

December 10, 1996  
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**FOR THE RECORD**

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## Bible options can overwhelm Christmas gift shoppers

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

LOUISVILLE—If you're planning to buy a Bible for someone this Christmas, you'd better do your homework, say retailers and industry authorities.

Dozens of publishers, all with the same core text, are turning to modern-day translations, study themes and target audiences to increase or maintain sales of the good book, industry representatives said.

"We've been growing at a 10 to 15 percent rate, but the past year we started to flatten out," said Craig Featherstone, director of development for Thomas Nelson Publishers in Nashville. "We have to be more selective about what we publish. To a large degree, we're carving away at one

another's business."

Bibles are available with devotional guides for men, women, couples, parents and teens.

Well-known authors and popular Bible studies also have generated Bibles for their devotees. Add to that the Runner's Bible, the African Heritage Bible and the Book of God (the Bible in novel form).

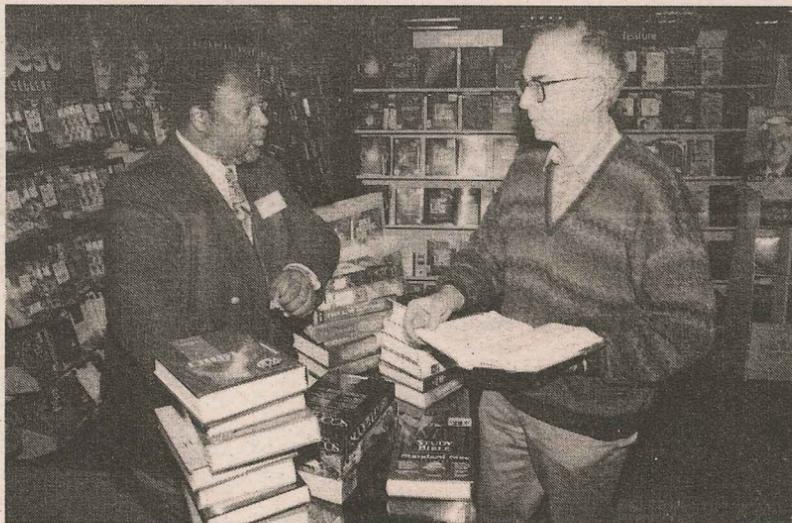
Louisville's Baptist Book Store

has nine shelves filled with Bibles, not to mention Bible-based computer software and accessories.

Sales associate Ben Williams said he gets information from customers before recommending particular Bibles.

"We try to bring them to an area of three to five Bibles they can look at," he said. "If they walk into the Bible

See Bible options ..., page 8



**CHOICES** Ben Williams (left), of the Louisville Baptist Book Store, shows a customer one option from the stores' nine shelves of Bibles.

### Top 5 best-selling youth study Bibles

**1. NIV The Teen Study Bible (Zondervan)**

- ◆ Price Range: \$18-\$52
- ◆ Age/reading level: Ages 12-16
- ◆ Illustrations: Two-color graphics and "Jericho Joe" cartoons
- ◆ Description: Study Bible with features designed exclusively for teens, including easy-to-read, two-color format
- ◆ Features: Different sections review contemporary and controversial issues, scientific facts and questions and personal application; advice column, interesting Bible trivia

**2. NIV The Student Bible**

- ◆ Price Range: \$20-\$67
- ◆ Age/reading level: Ages 17-24
- ◆ Illustrations: 16 pages of full-color maps
- ◆ Description: Updated version of best-selling study Bible for high school and college students
- ◆ Features: Spotlights lives of 100 key Bible figures, three-track reading plan, charts outlining Old Testament, book introductions and overviews, "Highlight and Insight" articles, "Where to Find It" reference section

**3. NIV Youthwalk Devotional Bible (Zondervan)**

- ◆ Price Range: \$18-\$23
- ◆ Age/reading level: Ages 13-18
- ◆ Illustrations: Eight full-color "Wide World of the Word" pages provide Bible information and 15 "Hot Topic" pages review such issues as eating disorders, divorce and hell
- ◆ Description: 260 daily devotions, plus weekend versions, integrated in a complete NIV Bible
- ◆ Features: Devotions from booklets prepared by Walk Thru The Bible Ministries, book introductions, reading plan, subject index

**4. NIV True Love Waits Bible (Broadman & Holman)**

- ◆ Price: \$20
- ◆ Age/reading level: Ages 12-18
- ◆ Illustrations: Contemporary four-color graphics on 48 supplemental pages
- ◆ Description: Directed to help teens in vulnerable areas of sexuality and temptation. Seeks to reinforce spiritual commitment and direct readers to godly counselors, such as pastors and parents
- ◆ Features: Reference system, index of 35 current topics, review of real-life actions and consequences, decision helps, discussions of contemporary issues by youth ministry expert Jay Strack

**5. The Message, Youth Edition (NavPress)**

- ◆ Price: \$15
- ◆ Age/reading level: Junior high through college
- ◆ Illustrations: None
- ◆ Description: Generally, the same edition as adult paraphrase. Designed to interest young people in Bible reading
- ◆ Features: Introductions aimed at young readers appear before each book of the New Testament

### Group lists 'dirty dozen' toys to avoid

WASHINGTON (RNS)—A toy based on the movie "Independence Day" that includes models of buildings that collapse when "bombed" is among the toys a Maryland peacemaking organization is urging parents to avoid this holiday season.

Daphne White, executive director of The Lion & Lamb Project, said the "dirty dozen" toys glorify violence.

"It is up to parents to 'take back' our children from this culture of violence," said White, founder of the organization, which seeks to steer parents away from toys that promote violence.

David Miller, president of the Toy Manufacturers of America, said he empathized with those concerned about violence, but countered: "It's very dangerous as adults to draw conclusions on

See Group hopes ..., page 11

## Southern Baptists ranked No. 1 as volunteers

By David Wintrey  
News Director

VILLANOVA, Pa.—Southern Baptists volunteer an average 3.4 hours per month for their churches, according to a recent study.

That exceeds the average volunteering time from Assemblies of God church members (3.2 hours per month), Lutherans (2.7 hours), Presbyterians (2.7 hours) and Catholics (1.6 hours), according to the report by three college professors.

The report also suggests volunteer time is as vital to church health as financial support.

"Too often, stewardship is viewed as a quick and easy way to help our congregation out of its current financial difficulties," researchers wrote. "Unfortunately, when many pastors say 'stewardship,' what they really mean is 'money.'"

But when a dollar value is assigned to volunteer work, the time Southern Baptists donate equals between 50 percent and 60 percent of the value of their monetary contributions, the report states.

"Churches that have a talented and reliable core of volunteers have less need to pay hired staff to do the necessary work of the church, such as coordinate religious education, staff the nursery, maintain the grounds and provide music at worship," the report states.

The study also noted that in every denomination married members volunteered more time than single or widowed ones. "Could it ... be an indication that our churches are generally doing a poor job of making single, divorced and widowed members feel a part of the congregation family?" the report asked.

Researchers also found:

■ Southern Baptists who belong to larger congregations tend to volunteer more. Those polled who attended churches with 50 to 100 members volunteered an average of 3 hours per month. Polled members of Southern Baptist churches with more than 1,000 members volunteered almost 4 hours per month.

■ Volunteer time increased with household income. Southern Baptist families earning less than \$20,000 re-

ported volunteering 2.3 hours per month. Those making \$80,000 or more reported volunteering 5 hours per month.

■ Volunteerism increased as members' attendance increased. Volunteerism increased from an average of one half hour by Southern Baptists who attend a couple of times a year to 7.6 hours per month by those who attend more than weekly.

■ Volunteerism also increased with education levels, to a point. Southern Baptist high school graduates reported volunteering an average of 2.5 hours per month. Baptists who graduated from college reported serving 4.4 hours per month. But volunteerism among Southern Baptists with a graduate or professional degree dipped slightly to 4.2 hours.

The study summarizes findings of the Lilly Endowment's study of American congregational giving by Charles Zech, professor of economics at Villanova University; Patrick McNamara, professor of sociology at the University of New Mexico; and Dean Hoge, professor of sociology at Catholic University.

Moving? See page 4 (1210)

## Warren declines nomination as NAMB president

By Greg Warner  
Associated Baptist Press

MISSION VIEJO, Calif. (ABP)—Rick Warren, innovative pastor of the Southern Baptist Convention's fastest-growing church, has turned down an invitation to become the first president of the North American Mission Board.

Warren, who founded Saddleback Valley Community Church in Mission Viejo, Calif., in 1980 and developed it into one of the largest churches in the country, told the committee seeking a NAMB president: "Although I consider this position to be the most strategic one in the SBC, God has not released me from my call to Saddleback Church, so I cannot accept your nomination."

Warren was the first and unanimous choice of the 13-member incorporators group assigned to nominate a president for the new agency, which is the centerpiece of a plan to downsize and restructure the SBC's massive bureaucracy. NAMB, created from the merger of three current SBC agencies, will coordinate domestic missions efforts of the SBC.

The merger would bring together the resources of the Home Mission Board, Radio & Television Mission and Brotherhood Commission, while downsizing the staffs of all three. In anticipation of the June merger, staff cuts already are underway at the three agencies, which currently employ about 500 people.

The incorporators group was chosen to recommend a president for NAMB, but only the trustees of the new agency can elect the chief executive. That board will not be constituted officially until the end of the SBC annual meeting in June.

Although a popular church-growth

speaker in recent years, Warren has not been a key player in the SBC's conservative establishment. He has endorsed the SBC's stance on biblical inerrancy but has steered clear of denominational politics.

In a Dec. 1 letter to incorporators, Warren cited three reasons for his decision. In addition to his continued "calling" as pastor of Saddleback Church, he said, "I believe I can best help NAMB's task of planting churches by continuing to experiment with new approaches at Saddleback." Innovative churches can serve as the SBC's "research and development department," field-testing new evangelism and ministry concepts, he said.

Finally, he said, "the demands of the new NAMB president would severely limit the amount of time that I could invest in actually training pastors." In the past decade, more than 30,000 pastors and church leaders from 63 denominations and 42 countries have been trained in the principles employed at Saddleback.

Warren, who preaches in casual clothes and seldom wears a suit, would have presented a leadership style quite different from that of most Southern Baptist agencies. While that apparently made him attractive to the search committee, even his friends wondered if he could change the corporate culture prevalent in the denomination's agencies.

In his Dec. 1 letter, Warren praised the search committee for its "openness to change."

C.B. Hogue, chairman of the incorporators group, said the search for a presidential nominee now will continue with "other candidates who are within the process." However, he declined to specify how many other prospective nominees are under consideration.

## First five employees cut in merger

FORT WORTH, Texas (ABP)—Five employees of the Southern Baptist Radio & Television Commission learned Dec. 4 that they will lose their jobs in a few weeks—the first wave of personnel cuts resulting from the merger of three Southern Baptist Convention agencies.

As part of a massive downsizing of the SBC, the RTVC, Home Mission Board and Brotherhood Commission are being melded into a new North American Mission Board, an Atlanta-based agency to direct the denomination's evangelism and church-starting efforts.

Anxious denominational employees have been waiting for months for the cuts to start. It now appears the downsizing will begin as a trickle and not a flood. No terminations are expected from the Home Mission Board or the Brotherhood Commission before January, according to officials at the two agencies.

First to go at the RTVC are two high-level secretaries, two print shop employees and one person in marketing.

RTVC President Jack Johnson said there will be more terminations at the Fort Worth agency but he declined to say how many.

Because the RTVC's radio and television production facilities will continue to operate in Fort Worth after the merger, many of the agency's employees will not face termination or transfer, he said. However, the finance, support and other functions of the three agencies will be consolidated into NAMB's At-

lanta office.

Johnson said the cuts were beginning now, instead of waiting until June, because the employees "are better off being notified early."

According to terms of a severance package approved by a transition team, employees whose jobs are eliminated will receive four weeks' notice of termination and one week of pay for each year of denominational service, up to a maximum of six months.

The three agencies currently have about 500 employees. The new North American Mission Board is expected to employ from 300 to 375 people, according to various sources close to the process.

The Brotherhood Commission, based in Memphis, Tenn., already has lost 27 people to attrition—most of whom have not been replaced. The agency is still with about 60 employees, and only about 25 have told administrators they are interested in moving to Atlanta if asked. Insiders say as few as 15 are likely to end up in Atlanta.

