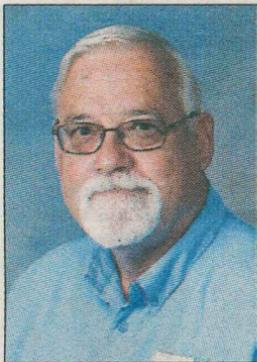


Shine like stars in the world
Philippians 2:15

WESTERN Recorder

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FOR THE RECORD



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Smithfield native and IMB missionary Robert Morgan dies while serving overseas in Southeast Asia. *Page 2.*



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'Expensive year'

Kentucky's \$10,000 is small fraction of nearly \$1 million distributed by NAMB for disaster relief work in 2011

Alpharetta, Ga.—The Kentucky Baptist Convention so far this year has received \$10,000 in disaster relief funds from the North American Mission Board. That's barely more than 1 percent of the total funds the entity has distributed in 2011 for relief efforts.

NAMB announced last week it has sent \$950,000 to Baptist conventions in several states, most of which were hit hard by tornadoes and violent storms this spring.

The funds have been distributed based on a formula that prioritizes the states' needs, according to NAMB President Kevin Ezell.

The amount of funds distributed by state includes:

- Alabama, \$494,000 (52 percent of the total funds).
- Missouri and Tennessee, \$114,000 each (12 percent each).
- Mississippi, \$66,500 (7 percent).
- Arkansas and Oklahoma, \$57,000 each (6 percent each).
- Georgia, \$47,500 (5 percent).

"We are disbursing all the funds we received for spring storm relief," Ezell said. "We are grateful to Southern Baptists for their generosity and want them to know the money is going where it is most needed."

Kentucky's allotment

Breaking down the \$10,000 received thus far for Kentucky Baptist disaster relief efforts, \$5,000 was distributed for teams that did clean-up work in Alabama following the dead-

☐ See *Disaster relief ... Page 3*

Henderson racetrack to add Instant Racing machines

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Henderson—Less than a week after Instant Racing machines were approved for a racetrack in Franklin, a Henderson track announced it, too, is going to install the machines there.

Ellis Park in Henderson, along the Indiana border, said July 19 it soon will install the slot machine-like Instant Racing games at the track. Officials said they plan to make a \$3 million investment in the machines.

Ellis Park owner Ron Geary said that even though there is litigation pending to determine the legality of the Instant Racing machines, he is going ahead with the plan to install them. He said he expects them to be operational within the next few months.

The Kentucky Court of Appeals still has yet to decide if Instant Racing games even are legal in the commonwealth. The machines, which resemble slot machines, allow bettors to wager on

past races without knowing where or when the races took place.

On July 14, the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission unanimously approved up to 200 Instant Racing machines at Kentucky Downs in Franklin. That move precipitated the Ellis Park decision and may start the expanded gambling dominoes falling in the state, a Kentucky Baptist pastor said.

If Instant Racing machines are allowed, "expanded gambling will quickly make its way to every other Kentucky racing site in short time," predicted Kevin Milburn, pastor of Union Baptist Church and chair of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Committee on Public Affairs.

"I encourage every single Kentucky Baptist to refuse to give up in our mission to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world," he said.

He also urged concerned citizens to contact their legislators. That information can be found at www.lrc.ky.gov/Legislators.htm.



Association acquires child care unit for disaster relief response

By Dannah Prather
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Hopkinsville—Christian County Baptist Association is taking the lead in providing survivors of natural and man-made disasters a safe place to care for their children during the worst of times.

Christian County Baptists have outfitted a temporary child care unit where volunteers can provide children fun, gospel-centered activi-

ties, allowing parents and guardians time to take those first steps toward recovering from a disaster.

Volunteers are needed for the new unit, and information and instruction soon will be available at Kentucky Baptist disaster relief training sessions.

The child care unit is just one more way Kentucky Baptists can share the gospel message and the

☐ See *DR child care unit ... Page 2*

IMB missionary, Kentucky native Morgan dies

Singapore—Robert Morgan Jr., an international missionary and native of Smithfield, died of a heart attack July 14 while cycling in Singapore. He and wife, Regina, served more than 23 years as Christian workers in Southeast Asia—most recently teaching at an orphanage on a remote island in East Indonesia. Morgan was 64.

While most of his time was spent overseas, Morgan and his wife occasionally would have the opportunity to visit their home church, said Ed Life, pastor of Smithfield Baptist Church. The couple allowed members to “put a face on missions work,” Life noted, and would re-energize the congregation about the Great Commission.

Robert Morgan “was sold out to the leading of the Lord,” Life said of Morgan. “He was a good guy, and he was dedicated to the Lord’s work overseas and anywhere he happened to be.”

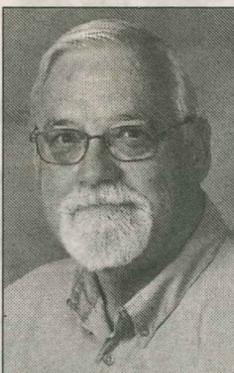
Life said he planned to use Morgan’s favorite Bible verse as part of the funeral services that were held July 24 in Smithfield. The verse, Colossians 1:27, in part reads: “Christ lives in you, and He is your hope of sharing in God’s glory.”

“I think others could see Christ in him,” Life said of Morgan.

Overseas ministry

In Southeast Asia, his loving manner made an impression on his co-workers and friends, including Lestari Nasution,* an Indonesian office assistant whom Morgan supervised. She described him as a personable man who hated to be called “boss” and who kept in touch after a change in ministry assignments. He often sent her e-mails

Robert Morgan Jr., a native of Smithfield, was an International Mission Board missionary to Singapore, along with his wife, Regina. The couple served in Southeast Asia for more than 23 years. Robert Morgan died July 14 of a heart attack while cycling.



asking for updates about her family. Observing him, Nasution said, taught her about Christlike behavior.

“I learned so much from him, ... his leadership, his attitude ... and his patience,” she said. “He was a very patient person. It’s a big loss for many people down here.”

Christian worker Bob Fuller* said Morgan’s willingness to leave a desk job and move to a rough environment illustrated his spiritual dedication—especially since he took the assignment later in life. Most people in their 60s would rather live in relative ease and comfort, Fuller noted—but Bob and Regina Morgan were not most people.

“He was probably one of the most helpful people I’ve ever met—very kind,” Fuller said. “He definitely had a great love for the church and wanted to see the church grow and strengthen, and he really had a heart willing to serve anywhere. ... When many would be ... winding down what we already have going, Bob and Jean went to a hard-to-reach area.”

Morgan’s Christian work began early in life. Born in Smithfield, he was the oldest of seven children and accepted Christ at age 9. He attended Eastern Kentucky University where he met Regina, whom he married in 1968. He graduated a year later with a bachelor’s degree in chemistry.

Morgan received a master of divinity degree in 1971 and a master of religious education degree in 1972 from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. For the next nine years, he served as pastor or youth director in churches from Michigan to Florida.

He led a church in Augsburg, Germany, from 1975-78, but toward the end of the decade, he and his wife felt the Lord calling them to ministry through the IMB. They were appointed missionaries in 1981.

The Morgans planted churches on the island of Java until 1997, when they returned to the U.S. The couple moved back home to Kentucky, and Morgan became a pastor once again. Six years later, in 2003, they felt the Lord calling them back to Indonesia.

Morgan served as a business manager initially, but eventually he and Regina felt God leading them to a remote island in East Indonesia. There, the two led Bible studies and taught at an orphanage.

In addition to his wife, Morgan is survived by a son, a daughter and three grandchildren.

Funeral services were held July 24 at Pre-witt New Castle Funeral Home in Henry County.

*Names changed for security reasons

Compiled from reporting by Partnerships Director Robin Bass and the International Mission Board

DR child care unit

Continued from page 1

love of Christ with people in need, said Coy Webb, disaster relief associate for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

“Imagine you are a child who has lost everything in a disaster—your home, your toys, your clothes, your room,” he said. “This trailer is equipped with everything a team would need to respond to those needs and to share the love of Christ with hurting children.”

Brightly colored storage modules on wheels are organized with toys, games and other materials appropriate for children of various ages.

The modules themselves are useful, creating the “walls” of a portable classroom so volunteers can more easily keep watch over the children.

There also is a water heater, clothes washer/dryer unit, small refrigerator, microwave, double sink and a portable changing table.

Tom Westerfield, a “blue cap” supervisor for Kentucky Baptist disaster relief, is in charge of the emergency communications unit and now coordinates the child care unit. A member of First Baptist Church of Hopkinsville, he said he saw firsthand the need for a child care unit several years ago in Virginia following a hurricane.

“My duty one day was to stand at the front of the feeding line, greeting individuals and families as they came through, listening to their stories and offering understanding,” he recalled.

“A young lady with three little children came to the line. They were all grungy dirty, hungry and thirsty,” Westerfield said. “The mother told me that all they had to drink was water collected in cans in her back yard.”

The woman talked about the many things she needed to be doing to try to secure temporary housing, clothing and the other necessities for her and her children, “but she had lost her child care situation,” which made those tasks difficult to accomplish.

Westerfield said when he heard that Southern Baptist disaster relief ministries in other states were providing emergency, short-term child care in disaster areas, he wanted to help equip Kentucky Baptists to meet that need, too.

A disaster relief trailer that had yet to be outfitted was available. Westerfield shared his idea among his fellow Christian County Baptists. A financial contribution from a couple—also members of First Baptist, Hopkinsville—enabled the association to purchase the equipment and materials to make the unit a reality.

Now, what is needed most, are volunteers, Westerfield said.

For details about the new unit or upcoming disaster relief training events, contact Kentucky Baptist disaster relief by e-mail at DR@KyBaptist.org, or call (502) 489-3401, or toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3527.



Tom Westerfield

Training session designed to equip volunteers to teach English overseas

Owensboro—The Kentucky Baptist Convention is providing training in English as a Foreign Language to men and women interested in teaching overseas as a way to share the gospel message with others.

The training will be held Aug. 13, 8:30 a.m., local time, at Bellevue Baptist Church in Owensboro.

In many foreign cultures, learning English is a significant life goal, said Rebecca Carnell, literacy consultant for the KBC. With proper training, Christians can share the gospel with people overseas while helping them achieve this goal.

Carnell said the class also is helpful to those individuals already teaching English in an established ministry and wish to sharpen their skills.

Participants will learn how to plan and prepare an EFL lesson, introduce new vocabulary, teach pronunciation and involve students in communication activities. Upon completing the class, participants will receive EFL certification from the North American Mission Board.

The course fee of \$15 per person includes materials, a light breakfast and lunch. Registration is recommended. Contact Maria Wood at MWood@Bellnet.org or call (270) 685-5103 by Aug. 6.



