

# WESTERN Recorder

February 28, 2012

Shine Like Stars \* Philippians 2:15

Volume 186, Issue 8



Joan Penn (center), a member of Faith Baptist Church in Frankfort, shares her views on the expanded gambling bill with Rep. Derrick Graham (D-Frankfort) (right). Penn, and others attending the anti-gambling rally at the Kentucky State Capitol Feb. 21 walked the corridors of the Capitol Annex Building prayerwalking and visiting the offices of their elected representatives. (Photos by Robin Bass)

## Defeated

*Ky. Baptists' concerted effort helps derail casino bill*

Frankfort—Kentucky Baptists were victorious in their efforts to stop seven casinos from entering the state when a bill fell short of the votes it needed in the state Senate last week.

For more than a decade, Kentucky legislators have debated the idea of expanding gambling in the state beyond the lottery and horse racing tracks it already has. The measure, defeated Feb. 23 by a vote of 21-16, would have placed the issue on the ballot in November.

The day after the bill's defeat, Frankfort pastor Hershael York prayed Psalm 118 in Hebrew as an invocation in the Senate.

In English, the Psalm begins, "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His love endures forever."

See Ky. Baptists help defeat gambling bill ... Page 7



Hershael York

## Task force: SBC name won't change, recommends informal 'Great Commission Baptists'

By Michael Foust

Nashville, Tenn.—The task force appointed to study a possible name change of the Southern Baptist Convention is recommending the convention maintain its legal name but adopt an informal, non-legal name for those who want to use it: "Great Commission Baptists."

The Feb. 20 report ended weeks of speculation as to what the task force would do. The convention was formed in 1845, and a name change was first proposed in 1903, although one was not adopted then nor since.

"This is an issue that just won't die," task force chairman Jimmy Draper said in presenting the group's recommendation to the SBC Executive Committee, which approved the recommendation, thus sending it to SBC messengers for a vote at the annual meeting in June. With about 80 Executive Committee members present, only about six voted against the motion.

The recommendation would mean that the legal name of the convention

### On the inside...

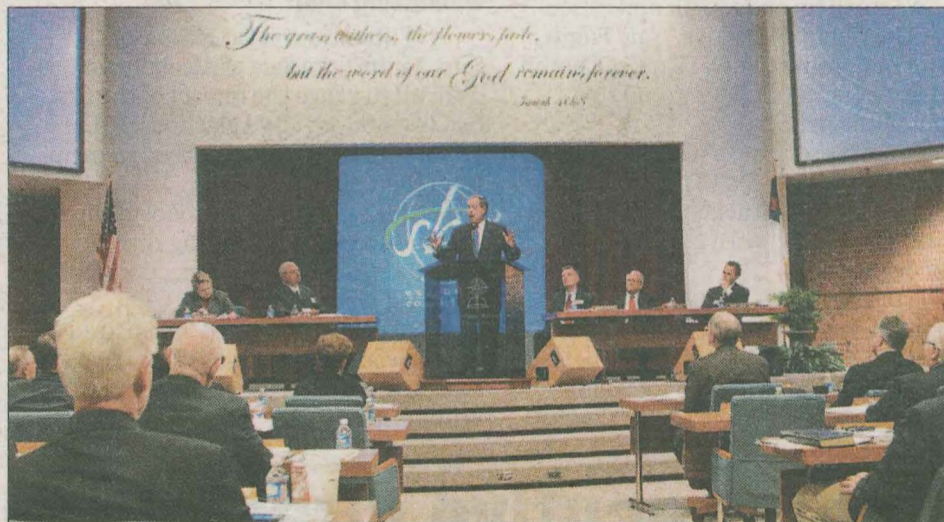
Jimmy Draper said the task force received 585 suggestions for renaming the SBC. Which ones didn't make the cut?

See story on page 3.



would remain "Southern Baptist Convention" and could be used by any church that wishes to use it. But other SBC churches could call themselves "Great Commission Baptists" if they wish. Draper said the new term would be a "descriptor."

"We believe that the equity that we have in the name 'Southern Baptist Convention' is valuable," Draper said. "It is a strong name that identifies who we are in theology, morality and ethics, compassion, ministry and mission in the world. It is a name that is recognized globally in these areas."



ANTICIPATED REPORT Southern Baptist Convention President Bryant Wright addresses the Executive Committee minutes before the task force he assigned to explore a name change for the SBC issues its report. (Photo by Morris Abernathy/BP)

"We also recognize the need that some may have to use a name that is not associated with a national region as indicated by the word 'Southern,'" Draper continued. "We want to do everything we can to encourage those who do feel a

name change would be beneficial without recommending a legal name change for the convention. We believe we have found a way to do that."

The goal from the beginning, Draper

See SBC name proposal ... Page 3



"The Western Recorder challenges all believers to know God more and develop a deeper relationship with Him."

Subscribe NOW at [www.westernrecorder.org](http://www.westernrecorder.org)

Find us on Facebook and on twitter as westernrecorder

Western Recorder 2-28-2012

# One step forward, one step back

Alcohol opponents win one, lose one; battle continues in nearby communities

By Ken Walker

London—After winning one alcohol referendum and losing the other, Baptists in three more southeastern Kentucky communities preparing to vote on legalizing liquor sales are stepping into high gear.

"We're giving it all we've got," said Randy Bingham, chairman of Citizens United Against Alcohol.

The group opposes a petition to expand alcohol sales in London beyond restaurants seating at least 100 people, with ballots to be cast March 6. That will be followed by a March 20 vote in Williamsburg and April 3 in Rockcastle County.

Those communities can draw inspiration from Barbourville, where a grassroots initiative spearheaded a successful fight against legalizing all kinds of alcohol sales, 55-45 percent.

Pastor Jim Siler credited the victory to this support, including that from churches of Knox Association of Baptists. The coalition sponsored a pre-election rally, a prayer walk, door-to-door distribution of information, and phone canvassing on the eve of the election.

In addition, Siler said he believes it is significant that in January of 2011, churches started holding inter-denominational prayer meetings each month at the Knox County courthouse.

"The leadership of all the churches stood together on this issue. I think that was key," said Siler, a Barbourville resident who leads Keck Baptist Church about 10 miles north of town.

Despite losing a Feb. 14 vote by a 53-47 percent margin that legalized package stores in Corbin, Pastor Chad Fugitt said anti-alcohol forces elsewhere need to press their cause.

"We stood up and fought and articulated the right perspective," said Fugitt, pastor of Corbin's Central Baptist Church and leader of the citizens group that opposed the petition.

"I hope it's sending a message to our churches that we need to get serious about winning Kentuckians to Jesus and sharing the gospel with our communities," he added.

Part of the battle includes action. Bingham, who is pastor of Hazel Patch Baptist Church in East Bernstadt, helped organize a training session for volunteers last weekend at the Laurel County



**SAYING 'NO'** A Jan. 24 rally against the sale of alcohol in Barbourville attracted more than 600 people. Residents voted down a proposal Feb. 7 to bring alcohol sales to the Knox County town by a 55-45 percent margin. Opponents of alcohol sales say they hope the Barbourville vote will sway upcoming votes in Williamsburg and Rockcastle County to go the same way. (Photo by Eddie Arnold/Barbourville Mountain Advocate)

courthouse. Afterwards, the inter-denominational group distributed literature urging residents to vote "no." This week, the second of two mass mailings will hit mailboxes.

Citizens United kicked off its campaign Feb. 2 at First Pentecostal Church in London. Although the rally attracted a crowd of more than 200, Bingham said the group is focusing the rest of its efforts on voter education.

"One thing we're doing is encouraging county residents who know someone in the city and can vote to talk with them," said Bingham, the longtime manager of London's utility commission. "We're also asking churches to pray."

## Williamsburg effort

In Williamsburg, Pat Marple of Citizens Against the Sale of Alcohol said it is difficult to gauge the impact of the first two votes on his city's election. Still, the group's chairman drew encouragement from their efforts.

Marple said the anti-alcohol group in Corbin succeeded in making that city's vote closer than the 2003 election that legalized restaurant sales.

"If 50 people had voted 'no' instead of 'yes,' it would have" failed, said Marple, a deacon at Main Street Baptist Church in Williamsburg.

"Corbin getting package stores will make it more difficult for us, though. People may think other communities will get all the money and (tourists) will pass up Williamsburg because it's dry. But that's a smoke screen."

The owner of a dry cleaning business, Marple said he is working the phones daily, seeking more volunteers.

To inform volunteers and maintain interest, CASA is holding weekly meetings at area churches. The group also sent letters to all Williamsburg congregations, asking them to form prayer groups and hold vigils the night before and the day of the election.

While also considering holding a pre-election rally, Marple said he sees prayer and education as the two best tools in their arsenal.

"Our obligation is to educate and inform people who have been misinformed," he said. "We need to tell them what it will do and what's coming next."

Citizens for a Secure Rockcastle sponsored its first weekly prayer meeting in mid-February, shortly after seeing its fundraising effort boosted by a \$5,000 donation from Rockcastle Baptist Association. Chairman David Sergeant said the group is reaching out to 63 churches across the county and is planning a rally in late March.

## Jan. CP gifts top \$2 million, still far behind '11-'12 budget

Louisville—Missions support by Kentucky Baptists through the Cooperative Program exceeded \$2.1 million in January.

The total of \$2,155,218 was more than \$180,000 higher than CP giving in January 2011.

The figure was good news for the Kentucky Baptist ministries dependent upon CP support. Lowell Ashby, head of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's business services team, noted that with the January receipts, total CP giving for the first five months of fiscal year 2011-12 was \$125,587 higher than the same period in the fiscal year 2010-11.

"We thank Kentucky Baptists for responding to the 'More for Christ' call of increasing their support for the Cooperative Program," he said, referring to the three-year initiative launched by Kentucky Baptists in 2011 to greater participation in and support of missions.

Despite the good news, year-to-date giving to missions through CP is \$570,940 below the budget goal of \$23.5 million passed last fall by Kentucky Baptist messengers.

Last month, KBC staff began trimming 8 percent from their program budgets—money used to provide services to Kentucky Baptist churches—in response to projected shortfalls in CP giving. The cuts are being made to a fiscal-year budget that already was \$880,000 less than the previous year.

The \$23.5 million goal was trimmed to a "spendable" budget goal of \$21,847,130.

"This excellent response of CP receipts for January has quickly made up ground, and even exceeded our revised spendable budget goal for the first five months of the fiscal year by \$117,746," Ashby said. (KBC)

"We're soliciting volunteers at prayer meetings," said Sergeant, pastor of Freedom Baptist Church near Mount Vernon. "We're seeing a tremendous amount of support across denominational lines." (WR)

## State executive directors form NAMB study committee

By Tim Yarbrough

Scottsdale, Ariz.—State convention executive directors have appointed a special committee to evaluate relations with the North American Mission Board.