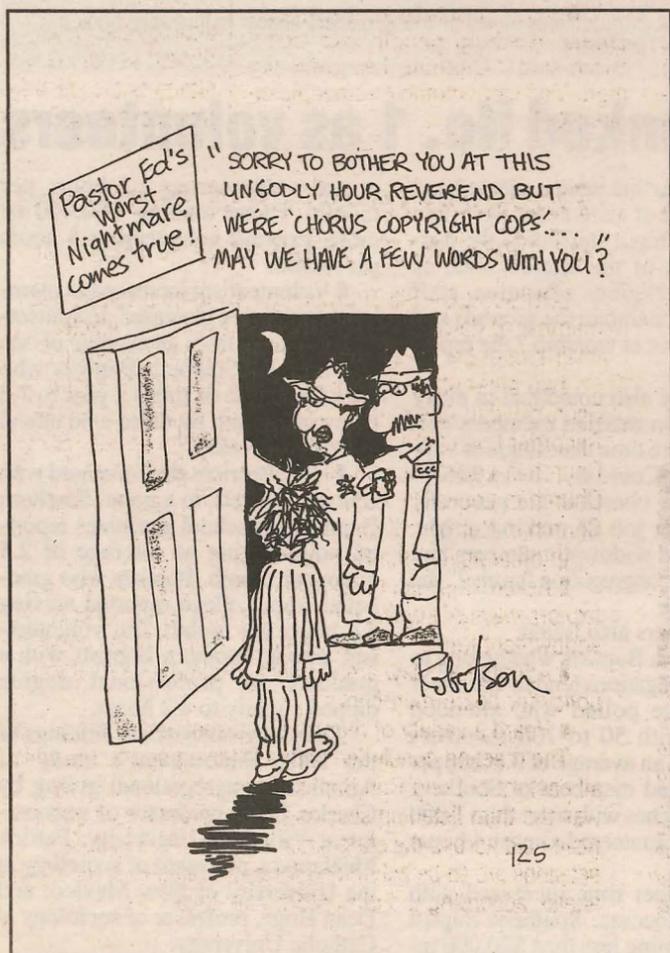
The Home Mission Board, whose new headquarters north of Atlanta will house NAMB, now has about 350 employees. Employees recently were told to expect no terminations before January.

Spokesman Marty King said Dec. 5 no cuts can be made until NAMB's organizational structure is unveiled by the implementation task force overseeing the merger. A proposed structure has been presented to the presidents of all three agencies and a final draft is expected before Christmas.

## Mercer trustees defend Godsey

MACON, Ga. (ABP)—Trustees of Mercer University have defended President Kirby Godsey against charges that a recent book he wrote contains heresy. Mercer trustees unanimously adopted a resolution Dec. 5 supporting Godsey, under fire from Georgia Baptists over his book "When We Talk About God ... Let's Be Honest." The trustees' response will be reported to the Georgia Baptist Convention's executive committee Dec. 10. That group passed a resolution in September asking Mercer trustees to formally respond to concerns about the book.

The Georgia Baptist resolution charged that Godsey's book "departed significantly from Baptist doctrine" and injured the state convention, which sponsors Mercer, the nation's second-largest Baptist university.



## End of an era: Broadman Commentary out of print

NASHVILLE (ABP)—The Broadman Bible Commentary, a library of Southern Baptist pastors' libraries for more than two decades, has been removed quietly from the shelves of Baptist Book Stores and other sales outlets.

While the commentary occasionally formed a dividing line in the struggle between moderates and conservatives in the Southern Baptist Convention during the 1980s, it was weak sales—not theology—that eventually led to the product's demise, said a spokesman for the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville.

But one of the commentary's authors said the decision indicates the Sunday School Board wants to get rid of books that don't support the views of conservatives.

According to the Sunday School Board, the commentary series went out of print in September. It was one of about 100 book titles taken out of print during the 1995-96 fiscal year, said spokesman Charles Willis.

Managers of Baptist Book Stores were ordered in late November to remove remaining commentaries from the shelves. Willis said bookstore managers were told if they wanted any remaining copies, they could have them.

Officials at Broadman & Holman, the Sunday School Board's publishing arm, evaluate titles when annual sales drop below 500 units, Willis said. Only two of the commentary's 12 volumes sold more than 500 copies last fiscal year, he reported, while one volume sold only 38. The best-selling volume sold 663.

"Interest on the part of customers in our stores and others seems to be shifting more toward newer commentaries," like Broadman & Holman's New American Commentary or other titles by other publishers, Willis said.

But Frank Stagg, author of the Broadman commentaries on Matthew and Philippians, blamed lagging sales on a lack of marketing and the fact the commentary is no longer used and promoted in seminary classes.

The Broadman commentary was published between 1969 and 1971, which means the newest volume is 25 years old. From the start, many conservative Southern Baptists felt the series was too liberal.

In an early show of force, conservatives won an overwhelming vote at 1970 Southern Baptist Convention to recall the first volume—on Genesis and Exodus—over alleged liberalism.

British scholar Henton Davies wrote the section on Genesis. Contro-

versy erupted over his use of the "documentary hypothesis," the idea that the first five books of the Bible were compiled from four distinct sources and not written by Moses, as scholars assumed before the 19th century.

Another issue that touched controversy was Davies' non-literal treatment of Genesis 22, where he questioned whether God really commanded Abraham to kill his son Isaac.

Messengers at the 1970 SBC annual meeting in Denver overwhelmingly asked the Sunday School Board to recall the volume one and have it rewritten from a more conservative point of view.

After Davies declined to rewrite the book, the editorial committee recruited Clyde Francisco, a professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, to undertake the task. The volume, with minor changes, was re-released in 1973 as "Volume 1, Revised."

In 1987, Sunday School Board trustees voted to launch a new multi-volume commentary series to be written from an "inerrantist" perspective. So far, 21 volumes of the new commentary have been released, Willis said. Another volume is due in December, and a total of 44 volumes are projected.

## 'Vampire murders' send wake-up call, pastors say

By David Winfrey  
News Director

MURRAY—The arrests of Murray teenagers in connection with the murder of a Florida couple has sent a wake-up call to families, according to pastors in the community.

Since the murders last month, Murray residents have been interviewed by a variety of print and broadcast media.

The murders in Florida drew national attention because police claim those involved were part of a "vampire cult," based in Murray.

"It's been crazy down here," said Terry Ellis, pastor of First Baptist Church of Murray.

"The media would really like to portray the community as absolutely paralyzed by this, and that is not the case," he said.

Ellis said he understands that what started out as a teenage club with Victorian themes developed into a more sinister group.

"When it started getting bizarre, nearly all the kids got out of it," he added. What was left were a couple of troubled youth and a few others who wanted attention and were mal-

leable, he said.

"This is not a tip of the iceberg event," he said. "There's a lot more frenzy over the media than there is over the kids involved in this."

"I'm not saying it's not a big deal," he added. "It is, but what's a big deal about it to me is that it can be an influence in any community. . . . This is not a reflection on the community. It is a reflection of what our kids can be exposed to."

Glynn Orr, pastor of Westside Baptist Church, called the incident a sobering wake-up call for parents in that church.

"It has brought an awareness to parents that they really do need to be more closely in touch with what their children are doing and who they are associating with," he said.

Ellis agreed, adding the incident proves no town, no matter how isolated, can consider itself exempt from the impact of television, radio and other aspects of a global communications village.

"No community is immune from the influences of culture," Ellis said.

"That means as parents we're going to have to monitor that very, very closely."

**"This is not a tip of the iceberg event."**

*Terry Ellis, pastor of First Baptist Church of Murray*

## Byrdwell to change roles at Kentucky WMU

Anna Mary Byrdwell will assume a new position with Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union effective Jan. 1.

Byrdwell, who has held various positions with Kentucky WMU since 1967, will become WMU associate. In that role, she will carry general responsibilities for promoting WMU, with particular emphasis on working with associational WMU directors and directors of missions as well as local church WMU directors. She also will coordinate the new Christian Women's Job Corps program in Kentucky.



Byrdwell

She succeeds Carol Noffsinger, who left the staff to become executive director of Hospital Hospitality House in Louisville.

Since 1985, Byrdwell has given leadership to Kentucky WMU's work with Baptist Women, the adult organization now known as Women on Mission. Earlier, she held specific responsibilities for work with young women, teenagers and preschoolers.

"Because of our renewed emphasis on direct contact with each church, her years of experience and the fact that she knows so many associational and church WMU directors, pastors and directors of missions personally will be very valuable," said Kay Trisler, executive director of Kentucky WMU.

The staff of Kentucky WMU is organized around the executive director and four associate positions with equal levels of responsibility. Three of those positions carry specific age-graded emphases.

The personnel committee of Kentucky WMU currently is seeking someone to fill Byrdwell's previous role as Women on Mission associate. Resumes should be addressed to Trisler at Box 436569, Louisville, Ky. 40223.

## Lexington church distributes clothing, care

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

LEXINGTON—It's not exactly a tent revival, but a clothing room ministry sponsored by Lexington-area Baptists is meeting an important need by distributing shoes and clothes from a Christian perspective, said the center's volunteer director.

"You have a highlight every week—something that gives you hope," said Lynn Birch, a member of Immanuel Baptist Church. "We have a special ministry with a few people who understand about salvation."

An outreach of Elkhorn Baptist Association, the clothing distribution center has seen a steady increase in clientele. In early September it added Monday hours from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It previously had been open only on Wednesdays.

Volunteers served more than 1,000 people during the 1995-96 church year, but with expanded hours an average of 60 to 65 people are being helped each week.

Located at 250 Rodes Ave., the clothing room occupies five rooms on the first floor of a two-story house owned by Calvary Baptist Church.

Birch said the 20 volunteers who staff the operation come primarily

from Immanuel, Porter Memorial and Broadway Baptist churches, but many of the association's 87 members provide donations.

"There are some very positive things coming out of there," said Jerry Wilkes, Elkhorn's director of missions. "It's one of our outstanding projects. It meets a need and it's something all the churches can plug into."

Due to spotty record-keeping, nobody is sure how long the clothing center has been open. Birch "conservatively" estimates 35 years.

During that time, it has operated from numerous locations—four during the eight years Birch has been director. Its nomadic existence has proved a drawback, she said, because it takes people time to learn about the moves.

The ministry functions with little monetary support, and Birch said those who keep it running are very dedicated. The staff ranges in age from 18 to 82.

"You couldn't pay people any amount of money to do what they do, to unload all this clothing, carry it in and put it up," she said.

In the past, some have questioned the validity of the mission because volunteers don't record a lot of people making professions of faith in

Jesus, Birch said.

She said she has invited churches to supply people to help with the evangelistic task, but they never responded.

But personal ministry still occurs in quiet ways, she added. For example, a volunteer recently gave a lot of personal attention to a couple who both suffer from heart trouble. The woman is not expected to live long.

As they were leaving, the man told Birch, "This past year has been the most difficult time of my life but God's presence has been more real to me than at any time in my life."

When she assured him that God answers prayer, he replied, "I know that because he already has."

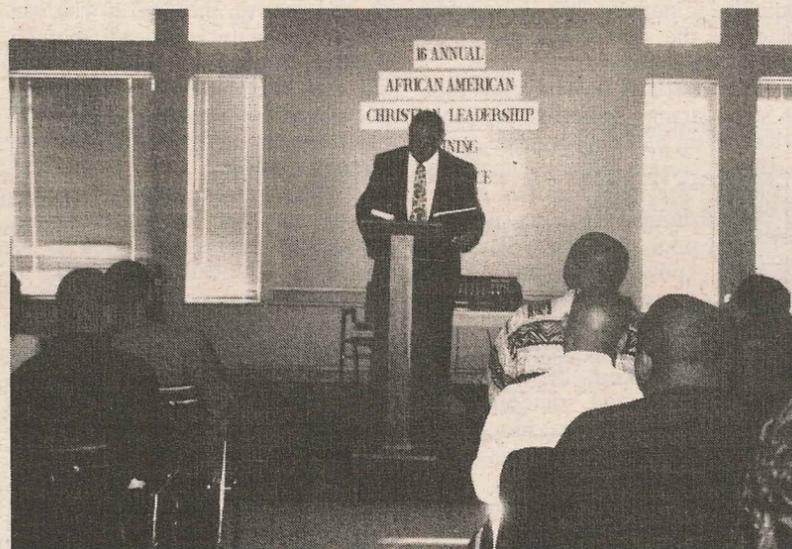
The clothing room has served some impoverished families for three generations, she said, but it also gives help to the working poor who live on tight budgets.

One grandmother whose family gets her clothes there has a daughter in college. But until the younger woman finishes school their income will remain fairly modest, the director said.

"We don't just help the down-and-outers, we help people like that," Birch said. "Clothing has gone sky high. You can't clothe four people on one job."

### Correction:

In a story about genetics in the Western Recorder's Nov. 26 edition, Pat Murphy, a medical geneticist from Washington, was incorrectly quoted as saying one likely outcome of the Human Genome Project is an attempt to create a "super race." Murphy should have been quoted as saying such attempts are not a likely result of the project.



**TRAINING CONFERENCE** More than 84 college students gathered for the 16th African-American Christian Leadership Training Conference Nov. 22-24. The event, sponsored by the student work department of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, is designed to strengthen ministries to African-Americans on Kentucky campuses. Keith Harris, a trainer during the 1996 Summer Olympics, and Willie Alexander, campus minister at Alabama A&M, were among the featured speakers. Alexander told students they must discipline themselves if they intend to make a difference in their schools. Flecia Shields, a senior at Northern Kentucky University, coordinated the program, and Ivan Williamson, a junior at Morehead State University, was elected the group's new president.

## Thurman re-elected chairman of Western Recorder's board

LOUISVILLE—Bill Thurman, a Lexington attorney and member of Calvary Baptist Church, has been re-elected chairman of the Western Recorder's board of directors.

Two other officers, Vice Chairman Rusty Ellison and Secretary Jim Abernathy, also were re-elected during the Recorder board's Dec. 5-6 meeting at Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville. Ellison is pastor of Cedar Creek Baptist Church in Louisville; Abernathy is pastor of Latonia Baptist Church in Northern Kentucky.

In other action, the Recorder board:

- Asked Thurman to appoint an ad hoc committee to explore ways of significantly increasing the Recorder's endowment funds with the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.

- Adopted a bylaw amendment creating an attendance policy for board members.

- Heard a variety of reports on current and future projects.