Kentucky Baptist CP giving at a glance

Giving for June 1-30, 2011 & Year-to-Date

Monthly budget goal:	\$ 1,958,333
Actual giving:	\$ 2,069,044
Over budget:	\$ 110,711
Year-to-Date goal:	\$ 19,583,333
Year-to-Date actual giving:	\$ 18,688,434
Under budget:	\$ 894,866

Ky. Baptists' Cooperative Program giving exceeds \$2 million in June

Louisville—Kentucky Baptists gave more than \$2 million to missions through the Cooperative Program in June.

The total of \$2,069,044 exceeded the monthly budget goal of \$1,958,333 by more than \$110,000.

As the 2010-11 fiscal year winds down Aug. 31, CP support still is \$894,866 behind the budget goal of \$23.5 million.

Lowell Ashby, head of the KBC’s business services team, said Mission Board staff have been operating from a “spendable budget” throughout the fiscal year that is 5 percent less than the overall budget goal.

“It is our goal to be the best stewards possible of CP dollars, so we prepared early on to do more with less,” he said.

Kentucky Baptists’ CP gifts have exceeded the spendable budget goal through June of \$18,604,167 by \$84,268.

“With rising gasoline and food costs, it is humbling to see how Kentucky Baptists consider the Cooperative Program just as necessary in their daily lives,” Ashby said.

One of the ministries supported by Cooperative Program dollars is Kentucky Baptist collegiate ministries.

“This time of year students are preparing to go back to college, or parents are sending their kids to campus for the first time,” noted Billy Compton, the KBC’s executive associate for Cooperative Program and resources.

“Each campus ministry is a lighthouse connecting students to Christ through evangelism, discipleship and missions,” he said. “I am so thankful that Kentucky Baptists support campus ministries through the Cooperative Program and in other ways.”

Go! Africa summits to be offered at Super Saturdays

Louisville—Under the leadership of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's partnership missions department, Kentucky Baptists are embarking on a new season of ministry overseas—this one in the four African nations of Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

"Go! Africa" is a one-year initiative to share Christ, disciple those who already have accepted the gospel, and provide hands-on assistance to residents of the coastal region in southeastern Africa.

Informational sessions about Go! Africa will be offered at each of the upcoming Super Saturday leadership development events. Super Saturdays will be held Aug. 27, Sept. 10 and Sept. 17 at various locations throughout the state.

"At the 'Go! Africa' sessions, we will share about the exciting, challenging opportunities for Kentucky Baptists to answer their personal call to fulfill the Great Commission," said Scott Pittman, the KBC's partnership missions director.

"Those opportunities include evangelism, discipleship, training, disaster relief and construction projects in these African nations," he explained.

Each session will be held during the 2 p.m. class sessions at the Super Saturday events in Elizabethtown, Lexington, Paducah, Owensboro and Prestonsburg. Find out more about Super Saturday at www.Ky-Baptist.org/SuperSaturday.

Baptist.org/SuperSaturday.

An additional component to Go! Africa is the ongoing effort to renovate Sanyati Baptist Hospital in Zimbabwe. Volunteers with Kentucky Baptist disaster relief, working with Baptist Global Response, helped launch the five-year effort in May.

According to Coy Webb, the KBC's disaster relief associate, the medical care that the facility provides is just one aspect of its importance to the people of the area.

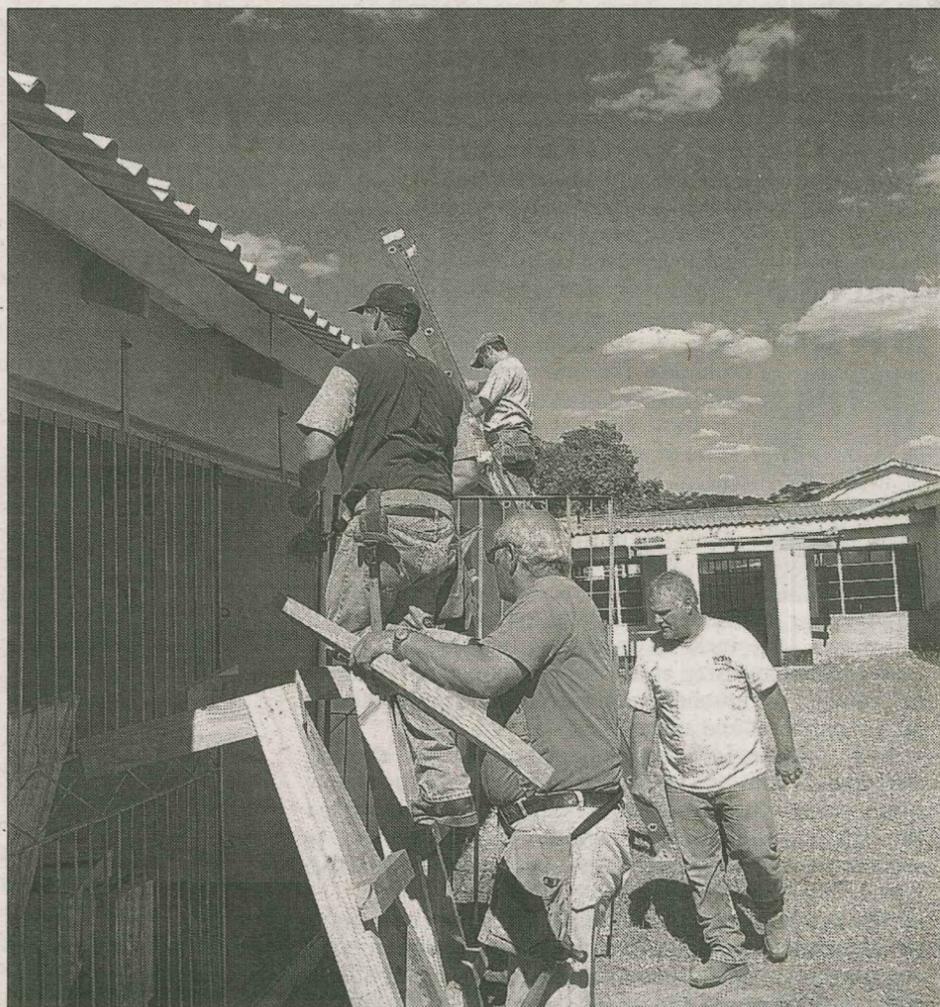
"The hospital plays a strategic role in evangelism and church planting in Zimbabwe," noted Webb, who was among the team serving in Sanyati in May.

"The hospital has planted 150 churches in its over-50-year history, and has a goal of planting 15 new churches during this makeover," he explained.

Volunteers are needed to replace roofs, make electrical repairs, build new cabinets and undertake many other major repairs of the facility.

"The purpose of 'Go! Africa' is two-fold," Pittman said, "first, to meet immediate needs in these areas, and second, to develop ongoing relationships between participating churches and African Baptists."

To stay informed about Go! Africa contact the partnership missions department by e-mail at Partnership@KyBaptist.org, or call (502) 489-3529, or toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3529.



'EXTREME' SERVANTS This crew of Kentucky Baptist disaster relief volunteers was one of the first groups to work on the "extreme makeover" of the Sanyati Baptist Hospital in Zimbabwe back in May. That project and others in Africa will be the focus on summits at each of the Super Saturday training events hosted by the Kentucky Baptist Convention in August and September. (BGR photo)

Disaster relief

Continued from page 1

ly tornado outbreak there in late April. More than 60 Kentucky Baptist volunteers served through the official disaster relief network, while countless church groups also have made trips to help residents of the storm-battered state.

The remaining \$5,000 distributed to the KBC by NAMB was used for flood clean-up work in the commonwealth. DR crews responded to flooding in several areas of the state, most notably Paducah and West Point, from April to June.

Close to \$1 million given

Through early July, donors had given nearly \$1 million to support NAMB disaster relief efforts through the state conventions, noted Carlos Ferrer, NAMB's vice president and chief financial officer. That amount is in addition to monies Southern Baptists gave through state conventions.

"It's been an expensive year for disaster relief," said Mickey Caison, NAMB's disaster relief coordinator, "and we haven't begun to get money for our upcoming North Dakota flood response yet."

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief currently is gearing up for a major response in Minot, N.D., where flooding of the local Souris River has impacted 4,000 homes, requiring extensive mud-out work.

Kentucky Baptists will be part of the North Dakota response, sending two teams of eight people each next month. It will be the fourth out-of-state response for Kentucky DR volunteers this year. In addition to Alabama, KBC teams have served in Ohio (flooding) and Massachusetts (tornadoes) since March.

With this year far from over and the annual hurricane season ongoing until

Nov. 30, Southern Baptist disaster relief in 2011 will be remembered as the year of deadly tornadoes, historic flooding, an unusual number of state wildfires, earthquakes and even a tsunami.

Except for 2005—the year of Hurricane Katrina—SBDR staff and volunteers seldom have been so taxed and spread so thin.

"We've had a lot of states involved in a lot of responses," Caison said, adding that he thinks the SBDR network is continually gaining strength.

"Even though we've been stretched thin and involved in so many different states, our state leaders and volunteers continue to step up in ministry," Caison said. "We've had the diversity of disasters in past years but not the diversity of disasters spread across so many states."

Yet, 2011 will go down as another successful year, not just because of the thousands of SBDR volunteers who have worked across the U.S. and Canada, and not because of the 412,000 meals prepared, the 28,000 volunteer days served or the 4,000 mud-out and chainsaw jobs completed.

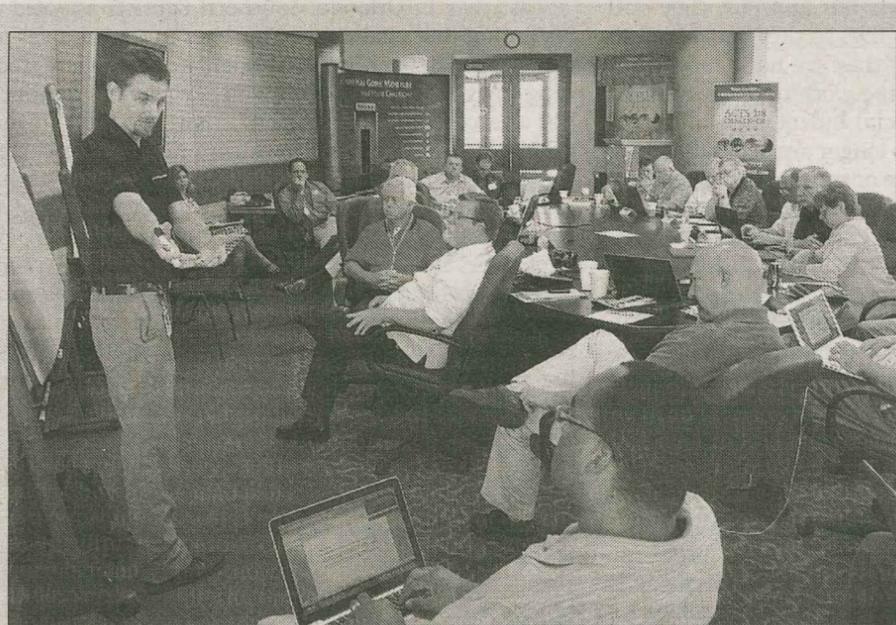
Its success will be measured in the 100-plus people who were led to Christ and 22,000 gospel presentations, ministry contacts and chaplaincy contacts made during the first seven months of the year.

