



# WESTERN RECORDER

September 24, 1996  
Vol. 170, No. 38**FOR THE RECORD****State split**Conservative Virginia Baptists voted to form their own state convention. *Page 2.***Church planter**D.M. Aldridge has lost count of the number of Kentucky Baptist churches he has helped start. *Page 3.***Family Forum**What motivates you to get up every morning? *Page 4.***Editorial**Consider these facts about abortion. *Page 5.***Washington rallies**Two religious-based organizations share different views of political action during their conferences. *Page 6.***Church arson**The Washington Post reported discoveries about the fires destroying houses of worship. *Page 6.***Religion on TV**A PBS documentary explores the rise of the Religious Right. *Page 11.***Child evangelism**Two specialists share ideas about teaching kids about becoming Christians. *Page 13.*

**PRAYER TIME** Pastor Robert Jackson kneels beside the pulpit at Buck Run Baptist Church in Frankfort to pray with all who have come to the altar at the start of Sunday morning worship. This intense prayer time is a part of every Sunday's worship at Buck Run.

## Buck Run overcoming obstacles to grow

By Mark Wingfield  
Editor

FRANKFORT—Judging by the usual predictors of church growth, Buck Run Baptist Church should not have grown 500 percent since 1990.

The church is located on a two-lane highway in a rural area just outside Frankfort. At nearly 180 years of age, the church easily could have passed its glory days. Past controversies resulted in the loss of members through three painful church splits. The church went two years without an outdoor sign. And to top it all off, the church now operates on a divided campus.

But those obstacles pale in comparison to the challenge that ultimately brought Robert Jackson to return as pastor six years ago—16 years after serving there while a seminary stu-

dent.

After graduating from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Jackson had left Buck Run in 1974 for successful pastorates in Alabama and Mississippi.

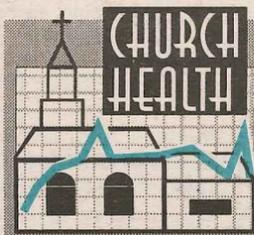
But by 1984, Jackson had reached what he now calls "the dark night of the soul." After suffering a massive heart attack which doctors said would prevent him from ever returning to the pastorate, he plunged into a deep depression.

He could not carry on an extended conversation with his wife. He could not comprehend a daily newspaper. It appeared his ministry was over.

Then one day a friend came to see him with a specific message: "God

asked me to tell you that your greatest years of ministry are yet before you."

Jackson prayed. He exercised. He continued to regain both spiritual and physical strength. Then in the spring of 1990, he too began sensing a message from God.



Through Scripture reading and prayer, this message repeatedly came to Jackson over a five-month period: "Return and build the temple."

He interpreted it to mean God wanted him to return to a former pastorate. Soon one of his former churches called, asking him to return and lead them in a building program. But Jackson did not feel the  
□ See *Outward focus ...*, page 9

## Speaker: Healthy marriages require intimacy

By Joyce Sweeney Martin  
Staff Writer

LOUISVILLE—Intimacy is essential to a healthy marriage, but for most couples, achieving it takes hard work, Otis and Deigie Andrews told participants in the Fall Festival of Marriage Sept. 13-14.

Couples should approach intimacy with a collective vision, but some never progress from the "me" stage to the "we" stage, Andrews said.

Intimacy is "that feeling of closeness and we-ness that comes from being emotionally present with each other and meeting each other's needs," he said.

The Andrewses were keynote speakers for the Fall Festival of Marriage co-sponsored by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and the Kentucky Baptist Convention's family ministry department. Otis Andrews is a family counselor and pastor in

Macon, Ga.

Intimacy may happen in a single moment or it may be an ongoing sense of closeness even when husband and wife are apart physically, said Mrs. Andrews, who works in a furniture business.

The Andrewses described five types of intimacy married couples can experience:

■ **Emotional intimacy.** "When two people feel close to each other and are bonded in hearts and spirits," then emotional intimacy has been attained, he said. Emotional intimacy is a component of all other intimacies, Mrs. Andrews added.

■ **Sexual intimacy.** While sexual intimacy is "a feeling of closeness expressed through the sex act," it is much more than a biological act, Andrews said. "It is a joining of bodies, soul and spirits."

■ **Intellectual intimacy.** Andrews called intellectual intimacy a "touch-

ing of the minds, based on mutual respect." Intellectual intimacy results from sharing ideas, he said.

A couple does not have to agree always to be close intellectually, but both must believe their partner respects or understands their position, he said.

■ **Crisis intimacy.** When a crisis occurs, a couple can choose to draw closer to each other or move farther apart, Mrs. Andrews said.

■ **Spiritual intimacy.** When it is no longer "just the two of you, but God also," Mrs. Andrews said, "transcendent intimacy" has been achieved.

That may occur through a worship experience, prayer, Bible study or in the midst of quiet, she said.

Comparing marital intimacy to a journey, the Andrewses suggested ways a couple can become more intimate:

■ **Get rid of excess baggage.** Old  
□ See *Intimacy ...*, page 12

## Christianity still draws persecution

By David Wintrey  
News Director

LOUISVILLE—Being an active Christian is no less dangerous in parts of the world today than it was for early Christians facing the Roman Empire, according to some agencies monitoring religious persecution.

"In the 20th century we've lost more Christians dying for their faith than in any previous century," said Brad Winkler, office coordinator for Voice of the Martyrs, which monitors persecution and has missions activities in 30 countries.

Southern Baptists and about 40 other denominations and parachurch agencies have named Sunday, Sept. 29, to be an international day of prayer for the persecuted church.

Islamic fundamentalists are the primary dispensers of physical persecution today, said Keith Parks, missions coordinator with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and former president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Communist governments also physically persecute Christians, Winkler said.

"Governments such as China and Vietnam see it as a threat to their security," he said. "They look at Christians and think they're allied with a higher power than their government and they feel threatened by that."

Among the atrocities in recent years catalogued by Voice of the Martyrs and others:

■ In China, a 45-year-old itinerant evangelist was arrested while meeting with a small group of Christians in a house church. Voice of the Martyrs reported he may be sentenced to an extended "re-education through labor" prison term.

■ In Sudan, the Muslim-dominated government in the north has instituted a holy war to make the whole country Islamic. A horrific campaign in the predominantly Christian southern region includes Christians being tortured before being crucified, said Mark Kelly, editor of *Advance*, a monthly newsletter promoting prayer for unreached people groups and those encountering religious persecution.

■ In Algeria this spring, Muslim rebels wanting to establish an Islamic government killed seven French Roman Catholic monks. Religion News Service reported that a grisly discovery awaited the monks' superiors who traveled to Algeria to arrange the burial: the killers had returned only the severed heads of their victims.

Global Evangelization Movement estimates 159,000 Christians have been martyred annually in recent years.

That's down from 1970, when about 320,000 Christians were martyred, largely because of persecution in the Soviet Union, said Justin Long,  
□ See *Group says ...*, page 7

## Virginia conservatives split with state convention

**The decision by Virginia conservatives "reflects the frustration in some of the states where there's a large opposition to the Southern Baptist Convention, primarily the four big states of North Carolina, Virginia, Kentucky and Texas."**

*Doyle Chauncey, executive director of Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia*

RICHMOND, Va. (ABP)—Conservative Southern Baptists in Virginia broke new ground in a 17-year war with moderates Sept. 16 when they formed a new state convention, separating from the 173-year-old Baptist General Association of Virginia.

The 3-year-old Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia voted at the group's annual meeting to take the unprecedented step over what conservatives view as liberal theology in the state association.

It is the first formal split of a state Baptist convention over doctrinal differences since a bitter theological debate began in the Southern Baptist Convention in 1979.

Although conservatives gained solid control of the national convention in 1990, they have been frustrated by some state and regional affiliates—notably in Virginia—which have remained moderate bastions.

"After wandering in the wilderness, (conservatives) are now entering the promised land," said Bob Melvin, outgoing president of the Virginia conservatives' group.

Virginia Baptist conservatives have been at odds with the existing state convention over a decision six years ago to allow churches to withhold financial contributions to the SBC and make donations to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship through the state convention.

Conservative leader T.C. Pinckney recently wrote: "The BGAV is moving as rapidly as its leadership dares away from the re-invigorated SBC. To the CBF? To the American Baptists? To some independent stance? One does not know. But the direction is set. The course is fixed. The BGAV is rapidly departing from orthodox Chris-

tianity."

Conservatives' ire also has been provoked by the BGAV's vigorous opposition to tuition tax credits and government-sponsored prayer in public schools, and its determined support of two entities—the Baptist Joint Committee and Americans United for the Separation of Church and State—which regularly voice that opposition in Congress.

In addition, conservatives charge the BGAV has been lax in opposing abortion and homosexuality.

The final straw, some conservatives say, was a bylaw change two years ago making church representation at BGAV meetings primarily contingent on financial gifts to Virginia Baptist causes instead of on gifts to the SBC. That move diminished the number of messengers allowed from conservative congregations unwilling to make more than minimal contributions to the state convention.

About 115 churches—out of a total of 1,564 in the BGAV—have contributed to the conservative group since July 1995, according to a list distributed at the meeting. However, Pinckney said those congregations will not automatically become members of the new state convention. A letter making that intention clear must be sent to the organization, he said.

Among the churches listed as previous donors are some of the largest conservative congregations in the state: Grove Avenue Baptist Church of Richmond, which counts among its members Jerry Rankin, president of the SBC Foreign Mission Board; First Baptist Church of Norfolk, whose pastor, Bob Reccord, chairs the committee implementing an extensive reorganization of the SBC; and First Bap-

tist Church of Roanoke, whose pastor, Charles Fuller, chaired the SBC Peace Committee.

Pinckney said some churches may join the conservative convention while retaining their BGAV affiliation. Such "dual alignment" is permissible under the BGAV's bylaws; a number of BGAV churches also affiliate with the American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. and with a variety of African-American Baptist conventions.

BGAV President Clint Hopkins discounted any immediate financial shortfall from a loss of churches. "It will impact Virginia Baptists more with our hearts than our pocket-books," he said.

The effect outside Virginia also is unclear. Sharp theological differences divide Baptists in many state conventions, especially in Texas, where moderates have prevailed in political contests and conservatives have organized a "fellowship" but not yet separated. In other states, such as North Carolina, conservatives and moderates have faced off in close elections.

Morris Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee and a former Texas pastor, dismissed the idea of a "domino effect." Asked if he thought it likely Texas conservatives would separate, he said: "Not immediately. The two situations are very different."

Another SBC spokesman indicated the Executive Committee will relate to both state groups in Virginia.

A statement released by Bill Merrill, the Executive Committee's vice president for convention relations, noted: "Our legal counsel advises us that the Southern Baptist Convention relates directly to individual churches

from various states through the messengers the churches select for that purpose. The bylaws do not prevent cooperation with more than one convention of Baptists from a geographic area."

Stickier issues could develop, however, as the new convention attempts to develop financial relations with the SBC Home Mission Board, which jointly funds mission work with every state Baptist convention.

Disputes also could arise over the selection of trustees to serve the agencies and institutions of the SBC. Those trustee positions are apportioned to each agency based on total membership of Southern Baptist churches in each state.

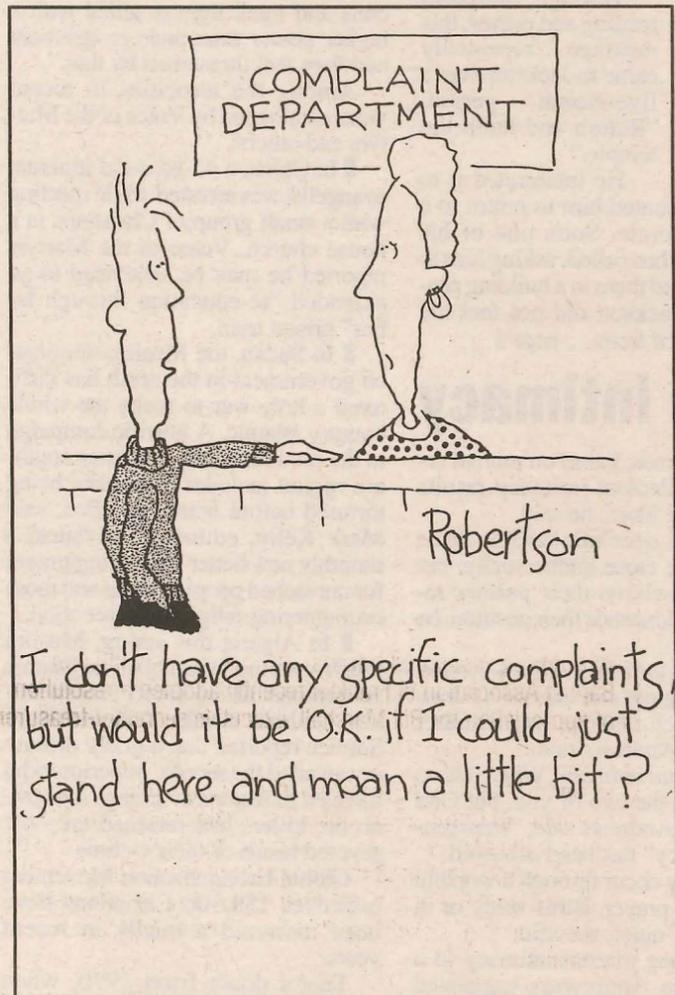
Leaders of the new conservative convention in Virginia said they do not believe their split with the existing state convention is a model that should be followed in other states.

