



# WESTERN RECORDER

May 6, 1997  
Vol. 171, No. 18

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## Conscientious shoppers sought for Christmas

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Charles Kernaghan, the man who forced Kathie Lee Gifford to stop sweatshop production of her clothing line, wants Americans "to shop with a conscience" next Christmas by buying from companies that have joined a campaign to end sweatshop working conditions.

At a meeting last week with labor, religious and human rights groups, Kernaghan called for a "Holiday Season of Conscience" to increase Christmas shoppers' support for the White House Accord to Address Sweatshop Abuses, expected to be approved by President Clinton in October.

The accord includes a code of conduct for companies producing clothes and toys for U.S. consumers, requires factories to monitor wages and working conditions, and establishes a nonprofit association to increase the number of companies committed to not using sweatshops.

Nike, Reebok, L.L. Bean and Liz Claiborne are among the U.S. companies that negotiated the anti-sweatshop agreement with groups such as the Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility, the National Consumer League and the Robert F. Kennedy Center for International Human Rights.

Kernaghan cited the example of a \$19.99 Disney 101 Dalmations outfit that women in Haiti sew for less than 30 cents an hour.

## Depression is not a sin, counselor says

By Marv Knox  
*Texas Baptist Standard*

DALLAS (ABP)—Although many people believe feeling blue is a blight on their faith, depression is not a sin, according to a veteran Christian counselor.

"Depression does not reflect a person's faith experience, commitment to Christ or obedience to God," said Glenn Booth, coordinator of the Texas Baptist Ministers Counseling Service.

Booth said Christians often come to him saying, "If I were a person of faith, I could get over this."

"A lot of pressures, tensions, illnesses and stressors can depress a person," Booth explained. "Depression is the holistic body—mental, emotional, physical and spiritual—responding to life circumstances. Not all of us have the same capacity for handling

depression."

Two types of depression afflict people, he said.

Clinical depression is a reaction to a chemical imbalance in the body, he added. Clinical depression often is treatable by medicine.

Most people, however, occasionally suffer from less-severe situational depression, Booth said.

"Most of us are 'depressed' because things aren't going right," he said. "Our dreams are shattered; our goals are blocked. Perhaps we lost a job and can't pay all our bills, our marriage is under stress, or a child is in jail or pregnant out of wedlock.

"As a result, we feel down, blue, depressed."

Clinical depression "can be very debilitating," Booth said. "A clinically depressed person can come to the point where he doesn't want to face the world anymore." Such a person

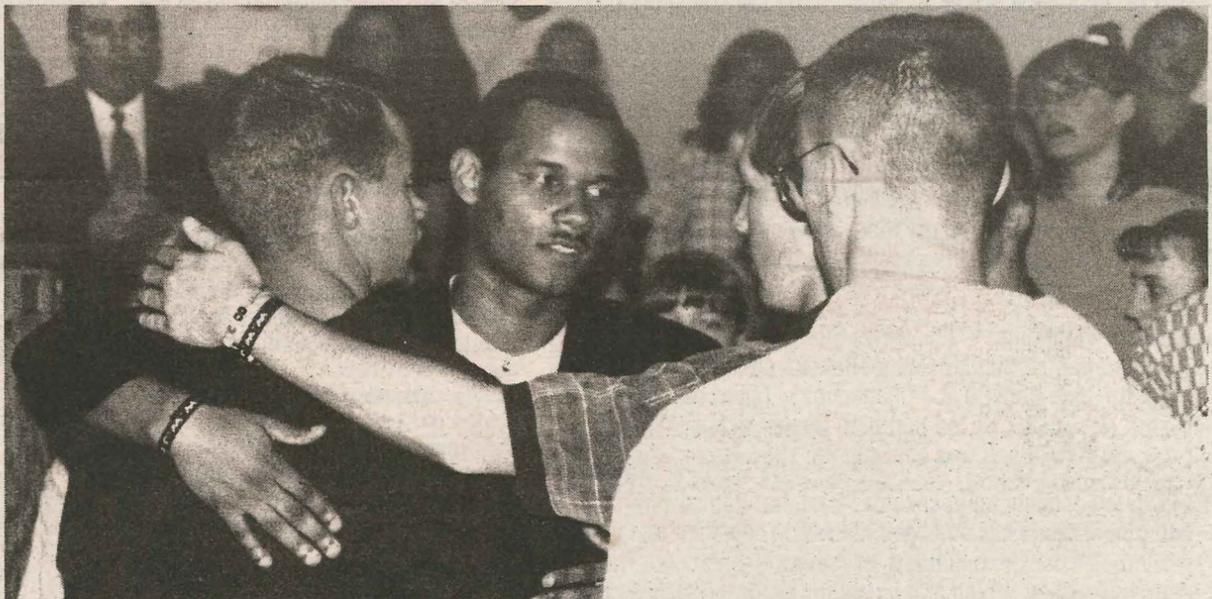
needs a physician's help, he added.

But situational depression, no matter how bad it feels, is temporary and not fatal, he insisted, noting people who suffer from situational depression can move forward and live productive lives.

Most of the depressed people helped by Minister Counseling Service—and most people helped by their ministers—suffer from common situational depression, Booth said. Like everybody else who doesn't have a perfect life, they get out of bed and get on with living, despite their troubles.

"Situational depression often is helped by accepting the fact depression and disappointment are part of life," he said. "By deciding to go on despite feelings of depression, you often don't feel it as intensely as before."

■ More about depression on page 8



**YOUTH REVIVAL** Jarvis Williams embraces other youth during a recent revival meeting at First Baptist Church of Hindman. More than 90 people have become Christians during recent Sunday night youth services, at which Williams usually preaches. *Story on page 3.*

## Churches find sending members on missions increases giving

By Sarah Zimmerman  
*SBC Home Mission Board*

ELIZABETHTOWN—Several years ago, Severns Valley Baptist Church was challenged to start a mission church in neighboring Ohio.

Some members feared the money invested in the new church would decrease Severns Valley's financial support of missions. In fact, the opposite has been the case.

"Our receipts increase as our ministry increases," said Tim Clark, minister of education. Church members also are involved in Baptist Builders, disaster relief, another church start and mission trips to Russia and New Orleans.

When it comes to fund-raising, "We have people who can say, 'I've seen this. I've been there,'" he said. Volunteers develop an emotional and spiritual attachment to mission causes, he added.

Being involved in missions also makes people better church mem-

bers, Clark said. "When they go into neighborhoods to invite kids to a vacation Bible school in Ohio, it's like a light goes on in their heads and they say, 'I can do this at home.'"

Severns Valley Baptist Church illustrates what many missions promoters have said for a long time: the best way to get church members to give more money to missions may be to send them away.

Missions involvement, whether across town or across time zones, increases financial support of missions, said Clark and other church mission leaders.

Ed Bowman, minister of education and senior adults at Eastmont Baptist Church in Montgomery, Ala., said that when members are interested in missions, that interest involves every aspect of missions.

"The more involved they are, the more likely they are to pray, go and give," he said, referring to three types of missions support.

The church has held three Sun-

day morning worship services and two Sunday school sessions for nine years due to space limitations. They could use a new building, but church members give generously of themselves and their finances to missions.

In Tyler, Texas, members of Southside Baptist Church take part in mission work stretching from Central America to North Tyler. Pastor Ron Wells said the church is not involved in missions as a fund-raising effort; it just works that way.

"When people work alongside missionaries with a contagious spirit and see the raw human needs, money is not an object. It's a peripheral issue. When we assume the posture of obeying the Great Commission, God blesses," he said.

Mack Riggs, minister of missions at First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga., agreed. "Because we got involved around the world, God is blessing us here. God blesses churches that have his heart."

Riggs is convinced that missions support is not a financial problem but a spiritual issue. "When people get right with God, they take on his heart, which is for the whole world."

In 1995, Woodstock members exceeded their church budget and gave \$780,000 to missions, including the Cooperative Program and special offerings for home, foreign and state missions.

It's impossible to "over challenge people financially," Riggs said.

His conclusion is supported by a 1992 survey of churches sponsoring Southern Baptist Mission Service Corps volunteers. (Mission Service Corps volunteers serve in long-range projects throughout America.) Churches were asked how supporting volunteer missionaries affected giving to Cooperative Program and foreign missions offerings.

Churches reported that giving had increased or had not been affected by supporting volunteers. No church said missions gifts decreased.

# BAPTISTS

## BAPTIST BITS

■ **Pressler speaks at Midwestern.** Paul Pressler, the Texas judge considered an architect of the conservative takeover of the Southern Baptist Convention, spoke in chapel April 29 at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo. Among several points, Pressler noted that pastors should avoid "foolish and ignorant disputes." He asked: "When we stand in the pulpit to preach the word, are we trying to glorify ourselves or the Savior?"

■ **Mercer gets \$10 million.** Mercer University board of trustees chairman James McAfee Jr. and his wife, Carolyn Townsend McAfee, have pledged \$10 million for the Georgia Baptist university's new school of theology, President Kirby Godsey announced April 24. It is the second-largest gift—and the largest by a living donor—in the university's 164-year history.

■ **Atkinson named.** Lloyd Atkinson has been named associate vice president for mission personnel with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Atkinson previously directed the FMB's personnel selection department. He and his wife, Sue, were missionaries to Chile from 1972-77.

■ **Baptist advances in Army Reserves.** A professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary is slated to become the senior-ranking chaplain in the United States Army Reserves. Jim Spivey, associate professor of church history, has been promoted to brigadier general and will have a four-year assignment as chief of chaplains. He will spend 60 to 90 days on active duty each year at the Pentagon.

■ **Correction:** An April 8 story, "HMB employees begin to learn their fate with NAMB," contained an error. The story said, "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." According to Marty King, HMB public relations director, the pay for years of service is given in addition to the four weeks' pay.

■ **Hines Sims dies.** Walter Hines Sims, retired leader of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church music program, died April 30 at a Chattanooga, Tenn., retirement center. He was 89. He led Southern Baptist music efforts from 1952-1970 and was editor of the 1956 Baptist Hymnal.

■ **Church accepts homosexuals.** Oakhurst Baptist Church in suburban Atlanta has amended its church covenant to welcome all people, regardless of "sexual orientation." The church has been known in the past for its strong stances on hunger and peace issues.

■ **Taylor inaugurated.** Kentucky native Pat Taylor was inaugurated April 25 as president of Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo. Taylor moved to the post from Oklahoma Baptist University, where he had been chief academic officer.

## Kentuckians nominated to SBC boards

NASHVILLE—Thirteen Kentuckians have been nominated for election or re-election as trustees of Southern Baptist Convention agencies and institutions. Also, one Kentuckian has been named by SBC President Tom Elliff to a convention committee.

Kentuckians nominated for election to trustee boards and most committees will be voted on by messengers to the SBC annual meeting in Dallas June 17-19. They include:

■ James Hales, retired bank president and member of First Baptist Church of Highland Heights, replacing Terry Norris of Owensboro on the SBC Executive Committee.

■ Willis Henson, pastor of Lone Oak First Baptist Church in Paducah, replacing Clark Brown of Madisonville on the Annuity Board.

■ Charles Gresham, pastor of Tem-

ple Baptist Church in Central City, to a second term on the Foreign Mission Board.

■ Mark Bond, pastor of First Baptist Church of LaCenter, to the North American Mission Board.

■ Gary Southard, associate pastor of Rose Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Ashland, to the North American Mission Board.

■ Emma Day, layperson from Sevens Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, to the North American Mission Board.

■ John Rice of Manchester to a second term on the Sunday School Board.

■ Gary Griesser, vocational evangelist and member of Burlington Baptist Church in Burlington, replacing P.A. Stevens on Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's board.

■ Chun Ro of Paducah to a second

term on Southern Seminary's board.

■ Jerry Rexroat of Louisville to a second term on Southern Seminary's board.

■ Arnold Caddell, layperson and member of Erlanger Baptist Church in Erlanger, replacing Lillian Butler of Mayfield on the SBC committee on order of business.

■ Bill Bartleman, a newspaper editor and member of Reidland Baptist Church in Paducah, to the SBC committee on committees.

■ Eddie Reynolds, pastor of Bullitt Lick Baptist Church in Shepherdsville, to the SBC committee on committees.

Also, SBC President Elliff has named one Kentuckian to a committee the president directly appoints: Greg Nimmo, pastor of Hustonville Baptist Church in Hustonville, to the credentials committee.

## Golden Gate trustees won't close school

MILL VALLEY, Calif.—Trustees of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary have reversed their April 8 decision to close the seminary's School of Church Music, based on the voluntary resignation of two faculty members.

Craig and Beth Singleton offered to resign from the faculty if trustees would reconsider and keep the music school open.

Seminary President Bill Crews reportedly had been at odds with Craig Singleton, former director of the music school, for several years over music styles and the direction the music school should go. Neither Crews nor Singleton has made public comments about that matter.

The seminary administration presented trustees with concerns about the financial viability of the music school. Trustees then declared a "financial emergency" and instructed Crews to shut down the school effective July 31.

That action caught seminary faculty, students and donors by surprise.

Eight days after the trustee vote, with news of the Singletons' resignations in hand, trustees were polled by telephone and unanimously voted to restructure the music program rather than close it.

Restructuring will make the school "financially viable," Crews said.

A financial analysis presented to trustees showed rising costs combined with falling revenue from years of declining enrollment led to the music program operating with deficits ranging from \$35,820 in 1994-95 to \$70,959 expected this fiscal year, without including overhead costs.

Currently, 25 students are enrolled in the seminary's two church music

degree programs.

Since 1985, 60 degrees in church music programs have been granted by Golden Gate.

In addition to the Singletons, the music school employs two other trustee-elected faculty members, Max Lyaall and Gary McCoy, current director of the school. Several adjunct faculty also are used to teach music courses.



## Fellowship projects modest growth in next year's budget

ATLANTA (ABP)—After being forced by plateaued income to make mid-year budget cuts two years in a row, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's Coordinating Council is projecting modest growth in next year's spending plan but this time is hedging its bet.

The Fellowship's proposed 1997-1998 budget includes a new 2.5 percent reserve fund to cover any surprise shortfall. The \$14.3 million budget will be considered at the Fellowship's General Assembly, June 26-28 in Louisville.

"If we've done our work correctly, we will not have to make budget adjustments like the last two years," finance committee chair Ed Vick told

the Coordinating Council at an April 17-19 meeting in Atlanta. "Unless we have a major change in our giving patterns, we will have some money there for a shortfall."

The new budget anticipates \$8.1 million in undesignated receipts, a 5 percent increase, and sets a goal of \$4.5 million for an annual Global Missions Offering. The budget requires spending \$584,487 from a global-missions reserve fund. It calls for a net gain of six in the Fellowship's 140-member missionary force.

Amounts budgeted for student scholarships and institutional support at 11 theological schools supported by the Fellowship drop significantly in the proposed budget but are similar to

amounts actually spent this year, Vick said.

