

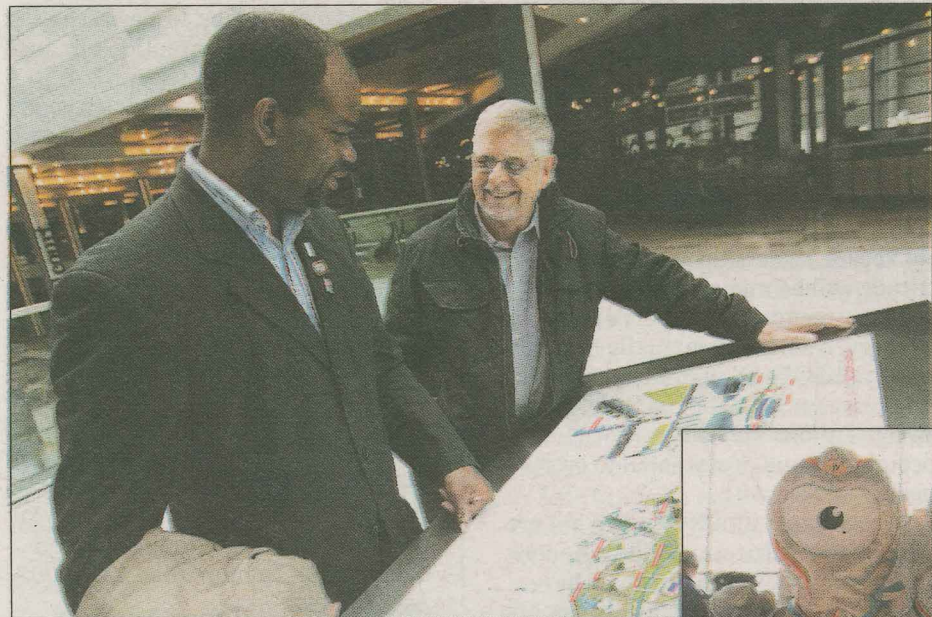
WESTERN Recorder

July 3, 2012

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 186, Issue 26

Baptists go for 'More Than Gold' in London



Christian leaders prep for ministry during 2012 Olympic Games

By Ava Thomas

London—At times, when Doug Shaw stands on the hill just outside Olympic Park in London, he can barely hear himself think.

Construction buzzes and roars in preparation for the Summer Olympic Games, which start July 27. The work's been going strong for years.

Shaw can relate. He hasn't stopped in a while either.

As Olympics volunteer coordinator for Southern Baptists, he's been in motion for months preparing Baptists to

□ See London ... Page 7



■ Above: David Pile (left) from London Baptist Association and Doug Shaw of the International Mission Board look over a diagram of the Olympic Park in London's Stratford neighborhood. Pile and Shaw have been working for months on strategy and volunteer coordination for ministry during the 2012 Summer Olympics in London.
■ Right: The viewing deck in Westfield Shopping Centre sells Olympics souvenirs such as the stuffed mascot Wenlock. The center was built especially for the 2012 Olympic Games. (IMB photos)

Mission Board approves hires for reorganized staff positions

By Drew Nichter

Elizabethtown—A new staff structure is taking shape as the Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board approved the hires of six positions newly created by the recent reorganization.

In a special-called meeting June 26 at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, Mission Board members were nearly unanimous in their approval of the candidates presented for six convention staff roles.

The newly created positions include an associate executive director for convention relations and communications, an evangelism and church planting team leader, and four of five regional pastoral ministry consultants.

Curtis Woods, who has served as the Baptist campus minister at Kentucky State University since 2006, assumed the role of associate executive director for convention relations and communications July 1.

While he is responsible for maintaining good relations with all Kentucky Baptists, Woods will be relied upon specifically to relate to African-American Baptists and promote racial reconciliation within the convention.

Woods is capable of "bridging the gap that, all too often, has separated us in the Southern Baptist Convention," KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood said.

With the recent election of New Orleans pastor Fred Luter as the SBC's first black president, "we're seeing huge strides at the national level," Chitwood noted. In Kentucky, Woods' hire is a continuation of the work being done in racial reconciliation, Chitwood added.

Woods also will oversee the KBC's external communications department formerly led by Robert Reeves, who is moving on to a teaching position at Anderson University in South Carolina (see story on page 2).

Following Woods' election, KBC President Adam Greenway said he believes Woods now holds the highest level of employment by an African-American at

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Pair of longtime KBC leaders tackle new challenges in Baptist life.
Page 2

'Never finished' After 76 years, Sunday School teacher still answering God's call

By Robin Cornet Bass

Sebree—When Frances Horner was first approached about teaching Sunday School for a bunch of teenage boys, she hesitated. Barely out of high school herself, the 20-year-old newlywed had serious doubts about her ability and depth of biblical knowledge.

But God placed a burden on her heart for the boys, Horner said, and she decided to step out on faith to become their teacher.

Now 96, Horner continues to heed the Lord's call and said she still struggles with feelings of inadequacy, even after teaching Sunday School at First Baptist Church of Sebree for 76 years.

"You never get it done. It's never finished. There's always more to do all the time," Horner said. "Not many of us know the Bible as well as we could or want to, but I think God reveals to us. I have found that to be true."

When Horner first embarked on her servant's journey in 1936, the United

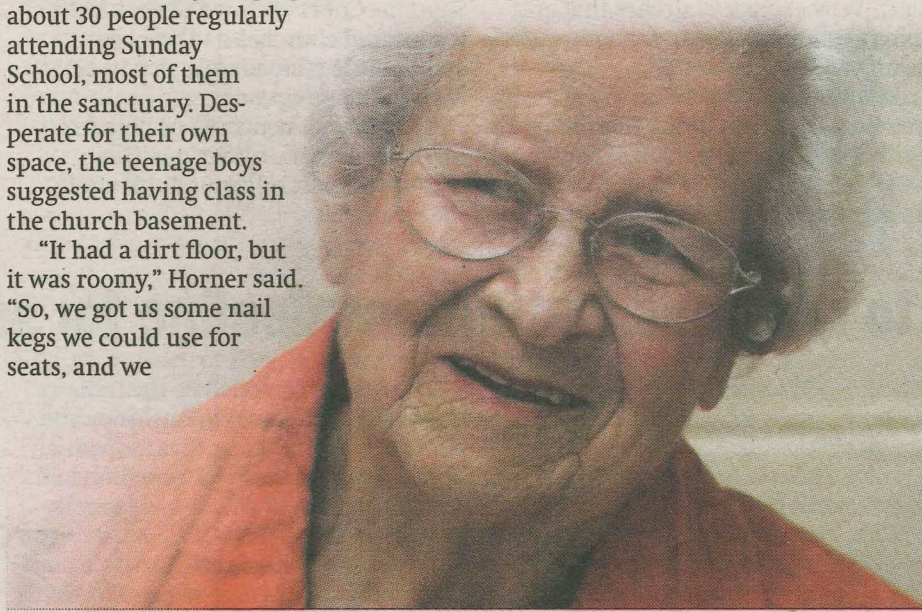
States was clawing out of the Great Depression and unknowingly marching closer to a second world war.

First Baptist, Sebree, was a small western Kentucky congregation with about 30 people regularly attending Sunday School, most of them in the sanctuary. Desperate for their own space, the teenage boys suggested having class in the church basement.

"It had a dirt floor, but it was roomy," Horner said. "So, we got us some nail kegs we could use for seats, and we

went down there for our Sunday School class. We stayed down there for several years. It was warm in the winter and cool in the summer."

□ See Frances Horner ... Page 6



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Longtime KBC leaders accept university roles

Louisville—Steve Thompson and Robert Reeves, two key leaders who stepped down last week as members of the Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board staff, have accepted roles with University of the Cumberlands and Anderson University in South Carolina, respectively.

Thompson will serve as assistant to University of the Cumberlands' President James Taylor. He was appointed KBC's assistant executive director in 1999.

In August, Reeves begins work as an assistant professor of communications for Anderson University, a liberal-arts school affiliated with the South Carolina Baptist Convention. In 1998, he was tapped as the KBC's director of communications.

The two, along with 25 other full- and part-time KBC employees, accepted retirement or resignation incentive packages from the convention in May. The packages were offered in preparation of a reorganization of the Mission Board staff tasked with providing services to 2,400 congregations in the state.

Prior to joining the KBC staff, Thompson served 28 years as a pastor and director of missions for Green Valley Baptist Association in Henderson. In addition to his role at University of the Cumberlands, Thompson will remain at the KBC for the next six months, serving as a consultant to the executive office team.



Steve Thompson



Robert Reeves

In his role at Cumberlands, Thompson will promote the Williamsburg school in Baptist churches in Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio. He will continue to reside in Louisville.

Taylor said the new position was created specifically for Thompson. "We are looking forward to Steve Thompson's leadership."

KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood said he is grateful for Thompson's willingness to serve alongside the KBC's executive office team as the transition continues.

"Steve has a storehouse of knowledge for all things Kentucky Baptist," Chitwood said. "He continues to be a valuable servant to the KBC."

A native of South Carolina, Reeves came to the KBC after serving as director

of communications for Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children (now Sunrise Children's Services). Reeves just completed his final term as an instructor for Indiana Wesleyan University. At Anderson, he will teach news writing, video production, public relations and communications.

"It is a distinct privilege to welcome Robert back to his home state and to the Anderson University family," said Barry Ray, a spokesperson for the school. "We know that our students will benefit greatly from his vast experience in Kentucky and that he will be a great fit here as we continue to provide the best in academics in a sincerely Christian campus environment."

Dannah Prather, marketing and media relations associate for the KBC, said Reeves' leadership and mentoring attitude will be missed.

"Three members of Robert's team have served with him virtually his entire tenure at KBC," said Prather, who worked with Reeves at KBHC before he left for the convention. "He's always been encouraging and professional to everyone he's worked with."

"We will miss him very much but are so happy that future students at Anderson University will benefit, as we have, from his experience, patience and godly example," she added. (KBC)

May's CP gifts most since 2007

Louisville—Kentucky Baptists' giving through the Cooperative Program in May was the highest for that month since 2007.