"We feel like Virginia is unique and that we can get missions work done better by going in" separate directions, said Howard Baldwin, an evangelist who served as interim director of the organization.

However, Doyle Chauncey, the new convention's first full-time executive director, said he thinks the decision by Virginia conservatives "reflects the frustration in some of the states where there's a large opposition to the Southern Baptist Convention, primarily the four big states of North Carolina, Virginia, Kentucky and Texas."

Conservative churches "don't want to be a part of a state convention that doesn't totally support the SBC," Chauncey said.

*With additional reporting through Baptist Press*



### BAPTIST BITS

■ **RTVC facilities to stay.** Operations of the Southern Baptist Radio & Television Commission will remain in Fort Worth, Texas, after the agency is dissolved next year. The implementation task force, which is overseeing creation of the Southern Baptist Convention's new North American Mission Board, reported Sept. 16, that a yet-undefined executive leadership team will be transferred to the Alpharetta, Ga., headquarters of the new agency, while operational facilities remain in Fort Worth. The new agency is being created through a merger of the RTVC, the Home Mission Board and Brotherhood Commission.

■ **SBC motions considered.** In a light business session Sept. 16-17, members of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee declined to recommend action on 14 motions referred to it from last June's SBC annual meeting. The Executive Committee responded to another SBC referral by asking the convention's Christian Life Commission to study the feasibility of a system of voting by proxy for stocks owned by convention agencies. Such a system would empower Southern Baptist agencies to exert

moral influence on corporations in which they invest, a supporter said.

■ **Association gets funds.** The Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools will receive \$150,000 over a two-year period from the Southern Baptist Convention as the SBC's Education Commission closes due to denominational restructuring. The grant was approved by the SBC Executive Committee Sept. 17. The association will assume some of the work previously done by the Education Commission.

■ **Christian schools leader named.** Glen Schultz, southeast director for the Association of Christian Schools International, based in Snellville, Ga., will become director of Christian schools, home schooling and church weekday early education work at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. Creation of the Christian schools department was announced in late June as part of a reorganization of the church leadership services division.

■ **Godsey defends book.** Kirby Godsey, president of Mercer University, told the Georgia Baptist

Convention's executive committee they are turning their body into "a Sanhedrin of hostility and judgment" by censuring him for views expressed in his new book. "We should not serve the demon of religious correctness," Godsey said. He affirmed that Jesus Christ is "the center and soul of my life" and that "salvation is the gift of God's grace, received by faith alone."

■ **Campbell opens early.** Campbell University's divinity school opened Aug. 19, one year ahead of schedule due to higher-than-expected enrollment. Forty students seeking master's degrees in theology and Christian education constitute the charter class of the divinity school in Buies Creek, N.C.

■ **Hamrick nominated.** Terry Hamrick, minister of education at Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, has been nominated as the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's first coordinator of church resources. Hamrick's nomination must be approved by the Fellowship's Coordinating Council this week. He is a former staff member at two Kentucky Baptist churches.

## Church starter's legacy dots Kentucky mountainside

By Lisa Smith  
SBC Home Mission Board

MIDDLESBORO—Riding through the eastern Kentucky mountains, every few miles D.M. Aldridge points out the window to where he helped start a church or where he hopes to start a congregation soon.

During his 55-year involvement with missions, D.M. Aldridge has lost count of all the work he's helped begin. No matter the number, his heart is in the mountains and with helping the people there—whether it's the mountains of Kentucky or of Zambia, where he worked two and a half years

as a volunteer missionary.

Since returning from Africa, Aldridge has worked with the Kentucky Baptist Convention as a church starter strategist, most recently starting multihousing congregations. He loves his work, and he loves spending several days a week on the road.

Most multihousing congregations begin as Bible studies and become self-sustaining. Aldridge brings the church to residents who may feel uncomfortable in a traditional church setting.

"They don't like the singing or the preaching or the dress—it's too formal," he says. "We try to get them into

places where they feel comfortable."

Recreation areas or neighbors' homes become places to learn about the Bible. "Then as time goes on we transfer them into church services."

He lets others take over the leadership as soon as possible. "If you do it yourself, it's hard to get people motivated," he explains. "I've always felt I did my best work behind the scenes."

He and his wife, Kay, came to the hills of Kentucky in 1943, a journey that started when Aldridge became a Christian at 16. A few years later, he was in college studying to be a civil engineer when "the Lord called me to missions," he says. "I felt keenly the Lord wanted me to go to the mountains."

Aldridge met his wife and missions partner of 54 years when both attended a meeting for state Baptist Student Union presidents.

The couple's first mountain mission work took them to the hills of Tennessee. When local churches didn't respond to help start other congregations, the Aldridges established 10 new works by themselves.

After graduating from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Aldridge spent most of his professional life as president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College in Pineville. While there, he continued to start churches, often involving his students in the process. Aldridge went to areas that needed a revival or a vacation Bible school and started congregations from those people who made professions of faith.

After a few months, he would choose one of his students to take over as pastor. In 12 years, Aldridge estimates he started 30 churches that way.

He retired from Clear Creek in 1982 after serving as president of the college for 28 years.

But Clear Creek graduates like Bruce Walzer, associational missionary for the Baptist association in Middlesboro, inherited Aldridge's church starting vision. The association sponsors services at local nursing homes and apartment complexes.

Aldridge also hopes to start a work in partnership with Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, where he and his wife are members.

Planning is still in the early stages, but church members hope to reach people in the neighboring apartment complexes.

"We are bridging the gap between the church and the community right next to us," says Jim McGee, minister of education at Porter Memorial. English-as-a-second-language classes for Russian and Chinese immigrants further bridge the gap.

Aldridge may live in the city, but he still spends a lot of time in the Kentucky hills. In addition to his church starting work, he serves as interim pastor at Copper Creek Baptist Church in Rockcastle County.

"It reminds me so much of the mountain work I used to do," he says of the small congregation.

*This story originally appeared in the September-October 1996 edition of MissionsUSA magazine.*



MISSIONS CONFERENCE Church starter D.M. Aldridge (right) and associational missionary Bruce Walzer discuss the ministry potential of the mobile homes that dot the southeastern Kentucky hillside. (HMB photo by Jim Wright)

## Oneida donor issues \$500,000 challenge

ONEIDA—An anonymous donor has issued a \$500,000 challenge grant to Oneida Baptist Institute.

To receive the \$500,000 gift, the Baptist boarding school in southeastern Kentucky must raise a matching \$500,000 on its own, according to President Bud Underwood.

The purpose of this matching grant challenge is to establish a permanent endowment fund on Oneida's behalf with the Kentucky Baptist Foundation. For every dollar given to this cause, the anonymous donor will give a dollar, up to \$500,000 total.

If the campaign reaches its goal of raising a combined \$1 million, it would more than double the institution's permanent endowment, which stood at \$809,000 at the time of the 1994-95 audit.

Some of the institution's current endowment funds are held by the Kentucky Baptist Foundation. But all contributions to this new effort will be handled by the Foundation, said Barry Allen, Foundation president.

"We're certainly pleased to be a part of this significant opportunity for Oneida to more than double its current endowment and to work with them in advising their donors on different techniques in which to make gifts," Allen said.

In a letter to Oneida alumni, friends and donors, Underwood stated regular donors to Oneida's ministry should not divert their regular gifts to the endowment drive.

Oneida will receive about \$275,000 in operating funds from the Kentucky Baptist Convention this fis-

cal year. The remainder of the school's operating funds come from tuition and fees and direct gifts from individuals and churches.

If the full \$1 million goal of this endowment campaign is realized, the result could be annual earnings of about \$100,000, Underwood explained.

"Many of our friends have expressed a desire to see our endowment fund enlarged," Underwood said in his letter explaining the challenge. "The simple truth is we have not been able to set aside money from our regular support for such an investment."

Inquiries about the campaign should be directed to Underwood at Oneida or to Allen at the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.

## Children's homes meet variety of school needs

LOUISVILLE—Back-to-school time for the youth in care of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children has been a time full of opportunity.

KBHC youth attend just about every school program imaginable—from special needs classes to those for the most advanced.

For many, school doesn't just last from September through May. Many arrive into care behind in their school classes and require extra time during the summer to catch up with peers.

"School can be a very difficult challenge for them," said Kenny Williams, director of the Dixon temporary

shelter. "We provide them with a lot of preparation time and try to keep them motivated."

During the regular school year, the school a student attends depends on his or her needs. Many attend public schools and participate in the same programs as any other student.

Others need the added structure and specially trained staff provided in a campus school setting.

Dean Harney, director of the Baptist youth shelter in Morehead, said a child's school performance can improve quickly when he is encouraged and helped by staff tutors.

"I've had some kids who never attended a full month of school until they were with us," Harney said. An overwhelming number of children in care are behind in school, not because they lack intelligence, but because "they've been told over and over that they are stupid," he said.

From a teacher's perspective, perhaps the most challenging school is at the southern region wilderness camping treatment program. Young men participate in three extended camping trips during the 98-day program. Where the boys go, so does the school and its teacher.

### BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ **Mountain Outreach wins national award.** Cumberland College's Mountain Outreach program was one of 10 programs selected nationwide out of 700 applicants to receive a Samaritan Award as a model program of effective compassion. Started in 1982, the program enlists student volunteers and groups from throughout the United States to build houses, dig wells and repair homes for Appalachian families. The award was presented by the Acton Institute for the Study of Religion and Liberty in Grand Rapids, Mich.

■ **Witt elected national agency president.** Claude Witt, executive director of the Temperance League of Kentucky, recently was elected president of the American Council on Alcohol Problems at the group's annual meeting. The national organization features representatives of temperance organizations from 37 states and 18 religious denominations.

■ **KBC President to address Georgetown.** Bill Tichenor, pastor of First Baptist Church of Princeton and president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, will address Georgetown College Oct. 1 at 11 a.m. in the John L. Hill Chapel.

■ **Campbellsville enrollment up.** Campbellsville University enrollment rose 12 percent during the last year to 1,530 students. This is the fourth consecutive increase. Enrollment has grown 131 percent during the past nine years.

■ **Baptist association honors KBC executive.** Simpson Baptist Association in Franklin recently adopted a resolution of appreciation for Bill Marshall, executive secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

■ **Cumberland College offers scholarship concert.** Faculty members of Cumberland College's music department will present the annual benefit concert for the Phyllis Richardson Wood Scholarship fund to aid music students. The concert will be Sept. 26 at 8 p.m. in the recital hall of the McGaw Music Building. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$4 for students.

## WESTERN RECORDER

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**MARK WINGFIELD**  
Editor

**DAVID WINFREY**  
News Director

**MAURI SMITH**  
Marketing & Business  
Manager

**C.R. DALEY**  
Editor Emeritus

*Earnestly contend for the  
faith which was once for  
all delivered to the  
saints.—Jude 3*

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## Examining the 'purpose-driven' church

By Mike Clingenpeel

Frustrated with trying to accommodate the musical tastes of everyone at Saddleback Valley Community Church, Pastor Rick Warren distributed 3 x 5 cards to worshipers and asked them to write down the call letters of the radio station they listened to most. He discovered that 96 percent of his people tuned in to contemporary pop/rock. Immediately Warren made contemporary pop/rock the church's primary musical style. Within a year Saddleback exploded in growth.

And Saddleback is growing still. At last count more than 10,000 people flock to its four worship services every weekend, making it one of the largest and fastest-growing churches in America. Last year the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention named it "Key Church of the Year."

Musical style, of course, is not the only important factor in church growth, says Warren. But even if a particular style of music is not sacred, the selection of a music style reflects whether a congregation is enough purpose-driven to understand its target audience and shape its ministry accordingly.

Warren sketches the remarkable story of Saddleback's growth since he founded it in 1979 in Mission Viejo, Calif., in a recent book titled "The Purpose-Driven Church: Growth Without Compromising Your Message and Mission." The key to church health and growth, writes Warren, is to decide what type of people the church wants to reach and gear every aspect of its ministry toward them. A healthy church is not driven by tradition, personalities, programs, buildings, finances or a calendar of events,

but by a defined purpose.

A purpose-driven church first defines itself based upon biblical principles that transcend culture. In the process it retains methods that are effective in reaching the people it wants to reach and tosses aside methods that no longer work.

In an effort to target unchurched southern Californians, Saddleback employs user-friendly, non-threatening services that avoid altar calls, discourages visitors from giving an offering, eliminates hymns in favor of choruses and severs churchy language from bulletins, songs and sermons.

Not everyone congratulates Warren on this new style of church. Critics complain that so-called "seeker sensitive" churches compromise the gospel in an effort to market themselves. Such churches are not so much purpose-driven, say critics. They peddle a cheap grace shorn of the church traditions that give stability and power to the Christian faith.

Saddleback's opponents, in my opinion, need to take a closer look. They will be surprised to read that substantial biblical theology undergirds virtually all the methods adopted at Saddleback. Theology, not marketing, is the final arbiter of methodology, according to Warren.

In addition to being a decent theologian, Warren proves himself a very able sociologist. Many church leaders have never comprehended the extent to which a church's community context shapes its ministry and destiny. Warren has read the moods, aspirations, frustrations and lifestyles of unchurched southern Californians and has crafted a methodology that demystifies and communicates the timeless gospel.