Ky. Baptist DR by the numbers

In 2011, Kentucky Baptist disaster relief teams have:

- Worked 1,442 volunteer days.
- Served 593 meals.
- Completed 54 mud-out jobs.
- Completed 130 chainsaw jobs.
- Provided 846 showers.
- Washed 101 loads of laundry.
- Made 525 ministry contacts.
- Presented the gospel 42 times.
- Led seven people to make professions of faith.

Compiled from reporting by News Director Drew Nichter and Mickey Noah of NAMB



GOSPEL CHALLENGE Shane Critser (standing), the North American Mission Board's church mobilization team leader, emphasizes the importance of reaching North America's cities through evangelistic church planting as part of the Acts 1:8 challenge. (NAMB photo)

Acts 1:8 Challenge leaders chart future

Alpharetta, Ga.—Southern Baptist missions leaders are making plans for the future of the Acts 1:8 Challenge initiative to mobilize churches to reach their communities and the world with the gospel.

Launched in May 2004, the Acts 1:8 Challenge is designed to encourage Southern Baptist churches to take a fresh look at how they plan and execute their missions efforts.

"How do we move Southern Baptists and mobilize them from their heart's desire to where God wants them to be?" asked Neal Hughes, NAMB's mobilization coordinator.

The overarching question for the group, though, was how will state con-

vention partners, local associations and their churches interact with NAMB with its regionalized focus and with the IMB as it assists churches to reach unreached people groups in North America.

"The only way we'll do this is if we continue to partner with churches who desire to reach unreached people groups," said Eric King, IMB's director of missional church strategists team.

"We are challenging churches to pray and explore God's direction for the long haul," he added. "We're looking for churches to commit and do whatever it's going to take and however long it's going to take to see an effective church planting strategy for these people groups." (BP)

Co-laborers in the mission

In communicating to the search team some key areas I want to focus upon as I begin to serve Kentucky Baptists, I was aware that many other important roles for the Kentucky Baptist Convention will always exist. Still, I see five "opportunity areas" that can help us ensure you of the value of your Cooperative Program investment and, God willing, grow that investment.

**Together
We are the KBC**

Paul Chitwood

As I stated last week, the first opportunity concerns the Great Commission Task Force report. The second opportunity concerns the relationships between the KBC and local churches and their pastors.

Know that, at the KBC, you have a team of men and women whose very calling is to serve you and your church. Whether you need assistance with children's or youth ministry, help starting new Sunday School classes, planning a missions trip, or preparing a realistic budget or building plan, your KBC staff includes specialists in these and many more areas of ministry, as well as a vast network of contact information of churches and ministers who are willing to offer suggestions and advice.

Your staff also includes many gifted preachers and former pastors who are willing to fill the pulpit or simply share about the Kingdom work being accomplished through your Cooperative Program gifts. We are here to serve you, so call on us! And, if you are a pastor, don't be surprised if we call on you.

While the members of the KBC staff are here to serve the churches of Kentucky, the staff is not the sum total of our convention. I fear that many Kentucky Baptists have come to think of the KBC as what happens "at the Baptist building" or the conferences and ministries directed by the staff. I pray our vision for the KBC can be expanded so that every Kentucky Baptist realizes that all of us, together, are the KBC.

In order for our partnership to yield the greatest Kingdom impact, every Kentucky Baptist must see themselves as co-laborers in the mission. I hope that a sense of unity and partnership will always characterize our relationships within the convention.

Strong relationships and a deep sense of trust will ensure we are never foes of one another, but rightly understand that our foe is "the accuser of our brethren" (Rev. 12:10). Can I count on you?

Let me know how we help you and/or your church become more excited about investing your Kingdom resources through the Cooperative Program.

Send me an e-mail at paul.chitwood@kybaptist.org or post your suggestions on my blog at paulchitwood.com.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Rise in 'gray divorces' points to needed ministry

It is an alarming trend—or, at least, it should be.

One-fourth of all divorces in 2007 involved couples who had been married 20 years or longer, according to an article in last Tuesday's Courier-Journal. "The breakup of a decades-old union is all too common," wrote Bill Ward. "Most of those opting not to wait 'till death do us part' are baby boomers," he added, calling them "the most divorce-prone generation in history." From the looks of it, traditional wedding vows are being revised to read "as long as we both feel like it."

The term "baby boomer" frequently is used to describe persons who are roughly between 46 and 64 years old—approximately 75 million people, representing nearly a third of the population. That, in itself, should be a reason for the church to be concerned. But, experts are telling us that "gray divorces," couples deciding to split up after a lifetime together, are on the rise. "While only 23.4 percent of people over 70 have been divorced, that number jumps to 35.7 percent for people in their 50s," the article stated. FOX\Business recently reported, "Statistics from the National Center for Family & Marriage Research at Bowling Green State University show that despite the overall divorce rate in the U.S. dropping over the last 20 years, the divorce rate among people age 50 and over has doubled."

Darlys Harmon-Vaught, a certified analyst with Divorce Financial Solutions in Louisville, also has noticed this increase in "gray divorces." Of her 100 recent cases, she estimates 80 percent involved a spouse who was over 50 years old. The rise stems from a variety of factors, she believes, including longer life expectancy, changing societal views about marriage, acceptance of gender equality in the workplace, and development of no-fault divorce laws. "People are living much longer now. When they are in their 50s and 60s, they still have 20 to 25 more years to live, so they decide not to stay in a marriage in which they are not happy," Harmon-Vaught said. Entering the workforce has allowed women to have more financial independence, she explained, noting that they no longer are dependent on a husband's income, insurance or retirement benefits.

From her vantage point, Christians need to be more aware of and sensitive to the emotional needs of couples who find themselves in the midst of the divorce process. These individuals may feel isolated from mutual friends, who are no longer sure how to relate to them, and from former activities they once enjoyed together. The church community can provide a pivotal ministry of healing through literature, Bible studies, social gatherings and support groups, she emphasized.

**After
Thought**

By Todd Deaton

"We need to have more understanding—I'm not going to say acceptance—of the reality of divorce, and that it is not always a healthy situation for someone to stay in a particular relationship," she said, citing issues such as physical abuse, drug addiction, alcoholism and infidelity. "It is more essential to keep a divorced Christian in the family of the church, instead of their feeling isolated and dropping out," she emphasized.

Contrary to popular belief that there is little difference between church and society as far as divorce rates are concerned, Christian researchers have shown a link between attending worship regularly and having happier, more stable marriages. Bradford Wilcox, a sociologist at the University of Virginia, found that "active conservative Protestants" are 35 percent less likely to divorce as compared to secular Americans. In a 2007 survey, George Barna found that while one out of every four evangelicals had gone through a divorce, they are less likely to have done so than the overall population, where one in three had experienced a divorce.

Still, Walter Jackson, a pastoral care counselor in Louisville and former seminary professor, maintained: "The church can be grateful for this information. Secular society has given us a focus target for ministry to married people during the first 20 to 25 years." These writers have identified for us a group needing special attention, Jackson said, pointing out the need to strengthen husband and wife bonds, particularly during stressful times such as the child-rearing stage of adolescence and when a spouse returns to a career or seeks a job to help pay for a house or a child's education, he said. "We need to educate pastors in our seminaries and through field education seminars to help our families," he advocated.

Last year in Orlando, Southern Baptists adopted a resolution that challenged churches to lead couples to commit to lifelong love and fidelity and to view wedding vows "not simply as a token of a couple's romance but as a covenant before God." They also encouraged churches to be proactive in ministering to families in crisis and in strengthening marriages. To baby boomers, Laura Petherbridge, author of "When 'I Do,' Becomes 'I Don't,'" in a column for Christianity.com, perhaps offers the wisest response to this alarming trend: "(R)ecognize that a lengthy marriage, grown children and grandkids doesn't guarantee that a marriage won't end in divorce. It's important to continue working on the relationship, recommit to the vows, and address any problems that arise, well into the senior years." To that, I'd add: "And stay in church."

A lesson in crabgrass

By Joy Bolton

Crabgrass is about to take over my yard. It's my own fault. A few years ago we decided to discontinue the lawn service that sprayed our yard for weeds. We thought that we could purchase the needed products and do it ourselves for less money.

As things went, we sprayed a few times, but never with the consistency of the lawn service. This year, we never sprayed at all. And now we have crabgrass everywhere, choking out the grass that we want to grow. Now our dilemma is what to do. Do we go back to the lawn service, try again on our own, or give up?

Many churches have allowed the crabgrass of missions ignorance to take over. They decided that missions education was not needed or that they could do it themselves. What has happened over time is that people in their churches have little understanding of the Cooperative Program, the finest support system for missions in the

world. People in their churches have little appreciation for how Southern Baptists appoint and support missionaries through a multifaceted system that depends on both the Cooperative Program and missions offerings.

A lady called me to offer to give to Kentucky WMU all of the unused Royal Ambassador and Girls in Action material from her church. I shared with her how concerned I was about the decision of her church at the very time that Kentucky WMU is starting a new effort to promote missions education for boys and girls. While it seems that others had made this decision, she acknowledged that the kids had no clue about missions. She told me that she teaches children's church and from time to time includes missions lessons. She said that the kids just do not know about missions and that we have missionaries sharing the gospel around the world. But the real tragedy was this statement: "We can't find leaders.

No one will teach the children."

Why are churches apathetic about our children? Are we too busy? Too preoccupied with our own "spiritual growth" to be bothered with teaching kids? Are we looking for some flashy program that will magically instill biblical, moral and missional values?

Like my decision to stop paying for a lawn service to spray my yard, I did not notice the difference at first. But now, after several summers, my yard is a mess and I am sadly going to have to start over in getting rid of the weeds. When churches change to other programs or just drop programming for our kids, we may not see the missions ignorance crabgrass right away, but it will come.

Don't let missions ignorance take over in your congregation. Start or strengthen missions education and involvement. People who know why and how we as Southern Baptists do missions want to pray, give, and go.

Joy Bolton is executive director of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union. This column appeared on her blog, "Discovering the Joy of Missions."

