

WESTERN Recorder

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Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

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Historic moment for Southern Baptists



Fred Luter, pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans, ran unopposed for the Southern Baptist Convention presidency June 19 during the SBC annual meeting. Bryant Wright (right), the SBC's outgoing president, prayed for him immediately after messengers to the convention made their votes known by standing at a packed Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans. (Photo by Kent Harville/BP)

New Orleans pastor Fred Luter is SBC's first black president

By Adelle Banks

New Orleans—Pointing heavenward and wiping away tears, Fred Luter was elected June 19 as the first black president of the predominantly white Southern Baptist Convention.

"To God be the glory for the things that he has done," Luter said moments after more than 7,000 Southern Baptists leapt to their feet, cheered and shouted "Hallelujah" when he was declared their next leader.

Luter, 55, a former street preacher who brought his mostly black New Orleans congregation back from near annihilation after Hurricane Katrina in 2005, will lead the nation's largest Protestant denomination for at least the next year. Most SBC presidents traditionally serve two one-year terms.

Rather than rally behind a traditional white conservative candidate, Southern Baptist leaders



Southern Baptist messengers narrowly adopt 'Great Commission Baptists.' Page 2

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FINDING FREEDOM

Prison ministry provides hope through Christ

By Robin Cornetet Bass

Fredonia—Lee Rust placed her lunch tray on the cold steel table and straddled a low stool bolted to the cement floor. Across the table sat her lunch companion, a longtime inmate of the Western Kentucky Correctional Complex—one of two state prisons for women.

Within minutes, the inmate began unpacking the suitcase of circumstances that led her to a life of incarceration. She began by describing her "mean drunk" of a father who physically and emotional abused her mother until the woman ran away, leaving her children behind. Still a young girl, the inmate said she then became the focus of her father's alcoholic rage and eventually the victim of

his sexual desires.

At 13, she married just to get away from him.

"She then propped her hand on her forehead and said, 'Life really went down hill from there,'" Rust recalled. "My



PRISON PRAYERS Freedom Forever Ministries volunteers pray outside Western Kentucky Correctional Complex in Fredonia before entering the women's prison. (Photo by Robin Cornetet Bass)

mind was screaming: How could it go down hill? Looking me right in the eye she said, 'I've been in here for a long time. I have five children who don't know me. Both my parents are dead now, but God has not left me.'"

Perhaps—the inmate pondered aloud—perhaps her prison sentence was God's grace. Maybe this was His way of providing safe haven. The inmate had felt His protection throughout her

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Southern Baptists approve alternate name, but just barely

By Adelle Banks

New Orleans—The Southern Baptist Convention narrowly accepted the alternate, informal descriptor of "Great Commission Baptists" as the denomination attempts to make inroads beyond its base in the Bible Belt.

Messengers meeting in New Orleans last week heatedly debated whether to affirm a recommendation from church leaders that congregations and other Southern Baptist organizations voluntarily could use the "Great Commission" moniker, which is based on Jesus' command that His followers spread His message worldwide.

On the second day of the two-day annual meeting, officials announced that the name was approved with 53

percent in favor and 46 percent against the descriptor.

The debate on day one immediately followed the election of Fred Luter as the denomination's first African-American president.

Supporters of the change said the option might help those who are put off by the word "Southern" in the name because the denomination has moved beyond the South or because of its link to a Civil War-era defense of slavery.

"It would have been terrible if we elect Fred with enthusiasm and then reject one of the biggest needs that African-Americans expressed to us," said Jimmy Draper, chairman of the task force that studied a possible name change for the convention. "It would have been inconsistent."

NAME DEBATE Jimmy Draper, chairman of the task force appointed to study a possible name change for the Southern Baptist Convention, recommends the task force's recommendation.



Luter, at a press conference following his election, said he was "amazed" there had been so much debate over the name, and pointed to it as an example of how Southern Baptists can get sidetracked by divisions instead of what they have in common.

"I love it," the New Orleans pastor said of the option of "Great Commission Baptists." "I think it's a win-win situation."

Southern Baptist researchers recently found that more than 70 percent of

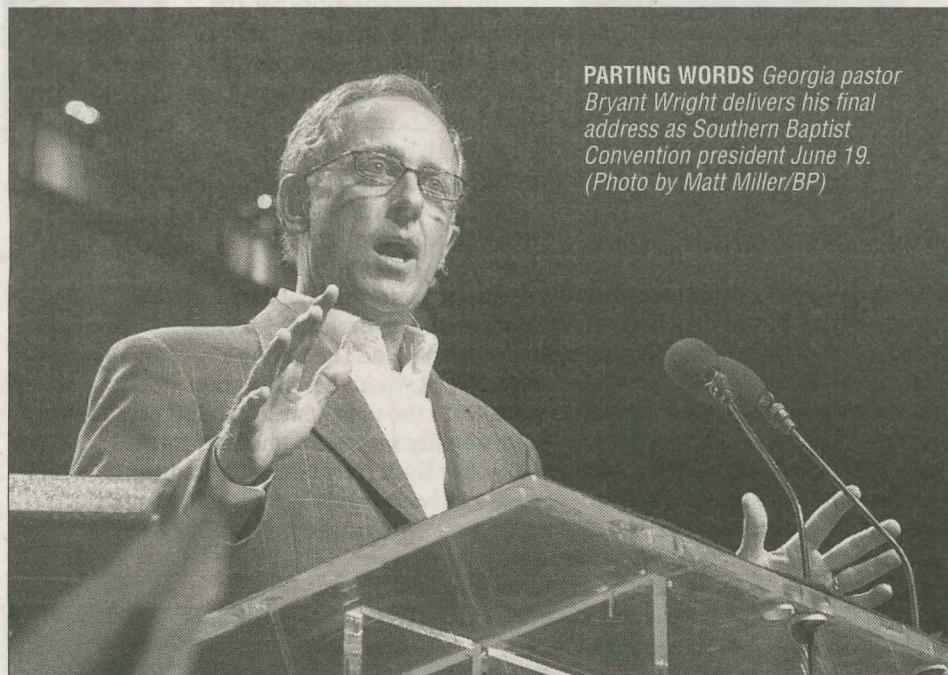
Southern Baptist pastors think the official name should continue, and more than half had no plans to use "Great Commission Baptists."

Tom Law, executive director of the Baptist Convention of Iowa, said pastors from his state's 100 Southern Baptist churches had a mix of views about the alternate name. Some considered the regional nature of "Southern" to be an "inhibitor of conversation." Others appreciate the traditional name, he said, because "it made us feel like we're part of a larger body."

But opponents called the additional descriptor "divisive," and argued that those who wanted another name were not focusing enough on evangelism at a time when membership has declined five years in a row. (RNS)

President's address

Wright exhorts traditionalists, Calvinists



PARTING WORDS Georgia pastor Bryant Wright delivers his final address as Southern Baptist Convention president June 19. (Photo by Matt Miller/BP)

By Gerald Harris

New Orleans—The "elephant in the room" in the Southern Baptist Convention is the tension between "traditional" Southern Baptists and "Calvinists," outgoing Southern Baptist Convention President Bryant Wright said in his message to the SBC annual meeting last week in New Orleans.

Wright, pastor of Johnson Ferry Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga., for more than 30 years, said church planting was not "cool" back then and traditional worship was "the only game in town."

"It was also the time when there was an intensity of conflict within our denomination over the inerrancy of the word of God," Wright said.

"Thankfully," he continued, "Southern Baptist Christians led this convention to do something no other denomination had ever done before—return to biblical orthodoxy after there had been a wayward turn to the left. And for that we are still forever grateful and must be ever vigilant."

Several decades ago a Pentecostal or charismatic movement also impacted many churches in the convention,

Wright said. That too, after some time, "eventually died away."

Then came the "worship wars" that continue to plague many churches, Wright said. "The fact is that all kinds of worship styles are very appropriate as long as they are Christ-centered and biblically based," he said.

"Today the tension has to do with Calvinism or Reformed theology," Wright said. "Months ago ... the Holy Spirit convicted me that I needed to address this elephant in the room. Little did I know that it would be such a hot topic today."

Wright said he is concerned that Christ-centered, Bible-believing Southern Baptists will be so engaged in correcting one another's theological views when it comes to election and salvation that they will be detracted from their mission of rescuing captives who need to be liberated by the gospel of Jesus Christ.

"These two views on election and salvation can co-exist as long as we stay Christ-centered and biblically based in our theology," Wright said.

"So, a word to these two groups: To our Calvinist friends, a bit of humility would be most welcome. Anytime there is spiritual pride or intellectual pride or

Kentuckians named to SBC's nominating committee

New Orleans—Allen Bonnell, the pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Corbin, and Brad Nelson, a member of Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah, were among the 70 individuals elected last week to the Southern Baptist Convention's Committee on Nominations for 2012-13.

The committee is responsible for

recommending trustees next year to serve on the boards of SBC entities.

Kentuckians who served on this year's Committee on Nominations that nominated Bonnell and Nelson were Chad Fugitt, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Corbin; and Tom James, pastor of Eastwood Baptist Church in Bowling Green.

theological pride—it is always a sin. And an attitude of superiority ... is never going to build up the church of Jesus Christ. A little humility would be appreciated.

"To those who call themselves traditional Southern Baptists, the time for being judgmental is over, because judgmentalism quickly moves into slander. And to lump all those who have a strong biblically based theology that is a more Reformed theology into hyper-Calvinism is not only misguided, but it ends up causing you to break the ninth commandment on false witness.

"It is time to show some respect to those who have differing views when it comes to election and when it comes to salvation," Wright urged.

The central focus of the Old Testament and the New Testament, Wright said, is Jesus Christ, His death and resurrection. Those who are more committed to their theological position than to Jesus Christ are guilty of "theological idolatry," he said.

The idolatry of materialism, technology, theology, denominationalism and family are major deterrents to kingdom growth—reaching the neighborhoods and the nations of this world for Christ, Wright said, referring to this year's convention theme.

In contrast, Wright said he is encouraged when he sees a passion for church planting among the 16,000 students enrolled in Southern Baptist seminaries.

"Many of them have a passion for going to a place where a church does not exist," he said. "That is incredibly encouraging to see."

Wright also noted that 1,300 churches have made commitments to connect to an unreached people group somewhere in the world. Still, Southern Baptists will never reach their neighborhoods or the nations without the power of the Holy Spirit, he said. (Georgia Christian Index/BP)

ERLC president acknowledges recent 'mistakes'

New Orleans—In his first public comments on events that drew a sharp reprimand from trustees of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, Richard Land acknowledged last week the charges of both plagiarism and "racially insensitive and hurtful remarks" following the killing of Florida teenager Trayvon Martin.

Land also expressed hope that nothing he did would take away from the election of New Orleans Pastor Fred Luter during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

"It has been my prayer that nothing I have done or said would detract from the historic election of our convention's first African-American president," said Land, who is president of the ERLC.

"I pray that no mistakes of mine would rob our Heavenly Father of one moment of the glory that is His for the work that He has done—and continues to do—in changing the collective heart of the Southern Baptist Convention on the issue of race," he continued.