Unfortunately, too many pastors

and laity are hopeless illiterates when it comes to reading culture. Our failure to reach unchurched people often has more to do with being poor sociologists than with being poor preachers of the word.

Warren has done what a savvy retailer would do to make his or her store and its products attractive. He and his staff listened to their customers' needs, tried to eliminate barriers that thwart the experience of finding God at Saddleback and have pitched the gospel in a vocabulary the people understand. They have tossed aside the ancient, cracking wineskins by pouring the sweet gospel wine into a glitzy vessel of modern alloy.

An enduring contribution of the Saddleback story is the reminder that churches should have a reason for everything they do. Every service, program, meeting and initiative in our churches could stand the scrutiny of rigorous evaluation. If no good purpose is achieved by it, call Dr. Kevorkian. Some programs that worked in the 1950s have no reason to see the next millennium. Sadly, many Baptist churches have so deified tradition that rigorous evaluation of programs and ministries cannot occur without loss of members or the reduction of a good pastor's tenure.

Saddleback's style was designed for southern Californians, and Warren is quick to warn church leaders not to clone it in a different cultural context.

Whether critic or cheerleader, you may want to give Warren the opportunity to plead his case. We have no right to expect an MTV world to groove on the Ed Sullivan Show.

*Mike Clingenpeel, a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, is a former pastor in Virginia who serves as editor of the Religious Herald, news journal of the Baptist General Association of Virginia.*

## COMMENTARY

### The preservationists

It was a journey to remember. For seven full days, we zigzagged Utah and Idaho, stopping at tiny Baptist churches to visit with pastors, to speak twice and to take pictures of the modest structures which house small congregations of "pioneer" Baptists.

We concluded that none but Lavoid Robertson, 35-year veteran of this area, could have put together a 2,400-mile journey through so much spectacular scenery. Perhaps, we came to speculate, such beauty and pristine wilderness is one of the compensations of serving the Lord in so difficult an area of America's mission field.

Returning through West Yellowstone, Mont., and Jackson Hole, Wyo., we understood with new appreciation why wilderness visionaries successfully, in many instances, lobbied to protect these areas for our children and the generations beyond. This land virtually shouts to everyone who has eyes to see and ears to hear the silence: "Behold what glory hath the Creator made!"

Those determined visionaries have left writings which could prompt and guide the generations beyond our own:

■ "Whether it be a wide, unspoiled landscape that inspires us, or the beauty of the humble little wildflower at our feet, the fact remains that we need inspiration to go forward."—Olaus Murie, early 1900s

■ "I know that when I have stood in nature's domain, rapt in wonder, in the presence of some manifestation of her charm; perhaps a sunset, a mighty unfolding of mountain ranges across the horizon, or the soft hooting of an owl in the dusk, at such times I can harbor no ill-

will toward my fellow man. I do not understand it but I feel it is God-given."—Olaus Murie, Wapiti Wilderness

■ "Any fool can destroy trees. They cannot run away and even if they could, they would still be destroyed—chased and hunted down as long as fun and a dollar could be got out of their bark-hides.... It took more than 3,000 years to make some of the trees in these western woods. Through all

these years God has saved them from drought, disease, avalanches and a thousand straining, leveling tempests and floods; but he cannot save them from fools—only Uncle Sam can do that."—John Muir, 1890s

■ "Possibly, in our intuitive perceptions, which may be truer than our science and less impeded by words than our philosophies, we realize the indivisibility of the earth—its soil, mountains, rivers, forests, climate, plants and animals and respect it collectively not only as a useful servant but as a living being, vastly less alive than ourselves in degree, but vastly greater than ourselves in time and space—a being that was old when the morning stars sang together, and when the last of us is gathered unto his fathers, will still be young."—Aldo Leopold, 1930s

■ "Wilderness enough to be the preservation of the world still exists. We can enjoy it today and save it for coming generations. Invite them to a clean world. If we do, they will want to know about us. But if we don't leave our descendants a habitable life-affirming world, we'll deserve to be forgotten."—Calvin Rutstrum, 1978

*William W. Marshall is executive secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.*

### ON MISSION TOGETHER



William W. Marshall



## You can make a contribution growing older

By John Lepper

What motivates you to get up every morning? What motivates you to do your daily tasks, to live your daily life, to follow your routine? Do you move through each day with a sense of adventure or has the routine become monotony?

The desire to make a contribution to the world in which we live can make a difference in the manner in which we face life. What drives you to do what you do? Jeremiah said he had a fire in his bones which needed to come out in the form of preaching. The desire to leave a legacy, to make a contribution, can become a fire that spontaneously ignites our lives, giving us purpose and a sense of adventure.

The need to leave a legacy, to make a contribution, doesn't end at a certain age. Our ability to make a difference does not end at a certain age. The shape of our contribution can take new forms as we grow older, but our need and ability to make a contribution never ends.

When Jesus said, "deny yourself and take up your cross," he wasn't just talking to young adults. He placed no age limit on service. Maybe he didn't place an age limit because he knew the connection between giving and growing.

The psychologist Abraham Maslow developed a hierarchy of needs in which he said "self-actualization" is our highest need as humans. He later revised his thinking and suggested that the highest need is "self-transcendence" or the need to live for a purpose higher than self.

Jesus understood and modeled this principle long before the era of modern psychology. He said: "I must work the works of him that sent me." (John 9:4a) He had an unparalleled sense of calling and purpose in his life. Neither his enemies nor his closest followers could detract him from achieving his purpose.

Those of us who follow Christ are gifted to make a unique contribution, to leave our special legacy. We are called to be his ambassadors, to be his representatives of love, pointing people to the Master.

*John Lepper is director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's family ministry department.*

■ Send your questions about children, teens, marriage, singles or aging to "Family Forum," Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, Ky. 40253.

## HE SAID/SHE SAID

### It took 3 trips to the airport, so we all played the blame game

#### HE SAID



Mark Wingfield

Some friends (who shall remain nameless but have consented to let us air their dirty laundry) recently asked for a ride to the airport on a Monday morning. They were willing to go to the airport about two hours early so I could drop them off on my way to work.

Turns out two hours was barely enough for this trip to the airport, which normally takes about 15 minutes. As I was helping them unload at the curbside check-in, they discovered they hadn't loaded the baby's stroller.

A brief skirmish occurred on the sidewalk. Was it her fault, because she insisted on packing some the night before and some in the morning? Or was it his fault, because he broke the morning routine by taking the car out to get bagels? Or did the fault lie with both, since they had talked about the stroller while drifting off to sleep that night but neither had gotten up out of bed to put the stroller with the luggage?

So, we left mother and baby at the airport with the luggage while father and I traveled back to their house to get the stroller. No problem; they had plenty of time to spare.

After we arrived at the airport the second time, apologies were lavished profusely upon me and I departed for work. Unknown to me at the time, that was not the last trip to the airport that morning for our friends. They soon discovered that his wallet had been left at home. And, since U.S. airports have become police states due to security concerns, he couldn't get on the plane without a photo ID.

They were too embarrassed to call me again, so they called another friend, who drove out to the airport, picked him up, took him back to the house again and then drove him to the airport a third time. Having started out two hours early, he ran on the plane just in time for the flight attendants to close the door behind him.

It just doesn't pay to be early.

#### SHES SAID



Alison Wingfield

The focal point of this story, however, is how easy it is to blame each other when something goes wrong.

In the case of our friends, he blamed her for the wallet fiasco, because if she hadn't wanted bagels that morning, he wouldn't have taken his wallet out of his carry-on and tossed it in the car to get the bagels. This break in routine (the bagels), was all her idea, he says, and therefore the left-behind wallet must also be her fault.

Let the witness for the defense point out, however, that she says she was ready to go to the airport, and was preparing to go out and get the bagels herself when he offered to go get them for her. She didn't force him to get in the car and go get them.

But I hesitate to take sides.

It is easy to make fun of our friends' follies, but Mark and I often find ourselves placing blame on each other when things go wrong. Our natural tendency is to want to find a scapegoat on which to take out our frustrations rather than accept responsibility, or to realize that sometimes bad things just happen, whether we like it or not.

Of course, if I had been taking them to the airport, none of this would have happened. They wouldn't have had to go early, and, as an experienced kid-traveler, I would have asked about the stroller. So, I guess we can all blame Mark.

## How much do you know about abortion?

Abortion is back in the news again, and the debate is once again producing more heat than light.

The latest skirmish is over RU-486, also known as the "abortion pill." Clearly, this is an important issue on grounds of public health and morality. But debating the merits of this new abortion-inducing drug regimen does nothing to further the debate that ultimately matters: Does America really want the kind of abortion on demand that the 1973 Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court decision allows?

Amid all the opinions, here are some facts you may not have heard lately. These are drawn from various reputable sources, such as the Centers for Disease Control, and include statistics cited both by pro-abortion and anti-abortion groups.

■ Each year, about 1.6 million abortions are performed in the United States. Each year, about 4 million live births are reported in the United States, meaning there is one abortion for every three live births. In recent years, the ratio of abortions to live births has decreased slightly.

■ About 35 million legal abortions have been performed in the United States since 1973.

■ 91 percent of reported abortions are performed in the first trimester (12 weeks) of pregnancy. That means about 144,000 second- and third-trimester abortions are performed in the United States every year.

■ By the fourth week of pregnancy, a tiny heart is pumping blood inside the embryo. By the sixth week, fingers are clearly forming. By the eleventh week, the embryo has become a fetus, a body that jerks and moves, hiccups and flexes its arms and legs.

■ 39 percent of abortions after the first trimester are performed on teenagers.

■ Parents of teenagers must give their consent for most any surgical procedure to be performed on their children, except for the surgical procedure of an abor-

tion. Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest abortion provider, reports that only about half of teenagers seeking abortions have discussed the issue with a parent.

■ Women who obtain abortions are predominantly 25 years of age or younger, white and unmarried. However, as a percentage of population, the abortion rate for black women of child-bearing age is about three times that for white women of child-bearing age.

■ According to Roe vs. Wade, states may not restrict abortions performed in the first trimester. Some restrictions may be placed on abortions beyond the first trimester, but states may not ban abortions altogether until the fetus is considered "viable," meaning it is capable of surviving outside the mother's womb.

■ The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that the determination of viability is not an exact science, so that decision must be left to the "good faith" judgment of an attending physician. That physician may be an abortion provider.

■ Planned Parenthood reports these as the top 10 reasons a woman chooses abortion: (1) She isn't ready for the change becoming a parent would bring; (2) She cannot afford a baby now; (3) She doesn't want to be a single parent and won't or can't marry the child's father; (4) She is not ready for the responsibility of a child; (5) She doesn't want anyone to know she has had sex or is pregnant; (6) She is too young or immature to have a child; (7) She has all the children she wants; (8) Her husband or partner wants her to have an abortion; (9) She or the fetus has a health problem; (10) She was a victim of rape or incest.

Study these facts, and then take the time to learn more. Then you decide: What should be done about abortion in America?

— Mark Wingfield

#### EDITORIAL

### The word made cheap

By Dale Hanson Bourke

In the small Midwestern town where I grew up, there was something considered more valuable than wealth and more important than status. It was simply a person's word.

If your word was trusted, you had credit at the local store and clout at the PTA meeting. You were a respected member of the community whether you were a farmer or a business person, a homemaker or a teacher.

You knew something was true because Mr. Brown said so. You grew concerned about a problem because the issue was raised by Mrs. Jones.

Today I live in a world with increasing amounts of information, but decreasing credibility. Words fly at me from letters, voice mail, faxes and e-mail. I turn on my computer and find experts willing to address any subject.

For all of the wonders of the Internet, one of its most disconcerting aspects is that information is cheap.

The often-anonymous world of the Internet has become the opposite of my childhood experience. People can say anything without losing their credibility. Information is everywhere. But whose word can be trusted?

This cultural cynicism about words

was recently brought home to me during a discussion with my 9-year-old son. Trying to teach him to stay away from rain-swollen waters, I told him about a boy who had been swept down a normally calm creek while measuring the depth of the water with a stick.

"How do you know that really happened?" he challenged.

"Because I read about it in the newspaper," I replied.

Looking smug he responded, "Oh, mom, you can't believe what you read in newspapers. They just make that stuff up."

Beyond my dismay at his view of the media, I was saddened by his early loss of innocence. At age 9, I believed people when they told me something. Tyler has already become a cynic.

A counselor at my older son's school told the parents that, despite education programs on the hazards of smoking, alcohol and drugs, many of the students still choose these behaviors. One of the reasons they cite is that they don't believe the information. They think the statistics are scare tactics made up by adults.

This national distrust of words has created a perplexing irony. Some of the population listens to extremist views and believes them without question. Much of the population lis-

tens to all views and believes nothing. And a few of us are left in the middle trying to pick and choose among credible sources of information.

How can we bring value back to our words? One way is to stop cheapening them and move them back to the place of value they once occupied.

We do that one person at a time—living by our words, not using them as idle threats, meaningless excuses or anonymous ammunition.

We may not be able to change all of society, but we have some control over our own homes. We can teach our children that words have power for good and evil and that childhood insults are often the beginnings of lifelong verbal abuse.

We can thank those who refrain from gossip and encourage those who stand by their word. We can call to account those who make unjust or cowardly criticisms.