Contributions made through CP in May totaled \$1,956,476, exceeding the monthly spendable budget goal by nearly \$136,000.

Last month's giving was well above totals for May in recent years, according to Lowell Ashby, leader of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's finance and business services team.

"The last time we had such a good report in May was in 2007 when Kentucky Baptists contributed nearly \$2.3 million," Ashby pointed out. "We are so pleased and grateful for this support of missions through Cooperative Program."

CP giving for the fiscal year 2011-12 remains nearly 5 percent behind what is needed to reach the \$23.5 million budget passed by messengers to the 2011 KBC annual meeting.

However, "with these near-record receipts for May, total CP giving for the first nine months of the fiscal year currently exceeds the adjusted spendable budget by more than \$370,000," Ashby noted.

KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood said he hopes the sacrifice demonstrated by Kentucky Baptists in May signals improved CP support in the future.

"I hope this is a sign of renewed confidence and commitment to the Cooperative Program," Chitwood remarked. "It is especially humbling to see this kind of support at a time when there are so many families that continue to struggle financially because of the weak economy and high unemployment." (KBC)

Judge: New York City churches can meet in schools

New York—A federal judge ruled June 29 that churches and other faith groups can continue to meet in New York City public school buildings for worship services.

Judge Loretta Preska of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York granted the churches a permanent injunction against the New York City Department of Education, determining that the city's policy of prohibiting worship violates the Free Exercise Clause and the Establishment Clause of the U.S. Constitution.

The city, the court said, is permanently forbidden from denying churches' applications to rent space in public schools for meetings that include religious worship. The city is expected to appeal.

The Alliance Defense Fund, which led the fight on behalf of churches, said congregations meeting in New York schools

have fed the poor, helped rehabilitate drug addicts, worked toward the restoration of families, and provided for the disabled.

Churches also have painted the interiors of inner-city schools and donated computers, musical instruments and air conditioners, as well as provided effective after-school programs, the ADF said.

"There is no reason to exclude worship services from these empty school buildings, especially when the school allows all other community groups to meet," said Jordan Lorence, ADF's senior counsel who argued before the court June 1. "Why exclude churches that are helping their neighbors in so many significant ways?"

The latest development is part of a 17-year legal battle in Bronx Household of Faith v. Board of Education of the City of New York.

In February, Preska issued a

preliminary injunction, blocking enforcement of the ban while the case proceeded. The U.S. Second Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the injunction five days later but urged Preska to release a final ruling by mid-June.

"If a rule is unconstitutional, it is unconstitutional as to all similarly situated parties," Preska wrote in February.

An earlier round of decisions that went against NYC 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 get involved. It appeared churches had reached the end of the legal road until Preska sided with the congregations.

"A law is not neutral if its object is to infringe upon or restrict practices because of their religious motivation," she wrote. (BP)

Kentucky Baptist CP gifts at a glance

Giving for April 1-30, 2012 & Year-to-Date



Monthly budget goal*	\$1,820,594
Actual giving:	\$1,706,656
Under budget:	\$ 113,938
Year-to-Date budget goal*:	\$14,564,708
Year-to-Date actual giving:	\$14,801,965
Over budget:	\$ 237,257
*Based on annual spendable budget \$21,847,130 Actual budget \$23.5 million	

Charitable donations to religious institutions decline for second straight year

By Lauren Markoe

Washington—The post-recession United States is beginning to open its wallet to charities again, but is not giving as generously to religious institutions.

While charitable donations from individuals rose nearly 4 percent overall in 2011, according to the annual "Giving USA" report, donations to houses of worship and other religious bodies dropped by 1.7 percent—a decrease for the second year in a row.

The report, compiled by the Indiana University Center on Philanthropy and released June 19, shows that individual Americans gave nearly \$218 billion last year, \$96 billion of which went to religious organizations.

The proportion of the charitable donations going to religious groups has been falling steadily for decades, Giving USA's Robert Evans said.

Evans offered several reasons for the decline, including increased competition from a proliferating number of non-religious organizations, a decrease in church attendance, and a general lack of sophistication within religious institu-

tions regarding fundraising.

"Clergy in America have not been sufficiently trained as CEOs of institutions to be comfortable and conversant with contemporary fundraising technology and techniques," he said.

The report shows that charitable giving is a priority for Americans, said Eileen Heisman, CEO of National Philanthropic Trust. "People were giving even during the lowest points of the recession, but as we make an economic rebound, donors feel more comfortable gifting their dollars—especially when they support a cause or organization that's important to them." (RNS)



Mission Board hires new KBC staff

Continued from page 1

any of the "old-line" state conventions. Woods "testifies of the grace of God, not only in the color of his skin, but in the content of his character," Greenway said.

In addition to his tenure at KSU, Woods has served on staff at Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship in Dallas and Old St. James Baptist Church in Pine Bluff, Ark.

Woods is a graduate of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff and earned a master's degree from Dallas Theological Seminary. He currently is pursuing a doctorate at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Chuck McAlister was elected leader of the KBC's newly formed evangelism and church planting team. He will begin Sept. 1.

The evangelism and church planting team is one of the three areas of focus the convention has adopted in the new organizational structure. The others are missions mobilization and church consulting and revitalization.

McAlister is responsible for overseeing collegiate and ethnic ministries in the state, as well as developing strategic evangelism strategies for Kentucky Baptists to implement.

Since 2009, McAlister has served primarily as an evangelist through Promise of Hope Ministries based in Hot Springs, Ark., of which he is the president. He also serves as director of constituent relations for Baptist Global Response.

"Chuck is a man who oozes evangelism," Chitwood noted. "He is an evangelist; that is who he is, that is what he is."

McAlister also is a well-qualified leader "to help us continue to inspire churches, prayerfully, to an entirely new level of sharing the gospel throughout the commonwealth," Chitwood added.

Prior to becoming a full-time evangelist, McAlister led The Church at Crossgate Center in Hot Springs, Ark., for 17 years. During that time, he was elected first vice president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and was among the speakers at the 2000 Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference.

In 1996, McAlister and his wife, Janice, launched the award-winning national cable TV program "Adventure Bound Outdoors." He also has authored



REGIONAL REVITALIZATION Jeff Crabtree, the newly named pastoral ministry consultant for the state's south central region, chats with Mission Board member Brian Burkhead, pastor of West Corbin Baptist Church. Crabtree, formerly the director of missions for Warren Association of Baptists begins his new role Aug. 1.



CHURCH PLANTER Aaron Harvie addresses Mission Board members last week. The Philadelphia church planter recently was hired by the North American Mission Board and will serve with the Kentucky Baptist Convention and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary as a church planting strategist.

several books, the most recent of which, "Exposed," was published in 2011.

McAlister served as pastor of Old Cedar Baptist Church in Owenton from 1979-81 and has led churches in Georgia and Tennessee. He has served as a chaplain with the Kentucky National Guard, the U.S. Army and Air Force.

McAlister is a graduate of Clemson University in South Carolina, has a master's degree from Southern Seminary and earned his doctorate at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Serving under McAlister's in the evangelism and church planting team will be **Aaron Harvie**, who will serve as the KBC's church planting strategist.

Harvie is a newly hired North American Mission Board employee who will work closely with Kentucky Baptists in their church-planting efforts.

"I felt like we had a tremendous opportunity, in partnership with NAMB, to really take church planting in Kentucky to the next level," Chitwood said. Harvie also will work in close partnership with Southern Seminary and its church-planting students.

Harvie planted Riverside Community Church in suburban Philadelphia 13 years ago. The church has since launched four other self-supporting congregations in the Philadelphia area.

Pastoral ministry consultants

Included under the new church consulting and revitalization team is the pastoral ministry consulting group, which includes five regional consultants, four of whom were hired last week.

Alan Witham, formerly the KBC's church development team leader, was named the consulting group leader in May and also will serve as the consultant for the state's central region.

The consultants' responsibilities are similar to those of the KBC's former regional church development strategists, Witham said, but their primary focus will be that of "seeking to help churches take positive steps toward experiencing church revitalization." The consultant positions are full time, and those who've been elected will resign their current ministry positions.

The four consultants approved are: **Jeff Crabtree**, south central region—Crabtree has served as director of missions for Warren Association of Baptists in Bowling Green since 2008. He is a graduate of Western Kentucky University and Southern Seminary. He begins his new role Aug. 1.



WELCOMED WITH PRAYER Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board members pray with Curtis Woods (right) and his family following his election as the new associate executive director for convention relations and communications. It is believed that Woods' new role makes him the highest-ranking African-American employee in any of the "old-line" state Baptist conventions. (Photos by Dannah Prather/KBC)

Alan Dodson, south eastern region—Dodson has been pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church for five years. He is a graduate of University of the Cumberland's, Clear Creek Baptist Bible College and Southern Seminary. He will start work for the convention Aug. 1.

Todd Gray, west region—Gray has led

First Baptist Church of Oak Grove as pastor since 2001. He graduated from Murray State University and holds both a master's and doctorate from Southern Seminary. He will begin his KBC duties July 16.

Ronny Raines, north central region—Raines has served as pastor at First Baptist Church of Cold Spring since 2006. He holds degrees from Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn., Southern Seminary and New Orleans Seminary. He will begin his new duties Aug. 1.

Because of Dodson's position as both the KBC's first vice president and the Mission Board's administrative committee chairman, Greenway noted that Dodson resigned both posts before being considered for the consultant role.

With the first vice president post vacated, second vice president T.J. Francis, pastor at First Baptist Church of Walton, ascends to first VP. The second VP post will remain vacant until November. Greenway appointed Floyd Paris, pastor of Unity Baptist Church in Ashland and the KBC's immediate past president, to chair the administrative committee through November.

All of the new staff positions are the result of a reorganized convention structure that the Mission Board approved in early May. Since that time, a total of 37 KBC staff positions have been vacated.

In March, the convention offered all of its 73 full-time employees the option to accept early retirement or voluntary



Alan Dodson



Todd Gray



COUNTDOWN KBC President Adam Greenway gives Mission Board members an opportunity to ask Ronny Raines (background), the new pastoral ministry consultant for Kentucky's north central region, questions prior to voting to elect him. Raines formerly led First Baptist Church of Cold Spring as pastor for six years.

resignation incentives. All those who opted to leave did so last week or earlier.