During his report to SBC messengers, Land reiterated his belief in "trustee oversight and governance," saying he is "under the authority of the trustees elected by you, the Southern Baptist Convention."

Land, who accused President Obama of using the Trayvon Martin case for political gain, led messengers in praying for the president and his family, asking God to give Obama "wisdom, power and direction" in leading the nation. (ERLC/BP)

Exec. Committee amends bylaws, elects officers

By Erin Roach

New Orleans—The Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee amended its bylaws and elected new officers during its June 18 meeting in New Orleans prior to the SBC annual meeting.

According to D. August Boto, executive vice president and general counsel of the Executive Committee, the amended bylaws document:

- Brings the Executive Committee up to date regarding the SBC's sole membership status.

- Explicitly stakes out the Executive Committee's First Amendment right to self-governance.

- Causes all six Executive Committee officers to be nominated and elected.

- Effectively makes the Executive Committee officers the "executive committee of the Executive Committee" for a limited, defined set of purposes.

- More explicitly sets out the authority of the Executive Committee officers to review and adjust the president's salary and requires a report to the full board about any percentage change in salary, if any, or in benefits.

- Improves the awkward and potentially problematic process of vice presidential hiring and termination by delegating approval of both actions to the officers of the board.

- Changes the term "subcommittee" to "committee" (or "standing committee") to harmonize references in Robert's Rules of Order and Tennessee statutes.

- Eliminates redundant provisions regarding notice, waiver, quorum and voting that were included for each subcommittee and workgroup.

- Allows action without a meeting with unanimous consent.

- Explicitly states the mode of employment to be "at will."

- Includes modern communication modes such as email.

The new bylaws took effect immediately after the vote.

Executive Committee members elected the following officers by acclamation for the coming year: Ernest Easley, pastor of Roswell Street Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga., chairman; Mike Routt, pastor of Circle Drive Baptist Church in Colorado Springs, Colo., vice chairman; and Stephen Wilson, a member of Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah, secretary.

Guided by the new bylaws, the Executive Committee elected John Yeats, the convention's recording secretary, as chairman of the administrative committee; Chris Osborne of Texas as chairman of the business and finance committee; and Rodney Autry of Virginia as chairman of the Cooperative Program committee.

In other business, the committee:

- Approved a request from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary to borrow up to \$20 million to finance phase one of the seminary's master plan.

- Approved amendments to the personnel policies of the Executive Committee regarding post-employment benefits for long-term employees whose employment ends honorably. (BP)

Page: Cooperative Program fuels missions efforts

By Erin Roach

New Orleans—Frank Page, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee, used a World War II analogy June 19 in New Orleans to warn that the Cooperative Program, which fuels SBC missions and ministries, is running low.

Page said the Germans were defeated in the Battle of the Bulge after a solid start because they ran out of fuel. "Their machines stopped working. They were technologically very superior, but they couldn't go anywhere. Their tanks became sitting targets for our tanks and our soldiers," Page told SBC messengers.

He then added: "We're running out of fuel in the Southern Baptist Convention. The fuel for a 'Great Commission Advance,' which is what I would like for us to see happen, is the fuel of the Cooperative Program."

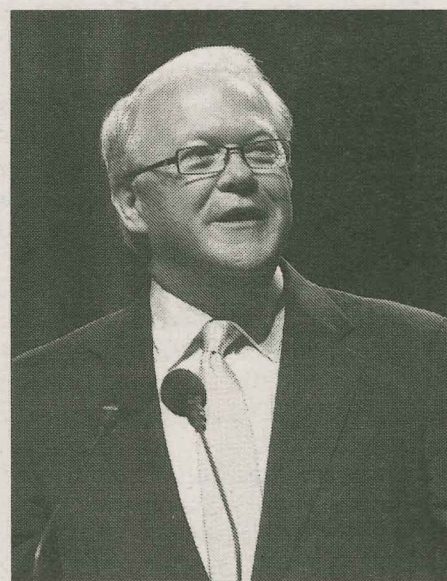
Southern Baptists can talk about missions and even summon the resolve to engage in missions, he said, but without providing fuel, the Great Commission task will be left to someone else.

"We need a rally point that is both biblically based and historically faithful, and we believe that is the Cooperative Program," Page said. That's why Southern Baptists must heed "God's call to be a tithing body of believers."

Page called for individuals throughout the SBC to commit to a 10 percent tithe of their income for the cause of advancing the kingdom of Christ.

"When the average American Southern Baptist mirrors the culture and gives 2.3 percent of his or her income to causes that would be considered charitable or church-related, we're never going to be able to impact the lostness of the world like we ought," Page said.

During the past year, 15 percent of churches in the convention have expressed specific interest in the "1 Percent Challenge," Page said, referring to



EXECUTIVE CHALLENGE Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee President Frank Page delivers his report to SBC messengers last week in New Orleans. (Photo by Van Payne/BP)

increasing gifts through the Cooperative Program by 1 percentage point of their budgets.

Calvinism concerns

Page also addressed Calvinism during the Executive Committee report.

"Calvinism is an issue amongst us," he said. "You may or may not like that, but it is a real issue."

"I don't want to shock anyone in this room, but I am not a Calvinist," he declared. "But I want to tell you this: A lot of our people are."

According to a recent LifeWay Research poll, more than 60 percent of Southern Baptists say they're concerned about Calvinism in the convention.

"I'm concerned because there seems to be some non-Calvinists who are more concerned about rooting out Calvinists than they are about winning the lost for Christ," he said. "Did I tell you I'm

not a Calvinist? But I am not among that number."

Some Calvinists, Page said, "seem to think that if we do not believe the same thing about soteriology that they believe, then somehow we are less intelligent or ignorant, at best."

"It's time to realize that a 'Great Commission Advance' needs everyone," he noted. "Calvinists and non-Calvinists have worked together for decade upon decade upon decade in this convention."

Page confirmed again that he plans to assemble a group of advisors to help chart a way through the division surrounding Calvinism. That will not include revising the Baptist Faith and Message, Southern Baptists' statement of beliefs, he said.

"I do believe we can find some ways to work together better, and I believe that the leaders of both of these groups can come together to say, 'Here's how we can return to working together like once we did,'" Page said.

One way to come together, he said, is for Calvinists and non-Calvinists to go door to door in Houston next summer, telling people about Jesus Christ before the SBC annual meeting. "If we can come together in missions and evangelism, we can come together."

During the business portion of the EC report, messengers:

- Adopted a 2012-13 SBC operating budget that anticipates \$7.5 million in income, with \$6 million through the Cooperative Program. A total of \$2.6 million is budgeted for SBC administration expenses and \$4.9 million is allocated toward operating expenses for the Executive Committee.

- Adopted a 2012-13 Cooperative Program allocation budget that directs \$137.2 million to ministries through the SBC's missions entities, \$41.6 million to education through its six seminaries and \$3.1 million to concerns about ethics and religious liberty. (BP)

Get 'excited' about reaching world's lost, Elliff urges

By Don Graham

New Orleans—What will it cost to be Jesus' heart, hands and voice to a lost and dying world? Absolutely everything.

That was the challenge from International Mission Board President Tom Elliff last week to messengers at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in New Orleans.

It was some 30 years ago in New Orleans, Elliff told messengers, when Southern Baptists began the "conservative resurgence," a fight for the inerrant, infallible nature of Scripture. Southern Baptists again are at a similar crossroads, he said.

"If the word of God was worth that much to us to save it in its purity, is it not worth that much to share it with people around the world?" Elliff asked. "I think it's time we, as Southern Baptists, became as excited about sharing the word of God as we used to be about saving the word of God."

"The bigger question is, are you willing to pay the price? Because Jesus said it's going to cost you everything.



Tom Elliff

Everything you are and everything you hope to be."

Elliff also reported on the progress of the Embrace challenge, issued at the last year's convention in Phoenix, where he called on Southern Baptist churches to

claim responsibility for evangelizing all of the world's then 3,800 unreached, unengaged people groups.

"You stepped up to the plate," Elliff told messengers, reporting that 1,281 Southern Baptist churches and entities have indicated an interest in embracing a UUPG. Of that number, 474 churches and entities also have taken steps to go deeper in that commitment.

"It means some of you are taking this really seriously, and you're saying we want to count the cost, we want to see

what's involved," Elliff said. "We welcome you to the field, we rejoice that you've taken up this mantle, and we praise God that the kingdom is being expanded because of your involvement."

Elliff also lauded Southern Baptists' recent gospel advances, noting that in the most recent annual report, IMB missionaries and their national partners baptized more than 333,800 new believers and started some 28,800 new churches. But that wouldn't be possible, he said, without the faithful support of Southern Baptists.

Elliff expressed his gratitude for the \$146.8 million given in 2011 through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, a \$1.1 million increase over 2010. That's in addition to the \$94.3 million Southern Baptists gave to the IMB through the Cooperative Program. Together, Lottie Moon and CP dollars support the more than 4,900 Southern Baptist missionaries serving around the world.

"They're there because of you and because of your concern for the Great Commission," he said. (IMB/BP)

Measuring ministry success

The following is a guest column by T.J. Francis, second vice president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. He has served as pastor at First Baptist Church of Walton since 2010.

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

The pressure is immense and, at times, even unbearable. You want to make a good impression and appear to be making an impact in the kingdom. You dream of being the headliner at the next church-growth conference. Maybe you will be the next Christian idol, the pop-star pastor that everyone is talking

about. You convince yourself that success in ministry is right around the corner—one seminar or book away. You just know your church is the next megachurch, if only you could get your deacons on board.

It doesn't take long before your frustration becomes full-blown depression. You can't get out of bed in the morning, the passion is gone, and you are just one business meeting away from leaving the ministry. The joy that once filled your heart, the ideas that raced through your mind and the confidence you had in your call have all faded. You think no one notices, but in reality everyone around you knows you have thrown in the towel. You are a failure—or at least that is what you think.

Does this story sound familiar? It should because pastors are dropping out of ministry every day at an alarming rate. Why? I believe one of the central problems in ministry is the way we define success. Some have adopted a model of success measured purely in secular terms where bigger is always better.

I would like to make a simple proposal for measuring ministry success purely in biblical terms. My prayer is that pastors will stop believing success is only measured in attendance, buildings or budgets.

First, feed the sheep (John 21:15-17). Systematically and passionately teach the word of God to the congregation. Teach them to know, love and obey God's word.

Second, lead the sheep (1 Peter 5:2). Lead the congregation into the community to evangelize and watch their love for the community grow. Lead them to take a mission trip, and you will be amazed at how excited they become about global missions.

Third, pour your life into the sheep (1 Thessalonians 2:8; Titus 1:8). Shepherds spend a great deal of time with their flocks. If you are naturally introverted, then force yourself to get out of the office. Meet with them in coffee shops, visit their businesses and invite them to your home.

Success in ministry is when you and I obediently follow the Chief Shepherd, when we stop redefining our ministry, and when we learn simply to thank God that He has called us to proclaim His gospel.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

A 'hallelujah moment' on the way to becoming 'radical'

In casting the official ballot of the convention to elect Fred Luter as president of the Southern Baptist Convention, recording secretary John Yeats added a "Hallelujah!" It was a "hallelujah moment," indeed.

