



THE WEST VIRGINIA SOUTHERN BAPTIST

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2006 SBC in Greensboro

GREENSBORO, N.C. (BP)--In an annual meeting marked by repeated calls for cooperation in evangelism and missions, Southern Baptists June 13-14 in Greensboro, N.C., elected a new president, stressed increased giving through the Cooperative Program and remembered the late Adrian Rogers, whose widow urged the denomination to "graciously work for unity in the body of Christ."

The meeting marked the final one for SBC President Bobby Welch, whose "Everyone Can" emphasis set a goal of baptizing 1 million in one year. The 12-month push began last October and runs through the final week of September, which marks the end of the SBC's church year.

For the second straight year, more than 11,000 messengers attended the meeting. The unofficial total of 11,639 would be barely un-



Photo by Matt Miller
SBC President Bobby Welch (center left) tries to quiet the enthusiastic applause of messengers at the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting for U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice June 14 in Greensboro, N.C.

der last year's total of 11,641.

"We will baptize a million in a year. I don't know if it will be this year. [But] we could baptize a million this year if you'd get up and get out of here and go to work," an optimistic Welch said to loud applause on the final night, which featured a musical finale featuring the Bellevue Baptist Church choir and the "Everyone Can" People's Mass Choir, as well as some 75 large Scripture-themed banners displayed throughout the Greensboro Coliseum.

In what some considered a surprise, South Carolina pastor Frank Page was elected SBC president on the first ballot over two nominees. His election came amidst a movement in the denomination for a greater emphasis on Cooperative Program giving and in broadening involvement among conservatives in the appointment process. Page's church, First Baptist Church in Taylors, S.C., gave 12.4 percent to the Cooperative Program during the most recent church year.

"The people have spoken a powerful message, and one of the things I think they're saying is that we can do together a lot more and a lot better than we can do separately," Page said. "I think there is a clear call from the people of the Southern Baptist Convention that we want to strengthen our work together through the Cooperative Program [and] we want to strengthen our work together as we expand involvement to reach out to godly, conservative men and women who perhaps have not been utilized in the past."

But he added, "I do not believe the convention elected me to somehow undo the conservative resurgence. That is not who I am, not what they've asked for, not what they want."

Messengers remembered Rogers twice during the week, with his widow, Joyce, appearing at the podium each time. On one occasion, following an emotional tribute that featured a video testimony about Rogers from



Photo by Matt Miller

A sign outside the Greensboro Coliseum welcomes more than 11,000 messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting and other related meetings June 11-14 in Greensboro, N.C.

every other conservative resurgence president, she was moved to tears. But her words on the final night of the Pastors' Conference — the day before Page's election — likely will be remembered in years to come.

"Adrian Rogers would not have been a part of what is going on in some parts of our convention today, getting narrower and narrower about very highly interpretive issues," she said to messengers, who responded by applauding for about 15 seconds.

"He would try to convince you of his view, but not to exclude you from service and fellowship, or to prevent you from

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Letter From Our Executive Director-Treasurer



Upcoming Itinerary:

July 2
Malden Baptist
July 9
North Charleston Baptist
July 16
Trinity Baptist, St. Albans
July 23
Trinity Baptist
July 30
Twentieth Street Baptist
Kenova, WV
August 20
Beacon Baptist
August 27
North Main Baptist
Danville, VA

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My Dear Friends:

It was a joy to see so many West Virginians at the Southern Baptist Convention in Greensboro earlier this month. The fact that the meeting was closer helped, as we had an excellent attendance and involvement.

The convention meeting went well and I was pleased that we elected not only a strong Biblical conservative, but also a strong supporter of the Cooperative Program. The convention did a wonderful job of presenting the CP story during the sessions. We will focus on it in our annual meeting in November as well. I am already looking forward to our time together in Princeton. I hope you are planning to attend.

One of the meetings I attend in conjunction with the SBC annual meeting is a LifeWay dinner provided for the State Executive Directors and our wives. At this meal hosted by the President of LifeWay, we usually hear of anything new that LifeWay is doing and have fellowship with the management team at this entity. The meal is usually at one of the ballrooms at a major hotel. But this year, I think the person planning the event thought it would be easier to have it at the convention center, and so it was planned to be held there in the "Blue Room". The problem is no one seemed to know where the Blue Room was located. When I arrived at the convention center, I asked where the Blue Room was located and no one could tell me. I finally found a convention employee who told me how to get to it, but she was not very detailed in her explanation. She told me to go through this building and then find an exit door and then go out past the guard shack and enter another building from there and I would find the Blue Room. As I was asking her, the Executive Director from another state walked up and said, "I am so glad you are asking for directions, we have been unable to find this meeting room".