The employees who remained with the KBC retained their current positions or were slotted into new roles, leaving eight vacancies within the reorganized structure, all of them brand-new roles.

Two remaining vacancies—church consulting and revitalization team leader and worship consultant—both require Mission Board approval. Board members overwhelmingly voted, however, to suspend protocol and allow the administrative committee to act on behalf of full board in filling the positions should candidates be presented before the next regularly scheduled Mission Board meeting in November.

In other business:

Mission Board members were introduced to two new KBC employees whose positions did not require their approval.

Jeff Prosser will become the new Baptist campus minister at Eastern Kentucky University July 16, replacing Jon Barron, who now serves as an international missionary in Guatemala. Prosser served as an associate pastor at First Baptist Church of Richmond for five years, where he directed its collegiate ministry.

Paul Gibson began his duties as interim part-time campus minister at the University of Louisville July 1. He will serve under contract for one semester. The convention is seeking a permanent replacement for former campus minister Bill Noe, who took a position with LifeWay Christian Resources in May. (WR)

Kentucky Baptist partners

Partnership is the name of the game when it comes to how the Kentucky Baptist Convention seeks to facilitate gospel advance. As we settle into our reorganiza-

tion, our partnerships will be more valuable than ever. How so?

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

Church planting is one example. Churches plant churches, and typically do so through partnerships. A church in Kentucky determined to plant a church probably will partner with a planter. The church often will partner with the local association, the state con-

vention or even the Southern Baptist Convention through the North American Mission Board. The beautiful end result is the birth of a new congregation.

In KBC life, we are taking church-planting partnerships to the next level. Aaron Harvie, a former KBC pastor who has spent the past 13 years planting churches in Philadelphia, recently was employed by NAMB as a church-planting strategist in Kentucky. Aaron will be working closely with our evangelism and church planting team, as well as our regional pastoral ministry consultants and directors of missions to help facilitate church planting across the state. Southern Baptist Theological Seminary also will be involved in the effort since the seminary is in the business of training church planters, and the student body is a tremendous pool for planters who could serve in Kentucky.

Reaching 2 million lost people in Kentucky will require partnerships. Pulling together local churches, associations, the KBC, NAMB and SBTS is an incredible opportunity to advance the gospel.

Another partnership that will continue to pay dividends for gospel advance is the ongoing partnership between the KBC and local associations and their directors of missions. The KBC makes significant investments in these partnerships that we greatly value.

For example, the KBC provides training events in associations and provides resources, training and an annual retreat for the DOMs. As a result, associations and local churches are strengthened and better able to carry out the mandate God has given them. Eric Allen, our new leader for the missions mobilization team, will be a primary point of contact in these partnerships, but many other KBC staff members—including me—will be involved.

A new area of partnership is being formed with the Kentucky Baptist DOM fellowship in the area of Bible learning. Many of our churches provide Bible drill training for children, including the opportunity to put their skills on display in competitions taking place in many associations and at the state level. This new partnership will enable the state level competitions to continue under the direction of the DOM fellowship, with the KBC providing financial assistance.

I am thankful for partnerships like these and so many others that help us leverage the relationships we share as Kentucky Baptists.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Woods' hire sends signal to ethnics, campus ministers, KBC

When Curtis Woods assumed the role of associate executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention this week, the date marked more than just the launch point for a restructured KBC Mission staff. It carried historic import—not just for Baptists in the commonwealth, but for other old-line state conventions as well. Woods is believed to be the first African-American to hold a top-level position with an old-line state convention of Southern Baptists.

After Woods' election during a special-called meeting of the Mission Board, KBC President Adam Greenway pointed out that the ceiling had been raised for an African-American to be placed in the No. 2 position in one of the old-line state conventions. KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood later told the Western Recorder: "I celebrate this, I know Kentucky Baptists will celebrate this, and I am trusting that our African-American Baptists will celebrate this. But this is about much, much more." As with Fred Luter's recent election as SBC president, Chitwood said that Woods' election was not just about naming an African-American to a top convention post. "While that's incredibly important," he said, "this is about the right man in the job."

Woods most certainly will be a key component in shaping the convention's newly adopted vision: "Created by churches for churches to help churches reach Kentucky and the world for Christ." His primary task will be building relationships with pastors, church leaders and lay people, particularly in African-American congregations. "For us to leverage the partnership opportunities that we have as Kentucky Baptists for the sake of the gospel is going to require a significant investment in relationships," Chitwood said.

In that regard, Woods appears to be the right person to lead the effort. He possesses strong relational skills and a wealth of experience that will prove advantageous in making inroads with African-American churches. He has served on church staffs in Arkansas and Texas, including working with Tony Evans at Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship in Dallas. He also has been involved in campus ministry at Kentucky State University and engaged in doctoral studies at Southern Seminary. Adding that Woods is a strong preacher, dedicated father and passionate evangelist,

Chitwood observed, "It's just across the board. He is a top-tiered leader who, I think, will excel in this position."

Kentucky Baptists have long been known for making strides toward racial reconciliation, centering upon more than three decades of consultant ministry by Lincoln Bingham, who has served both West End and St. Paul Missionary Baptist churches in Louisville. The hope is that Woods will take those efforts to the next level.

After Thought

By Todd Deaton



"Being in a top position of leadership in the convention opens up even greater possibilities than we saw realized under Dr. Bingham's ministry—for which we are very grateful," Chitwood said.

During recent decades the KBC has welcomed more than 165 ethnic congregations, 91 of which are African-American. Woods' addition sends a strong message to them: "I hope that message will be that African-American individuals, leaders and churches will hear us keeping the promises that we've made with regard to inclusion, equality, to an open door—not just a seat at the table, but even to leadership roles in our convention," Chitwood said.

Woods' role also should send a strong signal to campus ministers. "I think this says that campus ministry is a legitimate ministry, and that a campus minister is a valuable minister who can lead in many different settings—not just among students on a campus," Chitwood explained. Knowing that the No. 2 person at the KBC has invested his life in campus ministry should give some assurance to Kentucky Baptists and to our campus ministers since they now have an advocate for their work sitting at the top in KBC life.

More importantly, for Kentucky Baptists, Woods' work will strategically poise the state convention for the future. "I hope we are sending a signal that we want our KBC staff to look like Kentucky," Chitwood said. Recent news reports indicate that for the first time in U.S. history more than half of the babies born were brown in color, leading to the projection that over the next few decades the face of America will change dramatically.

"We want, as a convention, to be poised to evangelize the ever-growing diversity of population in our state," Chitwood said. To do that effectively, the KBC staff will need to be diverse in terms of race and ethnicity. Woods' leadership represents an important step in that direction.

Deacons as servants

Is the article "Reforming the deacons: How to tell a kingdom servant when you see one" by Joe McKeever really about "reforming the deacons," or is it just about how to spot a kingdom servant?

If it is meant as a call to reform the deacons, I'm not sure it hit the mark. We all need to be kingdom servants. Spotting a servant is great, but to reform the deacons, we need to recognize that our deacons are to be only servants as in Acts 6 and not power-brokers.

Ever wonder why some churches are in such shameful disarray? We want to brag on all the things we have done for the world, for Christ's name—and some

wonderful things have been done. But we may sound like we're talking out of both sides of our mouths when we brag on what all we've done, but then "tsk, tsk" at how the 20- to 30-some-things are leaving the church in droves.

Do you want to know why they keep leaving, and why they are not coming back? They don't see the love of Jesus, but rather hatred, anger, hypocrisy and legalism in God's house (Luke 11:37-52, Mark 7:1-23), and they see it in this deacon/power-broker model. Politics and a power-hungry attitude have no place in God's family.

In fact, we're called to the polar opposite (Philippians 2). When does Christ give the example of a flock of sheep getting a few sheep together to decide

whether the shepherd is doing what they want him to do or not? Do we see the deacons in Acts 6 disputing the disciples' decisions?

Deacons are to lead only by their service. Let us not stand for power-grabbing deacons but reform the position to its biblical standard: humble, God-honoring, table-waiting, foot-washing, Christ-like servants.

Adam Jones
Danville

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WESTERN Recorder

Box 43969
Louisville, KY 40253

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Editor

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News Director

THOMAS C. TOWNSEND
Marketing & Business Manager

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Turning a page in history, shedding tears of joy

By Rick Lance

Tears welled up in my eyes as I stood applauding the election of Fred Luter as the new president of the Southern Baptist Convention. I was not alone in the demonstrative display of emotion. You could feel it in the atmosphere of the room. Few times have I experienced such a moment as that in a gathering of fellow SBC messengers at a convention meeting.

Having grown up in Birmingham during the height of the civil rights era, I was so glad that we as Southern Baptists could come to the place where we could celebrate such a moment. There were times in the past when I saw progress in racial reconciliation, but there were never moments such as this one when we could come together and rejoice in the Lord over them. Thankfully, that high and holy moment came during this SBC meeting.

At the National African American Fellowship meeting, I joined hundreds of others—Anglos and African-Americans—in a worship service where Luter spoke so eloquently and poignantly about what brought him to this place of leadership at this strategic time in our history. Luter has never preached a bad sermon—at least I have never heard him do so. On this occasion, he was at his best.

His message was vintage Luter. He was humble but courageous. He told of being asked by a reporter why he wanted to be president. He answered: “Why not?”

Then he laid out three reasons for his willingness to serve. First, because of the “right person.” He was speaking of course of Jesus, our Lord, as being the right person. Luter described how he sought the Lord in determining whether he should allow himself to be nominated. He and his wife prayed and fasted for a lengthy period before accepting the challenge.

The second point of his message focused on the “right process.” This was the process of waiting for the right time to serve. Years ago, Luter was approached about being nominated for the position, and he said, “The time is not right.” Concerning this point, Luter spoke so clearly about how change takes time and very

few of us want to wait on it. “Waiting on the Lord” is a part of preparation for service, and Luter knew that so well. Now, his time had come.

As Luter transitioned to his third point, which focused on the “right promises,” the crowd was reaching a crescendo of emotion. Many were standing and clapping. Everyone in that room, Anglo or African-American, stood on the same promises—the promises of God. We all were applauding and praising the Lord for His precious promises.