Yet, what caught my heart was the New Orleans pastor's humble response a few moments later. "To God be the glory for the things He has done," the first African-American president of the SBC simply uttered, overcome by emotion. Later, Luter described himself to members of the media as "exhibit A" that the SBC is serious about opening its doors to everyone. While some African-Americans, Asians and Hispanics may have felt like they weren't welcome in the past, "that's not the case anymore," Luter declared.

In that regard, Luter certainly will make a fine spokesman for Southern Baptists, but he is much more than that, though. In one of the finest nomination speeches I have heard at an SBC meeting, David Crosby, pastor of New Orleans' First Baptist Church, lauded Luter, characterizing him as a "fire-breathing, miracle-working pastor." Crosby, whose congregation shared their facilities for two years with members of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church—where Luter is pastor—after Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans in 2005, noted that Luter has re-grown his flock from a remnant to nearly 5,000 worshippers and last year had baptized more than 200 people. Although his church was heavily impacted by flooding, Franklin Avenue has managed to increase its Cooperative Program giving from 1.6 percent to 5.9 percent in 2010. Emphasizing that Southern Baptists already are seeing a greater ethnic diversity in membership, Crosby urged, "We need Pastor Fred at the head of the table, helping us understand our mission field and our mission. It is time to tap the great resource of his experience, wisdom and passion for this wider purpose." Is it any wonder that messengers rose to their feet in acclamation?

In the past two decades, Southern Baptists have seen non-Anglo congregations among the denomination's ranks burgeon from about one in 20 churches to approximately one in five. Luter, who told the media that his only agenda would be to build bridges and help Southern Baptists "get along," allowed that some African-Americans, Hispanics, Asians and other ethnic groups may wait to see if his election is not a one-and-done deal. "This was a genuine, authentic move by this convention that says our doors are open, and the only way they can see that is not just putting up an African-American president, but seeing other ethnic groups in other

areas of this convention," Luter said. "Here is a convention that has been talking this racial reconciliation thing and now they're putting their money where their mouth is."

It was a high moment when outgoing SBC President Bryant Wright passed the gavel to Luter, and Kentucky Baptist Convention officials join in celebrating his election as SBC president.

Paul Chitwood, executive director of the KBC, described Luter's election as "a very important milestone in the Galatians 3:28 journey for Southern Baptists." Chitwood explained: "Given our tragic beginnings, Southern Baptists have long needed to make a strong statement of inclusion toward our African-American churches. I believe Luter's election makes such a state-

ment but recognize that we still have much work to do in purging every vestige of racism from our churches and our hearts. I also agree with Jimmy Draper (former president of LifeWay Christian Resources), who was recently credited for saying that Luter would be elected 'not because he is a black man, but because he is the right man.'"

Adam Greenway, president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, agreed that the significance of Luter's election cannot be understated. "Not only is the proverbial 'glass ceiling' now officially shattered with respect to having a non-Anglo ascend to the highest office of leadership within the SBC, but there is something even greater about this moment that cannot be lost on us. Yes, his election is significant because of the color of his skin, but Fred Luter is not simply an African-American, he is a powerful preacher, passionate soul winner and personal shepherd, and I believe his election by acclamation was as much, if not more, about the content of his character than about the color of his skin," said Greenway, who is senior associate dean and assistant professor of evangelism and applied apologetics at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. "That which was once declared to be a dream is now a living reality amongst us, and all Southern Baptists and Kentucky Baptists should celebrate this fact."

During the Pastor's Conference prior to the SBC, Luter asked pastors, "What is it going to take to change society?" In proclaiming the gospel's power to transform lives, Luter challenged, "Maybe if the world saw us getting along, maybe we can be an example." And maybe that's the key message here: While we celebrate this profound moment in SBC history, what happened in New Orleans will only be symbolic, unless we herald the gospel's power to transform human hearts and open doors. Then, it will be radical!

After Thought

By Todd Deaton



Strength in chaotic world

My name is Sue Fields. I am the associational discipleship training director from Laurel River Baptist Association. I have led Bible drills in our association for more than 26 years now.

My four children all participated in the Bible drills. Each of them was a state winner. I feel the fact that they learned all those Bible verses was a contributing factor in their decision to have a personal relationship with the Lord at an early age.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention has, in the past, supported our Bible drills. I

understand some leadership positions are changing. Those that have had an interest in the Bible drills may no longer be in that position. I see a great need for those leaders such as Alice Seymour, Joe Ball and Jay Parker, to mention a few. They have shown that their hearts are in teaching our children the most important challenge in life—that of Scripture memorization.

I am hoping that you will see the continued need for such personnel. My concern is that you do not take this opportunity away from our children and youth. This is the only strength they have in this chaotic world.

We need to continue doing the things that really matter. I ask, along with other dedicated parents, grandparents and teachers who are willing to teach these Bible verses to our children, that you allow this opportunity to continue. May you prayerfully consider this recommendation.

Sue Fields
London

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Resolutions address sinner's prayer, gay marriage

By Tom Strode

New Orleans—Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention approved resolutions last week reaffirming their convictions regarding the means of salvation and the inerrancy of Scripture while indicating their intention to continue cooperating in the Great Commission despite theological differences.

Among the nine resolutions passed were those:

- Identifying what is frequently described as a "sinner's prayer" as a biblical way of expressing repentance and faith while providing some careful descriptions of what that means.

- Reaffirming the belief that the Bible is without error and attesting to the

direct creation of and historicity of Adam and Eve.

- Agreeing to continue to work together to spread the gospel with an understanding that the Baptist Faith and Message, the convention's confession of faith, sets "sufficient parameters for understanding the doctrine of salvation" among Southern Baptists.

The resolution on cooperation addressed some pre-convention "verbal sparring" between non-Calvinists and Calvinists, Resolutions Committee Chairman Jimmy Scroggins acknowledged afterward.

Messengers also approved resolutions:

- Opposing efforts to use the rhetoric of the African-American civil rights movement in the attempt to legalize same-sex marriage.

- Protesting the Obama administration's attempts to subvert religious freedom in such arenas as health care, marriage and the military.

- Acknowledging and expressing gratitude for the role of African-Americans in Baptist work in the United States.

- Affirming community and human-needs ministries by churches.

- Celebrating the 200th anniversary this year of Baptist ministry in Louisiana.

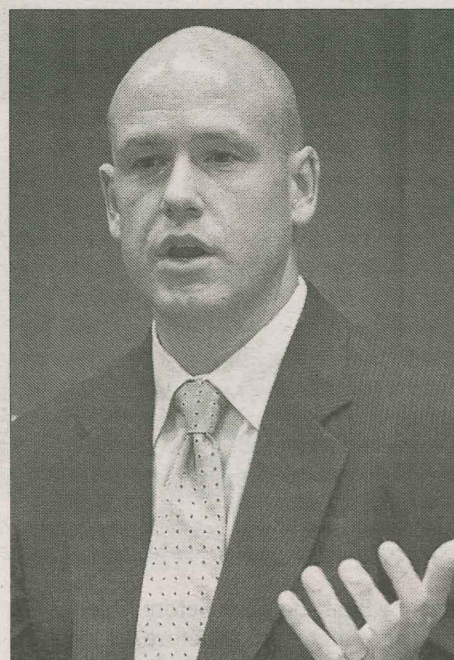
- Expressing appreciation to God and all those who helped with this year's annual meeting.

Messengers approved the resolution on a "sinner's prayer" with what appeared to be at least an 80 percent majority. The other measures gained passage in unanimous or nearly unanimous votes.

The resolution on cooperation and the doctrine of salvation gained approval without verbal opposition expressed from the floor, but debate on the measure on a "sinner's prayer" consumed much of the 30 minutes allotted for the morning report, necessitating an afternoon report.

The resolution, which survived two amendment efforts, affirmed the concept of a "sinner's prayer" while reiterating the belief that "repentance from sin and personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ are necessary for salvation." It said such a "crying out for mercy and a calling on the Lord," which constitute what often is described as a "sinner's prayer," are a "biblical expression of repentance and faith."

Two African-American pastors—Dwight McKissic of Cornerstone Baptist Church in Arlington, Texas, and Eric



RESOLUTION DISCUSSION Jimmy Scroggins, chairman of the Committee on Resolutions, answers questions June 20 during a press conference about the resolutions report at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in New Orleans. Messengers passed six resolutions, including one on "Cooperation and the Doctrine of Salvation" and another on same-sex marriage and civil rights rhetoric. All resolutions passed overwhelmingly. (Photo by Adam Covington/BP)

Redmond of Reformation Alive Baptist Church in Temple Hills, Md.—submitted the resolution objecting to misappropriating civil rights language in the cause of legalizing same-sex marriage.

The resolution provides encouragement to black pastors, said Kevin Smith, a member of the committee who leads Watson Memorial Baptist Church in Louisville.

"During this season, black pastors will have to speak about this issue in a way that white pastors won't," Smith said at the news conference. Referring to President Obama's recently announced support for same-sex marriage, Smith noted, "They'll speak against the first black president and his personal views on marriage while affirming biblical authority."

Black pastors already are taking a clear stand on the issue, but "it's just good to have the affirmation of your brothers and sisters" in the SBC, Smith said.

In addition to Smith, Stephen Wilson, a member of Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah, served on the Committee on Resolutions. (BP)

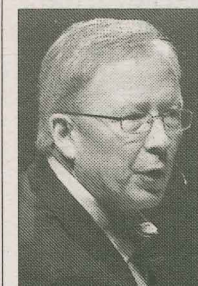
Convention sermon

Uth urges messengers to 'see those around you'

By Barbara Denman

New Orleans—David Uth called Southern Baptists to a fresh understanding of the depth of the love of Jesus Christ, urging them to "love loud and love much because of all that He has forgiven."

The pastor of First Baptist Church of Orlando, Fla., delivered the convention sermon during last week's Southern Baptist Convention.



David Uth

Drawing from Luke 7:36, an ensemble of actors dramatized the passage. In the portrayal, a woman poured an alabaster jar of perfume and wept over the feet of Jesus at the home of Simon the Pharisee.

The story offers an "incredible lesson," Uth said, about a woman with a past who was overwhelmed by the forgiveness of her sin. "Jesus had changed her life, and she had to thank Him" with her actions.

Uth emphasized the reaction of the Pharisee who asked, "Do you see this woman?"

"Simon was so wrapped up in legalism that the law was more important than people," Uth said.

Then he asked: "Do you see those in your life, those around you?"

Uth shared about an earlier SBC meeting in New Orleans when he took a cab to the convention site. When the cab driver picked up a "friend" to ride along, Uth realized the woman was a prostitute and was embarrassed that other pastors might see him with her when he arrived.

"I panicked" and quickly got out the cab, Uth recalled. But God has since broken his heart over the incident and his refusal to share Christ's love with her.

"I did not give a rip about her," he said. "I was only concerned about my reputation, not her eternal destination or lifestyle."