We started out, following the directions that she had given and another Exec or two joined us as we were walking along. We walked all over the convention complex and did not find the Blue Room. Finally we came to two police officers and we asked them how we could find the Blue Room. They did not know where it was either. So, one of them radioed his headquarters and asked them where the Blue Room was located. No one at headquarters seemed to know that there even was a Blue Room. Someone in our crowd seemed to think it was to the right wing from where we

were standing, (by now our crowd was pretty large) so we all began to move in that direction. After wandering quite a bit in that direction we realized that there was no Blue Room in this section, so we went back in the direction where we had been. We ran into the police officers again and they laughed and said, "What exactly is it you guys do back home?" Well, we were not in the mood for laughing by then, because we were about to have blisters on our feet and we were starving! One of the police officers told us where he thought the exit door was that we were looking for and so we went out it. When we did, we came by another convention center employee who had a large ring of keys on his belt, so we knew he likely knew more than anyone else with whom we had talked. So we asked him about the Blue Room. He said he couldn't tell us, but he could take us there. That was fine with us, so we started to follow him. As we entered the next building, a man with a walkie-talkie came toward us and said, this is a secure area you can not come through here without proper credentials. The employee explained that he was trying to get us to the Blue Room for some kind of dinner. He looked real serious and said, "Well I will allow it this time, but you must not come this way in the future". I said, "Sir, if you will just get me to the Blue Room, I will never come this way again". So, he kindly led us to the Blue Room. As we entered there were some LifeWay employees and a few State Execs who had found the place and they had already begun to eat. We got in line and served ourselves from the nice buffet. After we had sat down to eat a few other Executive Directors came in shaking their heads and said, "How did you all ever find this place".

Now, I know that LifeWay wanted us to find the dinner location; they give the dinner every year just for us. But, we almost missed it, because it was a very complicated place to find. Well, I am glad that when it comes to support for our Southern Baptist ministries it is not complicated at all. We give through one source. It is called the Cooperative Program and it funds all of our ministries. The International missionaries, the North American missionaries and the six seminaries, all are taken care of through the Cooperative Program. It is the lifeline to all we do as Southern Baptists. I hope that as your church is preparing the budget for next year, you will consider increasing your CP giving in order that together we can do more.

Guest Editorial: A Stunning Admission About Polygamy

Kelly Boggs

Note to Readers: The following editorial was written by the state paper editor for Louisiana, Kelly Boggs. Because it illustrates some of the nature of the political battle related to the homosexual marriage issue, I am using space normally reserved for the editor's notes to share this profound piece of information.

Second Note: We do not print an edition during July or December so this will be the last edition you receive until late August.

ALEXANDRIA, La. (BP)--"I am bisexual and I practice polyamory" [group marriage]," the man told me. "I am your worst nightmare."

I thought for a moment. "No sir," I said. "You are not my worst nightmare; you are my best illustration against the redefinition of marriage."

The context for the exchange cited above was a debate a few years ago on the issue of "homosexual marriage." It was one of the few times that I have heard a homosexual activist admit publicly that the acceptance of "gay marriage" would legitimize the argument for marriages involving more than two people.

"All you need is love," has been the mantra of those seeking to make "gay marriage" a normal part of American society. Like an irritating broken record, the question they repeatedly ask is: "How can you deny two people in love the right to be married?"

If homosexual activists are ever successful in swaying the American people, or a federal judge, that their twisted view of marriage is acceptable, it will be only a matter of time before polygamy and polyamory move to center stage of the marriage debate.

If the sole basis for marriage is love and love alone, you cannot logically deny any number of people who claim they are in love from "marrying." Homosexual activists know this better than anyone.

While activists have been very successful in removing the moral stigma American society once attached to homosexuality, they understand that the vast majority of their fellow citizens are not ready to receive an invitation announcing the nuptials of Bob, Larry, John, Mary and Jane.

Perception is everything when attempting to change public opinion. In order to present "gay marriage" as a normal expression of the human condition, homosexual activists have kept their polyamory practicing brothers and sisters in the closet. However, the advocates of polyamory have started knocking.

"Polygamy and gay men: Dirty laundry or sexual freedom?" was the headline prominently displayed on the cover of the June 6 edition of "The Advocate," a national homosexual magazine.

The headline promoted a feature article titled "Big Gay Love." The article calls attention to the reality that polyamorous relationships have long existed among homosexual men and seeks to answer just how those with multiple partner relationships fit into the "gay marriage" debate.

"We're as married as we could be," Chaz Weathers told The Advocate, describing his relationship with partners Dale Dubach and John Osgood. "We have rings and have a day we celebrate our anniversary."

Another relationship configuration described in the feature included three men and



one woman. Still another involved a trio of men that "sometimes bring in an outsider just for fun."

The point of The Advocate piece is crystal clear; polyamory is an accepted practice in the homosexual community. If "gay marriage" ever becomes the law in America, polyamory and polygamy will be the next issue homosexual activists will promote.

Of course, anyone who speaks out against the push to normalize polyamory and/or polygamy will be labeled a bigot. "How dare you deny three people, four people, etc., who are in love the right to marry?" we will be told. "Who defines what is normal when it comes to relationships?" they will ask.

If the current state of our elected leadership does not change, few will rise to offer credible persuasive arguments against those who would de-construct and destroy marriage as we have always known it. Too many politicians, fearing the label bigot, will simply go along in order to get along.

Unless there is a great moral revolution in America, the bisexual polyamorous man I debated a few years back will indeed become, in his words, our nation's "worst nightmare."

