

Shine like stars in the world  
Philippians 2:15

# WESTERN Recorder

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## FOR THE RECORD

### Missions

Kentucky Baptist will serve all over the globe this summer as a part of the 1:8 Experience. *Page 2.*



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Kentucky Baptist, Southern Baptist disaster relief work in New England provides 'open door' to sharing gospel. *Page 6.*

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Southern Seminary's Moore wants to see SBC elect black president in 2012. *Page 7.*

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## Camp 2011



A group of campers poses for a photo after playing a round of messy games during the first week of Crossings camp. Nearly 10,000 campers and chaperones are expected to attend camp at both Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek this summer, yet another record for the camp ministry. Crossings camps began at Jonathan Creek in 2000 and kicked off at Cedarmore in 2006. (Crossings photo)

## Poll: 9 in 10 Americans believe in God

Washington—A new Gallup poll finds 92 percent of Americans say they believe in God, a figure that has dropped by only a few points since Gallup first asked the question in the 1940s.

According to Gallup pollster Frank Newport, Americans' self-reported belief in God has been relatively constant over the last six and a half decades. The percentage of Americans who respond that they believe in God now stands within six points of the all-time high in the 1950s and 1960s.

Previous Gallup surveys have shown that when respondents are given the ability to express doubts about their belief, the percentage of Americans who report a certain belief in God drops to 70 to 80 percent.

Additionally, about 12 percent of Americans say they believe in a universal spirit or higher power instead of God when given that option.

Still, the May 2011 poll reveals that when given only the choice between believing and not believing in God, more than 9 in 10 Americans say they do believe.

The age group least likely to claim belief in God is 18 to 29 year olds, at 84 percent, compared to 94 percent of older Americans. In addition, 98 percent of Republicans claim belief, compared to 90 percent of Democrats and 89 percent of independents. (RNS)

## Crossings poised for another record summer

By Drew Nichter  
News Director

Bagdad—For more than 40 years, Cedarmore campers piled into the dining hall at Boone Lodge, often squeezed in shoulder to shoulder, for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

These days, the lodge's dining area is a lot quieter. The sounds of forks, laughter and those beloved mealtime camp cheers has moved a couple hundred years over to the property's newest addition.

The 2011 edition of Crossings at Cedarmore kicked off last week with about 305 people attending. While that number still is shy of the new dining hall's seating capacity, the facility will be pushed to its limits in the coming weeks as more than 600 campers and chaperones arrive weekly.

It's a good problem for David Melber to have. With the camps setting attendance records year after year, the Crossings Ministries president lamented having campers eat at Boone Lodge in

three shifts, hustling one group out so another could get in.

Boone Lodge "was just not made to feed that many," he said of the three-story building that dates back to the 1960s.

"We just lost so much time with people standing in line to eat," Melber said while enjoying some pizza in the new dining hall. "Here, there's enough seating that you don't really have to rush people out; you can sit around and talk a little."

And there is a lot of talking going on—and a lot of fun. The new digs haven't stopped students from carrying on their favorite mealtime traditions, like "Flamingo"—when someone yells "flamingo," everyone stands on a chair on one leg and flaps their arms like a bird. There also are some new ones in the mix, like the chant borrowed from the movie "Remember the Titans" as one side of the room yells "left side" and the other side calls back "strong side."

This summer nearly 10,000 people will enjoy their meals with a side of "flamingo," yet another record at—  
□ See Crossings kicks off ... *Page 2*

## SBC baptisms fall to lowest mark in years

### Membership, attendance numbers also in decline

Nashville, Tenn.—The Southern Baptist Convention reported declines last year in several categories traditionally used as markers of denominational vitality, according to annual statistics released June 9 by LifeWay Christian Resources.

The 2010 Annual Church Profile showed dips in baptisms, total church membership, worship attendance and participation in Sunday school and other Christian education programs.

Southern Baptist churches reported 332,321 baptisms in 2010, down from 349,737 in 2009, which represents a 4.98 percent decline. Total membership in 2010, reported at 16,136,044, represents a 0.15 percent decline from the year before and is the fourth straight year of decline.

In 2009 baptisms increased after four straight years of decline. The record year for baptisms was 445,725 in 1972. While there are far more Southern Baptist churches now, observers say baptisms essentially have been plateaued since 1950.

In 2010 there was one baptism for every 48 members of a Southern Baptist church. Sixty years ago that ratio was 1:19.

Primary worship attendance in SBC  
□ See SBC baptisms ... *Page 8*

## Trending downward

The number of baptisms per Southern Baptist church member

1950 / 1:19    2010 / 1:48



# Tomorrow's leaders serve today through KBC's 1:8 Experience

By **Dannah Prather**  
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Louisville—More than 50 members of Kentucky Baptist Collegiate Ministries are serving from the Bluegrass to East Asia this summer through the 1:8 Leadership Experience, an initiative that provides college students ministry opportunities and also prepares them for future Christian service.

"It is our desire to bring students together in a community experience that integrates discipleship, evangelism and leadership development, all under the umbrella of missions," said Keith Inman, associate leader for the Kentucky Baptist Convention's evangelism growth team. Inman oversees KBC ministries to college students and other young adults across the state.

Although leadership development is a key component of the 1:8 Experience, Inman described participants as the "leaders our churches need in order to make an impact on our world today."

Based on Acts 1:8, which instructs Christians to take the gospel message to "Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth," the 1:8 Leadership Experience equips students to serve in their community, throughout Kentucky, across North America and overseas.

Initiated in 2008 with a group of 19 students, the 1:8 Leadership Experience has equipped students to serve as short-term missionaries in Louisville, McDowell, Den-

ver, San Francisco, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and countries in Europe and Asia.

Of the 75 previous 1:8 participants, 26 have taken steps toward full-time Christian service, Inman said. Some already are serving through Southern Baptists' international or North American mission boards. Others are enrolled in seminary or are continuing to minister to students on college campuses.

## World destinations

This year's trips began May 31 and will conclude July 27. Each of the four teams serves in two locations, some representing more than one of the mission fields described by Acts 1:8. The destinations for 2011 are Shelbyville/Ecuador, Denver/San Francisco, New York/Central Asia, and Thailand/East Asia.

As challenging as the trips are, they are only one aspect of the 1:8 Leadership Experience, said Lizzi-beth Spence, collegiate missions and ministry specialist with the KBC.

"This is actually an 11-month experience of preparation and service," Spence said. "Careful attention is given to select a place of service where students can be mentored by missionaries, church staff and seminary professors."

The emphasis on discipleship by campus ministers and other leaders in Kentucky and Southern Baptist life make the 1:8 ini-

tiative unique, she added.

"Campus ministers work alongside students 24/7, teaching, listening and guiding the students in spiritual growth and helping them discover their individual giftedness," Spence said.

With a presence at more than 20 Kentucky colleges and universities, Kentucky Baptist Collegiate Ministries provides weekly Bible study and worship opportunities for college students. Additionally, students learn from campus ministers and one another about how to share Christ with their peers through one-on-one relationships, service projects, recreation and other activities.

Students participating in the 1:8 Leadership Experience this summer are: **Marcus Bagwell**, Western Kentucky University; **Kenneth Bell**, Eastern Kentucky University; **Mary Bowens**, Murray State University; **Sara Bradley**, Morehead State University; **Baylie Brown**, University of Kentucky; **Alyson Cooke**, WKU; **Kayla Cooper**, UK; **Matthew Delos Santos**, University of Louisville; **Kelsie Doss**, Campbellsville University; **Whitney Edmonson**, Morehead State; **Rebecca Fields**, Northern Kentucky University; **Lara Garrity**, Murray State; **Daniel Gifford**, WKU; **Keigan Gregory**, University of the Cumberland; **Ashley Henson**, Murray State; **Arial Hopkins**, EKU; **Megan Houtchen**, Owensboro Community &

Technical College; **Mollie Jobe**, Alice Lloyd College; **Kristen Kidd**, Morehead State; **Kaitlin Kirkpatrick**, EKU; **Rachel Kirkpatrick**, EKU; **Chris Leeper**, UK; **Kara Monroe**, EKU; **Jessica Morgan**, Elizabethtown Community & Technical College; **Matthew Mueller**, U of L; **Chastain Napier**, NKU; **Drew Neel**, UK; **Kenny Newton**, University of the Cumberlands; **Joel Nickell**, Morehead State; **Kyle Nieber**, Murray State; **Becky Owens**, U of L; **Hannah Parker**, Madisonville Community & Technical College; **Betsie Phillips**, Georgetown College; **Kyle Riffe**, Morehead State; **Sitha Salyers**, EKU; **Rachel Shannon**, Campbellsville University; **Kayla Smith**, University of the Cumberlands; **Kelsey Marie Smith**, Murray State; **Whitney Smith**, NKU; **Kenneth Snodgrass**, UK; **Jill Tanner**, University of the Cumberlands; **Tyler Toon**, UK; **Jeremy Viola**, U of L; **Seth Waldrop**, Murray State; **Sarah Whisman**, Morehead State; **Daniel Wilhoite**, WKU; **Samantha Williams**, Alice Lloyd College; **Chadwick Winston**, WKU; **Kelsie Witham**, Morehead State; **Lindsey Witt**, Morehead State; **Ashley Zamalloa**, University of the Cumberlands; and **Milagros Zamora**, University of the Cumberlands.

## Crossings kicks off another record attendance summer

Continued from page 1

tendance for the camp ministry that was formed in the mid-1990s after a marked decline in camping at Cedarmore and its western Kentucky counterpart, Jonathan Creek.

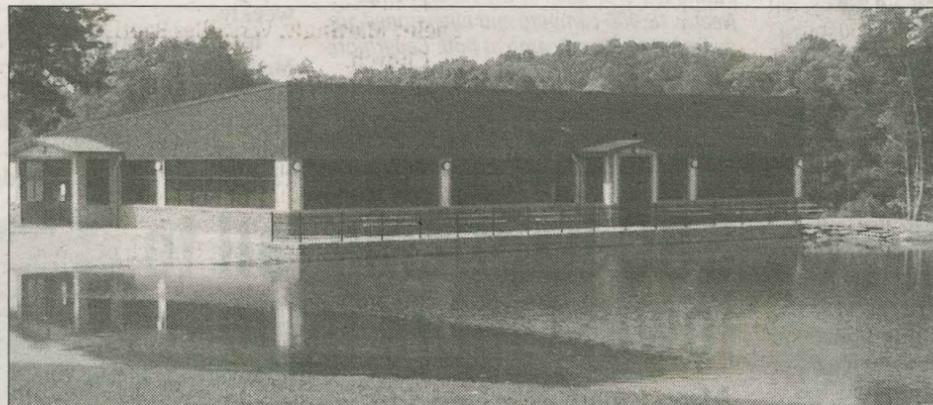
The question then was, "Would people even still come here?" Melber noted. "Who would have imagined that this summer we'd have 5,200 people come to Jonathan Creek and 4,300 come here" to Cedarmore?

The latest additions at Cedarmore have brought the camp, purchased by the Kentucky Baptist Convention in 1951, more up to date and on par with the recent facility upgrades at Jonathan Creek.

Last year, Cedarmore dedicated the Fields Worship Center, which seats 700 people. This year, in addition to the dining hall, Cedarmore now has a new welcome center with office space and eight hotel-style guest rooms.

While the new buildings bring a certain level of excitement and freshness to the camp, the old buildings, like Boone Lodge and the Byrdwell Conference Center, carry a great deal of nostalgia for those who have passed through the camp over the years.

Boone Lodge still will be used to house visitors, but its days likely are numbered, Melber said. "We need to get another five to seven years out of the building before we begin replacing the rooms there."



**IN WITH THE NEW** The new dining hall at Cedarmore made its summer camp debut last week. The facility seats about 350 people at one time and replaces the dining hall at Boone Lodge, which had been in use for more than 40 years. (Photo by Drew Nichter)

What to do with the old Boone Lodge dining area still is being debated. Melber said the most likely option is a game room with ping-pong and foosball tables and maybe even an indoor rock-climbing wall.

However, within the next 10 years, it is likely that Boone Lodge will be razed and replaced with more modern lodging options at the camp.

"I know buildings carry a certain amount of history, (but) at some point every building will have served its use," Melber said. Motioning to the brand-new dining hall, he added, "This building here, at some

point, it'll be an eyesore and a pain and need to go."