Two new schools were added to the list of schools receiving Fellowship support: Hardin-Simmons University's Logsdon School of Theology in Abilene, Texas, and Campbell University in Buies Creek, N.C. A \$15,000 line item in the current budget for scholarships at Lexington Theological Seminary in Kentucky was dropped.

Fellowship Coordinator Daniel Vestal blamed "fear, ignorance and indifference" for slowing growth in the Fellowship. The clergy know about CBF but are fearful of associating with the group, he said. "Laypeople really don't know what is going

on," he added, and both groups are indifferent.

Vestal outlined five "essential initiatives" to spur growth in the Fellowship: starting new churches; developing a job-placement service for ministers; advocating women in ministry; becoming a multi-cultural, multi-language, multi-ethnic fellowship; and exploring annuity and medical insurance programs for churches and ministers.

Vestal said the Fellowship must resist the "tendency to recreate the Southern Baptist Convention" by creating institutions to solve every problem. "The pressure is intense to act like we own and operate institutions," he warned.

## Youth revival services result in 90 new Christians so far

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

**HINDMAN**—A revival that began after the death of a popular cheerleader last year has resulted in more than 90 people becoming Christians in the past two months.

Mike Caudill, pastor of First Baptist Church of Hindman, said the latest development began at a Sunday night youth service March 9. After 10 youth accepted Jesus as their personal Savior, Caudill urged the church to continue the ministry to teenagers.

That led to ongoing Sunday night youth services. At least two people have made professions of faith in Christ each week.

"It's rocking this whole county," Caudill said. "We're having cross-denominational attendance in church. It's incredible how churches are reaching across denominational lines and trying to get our kids to come to their place."

The services feature skits, mime, interpretive dance, music and preaching. Commonly lasting at least two hours, they recently inspired "after glow" meetings that sometimes run until midnight.

The latter provide additional opportunities for testimonies and music from a contemporary Christian band composed of First Baptist youth.

Of the new Christians since early March, almost 90 percent have been teens, Caudill said. Three dozen of the converts had been baptized by April 27.

To follow up on these decisions, First Baptist established the "Nehemiah Team," adults who disciple youth converts. The church also has a new believers' Sunday school class.

The youth-centered revival also inspired a "Burn The World" night in early April. About 80 teens gathered to burn music tapes, compact discs, T-shirts, Ouija boards and other materials they deemed to be "unwholesome," Caudill said.

Among those who have made professions of faith is Christopher Prater, who accepted Christ at First Baptist's vacation Bible school but never had been baptized.

He is the brother of Merri Kathryn Prater, the cheerleader at Knott County Central High School who died in April 1996 from injuries sustained in a single-car accident.

Two dozen people accepted Christ as their Savior four days after her death, and a dozen more conversions soon followed. Jarvis Williams and Mark Combs, two of her friends who became Christians last year, are the main speakers at the youth services.

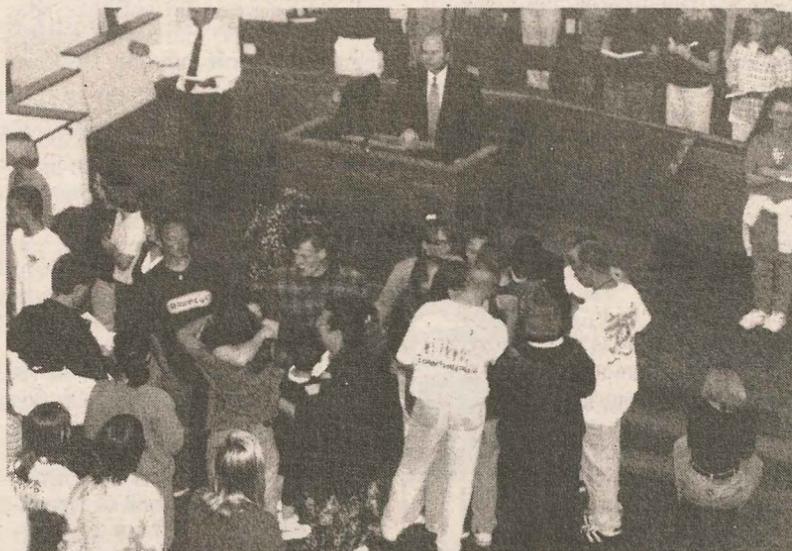
Williams, the first African-American to join First Baptist, preaches at the youth services. He plans to become a pastor after college.

"This is pretty awesome," he said. "I'm just grateful I'm a part of it. The highlight has been getting up there and preaching God's word and seeing family members and friends walk the aisles."

The former Knott Central baseball and basketball player credited Merri Kathryn with inspiring the current move of God's Spirit.

"She's touched my life and a lot of others. When we saw her lying in that hospital bed fighting for her life, it made me look at my own life. From that point on, I felt the Lord saying, 'Jarvis, it's time you gave your life to me.'"

Combs, who became a Christian



**INVITATION** Students respond during a youth revival service at First Baptist Church of Hindman.

the night Prater died, said he realized the drugs and other things he had been doing weren't helping him. Today, he said, he feels called to become a youth pastor.

"I just feel so unworthy to be used the way God is using us right now," he said. "A lot of people say it's because of Brother Mike, Jarvis or me, but we stress every Sunday night that we're just the tools. God is using us to get to the people."

Nor is this activity limited to church. A youth team has given testimonies at a local school and a service was held last Sunday night at the high school. Youth from Smithsboro Baptist Church helped stage the event.

Caudill said he has seen God move in the past, but nothing that compares to this revival.

"Our youth minister walks up and

down the hall at school and kids are talking about God. I'm talking about kids who were on cocaine, who had severe, terrible drug use problems. Parents' mouths drop open in the congregation when their kids say, 'I've been delivered from drugs.' These kids are being set free."

Caudill said that while the revival is a tribute to Merri Kathryn Prater, he also credits the church's Promise Keepers men's group.

After attending a rally three years ago, the men began meeting at the church every Tuesday night to pray. They have interceded for many of the teens who recently became Christians, he said. "This prayer ministry has done more for me in shaping and developing my commitment to the Lord than anything I've experienced in the life of the church."

### BLUEGRASS BURGEOO

■ **Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College** will offer its first annual church drama conference July 14-18 and July 21-25. More information about the conference is available from the institution in Mayfield at (800) 232-4662.

■ **Paul Fiddes**, an English educator, theologian and author, will deliver Georgetown College's keynote speech at the undergraduate commencement ceremony, May 10 at 10 a.m.

■ **Georgetown College** has been awarded a \$25,000 grant to establish a new interest-free loan fund for students in need of financial assistance. The award came from Fifth Third Bank of Cincinnati, trustee of the Charles Schell Foundation.

### Western Recorder trustees approve 1997-98 budget without rate increases

**WILLIAMSBURG**—Subscription rates for the Western Recorder are not scheduled to increase for the coming year.

The newspaper's board of directors adopted a 1997-98 budget of slightly more than \$1 million during their spring meeting April 28-29 at Cumberland College in Williamsburg.

The budget projects no rate increase for subscribers or advertisers.

Subscription rates will continue to be \$8.50 per copy per year for the church subscription plan and \$10.60 per year for individual subscriptions.

"Because we know many churches face tight financial situations, we are doing our best to hold the line on subscription prices for the Western Recorder, even though our production costs are increasing," said Editor Mark Wingfield.

"The Recorder's church newspaper plan continues to be the best value for nearly any church that publishes a church newsletter," he added. "By using the newspaper plan, churches still may send a newsletter and the full content of

the Recorder to every member family for 17 cents per week, less than the cost of a postcard."

In other business, the Recorder board adopted an official policy to provide one free copy of the newspaper to every Kentucky Baptist Convention pastor.

"The Recorder has practiced this policy for as long as any of us can remember, but it never had been spelled out," Wingfield explained.

"The board thinks it is important for every pastor to receive the Recorder," he said.

At this time of clarification, however, the Recorder's free pastor list will be cleaned off and pastors will be asked to indicate whether they want to continue receiving the free copy, he said.

A letter requesting this information should be sent to every KBC pastor in the coming weeks.

According to the new policy, all Kentucky directors of missions also may receive free subscriptions.

Only one free copy will be sent to any church or associational office.

### Recreation helps abused kids recapture childhood

**LOUISVILLE**—"What are we going to do today?"

Parents, day care workers, babysitters—anyone dealing with children—know these words are coming.

For child care workers with Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, the question is especially important because the goal of recreational activities in the agency's programs is not simply diversion or burning physical energies from young, active bodies.

Instead, staff look at play times as some of the best opportunities for promoting emotional healing.

"Therapeutic recreation is one of the most important things we do," said Audrey Puryear, vice president of program services. A lot of our kids don't know how to have fun and relax. The recreation program is a way for them to lose themselves, feel some freedom and recapture some of their childhood."

Few people would describe children as stressed-out, but many in the care of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children have led anxious lives.

"People don't think of children as having problems with stress," Puryear said. "That's the big myth in our society. Many of the kids in our care come from very stressful environments and suffer from stress-related ailments."

The primary job of Nancy Gurley, activities director, and Rick Mannel, recreational therapist, at KBHC's Spring Meadows children's home in Louisville, is answering the question, "What are we going to do today?" in a way that helps children progress in the healing process.

"Play is an integral part of developing healthy ideals," Gurley said. "It's very important to have the freedom to play and to enjoy yourself. That's a big roadblock to health for a lot of these kids. If they don't have fun things to do, they'll tend to turn toward negative things for recreation."

Planning recreation for a non-profit organization takes creativity. Gurley takes advantage of local parks, hiking trails, ropes courses and other facilities.

As a certified recreational therapist, Mannel is a member of the treatment team for Spring Meadows' clinical treatment program. The program involves two cottages for more severely abused and neglected boys.

The activities Mannel uses are designed to directly impact the emotional healing of these young men.

"The most successful events," Mannel said, "are the ones where there are no winners except the team. Learning what trust is about and team building are very important."

# OPINION

## WESTERN RECORDER

P.O. Box 43969  
Louisville, Ky. 40253  
(ISSN 0043-4132)

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

Western Recorder is published weekly by Western Recorder Inc., an agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Box 43969, Louisville, Ky. 40253, except for one week in July and December. For general information, call (502) 244-6470. Fax: (502) 244-6474. Send e-mail to CompuServe 102667,1300, and the Internet, wesrec@ntr.net. Periodicals postage paid at Louisville, Ky.

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## More on York

In response to both Bruce Truman and Chip Hutcheson's letters (April 29, page 4), I too must agree that the Western Recorder's coverage of Hershael York's resignation as pastor of Ashland Avenue Baptist Church to join the faculty of Southern Seminary was quite disheartening.

Obviously, Mark Wingfield's biases got in the way of what could have been a very objective and informative, if not an inspirational story.

I have known York personally for almost 20 years. As a former staff member of Ashland Avenue and co-laborer with him, I know first-hand that God has anointed him in a mighty way. He is a talented and gifted speaker, a phenomenal teacher, a dedicated pastor and a devoted family man who loves his wife and children.

His ministry focuses on changing lives for the glory of God and not merely building a big church. He is active in the community and has a heart for lost people. His deep commitment to personal evangelism and training others how to witness has led Ashland Avenue to establish one of the strongest Evangelism Explosion ministries in the nation. Pastors and laypersons from across America have come to study evangelism.

During the years I ministered with York, I learned more from the Scriptures and grew more spiritually than in any other period of my life. He taught me about God's grace and that it is indeed greater than all my sin. I am the man I am today because of Hershael York and Ashland Avenue Baptist Church. Southern Seminary is fortunate to be getting someone of his caliber. I wish him Godspeed.

*Richard Burns  
Nicholasville*

## Faith in Nike

As a teacher of high school students and a parent of elementary and middle school students, I am fully aware of the high esteem Nike receives from our younger generation. When Walter Brueggemann (April 22, page 13) said, "Jeremiah is probably the part of the Hebrew Bible we ought to be reading right now," I was and still am.

## Keeping fit in the Lord

We live in a time when everyone is concerned about their bodies. The fitness craze has swept us all up in a flurry of diets, new exercises and workout videos. Everyone wants to live more healthy and productive lives.

Did you know the Lord Jesus is concerned about his body? He wants us to project a good image of himself to our friends, family and community. However, we sometimes become lazy and lethargic. We have gotten out of shape. I would like to suggest a few high-impact exercises to help us become spiritually fit:

■ *Deep knee bends.* All of us

I found that much of what this scholar had to say made sense. Our nation does seem to be trying desperately to fill a great void with Nike, new cars and "things" that cannot satisfy. Some of us know that only God can fill that void.

It is our responsibility, as a church, to pray for our nation and ask God to cause a great awakening of his presence among us. It is not that he has left us, but that we have left him.

As Christians, we should seek him in our work place, in our home and in our Sabbaths. I, too, believe the Sabbath is an antidote to our anxiety from the rat race we live in. On this day we can be reminded that nothing is more important than our Christ.

The Book of Jeremiah is not hard to understand; Jeremiah simply tells Israel that God demands that the nation acknowledge, worship and honor him alone, repent from their sinful ways or continue in the path they are and be destroyed. I believe America needs to do the same or reap whatever consequence God may have in store.

Israel's problem was worship of pagan gods like Baal; America's problem is the worship of pagan gods like money, status, etc.

My prayer is that God will have mercy on America and cause a great awareness of his presence and a great acceptance of him among our people.

*Dorie Raybuck  
Lexington*

## Study it yourself

I would like to commend Paul Blizard for his rebuttal in the April 15 opinion commentary.

It is a very simple matter to find out the difference in cults from a true Christian, by going to God's word. When one studies you will find how to distinguish truth from false teaching.

First, we need to test to see if it is a true message, by finding out if they agree that Jesus Christ, God's Son, actually became man with a human body. If they do not believe this, it is not from God, so anyone who is against Christ is not from God. John says that "no man comes to the Father but through me."

1 John 1:7-11 tells us to watch out for false leaders (cults) who do not

should bend our knees all the way to the floor in prayer to our Heavenly Father. "The fervent prayer of a righteous man avaleth much."

■ *Chins ups.* Have you ever seen someone walking with their head down, looking lonely and depressed? Maybe you could be the one God uses to encourage that person.

Write a letter, make a phone call, go on a visit to let them know God loves them. You'd be surprised how much you could do to help lift the chin up.

■ *Weight lifting.* It's a sad commentary that in the average church in America, only 20 percent of the people do 80 percent of the work. That

believe that Christ came to earth as a human being with a body like ours. These people are against Christ and the truth. They cannot have the Father without the Son (1 John 2:22-23).

1 John 2:27 says that one should live in Christ and never depart from him. The only way we can have eternal life is through God's Son and belief in him (1 John 5:1,12-13).