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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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'He's there, too' ... even on the streets of Beijing and Xi'an

My mother was a Baptist saint. She was also a masterful storyteller. How could she be anything but, with two boys—two preacher's kids—two years apart to rear.

Our father was a Baptist saint and a bi-vocational minister; he already had a pharmacy degree and owned a drugstore when he was called to preach. So, he promptly sold his Kentucky drugstore, and after a year at a small Baptist college where he took more Bible courses to prepare him for the rigors of a seminary education, we moved to Fort Worth, Texas, where Dad enrolled at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He worked 40-hour weeks at a large drugstore chain, and drove his family 170 miles on Sundays to Fulbright, Texas, to pastor his first church.

We stayed with a ranching family in the afternoons, where my brother and I learned the delights of a real outhouse while Dad looked over his sermon notes on the front porch. Then, after the evening service, we drove back to Fort Worth, listening to Billy Graham's "Hour of Decision" program. I don't know how he did it; only God's grace saw him through. Dad certainly never complained. He was too caught up taking classes with Ray Summers, William Estep and T.B. Maston to notice the long hours.

God's grace sustained Mom as well. She told stories to Steve and me to put us to bed at night. She told us stories as we waited for Dad to come home from work in the late afternoon. And, she sometimes fabricated stories just to find a few minutes peace in those long mornings before we were old enough to go to school.

For example, she would sometimes arm me with an old kitchen spoon and suggest that I find my favorite "digging place" in our backyard. "Remember," my mother would say, "if you dig long enough and deep enough, you'll come out in China on the other side." For the first half hour of the enterprise I was always determined, and it didn't hurt that I had visions of a small, black-haired, almond-eyed Chinese boy just my age, poking the ground with chopsticks on the other side of the world. I figured we would eventually meet somewhere in the earth's middle.

We finally did meet, not as five-year-old boys, but 50 years later, and not in middle earth, but in the Middle Kingdom on the streets of Beijing and Xi'an, where I recently spent two weeks representing Murray State University in China. And, I found someone else there, too. A member of my Sunday School class at Murray's First Baptist Church had told me the Sunday before I left for China that "He's there, too." Sure enough, as we say in Kentucky, the risen Lord was there—on the other side of the world!

Despite the crackdown of Chairman Hu Jintao, Christianity continues to grow in China. House churches, unsanctioned by the government, continue to exist and grow. In fact, according to David Aikman in "Jesus in Beijing: How Christianity is Transforming China and Changing the Global Balance of Power," Christianity is especially evident on college campuses across China. Since the Nestorian missionaries of the 7th century during the Tang Dynasty, Christianity has changed lives in the Middle Kingdom. Today, there are millions of Christians in Communist China.

Just as my mother taught my brother and me that timeless truth that "Jesus loves the little children, all the little children of the world; red and yellow, black and white; they are precious in his sight; Jesus loves the little children of the world," I have become convinced that the transcendent Christ, while Jewish in his humanity, is comfortable with all the children of the world, identifying with Him in their own way. Alfred Shaddick Burt (1920-1954) wrote in his moving Christmas carol:

"Some Children see Him lily white,
the Baby Jesus born this night.
"Some Children see Him lily white,
with tresses soft and fair.
"Some Children see Him bronzed and brown,
the Lord of heav'n to earth come down;
"Some Children see Him bronzed and brown,
with dark and heavy hair.
"Some Children see Him almond eyed,
this Saviour whom we kneel beside,
"Some Children see him almond eyed,
with skin of yellow hue.
"Some Children see him dark as they,
sweet Mary's Son to whom we pray;
"Some Children see Him dark as they,
and ah! They love Him too!
"The Children in each different place
will see the Baby Jesus' face
"Like theirs, but bright with heav'nly grace,
and filled with holy light.
"O lay aside each earthly thing,
and with thy heart as offering,
"Come worship now the Infant King,
'tis love that's born tonight!"

Why should it amaze me that wherever I go in this old world, He's there, too?

Duane Bolin teaches in the Department of History at Murray State University. He also teaches a Sunday School class at Murray's First Baptist Church.

A Letter from the Laity



Duane Bolin

Views differ on tithing

By Doug Strader

In one issue of Leadership magazine, there was an article titled, "Money, Meet Mouth." The article alleged that pastors and church members hold widely different views on tithing.

The article uses a study that was conducted by Ellison Research and Gallup that shows a big gap in the 10 percent rule. According to their research they found:

■ Only 56 percent of clergy said that there was a biblical mandate for Christians to give 10 percent of their income to the Lord through their church, and only 30 percent of Protestant church members believe that the Bible mandates tithing through their church.

■ The two denominations that adhere the closest to the tithing mandate in the Bible are Pentecostals and Southern Baptists.

■ Generosity shows in more ways than money. Regular churchgoers are more likely to volunteer time to charitable organizations; 62 percent of the respondents donate to both religious and non-religious groups.

There are some disconcerting aspects to be gained from the research. Maybe the most disconcerting is the fact that only a little more than half of the Protestant ministers surveyed believe the Bible teaches tithing through the church. If pastors do not believe in and teach tithing to their parishioners, how will they become good stewards of their resources?

Another disconcerting fact is that only three of 10 church members believe tithing is a biblical mandate. Some surveys among Southern Baptists reveal that only a very small percentage of church members tithe. Some surveys reveal that the average Southern Baptist gives only 3 or 4 percent of his or her income to the Lord through the church. So Southern Baptists have much work to do in the area of biblical stewardship.

Southern Baptists can find some consolation in the fact that, in general, we scored better in the research than most. However, we cannot boast because the percentage of tithers among Southern Baptists continues to decline. In the average church, 15 to 20 percent of the members are giving 80 to 90 percent of the money that the church receives. If all Southern Baptists tithed, most church budgets would quadruple.

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



Take a 'marriage vacation'

By Valerie Vincent

Summer is a time for family vacations. Have you ever thought about a "marriage vacation?" The marriage relationship is often taken for granted and ignored as the pressures of jobs, church, volunteering, children's sports, camps, school, friends, family, house and yard—and now social media—demand our time, energy and attention.

A marriage vacation is time set aside to focus on the marriage by removing yourself from the normal routine:

- Choose a time and setting that you both can enjoy each other.
- Be intentional about removing distractions that would pull you back in to routine responsibilities.
- Focus on your spouse.
- Look for ways to be thoughtful and considerate.
- Practice your very best manners.
- Smile. Be friendly. Laugh.
- Walk side by side.
- Be open and share what is important to you about your life and your faith right now.
- Pay attention to what is shared. Listen to what your spouse values.
- Hold your spouse. Create a safe and loving harbor in your arms.
- Think about your spouse as God's precious son or daughter, loved and valued.
- Explore your spouse's heart. What is treasured?

This kind of marriage vacation can bring refreshment, renewal, and abundant living.

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



The state of church planting in the SBC

By Ed Stetzer

LifeWay Research, in its Viral Churches research, examined church planting strategies and the effectiveness of all Protestant denominations. Leadership Network invested heavily in the research. While doing the research, I listed the denominations and groups that were strongest and those that were struggling in church planting. Later, Warren Bird, director of research and intellectual capital at Leadership Network, and I published the research project in the book "Viral Churches."

We discovered and reported that the SBC is not one of the leading denominations in church planting. Facts are our friends, but some people mistook my honesty for disloyalty.

Well, NAMB has now publicly stated that it is planting at a rate "under" 2 percent. The reality is that our numbers tell us that we are not particularly effective at church planting.

Let's take two examples for comparison.

As a denomination, the Assemblies of God has 12,457 churches. Last year, they planted 325 churches. A few years ago, I had the privilege of spending two days with the Assemblies of God leadership, helping develop their strategy that later became the Church Mul-

tiplication Network. They have increased their planting to one new church a day. Their rate is about 2.6 percent (up from 2 percent in 2008 and 2.1 percent in 2009). They have opened the first part of 2011 with 177 new churches, tracking at a 3 percent pace, or almost twice the SBC rate.

Steve Pike, national director of the Assemblies' Church Multiplication Network said in a recent e-mail: "We've actually decided to have a holy dissatisfaction with a 3 percent rate." Citing the 3 percent number as a "break-even" pace, he said, "That's why our near-term goal is 500 churches a year—it increases our pace well past the 3 percent break-even level."

Let's look at a Baptist group with impressive results. The Baptist General Conference (also called Converge Worldwide) planted 64 churches last year in a denomination of 1,150 churches—a rate of 5.5 percent.

In the NAMB presentation at the SBC, President Kevin Ezell announced that NAMB can say with certainty that 769 churches were planted this past year. Since we have 45,727 churches, that means we planted at a rate of 1.68 percent last year. Therefore, the SBC is almost a percentage point less than what the Assemblies of

God does and about a third of what the BGC does. The SBC is below the rate that most scholars think is needed for basic growth, which may contribute to our membership decline.

We have a long way to catch up with other evangelicals, but that is not my goal. It just helps us to define reality. That reality is that we cannot reach North America (and the world) without a more aggressive church planting engagement.

Why should everyone in the SBC be concerned about church planting? Even those who are not directly involved with it will experience a benefit. As I mentioned, the Baptist General Conference is planting churches at a much higher rate than Southern Baptists—and guess what? They have almost doubled the size of their denomination in the last 20 years.

In case you are wondering, the SBC potentially would have 30 million members right now if we had that same focus. Can you imagine the implications of a giving, going and growing SBC with more than 30 million members? Friends, communities and nations would be impacted for the glory of God and the gospel of Jesus Christ!

Ed Stetzer serves as the vice president of research and ministry development for LifeWay Christian Resources.

FIRST PERSON



Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Douglas Carver (center) receives the two-star rank from wife, Susan, and Lt. Gen. James Campbell, during the 2007 ceremony in which he was promoted to Army chief of chaplains, the first Southern Baptist Army chief of chaplains since 1954. Carver retires from that post this month. (BP file photo)

Chaplain Douglas Carver looks ahead to 'transition,' not 'retirement'

By Adam Miller
North American Mission Board

Phoenix—When Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Douglas Carver retires from the Army this month, the U.S. Army's Chief of Chaplains will take with him experiences with the armed forces' men and women that have helped form and transform him.

The first Southern Baptist in more than 50 years to assume the role of Army Chief of Chaplains in 2007, the two-star general will retire after more than 38 years of service.

"I don't use the word 'retirement,'" he noted. "This is a transition. God has ordered up something special beyond the Army. I don't know what it is, but it's something exciting."

In his final weeks of duty, Carver has "little white space on my calendar." He returned from an April base circulation in Afghanistan to an array of stateside visits and appearances—among them the Southern Baptist Convention in Phoenix.

The busyness has done little to quell the emotion or distract him from the swell of memories.