The action came during the Fellowship of State Executive Directors annual meeting, Feb. 13-16 in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Emil Turner, executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and president of the fellowship for 2011-12, said the committee was established "to evaluate how state conventions and NAMB can maximize cooperation during the transition process of implementing

the new NAMB initiatives."

Announced in 2011, NAMB's Send North America strategy focuses heavily on church planting and shifting funds to the field for church planting.

Some state convention leaders have expressed concerns about what their relationships with NAMB will look like as historic "cooperative agreements" are replaced with new "strategic partnerships" with state conventions. NAMB has used cooperative agreements with states to support and define its work and to assist in the furtherance of domestic mission work.

Turner said the study committee is

important to evaluating and understanding the future work of state conventions with NAMB.

"I think this study committee can help get beyond anecdotal reports about difficulties that new-work conventions face and arrive at quantifiable conclusions," Turner said. "The desire is to cooperate with NAMB in a way that helps strengthen new-work conventions."

Following the establishment of the committee, Turner said he contacted NAMB President Kevin Ezell to reassure him the action "is not to be or do anything adversarial, but to seek understanding and cooperation."

It is the desire of the state executive directors' group that NAMB trustees be involved in discussions as well, Turner said.

Mike Ebert, NAMB's vice president of communications, said it is NAMB's "desire to be good partners with our state conventions," adding, NAMB is "always open to anything that would move us toward penetrating lostness in North America. We are ultimately accountable to the Southern Baptist Convention through the NAMB trustees, and we are confident in the direction in which we are moving." (Arkansas Baptist News/BP)

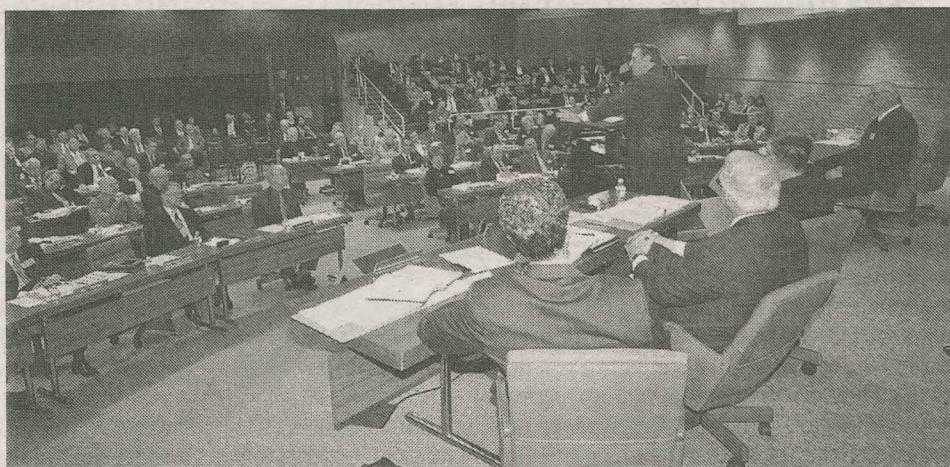
# Analysis: 'Global Baptist' led top 20 name-change suggestions

Nashville, Tenn.—The task force that studied changing the name of the Southern Baptist Convention received 586 distinct name suggestions, with "Global Baptist Convention" leading the way and "Great Commission Baptist Convention"—similar to the informal name that was chosen—ranking in the Top 5, an analysis has revealed.

The task force was appointed last September by Southern Baptist Convention President Bryant Wright, and it asked for name change suggestions on the website, Pray4SBC.com. The task force presented its recommendation Feb. 20.

As part of that recommendation, the Southern Baptist Convention would maintain its legal name while adopting a non-legal descriptor, "Great Commission Baptists," for churches, entities and organizations that wish to use it. The label is purely voluntary. The Executive Committee approved the recommendation, and SBC messengers will vote on it in June.

The task force received 1,151 name-change suggestions with 586 distinct suggestions (that is, not counting duplicates). An analysis by Roger Oldham, the SBC Executive Committee's vice presi-



**EXPLORING A CHANGE** Jimmy Draper, chairman of the task force charged with exploring a possible new name for the Southern Baptist Convention, addresses members of the SBC Executive Committee Feb. 20. (Photo by Morris Abernathy/BP)

dent for convention relations, showed:

- 71 percent of the 586 distinct name suggestions included the word "Baptist."
- When counting duplicates, 86 percent of the 1,151 suggestions included "Baptist."
- 19 of the top 20 and 49 of the top 50 distinctive suggested names included "Baptist."
- 105 names were suggested by two or

more people.

The most frequent suggestion involved various forms of "Global Baptist," used in such suggested names as Global Baptist Convention, Global Fellowship and Global Baptist Network. A total of 148 people suggested 36 various combinations that included "Global" and "Baptist."

## The top 20 suggested names were:

1. Global Baptist Convention (85 suggestions)
2. International Baptist Convention (58)
3. United Baptist Convention (30)
4. Evangelical Baptist Convention (25)
5. Great Commission Baptist Convention (23)
6. North American Baptist Convention (23)
7. The Baptist Convention (23)
8. American Baptist Convention (22)
9. World Baptist Convention (19)
10. Worldwide Baptist Convention (19)
11. Baptist Convention (13)
12. Baptist Convention of America (11)
13. National Baptist Convention (10)
14. Global Baptist Fellowship (9)
15. Baptist Convention of the United States (8)
16. Christian Baptist Convention (8)
17. Gospel Baptist Convention (7)
18. Bible Baptist Convention (7)
19. Great Commission Convention (7)
20. Universal Baptist Convention (7)

## Names that didn't quite make the cut

As the Southern Baptist Convention recently weighed changing its name, denominational leaders were bombarded with suggestions—585 of them, according to task force chairman Jimmy Draper.

**REJECTED**

Most suggestions avoided the word "Southern" but one hinted at the denomination's regional flavor: Baptist Ultimate Bible Believing Alliance, or BUBBA.

In the end, leaders recommended the unofficial moniker "Great Commission Baptists."

Here's a sampling of some of the more intriguing rejected names:

**Association of Thriving Baptist Churches**

**Baptist Southern Convention**

**Christian Synergy Convention**

**Ends of the Earth Baptists**

**Eternal Baptist Convention**

**Friendly Family Church of America**

**Global Association of Immersing Christians**

**Global Association of Immersing Evangelicals**

**Jesus Christ Is Lord Baptist Convention**

**League of Baptist Messengers**

(RNS)

## Past name change opponent applauds 'brilliant' compromise

By Michael Foust

Nashville, Tenn.—The Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee approved the "Great Commission Baptists" recommendation by the name change task force, and it did so with the vocal backing of a member who was a steadfast opponent in September.

The task force's recommendation passed the Executive Committee overwhelmingly last week, receiving only about six "no" votes out of around 80 members present.

As part of the recommendation, the Southern Baptist Convention would maintain its legal name while adopting a non-legal descriptor, "Great Commission Baptists," for churches, entities and organizations that wish to use it. Messengers to the SBC annual meeting will consider the recommendation in June.

The task force, appointed by SBC President Bryant Wright, said church planters and ethnic groups have suggested a name without the word "Southern" could be beneficial. Task force member Ken Fentress, a black pastor, said many African-Americans consider the name "Southern" offensive because of the convention's ties to the Confederacy in the mid-1800s.

"We have an opportunity," Executive Committee member Darrell Orman said during discussion of the recommendation, "to keep our name and fortify 'Southern Baptist Convention,' and we have an opportunity to extend an empathetic hand to some of our other brothers and sisters in Christ and say, 'I love you and I'm sensitive to your situation. It's not just

about me in South Florida or Georgia or Alabama or Mississippi. It's all about you, too."

Orman, who is pastor of First Baptist Church of Stuart, Fla., called it a "brilliant Solomonic compromise."

Last September when Wright announced the formation of the task force, Orman was a vocal opponent.

"I stood and shot every bullet I had last fall, and several of them ricocheted and hit me right between the eyes," Orman told fellow EC members. "And I left here with my tail between my legs, and I felt probably the lowest I've felt in quite a while."

Orman was opposed to the task force, he said, because he felt it would present "more opportunity for division" and would be a distraction. But the recommendation, he said, can make both sides happy.

"I can't tell you the relief I had that it is not a renaming of the Southern Baptist Convention," he said. "As an alternative, this can take such a monumental, divisive issue off the table and allow us to move forward."

Executive Committee President Frank Page was asked if adoption of the recommendation would necessitate a change in the SBC logo. Page said the logo "would not have to change," but that "we would do everything that we could to put that descriptor as part of our publications."

Borrowing an illustration from task force chairman Jimmy Draper, Orman likened the "Great Commission Baptists" descriptor to the "good hands" phrase used in Allstate advertisements. People know what "good hands" references, Orman said, but it's not the name of the company. (BP)



Darrell Orman

## SBC name proposal

Continued from page 1

said, "was to consider the removal of any barrier to the effective proclamation of the gospel and reaching people for Christ."

Web addresses already have been secured, the task force noted, should the convention approve the informal name.

Changing the legal name, Draper said, would have been loaded with problems.

"We believe that the potential benefits of a legal name change do not outweigh the potential risks that would be involved in a legal name change," Draper

said. "Changing the name of the convention would require a great cost in dollars and in energy and would present huge challenges legally that create a multitude of issues. The value of a name change does not justify the risks involved."

Keeping the legal name while using an informal, non-legal name would be a "win-win" situation, Draper said.

At a news conference following the Executive Committee meeting, Draper said that during other attempts to adopt a new moniker, SBC messengers were not given a report explaining the rationale behind a name change.

"I don't think Southern Baptists, at large, ever really saw the bigger picture,

and when we came to the conventions, the vote was usually an emotional vote," he recalled.

The task force, Draper said, is praying that when messengers come to the convention in June, they will "at least have a background on which to make a decision."

The usage of the term, "Great Commission Baptists," Wright stressed, is purely voluntary.

"Every entity, every state convention, every local church is just going to have to decide how they can best use the phrase 'Great Commission Baptists' as a way of communicating to the world who we are and what our mission is," Wright said. (BP)

## Thoughts on the SBC name change idea

I was in attendance as the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention heard a report from the Name Change Task Force appointed by SBC President Bryant Wright.

### Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

This discussion isn't new to Southern Baptists. Jimmy Draper, the task force chairman, noted the issue was first raised in 1903 and has been considered no less than 13 times. The recommendation made and subsequently approved by the Executive Committee is for the SBC to keep its name but to allow an

alternative name, "Great Commission Baptists," for those churches, agencies and institutions that would find it helpful in their mission. This change will require approval by the messengers at the SBC annual meeting in June.

Even if approved, the recommendation will only impact those churches that choose to use the alternative name as they reference their denominational affiliation. For all other Southern Baptist churches, everything will remain the same.

This issue took on new meaning for me during the task force's presentation. The defining moment came when Pastor Ken Fentress rose to speak. Ken is an appointed member of the task force, an African-American, and a pastor who is originally from the south (Texas), but currently serves outside of the south at Montrose Baptist Church in Rockville, Maryland. I have known Ken for several years as a colleague and friend from seminary days.