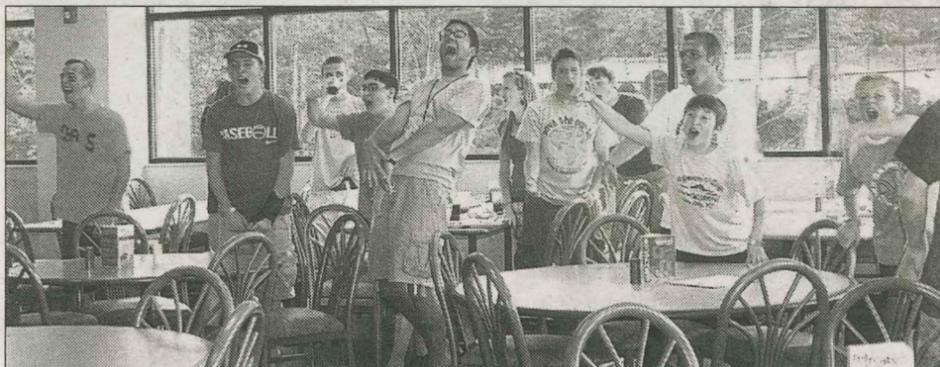
While buildings may come and go, it's the lives changed at the camps that matter most, Melber pointed out.

"From a faith perspective, camp still is one of the most effective ways to take the gospel to a younger generation," he said. "To get them out of their current environment and to have them somewhat removed in a setting where they're seeing God's word and hearing it proclaimed day after day after day, you should expect good things to happen."

Those "good things" are a lot of times taking place outside of the camp boundaries. A few years ago, Crossings introduced the Beyond Effect, which challenges teenagers to go "beyond" in their communities by sharing the love of Christ with others in unique ways.

Melber said hearing the stories of students "going beyond" at their homes and schools is the most exciting thing about camp.

"That is the real measure of: 'Is the message getting out?'" he noted. "It's not about coming and having fun; it's not about coming and getting emotional. ... We want to see students just come to know Christ."



**HAVING FUN AT LUNCH** Campers do the "Left side, Strong side" chant during lunch at the new dining hall at Cedarmore. (Crossings photo)

## Ky. counties that fought to post Commandments now owe ACLU

Frankfort—Two Kentucky counties that have fought for 12 years to place copies of the Ten Commandments in their courthouses now owe more than \$450,000 to the American Civil Liberties Union of Kentucky for its work in challenging the displays, which were ruled unconstitutional.

A judge late last month awarded another \$23,366 in attorney fees and costs to the ACLU, though neither county has a way to pay the bill. McCreary County, already one of the poorest counties in the state, has nothing extra in its budget and the judgment was not covered by the county's insurance policy, the Lexington Herald-Leader reported.

Officials in Pulaski County thought they might seek help from the Liberty Counsel, a Christian legal group that represented the counties through years of legal wrangling, but Liberty Counsel Founder Mathew Staver said he doubts people who supported the fight to post the Ten Commandments would want to donate money that would go to the ACLU.

The counties could appeal at least part of the award, or they could seek to negotiate a lower settlement, the newspaper said. Residents have threatened to sue the counties if taxpayer funds are used to pay the bill.

The case began in 1999 when officials in both counties hung framed copies of the Ten Commandments in Somerset and Whitley City, and the ACLU and some residents sued. The Supreme Court ruled 5-4 against the displays in 2005, saying the motive for posting the document was clearly religious. The counties continued to appeal, hoping a more conservative court would side with them, but the high court this year decided not to take the case again. (BP)

## Kentucky Baptist All-State Youth Choir & Orchestra

### 80 high schoolers set to tour state churches, retirement homes June 22-26

The Kentucky Baptist All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra will be touring parts of central and western Kentucky June 22-26.

Eighty students from 50 churches across the commonwealth were selected during auditions this spring for the choir and orchestra. All musicians are in grades 9-12 and are active in the music ministry of a Kentucky Baptist church.

The performances are free and will include stops at retirement homes.

The youth choir and orchestra is coordinated by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's worship and music department and is made possible by Kentucky Baptists' gifts through the Cooperative Program.

This year's tour schedule is (all times are local):

- June 22, 6 p.m., Campbellsville Baptist Church.
- June 23, 7 p.m., Southside Baptist Church in Princeton.
- June 24, 10 a.m., Carmel Home in Owensboro.
- June 25, 10 a.m., Western Kentucky Veterans Center in Hanson.
- June 25, 2:30 p.m., Ridgewood Terrace in Madisonville.
- June 25, 7 p.m., First Baptist Church of Madisonville.
- June 26, 10:30 a.m., Beaver Dam Baptist Church.
- June 26, 3 p.m., First Baptist Church of Bowling Green.

Co-directors of the choir this year are Mickey and Sue Ellen Ballard of Central Baptist Church in Paris. Mickey is minister of music and worship for the church; Sue Ellen is the organist.

Maryellen Liu, pianist at Lyndon Baptist Church in Louisville, is choir accompanist. She is a recent graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Liu is an accomplished musician in voice, piano and violin.

Scott Bersaglia conducts the orchestra. He is an assistant professor of music and assistant director of bands at Campbellsville University.

Ruthann Fulton will accompany the orchestra. A member of Immanuel Baptist Church in Louisville, Fulton is pursuing a

degree in choral conducting at University of Louisville.

Coordinating the choir and orchestra are Greg Ross and Jason Stewart, KBC music consultants.

#### 2011 All-State Choir and Orchestra:

- Ashton Bain**, Sovereign Grace Baptist Church in Lawrenceburg.
- Joshua Baldauff**, Forest Park Baptist Church in Bowling Green.
- Sarah Baldauff**, Forest Park Baptist Church in Bowling Green.
- Moriah Bartley**, Coral Hill Baptist Church in Glasgow.
- Alex Beard**, First Baptist Church of Albany.
- Loren Been**, Fern Creek Baptist Church in Louisville.
- Logan Blackman**, Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah.
- Abby Boone**, Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville.
- Katherine Borders**, First Baptist Church of Louisa.
- Andrus Boyd**, Immanuel Baptist Church in Paducah.
- Julia Brewer**, Robinson Creek Baptist Church in London.
- Andrew Butler**, First Baptist Church of Brandenburg.
- Lucas Butler**, First Baptist Church of Brandenburg.
- Hannah Campbell**, First Baptist Church of Albany.
- Rachel Casey**, Bethel Baptist Church in Harrodsburg.
- Corey Cobb**, First Baptist Church of Owenton.
- Samuel Cobban**, First Baptist Church of Middletown.
- Jacob Coomer**, Elk Horn Baptist Church in Campbellsville.
- Brittany Couch**, First Baptist Church of Lawrenceburg.
- Sean Daniel**, Walnut Grove Baptist Church in Morgantown.
- Hannah Deaton**, Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville.
- Brady Diehl**, Parkland Baptist Church in Louisville.
- Alyssa Durbin**, Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah.

**Casey Ellingsworth**, Little Flock Baptist Church in Shepherdsville.

- Jenny Fackler**, First Baptist Church of Brandenburg.
- Matthew Fackler**, First Baptist Church of Brandenburg.
- Daniel Fathergill**, Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington.
- Laura Haney**, First Baptist Church of Richmond.
- Erin Harper**, Northside Baptist Church in Princeton.
- Sarah Harrison**, Cornerstone Baptist Church in Lexington.
- Alex Hedges**, First Baptist Church of Richmond.
- Jordan Hines**, Hartford Baptist Church.
- Mary Hodgen**, Springfield Baptist Church.
- Julia Holland**, Knoxville Baptist Church in Williamstown.
- Glen Hooper**, Stithton Baptist Church in Radcliff.
- Rachel Hoskins**, Little Flock Baptist Church in Shepherdsville.
- Ellen Howard**, Edmonton Baptist Church.
- Christina Johnson**, First Baptist Church of Owenton.
- Natalie King**, Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah.
- Nathan King**, Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah.
- Kirtley Kinman**, Versailles Baptist Church.
- Julia Martin**, Cecilia Baptist Church.
- Marjorie Mason**, First Baptist Church of Frankfort.
- Shelby Mattingly**, Versailles Baptist Church.
- Ryan McBride**, First Baptist Church of Richmond.
- Jessica McCoy**, Rock Haven Baptist Church in Brandenburg.
- Lynsey Milburn**, Highland Park Baptist Church in Louisville.
- Colton New**, First Baptist Church of Owenton.
- Megan Norris**, First Baptist Church of Albany.
- Drew O'Neal**, Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville.
- Elizabeth Peeff**, May's Lick Baptist Church.
- Meagan Pinkston**, Bethel Baptist Church in Harrodsburg.

**Chelsea Reed**, First Baptist Church of Richmond.

- Mason Rice**, Horse Creek Baptist Church in Manchester.
- Caroline Ridings**, First Baptist Church of Richmond.
- Emily Ridings**, First Baptist Church of Richmond.
- Sarah Roney**, Parkland Baptist Church in Louisville.
- Paige Ruddell**, Fisherville Baptist Church.
- Benjamin Russell**, Harrodsburg Baptist Church.
- Esteban Salazar**, Ballardsville Baptist Church in Crestwood.
- Joel Sams**, Millville Baptist Church in Frankfort.
- Robbie Sams**, Millville Baptist Church in Frankfort.
- Ronnie Sams**, Millville Baptist Church in Frankfort.
- Mary Katherine Sanders**, Immanuel Baptist Church in Frankfort.
- Joshua Saylor**, Cornerstone Baptist Church in Lexington.
- Morgan Anne Schussler-Williams**, Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville.
- Michael Simpson**, Hartford Baptist Church.
- Julie Spaulding**, Greenup Fork Baptist Church in Owenton.
- Christina Swadley**, Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah.
- Mallory Taylor**, Canton Baptist Church in Cadiz.
- Melina Taylor**, First Baptist Church of Morganfield.
- Peyton Taylor**, Canton Baptist Church in Cadiz.
- Sadie Theodore-Powell**, First Baptist Church of Richmond.
- Courtney Thompson**, First Baptist Church of Frankfort.
- Sophie Van Hooser**, First Baptist Church of Princeton.
- Erin Warner**, Cornerstone Baptist Church in Lexington.
- Casey Wheeler**, Stithton Baptist Church in Radcliff.
- Mary Kate Young**, First Baptist Church of Paris.
- Neill Young**, Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Smith Mills.

## Campbellsville Univ. gives Sullivan awards to pair of Ky. Baptist pastors

Campbellsville—Two Kentucky Baptist pastors are the latest recipients of Campbellsville University's Algernon Sydney Sullivan Awards. Veteran pastor James Jones and newcomer Micah Spicer were presented with the awards at the recent graduation.

Jones, pastor of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Campbellsville, is this year's community recipient. He is a member of the school's board of trustees and its church relations council. Jones also is an adjunct faculty member with CU's School

of Theology, and is serving his third term as an elected member of the Taylor County Fiscal Court.

Jones has led Pleasant Hill since 2004. Before that, he was pastor of Campbellsville Baptist Church for more than 20 years

and also has served in churches in Alabama and Indiana.

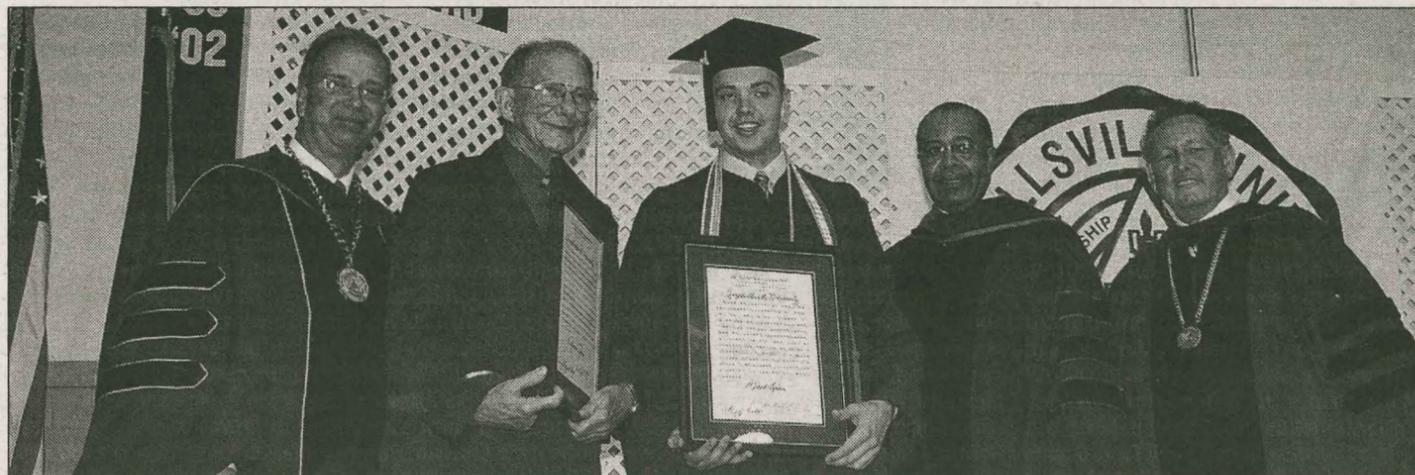
Active in denominational life, Jones is a past president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and moderator for Taylor County Baptist Association. He also is a member of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee.

