



WESTERN RECORDER

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A former Southern Baptist missionary and Murray native has written a book about the world's religions. Page 9.

Survey finds 40 percent of U.S. scientists still believe in God

SEATTLE (RNS)—Although a majority of scientists in the United States do not believe in God, the number who do—40 percent—is unchanged from 80 years ago, researchers reported last week.

In 1916, researcher James Leuba shocked Americans by finding only 40 percent of scientists believed in a supreme being, and he predicted that as education improved, "ungodliness" would become more common among scientists.

"To test that belief, we replicated Leuba's survey as exactly as possible," wrote Edward Larson, a historian at the University of Georgia, and Larry Witham of Seattle's Discovery Institute, in the science journal *Nature*.

The men surveyed 1,000 scientists chosen at random from the book "American Men and Women of Science."

The survey included questions about whether scientists believed in a God who answers prayers, in human immortality and in an afterlife.

They found that although 40 percent of scientists believe in a God, most scientists today "have no use for God or the afterlife."

"To the extent that both surveys are accurate readings, traditional Western theism has not lost its place among U.S. scientists, despite their intellectual preoccupation with material reality," Larson and Witham found.

According to their research, mathematicians are most inclined to believe in God—44.6 percent—while the highest rate of disbelief is found among physicists and astronomers.

Dodii cancer cards add dose of realism

By Joyce Sweeney Martin
Staff Writer

LAGRANGE—After her mother was diagnosed with cancer, Cindy Plewinski counted on sending get-well cards as a way to span the miles between them.

But finding sensitive, yet realistic cards proved impossible.

"Nothing seemed appropriate for what she was facing," Plewinski said. The racks of typical get well cards seemed hollow and inadequate, she said. She found nothing that combined hope, humor and faith.

Then, an idea came.

One day on the drive back to Kentucky after a visit with her mother in Virginia, the words "Dodii"—her mother's childhood nickname—and "chemocards" came to mind.

Plewinski thought she had found a simple solution: buy some card stock and draw a few stick-figure cards for her mother.

Instead, those two words became the catalyst during the next two years for Plewinski to quit her job and begin Dodii Inc., a company that designs, manufactures and distributes greeting cards, dolls and clothing with cancer patients specifically in mind.

But turning the idea into a product line wasn't easy.

At first, Plewinski said, she thought the whole thing was "preposterous."

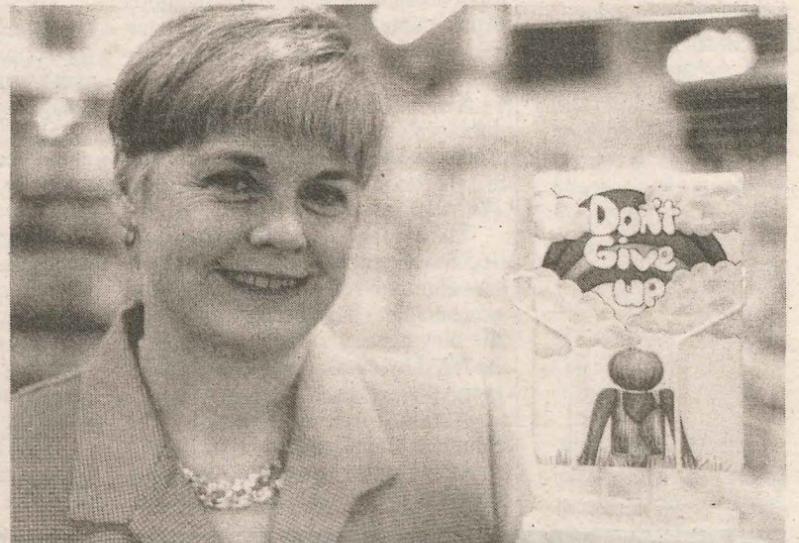
She was a nuclear medical technologist, not an artist. She knew nothing about printing, composing, drawing or launching a business. And, at 47 years old, she didn't relish the thought of beginning a new career.

For about a year, she "argued with the Lord. I told him, 'Surely you can find someone better equipped.'"

But the preposterous idea persisted. "It wouldn't leave me alone," she said.

Finally, she gave in. She said she told God if he would send people to help her, "I'll do it."

She cut back on work hours and



GET-WELL GETS REAL Finding nothing appropriate to send to her mother who had cancer, Cindy Plewinski developed her own line of cards.

began searching for people to share her passion.

The first person besides her husband whom she told about her dream died of cancer a short time later. "I was at ground zero or below," she said. "I had shared with one person besides my husband, and she died."

Three more months passed as Plewinski puzzled over how to turn the dream into reality.

She asked family members to try to draw her idea of Dodii. "I wanted Dodii to be a symbol of hope and love in the scary time of cancer," she said. "No matter the mood, I want to laugh when I see Dodii." But, alas, family members couldn't capture her idea, she said.

One night, almost in desperation, she dropped by a LaGrange shop that displays work of local artists. She thought she might find artists there who could help her, but none were there that night.

"I was the lowest ever," she said. But, somehow, she mustered the courage to share her dream with shop owner Mim Vance Stoess. Stoess, like Plewinski, is a member of DeHaven

Memorial Baptist Church in LaGrange.

Immediately, Stoess caught the vision. She said she knew someone who could compose verse. She also knew an artist and a marketing agent. Moreover, they all are Christians, she said.

That night, for Plewinski, the preposterous became possible.

The next day, Plewinski met with the artist, Dave Thomas. Immediately, he caught the vision. Using Dodii's face as his model, he drew the character who would become the company's logo and submitted it for trademark. When health problems forced him to curtail activities, he signed the copyright over to Plewinski, calling it "seed in your ministry," she said.

Within a few days after Thomas resigned, Stoess had found another illustrator: 23-year-old Christy Scheider. She, too, had been affected by cancer. At age 8, her twin sister, Stephanie, was diagnosed with brain cancer. "The Lord had given the girls a Scripture promise that Stephanie would live, and she did," Plewinski said.

□ See Cards try to bring ..., page 3

Author asks: Are you comfortable enough with God to shout?

By Terri Lackey
SBC Sunday School Board

NASHVILLE (BP)—One sign of spiritual health is feeling comfortable enough to shout at God when you're angry or bitter, according to an author of Christian women's resources.

"You need to keep talking to him, no matter what happens, no matter how tough the world gets, no matter how furious you are. Keep talking to him," Beth Moore said during a recent leadership conference.

"The key to a healthy heart is learning to pour it out continually to God," said Moore, author of the Bible studies "A Woman's Heart: God's Dwelling Place" and "A Heart Like His."

Moore, a member of First Baptist Church of Houston, told people to forget about speaking to God in

pious platitudes when anger is what they really feel.

"If we're open with God, all we really want to do is cry out, 'Why?'" she said. "If we hide our hearts from God and are not honest with him, it will become a cancer in our lives.

"It's heart-healthy to scream it out sometimes. That's exactly what Christ did on the cross."

Moore said it is crucial for church leaders to have a healthy spiritual life—or what she calls "a healthy heart."

"If we don't have healthy hearts, we are at extreme risk for an onslaught of problems," she said. "The heart is deceitful, and Satan will use it to manipulate us. In order for you to trust your heart, it has to be given over wholly to God."

Moore listed four steps Christians can take to give their hearts wholly to God.

■ **Learn how to tattle to God.** "Part of David's healthy heart came from his ability to tattle to God," Moore said, referring to Psalm 109, a chapter in which David vengefully asks God to condemn his adversaries.

"If we never get out all that venom, then we will never get back down to the tender places of our heart. When we pour these things out to God, do you know what good that does us? It keeps us from pouring it out to someone else," Moore said.

■ **Learn to be honest about your innermost struggles.** Through Scripture, she said, God gives Christians permission to take their impure or unkind thoughts to him.

"If we don't come to God when we are having troubled thoughts, they will ultimately turn into troubled actions. We have to ask him to come in right there, to begin to mend and heal us, not so we can feel like a wretch, but

so we can feel free," Moore said. "Repentance is about freedom."

■ **Realize God's mercy only flows from his love.** God sees Christians as his children and "cannot respond to them without bias. He cannot separate your sin from your relationship with him. Because you belong to him, when you come to him, he can only see you as his child."

■ **Learn to "wail and dance before God."** Unless Christians can "wail to God when their hearts are broken," they will never "truly dance with him, to find great joy in him, to really have a passion with him," she said.

"If we hold in the tough stuff, when it comes to the glorious stuff, we'll hold that in, too. We can't put a clamp on our heart during special experiences and not on others," Moore said. "We're either going to clamp that heart down or we're going to set it free."

BAPTISTS

HMB employees begin to learn their fate with NAMB

By Mark Wingfield
Editor

ATLANTA—After months of anxious waiting, employees of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board began receiving notifications April 1 about whether they will have jobs in the new North American Mission Board.

The HMB will be dissolved in June—along with the denomination's Radio & Television Commission and Brotherhood Commission—to form NAMB.

The new agency will employ about 165 fewer people than the three agencies combined currently employ. And no guarantees have been given that all the new agency's 350 positions will be filled by current employees of the merged agencies.

A task force appointed by the Northern Baptist Convention Executive Committee has been overseeing creation of the new mission board.

That task force has held all its meetings behind closed doors and has communicated with Southern Baptists only through periodic pre-approved news releases issued through Baptist Press.

The task force created an inventory of the 350 positions to be filled and then apparently worked to place current employees in new positions. Few positions in the new structure directly parallel existing positions. Current employees have not been invited to apply for specific positions in the new structure.

According to reports from HMB employees, an HMB management group is calling employees in random order to give private notification of the individual's status. This process is expected to last up to three weeks. Employees have no advance notice of when they will be summoned.

Upon arrival in the designated conference room, the employee is either offered a new position or terminated.

Those offered new positions are given five days to accept or reject the offer; those terminated are told they can finish their work that day.

A severance package previously announced for terminated employees provides a minimum of four weeks' pay, or one week's pay for every year of denominational service.

By the end of last week, approximately 50 HMB employees had been offered new positions and 30 had been terminated.

Numerous employees described the atmosphere in the HMB headquarters building as "like a morgue."

Remaining employees also expressed concern that the sudden departure of so many employees will leave significant gaps in the HMB workforce between now and June 19, when the HMB is dissolved and NAMB is officially constituted.

The HMB issued a news release through Baptist Press announcing that the notification process had begun.

The release quoted Gary Jones, vice president of the HMB's services section, as saying: "Some staff are surprised and some hurt, but most knew the possibility of their separation and have accepted it. Many have expressed their reliance on the Lord and say they trust God to care for them in this transition."

Most of those notified last week were secretarial and support staff. Management personnel reportedly will be notified during the next two weeks.

No information has been released about how the merger will affect the almost 5,000 field missionaries, currently supervised by the HMB, and the current round of staff reductions involves only headquarters staff.

Although a small number of employees at the Brotherhood Commission and Radio & Television Commission have been terminated already, large-scale notifications have not yet begun at either commission.

BAPTIST BITS

■ **Enrollments up for year.** Clear Creek Baptist Bible College in Pineville recorded the second-highest enrollment increase among Southern Baptist-related colleges and schools nationwide this fall. With a 17 percent increase, Clear Creek enrolled 142. Other Kentucky schools also recorded increases: Campbellsville University, up 12 percent to 1,521; Cumberland College, up 7 percent to 1,614; Georgetown College, up 4 percent to 1,514; and Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College, up 12 percent to 125.

■ **National CP up at mid-year.** Gifts to the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program unified budget are up 4.86 percent in the first half of this fiscal year compared to the same period last year. Undesignated gifts for the period totaled \$76.52 million, compared to \$72.97 million last year.