1 John 5:7 tells us there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word (Jesus) and the Holy Ghost and these three are one.

My advice to everyone is to study for yourself God's word, to be able to know what the truth is, so that you will not miss out on eternal life.

*Wanda Howard  
Penrod*

## On salvation

Suppose a person once saved could be lost again. Suppose such a person to gain heaven would have to be saved all over again.

But suppose the person in question never did get saved the second time and, departing this life a lost man, went finally to the lake of fire—after having been "saved?"

In what sense, then, was he first saved? What was he saved from? Was he saved from the penalty of sin? No, for he did not escape the lake of fire. Was he saved from the power of sin? No, for he fell back into sin and died a lost man. And most assuredly he was not saved from the presence of sin, for none this side of heaven have yet been saved from that.

What was he saved from then? The answer is: Nothing at all!

He may have thought he was saved. He may have felt saved. He may have acted as though he was saved. His friends may have thought he was saved, but in the final analysis, he was saved from nothing.

Salvation, to be anything more than a mere term, must be everlasting. Any person who has been saved has been eternally saved.

Does this mean we must wait until this life is over to find out? No. We may be saved now and know it. This is evident from such passages as 1 Corinthians 1:18, where the Apostle Paul refers to "us which are saved."

How can we be saved? See John 3:36. "He that believeth on the Son"—that's when you get it. "Everlasting life"—that's how long it lasts.

*James C. Pierce  
Burkesville*

puts a heavy burden, both physically and financially, on the few actively serving. You can lift that weight off their shoulders by finding an area of ministry and getting involved.

■ *The Philippians 4:8 diet.* Watch what you consume. "Finally, my brethren, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, excellent or praiseworthy, think on these things."

Are you more influenced by TV, movies, men's opinion or God's word? Put down the remote and pick up a copy of God's word. Let God transform you by the renewing of your mind (Romans 12:2).

*Danny Haynes, pastor  
First Baptist Church  
Middletown*

## CHILDREN

### What is Kentucky for Kids Day?

By Jewell Nelson

**Q.** Can you tell me more about Kentucky for Kids Day?

**A.** "Kentuckians realize children to be our greatest resource; and "We believe each child is a unique, precious creation; and "The well-being of Kentucky's young people directly reflects the character and integrity of our commonwealth; and "The physical, emotional, spiritual and educational health of our children is vital to the future of Kentucky; and "All Kentucky adults have a responsibility to advocate on behalf of our children so that they can grow strong and healthy in mind, body and spirit, in order that they may in turn become vital, productive adults.

"Now, therefore, I, Paul E. Patton, governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, do hereby proclaim May 31, 1997, as Kentucky for Kids Day."

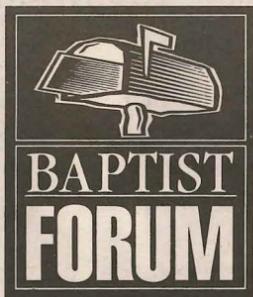
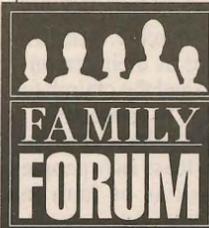
(From a proclamation by the governor of Kentucky). Here are just a few of the groups saying, "Yes! We want to come together and show that Kentucky cares for its children": Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union; agencies of the Kentucky Baptist Convention; Boy Scouts of America; Children's Alliance; Community Coordinated Child Care; Crimes Against Children Unit; Kentucky Department of Education; Jefferson County Police Department; Kosair Charities; Southeast Christian Church of Louisville.

The gathering on the Capitol grounds in Frankfort on May 31 will be from 1-4 p.m. Features will include Kentucky's illusionist David Garrard; singing and other musical groups; guest speakers; puppetry; face painting; live animals; games; food; beverages and more.

This event is non-political, non-denominational and welcomes all people with one thing in common, as advocates for those who cannot speak for themselves: children.

Bring your family to see your state capitol and to enjoy the day. Bring your neighbors. Bring, also, a new teddy bear to be used by agencies to comfort children in crises.

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



## HE SAID/SHE SAID

### Real men may cry, but they never carry their own tissues

**HESAI**



Mark Wingfield

According to the latest authoritative study, real men ought to cry. Seems it's good for your health.

A news report out of Atlanta, home of the Braves and other real men, cites the research of Bill Frey, who reportedly has studied crying for more than 25 years. Sounds depressing to me but, hey, it's his life.

So what has Frey learned? Women average 5.23 crying episodes per month, compared to only 1.4 per month for men. That's hardly news to any man who's lived with a woman through an entire month.

Now I'll be the first to admit that I'm one of those men who cries easily.

I cry most easily at weddings. I don't know why; maybe it's the joy of the moment or maybe it's just sympathy pains. Whatever the reason, I find it harder to hold back tears at weddings than funerals.

The Hallmark greeting card commercials that run during the Christmas season also make me a puddle.

I know I'm in good company, though. Bill Marshall, the recently retired executive secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, is one of my crying buddies. He was notorious among KBC staff for dripping tears on the podium every time he began to reminisce. So at one of his retirement events, the staff presented him with a huge bucket and towel to catch his tears.

On rare occasions, I've noticed it seems easier for most men to cry. On a recent Sunday at our church, a young man who had been severely beaten in a racially-motivated attack stood to give a spontaneous testimony about how God had given him freedom to forgive his attackers.

As he pleaded with the children and youth in the congregation not to give in to hatred and racial division, there wasn't a dry eye in the house. And through my own tears I noticed it was the fathers and grandfathers who were crying the most.

**SHESAI**



Alison Wingfield

Seeing a male cry touches me in a different way than seeing another female cry. It's not that I'm not sympathetic to a female. But seeing a female cry is a much more common sight than seeing a male cry.

Women are quick to offer moral support and a shoulder to cry on for another female. Like mother hens we gather around the distressed person, offering sympathy and comfort.

Men are more likely to make a joke or pretend not to notice until the male has himself under control again.

I respect a man who isn't afraid to cry in public (except for televangelists, who turn it on and off like a water faucet). Some women also use the televangelist ploy as a weapon to manipulate others. You can get out of all sorts of sticky spots if you become a watering pot at a crucial moment.

Mark's tendency to cry at weddings is a bit embarrassing though. He might only be slightly acquainted with the couple and still turn into a puddle. I've learned to be prepared with loads of tissue in my purse. (Real men may cry, but they rarely carry tissues.)

Although I cry more often than the average male, I also am guilty of the volcanic syndrome—holding in my feelings until they erupt into a massive lava flow. Not a pretty sight.

If we want to share one another's burdens as well as the joys, we have to be willing to show our vulnerability. Jesus wept. So can we.

## Selfishness typifies our divorce culture

Larry King is celebrating 40 years in broadcasting. This icon of American talk radio and TV has carried on a long relationship with his profession while running through brief relationships with six wives.

You'd think with that much experience King would be an authority on marriage. But a recent interview proved he's willing to talk about marriage more than work at one.

For this interview, the tables were turned, and King found himself on the interviewee's side of the microphone. The radio interviewer began prying into King's views on marriage.

Love, King replied, is one of the few things in life that can't be explained or understood. So it was impossible for him to say why people start loving each other and then stop loving each other.

But more importantly, King attempted to justify his marital excess by quoting a famous psychiatrist who once told him, "I'm always suspicious of anyone who's married to the same person for 50 or 60 years. I wonder what part of themselves has been lost, what has been sacrificed."

The moral of this story, King explained, is that it's not natural for two people to grow emotionally and intellectually at the same rate and in the same direction. Inevitably, the enlightened person will outgrow his or her spouse and be ready for a better-suited companion, he suggested.

Each of his six wives matched his particular stage of development at the time, King said. Each served her purpose for the moment.

While King expressed his own views based on his own experiences, his attitude represents much of what's wrong with marriage in America today. He could be a poster child for our divorce culture.

The comments of King's psychiatrist friend are insightful, but not in the way he or King intended them. We should not be suspicious of couples who remain

married for a lifetime but rather should examine their model to understand what marriage is all about.

Sacrificing and giving up self must not be viewed as a negative to be avoided in marriage; instead it must be seen as an essential requirement. We should not be suspicious of anyone who sacrifices part of himself or herself to make a marriage work, because such sacrifice is the essence of what marriage is all about.

Thus the Apostle Paul admonishes husbands and wives to submit to one another in mutual respect. And this is the basis upon which the author of Genesis 2:24 explains that "a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."

Marriage is not a limited partnership in which each partner retains independence but files a joint tax return. Rather, marriage is the kind of unexplainable partnership in which each partner retains a distinct identity while merging his or her life with the spouse.

King's view of marriage is self-centered, whereas a healthy view of marriage is spouse-centered or marriage-centered. A paradox of marriage is finding that your own needs are met not by seeking to have them met but by meeting the needs of your spouse.

Two extremes are equally dangerous to a marriage—focusing wholly on oneself or wholly on one's spouse. It's not either/or but both/and.

While it is true that many couples grow apart emotionally and intellectually, that must be viewed as a symptom of marital problems rather than the explanation for marital problems. Something else has gone wrong if wildly different growth patterns occur.

Marriages fall apart for many reasons. Some seemingly can't be helped, but many can. And among those marriage-killers that can be stopped, the kind of selfishness King advocates lies at the root.

—Mark Wingfield

### Just a weekend gardener?

By Carey Newman

My friend motioned for me to join him at the table. As I did, I realized this was not going to be a normal Wednesday evening dinner conversation. I had unwittingly become part of an ad hoc meeting of the church's strategic planning committee.

The question was asked: "Isn't it our job to evangelize those who do not enjoy salvation?"

"No, we should concentrate all our efforts on creating the best worship experience possible," came the retort.

A third voice chimed in: "Gee, I thought we were here to help those less fortunate."

During a brief pause, my friend looked at me and asked, "Do you want in on this discussion?"

Trying to define (and thus live) the kingdom of God has always been a difficult task. One option is to retreat from the harsh realities of the world

in the attempt to preserve the kingdom's distinctiveness. The option at the other end of the spectrum seeks to make meaningful compromises between the kingdom and the world.

If the first option fails to see its obligation to the world, then the second option fails to distinguish the kingdom from the world.

In Jesus' own estimation, the kingdom was (and still is) uniquely tied to his deeds, his words and his fate. Jesus issued a prophetic call to

the people of Israel to live out their true, intended destiny as a light to the world. In the name of the kingdom Jesus directly addressed social realities: he scandalously stood with the outcasts and unflinchingly preached economic justice.

By confronting individuals with the challenge of transformation, Jesus defined the kingdom as a personal choice. As Jesus' miracles and resurrection graphically portray, the kingdom was at war with evil. The kingdom, according to Jesus, was not just

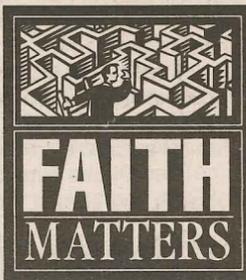
one thing.

Our family has just completed the spring ritual of whipping the yard into shape. The process included the regular tasks of raking out dead leaves, trimming the bushes, fertilizing the grass and spaying for weeds. This year it also included the nasty task of hauling off old building materials stacked behind the shed and re-seeding that part of the yard.

We even—at Leanne's insistence and direction, but without her help!—planted flowers. The yard itself dictated what needed to be done, whether protecting and nurturing what already was there, re-claiming what was forsaken or even waging war on that which destroys.

Jesus did not retreat from what he found; neither did he simply blend in with his contemporaries. Jesus did the most daring thing possible: He sought to make everyone he came in contact with more whole. We should do the same.

I told the group to get the rakes and hoes, for the world is a very untidy place. If we are to follow Jesus' lead, then there is no limit on what finally qualifies as kingdom work—be it nurturing faith, reclaiming damaged lives or waging war on evil.



## NAE adds its support to Religious Freedom Amendment

WASHINGTON (ABP)—After a second round of revisions to an Oklahoma congressman's proposal to amend the U.S. Constitution, a major religious lobby, the National Association of Evangelicals, endorsed the measure last week.

Previously the NAE opposed the Religious Freedom Amendment, which Rep. Ernest Istook, R-Okla., plans to introduce in Congress the week of May 5.

The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission also opposed an early draft of the measure but signed on in support after it was revised slightly during a meeting with CLC officials and others April 21.

"This is yet another addition to a long list of supporters who prayerfully wish to restore religious free-

dom, to repair how courts have distorted the First Amendment. The public has long waited to reverse 30 years of court rulings such as those against prayer in the public schools," Istook said after the NAE endorsed the latest proposal.

While previous language would have barred government from denying a benefit due to religion, the latest text would prevent government from denying "equal access to a benefit on account of religion."

In a press release, the NAE said the amendment addresses the basic concern of the evangelical community "that government not deny equal access to public benefits on account of religion." Don Argue, president of the NAE, said "the change to include the phrase 'ac-

ording to the dictates of conscience'—together with Rep. Istook's assurance that minority rights are protected—secures individual rights of conscience."

While the CLC and the NAE said the new Istook language satisfied their concerns, other church-state specialists said there was little substantive difference among Istook's three proposals.

Baptist Joint Committee Executive Director James Dunn called the changes cosmetic. The BJC remains opposed to any proposed constitutional amendment.

"I'd rather not have my religious liberty be based upon the assurances of Mr. Istook or any other government official. Baptists bled and died for constitutional guarantees

that an uninformed, ill-advised lawmaker would diminish," Dunn said.

Melissa Rogers, associate general counsel at the BJC, said the revised amendment still would permit government to endorse religion in various ways which courts now rule as unconstitutional.

"While it would take the courts years to decide what the amendment actually means, the amendment would still appear to permit students to use the school intercom to lead their class in prayer or a judge or juror to lead the courtroom in prayer," Rogers said. She added that the new language would "still open the door to government funding of churches, synagogues, mosques and other pervasively sectarian institutions."

## Ending tax deductions would harm charities, report claims

By Larry Chesser  
Baptist Joint Committee

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Eliminating the tax deduction for charitable gifts would reduce sharply amounts Americans donate to churches and other charities, according to a year-long study released April 28.

The study was commissioned to assess the impact on charitable giving of various tax-reform proposals before Congress. It was commissioned by two private organizations, the Council on Foundations and Independent Sector.

The study, based on data from 93,000 federal income tax returns filed in 1992, concluded that eliminating the charitable-tax deduction "would place an enormous new burden on charities at the very time the federal government is continuing to cut sharply the funding of social programs and calling on charities to pick up the slack."

Independent Sector President Sara Melendez said the study refutes the idea that the charitable deduction has little impact on gifts to charities.

"Most people don't give because they receive a deduction," Melendez said in a prepared statement. "They give because it's the right thing to do. However, the amount they give clearly is greatly affected by the charitable deduction."

The study found that taxpayers who itemize deductions represent less than 30 percent of all taxpayers but account for 75 percent of gifts to charities.