Boggs is editor of the Baptist Message newspaper in Louisiana.

West Virginia State Missions
September 2006

Back to Basics

WEEK OF
PRAYER

Offering
Goal:
\$105,000

Focus areas:
Church Planting
Resort Missions
Disaster Relief
Mission Ministries
Missions Camp



August 18-19, 2006

THE Back2School Project '06

Featuring:

Essential Element

Rediscovering the Center of Life to find direction for the future



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NORTH AMERICAN
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Sponsored by NAMB
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Speaker: **Jacob Atchley**
Music: **Essential Element**

Cross Lanes Baptist Church,
Cross Lanes, WV — Charleston YMCA

Cost: \$5 / Student

BREAKOUTS:

- **Equipping for Personal Evangelism**
(each participant will receive a 4iana bracelet)
- **Purity**

SCHEDULE:

- 6:00 - 7:30 Event Registration
- 6:00 - 7:00 Open Game/Gym
- 7:00 - 7:30 Concert in Worship Center
- 7:30 - 8:00 Teaching Session
- 8:15 - 8:45 **Breakout 1**
(Adults given instructions for YMCA and remainder of event)
- 8:55 - 9:20 **Breakout 2**
- 9:25 - 9:30 YMCA Info - everyone must be present
- 9:30 - 10:00 Transport to YMCA
- 10:00 - 6:00 am YMCA



August 18-19, 2006

THE Back2School Project '06

Going all out to get everybody IN

Encouraging / Exciting / Motivating
Middle- and High-School students
Living for God in School
Evangelism / Purity / Devotion

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- **4iana bracelets**

THIS EVENT IS MADE POSSIBLE BY YOUR CHURCH'S GIFTS TO WORLD MISSIONS VIA THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM AND THE ANNIE ARMSTRONG OFFERING FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS PLUS THE LABORS OF A DEDICATED VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP COUNCIL.

Register TODAY — Call (304) 757-0944 or E-mail students@wvcsb.org

September 15-16, 2006

ON MISSION WITH THE MASTER...

JOHN 17:18

Activities

Archery

Archery Instruction

Compass Reading

Fishing Tournament

Horseshoes

Marksmanship

Softball

Talent Show

Turkey Call

Bring your own guitar, banjo,
mandolin, etc.

Prizes will be awarded in
each competition.

Cost:

\$5.00 per person

Registration

deadline:

Sept. 1, 2006

Checks payable to WVCSB
must accompany registration

The first 100 registrants
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Registration begins

Friday at 1:00 p.m.



Annual Men/Boys Retreat

**Don't miss this opportunity for
worship, competition, fun and
fellowship!!!**

Retreat will be at Camp Caesar

Bring your own bedding and towels

*Directions: from Rt. 82 at Birch
River follow Rt. 82 for 16 miles to
Cowen and proceed 5 miles north
on Rt. 20 . Camp Caesar is on the
left.*



This retreat is supplemented by WVCSB Cooperative Program Funds.

Summary Article of the Greensboro Southern Baptist Convention

Continued from page 1 ...

going around the world with Southern Baptists to share the Gospel if you disagreed on these controversial issues. And I challenge you on his behalf to graciously work for unity in the body of Christ."

Welch told Southern Baptists to "come together on the main thing." SBC Executive Committee President Morris Chapman said the denomination must learn to "major on the majors."

"It is time to cease narrowing the parameters of our collective convictions and widen the parameters of our vision for world missions," Chapman said. "...A continuation of the constant politicization of this convention and its churches will come at the price of turning conservative brother against conservative brother, of losing church members who love Jesus, love the Bible, love the church, love the convention, love the Kingdom of God and love world missions and at the price of losing the favor of God upon us.

And seminary presidents Paige Patterson and R. Albert Mohler Jr. engaged in a friendly discussion on the issue of Calvinism to standing room only crowds during breakout sessions of the Pastors' Conference, with both men saying Southern Baptists can disagree on the issue while remaining unified in spreading the Gospel.

"I do hope ... we will provide at least an example on that point, if on no other," Patterson said. "... If we allow Satan to have his way, we'll divide up over it, as we certainly should not."

The denomination also unveiled a larger-than-life statue of evangelist Billy Graham that will reside in downtown Nashville on the property of LifeWay Chris-

tian Resources. The statue, by sculptor Terrell O'Brien, features a seven-foot-tall depiction of Graham -- arms outstretched, holding a large Bible -- standing beside a 17-foot cross. Cliff Barrows, longtime Graham crusade song director, and William Franklin Graham IV, Graham's grandson, accepted the statue on behalf of Graham.

"[The sculpture] represents a passion for the Word of God," Barrows said. "He believes [the Bible] is the Word of God. You have heard him say in countries around the world as I have, 'the Bible says.' That was the foundation for his message."

Messengers adopted a report from an Ad Hoc Cooperative Program Committee encouraging churches "to give an increasing percentage of undesignated receipts through the Cooperative Program." The report also encouraged the election of leaders whose churches "systematically and enthusiastically lead by example in giving sacrificially and proportionally through the Cooperative Program." Messengers defeated an amendment to the report that would have set a 10-percent goal for churches in CP giving. But the overall report emphasizing CP giving passed easily.