■ **Lee elected in Louisiana.** Rory Lee has been named president of Louisiana College, a school affiliated with the Louisiana Baptist Convention. Lee, 47 has been president of William Carey College in Hattiesburg, Miss. He succeeds Robert Lynn, who is retiring.

■ **Lawsuit may proceed.** The Louisiana Supreme Court has refused to throw out the defamation lawsuit brought by four Louisiana College professors against a group of conservative critics. Defendant Leon Hyatt, head of the Louisiana Baptist Conservative Resurgence group, had sought to have the lawsuit dismissed on religious-liberty grounds.

■ **BWA opposes Israeli bill.** The Baptist World Alliance has joined other religious groups in urging Israeli lawmakers to reject a proposed new law that would outlaw religious proselytizing. The proposed law would carry a one-year jail term for anyone convicted of activities intended as an "inducement for religious conversion."

■ **Gay pastor joins UCC.** An Ohio Baptist pastor who resigned his church two years ago because fellow ministers threatened to reveal to his congregation that he is gay has been ordained by the United Church of Christ and is starting a new church in Dayton. Mike Castle resigned in 1995 as pastor of Miami Valley Community Church in Dayton. At the time he was single and said he was committed to celibacy. The new church has an open posture toward homosexuals, and Castle said he has entered into a "union" with a partner.

SBC hunger giving begins new upward trend

NASHVILLE (BP)—After years of decline, gifts to the Southern Baptist world hunger fund grew by more than 5 percent in 1996.

Hunger giving rose from nearly \$6.7 million in 1995 to \$7.1 million in 1996.

The increased rate of giving appears to be setting a new trendline upward, said Donoso Escobar, director of church and community ministries for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. He noted hunger receipts for the HMB are up 45 percent for the first two months of 1997 compared to the same months in 1996.

"The additional receipts enabled us to respond swiftly to emergency hun-

ger situations," Escobar said, explaining many of the funds went to aid flood victims in California, Kentucky and Indiana.

Gifts to the Southern Baptist Convention's world hunger fund are distributed 20 percent to the HMB and 80 percent to the Foreign Mission Board.

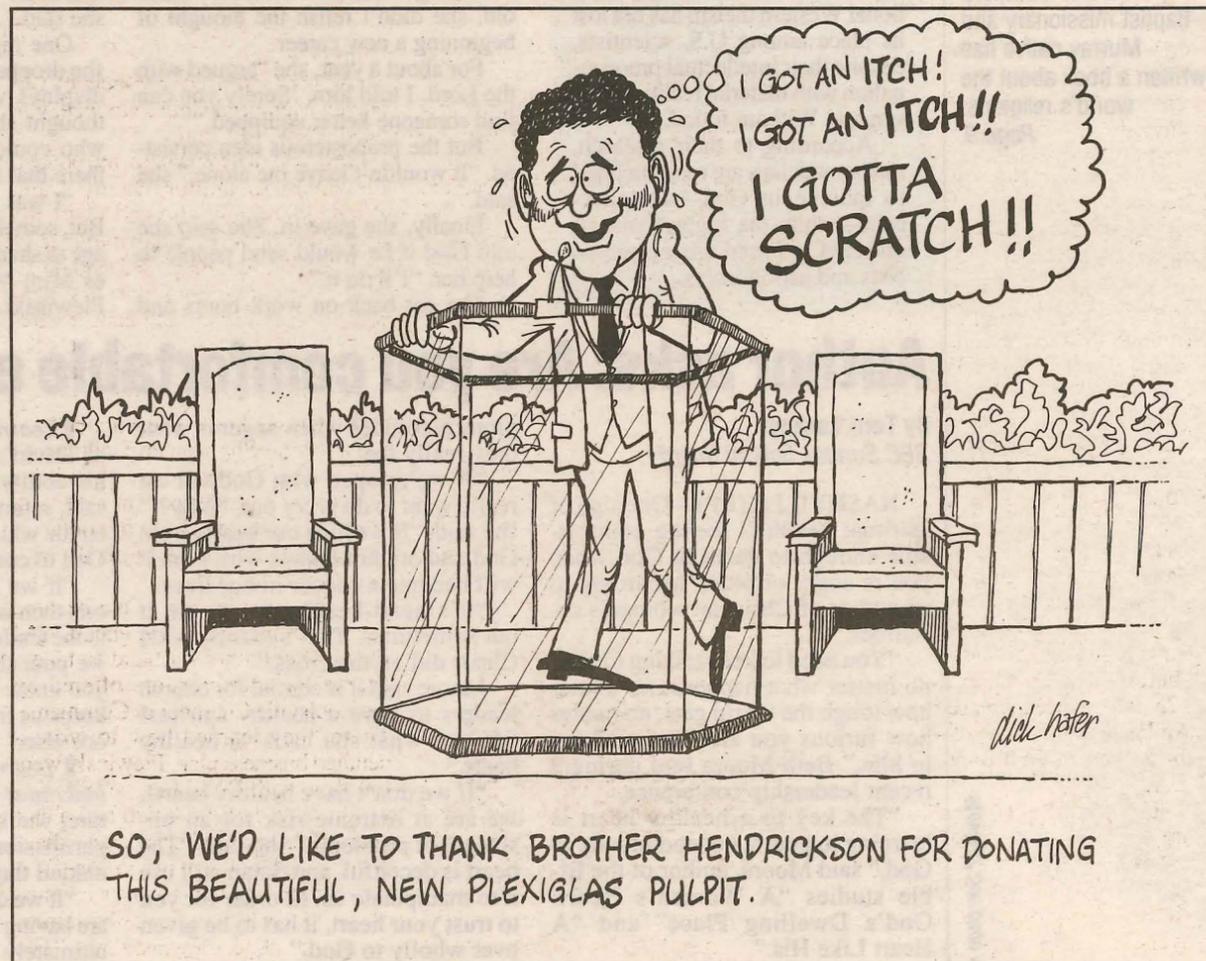
While expressing appreciation for the increase in gifts, an FMB specialist in hunger relief said the need worldwide remains enormous.

"While we are grateful for the increased giving in 1996, we challenge Southern Baptists to an even greater vision. On average, Southern Baptists continue to give less than \$1 per mem-

ber to world hunger relief," said Bill Cashion, the FMB's human needs consultant.

Cashion said when Southern Baptists fail to give, opportunities to share the gospel are missed. For example, an invitation to expand an FMB vocational training program across South Africa was declined due to a lack of funding.

Many Baptists are unaware that missions offerings and the Cooperative Program do not fund the 200 hunger ministries Southern Baptists operate worldwide, Cashion said. "The only provision for these ministries is through the Southern Baptist world hunger fund."



KENTUCKY

Louisa youth responding to church group

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

LOUISA—If the youth group at First Baptist Church of Louisa keeps expanding like it has the past two years, the building may burst at the seams.

The growth has been inspired by a pair of youth revivals at the church featuring Oklahoma evangelist David Edwards.

Fifteen teenagers accepted Christ as personal Savior at the most recent meeting March 20. Another 73 reached other decisions, including rededicating their lives to God or committing to pray for friends, family or school.

After a similar event in March 1995, the group's ranks swelled from 30 to about 85 for Wednesday night meetings, plus a dozen adults serving on the youth ministry team.

"A lot of families have gotten involved in our church through the work of our youth ministry," said Youth Pastor Scott Midkiff. "God is moving and it's a blessing to see."

Edwards also spoke at four area high schools and middle schools March 19-20. After each assembly, where he delivered a pro-abstinence, drug-free message, volunteers distributed free tickets advertising the revival.

First Baptist hosted a pizza party as a drawing card. "You can't compromise the gospel message, but you have to constantly seek new ways of delivering the message," said Midkiff, a former teacher and football coach.

The revival turned into a poignant event, coming just three days after the death of youth ministry worker William Cook. Despite his death, Cook's family wanted the event to proceed. Midkiff said the results honored his memory.

Ric Frazier, who grew up in First Baptist and returned 21 months ago to serve as pastor, said the group's growth reflects what God is doing throughout the church. First Baptist has seen many other professions of faith recently and baptized nearly a dozen people, he said.

"The Lord has started sending us an unscheduled revival," said Frazier. "I'm looking forward to what he wants done."

When the Louisa native returned to his hometown, the church's Sunday school averaged 125. It has since increased to 360. An Easter attendance of 443 was the highest in First Baptist's history.

Despite the excitement, there are still serious problems in the town of 2,000. Midkiff said in the past two years, six teens have died because of accidents, drug overdoses and suicides.

Leaders seek more long-term volunteers

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

WILLIAMSBURG—Some teach school at Oneida Baptist Institute, while others lead mission congregations, direct retreat centers and help with disaster relief—all for no salary.

They are Mission Service Corps volunteers who further the work of Kentucky Baptists. But as the national Southern Baptist volunteer program nears its 20th anniversary in June, Kentucky Baptist leaders recognize that it has kept a low profile in the Bluegrass State.

"Mission Service Corps has never been promoted on a statewide basis," said Larry Martin, director of missions and evangelism for the Kentucky Baptist Convention. "We are just beginning to make churches and associations aware of it."

An outgrowth of Southern Baptists' Bold Mission Thrust goals, Missions Service Corps was founded to increase the denomination's domestic missions force. Today, MSC volunteers comprise nearly one-third of the 4,620 Southern Baptist home missionaries, said Bob Mills, director of the MSC department at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Nationwide, 2,311 volunteers serve through the MSC program.

While terms generally run for two years, the average volunteer serves three and a half years. To qualify, volunteers must serve at least 20 hours a week on an approved missions assign-

ment.

"In a lot of ways, this is one of the best-kept secrets on how we can expand missions work," said Mills. "We have campus ministers, pastors of new works, secretaries and professionals with associations and state organizations."

While some have an image of the corps as retirees who no longer need to work, Mills said, only 36 percent of the MSC force is age 65 and older.

About one-third live off pensions or other income, another third raise their own financial support and a third are "tentmakers," holding down secular jobs on the mission field.

Commonly termed bivocational, the last category is the fastest-growing among Southern Baptist pastors, said Carl Barrington, associate director of the MSC department.

"We're trying to come up with a means to ministry that in the 21st century will look more like it did in the first century. We have to color outside the lines and be creative. In Las Vegas, one of the best times to do Bible study is at 11 p.m. on Saturday night, during shift change."

The long-term trend favors tentmaking, Barrington said. In 1948 only 50 percent of SBC pastors were full time. By 1972 that ratio had risen to 69 percent, but it has since dropped to about 61 percent.

This increasing number of bivocational pastors will fare better through an affiliation with MSC, said Mills.

He listed such benefits as the mis-

sion board's intercessory prayer hotline, field supervision, training opportunities, cooperation with other missionaries and group medical insurance for appointees.

Martin said he knows the value of unpaid workers through past experience as director of missions for Greater Boston Baptist Association. More than 80 percent of his staff was volunteers.

When the association drew up long-range plans in 1985 they had a lot of dreams but few resources, he recalled. They prayed, and 27 volunteers came to Boston by 1992, staying at least a year.

They made valuable contributions, he said. Vicky Parrott is still there and manages the Boston association's partnership with Kentucky Baptists. Another volunteer spearheaded building 13 Habitat for Humanity houses.

Martin hopes the 26 mission volunteers in the state (another 13 Kentuckians serve in other states) will more than double in the coming year. He believes those who join will find it rewarding.

More information about Mission Service Corps is available from the missions and evangelism office of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, (502) 245-4101 or from the MSC department of the Home Mission Board, (800) 462-8657.

The board will conduct its first statewide MSC orientation Apr. 10-13 at Cumberland Lodge in Williamsburg. Registration is still open.