Citing a 1995 Gallup Poll, the report noted that non-profit groups as a whole draw about 18 percent of their income from charitable gifts, but churches and religious organizations receive 83 percent of their revenue from contributions, the study found.

The study examined the potential impact of three tax-reform proposals offered in the 104th Congress that are expected to be part of a future tax-reform debate.

It concluded that a flat tax with no charitable deduction and a reduced tax rate would result in sharp declines in charitable gifts. If a flat tax with a top rate of 21 percent had been in place in 1996, individual gifts to charities would have dropped from an estimated \$104 billion to \$71 billion, the report said.

The study made no estimate as to how replacing the nation's income tax system with a national retail sales tax could affect charitable gifts by individuals. Giving up a purchase to make a charitable gift or to put money in savings would reduce taxes under a system based on consumption, the study said.

## Critics: Gambling commission has pro bias

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Anti-gambling groups are criticizing the make-up of President Clinton's National Gambling Impact Study Commission.

On April 28 Clinton named his three final picks for the nine-member commission: Nevada Gaming Control Board Chairman Bill Bible, former New Jersey State Treasurer Richard Leone and Robert Loescher, who works for an American Indian environmental company based in Alaska.

Ralph Reed, executive director of the Christian Coalition, called the commission "tainted before it begins."

"As the unfolding campaign finance scandal highlights, President Clinton has now sold his appointment

to the highest bidder and has made this body the best commission money can buy," Reed said.

White House spokesman Mike McCurry said the president labored to "make sure he has structured a commission that really does take in a variety of points of view."

But Tom Grey, executive director of the National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling, an umbrella organization of religious groups and other gambling opponents, said Bible and two other appointees are biased toward casinos.

"It's like appointing representatives of R.J. Reynolds, Philip Morris and Liggett to a panel studying tobacco. It's just wrong," Grey said.

Two other members of the commission with "known casino ties," according to Grey, are Terri Lanni, chief executive of the MGM Grand Casino, who was appointed by House Speaker Newt Gingrich; and John Wilhelm, whose International Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union represents casino workers, appointed by House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt.

Both organizations say they will be watching every step the commission makes.

"We will attend every commission hearing, monitor every meeting, and offer to the panel every piece of data and research we can get our hands on," Grey said.

## Fewer teens having sex, more using birth control, study says

WASHINGTON (RNS)—The percent of teens having sex dropped in 1995 for the first time in 25 years, a National Survey of Family Growth reported.

The survey released last week shows teens also are using birth control at an increased rate. The 1995 survey, an in-depth government study conducted every five years, said half of all teen girls between 15 and 19 have had sex at least once.

The percent of girls having sex had risen steadily, from 29 percent in 1970 to 55 percent in 1990, before dropping to 50 percent in 1995.

But Donna Shalala, secretary of health and human services, says teen

pregnancy remains a problem. About 40 percent of young women become pregnant before they are 20, the highest teen pregnancy rate among industrialized nations.

The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, a new campaign launched by Shalala, aims to cut teen pregnancy rates by one-third within 10 years.

The campaign rejects the idea that sex education and access to birth control prevent pregnancy. Instead, organizers want to convince teens that getting pregnant is a bad idea, and they plan to use TV public service announcements to get their message across.

## Clinton signs suicide funding ban

WASHINGTON (RNS)—President Clinton signed a law last week banning the use of federal funds to pay for doctor-assisted suicide.

Clinton called the Assisted Suicide Funding Restriction Act "appropriate legislation," saying he has always been personally opposed to assisted suicide. "While I have deep sympathy for those who suffer greatly from incurable illness, I believe that to endorse assisted suicide would set us on a disturbing and perhaps dangerous path."

The measure bars the use of federal funds for doctor-assisted suicide, but does not address other controversial issues such as the so-called "right to die." It also does not prohibit the use of non-federal funds for assisted suicide.

Clinton said the law does not bar using federal funds for meetings or other kinds of forums in which the issue might be discussed or debated.

The bill passed Congress with an overwhelming majority: 398-16 in the House and 99-0 in the Senate.

## Breakout nets new Christians

NASHVILLE (BP)—More than 1,300 college students and student ministry workers from across the United States participated in a spring break Christian outreach program coordinated by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's National Student Ministry.

The results: 276 people made first time professions of faith in Jesus as their personal Savior, said student ministries consultant Bob Hartman.

In addition to the new Christians, Hartman said, is the ministry skills learned from the ministry event.

"BreakOut '97" involved students in outreach projects at five locations: New Orleans; Panama City, Fla.; Lake Havasu, Ariz.; Key West, Fla. and Daytona Beach, Fla.

BreakOut participants offered a variety of free services to students on spring vacation, using the encounters as an opportunity to discuss Christianity.

More than 10,000 students attended free pancake breakfasts, and more than 7,600 students accepted free van rides, Hartman said. In addition, coffee houses attracted 3,700 students.

## Diverse faith groups meet to fight poverty

By David Anderson  
Religion News Service

PHILADELPHIA—In what some called a historic step, nearly 60 top U.S. religious leaders, grassroots activists and policy advocates spanning the political spectrum gathered in Philadelphia April 26 to seek common ground in mounting a renewed national fight against poverty.

No specific agreements or policy proposals were announced, but participants said the most significant fact of the meeting was that it happened at all.

"Today, we made a critical moral shift from the old, tired debate over welfare reform to the deeper and more biblical agenda of overcoming poverty in this nation," said Jim Wallis, a convener of Call to Renewal, the network of evangelical and mainline Protestant and Roman Catholic social activist groups that organized the meeting.

Representatives from groups as diverse as the National Council of Churches and the National Association of Evangelicals, Pax Christi and Progressive National Baptist Convention, the Interfaith Alliance and Promise Keepers, spent the eve of the Presidents' Summit on America's Future

in closed-door sessions breaking down stereotypes of one another and identifying areas of potential agreement and disagreement, according to participants.

Among the major agreements: that as welcome as the summit on volunteering was, volunteerism cannot be a substitute for government action to fight poverty and racism.

"A merely private charitable approach would be an affront to prophetic biblical religion which also calls kings, rulers, judges and employers to be accountable to the demands of justice," Wallis said at close of the religious leaders' meeting.

According to participants, the group of nearly 60 leaders discussed a number of specific policy issues of immediate concern, including efforts to balance the federal budget, the impending cutoff of legal immigrants from welfare benefits and campaign finance reform.

Wesley Granberg-Michaelson, general secretary of the Reformed Church in America, said also discussed were "a whole variety of new innovative approaches" for long-term approaches to involving religious groups more deeply in the fight on poverty. They included such controversial issues as the use of school

vouchers and changes in the law making it easier for religious groups to receive federal money for delivering social services to the poor.

"We think, even when there was disagreement, that these are ideas that need to be explored with some urgency," said Ron Sider, president of Evangelicals for Social Action.

Among the areas still without consensus, according to participants, was the "appropriate" role of government at all levels in anti-poverty efforts.

Paul Bollwahn of the Salvation Army, however, said the religious groups came together "with a confessional attitude" and despite differences, "it is the crisis (of poverty and violence) that called us together."

David Beckmann, president of Bread for the World, the Christian anti-hunger lobbying organization, said he, too, was "struck by consensus that a hurricane is coming" for the poor as a result of the welfare reform legislation enacted last year.

Yvonne Delk, executive director of the Community Renewal Society of Chicago, said by day's end, the groups "began to question the relevancy of the way we define one another."

"We came together across these lines and found that there are some things we can say together," she said.

## Church airs ads during Ellen

By Ken Camp  
Baptist General Convention of Texas

BEAUMONT, Texas (ABP)—When "Ellen" came out of the closet, southeast Texas viewers heard the gospel.

Calvary Baptist Church in Beaumont, Texas, aired two 30-second commercials during the much-publicized April 30 program in which the title character declared her homosexuality.

Initially, church representatives asked the local ABC-TV affiliate not to broadcast the program. When it became clear that was not an option, the church asked to purchase commercial time to offer another perspective.

The church enlisted Michael Johnston, founding president of a ministry to homosexuals based in Newport News, Va., to appear in spots at the half-way mark and the conclusion of the one-hour broadcast. Johnston is an HIV-positive Christian who says he came out of a homosexual lifestyle.

"Homosexuality is not a laughing matter to me. I'm dying of AIDS," Johnston said in one of the paid spots.

The commercial messages contrasted "imprisoning" homosexuality with the "liberating" power of Jesus Christ.

"We're wanting to present the gospel to people when they are tender, when they are asking questions," said John Powers, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church.

"We're not condemning people who are homosexual," Powers said. "We just need to say that sin is sin, and this is a deadly lifestyle that at least will enslave you, and it may kill you."

## 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:** 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.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of music and youth. Seminary training and some experience preferred. Send resumé to: Union Baptist Church, P.O. Box 194, Union, KY 41091.

**SEEKING:** Calvary Baptist Church, Glasgow, Ky., is accepting resumés for position of pastor. All interested parties may reply by mail to: Pulpit Committee, Calvary Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1524, Glasgow, KY 42142.

**FOR SALE:** 1984 Bluebird bus, 24-passenger, 35,000 miles, \$6,150. Call: Mrs. Roberts, First Baptist Church, Bowling Green, Ky., (502) 842-0331.

**CONVENTION:** Dallas package—excellent hotel choices, some within walking distance. Discount airfares, Alamo rental cars. Christian Travelers, (800) 972-8952.

**FOR RENT:** Sanibel Island, Florida: 2-bedroom, 2-bath condo available for vacation rental. Large pool, tennis courts, bikes, canoe, kayak, screened porch, lovely secluded beach. Weekly rates May through mid-December: \$595. Call Pat Owen, (502) 895-8752 (home) or (502) 897-5079 (office).

**FOR SALE:** 6 church pews, \$100 each. Parrish Avenue Baptist Church, Owensboro, Ky. (502) 683-2156.

**SEEKING:** Buck Creek Baptist Church in search of full-time pastor. Send inquiries to: R. Thomasson, 892 Browns Valley Road, Utica, Kentucky 42376, or RThoma316@aol.com.

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music and activities. Send resumé to: Search Committee, Maple Grove Baptist Church, 5911 E. Manslick Road, Louisville, KY 40219. (502) 964-7314.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of education and youth for First Baptist Church, Pineville, Ky. Seminary training or college graduate preferred. Full-time benefit package offered. Send resumé to: Minister of Youth/Education Search Committee, c/o First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 710, Pineville, KY 40977.

**SEEKING:** Bardstown Baptist Church is currently accepting resumés for a full-time minister. Resumés will be accepted until June 1, 1997. Send resumé with a cover letter claiming your statement of faith to the Pastor Search Committee, Bardstown Baptist Church, 101 West Brashear, Bardstown, KY 40004.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister to children. Please send resumé to: De-Haven Memorial Baptist Church, 307 West Jefferson St., La Grange, KY 40031, Attn: Scott Riggs, administrator.

**WANTED:** Full-time secretary. Skills: 2-years experience, 50 wpm, Microsoft Word, research and phone. Willing to meet various needs of growing church. Send resumé: Victory Baptist Church, 2261 Armstrong Mill Road, Lexington, KY 40515.

**SEEKING:** Part-time secretary, Monday-Friday. Computer skills helpful. Starting date: June 2 (available for training prior to June 2 helpful). Send resumé to: Ballardsville Baptist Church, 4901 South Highway 53, Crestwood, KY 40014.

**SEEKING:** First Baptist Church, Lebanon Junction, Ky., is accepting resumés for full-time pastor. Previous pastoral experience desired. Send resumé and cover letter to: Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 577, Lebanon Junction, KY 40150. Resumés received through May 31, 1997.

**SEEKING:** First Baptist Church of Troy, Mo., is seeking a full-time minister of music with other ministry possibilities. Please send resumé to: Music Search Committee, c/o FBC Troy, 800 Cap-Au-Gris, Troy, MO 63379.

**SEEKING:** Associate pastor/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:** Baby grand piano, \$3,500. Call Greg Harry at Cecilia Baptist Church, (502) 862-4228.

**WANTED:** Pre-kindergarten teacher; two classes of two and one-half hours each per day, four days a week. Prefer experience. Send resumé immediately to: Sharon Zachery, Shively Baptist Church, 1599 Sadie Lane, Louisville, KY 40216.

**SEEKING:** Concord Baptist Church is in process of searching for a full-time minister of youth. If interested, please send resumé to: Concord Baptist Church, 1945 Concord Lane, Hopkinsville, KY 42240, Attn: Search Committee.

**SEEKING:** Resumés are now being received for the position of director of missions for Pulaski Baptist Association, Somerset, Ky. Located in south-central Kentucky, the association has 60+ churches and missions which support a variety of ministries with a strong emphasis on direct mission involvement through volunteer work in both home and foreign fields. Full-time salary package and benefits commensurate with experience. Interested candidates should submit resumés by June 30 to: DOM Search Committee, P.O. Box 72, Somerset, KY 42502-0072.

**SEEKING:** In need of a pastor: Lucas Grove Baptist Church, Upton, Ky. Send resumé to: Roger Dennis, P.O. Box 406, Upton, KY 42784.

**SEEKING:** First Baptist Church of Taylorsville is seeking a full-time associate pastor with emphasis on youth and young adults. Experience in youth ministry necessary. Send resumé to: Associate Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 446, Taylorsville, KY 40071.

**WANTED:** Part-time minister of music, responsible for adult, children and handbell choirs. Contact Lewis Lane Baptist Church, 2600 Lewis Lane, Owensboro, KY 42301. (502) 684-4266.

**SEEKING:** Salvisa Baptist Church is presently searching for a part-time minister of youth. Please send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Salvisa Baptist Church, P.O. Box 75, Salvisa, KY 40372.

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of youth and children. Send resumé by May 19, 1997, to: Fern Creek Baptist Church, P.O. Box 91146, Louisville, KY 40291, Attn: Search Committee.

## Psalm writer's honesty shows path to combatting depression

By Marv Knox  
Texas Baptist Standard

DALLAS (ABP)—People facing depression may find solace and support from Psalm 77, said Christian counselor Glenn Booth.

"The writer is 'crying out to God for help,'" Booth said, quoting part of the first verse. "Is God hearing me?" the writer asks. It's like he's trying to grab hold of a lifesaver and grasped nothing."

Booth, coordinator of the Texas Baptist Ministers Counseling Service, said the writer describes four characteristics common to depressed people today: insomnia, a deep and indescribable anguish, an inability to think of anything but the problem and a deep sadness.

The writer also expresses four feelings depressed people commonly express about God, Booth added. The writer questions God's mercy, love, promises and grace.

Psalm 77 honestly expresses how depressed people often feel, Booth said, noting that depression causes them to doubt God.

Booth said many people who are depressed tell him, "In my belief system, I know there's grace and mercy, and God promised never to leave, but now I don't feel it. Is my belief system real?"