Explaining that the costly oil poured on Jesus' feet and letting down of the woman's hair expressed the depth of her gratitude for His forgiveness, Uth asked, "Why are we not more extravagant in our love and more passionate for others?"

Uth reminded Southern Baptists that all believers are recipients of God's overwhelming forgiveness and grace, saying, "You don't really see others until you see yourself."

"Everything we have that is good comes by grace from the Father above," he said. "It is time to love, love loud and love much because He has forgiven much." (FBC/BP)



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Freedom forever

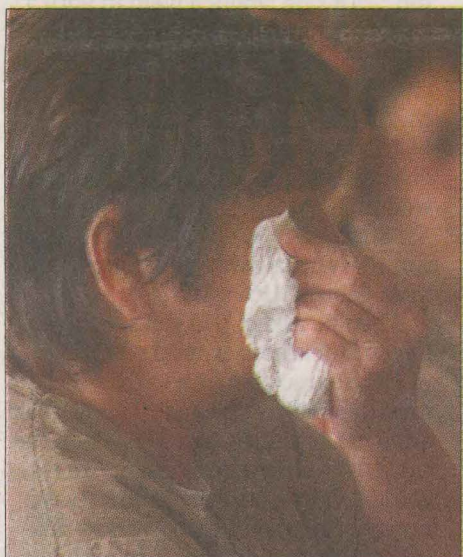
Freeing captive souls in Kentucky's prisons

Continued from page 1
confinement.

Rust, founder and director of Freedom Forever Ministries, was touched by the inmate's faithfulness and described it as an honor to know this woman and to hear her story.

For the past 12 years, Rust has been preaching the word of God to women in prison—first at McCracken County Regional Jail and more recently at the western Kentucky state prison. Over the course of her ministry, Rust said she has heard countless similar stories—and all too often they begin with childhood sexual abuse. Rust said it is a narrative she shares and part of the reason she felt God was leading her to create Freedom Forever Ministries.

"I knew our hearts were the same," said the Paducah resident. "I can relate to them and they are never surprised by any testimony I give them. They are never shocked. They nod their heads in agreement like they understand completely what I'm talking about."



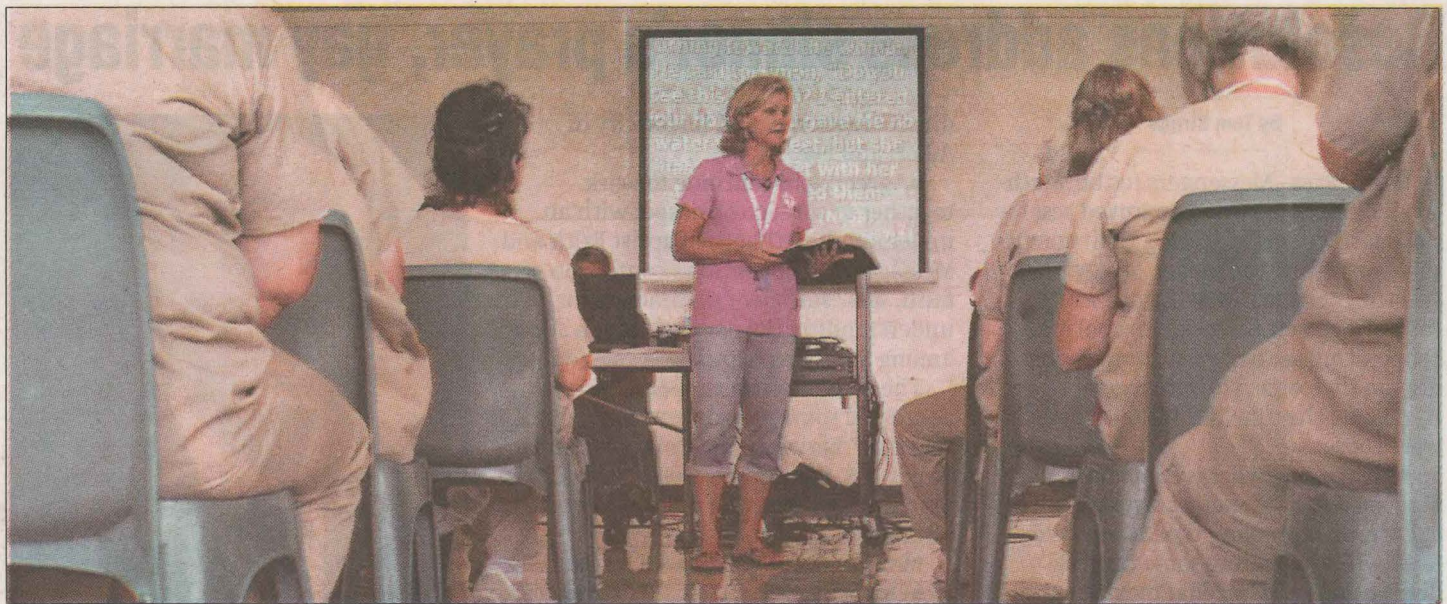
CRY OUT TO JESUS An inmate dabs away tears while listening to praise music.

Through a survey of willing participants, Rust discovered early in her ministry that the average inmate is a 35-year-old, white female with 2.2 children under the age of 18. She also learned that a majority of the inmates she encounters are low to middle class, educated women with at least some church exposure.

"Those statistics would look just about the same in your church family," Rust noted. "It's just that in the church, we are encouraged to look like we are all put together."

As they do every Wednesday morning, Rust and a handful of faithful volunteers made the early morning drive last week from Paducah to the Western Kentucky Correctional Complex in Fredonia. Their cheerful lilac-colored shirts were a stark contrast next to the plain khaki uniforms worn by the inmates.

The women quickly assembled into three lines according to last names, some anxiously recalling the memory verse



FOLLOWING THE SPIRIT Lee Rust, founder and director of Freedom Forever Ministries, leads about 70 women at the Western Kentucky Correctional Complex through a message June 20. Rust pitched her prepared lesson after being felt led by the Holy Spirit to move in another direction.

given by Rust the week before. One-by-one, the inmates stood before one of the ministry volunteers and recited Ecclesiastes 3:4 aloud.

"It was a short one this week," said Kyla Bellis with a big smile. The petite 28-year-old inmate knew Praise Points were riding on her memory skills.

Inmates have the ability to earn up to \$5 each month, which can be used to purchase items from the prison commissary. Freedom Forever Ministries awards inmates with one dollar for an entire month of perfect attendance and one dollar for each recited memory verse. Rust said the ministry gave \$408 in Praise Points last month to female inmates at WKCC and McCracken County Regional Jail in Paducah. The team ministers at the regional jail each Monday.

Rust said offering Praise Points is just an incentive. The goal is discipleship.

"We are teaching them the word of God and encouraging them with scripture memory and regular attendance. We are training them for that day when they are released they'll be so comfortable with that idea (of attending church) they will seek a church family right away," Rust said.

As the inmates settled in their chairs waiting for the service to start, some scribble prayer concerns on paper. Later, said Rust, those requests will be compiled and sent to prayer warriors throughout churches in Kentucky.

Once the music starts, the mood in the room shifts. Chatter subsides and a calming peacefulness hovers over the worshipers. Some of the women stretch their arms up and sing the words of the songs. Others quietly bow their heads. A few dab their eyes with tissue.

Sue Evans, an 8-year FFM volunteer, said she loves this part.

"It's precious to watch them. They are free. When they close their eyes and worship God, they are separated from this place," Evans said.

While the inmates' hearts opening up and worshipping the Lord, Rust is in an adjacent room preparing her heart to preach. Often her husband, Eric Rust, is standing over her—praying that God will "empty her out" in the next hour.

"I call myself an expositor," Russ said.

On this particular Wednesday, Rust decided to scrap her prepared message during the drive from Paducah. She felt God was leading her toward another message, perhaps one that a particular person in that room needed to hear. Rust

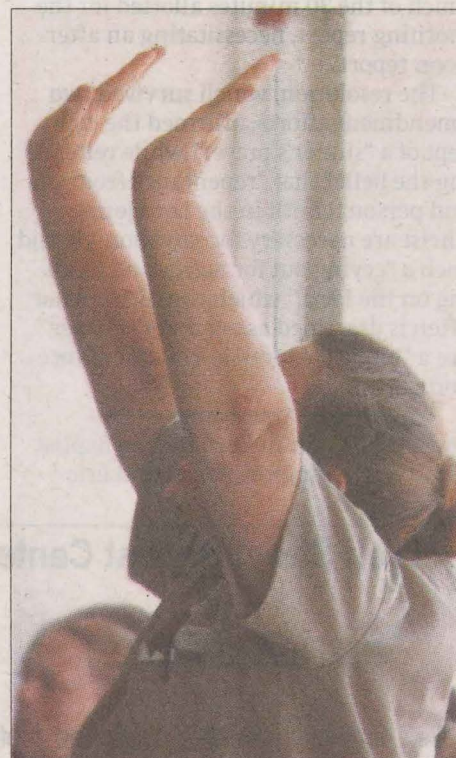
Benefit concert

Dove award winning trio Selah will be performing a benefit concert for Freedom Forever Ministries this Saturday, June 30 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Paducah at 7 p.m. For more, call (270) 408-1366.



said she was nervous about what she would say and if the words would come, but her trust was in the Lord.

"This lady just does something to me," said Cori Hanner after the service at WKCC. "She rocks my world. It's like she is speaking directly to me and I thrive on what I hear. I love this ministry."



HANDS RAISED Several inmates are compelled to stand and raise their hands to heaven during the praise music. (Photos by Robin Bass)

Hanner, 36, was on probation for receiving stolen property when she ran from police after breaking curfew at a halfway house. That decision tacked another seven years on her sentence and landed her back in prison, but Hanner

feels certain prison is where God wanted her to be.

"I have received so many blessings," Hanner said, referring to the time since she began attending FFM services in March 2011. "I've been in contact with my family. I got a picture of my son. I've got the word and the word keeps me going."

"Without these folks, things would be a lot different here," said Bryan Henson, warden of Western Kentucky Correctional Complex. "When you see the dedication, the loyalty, the desire they have to come in and minister to the females, it means a lot to us. They are bringing in tools to allow inmates to make changes to their lives that not only affect them, but the people around them."

Rust called this the generational effect.

"If we can teach her, train her, get her on her feet and show her how God wants her to live—she can teach her children," Rust said.

Freedom Forever Ministries relies on donations to fulfill their mission of preaching the gospel to incarcerated women at Western Kentucky Correctional Complex and McCracken County Regional Jail.

To help raise funds, the ministry will be hosting a concert at Immanuel Baptist Church, in Paducah, Saturday, June 30 at 7 p.m. Dove award winner Selah will be performing. The trio won Inspirational Song and Inspirational Album for 2012 with "Hope of the Broken World." There is a suggested donation of \$10 to attend the concert. Advanced reserved seating is available for \$25.

For information about the concert or the women's prison ministry, contact Freedom Forever Ministries at (270) 408-1366. (WR)

Southern Baptist history

Luter elected convention's first black president

Continued from page 1

had urged the nomination and election of Luter for more than a year. Many said it was a long time for such a move for a denomination that was born in 1845 in a defense of slavery.