"I've made friends literally around the world, including many from other nations, and to walk away from that—there's nothing that prepares you for that," Carver said. "I cannot go back. I cannot put my uniform back on and go into this community. I'm flooded with wonderful memories of great ministry experience."

Carver's military career dates back to 1972, when he joined the Army right out of college during Vietnam; earned a Ranger tab; and received the Bronze Star among other recognitions for exceptional service. After six years, he went into the Army Reserves, attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville and later was pastor of a church in Colorado Springs, Colo.

But he couldn't escape the call he'd always had to the military while serving as an Army Reserve chaplain at Fort Carson during those years.

In 1984 he went active again, this time taking a position as a North American Mission Board-endorsed Army chaplain, pulling together his callings to the military and to the pastorate.

Of the many experiences that stand out over the 27 years of chaplain work, standing alongside soldiers during wartime has been at the heart of Carver's work.

"No one wants to go to war, but it was rewarding to stand beside them as we crossed the borders from Kuwait to Iraq," Carver said, referring to military action following Sept. 11. "I didn't just send them. I joined them. I will always cherish and honor that opportunity to be in harm's way and to be with soldiers 24 hours a day."

And, Carver said, what he's seen God do among soldiers around the world makes him long to see



'THANK YOU' North American Mission Board President Kevin Ezell (left) and NAMB chaplaincy team leader Keith Travis (center) honor retiring Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Douglas Carver, the Army Chief of Chaplains, during NAMB's report at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Phoenix. (Photo by John Swain/NAMB)

God work in civilian churches back home.

Carver was recognized during NAMB's presentation June 14 at the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting.

"Major General Carver, you are retiring this summer after 38 years of service and tonight we want to say thank you for your years of service," NAMB President Kevin Ezell said during the presentation. "Thank you for the way you have served our troops and for the way you have served the American people."

In his next chapter of life, Carver said he hopes God will use him to awaken Christians outside the military to the reality of war around them.

"There's a call to arms, so to speak, for the civilian church to wake up to what is going on with the desperation that people are experiencing and to call them to Jesus," Carver said. "If the local church is not experiencing the intensity that is in the air, I will probably be one of those that God will use to awaken them to what is going on around them and around the world."

"It's just as desperate outside the uniform and outside the Army," he continued. "Not only the wars and rumors of wars. But look at the earthquake in Japan; floods and tornadoes in the Midwest and Southeast. There's a struggle going on to face the difficulties in the age in which we live and not to throw in the towel, but to declare we serve a God who is our stone of help in these desperate times."

As unfamiliar as it seems to him, Carver will be a civilian at the end of the month, and he said he plans to use the "white space" on his calendar to strengthen his devotional life, his marriage and to serve the church. (BP)



HONORED J.W. "Jack" MacGorman (center), a distinguished professor emeritus of New Testament at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, is joined by others at a 2001 ribbon-cutting ceremony for a conference center named in MacGorman's honor on the seminary's Fort Worth campus. The school's new chapel also will bear the retired professor's name, the seminary recently announced. The chapel is expected to open Dec. 1. (BP file photo)

SWBTS chapel to be named for prof

Fort Worth, Texas—Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary will name its new chapel the J.W. "Jack" MacGorman Chapel in honor of its distinguished professor emeritus of New Testament.

According to a news release from the seminary, the couple who gave the lead gift for construction of the chapel, chose to honor MacGorman for his "steadfast friendship, passion for God's word and humble dedication to the Lord's work."

Chapel construction remains on schedule for the dedication ceremony on Dec. 1.

"Few names in the 100-year

history of Southwestern Seminary have been any more prominently or effectively associated with Southwestern than Dr. and Mrs. J.W. MacGorman," Southwestern Seminary President Paige Patterson said.

For 56 years, MacGorman was active at the seminary as a student and professor. Since his retirement in 2001, he has remained connected to the life of the seminary, helping in classes and attending chapel services. Southwestern honored him with a Distinguished Alumni Award in 1986 and the L.R. Scarborough Award in 2008. (BP)

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Carrier chaplain wants shipmates to 'See God in Me'

By Mickey Noah
North American Mission Board

Norfolk, Va.—Southern Baptist chaplain Fred Holcombe Jr. shepherds a flock numbering 3,500-5,800 people—the population of a small town.

But this “town” is more than 18 stories high, 1,123 feet long, 200 feet wide and takes up 4 and a half acres. When fully loaded, this town weighs in at 95,000 tons—yet it floats.

It is the USS Enterprise, the “Big E”—the world’s first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier and, when launched in 1962, the longest naval vessel in the world. Its home port is Norfolk, Va., where the Big E has left for one of her final six-month deployments before she is scheduled to be decommissioned—after 51 years of service—in 2013.

But until then, Lt. Cmdr. Holcombe, 47, has a full-time job to do. Fortunately, he’s not the only chaplain on the carrier. There are three others—the command chaplain who is Presbyterian, a Catholic priest and another Southern Baptist chaplain.

“The old saying on a ship is that every

day is Monday except Sunday,” Holcombe said. “On Sundays, we obviously have church. In fact, we have many, many different services go on each Sunday.”

As a chaplain, Holcombe said he not only prepares weekly sermons, but his mission is to share the gospel and take care of his floating flock, most of whom average 18-25 years of age.

Holcombe assists Enterprise crew members with any kind of issue they might have—from a sailor who’s run afoul of his chain of command, to helping someone salvage or maintain a marriage, to even talking some sailors out of committing suicide. He also spends time just visiting the aircraft carrier’s living and work areas—every

nook and cranny—of the Big E, no small feat when you consider it spans the length of five football fields.

“With all the spaces we have on board the ship, there’s always somebody to go visit,” Holcombe said, “and they all want a visit from the chaplain, even the folks in the (nuclear) reactors and other places you may not think a chaplain would typically go. But we’re always welcomed and well received because they’re happy somebody’s coming in to see them.”

Non-stop ministry

For six months, it’s a ministry that spans 24 hours a day, seven days a week. There’s no wife, kids or house to go home to

each night, just the claustrophobic close quarters of a tiny stateroom Holcombe shares with another officer—a complete stranger at the beginning of the six-month voyage, but certainly not at the end.

“You have to have a very forgiving spirit of the people around you,” Holcombe said. “You tolerate what they do and they tolerate what you do. There’s a camaraderie that is built and tested in a refining fire. It’s amazing to watch the interpersonal relationships that go on and how an individual begins to grow close and the word ‘shipmates’ becomes a term of endearment, not a derogatory one.

“As a chaplain, there are times you feel like you can never be off, you always have to be on,” he added. Yet crew members “see who you are, and I can tell you I want them to see God in me. I want them to see a person who is genuine ... even with all my bumps, bruises, warts and scars.”

What earns military chaplains the right to be heard, Holcombe said, is the very fact that they are present and accounted for among the soldiers, airmen or sailors.

“The saying is true that people don’t care what you have to say or what you know until they know how much you care,” Holcombe said. “The ship’s crew knows I’m there enduring the same things they are—the separation from their families, the hardships and the long hours.”

The chaplain said he believes the real unsung heroes of the Navy are the military spouses—both men and women—who keep the home fires burning.

“When you think about leaving your home for six months and you’re married, there are things that happen,” Holcombe said. “You leave one person and when you go back home, something mysterious has happened. You’ve changed and so has your spouse. So, you begin to have these anxieties of the reunion because you wonder how she has changed, what’s she done and how you have changed in ways you may not even recognize.

“The amazing thing about my wife, Wendy, is that she is just as sold out to do this for God as I am,” Holcombe said. “I think that is such a quality in her life that God is able to give her the strength and dependence on Him to endure the separations and the hardships we have.”

Back home in Norfolk, Va., the Holcombes have two sons—Brent, 20, and William, 9—who also endure the long months without their dad’s presence. Fred and Wendy celebrated 16 years of marriage in May when he was deployed somewhere on the other side of the world serving his country, but most importantly, serving God. (BP)



A FLOATING MISSION FIELD
Southern Baptist chaplain Fred Holcombe serves as one of four U.S. Navy chaplains ministering to the thousands of sailors on the USS Enterprise. (NAMB photo)

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Campus Crusade for Christ adopts name change, now known as 'Cru'

By Adelle Banks

Fort Collins, Colo.—Campus Crusade for Christ is out. "Cru" is in.

The 60-year-old evangelical ministry announced its new name at a staff conference in Fort Collins, Colo., July 19, saying the old name had become problematic.

"We've been having issues with two words in the name—campus and crusade," Steve Sellers, a vice president who oversees the ministry's U.S. operations, said in an interview.

Though the Orlando, Fla.-based organization began on campuses in 1951, it has expanded to more than two dozen ministries focused on various topics.

When Campus Crusade was founded by the late Bill Bright and his wife, Vonette, the word "crusade" typically referred to the large, stadium events held by evangelists like Billy Graham.

"In today's culture it carries more weight in terms of its historic meaning," Sellers said, with people thinking "more to the days of the Crusaders and dealing with the Middle East as opposed to a positive use of the word."

Cru isn't the only religious organization that has moved away from "crusade." Wheaton College, Graham's alma mater in Illinois, changed its mascot from Crusaders to Thunder in 2000. Graham's son Franklin leads "festivals" instead of cru-

sades, and his grandson Will holds "celebrations."

In a Frequently Asked Questions feature on its website, the ministry explained why leaders also opted to take the word "Christ" out of its title.

"Cru enables us to have discussions about Christ with people who might initially be turned off by a more overtly Christian name," the response read. "We believe that our interaction and our communication with the world will be what ultimately honors and glorifies Christ."

During the extensive renaming process, Sellers said researchers found that 9 percent of Christians, and 20 percent of non-Christians, were turned off by the original name.

The name Cru—already used on many U.S. college campuses—will be used throughout the United States. Most of the international ministries affiliated with Cru use a name other than Campus Crusade for Christ.

Sellers said the name of the umbrella organization, Campus Crusade for Christ International, still will be used for now.

"From the beginning, Bill (Bright) was open to changing our name. He never felt it was set in stone. In fact, he actually considered changing the name 20 or 25 years ago," Vonette Bright said in a statement. "We want to remove any obstacle to people hearing about the most important person who ever lived—Jesus Christ." (RNS)

NAME CHANGE Bill Bright and his wife, Vonette, co-founded Campus Crusade in Southern California in 1951, selling their food business and an Oklahoma drilling company to start the organization. Sixty years later, Campus Crusade for Christ has been renamed "Cru." In a statement following the name-change announcement, Vonette Bright said her husband, who died in 2003, often thought about changing the organization's name, and nearly did so more than 20 years ago. "He never felt it was set in stone," she said of the Campus Crusade for Christ name. (Photo courtesy of Campus Crusade for Christ International)



An ever-changing family

Oneida faculty member recalls many special memories during her 25 years

By Martha Harmon, OBI faculty

The 2010-11 school year was my 25th at Oneida Baptist Institute. As I reminisce, I think of changes and events that stand out in my memory.

