5 Each, abbr.
- 6 Ampere, abbr.
- 7 "A faithful witness will not _____" (Proverbs 14:5)

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51				52	53		54		55
56							57		

- 8 Vessels used to make tea or coffee
- 9 Maine, abbr.
- 11 Measurement in only one direction
- 13 "Gamaliel, a _____ of the law" (Acts 5:34)
- 16 "In the first chariot were _____ horses" (Zechariah 6:2)
- 19 "Surely _____ and mercy shall follow me" (Psalm 23:6)
- 22 "Write them upon the _____ of thine heart" (Proverbs 7:3)
- 25 Very fat
- 26 Referee, abbr.
- 28 "Go to the _____, thou sluggard" (Proverbs 6:6)
- 30 "He took them up in his _____" (Mark 10:16)
- 31 A cereal plant
- 32 "Take up the _____ out of the burning" (Numbers 16:37)
- 33 "Why make ye this _____, and weep?" (Mark 5:39)
- 34 "The lord commended the _____ steward" (Luke 16:8)
- 40 "Their _____ hath been to feed cattle" (Genesis 46:32)
- 42 California, abbr.
- 43 "These things saith the _____" (Revelation 3:14)

- 45 "Canst thou put a hook into his _____?" (Job 41:2)
- 47 "Give _____, O Lord, unto my prayer" (Psalm 86:6)
- 49 "_____ shall judge his people" (Genesis 49:16)
- 51 General Practitioner, abbr.
- 53 Right, abbr.
- 55 Road, abbr.

Last week's solution

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GEORGETOWN COLLEGE
**CHRISTIAN MISSION
SERVICE**

ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK TRIPS 2011

Each year, students and staff members forego sun and surf to give time, effort, hearts, minds, prayers and muscles to serve others and to learn from them.

New Orleans | 24 Students, 2 Staff

In New Orleans, our students were engaged in two projects to help rebuild a city in recovery from Hurricane Katrina. They helped renovate KIPP Renaissance High School, a newly formed charter school with a heavy emphasis on college-prep and an incredible goal of producing 1,000 first-generation college graduates by the year 2022 in a community that only produced 400 from 1995 to 2005. The second project involved creating a new garden for the Latino Farmers Coop. The Coop gardens serve as a food supply and source of income for many Latin Americans in the area.

Anathoth Community Garden | 8 Students, 3 Staff

The team spent five days at a 5-acre, church-sponsored community garden in Cedar Grove, NC called Anathoth. They planted potatoes, turned over compost, prepared raised beds, built swales and hung out with the garden's youth group. They explored the connections between faith, food, the land, justice, stewardship, spirituality and nutrition.

Mission Arlington | 33 Students, 2 Staff

Students and staff from Georgetown College and Kentucky State University went to Arlington, TX for an eye-opening experience. They attended worship and reached out to children, sharing about God's word. Each day was spent at two sites playing with the children, teaching a Bible lesson, singing and dancing, learning a memory verse and sharing God's love with the children.

Urban Promise | 13 Students, 2 Staff

A group of CLS students and staff worked with Urban Promise in Camden, NJ, one of the poorest cities in America. Each day, they spent the morning and early afternoon doing work projects around local churches or at the Urban Promise campus, including helping to clean out church basements, building a brick path, painting and cleaning. During the afternoons, they took part in Urban Promise's 'Olympics,' an annual event in which the four different UP after-school programs compete in all kinds of crazy games that involve a great deal of yelling and cheering. Not only is this a nice break for the students from their usual academic work, the four parts of Camden typically war with each other, often far too literally, so this is a time that brings together different factions, and we were honored to get to play crazy games with the students and see the different parts of the city through this Olympics. It was an incredible experience for all of us, and hopefully a blessing to the residents of Camden that we met and the committed staff at Urban Promise as well.

Coordinated through the Campus Ministry Program, these trips integrate Christian service into the educational experience of our students and develop their servant leadership skills.

We are proud of these outreach efforts by our students and the positive outcomes they produce in service to others.



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Georgetown College admits students of any race, color and national or ethnic origin.



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