Ken focused his remarks on his long-time, enthusiastic identity as a Southern Baptist based upon his agreement with the theological tenets of our faith. He expressed his support for the task force recommendation in order to open doors of opportunity for progress for the gospel in places where the term "Southern" could be a barrier. Ken also noted the opportunity that allowing an alternative name could present for progress toward racial reconciliation as a powerful display of the impact of the gospel.

As I scanned the room filled with members of the Executive Committee and leaders from across the SBC, I could see no more than 10 African-Americans, one Cuban and one Asian present. I easily drew the conclusion that Southern Baptists have a long way to go toward integrating our leadership.

Will an alternative name help us accomplish the needful task of reaching the lost among the African-American and ethnic communities? Will it help us build bridges to existing African-American and ethnic churches that are Baptist in theology and practice and are looking for partners for mission work? Will it somehow result in more African-American and ethnic Southern Baptists being welcomed into leadership roles in our convention? I don't know the answer to these questions with certainty, but if the answer to any one of them is yes, then so is my vote.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

## Appreciating 'who we are,' and affirming 'what we do'

My daughter, Laura, has done a great service for our family. For 48 years, I knew little of my family's genealogy, particularly of the Deaton line. My dad's father died when my dad was 13, and we only knew the name of my great-grandfather, Charlie Chalmers Deaton. That was until Laura began tracing the ancestry of both my wife's family and mine. She uncovered some pretty amazing stories: immigrants to the New World from England and Ireland, early Jamestown settlers, ties to Cherokee Indians, Revolutionary and Civil War soldiers, Texas pioneers, distant links to a president, and lords, ladies and even a castle. Some of these details, of course, are subject to verification. Yet, Laura's work has opened up a new understanding of our roots, and we have gained an appreciation for the value and meaning of a family name.



### After Thought

By Todd Deaton

In a sense, the presidential task force charged with considering a name change for our denomination has been on a similar journey of self-discovery these past few months. They ultimately sought a "win-win" compromise between those who have a deep appreciation and love for their "Southern Baptist" family name because of its rich history, biblical theology, strong moral and ethical stances, and cooperative missions, and those who see the "Southern" part as a potential hindrance to church planting and missions because of its regional and racial overtones. The problem, as the task force saw it, was, "How can we retain the value of the Southern Baptist Convention brand and at the same time give opportunity for those who desire a different name in their area of ministry to have an acceptable way to do so? How could we remove an obstacle to reaching people for Christ and at the same time stay true to who we are?"

Their solution: a "tagline," instead of a name change. Churches and entities will be free to use or not use, as they see fit, the phrase "Great Commission Baptists" to further describe "who we are and what we do." Their conclusion, in essence, was a practical one: "The equity we have in the Southern Baptist name is enormous today. We believe that the potential benefits of a name change do not outweigh the potential risks that would be involved in a legal name change. Renaming the Convention would require a great cost in dollars, in energy, as well as re-branding the name to recapture the meaning that our name now represents."

Granted, but will those hankering for a new name be satisfied? Some already are suggesting that the tagline only adds confusion and the potential for division with some opting for

"Great Commission Baptists" and others staunchly sticking to "Southern Baptists." Task force members, though, hope the name and tagline will quickly become like two sides of the same coin—each amplifying the other. Still, what about those who lack a biblical framework or do not share our Christian worldview, will the tagline mean anything to them? Probably not much. Yet, it does mean that we, as Great Commission Baptists, will have to rise to the challenge. We will have to demonstrate what it means to be actively seeking every day, through our every word and deed, to go make disciples of all nations—including and beginning with our own city and state.

Some may also not see how retaining "Southern" in our formal name really resolves the ethnic diversity issue. Ken Fentress, an African-American pastor in Rockville, Md., however, found the proposal to be a positive step. While acknowledging that the term has been "a source of some difficulty among African-Americans precisely because of its identity with the Confederacy," Fentress told the SBC Executive Committee, "The fact that we are having this discussion is good because it signifies the progress of the gospel" in dissolving racial barriers. "This kind of progress speaks a powerful message to our critics who would say, 'They are trying the change the name, but they're still the same old convention.' If they are referring to theology, yes, we are the same," he said. "But if they are referring to how we apply our theology to the issue of race, we had better not be the same, if we want to honor God." Lending his wholehearted support, Fentress assured, "In spite of the racial history of this convention, the gospel is propelling the SBC forward and there are many people of color who want to be an important part of what God is doing through this convention."

Interjecting a little East Texas levity into the discussion at a press conference, task force chairman Jimmy Draper asked, "If you call a dog's tail a leg, how many legs does it have?" It still only has four, he answered, explaining, "It doesn't really matter what we call ourselves, if we don't get focused on the Great Commission." The tagline, he emphasized, is a way to hopefully refocus our people on evangelism. "If we are reminded more often that we are 'Great Commission Baptists,' it can be a great help in motivating us," he advocated. That strikes at the heart of the matter: If adopting a tagline allows us to retain the best parts of our past while being advantageous in the future in reaching people for Christ, then by all means, let's add it!

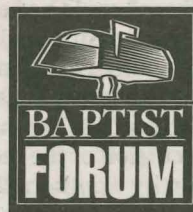
## Problem isn't name

Changing the name of the Southern Baptist Convention is the latest "hot button" topic facing the denomination's churches. But there is a greater issue than what a name change can resolve.

I am not against change, especially if it is God-led. Even if a name change takes place, we will still be Southern Baptist in our beliefs.

Most Baptists are unaware of our church's history. So I don't believe what we call ourselves has anything to do with our image. Will a name change increase the baptism numbers, lowest in 2010 since the 1950s? Does a name change guarantee that a four-year drop in membership will reverse?

Visitors attending a church are looking for God at work in that church. Not finding that, all they see is a glorified social group and they don't need another club to join. Our



problem is not in the name, but that many of our churches are not "Great Commission" churches, dedicated to evangelism and making converts into disciples. Many have lost their focus and God's call on us to

be the missionaries of Acts 1:8. Has witness training disappeared? Are we too busy to canvass neighborhoods and towns? Do we baptize any one other than children of the church? Is mission work and witnessing the heartbeat of the church? Have complacency, indifference and

laziness become the characteristics of our congregations?

"A rose by any other name is still a rose." Our churches by any other name will still be our churches. Will a name change make a difference? Will it change the opinion of those looking for a church to call theirs? I doubt it. Until we begin to resemble the church God intended for us to be, all the name changes in the world won't help.

George Chinn  
Hartford

**Forum Disclaimer:** Baptist Forum is provided as an opportunity for Kentucky Baptists to express their viewpoints. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Western Recorder's editorial staff, its Board of Directors, or the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Letters should be no more than 300 words in length and will be edited for style, clarity and space. Letters must reflect a spirit of Christian charity and civility.

## WESTERN Recorder

Box 43969  
Louisville, KY 40253

**DR. TODD DEATON**  
Editor

**DREW NICTER**  
News Director

**THOMAS C. TOWNSEND**  
Marketing & Business Manager

### Board of Directors:

Floyd Price (chairman), Richmond;  
Lanna Kilgore, Bowling Green;  
Rick Robbins, Florence;  
Wayne Spivey, Harrodsburg;  
Linda Polley, Hopkinsville;  
Rick Stevens, Lexington;  
Bill Edmonds, Louisville;  
Duane Bolin, Murray;  
Bill Bartleman, Paducah;  
Dan Summerlin, Paducah;  
Paul Nunn, Prestonsburg;  
Chip Hutcherson, Princeton.

### Shine Like Stars \* Philippians 2:15

Western Recorder is published weekly 49 weeks a year by Western Recorder Inc., an agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253. It will not be published the first week of January, the week of Independence Day or the week of Christmas. Periodicals postage paid at Louisville, Ky. (USPS 679-380)

For general information or to give news tips, call (502) 489-3535; or email: news@westernrecorder.org.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address corrections to: Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253.

**To subscribe:** Send \$15 for a one-year, individual subscription or visit our Website and subscribe to our Electronic-Only edition at \$10 per year. Group subscriptions (church budget plan) are \$10 per year.

### WesternRecorder.org



Scan this QR code with your smartphone to subscribe to Western Recorder.

## Changing SBC name is good, changing our actions is even better

By Ed Stetzer

This past week an administrative committee for the Southern Baptist Convention, approved a recommendation that the SBC adopt the informal name of "Great Commission Baptists."

Initially, I would have liked to see something more than an "informal name," but I think the change will help in many local church situations (though for the foreseeable future, my church will still list itself as SBC, rather than GCB).

I understand this is a tough decision with many layers of complexity ranging from legal issues to public perceptions to historical accords, and this gives churches a choice. I might have made a different choice, but I will support this one.

I agree with the task force that the equity we have in the SBC name is helpful in many respects and whatever could be gained by changing the name cannot measure up to what would be lost from our nearly 170-year history. However, there is also much negative baggage that comes with the name—some because of what we believe, but some because of how we act.

That history is what has brought us to this juncture. For example, and since the task force referenced it, the injustices condoned or perpetrated by those bearing the name "Southern Baptist" have brought distrust and discord in African-American communities. And I am glad the task force chose to address the issue head-on.

I'm grateful for the churches like that of committee member Ken Fentress, where sound Christian theology takes priority over cultural and political norms. This is, unfortunately, not always the case. For some, there is still deep sociological and racial tension, and the name "Southern Baptist" does nothing to dispel this.

There are, of course, many other issues caused by bad decisions and bad relationships. Some people don't like the SBC because of what it stands for—and we can take the hits for that. But let's be honest, much of this bad reputation has been earned by bad actions.

Thus, the new name isn't the only—the most important—change needed. Changing the name of the convention is useless if the people of the convention do not change as well. The key issue is not a name change, but a heart change.

I believe there are three needs facing the SBC currently that new resurgences, name changes, and study groups can't fix.

First is a need to stop bickering and infighting. My fear is the proposed name change will drive an even deeper wedge in an already wide rift between different SBC factions. I can tell you it is an amazing thing to see just how much Baptists like to fight. You could name yourself an Egyptian hieroglyph and say you are "the Baptist denomination formally known as Southern." But if you are mean-spirited, you just have to change the name again in a few years.

Baptists always seem to need a bogeyman, and changing the name won't change that. This infighting, name-calling, and dishonest "watchblogging" must stop. We must speak up and call for unity, honesty and cooperation among leaders and their blogging proxies. Tolerate nothing less.

Secondly, we must work together to promote cooperation. We are a convention that needs to work in a unified manner toward a unified goal: that the world might know Christ, and God be glorified through that.

We must act like a convention, not a bunch of small constituencies that want to get their own way. Only after we understand that the goal is bigger than us, our groups, and our views will we be able to unify for Great Commission work.