Booth added: "This describes the sense of hopelessness a person in depression feels. He's had about all he can take."

Ironically, that point of utter hopelessness is the place where the psalmist—as well as faithful people who fight situational depression—turn to God, Booth stressed.

(Situational depression is less severe than clinical depression, which often requires medical help, Booth said.)

He advises depressed people to follow the same course of action the psalm writer took to climb out of depression:

■ *Affirm God, regardless of feelings.* "In the psalm, we have a man who vividly describes the pain, sleeplessness, futility and anxiety of depression," Booth explained. "And yet he began to affirm God, despite how he felt."

Feelings aren't always the best thermometer for gauging what God is doing in one's life, he said. "We may feel abandoned by God, but what we believe—what we know about God—tells us that's not real."

■ *Pray to see God amid the 'enemy' of depression.* Booth recalled the Old Testament story in 2 Kings 6:15-17 in which a servant of the Prophet Elisha panics because the city is surrounded by enemy soldiers. Elisha prayed for the servant to see God's presence in the midst of those enemy soldiers, which he did.

"The secret was not for the enemy to go away, but to see God," Booth said. "Sometimes, we spend so much time praying that depression would go away, when we should be praying that we would see God in the circumstances."

■ *Rely on a belief that God will not fail and affirm God's presence.* Even when depression feels like a formidable enemy, a Christian's ability to handle it increases when God's presence is acknowledged, Booth said.

"The changing agent is faith," he added. "It's not how much faith we have, but where we point it. We often point it toward our feelings rather than toward our belief system—where we know God is present."

He cited the writer of the Book of Hebrews in the New Testament, who said faith is "the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

"Faith is claiming what God has promised, even though we don't feel it," he said. "And even though our situation may not change, our ability to cope with it does."

"In depression, we tend to get tunnel vision, to focus on only the one thing that is bothering us. But when we exercise faith, we focus on the bigger picture, and we can handle the situation better."

Booth said his prescription for handling depression "doesn't diminish the intensity of the feeling," but it stresses the temporary nature of the circumstances. "Depression will not entrap us forever."

## Symposium touts better care over suicide

By Holly Lebowitz  
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Lonely, helpless and in pain, "Paul" wanted to die, and he wanted his doctor, Carlos Gomez, to help.

In the soft, soothing voice of a caring physician, Gomez told the story of his 42-year-old patient to a conference on assisted suicide.

Paul was "deteriorating" from AIDS when he requested a lethal dose of medication to end his misery.

Gomez refused. Instead he put Paul on a physical therapy regimen which, Gomez said, allowed his patient to socialize and—for a time—emerge from his wheelchair.

When the disease finally became unmanageable, and Paul was admitted to the hospital, the patient told the doctor: "Enough. You did what you could. It's been a good six months. Enough." And he died peacefully soon thereafter.

"Nobody killed him, nobody had to kill him," Gomez said.

The anecdote was typical of many such case histories sprinkled throughout a two-day interfaith symposium involving more than a dozen international religious leaders, ethicists and legal experts at the Catholic University of America.

More than 200 activists representing congregations, dioceses, anti-abortion political groups and medical institutions attended the

conference to exchange ideas about the volatile question of euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide.

The question of whether there is a "right to die" and the idea of physician-assisted suicide in the face of a debilitating or terminal disease sharply divides society. A line is drawn between those who believe ending a painful and burdensome life at the patient's own request is merciful and ethical and those who believe better care, not death, is the only valid way of managing horrifying diseases and disabilities.

The latter position dominated this conference, sponsored by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Center for Jewish and Christian Values, a conservative interfaith think tank and advocacy group.

State laws barring assisted suicide are currently before the Supreme Court, with a ruling expected this summer.

Two legal experts, Alexander Capron, a professor of law and medicine at the University of Southern California, and Robert George, a professor of law and political philosophy at Princeton University, explored the constitutional issues raised by the cases.

George said he believed the Supreme Court likely will find no constitutional mandate to support a right to assisted suicide and thus turn the matter back to state legislative bodies.

If that happens, "we're already geared up" to lobby state legislatures, said Bishop James McHugh of Camden, N.J.

McHugh said one goal of the conference was to share "program tips" among activist groups. Bills and other initiatives to toughen laws against euthanasia are already under discussion in more than a dozen states.

In his keynote address, Rabbi David Novak, an ethicist at the University of Toronto, called suicide and homicide "two sides of the same coin."

He noted, however, that the allocation of health-care resources is a key component of the debate about euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide. He said passive euthanasia occurs when federally-funded or managed care providers stop benefits when a patient reaches a certain level of disease.

Such passivity, he urged, can quickly evolve into active euthanasia. "Eventually, we will make the decision for them," he said later.

Carrie Gordon, bioethics analyst for Focus on the Family, said euthanasia is "like taking fire and trying to put it in a paper bag. The power to kill cannot be controlled."

Alison Burke, who is wheelchair-bound because of cerebral palsy, agreed with Novak's assessment, saying, "It's even more frightening to consider that a person with a disability might internalize a cost-benefit analysis" and feel undervalued by society.

## Church can minister to mentally ill & families

By Yvonne Terry White  
Alabama Baptist

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (BP)—When Peggi DeLeuil's son was diagnosed with schizophrenia, she didn't feel she could confide in anyone—especially someone at church.

DeLeuil's son, David, never had shown signs of mental illness until he was diagnosed at age 15. Now he is 34 and lives in a group home.

"It was very devastating," she said. "You just don't know what to do, especially from the financial aspect of getting help because insurance doesn't cover mental disorders. We could have put him through Harvard with the amount of money we have spent on his treatment."

A church can be instrumental in easing the burden just through supporting the family with love, care and concern, DeLeuil said.

"One thing a church needs to do is to minister to the whole family," DeLeuil said. "It's not just the mentally ill person who suffers, but the entire family hurts as well. But no one brings you casseroles or puts you on the prayer list. The stigma of mental illness even in churches is tremendous."

"People know very little about mental illness or how to support families with children who are mentally ill," she said, adding it is a difficult experience for the family. "Many drop out of church because of embarrassment."

Mary Reeder, a member of First

Baptist Church of Huntsville, Ala., and director of the Huntsville Alliance for the Mentally Ill, said churches should be at the forefront of educating members about mental illness.

"We aren't taught about mental illness in schools or even at home," Reeder said. She likewise felt isolated from the church when her child was diagnosed with a mental disorder.

Education "basically comes from television, movies and the media, but it is usually very inappropriate. Very seldom do you see a character (on TV) who is mentally ill and is shown contributing to society."

"Every person, without exception, who has recovered or is in a recovery program cites the main reason for their turning point was that someone showed a genuine respect for them. This is where the church can do something for the person," she said.

Reeder, a longtime children's Sunday school teacher, lived a nightmare after learning her 12-year-old son was diagnosed with a mental illness. Today he is 39 and living in an apartment on disability.

"I could hardly teach because I felt guilty that maybe it was my fault that my child was mentally ill," she said. "I didn't want other people to think that I might be doing something to cause a child to be mentally ill. If a child started crying, I got a sick feeling in my heart."

Reeder eventually gave up teaching the class, and it wasn't until some time later she understood her son's illness was not her fault.

"A lot of people are never able to come to grips with their child's mental illness," Reeder said. "Many think it's their fault, but it's not."

Reeder and DeLeuil are active in Huntsville's Alliance for the Mentally Ill group and are instrumental in educating the community about mental illness through programs at schools, civic groups, churches or other organizations.

Jim Hightower, minister for pastoral care at First Baptist Church of Huntsville, said the key to changing people's attitudes in the church about mental illness is for laypeople who have experienced it in their own families to speak out about the disease. He suggested congregations should offer programs to give church members that opportunity.

"When you see someone with these disorders, it takes away a lot of the mystery that surrounds them," Hightower said. "They see the people are very normal, highly functional and deeply spiritual. It helps someone who needs it to say, 'I can get help.'"

Reeder said congregations need to incorporate mentally ill persons into the mainstream of the church.

"Mental illness tends to break down people's ability to relate to other people," she said. "Exercise and love with a small amount of work may be as important to a mentally ill person as setting a broken leg. We have not provided a channel by where the brain can be rehabilitated. It takes longer than we have ever been aware of for the brain to heal or recuperate."

# LEADERSHIP

## A candid conversation with Willow Creek's Bill Hybels

SOUTH BARRINGTON, Ill. (RNS)— Bill Hybels, 45, is senior pastor of Willow Creek Community Church, the mega-church that draws more than 16,000 people to its services each week and has revolutionized how Christians think about worship.

Whether you love or hate "contemporary worship," Willow Creek's success has caused many churches to consider incorporating praise hymns, drama and other ways of communicating the gospel message.

Hybels, author of the new book "The God You're Looking For," recently spoke with Religion News Service on a wide range of topics, including his ministry's approach to non-churchgoers, his pastoral visits with President Clinton and his position on women ministers.

**Do you think most people are seeking God if they don't already believe they've found him?**

I think there comes a time in almost every person's life where he or she has one of those late-night, ceiling-staring sessions where the person asks, "Is this all there is? Is this the totality of what life is all about? Is there life beyond the grave? Do I have a soul?" And then the journey begins.

**How would you describe Willow Creek's theology given that you aren't associated with any particular denomination?**

It would be the classic historic Christian theology and when people say well, make it clearer than that, we would fall right in line with the Billy Graham (Evangelistic) Association or Wheaton College or any of these classic evangelical institutions. Our statements of faith would probably be almost identical.

**What is the most challenging aspect of being a pastor to the president?**

To discern how I can best ... encourage spiritual development because sometimes my role is that of a listener, sometimes my role is that of an encourager, sometimes it's been more prophetic or a confrontational

role, sometimes it's strongly relational and very friendship-oriented and requires discernment to know what would best serve the president.

**I wonder about your view of megachurches in general. Do you think they will remain a viable form of evangelical Christianity?**

I think the general tendency is going to be for local churches to grow larger, especially in suburban and urban areas. However, I think ... there's always going to be the need for vital small churches in rural areas. I don't see that as changing much in the next 15 ... years. I don't see that there are going to be many churches beyond the 7,000 to 10,000 range simply because of the complexity required to grow a church beyond that size and the logistics.

**But you think there will be more churches in the 2,000 to 7,000 range?**

Whereas it used to be that churches between 1,000 and let's say 3,000 or 4,000 were quite rare, they're becoming very common and I'm quite enthusiastic about that because these kinds of churches tend to be able to provide all the ministries that families require these days while still being somewhat manageable from a scale perspective.

**How would you describe your church's approach to women in leadership roles in the church?**

We encourage women to identify and develop and use their spiritual gifts. ... We don't restrict any office or position in the church on the basis of gender.

**I understand (within Willow Creek) there has been some kind of position paper on this in the last year or so?**

It's a working document right now.

**How would you describe that working document?**

It gives a biblical defense for encouraging women to identify and use their spiritual gift in the church without restriction on the basis of gender.

**Is there a particular (Bible) verse you point to?**

No, that's a danger of reducing a complex issue like this to a few proof texts. You have to take a systematic view of Scripture to give adequate treatment of this particular matter.

**I understand that some people are concerned about this ... affirmation of what you already have believed and are wondering how it might affect the evangelical world in general. How do you respond?**

I think it will affect it positively. ... In far too many churches, women grow up feeling like second-class citizens. ... Many of these women yearn to put on a uniform and get in the game. They want to roll up their sleeves and participate in the ongoing redemptive drama of God and the world through their local church but they're being told that they have to stay on the bench because they were born female instead of male, and I think that's very sad.

**Are people with a different viewpoint (on the issue) welcome in your church?**

Absolutely. Now, we ... want to be unified in this position with our staff and we submitted this working document to our staff for its consideration and are moving with intentionality toward making sure that all of us are of one mind who are on the paid staff of the church. However, people in the church are welcome to be a part of Willow Creek regardless of the position that they hold on this providing they're not being divisive or cruel... We've had almost no serious contention ... in our church over 21 years over this matter and when we first appointed elders in the early days of Willow we started with women elders and we have women teach from time to time and now we actually have two women on our teaching team.

**So, on some Sundays a woman might be in the pulpit?**

Correct.

**Given the fact that your church is independent, do you think denominationalism is on its way out?**

I think there are signs of the decline of denominationalism almost everywhere you turn. Now, I wouldn't go quite so far as to say the day of the denomination is over because certain denominations are awakening to the fact that the people in denominational leadership exist to serve local church pastors and their leadership instead of the case being vice versa. So right now, the Willow Creek Association, which is this fellowship of a couple of thousand churches around the world, is working with dozens of the leaders of these denominations to try to assist them in serving ... the leadership teams in the congregations of their local churches. In certain denominations we've seen spectacular effects from that change in mindset.

**Tell me about the international effect of Willow Creek.**

I just finished a world tour in February that included Australia, Singapore, South Africa, Norway and the Netherlands and then I'm leaving ... for New Zealand and Tasmania ... and I think we have invitations from 10 or 15 countries right now to come and hold conferences to try to encourage and train church leaders.

**What does that say to you, that it's not just an American phenomenon?**

What we're talking about here is transcultural. Building a prevailing church does not depend on Western culture. Some of the most exciting churches in the world are located outside the United States.

**What do you mean by a "prevailing church?"**

One that is committed to evangelism and discipleship. One that is committed to volunteerism inside and outside the church. One that's committed to living and proclaiming God's word, the Bible. One that's committed to small groups and people really becoming a family ...



**"We encourage women to identify and develop and use their spiritual gifts. ... We don't restrict any office or position in the church on the basis of gender."**

*Bill Hybels, pastor of Willow Creek Community Church*

## Southern's Akin: 'Feminist' agenda dominating Willow Creek

LOUISVILLE—Having survived years of criticism from the left wing of American Protestantism, the influence of Willow Creek Community Church now is being questioned from the opposite side of the aisle.

Danny Akin, vice president for academic administration at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, has charged the suburban Chicago mega-church is driven by culture more than Scripture.

"Contemporary, fallen culture is now setting the theological agenda and determining church polity and policy at Willow Creek. The end result can only be tragic," Akin wrote in the May issue of Jerry Falwell's National Liberty Journal.

Akin particularly takes Willow Creek to task for allowing women to serve as elders and ministers, charging the church with a "feminist agenda."

"Few movements have inflicted more pain and damage on the American family and society than has feminism," Akin wrote.

After attending a Willow Creek seminar in 1995 and studying the church, Akin said he concluded Willow Creek has "bought into the lie of modernity with its women elders, and it has rejected the clear teaching of Scripture."

Akin contrasts Willow Creek's position to his own: "God created men to be men and he created women to be women. God created men to be husbands and daddies who lead, provide and protect. God created women to be wives and mothers who nurture, support and care. ... Men and women are ontologically and essentially equal before God. Both are his image bearers. However, by divine decree and creational order, God has assigned men the

weighty assignment of leadership both in the home and in the church. No amount of bizarre biblical interpretation can set aside the clear teaching of Scripture at this point."

