

PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

# WESTERN RECORDER

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## Poll: A quarter of Baptist teens said they think about suicide

By Terri Lackey  
SBC Sunday School Board

NASHVILLE (BP)—A recent survey of Southern Baptist teenagers revealed three-fourths have trouble with their tempers, nearly half cheat on tests and almost a quarter have thought about killing themselves.

The same survey, however, shows 78 percent don't drink, 83 percent don't take drugs and almost a quarter pray "daily" or "weekly."

The survey included 2,501 youth surveyed at 1997 Baptist summer youth conferences. Ninety-five percent of the group claimed to be Christians. Fifty-five percent of the respondents were female; 45 percent were male.

On the issue of teens contemplating suicide, an analysis of school grade revealed 25 percent of high school students compared to 18 percent of junior high students have considered killing themselves.

Forty-four percent of the youth said they "sometimes" cheat on tests. Eight percent said "yes" they cheat on tests; 48 percent said they do not.

Of the youth surveyed, 64 percent read their Bibles weekly or daily. But 51 percent said they seldom tell people about Jesus, and 79 percent would or might date someone who is not a Christian.

Clyde Hall, manager of the Sunday School Board's youth discipleship section, said that while youth are reading the Bible, "they don't know the Jesus of the Bible."

"They don't seem to have a personal relationship with him, and so they don't tell others about him," he said.

Meanwhile, nearly half the teens surveyed (47 percent) said violence in movies does not upset

□ See Poll: Quarter of ..., page 6



**RALLY FOR LIFE** Hundreds of abortion opponents braved cool temperatures for an hour and a half Jan. 27. The annual event in Frankfort is used to urge Kentucky legislators to support abortion-limiting legislation.

## 'Roe': Abortion industry built on lies

By David Winfrey  
News Director

FRANKFORT—Twenty-five years after the Roe vs. Wade court decision legalized most abortions, "Jane Roe" says the entire abortion industry is "a business built on lies" from her case.

"There is nothing good that comes from a lie, and abortion comes from a lie," Norma McCorvey told hundreds of abortion opponents at the "Rally for Life" Jan. 27 on the steps of the state Capitol.

McCorvey filed the lawsuit as anonymous Jane Roe to have an abortion. She said she lied to two Texas female attorneys, claiming she wanted an abortion because she had been gang raped. One of the lawyers said she didn't know where to get an abortion although she already had had one, McCorvey added.

Abortion clinics owe their "profit and existence to Roe vs. Wade," said McCorvey, a former worker in a Dallas abortion clinic. She admitted, "I've talked women into them," referring to



**'JANE ROE'** Norma McCorvey: "Never give up."

abortions.

The long lie about Roe vs. Wade was that the case was about a woman's right to decide what happened to her body, she said.

"Our bodies don't belong to us, they belong to God," McCorvey said.

"And besides, what about the baby's body?"

In a highly celebrated event two and a half years ago, McCorvey became a Christian and later renounced her support for abortion.

□ See Hundreds attend ..., page 8

## Jesus a vegetarian? But what about the loaves and fish?

By Judith Cebula  
Religion News Service

NORFOLK, Va. (RNS)—People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals is on a quiet crusade to convince Christians to go vegetarian.

"It's what Jesus would do," said Bruce Friedrich, the 28-year-old Roman Catholic leading the campaign.

In letters to more than 400 U.S. Catholic bishops and four prominent evangelists—Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson, Oral Roberts and Billy Graham—Friedrich laid out a case arguing Jesus was a vegetarian and all his

followers should give up meat out of mercy for God's creation.

"Eating meat mocks God by torturing animals, polluting the earth and destroying our own health," he wrote in the letter.

Citing Genesis 1:29, in which God commands his human creation to care for all living beings and eat only plants, the letter asked the Christian vegetarians to use their pulpits to promote vegetarianism as an ethical way of life.

But the Virginia-based advocacy group would be pleased if church leaders just begin to pray about the idea, Friedrich said. The campaign

isn't drawing much response from the religious leaders, he acknowledged.