The meeting concluded with a listening session to which all pastors of Long Run Baptist Association were invited. This was the third listening session the Recorder's staff and board have held across the state since August. More listening sessions are to be scheduled for other regions in the months ahead, according to Editor Mark Wingfield.

## WESTERN RECORDER

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

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## Saving souls on the subway

By Dale Hanson Bourke

The Metro train roared by the assembled morning commuters, screeching to a stop as we inched our way toward the edge of the platform. As I hopped on to the train I saw the one open seat on the car.

I moved deliberately toward it, pleased at the good fortune that would give me the chance to read my newspaper without acrobatic maneuvers.

"Good morning," said the man sitting next to me.

I smiled, surprised by his greeting. The subway rules of etiquette generally preclude talking except for the occasional "excuse me" needed to elbow your way through the crowd.

I was halfway through the front page when his voice startled me again. "Lots of bad news today, isn't there?"

I glanced toward him, sizing him up. He looked normal enough. Didn't appear to be a tourist. "Uh huh," I responded.

I was feeling guilty for being so rude when he launched in once more. "I can't imagine what people do who have no hope," he said. I must have looked confused, because he rushed on to explain: "Yes, once I had no hope myself. And then I found the answer ..."

People were beginning to look at

us as the man's voice rose. I knew they thought I was encouraging him.

"It says in Romans 3:23, 'For all have sinned ...'"

For the first time I realized the man was trying to witness to me. Did I look particularly sinful this morning? As his voice grew louder I realized he was nervous, feeling compelled to walk me through the Bible before the train stopped and I escaped to a lost life.

"Wait a minute," I said. "I know."

"Yes, many people know with their head," he said. "But unless you know in your heart ..."

"No. I mean I know that verse. I mean ..."

I tried to find a way to let the man down gently. To thank him for his efforts but to let him know that he could save his breath. People were staring at us now and he was breaking into a sweat as he tried to talk more quickly over my protests.

Then I heard the conductor announce the next station—my stop.

"I have to go," I said to the man. "Thanks very much," I said lamely as I stood to leave the train.

But he wasn't about to give up on me. He called to my back as I left the train, "The wages of sin is death ..."

I stood on the platform for a moment as the train roared off, trying to

sort my feelings. I knew the man meant well. But I already believed, and his unwillingness to hear me was frustrating.

And yet I also wondered if maybe I was missing something.

Day after day I sit next to strangers on the subway. Some look unhappy, even desperate. If I really believed, maybe I should be acting more like the man. Maybe I should be acting more like a lunatic and less like a polite commuter.

Later that day, I read some of the accounts of Jesus interacting with strangers. "Do you want to get well?" Jesus asks the man who cannot walk. "Why do you call me good?" he asks the rich young ruler. "Will you give me a drink?" he asks the Samaritan woman at the well.

In almost every case, Jesus asks a question and then he pauses to listen. Even though he knew he had the answer to the person's pain, he offered each individual the opportunity to choose. Jesus was never in a hurry to tell; he always had time to ask.

During this holy season for Christians it is natural to proclaim and preach a little more to a world that seems increasingly secular. But perhaps instead of being in such a hurry to tell, Christians should follow Jesus' example and take more time to ask. In doing so, we might learn more about each other and about the one whose birth we celebrate. (RNS)

Kippers said. I wonder if we have become so tolerant of everything that we hardly stand for anything.

Annette Morris  
Mayfield

■ The Western Recorder welcomes letters from readers expressing opinions on issues reported in the paper or of general interest to the paper's readership. See the letters section at left for guidelines.

is a wholeness about the man or woman who has learned that he or she is strong enough to go through a tragedy and survive, the person who can lose someone through death, through divorce, through estrangement, and still feel like a complete person and not just part of a broken couple. You have been through the worst and come through it whole.

"When we have lost part of ourselves and can continue rolling through life and appreciating it, we will have achieved a wholeness to which others can only aspire.

"Life is not a trap set for us by God, so that he can condemn us for failing. Life is not a spelling bee, where no matter how many words you have gotten right, if you make one mistake you are disqualified. Life is more like a baseball season, where even the best team loses one-third of its games and even the worst team has its days of brilliance.

"Our goal is not to go all year without ever losing a game. Our goal is to win more than we lose, and if we can do that consistently enough, then when the end comes, we will have won it all."

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

## COMMENTARY



## Waste of time

On page 12 of the Nov. 26 edition, I see listed quite a few names of peo-

ple on an "advisory committee." Religious freedom advisory panel, is it? Part of the Clinton administration's commitment to finding "new and creative means" to deal with human rights crises around the world, I read on.

Knowing the severe background of several of these individuals, and the faiths of five others, it's hard to believe that the combined effort will be nothing short of a waste of time and possibly harm will be done as Mrs.

## The missing piece

The following is a story taken from Rabbi Harold Kushner's latest book, "How Good Do We Need to Be?"

"Once there was a circle that was missing a piece. A large triangular wedge had been cut out of it. The circle wanted to be whole, with nothing missing, so it went around looking for its missing piece. But because it was incomplete, it could only roll very slowly through the world. And as it rolled slowly, it admired the flowers along the way. It chatted with butterflies. It enjoyed the sunshine.

"It found lots of pieces, but none of them fit. Some were too big and some were too small. Some were too square and some too pointy. So it left them all by the side of the road.

"Then one day it found a piece that fit perfectly. It was so happy. Now it could be whole, with nothing missing. It incorporated the missing piece into itself and began to roll. Now that it was a perfect circle, it could roll very fast, too fast to notice the flowers, too fast to talk to the butterflies. When it realized how different the world

seemed when it rolled through it so quickly, it stopped, left its missing piece by the side of the road, and rolled slowly away.

"The lesson of the story was that, in some strange sense, we are more whole when we are incomplete, when we are missing something.

The man who has everything is in some ways a poor man. He will never know what it feels like to yearn, to hope, to nourish his soul with the dream of something better. He will never know the experience of having someone who loves him give him something he has always wanted and never had.

"There is a wholeness about the person who can give himself away, who can give his time, his money, his strength, to others and not feel diminished when he does so. There is a wholeness about the person who has come to terms with his limitations, who knows who he is and what he can and cannot do; the person who has been brave enough to let go of his unrealistic dreams and not feel like a failure for doing so. There

## ON MISSION TOGETHER



William W. Marshall



## Plan ahead to avoid the Christmas Crunch

By Jewell Nelson

'Twas weeks before Christmas and all through the mall, the pressure was building—and it was hardly even fall!

Now, it is almost Christmas and the pressure has turned to crunch. If you are beginning to say, "I'll be glad when it's over!" Clip this column and begin planning to enjoy Christmas 1997 while Christmas 1996 is fresh in your mind.

Start three Christmas season lists. Post them for easy access.

1. *Things we must do at Christmas but we do not necessarily enjoy.* Get these tasks out of the way as early as possible in 1997. Delegate responsibilities, hire extra help or change your attitude.

2. *Things we always do but we do not really enjoy and do not need to do.* Brainstorm ways to eliminate or reduce these activities.

3. *Things we really enjoy doing during the Christmas season.* Wrap your family in these holiday activities and enjoy. Even enjoyable activities can create pressure. Be wise, prioritize:

■ Accentuate the true reason for the season.

■ Plan for family members, especially young children, to get adequate rest and good nutrition.

■ Make a Christmas budget and stick with it. Limit your own children's list of gifts.

■ Make gifts for others.

■ Simplify entertainment and say no to some invitations.

■ Set traditions, if you have not. Traditions to remember might include a parent reading from Luke 2 by the Christmas tree; making cookies; singing carols with the family; taking gifts or food to the needy (add your own).

■ Christmas is a time for children. Make it meaningful. Too soon they grow, and have their own plans, families and miles to travel. Christmas may even then be reduced to a day or a few hours.

■ Then you will have plenty of time to entertain adult friends; go to fancy adult gatherings; or, curl up by the fire and remember with delight the joys of Christmas when your children were young.

Jewell Nelson is associate director of the KBC's Sunday school 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

### To David & Mary Marcia: Give yourselves the gift of laughter

#### SHESAID



Alison Wingfield

In honor of some friends who are getting married this weekend, this column is dedicated to advice for newlyweds from some oldyweds.

My grandfather had some of the best advice I've ever heard for couples. (He and my grandmother celebrated 56 wonderful years of marriage before he died.) At a wedding shower, the groom-to-be asked Granddaddy what advice he had for a couple just starting out. My grandfather thought for a

minute and said: "Don't let the little things get you."

How true. Because if you can't handle the little things, like the way he folds the towels, or the way she crunches tortilla chips, what chance do you have when the big things come along? And come they will.

When you do let the little things get to you—which you invariably will—be quick to get it out in the open and get it over with, even if that's not your nature.

I am a stewer. I let things build and build until one tiny match sets the whole thing ablaze and I explode like a massive volcano. This is not a good way to handle day-to-day relations. Mark has learned to figure out my boiling point and usually can diffuse the situation before it gets too hot.

Talking and listening are two other key ingredients to a healthy marriage. It's amazing how quickly those long, drawn-out phone calls you had during the courtship can turn into short, pithy sentences across the dinner table. "How was your day?" "Fine. How about yours?" "Lousy." "That's nice. Pass the salt please."

Above all, if you don't remember any other advice, remember the female credo: If something goes wrong, it's always his fault.

#### HESAID



Mark Wingfield

Alison's parting sentence is partially true. A secret to surviving in marriage is to remember that whatever goes wrong, it's always the man's fault in her eyes. You don't have to believe it's your fault; you just have to act like you believe it's your fault. Once you admit that, it suddenly doesn't matter whether it was your fault.

Now here's some corresponding advice to aspiring grooms:

■ Never forget that the wedding is her show. You are a necessary accessory who is to be seen and not heard.

When asked a direct question, the safe answer always is "Yes, dear." It's not by accident that the groom's cake is smaller than the bride's cake.

■ Anyone who tells you two can live as cheaply as one is either a liar or untrustworthy with money.

■ Never volunteer to start taking out the trash, or you'll be doing it the rest of your life.

■ There's a reason people often use that phrase, "The honeymoon's over." You'll know when, and it may not be before the honeymoon is officially over.

■ Regardless of how much you think you know about sex, you don't know half as much as you think.

■ If you think this column makes light of the serious nature of marriage, you may be missing the point. It's true that love covers a multitude of sins, but only when you are able to keep laughing together will you know how seriously blessed marriage can be.

## Clinton bashing isn't biblically sound

Over the last four years, a large segment of the Christian community has nurtured harsh criticism of the president of the United States into a spiritual discipline. Unfortunately, the form these criticisms have taken has no spiritual basis, whether the president is right or wrong on issues Christians care about.

For example, the latest issue of Jerry Falwell's newspaper, the National Liberty Journal, features numerous pages of malicious attacks on the president and first lady backed up with virtually no solid facts at all. Hollywood gossip columnists have higher ethical standards than Falwell's innuendo about the president.

If Falwell truly has evidence that Bill Clinton or Hillary Clinton has committed a crime, he ought to file charges or hand over that evidence to authorities. Apparently he has no evidence, because all he keeps doing is stirring the pot without giving any solid content.

But given the current climate, those kinds of attacks help rally the troops and build the televangelist's financial base. By hawking an array of absurd videos and books, Falwell has made a cottage industry out of Clinton-bashing.

But he's not alone among Baptists. James Merritt, a prominent Georgia pastor who has made several recent appearances at events in Kentucky including this year's Pastors' Conference, uses disdain for the president as a sermon device. He justifies his crowd-pleasing attacks on the president by saying, "Every David needs a Nathan."

That reference to the godly prophet who confronted King David over his sin with Bathsheba might apply, except it twists the clear reading of the biblical text. Nathan confronted David individually, face-to-face. He didn't talk about David before hundreds of people without David present. He didn't use David's sin as a source of scoring hearty "Amens" from the

children of Israel.

If God truly has appointed Merritt to be Bill Clinton's Nathan, Merritt ought to get on the next flight to Washington and deliver God's message personally—and with the humility Nathan demonstrated.

Other preachers and other laypeople are equally guilty of throwing a spiritual costume over their bitter partisan politics. Brothers and sisters, this ought not

be. It makes us a poor reflection of the image of Christ in our world—and it directly contradicts the commands of Scrip-

ture.

Yes, there is plenty of room for concerned Christians to find fault with the president's actions and perspectives. We don't have to like the man, and we certainly don't have to endorse everything he does. We can speak to the issues without vilifying the person.

There's a clear line between pointing out the mud the pigs wallow in and getting down in the mud alongside the pigs so you can say how awful it is and sling some of it yourself.

Listen to these words from 1 Peter 2:12-17: "Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men. Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God. Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king."

Let us beware not to let our agitation about the president's alleged sins drag us into sin.

—Mark Wingfield

## Despite election, God's still on his throne

By Charles Colson

Our national obsession with competitiveness manifests itself in many ways, from lambasting Little League referees to rigging bids for the higher cause of beating a competitor.

Accordingly, when our side loses, the loss often takes on cosmic proportions, as we are currently seeing in post-election moping by some traditionalists.

Such despair not only betrays conservative ideals but compromises the singular message of transcendent hope that traditionalists bring to public life. It is also painfully loud. In some corners the wailing is so loud one might think Beelzebub had won re-election.

While I have deep differences with this president, especially on what are dismissively called social issues, the fact is Bill Clinton has followed a traditional path to power, one that pays homage to the centrist nature of American politics.