Akin also criticizes Gilbert Bilezikian, a sort of theologian-in-residence at Willow Creek who has been influential in the life of Pastor Bill Hybels. Akin cites an interview in the conservative "World" magazine in which Bilezikian "revealed that Willow Creek not only will not hire to its ministerial staff anyone who is not committed to a feminist/egalitarian agenda, but they now discourage the same from seeking church membership."

In a separate article in the same issue of Falwell's newspaper, Paige Patterson, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, has written a front-page critique of Bilezikian's influence on the translation committee for the New International

Version of the Bible. Patterson's critique is based on the same "World" magazine interview Akin cites.

In that issue, "World" reports that the translation committee has voted to make the NIV's language "gender-neutral" in future U.S. editions, perhaps as early as the year 2000.

Citing Bilezikian's influence at Willow Creek, Patterson asks: "What will be next at Willow Creek—openness to same-sex marriages, even more openness to the killing of preborns in the wombs of their mothers? Who knows? One thing is for certain, all these things are frequent riding partners of the feminist gang."

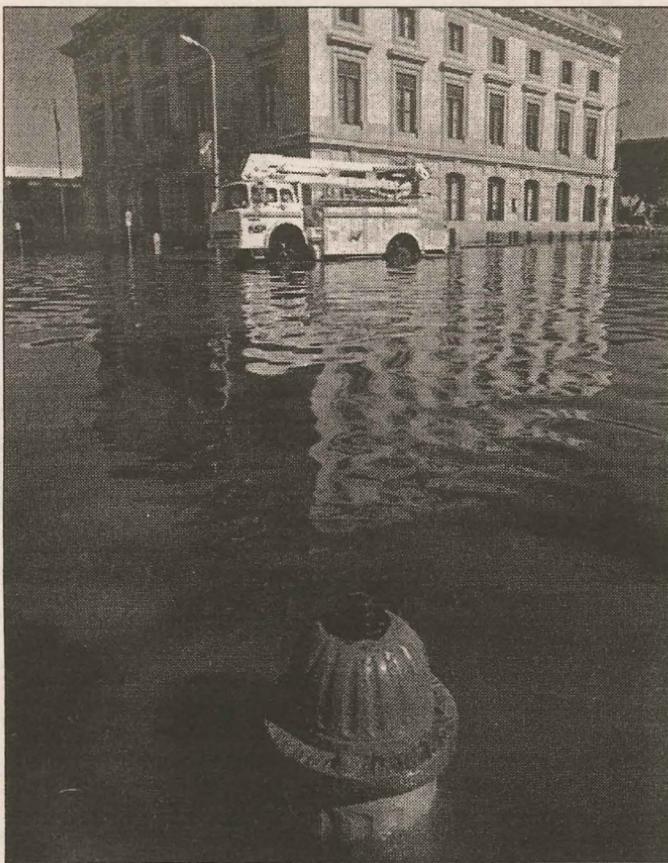
Elsewhere in Akin's article, he expresses concerns about other ramifications of what he calls Willow Creek's "faulty biblical exegesis," "unsound theological reflection and commitments" and "hyper-cultural sensitivity."

**"Contemporary, fallen culture is now setting the theological agenda and determining church polity and policy at Willow Creek. The end result can only be tragic."**

*Danny Akin, vice president for academic administration at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary*

# MINISTRY

## North Dakota flood assistance needed, but not just yet



**FLOODED** A utility truck makes its way through flood waters in downtown Grand Forks, N.D. Officials began allowing residents of a limited area of the town to return to their homes for four hours to assess the damage and to begin the clean-up process. (RNS/Reuters photo)

By Steve Barber  
SBC Brotherhood Commission

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)—Prospective volunteers wanting to serve in flood-ravaged North Dakota and Minnesota will be needed in a week or two, according to the coordinator of Southern Baptist disaster response.

Lots of people want to go in now, but it will be at least one or two more weeks before cleanup operations can begin, requiring volunteers in large numbers, according to Mickey Caison of the Brotherhood Commission, who is serving as off-site coordinator.

Volunteers should call the Dakota Southern Baptist Fellowship in Bismarck, N.D., at (701) 255-3765 for more information.

For the moment, Caison said Southern Baptist relief operations already in the region were adequately staffed.

Volunteer workers at three mobile kitchens were being relieved with fresh troops, as normally scheduled, from the state Southern Baptist conventions that operate the units.

Local Southern Baptist volunteers also were taking a visible role, allowing them to be seen as caregivers, according to Caison.

"We encourage them to become part of the relief team, because they will be there long after the feeding units are gone," Caison said.

"My personal experience has been that my service as a local volunteer gave me an entrance to many homes to minister to many families after the immediate crisis had passed," he said. Items that will be needed before the cleanup begins include mops, buckets, push brooms, scoops and other cleaning supplies.

Dakota Fellowship officials are asking contributors of these items to call the fellowship office in Bismarck.

A Texas-based feeding unit is located at Grand Forks Air Force Base, while an Ohio unit is operating at Calvary Baptist Church of Fargo, N.D. An Oklahoma unit is serving meals at an elementary school in Red River Falls, Minn.

Baptists have served about 80,000 meals in their first 10 days of disaster relief. Texas Baptist volunteers were working 15-hour days to supply requested meals.

The Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention was scheduled to begin

shuttling daily a dozen volunteers from the St. Paul-Minneapolis area to the disaster site, according to Texas Baptist Men Executive Director Bob Dixon. They would enable the Texas field kitchen to operate 20 hours a day in two shifts.

Caison called on Southern Baptists to pray for the victims and volunteers involved in this disaster response.

Concerns include volunteers' and residents' safety as well as opportunities for volunteers to share their Christian faith, he said.

*With additional information from Ken Camp of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.*

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## Word Publishing moves offices to Nashville

NASHVILLE (RNS)—Word Publishing will move from its longtime Dallas home to Nashville this summer, the company said April 25.

The move represents another step in the consolidation of Word with its owner and one-time competitor, Thomas Nelson Publishing, headquartered in Nashville.

Nelson purchased Word from ABC/Capital Cities in 1992, and publicly promised to keep the competitive Christian publishing houses independent. Soon after the purchase, however, Nelson moved Word's music division to Nashville, then sold it earlier this year to Gaylord Entertainment Company for a reported \$120 million.

In 1995 the publishing divisions of the two companies were organized under one umbrella to form the NelsonWord Publishing Group.

Combined, they formed one of the nation's top 10 general book publishers.

Word and Nelson continued to compete for top books in the tightening evangelical market and the smaller Word still had five of the top 10 bestsellers on the Christian Booksellers Association March list.

## Chapman, McKeehan big Dove winners

By Adelle Banks  
Religion News Service

NASHVILLE (RNS)—Singer Steven Curtis Chapman and dc Talk member Toby McKeehan were the big winners April 24 at the Gospel Music Association's 1997 Dove Awards.

Chapman won artist, male vocalist and songwriter of the year honors and received a fourth award for pop/contemporary album of the year for "Signs of Life."

McKeehan left the Nashville Arena with five Doves, the most of any artist this year. As a member of dc Talk, he was honored for the top pop/contemporary song, "Between You and Me," and the top rock song, "Like It, Love It, Need It." "Jesus Freak," the title of the group's album and short form music video of the year. As a member of a second group, the Gotee Brothers, McKeehan was honored with rap/hip hop album of the year for "Erace."

The 28th annual awards show—reflecting the gospel music industry's continued growth—was broadcast for the first time on the Nashville Network, reaching a more mainstream audience than in previous years when it aired on the Family Channel.

According to statistics from the Recording Industry Association of

America Gospel music's share of the overall music market has risen from 3.1 percent in 1995 to 4.3 percent in 1996.

In addition to its market share, gospel music's diversity also continues to expand. The show's range of acts varied from an opening number by rappers E.T.W., to a tribute to Southern gospel that included the Speer Family of Nashville, which began as a family quartet more than 75 years ago.

As the industry works to gain mainstream attention, it's taking on some aspects of the general music industry, with its own twist. For example, numerous artists on stage wore red AIDS ribbons with a cross superimposed on them.

Some of the artists seemed to have matured along with the industry.

"Ten years ago this year, a snotty-nosed kid from Paducah, Ky., was introduced to the GMA and in those 10 years I've learned ... there's a lot that kind of seems silly," said Steven Curtis Chapman, as he accepted the artist of the year award.

"We play our guitars. We sing our songs. People applaud. We get dressed up, but God ... uses even foolish things when it comes from a heart that has been changed by his grace and his mercy and his love."

CeCe Winans, the awards show's other co-host, won the female vocalist of the year honor for the second



Chapman

## 1997 Dove Awards winners

- **Song of the Year:** "Butterfly Kisses" by Bob Carlisle and Randy Thomas
- **Songwriter of the Year:** Steven Curtis Chapman
- **Male Vocalist of the Year:** Steven Curtis Chapman
- **Female Vocalist of the Year:** CeCe Winans
- **Group of the Year:** Jars of Clay
- **Artist of the Year:** Steven Curtis Chapman
- **New Artist of the Year:** Jaci Velasquez
- **Producer of the Year:** Charlie Peacock
- **Rap/Hip Hop Album of the Year:** "Erace," performed by the Gotee Brothers
- **Alternative/Modern Rock Album of the Year:** "Free Flying Soul," performed by the Choir
- **Rock Album of the Year:** "Jesus Freak," performed by dc Talk
- **Pop/Contemporary Album of the Year:** "Signs of Life," performed by Steven Curtis Chapman
- **Inspirational Album of the Year:** "Quiet Prayers (My Utmost For His Highest)," performed by Bryan Duncan
- **Southern Gospel Album of the Year:** "Wherever You Are," performed by the Martins
- **Country Album of the Year:** "Little Bit of Faith," performed by Jeff Silvey
- **Traditional Gospel Album of the Year:** "Just a Word," performed by Shirley Caesar's Outreach Convention Choir
- **Contemporary Gospel Album of the Year:** "Whatcha Lookin' 4," performed by Kirk Franklin & The Family

year in a row.

She also won honors for contemporary gospel song of the year for "Take Me Back" and special event album for her role in "Tribute: The Songs of Andrae Crouch."

## A personal testimony

In 1985, 11 years before I began my service as president of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, my wife and I established the Barry G. and Larie G. Allen Endowment Fund with the foundation.

We established the account with a modest gift of appreciated stock and directed the foundation to distribute, until the Lord returns, the income earned from investments among three Baptist entities the ministries of which had directly touched our lives in the name of Christ. We also directed the foundation to delay the income distributions until the account attained a certain balance.

As a result of our quarterly contributions and the foundation's excellent investment performance, this endowment account attained its target balance this year, and the first distributions of income have just been made to those three special Baptist organizations. Larie and I plan to continue to contribute to this account through our lives and at the end of our lives.

Now, I am sharing this stewardship testimony with you for four reasons:

■ **Integrity.** I would not ask you to do what I had not already done.

■ **Trust.** We believed and con-

tinued to believe the foundation board and staff will do until the Lord returns what we directed them to do, and they will do it with excellence.

■ **Simplicity.** Most Kentucky Baptists have more than one favorite Baptist cause, I wanted you to know we can simplify the giving process by establishing one account but distributing the income to multiple causes.

■ **Joy.** I wanted to share with you the joy we are experiencing (a) by seeing while we are alive how these three Baptist organizations are changing peoples lives for the cause of Christ and (b) by feeling the assurance we shall be helping these organizations beyond our lifetimes continue to make a lasting difference in the world for the cause of Christ.

Please give Laurie Valentine, our trust counsel, and me the privilege of assisting you in experiencing the joy that comes by giving to touch peoples' lives, "for God loves a cheerful giver." Call us at (502) 244-6466.

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

### KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

## What a difference time makes

It is really great to be in Kentucky and to be a part of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. Already I feel at home with our staff, board of directors and the city of Louisville. I look forward to traveling across the state and getting to know as many Kentucky Baptists as I can.

Interestingly, just 12 months ago I had no idea my family and I would be leaving Virginia. Leaving our home, schools, church and friends was not in our plans. But what a difference a year makes. Now here I am, and soon my family will be joining me in our new home, making new friends, finding a new church, etc.

What a difference a little time makes. Time—that one commodity we all have the same amount of—can make a tremendous difference in our lives when spent productively. In nine months a baby is born. In 18 months the baby is walking. In five years she is off to kindergarten. In 16 short years he is driving the car. Just given a little time, things can change dramatically.

Time with Jesus was something the disciples believed they had plenty of when actually their

time with him would be brief. His entire ministry on earth was only three years—not very long in retrospect.

Giving families and children in pain or crisis some "time" is what KBHC is all about. The gift of time is often the gift of grace for those who need help.

Families meeting with Cornerstone counselors need the gift of time to have someone help them sort out their pain. Some children need time in residential group care while others spend their time in quality foster homes.

I feel privileged to be a part of such ministries that touch lives every day, right here in Kentucky. What our clients need most is someone who will provide a place and time for them to receive love and grace.

I look forward to spending time with you so that together we can share some time and love and grace and hope with those who need us most.

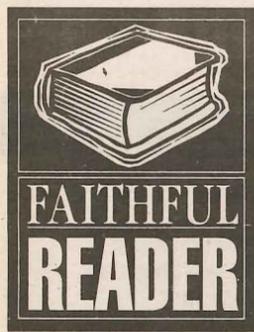
Bill Smithwick president of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, 10801 Shelbyville Rd., Middletown, Ky. 40243. Call (800) 456-1386. KBHC's Internet address is: <http://www.iglou.com/kbhc/>

### HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Bill Smithwick

# BOOKS



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

## Best-selling hard-back Christian non-fiction

- 1 **Streams in the Desert**, updated edition, L.B. Cowman & edited by James Reimann
- 2 **God's Inspirational Promises**, Max Lucado
- 3 **In the Grip of Grace**, Max Lucado
- 4 **The Weigh Down Diet**, Gwen Shamblin
- 5 **My Utmost for His Highest**, updated edition, Oswald Chambers & edited by James Reimann
- 6 **The Best of Barbara Johnson**, Barbara Johnson
- 7 **When God Whispers Your Name**, Max Lucado
- 8 **Making Love Last Forever**, Gary Smalley
- 9 **My Utmost for His Highest** (includes journal version), Oswald Chambers
- 10 **He Still Moves Stones**, Max Lucado

Source: *Evangelical Christian Publishers Association*

**Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire.** Jim Cymbala with Dean Merrill. Zondervan Publishing, 1997. \$16.99. 188 pages.