In electing Fred Luter as our new president, Southern Baptists were electing one of our own—and one of our best. I remember well when Luter preached last year at our state convention. He was not feeling well, yet he told me he had to travel back to New Orleans during the night for an associational meeting the next morning. This is a strong indication of what kind of leader we have in our new president.

Luter understands Baptist life on all levels. He has served his church, Franklin Avenue Baptist, so well during the past 25 years, especially in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. He is involved in his local association and state convention in vital ways. He is an example of commitment to missions at every point of Baptist life. He knows Southern Baptists well.

I left this convention meeting feeling like we have made some positive history. We now can turn not just a page in our history book but begin a whole new chapter. We need to pray for our new president as he leads us. As is always the case, pressures will mount upon him and the secular world will put him to the test in ways no other president has been tested in the recent past. However, I believe in Luter, and I know that with the Lord's help, he is up to the task.

As a young boy growing up, I often heard the tired, old saying, “big boys don't cry.” I am glad that trite expression is so wrong, because when my friend and brother Fred Luter was elected as our president, I shed a few tears. I couldn't help it. It was indeed a high and holy moment for us all, and I'm glad I lived to see it. (BP) Rick Lance is executive director of the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions.

FIRST PERSON

Facts about Kentucky Medicaid

By Laurie Valentine

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reports people age 65 or older face a 40 percent lifetime risk of having to go into a nursing home. About 10 percent will stay five years or longer. Those statistics, coupled with the ever-growing cost of nursing-home care, lead many to be concerned with how they would pay for such care. It is estimated that 5 percent of long-term care costs are paid by private insurance; 21 percent by the nursing-home resident; and 74 percent by Medicare or Medicaid.

Medicaid is a government-funded program established to pay the difference between the cost of nursing-home care and a resident's income. To qualify for Medicaid benefits in Kentucky, one must meet both “resource” and “income” eligibility tests.

An applicant meets the “resource” test if he or she has no more than \$2,000 of “countable” assets and if a spouse has no more than \$113,640 in “countable” assets. Excluded from “countable” assets are the applicant's home (if the spouse or a dependent lives in it), personal property and household goods, retirement plan and/or IRA accounts; one automobile; \$1,500 of life insurance (if designated as burial reserve); \$10,000 irrevocable funeral contract; and property used in a trade or business (rental property excluded).

To meet the “income” test, the applicant's countable monthly income from all sources (social security, pension or other retirement income, interest, dividends) must not exceed either: (1) the “special income standard” set by the state (for 2012, \$2,094), or (2) the state-determined nursing home private pay rate (\$196.31 per day for 2012). A Medicaid applicant (or spouse) who makes “prohibited transfers” (transfers for less than full value) within the “look-back” period (five years prior to applying for Medicaid) will be denied benefits for a period equal to the value of the assets transferred divided by the private pay rate.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.



Camping can help build marriages

By Scott Wigginton

Q: We've heard people talk about the advantages of camping in building close marriages and families. Why is this and how can we learn to like it?

A: Admit it. Some of you wish you could answer this question because you love camping. A second group is as likely to go camping as a dragon is to blow out a birthday candle. I'm writing to the third group. You are open.

Human beings started out in a garden, close to God's presence and His magnificent creation. No disrespect to Disney, but nothing Walt ever created compares to the wonder of nature. The sandstone hoodoos of Bryce Canyon; the soaring majesty of the snow-capped Grand Tetons; the quiet glow of a campfire in the Colorado twilight; the pause of a doe at the edge of a central Kentucky lake. These are mythic and unforgettable experiences set in a frame that makes a Thomas Kinkade painting look like kindergarten scribble.

Camping opens families up to wonder. It places serenity within reach. It creates opportunities for discoveries to be made about strength and beauty. Camping puts us back in a garden. There is no TV and minimal technology; face-to-face relationships, simple tasks and delightful play become the focus.

Here are a few suggestions to get started and have a positive experience. Buy a good tent and practice setting it up before you go. Rain-proof and seam-seal your tent. Choose a time of year that is not too hot, humid or “buggy.” Brainstorm activities that each person would enjoy. Be flexible. Don't pack too much. Take lots of pictures or video. Let everybody have a specific job. Finally, focus on spending time, not money.

Scott Wigginton is associate professor of pastoral ministries and counseling at Campbellsville University and minister of counseling at Campbellsville Baptist Church.



A Crossover answer to a ‘Macedonian prayer’

By Tim McKeown

When the New Orleans evacuees were stationed in the Superdome in 2005, I watched the news coverage as a woman cried out, “Why won't someone come and help us?” I felt like she was talking directly to me, reminding me of Paul's Macedonian call in Acts 16:9.

I first came to the Delta five days after Katrina breached the levees and much of the city was flooded. In Baton Rouge, we made 10,000 sandwiches a day for residents.

Nearly seven years later, I felt a call to return to New Orleans for Crossover.

During Crossover weekend, my wife, Melissa, and I connected with Crossroads Community Church in Kenner, La., and interim pastor, Dan Panter. We invited neighbors of the church to a block party, where there would be hot dogs, snow cones and bounce houses. More than 20 college students and adults came from Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi and Hawaii to participate at the church, just one of dozens of outreach efforts through Crossover.

I partnered with Jhen Garcia, 26, a recently saved Crossroads member, and a 20-year-old Louisiana college student named Sarah. Neither had ever shared their faith.

Jhen suggested we concentrate on quality rather than quantity. So,

we engaged people in evangelistic conversations. After inviting them to the block party, we said, “It's important to go to church, but it is more important to go to heaven. Would you like to know what the Bible says about getting to heaven?”

That question opened several doors. Surprisingly few said “no” and most politely listened but did not respond. Two opened their hearts to receive Christ.

Anese lives only a few blocks from the church. “Oh, I pray all the time for my family,” she said. “Those are temporary prayers,” I replied, “Have you ever prayed an eternal prayer?”

I explained there are countless temporary prayers, but they have temporary answers. There is one prayer that lasts for eternity. That day, she prayed an eternal prayer, receiving Christ as her Savior.

But it was the last house we visited that I'll never forget. As we walked up, I told Sarah this house was hers, as Jhen had already shared the gospel a few times. Sarah was just two months old in the faith herself, yet she agreed to share.

Jessica and “Miss Jean” were sitting on the front porch. Miss Jean said, “I've been praying for someone to come and help me share with her about the Bible. She has never heard anything from the Bible.” Another Macedonian cry for help.

Sarah told her the plan of

salvation was simple—all have sinned, we need to believe in Christ and call on the name of the Lord for salvation. Jhen shared Romans 3:23, John 3:16 and Romans 10:13. Jessica said she wanted to receive Christ as her Savior.

Sarah began, “Dear God,” Jessica echoed, “Dear God,” and then Sarah stopped. She squeezed my hand, signaling to me that I had not quite prepared her for this moment.

“I admit I am a sinner,” I whispered to Sarah, and she repeated, and then Jessica repeated, followed by Miss Jean. Again Sarah squeezed my hand and I whispered, “But I believe Jesus died on the cross.” Again the prayer echoed three more times. “And rose from the dead to take away my sins,” which again echoed around the circle.

After the prayer, Miss Jean asked where she could get a Bible for her new sister in Christ. Sarah smiled and gave Jessica her Bible.

Looking back on my experiences following Katrina, God did amazing miracles in the midst of that disaster: salvations, healings, answers to prayers and outpourings of love and help. But none was more beautiful than the four-fold prayer of salvation prayed by Jessica, Sarah, Miss Jean and me in response to a neighbor's Macedonian call for help. (BP)

Tim McKeown serves as the minister of education and administration at First Baptist Church of Killeen, Texas.

FIRST PERSON

Poll: Americans split on Supreme Court health care ruling

Washington—The Supreme Court's nearly split decision on the new health care law is mirrored by the American public, according to a new survey.

Last week, the high court upheld most of the Affordable Care Act, a massive health care overhaul often considered President Obama's signal legislative achievement.

A poll taken days before the high court's ruling found that 43 percent of Americans said the court should not overturn the law, and 35 percent hoped it would.

The Public Religion Research Institute poll also found that one in five Americans (21 percent) had no opinion on what the court should do.

This shows, said Robert Jones, PRRI's CEO, "that many Americans simply may not know what it would mean for the law to be upheld or overturned."

More than half of white evangelicals (52 percent) favored overturning the law. White mainline Protestants were more divided, with 44 percent favoring an overturn and 34 percent opposed.

Among Catholics, 46 percent hoped the law would be left in place and 36 percent wanted the Supreme Court to reject

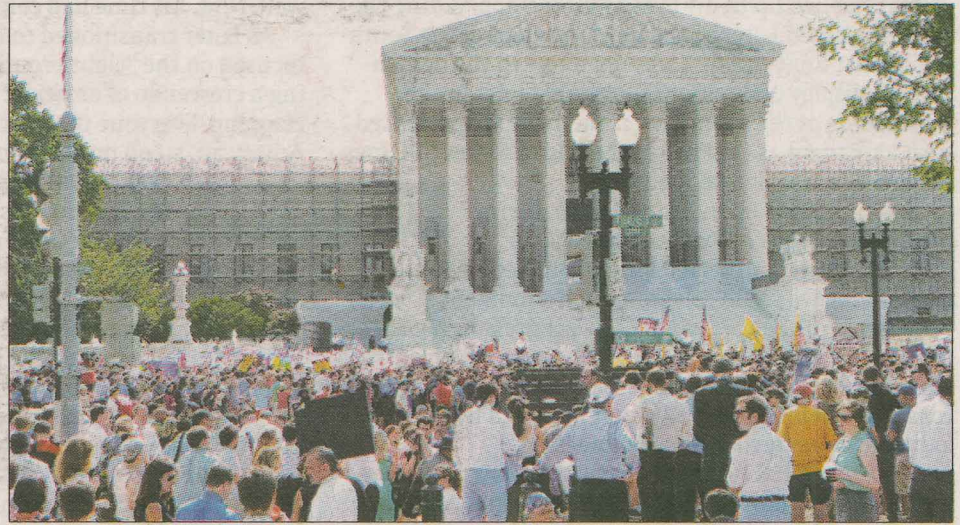
it. On the high court, Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Sonia Sotomayor, both Catholics, voted to uphold the law, while the other Catholic justices—Anthony Kennedy, Antonin Scalia, Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito—voted to overturn it.