Cards try to bring realism & hope to patients

Continued from page 1

Plewinski met Shirley Schureck, the woman who would compose the verses for the cards. Schureck, an accountant, had just completed chemotherapy herself.

At their first meeting, Plewinski said, she thought Schureck "didn't get it." But she was wrong. Within a few days, Schureck came to her with 60 verses.

Plewinski's mother developed the acronym for DODII: Defender of Dignity in Illness.

Plewinski had her artist and her composer. She had her logo. Now, she had to get the drawings onto cards.



DODII The character in these "chemocards" was based on Cindy Plewinski's face and the childhood nickname of her mother.

Again, Stoess came through. She turned to her nephew, David Gower, a graphic artist who turned the artwork and printed copy into a finished product.

One more hurdle remained: marketing the cards.

Again, God used members of DeHaven Memorial Church to meet that need, Plewinski said.

Jim and Jo Markham introduced Plewinski to author Danny Cain. When Plewinski showed Cain the cards, he cried. He had lost four family members to cancer. He said he already was planning for his next project to center around cancer caregivers. Looking at the cards, he said, reminded him of things he had not dealt with.

Plewinski knew Cain understood her concept. She wanted DODII products to help the person giving them as much as the cancer patient receiving them. She wanted DODII to "open up communication, to deal directly with the issue," she said.

A few months later, Cain became her marketing agent. He encouraged Plewinski and her husband to take a course for entrepreneurs offered by the Louisville Chamber of Commerce. There, they learned how to write a detailed business plan. Plewinski went full-time with DODII Inc.

On Nov. 1, 1996—two and a half years after her mother's cancer diagnosis—the DODII line of cards went on the market. While the verses on each of the 36 cards varies, the basic message is the same, Plewinski said. "The message is, 'I love you. I've been

where you are. There is hope.'" Scripture is included on each card. T-shirts, sweatshirts, hats and dolls are available also.

No one is more pleased by the products than her mother, Plewinski said. At 73, Doris Overman is a cancer survivor who is excited about the ministry potential of the company, Plewinski said.

The company is not just a card company, "it's a mission," Plewinski said.

She dreams of getting the endorsement of a pharmaceutical company that would purchase DODII dolls she could give to cancer patients. The dolls, she says, would open the door for a "prayer visit" with them.

"I'm a caregiver. That's where my heart is," she said. "I can't wait for that part" to come true.

The DODII line of greeting cards is available in Louisville at Wellspring Bookstore; Berean (Abundant Life) Bookstore; Lemstone Bookstore and Pettymark in Oxmoor Shopping Center; What Not Shop in Bigg's Plaza; Baptist East Hospital, Jewish Hospital and Norton Hospital gift shops; Southern Baptist Theological Seminary bookstore; and selected Walgreen Pharmacies; in LaGrange at Mimi's Hallmark, LaGrange Florist and Impressions Office Supply; and in Crestwood, at Craig's Pharmacy.

Five percent of proceeds goes to cancer research and education.

Plewinski hopes to have a nationwide distributor network in place soon. For more information, call (502) 241-6742.

BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ An open forum on making end-of-life decisions is scheduled for Saturday, April 19, from 10:30 a.m. to noon as the concluding segment of an ethics conference sponsored by the Wayne Oates Institute. Panelists Joan Gibson, a bioethics consultant from the University of New Mexico, and Laurel Shackelford, a Courier-Journal columnist, will field questions from the floor. The free session will be held in Pasteur Hall at Bellarmine College in Louisville.

■ Kentucky Campers on Mission will hold its annual spring rally April 21-26 at Wickliff. Those attending will help complete the inside of Faith Baptist Church, including electrical, plumbing and carpentry. For more information, contact Guy or Betty King, (606) 341-7622.

■ Western Baptist Hospital and Oneida Baptist Institute recently sponsored a medical missions project providing medical exams, dental care and other services to nearly 500 area residents.

■ Georgetown College's community forum April 21 will focus on the subject "China as a Superpower: What to Expect." Admission is free to this 7:30 p.m. talk in room 112 of the Asher Science Center.

OPINION

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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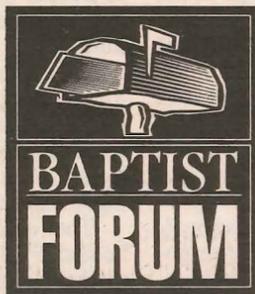
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Need more 'duds'

Prior to 1988, our family lived in North Carolina almost 15 years. We were members of a Southern Baptist church whose pastors were graduates of Southeastern Seminary. On numerous occasions we also were privileged to hear messages by Southeastern professors and other Southeastern-trained pastors. Our daughter received the master of religious education degree from Southeastern.

Jerry Falwell's reference to previous graduates of Southeastern as "duds" (March 25, page 2) is not only untrue, but also unChristian. If former Southeastern graduates are "duds," what Southern Baptists need is more "duds" and fewer "Jerry Falwell clones."

Carolyn Vertrees
Elizabethtown



Signs of the times

Since the time of the tower of Babel, fallen humanity has longed for world government to establish a worldwide brotherhood of the human race. This often-expressed desire has both political and religious implications.

The desire of fallen humanity will ultimately be fulfilled in the time of the great tribulation. The political beast, the Antichrist, and the religious beast, the false prophet, will join forces to rule the entire world. They will

be empowered by the great red dragon, Satan.

John wrote, "I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet" (Revelation 16:13).

The false prophet will bring all the false religions of the world, including the false branches of Christendom, together during the great tribulation. He will establish his worldwide church of the false prophet. He will work miracles as described in Revelation 13:11-15. He will use the miracles to deceive "them that dwell on the earth," and will cause those who are deceived to take the 666 mark of

the beast.

Through New Age religions, interfaith councils, cults and secularism, the minds of people are now being prepared for the coming of the false prophet—for the global village of the religious beast and the political beast.

All true born again Christians need to be alert during the falling away that precedes the great tribulation. We need to study our Bibles diligently to know and apply the sound doctrines of Christ. And we need to study the book of Revelation for discernment of prophecy that is still hereafter and certain to be fulfilled.

William Hagan
Taylorsville

A challenge for youth missions

"If the Mormons can get their young people to give two years of their lives in missionary service, why can't we evangelicals get our young people to give at least one year?"

I've been asking that question from one end of the country to the other. Responses have been surprising.

Young people have stood up and said they are willing and ready, but nobody has ever asked them. Everywhere I go on college campuses, I find young people telling me they are ready to set aside a year—some are willing to give two years—to a church-based ministry where they have opportunity to do evangelism and social ministry.

The program I have proposed to them involves a weekly schedule like this:

- Twenty hours per week in door-to-door evangelism.
- Ten hours per week in social ministry, probably tutoring in a local high school or working with the homeless.
- Ten hours in ministry in a neighborhood church (leading a youth group, teaching Sunday school, singing in the choir, etc.)

After one year of this kind of work, I know we would have young men and women who would know their Bibles and have a well-developed theology. It is my contention that learning the Bible and developing theology always take place in the context of involvement in ministry.

As they go door-to-door, young people will be asked questions and

driven back to studying their Bibles in order to come up with answers. In their discussions with people they will have to develop a theology to make sense out of the faith they are trying to communicate.

When Jesus sent out the 70, they were not well-equipped. But in the context of their missionary work the Holy Spirit put words in their mouths: They learned the words of God and developed a theology in the process of witnessing for Jesus. The same will hold true for young people today.

When I talk to pastors about the prospects of such an army of volunteer workers, their eyes light up.

Pastors of struggling inner-city congregations are thrilled at the prospect of having a team of young

people working out of their churches, going door-to-door with the word of God, bringing people into the churches for Bible studies, conducting social ministries in the neighborhoods and generating new youth ministries in their churches.

It should be noted that Mormons now have the fastest-growing religion in America; they have done it almost solely on the basis of young people serving as missionaries. I contend we can do better than they can, given the truth of the gospel message our young people will carry.

Finally, consider what these young people will bring back to their churches after a year of service.

HYMNS WE SING

"Because He Lives"

Bill and Gloria Gaither met at Anderson College in Indiana. After they married, they began their careers teaching high school English in Alexandria, Ind., Bill's hometown.

Since childhood, both Bill and Gloria had a special interest in music. Now teaching high school students and participating in their home church, they frequently were invited to sing together. Out of this musical activity, new songs began to appear. In 1963, Bill Gaither wrote "He Touched Me," and the immediate acceptance of the song was encouraging.

In 1971, the Gaither home was blessed with the arrival of a baby boy, Benjy. As the parents were filled with joy and gratitude for the gift of this baby, they were at the same time aware that the world into which this child was born was filled with injustice, bigotry, greed and immorality.

In spite of this, they felt the strong assurance of Jesus Christ and, holding the precious child in their arms, they wrote what is now the second stanza that begins, "How sweet to hold a newborn baby." The music was written, then the first and third stanzas completed the song.

William J. Reynolds
Southwestern Seminary

They will have vision; they will have experiences; they will have a taste of the excitement of having won people to Jesus Christ.

Undoubtedly, local churches will be brought to a new level of spiritual excitement when these young people rejoin them.

The vision is not one of those "wouldn't it be nice?" sort of things. This is a vision which already is drawing people together.

Hundreds of young people already have given me their names and addresses, expressing their desire to be a part of this movement.

Folks are making financial contributions to get behind this effort.

Television evangelism is good. Contemporary church worship is enticing. But nothing beats obeying the Lord's Great Commission.

In the end we are not going to reach this generation for Christ unless people go door-to-door with the message of the gospel. We have young people ready to do that. It is up to the rest of us to get behind them in prayer and support and make this happen.

I can't think of any better way to revitalize the churches and bring revival in America than this 2,000-year-old plan. We have been looking for short cuts, but there is no substitute for knocking on doors.

If you want to give or to get involved, call the hotline for this ministry at (610) 341-1722.

Tony Campolo, a popular author and speaker, is professor of sociology at Eastern College in St. Davids, Pa., and president of the Evangelical Association for Promotion of Education

TEENS

Is my teenager doing too much?

By Wade Rowatt

Q. How much is too much when it comes to outside activities for teenagers? My son plays in the band at school, partici-

pates in city-league sports almost year around and is in all the church groups. His older sister is in community theater,



all the same church activities and babysits in her free time. We, the parents, hardly get to see them, except for the times we provide transportation.

A. Your teens participate in many events, but you do not mention any of the crises that erupt in many teen households. If neither of them has school problems, substance abuse behaviors, emotional problems, sex problems, depression or other major conflicts, be thankful. Busy, active youth tend to remain out of trouble.

Many youth complain of being bored. An idle mind is fertile ground for the growth of devilment, unrest and mischief. Busy adolescents tend to be better students and less rebellious.

There are benefits of the type of activities you mentioned. Activities are where youth make their best friends. Healthy friendships grow around wholesome activities. Good friends contribute to stability in teenage development.

Team and group activities teach young people the rewards of cooperation and teamwork. They learn how to share tasks and responsibilities, to win and to lose, to rely on each other and to encourage each other.

In this day when most families live away from grandparents, uncles, aunts and other relatives, the time to relate with adults other than teachers and parents is good for teenagers.

One final benefit is that activities for youth require them to use their time more wisely. They become disciplined in time management and planning schedules.

Whenever teens are so busy they become stressed out over too much to do, then they are doing too much. They need some time each week to do nothing.

And yes, teenagers require some time to be with their parents. In fact, 30 minutes daily should be a minimum. One shared parent-teen activity a week helps the family run more smoothly. Teens deserve as much time as toddlers, just not as much control.

Wade Rowatt is director of the St. Matthews Pastoral Counseling Center in Louisville.