"We have the opportunity to make history, to show a watching world the truth about our Savior and ourselves," David Crosby, pastor of the mostly white First Baptist Church of New Orleans, said in his nomination of Luter. "Let's give our ballots a voice and shout out to the world—Jesus is Lord! This is our president! We are Southern Baptists!"

Crosby's church, which sustained less damage after Katrina, shared space with Luter's remaining congregants after the hurricane.

Members of black Southern Baptist churches—which make up about 8 percent of some of the SBC's 45,000 congregations—have hailed the election. Some said they were shocked and never thought they'd live to see such an event.

Black Southern Baptists have attended the annual meetings in limited numbers and some have complained when they seldom saw people who look like them speaking from the convention platform. This year, more attended than usual and ushers came from Luter's Franklin Avenue Baptist Church.

In the months before the election, SBC ethicist Richard Land was embroiled in controversy for saying President

Obama and civil rights leaders had exploited the case of Trayvon Martin, the unarmed Florida teen who was killed by a neighborhood watch volunteer. Land, who was reprimanded and lost his radio talk show as a result of the racial tension his remarks caused, was among those immediately cheering Luter's election.

"Today was as truly a historic moment as Southern Baptist life will ever experience," said Land, who helped craft the denomination's 1995 statement apologizing for the "deplorable sin" of racism. "Praise God for His redeeming grace."

Many said before his election that Luter deserved to be elected not because he is black but because of his commitment to the denomination, preaching skills and success in rebuilding his church into one of the largest in Louisiana. A recent survey by LifeWay Research found that the majority of Southern Baptist pastors were ready for a black president.

Luter closed out the annual Pastors' Conference on the eve of the Southern Baptist meeting, and had the audience on its feet as he waved his Bible in a fervent sermon.

"Only the word of God can change the heart of a racist. Only the word of God can change the desire of a child molester," he preached. "The word of God can change a lifestyle of a homosexual. The word of God is the only hope for America today."



MAKING THE ROUNDS Newly elected Southern Baptist Convention President Fred Luter is interviewed as ABC News' "Person of the Week" on June 21. (Photo by Jim Veneman/BP)

At the conclusion of the SBC's National African American Fellowship business meeting last week, the group's president reminded members to be sure they had their packet of ballots with them for the next day's vote.

"If you never cast a vote before, you need to cast this one," James Dixon urged, drawing laughter and an "Amen." "If you need a class on it, we will teach you how to do it."

Dixon said "we've been working on this for years," making sure that African-Americans were considered for elective office, but noted that white leaders made an unusually hefty push for Luter. "In reality, that's where it needed to come from," he said.

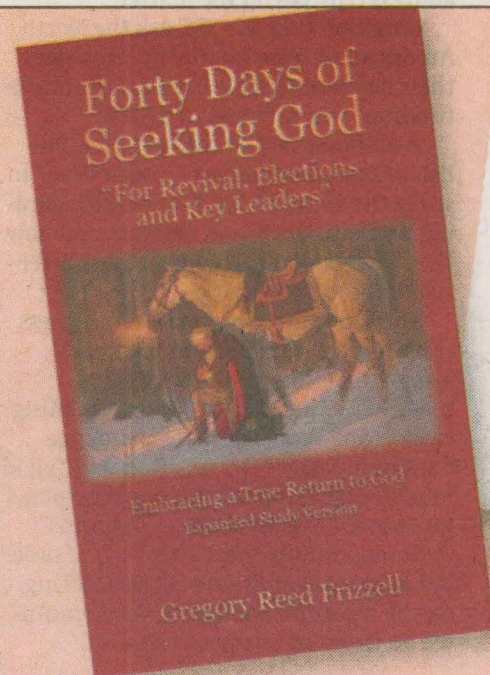
Anticipation of the vote continued as the meeting opened. "We cannot undo our past, but here in New Orleans you can show the world we are redoing our

future," said Chuck Kelley, president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Many have tied Luter's election to the need for greater evangelism among racial and ethnic minorities as the denomination suffered its fifth consecutive year of membership decline.

Prior to the election, outgoing SBC President Bryant Wright cautioned in his farewell address that Southern Baptists should not get sidetracked in their evangelism efforts by debates over "finer points" of theology.

"If we pride ourselves more on being a traditional Southern Baptist or more on being a Calvinist or a Reformed theologian more than we are thankful that we are Christ-centered and biblically based and known by our fellow man that way," Wright warned, "then it is time to repent of theological idolatry." (RNS)



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SBC Executive Committee

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NEW SBC OFFICERS Elected during last week's annual meeting are (clockwise from top): Dave Miller, Sioux City, Iowa, second vice president; Nathan Lino, Humble, Texas, first vice president; Fred Luter, New Orleans, president; and John Yeats, Jefferson City, Mo., recording secretary. Not pictured is Jim Wells, Jefferson City, Mo., registration secretary. (Photo by Matt Miller/BP)

Learning leadership

Student recalls lessons learned from summer leadership seminar

Almost every summer, a number of OBI students are privileged to attend special programs designed to enrich their lives and equip them to make a larger positive impact on the world.

One such program is Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY), an annual four-day leadership seminar for upcoming high-school juniors. Only one student per high school is selected by his or her school's administration. This year Taylor Cochran was selected to attend the Kentucky HOBY seminar.

What follows is an edited version of her reflections:

"On May 31, I joined 189 students from across the commonwealth at Transylvania University. Nearly half of our time was spent as a group. Inspiring speakers taught us about steps for becoming great leaders, setting smart goals and overcoming prejudices.

"My favorite speaker, Dan Kamykowski, explained how to be a personal leader, a group leader and a leader in society. One of my favorite things that he said was, 'People don't quit jobs, they quit bosses.' This communicated to me that being a good leader is really important.

"We were taught that one of the main aspects of being a leader is volunteering and getting involved in community service. As they were describing how to be involved in your community, I found myself thinking that if you're a Christian, this is what you do continually on a daily basis.

"Because of our Christian setting, our school (Oneida) makes it easy to serve. As an officer with the student

council, I already do a lot of things on our campus to serve the student body. I know that when I leave Oneida, I will have to make more of an effort to find opportunities to serve my community, most likely by plugging into the ministries available in my local church. I can

also serve every day by simply being considerate of people around me, but again, that's just second nature to a Christian.

"A spiritual lesson I learned while at HOBY was to check my motives in serving. I already volunteer because it's a good thing to do, but I need to make sure that I serve because I really want to help people and not just because the activity will look

good on a resumé for college.

"The HOBY ambassadors were divided into small groups. Our challenge was to become a team. My team accomplished this goal as we worked and played together throughout the weekend.

"One team-building activity I really liked was the 'Amazing Race,' a scavenger hunt all around downtown Lexington. One day we were assigned to new small groups for 'Leadership for Service' projects. During my group's project, we created squares that would be sent to Warm Up America, an organization where donated knitted or crocheted pieces are joined together to make afghans, caps and other items.

"Overall my HOBY experience was great. My group and I had a lot of fun, and I learned so much about how to be a good leader and what it really means to be part of a team."

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

This is Oneida



Paul Davidson

Settling in

Clear Creek student getting used to new, small-town surroundings

New student Joel Goliver, from Lima, Ohio, recently finished his first semester at Clear Creek and finally feels as though he is settling in.

"When I started looking for colleges to attend, I didn't think I would find somewhere that was a more slower-paced community than where I lived," Joel said. "But after arriving on campus, I found the area to be even more slower-paced than what I was used to. Actually, it was pretty nice to get back to a smaller setting. I went to a very large high school outside of the area where I lived, and I was ready to get back to a smaller setting after spending four years in a larger setting than what I was used to. Now that I have settled in through this first semester, I am more comfortable in the area.

"I am thankful for the opportunities that students have to serve in local churches while we attend Clear Creek," Joel noted. "I feel like the Lord has led me to a church where I will be able to serve the entire time I am here. I am

excited and looking forward to working with youth.

"I grew up around church all my life," Joel recalled. "My parents served as children's directors at the church we attended. I remember one day after a

lesson my parents taught, the Holy Spirit convicted me of my sins, and I knew I needed a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. They shared with me from the Scriptures what it meant to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and I trusted Him as my Savior that day. I am so thankful for my parents.

"Through my early teen years, I lived more for myself than Christ," he said. "My freshman year of high school, I went to a Christian camp and the Lord convicted me about surrendering my life to Him. ... Those younger years were when I made a lot of mistakes. If I can help just one kid not to make those same mistakes, it will be worth my time here."

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.cccb.edu; e-mail: dfox@ccb.edu.

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

Messenger's motion debates SBC microphone privileges

By David Roach

New Orleans—Messengers offered 19 motions during last week's Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting in New Orleans.

All but one were referred to SBC entities or ruled out of order.

A motion by Richard Tribble of Emmanuel Southern Baptist Church in Decatur, Ill., to prohibit messengers from using a platform microphone when debating motions or making nominations was defeated on a show of ballots.

Tribble said during debate on his motion that requiring all speakers to use floor microphones would increase the fairness of convention deliberations.

"The implication comes that everything that's said from the platform carries with it great authority and the implication that this is what the leaders want to present," he said.

Committee on Order of Business chairman Stan Buckley argued that the convention's rules for debate and nominations already are fair. Requiring all speakers to use floor microphones would "waste the convention's time," he said, adding that nominations already could be made from a platform microphone.

"Think just a moment about the consequences if the convention were to adopt the Tribble motion," Buckley said. "If a messenger were to offer an amendment to a resolution offered by the Resolutions Committee chairman during the resolutions report, the chairman would then have to leave the platform, run around to find an empty floor microphone somewhere and then wait for the president to find him before being able to give the Resolutions Committee's response to the amendment."

Executive Committee referrals

Motions referred to the Executive Committee include:

■ That the committee "be instructed to schedule future annual meetings during the last week of June so as not to conflict with Father's Day" and that it attempt to change the dates of annual meetings already scheduled that conflict with Father's Day.

■ That SBC meetings be held every two years rather than annually.

■ That the SBC bylaws be amended to require that nominating speeches for convention officers include, at least, the

nominee's name, the office for which he is being nominated, the name of his church and the percentage of undesignated receipts given by that church to the Cooperative Program.

■ That the convention "establish a process and curriculum for properly training and equipping" entity trustees "that is preliminary to and separate from the individual agencies' processes of orientation."

■ That the 2015 SBC annual meeting be moved to Memphis, Tenn., to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Cooperative Program, which was established there.

■ That the Executive Committee develop a policy and procedures manual for convention officers, including procedures to investigate allegations of misconduct by officers and remove them from office if necessary.

Other motions referred

A motion that SBC seminaries consider allowing their portion of the CP allocation budget to be reduced from 21.92 percent to 21 percent and request that the Executive Committee allocate the remaining 0.92 percent to the International Mission Board was referred to the EC and all six seminaries.

A motion that LifeWay Christian Resources reconsider its decision to sell the 2011 New International Version of the Bible in its stores was referred to LifeWay. The motion asked trustees to allow Paige Patterson and Louis Markos to address trustees on the matter.