What's off-target is the worldview that justifies throwing a tantrum when the other side wins. It is an attitude clearly based on the belief that government stands at the center of life, so when the other side is on the throne all is lost. Traditionalists who allow themselves to be overcome by post-

election gloom have in effect admitted disbelief in their own traditions.

Most of the people who founded this nation shared two characteristics: strong religious faith and a pronounced wariness of government, with faith meant to stand independent of state power and to temper it.

This is not to deny that some Americans have sought to make government the embodiment of transcendence.

Jefferson's victory over John Adams in the presidential race of 1800 unleashed waves of woe from some religious leaders. "Nothing short of fatal experience will open the eyes of the deluded multitudes," opined one Presbyterian.

Similarly, early Christian patriots mistook Whig values for the gospel itself.

This conflation of faith and power led New England pastor Samuel Sherwood to declare that "God Almighty, with all the powers of heaven, is on our side." He warned that God's wrath would be visited on all who did not make common cause with "the Lord's anointed" in the Revolutionary cause.

This sort of alliance may win a few battles but loses the larger war. How? Because it severely compromises religious witness, robbing it of its independence and reducing it to a mere

matter of partisanship. With saints converted to ward bosses, the message of the ages takes on the nature of yet another plea from one more special interest group.

This is exactly what we don't need today. We need instead to be reminded of the central tenet of our belief—that God is on his throne and will stay there no matter who temporarily occupies the Oval Office.

It is true that traditionalists aren't always welcome in the public sphere. A recent New Republic story suggests what our nation needs is more atheism, when in truth religion has been pushed so far to the fringe of public life it can only be observed through the Hubble Telescope. Our nation is not in trouble because of too much traditional morality, but because of our supersonic dash away from it.

Traditionalists must soberly question whether our government has begun to cross the line into illegitimacy, whether in its support of that form of infanticide known as partial birth abortion or in the usurpation of the democratic process by the courts.

Speaking truth to power requires that those speaking the truth are independent from those holding the power. Having survived the manipulation of countless princes and a frontal assault by atheistic totalitarianism, our transcendent heritage no doubt will weather the results of the latest presidential election. (RNS)

#### EDITORIAL

#### ANOTHER VIEW

## Religious leaders react to Hawaiian gay marriage ruling

**"Redefining marriage in this way makes the institution of marriage arbitrary, contentless and ultimately meaningless."**  
*Ronald Sider, president of Evangelicals for Social Action*

By Kim Lawton  
*Religion News Service*

WASHINGTON (RNS)—A broad range of religious groups—including evangelicals, Mormons and Muslims—condemned last week's Hawaii Circuit Court decision allowing same-sex marriages in that state. Circuit Court Judge Kevin S.C. Chang ordered Hawaii officials to stop denying marriage licenses to same-sex couples Dec. 3. Chang put his ruling on hold while the state appeals the decision.

Though this was the first legal ruling in the nation to allow gay marriages, the issue will remain in the courts for the next several years.

Jay Sekulow, chief counsel of the American Center for Law and Justice, called the decision an "outrage."

"This issue—and the Hawaii decision—strikes at the core of who we are as a people in this country," said Sekulow, whose group was founded by religious broadcaster Pat Robertson. "Marriage defined as a legal union between man and woman has been around for more than 6,000 years and has served all cultures well."

Will Dodson, the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission's director

of government relations, said the Bible is clear that homosexuality is a sin.

"What is morally wrong should not be a legal right," he said. "There is no reason to believe from the plain meaning of the Hawaii constitution that indeed homosexuality is protected."

Forest Montgomery, counsel for the National Association of Evangelicals' office for governmental affairs, said the Hawaii decision was "symptomatic" of the increasing "proclivity of unelected judges, both state and federal, to discover ever-expanding constitutional rights" not explicitly outlined in the U.S. Constitution.

Many groups objected to the decision on theological grounds.

David Owens, presiding bishop of the Church of God in Christ, a predominantly black Pentecostal denomination headquartered in Memphis, Tenn., said his church believed the ruling will be "a tremendous detriment to the rearing of children who traditionally have been raised according to biblical principles—and that is a mother and a father sharing a home."

However, other religious groups argued that the ruling is in accord with biblical teachings.

"This is about our culture valuing all committed relationships," said

Nancy Wilson, vice-moderator of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, the nation's only predominantly gay Christian denomination.

Metropolitan Community Churches have been performing same-sex "holy union" ceremonies for 28 years.

Wilson claimed same-sex couples are denied more than 200 "legal rights," such as spousal benefits, pension transfers, property inheritance and child custody. "This is about equal rights, not special rights."

Kim Byham, former national president of Integrity, a gay and lesbian caucus within the Episcopal Church, said he hopes the ruling moves the United States "toward the European system of separating the secular and religious aspects of marriage."

But even among "progressive religionists," there was ambivalence about the ruling. As an evangelical, Ronald Sider, president of the Wynnewood, Pa.-based Evangelicals for Social Action, said he believes that homosexual acts "are sinful," but he also insists "Christian love of neighbor demands respect for the civil rights of homosexuals."

Sider said his group supports the freedom of gays and lesbians to in-

herit property and grant the power of attorney to each other. Nonetheless, Sider argued that the issue of same-sex marriage should not be framed in terms of "gay rights," but rather in terms of what constitutes the definition of marriage. On that basis, Sider said he opposes the Hawaii decision because he believes it "defines marriage solely in terms of contractual convenience."

"Redefining marriage in this way makes the institution of marriage arbitrary, contentless and ultimately meaningless," Sider said.

The immediate impact of the Hawaii ruling remains unclear. Hawaii officials have pledged to fight Chang's ruling all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, if necessary.

Under the Full Faith and Credit Clause of the U.S. Constitution, states are usually required to honor the laws of other states. However, the Defense of Marriage Act—adopted by Congress earlier this year and signed into law by President Clinton in late September—gives states the right not to recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states. Anticipating Chang's ruling, many conservative groups had supported the act.

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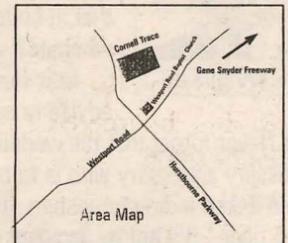


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## Kurdish relief workers begin evacuation

WASHINGTON (RNS)—The first of 5,000 Iraqi dissidents began crossing into Turkey Dec. 4 en route to eventual resettlement in the United States.

The group, mostly Kurds in danger from Saddam Hussein's security forces because they worked for U.S. religious and humanitarian aid agencies, includes hundreds of workers and their families with ties to Baptist relief efforts in that area.

The evacuation represents a major victory for humanitarian and religious

groups who had been working in northern Iraq and who have been pressing for U.S. help in getting their employees out.

The Kurdish workers, who have been working with Western groups since the Gulf War in 1991, have faced the threat of retaliation since August, when Saddam sent troops into the region. The U.S. government previously said the workers faced no real threat from Saddam. Relief workers disagreed.

Kurdish workers are "closely iden-

tified with the Americans and are considered traitors by Saddam," said Paul Smith, a retired Southern Baptist who worked in northern Iraq. "We all know very well what Saddam will do with traitors."

The evacuees include 363 employees and their families who worked with Southern Baptist relief efforts and 30 employees and dependants who worked with Cooperative Baptist Fellowship missionaries.

The workers will be taken to Guam and then re-settled in the U.S.

## Cult watchdog's identity sold to Scientologists

LOS ANGELES (RNS) The basic pieces of identity of the bankrupt Cult Awareness Network—its name, logo, telephone number and post office box—have been sold to a Scientologist lawyer after years of legal wrangling between the Church of Scientology and the anti-cult group.

Steven Hayes purchased the network's identity for \$20,000. Hayes, who is not a Church of Scientology employee, represented several fellow Scientologists in a lawsuit against the network in the early 1990s.

Cult Awareness Network filed under Chapter 7 of the U.S. Bankruptcy

Code in June after a jury ordered the anti-cult group to pay more than \$1 million in a lawsuit involving a Bellevue, Wash., man.

The jury found the network liable for depriving Jason Scott, then 18, of his civil rights after his mother sought to have him deprogrammed of conservative Pentecostal beliefs.

Under Chapter 7 bankruptcy, control of Cult Awareness Network was transferred to an independent trustee, Philip Martino. "I have an asset to sell. It's a name," he said. "I sell it to the highest bidder."

Hayes said he represents a group

of several people "united in their distaste for CAN" who plan to revamp the network so "religions that have been attacked in the past would have an opportunity to at least show what they believe the truth to be."

David Bardin, an attorney who has represented Cult Awareness Network, found the turn of events unsettling.

"It kind of boggles the mind," Bardin said. "People will still pick up the CAN name in a library book and call saying, 'My daughter has joined the Church of Scientology.' And your friendly CAN receptionist is someone who works for Scientology."

## Muslim jailed for forcing two teenage daughters to marry

LINCOLN, Neb. (RNS)—An Iraqi refugee has been jailed on child abuse charges after police accused him of forcing his teenage daughters to marry men twice their age in an Islamic ceremony.

The husbands were charged with rape in cases involving the refugee's 13- and 14-year-old daughters.

The father, a school janitor on disability who was identified only by the first name Salaam, faces up to six months in prison and a \$1,000 fine. He was jailed on \$10,000 bail.

Terry Cannon, a lawyer for the would-be husbands, said the three men did not intend to violate state law when they followed Islamic tradition. "It is a clash between cultural mores and U.S. law," said Cannon, who represents Latif Al-Hussani, 34, and Majed Al-Tamimy, 28.

The two recent immigrants, jailed on \$50,000 bail each, face up to 50 years in prison.

Police said Hussani and the 13-year-old were married against the girl's wishes in a Nov. 9 ceremony at her father's house. The 14-year-old claimed she was forced to marry Tamimy at the same event, but the father allegedly told police Tamimy and the girl merely became engaged.

According to court papers, the two men took the girls to their homes and had sex with them to consummate the marriages. The 14-year-old fled, and her father reported her to police as a runaway. When police found the girl and heard her story, they arrested the men and placed the girls in protective custody.

## 1997 STATE EVANGELISM CONFERENCE LOUISVILLE-AREA ACCOMMODATIONS

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## Know the person you're buying for, salesman suggests

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

LOUISVILLE—Gift shoppers buying a Bible will be less frustrated the more they know about the person receiving the book, said a veteran Christian literature salesman.

Ben Williams of the Baptist Bookstore in Louisville recommended buyers shop with as much information as possible.

"The main thing would be where the person (receiving the Bible) is spiritually," said Williams, who also is pastor of Mount Nebo Baptist Church. "If they are saved, if they are not. If they attend church, if they don't. If they read the Bible, if they don't."

Other important information, he said, would be:

- What translations the recipient's church uses.

- The recipient's age and education level.

- Characteristics of the recipient. Is she analytical, or does he prefer someone else to offer interpretation?

Many elderly people prefer the King James Version, which for years dominated the market and is familiar to seniors who grew up in church, Williams said.

Others may like some form of parallel Bible, which combines King James with one to three more modern versions.

Generally, younger readers like more contemporary styles, such as the New International Version, the recently-released New International Readers Version (designed for third-grade reading levels) and the Living Bible, he said.

Another big seller is the New Adventure Bible, he said. It teaches children how to use the Bible as a study Bible.

"It ... has places where children can understand their relationship with Jesus Christ and how they can help others their age develop that relationship," Williams said.

As adolescents mature, other specialty products are available, he said. For younger teens there is the NIV Teen Study Bible, while the Student Bible is aimed at ages 17-24.

The abstinence movement has generated a True Love Waits Bible.

Aimed at children ages 12 to 18, it includes reviews of teen issues and daily devotions.

There also are numerous selections for adults. Besides the issue of translation, there is the question of whether to buy a study Bible for more in-depth research and meditation.

If people want only general information to supplement their reading, Williams steers them to a reference Bible. While these contain some background material, they aren't loaded with commentaries and footnotes, he said.

On the other hand, those who want to do detailed study can choose from

numerous options, such as a Ryrie, Scofield, Thompson Chain Reference, the Experiencing God Study Bible or the Life

Application Study Bible.

Another consideration for adults is a specialty Bible. Williams said there is one for every taste.

"Whether you're sad, tired or lonely, there are books now where you can look up certain verses, and you should be able to get something out of it."

The choices don't stop after paperback, hard cover, bonded or genuine leather and color.

For the computer literate, the Bible comes in an array of software packages and CD-ROMs. Among the selections are Quick Verse for Windows (\$49) and a Bible reference edition (\$129), PC Study Bible (\$69.95), the Heaven Word audio Bible (\$69), Logos Bible software (\$69.95), Thompson Chain HyperBible (\$199.99) and WordSearch (\$249.95).

Bible accessories include index and Bible tabs, Bible covers with handles, an electronic Bible that reads to the user, and question-and-answer sets designed for use with electronic systems.

"The hand-held electronic Bibles read the same way, except you have to put in batteries and turn it on," Williams said with a chuckle. "Now they even have Bibles that will speak the (difficult) names for you."

He also warned those who haven't purchased a Bible for five or 10 years to be prepared for higher prices. The cost of paper, labor and leather has increased, and that is reflected on the shelves, he said.