Divisions were starker along racial and party lines. Among black Americans, 63 percent supported the law, as did 62 percent of Democrats. But 61 percent of Republicans and 71 percent of Tea Party members said they wanted the court to declare the law unconstitutional.

The Supreme Court June 28 decision was a setback for pro-life and religious liberty advocates who fervently oppose the measure.

Writing for the majority, Judge Roberts said the "individual mandate," which requires almost all Americans to buy health insurance, is a valid exercise by Congress of its power to tax. Although Congress does not have the power under the Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution to require the purchase of health insurance, it does have the authority to tax those who do not have such coverage, the court said.

The health care law—in combination



AWAITING WORD A crowd gathers outside the Supreme Court building in Washington June 28 awaiting the court's decision on President Obama's health care law. (Photo by Matt Hawkins/BP)

with subsequent federal rules—has elicited widespread opposition because of other provisions, such as federal subsidies for abortion and a contraceptive mandate that critics say violates religious liberty.

Southern Baptist leaders expressed disappointment with the ruling.

"It is astonishing that the majority of

the justices did not see the bill for what it really is: a blatant violation of the personal freedoms guaranteed by our Constitution and perhaps a mortal blow to the concept of federalism," ERLC President Richard Land said.

In a release, GuideStone Financial Resources President O.S. Hawkins said, "As I told messengers at the Southern Baptist Convention, ... we will never allow this administration, or any other, to tell us that we have to provide abortive drugs like morning-after pills. ... We will maintain our advocacy on behalf of ministers we are privileged to serve."

Compiled from reporting by Religion News Service and Baptist Press

Frances Horner

Continued from page 1

Ira Johnston, 88, was the preacher's son and among the first students taught by Horner. Now a member of First Baptist Church of Madisonville, Johnston recalled cleaning up the old cellar with fellow class members.

"Later, they dug out more of the basement and other classes moved down there," Johnston said, noting it was not until after World War II that an educational building was added to the small church.

Johnston described his young teacher as beautiful—both in appearance and demeanor—and said he believes the reason Horner continued teaching all those years was evidence of her faithfulness to the Lord.

"We dearly loved her," Johnston said. "She taught me a whole lot. I give her a lot of credit for my Christian walk."

Unlike Horner's perspective of her abilities, former student Alan Newton said the Sunday School teacher always came across as confident and highly intelligent. Newton, 75, also is a member of First Baptist, Madisonville.

"She always knew the answer," Newton said. "She was a good teacher. She was not only a good influence on us, she influenced a lot of people."

Horner taught the intermediate boys class for 25 years before being moved to the couples' class where she stayed for the next decade. During her service as a Sunday School leader, Horner also worked at the local general store owned by her husband's family and later cared for his elderly mother in their home. For several years, Horner took on the roles of church secretary and bookkeeper.

These days Horner can be found in a small room behind the church sanctuary leading the adult women's class. They are a tight-knit group who has "grown old together," Horner said.



Women in Frances Horner's Sunday School class join hands to say a closing prayer. Horner began her service teaching intermediate boys in 1936. Twenty-five years later, she became a couple's class leader. For the past 40 years, Horner has led the women's class. (Photo by Robin Bass)

Yet through it all, she said it was those years spent with the boys' class that she most fondly remembers.

"I'm not the person to witness like I should. I'm not one to go knocking on people's doors, but I was terribly burdened about those boys," Horner recalled. "I think every one of them was saved. I can name two or three that became good Sunday School teachers. A good many of them have gone on to be church workers now."

"I can look around here and see some of these men who were once my pupils," she added. "I just loved them. They were special. Maybe they were the boys I didn't have."

For anyone considering church service as a small group leader, Horner offered some words of wisdom. "I think we need to first ask the question, 'Lord, is this what You want me to do?'" she said.

Once it is established to be the will of the Holy Spirit, she added, be sure to find

quality resource materials that can explain, define, map and expand on the topic of that week's study. Then, Horner said, actually study. Do not expect to prepare an entire Sunday School lesson in 30 minutes.

Recently, First Baptist, Sebree, recognized Horner for her service during its Sunday School Appreciation Day. Members donated \$450 in her honor toward the purchase of Bibles that later would be distributed in nearby hotels and jails.

Pastor Bob Hardison said the gesture was one small way the church could show gratitude for someone who has made such a big impact—a generational impact—on the church.

"When I look back on it," Horner concluded, "I'm satisfied that the Lord called me to teach. It wasn't something that just happened. There was a purpose, at least that's the way I feel about it. It strengthened my life. It strengthened my faith. It made me a better person." (WR)



Do you want this to be your child someday?

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- ▶ having trouble in public school?
- ▶ influenced negatively by peers?
- ▶ caught in conflicts at home?
- ▶ needing to start over?

Oneida Baptist Institute

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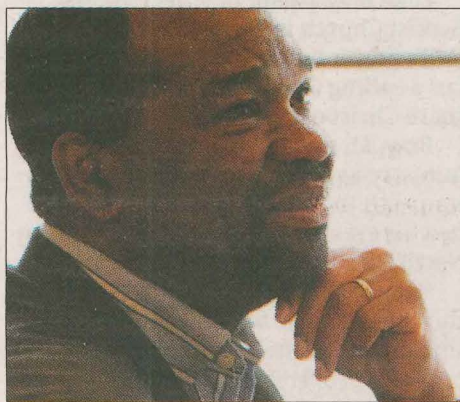
London Olympic Games brings Christians ready to share Christ

Continued from page 1
meet the tens of thousands of internationals traveling to the United Kingdom this summer.

"We are praying that many people from all over the world who may not have an opportunity to hear or respond to the gospel without being persecuted by their neighbors might have that opportunity while they're here in London," Shaw said.

David Pile said he has the same hope.

"I and others are hopeful that there will be lots of local events and lots of community engagement, and we'll be able to share and shine the love of Jesus with a bunch of people that we otherwise wouldn't have come in contact with," said Pile, Olympic and Paralympic church engagement coordinator for London Baptist Association.



GOSPEL REACH David Pile, Olympic and Paralympic Church Engagement Coordinator for London Baptist Association, asked Christians to pray that believers in the English city "would be able to further engage with our local communities not just this year but in years to come because of our efforts" during the Olympics.

Shaw is expecting the help of about 400 Baptist volunteers from the U.S., and Pile is expecting the participation of hundreds of churches in England.

Volunteers will help with festivals, face painting, handing out water and a range of other things. Some will assist churches in hosting big-screen events in parks, and sports teams will help with basketball and baseball events in neighborhoods around local churches.

All of these efforts fall under the



POPULAR ATTRACTION Tourists snap photos of the Olympic Stadium in London from a viewing deck in nearby Westfield Shopping Centre. Construction continues in Olympic Park as preparations are made for the 2012 Olympic Games that begin later this month. (IMB photos)

banner of More Than Gold, a joint effort of Christian churches of many denominations. More Than Gold helps Christians collaborate for ministry during major international sporting events such as the Olympics or the World Cup.

And its most famous ministry—pin trading—will be in full force during the 2012 games.

"Pin trading is the biggest of the unofficial Olympic sports," Shaw said, noting that thousands participate in the hobby.

As part of the ministry, volunteers trade a More Than Gold pin that shares the gospel message, he said.

The pin is a good conversation piece and helps start gospel conversations in the area surrounding the Olympic Park, where open evangelism is not allowed, Shaw said.

"During the Olympics, you won't be able to do literature distribution or any kind of obvious evangelism within a mile of any of the venues in London or anywhere else in the U.K.," he said.

But pin trading is a traditional part of the Olympics atmosphere and, Shaw said, "There's nothing wrong with talking with people."

Pile said many local Baptists also are participating with a "big silent Christian witness" during the games, serving as official Olympic volunteers, or "games makers." These volunteers serve as chaplains, drivers and part of the field setup crew, as well as in a range of other roles.

"They would have had to apply two or three years ago for these kinds of roles, but they will put them in direct contact with athletes and other people involved in the games," Pile said.

A number of Christian families in the U.K. also participate in another of More Than Gold's major ministries—the athletes' home-stay program, Shaw said. "It allows athletes' families to have a place to come and stay during the Olympics."

Many athletes don't find out until the last minute that they have qualified for the games, Shaw explained, and "many families come from places where a week in London would be prohibitively expensive, even in normal times."

Many of the relationships built between host and visiting families last well beyond the Olympics, he said.

Shaw asked for Christians to pray that volunteers at the Olympics would be able to "share Christ effectively and in a meaningful way—a low-key way would be the best way to start," he said. "Pray also that volunteers coming here will have wisdom and guidance from the Holy Spirit."

And Pile agreed, asking for prayer that "we would be able to further engage with our local communities not just this year but in years to come."

He and Pile asked potential volunteers to consider planning to serve at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.

Abel Santos, a Brazilian Baptist, is spending this year in England with More Than Gold to take the ministry back to Brazil for three major events: the Confederations Cup in 2013, the World Cup in 2014 and the Summer Olympics in 2016.

"We encourage everyone to be thinking about Brazil. It would be great to have people coming in from the States to help us with missions teams and sports events," Santos said. (IMB)

Egypt



Seminary prof: God is still in control in Egypt

By Diana Chandler

New Orleans—With Christians wary of religious freedom under newly elected Egyptian president Mohamed Morsy, a Southern Baptist theologian says God still is in control and encourages Christians to continue to pray.

Mike Edens, professor of theology and Islamic studies at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, said the election of the Muslim Brotherhood member is no indication of what God will do in Egypt and the Middle East.

"The living God is not limited to using only people who acknowledge Him for His purposes in world government. He is the only God and is moving the world of people toward an appointment with Him," said Edens, a former International Mission Board missionary.

Morsy was declared Egypt's president June 24 after taking 51.7 percent of the vote in a runoff against former general Ahmed Shafik, the results of the first democratic election in the country's history. Many Coptic Christians, about 10 percent of Egypt's population, supported Shafik.