A motion that the SBC ask the North American Mission Board "to reconsider their decision to scale back disaster relief funding" was referred to NAMB.

A motion that the convention establish a "historical research committee" to study the views of SBC founders "regarding predestination and election and how they understood these terms" was referred to the six seminaries.

The Committee on Order of Business considered a motion from last year's annual meeting calling for future meetings to include at least one evening session and reported that attendance data from last week's meeting will "yield more feedback upon which to base plans for future annual meeting programs."

Seven motions were ruled out of order by SBC president Bryant Wright, acting on the recommendation of the Committee on Order of Business. (BP)

Unofficial: New Orleans messenger count up

New Orleans—The unofficial attendance at last week's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting totaled 7,868 messengers. Official numbers will not be released until later. In 2001, the last time Southern Baptists gathered in New Orleans, 9,584 messengers attended.

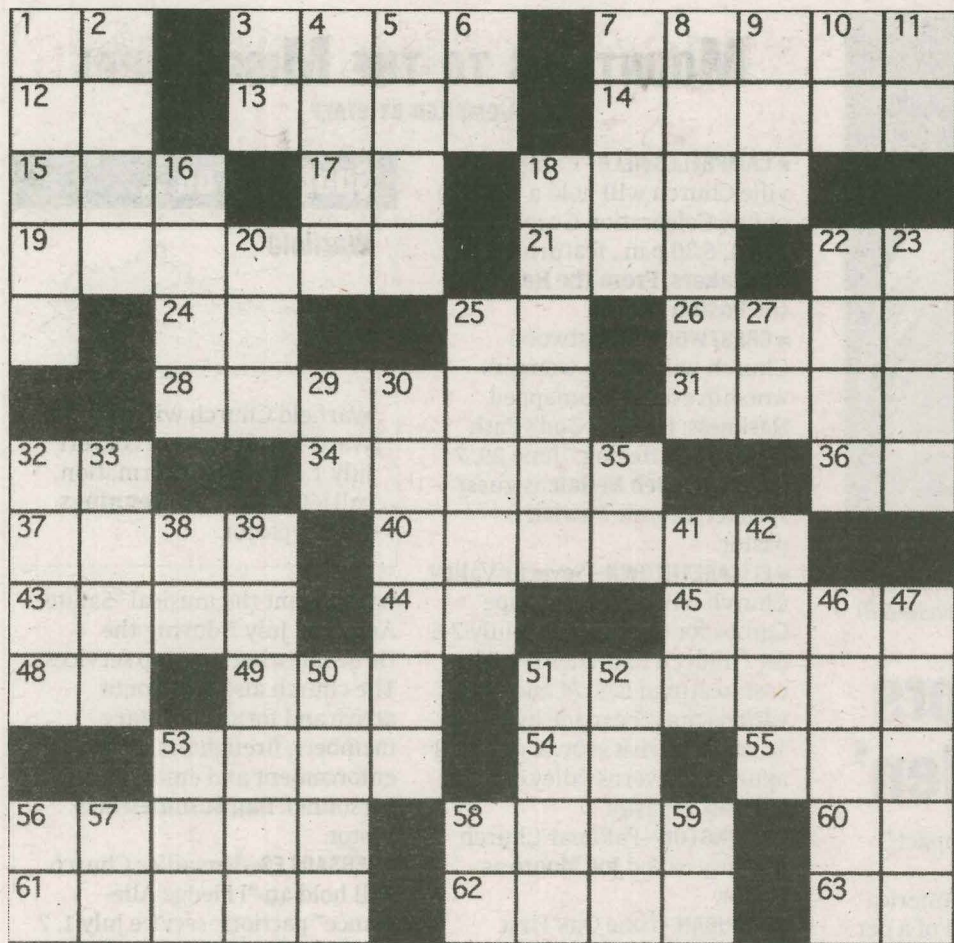
"We were expecting 8,000 to 8,500," said Don Currence, acting registration secretary for the SBC, "so it's about what we thought we'd get with the economy the way it is."

Last year in Phoenix, 4,852 SBC messengers gathered for the lowest attended annual meeting in six decades. This

summer's meeting beat that mark before the opening gavel fell on the first day.

As expected, Louisiana Baptists turned out in force for the meeting in their home state; their 943 messengers represented the largest number from any state. Louisiana's neighbor to the east, Mississippi, sent the second-most messengers, with 792, followed by Tennessee with 668. The Kentucky Baptist delegation totaled 354, good for ninth among state convention attendance.

Next year, with the convention gathering in Houston, Currence said he anticipates another jump in attendance. (BP)



Bible Crosswords

By Evelyn Boyington

Across

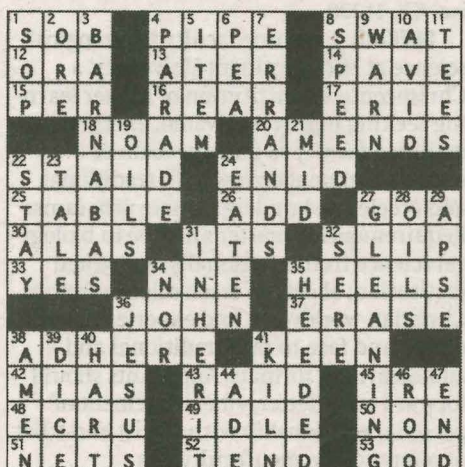
- 1 Western state (abbr.)
- 3 "I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and _____ for thee" (Isaiah 43:3)
- 7 To do much better than another
- 12 _____ of the Chaldees
- 13 From _____ to stern
- 14 Fabric used to make an ephod
- 15 In law, an object
- 17 Preposition
- 18 "In the beginning was the _____" (John 1:1)
- 19 "The horse is prepared against the day of _____" (Proverbs 21:31)
- 21 "Stand in _____, and sin not" (Psalm 4:4)
- 22 "They fled before the men of _____" (Joshua 7:4)
- 24 Pres. Clinton's home state (abbr.)
- 25 Simile syntax
- 26 "The children of Israel be as the _____ of the sea" (Romans 9:27)
- 28 Administer the SAT again
- 31 Quaker pronoun
- 32 You, in the Yucatan
- 34 Start
- 36 Provincetown province (abbr.)
- 37 Grandfather of David, and son of Ruth
- 40 Means of communication
- 43 First word written on the wall (Daniel 5)
- 44 Linking verb
- 45 "Two of every _____ shalt thou bring into the ark" (Genesis 6:19)
- 48 Masculine nickname
- 49 Took a break
- 51 "It is as high as heaven ... _____ than hell" (Job 11:8)
- 53 Minuscule
- 54 Naval officer (abbr.)
- 55 Where one can perspire or be pampered
- 56 Portion
- 58 Used by the high priest to hold oil
- 60 Classified, for one
- 61 Spread around
- 62 Altar end of the church
- 63 Biblical pronoun

Down

- 1 Checks
- 2 _____ code
- 3 Christian ed. concern (abbr.)
- 4 Common abbr.
- 5 _____ noire
- 6 "I _____ God, even thy God" (Psalm 50:7)
- 7 "_____ of speech" (how Moses described himself)
- 8 Employed, in Bible times
- 9 Conjunction

- 10 "This I know; for God is for _____" (Psalm 56:9)
- 11 Printer's measure
- 16 Day _____
- 18 "The field is _____, the land mourneth" (Joel 1:10)
- 20 Three, in Turin
- 22 "Ramoth with her suburbs, and _____ with her suburbs" (1 Chronicles 6:73)
- 23 Notion
- 25 "The _____ of Kish Saul's father were lost" (1 Samuel 9:3)
- 27 Sighing sound
- 29 Preposition
- 30 "The friendship of the world is _____ with God" (James 4:4)
- 32 Volume
- 33 Father of Gaal (Judges 9:30)
- 35 Note on diatonic scale
- 38 _____ passant (chess term)
- 39 "If any man _____ to be first, the same shall be last" (Mark 9:35)
- 41 "Pray for them which despitefully _____ you" (Luke 6:28)
- 42 Swabs
- 46 To reward
- 47 Barter
- 50 Once more
- 51 "Behold, the nations are as a _____ of a bucket" (Isaiah 40:15)
- 52 All _____ (attentive)
- 53 Pitch
- 56 Baseball player (abbr.)
- 57 Like alt.
- 58 Laughing sound
- 59 Quadrant in D.C.

Last puzzle's solution



Family on mission together

With wife in Haiti, 'bachelor' dad gets different look at parenthood

The past week has been anything but typical. For the past eight days, my wife, Tera, and our oldest daughter Kelly have been in Haiti attending Crossings. They went to Haiti last year for a mission trip but with another ministry, and the trip was a great experience for the both of them.

This year is special in that the group they are with includes four other mom/daughter combinations, so I am sure there are some great and funny stories that will be told upon their return.

Our hope as parents has always been to try and give our kids the opportunity to serve the Lord by going overseas. I know in today's world, we do not have to leave our country to find lost and impoverished groups of people. But there is just something about leaving the country that creates a unique experience.

While I have not been able to speak to them much this week, I think my wife and daughter have had another great experience, and I am really looking forward to having them home.

During the last eight days, I have

gained a new appreciation and compassion toward single parents. As I was speaking with another of the "bachelor" fathers this week, I said to him that parenting is not meant to be a one-person responsibility. I realize circumstances in this world force that to happen, and I am, again, much more sympathetic to those who must work and raise children by themselves.

The day Tera's group returns, we have another group of approximately 80 people that will arrive in Haiti some five hours after the others depart. To learn more about what is happening in Haiti, visit our website at www.GoCrossings.org or check out the information on

our Facebook page at www.Facebook.com/GoCrossings.

Please continue to pray for camps this summer, that we would be blessed with safety and that we would faithfully present the gospel in clear ways to all who attend Crossings.

Crossings Ministries



David Melber

David Melber is president of Crossings Ministries. Contact Crossings at (502) 491-7000 or www.GoCrossings.com

A meaningful partnership

Ky. Baptists, Sunrise share history of working together to help kids

Since our beginning in 1869, Sunrise Children's Services has partnered with the churches across Kentucky to help us provide much-needed care to the hurting children of the state. Because our church partners have been so faithful in their giving, we've never closed our doors or turned off our lights since we began 143 years ago.

Of course, monetary gifts are very useful in helping us meet the day-to-day needs of children who have suffered abuse and neglect, and there are a variety of ways churches and individuals choose to contribute.

Our annual Children's Thanksgiving Offering is one way churches can make an intentional effort to promote the ministry of Sunrise. This offering can be taken any time of the year, although many choose to do this during November.

Sunday School classes and youth groups participate in our Miles of Pennies campaign. Others have made monthly contributions or remember us in estate planning. Learn more about donation options by visiting Sunrise.org and clicking on "Support Sunrise."

There are many other ways to help Sunrise apart from just donating money. Our programs have benefitted greatly from churches volunteering to provide work at some of our various sites or on specific projects. You may have a gift or a skill that could be greatly useful to us.

Still others have found reward in donating a wide variety of items to the children of Sunrise. September is our Food Round-Up campaign where we collect gift cards from Walmart and Kroger stores to help us feed the children. Other groups and individuals have donated blankets, sports equipment, personal-care products, gas cards and other items.