I remember on my first visit to Oneida, seeing boys working on the hillside helping to clear brush. Today there are two buildings on that site. It was April 1986 and Barkley Moore was president. My friend and I enjoyed the famous Barkley Moore tour. We spent the night in the guest house, Anderson Hall, and visited Floy DeJarnette who was supervisor of the special help department.

With one brief exception during all my years at Oneida, I have worked as a tutor in the special help department, which now is called the tutoring lab.

I've seen many changes over the years. The mobile homes which were staff housing have been replaced with more permanent dwellings. Several other buildings also have been added. The farm program has expanded to include more students, girls as well as boys. The students work with goats, pigs, calves and steers and in planting and harvesting feed crops. The research computer lab with Internet access is a very popular and useful addition.

Students and staff come and go—an ever-changing Oneida family. We live and work together in a close-knit community. There are opportunities for firm, lasting friendships, as well as challenges to show Christlike love and patience. Most of the staff help in other positions in addition to their regular jobs. Some are coaches, some run errands to town, others volunteer in

the dormitory offices. Our various skills are put to use in many areas of ministry.

Volunteering in the dormitory has given me the opportunity to see the students in a different setting than the classroom. This enhances understanding of the two aspects of student life and perhaps better coordinates the efforts between dorm life and academics.

Another change that happens every year, usually in the summer, is that some staff move from one housing unit to another. Needs change and as people come and go, other housing becomes available. I have lived three places during my 25 years.

When I lived in an apartment in the girls' dormitory the first five years I was at Oneida, I had many opportunities to provide extra tutoring to international girls. The tutoring and interacting with the girls are among the special memories I never will forget.

Other special memories include friendships made and help received in hard times. Revival times when numbers of students came to Jesus are a blessing. There are memories of several floods. Some drama productions, such as "The King and I," made lasting impressions. The deaths of some of our Oneida family are sad memories. We will never forget the death of Barkley Moore in January 1994.

God brings people to Oneida and fits us together in a unique way that only He can. Amid all the changes, one thing remains the same: our mission to meet the needs of our students in a Christian living and learning environment.

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

This is Oneida



W.F. Underwood

Marriage debate continues at Senate's DOMA hearings

Washington—A historic Senate hearing on a possible repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act last week revealed a large divide on beliefs about the definition of marriage. It also showcased opposing arguments on a subject traditionalists say often is misunderstood—the purpose of marriage and government's role in it.

The July 20 hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee marked the first time any Senate or House committee ever held a hearing on overturning the 1996 law, which defines marriage for federal purposes as between a man and a woman and gives states the option of not recognizing another state's same-sex marriages.

The Respect for Marriage Act, endorsed by President Obama, would overturn the 15-year-old law known as DOMA.

"I think what we have is a situation where a lot of folks simply don't understand what marriage is," Edward Whelan, president of the Ethics and Public Policy Center, told senators.

Whelan, who supports the 1996 law, said marriage is tied to procreation and child rearing, which can only lead to a traditional definition. Austin Nimmocks, an attorney with the Alliance Defense Fund made a similar argument.

"Entrance to marry has never been conditioned upon a couple's actual ability and desire to find happiness together, their level of fi-

nancial entanglement or their actual personal dedication to each other," Nimmocks said. "Rather, marriage laws stem from the fact that children are the product of the sexual relationships between men and woman, and that both fathers and mothers are viewed to be necessary for children."

The government has an interest in defining marriage as between a man and a woman, Nimmocks said, because it has an interest in the future generation and it recognizes the unique and complementary differences of mothers and fathers. He quoted the 1996 Senate Judiciary Committee report which argued that society has a "deep and abiding interest in encouraging responsible procreation and child rearing."

Opponents of the Defense of Marriage Act, though, argued that the law has prevented same-sex couples from receiving the federal legal benefits of marriage.

"Those who are lucky enough to live in states that do permit them to marry, they still face a federal government that treats their marriages as if they do not exist," said Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign. "So, on behalf of the tens of thousands of married same-sex couples in this country, ... I urge Congress to pass the Respect for Marriage Act and to end the federal government's disrespect for and discrimination against lawfully married same-sex couples." (BP)

Ministering to the hurting

Lovett's personal experience leads him to help county heal

When we sing, "Lord, send a revival," we are reminded of a deep spiritual truth: "and let it begin with me." Revival does not sweep churches or communities without touching individual hearts and lives.

Manchester residents had watched their part of the world slip deeper into hopelessness. Their county had been ravaged by drug problems. The community revival that came when people looked upward in desperation still is studied all over the country. If we study it deeply, we find a collection of individual stories.

Manchester minister Anthony Lovett's story must be added to the collection. Pastor of Horse Creek Baptist Church, Lovett shared through the local newspaper that his earliest memories were touched by substance abuse. Abuse and violence at the hands of an addicted stepfather make up Lovett's memories as far back as age 3. For Lovett, it doesn't matter if you are talking about drugs or alcohol, he can identify with lives touched by substance abuse.

The God who promised He would work all things together for good claimed the right to do just that as He revealed His purpose in

the life of Anthony Lovett.

"God was not part of our family growing up," Pastor Lovett told a Manchester Enterprise reporter.

It became obvious that God did have a particular interest there though, and Lovett was saved at age 18. With a real father figure in God Himself, a new heart capable of real forgiveness, and a new life surrendered to his new Father, Lovett was ready to see how God can use even the most dismal of experiences to His glory.

God called Lovett to the ministry, and brought him to Clear Creek to be equipped for the pastorate. The pain substance abuse had brought to a

3-year-old heart now fueled a passion to help others who are hurting in the same way.

God was at work in Clay County and in Anthony Lovett. The same God who earlier had brought revival now brought a pastor with a message of hope. Lovett said he is thankful he is not where he used to be, he has not forgotten where he came from, and knows God prepared him for ministry in Clay County.

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

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

The Afterlife: More questions than answers?

By Kim Lawton
Religion & Ethics NewsWeekly

Grand Rapids, Mich.—For millennia, people have been trying to imagine what happens after death. Is there an afterlife, a heaven? Who gets in? And what happens to those who don't?

Books trying to provide answers to these age-old questions continue to be best sellers, and some, like "Love Wins" by mega-church pastor Rob Bell have ignited intense debate, especially among evangelical Christians.

"A lot of people, the conception they were handed of the Christian faith is that you go around making judgments: So-and-so we know for sure is burning forever in the place," Bell told Religion & Ethics News-Weekly. "You don't know that. That's speculation."

According to the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, an overwhelming majority

of Americans believe in life after death. Some 74 percent believe in heaven and almost 60 percent believe in hell. The majority of Americans also believe that many religions can lead to eternal life. Evangelicals, though, are more likely to say theirs is the one true faith that leads to eternal life.

Mary Vanden Berg, an assistant professor of systematic theology at Calvin Seminary in Grand Rapids, Mich., put it pointedly: "There is one sure way to know that you will spend eternal life with God, in the presence of God, and that is through faith in Jesus Christ."

Bell offers a more expansive view. He's pastor of the nondenominational Mars Hill Bible Church just outside Grand Rapids, which has some 10,000 weekly attendees. He's also a popular speaker whose videos have a huge international following among younger evangelicals.

"For me, interacting with countless peo-

Rob Bell has "tremendous influence, especially with younger evangelicals, and I think that's why we have to talk about this, because we're very concerned about the loss of the gospel."

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President Albert Mohler



ple over the years who literally are carrying around an image, 'God is not good, and God is not good because my grandmother dies and at the funeral the pastor wanted us all to know for sure that my grandmother was burning in torment forever,' he said.

Instead, Bell points to Scriptures where Jesus said he is restoring all things and drawing all people to Himself.

"And Jesus tells stories in which the key character doesn't give up on whatever is lost," he said. "And I think we should take that seriously. I don't know what God has in mind, but I do know that this story that Jesus tells causes us to pause before we make any of those sorts of judgments. Be very careful because God may be up to something way, way bigger than you've ever been able to comprehend."

Heaven, according to Bell, is not a far-away place but a renewal of the earth that begins here and now. He believes the spectrum of people who will be part of it is "wide and expansive." Hell, he claimed, is the consequence of choosing not to be part of God's massive embrace.

But Vanden Berg said the Bible is "pretty clear that when the end comes, that's the end. You don't have a second chance. Now might there be? Could God do that? I don't know of any theologian that would say God couldn't. God can do whatever God wants to do, but what does the Bible say? The biblical text doesn't indicate this at all."

Many evangelicals have been stern in their condemnation of Bell, and some even have called him a heretic.

Bell has "tremendous influence, especially with younger evangelicals," noted Albert Mohler of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, "and I think that's why we have to talk about this, because we're very concerned about the loss of the gospel. Not just getting a doctrine wrong, but the loss of the gospel in this."

In June, the Southern Baptist Convention voted to reaffirm its belief in the reality of hell as an "eternal, conscious punishment" for those who don't accept Jesus.

Evangelicals also say Bell doesn't give enough importance to passages where biblical authors describe God's judgment toward sin.

"When (biblical writers) talk about God's great love, it's always set against the backdrop of God's righteousness, God's wrath, God's holiness," said Justin Taylor of the Gospel Coalition, an evangelical network of traditionalist scholars and pastors.

"We care about people and people who have grown up in the church, who have sung these same songs, who are being won over by somebody who has produced great videos and is a good communicator, but is ultimately teaching a false gospel," Taylor added. (RNS)

N.Y. town clerk resigns over gay marriage law

Granby, N.Y.—A town clerk in upstate New York has resigned her position as town clerk over the state's gay marriage law.

Ruth Sheldon, a town clerk in Granby in Oswego County, is the second clerk to submit her resignation since same-sex marriage was legalized in New York last month.

Sheldon said her decision was a difficult but obvious one. She said she stands on her belief that the Bible expressly forbids homosexuality.

"I believe the Bible is the word of God," she said. "I could not violate my conscience and my faith by signing a

document that I feel I cannot sign."

It is possible Sheldon never would have been faced with signing a same-sex marriage certificate. She has signed only 12 marriage licenses this year—and all last year she signed 13. But she said she couldn't take that chance.

"If I had to come to work every day with trepidation that somebody might come in asking for that kind of license, it would be very difficult to do my job," she noted. "And if I recommended that they go to another town or city clerk I would be opening myself up to discrimination, and it's not my desire to discriminate against other people." (RNS)

Record summer comes to a close

Crossings sets records for 2011 with even more in store for 2012

By Lindsay Swartz, guest services coordinator

It's hard to believe Crossings Camps is wrapping up another summer; 2011 has been the year of breaking records. We've had more guests than ever before at Crossings Camps; more money given during a single week of camp to the Beyond Effect offering than previous years; and are anticipating more decisions for Christ and full-time ministry.