"The Baptists' best bounce for their Baptist buck is through C.P. [the Cooperative Program]," Welch said during his president's address. "With the Cooperative Program, everyone can. Your dollar works seven days a week, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, all around the world, non-stop -- even when you're snoring, asleep, it's still working."

Page was elected with 4,546 votes, or 50.48 percent of the vote. Ronnie Floyd of First Baptist Church in Springdale, Ark., received 2,247 votes (24.95 percent) while Jerry Sutton of Two Rivers Baptist Church in Nashville, Tenn., got 2,168 votes (24.08 percent).

In making future appointments to SBC committees, Page said he would have four criteria: The person must have a "sweet spirit," a heart for evangelism, a commitment to biblical inerrancy and must be a "great" supporter of the Cooperative Program. At a press conference after his election, Page said he was "a little taken aback" by winning and believed this year's annual meeting could be a "defining moment" in the convention.

"I do think it is a turning point," said Page, who grew up in Greensboro, was saved in the city and whose parents still live there. "And I do think a different tone will come forth from this convention. And that tone will indeed echo

some deep appreciation of the past in the sacrifices men and women have made. But I think it also will show, in the future [that] the landscape has changed -- that there is a deep need to involve a much larger constituency."

In other noteworthy matters:

-- Messengers approved moving the responsibility for stewardship education within the Southern Baptist Convention to the Executive Committee from LifeWay Christian Resources. The move consolidates stewardship with SBC Cooperative Program promotion. The Executive Committee, which houses the Cooperative Program offices in the Southern Baptist Convention Building in Nashville, Tenn., now will add a stewardship arm to "produce, develop, publish and distribute products that help Southern Baptists to grow in commitment to Jesus Christ by applying biblical principles of stewardship." Bob Rodgers, vice president for Cooperative Program, announced a collaborative relationship with Crown Financial Ministries that will serve as the core of a national stewardship initiative dubbed "It's a New Day." The initiative's goal is to bring financial freedom to individuals, families and churches by teaching how to make Christ Lord of every area of life, including finances.

-- Messengers passed a resolution opposing the manufacture and consumption of alcohol and urging the exclusion of Southern Baptists who drink from election to the convention's boards, committees and entities. It passed approximately by a four-fifths majority. Like other resolutions, it is not binding on SBC churches and entities. All total, messengers passed 15 resolutions, including one that sought to balance faithful enforcement of the United States' immigration laws with compassionate outreach to all immigrants. It passed nearly unanimously with no debate. They also adopted resolutions that: expressed displeasure with U.S. senators who recently failed to support a constitutional marriage amendment; affirmed Christian teachers in the public schools and encouraged Southern Baptists to provide a godly influence on school systems through such means as election to school boards; and condemned all human species-altering technologies, including the creation of human-animal hybrids.

-- President Bush spoke via video message and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice spoke in person to messengers. Bush expressed

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The West Virginia Southern Baptist

Summary Article of the Greensboro Southern Baptist Convention

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his appreciation that Southern Baptists were dedicating a statue to Billy Graham. He also said America is "making progress" in building a culture of life. Rice underscored the importance of America's moral leadership: "If America does not serve great purposes, if we do not rally other nations to fight intolerance and support peace and defend freedom, and to help give all hope who suffer oppression, then our world will drift toward tragedy," she said.

-- Roy Fish, interim president of the North American Mission Board, was introduced to messengers. Bill Curtis, chairman of the board of trustees at NAMB, said the presidential search committee will receive resumes for the new president at www.namb.net through Sept. 1. "But the committee will then take as much time as necessary to find the man God has for us," he said, before later adding, "I don't want to lose sight of the fact that this past year has been one where our missionaries and mission partners have made a tremendous Kingdom impact on the lives of countless millions of people."

-- International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin encouraged Southern Baptists to "stay focused" on the task of missions. He also thanked them for responding in their giving. "Most significantly in our report tonight, Southern Baptists, you gave the largest Lottie Moon Christmas Offering in history with a total of \$137,939,677. This reflects your heart for reaching a lost world, your passion for our mission task and your obedience to our Lord."

--Messengers referred a motion to the International Mission Board calling for an investigation of alleged impropriety among IMB trustees. The motion was made by Wade Burleson, an IMB trustee from Oklahoma and pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Enid, Okla. He supported the referral.

-- Messengers defeated, by a show of ballots, an Executive Committee recommendation asking the Woman's Missionary Union to reaffirm its loyalty to the Southern Baptist Convention. The recommendation asked the 118-year-old auxiliary of the SBC to "reaffirm explicitly in [its] governing documents and promotional materials the WMU's historic, unique, and exclusive promotion of Southern Baptist Convention missions and ministries" and/or "become an entity of the Southern Baptist Convention in a manner following the form of the other SBC entities and acceptable to the

Convention." The recommendation came in response to a motion at the 2005 SBC annual meeting questioning the WMU's allegiance to the SBC. That motion was referred to the Executive Committee.