Of course, each Christmas, we rely on the generosity of others to help us make sure that is a special time for our children, many of whom have never before had a Christmas.

Just as importantly over the last 143 years, Sunrise has been blessed by the continued prayers of our churches as we strive to bring stability and healing into the lives of children. Your partnership means so much.

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



Because the Web was made for more than just singing cartoons and buying stuff.

WESTERN Recorder


KBC
 KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION
CALENDAR OF EVENTS
June

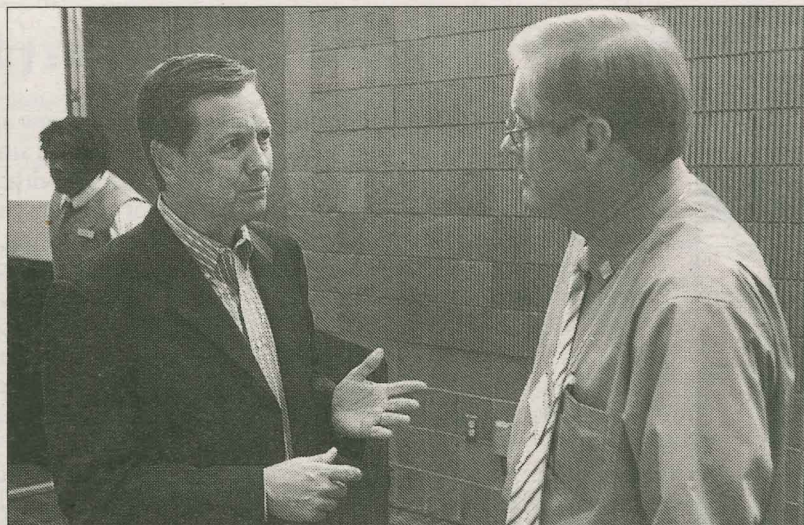
- 27 All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra Tour, Campbellsville Baptist Church.
- 28 All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra Tour, Central Baptist Church, Winchester.
- 30 All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra Tour, Baptist Village, Erlanger; First Baptist Church, Cold Spring.
- 30 Kentucky Baptist Nursing Fellowship Summer Meeting, Elizabethtown.

July

- 1 All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra Tour, La Grange Baptist Church; Hurstbourne Baptist Church, Louisville.
- 7-14 Kentucky Changers, Somerset.
- 13-14 Acteens Splash, Jonathan Creek Camp and Conference Center, Hardin.
- 13-14 Girls in Action Overnight, Jonathan Creek Camp and Conference Center, Hardin.
- 13-14 Mother/Daughter Overnight, Jonathan Creek Camp and Conference Center, Hardin.
- 27-28 Excel WMU Leadership Development Event, First Baptist Church, Hodgenville.

August

- 3-4 Camp Courage, Laurel Lake Baptist Camp, Corbin.



'IRON MEN' Kevin Ezell, president of the North American Mission Board, talks with Ray Gilder, bivocational and small-church national coordinator, after the NAMB Bivocational Pastors Luncheon last week in New Orleans. (Photo by John Swain/NAMB)

Ezell: Bivocational pastors are convention's 'Iron Men'

By Mickey Noah

New Orleans—Called the "Iron Men of the SBC," some 180 bivocational pastors and their wives from 17 states attended the third-annual Bivocational Luncheon June 20 during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in New Orleans.

"Thank you for all you do as bivocational pastors," Kevin Ezell, North American Mission Board president. "Not until I came to the North American Mission Board did I realize the enormity of what bivocational pastors do in North America.

"If we're really going to penetrate the lostness of North America, it's going to have to be with the help of bivocational pastors because there's no way possible to completely fund missions work

full time without your impact," Ezell said.

Under its Send North America strategy, NAMB has a goal of a net gain of 5,000 new SBC congregations by 2022, a 3 percent increase in the congregation-to-population ratio for Southern Baptists. The convention loses an average of 890 churches each year.

The key to achieving this goal is to increase the number of bivocational pastors who plant new churches, Ezell said.

The NAMB president said the entity's leadership and staff want to come alongside the SBC's bivocational ministers across the U.S. According to statistics, bivocational pastors make up as many as 50 percent of the SBC pastors in Southern states, but they also minister in states throughout the U.S.

"We see you as a vital player in

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

Spotlight on ...

Warfield



Warfield Church will host the Ward Trio Singers in concert July 1. For more information, call (606) 395-6990. **Jennings West** is pastor.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Campbells-ville Church will hold a "Fourth of July Celebration Gospel Sing" July 1, 6:30 p.m., featuring **The Joymakers, From the Heart** and **the Poston Family**.

■ **CRESTWOOD**—Crestwood Church will hold a women's worship event, "Unmapped Darkness: Finding God's Path Through Suffering," June 29, 7 p.m., with **Deb Neilan** as guest speaker. **Donnie Patrick** is pastor.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Severns Valley Church will host WinShape Camps for Communities July 2-6 for children in grades K-6. The cost to attend is \$174 and reservations must be made by July 2. To register, visit svbc.cc or email apurcell@severnsvalley.org. **Bill Langley** is pastor.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Palomar Church recently called **Joe Moore** as pastor.

■ **PADUCAH**—Lone Oak First Church's choir and orchestra

will present the musical "Salute America" July 1 during the three morning worship services. The church also will honor active and former military members, firefighters, law enforcement and emergency personnel. **Dan Summerlin** is pastor.

■ **VERSAILLES**—Versailles Church will hold an "I Pledge Allegiance" patriotic service July 1, 7 p.m. **John Brandon** is pastor.

our Send North America strategy, and we want to provide you with what you need," Ezell said. "And this isn't a one-year emphasis but a long-term commitment. We need to do a better job of providing resources for you and encouraging you along the way."

Ezell announced a pilot program making educational opportunities available for bivocational pastors. NAMB, in partnership with Union University in Jackson, Tenn., will offer bivocational pastors a 33-hour online master's degree in theological studies, with a limited number of scholarships

being made available each year.

Nashville-based Ray Gilder, national coordinator for the SBC's bivocational/small church leadership network, said he is pleased with the progress the network has made since the SBC annual meeting in Orlando, Fla., two years ago.

"We're growing and there's more awareness of bivocational pastors, thanks to our partnership with NAMB," Gilder said. "A lot of men are bivocational because of funding issues, but some are intentionally bivocational because they believe God called them to be bivocational." (NAMB/BP)

CLASSIFIED ADS

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FOR RENT: Condos in Destin, Fla. Two bedrooms, two baths, sofa bed. Three-month special, August-October: \$625 week, including all fees. lbrammer@charter.net. (423) 309-4422.

OPPORTUNITY: Christian values technology company seeks mature business professionals for high-income opportunity. Home-based office, hands-on support and apprenticeship-style training. For complete information, call Keith at (888) 395-6557.

OPPORTUNITY: High-tech manufacturer offers unique opportunity for Christian family home-based business. Call (800) 506-1631 for recorded message and complete information.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Woodlawn Baptist Church located in central Kentucky. Please send resumé to: Jerry Albertson, 620 George St., Lebanon, KY 40033.

SEEKING: Administrative assistant/secretary, 30 hrs. per week. Proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel Publisher. Experience preferred. Please email resumé to bjwwoosley@aol.com or mail to: Deer Park Baptist Church, Attn: Personnel Committee, 1733 Bardstown Road, Louisville, KY 40205.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Airline Baptist Church, Henderson, Ky., where

everybody is somebody. Send resumé to: Airline Baptist Church, Attn: Pastor Search Committee, 1942 Clay St., Henderson, KY 42420.

SEEKING: Caretaker for Camp Lewis, a Christian camp for kids. Very light maintenance, raking leaves, etc. Free rent, free utilities, home on site. www.campLewis.com. campprayerchain@aol.com. (800) 457-5678.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for First Baptist Church, Salyersville, Ky. Resumés may be mailed to P.O. Box 616, Salyersville, KY 41465; or emailed to salyersvillefbc@hotmail.com.

SEEKING: Minister of music, a man with a heart for God and people to minister through music at North Oldham Baptist, Goshen, Ky. 12-15 hours/week, blended style. Email resumé to worship@nobcky.org. (502) 228-4325. www.nobcky.org.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for First Baptist Church, Sandy Hook, Ky. College degree preferred, desire to lead small church with great potential required. Must be mission-minded with pastoral experience. Send resumé to csimmons@uscoalinc.com, or mail to: Pulpit Committee, c/o Lisa Nickell, P.O. Box 463, Sandy Hook, KY, 41171.

SEEKING: Part-time youth leader for Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Nicholasville, Ky. Contact for more details. Send resumé to mtpleasantbaptist

@windstream.net; mail to: Youth Pastor Search Team, 1108 Keene South Elkhorn, Nicholasville, KY, 40356. (859) 691-7169.

SEEKING: Full-time student minister at First Baptist Church, Louisa, Ky. Primarily minister to middle- and high-school students and their families; resourcing and networking with current children's ministry leaders. Seminary degree welcomed but not required. FBC has both traditional and blended worship services and is in agreement with the Baptist Faith & Message 2000. Detailed job description at www.louisabaptist.com. Email resumé to cookies4@foothills.net; mail to: Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 301 West Pike St., Louisa, KY, 41230.

SEEKING: Full-time faculty in biological science at Mid-Continent University, a Christ-centered institution of higher learning seeking highly motivated, energetic, qualified faculty to join our team of experts to manage growth in traditional and accelerated undergraduate programs. Requirements: a master's degree in biological science from a regionally accredited institution; ability to teach science from a Christian worldview; and experience with online and face-to-face traditional and adult-learning formats. Applicants should forward cover letter, vitae, statement of personal relationship with Christ and a list of references to mcufacultyjobs

To place an advertisement:

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@midcontinent.edu. Under separate cover, send official transcripts of all college work to the same email address or Debra Hudson, associate VP of academic affairs, Mid-Continent University, 99 Powell Road East, Mayfield, KY, 42066. Incomplete submissions will not be considered. Mid-Continent University does not discriminate in the employment of individuals on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, disability, sex or age. However, to the extent allowed by law, reserves the right to give preference in employment based on religion. The position begins at a time negotiated by the university and the candidate.

SEEKING: Part-time youth minister for small church in Frankfort. Person must have a heart for Christ and enthusiasm for youth. Interested persons may send a resumé to calvarybaptist@fewpb.net, or mail to: Calvary Baptist Church, 36 Schoolhouse Road, Frankfort, KY, 40601.

Crossover 2012

NOLA church plants benefit from pre-SBC evangelism events

By Mickey Noah & Tobin Perry

New Orleans—Edith Sampson Park near the Desire Housing Project buzzed with activity June 16 as kids from the surrounding neighborhood played on a giant slip-n-slide and munched on hot dogs. The event was one of 38 block parties hosted by Southern Baptist churches around metro New Orleans during Crossover 2012.