The promise of the conservative resurgence was that we would eventually agree on enough to cooperate for global missions. Well, when will that day come? We will never be Great Commission anything if we can't say, "We agree on enough in our Baptist Faith and Message. Let's get busy doing missions and evangelism." We must stop pushing for narrower and narrower parameters. Let's move on—and into mission.

Finally, we need to keep the goal in sight. The new moniker, "Great Commission Baptists," does that. If nothing else, every time we think of our additional name, we will be reminded of what we should be doing. Clinging solely to our legal name, "Southern Baptist Convention," would have worked functionally, but GCB speaks to our DNA. We don't need to be primarily "Southern" or "conventional," but a group of churches on mission. Our goal is to be about the task for which Jesus called us.

I say it often, but it's worth repeating: God is a sending God, and we are a sent people. The most profound instruction we ever have received as it relates to our mission is the Great Commission. If we keep the Great Commission as our focus we can succeed as a convention no matter the name.

So, Southern Baptists, let us act like Great Commission Baptists—that will both help fix the reputation of the old name and build a good reputation for the new "nickname." (BP)

Ed Stetzer is president of LifeWay Research.

### FIRST PERSON

*The key issue is not a name change, but a heart change.*

## 'Yes, I See': A tribute to our great teachers

By Duane Bolin

The grandmother patiently showed her 5-year-old grandson how to wet the tip of the thread and with one eye closed carefully thread the needle. "Now, you try," she told him. With such encouragement, the small boy went through the steps and successfully completed the task. "You did it!" cried the grandmother. "Yes," said the grandson, "I see."

The wee little granddaughter crawled into her grandfather's lap and asked him to show her again his crippled hand, the result of a World War II wound. She did not flinch when he opened his hand to reveal the missing fingers; she never did. She only studied the hand with curiosity and admiration for the man who had been her hero since she had been old enough to call his name, "Papa." "They got me there," the grandfather pointed to his shattered hand. "Yes," said the green-eyed girl, "I see."

The father allowed his son to accompany him on the job at the drugstore. The son watched the father carefully at work behind the prescription counter. The father showed the son how to count out the pills, how to pour the concoctions, and how to mix the elixirs. One day a customer came in with a prescription to be filled. The inebriated man was angry and upset. The customer threw the prescription down on the counter along with a stream of invective and curses not

usually heard in the quiet confines of the drugstore.

The small son looked at the father, who was looking at the man. The face of the father turned red, but in a soft, but firm voice he told the customer that he would not use that language in his drugstore ever again. "My young son is with me here behind the counter, you see." The customer immediately calmed down, looked sheepishly at the son, and said, "Yes, I see."

The mother kneaded the dough with her strong hands again and again. She reverently turned the pages of a book. She modeled with her elegant penmanship how to write a line in a thank you note as beautiful as any calligraphy. And with each task she never said, "You see how it's done?" or "This is how it's done correctly?" She simply did it again and again. And her sons said, "Yes, we see."

The elderly Sunday School teacher sat for the last time in the low children's chair as her class gathered around her on the braided rug for the Bible story. After more than 60 years of teaching this class, seeing children come and go, she would have to retire at doctor's orders. The church had already held a well-attended reception, and former class members, now parents and grandparents themselves, came to honor her and to express their love for her. It was only appropriate. For love had been the abiding theme of all her lessons to the children through the years.

And before each and every Bible lesson, even back in those torrid days of the Civil Rights Movement in that small, Southern town, she had led the children in singing, "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." Then the teacher would choose one of the children in the class and ask them, "Jimmy?" she would say. "You know that to be true, don't you?" "Do you see that, Jimmy?" And Jimmy would say, "Yes, I see."

Sunday after Sunday, the preacher approached the pulpit, and before he opened the Scriptures, he glanced at the bronze plaque placed at the top of the lectern. Inscribed were the words of the curious Greeks as they made a request to Philip. "Sir, we would see Jesus." The Greeks' request served as a reminder to the pastor that his message should, more than anything else, cause his congregants to see the Master.

Such are examples of individuals—a grandmother, a grandfather, a father, a mother, a Sunday School teacher, a pastor—who were and are in the business of transforming lives. Or rather, of leading others to the One who alone can transform lives. We can merely point the way. The Southern writer, Walker Percy, paid tribute to a great teacher in his life when he wrote that the teacher says "Look!" and the grateful student says, "Yes, I see!"

Duane Bolin teaches in the Department of History at Murray State University. He and his family are members of Murray's First Baptist Church.

### A Letter from the Laity



Duane Bolin

## Suffering from 'maltuition'

By Jeremy White

About 10 years ago I wrote an article with a similar title about "maltuition" problems for parents. Its focus was helping to prepare parents financially for their child's college tuition bill.

From working with many couples, I had helped them plan and prepare for the goal of assisting with their child's college education. But much like a priest counseling someone toward marriage, I only had a general knowledge, not experience. Now I've had a rendezvous with reality: one daughter in college and another soon to be.

Much like becoming more aware of a car model right after you buy one, students in college and their parents are acutely aware of the burden of spiraling college costs. Tuition at public and private education institutions has risen 6 to 8 percent per year while the overall inflation rate has been around 1 to 3 percent in recent years. Squeezing families more is the interest rates on savings and weaker stock market returns over the last five years.

It's beyond the scope of this article to probe why these costs are increasing so much. The point is to be prepared. College will cost more than you think for your children or grandchildren. I suggest focusing on what you can control rather than what you can't control, such as the following:

1. Determine what part of your child's education you are going to be responsible for. It may benefit them to pay some—and it may just be a practical reality of your family's financial situation that you cannot pay all of the costs.
2. Communicate to your child what your part will be. It helps them save and have realistic expectations.
3. Put your savings in tax-advantaged accounts, such as 529 plans or educational IRAs.
4. Work with your child to explore alternatives. A "gap year" to earn additional savings and to be more certain of a college major? A community college for the first year? Online courses? Is a trade or the military more suited than four to six more years of classroom?

Jeremy White is a CPA with Blythe, White and Associates in Paducah.



# Famine danger looms in Africa's Sahel

By Mark Kelly

**Dakar, Senegal**—Aid groups worldwide are rallying to head off an emerging hunger crisis that threatens as many as 11 million people in Africa's Sahel region.

"Even in good years, hunger is a chronic problem in the Sahel," said Mark Hatfield, who with his wife, Susan, directs work in Sub-Saharan Africa for Baptist Global Response.

"In 2011, the rains came late or not at all over much of the region, and harvests have been very limited," he noted. "One country estimates agricultural production may be down as much as 75 percent. Families will run out of food quickly, food prices will skyrocket, and malnutrition will reach emergency levels, especially among infants and children."

At a Feb. 15 emergency meeting in Dakar, Senegal, government and relief group leaders called for a "rapid and robust response" to avoid a widespread

famine, according to the Reuters news service.

"We are having an emergency meeting to avoid a full-blown emergency," Josette Sheeran, head of the United Nations' World Food Programme, said at a news conference.

UNICEF estimates more than 1 million children under the age of 5 will need treatment for severe acute malnutrition, according to Reuters.

Southern Baptists are being called to action to help save lives, BGR Executive Director Jeff Palmer said.

"Families in Sub-Saharan Africa suffer constantly from malnutrition, and the possibility of famine is never more than a few months away," he said. "We saw millions of people in danger of starving this past fall in the Horn of Africa, and tens of thousands died. This crisis could be worse if steps are not taken now to head off the crisis."

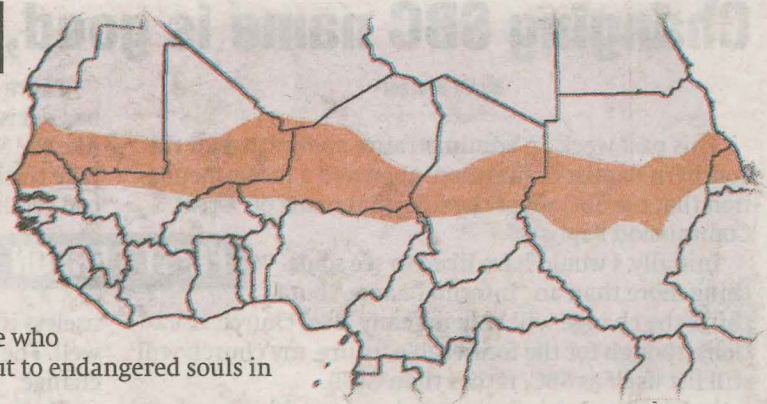
"Because Southern Baptists cared enough to respond to the Horn of Africa

famine, lives were spared," Palmer

added. "We know God's Spirit will be moving in the hearts of people who care to reach out to endangered souls in the Sahel."

The Sahel is a 3,400-mile expanse that stretches from the Atlantic Ocean to the Red Sea, between the Sahara Desert to the north and the savanna to the south. Its name derives from an Arabic word that means "shore"—the Sahel appears to run as a coastline along the southern edge of the Sahara's ocean of sand. The Sahel covers parts of Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Algeria, Niger, Nigeria, Chad, Sudan, South Sudan, Cameroon and Eritrea.

The United States, Britain, Germany, Japan, Luxembourg and the European Union already have made cash donations



**REGION IN CRISIS** Humanitarian workers are working to ward off widespread famine in the Sahel, a 3,400-mile expanse in Africa that stretches from the Atlantic Ocean to the Red Sea, between the Sahara Desert to the north and the savanna to the south.

to stave off the crisis, Reuters reported. International relief initiatives in the Sahel will include such measures as market gardens, seed distribution, well and irrigation projects, food for work programs, livestock vaccinations, community education and ready-to-use food therapies. (BGR/BP)

## Judge rules NYC churches can meet in schools while lawsuit proceeds

**New York**—A federal judge handed New York City churches a major victory last Friday, issuing a preliminary injunction that will allow congregations to meet in schools while the lawsuit proceeds—that is, unless the city wins on appeal.

The order by District Judge Loretta Preska made clear that all churches—and not just the named plaintiff, Bronx Household of Faith—will be able to meet in public schools. Unlike her previous order that was to last only 10 days, Preska's latest decision will remain in effect as long as the case proceeds or until a higher court decides differently.

Congregations are attempting to overturn a New York City Department of Education rule that prevents school buildings from being used for "religious worship services."

Preska's decision prevents the city from enforcing the rule against Bronx Household of Faith or "any similarly situated individual or entity."

Preska likely had in mind the U.S. Second Circuit Court of Appeals which, after she issued her temporary 10-day order Feb. 16, ruled that it applied only to Bronx Household of Faith. The circuit court's Feb. 17 decision prevented dozens of churches from meeting in their normal locations the following Sunday.

Represented by the Alliance Defense Fund, Bronx Household of Faith has contended that the city's rule amounts to hostility toward churches and is a violation of the Free Exercise Clause, since the city's rule allows non-religious groups to meet in public schools while banning churches.

An earlier round of decisions that

went against New York City churches were based on an examination of the Free Speech and Establishment Clauses, not the Free Exercise Clause. That earlier round of cases ended in 2011 when the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear the case.