"Dr. Jones has a pastor's heart, a servant's humility and the passion of an evangelist and missionary," Campbellsville President Michael Carter said. "He is one of the fine pulpiteers of Southern Baptist life today. He has demonstrated servant leadership all of his life and continues to do so to this very day."

The student award went to Micah Spicer, a Wingo native who currently serves as pastor of Canmer Baptist Church.

While at CU, Spicer has been president of the Student Government Association, class president and member of Omicron Delta Kappa, Alpha Chi and Theta Alpha Kappa, all while managing a 3.85 GPA.

Spicer became pastor of Canmer Baptist earlier this year. In the fall, he will attend Baptist Seminary of Kentucky to pursue a master of divinity degree.



**AWARD WINNERS** Receiving the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Awards from Campbellsville University are James Jones (second from left), pastor of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Campbellsville, and Campbellsville graduate Micah Spicer (center), who is pastor of Canmer Baptist Church. Presenting the awards are Campbellsville President Michael Carter (left); Joe Owens (second from right), vice chair of the CU board of trustees; and Frank Cheatham, vice president for academic affairs. (Photo by Joan McKinney/Campbellsville University)

**More for Christ**

The word "more" is simple, yet profound. Webster defines "more" as a word describing "a greater in amount." The New Testament definition declares it to be a pronouncement of a "great deal of increase."



Billy Compton

In relationship to our life in Christ, Paul declares, "Finally then brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from me how you ought to walk and to please God" (1 Thessalonians 4:1).

Jesus himself embodied the word "more." He was asked on numerous instances to do more. For instance, more wine was needed at a wedding in Canaan; more fish and bread were required to feed the multitude; more of a catch was promised for simple fishermen who had toiled all night without success.

Jesus encouraged each to have more obedience, more trust, more faith, more love, more forgiveness, more understanding and to do more for God's kingdom.

As Kentucky Baptists, we have been challenged to embrace the instruction of the Bible and the example of Jesus in our "More for Christ" emphasis. "More for Christ" summons us to grow stronger in our faith, as we give more of ourselves to live out our service to Christ from day to day.

"Three More for Christ" invites you to accept the challenge of adding \$3 each week to your offerings through your local church. While this seems like such a small amount, it could add up to more than a million additional dollars for mission causes in your church, association, nation and the world. Each ministry would be impacted.

"Children Changing the World" provides an opportunity to enlist the enthusiasm of children. You can encourage the children of your church to give offerings through vacation Bible school to be designated for Cooperative Program ministries. Celebrate with your children when they do more for Christ.

"A Million More for Missions" is a way to encourage students to collect funds for mission support through the Cooperative Program. A million more dollars for Christ could be raised should just half of Kentucky Baptists' 2,400 congregations contribute an average of \$835.

Increase your Cooperative Program percentage for missions through your church and multiply redemptive potential. Each church is encouraged to increase the amount of their gifts through the CP for the next 10 years. A downward trend for mission support can be reversed through such a partnership.

Provide a legacy gift to the Cooperative Program that will enable the Kentucky Baptist Convention and Southern Baptist Convention to accomplish more for Christ.

We can do more together than we can do alone!  
"He must increase but I must decrease" (John 3:30).

Guest writer Billy Compton is the executive associate for Cooperative Program and resources for the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Find out more about "More for Christ" at [www.moreforchrist.com](http://www.moreforchrist.com).

**Chitwood: 'Captain of the cheerleading team'**

Paul Chitwood tells a story about his grandfather to illustrate the kind of state convention executive director he aspires to be.

As a boy, his grandfather, Hoyt Morton, played on a school basketball team. In a very close game, he was sitting on the bench when his coach called his name. "Are you putting me in, Coach?" he asked. "No, what I need for you to do is to go up there in the stands and get some cheers going." So, Morton grabbed a megaphone, ran into the stands, and started leading cheers. The team won! After the game, the coach pulled Morton aside and said, "I've got a job for you. Go ahead and turn in your sneakers. You're now a cheerleader."



**After Thought**

By Todd Deaton

"I truly am beginning to see that the Lord needs some strong cheerleaders, who are there encouraging our brothers and sisters on the front lines (of ministry)," Chitwood told the Mission Board. "I would count it a great privilege and honor to serve Him ... and to serve Kentucky Baptists in that way."

In exhibiting this winsome, servant spirit, it is certainly easy to see how he fits the three essential criteria that the search committee set out to find.

**Character.** Chitwood grew up in Jellico, Tenn., just across the Kentucky line. Raised in a broken home, he lived with his grandparents and father, who worked for a telephone company. From an early age, he came to realize the importance of lay evangelism and church outreach. Deacons from First Baptist Church visited his home, inviting his family to attend.

When the pastor later came to talk with his older brother, Chitwood listened to their conversation and he, too, accepted Christ. He remained a member at Jellico until he was ordained to the ministry and called to serve South Fork Baptist Church in Owen County.

Chitwood attended the University of the Cumberland and married his childhood sweetheart, Michelle, who was from the Kentucky side of Jellico, after she, too, graduated from Cumberland and he had begun his first year of studies at Southern Seminary. They now have three children: Daniel, 14; Anna, 12; and Cai, 4, whom they adopted from China.

**Chemistry.** On several occasions in responding to questions posed by members of the Mission Board, Chitwood, who sees a key part of his role as being "a pastor to pastors," displayed a keen ability in finding consensus and building unity.

While stating that he had signed the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message as a seminary faculty member and as trustee of the International Mission Board, Chitwood affirmed all versions of BF&M. These confessions

of faith "summarize what I believe as well as what most Southern Baptists believe," he said.

In regards to supporting the Cooperative Program, Chitwood noted that as pastor he encouraged First Baptist Church of Mount Washington to embrace increasing CP giving to 10 percent of undesignated receipts. "I do believe the leaders of our convention need to lead by example," he asserted, calling others to join in making a sacrificial commitment.

Though he served on the KBC mission study committee several years ago and was convention president, Chitwood showed great wisdom in not hastily suggesting a reorganization of the Mission Board. "I would be very careful over the course of the first few months to continue to learn and grow to appreciate even more the current structure and staff," he assured. Observing that from different seats one has different views, he added, "But until I've sat in the executive director seat for a while, I would not be comfortable proposing dramatic changes."

While setting church planting as a top priority, Chitwood also was sensitive to challenges faced by older, established, small churches, having served congregations of various sizes. He called on churches to partner together to walk alongside other churches and pastors to strengthen and revitalize them, and on the state convention to play a role in facilitating such partnerships.

Finally, the professor and pastor was asked about his views on Calvinism, and Chitwood commendably chose to emphasize common ground. "These are two things we can't reconcile, but we accept as true: God is absolutely sovereign and that humans are responsible and free," he stated, adding that his personal theology allows for some tension. Urging the KBC to be a "big tent" that honors God, he maintained, "When we allow for some grace and embrace cooperation, ... when we cooperate and work together and do so with enthusiasm, Kentucky Baptists will be better off."

**Competence.** As a long-time pastor in Kentucky, a seminary and university professor of evangelism and church growth, and a former trustee chairman of the International Mission Board, Chitwood has an unmistakable passion for taking the gospel to the ends of the earth. Seeing himself as "the captain of the cheerleading team," his greatest desire is for all Kentucky Baptists to celebrate what God is doing through the Cooperative Program and to understand the great opportunity that is out there for Baptists—not just in Kentucky, but across the globe—if we will embrace cooperation and partnering together.

**Taking Christ to the condos**

We sold our sprawling suburban home, gave away most of our furniture, and moved into a small condo in downtown Indianapolis. Like thousands of people across America, we've become urban, multi-housing dwellers.

It's astonishing to realize that well over half of all people living in North America reside in multi-housing, such as condos, apartments and high rises, and an estimated 95 percent of multi-housing residents are lost without Christ. Think of that as you drive past multi-housing in your town. What a mission field!

How can a Christian cautiously move through rules, privacy issues and cultural barriers to share Christ in urban condos or apartments? Here are five tips:

**Check it out.** Careful research helps focus evangelism or church planting efforts. For example, condo

dwellers, according to the U.S. Census, have higher than average incomes. Our condo houses government leaders, business professionals, retirees, medical students, professional athletes and more. The census reveals that condos have much larger proportions of both young and elderly occupants. Instead of families, we primarily see singles, young couples, empty-nesters and retirees.

**Get out.** Casually initiate relationships with the intention of sharing Christ. Make yourself accessible. If your condo has a gym, exercise regularly. Rooftop barbecue? Grill. Walk your dog. Jog. Frequent the nearby coffee shop. Keep a list of neighbors you meet, and pray for them. Systematically invite each for tea or lunch.

**Watch out.** Sharing Christ in urban multi-housing areas comes

with a whole different set of challenges. Don't unintentionally negate your influence. Knocking on doors is probably prohibited. Meticulously follow condo or apartment policies. Park correctly. Pick up after your pet. Use the proper community board or web-board for church ads.

**Live it out.** After living in our condo a while, we're amazed how often neighbors we barely know ask for help because we're the only Christians they know. Carefully guard your words and reputation. Live joyfully. Loan a Christian book. Welcome newcomers and invite them to church. Offer to pray for someone. Begin a Bible study.

**Help out.** Respond quickly when God opens ministry doors. Jump a dead battery. Help carry groceries. Offer a lift to the airport. Help in crisis situations. Send a sympathy note. Deliver cookies to a new resident. Be a friend first. Opportunities to share Christ will follow.

Diana Davis is the wife of Indiana Baptists' executive director and author of "Deacon Wives."



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

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**Fresh Ideas**



Diana Davis

## Rejecting the cult of self for something greater

By Erich Bridges

Our daughter graduated from high school a few weeks ago, marching down the aisle with her classmates to the strains of "Pomp and Circumstance" as we parents swelled with pride. Then we had to listen to the obligatory commencement address.

As commencement speakers go, ours wasn't bad. A radio talk show host, he was humorous and engaging. He delivered a speech that was part pep talk, part political diatribe. The pep was fine, the politics unnecessary considering the occasion. To his credit, he admitted that he didn't remember a single word uttered at his own high school graduation many years ago (I could relate to that). He assured the assembled grads they would forget his words, too.

It wasn't a masterpiece, but it was the Gettysburg Address compared to the typical commencement speech—particularly the ones heard these days at major universities. Often delivered by media types or celebrities, such speeches usually consist of clichés, platitudes and outright insults to the young minds and hearts they're supposed to inspire.

"Worst of all, (they) are sent off into this world with the whole baby-boomer theology ringing in their ears," writes New York Times columnist and social critic David Brooks. "Many graduates are told to: Follow your passion, chart your own course, march to the beat of your own drummer, follow your dreams and find yourself. This is the litany of expressive individualism, which is still the dominant note in American culture."

"But, of course, this mantra misleads on nearly every front."

Misleads how? For one thing, it promotes absurdly unrealistic expectations among graduates entering today's tough job market. On a deeper level, however, it glorifies the self-worship that has come to define so much of American life. Too many boomers have yet to notice the destruction this mindset has wrought on our culture, so we pass the all-consuming idol of self on to the generation now coming into its own. We tell our children, "It's all about you, kid. You're the god of your little world, which you create and which exists only to make you happy. Go forth and fulfill yourself!"

This is a perversion of the American ideal of liberty, which certainly includes individual freedom and the pursuit of happiness, but not to the exclusion of shared responsibility and voluntary, possibly sacrificial service to others.

"The successful young adult is beginning to make sacred commitments—to a spouse, a community and a call-

ing—yet mostly hears about freedom and autonomy," Brooks observes. "Most successful young people don't look inside and then plan a life. They look outside and find a problem, which summons their life. ... Fulfillment is a by-product of how people engage their tasks, and can't be pursued directly. Most of us are egotistical and most are self-concerned most of the time, but it's nonetheless true that life comes to a point only in those moments when the self dissolves into some task. The purpose of life is not to find yourself. It's to lose yourself."

Sound familiar? It should; it's a secular echo of the words of Jesus Christ: "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake shall find it" (Matthew 16:24-25).

Following Christ is the antithesis of the pagan cult of self. Indeed, He demands the ruthless, daily execution of self. The Apostle Paul describes such a life:

"Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bondservant ..." —to the point of death upon a cross (Philippians 2:3-7, NASB).

Personal fulfillment—happiness, if you will, though joy is a better word—comes in the daily act of loving and serving Jesus and others. "Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever," as the Westminster Shorter Catechism of 1647 summarized it.

That was once the guiding principle of the education offered by great Western universities. Now it seems to be: "Man's chief end is to glorify himself, and to party forever." Nothing new in that; the prophet Isaiah heard people shouting, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we may die" seven centuries before Christ. It was an ancient philosophy even then.

But young people in search of a worthy calling want more. They're rejecting the cult of self, even if their parents still buy into it. They want to give their lives to something greater than themselves.