HE SAID/SHE SAID

Expenses keep dripping away, but not on our favorite things

HE SAID



Mark Wingfield

Why is it that so many of the things we have to spend big chunks of money on are things we don't really want to spend money on at all? Exhibit A: It's tax time.

But it's not just taxes. Do you know anyone who gets excited about buying new tires for a car?

Savvy marketers are onto this unrest, however. In the male world of ungratifying expenditures, major change has been seen in one area in recent

years: underwear. Who would have thought men could get excited about paying \$5 a pair for underwear? (And why is underwear a "pair" anyway?)

Walk into the men's department at any clothing store, and you'll be greeted with more variety in underwear than you ever thought possible: boxers, briefs, bikinis, cottons, silks, knits, colors, polka dots, stripes, plaids. All this for something nobody else will know you're wearing. But at least it's easier to get excited and confused about plunking down your hard-earned money for this basic necessity now.

Plumbing, another male-dominated arena, hasn't made such progress, however. I now know this first-hand, because I have a \$350 faucet on my basement work sink.

While cleaning up after a paint job the other night, the hot water handle turned and turned and finally broke loose into my hand. The water, of course, was still running.

When the plumber arrived the next morning, he informed us we had an old and rare kind of sink. Only a special kind of faucet would fit it, and only two such faucets could be found anywhere in Louisville. The cost: \$250 plus labor.

I was shocked to see that this most-expensive faucet in our house looked so plain. Plumbers should learn a lesson from the underwear folks. I would have felt a lot better about spending my money on something in a stripe or polka dot.

SHE SAID



Alison Wingfield

Anyone who comes to our house has to admire our lovely faucet on our double cement sink in the basement.

Aside from unexpected house and car repairs, there isn't much I don't enjoy spending money on. When I have the money.

But shoes are the exception. Shoes are my bane.

I have small feet. Lengthwise, I wear a 6 "D," now (after a twin pregnancy) almost an "E" width. Yes, my feet are

squares.

Shoe shopping is not usually a pleasant experience for me. Shoes are one of the few things I will pay full price for if I find some to fit my feet.

I recently experienced one of the greatest shoe-shopping moments of my life. Mark and I decided to take a peek in a fancy department store in San Francisco. The floor we started on happened to be all shoes. Just as I was ready to turn tail and run, I saw a sign that said "Special Sizes." I had to check it out.

And there they were. The kind of short fashion boots I have admired for several seasons, knowing I could never squeeze my toes into them. But I asked the salesperson anyway. And lo and behold, they had my size. And the price, although not on sale, was not unreasonable.

Mark, who has been on enough shoe-shopping expeditions with me to know the traumas I've been through, immediately said, "Buy them!"

If Jesus had used me as an illustration in one of his kingdom parables, the treasure I searched for would not have been pearls or coins but the perfect pair of shoes.

Walk a mile in shoes of minister's spouse

Here's a question for the average layperson in the pew: If someone mistreats your spouse at work or if your spouse encounters difficulties at work, with whom do you discuss your hurt and concern? Perhaps with friends at church? Perhaps with your Sunday school class?

Now imagine that your spouse's job is to be a minister in the local church. To whom would you turn for counsel in times of struggle, since the friends you have at church are off-limits? If they're not part of the problem, they're likely related to or close to someone who is part of the problem.

For the average layperson, church relationships provide a welcome retreat from the wear-and-tear of work relationships. But for the minister's family, there is no such retreat.

Most of the time, the minister's family devotes so much time and energy to the work of the church that their support relationships are tied up almost exclusively in the church. Therefore, burdens often are carried alone, unspoken out of fear or because there really is no one nearby in whom to confide.

This problem is severe enough for ministers, but it is even worse for ministers' spouses, who don't have the support network of the local association or ministerial group.

Few laypeople realize how challenging and lonely life can be for the minister's spouse. Even in the healthiest churches, there's always one or two people who make a hobby of tormenting the pastor. Often, the person who feels the pain the deepest is the pastor's spouse, who is expected to be at church every Sunday wearing a broad smile regardless of what's going on.

Whether spoken or not, churches place enormous expectations on the minister's family. For example, your kid may dye his hair blue and it's just considered a phase; but if the pastor's kid dyes his hair blue, it's whispered to be a sure sign the pastor isn't providing godly leadership in his family.

Ministers' wives often are expected not only to be model parents, but to bake cookies for every function, teach Sunday school, sing in the choir (or play the piano), know the Bible backward and forward, attend every WMU meeting and know where the pastor is at all times.

EDITORIAL

A 1996 survey of ministers' wives conducted by Just Between Us magazine identified their top 10 common needs: (1) balancing family and ministry; (2) loneliness; (3) better relationships; (4) devotional life; (5) meeting expectations of the church; (6) developing ministry skills; (7) making ends meet financially; (8) fostering emotional and physical health; (9) aging; (10) dealing positively with ministry criticism.

What can you do as a layperson? Here are 10 suggestions:

■ Realize that ministerial families are made up of real people just like you. They make mistakes, they get offended, they hurt, they struggle like most everyone else.

■ Make it your responsibility to see that the minister and the minister's family are treated fairly by the church. Speak on the minister's behalf when others unfairly criticize or attack.

■ Pay the minister a fair and livable wage.

■ If the minister's family lives in a parsonage, let them make it their home without having to get approval from a church committee every time they want to hang a picture.

■ Ensure that the ministerial family has adequate time each year for vacation, conventions and continuing education away from the church field.

■ Don't frown when your minister wants to take time off at holidays to visit family out of town. Everyone else in the congregation may have family nearby, but the minister usually doesn't. Put your family in the shoes of the minister's family.

■ Don't expect the minister's kids to be saintly by nature. Kids are kids.

■ Remember that the church has hired the minister, not the minister and spouse as a two-for-one deal.

■ Treat the minister's spouse as a real person with a name and identity apart from the minister's, and don't expect all ministerial spouses to be alike.

■ Take every possible opportunity to demonstrate your love for the minister and the minister's spouse. Everyone likes to know they are appreciated.

— Mark Wingfield

Note: Just Between Us is a magazine devoted to the needs of ministers' wives and women in ministry. For information, call (800) 260-3342.

The beginning of the end

Editor's note: This is the second in a three-part series on the resurrection of Jesus.

By Carey Newman

Over toast and coffee, my friend and I were recounting how we had celebrated Easter. His church devoted the morning service to a choir special, while mine performed a pageant in the evening. In the middle of the conversation he mused: "You know, we have celebrations for Jesus' birth, his death and his resurrection; but we have nothing for his second coming. Isn't that odd?" He then looked at me and asked this question: "Which is more important anyway, Jesus' resurrection or his second coming?"

It is impossible to separate one aspect of Jesus' life from another; they are mutually interdependent. That Jesus pre-existed in the very form of God made his incarnation as a human a miracle; his miraculous incarnation as God allowed his death to be a perfect sacrifice for all; Jesus' complete

and unwavering commitment to obedience was vindicated by the resurrection; and the resurrection anticipates the great Kingdom of God.

While it is true that no one part of Jesus' life could be dropped out without diminishing the whole, it is equally true that the drama of God's dealing with the world reached a critical—moment at Easter. Resurrection mortally wounded the powers of sin and death, thus breaking the curse which they had long uttered over humanity.

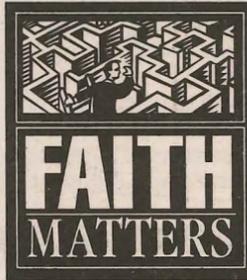
Moreover, resurrection inaugurated the age of renewal: All that God ever promised began to be fulfilled. So complete was God's triumph that, since that first Easter morning, Christians have gathered the first of each week to celebrate.

The recent NCAA basketball tournament illustrated just how the end can begin in the middle. In game after game, especially in the early rounds where the teams were unevenly matched, a certain critical moment—the critical moment—was reached

when the team that was behind realized there was not enough time to score a sufficient number of points to catch up. The team that was ahead also realized this, and began to celebrate—hugging, waving towels, hamming it up for the cameras. Sometimes this realization came early; sometimes it came late; but it came nonetheless. The dye was cast and final victory assured.

Resurrection graphically proves the powers of evil were no real match for the one true God. The die was cast that first Easter. Victory belongs to God; death has been left naked and humiliated. In the resurrection of Jesus, the long drama of God's dealing with his creation reached a critical—the critical—moment. Evil is now subjected to watching those who share in resurrection gather and celebrate.

I told my friend to get out his towel and find the cameras. The end is here; the old is passing away and all things are becoming new. The second coming of Jesus is the final few minutes of the game whose outcome was decided long ago. *In the resurrection of Jesus, God, once and for all time, delivered the decisive mortal blow to the powers which cruelly held creation in bondage.*



NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Acts of God?** After a week of debate, Arkansas state representatives decided to remove the phrase "acts of God" from an insurance reform bill. Gov. Mike Huckabee had refused to sign the bill, protecting the insurance rights of recent storm victims, saying he could not in good conscience sign the bill because he does not believe a law should designate "a destructive and deadly force" as an act of God.

■ **Senate task force to focus on religious persecution.** Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., is organizing a Republican senatorial task force that will focus on religious persecution around the world. The group will develop policy initiatives to address human rights abuses.

■ **L.A. city council bans airport solicitation.** Attorneys for religious and civil rights groups vowed to sue the city after the Los Angeles City Council passed an ordinance banning the soliciting of money at Los Angeles International Airport. The Los Angeles temple of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness raises around \$50,000 annually at the airport. Right Way Youth Activities told the city council it raises about \$100,000 annually at the airport.

■ **Muslim gets \$2.9 million in airline case.** A California jury awarded \$2.9 million to a former United Airlines worker who claimed he was a victim of discrimination and wrongfully fired because he is a Muslim. Ahmad Abu-Aziz began working for United Airlines in 1994 at Oakland International Airport, where he said he was compared to a terrorist. He also said other workers made derogatory comments about his name, religion and national origin.

■ **Ultra-Orthodox rabbis shun non-Orthodox synagogues.** A small, ultra-Orthodox rabbinical group has issued a ruling saying Jews should not pray in Reform, Conservative and other non-Orthodox synagogues. The ruling said it was better to pray at home than enter a non-Orthodox synagogue. When first reported last month, the ruling was misinterpreted to say that Reform and Conservative Jews were no longer Jews.

■ **Clinton's nephew baptized in White House ceremony.** President Clinton's 2-year-old nephew, Tyler Cassidy Clinton, was baptized Easter Sunday in the White House Blue Room. The young man, who turns 3 on May 12, was baptized in a private gathering after Clinton and his family returned from services at Foundry United Methodist Church.

■ **Chavis Muhammad's ministerial standing suspended.** The ministerial standing of Benjamin Chavis Muhammad, who announced in February he had joined the Nation of Islam, has been temporarily suspended by the regional association of the United Church of Christ that ordained him in 1980. The action means Chavis should stop performing clergy functions, such as administering the sacraments and serving in other ways as a pastoral leader, until his status within the church is clarified.

■ **King's home church plans new sanctuary.** Plans are under way for a new sanctuary for the home church of the late Martin Luther King Jr. The new \$8 million sanctuary will be decorated with stained-glass windows depicting the civil rights struggle. The sanctuary, which will seat 1,700 people, will be built across the street from historic Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, where both the slain civil rights leader and his father preached.

■ **Groups protest alleged brutality toward pastor.** Black Methodists for Church Renewal, a caucus in the United Methodist Church, is among the groups protesting a recent incident of alleged police brutality against Pastor Lawrence Livingston of Wilmington, Del. Police say Livingston resisted arrest after a traffic stop. Livingston reportedly was maced, beaten, held at gunpoint and arrested March 18.