"The city can't single out religious expression and treat it worse than the

expression of everybody else," ADF senior counsel Jordan Lorence said. "The court's order allows churches and other religious groups to meet in empty school buildings on weekends, just as non-religious groups do, while the lawsuit proceeds. The city's view of the First Amendment is wrong, and we intend to continue to demonstrate that in court." (BP)



Loretta Preska



### Spend Easter Weekend

at Smoky Mountain Christian Village

Book now and get a 2 bedroom chalet for 2-6 people for only \$130 per night!\* Or if you'd rather, save on a 3 bedroom chalet for 2-10 people at only \$195; look at what you'll get!

- Serene location in a 40 acre foothill forest right across from Dollywood
- All bedrooms have private baths
- Fully-equipped kitchens and gas grills for dine-in convenience and savings
- Large living and dining areas with all the comforts of home
- Heated pool, playground, and basketball
- Near dozens of churches with special Easter services

Call now for more information!  
**1-866-947-7710**

www.tsmcv.org  
info@tsmcv.org  
2525 Goldrush Rd.  
Pigeon Forge, TN 37863



\*Minimum two night stay. Additional days before or after the weekend are also available at the Easter special rates.

## KOINONIA

### TRAVELS AND TOURS

Exciting  
Christian  
group travel  
opportunities

**You will never be the same! Your life will be enlightened and transformed!**

**Israel:  
A Life-Changing  
Experience**

May 15-25, 2012

• Tour is hosted by Dr. Billy Compton, executive associate for Cooperative Program, and tour manager Roger McCurry, owner and president of Koinonia Travels and Tours.  
• Information/Orientation meeting at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 4 at 410 N. Mulberry, Elizabethtown. Meet your tour host, tour manager, and other travelers.

**New England  
Fall Foliage**

October 2-11, 2012  
(Fly/Drive Tour)

**America's Heritage Tour**

Washington, D.C. and So Much More!  
April 19-25, 2012  
Will also be touring Baltimore, Annapolis,  
Williamsburg, Jamestown, Monticello

**Alaska! The  
Last Frontier!**

July 28-August 10,  
2012  
(Land/Cruise Tour)

The 2012 Travel Brochure has a complete listing of all travel opportunities.

Other destinations include Memphis, Pigeon Forge, Hawaii, Christmas Mystery Trip, Caribbean Cruise and more!  
Please contact Roger McCurry at (270) 304-9062 or roger@koinoniatravelstours.com for itineraries, registration information, and to address any questions.

Visit [www.koinoniatravelstours.com](http://www.koinoniatravelstours.com)

Roger is available to present exciting, interesting, informative, entertaining and magical travel programs to your group. Door prizes and give-a-ways are a part of the presentation.



**LEADING THE CHARGE** ■ Above: Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Paul Chitwood speaks to a crowd of more than 200 gathered at the Kentucky State Capitol Feb. 21 to protest Senate Bill 151, also known as the expanded gambling bill. ■ Right: Emily Liddle (left), 7, and her sister, Ashlyn, 10, join in singing hymns with other rally participants. The girls attended last week's anti-gambling rally in Frankfort with their mother, Amy Liddle, of Waynesburg, and grandfather, Chuck Jacobs. (Photos by Robin Bass)

## Ky. Baptists help defeat gambling bill

Continued from page 1

York led Kentucky Baptists' effort to stop the expanded gambling push, stirring controversy last month by leading a joint session of the legislature in a prayer for God to defeat the governor's chief legislative proposal.

"Help us to admit that we cannot truly love our neighbor as ourselves and then scheme to get his money by enticing him with vain hope," York prayed.

### Citizens, churches united

York, the pastor of Buck Run Baptist Church in Frankfort and a former Kentucky Baptist Convention president, also organized a rally at the state capitol Feb. 21 at which about 250 pastors and concerned citizens from various denominations spoke out against gambling.

"It's the one issue that unites all churches across the theological spectrum," York said. "Liberals, moderates, conservatives and fundamentalists all know that this is bad for Kentucky families; that it destroys the poor and that it will be our churches that have to be the safety net when some member of the family gambles away the milk money."

Current KBC President Adam

Greenway told the rally crowd that gambling is the wrong way for states to generate revenue.

"Given our first conviction to biblical authority and doing what is right in the eyes of God, it is our belief that the state has the mandate to promote the general welfare, not exploit people," he said. "We believe with gambling that the state is failing in this aspect in how it chooses to fund state government, but also the tragic consequence of encouraging gamblers in order to keep the revenue stream coming in."

### Getting the word out

The KBC alerted its nearly 2,400 churches throughout the state to the importance of the issue. Executive Director Paul Chitwood said before the vote he was "very hopeful that we'll be seeing an overwhelming response from Kentucky Baptists on this issue. There are 750,000 Kentucky Baptists. That's enough to change everything."

Chitwood said the convention got involved in the fight against expanded gambling "because we understood the consequences for our state, for our government, for our children."



"We've been called to be salt and light. What we do is out of love, hopefully with the spirit of love, and we'll speak the truth in love," he noted. "And we're here to speak the truth about gambling in Kentucky."

Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear, who campaigned on a gambling expansion platform in 2007, was met with stiff opposition by the state Senate in his first-term attempts to get casinos in the state. He won re-election handily last November and intended to use that momentum in the 2012 General Assembly to pass expanded gambling against a weakened Senate president in David Williams, his opponent in the gubernatorial election.

Once the bill was voted down in the Senate last week, state leaders seemed convinced the gambling effort was finished this time around.

The Democrat-controlled House has passed such legislation in previous years, but it was never heard in the Senate. Now that the Republican-controlled Senate has voted it down, the House leader didn't expect to take it up again.

"I think it's probably dead for this session," House Speaker Greg Stumbo (D-Prestonsburg) said, adding, "It got a full and fair hearing, and now it's time to move on."

"We need to go on. People need to lay this issue down," Williams agreed.

To pass a constitutional amendment for expanded gambling in Kentucky, 23 votes were needed in the Senate. Six Republicans joined 10 Democrats in voting for the bill, and four Democrats voted against it. One senator, a Democrat, was absent during the vote. (BP)



Get Acquainted Day

Tuesday, March 20  
10 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.  
Kentucky Baptist Building  
13420 Eastpoint Centre Dr., Louisville

Come visit your Kentucky Baptist Building, meet your state convention staff and help us discover ways we can partner with you and your church as you serve in your community.

(And if you're not that new but want to come, you're invited too!)

Lunch is on us and spouses are welcome! Just help us prepare by registering at [www.kybaptist.org/welcome](http://www.kybaptist.org/welcome).



New pastors & church staff, we want to get to know you!

## Our history, part 7

**1966:** Adrian "Odie" Smith, a member of the 1958 University of Kentucky NCAA men's basketball championship team, was the guest at the spring athletic banquet. The school took orders—\$2 each—for reprintings of *The Crucible*. On Sept. 29, Marvin Hall burned. Bricks were salvaged from the ruins to be used for other projects on campus.

**1967:** Although not as serious as some before, a flood caused the usual inconvenience of moving things to higher ground and cleaning up after the water receded. The original Carnahan Hall was demolished. The first girls' track team was organized.

**1968:** Construction began on two boys' dorms, a recreation center and a water treatment plant.

**1969:** Two new buildings were dedicated, Marvin-Wheeler Hall and Carnahan Hall, both boys' dorms.

**1970:** A heated indoor pool and student center were completed and named Goins-Houchell Hall. The junior/senior banquet, themed "The Impossible Dream," was held poolside in the new facility.

**1971:** The Oneida Mountain Hospital was closed and moved to Manchester. Oneida alum Barkley Moore appeared on a nationally televised show called "To Tell the Truth," where he was honored for his record term of service in the United States Peace Corps along the Iran/Iraq border. He also was given a medal by the Shah of Iran for his work.

**1972:** Moore became OBI's ninth president. The yearly cost to run the school was \$200,000. Enrollment was approximately 100 high-school students. The first full-time guidance program for students was started. Tuition for local students was dropped.

**1973:** D. Chester Sparks, OBI president

from 1948-62, was named president emeritus on Jan. 7, his 80th birthday, by a unanimous vote of the trustees.

**1974:** OBI celebrated its 75th anniversary with nearly 1,000 people in attendance at commencement exercises. Former U.S. vice presidential candidate Sargent Shriver spoke at the reception. Oneida held its first summer-school session. Cumberland College held classes on OBI's campus for Oneida faculty and local citizens.

**1975:** A major flood hit the Oneida area. The T.L. and Nell Britton Hall was purchased and remodeled to become a day care, senior-citizen center and faculty apartments. The school purchased, remodeled and dedicated the old nurses' dorm, which became a faculty apartment and campus clinic in honor of Adeline McConville.

**1976:** Sylvia W. Russell Hall was built. It housed classrooms, administration offices, the Floy Chancellor Lyons DeJarnette Library and the Melvin Davidson Chapel. The class of 1976 was the first to hold graduation services in the new chapel. John Henry Walker Hall, a building of faculty townhouses, was completed. The athletic field was moved from the community park to the campus cornfield along the river. Eighth grade was added to the curriculum.

**1977:** Sixth and seventh grades were added to the curriculum. For the first time, OBI was awarded the highest level of accreditation possible in Kentucky. The staff included 12 individuals with master's degrees, 29 with bachelor's degrees and five with bachelors of divinity.

*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

## From west to east

### Fuson moves long way from home to follow God's call to Clear Creek

For first-year student Jason Fuson and his family, the call was to "go east, young man," not west.

"I was born and raised in San Diego, Calif.," Jason said. "I moved a little further east about five years ago when my family settled in Utah. God led us to a Southern Baptist church where Pastor John Keith kept talking about the need for a complete surrender to Christ with our lives. Deep in my heart, I knew God was dealing with me about complete surrender to him, but I kept running from those convictions.

"At that point I didn't really want to think about what God might be up to with my life," Jason recalled. "God would continually bless me with a good job that I would keep for a while, but I just wasn't content. But through it all, God would keep His hand on my family and continue to provide for us.

"I started teaching Sunday School and really enjoyed it. I began to feel that God was calling me to preach. I shared my burden with my wife, and she confirmed to me that she also felt

God placing the call to ministry on our family," Jason said.

"I talked to my pastor, and he gave me the opportunity to preach one Sunday. I was nervous but content. I felt like

I needed some training, and I talked to my pastor about colleges to attend. He was familiar with Clear Creek so we came east and visited. We fell in love with the place and the people.

"I am studying on the pastoral ministries track," Jason noted. "I am not sure exactly where that is going to lead. I have a heavy burden for church planting. I also love working with young people. The classes

here at Clear Creek really prepare you for any area where God leads.

"I have the opportunity to preach on the weekends at a local prison camp in our area," Jason said. "I have the privilege of being able to minister to a group of inmates who have had trouble in their lives but have now given their hearts to Christ and want to turn their lives around. It has been a blessing to be able to minister to them."