As we start to reflect on this summer, the Lord has been gracious to give us so much to look forward to in another year of ministry.

In fact, we already have begun to be blessed with a record number of registrations for 2012. With three weeks of camp left, we have more than 6,000 students and adults registered for camp next year. Compared to registrations this time last year, that's about a 59 percent increase.

While we're not driven by sheer numbers at Crossings, we believe healthy growth is a good measure of how well we are investing what the Lord has entrusted to us. Much like the parable of the talents, we have been given an important portion of what belongs to the Master, and we pray

to be found faithful in the end, presenting Him with a fruitful increase when He returns (Matthew 25).

We're especially grateful for this increase in registrations because it means more souls get an opportunity to hear the gospel and cross over from death to life through faith in Jesus Christ (John 5:24). There is no greater privilege for us, and we exist to present students with the living, life-changing word of God so they can come to know Christ or more fully experience Him.

It's always humbling to see the Lord provide in such abundant ways and know that His particular plans are perfect for each student, adult and staff member that will be a part of Crossings next summer. We pray

you'll join us in celebrating this gift of expanding ministry in an economy that's contributing to lower camp attendance across the nation. Pray we'll be found faithful.

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.

'Shop for a Cause'

Sunrise teams up with Kentucky's Macy's stores to help Sunrise kids

This past year, more than two dozen children served by Sunrise Children's Services earned their high school diplomas or GEDs. This educational achievement is a milestone in any child's life, but given the obstacles kids who have suffered from abuse and neglect must overcome, graduation serves as proof that a better life is possible.

Many of these young people have expressed a desire to continue their education in college or vocational school, some already have found employment and some have enlisted in the armed forces. They enter adulthood with a feeling of accomplishment and confidence that was realized because people like you cared. Your continued support of Sunrise ensures that success stories like these continue.

Sunrise children, just like children everywhere, will be preparing to return to school in the coming weeks, and that offers you with another way of helping.

Sunrise has partnered with Macy's Department Store to give you an opportunity to save money and help our agency.

Macy's sixth annual "Shop for a Cause" will be held on Aug. 27 and will benefit

charities nationwide, including Sunrise. Simply acquire a special shopping pass from Sunrise, either by calling our offices at (800) 456-1386, or by downloading it from our website, www.Sunrise.org. With the \$5 pass, you will receive 25 percent off of regular, sale and clearance merchandise throughout the store. Shoppers who purchase a pass also will be eligible to win a \$500 gift card.

Sunrise will get to keep 100 percent of the proceeds from selling the shopping passes.

There are six Macy's stores in Kentucky at the following locations:

- Greenwood Mall in Bowling Green.
- Fayette Mall in Lexington.
- Florence Mall.
- Jefferson Mall and Oxmoor Center in Louisville.
- Towne Square Mall in Owensboro.

As you do your back-to-school shopping, this is a wonderful opportunity to help the children of Sunrise at the same time.

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

Sunrise Children's Services



Bill Smithwick



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July

29-30 Excel WMU Leadership Development Event, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

August

20 Super Saturday-Hispanic, First Baptist Church, Hopkinsville.
27 Super Saturday, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

September

8 Retired Director of Missions/Spouse Luncheon, Severns Valley Baptist Association Office, Elizabethtown.
10 Super Saturday, Lone Oak First Baptist Church, Paducah; Porter Memorial Baptist Church, Lexington.
10-17 MissionsFEST, Bell County Baptist Association, Middlesboro and Pineville.
17 Super Saturday, Bellevue Baptist Church, Owensboro; First Baptist Church, Prestonsburg.
19-20 Kentucky Baptist Ministers' Golf Tournament, Cherry Blossom Golf & Country Club, Georgetown.
21-23 Missionary Retreat, Mammoth Cave National Park.
23-24 Men's & Women's Chorale and Wind Orchestra Retreat, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.
24 Children in Action Day Camp, Buck Creek Baptist Church, Calhoun.
24 Men's Chorale Concert, First Baptist Church, Hodgenville.
28-10/2 Adult Kentucky Changers—East, Louisville.

Tates Creek DOM Valentine retires

Berea—Hamilton "Hamp" Valentine retired as director of missions for Bates Creek Baptist Association June 30 after more than 13 years of service.

"Hamp has been a tremendous director of missions for us," said Moderator Roger Bartley, a member of First Baptist Church of Richmond. "He put in place an excellent ministry team to carry out the work of the association, and he brought a missions emphasis, leading us to serve throughout the United States and in other countries."

During Valentine's tenure, the association's 43 churches have exhibited an Acts 1:8 focus. More than 94 volunteers from nine associations in five states—including 43 from Bates Creek—have been involved in its eight-year missions partnership with Botswana, Africa. Ministering in six villages, they built two churches, conducted eye and AIDS clinics and led various discipleship studies. More than 2,430 professions of faith were recorded.

In 2010, Bates Creek sent four missions teams to work in Panama, and four more will go this year. The association also was involved in a

partnership in Montana. Currently, it partners with Jackson County Baptist Association in Pascagoula, Miss., sending four to six teams each year.

Through an active disaster relief ministry, eight rebuilding teams have traveled to the Gulf Coast since Hurricane Katrina. Another team will be going in October.

Among its area ministries, Bates Creek works with Bluegrass Baptist Hispanic Ministry and First Baptist Church of Richmond in Hispanic outreach, and it has joined three of its churches in sponsoring Grace Baptist Deaf Mission. In 2006, Bates Creek launched a youth evangelism outreach, Youth Connect, which has seen 97 professions of faith and 68 commitments.

"One of the things we have decided is that we want to see this kind of missions emphasis continue, and we will be looking for someone who is interested in doing that," said Bartley, who serves as co-chairman of the DOM search committee.

Valentine, who suffered a heart attack about a year ago, and his wife, Sandra, plan to move back to Mississippi to be close to children and grandchildren.



Hamp Valentine

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

Spotlight on ...

Cold Spring



First Church will hold a free screening of the new film "Courageous" July 28, 7 p.m., for all pastors, ministry staff members and law-enforcement officers. For more information, call (859) 441-6184 or visit www.fbccs.com. Ronny Raines is pastor.

■ CADIZ—Donaldson Creek Church recently called Russ Thomas as pastor.

Wallonia Church recently called Harold Greenfield as pastor. He previously was pastor of Calvary Church in Uniontown.

■ FORT THOMAS—Highland Avenue Tabernacle will host Ivan Parker in concert July 29, 7 p.m. For more information, call (859) 781-4510. Dave Simpson is pastor.

■ FRANKFORT—Buck Run Church will hold a Magnificent Monday service Aug. 1, 6:30 p.m., with Adam Dooley, pastor of Dauphin Way Church in Mobile, Ala., as guest speaker and Brandon Watkins as guest musician. Hershael York is pastor.

■ GREENSBURG—Macedonia Church recently ordained Delano Rayburn as a deacon. Timmy Glass is pastor.

■ LOUISVILLE—Green Acres Church will host a free oil changes for single moms event July 30, 10 a.m. Phil Ellis is pastor.

■ MOUNT VERNON—First Church will host Eddie Anders in concert July 31, 7 p.m. For more information,

call (606) 256-2922. Eddie Nation is pastor.

■ RADCLIFF—New Life Church will host Southern Salvation in concert July 30, 6:30 p.m. For more information, call (270) 352-1414. Hyuk Lee is pastor.

■ SOMERSET—First Church will host a screening of the movie "Soul Surfer" Aug. 3, 6 p.m. French Harmon is pastor.

CLASSIFIED ADS

To place an advertisement: Rates are available upon request. Call (502) 489-3428; or visit www.WesternRecorder.org. Claims made by advertisers are not necessarily those of the Western Recorder's staff or directors.

FOR RENT: Two condos in Destin, Fla. Owned by Christian family. Check website for photos and information: www.harmonyventures.net.

SEEKING: Associate pastor of student ministry for First Baptist Church of Walton, Ky. Resumes may be e-mailed to pastortj@WhereLivesAreChanged.org, or revtjfrancis@yahoo.com. Resumes will be accepted until Aug. 31, 2011. A job description may be found on the church's website: www.WhereLivesAreChanged.org.

SEEKING: Energetic, Spirit-led senior pastor for Hillcrest Baptist Church, Hopkinsville, Ky. We are a growing, loving, conservative, multi-cultural Southern Baptist church (membership: 1,500; average worship: 1,100; Sunday school: 650). We are in the process of building additional space. A top support of the Cooperative Program, our annual budget is \$1.5 million. Our last two pastors retired after serving 18 and 20 years, respectively. With God's continued guidance, we believe even greater days lie ahead. Find us at www.hillcrestbc.net. If God directs, send a resume (or to request more information) to Wally Lyon, Pastor Search Committee, Hillcrest Baptist Church, 920 Skyline Drive, Hopkinsville, KY 42240.

SEEKING: Senior pastor with strong leadership and administrative skills and ability to cast a vision, articulate a ministry plan, and work with staff to grow a church. Expectations include a master of divinity degree from an accredited Southern Baptist seminary and 10-15 years pastoral experience. Visit our website at www.hylandbaptist.org. Send resume to Pastor Search Team, Hyland Baptist Church, 1400 Wright Street, Henderson, KY 42420; or e-mail Glenn Lancaster at GlennL@insightbb.com.

SEEKING: Bivocational pastor for leadership and direction as we seek to fulfill our vision for growth and ministry for small, mature congregation nestled in the rolling hills of Southern Indiana. Interested candidates should submit resumes, doctrinal statement and references to: Pastor Search Committee, PO Box 1340, Nashville, IN 47448; tgi@trinitygroupinc.net.

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

SEEKING: Senior pastor for First Baptist Church, Hodgenville. Resumes now being accepted. Church information may be found at www.fbchodgenville.org.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for a conservative, mission-minded church as our former pastor retired after 13 years of service. We are looking for someone who will work with all ages and lead our church in growth. Please submit resume, references and a DVD of a recent sermon by mail to the Pastor Search Committee, Immanuel Baptist Church, 5469 North Mayo Trail, Pikeville, KY 41501.

SEEKING: Full-time DOM for Ohio County Baptist Association of 40 churches. Submit resume to ocbadom@hotmail.com; or mail to OCBA DOM Search Committee, PO Box 48, Hartford, KY 42347. Resumes will be accepted until July 31, 2011.