### Top 10 best sellers

1. New International Readers Version Kids Study Bible
2. New International Readers Version Kids Devotional Bible
3. The Everyday Study Bible
4. Women's Devotional Bible
5. Men's Devotional Bible
6. The Teen Study Bible
7. The Student Bible
8. New Living Translation
9. Touch Point Bible
10. Life Application Study Bible

Source: Baptist Book Store

### Top 10 Children's Bibles/Bible Storybooks

#### 1. The Beginners' Bible (Questar)

- ◆ Price: \$18
- ◆ Age/reading level: ages 3-8
- ◆ Illustrations: Full-color, appear throughout the book
- ◆ Description: Retells 95 Bible stories from Old and New Testaments
- ◆ Features: Published in "small hands" format, with text designed for beginning readers. Each story designed to instill God's truth in youngsters

#### 2. The Baby Bible Storybook (Chariot Victor)

- ◆ Price: \$11
- ◆ Age/reading level: Ages 1-3
- ◆ Illustrations: Simple, colorful
- ◆ Description: Twenty-three Bible stories that use hand motions and other activities to encourage toddler's participation
- ◆ Features: Sturdy board book pages. Easy to hold size

#### 3. My First Bible in Pictures (Tyndale)

- ◆ Price Range: \$10-\$14
- ◆ Age/reading level: Ages 2-6
- ◆ Illustrations: 125 colorful illustrations
- ◆ Description: Children's Bible story book featuring three-minute Bible stories by Kenneth Taylor
- ◆ Features: Optional handle. Also available in a Catholic edition

#### 4. The Early Reader's Bible (Questar)

- ◆ Price: \$17
- ◆ Age/reading level: ages 3-8
- ◆ Illustrations: Colorful Bible characters and storybook animals
- ◆ Description: Includes 64 Bible stories with questions and real-life applications to increase understanding
- ◆ Features: Written so parents can read the Bible to preschoolers and beginners can read it on their own. Contains list of more than 200 new words, including Bible vocabulary, based on standard public school word lists

#### 5. Toddler's Bible (Chariot Victor)

- ◆ Price: \$17
- ◆ Age/reading level: Ages 1-3
- ◆ Illustrations: More than 400 pages of colorful art
- ◆ Description: More than 100 Bible stories by leading Christian educator Gil Beers
- ◆ Features: Contents page gives story title and Scripture reference. Parent-teacher use page. Optional plastic carrying handle

#### 6. My Mommy and Me Story Bible (Zondervan)

- ◆ Price: \$10
- ◆ Age/reading level: Ages 2-4
- ◆ Illustrations: Full-color art accompanies each story
- ◆ Description: Activity Bible with 80 favorite Bible stories simply told by author Tracy Harrast
- ◆ Features: Each story contains action element that reinforces its message. Encourages interaction between parent and child

#### 7. The Preschooler's Bible (Chariot Victor)

- ◆ Price: \$17
- ◆ Age/reading level: Ages 3-5
- ◆ Illustrations: Features multicultural artwork
- ◆ Description: Bible whose artwork, words and phrases are all within the young child's reach; builds on publisher's Toddler's Bible
- ◆ Features: Index of stories by Bible doctrine and topic. Also has indexes by Scripture content and "character values taught"

#### 8. The Toddler's Activity Bible (Thomas Nelson)

- ◆ Price: \$10
- ◆ Age/reading level: From birth to 3 years
- ◆ Illustrations: Full-color artwork
- ◆ Description: Introduces young children to the Bible by helping them connect its teachings with every-day experiences
- ◆ Features: Contains 22 stories related to Bible verses from the Contemporary English Version, with activities to enhance learning. Includes introduction for parents on its purpose and how it meets toddler's needs

#### 9. The First Step Bible (Questar)

- ◆ Price: \$16
- ◆ Age/reading level: ages 1-3
- ◆ Illustrations: Variety of illustration perspectives and art work
- ◆ Description: Designed as a first Bible for toddlers, intended to lead to the Beginner's Bible as child matures
- ◆ Features: First-person stories aimed at heightening Biblical events and experiences. Interactive text with humor, questions and discoveries to help parents be good readers

#### 10. NIV Read With Me Bible (Zondervan)

- ◆ Price: \$17
- ◆ Age/reading level: ages 4-8
- ◆ Illustrations: Full-color pictures on each page
- ◆ Description: Introduces children to Bible stories and acquaints with NIV
- ◆ Features: Text adapted from NIV. Covers 106 of Bible's best-loved stories. Easy for young readers or for adults to read to young children

### Bible options can overwhelm Christmas gift buyers

Continued from page 1

section on their own, they can be overwhelmed."

The Christian Booksellers Association in Colorado Springs, Colo., lists more than 40 Bible publishers in its suppliers' directory.

A spokesman for Spring Arbor Distributors estimated there are 3,800 Bible identification numbers, which accounts for every color, binding, translation and study-note variation. This staggering number represents a \$200 million market, according to the New York Times.

How long can the market bear such numbers? In Louisville, the Baptist Book Store reported a 15 percent increase in Bible sales this year. But nationwide Bible sales appear to be leveling off. Some publishers wonder if they have reached the satura-

tion point.

In a society where everything from cereal to clothing to cars comes in a dazzling array of choices, it isn't surprising Bibles do too. Ron Weide of Navpress in Colorado Springs said this probably will continue as technology makes it easier to target specific consumer groups.

Still, the product manager for The Message—Navpress' paraphrase that has sold more than 1.7 million copies in four years—sees spiritual cravings behind the plethora of Scripture offerings.

"From our perspective it seems society has gone through cycles, from recovery to looking for meaning," Weide said. "It seems like people are coming back to wanting to hear what God has to say, obey it and put it into effect."

# BIBLES

## Bible has great market penetration but lousy usage

By Marv Knox  
Texas Baptist Standard

OXNARD, Calif. (ABP)—What gift will be received gratefully at Christmas and be largely ignored by January?

It's not the latest litter of Dalmatians from Disney. It's the Bible.

More Americans own Bibles than any other product in the nation, but most rarely read it. Even more know practically nothing about it, according to a recent study by the Barna Research Group. The study was commissioned earlier this year by Tyndale House Publishers.

More than nine out of 10 American households own a Bible, Barna discovered. More than three out of four homes have two or more Bibles.

"Coke, Apple, Proctor & Gamble—they'd kill for a (market) penetration level of this magnitude," George Barna declared in the latest issue of his newsletter.

Furthermore, the Bible is revered by many Americans, Barna said.

"In a typical month, some 100 million adults claim to read the Bible other than at church," he reported. "In fact, an estimated 75 million (42 percent) said that reading the Bible is very important to them."

Major motivations for Bible reading are "to address personal crisis situations, to glean practical ideas on how to live a better life, to gain spiritual guidance and to feel closer to God," the study discovered.

"Even those who generally do not read the Bible—and that includes almost half the adult public—express positive attitudes toward the Bible," Barna noted.

However, many non-readers cite difficulty in understanding Bible passages as a deterrent to reading it, he said. Not surprisingly, they also feel reading the Bible holds little value for them.

That may be due to their choice in Bibles. The King James Version is by far the most frequently used Bible translation, despite its 400-year-old vernacular.

The King James is the translation of choice for 37 percent of Bible readers, the study found. That's more than five times the usage of the next-closest rival, the New International Version (7 percent). Other translations cited by Bible readers were the New King James (3 percent), Contemporary English (2 percent) and the New American Standard (2 percent).

Twenty-one percent select other translations, and 28 percent aren't sure what translation they read.

Translations aside, Americans hold the Bible in high regard, the Barna poll revealed. Eighty percent of Americans said the Bible is the most influential book in world history. It got 16 times as many votes as the next-closest, "Dr. Spock's Common Sense Book of Baby and Child Care."

But regardless of what Americans think about the Bible, many know very little about its contents.

On the positive side, 90 percent of Americans know the Bible teaches

"Jesus was crucified, died, rose from the dead and is spiritually alive today; that Jesus was born to a virgin; and that eventually all people will be judged by God," the poll found.

"But there is undeniably a substantial degree of biblical ignorance in America today," Barna asserted.

"For instance, we discovered that three out of four adults (72 percent) believe that people are blessed by God so that they can enjoy life as much as possible," he said. "This is an American cultural lesson, but certainly at odds with Scripture. See Genesis 12:1-3."

More than 90 million American adults (42 percent) also are confused about the Bible's teaching regarding the nature of Jesus.

That's how many said the Bible teaches Jesus sinned while he was on earth.

Four out of 10 Americans think "all individuals will experience the same outcome after death, regardless of their religious beliefs," according to the poll. About 12 percent said they don't know what the Bible teaches about life after death.

So, how can a nation with an abundance of Bibles know so little about its contents? The survey offers three clues, Barna said.

"First, realize that barely one-third of adults read the Bible in a typical week, so lack of exposure is an issue," he said.

"Second, ... few people—just one in five—read every page of the Bible during the course of their lifetime," he added. "That indicates that most people do not have a complete context for understanding the Bible."

And third, few people read the Bible systematically, he said. "Among the most popular strategies for choosing a passage to read were flipping through the pages until they spot something that sounds intriguing or simply opening the Bible and hoping that they land on a page that is relevant or interesting."

Churches can remedy some of these problems by getting believers "to consistently read, understand and apply the Bible to their lives," Barna maintained. He offered four suggestions:

■ **Provide basic skills.** "Most Americans do not know how to read the Bible, are unaware of the existence or value of reference tools and are frightened by the bulk of the text," Barna said. "Introducing people to basic Bible usage skills will defuse many of their fears and negative assumptions."

■ **Expose people to reader-friendly versions.** "More than three-quarters of all adults do not have literacy skills to comprehend the King James Version or other versions which use complex language," he noted. Information about easier-to-read translations will help.

■ **Make Bible reading relevant.** "Try tailoring the learning approach to the audience you work with," Barna advised ministers and Sunday school teachers. Younger adults respond best to Bible study that involves dialogue, and they relate best to sto-

### Comparing Bible translations

Translation	Publisher	Price range	Reading level
1. King James Version (KJV)	Various	\$6-\$149	12.0
<i>Passage comparison, Genesis 33:14: "Let my Lord, I pray thee, pass over before his servant: and I will lead on softly, according as the cattle that goeth before me and the children be able to endure, until I come to my lord unto Seir."</i>			
2. New International Version (NIV)	Zondervan*	\$7-\$160	7.8
<i>Genesis 33:14: "So let my lord go on ahead of his servant, while I move along slowly at the pace of the droves before me and that of the children, until I come to my lord at Seir."</i>			
3. The Living Bible (TLB)	Tyndale House*	\$8-\$90	8.33
<i>Genesis 33:14: "So you go on ahead of us and we'll follow at our own pace and meet you at Seir."</i>			
4. New Living Translation (NLT)	Tyndale House	\$8-\$80	6.3
<i>Genesis 33:14: "So go on ahead of us. We will follow at our own pace and meet you at Seir."</i>			
5. New American Standard (NAS)	World*	\$10-\$126	11.32
<i>Genesis 33:14: "Please let my servant pass on before his servant; and I will proceed at my leisure, according to the pace of the cattle that are before me and according to the pace of the children, until I come to my lord at Seir."</i>			
6. New King James Version (NKJV)	Nelson	\$8-\$100	9.0
<i>Genesis 33:14: "Please let my lord go on ahead before his servant. I will lead on slowly at a pace which the livestock that go before me, and the children, are able to endure, until I come to my lord in Seir."</i>			
7. Today's English Version (TEV)	Am. Bible Soc.	\$18-\$25	7.29
<i>Genesis 33:14: "Please go on ahead of me, and I will follow slowly, going as fast as I can with the livestock and the children until I catch up with you in Edom."</i>			
8. New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)	Various	\$9-\$106	10.4
<i>Genesis 33:14: "Let my lord pass on ahead of his servant, and I will lead on slowly, according to the pace of the cattle that are before me and according to the pace of the children, until I come to my lord in Seir."</i>			
9. Amplified (Amp)	Zondervan	\$13-\$77	NA
<i>Genesis 33:14: "Let my lord, I pray you, pass over before his servant; and I will lead on slowly, governed by [consideration for] the livestock that set the pace before me and the endurance of the children, until I come to my lord in Seir."</i>			
10. New International Readers Version	Zondervan	\$8-\$23	3.0
<i>Genesis 33:14: "So you go on ahead of me. I'll move along as fast as the herds and the children can go. I'll go slowly until I come to you in Seir."</i>			
11. The Message	Navpress	\$15-\$39	8.0
<i>Genesis 33:14: NA+</i>			

#### Notes:

\* Several other publishers release versions of this translation.

NA Not available

NA+ This version is being released as collections of books. The only Old Testament books available to date are Job, Psalms and Proverbs.

ries in Scripture, he said. Younger adults and baby boomers like to "challenge their worldview by exploring biblical principles, truths and standards, rather than using the Bible as a history text or a source of knowledge for its own sake."

#### ■ Inspire usage through benefits.

"People shy away from reading the (Bible) if they feel pressured into it by guilt or duty," Barna advised. "If you can identify personal benefits they will receive from the excursion, they are more likely to test the book."

## Do women have higher morals in business than men?

Responses showed a "significant difference" in the way men and women make ethical judgments, researchers said.

WACO, Texas (ABP)—The growing presence of women in the workplace could make the dog-eat-dog business world more humane.

A study by Baylor University suggests women in business "demonstrate higher ethical judgment than their male counterparts in numerous situations."

As a result, researchers said, the presence of more women in the work force bodes well for business ethics in general.

"Given the perception that ethics in the business environment are declining, it appears that an influx of more females into the work force might improve the ethical environment, based on how ethical problems are perceived and resolved," they concluded.