We can tell politicians and other leaders that we do not want to hear pettiness or mean-spiritedness in campaigns. And we can ask religious leaders to remember that they are the keepers of a sacred trust and should not use idle words for personal benefit.

We need to learn to stand by our words and ask others to do the same. (RNS)

Dale Hanson Bourke is publisher of Religion News Service and author of "Turn Toward the Wind."

## Coalition & Call have different political action plans

By David Anderson & Joan Connell  
*Religion News Service*

WASHINGTON (RNS)—With white evangelical voters up for grabs in November, evangelicals from the left and the right converged on Washington earlier this month, offering two competing visions of what religion-based politics should be.

The Christian Coalition, a powerful force in the Republican Party, convened its sixth annual "Road to Victory" conference Sept. 13.

More than 3,500 people attended the gathering to hear an array of conservative luminaries condemn the policies and personal morality of President Bill Clinton and set a political machine in motion to get religious conservatives to the polls.

Across town, Call to Renewal, a newly organized group of progressive evangelicals and a sprinkling of Roman Catholics and mainline Protestants, drew more than 600 people to a national forum on faith and politics. Casting itself as an alternative to the Christian Coalition, Call to Renewal offered a far different vision of religion-based politics: not a political machine, but a movement of social and spiritual renewal.

The Christian Coalition and Call to Renewal have vastly different political visions, but many of their members share the same religious roots. Evangelical Christians, who by some estimates comprise one-third of the electorate, have been squarely in the

Republican camp since Ronald Reagan was first nominated as a presidential candidate in 1980. But this year things are different.

A CNN poll shows Clinton has the support of 35 percent of self-identified evangelical voters—more than any Democrat since Jimmy Carter.

Dole, who has distanced himself from the Christian Coalition and the platform it helped craft at the Republican National Convention in San Diego, made a surprise appearance Saturday, delivering brief remarks before introducing his vice presidential running-mate, Jack Kemp.

"I know some in this country don't appreciate you, but we do," Dole said, pledging that, if elected, he would uphold a controversial ban on late-term abortions, which Clinton vetoed.

Kemp praised the Coalition's efforts to be part of the political mainstream and delivered a gentle sermon on the value of moderation.

"It is easy to be tolerant when we think the other person may be right; but tolerance is called for precisely when we are convinced that he is utterly wrong," Kemp said. "There are few greater tests of loving our neighbor than the working of a democratic government. And I salute the men and women of this coalition who are involved in helping make government work, helping mobilize public opinion and helping change laws that are unjust."

Clinton and Gore turned down invitations to address the Coalition. Re-

form Party candidate Ross Perot met with a cool reception when he spoke Friday.

Ralph Reed, executive director of the Christian Coalition, warned Republicans that they ignore at their peril the moral agenda of the Religious Right. "If you want to retain control of the House and Senate—and you want to have any chance at all of gaining the White House—you had better not retreat from the pro-life and pro-family stands that made you a majority party in the first place," Reed said, vowing that the Coalition intended to remain a major political player.

"The true purpose of this meeting is not to be courted by candidates, but to launch a voter election campaign," Reed said. "We will register 1 million new voters in 100,000 churches across America. We'll distribute 17 million Congressional scorecards and 45 million non-partisan voter guides. If you think we turned out a large vote in 1994, you ain't seen nothing yet."

While the Christian Coalition concentrated on policy and organizing tactics, Call to Renewal centered on a justice-based spiritual citizenship.

Evangelical social activist Jim Wallis, editor of *Sojourners* magazine and one of the prime organizers of Call to Renewal, said the group intends to press for a new political movement based on concern for the poor, racial reconciliation, rebuilding the family and challenging racism.

"But we're not going to be a mirror image of the Christian Coalition,"

Wallis said. "We don't want to be a power bloc in either party. We will have the spirit of a movement and the organization of a network."

Bill Bradley, who is retiring from the U.S. Senate at the end of the year, told Call to Renewal that he finds "a yearning out there in America that is deeper than the material (things) in our life" but also, sometimes, "an unwillingness to hear the message."

Americans, he said, are tired of the "mind-numbing shouting match between two opposing parties" and of a politics controlled by special interests, the ambition of politicians and the political slogans that emerge from focus groups.

"The language of the market says to get as much as you can as quick as you can," he said of the Republican vision, while the Democratic vision is that "government tells other people what is right for them and then does it for them."

Instead, Bradley said, the nation needs an image of "a civil society in which one gives to another human being without expectation of anything in return."

Though the Christian Coalition and Call to Renewal share the same religious roots, an attempt to bring the two groups together for a joint prayer service failed.

"I invited Ralph Reed to join us tonight in a joint prayer service for civility. He said it was a good idea but that scheduling problems prevented it," Wallis said.

**"We'll distribute 17 million Congressional scorecards and 45 million non-partisan voter guides. If you think we turned out a large vote in 1994, you ain't seen nothing yet."**

*Ralph Reed, executive director of the Christian Coalition*

**"We don't want to be a power bloc in either party. We will have the spirit of a movement and the organization of a network."**

*Jim Wallis, an organizer of Call to Renewal*

### NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Group requests civility pledge.** The Interfaith Alliance, a group of mainstream Protestant, Roman Catholic and Jewish religious leaders monitoring the role of religion in public life, this month asked candidates for national office to sign a pledge of civility. "We ask candidates to repudiate the use of religion as a weapon to demonize those whose religious or political beliefs differ from theirs," said Albert Pennybacker, president of the two-year-old alliance.

■ **Will 'Ellen' come out of closet?** Last week's TV Guide reported Ellen DeGeneres' lead character in the ABC sitcom "Ellen" may declare herself a lesbian in the new fall season. The Disney Co., which owns both ABC Network and Touchstone Television, which produces the show, declined to comment on the rumor.

■ **Arkansas anti-gambling effort may be stalled.** Efforts to outlaw gambling in Arkansas may have to be shelved until 1998. Gambling proponents have challenged the methods of gathering signatures for an anti-gambling measure on the November ballot. The alleged infractions involved pastors or church members leaving the petitions on tables for signatures rather than witnessing each signature.

■ **House overrides Clinton's abortion veto.** The U.S. House of Representatives collected the necessary two-thirds vote last week, 285-137, to override President Clinton's veto of the Partial-birth Abortion Ban Act. The Senate, which originally supported the measure, 54-44, was not predicted to get two-thirds support for the override.

■ **FDA closer to approval of abortion pill.** The Food and Drug Administration informed the Population Council, holder of the U.S. patent to the drug RU-486, it had determined the "abortion pill" was safe and effective but needed more information on manufacturing and labeling before making a final decision. The FDA also gave approval for Planned Parenthood Federation of America to hold clinical trials on another drug-induced abortion procedure.

## Washington Post investigates church fires

WASHINGTON (RNS)—More than one-third of those charged in recent months in connection with the burning of largely African-American churches are black themselves, federal law enforcement officers have told the Washington Post.

"The new figures show a far different picture than that created by television images of smoldering black churches (last) summer," the newspaper reported Sept. 14. With about 100 arrests so far, racial hatred, "although a leading factor, is but one of several

motives," the Post said.

According to the arrest figures cited by the newspaper, nearly two-thirds of those arrested for burning black churches are white. Thirty-four percent of those arrested are African-American.

Investigators found 44 percent of the fires reported over the past 21 months were started by juveniles.

Just how many of the fires were racially motivated is unclear, according to Deval Patrick, head of the Justice Department's civil rights division.

In response to pressure from civil rights groups, coupled with intense media attention, the rash of church burnings prompted President Clinton to launch one of the biggest civil rights investigations in the past two decades. Various religious agencies also collected funds to help rebuild burned churches.

However, the newspaper reported, of the 230 fires investigated, only 41 percent involve churches with predominantly black congregations. The rest were predominantly white.

## 'Pole' prayer event growing, promoter says

SAN DIEGO (RNS)—As the academic year began, another annual ritual took place Sept. 18 in public schools around the nation: the annual "See You at the Pole" event, in which Christian students gathered around the flagpole to pray.

The movement, which began with a regional gathering in Texas in 1990, has grown by about 500,000 students each year, according to Doug Clark, promotion coordinator for the prayer event. Last year, Clark said, 2.5 million students reportedly participated.

"It's a simple thing where students are simply taking the leadership and ownership to gather on their campus and pray," said Clark, director of field ministries for the National Network of Youth Ministries in San Diego.

"See You at the Pole" is supported by more than 75 denominations and ministries, including the Southern Baptist Convention.

But while some view "See You at the Pole" as a prime example of student-initiated prayer that is well within the guidelines of constitutionally protected religious activity in public school, others are skeptical.

"This is not a spontaneous, student-initiated event. It's a well-orchestrated outside event masquerading as spontaneous student expression," said Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for the Separation of Church and State, a Washington, D.C.-based watchdog organization.

"These rallies may be hard to challenge on constitutional grounds, but they do tend to splinter student groups into 'Christian' and 'not Christian,' or 'real Christian' and 'other people' in a way that does a disservice to the real unification of people that should occur on public school property," Lynn said.

Clark resists such criticism, insist-

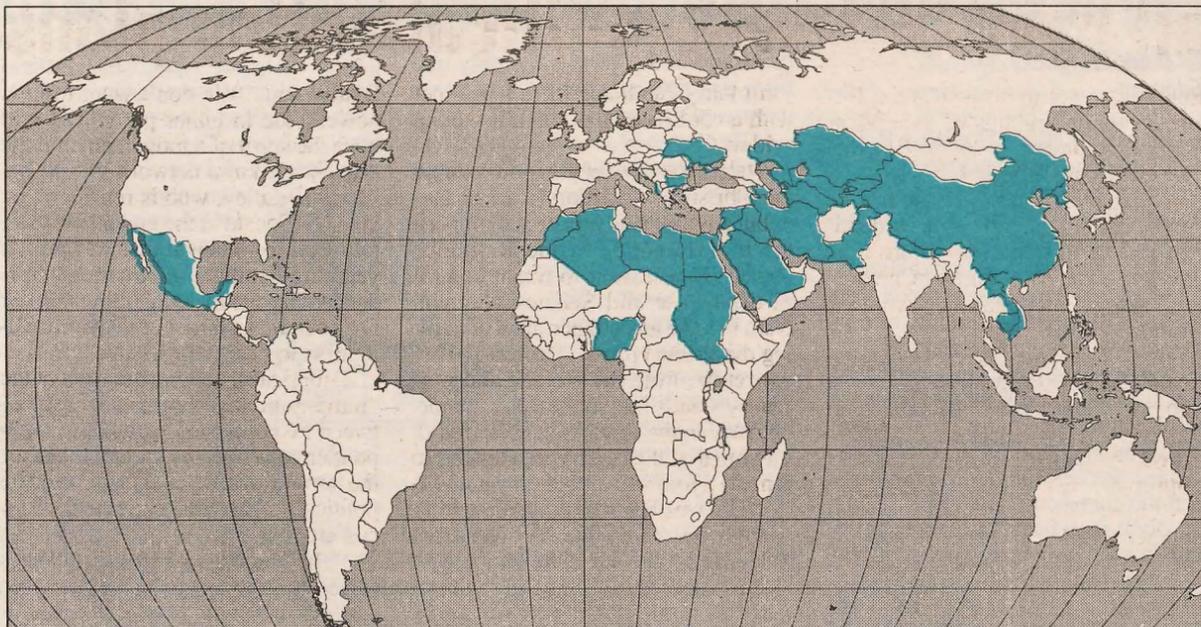
ing that adults and outside organizations only play a supporting role in "See You at the Pole" activities.

"I don't think adults should be spectators at 'See You at the Pole,' We encourage them to participate but to do it from a distance," Clark said. "But the point is to let the students lead their own activities."

In general, the event is part of a larger effort to involve students in Christian ministries on and off campus.

The prayer event and other activities, such as the True Love Waits sexual abstinence campaign and student-run Bible clubs in public schools, are "all cousins," Clark said.

"I see it as being a springboard ... to a missionary movement on junior high, high (school and) college campuses," he added. "Prayer is the basis. It needs to be the foundation and so they're starting at the right place."



## Top offenders

Countries considered by the World Evangelical Fellowship's religious liberty commission to be the leading violators of religious freedoms:

- |              |                |
|--------------|----------------|
| ■ Albania    | ■ Libya        |
| ■ Algeria    | ■ Mexico       |
| ■ Azerbaijan | ■ Morocco      |
| ■ Bhutan     | ■ Nepal        |
| ■ Bulgaria   | ■ Nigeria      |
| ■ Cambodia   | ■ North Korea  |
| ■ China      | ■ Pakistan     |
| ■ Egypt      | ■ Saudi Arabia |
| ■ Iran       | ■ Sudan        |
| ■ Iraq       | ■ Syria        |
| ■ Israel     | ■ Tajikistan   |
| ■ Kazakhstan | ■ Turkmenistan |
| ■ Kirghizia  | ■ Ukraine      |
| ■ Kuwait     | ■ Uzbekistan   |
| ■ Laos       | ■ Vietnam      |

## Group says 159,000 Christians die annually for beliefs

*Continued from page 1*  
 director of operations for Global Evangelization Movement.

The number of martyrs is rising, he noted, primarily from followers of that area's majority religion, he said. "Kickback, you might call it."

New efforts in previously unevangelized nations also are resulting in persecution, primarily from followers of that area's majority religion, he said. "Kickback, you might call it."