Coptic Christian Samuel Tadros, a research fellow at the Hudson Institute's Center for Religious Freedom in Washington, said Morsy's election will give Muslims greater freedom to persecute Christians on national and local levels, and likely will hinder Christian revival in the region.

"Now with the state collapsed completely, we see this rise of the Islamists and their ability to enforce their views, both in terms of their domination of national politics, but also very importantly, on the local level," he said, "of the ability of local Islamists in various villages to enforce ... certain patterns of behaviors on their Christian minority neighbors."

Edens said Morsy's victory is a call to Christian prayer.

Christians should implore "God to grant the desire of every Egyptian parent that their children would have a better and more peaceful life among all the peoples of Egypt, that God in His sovereign grace would increase every Egyptian's access to the gospel of Jesus Christ, and for God to give insight and grace to their elected and appointed leaders," Edens urged. (BP)

Jefferson Street Baptist Center

Executive Director

Jefferson Street Baptist Center, in Louisville, Kentucky, seeks a seasoned professional to lead the organization. The Executive Director is responsible for advancing the mission of JSBC, achieving financial objectives and ensuring programmatic excellence and efficient administrative management of the organization's ministries. This person will have a heart for the Center's mission of extending gospel-centered mercy to the homeless and hurting and will have a track record of fundraising experience.

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'What about us?'

OBI seeks to leave lasting imprint on lives of students who are lost

First impressions count, and nearly every week, the main office at Oneida makes a first impression as visitors, student applicants and their families, and those exploring the possibility of joining the OBI ministry team enter the doorways and are greeted by the people and the décor of that office.

In recent weeks, those of us who welcome our visitors have been talking about how to make the furnishings of the office—especially those items hanging on the walls—better reflect the highest priority of our ministry: helping teenagers establish a relationship with Jesus.

The search for that type of art led to the work of Greg Olsen and two of his paintings in particular. The one shown below, "Lost and Found," now hangs on the wall directly opposite the office door, creating a visual first impression for one and all.

On the artist's website he wrote: "I recently received an email from a

young man who expressed his discouragement at not being able to find many images of the Savior with teenagers. He noted that he had seen many paintings depicting Christ with loveable little children, but rarely had he found his age group represented in such a setting.

This young man closed his message with these heartfelt words: "What about us?"

"Many of us have probably asked a similar question. What about me? Who doesn't love little children with all their precious innocence and charm? But what about those of us that may not feel as lovable; those of us who may have struggled and

lost our way, or who have wandered paths that have left us worn and doubting our worth?"

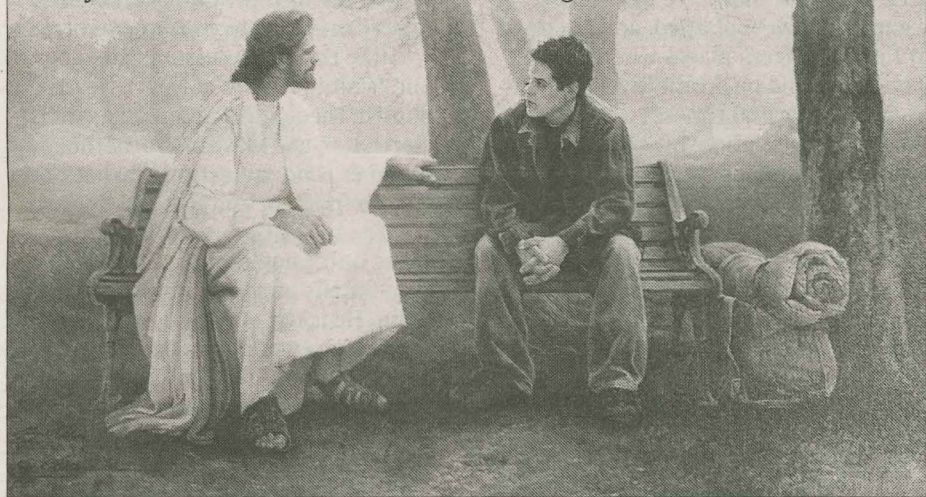
"Thankfully, Christ's love carries no conditions and is extended in full measure, especially to those who feel lost and forgotten."

That's what the Lord is doing through His ministry at OBI: extending the full measure of His unconditional love to those teenagers who are lost and feel forgotten.

This is Oneida



Paul Davidson



Fulfilling the Great Commission

Clear Creek students get hands-on missions experience at Crossover

I recently returned from the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans. Clear Creek has attended the convention as an exhibitor for many years. I always enjoy speaking to all who stop by our booth wanting information about Clear Creek. I also get to visit with a lot of our alumni. I enjoy reconnecting with them and catching up with news about their families and ministries.

My favorite pre-convention event is Crossover. I have made it a practice to take a team of our students to each Crossover event since I've been president. We have structured it into an actual missions class for which students can receive credit through their participation. It is a great way for them to gain practical ministry experience and acquaint themselves with the workings of our convention.

This year our team of six students (John Carter, Travis Ferris, Jessica Farris, Rebekah Harris, Eric Sutton and Michael Ticknor) served with the Irish Channel Christian Fellowship. Pastor

Cornelius Tilton and the members were very gracious in allowing us to help them with door-to-door evangelism and visiting in the community on Saturday morning. We also served during their block party that afternoon.

Hundreds of people from the community attended. They were treated to red beans and rice cooked by the Oklahoma Baptist disaster relief team, as well as games for the children and a gospel presentation from the Strength Team. We praise the Lord for the 10 professions of faith made during this event.

I am proud to be a part of a Kentucky Baptist Convention institution committed to fulfilling the Great Commission. As I watched our students share the gospel, I thanked the Lord for Kentucky Baptists' support of the ministry of Clear Creek. Your Cooperative Program support enables us to provide scholarships so our students can participate in these trips. Thanks for all you do for us.

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



TENT REVIVAL Elizabeth Yarnell of Fort Worth, Texas, hammers a nail into a cross at the prayer tent exhibit of the International Mission Board during the recent Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in New Orleans. Each nail by a visitor—more than 1,150 in all—represented a commitment to take the gospel to the ends of the earth. (IMB photo)

Bedouin tent at SBC inspires Great Commission prayers

By Don Graham

New Orleans—Jill Welton quickly discovered that the Bedouin tent inside the convention center wasn't a marketing gimmick. It was a place for prayer and reflection.

Welton, a pastor's wife from Berryville, Va., had come to New Orleans for the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting and visited the International Mission Board's booth in the exhibit hall.

The prayer tent, which dominated IMB's display, was modeled after the desert dwellings of the nomadic Bedouin tribes of North Africa and the Middle East. It was created to inspire SBC messengers to deepen their commitments to be Jesus' heart, hands and voice, following Him in obedience to the Great Commission no matter the cost.

It featured five stations that focused prayer on Jesus' commands in Matthew 16:24-25 for believers to deny themselves, take up their crosses and follow Him.

Welton said she was overwhelmed by the words of Karen Watson, a Southern Baptist worker martyred in 2004 in Iraq. Before Watson went overseas, she penned a letter to be read by her pastor in the event of her death.

Excerpts of the letter were displayed at one of the prayer stations: "When God calls there are no regrets. ... To obey was my objective, to suffer was expected, His glory is my reward."

"I wrote down every word," Welton said. "I'm going to print it up and post it in my cubicle at work because it is incredibly inspirational."

Two years ago, Welton helped her husband, Van, start Apple Valley Baptist Church in Berryville. The congregation averages about 40 people on Sundays. She said the prayer tent was a strong reminder that success isn't measured in numbers but in obedience.

"It's so easy to get caught up in the world's idea of success, and when you don't think that you fit that mold, you may see yourself as a failure," Welton said. "And I think that's a good way for me to encourage my husband as pastor of a small, growing church."

Luke Bray, pastor of Jeffersontown Baptist Church in Louisville, said the IMB's prayer tent helped renew and refocus a calling God placed on his heart to share Christ overseas.

Bray, 31, said he first felt drawn to ministry as a teenager. A tour of duty in Iraq with the Army National Guard opened his eyes to the need for the gospel in North Africa and the Middle East.

"One of the most amazing things that the Lord was able to do, even through that difficult time, was to give me a heart for people in the Middle East and opportunities to share the gospel with Muslims," Bray recalled.

The prayer tent, he said, helped him confront a serious obstacle to Christian service in that part of the world that he didn't face as a soldier: fear for the safety of his wife and two young sons.

"I served in Baghdad for 14 months, and so I'm very familiar with that world and the dangers that come with it," he said. "I'm continually praying that the Lord would eliminate those kinds of fears about my family and that I would trust Him."

"Some of the nicest people I've ever met are Muslims. ... They're actually more open to talk about religious things than many Christians in the United States."

Megan Galvin, a 19-year-old college student from Atlanta, spoke about her dream of one day serving the Lord through medical missions.

Galvin, who is studying pre-medicine at the University of Georgia, admitted that a fear of losing relationships with family and friends was hindering her ability to fully surrender her life in obedience to the Great Commission.

After visiting the prayer tent, she shared that "it was really cool to be able to zone in on the things that are holding me back from living the life that God's called me to live."

"Putting myself where God's called me to be over those relationships is a really hard thing," Galvin said. "Every day I'm committing to make the decision to follow Christ and to leave those things that I'm fearing behind." (IMB/BP)

11x11 crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-55 indicating starting points for clues.

Bible Crosswords

By Evelyn Boyington

Across

- 1 Hoover, for example
4 "And I saw, and behold a white ..." (Revelation 6:2)
9 Auction action
12 "Beware of him, and ... his voice" (Exodus 23:21)
14 "They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with ..." (Matthew 27:34)
15 Shoshonean tribe member
16 Scrambled scuffle
18 "And the Avims which dwelt in ..." (Deuteronomy 2:23)
20 Of considerable size
22 What a raconteur weaves?
23 "And in the fourth chariot ... and bay horses" (Zechariah 6:3)
26 Cave dweller
27 Partner of rave
28 What Hebron was formerly called, and its namesakes (var., Genesis 35)
30 Preposition
32 ... white
33 Bypass
34 Queen, for example
35 The royal ...
36 Teams
37 Melted, as a fuse
38 Deface
39 Bees in the bonnet?
41 One husband of Abigail
43 "Let the wicked fall into their own ..." (Psalm 141:10)
44 "God hath blessed thee ..." (two words, Psalm 45:2)
46 Aeries
49 "Manasseh made Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to ..." (2 Chronicles 33:9)
50 "Unto Shem also, the father of all the children of ..." (Genesis 10:21)
52 Holding a grudge
53 ... station
54 Packs away
55 Tatami (floor ...)