The survey suggests women are less willing to bribe foreign customers, spy on competitors, violate pollution standards, ignore product safety warnings, promote employees unfair-

ly, hire less qualified male applicants or condone inordinate CEO compensation than their male counterparts.

However, the women were more likely than men to overlook collusion in bidding practices and illegal copying of software.

The 1,875 business professionals surveyed were asked to respond to 19 hypothetical ethical situations.

Researchers warn actual behavior may differ from the hypothetical re-

sponses.

The study was conducted by four professors in Baylor's marketing and economics departments, who sent questionnaires to 10,000 randomly selected business professionals in the United States.

Of the 1,875 who responded to the mail survey, 85.1 percent were men and 14.9 percent were women.

Responses showed a "significant difference" in the way men and wom-

en make ethical judgments, researchers said.

But there is more to the issue of business ethics than men behaving badly. The survey also found higher ethical standards among those higher up the corporate ladder—both men and women.

The survey was conducted by Baylor professors Justin Longenecker, Joseph McKinney, Carlos Moore and William Weeks.

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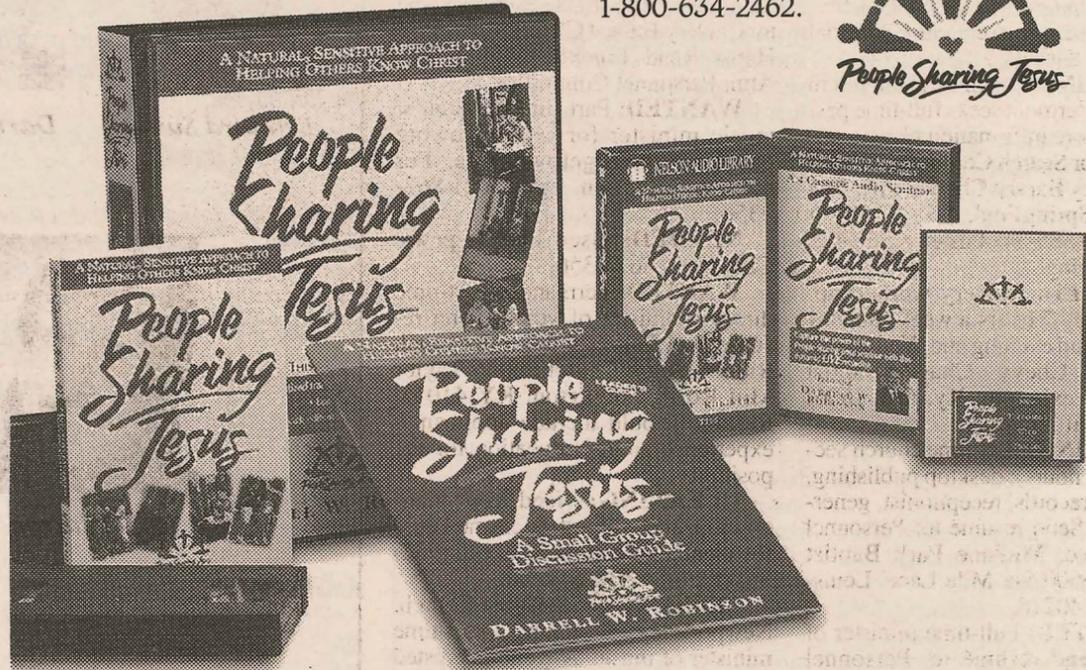
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— Henry T. Blackaby, Author, *Experiencing God*

# CHRISTMAS

## Group hopes you'll avoid the 'dirty dozen' this Christmas

Continued from page 1

how a child sees a toy. In a sense, we applaud this group for their concern about their children. As an industry, we feel that toys don't breed violent children. People should choose what they feel is good for their children."

Most of the toys included in the Lion & Lamb Project's list of unacceptable playthings are of the fierce-looking, action-model variety.

Here's the complete list. Some have assessments by the Lion & Lamb Project:

■ **Independence Day Micro Battle Playset—Defend New York City.** Recommended for ages 4 and above. The toy comes with models of four real buildings, including the World Trade Center, which collapse when "bombed."

■ **GI Joe Extreme Deluxe Figure Series.** Action characters with such names as Iron Claw, Inferno and Sgt. Savage. Each figure comes with its own weapon and detachable battle armor.

■ **Nerf Chainblazer Blaster.** A dart gun that shoots eight suction-cup darts in rapid succession. The Lion & Lamb Project, claimed the toy makes shooting weapons "look exciting, safe, soft and fun."

■ **Spiderman Venom Planet of the Symbiotes: Scream.** Scream is a female action figure with a featureless black-and-white face and sensual-appearing yellow body, according to Lion & Lamb. The figure comes in a box that describes her as "mentally deranged."

■ **Goosebumps Dread Head.** The

toy is described as a plastic head wrapped as a mummy with red eyes and no other facial features. Accompanied by a bucket of "yellow mummy matter."

■ **Spawn Ultra Action Figure: Tremor II.** This figure, which "pumps vital body fluid," is called the "Mafia's first attempt at making the ultimate killing machine."

■ **Total Justice.** A group of superhero action figures, each with its own weapon. "Like the other action figure scenarios, the story line here confuses the concept of justice with physical strength and magical powers," said Lion & Lamb.

■ **Evil Mutants X-Men.** Another group of action figures that come with weapons, "Senyaka," one of the heroes, is described as "perhaps the most ruthless soldier" in the set.

■ **Dragon Flys: Poseable Action Figures.** Action figures that "directly promise violent play and little else," according to Lion & Lamb.

■ **Talking Street Force.** A series of "large, fierce-looking" action figures that say things such as "Don't move, hot shot!" and "Don't even try it!" followed by the sound of gun blasts.

■ **Voice Bot.** A toy that transforms from a vehicle to a warrior with voice-activated controls. Comes with three missiles that can be launched by voice.

■ **Power Ranger Sound Effects, Gloves and Boots.** Matching items worn on hands and feet "to make play fighting appear realistic and exciting." The gloves and boots make fighting noises when kicking or throwing a punch.

### CLASSIFIED ADS

**FOR SALE:** 22 12' pews, blue cloth; one pulpit; two clergy benches; one altar bench; excellent condition, call (502) 866-2089.

**SEEKING:** Small rural church in southern Vermont seeks full-time pastor. For more information please contact: Pastor Search Committee, Precision Valley Baptist Church, P.O. Box 407, N. Springfield, VT 05150, or call: (802) 885-3474 morning or 802-3716 evening.

**NEEDED:** Nursery worker, approximately 7 hours a week (Sunday morning and evening and Wednesday evening. Chevy Chase Baptist Church, Lexington, Ky. Call (606) 266-2601 if interested.

**SEEKING:** Part-time church secretary (25 hours); desktop publishing, financial records, receptionist, general office. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Midlane Park Baptist Church, 6500 Six Mile Lane, Louisville, KY 40218.

**WANTED:** Full-time minister of youth. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Boone's Creek Baptist Church, 197 N. Cleveland Road, Lexington, KY 40509.

**SEEKING:** Minister of youth and children who is good at planning and organizing. Approx. 20 hours a week, but may vary. Send resumé to: Ballardsville Baptist Church, 4901 S. Hwy. 53, Crestwood, KY 40014, Attn: Search Committee Chairperson.

**HIRING:** Part-time church secretary. Salary negotiable. Send resumé to: Calvary Baptist Church, 36 School House Road, Frankfort, KY 40601, Attn: Personnel Committee.

**WANTED:** Part-time children's/ music minister for small growing church in Georgetown area. For more information, call (502) 867-0356.

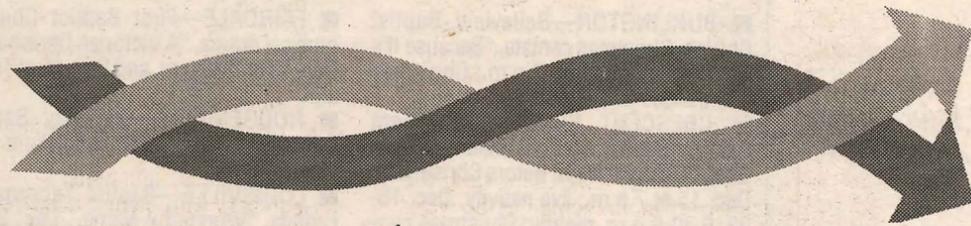
**NEEDED:** Used church pews. Call: (502) 867-0356.

**WANTED:** Permanent, part-time director/minister of youth. Send resumé to: Search Committee, Oak Ridge Baptist Church, 6056 Taylor Mill Road, Covington, KY 41015. Resumé should include applicant's experience and/or education for the position.

**CLEANING:** Need your windows cleaned or gutters cleaned out? Residential or commercial, call (502) 363-4324 for free estimate.

**SEEKING:** First Baptist Church, Newport, Ky., is seeking a part-time minister of music. Anyone interested should submit resumé to: René DeJarnette, 212 S. Grand Ave., Fort Thomas, KY 41075.

**SEEKING:** Minister of music/outreach for Northern Kentucky Southern Baptist church. Call (606) 635-2444. Grant's Lick Baptist Church, 175 West Clay Ridge Road, Alexandria, KY 41001. Dr. Paul E. Broyles, pastor-teacher.



## Friends Forever

*"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends."*

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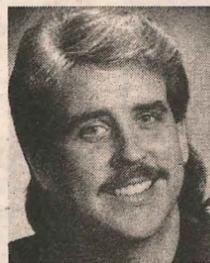
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# CHRISTMAS

## Christmas programs and events across Kentucky

### North Central Region

- BURLINGTON—Belleview Baptist Church, Christmas cantata, "Because It's Christmas," Dec. 22, 7 p.m.; Christmas Day service at 4 p.m.
- CRESCENT SPRINGS—Crescent Springs Baptist Church, children's musical, "Twas the Night Before Christmas," Dec. 15 at 7 p.m.; live nativity, Dec. 18-22, 6:30-9 p.m. nightly; Christmas cantata, "An Old Fashioned Christmas," Dec. 22 at 10:55 a.m.
- ERLANGER—Erlanger Baptist Church, Living Christmas Tree, Dec. 13, 14 and 15. All performances at 5:30 and 8 p.m. except Dec. 13, which will only have 7:30 p.m. performance.
- MAYSVILLE—Central Baptist Church, musical program, "Promise of Peace," Dec. 22 at 7 p.m.
- OWENTON—First Baptist Church, children's cantata, "Candy Cane Lane," Dec. 14-15 at 7 p.m.; adult cantata, "The Wonders of His Love," Dec. 21-22 at 7 p.m.
- OWENTON—Pleasant Home Baptist Church, adult musical, "Wonderful Name," Dec. 15 at 11 a.m.; children's program, Dec. 15 at 7 p.m.
- WILLIAMSTOWN—Williamstown Baptist Church, Christmas cantata "Joy Came Down," Dec. 15 at 7 p.m.

### Northeastern Region

- ASHLAND—First Baptist Church, musical program "A Thrill of Hope," Dec. 15.

### Central Region

- FAIRDALE—First Baptist Church, musical drama, "A Victorian Christmas," Dec. 13 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 15 at 10:45 a.m.
- HODGENVILLE—Parkway Baptist Church, Christmas Eve candlelight service, 11 p.m.
- LOUISVILLE—Baptist Tabernacle, cantata, "Wonderful Name," Dec. 22 at 11 a.m.
- LOUISVILLE—Carlisle Avenue Baptist Church, "The Music of Christmas," Dec. 15 at 6 p.m. and Dec. 22 at 10:45 a.m.
- LOUISVILLE—Rockford Lane Baptist Church, Christmas concert featuring David Pitt and Jennifer Lauletta, Dec. 22 at 6:30 p.m.
- LOUISVILLE—Deer Park Baptist Church, Service of Lessons and Carols, Dec. 15 at 4 p.m.; Christmas Eve candlelight service at 5:30 p.m.
- LOUISVILLE—St. Matthews Baptist Church, Christmas pageant, "The Jesus Gift," Dec. 15, 10:45 a.m.
- LOUISVILLE—Audubon Baptist Church, Christmas cantata, "It Took a Miracle," Dec. 15, at 6 p.m.
- LOUISVILLE—Buechel Park Baptist Church, "A Child is Born," a dramatic musical, Dec. 15 at 10:45 a.m.; Christmas Festival with the Sweet Adelines, Dec. 15 at 6 p.m., including potluck dinner; Christmas Eve candlelight service with communion, 6 p.m.
- LOUISVILLE—Cloverleaf Baptist Church, musical, "Christmas I Calling You Home," Dec. 20, 21, 22 at 7 p.m.

□ See Christmas programs ..., page 13

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The Western Recorder is proud to sponsor this free public concert of Handel's *Messiah* as part of our commitment to the religious arts and in recognition of the upcoming groundbreaking for Campbellsville University's Gosser Fine Arts Center Jan. 28, 1997.

### Quest '96

By Robert Dunston

On Friday evening, Nov. 22, and Saturday morning, Nov. 23, Cumberland College hosted its annual Quest conference, a time of spiritual renewal and celebration aimed specifically at high school youth.

Cumberland began this event in February 1993, and the program was so successful we had it again that year in December. Each year since, we have held Quest in November.

This year's Quest program drew 1,590 young people from churches throughout Kentucky, southern Ohio and northeastern Tennessee. Of those attending, more than 350 young people made decisions to accept Christ as personal Savior or to rededicate lives to Christ.