Global Evangelization Movement predicts 165,000 Christians will be killed for their faith in the year 2000. That number could grow to 300,000 martyrs by 2025, Long said.

About 600 missionaries with the Southern Baptist Convention Foreign Mission Board serve in "World A" territories, where such persecution is most likely, said Lewis Meyer, FMB vice president for World A strategies. World A territories are areas where less than 50 percent of the population has access to the Christian message.

Meyers said he knows of no FMB missionaries who have been physically harmed, but several have been threatened through their association with local Christians.

The FMB is adding a component to its orientation to train missionaries mentally for the likelihood of persecution, Meyers said.

The trainings will help missionaries disciple new Christians who are likely to be persecuted, he said. "One

of the things that they (missionaries) have got to handle is 'If I hadn't won this man to the Lord, he wouldn't be persecuted like this.'"

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, a missions agency started by Southern Baptists dissatisfied with the SBC's leadership, has 84 missionaries in World A territories, said spokesman David Wilkerson.

Christians encounter severe receptions in many countries, but Winkler said Sudan is the worst. Radical Muslims "come into villages and maim the Christians, leaving them half-alive," he said. "They steal the children, forcing them into schools to study the Koran."

Persecution can greatly strengthen or greatly weaken Christianity in a region, added Parks.

"Practically none of us are willing to voluntarily make choices of commitment that we might make if we were forced to make them," he said. "Persecution causes a stronger kind of Christianity that does grow, but I think persecution can grow to the point that really does stifle Christianity."

Awareness of Christian persecution is growing, said Winkler, who posts exhibits at Promise Keepers rallies.

Long noted the Internet has lowered information barriers to learning about persecution.

He said Christian interest in martyrdom could be sparked by "God's spirit pushing us to be more interest-

ed in the Great Commission," to preach the Christian message to all nations.

"One of the best ways to raise awareness for the persecuted is to raise awareness for martyrdom," he said.

Many in America also are taking notice.

In August, U.S. Rep Frank Wolf, of Virginia, introduced a "sense of the House" resolution condemning the persecution of Christians and asking President Clinton to expand government efforts to combat persecution of Christians. Last week, the U.S. Senate passed a similar resolution.

Also last week, Religion News Service reported the Clinton administration will soon establish an advisory panel to recommend U.S. policy responses to religious persecution around the world.

At this year's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in New Orleans, messengers passed a resolution to observe the day of prayer Sept. 29 and urging U.S. government leaders to "uphold the fundamental freedom of religious liberty in the conduct of foreign policy."

Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission trustees voted this month to mail information about persecuted Christians to every Southern Baptist pastor.

Winkler said Christians' two best weapons against persecution are prayer and letters.

## For more information

More information about Christian persecution is available from:

■ **Voice of the Martyrs.** Voice of the Martyrs documents reports of persecution and is involved in missions projects in about 30 countries. P.O. Box 443, Bartlesville, OK 74005; (918) 337-8015; website: [www.iclnet.org/pub/resources/text/vom/vom.html](http://www.iclnet.org/pub/resources/text/vom/vom.html).

■ **Advance.** This free electronic newsletter promotes prayer for unreached people groups and for Christians encountering religious persecution. E-mail: [70420.1057@compuserve.com](mailto:70420.1057@compuserve.com).

■ **Freedom House's Preamble Program on Religious Freedom.** The program documents and publicizes restrictions on religious and other human rights. It also mobilizes support for those persecuted for religious reasons. 1319 18th St. NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20036; (202) 296-5101.

■ **World Evangelical Fellowship.** The Fellowship has promoted the international day of prayer for the persecuted church, Sept. 29. P.O. Box WEF, Wheaton, IL 60189; (630) 668-0440.

Voice of the Martyrs encourages Christians to be informed about specific incidents and countries in order to pray more specifically, Winkler said. "That is our greatest weapon."

Letter-writing campaigns have helped free some Christians, he added. "Many times we've seen that if thousands of people write a particular government official about a specific person who is in jail, that Christian will be released early."

## Professor questions religious freedoms in eastern Europe

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Despite constitutional language to the contrary, some nations in central and eastern Europe have less religious freedom now than when they belonged to the Soviet Union, said a British scholar.

Eileen Barker, professor of sociology at the London School of Economics, said laws and constitutions in former Soviet states are not the best indicators of religious freedom there.

Some countries are using constitutions left over from the last decade, while others have changed or are in the process of changing their constitutions.

"Generally speaking, the rhetoric

is for freedom of religion for everybody and indeed, a division between church and state," she said. "But this is done in a wide variety of ways."

In some cases, religious groups are not allowed to proselytize, which evangelical groups see as their primary purpose.

Barker said the traditional, established churches sometimes view minority sects as a threat.

Barker has studied the situation in Armenia in depth, including several personal visits.

Armenia, located east of Turkey and north of Iran, is one example of the struggle for religious freedom in countries that were traditionally Chris-

tian, she said.

Armenia's history is centered in the Christian church. It became the world's first "Christian" nation in the year 301. The Apostolic Church, as the dominant church is known, played political and social roles that were as important as its religious role, Barker said.

"It has been a defining characteristic that you belong to the Armenian Apostolic Church almost as a birthright. And anyone who rejects it is not then considered Armenian," she said.

In 1991 Armenia became an independent republic. Officially, there has been separation of church and state, but Barker said religions are not al-

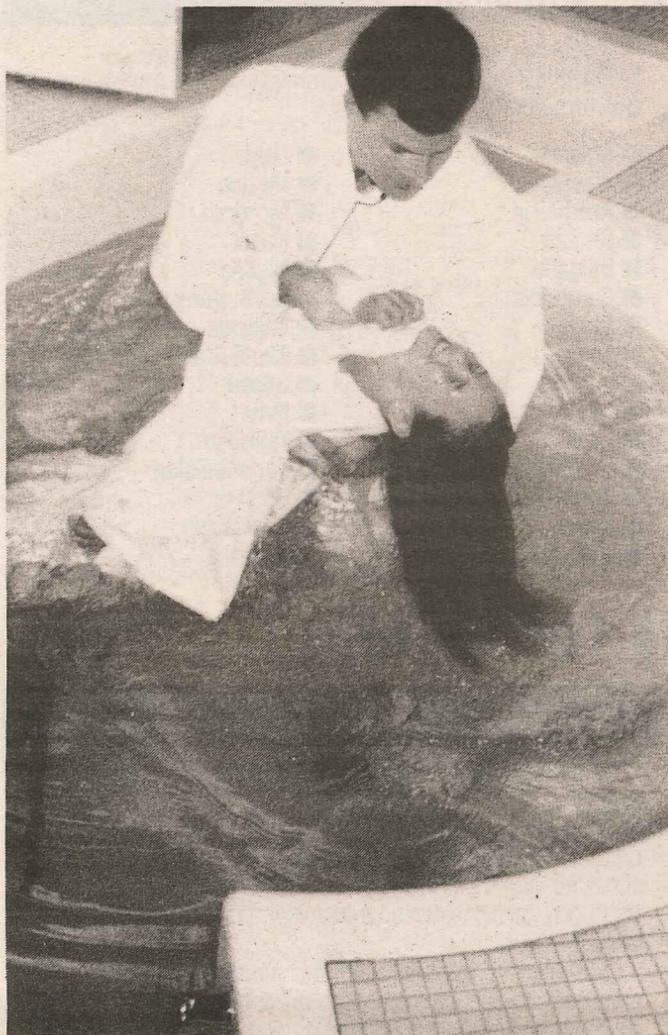
lowed to proselytize. The Apostolic Church enjoys a special relationship with the state, she added.

Between April 18 and April 24, 1994, several para-military groups confiscated property, vandalized church buildings and hurt church leaders. A Baptist church was burned to the ground and several missionaries were encouraged to leave the country, she said.

The only group not attacked that she knew of were the Mormons, Barker said. The Mormons said God saved them, but Barker pointed out that the Mormons own a cement factory, which employs a lot of people in Armenia.

# CHURCHES

## Holy Spirit & prayer credited with congregation's growth



By Mark Wingfield  
Editor

FRANKFORT—Don't ask Robert Jackson for a 10-step plan to help your church experience the same kind of growth Buck Run Baptist Church has known since 1990.

There is no such easy explanation for what has happened at Buck Run, he said. "The Holy Spirit is in control."

"When the Spirit is in control, you can use the poorest methods in the world, and the church will grow. When the Spirit is not in control, you can use the best methods in the world and the church will not grow."

Buck Run baptizes people every Sunday, yet revival services aren't the

cause, he said. "We've had only one three-day revival, and it took us three months to get over it," he said.

Ongoing evangelism training programs, although successful in many churches, have not been the cause of Buck Run's growth. The church has no formal evangelism training program other than an occasional one-day workshop.

Location isn't the answer either. Buck Run is located on both sides of a two-lane highway in a rural area just outside Frankfort, not a burgeoning suburb of a mega-city.

Worship style may be a factor in the church's growth, but the congrega-

tion has not made any radical swings to a contemporary style or even brought in a new young face to lead worship. The church's music minister, Z.T. Lester, has served the congregation 28 years. He plans a blended service of traditional hymns and contemporary music, aided by a small instrumental group.

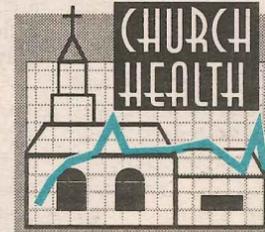
The church has many other healthy programs—including those for children, youth and senior adults—but none of these is cited as a primary reason for the church's growth.

What do get cited repeatedly are the congregation's vision and reliance upon the Holy Spirit through prayer.

"Our people expect remarkable things to happen," said Jackson, the church's pastor since 1990. "We limit ourselves only by the limits we place on God."

Thom Rainer, dean of the Billy Graham School of Evangelism, Church Growth and Missions at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, featured Buck Run in his 1994 book "Eating the Elephant."

"Ultimately, true revival comes from a sovereign God, not from human efforts," Rainer noted. "In my humble estimation, that is the story of Buck Run. One servant, open to the work of God, has led an entire congregation to an openness for the hand of God to move upon their church."



**OVERFLOWING** Buck Run Baptist Church is overflowing in many ways. The waters of the baptistry remain full, with baptismal services held every week. Here, Associate Pastor Rob Jackson baptizes a new believer. Many of the new believers reached by the church are adults. However, the median age of the congregation is relatively young, and the church's programs for children (right) are overflowing as a result.

### Interrobang ?

An interrobang is a little-known, little-used punctuation mark which combines a question mark and an exclamation point designed for use at the end of an exclamatory rhetorical question.

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Barry Allen is president of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, 10605 Shelbyville Road, Louisville, Ky. 40223.

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# CHURCHES

## Outward focus fuels Buck Run's excitement, pastor says

Continued from page 1  
clear leading of God to do so.

And then the call came from Buck Run. Their pastor had left, the church was down to about 120 in worship attendance, would he return to lead them?

Upon hearing that message over the phone, "it was like warm oil was poured on my head and ran all the way down my back," Jackson said.

Jackson and his wife, Gail, returned to Frankfort.

Ask anyone who's been at Buck Run for long what's the source of the church's phenomenal growth spurt since then and you'll get a one-word answer: "Prayer."

For years—even before Jackson returned as pastor—faithful members of the church met in small groups to pray that God would work a miracle among them, not knowing how or when God might answer their prayer.

Today, they continue to pray for God's Spirit to grow the church and minister to the needs of their community. Every gathering of the congregation includes times to pray for specific people and needs. And every Saturday morning, dozens of Buck Run members gather at the church to pray by name for their friends, relatives and neighbors who are not Chris-

tians.

"Prayer is something our church has found to be such a marvelous experience in getting in touch with God and his power," Jackson said. "There are very few people who walk the aisle on Sunday who haven't been prayed for on Saturday."

On the numerical side, Buck Run has grown from average worship attendance of 120 in 1990 to 600 today. Sunday school attendance has been slowed by the divided campus, but nonetheless has grown from 122 in 1990 to 400 today.

The church has baptized from one to five people—often adults—every Sunday through the summer and into early fall. Jackson predicts as many as 70 people will be baptized this year.

The church receives from 50 to 70 visitors every Sunday. Discipleship groups are booming, as is missions involvement.

Buck Run has pioneered a unique missions partnership with Baptists in Romania by which they are helping start and nurture more than 20 churches in that former communist nation.

Through an organization called Romanian-American Mission, Buck Run has elicited cooperation from other Great Commission churches to start churches, perform ministry and train leaders in Romania.

On the home front, Buck Run works closely with a Baptist ministry in Pippa Passes, has a ministry to the deaf, conducts a campground ministry near Frankfort every summer, sponsors a jail ministry and trailer park ministry and is preparing to launch two new satellite congregations.

This outward focus adds to the excitement at Buck Run, Jackson explained. "Many people join because they want to see Christianity in shoe leather."

"We feel that the church is the body of Christ and is the continual representation of Christ to the world. Whatever Jesus was involved in, that's what we should be doing."

Financially, Buck Run has grown from a \$171,000 budget in 1990 to a more than \$500,000 budget today. Less than two years ago, the congregation built a new worship center and educational building across the highway from their historic building at a

cost of about \$2 million.

Buddy Costigan, who lives next-door to the church and has been a member since 1938, marvels at this accomplishment: "It hasn't been long since we had less than a \$100,000 budget."