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

### Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

## Ky. Baptists urged to donate blankets for children in need

By Dannah Prather

Tom Westerfield:

*"For some kids, a favorite blanket is as important as a favorite toy."*

**Hopkinsville**—Through an initiative that would make Linus from the "Peanuts" cartoons stand up and cheer, Kentucky Baptists are making and donating dozens of blankets and quilts to equip the new disaster relief child care unit.

"For some kids, a favorite blanket is as important as a favorite toy," said Tom Westerfield, coordinator of Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief's child care unit.

In the immediate aftermath of a disaster, something as simple as a blanket could be a profound comfort to a child whose family may have lost all their worldly possessions, he explained.

Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union joined the disaster relief ministry to encourage Kentucky Baptists to stock the child care unit with blankets and quilts that volunteers can give to children affected by natural and man-made disasters.

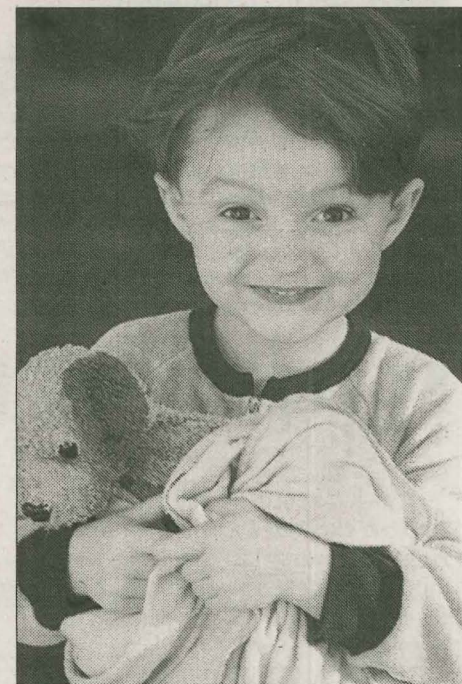
More than 100 blankets and quilts have been donated thus far. Each blanket will include a label with a message to the child: "When life is not easy, wrap yourself in this and remember you are deeply loved."

Blankets must be new and about 36 inches x 48 inches or smaller. They can be quilted or made of fleece or cotton. Blankets should be shipped to: Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief, 13420 Eastpoint Centre Drive, Louisville, KY 40223-4160.

The deadline to submit blankets has been extended to March 5.

Launched last year by Christian County Baptist Association, the child care unit is equipped to provide temporary care for families who have been displaced by disaster.

Volunteers provide Christ-centered activities for boys and girls, giving their parents time to secure temporary housing, clothing and other necessities.



Recently, the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division in Fort Campbell donated parachutes that can be used, on the ground, for several types of group activities and games.

A women's Sunday School class at Edgewood Baptist Church in Hopkinsville recently donated two large chests filled with toys and other items.

Like the blankets, the items in the "Kingdom Treasure Chests" are given to the children to take with them, Westerfield said.

"These could be a child's first or only personal belongings as their family begins the journey to recovery," he noted. (KBC)

## Greece Tours/Cruises

to a beautiful part of the world!

### Steps of Paul & John

Escorted by believer guides with a tremendous understanding of Bible history, the Greek language and practical application of Scripture.

a "life changing" experience!

12 wonderful packages - year-round made especially for the Evangelical Christian. Excellent value for small groups, large groups, and individuals.

Also, a large selection of tours to Israel, the Churches of Revelation, Turkey, Italy, Germany, Petra, Mt. Nebo, Egypt.

[www.pilgrimtours.com](http://www.pilgrimtours.com)

Box 268, Main St., Morgantown PA, 19543 800-322-0788

"Christian Fellowship Tours Since 1987"

# SBC leaders stand with Catholics on contraception mandate

By Michael Foust

Washington—Three Southern Baptist leaders have penned a column on The Washington Post's website saying they stand with Catholics in opposing the contraceptive mandate, calling it a "blatant and outrageous encroachment on religious freedom."

"Despite our theological differences, we cannot remain silent while others find their First Amendment freedom of religion rights trampled," according to the column, co-signed by Southern Baptist Convention President Bryant Wright, Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission President Richard Land, and GuideStone Financial Resources President O.S. Hawkins.

"As Baptists we defend Catholics' right to not have their consciences

coerced by government edict on the issue of contraception."

Under the mandate announced by the Department of Health and Human Services, all employers must offer employees health insurance covering all FDA-approved contraceptives for free. President Obama announced a compromise that he said protects religious organizations, although it has been widely criticized by Christian groups as insufficient. Under his plan, the insurance companies would be responsible for offering free contraceptives to employees.

"The president's 'compromise' ... revealed the White House's basic lack of understanding by thinking this issue could be solved simply by word games or accounting tricks," SBC leaders wrote. "Moreover, it ignores the needs of many

of the oldest and largest church insurance plans in the nation.

"GuideStone, the provider of insurance for many Southern Baptists, is self-funded, which means it pays benefits directly instead of using a third-party insurance company," the column noted. "In the name of religious freedom, it cannot be forced by the government to provide services contrary to its religious convictions."

The mandate, the SBC leaders say, is a "flagrant violation of the First Amendment's free exercise clause protections enshrined in the U.S. Constitution."

Wright, Land and Hawkins cited Mark 12:17: "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." The president's mandate, they charge, crosses the line and intrudes on religion and conscience. (BP)

## Mandate prompts lawsuit

Alexandria, La.—A Baptist college in Louisiana is suing the federal government over a requirement that religious schools and hospitals cover contraceptives in insurance for their employees, including birth control pills that induce abortion.

The Alliance Defense Fund filed a federal lawsuit Feb. 18 on behalf of Louisiana College, a private Christian school affiliated with the Louisiana Baptist Convention. The lawsuit claims that new rules mandating coverage of FDA-approved contraceptives violate the college's confession of faith which upholds the "sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death."

The lawsuit cites SBC resolutions opposing the manufacture and sale of RU-486, called the "abortion pill" because it is taken to end an early pregnancy.

The lawsuit says requiring Louisiana College to provide health insurance for its employees that covers such drugs would violate "sincerely held religious beliefs regarding abortion." It seeks to block enforcement of the contraceptive mandate as a violation of the school's constitutional rights under the First and Fourth amendments, as well as the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

"LC cannot provide health care insurance covering abortion, abortifacient or embryo-endangering methods, or related education and counseling without violating its deeply held religious beliefs and its Christian witness," the lawsuit states. (ABP)

## Prop 8 supporters appeal

San Francisco—Bypassing the Supreme Court for now, supporters of California's Prop 8 are appealing a ruling that went against them to the full Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

The decision gives ProtectMarriage.com two opportunities to see the Feb. 7 decision reversed. In that ruling, a three-judge panel for the Ninth Circuit struck down Proposition 8, a constitutional amendment that defines marriage as between one man and one woman, although it said its ruling was "narrow" and applied only to California and not to other states. If the Supreme Court had refused to hear the case, it would have been the end of all legal options.

"After careful consideration, we determined that asking for reconsideration by the full Ninth Circuit is in the best interests of defending Prop 8," said Andy Pugno, an attorney representing ProtectMarriage.com, which filed the petition Feb. 21. "This gives the entire Ninth Circuit a chance to correct this anomalous decision by just two judges overturning the vote of 7 million Californians."

In their petition to the court, Prop 8 supporters said the Ninth Circuit panel was wrong to rule that the "sole purpose" of Prop 8 was to declare the "lesser worth" of gays and to "dishonor a disfavored group." (BP)

## Court rules for pharmacists in dispensing abortion pill

Washington—A federal court last week struck down a Washington state rule that requires pharmacists to dispense the morning-after pill even if it violates their religious beliefs.

Religious liberty advocates cheered the decision. They have decried the 2007 state regulation as a violation of pharmacists' First Amendment rights, which guarantee freedom of religion.

"Today's decision sends a very clear message: No individual can be forced out of her profession solely because of her religious beliefs," said Luke Goodrich, deputy national litigation director at the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty.

The decision comes in the midst of a firestorm over the Obama administration's Jan. 20 decision to require nearly all employers to cover free birth control through their insurance plans. It has outraged religious conservatives who consider it a directive to ignore their religious convictions. (RNS)

## Crossings in Haiti

### Camps set to begin near Haitian capital to reach country's youth

Earlier this month I sat in a concrete home, warm in temperature and surrounded by a discussion I could not understand.

Every few minutes, an interpreter would summarize the debate ranging back and forth to give me a quick brief.

The discussion was in regard to whether or not Hagar did anything wrong in regard to the birth of Ishmael, honestly a pretty deep topic, which led to the practical application today of God's sovereignty and man's free will.

Needless to say, I did not hear a new line of reasoning that helps our feeble and frail minds better grasp how those two facts exist.

The time was enjoyable with my Haitian brothers and sisters who comprise the staff of a new camp and training facility.

During that visit, we planned for the continued construction of a new camp property and the needed plans for the coming weeks of Crossings in Haiti later this year.

I was greatly encouraged as they wrestled with the truth of Scripture

and as they sought to make daily application from the timeless truths contained within.

Perhaps you may not be aware that for more than a year, we have been making plans and progress toward opening a camp just northwest of Port-au-Prince.

In the coming months, we will have three groups of Americans attending Crossings in Haiti that will help to facilitate and fund a year-round ministry in Haiti to reach the Haitian youth and create a training location for the country's pastors.

As we continue preparing for camps here at Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek and now even in another country, we continue to be in great need of your prayers that we will be faithful to God's word and that through the proclamation of His gospel, thousands of lives will be changed this summer.

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

### Ky. Baptist Assemblies



David Melber

## Dedicated to the kids

### Sunrise employees show caring, love to abused, neglected children

For more than 142 years, Sunrise Children's Services has met the challenge of making positive changes in the lives of Kentucky's children. The support of churches, individuals, businesses and organizations has been vital to us in meeting that challenge.

Another critical element in our success is finding compassionate, caring and qualified individuals to staff our facilities. Our young people arrive at Sunrise having endured unspeakable abuse and neglect, and it's crucial that those waiting for them when they arrive are dedicated to providing them with a secure place to live, heal, learn and prepare for a more stable future.

Our employees must see their roles as more than just jobs, but rather a mission to improve the lives of hurting children. Through the years, Sunrise has attracted employees who have a heart for children and who are motivated to make our world a better place, one child at a time.

Countless young people have come through our doors and have left with unlimited potential and opportunities.

They become students, workers, husbands and wives, mothers and fathers. Because of the lessons learned from our dedicated employees, they are able to break the cycle of abuse and neglect.

Since our beginning in 1869, we have relied on the church for financial support. Just as important, however, are your prayers for our employees who deal with heart-wrenching stories each time a new child comes to us. These workers are on the frontlines of a very real war that affects thousands of children in Kentucky, and they need the right amount of patience, discipline, grace, compassion and love to mend these broken lives. These same qualities are needed

for our many foster parents who open their homes to these hurting children.