-- LifeWay Christian Resources President Thom S. Rainer addressed messengers in his new post for the first time, saying that LifeWay plans on putting a greater emphasis on evangelism in its products and wants to help strengthen church Sunday Schools. "Whether you're looking at FAITH material, Sunday School literature, VBS material or something else, you'll see more evangelistic opportunities than you can count," he said. "You can't disciple people who aren't Christians, so we intend to do everything we can to help people and churches do evangelism."

-- Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission President Richard Land expressed hope in America's future, saying that underneath a "camouflage net of pagan behavior and irresponsible behavior," a "genuine, heaven-sent, Spirit-led revival" is taking place. Pointing to a recent report from Christian researcher George Barna, Land said 51 percent of respondents indicated they have been "greatly transformed by their faith." Among these individuals are "revolutionaries," Land said, some 20 million believers "sold out to lives of radical obedience to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." He said most of the Christians identified by Barna are in their 20s and 30s. "They are going to revolutionize America. It is up to us to grab that spiritual energy and harness it within our churches," he said.

-- GuideStone Financial Resources President O.S. Hawkins said the health of Southern Baptist pastors is "improving." GuideStone had a free wellness center set up in the SBC exhibit hall. "Total cholesterol count is down, blood pressure is dropping and blood sugar numbers are dropping," he said. "Unfortunately, the preliminary report for the Greensboro convention reveals that 70 percent of pastors have a medium-to-high risk for cardiovascular disease so there is still work to be done." Hawkins urged churches to include life and health benefits in their church budget for their pastor and staff.

-- Don Wilton, senior pastor of First Baptist Church in Spartanburg, S.C., delivered the convention sermon, saying Southern Baptists "have some serious confessing and forgiving to do." "Southern Baptists, it is time for us to wake up. It is time for us to stop the nonsense,"

he said. "It is time for us to roll up our sleeves and go to work and become the soul-winners that we claim to be." He added, "If we do not obey what God teaches us to do ... God will no longer bless this denomination."

-- According to early, unofficial numbers, at least 750-800 decisions for Christ were reported as part of Crossover, a yearly evangelistic event that focuses on the annual meeting's city and the surrounding community.

Next year's meeting will be held in San Antonio, June 12-13, 2007.

-- With reporting by Art Toalston, Joni B. Hannigan, Tom Strode, Mickey Noah, Gregory Tomlin, Tom Strode, Chris Turner, Dwayne Hastings, Todd Deaton, David Roach, Tammi Reed Ledbetter, Norm Miller, Erin Roach, Tim Ellsworth, Jeff Robinson and Don Graham.

Back to Basics

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
(Philippians 4:13, NKJV)

2006 Week of Prayer for State Missions and Ola Cox State Missions Offering

Goal
\$105,000

Observed In the Mountain State



Pictured above is Larry Elliott, Director of Chaplaincy Services for the Florida Baptist Convention as he led training for potential disaster relief chaplains in West Virginia. Three events took place, one in Moundsville at Temple Baptist, another in Beckley at Northgate Baptist, and one at the convention offices in Scott Depot. Forty-eight people were trained at the three meetings.



Shown left to right in the picture above: Patricia Olive, Joan Stalker, Holly Howard, Dan Howard, Georgene Carper and Margaret Jones. The Howards are pastor and wife at **Old Fields Baptist** in West Virginia. The ladies pictured with them represent the first mission team of the summer who will work with the congregation at Old Fields to reach their area with the Gospel.

The three photos of painters in action below and to the right may just look like a fun youth night in a Sunday School room somewhere but they are actually snapshots of a mission team in the process of painting the home of newly arrived WVU BSU Director and his wife, Michel and Jeniver Boyer. The painting party took place June 1, the night before the Boyer's furniture was to be delivered. Fourteen persons including Mike and Phyllis Watson, associational missionary and wife from the Upper Ohio Valley Baptist Association, members of Calvary Baptist and students, spread a little love by spreading a lot of paint. All but one bedroom received two coats of paint in one night!

Boyer has been on the job serving the WVU campus and churches in northern WV for a few months now but his family was not able to join him until June.



Disaster Relief Unit Directors Trained June 17

Terry Henderson, Director of Disaster Relief Services for NAMB led training for disaster relief unit directors June 17 at the Convention offices in Scott Depot. The seven hour training qualifies participants to serve as leaders for association and state disaster relief units, such as chainsaw or mudout units.

are **pictured in the photo below** left to right as follows: Terry Henderson, Tom Hughes, Doug Virgin, Greg Jarrell, John Hennessy, Ruth Fawley, Phil Toothman, Dan Boone, Bob Fawley.

The directors who are nicknamed "blue hats" because of the color of the cap they wear on site, have many responsibilities. They may serve as teachers, communicators of instructions, safety monitors, or even interpreters of disaster relief work.

Nine people completed the training and



Week of Prayer and Ola Cox State Missions Offering

Goal: \$105,000

West Virginia Prayer Focus

Your state convention staff meets each working day for a brief time of prayer. We pray for missionaries, campuses, associations, churches, and chapels by name each day. We invite our readers to pray as well.