Enthusiasm permeates the congregation. "People say they can't wait until the next time to go to church," Costigan reported.

Bobby and Kathy Casey visited Buck Run soon after they moved from Shelbyville to Frankfort about three years ago. Today, he is chairman of deacons and they both are deeply involved in various aspects of the church's ministry.

"We had a list of seven churches to visit," Bobby Casey explained. "But we came here first and never went to another one on that list."

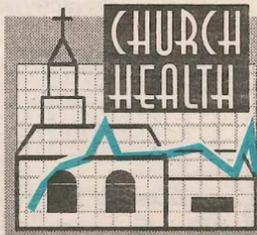
The excitement generated at church spills over into the places where Buck Run members work, said Casey, a postal carrier. "People ask, 'What's going on at your church that makes you so excited?'"

The answer to that question, according to Jackson and other church members, is the Holy Spirit.

"We cannot explain it," Jackson said, "but God has anointed this church for this time."

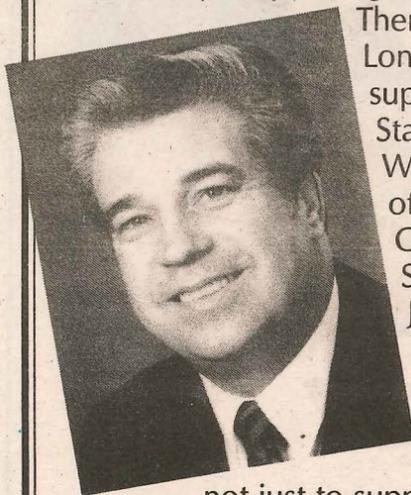


"Many people join because they want to see Christianity in shoe leather." Robert Jackson, pastor of Buck Run Baptist Church



## A personal word about Eliza Broadus

Members of Lone Oak First Baptist Church have been personally involved in the ministries of our Kentucky Baptist agencies and institutions.



Therefore, it is no wonder Lone Oak First Baptist supports the Eliza Broadus State Mission Offering. When they read the names of places like Oneida, Clear Creek, Glen Dale, Spring Meadows, Jonathan Creek and other colleges, they see the faces of people who serve in a personal way.

They want to contribute, not just to support the institution, but to be a part of the ministerial-extended arm of all those who serve. It is an exciting adventure to participate in the Eliza Broadus Offering, and we hope you will join us. Willis Henson, pastor of Lone Oak First Baptist Church in Paducah

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# CHURCHES

## KBC study examines church health in Kentucky

**"Attitudinal issues are the most important indicators of church health."**  
Vernon Cole

By Mark Wingfield  
Editor

What are the common characteristics of growing churches in Kentucky?

A first-of-its-kind statewide study of issues such as this currently is being completed by the church growth and administration division of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

The survey draws upon responses from 1,360 pastors, church staff members and lay leaders in congregations identified as growing, plateaued and declining. Vernon Cole, director of the KBC church growth and administration division, conducted the research in conjunction with Cynthia Woolever of Midway College.

Results of the survey will be reported in installments through the Western Recorder over the next year, along with feature stories highlighting specific Kentucky Baptist churches.

The research also will form the basis for a "Church Health Summit" sponsored by the KBC in October 1997 at First Baptist Church of Bowling Green.

Cole said the survey demon-

strates that while programs may be important to church health in some ways, they are not the primary indicator of church health and growth.

"A lot of programming stuff we do does not automatically produce growth," he explained.

"For example, visitation in and of itself does not automatically guarantee growth.

"The bigger indicator is the attitude people have related to the programming they do. If the church has a bad attitude or is in a bad mood, it's going to be reflected in their singing, in the way they interact and relate and greet one another and consequently in the way they teach Sunday school and do visitation.

"The secret is not the doing of activity but the attitude that's behind the activity.

"Attitudinal issues are the most important indicators of church health," Cole said. "Churches in the growth category have made the decision to change."

The change required "may be nothing more than the decision that

we're going to be positive about what we're doing," he said. "Or it may be a change to add new Sunday school classes. It may be a change in the way the pastor goes about doing the worship service. It could be the way they make decisions."

The survey identified dozens of characteristics that are common to churches regardless of whether they are experiencing growth, are plateaued or are in decline.

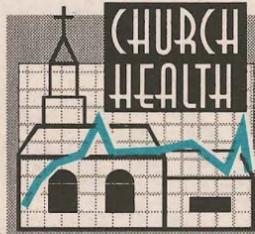
The appearance of these characteristics across all growth categories means they are not clear indicators of church growth, even though they may serve worthy purposes, Cole said.

For example, setting a baptism goal may be a step toward church growth, but that alone does not lead to church growth. The KBC survey found that declining churches and plateaued churches set baptism goals just as well as growing churches.

Other characteristics found in declining churches, plateaued church-

es and growing churches alike include:

- A regular visitation program.
- Participation in a programmed growth or evangelistic campaign.
- Planning a "high attendance" Sunday.
- A pastor who believes evangelism is the most important aspect of church work.
- Distance in miles the church's lay leaders live from the church.
- Number of hours lay leaders spend in church activities.
- Re-evaluation of church policies and programs.
- Number of years the pastor has served the congregation.
- Number of full-time or part-time staff members.
- Being known for specialized ministries.
- Lay leaders know their spiritual gifts and feel they are being well applied in the church.
- Congregation is concerned about others.
- Church's sense of Baptist identity.
- Conservative theology of congregation.
- The extent to which church uses guilt as a motivation for service.



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Mrs. Barbara Andrews



Mr. William Carter



Mrs. Jill Menser



Rev. Joseph L. Owens



Mrs. Ava B. Reynolds



Dr. William Sheals

MONDAY, OCTOBER 14

1:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Special Music: Rob Britton  
Devotional Message: Don Short  
Seminar: "Gift-Based Evangelism" - Jill Menser  
"Reaching Singles" - French Harmon

6:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Get Acquainted Fellowship Banquet  
"Sharing Jesus Together in Fellowship" - Ava Bingham Reynolds

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15

9:00 AM - 12 NOON

Devotional Message: Joseph Owens  
Seminar: "Principles of Church Growth & Development" - Dr. William Sheals  
Part One: "How To Grow A Church Numerically"  
Part Two: "How To Grow A Church Spiritually"

1:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Seminar: "Multi-Family Housing Ministries" - Merrill Aldridge  
Devotional Message: "Sharing Jesus Together in the Workplace" - C. B. Akins, Sr.

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Special Music Concert: Robert Britton & Barbara Andrew  
Special Emphases: William A. Carter, II  
Devotional Message: "Share Jesus Together in Worship" - Dr. William Sheals

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There is no charge or cost for attending the conference; however, if you are interested in attending the Fellowship Banquet on Monday evening, the cost is \$10.00 per person. Banquet tickets may be obtained by contacting the Office of Lincoln N. Bingham, Cooperative Ministries Consultant, at (502) 587-0642. The deadline for obtaining banquet tickets is Friday, October 11, 1996.

## PBS series on conservative Christians begins this week

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Its award-winning series on the Civil War, the civil rights movement and Vietnam helped bring America's historic social conflicts to life for millions of viewers. Now, the Public Broadcasting Service hopes to make sense of one of the most powerful and complicated movements on the contemporary scene.

Beginning Sept. 27 (check local

listings), PBS will air a six-part documentary series on America's Christian conservatives, who in the final weeks before the 1996 election seem to be at the height of their political power.

"With God On Our Side: The Rise of the Religious Right in America" traces efforts by theological and social conservatives to apply traditional religious values to politics and public life.

It's a journey from night to day, beginning in the 1950s, when many Christians felt marginalized and believed political activism was sinful, to the present day, when evangelical Christians make up one of the nation's most powerful voting blocs.

But the series probably won't win any popularity contests for PBS, the embattled, viewer-supported network whose fall schedule is brimming with such religious offerings as "Adventures from the Book of Virtues" and the upcoming "Genesis: A Living Conversation with Bill Moyers."

True believers will bristle at the series' unblinking portrayal of the movement's mongrel origins. Reacting to a combination of real and perceived threats, Christian conservatives first rose to defend their idea of America from godless communist infiltrators, Catholic President John F. Kennedy and the burgeoning civil rights movement.

These early confrontations helped define the character of the Religious Right. And today, portions of the

movement can't escape the charge that it suffers from an ongoing infatuation with conspiracy theories, narrow sectarianism and, sometimes, racism.

On the other hand, the documentary's sympathetic treatment of preachers, protesters and power brokers like Moral Majority founder Jerry Falwell, Operation Rescue founder Randall Terry and Christian Coalition Executive Director Ralph Reed will disappoint the right's critics.

Both the six-hour series and a 385-page companion book are based on interviews with more than 100 movement leaders, including Billy James Hargis, Pat Robertson, Charles Colson, Phyllis Schlafly, Gary Bauer, and Tim and Beverly LaHaye. Other key players on camera include syndicated columnist Cal Thomas, Promise Keepers founder Bill McCartney and former Surgeon General Everett Koop. Notably absent is Focus on the Family founder James Dobson, one of the nation's most influential evangelical leaders, who declined to be interviewed for the series.

### In Kentucky

A spokesperson for Kentucky Educational Television said last week the statewide network of public TV stations does intend to carry the PBS series "With God on Our Side" at some point in the future but will not air it this fall. Kentucky's only other PBS affiliate is WKPC in Louisville. A spokesperson there said WKPC does not intend to carry the series. For more information about KET's scheduling of the PBS series, call (606) 258-7000. Kentucky residents with access to PBS affiliate stations originating from border states may find the series airing as scheduled on those stations.

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**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of youth, either single individual or couple, interested in building an exciting youth program. Salary plus use of parsonage negotiable. If interested, send resumé to: Hillcrest Baptist Church, Personnel Committee, 684 Devils Hollow Road, Frankfort, KY 40601.

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## Want to leave positive impression on children? Watch what you say, couple recommends

By Joyce Sweeney Martin  
Staff Writer

LOUISVILLE—Want to leave a positive imprint on the lives of your children?

Then monitor what you say to your children, a couple leading a workshop at this year's Fall Festival of Marriage said.

"Every day parents say and do things that leave imprints on their children," said Penny Hudson. "Children are gifts from God; we must be careful how we mold them."

She and her husband, David, are members of Crestwood Baptist Church in Crestwood. They led a seminar on "Positive Ways We Can Shape and Mold Children's Lives."

Noting that parents' words can be used to bless and affirm their children, the Hudsons

called upon workshop participants to recall phrases which build positive self esteem in children. The list included:

- I love you.
- Good job.
- You can do it.
- I'm proud of you.
- Way to go.
- That's OK.
- What do you think?
- Thank you.
- Have fun.
- You're special.
- I have confidence in you.
- I like that attitude.

In contrast, participants listed phrases which can cause short term, long term or even life long damage.

## Angry spirit can endanger otherwise healthy marriage

By Joyce Sweeney Martin  
Staff Writer

LOUISVILLE—An angry, closed spirit that shuts out one's spouse can destroy an otherwise good marriage, according to a speaker at this year's Fall Festival of Marriage.

Tom Cheyney, director of missions for Genesee Baptist Association in Flint, Mich., likened a closed spirit to a tightly closed hand, which when opened is red and swollen, not lithe and "wiggly" like a hand should be.

Cheyney listed four common marks of a closed spirit:

- *A feeling of tension.* Unresolved, unhealthy anger makes people self-centered, he said. "It shows displeasure when I don't get my way."
- *An argumentative attitude.* Harsh

words, belittling a mate's opinions and rude behavior often indicate an angry spirit, he said.

■ *A loss of physical intimacy.*

■ *Negative, nonverbal signs.* The "silent treatment" may be a sign of anger, he said.

While many spouses want to give up when their mates exhibit a closed spirit, Cheyney suggested several ways to "drain" anger out of a mate:

■ *Become soft and tender with your mate.* "Be persistent," he said. "Remember, repetition reduces resistance." Touch your mate gently.

■ *Understand as much as possible your mate's experience.*

■ *Acknowledge your mate is hurting and admit any part you contributed in provoking anger.*

■ *Be willing to wait for a response.*

## Intimacy a requirement for healthy marriage, speaker says

Continued from page 1

hurts, memories and unresolved conflicts are roadblocks to intimacy, Mrs. Andrews said. "One of the most intimate things you can do is say I'm sorry."

■ *Keep the essentials.* A healthy self respect, mutual respect, time together, a high degree of trust as well as effective talking and listening skills are absolutely necessary for intimacy to develop, Andrews said.

■ *Choose a destination.* The Andrews recounted how 21 years ago

they deliberately decided to move their marriage to new depths of intimacy. "We didn't like the direction we were going; we determined that no wall would ever come between us that would keep us from each other," Andrews said.

"Where do you want your marriage to go—six weeks, six months, one year, six years, 20 years from now?" he asked.

"You must decide how much intimacy you want and how much you are willing to work to achieve it," he

concluded.

The Louisville Fall Festival of Marriage was one of 21 festivals nationwide. It drew 320 people, which was significantly lower than the peak attendance of 508 in 1993.

Among the participants, one couple had been married five weeks while three couples had been married more than 40 years.

For the first time, workshops for the deaf were included in the weekend event.

The drop in attendance at the Ken-

tucky location does not indicate a decline in interest in marriage enrichment, but rather an increase in the enrichment choices couples now have, according to John Lepper, KBC family ministry director, who coordinated the event.