There is no greater calling than the mission of God—that every people, tribe and nation will know and worship Him. (BP)

Erich Bridges is global correspondent for the International Mission Board.

### FIRST PERSON

## Investing is not a competition

By Don Spencer

Whether in a retirement plan or another investment plan designed to meet other goals in life, one concern folks often have is their fear of losing money they have already accumulated. Too many investors, wanting to protect what they have, fail to understand how the market really works.

The media and financial services industry bombards us with information that causes us to see the market as made up of winners and losers, and the winners are constantly taking from the losers. News reports emphasize these winners and losers followed by lots of analysis regarding future winners and losers. We're told we should move money to the "side-lines" or we should "get back in the game." Thus, we feel we are in a competition where there will be a winner who comes out on top and a loser who walks away with nothing.

This message, combined with our own fears, causes investors to feel they must work very hard to avoid being one of the losers. It's no surprise that some people then see stocks as a speculative investment that could lead to ruin, thus avoiding them all together. Instead, they put their money in safer "investments" and often leave an awful lot of money on the table.

Investing is not a competition. To be successful and reach your financial goals does not mean winning at the expense (loss) of someone else. The market gives everyone with money to invest the opportunity to win. You will not lose a penny just because your neighbor earned a positive return on their investments.

In a short time period, fear and greed cause the market to be quite volatile, creating a roller-coaster ride of gains and losses for investors. The long-term investor knows that capitalism would not work (and we know that it does) if there wasn't a positive return on one's investments. Achieving success in investing does not have to be difficult. It is there for the taking. It is human behavior that is the true challenge for anyone investing in stocks, whether for retirement or otherwise. When you invest in stocks, always remember it is a long-term investment. Avoid making short-term decisions on a long-term investment.

Don Spencer is a certified financial planner and directs the Kentucky Baptist Convention's church financial benefits department



## Protect kids from summer sun

By David Garrard

Summer is here and most kids are going to be spending lots of time outside. Parents will want to take proper precautions to protect their children from the sun as they enjoy outdoor adventures. There are times when simply covering up with shirts, hats and sunglasses may be the best option. However, sunscreen still will be necessary for many summertime activities.

Gone are the days when the brown bottle of Coppertone was the only suntan lotion on the market. Today, shelves are packed with a variety of products offering various levels of protection. All will have an SPF number, but look for products that offer both UVA and UVB protection, also known as "broad spectrum" protection. These products guard against UVA rays that damage skin, as well as UVB rays that cause sunburn. Make sure you use enough. Experts say most people use less than half of what they really need—typically about one ounce.

The American Academy of Dermatology recommends using a sunscreen with an SPF of at least 30. Dr. Dan Wendelin of Dermatology Associates in Louisville agrees. He says, "Parents may find spray-on products easier and quicker to apply, which may mean parents will be less tempted to overlook applying sunscreen because of the hassle of dealing with squirming children who can't wait to get to the pool or ocean." Wendelin also encourages parents to reapply sunscreen after three hours.

As a final note, the American Academy of Pediatrics says babies under the age of 6 months should not get any direct sunlight.

David Garrard is minister to children at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville.



## 'You're the man!'—What every dad wants to hear

By Curt Iles

I've never met helicopter pilot Edwin Steve Coleman, but I believe he's a man I'd like. Coleman, a U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer, did something few pilots have ever done: He won the Broken Wings Award—not once but twice.

To win the Broken Wings, a pilot must safely land a crippled aircraft. There are two criteria: The problem cannot be pilot-caused and the pilot must bring the craft down with minimal damage to property and life.

Coleman first won the award some 20 years ago in Czechoslovakia, but that's another story for another day. This is how he won his second Broken Wings in 2006 over the skies—and among the piney woods—of Louisiana: Coleman and a copilot were flying an OH 58 Charlie helicopter over a heavily forested area of Ft. Polk. Suddenly the copter's engine died and Coleman was forced to make several quick decisions.

Anyone familiar with helicopters knows that engine failure normally results in horrific crashes with fatalities. Landing a "dead copter" is a quick and grim fight with death.

During an interview with the Beau regard Daily News, Officer Coleman explained, "When something goes wrong, you must keep the rotors mov-

ing in order to have any control. Due to our low height of 400 feet and our speed of 40 knots, there was no time or room for error."

This is when his training kicked in. He stood on the brakes to make the aircraft stand vertical on its tail. As gravity took over, he was able to negotiate the controls and maneuver the copter toward a small clearing.

Before impact he told his copilot, "This is going to hurt."

Neither pilot was injured in the rough landing, and the helicopter suffered little damage. As the dust cleared and the rotors stopped turning, the two men stared in relief and amazement at the small clearing surrounded by tall pines. As they looked at each other, the younger copilot reached across the cockpit, shook Officer Coleman's hand and solemnly said, "You're the man!"

You're the man. That says it all. It's the term we want those around us to say. Most of all, we want our family saying it honestly to us.

You are the man. You are respected. Esteemed.

John Avant, pastor of First Baptist Church in West Monroe, La., uses this life motto: "To be a man that God can use and be respected by my wife and children."

### FIRST PERSON

That says it all—you are the man. If God can use you, and your family holds you in respect, you are the man. What others think—and say—pales in comparison if your Creator and family are pleased.

Conversely, for a man to be esteemed at work or in the world, but not by those closest to him—who know him best—that man is not a success.

Even more importantly, to be usable by God and seeking to please Him is the best success of all. It has nothing to do with being chauvinistic or domineering. Rather, it's about servant-leadership. The towel-toting, foot-washing, life-sacrificing kind that Jesus lived.

Yes, Chief Warrant Officer Edwin Steve Coleman was "the man" in the skies above the Louisiana piney woods. He was a pilot who knew what to do. His story is a clear word picture to each of us—men and women—that our actions will always affect and influence others.

I'll end this story with a short prayer, a prayer from the heart of the man writing this: "Jesus, You're the real Man. If You don't lead, I can't lead. Teach me to lead. Lead through me. Amen." (BP)

Curt Iles is a writer and speaker based in his hometown of Dry Creek, La. Iles is a deacon at Dry Creek Baptist Church and a trustee of Louisiana College, which is affiliated with the Louisiana Baptist Convention.



Kentucky Baptist disaster relief volunteers are stationed at this Southern Baptist Incident Command Post at Friendship Baptist Church in Brimfield, Mass. The mobile unit made the 17-hour, 1,050-mile drive from Alpharetta, Ga. (Photo by Cathy Miller)

## New England disaster relief:

# 'An open door'

By Mickey Noah  
North American Mission Board

**Brimfield, Mass.**—Southern Baptist Disaster Relief is ramping up in New England after three tornadoes ripped across western Massachusetts from Springfield to Brimfield, killing four and impacting 19 communities.

The EF-3 tornado that severely damaged Springfield June 1 remained on the ground for 40 miles or an estimated 70 minutes, with wind speeds clocked at nearly 160 miles an hour.

About 30 Southern Baptist volunteers from Kentucky, Tennessee, Pennsylvania/South Jersey, New York, Connecticut, North Carolina, Maine and the North American Mission Board in Alpharetta, Ga., have been on the scene.

Working out of an Incident Command Center set up at Friendship Baptist Church in Brimfield, Mass., they are staffing Southern Baptist recovery, incident command, feeding, assessment and shower units. A chaplaincy unit from Kentucky also is on the ground.

Although community residents are cleaning up on their own, Bruce James, di-

saster relief director for the Baptist Convention of New England, said the 30 volunteers already are doing chainsaw work and assessment.

"We're past the rescue stage and now into recovery," James said. "This is a great opportunity for Baptists because we're going to be here two or three weeks. We can make impressions on these people and their lives. God has given us an open door and a chance to shine. But we have to respond fast because the window of opportunity for tornadoes is not that big.

"It's amazing to see the opportunity we get through disaster relief and the gratitude of the community leaders," James added. "It shows them what the church is about, what we Baptists do. It increases our value in the eyes of New Englanders. And that's something they value up here—what you bring to the community."

James said local flooding during the spring of 2010 prompted a large Southern Baptist response, "but the devastation of these tornadoes is the biggest thing I've ever dealt with during my five years in disaster relief. It's almost overwhelming."

While James directs the tornado disas-

## Kentucky Baptist volunteers help Mass. rebound from tornadoes

**Springfield, Mass.**—Kentucky Baptist disaster relief volunteers are in Springfield, Mass., helping residents there recover from a tornado June 1.

Three chaplains are providing counseling and spiritual support to people affected by the storm that killed four people. Thirteen other volunteers are helping residents by removing trees and other debris.

Chainsaw disaster relief units from Little River Baptist Association and First Baptist Church of Richmond joined the state team led by "blue hat" supervisors Harold Smith of Shepherdsville and Jerry Cable of Campton.

The chaplaincy team from Lincoln County Baptist Association is led by Dwayne and Cherie Martin and includes director of missions Gary King.

The Kentucky Baptist volunteers are headquartered at Friendship Baptist Church in Brimfield, Mass.

It has been a busy spring for Kentucky Baptist disaster relief. In March teams responded to flooding in Ohio. In April, volunteers served in West Point, a community in Hardin County located on the Ohio River, which also was affected by

significant flooding.

Following deadly tornadoes in Alabama, 110 Kentucky Baptists served in Henagar and Higdon, Ala., removing debris and providing hot showers, laundry facilities and chaplaincy services.

Mud-out teams removed debris and cleaned flooded homes in Livingston and McCracken counties May 23-June 5. A chainsaw unit also worked in Trigg County during that time.

For up-to-date information on Kentucky Baptist disaster relief deployments, training opportunities and other news, visit [www.KyBaptist.org/DR](http://www.KyBaptist.org/DR) or follow "Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief" or the "Kentucky Baptist Convention" on Facebook.

For additional information contact the Baptist Men on Mission Department by e-mail at [BaptistMen@KyBaptist.org](mailto:BaptistMen@KyBaptist.org) or by phone at (502) 489-3527 or toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3527.

Contributions to the disaster relief ministry should be sent to the Kentucky Baptist Convention with "disaster relief" in the memo line of the check. The address is Kentucky Baptist Convention, PO Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40223-4160.

ter relief Incident Command Center in Massachusetts, fellow disaster relief coordinator John Scoggins is in Williston, Vt., where massive flooding from Lake Champlain has impacted 11 counties in that state.

"After waiting three weeks for the waters to recede, we're just now getting in," Scoggins said. "We've had unprecedented flooding from Lake Champlain because of melting snow. The lake crested five feet above flood stage, the highest it's ever been in the 240 years since they've kept records."

Burlington, home of the University of Vermont, was hit especially hard by the flooding. Montpelier, the state's capital, and the nearby town of Barre, also recently experienced flash floods from sudden thunderstorms.

"We're trying to respond to both," Scoggins said, adding that more than 980 local residents have called asking for assistance after flood damage to homes and property. "We've got 35 mud-out jobs ready to work, with about 500 yet to screen."

So far, Scoggins said his team consists of only 30 volunteers—20 mud-out workers and 10 assessors—and help from other states is needed. Disaster relief volunteers from the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia are doing mud-out work in the Barre area and have committed to rotating in new mud-out teams over the coming weeks. A Maryland/Delaware shower and laundry unit is supporting the Virginia teams in Barre.

"We need more volunteers for mud-out, administrative support and incident command," Scoggins said.

Southern Baptist volunteers in Vermont are based at Christ Memorial Church in Williston, the largest SBC church in Vermont.

"According to polls over the last five or so years, Vermont has been called the least churched state in the nation," Scoggins noted. "Only 2 percent of the population has any relationship with Christ. So this is an opportunity for us to walk the walk and show them Christ's love." (BP)

## Alabama churches reach out to Missouri, begin looking toward future

By Lindsey Robinson  
The Alabama Baptist

**Hueytown, Ala.**—The day after an EF-5 tornado ripped through Joplin on May 22, a student minister and associate pastor in Alabama made a phone call to First Baptist Church in the Missouri town. The person who answered the phone was a little surprised. "Hueytown, Ala.? Aren't you? Didn't you?"

"Yes, we are," said Jason Grêen of Crossroad Baptist Church in Hueytown. "And yes, we did."

On April 27 a super-cell storm destroyed homes and businesses in Concord and Pleasant Grove near Hueytown. The next day, with the support of pastor Jimmy Bradford, Crossroad Baptist stocked its gym with canned goods, hygiene products, clothes, cleaning supplies and other basic necessities to serve survivors in Alabama.

And now it's time to reach out to other states, Green said.

On May 26, Crossroad Baptist sent a church van and a 16-foot trailer filled with

the same basic necessities to First Baptist, Joplin, Mo.

"If we're going to be faithful with what God's provided for us, we have to be faithful to them," Green said.