◆◆◆◆ (out of five)

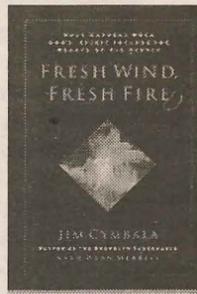
Many individuals and churches have thrilled to the music of the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir, whether through recorded music or printed music. What is not generally known is the story behind the fabulous music. In "Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire," Pastor Jim Cymbala raises the curtain of silence.

When Cymbala and his wife, the choir's director, began their ministry with Brooklyn Tabernacle 25 years ago, services gathered 20 or fewer people. Today, the church numbers more than 6,000. This multi-racial congregation gathers people from all walks of life and Cymbala lets us in on the secret to the church's growth: prayer and the movement of the Holy Spirit. Cymbala's call for church growth is for a congregation, with its leaders, which spends time in prayer and is willing to let the Holy Spirit direct the future, free of the current popular trend.

Cymbala does not get on the bandwagon of church marketing, novel worship experiences or even doctrinal purity as steps to church growth. In fact, he raises numerous cautions, if not warnings, about the new prevalent ways of growing a church. Rather, Cymbala calls the church to repent of all futile attempts to orchestrate growth and to, instead, do it the old-fashioned way—depend on the Holy Spirit by becoming a church of prayer. Unlike some other books that have advocated an active prayer ministry for a church, Cymbala's book is thankfully short on technique and long on testimony. His few words to a pastor seeking to implement a

prayer ministry are succinct and open enough to adapt to multiple settings.

Through the course of this book you learn a lot about the Brooklyn Tabernacle. But what the book is really about is the reminder that trends and fads come and go, but it is the word of God and the presence of the Spirit that will last forever. *Wayne Hager*



**John 1-11: The New American Commentary, Volume 25A.** Gerald Borchert. Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1996. 399 pages. \$29.99 ◆◆◆◆◆

Confession time: Rarely do I read a commentary straight through, from beginning to end. I use them more like an encyclopedia or dictionary. Most of the time that is my fault. In the press for time to prepare sermons or teaching outlines, I will turn to the relevant part of the commentary.

On the other hand, many commentaries do not lend themselves to a read through. Perhaps recognizing a pastor's tendency to pick and choose, the author writes with that in mind.

Not so with Gerald Borchert's commentary on the first half of John's Gospel. Borchert, who teaches New Testament at Southern Seminary, writes in an engaging, flowing style that draws the reader from one section, one passage to the other. Even the more technical aspects of the introductory material were interesting.

I was impressed with the thoroughness of Borchert's work. From the introductory material to dealing with the text of the Gospel, he allows the reader to see the full range of thought relating to the issue at hand. He treats viewpoints with which he disagrees with equanimity and respect, while presenting his own position effectively.

I look forward to Borchert completing

his commentary on John in volume 25B of the series. His two volumes will sit next to Raymond Brown's and George Beasley-Murray's commentaries as an essential resource on John's Gospel. *Jim Holladay*

**Strategic Pastoral Counseling.** David Benner. Baker Book House, 1992. 138 pages. \$9.99. ◆◆◆

Every pastor deals with troubled people. Depression, divorce, grief, coping with physical illness and other life-altering problems are issues most of us confront on a fairly regular basis.

David Benner recognizes that counseling people with these and other problems is a crucial part of providing pastoral care to the congregation. At the same time, he argues "clinical models of counseling ... have tended to make counseling into a specialized activity that bears little relationship to other pastoral ... responsibilities."

Furthermore, he contends most books on pastoral counseling do not provide the help most pastors need, because they are too general. "To be helpful, books must tell pastors specifically what to do ... in counseling sessions."

"Strategic Pastoral Counseling" builds on three key assumptions: most pastoral counseling sessions will be limited to five sessions, a pastor's contact with a counselee is not limited to the counseling time and the master goal of pastoral counseling is spiritual growth.

Benner's goal in this book is ambitious. He not only attempts to introduce this method of pastoral counseling, but to provide the tools necessary for a pastor to begin using the method. This is both a strength and weakness of the book.

Though one could get just the opposite impression from a cursory reading of the introduction, Benner presupposes some familiarity with theories of human psychology and development, as well as

other models of counseling.

As I read through the model, I kept thinking that in order to implement his model effectively, some peer review process would be helpful if not crucial.

Overall, Benner does an excellent job reminding us that emotional healing is a spiritual task. *Jim Holladay*

**The Financially Confident Woman.** Mary Hunt. Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1996. \$10.99. 214 pages. ◆◆◆

Mary Hunt is the founder and publisher of the "Cheapskate Monthly" newsletter. With that knowledge you know immediately this is not a book about how to make and spend money hand over fist. In fact, the book is not about making money at all. Rather, this book is about how to manage the money you have, whether great or small.

Hunt writes to women and encourages them to take charge of their finances. She exposes what she considers irresponsible and negative financial behaviors and offers ways to change the behaviors.

Hunt begins by challenging the reader to do some self-examination and then suggests in chapter after chapter behaviors that lead to confidence in financial matters. Her concerns run from control of credit cards and other debt to plans for retirement. She always keeps her lay audience in mind and avoids over explanation. In many ways she is just relaying "common sense," which is regrettably not that common.

Basically this is a book about changing attitudes and it succeeds at its purpose. And along the way, men can learn a thing or two as well. *Wayne Hager*



## Faithful service

By Robert Dunston

Cumberland College's Baptist Student Union involves students in a variety of ministries. Two of those ministries are the special children program and senior adult outreach.

The special children program is part of Appalachian Ministries, which this year has been coordinated by Lucy Tuttle, our BSU intern. Lucy was involved with Appalachian Ministries throughout her college career at Cumberland College and has done an outstanding job leading the program this year.

Cumberland students who participate in the special children program go every Wednesday and Friday morning to area schools to work with special needs children. For an hour students work with these children through singing songs, making crafts and playing games. Cumberland students offer tutoring as well as individual work in developing motor skills. For many of the children this additional help and interaction is crucial. Not all of the children were born with problems. Some have suffered abuse that has caused mental and emotional damage making learning difficult for them.

Cumberland's senior adult out-

reach program is led by Philip Ritchey, a senior. Students alternate their weekly visits between the Williamsburg Nursing Home and the Williamsburg Retirement Center. Upon arriving at one of the facilities students divide into smaller groups and begin visiting residents. The residents look forward to the visits but so do the college students.

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



In many cases the students who go to give a blessing end up receiving a blessing as well.

Students plan a Christmas program and other activities that provide entertainment for the residents, but often the residents themselves entertain the students.

There are some good pianists among the residents who lead students in singing the old songs of the faith.

Cumberland students are performing the same ministries that you are performing in your churches. They are letting people know the students care and are encouraging them to use their God-given gifts. Each person teaches us something about the majesty and love of God. How wonderful it is for us to see God working in each other.

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

## Become a Friend of Baptist Healthcare

By Robin Oldham  
Baptist Healthcare Foundation

One of the greatest joys and blessings of our work at Baptist Healthcare Foundation is receiving the calls, cards, and letters from people across Kentucky whose lives have been touched in one of our hospitals.

Almost every letter is filled with words of gratitude from those who have been helped through challenging and difficult experiences at a Baptist facility.

Healthcare is a rapidly changing industry. However, the mission and vision of Baptist Healthcare remain unchanged. Baptist Healthcare is dedicated to providing the finest Christ-centered healthcare services available anywhere.

We are grateful to each person for the faithfulness that has allowed Baptist Healthcare to reach so many impressive and meaningful goals.

As Baptist Healthcare addresses the challenges ahead, many friends want to continue to help patients and families in need. As a result, we have initiated the Friends of Baptist Healthcare organization for those dedicated donors who wish to provide regular financial support

for our programs.

You are invited to be a Friend of Baptist Healthcare by making a financial gift to a Baptist hospital through Baptist Healthcare Foundation during 1997. Your gift of any size is important and deeply appreciated. Those who make a gift of \$50 or more during 1997 will receive a lapel pin from Baptist

Healthcare as a token of our thanks for your support.

As always, you may designate your gift to the Baptist hospital of your choice in Louisville, Lexington, Paducah, Corbin or La Grange.

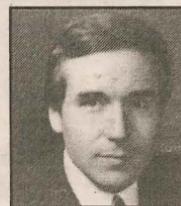
For more information about becoming a Friend of Baptist Healthcare, please contact Baptist Healthcare Foundation.

Thank you for what you have done and for

what you are going to do on behalf of those served by Baptist Healthcare System. You are making a difference in the lives of patients and families in need.

Any questions or comments concerning this article, Baptist Healthcare System or Baptist Healthcare Foundation should be directed to Charles W. Cox Jr., president of Baptist Healthcare Foundation, 4007 Kresge Way, Louisville, Ky. 40207. (502) 896-5003 or (800) 224-4745.

BAPTIST HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION



Robin Oldham

# KENTUCKY

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## Challenges discussed at state Fellowship meeting

By David Winfrey  
 News Director

DANVILLE—America is becoming more polarized, youth are highly cynical and society has moved from a Christian world view to a post-modern mindset that frustrates churches greatly.

“What a great time to be a Baptist,” said Terry Hamrick, church resources coordinator for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

The changing attitudes and perspectives of Americans will force the church to rediscover its purpose for existence, said Hamrick, who addressed the annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship.

Furthermore, Hamrick credited Southern Baptists' 20-year controversy, in which the denomination has taken a conservative shift, with waking churches to society's changes. “If it hadn't been for the controversy, inertia probably would have kept us rocking along as if nothing had happened.”

Churches can reach people amid the new conditions if they return to people-centered ministry that is faithful to God's calling, he said. “The world needs to believe that this is God's year to act rather than being confused by our fear to risk.”

About 135 people attended the meeting at Lexington Avenue Baptist Church.

Moderator Jo Garnett told the audience the 5-year-old Kentucky Baptist Fellowship is defining itself as an organization dedicated to

inclusiveness, missions, preserving historic Baptist principles and supporting churches in ministry and fellowship.

The group passed a 1997-98 budget of \$40,600. Newly-elected Moderator Bob DeFoor noted the group also has collected a \$90,000 endowment to support the Baptist Joint Committee.

In addition to DeFoor, pastor of Harrodsburg Baptist Church, other officers elected were: Moderator-Elect Colleen Burroughs, a member of Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville; Secretary Gary McAbee, pastor of First Baptist Church of Brandenburg; and Treasurer Jerry Dooley, a member of Broadway Baptist Church in Louisville.

About 20 Kentucky churches have the Kentucky Fellowship in their budgets, Dooley said. Another 50 individuals from other churches also give to the organization, he said.

As many as 400 churches in the Kentucky Baptist Convention could be friendly to the moderate state organization's goals, said Harold Skaggs, Kentucky Fellowship Network Coordinator.

Leaders also promoted the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's national meeting in Louisville, June 26-28. DeFoor said the state organization hopes to generate more interest after the national meeting in Kentucky.

The state organization's next meeting will be Oct. 10-11, when Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Coordinator Dan Vestal will speak.

## Employment Opportunity - Teacher Needed

Missouri Baptist Children's Home is seeking a BD-certified teacher. Individual must love the Lord and have the desire to reach troubled children through an on-ground classroom environment. Competitive salary and full benefits package. Contact Russell Martin at (314) 739-6811 or (800) 264-6224.

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## Southern Baptist Convention 1997 Messenger Cards

### Attention Pastors

All messenger cards for voting privileges at the SBC are distributed from the KBC Executive Office. Please make your request to:

Kentucky Baptist Convention  
 PO Box 43433

Louisville, KY 40253-0433

Attn: Shirley Wooton, Convention Services

**Deadline: June 5, 1997**

# PEOPLE

## PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Charles and Phyllis Hardie in Novosibirsk, Russia, as they develop methods to reach teenagers.

■ Ed Tarleton and Gerald Cornelius in Russia as they write theological education courses.

■ Kentucky partnership coordinators Nancy and Bob Walden in Moscow.

■ Fotis Romeos, as he coordinates Kentucky-New England-Greece partnership efforts from his home in Greece.

■ Efrain Lopez, newly installed pastor of the Hispanic Baptist church Iglesia Metropolitana in Cambridge, Mass.

## Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

■ CAMPBELLSVILLE—Elk Horn Church called **Libby Cox** as minister of children/preschool.

Friendship Church called **Fred Miller** as full-time pastor.

Liberty Church recently ordained **John Gaines** as deacon.

Lowell Avenue Church recently licensed **Tommy Tapscott** to the gospel ministry.

**Danny Hunt** recently resigned as pastor of Raikes Hill Mission. He plans to attend seminary.

■ CRESTWOOD—Crestwood Church called **Bob Arvin** as part-time church administrator. Arvin previously

served 16 years as superintendent of Oldham County schools.

■ ELIZABETHTOWN—Immanuel Church called Interim Minister of Music **Phyllis Westfall** as full-time minister of music April 13.

■ GREENSBURG—Bethlehem Church presented "Heaven's Gates and Hell's Flames" April 6-10. About 5,200 people attended, and 265 people made decisions. Pastor **Gary Ervin** will celebrate his 25th anniversary in October.

■ LOUISVILLE—Highview Church recently called **Larry Askew** of Idlewild Church in Tampa, Fla., as

## Nation of Islam leader stripped of clergy status

DURHAM, N.C. (RNS)—A regional panel of the United Church of Christ stripped Benjamin Chavis Muhammad of his clergy standing April 24 saying the controversial civil rights activist has joined "another faith" by joining the Nation of Islam.

The ruling means that Chavis Muhammad may not perform clergy functions in the UCC, such as administering the sacraments.

Chavis Muhammad announced in February he had joined the Nation of Islam.

The civil rights activist's clerical status had been temporarily suspended by the regional association in March, pending the April meeting.

In his meeting with the panel, Chavis Muhammad gave many rea-

sons why he believed his ministerial standing should be retained, according to those present.

"He drew a distinction between the Nation of Islam and historic Islam in its many expressions and said that he could be both a Christian and a Christian minister within the Nation of Islam," said Rollin Russell, minister of the United Church of Christ's Southern Conference, the body with immediate authority over Chavis Muhammad.

Commission members, on the other hand, spoke about the "centrality of Christ in our faith," Russell said.

In an interview in the April 19 edition of the Sacramento Bee, Chavis Muhammad claimed his decision to join the Nation of Islam is not a sign

he has forsaken his Christian roots.

"My foundation is Christian. I am not turning against the church. I'm not turning against Jesus. I still have Jesus in my heart," he said. "Islam has given me a context to live Jesus."

Chavis Muhammad reportedly described himself in March as a minister in the Nation of Islam, whose members believe, among other things, in the inherent supremacy of blacks over whites.

In 1994, he left his position as executive director of the NAACP in the midst of sexual harassment allegations. Earlier he served in a number of positions with the UCC's racial justice unit from 1968 to 1993. He spent four years in prison in the 1970s stemming from his civil rights activities.

associate pastor of ministry development and church growth.