More regional festivals and additional marriage enrichment events promoted by the Sunday School Board as well as events sponsored by such para-church groups as Promise Keepers provide couples with more options, Lepper said.

### Worship at Cumberland

Cumberland College held its opening chapel service of the 1996-1997 academic year on Monday, Sept. 2. The worship experience could not have been better.

Violinist Don Kramer provided a beautiful prelude and special music. Kramer has been a member of the first violin section of the Utah Symphony in Salt Lake City since 1970. In the midst of his grueling schedule of 250 concerts a year, he serves faithfully as a deacon in his Baptist church and has taught Bible study classes for the past 20 years. We had known Kramer as the father of Tracy Kramer, one of our juniors. How wonderful it was to know him also as a talented musician who is committed to Christ.

Bill Tichenor, pastor of First Baptist Church in Princeton and president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, inspired us with his preaching. Using Philippians 1:21 ("For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain"), Tichenor reminded us that a personal relationship with Christ is crucial and foundational for true life. He cautioned us to remember that life was not confined to this earth and urged us to think in terms of eternity rather than only of our careers or life goals.

Tichenor's gentleness and love reflected that of God who offers forgiveness and a new, abundant life.

Chosen, a contemporary Christian group, provided a beautiful acappella benediction in song. The four members of the group are all sons of pastors and grew up in the South African township of Soweto, outside Johannesburg. Now

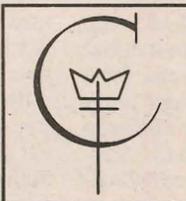
based in Atlanta, they use their incredible vocal gifts to praise God and lead others to faith in him. One of our 1990 graduates, Wisdom Nkosi, serves as their manager, and his brother, Unity, is one of the four vocalists. Later that day, Chosen presented a worship service of song and testimony as part of

our weekly BSU celebration time. An almost packed Gatliff Chapel

filled with the sounds of joy and faith in Christ. Chapel makes our Kentucky Baptist institutions different from many others. We celebrate our commitment to Christ as we strive to lead others to make the same commitment. Pray for us as we minister.

Robert Dunston is chairman of the religion department at Cumberland College, 6000 College Station Dr., Williamsburg, Ky. 40769

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



### Be part of the miracle!

I am a storyteller. I enjoy the opportunity to help an audience enter a different world and for a short time look at a situation or event through another's eyes.

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In my job I get to witness the miracles as they happen and then share the good news of these miracles with you. As I travel across Kentucky I am always encouraged by your concern for the children and their families and warmed by your hospitality.

If your church hasn't had someone from KBHC come to your church recently, I and others on the staff would welcome the opportunity to share with your church the stories of how God is working through Kentucky Baptists in this special ministry. We have an active Speakers Bureau

and we would love an invitation to come share with your congregation this fall.

Experienced speakers from our staff are available to take part in church services, WMU and Brotherhood meetings, Sunday school classes, youth group meetings, mission fairs and other church programs. In addition, there are several alumni willing to share in testimony and song. If the Homeland Singers from Glen Dale Children's Home are scheduled to sing near you, we know you will be blessed and inspired through their voices and dramatic interpretations of Christian music.

We hope to be in as many churches as possible this fall. Call the number below and give us the opportunity to share with your congregation the miracles we see happening in the lives of the children and families in our care. I hope you will catch our excitement—and be a part of the miracle!

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Brenda Gray

Brenda Gray is vice president for development and communications for the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, 10801 Shelbyville Rd., Middletown, Ky. 40243. Call (800) 456-1386. The World Wide Web address is: <http://www.iglou.com/kbhc/>

## Individual counseling required for children's evangelism

ALEXANDRIA, La. (BP)—Ever since Jesus instructed his disciples to "let the little children come to me," followers of Christ have struggled with exactly how to bring children to faith.

Evangelism materials author Camille Hamilton said she recommends Christians talk individually with children and be able to explain Christianity at age-appropriate levels.

"There's no way you can truly determine whether a child is ready (to make a decision for Christ) unless you sit down one-on-one and talk with the child," said Hamilton, author of "God's Special Plan" materials for teaching children about Christianity.

She said adults should realize that children must understand four things in order to accept Christ as their personal Savior:

- The meaning of sin.
- The fact the child is a sinner.
- The fact the child has sinned against God.
- The fact that sin separates the child from God.

Monty Carter, youth evangelism specialist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, agreed.

Carter said he often must teach children the difference between a mistake, such as forgetting to feed a pet,

and a sin, such as willfully refusing to feed the pet when asked to do so by a parent.

Said Hamilton: "The only way you can determine whether a child is ready (to become a Christian) is to ask questions and listen carefully to the answers."

She offered several pointers for discussing Christianity with children:

■ Never assume anything. Many people believe a child is ready to be a Christian when he or she starts asking questions, Hamilton said. Children may express an interest in making a decision or even come forward during an invitation for a variety of reasons, she said. They may be genuinely ready, or they be doing it because their friends did so, she said.

■ Do not ask "yes-no" questions or questions with built-in answers. Hamilton recalled seeing one counselor ask a child, "You want to ask Jesus into your heart, don't you?"

If using a yes-no question, Hamilton said, immediately afterward ask "Why?"

■ Do not ask questions for which children have memorized answers. When children use phrases not typical of their age, make sure they understand what the words mean, Hamilton said.

"There's a lot of terminology—language of Zion—you and I are used to. But there's a lot of time that a child will not understand those words. Make sure you draw that child out to see if they know what they're talking about."

■ Ask questions in a language a child understands. Hamilton remembered a mother who told her daughter about the Garden of Eden. The mother concluded the talk by asking her daughter who ate the apple. The daughter replied, "Mom, Snow White ate the apple."

Discussions with children about Christianity will often have one of three results, Hamilton said:

- A step toward God.
- A profession of faith.
- An assurance of salvation for a child who already is a Christian.

Conversion is a one-time experience, but Hamilton said a child who makes a decision early in life may feel a need to recommit himself or herself later on because of a deeper understanding of that act.

Recommitment does not mean the earlier decision was not genuine but that it is growing, she said.

"When a teenager or young adult says, 'I was baptized as a child but did not know what I was doing,' do not

simply pray a prayer of commitment with him. Go back to the experience. Ask questions. It may be the commitment was genuine and he needs to mature that commitment and make Jesus Lord of his adult life."

When discussing Christianity with a child, he or she should leave the conversation understanding God's unconditional love regardless of their decision, Carter said.

"When they're too young (to become a Christian), the best thing we can leave them with in this world is that God loves them...and that as a result of this love God wants their love in return."

Hamilton noted that a child must not be forced to make a profession of faith.

A premature decision for Christ can work like a vaccination, giving children just enough of a religious experience to create a barrier they will have to cross in order to have a genuine conversion later in life, she said.

Carter agreed. "We're not closing a sale here. We're talking about a life."

Counseling children about Christianity takes training and commitment, Hamilton said. She urged churches to train adults specifically for counseling children and to make sure follow-up is done.

**"We're not closing a sale here. We're talking about a life."**

Monty Carter, Kentucky Baptist Convention youth evangelism specialist

## Need a place to stay?

### A guide to Bowling Green accommodations

All accommodations are directly on or within a close proximity to Scottsville Road (Highway 231). Scottsville Road is off I-65 exit #22. This area has great access to restaurants.

First Baptist Church, the 1996 KBC host site, is located at 621 East 12th Street, on the corner of 12th and Chestnut streets.

Scottsville Road (231) eventually becomes Chestnut. The church is about four miles northwest of I-65 exit 22.

For additional information, contact Denise Withers at 502/245-4101, ext. 212.



## 1996 Kentucky Baptist Convention Annual Meeting November 12-13 • First Baptist Church, Bowling Green

The facilities listed below represent those with blocked rooms. Room rates are for 1-4 persons per night.

Messengers are responsible for making their own reservations. You must identify yourself as a Kentucky Baptist Convention attendee in order to receive established blocked room rates. Also, pay close attention to deadline reservation dates.

Add 10.18% tax  
\*Reservation deadline  
NS - non-smoking; S - smoking

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Best Western Motor Inn (*October 27)<br/>Highway 231 at I-65, 42104<br/>1/800/343-2937; 502/782-3800<br/>Singles-\$50; doubles (2-4 p)-\$55 (S; NS)<br/>Denny's Restaurant on site</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Hampton Inn (*October 28)<br/>233 Three Springs Road, 42104<br/>502/842-4100<br/>Singles and doubles - \$57 flat rate (S; NS)<br/>Continental breakfast provided</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Budgetel (*October 27)<br/>165 Three Springs Road, 42104<br/>502/843-3202<br/>Doubles-\$45; kings-\$47.65 (All NS)</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Holiday Inn (*October 27)<br/>3240 Scottsville Road, 42104<br/>502/781-1500<br/>Doubles-\$57 (S; NS)<br/>Restaurant; room service</li> </ul>                                 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Comfort Inn (*October 27)<br/>4646 Scottsville Road, 42104<br/>502/843-1163<br/>Doubles-\$56.88; kings-\$49.88 (Most NS)<br/>Continental breakfast provided</li> </ul>                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Ramada Inn (*October 27)<br/>4767 Scottsville Road, 42104<br/>502/781-3000<br/>Queens (1-4)-\$52; mini suites (1-2)-\$46 (S; NS)<br/>Restaurant; room service</li> </ul>     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Greenwood Executive Inn (*October 27)<br/>Off Scottsville at I-65 exit 22<br/>1/800/354-4394<br/>Singles and doubles - \$49 flat rate (S; NS)<br/>Restaurant; room service</li> </ul>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•University Plaza Suites (*October 28)<br/>1021 Wilkinson Trace, 42103<br/>502/745-0088<br/>Singles, doubles - \$74 flat rate (S; NS)<br/>Restaurant; room service</li> </ul> |

## PRAYER PARTNERS

- Pray for these specific needs related to Kentucky Baptist partnerships with Russia and Boston:
- Upcoming surgery for Nadia Alexander, wife of the pastor of Byezhetsa Baptist Church in Russia. She has a tumor in her colon.
  - A Kentucky medical team going to Byezhetsa, Russia, Oct. 3-15.
  - Ten Russians who professed faith in Jesus as Savior through the recent work of a Kentucky medical team at Nizhny Novgorod near Moscow.
  - Mission Service Corps volunteer Jack Hart and his family who minister through Metropolitan Baptist Church in Cambridge, Mass.
  - Spiritual discernment for Kentucky-New England partnership leaders as they plan 1997 projects.

## Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

- CUNNINGHAM—Bethlehem Church called Larry Purcell as pastor. He began his new ministry in July.
- HENDERSON—Zion Church recognized Dan Garland, Walker Knight, Joe P. Williams and Bob Williams for 50-plus years of ministry service. All were ordained or licensed at Zion Church.
- HOPKINSVILLE—Casky Church celebrated its homecoming Sept. 8.
- LOUISVILLE—Ninth & O Church will host "Super Saturday," a city-wide youth event Sept. 28 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. For more information,

contact David Fletcher at (502) 636-5576.

Boyd Jones, music professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, will play at an organ rededication service for Clifton Baptist Church Sept. 29 at 6:30 p.m. The 59-year-old organ was rebuilt this summer as part of a \$200,000 renovation of the church building.

Cloverleaf Church will host a gospel music concert featuring "Sons of Liberty" from Stanton Oct. 12 at 7 p.m. Call (502) 367-0218 for information.

## Paraplegic athlete knows winning not limited to 1st place

ATLANTA (BP)—Athletes often hear winning isn't everything, it's the only thing.

But Bart Bardwell, who nearly made the Olympics and Paralympics, claims winning isn't limited to first place.

Bardwell, a wheelchair marathon racer and a paraplegic since 1973, said he knows about both wins and losses. Both are part of God's plan for him, he said. "When you love God, you allow him to make turns and detours in your life."

He was in Atlanta this summer for the Paralympics as a part of a chaplain team ministry to the disabled community. Bardwell spent most of his time in Atlanta focusing on the needs of the Paralympians, but he also

sought to encourage others through his life.

When a construction accident robbed him of the use of his legs, doctors told Bardwell he would be in the hospital for six months, never have children and must adjust to a new way of living. Only one of those predictions came true.

Bardwell did have to adjust to a new life, but it was not as the doctors might have predicted.

"God was there as a faithful refuge," Bardwell said, "to make me better not bitter."

He said that since becoming a Christian at age 19 he knew that if God gave him "an acre and a dollar," he would start a Christian youth sports camp. Even after his accident, he still

Crescent Hill Church ordained Susan Burks of Woodbridge, Va., to the gospel ministry Aug. 11. She is a graduate of Southern Seminary, and recently assumed a pediatric chaplain position at the Baptist Medical Center in Jacksonville, Fla.

Green Acres Church will celebrate its 40th anniversary Sept. 29, beginning at 10:30 a.m. Call (502) 964-8165 for more information.

Highland Church ordained Ken Campbell, Linda Gray, Melanie Hammer, Bill Martin and Joyce Wynn to the deacon ministry Sept. 15.

Eastern Parkway Church will celebrate its homecoming Oct. 6. Dinner on the grounds will follow the morning service. A gospel music concert

will be at 1:30 p.m. Call Pastor Paul Lee at (502) 636-1355 or (502) 429-3530 for information.