It's a sign of a step toward recovery in Alabama that churches can provide aid for states suffering from similar disasters.

In Concord and Pleasant Grove, progress is being made. Clean-up crews from Bessemer and Jefferson County, Ala., companies and volunteer groups have cleared the largest heaps of debris from properties and moved them to the edges of the streets to be hauled away.

The result is a flat, bare landscape dotted with twisted trees and the remnants of a few homes. It's the next step toward rebuilding, said Ken Maddox, director of missions for Mud Creek Baptist Association.

"You can actually see the ground," Maddox noted. "Before, all you could see was rubble."

On the outskirts of Concord, Maddox and Alabama disaster relief volunteers Tom

Barry and Billy Swindle have manned a tent with snacks and cold drinks for residents for several weeks.

Barry has been coordinating disaster relief in Concord and Birmingham since the tornadoes hit, but he said he may be called to Missouri or another relief site.

"I'm going to go where He sends me," Barry said.

Near the tent, Hueytown's Concord Highland Baptist Church stands empty as a result of tornado damage, but with the creak of shifting wooden beams and ceiling tiles in the wind, the building seems full of activity.

The sanctuary is still standing, but the church will have to rebuild in a plot across the street, said Buddy Howell, chairman of deacons.

Richard Larson, pastor of Concord Highland, said the congregation is meeting for services at Red River Baptist Church in Concord. Church leaders said they hope to begin the groundwork on the new church building in about four months.

First Baptist, Pleasant Grove has a food pantry and a FEMA representative on its campus to assist survivors. For many, life still is a struggle, but the worship services at the church echo with celebration and revival, Watkins said.

"I don't hear people getting angry with God or asking why," Watkins said. "People see God's mercy in the fact that the closet they were staying in was the only thing left standing in their house."

In fact, one church member said the storms were the best thing that ever happened to him, Watkins said. The man had a newfound faith and purpose, and he didn't doubt that God saved him for a reason.

Watkins' prayer is that people in Pleasant Grove and across Alabama hold on to that sense of purpose and passion for Christ even after all the storms—both literal and spiritual—have passed.

"From day one I've asked people to pray that we aren't missing what God is teaching us," Watkins said. "And pray that we maintain a hunger for God." (BP)

## Seminary dean says So. Baptists should elect black president

By Bob Allen

Louisville—A seminary professor says the next president of the Southern Baptist Convention should be an African-American.

Russell Moore, dean of the school of theology and senior vice president for academic administration at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, said via Twitter that he thinks Southern Baptists should elect Fred Luter next year when the convention meets in New Orleans.

Moore, who also is teaching pastor at Highview Baptist Church in Louisville, was commenting on news that Luter, senior pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans, would be nominated for first vice president at this week's SBC annual meeting in Phoenix.

Daniel Akin, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, announced June 7 that he planned to nominate Luter as first vice president.

"I think it would be a great thing to honor him and allow him to serve us the year the convention is going to return to New Orleans," Akin said. "I cannot imagine anyone more qualified and more worthy to be nominated to this position than Fred."

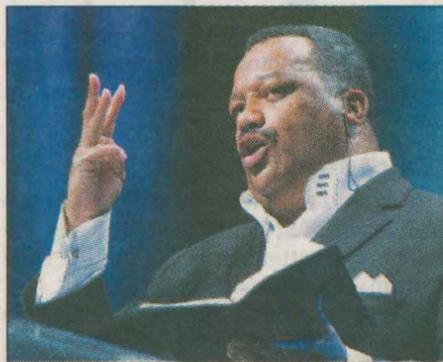
Luter has broken ground for blacks in Southern Baptist life before. In 1992 he was the first African-American elected to the Louisiana Baptist Convention executive board and in 2001 was the first black to preach the annual sermon at the SBC.

Luter's name has been mentioned before as a possible nominee for the presidency.

Last year Dwight McKissic, pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church in Arlington, Texas, said electing a black president would make the denomination more effective in reaching the kind of people discussed in a Great Commission resurgence proposed by SBC leaders. McKissic, who is black, also called for Southern Baptists to "repent of systemic, institutionalized and historic negative attitudes toward women, race and dissenters."

Luter said McKissic was one of several people who suggested that he seek the office in 2010.

"There are a lot of guys throughout the convention who would like to see that happen," Luter said prior to last year's convention. "I truly appreciate their trust and confidence in me, however, that will not happen this year."



**THE FIRST ONE?**  
Southern Seminary dean Russell Moore (right) said via Twitter last week that he believes New Orleans pastor Fred Luter (above) should be the Southern Baptist Convention's first black president.



The current SBC president, Bryant Wright, pastor of Johnson Ferry Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga., is expected to be elected to a traditional second one-year

term at this week's convention.

In his own Twitter feed, Akin indicated that he agreed with Moore that Luter would be a good choice to make history as the first black president of the convention which was formed in 1845.

"Thrilled @ the overwhelming excitement 4 Fred Luter as 1st VP of the SBC," Akin tweeted June 8. "Praying & believing it could lead 2 more next year. Time is right!"

### Ethnic participation report

Among business items at this year's convention are recommendations 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."

Directed in 2009 to study ways to involve more ethnic churches and leaders at the national level, the SBC Executive Committee found that nearly one in five affiliated churches is predominantly African-American, Hispanic, Asian, Native-American or some other ethnic group, yet those groups are underrepresented in convention leadership. (ABP)

## Dakota Baptist's Hamilton resigns exec position to focus on church plant

Sioux Falls, S.D.—Members of the Dakota Baptist Convention's executive board discussed in a June 7 conference call Executive Director Jim Hamilton's June 3 notice of resignation and made plans for a transition in leadership.

After his last day of work June 17, Hamilton said he will give full attention to a national network he has launched to strengthen and start churches and to leading Journey Church, a congregation he planted 18 months ago in Sioux Falls, S.D.

Garvon Goldon, associate executive director of the Dakota convention, has been

named interim executive director "to lead our convention in navigating these changes," according to an executive board news release. Golden also is the DBC's southwest regional missionary and Sharing Christ strategist.

The impact of Hamilton's influence on ministry in the Dakotas includes an increase in Cooperative Program receipts six of the last seven years.

The 2010-11 budget calls for \$265,000 to be given through the Cooperative Program, "and we're

meeting that," Hamilton said. "Baptisms have been up; ACP stats have been up in several categories. I think God has done some good things in our churches and our people during the last years.

"Looking back, I think we can say we've seen God do something significant in the Dakotas during the eight years I've been executive director," Hamilton continued before explaining the reason for his resignation.

"I came to the place of recog-

nizing that I needed to choose between my exec role and this new direction," he said. "I'm not sure what that means yet, but I know it means shifting to consulting and coaching roles, as well as getting back to the local church as a pastor."

Journey Church, started by Hamilton in late 2009 as "a downtown church for the city," meets in Sioux City's Gourley Building. About 70 people now participate in Sunday morning worship.

Journey Church is the third church Hamilton has helped plant during his eight years in the Dakotas. (BP)



Jim Hamilton

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## Lottie Moon offering tops \$145 million, but is far from goal

Richmond, Va.—Southern Baptists gave \$145.6 million to international missions through the 2010 Lottie Moon offering, \$3 million less than the previous year and \$8.3 million less than the International Mission Board needs to meet its 2011 operating budget, the IMB news office reported June 8.

Tom Elliff, the recently elected president of the IMB, applauded Southern Baptists for generosity amid doubts about America's economic recovery and rumors of a double-dip recession.

"Every offering is a picture of our heart. And it illustrates whether we have faith in God—that's what stewardship is all about," he noted. "When we give generously, not

only do we accomplish more on the field, but more is accomplished in our own heart because we're expressing our trust in Christ."

### Elliff: Shortfall spiritual, not fiscal

The 2010 total fell well short of the national goal of \$175 million. Elliff said the "deficit is a matter of concern, but the issue is ultimately spiritual, not fiscal."

The largest Lottie Moon Offering on record was \$150.4 million in 2007, also short of a \$175 million goal. World missions giving dropped to \$141.3 million in 2008, and then rebounded to \$148.9 million in 2009.

Regardless of the budget deficit, Elliff said the IMB will not retreat during what

may prove to be the most effective season in the organization's 166-year history.

"Your IMB intends to move forward, driven by a sense of urgency and with faith—faith in God and faith in Southern Baptists," Elliff said. "My prayer is that in the days ahead we will see a level of sacrifice, generosity and concern that we have never seen before within the Southern Baptist Convention."

## SBC baptisms, worship attendance, membership all declined in 2010

Continued from page 1

churches mirrored the decline in overall membership, dropping 0.19 percent to 6,195,449 in 2010.

"I pray that all of us will see the urgency of the moment," said Thom Rainer, president of LifeWay Christian Resources. "We must make the Great Commission the heart of all we do and say. These latest numbers should be received with a broken spirit and a God-given determination to reach people for Christ."

The report did, however, indicate one positive change. The number of churches in the SBC rose to 45,727, an increase of 1.59 percent from the 45,010 reported in 2009.

"I do find encouragement in the increase in the number of churches," Rainer said. "Hopefully a church planting trend in our convention will lead to the gospel of Christ being shared with more people than ever before."

While several categories of the ACP reflected decline in 2010, totals for various categories were affected by the fact that not all state conventions asked churches for all the information in a way that would allow proper year-to-year comparison.

For example, total missions expendi-

The offering supports nearly 5,000 Southern Baptist missionaries serving around the world through the IMB.

The goal for the 2011 offering is \$175 million. The year 2012 marks the 100th anniversary of the death of Lottie Moon, a Virginia-born missionary who dedicated her life to sharing the gospel in China.

Compiled from reports by Associated Baptist Press and the International Mission Board

tures in 2010 totaled \$1.3 billion, down from \$1.33 billion in 2009, with one state convention not reporting those figures. Total tithes, offerings and special gifts received in Southern Baptist churches came out to \$10.68 billion, a decline of \$153 million from 2009, but again with one state convention not asking churches for that information.

"As Southern Baptists, so much of our identity comes from missions involvement and a passion for the Great Commission," Rainer pointed out. "We certainly pay attention to categories such as missions expenditures because this not only supports our missionaries but also the training of our future pastors and church leaders through our convention-affiliated colleges and seminaries."

"As we look upon fields white unto harvest, we should be ever aware that it is critical that we proclaim Christ to our neighbors and those we come in contact with on a daily basis," he added. "It is critical for our churches to not just get people in the door, but to also train them and disciple them in how to share their faith."

Compiled from reports by Associated Baptist Press and LifeWay Christian Resources

## Gay-rights coalition wants SBC apology

Phoenix—Six groups are joining to call on the Southern Baptist Convention to apologize for its treatment of gays.

A new coalition announced plans June 8 to hand deliver a petition at this week's SBC annual meeting in Phoenix asking it to "end the harm it is causing the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community by offering a sincere and heartfelt apology."

The petition accuses Southern Baptists of promoting "discriminatory laws toward LGBT Americans" and "expressions of stigma and hostility" toward LGBT youth and their families.

While one "can't pray away the gay," the SBC can change its historical treatment of LGBT people," the petition states.

"We call on the Southern Baptist Convention to stop misusing the Bible to promote religion-based bigotry and start recognizing the enormous pain and suffering caused by its mistreatment of

LGBT people, particularly vulnerable youth," said Jack McKinney, a former Southern Baptist minister and spokesperson for Faith in America, one of the petition's sponsors.

The petition points to a 1990 SBC resolution apologizing for past discrimination against African-Americans as evidence that the denomination "is capable of reflection and transformation in its efforts to right past wrongs."

"Southern Baptists continue to uphold belief that God's gift of sex was intended as the sacred union of a husband and wife within the bonds of marriage," said Roger Oldham, vice president for convention relations with the SBC's Executive Committee. "While we sympathize with those who struggle with same-sex attraction, we affirm the power of the gospel to liberate those who believe in Jesus Christ from succumbing to the natural desires of the flesh." (ABP)

## Natural disasters & the Father's Day offering

### It's difficult to prioritize funding needs in time of devastation, economic struggles

This may be the most difficult Western Recorder article I've ever written. I suspect the U.S. and most of the world had a difficult time trying to comprehend the death and destruction in Japan after the earthquake and tsunami in March. Every time I see pictures of the flooding that took place there, I find the images are too overwhelming for me to comprehend. I can only imagine how the people of Japan are dealing with the loss of life, the destruction and the ongoing nuclear power plant problems.

Shortly after the Japanese crisis, the U.S. focused on the flooding along the Mississippi River and its tributaries. Since our campus is surrounded by water on three sides, we are accustomed to the constant threat of flooding.

While we have experienced some serious flooding from time to time, the last major flood for the Oneida community was in 1947. There is a marker near the ceiling at the local post office showing how high the water got, but not until you talk to the "old timers" who experienced that flood do you get some idea of the tragedy this part of Kentucky experienced.