■ **World Relief names new president.** Clive Calver, a veteran leader of the evangelical movement in Great Britain, has been named president of World Relief, the international assistance arm of the Illinois-based National Association of Evangelicals. Calver, who will assume the presidency in May, was hired because of his experience in building successful ministries, including programs to help the poor and homeless, directors said.

Jewish groups oppose Christian persecution

By Kim Lawton
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Putting aside sometimes deep religious differences, leaders of several influential Jewish advocacy groups last month added their voices to the growing grassroots campaign on behalf of persecuted Christians around the world.

"Jews have a special feeling based on our own experience," said Warren Eisenberg, director of the International Council of B'nai B'rith. "We lend ourselves to battles against persecution."

At a meeting in the U.S. Capitol sponsored by the Center for Jewish and Christian Values, religious and political leaders discussed the 30-year campaign for Soviet Jewry and explored how lessons learned from that struggle could be applied on behalf of Christians facing religious repression in numerous countries.

Many speakers at the meeting noted that thousands of Christians were involved in the effort to aid the nearly 3 million Jews who were severely repressed in the Soviet Union and often forbidden to emigrate to Israel and elsewhere.

"The campaign to save Soviet Jewry is an example of a religious community redirecting American foreign

policy on behalf of oppressed co-religionists overseas. Unless the American Christian community launches a similar effort, the plight of persecuted Christians will only worsen," said Chris Gersten, director of the Washington-based center, a conservative education and advocacy group.

For more than a year, evangelical Christians and others have been attempting to mobilize an international outcry against the persecution of Christians around the world.

According to many religious liberty groups, Christians are currently the single largest group persecuted worldwide on the basis of religious beliefs. They cite China, Egypt, Cuba, North Korea, Iran and Pakistan as examples.

Jess Hordes, Washington representative of the Anti-Defamation League, said perseverance, consistency and credibility will be key elements to "the effort we may spearhead here" on behalf of persecuted Christians.

However, Rabbi David Saperstein, director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, cautioned evangelicals many Jews may be reluctant to join a similar campaign for Christians if there is strong emphasis on proselytism and missionary activities. Saperstein stressed he believes proselytism and evangelism are fun-

damental rights protected in internationally recognized human-rights covenants. But if an advocacy campaign focuses on those issues, Saperstein said he fears that within the Jewish community "people will still stand up, but there will be a queasiness" about the agenda.

"I will stand there with you, but tactically, it will be a disservice to the cause," he said.

Responding to Saperstein's comments, Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Christian Life Commission, agreed advocacy for persecuted Christians should "focus on the things that unite us, rather than divide us."

Land stressed proselytism is a "fundamental human right" and a key faith activity for many religions, including Christianity. "But it cannot be and should not be the major focus of this effort," he said.

Land said he believed Saperstein's comments on proselytism "needed to be heard by those in the evangelical community."

Proselytism has been a sensitive issue between the Southern Baptist Convention and the Jewish community. Many U.S. Jewish groups have expressed concern over Southern Baptist statements encouraging evangelism efforts aimed at Jews.

Groups publish open letter to protest Gore's trip to China

WASHINGTON (BP)—Several groups, including the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, recently challenged the Clinton administration to put "human rights before profits" in its policy toward China.

CLC President Richard Land was among 26 signers of an open letter to Vice President Al Gore that appeared as a full-page advertisement in the Easter Sunday issue of the Washington Times, a conservative paper operated by the Rev. Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church.

The ad followed Gore's four-day visit to China. The open letter noted China's ongoing persecution of Christians and other religious adherents and called for the administration "to stand with the victims of oppression."

In addition to the CLC's Land, other signers of the ad included Focus on the Family President James Dobson,

Christian Coalition Executive Director Ralph Reed, Family Research Council President Gary Bauer and Prison Fellowship President Chuck Colson.

The vice president "apparently did and said little" on his trip on behalf of the victims of the Chinese government's repression of religious groups outside its system of state-approved churches, the ad said. Meanwhile, American business interests praised the trip and China's leaders exploited it for favorable publicity, it said.

Speaker of the House of Representatives Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., traveled to China the same week.

He spoke "much more bluntly than have administration officials about China's human rights abuses but remained generally supportive of the policy of engagement" pursued by the administration, the Washington Post reported March 31.

Maine likely to ban same-sex marriage

AUGUSTA, Maine (RNS)—Maine is expected to become the 18th state in the nation to ban gay marriages after the state legislature voted to prohibit official recognition of marital unions between same-sex couples.

The Maine Senate approved the measure in a 24-10 vote, one day after the bill cleared the state House of Representatives by a wide margin. Gov. Angus King announced he will not veto the bill.

"The people of the state of Maine, now represented by their political leaders, have wisely moved to protect the institution of marriage from the marauding of opportunistic gay activ-

ists," said Carolyn Cosby of Concerned Maine Families.

The group led a grassroots petition drive bringing the issue to the legislature. Under state rules, if Maine lawmakers had not approved the bill, the measure would have been put before voters in a November referendum.

Democratic Sen. Susan Longley opposed the measure, arguing that the definition of marriage is changing. She said parental fitness "has nothing to do with sexual orientation."

Under the Defense of Marriage Act signed by President Clinton in September, individual states can decide not to recognize same-sex marriages.

Denomination fails to ratify salvation pledge

NEW YORK (RNS)—Members of the Reformed Church in America have rejected a move that would have required all ministers and congregations to reaffirm annually their belief that salvation comes only through Jesus.

With just one of the denomination's 46 classes, or regional jurisdictions, still to vote, the measure trailed 23 to 22. Approval by two-thirds of the classes was required for passage.

"I guess this just shows the Reformed Church in America is a lot more liberal in its theology than we probably have a reputation for being," said Pastor Patrick Shetler of Grant, Mich., who drafted the amendment.

It came in response to a dispute that erupted when Richard Rhem, pastor of the Reformed Christ Community Church in Spring Lake, Mich., stated publicly that faith in Jesus was not necessary for salvation.

The uproar prompted Rhem and his congregation to leave the denomination in 1996, although the action has not been formally recognized by the church. A retired pastor—Don Van Hoeven of Kalamazoo, Mich.—who supported Rhem, was formally rebuked by the RCA.

Van Hoeven, who is appealing the sanction, welcomed the outcome of the vote. "It is the moderate inclusive voices of the church which shall prevail within our denomination."

FLOOD '97

KBC CHURCHES SERIOUSLY DAMAGED

NOTE: This list contains information available to the Western Recorder as of press time April 7. If any information printed here is incorrect or if you know of a seriously damaged church that is not listed, please call the Recorder office at (502) 244-6470 or the KBC partnership missions office at (502) 244-6462. This list will be updated each week and published for the next several weeks. **Please do not send any items to flood-damaged churches without first verifying the need and the church's ability to receive donations.** Many damaged churches have no means of storing donated items at this time and have much structural work to be done before items such as pianos, organs or refrigerators can be used.

CHURCH	ASSOCIATION	PASTOR	INSURANCE?	DAMAGE/LOSS/NEEDS
Bel Air Chapel West	Salem	Jack Simmons (502) 828-2421	No	Trailer used as mission chapel destroyed by flood
Rock Front Cadiz	Little River		No	10 inches of water in building; carpet ruined, floors buckled, furnaces ruined; foundation dropped, causing education building to pull away from auditorium; church considering relocation
Mount Olivet Springfield	Central	James Fox (606) 262-5018		Building a total loss; church will relocate
Falmouth Falmouth	Union	Dan Reynolds (606) 654-5517	No	Basement flooded; damaged chairs and tables; paint damage; everything in kitchen lost
Trinity Southern Falmouth	Crittenden	Bill Barnard (606) 654-2681	No	Pews destroyed; walls damaged 6 feet from ground; education facilities also damaged; lost piano, organ, computer equipment
Beech Grove Lebanon Junction	Nelson	Rusty Watson (502) 543-8231		Damage not fully assessed
Bardstown Junction Shepherdsville	Nelson	Ray Hayes (502) 543-3747	No	Basements flooded with 7 feet of water; furnishings, 2 furnaces and air ducts ruined; damages total \$30,000
Lebanon Junction Lebanon Junction	Nelson	Thomas Hughes (502) 833-4954	No	Basement flooded up to sanctuary; doors damaged; carpets damaged
Calvary Frankfort	Franklin	Gerald Roe (502) 695-4608	No	5 feet of water in basement; lost stove, lots of sheet music, hymnals and church library
First Frankfort	Franklin	Mark Hopper (502) 227-4528	Yes	Basement flooded with 6 feet of water; damage to educational building, kitchen and fellowship hall
Lockport Lockport	Daviess-McLean	Wayne Kelly (502) 484-2007	Some	Ruined drywall and kitchen cabinets
Gilead Glendale	Severns Valley	Ken Jewell (502) 369-8104	No	6 feet of water in basement; ruined three pianos; kitchen ruined
White Mills Elizabethtown	Severns Valley	Craig Perkins (502) 769-5443	No	Basement and one room damaged
Colesburg Elizabethtown	Severns Valley	Mark Judd (502) 737-4517		Sunday school rooms damaged
Panther Creek Owensboro	Daviess-McLean	Tim Bell (502) 684-2155	Some	Basement flooded with 8 feet of water; refrigerator, stove, ice machine damaged
Dawson Memorial Maceo	Blackford	Steve Boyd (502) 756-6386	Some	8 feet of water in building; extensive damage
Sanders Sanders	Whites Run	Morgan Kerr (502) 463-2877	No	Hymnals, organ, seats, carpet ruined
Buck Run Frankfort	Franklin	Bob Jackson (502) 695-4050	No	4 feet of water in new sanctuary/educational building; damaged pews, carpets, walls, office furniture; greater damage in old sanctuary and fellowship hall
Calvary Elizabethtown	Severns Valley	Charles Fannin (502) 767-4209		Knee-deep water in building; septic system ruined; damage to entire building
Athertonville Hodgenville	Severns Valley	Charles Gellhous (502) 549-8359		30 inches of water in parsonage; many items ruined
Eureka Paducah	West Union	Tommy Gleeson (502) 554-9515		Building nearly destroyed

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Centerfield Baptist Church, a contemporary church located in Oldham County, currently is accepting resumés for a part-time minister to children. If interested, call (502) 243-1982 for more information, or mail resumé to: Centerfield Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1026, Crestwood, KY 40014.

SEEKING: A multiple-staff, seeker-sensitive, purpose-driven church is looking for a full-time youth and children's minister to provide vision, direction, training and leadership to a team of volunteers. Individual must be gifted in teaching and must have management skills, a high energy level, fresh ideas and the ability to function in a team approach to ministry. Interested? Experienced? Challenged? Send resumé to: Search Committee, Springfield Baptist Church, P.O. Box 286, Springfield, KY 40069. Phone: (606) 336-3544.

FOR SALE: 13' and 9' church pews, upholstered seat and back. Also for sale: three pulpit chairs, communion table and pulpit. For information, call (606) 623-1771.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of music and education for First Baptist Church, Barbourville, Ky. Seminary training and experience is preferred. Full benefits package offer. Send resumé to: Minister of Music and Education Search Committee, P.O. Box 1569, Barbourville, KY 40906.

SEEKING: Meta Baptist Church is presently in the process of searching for a full-time minister of youth and music. Send resumé to: Search Committee, Meta Baptist Church, 8807 Meta Highway, Pikeville, KY 41501.

NEEDED: Live-in companion, weekends, senior lady for senior lady with Alzheimers. Light duties, transportation plus. Jim, (502) 968-2761.

SEEKING: Minister of youth. Ridgewood Baptist Church, Louisville (CBF-affiliated), is seeking a part-time minister of youth. Send resumé to: Ridgewood Baptist Church, 6209 Greenwood Road, Louisville, KY 40258.