New Work: Freedom Baptist Church in Kanawha City, a June, 2006 church plant led by Jimmy and Jennifer Morton. *Please pray:*

- √ For Anna Grace and her parents as they welcome a new family member later this summer.
- √ That details related to the purchase of a church building will fit together smoothly.
- √ For church leaders to grow as Christian leaders
- √ For effective outreach to their ministry field to add members to the Kingdom of God and Freedom Baptist.

Ministry Focus: Summer Missions. *Pray that:*

- √ WV traveling teams will honor God, share the Gospel freely, and grow as Christians
- √ Missions Camp participants and workers will respond to Christ's call to service and salvation
- √ Student summer missionaries will be useful to their hosts and to God's Kingdom purposes
- √ Visiting mission teams will find their WV hosts prepared for their ministry and that many lives will be changed by Christ.

Weekend Prayer Focus: Pray for the mission leaders in your church. Pray that God will call out men and women who will commit to lead others in missions involvement

Scripture Prayer: Romans 10: 14-15 *"How can they call on the one they have not believed in? ..."*

Prayer Resource: *How to Pray* by R.A. Torrey

<u>Date</u>	<u>Association</u>	<u>Campus</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Chapel</u>
July 17	Upper Ohio Valley	Marshall Univ.	Gilbert Creek	HarborLight
July 18	Allegheny	Mt. State Univ.	Good Shepherd	Hope, Richwood
July 19	Coalfields	WVU Morgntwn	Grace, Fayetteville	Lighthouse, Charleston
July 20	Greater Huntington	Bluefield State	Grace, Parkersburg	Lighthouse, Ivydale
July 21	Immanuel	Concord Univ.	Grace, Rainelle	Marland Heights
July 24	Monongahela	Marshall Univ.	Grace Fellowship, Wana	New Hope, Madison
July 25	Mountain State	Mt. State Univ.	Graydon	New Hope, Mullens
July 26	Pioneer	WVU Morgntwn	Hamlin	New Life, Arnoldsburg
July 27	Potomac Highland	Bluefield State	Hedgesville	Oak Creek
July 28	Tri-County	Concord Univ.	Heritage	Shining Light
July 31	Upper Ohio Valley	Marshall Univ.	Highlawn	Solid Rock
Aug. 1	Allegheny	Mt. State Univ.	Hillcrest	South Wheeling
Aug. 2	Coalfields	WVU Morgntwn	Horsepen	Victory, Milton
Aug. 3	Greater Huntington	Bluefield State	Immanuel, New Martinsville	The Bridge
Aug. 4	Immanuel	Concord Univ.	Immanuel, Princeton	Camden Flats
Aug. 7	Monongahela	Marshall Univ.	Indian Creek	Carpendale
Aug. 8	Mountain State	Mt. State Univ.	Isaban	Chinese Mission
Aug. 9	Pioneer	WVU Morgntwn	Jackson Avenue	Christian Family Fellowship
Aug. 10	Potomac Highland	Bluefield State	Jeanette	Dorsey Street
Aug. 11	Tri-County	Concord Univ.	Kingwood	Faith, Winfield
Aug. 14	Upper Ohio Valley	Marshall Univ.	Knobley Road	Faith Fellowship, Athens
Aug. 15	Allegheny	Mt. State Univ.	Lighthouse Community	Freedom, Charleston
Aug. 16	Coalfields	WVU Morgntwn	Lilly Grove	Gateway
Aug. 17	Greater Huntington	Bluefield State	Lincoln	Glade Springs
Aug. 18	Immanuel	Concord Univ.	Little Birch	Greater Things
Aug. 21	Monongahela	Marshall Univ.	Living Stone	HarborLight
Aug. 22	Mountain State	Mt. State Univ.	Locust Grove	Hope, Richwood
Aug. 23	Pioneer	WVU Morgntwn	Lorton Lick	Lighthouse, Charleston
Aug. 24	Potomac Highland	Bluefield State	Lost City	Lighthouse, Ivydale
Aug. 25	Tri-County	Concord Univ.	Malden	Marland Heights
Aug. 28	Upper Ohio Valley	Marshall Univ.	Memorial	New Hope, Madison
Aug. 29	Allegheny	Mt. State Univ.	Mineral Wells	New Hope, Mullens
Aug. 30	Coalfields	WVU Morgntwn	Mt. Calvary	New Life, Arnoldsburg
Aug. 31	Greater Huntington	Bluefield State	Mt. Hermon	Oak Creek
Sept. 1	Immanuel	Concord Univ.	Mountain View	Shining Light

Churches and People



May 21 **East Williamson Baptist Kidz Choir** presented *J-Force to the Rescue - A Kids' Musical Discovering the Ultimate Truth*. Fourteen members of the choir are pictured above.

Pictured to the right: Dr. Jerry Falwell, Rev Seth Polk and Dr. Dan Mitchell. Rev. Polk, pastor at **Cross Lanes Baptist** is shown receiving The Jerry Falwell Church Growth Award for outstanding pastoral leadership during the spring banquet of Liberty Theological Seminary where Polk is working on requirements toward a Doctor of Ministry degree. Rev. Polk was quick to share the honor with the congregation he leads stating

Faith, Weston, dedicated a new church complex recently. They purchased six acres of land with two mobile homes, one of which has been remodeled into a sanctuary. They plan to enlarge the sanctuary late this summer. **Bob Perrine** is the pastor.