And, as every American should know, there were the terrible storms and tornadoes in the South—Alabama in particular. Again as I saw the pictures, it was difficult for me to grasp just how much death and destruction had taken place. Even with the help of volunteers, neighbors and the local, state and federal governments, it will take years for the people in the storm-ravaged areas to put their lives and communities back together.

Then there was Missouri. I'm not a gifted enough writer to express the total destruction we have all seen on the evening news and on the Weather Channel. I know other states were affected, too, but I cannot comprehend the grief I feel in my heart for the people in Joplin.

Many years ago I saw firsthand the destruction of a tornado when a series of storms hit northern Kentucky, crossed the Ohio River and skipped across southern Ohio. My family and I watched out the upstairs window as one funnel cloud raced across the ground several miles away.

The reason I said this may be the most difficult article I've ever written is that it's really difficult for me to ask our supporters to consider a gift to the Father's Day Offering when there are so many others who are hurting and in need of financial support. The only thing I can do with a clear conscience is simply ask our friends to do what their hearts lead them

to do. During the most difficult economic time in modern American history, it is extremely difficult for any of us to do what we would really like to do financially to help those who are hurting.

I honestly can't tell you that if the FDO does not do well, we will have to tell some students who are in need of additional scholarships that we simply can't provide the extra funds. The fact is that we are going to provide every student the funds they need to attend because that's what Oneida does and always has done. However, if your church is willing to support the FDO it makes it a lot easier for us to help. Thank you!

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

### This is Oneida



W.F. Underwood

## Education is more than facts

### Clear Creek graduate reflects on his educational journey

By Ed Goodman

On Judith Swanson's first day in her ninth grade health class, one blackboard was covered with the names and locations of the major bones and muscles in the human body. The diagram stayed on the board all throughout the term, but the teacher never referred to it. The day of the final exam, the board was wiped clean and the final contained only one question: "Name and locate every major bone and muscle in the human body."

The class protested in unison: "We never studied that!"

"That's no excuse," the teacher said. "The information was there for months."

After the students struggled with the test for a while, the papers were collected and discarded. "Always remember," he told them, "that education is more than just learning what you are told."

The teacher was right. I learned that lesson well at Clear Creek and will always be indebted to those who instilled in me virtues beyond mere knowledge.

In my English composition course, Professor Elli Gillum let me run wild with satire. Writing irrev-

erent pieces about Al Gore, George W. Bush, the fountain of youth and Tarzan would have irritated many instructors—but not dear Mrs. Gillum. She received my labors of sarcasm with joy. She knew that humor could be celebrated in happiness and decency.

In all honesty, my English class at Clear Creek didn't instill any new scholastic facts in me. I learned something that perhaps is even more important than technical communicative precision: Many times your best work comes through what you enjoy most. That lesson isn't as much factual as it is experiential, because education is more than facts.

A student can go through Clear Creek and learn a lot of information without receiving an education. It all depends upon the faithfulness the student chooses to exercise. Facts convey information, but authentic biblically based education imparts wisdom. That wisdom comes not just through the regurgitation of facts, but through the application of those facts in everyday experiences.

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

### Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

# New Tebow bio details a blessed life Rooted in faith

By Cathy Lynn Grossman & Sean Leahy  
USA Today

Denver—Tim Tebow is a 23-year-old second-year, second-string quarterback on a so-so NFL team. So who's going to buy his memoirs? What's to remember?

Only:

■ The play-by-play of his life from conception (his missionary dad, Bob, prayed for a son and promised God to raise him to preach) to birth (a "miracle" tale told in a Super Bowl commercial).

■ High school gridiron statistics that made college recruiters pant (he had 80 scholarship offers). An ESPN documentary called him "The Chosen One" when he was just 17.

■ A Heisman trophy and college championships at the University of Florida, where Tebow already is immortalized in a bronze statue on campus.

■ His selection in the first round of last year's NFL draft by the Denver Broncos, along with a GQ magazine profile that praised his physique in prose that read like a romance novel.

Woven throughout Tebow's new memoir, "Through My Eyes," is the bone-deep religious side of the evangelical young player who writes Bible verses beneath the play codes on his wristbands, just as he once inscribed them in his eye black for his college games.

The book, written with co-author Nathan Whitaker, starts each chapter with a Bible verse and is laced as much with "glory to God" as it is with pages of grit-and-grunt details of Tebow's trademark punishing workouts. He trains relentlessly, deter-

mined to confound everyone who has questioned whether he can make it as an NFL quarterback.

So "Eyes" is for anyone who ever felt a sense of defiant determination in the face of skeptics. And, it's aimed at anyone who finds Tebow's story just a bit insufferable.

It's the memoir of a no-drugs, no-drinks, no-arrests player whose idea of swearing is "Holy sweet cheese-and-crackers!" Even so, there are some smudges on Tebow's Jockey-endorsed T-shirt.

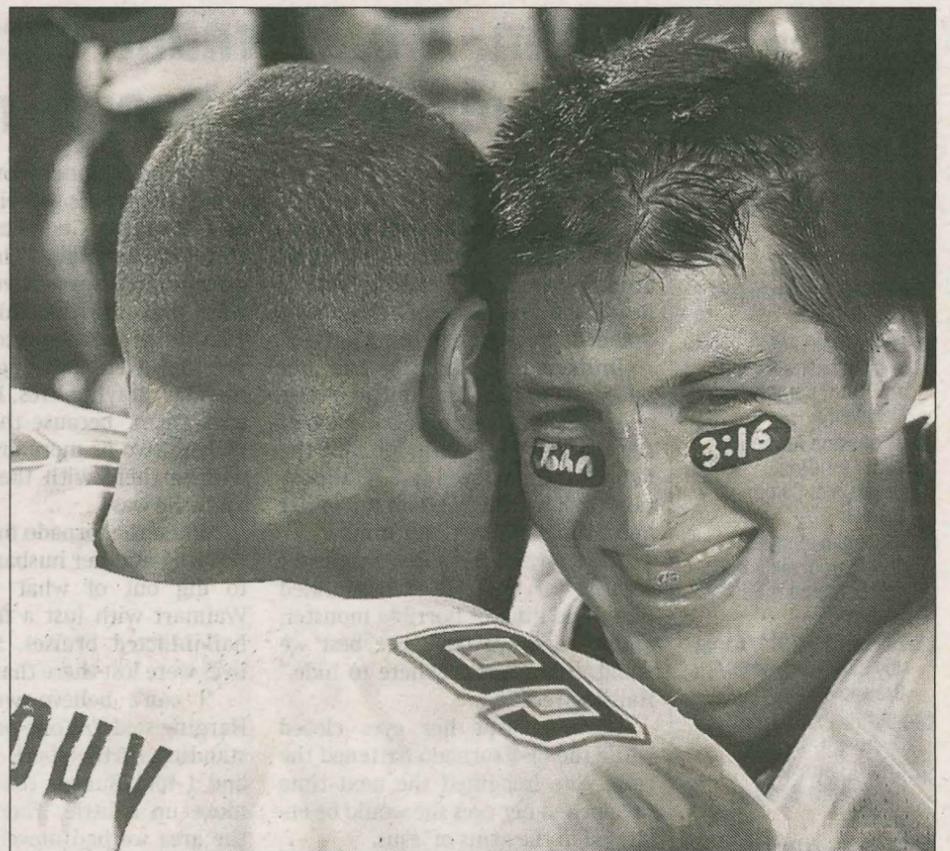
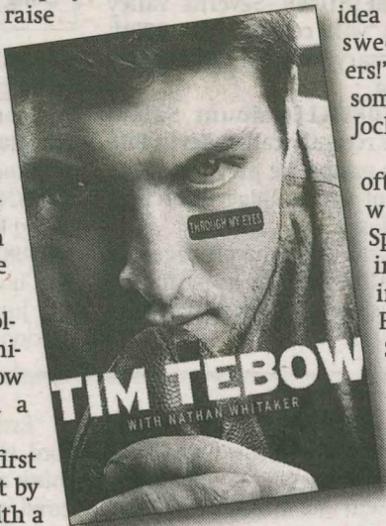
He admits to crying so often he could compete with weepy House Speaker John Boehner in a Kleenex Bowl. During his college years, a Facebook page called "I Saw Tim Tebow Cry and Loved It" had 23,000 fans.

He laughs off the anti-Tebow legions.

"If those people got to know who I really am as a person, we'd get along. Holier than thou? That's not me. I'm a real person. I fail and then I try to keep improving and enjoying life," Tebow said in an interview with USA Today. "I'm a people pleaser. I would love everyone to love me but they're not, and I'm just not going to worry about it."

Tebow seems happy, excited, eager and upbeat as he talks about faith, football and a future he says he never worries about.

The NFL lockout that threatens the 2011 season? Beyond his control. Questions of whether he'll start for the Broncos in 2011? Keep training. Romance? Ha! No one special—not yet anyway, he said, laughing.



**TEBOW'S 'EYES'** Tim Tebow gets a hug from wide receiver Louis Murphy following Florida's win over Oklahoma in the 2009 BCS National Championship. Details of Tebow's successful college career, including winning the Heisman Trophy, are all part of his new memoir, "Through My Eyes." (Photo by Chris Szagola/Cal Sport Media via Newscom)

Tebow's agenda: Live pure. Work hard. Leave the rest to God.

Tebow's father got the preacher he promised the Lord, and the son said football "absolutely" is his pulpit.

"As a player, especially as a quarterback, you are blessed with so many things you can do with that platform," Tebow said. "You can help a lot of kids."

In the off-season, he has raised funds for orphanages through his Tim Tebow Foundation, running a celebrity pro-am golf tournament and tithing from his \$8.7 million Denver Broncos contract to the foundation and other causes such as Wounded Warriors.

He supports his father's efforts in the Philippines, where Tim was born after his mother Pam's difficult pregnancy. She rejected doctor's advice to abort their fifth child and toughed it out, as she recalls in a Focus on the Family-sponsored commercial that broke through the NFL's ban on issue-oriented ads during the 2010 Super Bowl.

Groups objected in advance of the ad, expecting a diatribe from Tim and Pam. In-

stead, it was a sweet, short, funny spot in which Pam shakes off a Tebow tackle and viewers were invited to the Focus website—where the heavy-duty tales are posted.

History doesn't count for much in the NFL, where Tebow knows he's just another young player expected to listen and follow, not lead.

There's still time for hanging out with his older brothers, Robby and Peter, who live and work with him, to play Madden football video games, and to croon ("very badly!") along with country music favorites such as Kenny Chesney.

Tebow said he wants his teammates to see that improving his play and getting to know them on and off the field is his top priority.

"I'm with veterans who have played 10 to 15 years," he said. "But as quarterback, you have to have everyone looking at you. You have to earn respect. Show up first. Be last to leave. After that they begin to like you and play for you. Ultimate goal is fellows who will lay it on the line for you." (RNS)

## Chitwood's Crossings connection

### New Ky. exec played part in linking campers with gospel-needy kids

The past weeks have been full of exciting developments. Crossings 2011 is in full swing; students are accepting Christ as Lord and Savior; students are being called into ministry; and the future will reveal fruit of other decisions that are being made by students at camp.

On another topic, our state convention has a new leader. I would like to share a story about Paul Chitwood and share with you how his convictions will be a great asset to the ministry of the KBC.

A few years back, I asked Paul for some help with the International Mission Board. We were seeking a new partnership opportunity for the camps, and I was hopeful that we could find a mission need through the IMB that would be a good fit for Crossings.

Over a period of several weeks, we were presented with a need in a large city in India. In case you don't know, India is a huge stronghold of idolatry with a population in excess of 1 billion, a number that is growing rapidly each year. For the last 18 months, we have been sending funds and personnel to work in this unreached area.

If not for the efforts of Paul Chitwood in assisting to establish a partnership be-

tween the IMB and Crossings, we would not have had the opportunity to begin Christian work in an area of the world where it is nearly impossible to find an evangelical believer. This partnership is allowing campers that attend Crossings the blessing of sending the gospel and

meeting the physical needs of hundreds of children from some of the poorest areas in India. Slums where these children must walk past Hindu temples each and every day now have food and access to the gospel.

I am proud that Paul Chitwood will be leading our state convention, and I am proud of his resolve to take the gospel to the most unreached areas of the world. We are excited to see what lies ahead for the ministry of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

### Ky. Baptist Assemblies



David Melber

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

## MTV pulls pro-life ad from its airwaves

New York—MTV pulled a pro-life commercial because of its partnership with abortion giant Planned Parenthood, according to the nonprofit organization behind the advertisement.

Heroic Media—a faith-based organization that seeks to reduce abortion by means of ads on television, billboards and the Internet—said the sometimes controversial cable network barred the pro-life commercial after running it for a year. The nonprofit based in Austin, Texas, uses advertising to link women with pro-life pregnancy help centers.