- 9 Charred
10 Inflammation (suffix)
11 Political partisan (abbr.)
13 Leaven
17 Building extension
19 Ages
21 "Intreat me not to ... thee" (Ruth 1:16)
23 "The tree ..., and was strong" (Daniel 4:11)
24 "Why do the heathen ..." (Psalm 2:1)
25 Overcome with noise
29 Shaggy mammals
30 ... there, done that
31 Coniferous trees
33 Achieves success
34 "Their root shall be as rottenness, and their ... shall go up as dust" (Isaiah 5:24)
36 Bat's bailiwick
37 Pierces
38 "In the resurrection they neither ... nor are given in marriage" (Matthew 22:30)
40 "Your father hath ... changed my wages ... times" (Genesis 31:7)
41 Feminine name
42 "The reward not reckoned of grace, but of ..." (Romans 4:4)
44 Handful
45 Automobile of a previous generation
47 Singing syllable
48 Jelled
51 Inits. accorded a member of the clergy

Last puzzle's solution

11x11 crossword puzzle grid with the solution to the previous puzzle.

Down

- 1 Title of respect in Brazil and Portugal
2 Lincoln, to his nearest and dearest
3 "As when the ... fire burneth" (Isaiah 64:2)
5 "Sihon king of the Amorites, and ... king of Bashan" (Psalm 135:11)
6 Stadium sound
7 Smote
8 "... the ninth" (1 Chronicles 12:12)

Are you qualified?

Psalm reveals what God expects of all believers to claim His promise

Psalm 15 begins with these very direct questions addressed to God: "Lord, who may dwell in your sanctuary? Who may live on your holy hill?"

The first qualification of one who desires to be in God's presence is integrity, which means doing what is right and speaking the truth because it is in one's heart to do so.

The second qualification is to be careful in what you say and how you treat your neighbor.

The third is to manifest a godly perspective in relating to all people.

The fourth is to keep your word regardless of the changing circumstances in which you may find yourself.

The fifth and final qualification involves the use of money. You must not be covetous in the use of money; you must not prey on others for your own greedy gain; and you must never accept a bribe against another person.

These qualifications, which represent high ethical standards, were set forth by the Psalmist in terms of

everyday life and were intended to be consistent and continuing habits of anyone who desired to be in God's presence.

I believe Psalm 15 is as relevant today as it was when it was first used long ago in an assembly of God's people for worship. It is relevant because it reveals what God expects of us. These simple, yet demanding qualifications of fellowship with God set forth by the Psalmist are very similar to Jesus' qualifications and expectations of His disciples.

In the words of John Durham from his commentary on Psalms, these qualifications are "stark reminders of what the faithful are asked to be, and an embarrassing description of what we somehow seldom are."

Let us pray for God's strength and guidance as we seek to live our lives in ways that qualify us to claim the promise as stated by the Psalmist in the final verse of Psalm 15: "He who does these things will never be shaken."

Ky. Baptist Foundation



Barry Allen

Barry Allen is president of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, PO Box 436389, Louisville, KY 40253; toll-free (866) 489-3533; www.kybaptistfoundation.org

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July

- 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.
- 4 Calvinism: Concerned? Curious? Confused?, Crestwood Baptist Church.

September

- 13 Retired Kentucky DOM/ Spouse Luncheon, Severns Valley Baptist Association, Elizabethtown.
- 13-14 Children's Ministers' Retreat, Cedarmore Camp and Conference Center, Bagdad.
- 19-21 Missionary Retreat, TBA.
- 19-23 Adult Kentucky Changers—West, Princeton.

NAMB's SBC report highlights spiritual need of North America

By Adam Miller

New Orleans—Last year at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Phoenix, Matt Mowrey took the stage as a testimony to God's work in Norwich, Conn., through North American Mission Board missionary Shaun Pillay.

This year Southern Baptists saw video of Matt's father who, shortly after watching last year's presentation, became one of Norwich's newest believers. Recently, Matt's grandmother also accepted Christ.

During the NAMB report and presentation at the recent SBC meeting in New Orleans, NAMB President Kevin Ezell highlighted the importance of ongoing and sustainable efforts, like those in Norwich, in penetrating lostness in North America.

"We're not planting churches that will make a difference for a week or a month or a year," Ezell stated. "We're planting churches that will continue to reach people year after year after year."

To highlight the need for more churches in North America, Ezell offered a historical glimpse into the SBC's nearly two centuries.

"When we started back in 1845, we started churches at a great pace. By 1900, there was one church for every 3,800 people," Ezell pointed out. "Today there are two different North Americas: one very well church and one that's not."

Ezell shared that some Southern states have one SBC congregation for every 1,400 people. But in Canada there is one church for every 117,000 people. In the

northeast United States, the numbers aren't much better.

With a goal of seeing a net gain of 5,000 additional SBC congregations by 2022 and with an average of 890 churches dropping off the SBC database each year, at least 13,500 new churches will be needed in the next 10 years.

In addition to church planting, Ezell spotlighted ways NAMB will help Southern Baptists accomplish this goal:

■ Ezell said bivocational pastors are the "iron men of the SBC," and NAMB will be supporting them through educational and resourcing opportunities and by encouraging would-be pastors to pursue professions as they pursue ministry.

John Voltaire, an engineer and bivocational pastor in Miami, joined Ezell on stage.

"I find it very exciting and rewarding, because when you're out there (working in a career) you understand their problems and can point them to hope," Voltaire said. "It's good to know we are not alone in this."

■ NAMB also is building an initiative for assisting plateaued and declining churches through pairing them with healthy churches.

Larry Wynn, NAMB vice president for evangelism, told messengers, "there is a place for you in the (church) revitalization process," and outlined how the initiative will work.

This could include encouraging a plateaued church, helping relaunch a struggling church, merging with a dying church or helping acquire and reallocate unused church properties. (NAMB/BP)

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

Spotlight on ...

Olmsstead



Dripping Spring Church will host SBC President **Fred Luter**, pastor of Franklin Avenue Church in New Orleans, as guest speaker July 20, 7 p.m. **Jeff Noffsinger** is pastor.

Parkland Church's women's ministry will hold a ladies' night out July 13, 7 p.m., with desserts and a short devotional. **Tom Curry** is pastor.

St. Matthews Church will host the **River Cities Concert Band** in concert during an ice cream social July 8, 6:30 p.m. The church's women's ministry also will present "The Things We Carry" July 12, 6:30 p.m. The cost to attend is \$7. **Greg Barr** is pastor.

Walnut Street Church will hold an AARP-sponsored driver safety class for those age 55 and older July 16, 9 a.m. The cost to attend is \$5. For more information, call (502) 992-9613. **Rusty Ellison** is pastor.

■ **MAYFIELD**—High Point Church will host **For Heaven's Sake** in concert July 8, 6 p.m. For more information, call (270) 247-3106. **Rick Hatley** is pastor.

■ **STANFORD**—Calvary Hill Church recently called **Brad King** as pastor. He previously was pastor of Bethel Church in Harrodsburg.

■ **CADIZ**—East Cadiz Church will hold revival services July 17, 7 p.m., with **Tony Evans**, pastor of Rock Front Church in Cadiz, as evangelist. **Lester Watson** is pastor.

Rock Front Church recently called **Tony Evans** as pastor. He previously was youth minister at Canton Church in Cadiz.

Wallonia Church will hold revival services July 8-11, 7 p.m. **Harold Greenfield** is pastor.

■ **HODGENVILLE**—First Church will hold CPR and first aid certification classes July 12, 6 p.m.; July 14, 10 a.m. For more information, call (270) 358-3193.

■ **HOPKINSVILLE**—First Church will hold an international-themed salad supper July 17, 6 p.m., with testimonies from members about recent mission trips. **Rick Stevens** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—The Christian Business & Professional Women organization will hold a luncheon July 12, 11:30 a.m. at Hurstbourne Country Club. The cost to attend is \$13. Reservations are required by July 9 by contacting **Christine Ward** at (502) 931-2918 or cbpwest@gmail.com.

Fern Creek Church will hold Children's Music Week events July 9-13, 9 a.m., for kids age 4 through sixth grade. The week will feature singing, musical activities, Bible studies and recreation times. For more information, call (502) 239-0316.

Linda Barnes Popham is pastor. Melbourne Heights Church will hold its Watermelon, Ice Cream and Music Festival July 8, 5 p.m. **Adam Schell** is pastor.

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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.

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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 cookes4@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@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.

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SEEKING: Office coordinator/secretary for Fern Creek Baptist Church; 38 hours/week. Applicant must be a spiritually mature Christian, an active church member, must have several years of experience, have strong computer skills, be proficient in Microsoft Word, Publisher, Excel and PowerPoint and church software programs. Send resumé to: Fern Creek Baptist Church, Attn: Personnel Committee, 5920 Bardstown Road, Louisville, KY, 40291, or email linda@ferncreekbaptist.org. Resumé will be received through July 26. Questions, call Pastor Linda Barnes Popham (502) 239-0316, ext. 103.

WMU ANNUAL MEETING 2012

GPS hunt takes students on prayer tour of New Orleans

By Shannon Baker

New Orleans—Students used GPS-enabled devices to “prayer”-cache from downtown New Orleans to the French Quarter and across the city as part of youth activities during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

The prayer thrust was based on “geocaching,” a modern-day treasure hunting game in which players try to locate hidden containers, called geocaches. Participants follow coordinates, leading them to explore their cities in a unique way.

Connecting with the geocaching craze, Gayla Parker, Woman’s Missionary Union executive director for Maryland/Delaware, said, “We thought, ‘Why not take that idea and instead of geo-caching, we did “prayer”-caching?’”