Revival services were held recently at **West Ripley**, with preaching by Jake McCandless. Music was led by Jim Scott, and special music was presented by the West Ripley Choir, the Hand Bell Choir, Heritage from Fisher Memorial, and a choir from Creston. **Jack Miller** is the

“It is as much their award as it is mine. Without faithful, cooperative people, none of this would have been possible.” The honor recognizes the academic work and leadership success of the recipient. Cross Lanes has doubled in most measurable categories over the

past three years. Rev. Polk is on track to finish work on his doctorate in January, 2007. In addition to Polk's pastoral duties and doctoral studies, he finds time to serve as the Second Vice President for the WVCSB.



pastor.

Bradshaw Mountain, where **Bob Blevins** is pastor, held revival services in May with Ken Felty preaching. Several mission teams are scheduled to help with projects this summer.

New Covenant in Logan baptized nine youth and one child in May. The youth ministry has been growing. They held a Youth Lock-In in June. **Ron Chambers** is the pastor.

Horsepen held revival services recently with **Jerry Rose** preaching. A friend of his for whom he had prayed 30 years, accepted Christ during the Revival, and Jerry went back to baptize him during the evening service on Mother's Day.

HarborLight in Oceana is rejoicing over several recent salvations and one baptism on

Mother's Day. **Mike York**, Associational Missionary for the **Coalfields Association**, is coordinating the work at HarborLight. **Raymond Blackburn** and **Bob & Earline Bannister** have been helping out.

Trinity, St. Albans, held its annual AWANA Awards Service, led by **Patty Connor**. The children recited the Books of the Bible and passages of scripture by memory. Twelve workers and close to 30 children took part in the celebration. Several of the adult leaders had worked at memorizing a scripture passage. **Stephanie Neidlinger** represented the group and quoted the entire passage from memory. **John Adams** is the Interim Pastor.

Calvary, Chapmanville, where **John Freeman** is pastor, had one baptism in May. They held revival services with Earl Clarkson preaching. Three decisions for Christ were made. Dottie Rambo was a special guest.

Crosspoint is collecting baby bottles filled with donations for the crisis pregnancy center. The "Street Outreach Team" walked the streets and alleyways of Huntington passing out tracts and inviting prostitutes, homosexuals and homeless people to come to church. They had record attendance on Easter. Five new members were added in April, one by baptism and four by letter. The congregation held its 2nd Year Homecoming Celebration at the farm where they first came together as a church. Over 300 attended the festivities, which included the baptism of five in the creek. **Greg Lucas** is the pastor.

Hamlin is rejoicing over one salvation and three baptisms recently. The Choir had the opportunity to sing at two other churches. The Youth performed with puppets at the town Street Fair.

Locust Grove Teen L.I.F.E. performed mission activities in Fairlea at a women's shelter, in a nursing home, and at a trailer park. The AWANA Program celebrated Awards Night/Family Night in May. Sixteen were saved through the program this year. Pastor **Randall Robertson** attended the Moody Pastors' Conference in Chicago. The church held revival services the end of May with Audie Murphy preaching.

The Youth of **Twentieth Street, Clifford Curry** pastor, held a two-night rally resulting in one salvation and twelve public rededications. **Amy Larsen** was

Continued to page 11 ...

Continued from page 10 ...

commissioned for mission service for the summer. She will be working at Scioto Hills Camp. The youth held a spaghetti dinner and silent auction to help fund summer activities. The church is rejoicing over two recent professions of faith and the baptism of three family members.

Westmoreland baptized one in April. The AWANA Awards Program was held in May. A team of 38 youth and adults traveled to New Orleans where they conducted Vacation Bible School at First Baptist, Westwego, and were involved in various community cleanup projects in the New Orleans area. **C. J. Adkins** is the pastor.

Brian Corrick, pastor of **Calvary, Belington**, was ordained at the church on April 30. **James Smith**, Associational Missionary for the **Monongahela Association**, brought the challenge to the church, and Brian's father, also a pastor, delivered the challenge to him. Six new members were baptized in May.

New Hope, Rock Cave, recently roofed the building that houses its clothing ministry. They held a Ladies' Day with makeovers, hair and nail care, and as a result have 3-5 new people attending the church. They are holding revival services at the "Y" intersection in Rock Cave with a variety of guest speakers and singers, including Kent Kennedy from Mississippi. **Rick Price** is pastor.

Edgemont, where **Ken Owens** is pastor, designated May 8-14 as a week of prayer and fasting for the "Reach the Bluefields for Christ" outreach ministry.

The AWANAs of **First, Fairlea**, where **Kevin Prevett** is pastor, ended the year with a church-wide banquet and award program. Congratulations to **Kaitlin Hunter, Nathan Patton, Caitlin Skidmore, Michael Tokarz** and **Shanon Vess**, the recipients of Ann Edwards Scholarships.