A MTV sales representative said the network's president, Stephen Friedman, decided to ban the pro-life commercial, according to a May 17 statement by Heroic Media. The network "was in the works with doing a partnership with Planned Parenthood and different opportunities with PSAs when (Friedman) decided that he did not want to run Heroic Media on MTV," the organization reported.

MTV Networks Senior Vice President

Jeannie Kedas provided the following statement to Heroic Media about the decision: "Upon further review, it was hard for us to separate some of the recent tactics of the organization behind the ads themselves, so we have opted to not accept them for air at this time."

The Daily Mail reported an MTV spokesman as saying the decision was based on Heroic Media's close connection to a controversial billboard placed in New York's Times Square by the organization Life Always. The billboard, which was removed in February after protests, said: "The most dangerous place for an African American is in the womb."

During 2009, 40,798 of the 87,273 abortions performed in New York City were on black women. There were only 27,405 live births to blacks during the same year, according to The New York Sun.

The Planned Parenthood Federation of America is the country's leading abortion provider. Its affiliates reported more than 332,000 abortions in 2009. (BP)

**KBC**  
KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION  
**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- June**
- 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.

## Joplin, Mo., tornado survivor resolves to love people more

By Kayla Rinker  
Missouri Pathway

Joplin, Mo.—Despite intense weeping and people pleading to God all around her, Casie Harding clearly heard the announcement everyone dreaded, "It's in the parking lot!"

Immediately, Harding and her husband, Burton, as well as everyone else crammed into the back of the Walmart in Joplin, Mo., hit the floor. Harding stayed in a fetal position with her husband on top of her and a shopping cart over him.

"The tornado was like a monster coming for us. ... It even sounded like some kind of horrible monster, and though we tried the best we could, there was nowhere to hide," Harding recalled.

Harding kept her eyes closed while the EF-5 tornado flattened the store. She imagined the next time she opened her eyes she would be encircled in the arms of Jesus.

"It lasted a long time, and all I kept saying was, 'In Jesus' name, Lord, protect us.'"

At one point while the massive tornado lingered over them, Casie's husband looked up at it. He later told his wife it looked like they were underwater, the ceiling shifting like waves of the sea.

"I briefly glanced over and saw some young girls gripping each other and telling God that they loved Him," Harding said. "They were begging Him to spare them, and they were praising Him through it all. This storm was about to kill us and yet they were praising Him. I remember praying, 'Yes, Lord, I agree with them,' because the Bible says, 'Where two or more are gathered I will be there with them,' ... and I know He was."

When the tornado finally passed, Harding and her husband were able to dig out of what was left of Walmart with just a few cuts and hail-inflicted bruises. Sadly, many lives were lost there that day.

"I can't believe we survived," Harding said. "At one point we were standing further back in the store and I told Burton that we should move up a little. Then afterward, the area we had moved out of was the most covered. People were buried there, and it would have been us too, had we not moved up four feet."

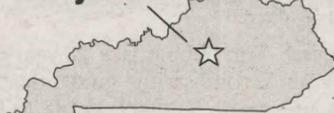
After experiencing such a horrifying nightmare, Harding, a long-time member of Round Grove Baptist Church in Miller, Mo., said she has been made aware of how short life really is.

## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

### Spotlight on ...

#### Perryville



Perryville Church will host a performance by Christian illusionist Greg Farmer June 17. Doug Davis is pastor.

■ **CADIZ**—Cadiz Church will hold a Father's Day breakfast June 19, 9:15 a.m., with Loran Wagoner as guest speaker and Ron Frankhouser as music leader. Kevin Roberts is pastor.

■ **CORBIN**—Central Church recently called Jeff Sparks as minister to students. He previously was youth minister at Sand Spring Church in Lawrenceburg. Chad Fugitt is pastor.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Severns Valley Church will celebrate its 230th anniversary June 19. Bill Langley is pastor.

■ **HUSTONVILLE**—Mount Salem Church recently called Kevin Pittman as pastor. He previously was pastor of Grove Ridge Church in Middleburg.

South Fork Church recently called Mike Mullins as pastor. He previously was interim pastor at the church.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Green Acres Church recently called Phil Ellis as pastor.

Deer Park Church ordained Min Ho Choi to the gospel ministry June 1. David Platt is pastor.

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

■ **MOUNT WASHINGTON**—First Church will host The Inspirations in concert June 16, 7 p.m. For more information, call (502) 538-7361.

"People and loving them are the important things in this world," she said. "You don't know when your last day will be. Walmart seemed safe, but there was nowhere you could run or hide. It was either your time or it was not your time."

"Even as I was waiting for the Lord to take me home, all I could think about was how I wished I had loved people more," she added. "I wished I had done more for them. And I do love people. But after this I will show them even more love." (BP)

## CLASSIFIED ADS

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**SEEKING:** Part-time assistant pastor in Louisville, Ky. Baptist experience preferred. Possible housing furnished. Contact James Hook at (502) 637-4404.

**SEEKING:** Senior pastor for Immanuel Baptist Temple, a Southern Baptist church in Henderson, Ky. Pastoral leadership experience is preferred but not necessarily required. We are seeking the man that God has chosen for us as our next pastor. Send resumé to Pastor Search Committee, Immanuel Baptist Temple, 540 Second St., Henderson, KY 42420, Attn. Larry Pendergraft.

**SEEKING:** Permanent, part-time pianist for Ballardsville Baptist Church. Individual will share musical gift primarily in two Sunday morning worship services and for Wednesday night choir rehearsals. Applicants should be comfortable playing a variety of Christian music and accompanying vocals with other musicians. If you are committed to Christ and serving Him through music, we would like to meet you. Please send your resumé to: Search Committee-Pianist, Ballardsville Baptist, 4300 S. Hwy 53, Crestwood, KY 40014. (502) 222-9165; [www.BBCLife.org](http://www.BBCLife.org).

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

**SEEKING:** Full-time administrative services manager for Hurstbourne Baptist Church. Direct computer-related accounting experience with a small- or medium-sized business is required, as is proficiency with Microsoft Office, and familiarity with Automated Church Systems. Position includes supervision of two employees. Competitive salary and benefits. Send resumé to: Dr. Mike O'Neal, pastor, 8800 Shelbyville Road, Louisville, KY 40222.

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

**SEEKING:** Full-time director (or minister if ordained) of children and youth ministries. Individual called will be expected to spend equal time on both children's ministries (preschool through 6th grade) and youth ministries (grades 7-12) for Flemingsburg Baptist Church in Flemingsburg, Ky. The director will conduct evangelistic outreach, provide Christian education and other activities for children and youth, and their families. A bachelor's degree and/or work experience in youth and children's ministry is preferred; salary commensurate with education and experience. Please e-mail resumé to [fbcyouthchildrensearch@gmail.com](mailto:fbcyouthchildrensearch@gmail.com); or mail to Flemingsburg Baptist Church, PO Box 4, Flemingsburg, KY 41041, before July 30, 2011.

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

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for Sherman Baptist Church in Dry Ridge, Ky. Prefer previous pastoral experience and at least a master's degree from seminary. Please submit resumé, references and a DVD of a recent sermon by mail to Pastor Search Committee, Sherman Baptist Church, PO Box 72, Crittenden, KY 41030.

**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](mailto:bbcpastor1@windstream.net).

**SEEKING:** Director of facilities (custodian) for Fern Creek Baptist Church (approx. 32 hours weekly). Applicant must be a Christian of exemplary character, an active church member, and also must be experienced in custodial work. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Fern Creek Baptist Church, 5920 Bardstown Road, Louisville, KY 40291; or e-mail to [Linda@ferncreekbaptist.org](mailto:Linda@ferncreekbaptist.org). Resumés will be received through June 20. Questions? Call (502) 239-0316, ext. 103 (Linda Barnes Poplar, pastor).

**SEEKING:** Ordained Baptist minister to serve as full-time senior pastor at Midway Baptist Church. Preference for someone with both bachelor's and seminary degrees, six years of ministry experience with three of those as senior pastor. MBC is dually aligned CBF/SBC with both traditional and contemporary services. Additional information regarding MBC and its ministries may be reviewed at [www.midwaybc.net](http://www.midwaybc.net). Send resumé to [office@midwaybc.net](mailto:office@midwaybc.net); or Midway Baptist Church, PO Box 352, Midway, KY 40347.

**SEEKING:** Full-time senior pastor to lead Central Baptist Church (founded in 1911) in Winchester, Ky., as God's church into the next 100 years. We are prayerfully seeking God's will to find a shepherd who is passionate about God's word, sharing the gospel and leading people of every age into a deeper walk with God. Applicants should be Spirit-filled, humble servants, driven to uplift and expand God's kingdom. Please send biographical sketch to Pastor Search Committee, Central Baptist Church, 101 W. Lexington Avenue, Winchester, KY 40391.

**SEEKING:** Bivocational pastor who may become full-time pastor with the expected growth at Cedar Hill Baptist Church in rural Owen County. Must be loving and compassionate, able to work with all ages, and willing to lead the church in growth. Desire 5-10 years of pastoral experience. Send resumé to: Cedar Hill Baptist Church, c/o Church Clerk, 640 Old Monterey Road, Owenton, KY 40359; or e-mail to [swigertt@yahoo.com](mailto:swigertt@yahoo.com).

**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](mailto:gbjobsearch@gmail.com). Go to [www.gardensidebaptist.com](http://www.gardensidebaptist.com) for more information about Gardenside Baptist Church and a pdf version of the full job description.

## Celebrating 100 years of Baptist witness in Israel

By Norman Lytle

This May, my wife Martha and I joined 300 to 400 Israeli Baptists and guests from around the world at the Golden Crown Hotel on the outskirts of Nazareth, Israel, for the centennial celebration of Baptists in the Holy Land. Cries of recognition echoed as friends of many years recognized each other and embraced.

In 1911 Shukri Musa returned to his home in the Galilean village of Safed after spending several years as a student in Dallas, Texas. While in Dallas, Musa was baptized by Pastor George W. Truett and ordained at First Baptist Church.

With the support of the Baptist Missionary Convention of Illinois, in 1911 Musa baptized his nephew, Louis Hanna, as the first Baptist in Palestine. There were already several Baptist churches in Syria to the north. Later, Musa moved to the town of Nazareth where he began his ministry that produced the Nazareth Baptist Church, which is the "mother church" of present-day Baptists in Israel.

The gospel was carried by Musa and his successors to nearby villages and other parts of the country. And, in 1920 the Foreign Mission Board (now International Mission Board) adopted the work of Illinois Baptists. The first missionaries arrived in 1923 to assist local evangelists.

Sponsored by the Association of Baptist Churches in Israel, the anniversary's theme was "Celebrating 100 years of Baptist Witness in the Holy Land." The thrust of sermons and discussions, however, was building upon the past in discerning ministries for the next hundred years.

The ministries of each of the 20 local congregations and Nazareth Baptist School, as well as the recently established Nazareth Evangelical Theological Seminary, were highlighted through five-minute video presentations.

Greetings and sermons were brought by John Upton, president of the Baptist World Alliance; David Coffey, past president of the BWA and global ambassador of the Baptist Missionary Society; Gordon Fort, vice president of the International Mission Board; and others.

Coffey stressed that the Middle East of tomorrow will not look like the Middle East of yesterday, and

Christ's church of tomorrow will not look like His church of yesterday. "Only Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever," he said. Coffey issued a challenge for the Christian believers of the

### FIRST PERSON

Holy Land to be "living stones," standing among the dusty stones of the past and remaining faithful witnesses even as their population declines. As witnesses living in the cradle of the Christian faith, they have a "unique contribution" to give to the Christian world, he said.

Local workers and missionaries from the past 100 years were recognized in several ways. The names of 139 missionaries who served, beginning in 1923, were read, as were the names of national workers who contributed to Baptist work.

Among those named were several with Kentucky connections: Dr. and Mrs. Leo Eddleman, who served in both Jerusalem and Nazareth in the 1930s; Lee and Sarah Bivins, who served at Baptist Village in the 1960s and 1970s; Don and Suzanne Mantooth, who served at Baptist Village in the 1970s and 1980s; Ray and Bev Hicks, who served in Nazareth, Galilee and the West Bank in the 1970s and 1980s.

A particularly emotional moment came when a video greeting from emeritus missionaries Dwight and Emma Baker, of Fort Worth, Texas, was shown. The Bakers served in Nazareth, Haifa and among the Beduine near Arad from 1950 until the late 1970s.

Plaques were presented to local workers and missionaries considered among the "pioneers" in ministry. Kentuckians to receive plaques included Milton (deceased) and Martha Murphey, 1952-1979; Bob and Edwina Fields, 1962-1972, 1989-1996; and Norman and Martha Lytle, 1964-1992.