Dave Edwards, a young minister, was the featured speaker for Quest '96. He travels full-time throughout the nation, speaking to young people and directing them away from the world's ideas of success to the abundant life found in Christ. Edwards' humorous and powerful messages made a difference in the lives of those who came. We were fortunate he was able to remain with us for our chapel service on Monday morning, when

more than 1,000 people heard his challenge to live through Christ.

Truth, a group of more than 20 young musicians, blessed participants through their musical gifts. Truth has performed across the nation and the world, providing hope and encouragement to all through their music.

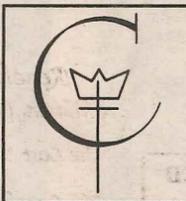
Paul Guffey, a talented solo artist, also ministered to the congregation through music, and Cumberland College's own student music group Abundance rounded out the list of those ministering through their musical talents.

Laughter is part of our lives as Christians too. Paul Aldrich, a Christian comedian, singer and songwriter, provided laughter to celebrate the joy of faith and to heal lives hurt by the world.

Preparations are underway now for Quest '97. The dates are Friday, Nov. 21 and Saturday, Nov. 22. Mark those dates on your calendar now and plan to bring your youth group for a celebration of faith and spiritual renewal. For more information, contact our admissions office at (606) 539-4241.

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

**CUMBERLAND  
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### Glimpses of grace

Following the star, the wise men traveled to find the Christ child. They brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. They wanted to give nothing but the best.

As we make our own journey, what gifts do we have to offer?

The truth is, all we have to give is what already has been given to us. The greatest gift is the grace God showered on us by sending his Son. Forgiveness, redemption, hope—these are the abundant riches from God's love.

When believers draw unselfishly from the well of God's grace inside them, that is Christmas.

When we at Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children are empowered to reach that hurting

child, young person or family, it is in that moment that Christmas "happens." This season is not confined to a certain time of year. Christmas happens every time a life experiences Jesus for the first time.

While on her journey, Janice lost her way. She tried to escape the pain of abuse and abandonment through drugs and life on the street.

Her father in prison, her mother dead, Janice's family was her gang. Each morning she awoke to

hopelessness; each night she went to bed with fear.

"Fear not, Behold I bring you tidings of great joy, which shall be for all people."

When Janice walked through our doors, she could not have known the angel's message was meant for her. For months she continued to relive the violence of her life in nightmares.

But, as she was embraced by God's love, "Fear not" finally became a reality. This year, Janice became a Christian.

All across the state, 138 young people in our care made commitments to Jesus in the past year.

Thank you for continuing to herald the angel's message of hope, peace and love today and throughout the year to those who need our help.

From the 3,200 children and families who caught a glimpse of Jesus through you this year, merry Christmas.

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/>

**HOMES FOR  
CHILDREN**



Brenda Gray

# CHRISTMAS

## Christmas programs and events across Kentucky

Continued from page 12

■ LOUISVILLE—Crescent Hill Baptist Church, Vivaldi's "Gloria," Dec. 15 at 6:30 p.m.; service for the bereaved, Dec. 22 at 3 p.m.; Christmas Eve candlelight service at 5:30 p.m.  
 ■ LOUISVILLE—Clifton Baptist Church, Christmas cantata, Dec. 22.  
 ■ LOUISVILLE—Gethsemane Baptist Church, Christmas cantata, 10:55 a.m.  
 ■ LOUISVILLE—Midlane Park Baptist Church, "From the Realms of Glory," a music drama by the sanctuary choir, Dec. 22, at 10:45 a.m.  
 ■ LOUISVILLE—Little Flock Baptist Church, Christmas Celebration with music, drama and pageantry, Dec. 13-15 at 7 p.m. nightly (free tickets required); candlelight service, Dec. 18 at 7 p.m.; student choir musical, "Code Red, an E.R. Christmas," Dec. 22 at 7 p.m.  
 ■ LOUISVILLE—Lyndon Baptist Church, Dellanna O'Brien, executive director of Woman's Missionary Union, Dec. 15 at 10:45 a.m.  
 ■ LOUISVILLE—Walnut Street Baptist Church, Living Christmas Tree, Dec. 13 at 6 and 9 p.m. and Dec. 14 at 5 and 8 p.m. (Admission free, but tickets required). Neighborhood Christmas Store Party for people in need, Dec. 14 at 9:30 a.m.-12 noon.  
 ■ LOUISVILLE—Fern Creek Baptist Church, musical program, "City of Light,"

Dec. 22 at 10:45 a.m.  
 ■ LOUISVILLE—Melbourne Heights Baptist Church, music drama, "The Gift," Dec. 22 at 6:30 p.m.  
 ■ LOUISVILLE—Highland Baptist Church, youth drama, "Best Christmas Pageant Ever" Dec. 15 at 6 p.m.  
 ■ LOUISVILLE—Parkland Baptist Church, music drama, "Two from Galilee," Dec. 13, 14 and 15 at 7:30 p.m. (Free but tickets required)  
 ■ LOUISVILLE—Parkwood Baptist Church, Handel's "Messiah," Dec. 15 at 6:30 p.m.  
 ■ LOUISVILLE—Ridgewood Baptist Church, Christmas Eve candlelight service with communion, 11 p.m.  
 ■ LOUISVILLE—West Broadway Baptist Church, Christmas cantata, Dec. 15 at 10:45 a.m.  
 ■ MAGNOLIA—Magnolia Baptist Church, Christmas cantata, "Come Home for Christmas," Dec. 13 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 15 at 11 a.m.  
 ■ SHEPHERDSVILLE—Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Living Christmas Tree, Dec. 21 and 22 at 7 p.m. (Free ticket required.)

### Western Region

■ MADISONVILLE—First Baptist Church, "Return to Bethlehem," Dec. 14, 16 and 17 at 5-8 p.m. and Dec. 15 at 2-6 p.m.

■ OWENSBORO—Walnut Memorial Baptist Church, "The Majesty of Christmas," a music drama Dec. 14, 15 and 17 at 7 p.m. (Admission free, but tickets required)  
 ■ OWENSBORO—Bellevue Baptist Church, music and drama program, "A Bellevue Christmas," Dec. 15 at 4 and 7 p.m. and Dec. 17 at 7 p.m.  
 ■ OWENSBORO—Lewis Lane Baptist Church, "An Advent Journey," featuring tours every 15 minutes through a marketplace, the inn, the manger and more, Dec. 20-21, 6-8 p.m.

### Southern Region

■ FRANKLIN—First Baptist Church, musical drama, "The Music of Christmas," Dec. 15 at 7 p.m.; youth musical drama, "Born Is the King," Dec. 22 at 7 p.m.

### Southeastern Region

■ CORBIN—"Because It's Christmas," cantata, Dec. 21 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 22 at 11 a.m.  
 ■ HAZARD—Petrey Memorial Baptist Church, youth presentation, Dec. 15 at 6 p.m.; children's presentation, Dec. 18 at 7 p.m.; Christmas Day, candlelight service at 8 p.m.  
 ■ LONDON—First Baptist Church, Vil-

valdi's "Gloria," presented by choirs from First Baptist and First Christian churches Dec. 15 at 3 p.m.  
 ■ MANCHESTER—Manchester Baptist Church, children's musical, "Tree of Light," Dec. 22 at 11 a.m. and Dec. 23 at 7 p.m.  
 ■ WHITESBURG—First Baptist Church, cantata, "More Than a Manger," Dec. 22 at 11 a.m.; youth musical, "Code Red," Dec. 22 at 7 p.m.

### South Central Region

■ BERA—Berea Baptist Church, Christmas cantata, Dec. 15 at 10:45 a.m.

### Southwestern Region

■ HOPKINSVILLE—First Baptist Church, A Service of Lessons and Carols, Dec. 15 at 10:45 a.m.; Keys of Praise II, a service led by three pianists, Dec. 15 at 6 p.m.  
 ■ MARION—Marion Baptist Church, musical, "The Majesty of Christmas," Dec. 15 at 7 p.m.; youth and children's programs Dec. 18 at 7 p.m.  
 ■ PADUCAH—Bellview Baptist Church, musical, "Because It's Christmas," Dec. 22 at 6 p.m.; Christmas Eve service at 9 p.m.

## Special Event for Women "Reach Out and Touch"



Luncheon Speaker  
Mamie McCullough



Musician  
Miss Kentucky  
Veronica Duka



Luncheon Speaker  
Sylvia E. Hill

**Galt House West,  
4th & River Rd Louisville KY  
February 25, 1997  
11:00 A.M. - 1:15 P.M. (EST)  
Luncheon Meeting for  
Kentucky Baptist Women  
and their friends (especially  
the unchurched)  
PLUS Eight Break-out  
Sessions Especially for  
Women  
1:30 P.M. - 2:30 P.M. (EST)  
2:45 P.M. - 3:45 P.M. (EST)**

**PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED  
Cost: \$12 per person**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY: \_\_\_\_\_  
 STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail To: (Sponsor) Office for Evangelism,  
 Kentucky Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 43433,  
 Louisville, KY 40253-0433; or for more  
 information call (502) 245-4101, ext. 330

### Break-out Sessions

**Reach Out to:**  
 Children... (*Precious in His Sight*) ..... Diana Garland  
 The Lost "in Your Marketplace" ..... Sylvia E. Hill  
 The Lonely... (*Nurturing Creative Aloneness*) .. Jane Kendrick-Lites  
 Hurting Humanity (*Faith Works*) ..... Joyce Martin

**Touch Thru:**  
 Prayer - *A Ministry of Compassion* ..... Nell Bruce  
 Timely Choices (*Battling Overcommitment*) .. Debbie Lloyd  
 Encouragement ..... Mamie McCullough  
 Your Spiritual Gifts ..... Jill Menser

## PRAYER PARTNERS

Pray for these specific needs related to Kentucky Baptist partnerships with Russia and New England:

- Kentuckian Ed Burgher as he teaches pastors in Russia this month.
- More short-term Kentucky volunteers needed to teach in Russian pastors' schools.
- Russian drivers and interpreters who assist Kentucky volunteers.
- The rising crime rate in Russia.
- The school of ministry begun recently by Restoration Baptist Church in Burlington, Vt.
- Vermont's Green Mountain Baptist Association, as they seek a director of missions.
- Baptist campus ministers in Boston.

## Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

■ **BENTON**—Roy Gibson, pastor at New Harmony Church, announced his retirement effective Dec. 31. Gibson will be available for interim and supply work. He may be reached by calling (502) 527-7663.

■ **BURGIN**—Burgin Church called Ed Holt as minister of youth Nov. 1.

■ **BURNSIDE**—First Church called Interim Pastor Richard Christian as pastor.

■ **CARROLLTON**—English Church called Mike Meiller as pastor. He began his new ministry Nov. 6.

■ **EAST BERNSTADT**—Phillip Collett, pastor of Laurel Chapel Church, was ordained to the gospel ministry at Swiss Colony Church in London Nov. 10.

■ **HEBRON**—James Armstrong will retire as pastor at Sand Run Church Dec. 29. He will be available for speaking engagements and pulpit supply. Call (606) 282-8314.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Forty five walkers from Central Church raised \$2,585 as part of the "Walk for Hunger" to benefit God's Pantry Food Bank. God's Pantry Food Bank serves 51 counties in eastern and central Kentucky.

■ **LONDON**—Weaver Church called John Napier as pastor. He previously was pastor at Lincoln Park Church in Mansfield, Ohio.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Woodland Church called Timothy Beougher as interim pastor.

■ **PETERSBURG**—Petersburg Church called Greg Wingate as pastor. He will begin his new ministry Dec. 8. Wingate previously was associate pastor at Cropper Church.

■ **SANDERS**—Sanders Church called Morgan Kerr as pastor Nov. 24.

■ **SOMERSET**—David Bullock resigned as pastor at Pleasant Hill Church. Also, Jeff Litton resigned as youth director. The church called David Aker, director of missions in Pulaski Association, as interim pastor.

■ **WARSAW**—Bramlette Church called Jay Patton as interim pastor Nov. 17.

■ **WHITE PLAINS**—Emery Kinslow will retire as pastor of Concord Missionary Church, effective Dec. 31. He may be contacted at 850 Hiawatha Dr., Madisonville, Ky. 42431. Phone (502) 821-0423.

### MISSIONARY UPDATE

■ **Steve and Denise Musen**, missionaries to the Philippines, have arrived on the field to begin their first term of service. Address is: P.O. Box 184, General Santos 9500, Philippines. He was born in Bowling Green and considers Somerset his hometown.

■ **James and Jane Park**, missionaries to Liberia, are currently assigned to Ghana. Address is: P.O. Box 400, Accra, Ghana. They are natives of Paducah.

## FSU's Bowden seeks to keep faith first in football world

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (BP)—Bilby Graham and Bobby Bowden both use football stadiums to get their jobs done. Graham leads revivals, and Bowden hopes to lead the Florida State University Seminoles to the national championship.

The Seminoles currently are ranked No. 1 in the country.

Bowden and Graham have worked together during crusades in the past. "Not many men have had the impact on my life like he has," said Bowden, who often has been asked to share his testimony during Graham crusades. "You can't go on one of his revivals without it affecting you somehow."

The Seminoles are undefeated this year, including a victory over arch-rival and then No. 1-ranked University of Florida, but times have not always been so carefree.

Bowden says it is during those times of pressure and crisis when his faith becomes crucial. "It gives me strength when things are going bad," he said. "I realize that whatever happens, I'm taken care of."