Cloverleaf Church will host the "Melody Boys" of Little Rock, Ark., in a gospel music concert Friday, May 16, at 7:30 p.m. **Geoffrey Lacefield** is pastor. Call (502) 367-0218 for more information.

Manly Memorial Church called **Michael Parks** as pastor.

**Janie Benjamin** resigned as minister of music at Lyndon Church, effective May 11.

■ SHEPHERDSVILLE—First Church called **Cherry Swanson** and **Debbie Troutman** as interim children's directors.

■ SOMERSET—High Street Church ordained **Morris Dick**, **David Morris**, **Scott Muse**, **Mike New** and **Neal Shoemaker** as deacons March 23.

## Network polls viewers to see if Boone returns

WASHINGTON (RNS)—The Trinity Broadcasting Network is polling viewers to determine whether singer Pat Boone will resume his TV show on the Christian network.

Boone came under fire in some Christian circles for appearing in biker gear on a televised awards program to promote his new recording, "Pat Boone in a Metal Mood: No More Mr. Nice Guy." The network pulled Boone's "Gospel America" program after receiving hundreds of calls critical of his promotion.

The poll began during Boone's April 15 appearance on TBN, his first since the show was taken off the air in February.

About 3,800 calls came in by the end of the program, with votes favoring Boone by a 2-to-1 margin, said TBN spokesman Colby May.

During the broadcast, Boone apologized to those offended by his appearance on the American Music Awards but said he did not regret it and viewed it as a joke. He also said he had not changed his views on religion or music.

Boone, 62, has traditionally had a clean-cut image, but his latest album combines his mellow voice and big-band orchestrations with heavy-metal lyrics.

## 'My dear sons who are graduating' (Part I)

Judy Lawson was a wonderful houseparent for our younger boys. Two years ago she moved to California to be with her daughter and granddaughter. Judy had a gift for meeting the needs of younger boys. Several of those boys will be graduating in the class of 1997. I want to share portions of a letter she sent to these young men.

"To my dear sons who are graduating, "To some of you this will be just another letter, but I pray that ... you will hear my heart. ... I wish I could be there to share in the honor of your graduation.

"Have you ever watched a sapling tree grow from year to year? When it is young it is rather skinny and bends easily with every wind. ... The sapling tree has few branches, and those it does have are not strong enough to bear weight. ... It provides only a little shade and protection for birds resting in its branches. But ... as it grows, the branches gain strength and mass and are able to bear great weight. The matured tree ... provides great branches that provide shelter and offer cool shade from the glaring sun. It reproduces itself in new seeds. Some trees have edible fruit and are a food source. ... A healthy tree has a deep root foundation, a strong straight trunk, full branches and an abundant supply of leaves and fruit.

"At Oneida, I felt most blessed to be given the "saplings." ... No matter what your home situation, you all had equal opportunity to grow and mature at Oneida and could learn about the Lord every day if you wanted. I loved my job as your dean. ... I noticed and appreciated your growth from month to month and year to year. You would come back after summer break and seemed to have grown a foot taller. As you became more

responsible, you were given more responsibility, and most of the time did quite well with it. One unique thing about OBI is that since you are together 24 hours a day ... it seems that others all know your weak areas. ... That is true, but they also see how you have grown and don't bend like you used to because you are stronger and can resist temptation brought by the wind. Many of you became helpers of the 'new saplings' by supervising in the dorm, or on your job or by being

good role models in sports. I am excited for your futures as you leave Oneida because of the good foundation you have gained here. I pray that you will be a strength to others, that you will be one to provide physical, emotional and spiritual shelter to those close to you. Some, the Lord will send to you just for that purpose. Be their provision.

"You are no longer 'saplings' but have become (almost) matured trees. What is your source of nourishment? Is it God's word? ... Is your trunk standing straight or are you still wanting to lean right or left when the wind blows?

What if trouble comes your way? Will you bend and break under the pressure, or are you becoming strong enough to stand straight with Jesus at your side? Are you branching out to help others, or are your thoughts still on self? ... Don't be hard on yourself if you aren't a giant oak yet. ... Maturing takes months and even years.

"I truly love you all and want you to have happy, successful lives. ... I want you to have peace and contentment and raise your children to know the Lord"

(To be continued next week.)

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

### THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

## Provide a job for a student or spouse

Not all the training we do at Clear Creek occurs in the classroom. The campus "workshop" program provides an excellent opportunity for faculty and staff to mentor work and relationship skills.

Ninety students and spouses hold part-time positions. The program requires \$540,573 of our annual budget.

Twelve workshop positions are in the Irene Peterson Child Development Center. Workers care for 43 children from the campus and community. Samantha Campbell's experience resulted in a leadership position after graduation. She and her husband, Tom, reside in Louisville where he attends Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Samantha is director of the day care ministry for Highland Baptist Church in Shelbyville. Rebecca Whittaker, director of the child development center, recently received this e-mail thank-you letter.

"I thought you would like to know we had our initial inspection of the day care yesterday, and there were no deficiencies. We have set our opening date for April 21. I want to thank you so much for all of your help. I am sure I will continue to call on you.

"The surveyor told me he could not believe how organized I was. I had the notebook with everything they could possibly want and more.

"You know that form you made to keep track of staff training hours? Well, I am using it and the surveyor thought it was really great. He said he wished all day cares would use it. Neat, huh?"

"I also went to that director's management seminar—wonderful. I have learned so much from you and I know that I will continue to draw from your knowledge and experience. Your devoted mentoree, Samantha."

The Beyond 2001 campaign seeks \$1.4 million during a three-year period to support these campus jobs.

The federal minimum wage increase hiked this section of our budget by 20 percent. We need additional friends who will invest in a student or his or her spouse.

You will help them put food on the table, secure a ministry degree and learn valuable skills for future work in churches. The return involves eternal results.

Ask Samantha.

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

### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

## Librarian throws the book at many church media centers

INDIANAPOLIS (BP)—When Wilma Preissler enters an Indianapolis church carrying her little black bag, she's not responding to a medical emergency.

After 35 years as a registered nurse, Preissler is pursuing a new calling—one that won her recognition from the 2,000-member National Church and Synagogue Library Association last year.

The association's Pat Tabler Memorial Award is given annually to a person who has done an outstanding job starting or reviving a church library. Preissler has done that for 11 libraries in Baptist churches in the greater Indianapolis area.

Lillian Koppin, who served as the association's awards chairman for four years, called Preissler "a very original gal, marvelous at library work."

Prior to 1993, however, Preissler knew nothing about the subject. She and her husband, Sam, had belonged to Fall Creek Baptist Church in Indianapolis only a year when the pastor, Duane Floro, asked her to serve as church librarian. Her hand to her face, Preissler exclaimed, "Pastor, I do not even know what the Dewey System is."

On her way out of the church, Preissler checked out the library. Immediately, she knew why no one

had checked out a book in three years. The books were old. They smelled. The card catalog didn't exist. The room was dark and uninviting, and it was in the wrong location.

"The church library needs to be between the pulpit and parking lot," she said.

Since retiring from nursing, Preissler had disciplined women in her home. Standing in that musty, unused library, she thought of all the books and tapes she had used as tools to help people grow spiritually.

Driving home, a million ideas raced through her mind as to how to make the library attractive, workable and well-located. She pulled into her garage, put her head on the steering wheel and prayed, "Lord, I'm available. I want to be obedient."

"From that moment on, I knew God was opening a door."

The Preisslers emptied the church library of its 1,000 books and carried the books in shopping bags and armfuls to their home. Six months later, the library reopened in a small, cheerful room near the main church lobby.

With a computer from her son, Preissler designed an innovative, economical card system.

"Three years ago, I couldn't even turn on the computer," she recalled. "Now I'm running a computer re-

source center. Only God could have done that through me."

Since April 1995, Preissler has served as media library ministry director for the Baptist association in Indianapolis, helping 10 other churches start or renew their libraries.

"Nobody wants to start a library," she noted. "They don't want to sit in a corner typing cards." Further, pastors and staff may see little value in enlisting someone to organize a roomful of books. But Preissler sees great value in library ministry, as does Pat Brown, consultant with the Baptist Sunday School Board's church media program.

Both women noted libraries today contain cassette tapes and videotapes, as well as books. Both see the church media library as a way to help people. The word "media" indicates the books and tapes aren't an end in themselves, Brown said, but rather "a means for getting across a message."

"We put a tremendous amount of emphasis on ministry," added David Tiller, director of the Sunday School Board's church media program.

Brown said a library ministry should have a two-pronged mission: to provide religious education resources for church teachers and leaders and to provide quality materials for individuals for growth.

Furthermore, "media goes where

we can't go. It's an opportunity not only for training, also for evangelism," Brown said.

Preissler and Brown insist support from church staff is essential to building a library ministry. It's also important to have enough committed laypeople to make the ministry work. "We suggest that no church of any size start a media ministry with fewer than three people," Brown said, "because it will quickly lead to frustration and burnout if too few people try to do such a big task."

Trained librarians aren't required for a library ministry, Preissler noted. "If your heart is willing and you're obedient, I believe God can use you," she said.

Yet, once the commitment is made, training is essential. Initially, Preissler sought help from a professional librarian friend. Then, learning of the church media program, she attended its training conferences in Nashville and at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center. She also asked many questions by phone of Brown and her fellow consultants.

The church media program exists to help those involved in a church library ministry or interested in starting one. It sponsors four national training events annually and offers numerous resources. For more information, call (615) 251-2744.

## Doc Lindsey has church starting prescription

By Wayne Grinstead  
SBC Home Mission Board

ROCHESTER, Minn. (BP)—Home missionary Doc Lindsey is fluent enough in the language of technology to speak it without an accent.

Lindsey, director of missions and evangelism for the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention, built a radio when he was 5 years old, and he's been an amateur radio operator for 36 of his 54 years. A computer enthusiast, he's a tester for Microsoft software.

But when it comes to starting churches, his approach predates the Dark Ages. "Jesus walked around the planet at three miles an hour," he says. "I think we need to join him on his walk."

A veteran runner of 30 marathons, Lindsey proposes neighborhood walks as prerequisites to church starting. It's the best way to look for points of light and darkness in the community, he says. "Liquor stores, crack houses, children's bicycles and toys in front yards, playgrounds—you won't see these if you drive by," he says. The goal is to find where God is at work and to meet what Lindsey calls a "person of peace," someone from the neighborhood God has prepared to help start a church.

Lindsey teaches this approach through Operation Lydia workshops, named for Lydia in the Bible, who started a church with her friends and neighbors. "It's the way the early church did it," Lindsey says. "No buildings, Bibles, budget, Baylor (University), Baptist book stores or Billy Graham—and yet they did what the Lord told them to do."

Most people come to church the first time because of friends, Lindsey says. "It's relationships. It's not programs; it's not the preacher," he says. "The wise pastor knows this." Lindsey hopes the relationship-based approach will help increase the number of churches in Minnesota-Wisconsin from 141 to 400 by 2010.

A former evangelism consultant in Los Angeles, a Home Mission Board staff member in Atlanta and an associational missionary in Detroit, Lindsey accepted the position with Minnesota-Wisconsin because "it was a chance to see if the stuff I believe works," he says. He believes it will, of course.

A talented musician, Lindsey once considered a career as a concert pianist. After a stint in the Army, he started a business in Hawaii. "Making money was easy," he says. "But in the middle of all that, the Lord reminded me that I had a job to do." That job was missions.

Missions was so prominent in Lindsey's heritage, he was not surprised when he felt the call. One grandfather was a "blood and thunder evangelist" and musician who traveled with a tent and a truck full of instruments. His uncle was an evangelist and a trombone player who had once won the Ted Mack Original Amateur Hour.

At 13, after only a year of lessons, Lindsey toured with his uncle as revival pianist. "Just hit as many notes as you can," he told me," Lindsey says. "He believed in me—he blessed me."

Lindsey's other grandfather was a church planter in California. His father was a pastor in Richmond, Mo.,

when called to become a home missionary and start a church in Iowa. Just out of high school, the young Lindsey postponed entry into Baylor University in Texas and went with his family to help.

The church they started is still alive and well today. "I came up in the SBC evangelistic tradition," Lindsey says. "I have all those threads in me."

The job Lindsey faces now is to start evangelical churches in 90 unentered counties in Minnesota-Wisconsin. But not all church starts have to be Southern Baptist, Lindsey believes. Part of the convention's strategy is to build relationships with other groups.

"We have worked with 14 denominations in Operation Lydia," Lindsey says. "We don't compete with others, we honor them."

"I like to start new things," he continues, and he's not concerned who gets the credit. He points out the ideas behind Operation Lydia were developed by Tom Woolf and Carol Davis of the Church on Brady in Los Angeles. Lindsey wants others to benefit from this biblical model of church starting that helped Minnesota-Wisconsin start 25 churches last year.

"I don't own it, I don't charge for it," Lindsey says of Operation Lydia. "I want to give it away. You can paint it green and call it whatever you want to—as long as you use its principles."

For the time being, Lindsey is walking, running and riding the Internet through Minnesota-Wisconsin, teaching Operation Lydia workshops and promoting church starting and evangelism in seven associations that include 9.5 million people. "I've been in new work all my life," he says. "I thrive on it."

## Birdies or bogies, some golfers profess God's unchanging love

WINDERMERE, Fla. (BP)—In the world of pro golf, where half a dozen strokes can make the difference between big bucks and no bucks, some golfers claim the contentment of God's love regardless of birdies or bogies.

Pro golf has "very high highs and some very low lows," said player Steve Lowery, one of three golfers on this year's Professional Golfers Association tour who are members of First Baptist Church of Windermere, Fla. The others are Brad Bryant and Mike Brisky.

All three have had successful careers. But along with the prizes, they note, are the pressures.

Pro golf is a worldly game, Lowery said. Status comes from performance, from "where you are on the money list."

But having experienced God's unconditional love, Lowery said he understands his status comes from being a "child of God."

Realistically, Brisky said, players can't expect to win every tournament. "I've never been one to pray that I win," he said. "I do pray that God will allow me to do my best out there." And some days, like a recent Saturday when he shot an 80 on a par-72 course, the prayer may be just, "Help me get through this day."

The golfers and their families can participate in a Wednesday evening Bible study, led by Larry Moody of Search Ministries, while they're on the tour. Many of them also are involved with Fellowship of Christian Athletes activities—such as breakfasts and sports camps—through which they can influence young people.

The men realize how important it is to set an example.

"You play in front of 10,000 people," Brisky noted.

And "the fans are right next to you. So often, we're walking through a crowd of people," Bryant said. As a Christian in that context, "I think it should make a difference in the way I conduct myself."

But it's no different for him than it should be for any Christian, he said. "I'm a Christian that plays golf—that's my job. ... Hopefully, we take our faith with us to the workplace, whatever it is."

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