SEEKING: Bethany Baptist Church (www.bethanybaptistchurchbg.org) in Alvaton, Ky., is prayerfully seeking the pastor that God has called to His service. Please forward resume before July 31 to: Bethany Baptist Pastor Search Committee, PO Box 155, Alvaton, KY 42122.

SEEKING: Part-time youth minister for Bullitt Lick Baptist in Shepherdsville. This is a paid position and will require around 20 hours per week. Resumes or questions may be submitted by e-mail to secretary@bullittlickbaptist.org.

SEEKING: Full-time senior pastor. Send resumes to pinckardchurch@aol.com; mail to Pinckard Baptist Church, 3401 Pinckard Pike, Versailles, KY 40383; or contact Eddy Litteral, (859) 229-4076. Visit our website at www.pinckardbaptist.org.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Persimmon Grove Baptist Church, located in rural Northern Kentucky, 16 miles south of Cincinnati. We are a small and diverse congregation poised for growth and service, looking for a God-called man to lead our congregation. For more information about our church, please see our website at www.persimmongrovebaptistchurch.org. Interested candidates, please send resume to PO Box 148, Alexandria, KY 41001; or via e-mail to barbgilb43@gmail.com.

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 resume, please contact the BDBC Pastor Search Committee, PO Box 242, Beaver Dam, KY 42320; or bdbcpssc@gmail.com.

SEEKING: RecoverCare LLC is the nation's leading distributor of wound care, bariatric and safe patient handling equipment and solutions for healthcare facilities nationwide via 115-plus service centers. We currently operate in 48 states with corporate office based out of Louisville, Ky. The

company serves acute-care hospitals, long-term acute-care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, rehabilitation facilities, hospice centers and home-care patients. We are looking for a delivery technician to travel within the territory, delivering, setting up, servicing and picking up equipment. Company provides a vehicle and fuel card to use while working; cell phone and excellent benefits package. Position is for our Lexington, Ky., warehouse (ZIP 40504). Basic hours are Monday-Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. (\$13.50 per hour). On call frequency for weekends is about once a month. Any overtime is mandatory—must be flexible with hours worked. Hours subject to change with business needs. Must live within 30 minutes or less of our warehouse for on-call purposes. Requirements: Must have at least a high school diploma or equivalent; excellent driving record (no more than one moving violation in past 3 years); must have experience driving 16-foot box truck; no DUI/DWI convictions in the past 5 years; able to pass a drug/alcohol screen and DOT physical; clean criminal background; clean-cut and professional looking at all times; able to be flexible with hours worked (rotation of on-call—evenings and weekends); good communication skills (verbal and written); good organizational skills; ability to provide excellent customer service; must have the strength to place and service equipment up to 75 pounds; must be able to walk, sit, stand, stoop, bend, push and pull on continuous basis throughout the day; steel-toed work boots/shoes; ability to work overtime on short notice when needed and take on-call in the evenings and weekends. Clinical experience in a health-care setting is a plus, but not required. Extensive driving but mostly consists of day trips. Please submit a resume only to be considered for the position—we do not accept phone calls or walk-ins. Qualified applicants will receive screener questions to further qualify them for this position. Send resume to recruiter@recovercare.com.

The strategy for victory? Failure

By Erich Bridges

Serbian tennis player Novak Djokovic won 43 straight matches over a period of six months before losing to Roger Federer in the French Open in June.

This amazing series of wins, against the best players in the world, rocked the sport of tennis. But it was the loss, and a string of bitter defeats last year during a self-described personal "crisis," that set the stage for Djokovic's greatest triumph to date: his first Wimbledon championship. He beat defending champion Rafael Nadal July 3 in convincing style on the sport's biggest stage.

"Losing that really epic semifinal against Federer—a great match—I managed to recover and to come back ... and to win Wimbledon for the first time in my life," Djokovic told reporters.

Winning is great, but losing helps you get better—if you learn from your mistakes. Any good athlete or coach will tell you the same. Compete with bigger, faster, better players, they advise. Pay the price of losing repeatedly in order to gain the skills to win.

Wise parents and teachers instill the same approach to life in children. "Helicopter parents" who anxiously hover, terrified their kids will stub their toes or not get into the school play, are only ensuring greater failure down the road. If you don't fail once in a while, you don't grow. And you fear taking on something really challenging.

Churches, ministry organizations and mission teams often make the same mistake. They stick to the script; the proven program, the best practice. But some brave soul has to discover for the first time what works, usually by repeated failures.

Pastor/author Rick Warren reminds leaders at his church "that they have my permission to make at least one mistake a week," he wrote in a column. "I don't want to fall into sloppy habits, but I do want them to feel free to fail because that means they'll also feel free to take risks! My point is that if you're not making mistakes, then you're probably not trying anything new. And if you're not trying anything new, then you're not learning, and if you're not learning, then you and your ministry will quickly be out of date, perhaps even irrelevant. The secret to being innovative is not being afraid to fail."

It's also the secret of faith, Warren added. The unprofitable servant in the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-29) was also the unfaithful one. He took no risks with the money his master gave him. Peter, on the other hand, recklessly stepped out of the boat to walk toward Jesus on the stormy sea (Matthew 14:22-31). He began to fail, to sink. His faith was small. But it was greater than that of the other terrified disciples huddling in the boat.

Nearly every business and management book published in the last 25 years probably has a chapter ti-

tled "Freedom to fail" or something similar. It sounded great—until the U.S. economy failed in 2008 because of foolish risks taken in Washington and on Wall Street. Now investors fear spending their money on new ventures. Businesses hesitate to hire new workers. The economy will never truly recover, however, until people in a position to change things risk failure and show some faith in the future.

"At this point, freedom to fail probably ranks right around freedom to remove your own appendix," observed business writer Megan McArdle in a recent article for TIME magazine ("In Defense of Failure").

"That's a pity, because failure is one of the most economically important tools we have," McArdle wrote. "The goal shouldn't be to eliminate failure; it should be to build a system resilient enough to withstand it. ... The real secret of our success is that we learn from the past, and then we forget it. Unfortunately, we're dangerously close to forgetting the most important lessons of our own history: how to fail gracefully and how to get back on our feet with equal grace."

Too many organizations, however, insist on punishing failure.

"I once taught a workshop in a large organization and included an activity where I asked the delegates to think of the 'second right answer' to a problem," says Mark McGuinness, who coaches organizational creativity. "They looked like rabbits caught in the headlights. When I asked them what was wrong, they told me they were always expected to come up with the right answer and were severely punished for making mistakes. No prizes for guessing how creative they were. And yet—when they relaxed a little—they showed me they were perfectly capable of thinking creatively. It was the fear of punishment that stopped them from using this ability at work."

"People and companies that succeed through innovation take a very different approach to failure. They accept it, or even encourage it, because they know that failure holds the key to success. ... Encourage people to try new things and learn from their inevitable mistakes. Reward them for being open and honest about mistakes and failures—so that these are not swept under the carpet, causing even more problems."

Are you listening, ministry leaders? Disciple-makers model how to follow the Lord, just as Christ did with the Twelve. He sent them out two by two, let them learn the hard way (see Peter and the boat) and patiently taught them day by day. I've lost count of the number of Christian leaders I've seen sabotage their ministries by refusing to allow followers to grow through failure.

If you want hundreds of examples of victory coming through failure, defeat, loss and despair, read the Bible.

Erich Bridges is global correspondent for the International Mission Board.

Preacher's Kids



Joe McKeever

Brother Blooper

Dennis Daniel



Bible Crosswords

By Mary Louise DeMott

Across

- 1 "Seeking goodly ____" (Matthew 13:45)
- 6 This Bible treasure is the last stone inserted in the High Priest's breastplate (Exodus 28:17-20)
- 12 Be
- 14 People or things close at hand
- 15 Department of Defense, abbr.
- 16 Seventeenth letter of the Greek alphabet
- 18 American Kennel Club, abbr.
- 19 Commercials, in other words, for short
- 20 These Bible treasures are plants with leaves or seeds used for food
- 22 A statement the speaker knows to be untrue
- 23 Thirteenth letter of the Greek alphabet
- 24 Rather gray
- 26 Doctor's degree
- 27 Emperor of Russia
- 29 Woodwind instrument of treble pitch
- 31 Woman church leader
- 32 A coagulated mass
- 34 Every one
- 37 Abbreviation of 34 Across
- 38 This Bible treasure is a rich green color, the first stone in the second row of the High Priest's breastplate (Exodus 28:17-20)
- 43 Old English, abbr.
- 44 Ribonucleic acid, abbr.
- 46 Iridescent gems
- 47 Opposite of nay
- 48 Yards, abbr.
- 49 "And ____ did that which was right" (1 Kings 15:11)
- 50 Creator and ruler of the universe
- 51 A rope with a running noose

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	11	
12						13		14				
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32	33								34		35	36
37			38	39	40		41	42			43	
44		45		46							47	
48				49							50	
51			52	53				54	55			
56								57				

- 54 This Bible treasure is beautifully veined, semi-transparent, a variety of quartz (Exodus 28:17-20)
- 56 A guarantee
- 57 Trapped

Down

- 1 Boring teacher
- 2 Second book of the OT
- 3 Helps
- 4 Recording Secretary, abbr.
- 5 Lieutenant, abbr.
- 7 Preposition
- 8 Hush
- 9 Loud ringing of a bell
- 10 A member of a people living near the arctic coast of North America and eastern Siberia
- 11 Shrink back
- 13 Apple-green chalcedony
- 16 Rural Electrification Administration, abbr.
- 17 A bright broad sash worn with a kimono
- 20 House of Representatives, abbr.
- 21 Religious education, in other words, abbr.
- 24 A diving bird

- 25 Watered or sprayed
- 28 Fuss, trouble, excitement
- 30 Boy Scouts of America, abbr.
- 32 These Bible treasures, found in the High Priest's breastplate, are identical to the emerald except in color, a light or bluish green (Exodus 28:17-20)
- 33 A four wheeled carriage with a folding top
- 35 North American prairie wolf
- 36 Paid careful attention to
- 39 Central state whose capital is Jefferson City, abbr.
- 40 Environmental Protection Agency, abbr.
- 41 Montgomery's state, abbr.
- 42 Left side, abbr.
- 45 Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, abbr.
- 47 A gelatinous substance, from seaweed, used as a laxative
- 52 Selenium, chem. symbol
- 53 Writings that belong to both Jews and Christians, abbr.
- 54 Article used before a vowel
- 55 Peach state, abbr.

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Last week's solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
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GEORGETOWN COLLEGE
**CHRISTIAN MISSION
SERVICE**

ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK TRIPS 2011

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

New Orleans | 24 Students, 2 Staff

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

Anathoth Community Garden | 8 Students, 3 Staff

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

Mission Arlington | 33 Students, 2 Staff

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

Urban Promise | 13 Students, 2 Staff

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

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

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