It was that assurance Bowden needed while coaching in West Virginia, when a losing season almost cost him his job.

"It helps to get through that knowing that you are a lot better off." Even his career at FSU sometimes has been rocky, though the team has been fortunate the last 10 seasons, Bowden said.

Bowden is not ashamed to share his spirituality with his team. "We have a team prayer before and after each game."

In his career as a coach, Bowden, 66, has tried to keep his faith first during jobs at the college and junior college levels. "I put God first in anything I do," he said.

Bowden recently signed a five-year contract with FSU and plans to continue coaching there until retirement.

"I will coach until I feel like I shouldn't be doing it anymore," he said. "I don't make any decisions without praying."

Spending time with God is a top priority for Bowden. His day begins at 5:30 a.m. with breakfast and a devotion.

He then watches team films and heads to the office for an 8:30 a.m. staff meeting. Much of the late morning and early afternoon is spent watching films and making television appearances.

Field practice usually lasts about two and a half hours, but Bowden's day doesn't end there. He often takes more film footage home or plans the next day's practice drills.

The long hours don't bother Bowden, who said he knew as a teenager he wanted to coach. "But you have to keep priorities. You can't let football get bigger than your family or soul."

## 'Thanksgiving! What is Thanksgiving?'

This is the response you may gotten from some of our students during our Thanksgiving meal.

We always have several students from other countries. Some have heard of the American holiday, but many others have not.

While most of our students went home for Thanksgiving, about 70 spent the holiday with us. Some live too far from Oneida to make the trip home and back for a four-day break. Finances prevented others from making the trip. In addition to our students, many faculty and staff ate their Thanksgiving meal with us. Many of them have the same problems as our students; either their extended families live too far away, or they cannot afford to make the trip. With Christmas break just three weeks away, all our students and many of our staff will make the journey home. Just as our students come from across the U.S., many of our staff are far from home.

Several international students also enjoyed their Thanksgiving meal with us. We had students from Japan, Liberia, Ethiopia, Thailand and Korea. If these students have been in our country for some time, they have an idea as to the meaning of this American holiday. On the other hand, many students come straight from their native countries to the U.S. They usually know little or nothing about this special day. Several times over the years, I have been asked to explain to an international student the meaning of Thanksgiving. While they may not fully understand, they never have any trouble enjoying the meal.

It was a wonderful sight to enter the school dining room Thursday and see the decorations and food. For this special day the tables are rearranged and covered with orange tablecloths. Instead of going through serving lines to get our food, we

put the food on the table just like we would at home.

About 175 people were present. Several parents come each year and eat with us in the dining room. It is much easier and less expensive to make the trip here and back instead of making the round trip twice.

We always ask our students and staff to dress in their Sunday clothes. We believe this is a special occasion, and we want our students to appreciate all God has done for us. After being seated—and every seat indeed was taken, with six more guests than we had seats—a prayer of thanksgiving was said for the ways God had abundantly blessed us. No student, including our international students, needed any instruction about what to do next. As soon as the "amen" was heard, they all began to fill their plates ... tray after tray of delicious turkey, dressing, cranberry sauce, fresh rolls with lots of butter, green beans, salad, mashed potatoes with gravy and a choice of pies.

I really enjoy the meal in a special way. Normally a relatively shy person, I cannot wait to visit table after table. While I cannot take any credit for cooking the meal, I delight in being able to help serve. As soon as the rolls need to be refilled, I am there on the spot. "Need another glass of tea? Please allow me to get it for you." "Do you need another plate of turkey?" "Is everyone having a good time?"

Some who do not really know me have a little difficulty understanding why I do this every year. All I can say is that I really enjoy being able to fellowship with and serve our students, staff and guests.

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

### THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

## Facing a "God-sized" opportunity

The debate on the Cooperative Program at the Kentucky Baptist Convention meeting in Bowling Green was very different from the 1982 discussion in Elizabethtown. In 1982, some messengers wanted the goal to be 50 percent rather than 40. Only a few objected to sending more beyond our state in those days of Bold Mission Thrust. It is certainly a different day for Baptists.

I've been studying "Experiencing God" and pondering again the convention decision as I read Henry Blackaby's teaching about "God-sized challenges." Our churches still face a world of need, and God has the resources to meet the need through us if we are willing to be obedient and adjust our lives to do his will. The goal remains, and it is reachable.

Takahiro and Lana Oue, Kentucky missionaries to Japan, were recent campus guests. He was mightily used by God in a chapel message. In a nation described by some as "the graveyard of missionaries," the Oues have invested 27 years of labor. Each term, they have led a struggling mission to develop into a strong church with a Japanese pastor. They return to start with another group of 10 people. Oue described a grow-

ing response to the gospel in Japan, especially among students and housewives. Yet, the Japan Baptist Mission has had to cut their work force by 25 percent and their budget by 30 percent.

Oue reminded us, "Jesus didn't say, 'Complete the work at home and then work beyond.' We are to do both at the same time. The fact is, Southern Baptists' giving hasn't

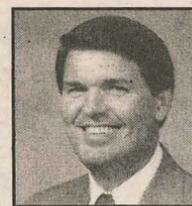
kept pace with what God is doing in the world. Prayer is our greatest need, but we must have mission gifts and personnel replacements to work the harvest." I share his plea as we give to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions.

Lottie Moon time also takes on more significance for Clear Creek with the approaching appointment of Wayne and Gale Guillion as missionaries to Niger Republic. After several years as a pastor, Guillion returned to secure his degree and meet requirements for mission service. He completes the program this month.

The Lottie Moon offering goal of \$100 million sounds like a "God-sized" opportunity. Are we willing to adjust our lives to reach it?

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

### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

## Missionary finds TV appearance opens ministry doors

By Wally Poor  
SBC Foreign Mission Board

ASUNCION, Paraguay (BP)—The woman approached the grave of her father, who had sexually abused her when she was 6.

"I have not yet learned to get over the anger I feel toward you," she said out loud. "But I am meeting with a group that is helping me. Next time, I'll bring flowers."

The group helping the woman meets at the Baptist Medical Center in Asuncion, Paraguay. It's one of

several ministries resulting from Southern Baptist missionary Hebert Palomino's appearance on a local television talk show.

When he arrived in Asuncion as a missionary in 1994, Palomino met Arturo Rubin, the host of a popular TV talk show. Learning of Palomino's training in psychology and counseling, Rubin invited him to discuss homosexuality.

Rubin was so impressed with viewers' response to Palomino's first appearance that he invited him to return the next week to discuss hyper-

active children.

For four more weeks Palomino appeared, discussing such issues as sexual abuse of children, suicide and how to deal with terminal illness.

Those appearances led to avenues of ministry, such as starting counseling groups for sexually abused individuals and terminally ill patients and their relatives. Recently, a support group for diabetics was formed. Palomino established a counseling center at the Baptist Medical Center in Asuncion and involved students he teaches at the Baptist Seminary in Asuncion.

Support groups began meeting every two weeks at the center.

By obtaining a press card, Palomino has gained access to sporting events, and he often counsels players, coaches and sportscasters. "They are lonely people. They go from one country to another," he noted.

Palomino also began counseling people in the emergency department of the government hospital where most medical emergencies are handled. "People are so open to hear the gospel when they see that you really care," he said.

## Stewardship is not just tithing, author writes

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)—Equating stewardship with tithing is a "preschool" vision of a Christian's responsibility to God, according to Calvin Partain, author of "Trusted Steward: Moving Toward Total Stewardship."

"There's certainly still work to do in the area of tithing," Partain writes. "But tithing, as I see it, is the starting point."

Partain said tithing alone does not guarantee spiritual health. "The point should be made that we are really responsible to God for everything."

The interim pastor at First Baptist Church of Rio Rancho, N.M., cautioned pastors against overemphasizing money.

"I pastored for about 42 years, and I came to the conclusion that if all you do is try to talk to people about their money, that soon gets pretty slick," he says. "It can become manipulating, if you cannot get them to see what the Lord really wants is you."

The book describes biblical foundations of stewardship and how God holds Christians accountable as stewards in several areas, including mind, ability, time, relationships, possessions, position, the gospel and the human body.

To illustrate the importance of not holding back from God, Partain writes of a wealthy building contractor who embarked on a world tour. Before leaving, he told his superintendent, "While I am away, I want you to build me a house. Spare no expense."

During the contractor's absence, the superintendent built the house but used cheaper materials in places where it would not be noticed—thinking he could personally pocket the savings. The result was a beautiful house with shoddy construction.

When the contractor returned, the superintendent took him to see the new house, Partain writes. "At the end of the tour, the contractor handed the house keys to the superintendent (and said), 'You have worked 25 years for me, and I wanted to reward you. This is your house.'"

## Family thankful for miracles after tragedy

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)—Miracles can be huge.

Southern Baptist missionary Nancy Watts knows. The fact that her husband, Wade, and her 9-year-old son, Marcus, are alive today is proof enough of that.

By all accounts they should have died Feb. 1 when the car the family was traveling in was destroyed by a head-on collision on a mountain road outside Lima, Peru.

It was a miracle no one was killed. Instead, both Watts and Marcus were left in grave condition, their minds in comas, their odds for survival slim.

But that was nine long months ago. Today, as Mrs. Watts works to bring her family through the slow process of healing, she finds miracles also are little things, small blessings that accumulate day by day.

The recovery of Marcus has been amazing. Physically and mentally, he is 90 percent recovered. With a little help he is adjusting to the fourth grade, making new friends and dealing, along with his brother, Joshua, 8, with the pain of missing his father.

Wade Watts' progress has been much slower. After the accident, weeks elapsed before he could be flown to the United States. Brain and internal injuries made the lengthy flight too risky. Finally medical authorities decided to move him. Even as his body stabilized, it was unclear whether his mind would heal.

Every day Mrs. Watts visited the hospital. "I would talk, tell him about all that was going on, but we weren't getting any answers from him. ... We didn't know if he understood what we said. I felt like he did, but there was no way we could be sure," she said.

Finally a breakthrough came. Watts could respond to statements by blinking his eyes. Seizing this opportunity, the couple worked out a system in which he blinks once for yes, twice for no. By asking him specific questions, Mrs. Watts was assured that his memory was intact. It was the first hopeful sign.

Such signs of progress have kept her situation bearable. But she has had to be strong in ways that before the accident she would have thought impossible. Circumstances demand it. The children depend on it.

Marcus is recovering steadily, but he still has special needs. His short-term memory suffers. The teachers at his school have been helpful, modifying assignments to help him feel suc-



**THE LONG WAIT**  
■ Above: Southern Baptist missionary Nancy Watts sits beside her husband, Wade, injured in an automobile accident in Peru. Mrs. Watts said she expects the miracle of healing to continue.  
■ Left: Their sons, Marcus (left) and Joshua, also wait, both for their father's recovery and for the time they can return to Peru. (BP photos by Bill Bangham)

cessful. But he does not want to be different; he wants things to come easily, as they did before.

Beyond his frustration in not being able to do things is his struggle to understand why things are different.

"Marcus knows that God saved him, that he was very close to dying and that God spared his life," Mrs. Watts said. "But he misses Peru and his home a lot. That's where he's coming from: Why do we have to be here? Why did it have to happen? It's tough for me. I have no answer for him. God did not cause it, but for some reason he allowed it to happen, and we just don't know why."

The questions do not seem to bother Joshua as much, although he, too,

misses Peru. Daily the family talks about friends and the family of missionaries there.

Nancy, too, is eager to return. She has found much strength in the prayers of friends and colleagues. "If people hadn't been praying, where would I be? Would we be this far along in the recovery process?" Recently one of Watts' therapists called his progress a miracle. "I totally agree with that, and I think it's because God is answering people's prayers," Mrs. Watts said.

The experience has drawn her closer to God, she said. "As I look back, I can see how he has carried me each step. I realize that being faithful to God even in the difficult times is the best decision one can make."

# Lottie Moon

## Q & A

**Q:** Who was Lottie Moon?

**A:** Lottie Moon was a missionary who represented Southern Baptists in China for 40 years. She gave her food to her Chinese neighbors during a famine and died of starvation on Christmas Eve 1912.

**Q:** How much of the Foreign Mission Board budget comes from the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering?

**A:** The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering will provide 47.12 % of the 1997 FMB budget.

**Q:** What will my \$10 gift do?

**A:** A gift of \$10 will feed a hungry child in Zimbabwe for one week, purchase 150 copies of discipleship material in Yemen, or print 75 AIDS tracts in Angola or Mozambique.

**Q:** Is it too late to give to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering?

**A:** No. Gifts may be given to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering any time of the year.

**Q:** What is the average cost of maintaining a missionary for one year?

**A:** The average cost is \$30,426. This includes salary and other benefits, language study, school allowance, rent, travel, and other items directly related to missionary expenses for the year that ended December 31, 1995. This figure does not include other administrative and support costs.

**Q:** How many foreign missionaries does the Foreign Mission Board support?

**A:** There are approximately 4,150 Southern Baptist missionaries in 128 countries and working among 336 ethnic people groups.

**Q:** I have given to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering in the past, why should I continue to give?

**A:** There are still millions in our world who do not know Jesus Christ. Jesus commanded "Go ye therefore and make disciples of all nations. . . ." Your gifts will allow missionaries to continue spreading the Good News of Jesus to "all nations."

**National Goal:** \$ 100,000,000

**My Church's Goal:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**My Personal Goal:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_