Central, Bluefield, has called **Jimmy Beale III** as its new pastor.

Ceres is rejoicing over one salvation, one baptism and two new members recently. Attendance is growing. They held a Note Burning Celebration in June. **James Mooney** is the pastor.

First, Hinton, welcomed new youth pastor **Jamie Fugate**, along with wife **Edna** and daughter **Esther**. Seven new members were added in May. **Ronnie Cobb** is pastor.

Grace, where **Delbert Walker** is pastor, held a ground breaking ceremony in May. A

team from Georgia came the first week in June to help start building the new church.

Immanuel, Princeton, baptized ten in May. **Dan Jividen** is pastor.

Isaban, Mason Perry pastor, baptized one and added one new member.

Nehemiah, where **Brian Harmon** is pastor, dedicated its new auditorium and Sunday School Class room in May.

Fairlawn, Dunbar, has been developing the "Hand Print of Our Church," five characteristics they want the community to know them by. As a public service, the Family Life Center was used as a polling place for the recent Primary Election. Senior Adult Month was celebrated in May. **Greg Wrigley**, Interim Pastor and State Missions Director for the WVCSB, spoke at the Community Senior Fellowship and Luncheon. Workers helped at the Dunbar-Institute Samaritan Center food pantry to help sort food collected during the annual Postal Workers Food Drive.

Terry Harper and Jacob Atchley were invited to Atlanta June 8 to meet with John Avant of the North American Mission Board Evangelism Department to discuss why West Virginia was in the top 6 in the nation in the percentage increase of baptisms based on the Annual Church Profile of 2005.

Forty-five students and leaders at **First Baptist, Fairlea** had a great experience April 29 at the first **WV Youth On Mission Day**. The group gathered for worship and six hours of missions activities including assignments such as door-to-door survey, visits to a nursing home, lawn care for an elderly couple, and delivery of books to a children's shelter. From notes of thanks received by the host congregation, it was obvious that the missions activities blessed a lot of people. All conferees and the host congregation are to be commended for a job well done.

First, Craigsville, held its annual church picnic in June. They also held a Turning 50 Party in honor of at least nine members of the church family who have recently (or soon will) reached the 50-yr. milestone. They celebrated with an ice cream sundae party. **David Sommerville** is the pastor.

Berkeley enjoyed a progressive dinner in May, and celebrated the end of the school year with a pool party at Hancock Park. They continue to participate in the Adopt-a-Highway program. **George Hopkins** is pastor.

Cameron, where **Ron McCoy** is pastor, provided housing and meals for a group of 25

bicyclists who were on a cross-country fund raising trip for Habitat for Humanity. Members of the church decorated the entrance to Cameron High School for the After Prom. They participated in a mission trip to Gulfport, Mississippi, to help people move back into their homes after living in a camping trailer since the hurricane last year.

A team of eleven people from **West Charleston** along with three others from the **Pioneer Association** participated in a mission trip to New Orleans. They conducted a Backyard Bible Club and block party for inner-city children, did light cleanup work for victims of Hurricane Katrina, passed out over 50 food baskets to hurricane victims, and helped with the work of the host church, Metairie Baptist. Much remains to be done in the area even nine months after the storm. **Norm Cannada** pastors **West Charleston**, while **Bernard Toppings** is the Associational Missionary for Pioneer.

Congratulations to **Gerald "G. P." Simmons** who has been named to the Dean's List at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College for the 2005 fall semester. Simmons was the 2005 recipient of the John Snedden Scholarship, given annually to a student who is preparing for fulltime Christian service at a Baptist college or seminary and who has been or currently is a member of a church cooperating with the West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists.

Rose Hill Baptist Church in Ashland, Kentucky, is currently searching for a full-time Youth Pastor. Resumes may be sent to the church by mail at Rose Hill Baptist Church, 1001 Winslow Road, Ashland, KY 41102, or by e-mail to rosehill@rosehillashland.com.

Among the West Virginians Seen at the Greensboro SBC ...



The ever present cell phone is a fixture at the SBC. **Above you see Rex Baker** from Weirton who has left the floor of the convention to make contact with folks back in WV.



Above: Karen and Kenny Stidham from Good Shepherd, Scott Depot with a the crowd behind them.



Above: Lynn & Russell Talley with Maxine Bumgarner (on the right).

Center: Eight messengers from the Immanuel Baptist Church in Princeton were spotted just before they headed home from the convention.

Below: Richard Carbaugh and two of his offspring posed for a quick photo just before returning to the convention proceedings.



Left: Rev. Paul Blizard, his wife Pat and one of their children enjoyed the closing service of the convention that lasted until around 10:00 p.m. on Wednesday night. The Blizards serve as pastor and wife at Memorial Baptist in Beckley.



CALENDAR

July 4
Office Closed for
Independence Day Holiday

July 10-15
Centrifuge

July 17-21
Missions Camp

August 2-3
CGA Pastors' Retreat

August 2-3
Associational Missionary Update

August 3-5
Shepherding the Shepherd

August 19
Prayer Seminar

August 26
Baptist Foundation
Board of Directors Meeting