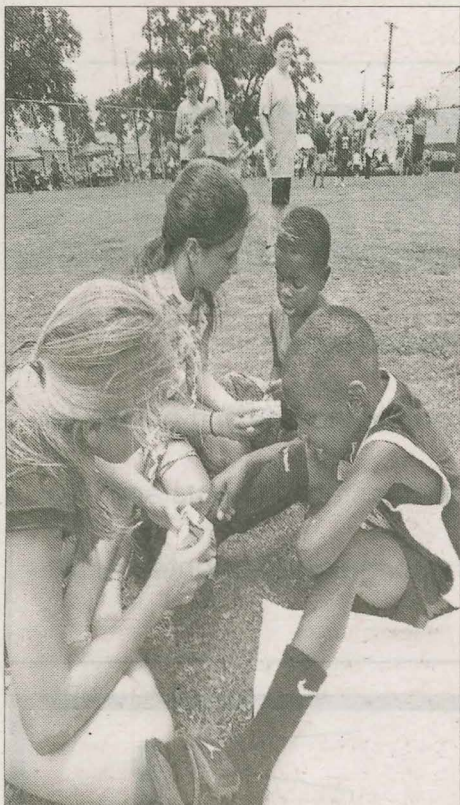
Crossover, coordinated by local associations and churches in partnership with the North American Mission Board, is an evangelism event that precedes the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting.

Celebration Church organized the block party in the park to support Desire Street Fellowship, its church plant located two blocks away led by pastors Richard Johnson and Oscar Brown.

"We believe God has told us to grow deep before we grow wide," Johnson said. "We're trying to teach the folks around us about the eternal love of God."

The mission field is large. Before Hurricane Katrina hit, Desire Housing Project was one of the largest in the nation with 20,000 residents. Floodwaters from Katrina inundated it, and the old "projects" are being replaced with handsome townhouses. Desire now has 6,000 to 8,000 residents, which Johnson said will grow to 16,000, a city in itself.

Hope Church, a two-year-old church plant in Metairie, La., hosted volunteers from four churches in four states:



GOSPEL SHARING Olivia Fowler (front left), 12, and Olivia Aday, 12, of Oakland Baptist Church in Corinth, Miss., use Evangelicubes to share the gospel with Ivin (front right), 5, and Glenis, 6, during a June 16 Crossover block party sponsored by Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans. (Photo by Kent Harville/BP)



FUN & GAMES Damayah Clark, 5, tosses a beanbag at a Noah's Ark game during a block party hosted by Celebration Church in New Orleans. The event was part of Crossover, a series of evangelistic events held prior to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting last week. (Photo by Jeremy Scott/BP)

Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee and Maryland. Volunteers handed out invitations to a family movie night that evening and painted the dance studio that has become the church plant's home.

Kentucky partnership

Kentucky Baptist volunteers from Gilead Baptist Church in Glendale focused on the painting efforts. Hoping to give the dance studio's pink walls a more gender-neutral look, church planter Matt Tipton approached the studio's owner about repainting. When the owner offered to pay for the painting to be done, Tipton was able to tell her he'd do it for free as a way to build the church's relationship with the studio and give the worship space a new look.

For the past two years, Gilead Baptist

has been an important partner church for Hope Church, providing at least four teams of volunteers to go along with financial support. The partnership began partly because of the desire of Gilead's pastor to engage his people in long-term work in North American missions.

"When we've done one-and-done mission trips, you really don't get to see the results of that," said Sam Hinkson, Gilead's pastor. "I wanted our people see a church plant grow. I also hoped it would be good for us and for them. These trips always spark great discussion about what we can do in our own community."

Talking about some of the outreach efforts the churches had participated in throughout the week, such as inviting residents to a movie night, Tipton said he sees their efforts as "tilling the soil,"

which he believes is essential in a place like New Orleans. Much of the outreach efforts centered around a local school, Airline Park Academy for Advanced Studies, where Tipton serves as the PTO president.

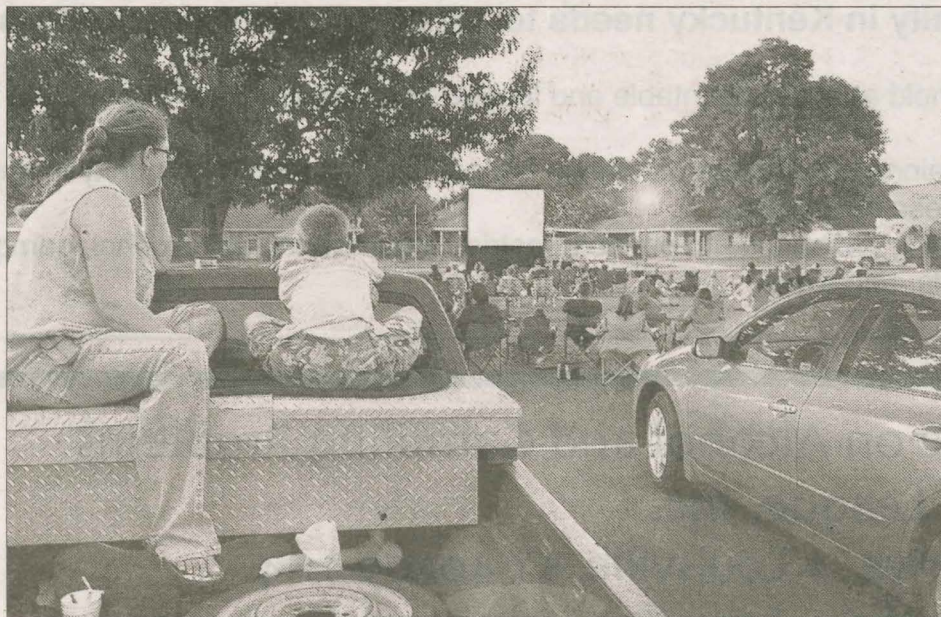
"After the mission project is over at the school this week, it isn't over with the school," Tipton said. "I'm still PTO president. We're still building relationships and will continue to have groups loving on the school (and) loving on the people here."

Prayer births new campus

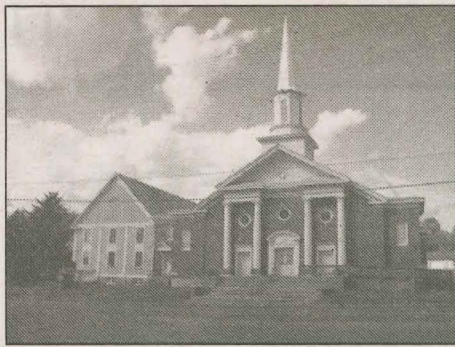
At least one New Orleans church birthed a new campus out of Crossover 2012. A new church in Chalmette, La., had been on the heart of Horeb Spanish Baptist Mission pastor David Rodriguez since his seminary days more than a decade ago. When a meeting location at an English-speaking church in Chalmette became available, Rodriguez turned to his youth minister, who also wanted to see a Spanish-speaking church started in that area. Horeb's main campus is in Gretna, La.

Jose Lore, the youth minister who will lead the new campus, works at a refinery near the church's meeting location. For years as he traveled to work, he prayed God would help him reach the Spanish speakers in the nearby area, knowing there were no Spanish-speaking congregations for locals to attend. The block party during Crossover offered Horeb an opportunity to introduce themselves to the community before the campus launched last weekend.

"This is the first time we've started something new like this at our church," Rodriguez said. "We want to see this city won for Christ." (NAMB/BP)



MOVIE NIGHT Neighborhood families enjoy an outdoor movie sponsored by Hope Church in Metairie, La., June 16 on the lawn of Airline Park Academy. (Photo by Jeremy Scott/BP)

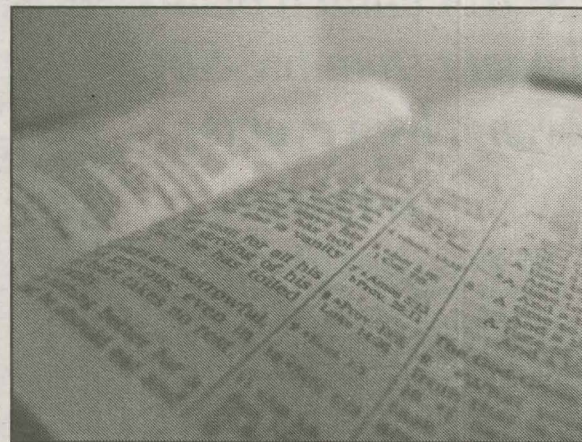


DO YOU BELIEVE THAT PEOPLE OF FAITH ARE CALLED TO INFLUENCE AND CHANGE THE CULTURE AND SOCIETY IN WHICH THEY LIVE?

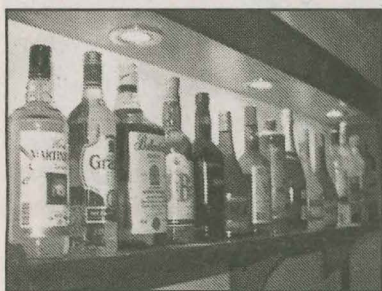
We do! We hope you agree.

Why does the Kentucky League work so hard to influence and change the culture in Kentucky? Because we believe that we are commanded to:

- ◆ Follow the ten commandments. (Ex. 20:1-17)
- ◆ Love the Lord our God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength. (Matt. 2:37)
- ◆ Love others even as we love ourselves. (Matt. 22:39-40)
- ◆ Expose the deeds of darkness. (Eph. 5:11)
- ◆ Serve one another. (Gal. 5:13)
- ◆ Refrain from delighting in evil, and further, protect from evil. (1 Cor. 13:6-7)



From its inception, the mission of the League has been to extend the work of the church in concern for the total welfare of mankind. The League supports and encourages Christian action on moral issues with special emphasis on correcting the problems caused by alcohol and gambling.



Alcohol availability is expanding at an alarming rate in Kentucky.

- ◆ Over one fourth of our counties are "wet", allowing alcohol sales at bars, restaurants, and liquor stores.
- ◆ Over one fourth of our counties have voted to allow by the drink sales in restaurants.
- ◆ Almost one fourth of our "dry" counties have at least one "wet" city within their limits.



Advocates for gambling continue to pursue new avenues of expansion.

- ◆ Our Governor declared that he intends "to go all-out to get expanded gaming" in Kentucky and proposed seven casinos.
- ◆ In September 2011, Kentucky Downs installed 200 "Instant Racing" video betting machines at the track.

**Now is the time to take action. We urge you to become proactive.
*Protect our families. Preserve our quality of life.***

Every county and community in Kentucky needs to adopt strong ordinances on these issues.

1. Social hosting ordinance - to hold adults accountable and legally responsible for serving alcohol to or hosting drinking parties for persons under 21 years old.
2. Sexually-oriented adult entertainment business ordinance - to ban alcohol sales and nudity in any such establishments and further restrict and regulate these businesses.
3. Outdoor billboard and advertising ordinance - to prohibit, restrict, and regulate any alcohol, gambling, or sexually-oriented adult business advertising, billboards, and signs.

Kentucky League on Alcohol and Gambling Problems
Kentucky Ethics League, Inc.

2722 Crittenden Drive ◆ Louisville, KY 40209-1114

Phone (502) 635-0002 ◆ <http://www.kentuckyleague.org>