Today, we have more than 600 children in our care, each one depending on our employees to be professional, respectful and fully committed to the mission we've been true to for so many years. Please pray regularly for these workers to be positive change agents in the lives of our children.

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

### March

- 2-3** Creative Ministries Festival, Hillvue Heights Church, Bowling Green.
- 3** Vacation Bible School Clinic, Lone Oak First Baptist Church, Paducah.
- 4** Kentucky Baptist Women's Chorale Concert, Sand Spring Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg.
- 9-10** Go! Africa Zambesi Cluster Base Camp, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 10** Disaster Relief Training Phase I & II, Porter Memorial Baptist Church, Lexington.
- 10** Region 8 RA Congress and Rally, First Baptist Church, Russell.
- 10** Vacation Bible School Clinic, Beacon Hill Baptist Church, Somerset.
- 12** Growing Ministries Tour, Blood River Baptist Association, Hardin.
- 12** Send>>St. Louis Forum, Lone Oak First Baptist Church, Paducah.
- 13** Growing Ministries Tour, First Baptist Church, Madisonville.
- 13** John Franklin Taping Session, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 17** Hispanic WMU Event and Evangelism Conference, First Baptist Church, Hodgenville.
- 17** Region 6 RA Congress and Rally, Kirksville Baptist Church, Richmond.
- 17** Region 7 RA Congress and Rally, Elk Spring Valley Baptist Church, Monticello.

■ **BREMEN**—Mount Pisgah Church's ladies ministry will hold its monthly "Mugs and Muffins" event March 3, 9 a.m., with **Eva Self** as guest speaker. **Bill Burszytnski** is pastor.

New Harmony Church will hold revival services March 3-7 with **Ronnie Owens**, pastor of Weaver Church in London, as evangelist. **Dan Yeager** is pastor.

■ **BRONSTON**—First Church will hold a "Season of Prayer" potluck dinner March 5, 6:30 p.m. **Carter Stewart** is pastor.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Campbellsville Church will hold a missions fellowship event March 4, 5 p.m., featuring international foods and desserts.

Saloma Church will hold its annual joint worship service with Pleasant Union Church in Campbellsville March 4, 11 a.m. A meal and fellowship time will follow the worship service. **John Chowning** is pastor.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Central Avenue Church will host Severns Valley Association's "Amazing Wonders

Aviation" Vacation Bible School preview March 5, 6:30 p.m. **Odell Beauchamp** is pastor.

■ **FLORENCE**—Florence Church at Mount Zion recently called **Corey Abney** as pastor. He previously was teaching pastor at Highview Church in Louisville.

■ **LONDON**—Calvary Church will hold spring revival services March 4-7 with **Denny McCowan**, pastor of East Pittsburg Church in London, as evangelist. **Harlan Avera** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Deer Park Church will hold a World Day of Prayer event March 2, 7 p.m., featuring the church women of Malaysia. A food and fellowship time will follow the service. **David Platt** is pastor.

Parkland Church will hold "Weekend of Spiritual Awakening" revival services March 2-3, 6 p.m.; March 4, 9 a.m., with **Tom James**, pastor of Eastwood Church in Bowling Green, as evangelist. **Tom Curry** is pastor.

St. Matthews Church will hold a women's emphasis Sunday March

4, 9:50 a.m., with **Angela French-Coles**, principal at Audubon Elementary School in Louisville, as guest speaker. **Katie Anderson** and **Make Us One** will provide special music. **Greg Barr** is pastor.

Walnut Street Church will hold a "Let's Get Tech Savvy" Lunch and Learn event March 5, 1 p.m. The topic will be e-reader devices. **Rusty Ellison** is pastor.

■ **MIDWAY**—Midway Church recently called **Steve Hadden** as pastor.

■ **MOUNT WASHINGTON**—First Church will hold a "Living Free!" workshop March 3, 8:30 a.m., which will train individuals to become facilitators and mentors to persons with life-controlling problems. The cost to attend is \$20 which includes lunch and a workbook.

■ **OWENSBORO**—First Church will hold a Cinderella Ball March 9, 6 p.m., for girls in grades K-5. The cost is \$20 per couple and \$25 for three people. Reservations are required by March 5. To reserve a spot, call (270) 683-3505. **Paul**

## Spotlight on ...

### Central City

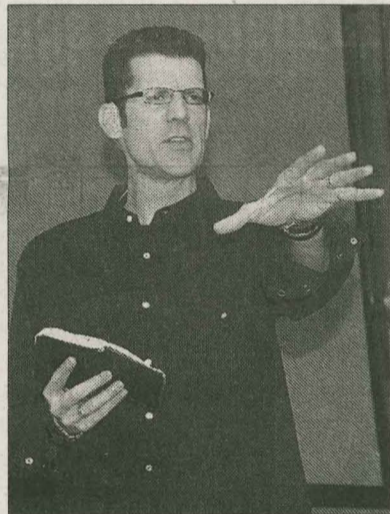


Cedar Grove Church will hold a "Pastors Renewal" weekend March 2, 6:30 p.m., for pastors only; March 3, 10:30 a.m., for pastors and church staff; and 5 p.m. for pastors and their wives. Evangelist **Matt Wilkins** will be the guest speaker. For more information, call (270) 754-4354. **Cody Crowell** is pastor.

**Strahan** is pastor.

■ **SOMERSET**—First Church will host an open house for Campbellsville University's Carver School of Social Work and Counseling March 1, 5:30 p.m. The event is for those who are interested in learning more about the school's academic programs. For more information, call the Carver School at (270) 789-5049.

Woodstock Church will hold a youth rally March 3, 7 p.m. **Donavon Burton** is pastor.



Jay Lowder

## Lowder rallies see more than 100 decisions for Christ

**Campbellsville**—"At 21 years of age I was on the verge of suicide," Jay Lowder said. "I truly believe if my roommate hadn't come home early from work that day, I would be lost in an eternity in hell."

Evangelist Lowder spoke recently at Campbellsville University's chapel service and at a city-wide student rally attended by several hundred. It is estimated that more than 100 professions of faith were made at the two events.

"Matthew 7:23 is quite possibly the saddest verse in the Bible," Lowder said. "Here Jesus explains

he will one day say to many, 'Depart from me, for I never knew you.'"

Lowder said it was not until he attended an NBA basketball game that he gained a new perspective on the verse.

"Several years ago, I promised to take my son to see his favorite player, Vince Carter," Lowder said. "More than anything, I wanted to get an autograph from Carter to ensure that my son would have the perfect day."

Lowder said he and his family tried everything they could to get

an autograph, but they left the game disappointed.

"God reminded me of the Scripture in Matthew," Lowder said. "I feel like that scenario is very similar to what it may be like one day for people who don't know Christ."

"I can't help believe that there are people here today that know Jesus Christ like we knew Vince Carter," Lowder suggested. "Can you imagine looking into the face of absolute perfection, who knew no sin, and hearing the words 'I never knew you, depart from me?'" (CU)

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**DEGREE:** Earn your seminary college degree at home. Ministry, biblical studies, pastoral leadership, more. Free academic evaluation. [www.newburghseminary.com](http://www.newburghseminary.com).

**FOR RENT:** Gatlingburg cabin (\$90 per night) and condo (\$70 per night). For info or booking, call (832) 922-0401; or email [pdw4760@att.net](mailto:pdw4760@att.net).

**FOR RENT:** Two condos in Destin, Fla. Two bedrooms, two baths and sofa beds. Special rate for April-May: \$495. [lbrammer@charter.net](mailto:lbrammer@charter.net). (423) 309-4422.

**FOR SALE:** Books by Glenn Mollette; prayer, care giving, inspirational, nursing homes, fitness, more. [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) or [BarnesandNoble.com](http://BarnesandNoble.com).

**NEEDED:** Good used van for Martin First Baptist Church in Eastern Kentucky. Donation or at little cost. Please call Tom Biddle at (606) 886-3335.

**SEEKING:** Full-time senior pastor for Cadiz Baptist Church, Cadiz, Ky., a small town located in southwestern Kentucky near Ft. Campbell Army Base and the Land Between the Lakes. Applicants must have a college degree and leadership skills to lead our church to its full potential; previous experience as pastor preferred. Forward resumés to [jan@cadizbaptist.org](mailto:jan@cadizbaptist.org); or mail to Cadiz Baptist Church, 82 Main St., Cadiz, KY 42211.

**SEEKING:** Part-time worship leader who is familiar with hymns, modern music and leading a choir for Georgetown, Ky., church. Send resumés to [safeharborpastor@gmail.com](mailto:safeharborpastor@gmail.com).

**SEEKING:** Part-time pianist for Lyndon Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky. Must be comfortable sight reading choral anthems as well as accompanying both hymns and praise songs. Sundays and Wednesdays. For more details, call (502) 425-7150.

**SEEKING:** Part-time music minister needed in Bagdad, Ky. Familiar with blended hymns, modern music and a choir. Send resumés to [ksheets67@yahoo.com](mailto:ksheets67@yahoo.com).

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of music/youth. Will consider separate part-time positions. For more info, contact Rev. Tom Stokes, (270) 487-6538; or email [tfbc302@scrtc.com](mailto:tfbc302@scrtc.com). Email resumés or mail to First Baptist Church, 302 N. Magnolia, Tompkinsville, KY 42167.

**SEEKING:** Full-time director of children for Elkton Baptist Church. We are looking for someone who is a team player, energetic, self-motivated, well organized and can relate to children, parents and the rest of the church. A bachelor's degree and experience are a plus. Send or email resumés to Elkton Baptist Church, PO Box 547, Elkton, KY 42220; or [erictharris@mchsi.com](mailto:erictharris@mchsi.com).

**SEEKING:** Full-time associate pastor (music and education) at Pleasant View Baptist Church, Waynesburg, Ky. Please forward resumés to [pybcsearch@gmail.com](mailto:pybcsearch@gmail.com); or mail to 13571 Ky. Hwy. 1247, Waynesburg, KY 40489, Attn: Search Team.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of students to lead youth and children's ministries. Must have a college degree with experience in youth and children's ministry. Please send resumé to First Baptist Church, PO Box 327, Paris, KY 40362, Attn: Gary Ellcessor.

**SEEKING:** Full-time senior pastor, First Baptist Church, Bethany, Mo. ([www.fbcbethany.org](http://www.fbcbethany.org)). Conservative Southern Baptist Church affiliated with SBC, MBC; adhering to 2000 Baptist Faith & Message. Send resumé to Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 302 N. 22nd St., Bethany, MO 64424; or email [pastorsearch@fbcbethany.org](mailto:pastorsearch@fbcbethany.org).

**SEEKING:** Full-time Southern Baptist pastor for Grace Baptist Church, located 7 miles south of Pikeville at Shelbiana, Ky. (rural Pike County in Eastern Kentucky). Seminary preferred. Average Sunday worship attendance: 105-130. Church provides part-time secretary. Send resumé to Grace Baptist Church, c/o Larry F. Compton, 7129 Millard Hwy., Pikeville, KY 41501-8101.