FOR SALE: Lowrey electronic organ (Pageant) \$1,199 or reasonable offer (\$3,900 new). (502) 554-5644.

WANTED: Organist. Sunday morning, Wednesday evening choir practice. Kenwood Baptist Church. Contact Suzann Reynolds, (502) 367-1197.

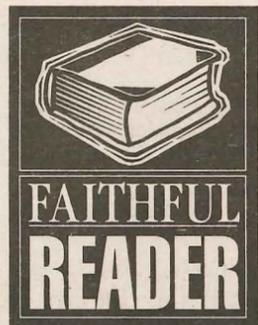
SEEKING: Associate minister for music. The First Baptist Church of Middlesborough, Ky., is seeking a minister to lead, develop and coordinate the music ministry of the church. In addition, the minister will assist the pastor in all areas of church life. The successful candidate will have a minimum of a college degree with a music emphasis, and a seminary degree is preferred along with previous music ministry experience. The candidate also should possess a calling to ministry and strong interpersonal and organization skills. The First Baptist Church of Middlesborough has a resident membership of 500 people and is a diverse community of faith affiliated with the SBC and CBF. Send resumé by April 30, 1997, to: Rev. Jeff Roberts, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 839, Middlesborough, KY 40965-0839.

SEEKING: Faith Baptist Church in Knoxville, Md., is seeking a full-time minister of music and youth. Faith is located in a rapidly growing area outside of D.C. Send resumé to: Staff Search Committee, Faith Baptist Church, 2212 Jefferson Pike, Knoxville, MD 21758.

SEEKING: Male residence hall director for Campbellsville University. Full-time with benefits. Contact: Betty Kidwell at (502) 789-5016 by Apr. 16, 1997.

SEEKING: Minister of music. FBC, Joelton, Tenn., seeks a full-time minister of music. The church, located 25 minutes northwest of Nashville, has an average morning worship attendance of 575 in multiple services, including one more contemporary in format and one more traditional. This person will oversee age-graded choirs from preschool through senior adult, and have significant responsibilities for senior adult ministry as well. Send resumé to: FBC, P.O. Box 86, Joelton, TN 37080; Attn: Dean Anderson.

BOOKS



By Wayne Hager, pastor of Midlane Park Baptist Church in Louisville, and Jim Holladay, pastor of Clifton Baptist Church in Louisville.

Best-selling Christian paperback nonfiction

- 1 Day of Deception, John Hagee
- 2 God's Little Instruction Book for Women, Honor Books
- 3 Woman, Thou Art Loosed, T.D. Jakes
- 4 The Signature of God, Grant Jeffrey
- 5 Five Love Languages, Gary Chapman
- 6 The Beginning of the End, John Hagee
- 7 A Divine Revelation of Hell, Mary Baxter
- 8 Becoming a Woman of Prayer, Cynthia Heald
- 9 God's Little Instruction Book, Honor Books
- 10 Loose That Man and Let Him Go, T.D. Jakes

Source: Evangelical Christian Publishers Association

Defining Baptist Convictions: Guidelines for the Twenty-First Century. Edited by Charles Deweese. Providence House Publishers, 1996. 224 pages. \$15.95. ♦♦♦♦ (out of five)

A more apt subtitle for this book might be "Challenges for the Twenty-First Century." If Deweese and other contributors to this book are correct, the basic convictions that shape Baptist life directly challenge the consumer-oriented, so-called seeker-sensitive Christianity that permeates most church life in the last decade of the 20th century. Baptist theology and polity demand an active and growing faith, both on the part of individuals and faith communities.

Deweese identifies 11 core Baptist convictions (or values): the lordship of Jesus Christ, the Bible as our sole written authority for faith and practice, soul competency, the priesthood of believers, religious liberty, separation of church and state, non-conformity, trust in relationships, regenerate church membership, believer's baptism and the covenant nature of the church. The book contains essays that deal directly with these core values, as well as essays that touch on the implications of these values for issues facing Baptists today.

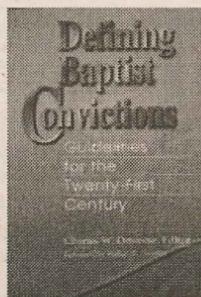
A strength of the book is the variety of authorship. As composed, it stands as a living witness to the fact that no one person single-handedly can define Baptist convictions. Each of the authors writes with passion about his topic. Each reminds us that to be a Baptist is to be different, because we are a people concerned to demonstrate in our individual and corporate lives the lordship of Jesus Christ. They

remind us that Baptist Christianity is challenging.

This book would make an excellent guide for group discussion and a teaching or preaching outline.

One warning: No matter what your "Baptist politics," be prepared to be challenged by Deweese's introduction. *Jim Holladay*

Make Room for the BOOM ... or BUST: Six Church Models for reaching Three Generations. Gary McIntosh. Revell, 1997. 192 pages. \$11.99. ♦♦♦♦



This is a book for those who feel out of touch with all the buzz words of church growth and for those who want it all explained clearly and fairly in one place. It's all here: builders (Americans 52 years old and older), boomers (ages 32 to 51), busters (ages 14 to 31), and seeker-centered, seeker-sensitive, blended, multiple track, satellite, and rebirthed churches.

McIntosh presents an excellent comparison of the three generations under discussion. He even has a helpful chart which will lend itself to group discussion and analysis. While there are always exceptions to any typing of generations, I found McIntosh's analysis to be consistent with my own experience.

After the demographic data on the three generations, the book turns to the six models of doing church which are designed to meet the generational needs previously discussed. Discussions include strengths and cautions of each model. The unique part of this book is that each "theory" chapter is followed by an "experience" chapter written by a pastor who has implemented the model. Each reflection is a candid discussion of the pastor's adventure in remodeling a church. The final chapter includes some questions to be

asked and a suggested process for implementing a model in a church.

McIntosh's book moves quickly and is highly readable. While written for pastors, the book would be well used with lay leadership groups who want to be acquainted with the challenges today's church faces. Even if the entire model is never implemented, the sensitivity of each model surely will cause thought that will make the church more effective in reaching people for Christ. *Wayne Hager*

Leading with Soul: An Uncommon Journey of Spirit. Lee Bolman and Terrance Deal. Jossey-Bass Publishers, 1995. 195 pages. \$18.50. ♦♦♦

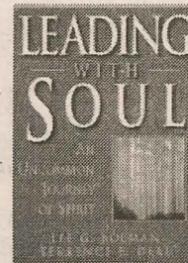
In this contemporary wisdom parable, Bolman and Deal, through the characters of Steve and Maria, take us on a wandering journey to discover the true nature of leadership. Steve is the burned-out leader in crisis. Maria is the spiritual guide, who helps Steve recover his "most precious human gift—(his) spirit."

The recurring theme of the parable is that "the heart of leadership lives in the hearts of leaders. You have to lead from something deep in your heart." The secret of genuine and effective leadership is the recovery of the soul's attributes, (love, compassion, community, conviction, song, etc.) "The essence of leadership is not giving things or even providing visions. It is offering oneself and one's spirit."

Like most wisdom stories, the point sometimes is stated straight-out and unambiguously; at other times it is subtle and woven into the narrative. At all times, the authors leave room for the reader/hearer to apply the insights gained to his or her own experience.

Though written from the world of corporate leadership, a strength of this book for church leaders is that it reminds us that passion, which comes from knowing who we are and why we are here, is essential for effective leadership within any community. Leadership is not about managing, controlling or fixing things. It is about providing a context of meaning in and through which people can live, learn and accomplish.

One weakness of this book is something the authors see as a strength—its broad ecumenicity. They argue that "spirituality is the goal, religion is the path" and that all religions are headed toward the same goal. From my perspective, not all paths lead to the same place. In spite of that, Bolman and Deal challenged me to be more conscious of leading with soul. *Jim Holladay*



The Message in Your Emotions. Wayne McDill. Broadman and Holman Publishers, 1996. 255 pages. \$11.99. ♦♦♦♦

Wayne McDill has written a book to help everyone understand what underlies his or her emotional state. Emotions, he writes, are not just a separate compartment of life but a real key to who you are.

The author presents emotions as a gift of God to both protect us and to increase our enjoyment. McDill's contention is we must understand what our emotions are saying to us in order to receive the full protection and enjoyment God intends to give us.

In an easy-to-understand presentation, McDill guides the reader through self-doubt, anger, loneliness, boredom, guilt, worry and discontent. No matter what you may think you know about your emotions, you will benefit from the insights of this book. *Wayne Hager*

Building up the kingdom

By Robert Dunston

During our Christmas break, the college's Mountain Outreach ministry sent a missions team to inner city Newport News, Va. Team members included Dwayne Ackley, Erin Behnke, Amy Carr, Richard Clark, Barbara Grundy, Julie Hoover, T. J. Hurley, Chris Jones, Emily Lucas, Christina Miller, Matt Neel, Matt Norton, Gail Rector, Desiree Robertson and Nicole Weitzel. Al Laird, director of Mountain Outreach, and his wife, Nancy, accompanied the students. The team worked at Friendship House, a Baptist center, repairing drywall and cleaning up around the area. Located in an area of high drug traffic and declining neighborhoods, Friendship House is trying to be an effective presence for Christ. Our students learned a lot about the problems and opportunities facing those who minister in the inner city.

Mountain Outreach recently selected its team of student missionaries for summer 1997. Dwayne Ackley of Harlan again will serve as student coordinator. Ackley served last summer and this academic year as student coordinator. Joining him are Julie Hoover from

Oakwood, Ohio; Jessica Kitzmiller from Buckhannon, W. Va.; Emily Lucas from Brandenburg and Christina Miller from Hardinsburg.

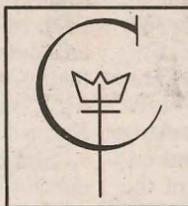
Miller's story is an interesting one. She came with a church group during a recent summer to help Mountain Outreach build homes. She decided to attend college at Cumberland and is continuing her involvement in Mountain Outreach. Mountain Outreach will build two or three homes this summer with volunteer help from 11 churches.

During the last week of March, Amy Cummins, a recent Cumberland graduate and a current two-year missionary with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, brought a group from New York to spend several days helping Mountain Outreach. They built a wheelchair ramp, which made a man's home easily accessible to him for the first time.

Mountain Outreach is a ministry touching the lives of both the families and the students involved. Any time people can work together under God, lives are changed.

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

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



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Groups call for 'Ellen' boycott

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Jerry Falwell has joined the American Family Association and other conservative organizations in urging advertisers to boycott an upcoming episode of the ABC sitcom "Ellen" when the lead character will reveal she is a lesbian.

Falwell encouraged hundreds of conservatives to pressure advertisers, as well as ABC and Disney, to withdraw support for the half-hour comedy starring Ellen DeGeneres.

Falwell also wrote letters to General Motors, Chrysler and Johnson & Johnson asking them to withdraw advertising from the show to protest its story line. "Stop spending your dollars to underwrite a program that Disney and ABC have decided to use to corrupt the views and values of our children," Falwell wrote.

The sitcom, to air April 30, would be the first prime-time TV show to have an openly gay lead character.

Advertisers have shown no signs of pulling out.

Book explains world's religions for kids

By Mark Wingfield
Editor

"Mom, Julie wasn't at school today, and the teacher said it's because this was a religious holiday. Why don't we celebrate that holiday?"

Would you know what to say if your child or grandchild asked such a question?

Faced with an array of religions in America's multi-cultural society, children increasingly are becoming curious about the ways their friends and schoolmates worship, according to Murray native William McElrath. And the average parent doesn't know enough to answer all the questions, he added.