■ RAVENNA—Cow Creek Church celebrated its 150th anniversary Aug. 25. Joe Lahrmer is pastor.

■ SHEPHERDSVILLE—Little Flock Church will host Shepherding Seminars Oct. 5, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Hal Poe, dean of academic resources at Union University in Jackson, Tenn., will be the keynote speaker. Call (502) 955-8760 for more information.

### MISSIONARY UPDATE

■ Charles and Cheri Orange, missionaries to Kenya, are on the field. Mailing address: Box 397274, Nairobi, Kenya. He was born in Greenville.

wanted to serve God in that way. He didn't know how he could do it without legs, but eventually God opened the door.

"When God gives you something, he gives you the grace to go through it," Bardwell said.

Before his accident, he was an exceptional wrestler. If not for a knee injury at the Olympic trials for the '72 games, he believes he would have made the U.S. wrestling team. After losing the use of his legs, he wondered if he could be an athlete.

A friend introduced him to wheelchair racing. Although he fell into a pothole during his first race, Bardwell said, "Something happened inside of me."

He has been in 225 wheelchair rac-

es and 68 marathons. In 1988, he qualified for the Paralympics, but he had gained the resources to start a Christian youth sports camp.

He decided his responsibilities as a youth director were more important. "I am trying to make a difference for God," he said.

He's won many wheelchair races, but Bardwell reiterated that winning shouldn't be the only goal. "I want to be a finisher. It doesn't matter what place I come in."

He emphasized life doesn't always happen as expected, but God will give a person the "desires of your heart" if it is in his will. In his own life, despite doctor's predictions, he has four daughters—three of them triplets.

"God has made me a rich man."

## From the mail box

"I have just finished reading your July/August issue of the Oneida Mountaineer...I especially enjoyed the articles on your summer volunteers and wanted to let you see another perspective.

"You see, my friend, Dona, ... arrived with the Campers On Mission from Alabama. Miss Dona didn't have a camper, though, so she was given a beautiful room for accommodations for her two-week stay. She was thrilled, and showed us many pictures of her room. I don't believe she had any trouble getting to sleep after her long day.

"Dona was so excited just to be able to go help at OBI she would have done anything. She was put to work painting, and paint she did for two weeks, including ceilings. Dona is in her 80s. We believe her age is around 83 years young.

"Miss Dona was so inspired by the countryside of Kentucky, the students, and the staff, that she couldn't wait to share her experiences with everyone who would listen. She told us the story of OBI and showed us a video tape. Her enthusiasm for OBI has been contagious, and you will probably see more volunteers as a result of it.

The following letter came a few weeks ago expressing appreciation for the help the writer's son received from another student: "I just want to write a few lines to give a special person his due recognition.

"My son...came to OBI for the second time in October 1995. Even after returning to OBI he wasn't doing well. After moving him to the big boys' dorm he still continued to make bad choices until the day he decided to move to another room. He chose to be roommates with Briggs.

"This young man is to be commended. He has taken Shawn under his wing and led him down a

path that has made a tremendous improvement. I have seen a definite change for the better in his whole outlook on life and this is something I have prayed to happen for years. I realize that it takes a person willing to change in order for it to happen, but it also takes a good friend and a kind soul to see the best in someone and be willing to help that person succeed. Briggs is a special person and I'll remember forever what he has done for my son. He will always hold a special place in my heart."

### THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

This note was sent by one of my students: "Dear Mr. Underwood, I would just like to take up a little of your time to tell you and the school thanks...for all that you have done for me. If it wasn't for this school I wouldn't have any goals,...and now I have a handful of hopes and dreams that have turned to goals. It's been so great to have a Christian education because I learned to be more responsible these last three years and it will not stop here. I...believe that I will go far, and I will take my almighty God with me. Thank you for everything, I will never

forget Oneida."

And finally this letter from First Baptist Church in Owensboro: "Enclosed is a check that represents the offering taken during our vacation Bible school. The offering is to be used to buy books for your library.

"Our children had a contest between the boys and girls to see who could bring the amount of money that weighed the most. The girls won with 237 pounds of coins. Altogether, 450 pounds were collected."

W.F. "Bud" Underwood is president of Oneida Baptist Institute, P.O. Box 67, Oneida, Ky. 40972

## Alumni at work in northwest Indiana

"People Sharing Jesus," the theme for the recent Northwest Indiana Baptist Association evangelism rally, appropriately describes the work of three of our alumni in that area. The association invited me to preach at the annual event. The trip also included the opportunity to preach at Woodmar Church in Hammond.

1995 graduate Dennis Starkey grew up in northwest Indiana; his mother lives three miles from Woodmar Church. After graduation, he returned to his parents' home, "waited on the Lord," and responded to opportunities as they came. One of those was to supply preach at Woodmar. They soon asked him to be interim and last October extended the call as pastor.

1979 alumnus Bill Hall has been pastor of First Baptist Church of Kentland, Ind., for 16 years. The western Kentucky native went to Indiana for work. "I came here lost and found the Lord. It was my intention to put my years in at Ford and comfortably retire. The Lord called me to preach at age 33. My wife, three kids and I moved to a Kelly Hall apartment."

The Kentland Church went through three pastors in 18 months. "I told them if they wanted a refer-

ee not to vote for me. We had 21 that first Sunday. Attendance in more recent years has reached 110. Our community has declined, but people are still out there to be reached." Bill has been associational evangelism director for nine years.

1991 graduate Randy Gaskey will soon celebrate four years as pastor of First Baptist Church of Roselawn, Ind. The church baptized 24 people last year and adopted a mission 24 miles north of the church.

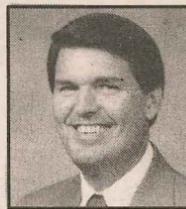
My visit included a tour of Moody Bible Institute, hosted by my former secretary and Moody employee, Brenda Rogers. I also saw Moody Memorial Church, a 4,000-seat testimony to evangelism in the inner city. The

Moody campus sits next to one of the most troubled housing areas in Chicago, but also a field white unto harvest for Moody students.

Lunch on the 95th floor of the Hancock Building was certainly a long way from Pineville, but the needs of the sprawling city are the same as ours. People who share Jesus make the difference wherever we live.

Bill Whittaker is president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Pineville, Ky. 40977

### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

## Seamen's ministry takes gospel to many nationalities

MOBILE, Ala. (BP)—In 1970, the officers of a deteriorating Peruvian ship abandoned their vessel near Mobile, Ala., leaving the crew behind without food, communications or adequate clothing.

"It was incredible," said Virginia Paredes, one of the first Mobilites to offer assistance to the seamen. "They had no food. The ship was filthy and they had no way to clean it.

"They had just come from a cold climate into Mobile Bay in spring and didn't have the right kind of clothing. And they had no hope of ever getting back home."

Paredes and several other women from Gage Avenue Baptist Church in Mobile came to their rescue, bringing resources to meet both physical and spiritual needs. Some people thought the women had "lost their minds," she admitted, but church members brought the 30 seamen back to the church and into their homes.

"I baptized a bunch of them," said then-pastor Q.T. Curtis, who has since retired. "And then we just got a vision of what this thing could be."

That was the birth of Mobile's International Seaman's Center, which has ministered to thousands of seamen from 127 different nations during the past 26 years.

At one point, the center ministered to seamen of more nationalities than the countries in which the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board had missionaries, said Aias de Souza, who has directed the center since 1979.

"The mission field is the Alabama State Docks," Paredes said. "It was just something that couldn't be stopped."

From those beginnings, the center now offers a complete recreational facility and a range of ministries. It offers a soccer field, gymnasium, three pool tables, ping-pong, television, free used clothing, free transportation anywhere in the city, postal service and telephones. The International Seamen's Center has become the backbone of Mobile Baptist Association's international ministries.

The center also has a wall-length bookshelf lined from floor to ceiling with Bibles in more than 75 languages. About 2,000 Bibles are given to seamen every year, de Souza said.

"Our mission is to present the gospel to the seamen and to assist them socially, spiritually and many times physically with no distinction to race, religion or nationality," he said.

Each month, more than 1,000 men are ministered to, either at the center

or on board their ships. Last year, 395 seamen accepted Christ as a result of center ministries, de Souza said.

One South American wanted to take several Bibles and plastic bags, de Souza recounted.

The bags, the sailor explained, were so he could throw the Bibles overboard to people in canoes who row out to greet the ship.

Chapel services also are conducted daily, posing a challenge to de Souza, who encounters a multiplicity of religions, cultures and foreign laws.

One Sunday, a group of Chinese men wanted to see the town. Part of the "tour package" included visiting the local church for the worship service and lunch. The men, however, said they were not allowed to go inside the church.

De Souza preached to them on the bus—in sight of the church instead of in it.

Another time, a KGB officer with a Russian crew told de Souza his men were not allowed to attend religious services. De Souza said he understood, but asked if he could address the Filipinos and Spanish crew men. De Souza conducted the service while Russians were in the same room listening.

De Souza has heard some unusual

requests. Instead of visiting the local mall, a group of Polish seamen went to a junkyard. They wanted old car parts to take home because their cars were expensive to maintain.

Another time, some Muslim seamen from Pakistan asked to see a Christian cemetery. De Souza said he used the opportunity to talk about religions. "It was the most wonderful way to witness to a group, and they were not offended."

De Souza said he has learned the importance of being flexible in this ministry. His efforts have not gone unrewarded.

One time, a ship's chief officer from Israel and his 11 men were in the ministry center. De Souza encouraged them to attend chapel, but the officer refused and banned his men from attending.

As de Souza walked upstairs to begin the service, he decided to conduct that day's chapel downstairs. The officer caught on to de Souza's scheme and walked out of the center angry. De Souza followed him and offered a Bible to make amends.

Nine months later, the officer returned and said he had read the book, front to back, three times. He accepted Christ as his Savior and insisted de Souza baptize him.

## Tutor gives students home field advantage

COLUMBUS, Ind. (BP)—Afternoons are relatively quiet at the Chinese restaurant in the Wal-Mart shopping center. The lunch crowd is gone, and the dinner rush hasn't started.

It's the perfect time for an English lesson.

At a table by the restrooms, Jan Cundiff used flash cards to help the owner's wife pronounce and understand English words. "Beautiful!" Cundiff exclaimed when student Bao Qing Lin correctly matched a word with an image.

While the Southern Baptist home missionary has taught English to internationals in other settings, Cundiff said taking lessons to the work place has proved beneficial.

"I knew they would not leave the restaurant to come to a church" for lessons, Cundiff said. Immigrants to the United States typically "don't want to ask for help and they don't know who to trust."

Cundiff often receives Christmas gifts and Mother's Day cards from former students.

Cundiff gives her students a New Testament in Chinese and English and weaves the gospel presentation into her lessons. While teaching English in Indiana and on volunteer trips to China, Cundiff finds opportunities to share her faith.

"They want to know what I believe, and I have opportunities to answer their questions from my personal point of view," she explained.

A former student asked, "Would you set my feet on the path of being a Christian?"

Communicating with people from other cultures is a gift from God, Cundiff said. "It's what God has given me to do and be responsible for. What little I give to him he multiplies."



**LITERACY LESSON** Jan Cundiff helps a worker in a Chinese restaurant learn to speak and understand English. Cundiff says she often offers to teach lessons at the students' work places because they are more comfortable with familiar surroundings. (BP photo by Sarah Zimmerman)

## Southern Baptists must target college students, director says

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)—Southern Baptists should take a hint from the corporate world and make investing in college students a priority.

So says Bill Henry, director of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's national student ministry.

Henry attended a marketing conference this summer that he said focused on reaching the college market and developing brand loyalty.

"When students go to college, they've basically been using the brands that mom liked," Henry said, quoting information from the conference. "But 30 percent of all college freshmen change their brand loyalty during their first year in college, and by the time they are seniors, 85 percent of them will have switched brands.

"Corporations are realizing if they can invest in students and secure their brand loyalty, they have an excellent chance of keeping them as customers as adults and reaping the profits of their investment year after year," Henry continued.

"If we can help Southern Baptists catch a vision for reaching college students, our denomination will reap the rewards for years to come," Henry predicted. "If we don't, we could lose our impact in the next generation."

Southern Baptists have student work on about 1,000 of the nation's 3,575 college and university campuses. About 14 million students will enroll in college or graduate school this fall; about 16.6 million are expected to enroll during the fall semester of 2005.

Henry said many Southern Baptists fail to understand or appreciate the mission field of college students. "They are more reachable now than they'll ever be. They're idealistic—they want something to be called to that is significant, that is important."

Too many people believe college students will be trying so many things that spending money to reach them is wasteful. The attitude seems to be to let them sow their wild oats now and minister to them when they're more approachable, Henry said.

"But this is the last time these potential leaders will be together," Henry said. "Marketing people know they have a captive audience here."

# KENTUCKY BAPTISTS' BEST KEPT SECRET



**I**nterrobang **?** is a punctuation mark designed for use especially at the end of an exclamatory, rhetorical question. It came into existence in 1967 and is not widely used.

Your **S**tate Baptist Foundation is Kentucky Baptists' best kept secret and is also not widely used. It exists to serve the estate stewardship needs of Baptist individuals and families.

Contact Barry Allen for more information  
about how your state foundation can assist you.

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**Kentucky Baptist Foundation**  
P. O. Box 436389  
Louisville, Kentucky 40253-6389  
(502) 244-6466