Many of those honored are now with the Lord, including Pastor Shukri Musa who died of pneumonia in 1928. Missionary nurse Mavis Pate, who died in an armed ambush in Gaza in 1972, and Bible society worker and Gaza Baptist Church member Rami Ayyad, who was kidnapped and murdered in 2007, also were honored for their witness and ministry.

*Norman and Martha Lytle, of Louisville, are emeritus missionaries to Israel (1964-1992) and Russia (1992-1998).*



ISRAEL International speakers with miniature replicas of a Galilean fishing boat that were presented as gifts by ABCI. From left: Gordon Fort, IMB; Hani Billan, pastor of Cana Baptist Church; John Upton, BWA president; Bader Mansour, ABCI general secretary; David Coffey, BMS global ambassador; and ABCI Chairman Monther Naum. (Photo by Norman Lytle)

### Preacher's Kids

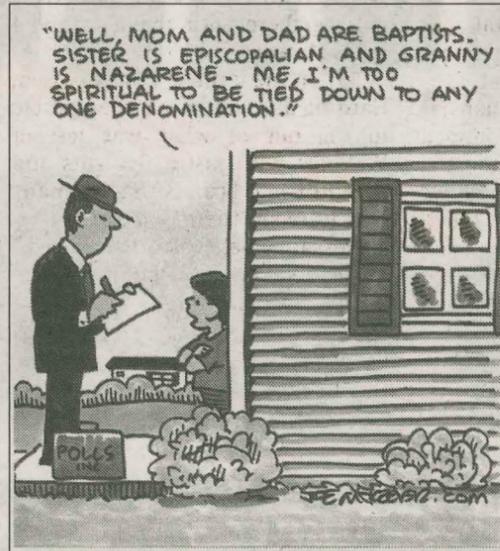


Joe McKeever



Brother Bloop

Dennis Daniel

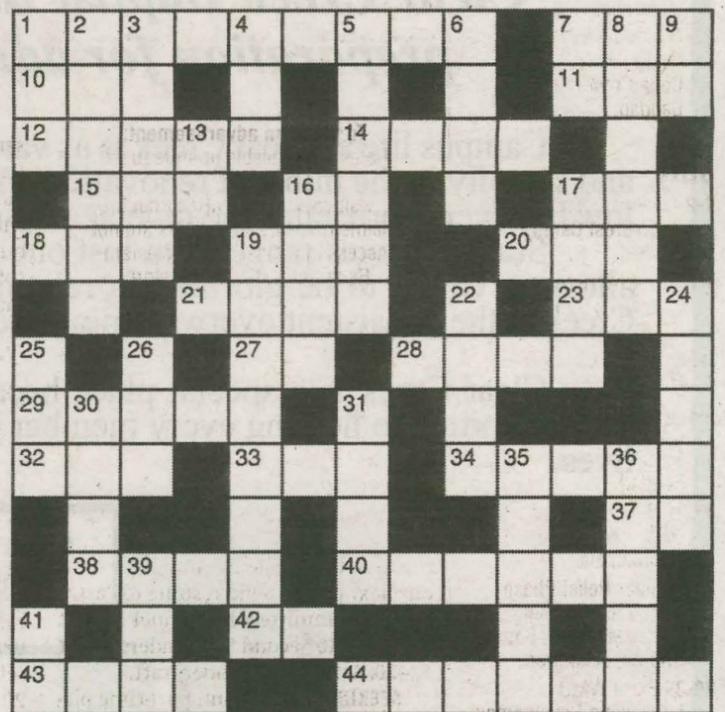
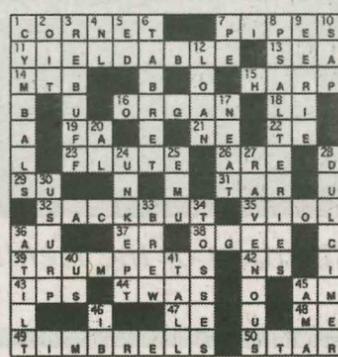


### Bible Crosswords

#### Across

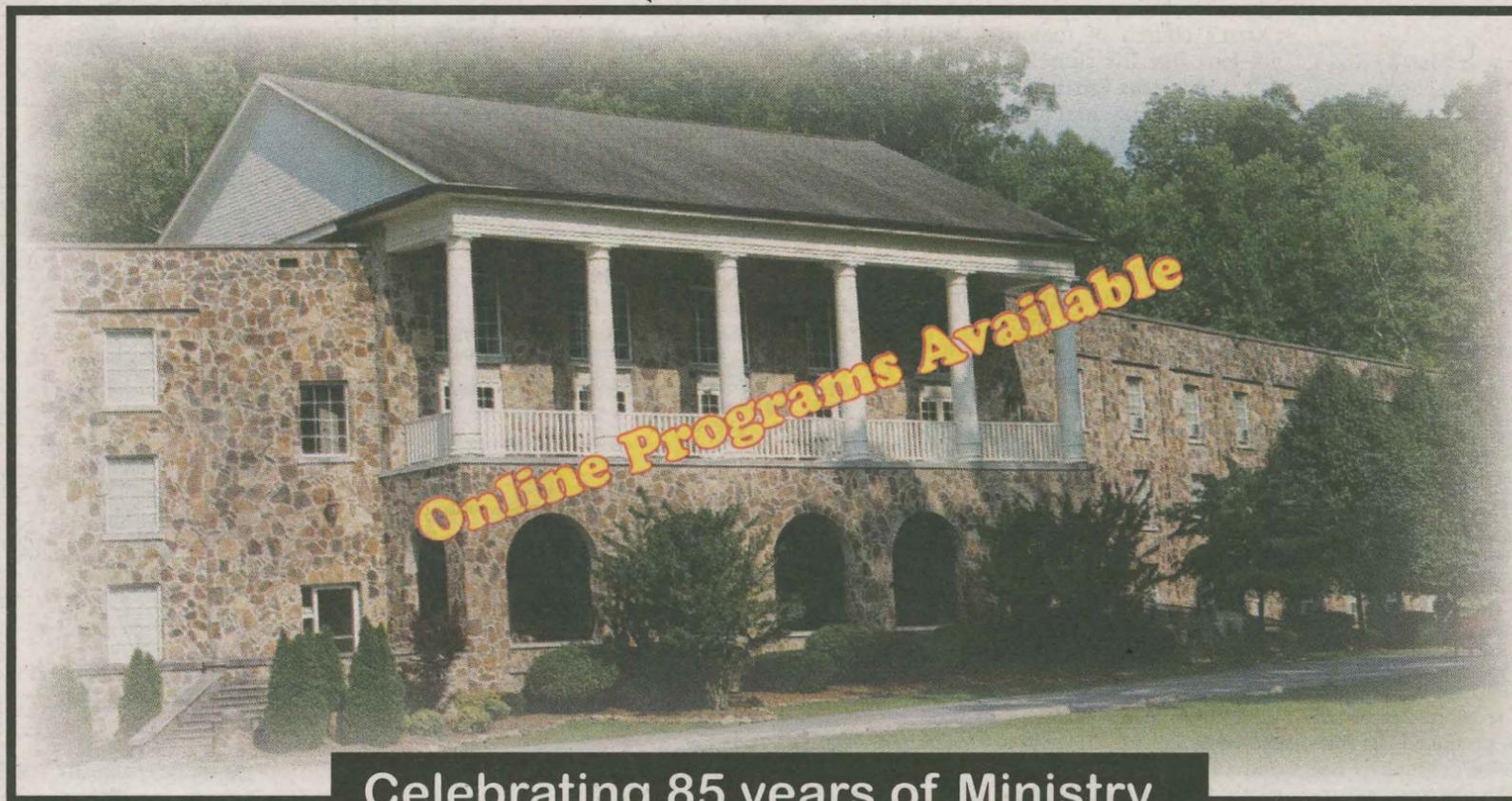
- 1 Enemy (Luke 12:58)
- 7 "He is a \_\_\_ creature" (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- 10 "He turned the \_\_\_ into dry land" (Psalm 66:6)
- 11 "Upon \_\_\_ stone shall be seven eyes" (Zechariah 3:9)
- 12 Meaning abundant flow of water; John was baptizing near there (John 3:23)
- 14 "\_\_\_ us not into temptation" (Matthew 6:13)
- 15 "Woe unto you, Pharisees! For ye tithe mint and \_\_\_" (Luke 11:42)
- 16 "It shall \_\_\_ given him" (James 1:5)
- 17 God cannot live in its presence (Isaiah 59:2)
- 18 "And \_\_\_ the sacrifices of the dead" (Psalm 106:28)
- 19 "The race that is \_\_\_ before us" (Hebrews 12:1)
- 20 "The kingdom of heaven is like unto a \_\_\_, that was cast into the sea" (Matthew 13:47)
- 21 "\_\_\_ his feet in the blood of the wicked" (Psalm 58:10)
- 23 "Light of the body is the \_\_\_" (Luke 11:34)
- 27 Collection of 27 books, abbr. (Nehemiah 9:7)
- 28 "Felling a \_\_\_, the axe head fell into the water" (2 Kings 6:5)
- 29 The only son of Abraham by Sarah (Genesis 17:17-19)
- 32 The coarse and broken part of flax ready for spinning (Judges 16:9)
- 33 "I the Lord search the heart, I \_\_\_ the reins" (Jeremiah 17:10)
- 34 "Of the \_\_\_ of Benjamin" (Philippians 3:5)

#### Last week's solution



- 37 Place in the land of the Chaldees (Nehemiah 9:7)
- 38 "Shall be as an oak whose \_\_\_ fadeth" (Isaiah 1:30)
- 40 "The \_\_\_ of the disciples was multiplied" (Acts 6:1)
- 42 "Your eyes shall see, and \_\_\_ shall say" (Malachi 1:5)
- 43 "And \_\_\_ about the paps with a golden girdle" (Revelation 1:13)
- 44 "Breastplates of fire, and of \_\_\_" (Revelation 9:17)
- 9 "Therefore \_\_\_ conclude that a man is justified by faith" (Romans 3:28)
- 13 That is, Lat. abbr.
- 16 "Bring forth the \_\_\_ robe" (Luke 15:22)
- 17 "If any man among you \_\_\_ to be religious" (James 1:26)
- 19 Make holy (Ephesians 5:26)
- 22 Temporary dwelling (2 Kings 7:8)
- 24 Another name for "bishop" (1 Timothy 5:1)
- 25 "Fall into a \_\_\_ on the sabbath day" (Matthew 12:11)
- 26 "The earth \_\_\_, and trembled" (Psalm 97:4)
- 30 "Lusts, which war against the \_\_\_" (1 Peter 2:11)
- 31 Religious ode (Matthew 26:30)
- 35 Literally means "master," title given by Jews to teachers of their law (John 1:38)
- 36 "I hate robbery for \_\_\_ offering" (Isaiah 61:8)
- 39 "And smote off his \_\_\_" (Matthew 26:51)
- 41 Example, Lat. abbr.

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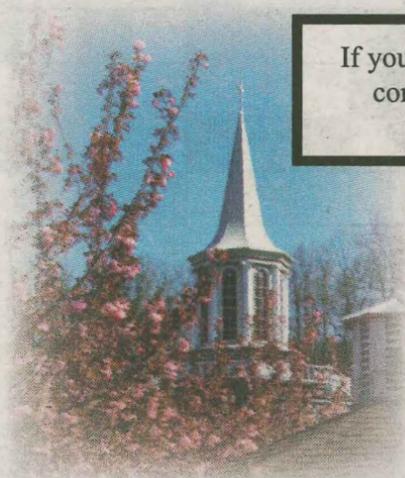
***Clear Creek Baptist Bible College exists to provide educational preparation for adults called of God to Christian service.***

Campus life at Clear Creek is as varied as the species of trees that surround it. There are areas of total peace and serenity in the midst of renovation and new construction that continually occur. A family atmosphere of fellow believers permeates the diverse population of "Clear Creekers".

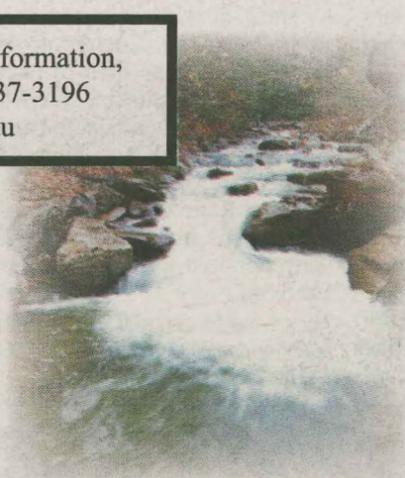
Student's ages range from just out of high school to senior adults. God works in each person individually allowing Christ to be glorified in relationships that will last throughout eternity. The special aspect of Clear Creek is the consistent overwhelming presence of the Living God in the person of the Holy Spirit.

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*Clear Creek is an institution of the Kentucky Baptist Convention*