That's one reason McElrath, an educator and former Southern Baptist missionary to Indonesia, has written a new book titled "Ways We Worship." The hardback volume has just been released by Barron's.

The book is designed as a ready reference for both children and parents. It's also the kind of book parents and children can use together to create learning experiences out of real-life questions, McElrath said. "Just as you meet a kid who goes to worship on Saturdays or who won't eat pork,

that might be a good time to go to that part of the book."

The book is organized into three major sections: religions that worship one God, religions originating from Asia and other religions found on every continent. Specific chapters are devoted to Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Daoism, Shintoism, Buddhism, Confucianism and Sikhism. Other religions treated include a variety of primal religions, such as those observed by Native Americans, and newer religions, such as Mormonism.

McElrath said he wrote the book in a straightforward style, explaining the basic tenets and worship patterns of each religion, but he scrupulously avoided citing one faith as good and another as bad.

Even so, some readers may question the book's organization. For example, Mormons consider themselves a Christian religion, yet McElrath's book follows the belief of the larger Christian community and does not include Mormonism in the section on Christianity.

The book takes its title, "Ways We Worship," from McElrath's premise that while it may be hard to categorize religions and explain exactly what

people believe, it is easier to describe the ways in which people worship.

McElrath said writing the book gave him a clearer picture of similarities and differences in the world's religions. "I learned that the world of religion is full of look-alikes, some of which are alike and some of which aren't."

Even though the book does not favor one religion over another, McElrath said he is pleased the book makes a clear presentation of Christianity.

McElrath predicted the new book will become popular among both young and old readers because of its simplicity. It is written on a fifth-grade reading level.

The same thing happened with a children's Bible dictionary McElrath wrote several years ago, he said. "Sunday school teachers come up to me and say, 'That's what I use because the regular Bible dictionaries tell me more than I want to know. Yours tells me what I really need to know.'"

McElrath and his wife, Betty, served as Southern Baptist missionaries in Indonesia from 1964 through 1994. They now live in Raleigh, N.C. He is a graduate of Murray State University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

'Touched' & 'Preacher's Wife' win recognition

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (RNS)—The CBS television series "Touched by an Angel" and Walt Disney Co.'s feature film "The Preacher's Wife" were the top winners of the fifth annual MovieGuide Awards.

The annual awards presentation of the Christian Film and Television Commission, held March 19 in Beverly Hills, honors feature films and TV shows for their social and spiritual values.

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Dr. Mike Robinson, Cumberland College; Assistant Professor of Philosophy; Conference Bible teacher, using the parables of Christ, subject of the 1998 Winter Bible Study.

Mrs. Sherry Clark, Dry Ridge, Kentucky; High school music teacher; Conference music coordinator/performer.

Dr. John Lepper, Louisville, KY; Director of the Family Ministry Department, K.B.C.; Conference seminar leader along with his wife Connie.

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■ Linda Sims as she prays about new ministry possibilities in St. Petersburg, Russia.

■ A "praise report" from Dick and Marilyn Beaudoin in Moscow. They have found an apartment closer to the mission office.

■ Pastor Verdieu Laroche and members of First Haitian Baptist Church in Roxbury, Mass. About 600 people attend the church in inner-city Boston.

■ Dan Nicholas, managing editor of the New England Baptist, the monthly news journal of the Baptist Convention of New England.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Cloverleaf Church will host "Proclaim" of Monroe, Mich., in a gospel music concert April 12 at 7 p.m. Call (502) 367-0218 for more information. **Geoffrey Lacey** is pastor.

Doug Dean resigned as pastor at Clifton Heights Church to work at a youth ranch in Pell City, Ala.

Lowell Abney resigned as pastor at Ridgewood Church March 9.

Leo George resigned as church administrator at Walnut Street Church.

Ninth & O Church will celebrate 25 years in the television ministry April 12-13. **Jack Johnson**, president of the Southern Baptist Radio and TV Commission, will speak. Call (502) 636-5576 for more information.

■ **MIDDLESBORO**—**Mark Hill** resigned as minister of music and education at First Church, effective April 6, to become minister of music and singles ministry coordinator at Manassas Church in Manassas, Va.

■ **PADUCAH**—First Church called **Kelly Tibbs** as outreach and activities director. She began her new ministry March 23.

■ **SHEPHERDSVILLE**—Pleasant Grove Church will host the Campbellsville University contemporary music group in concert April 20 at 7 p.m. Call (502) 543-7336 for more information.

■ **WILLIAMSTOWN**—Williamstown Church will celebrate its 119th anniversary May 4. Former pastor **John Keith** will be guest speaker at 11 a.m. followed by dinner on the grounds. **A.B. Colvin** will speak at 2 p.m. Call (606) 824-4102 for more information.

MISSIONARY UPDATE

■ **Thomas and Phyllis Baker**, missionaries to Spain, are on the field. Address is: Apartado, 3, 28180 Alcobendas, Madrid, Spain. She was born in Louisville and grew up in Breckinridge County.



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'And one of them ... turned back ... and glorified God'

Seven years ago this week, two brothers enrolled in our school. The older brother was in the seventh grade and the younger was in the sixth grade. They came to us from Ethiopia during a time of famine and civil war in their country. Thousands of boys and girls would have liked to come to the United States. These two were among a fortunate few.

While our faculty and staff helped both of these boys, they became especially close to the younger. His personality made it easier to befriend and help him. He was a strong student from the start. To my knowledge, he was on the honor roll all seven years. He made the "A" honor roll several times and ranked fourth in his graduating class. He also was active in choir, drama, soccer, swimming, track, wrestling, baseball and basketball. He was involved in student council, Baptist Student Union, Beta Club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and philosophy club. He was an office aide, a lifeguard, a hall monitor in the dorm and a work supervisor. It was no surprise our faculty and staff voted him "Mr. Oneida," one of our highest awards.

For various reasons, contact from his Ethiopian home was minimal. Financial support eventually stopped, along with letters and phone calls. In all honesty, we considered sending both boys back to Ethiopia, mostly because there was no line of communication between our school and their father. At one time, nearly three years went by with no contact from home. These boys found themselves increasingly dependent on Oneida.

The younger brother graduated last year and now is attending a large university. He visits our campus at times and is quick to express his deep

gratitude for all Oneida has done. Unlike so many others who have been helped but rarely express any appreciation, it did not surprise me to receive this letter from him:

"Dr. Underwood, I don't know exactly how to start out in this letter. I suppose I should start with my appreciation. For many years I was taken care of by Oneida. When I say Oneida, I include all the faculty and staff, from the cooks to the president, the parents of certain friends and all the people who faithfully donate for Oneida's mission. Oneida, through the years, raised me and molded me to what I am today. There hasn't been a day that I don't think of Oneida and thank God for everything. Now I realize that I need to catch up on my thankfulness and show it. At least say it. I want you to know that I appreciate every single opportunity that I was given. ... College is slightly different than Oneida in many ways. ... I have explored some of my curiosities. They have turned out to be good and bad. ... Now, what I notice is that I have a big conscience and I give

the credit to Oneida. See, I believe that it's the good in me that creates my conscience, ... and I know it was created by God and his goodness. There is no way to know, but I've wondered if it's God's Holy Spirit. ... I think of all these things and I realize that I am a product of Oneida. Most of my memories are from there, the people I call friends and family are from there. Now I am an 18-year-old away from home, trying to start his own life. Thank you Oneida.

"P.S. I have seen Jesus through the mission of Oneida. Please thank everybody for me in chapel."

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Illness & wheelchair aside, she wanted to be baptized

By Tim Ellsworth
Illinois Baptist

ULLIN, Ill. (BP)—Dying of cancer and using a wheelchair, Dorothy Bingaman didn't care what her doctors said—she wanted to be baptized.

"Her doctors had prohibited her from getting baptized," said Mark Best, pastor of First Baptist Church of Ullin. "Finally, a couple of weeks before we baptized her, she said, 'I want to be baptized, regardless of what my doctors say.'"

Best and First Baptist Church obliged. Bingaman and her husband, Gerald, had accepted Jesus as their personal Savior at their home a couple of weeks earlier when Bruce Mowery, a member of the church, witnessed to them.

Because of her condition, the church's baptismal pool couldn't be used. So, a baptismal service was held in February at the swimming pool of the Best Western Cheekwood Inn.

A lifelong Ullin resident, Bingaman was normally afraid of two things—heights and water. But, "just before we baptized her, she smiled and said, 'I'm not afraid anymore,'" Best said.

Richard Miller and Clint Nale assisted Best with the baptism. Bingaman was placed in a white lounge chair and baptized in the swimming

pool. About 35 people attended the service, including many members of Bingaman's family.

"It was a real testimony to that family and the community," Best said, noting that guests at the hotel observed the baptism.

The group sang "Amazing Grace" after she came out of the water, and Best said Bingaman looked at him, smiled and said, "Thank you. Now I'm ready."

Two days later, Bingaman went into a coma. She died five days after her baptism and was buried exactly one week after the service. The church sang "Amazing Grace" at the burial.

"It was sort of a fitting end as we did that," Best said. "It was a real testimony to a lot of the family members who weren't Christians. We're still in the process of ministering to that family."

The impact of Bingaman's salvation and baptism didn't stop at her death, he added. Since then, Ullin First Baptist Church has been in revival, according to Best.

Four people have become Christians since Bingaman's death, and two more are close to making decisions, he said. One 50-year-old woman has surrendered to mission work.

"Revival starts the end of April, but we're starting revival early," he said.

New life in Evarts

Eight miles on Highway 38 from Harlan you'll come to Evarts. Boxcars of coal still can be seen on the tracks; a huge mill processes east Kentucky timber. Basketball is important, and during the Final Four tournament, folks had renewed feelings about Harlan County native Charles Thomas playing for Minnesota instead of Kentucky.

A product of these hills is Evarts' pastor Larry Parker. The parsonage is not far from his childhood home. Parker was baptized in nearby Cloverfork river. Evarts is the fourth Harlan County church where he has been pastor. Ask him about bivocational ministry. He has 20 years of experience. He left the mines to accept the call to Evarts two year ago and

is thankful the church encouraged him to study at Clear Creek. His wife, Linda, is secretary for the superintendent of Harlan city schools.

What has Clear Creek done for Parker? "I have been able to meet some of tomorrow's most powerful preachers. I see the enthusiasm in their eyes, and I praise the Lord for what he is going to do through them. I also have learned more in these two years, through the resources available and the enthusiastic faculty, than in all the previ-

ous years of my ministry. Perhaps the best lesson I have gained is the motivation of love for Christ, as opposed to duty. The world says, 'Get a life.' At Clear Creek, Jesus is life."

Reaching people for Christ motivates Parker in ministry. I'm so grateful the Lord allowed me to participate in some of the harvest.

The six services had good attendance, spirited singing from church members and neighboring churches and warm fellowship. Individuals who needed to decide for Christ were present, and some decisions were made. On the last verse of the final night, 46-year-old Richard McNabb gave his life to Christ. As he moved toward the altar and knelt to pray, joy spread throughout the church.

He was baptized on resurrection Sunday.

Parker said, "I have led men to Christ while inside the coal mine, sitting on the front of my car, in my home and in theirs. I am constantly reminded of the 'fear nots' of the Bible, and I am convinced most of us can be more effective if we will simply be bolder. The shame is not in being saved, but in dying lost."

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Promise Keepers drawing interest in other countries

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (RNS)—Kristian Renling, a Swedish missionary, is an international convert to Promise Keepers.

It began during one of his trips to the United States, when he was struck by the men's ministry of a Nebraska church supporting his evangelistic efforts.

Once a month, men from Christ is King Community Church in Norfolk, Neb., gather with men from 19 other congregations to hear a speaker, eat and worship together.