### To place an advertisement:

Rates are available upon request. Call (502) 489-3428; or visit [WesternRecorder.org](http://WesternRecorder.org). Claims made by advertisers are not necessarily those of the Western Recorder's staff or directors.



**SEEKING:** Full-time senior pastor for Westside Baptist Church in Murray, Ky. Average worship attendance: 450. Seminary degree required; previous experience preferred. Send resumé to Westside Pastor Search Committee, PO Box 750 Murray, KY 42071; or email to [thph048@gmail.com](mailto:thph048@gmail.com) by March 31, 2012.

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of church administration for Calvary Baptist Church located in Oak Ridge, Tenn. A degree in church administration with a minimum of five years experience in church administration is requested; Shelby computer software experience is a plus, as well as the ability to provide pulpit relief for the senior pastor. Please submit your resumé and salary requirements to [personnel@calvarybapcbc.comcastbiz.net](mailto:personnel@calvarybapcbc.comcastbiz.net); or mail to: Personnel Committee, Calvary Baptist Church, 163 N. Jefferson Cir., Oak Ridge, TN 37830.

## Not too late to make a resolution

By Chuck Bentley

Last January, Time magazine listed the Top 10 Commonly Broken New Year's Resolutions. Here are three on their list to which I think we can all relate:

- Lose weight and get fit.
- Eat healthier and diet.
- Get out of debt and save money.

Sadly, this list represents some cultural insight into 1) the top needs of many Americans and 2) a lack of discipline in three key areas of life in the richest nation on earth.

Although we are at the end of February, it's not too late to make resolutions in those areas where you want to see improvement. And to help you, I want to give you some ways actually to achieve your financial or personal goals so that you can be among those with resolutions that are still intact at the end of the year.

**Make a specific goal.** Let's assume that one of your resolutions in the area of personal finances is something like this, "I will get out of debt and save more money in 2012." That is a good resolution. But now you have to get some details in your plan. Your next step is to define how much you want to accomplish in each plan category and record them in the form of detailed, measurable goals. Here is an example:

"I will pay off \$8,500 in credit card balances within 12 months so that I can be debt free.

"I will save \$1,500 in an emergency savings account within 12 months so that I no longer have to rely upon my credit cards."

**Develop a plan.** To achieve your debt reduction and savings goals, you could do the following:

1. Download a free budgeting plan at crown.org.

Once you have downloaded the budgeting plan, spend a few hours working through the numbers to determine how much money you earn and how much you spend each month. This will help you determine if you need to a) decrease your spending, b) increase your income or, c) do both in order to have the amount of money you need to apply towards debt and save some each month.

This step is very important and one that cannot be omitted if you want to complete your goal.

2. Establish a separate bank account to automatically withdraw the amount you need to pay off credit cards and to save each month. For instance, in the example above, you need to withdraw about \$425 each paycheck or about \$850 per month to have \$8,500 to pay off your credit cards and save money for emergencies.

Once you have made the automatic transfer, use the account only to pay off the credit cards and nothing else. If you have established your budget correctly, you will have a surplus of \$62 per

pay period or \$125/month remaining and \$1,500 in emergency savings by the time you reach the 12th month.

### Victory over lack of discipline.

Discipline and self-control must be applied one day at a time. If you can establish one daily discipline and stick with it for three weeks, you will form a new habit that will lead to the ability to become more disciplined in every area of your life.

A spiritual battle will be waged to keep you from believing that you can be disciplined. The enemy wants to rob you of the fruit of the Holy Spirit and cause you constantly to feel defeated when it comes to areas of weakness. Make this a matter of daily prayer, asking God to help you live one day at a time, to give you self-control and perseverance.

Like any endeavor, you may experience setbacks, frustrations or obstacles that discourage you. That is when you must not give in to the temptation to quit. It will be far more encouraging at the end of the year if it simply takes you longer or a few more attempts to achieve your goals than if you had quit early on.

**Reward success.** It is a fact that events that cause a strong emotional reaction are more vividly etched in our memories than those that are emotionally neutral. We can remember days of grief, joy or fear in more detail and for far longer than just a normal day in our lives.

If you have had a lifetime of stress when it comes to managing money, use those bad memories as motivation to eliminate the continual fear, anxiety and worry about money that have become associated with trying to solve these problems. Imagine life without that emotional drain and use it to motivate you to persevere toward the opposite end of the emotional scale—joy, peace and a sense of being prepared.

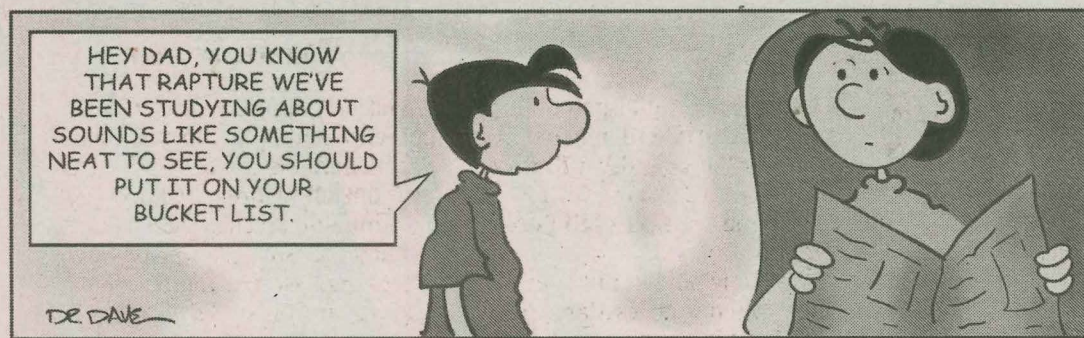
Now with a mental picture of your goal in mind, how would you like to celebrate on Dec. 31 if you have achieved your New Year's resolution? Be honest. Would you like to eat out at a favorite restaurant, give a gift to an important person in your life, be able to be more generous? These are all perfectly acceptable forms of rewards if they motivate you to finish your goals. Since we are all built to desire rewards, this is an important element in your plan.

**Get some help.** Finally, don't go it alone. Team up with a friend that wants to accomplish a similar goal or join a small group that can encourage you to stay the course. God has designed all of us to operate within a body of like-minded believers. (BP)

Chuck Bentley is CEO of Crown Financial Ministries. His book, "The S.A.L.T. Plan, How to Prepare for an Economic Crisis of Biblical Proportions," is available now. To contact Crown, visit [Crown.org](http://Crown.org) or call 1-800-722-1976.

## Preacher's Kids

David Ayers



Joe McKeever



Fletch



Dennis Fletcher

## Bible Crosswords

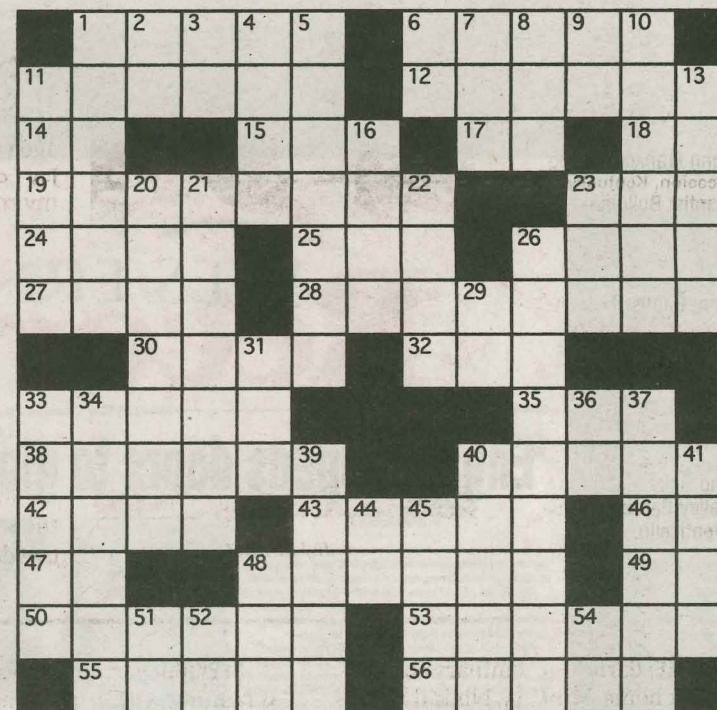
By Teri Grottko

### Across

- 1 Returning exiles, the children of \_\_\_\_ (Ezra 2:44)
- 6 Standoffish
- 11 \_\_\_\_ of refuge
- 12 Mother of Samuel
- 14 "\_\_\_\_ if!"
- 15 Encountered
- 17 Biblical pronoun
- 18 Latin abbr.
- 19 Made with yeast
- 23 Take a wrong turn
- 24 City where Isaac died (var., Genesis 35:27)
- 25 Physicians' group (abbr.)
- 26 Looked at
- 27 Greet
- 28 Gossips
- 30 Brother of Harnepher (1 Chronicles 7:36)
- 32 On the outside (prefix)
- 33 Son of Midian (Genesis 25:4)
- 35 O.T. minor prophet (abbr.)
- 38 Father of Azareel (Nehemiah 11:13)
- 40 More painful
- 42 Hearts, for one
- 43 Offering
- 46 Preposition
- 47 Hospital inits.
- 48 King Og's kingdom (Numbers 21)
- 49 Pronoun
- 50 Aka Belteshazzar
- 53 He prophesied bondage for Paul
- 55 Bear or bee
- 56 Included in the inheritance of the tribe of Asher (Joshua 19:27)

### Down

- 1 He was "smote" by Jael
- 2 Clara Bow, the \_\_\_\_ Girl
- 3 City near Bethel
- 4 Part of the hemoglobin molecule
- 5 Wife of Joseph (Genesis 41)
- 6 "Say \_\_\_\_"
- 7 \_\_\_\_ it on
- 8 Single
- 9 \_\_\_\_ a roll
- 10 Prettier
- 11 City in Assyria (Genesis 10:11)
- 13 Cattle crowds
- 16 Arabian city (Isaiah 21)
- 20 Brother of Joab (1 Chronicles 2:16)
- 21 Assign worth to (arch.)
- 22 Palm or line
- 23 "He that hath a bountiful \_\_\_\_ shall be blessed" (Proverbs 22:9)
- 26 Son of Zerariah (Ezra 8:4)
- 29 Relative of a borough (abbr.)
- 31 Son of Jether (1 Chronicles 7:38)
- 33 Alleviated
- 34 Servant of Gideon (Judges 7:10)
- 36 Middle Eastern language (abbr.)
- 37 City in the inheritance of the children of Simeon (Joshua 19:4)
- 39 Southern European country
- 40 His son Jonathan served in David's army (1 Chronicles 11:34)
- 41 Asiatic deer (pl.)
- 44 Linking verb
- 45 Comparative conjunction
- 48 Get-together, for a purpose
- 51 Favorite first word?
- 52 Preposition
- 54 Command word



### Last puzzle's solution