Following an opening time of Bible study, worship and interaction with missionaries, around 75 teens gathered in teams to find GPS coordinates and other clues that led them from the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, throughout the French Quarter and French Market, to the Baptist Friendship House, a community center and a transitional house for homeless women and children.

When the students found a hidden “prayer”-cache, they read a Scripture and learned a specific way to pray for that part of New Orleans, such as human trafficking and exploitation, homelessness and spiritual lostness. Some of the locations also had bottles of water, which the students shared with passers-by while other students prayed.

“We used this as a learning experience for the



Baptist students “prayer”-cached (similar to “geocaching” but involving prayer) throughout New Orleans during youth activities in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention’s annual meeting.

students to help them learn about some of the problems that come up and what the Scripture has to say about it,” Parker said.

Catherine Finch, 16, from Oklahoma, called the effort “eye-opening” because it challenged her to step out more in faith and to pray more for people.

“We got to walk through downtown New Orleans and got to see how God needs to touch people’s lives,” said Colton Dunbar, 14, from Missouri. “We got to see the bad in the world and what we’ve got to change.”

Among other ministries during the SBC’s Youth on Mission program for students in grades 7 through 12,

teens also made cookies and prepared health kits for New Orleans’ Global Maritime Ministries, prepared lunch and worked with children at the Friendship House and assisted in a block party with New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary’s Mission Lab in a neighborhood near the campus.

At the end of their activities, the students wrote down all the ministries they experienced on a “gift” card, which they then offered at the cross. The closing ceremony was meant to leave a lasting impression, Parker said, “to encourage them to continuing serving like they’ve served here.” (Maryland-Delaware BaptistLIFE/BP)

WMU: Jesus’ story ‘lives on’ in New Orleans

By Don Graham

New Orleans—“The Story Lives On”—Woman’s Missionary Union’s 2012-13 theme—took life through the words of a New Orleans pastor, during the opening session of WMU’s June 17-18 meeting in New Orleans.

Keynote speaker David Crosby, pastor of First Baptist Church in New Orleans, spoke of the lasting impact of Jesus’ story on New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina. Crosby painted vivid images of the devastation, and the Christ-centered love that’s fueling the city’s rebirth.

“It turned our city into a lake,” Crosby said. “Eighty percent of the footprint of the city of New Orleans was covered with water. Our church was an island in a flood for three weeks. And when I came in by helicopter 11 days after the storm, I wondered, ‘God, will it ever come back together again?’ And then, there was a rush of wonderful love. A flood of people, thousands and hundreds of thousands, who came to help in this city that care forgot.”

But such love isn’t easy to come by. Referencing the story of the Pharisee who tested Jesus in Matthew 22 (asking

Christ which commandment was greatest), Crosby said it wasn’t the first commandment the religious leader struggled with but the second.

“Love the Lord your God with all you heart, soul, strength and mind. He felt he had that down, he was a devoted Jew,” Crosby said. “He went to synagogue, he said his prayers and gave his tithe. ... What troubled his conscience, why he wanted to justify himself, was the second: Love your neighbor as yourself. You might be a little like him. I think I am.”

That’s why Jesus gave believers the story of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10, Crosby explained, “to help you and me understand what it means to love your neighbor.” And love, he said, walks into a trial.

“Love is so complicated and so difficult, it’s such a mess. It’s just easier to walk by the other side of the road. I mean, you got church work to do, meetings to attend—we’re busy people.

“Talk about washing feet? A beautiful rendition of that story—it’s going into a stranger’s house and cleaning up after the flood, and helping that poor soul deal with the fact that he brought a truck to take what he wanted to save, and (instead) he can fit it all in a 13-gallon trash can.”

Bible storying

WMU attendees also heard about the power of Jesus’ story from Annette Hall, an International Mission Board worker who spoke about the impact of chronological Bible storying. Hall has worked for nearly 40 years with North African

and Middle Eastern peoples, and ranks among IMB’s top oral evangelism experts.

“Two-thirds of the world’s people are oral communicators,” Hall said. “That means that they learn through stories or music, drama or poetry. ... If you hand them a book to read, they either can’t read it or they won’t read it.”

Hall said the process behind chronological Bible storying is simple, often using a set of 20 individual stories that move listeners through the Bible from Genesis to the second coming of Christ.

“Chronological Bible storying is a powerful tool,” she said. “God gave it to us. He gave us a book full of stories. And all we have to do is learn to use them.”

Acteens panelists

Sunday afternoon, WMU attendees were introduced to this year’s National Acteen Panelists, young women chosen from across the United States “based on their commitment to missions and participation and leadership in their Acteens group, church, school and community,” according to WMU’s website. Acteens is WMU’s missions organization for girls in grades 7 through 12.

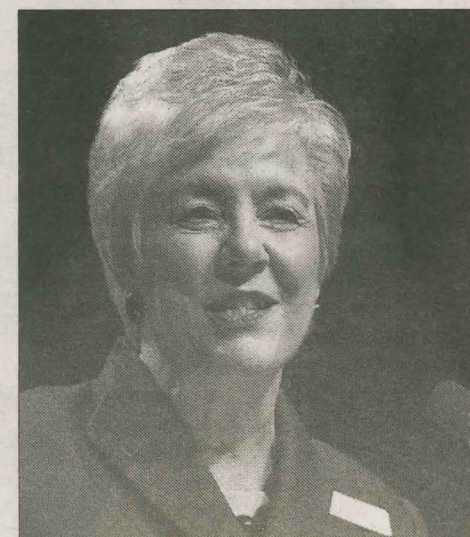
Mary Harper, from First Baptist Church Prattville, Ala., told WMU that she learned boldness in sharing her faith with a Korean student she met in a high school chemistry class. Harper described him as a devout atheist who would often work “page after page of physics problems that he claimed proved God did not exist.”

Harper continued to share with her

friend over the past two years, and though he has not yet made a commitment to Christ, Harper said he’s begun reading his Bible daily and attending church.

“I know that God will continue to work in his life, Harper said. “Through this experience I have learned that God calls all Christians to be missionaries, even if this simply means being willing to share His love with the people we meet in our everyday lives.”

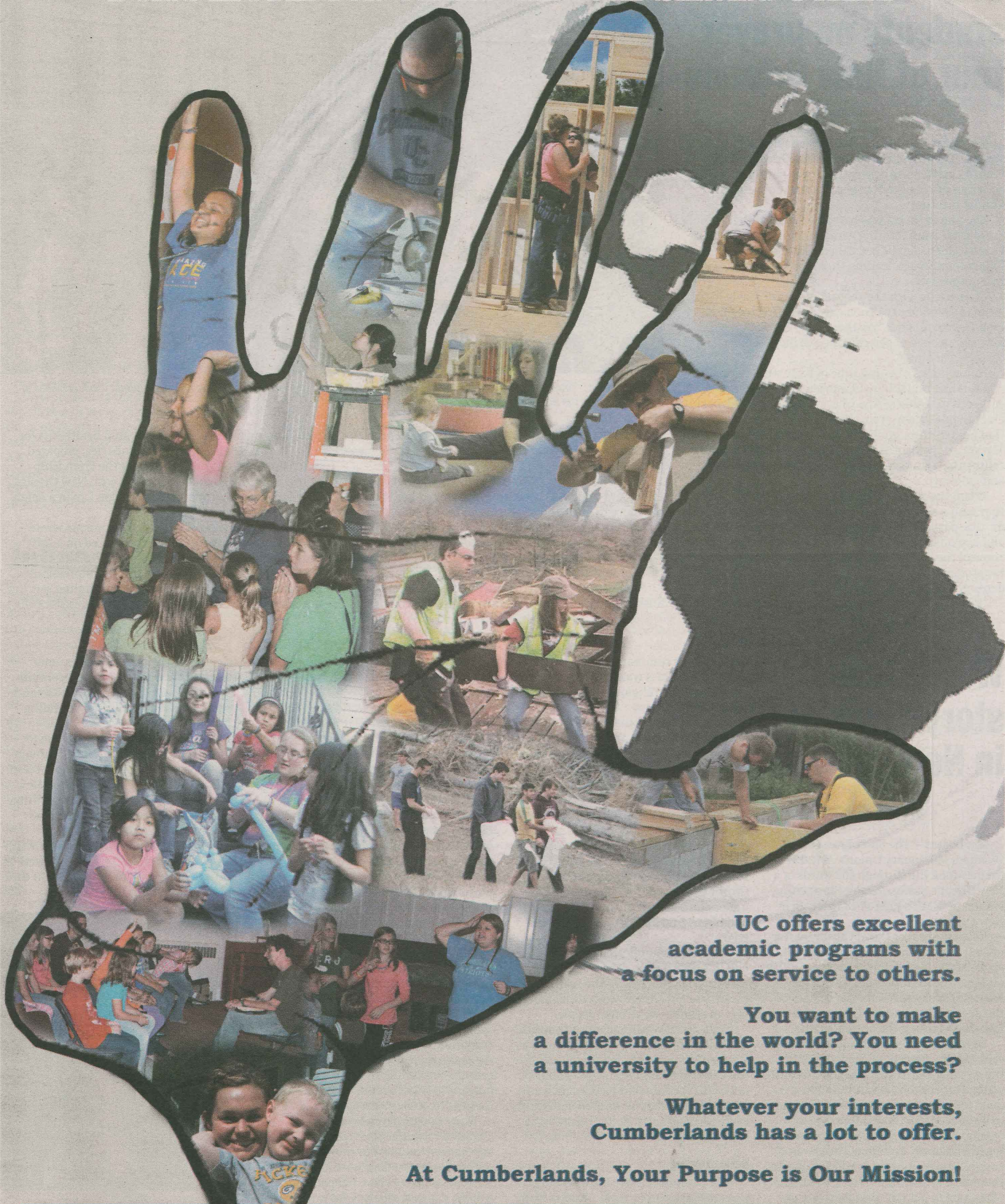
Each of the six Acteen panelists will receive \$1,000 from the Jessica Powell Loftis Scholarship for Acteens from the WMU Foundation. (IMB/BP)



Wanda Lee, executive director of the Woman’s Missionary Union, gives a report during the morning session of the 155th Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in New Orleans. (BP photo)

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