"It was incredible to see men open up and share some of their needs and be vulnerable and in tears and others encouraging them," said Renling.

The men in that ministry also were involved in Promise Keepers, a burgeoning evangelical men's organization that until now mostly has been limited to the United States.

But no longer. In February, Promise Keepers executives introduced their organization as an "international Christian men's ministry" as they of-

ficially announced an October rally which they hope will bring "multitudes" of men to Washington, D.C.

The organization already has three affiliates abroad—in Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Men from other countries, including Renling, now hope to establish additional international Promise Keepers affiliates.

Some men in other countries say they don't expect immediately to attract the huge numbers Promise Keepers has drawn in the United States, where more than 1 million men attended the organization's mass rallies in 1996. But they do believe the ministry's call for greater dedication to God, family and church needs to be heeded by men living in other nations.

"We are hoping that men will be all that God wants them to be and to reach out and to live these promises and to participate and encourage the church," said Renling, who has set up an interdenominational group called

Loftes Bararna, which means "Promise Bearers" in Swedish.

Promise Keepers USA president Randy Phillips said his organization's international efforts have been his primary focus since December. Promise Keepers is "at various stages of relationship" with men from more than 40 countries, he said.

"I'm hoping that what God is doing here in the U.S.A. is going to be multiplied a hundred times over in other countries all around the world," said Phillips.

Affiliating with Promise Keepers can take more than a year, said national spokesman Steve Chavis. During 1997, the organization expects to form affiliation agreements with six to eight groups outside the United States.

Ministry officials say they intentionally are working to prevent Promise Keepers events abroad from looking just like the American version.

"It would be arrogant for us to believe that because we've had some

expertise and some experience here in our own country that that would be immediately transferable to any other country in Africa or Asia or South America or anywhere else," Phillips said. "You must allow others to take the lead and allow them the freedom of contextualizing the message."

Bill Rutherford, who served as Promise Keepers Canada's first president, is glad to see global interest in the Christian men's movement.

"The thing that we're discovering is that we have so much in common in Christ and so much in common as men that it really cuts across all those things that usually divide us—nationalism, racism, denominationalism," he said.

Promise Keepers Canada became the first international affiliate in 1995. About 20,000 men attended three events in hockey arenas in the fall of 1996 that were sponsored by the group.

Although Promise Keepers' mass rallies get the most publicity in the United States, men involved with similar ministries abroad initially are focusing on smaller gatherings.

"I'm hoping that what God is doing here in the U.S.A. is going to be multiplied a hundred times over in other countries all around the world."

Randy Phillips, president of Promise Keepers USA



Thousands attending 21-month 'Pensacola Awakening'

By Yvonne White
Religion News Service

PENSACOLA, Fla. (RNS)—As a teen growing up in Huntsville, Ala., Stephen Hill spent more time taking drugs and committing crimes than doing homework.

Today, the former drug addict is on another kind of high—a spiritual one. Hill, 43, is at the center of a revival at a Florida panhandle church that has drawn 1.5 million people in less than two years.

Although Hill is now riding the crest of a tidal wave, at one time he was drowning in an ocean of drugs and crime. Before he turned 16—when his father died unexpectedly—he had tried nearly every drug available on the street. He was even high at his father's funeral.

"I was cold-hearted," said Hill, whose autobiography is told in a booklet, "Stone Cold Heart." "I didn't shed a tear when my father died. Drugs just separate you from reality."

Hill's faith journey has taken him from the depths of the drug culture to leading evangelistic meetings four nights a week at Brownsville Assembly of God Church in Pensacola, Fla. What began on Father's Day 1995, when Hill substituted for the church's pastor and his good friend, John Kilpatrick, has become arguably one of the biggest religious events to hit the southeastern United States in recent memory.

On that June Day, nearly 1,000 worshipers responded to the altar call at the end of Hill's message. Some were new converts and others were Christians rededicating their lives to God.

Today, interracial multitudes—old and young, rich and poor, Catholics and Protestants—line up before day-break to get inside the church, where thousands participate in person, or watch on monitors in overflow rooms

and hallways.

The services typically last six to seven hours, ending in the early morning. And hundreds arrive daily—by car, bus and plane from across the United States and around the globe—to experience the phenomenon that Hill has dubbed the "Pensacola Awakening."

Hill moved his family from Texas to Pensacola after he realized the revival would last more than just a few weeks.

"This is a visitation from God," he said. "It is awesome to watch. It's a very violent revival and people are being set free. There is a hunger in the land. ... It is the answer for America."

Carol Simon of Huntsville has made several trips to the Pensacola revival.

"It's really exciting," she said. "People are running to the altar to be saved."

Many at the revival faint or become paralyzed for no reason. But those manifestations are not what the revival is truly about, said Jim Summers, who counsels people responding to the altar calls.

"It's about souls being saved, and ministers and Christians coming back to their first love and taking it back to their churches and cities," said Summers, who helped Hill put his life back together after years of drug addiction and crime.

As a teen, Hill was in and out of jail for drug offenses and other crimes, such as theft, which supported his habit.

In his autobiography he writes, "By the age of 12, I had put myself in compromising situations and faced fears that many people never face in a lifetime."

Following his father's death, his mother was saddled with the burden of raising her children alone while trying to put her personal life back to-

gether. As Hill became more rebellious, she spent more time praying for him, always fearing she would find him dead of a drug overdose.

Hill eventually left home and traveled anywhere the drug scene drew him, sometimes sleeping in the streets.

Through it all, Hill's mother, a devout Lutheran, never lost faith he would someday return to his Christian roots.

"I was broken-hearted and my heart was very heavy," said the 75-year-old Ann Hill. "I had a couple of friends I could confide in, which helped. Each Sunday night I would go to ... church and pray."

She believes Hill "had to hit rock bottom to get where he is today."

For Hill, the bottom came in October 1975, when he returned home to Huntsville to crash at his mother's house.

It was there, while high, he said he heard a voice say, "Steve, this is it." He began convulsing and thought he was about to die. His mother stayed with him as he went through what he calls "an incredible three days of hell on earth."

On the third day, a Lutheran minister came to visit Hill and convinced him to put his faith in Jesus for salvation. At that moment, Hill said, he felt a transformation take place and a peace engulf him as he had never known.

Two weeks later, the police arrested Hill for outstanding warrants. He was taken to jail and faced a possible 25-year prison term.

Enter Jim Summers, who met Hill in the early 1970s while ministering in the streets of Huntsville. Seeing something worth redeeming in Hill, Summers asked a judge to turn Hill over to Outreach Ministries, a Christian drug-rehab program.

Hill still remembers the judge, who had sentenced him on numerous other occasions, saying, "Although it's



against my better judgment, I'm going to sentence you to Outreach Ministries. If you don't make it there, you're going straight to jail."

While few believed Hill's conversion had staying power, Summers had faith in his new charge.

"When Steve came into our program, he had his eyes set on the Lord," said Summers, who frequently travels to Pensacola to help counsel new converts. "The ministry Steve has is awesome, and I truly feel honored to help him."

After graduating from Outreach, Hill entered Teen Challenge, a national Christian drug-rehab program founded by evangelist David Wilkerson. Hill was later selected to attend Wilkerson's Bible College in Texas, where he met his future wife, Jeri, who had come from a similar background.

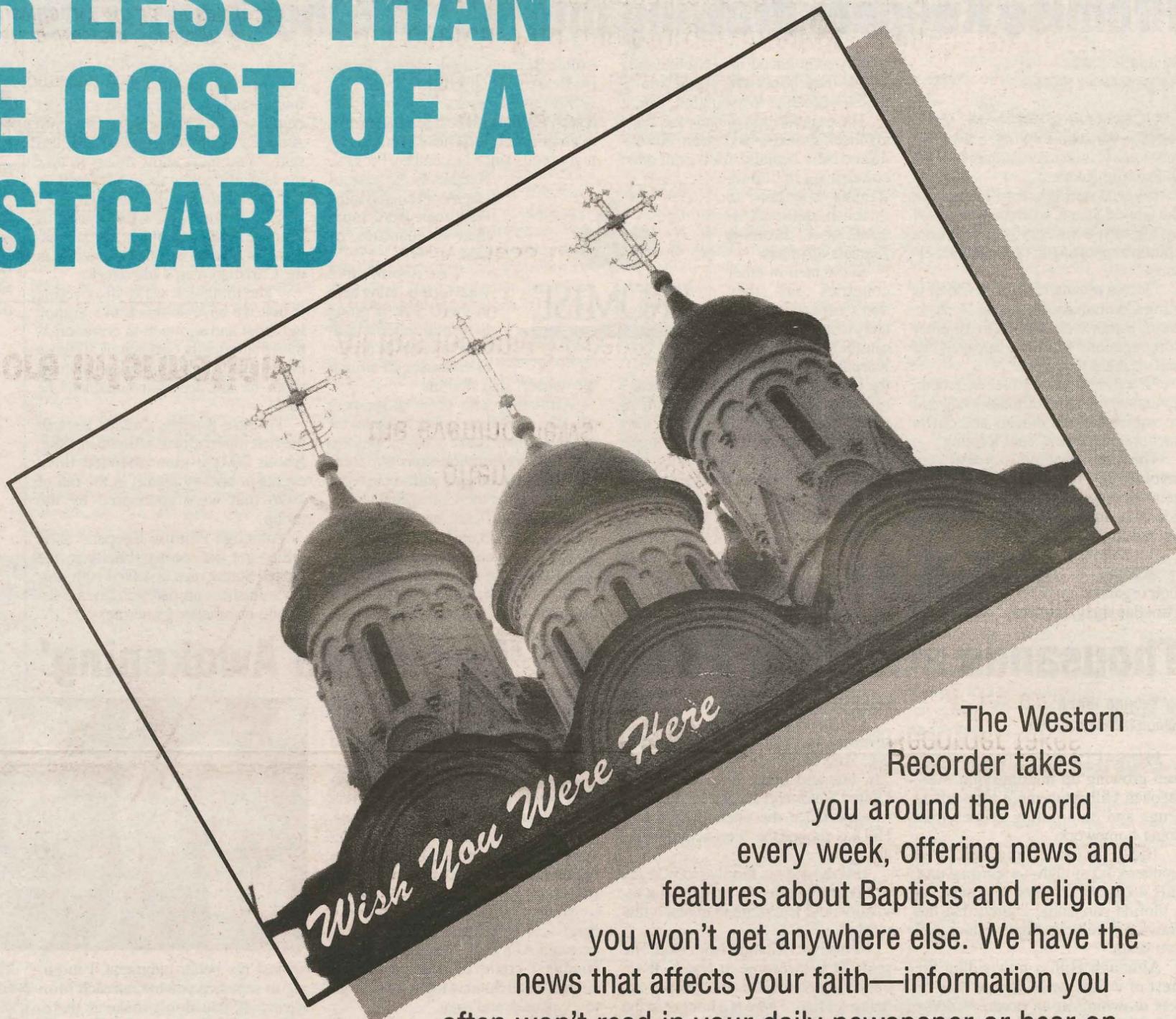
The couple married in Huntsville in 1979 and worked for Outreach Ministries. They later served churches in Florida, Argentina, Spain and Russia.

Hill doesn't know when the Pensacola revival will end, but he believes he's been assigned the task by God.

"I think I was chosen because God told me, 'Steve, you've been faithful in the small things, so I can trust you in the big things,'" he said. "I'm not taking one drop of God's glory because we are all dust. This is not about Steve Hill. It's about saving souls."

ATTRACTION Thousands attend "Pensacola Awakening" services, which typically last six to seven hours each. Attendance has totaled more than 1.5 million in less than two years. (RNS photo)

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