Although he has asked for a response from each bishop and evangelist, he has received just three letters so far. One bishop merely thanked him for the letter. Bishop James Timlin of the diocese of Scranton, Pa., said he would give serious consideration to encouraging the idea. And a representative of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association wrote to dispute the claim the Bible mandates meatless eating while encouraging all people to find salvation in Jesus.

Friedrich said it was the Catholic

bishops who inspired the campaign and their discussion last November over restoring the longtime Catholic tradition of meatless Fridays as a symbolic sacrifice demonstrating the church's opposition to abortion.

He argued Jesus himself was a vegetarian, a member of the meat-shunning Jewish sect called the Essenes.

It's a view most religious scholars say has no historical backing, said theologian James Vanderkam of the University of Notre Dame. And, Vanderkam added, it is probable Jesus ate lamb while sharing the Passover meal and that fish was part of his diet.

Moving? See page 4 (0203)

## New church-based seminary planned in Virginia

By Michael Clingenpeel  
*Virginia Religious Herald*

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (ABP)—A group of Baptists in the suburbs of the nation's capital has announced it will launch a new seminary later this year, joining a wave of small, regional seminaries started by Baptists this decade.

Unlike most of the new seminaries, however, the new seminary will be church-based rather than linked to a university. It will offer ministerial training through networks involving faculty and student exchange programs, teleconferencing and internships with Baptist and non-denominational ministries located near Washington, D.C.

The seminary, which eventually will offer three degree programs targeted to train vocational ministers, laity and internationals, was announced Jan. 29. Classes are scheduled to begin late this year or in early 1999 in a building owned by Columbia Baptist Church in Falls Church, Va., a suburb about six miles from Washington. It will be named the John Leland

Center for Theological Studies. Leland was a Virginia Baptist pastor whose battle for religious freedom in the 18th century led to the establishment of religious-liberty guarantees in the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Randall Everett, senior pastor at Columbia Baptist Church and one of about 50 individuals involved in the school's founding, says the group's goal is to bring Baptist theological education to the nation's capital.

"There is no area like the greater D.C. area," he explained. "It is international and multicultural. The resources are here and the needs are here. We have Methodist, Catholic, Episcopal seminaries and a Muslim training center. Why don't we have a Baptist seminary in the nation's capital?"

Everett said the Leland Center will offer an "integrated" curriculum which will include classes in Bible and theology, spiritual disciplines and practical ministry.

For most of this century Southern Baptist theological education has been centered in large seminaries scattered

around the country. But the final quarter of this century has been an era of sweeping change.

In the 1970s the six Southern Baptist seminaries started setting up satellite centers in cities around the country to allow students to train for ministry without moving to one of the six central locations. Along with this decentralization of education, the six seminaries were targeted for ideological change as the Southern Baptist Convention took a rightward shift.

As a result, moderate Baptists began developing new schools in the 1990s.

But until now the only models for church-based theological education were in conservative churches such as Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary at Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis and Criswell Center for Biblical Studies at First Baptist Church in Dallas.

Though Columbia Baptist Church will pledge \$70,000 to the school during the next three years, the project is not solely a ministry of the church. Funding for the seminary will come from

churches in the Mount Vernon and Potomac Baptist associations, the District of Columbia Baptist Convention and individual contributions, grants and student tuition.

Everett said the seminary will be "lean" financially, with very resident faculty or buildings.

About 50 leaders, mostly from churches in northern Virginia, formed an investigative committee which planned for the Jan. 29 announcement of the new seminary. The investigative committee will create a board of directors, which will elect a president and faculty. A draft of a doctrinal statement also is being prepared by the committee.

Originally the founders of the Leland Center considered becoming a satellite campus for Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond or Baylor University's Truett Seminary.

"We moved away from the idea of being a satellite school because a big part of seminary is community and community can't be achieved one day a week," Everett said. He said both BTR and Truett were "helpful and supportive."

### BAPTIST BITS

■ **Merrill Moore dies.** Merrill Moore Sr., the first executive director-treasurer of the former Stewardship Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, died Jan. 16 in Maryville, Tenn. He was 93. Moore led the commission from its creation in 1961 until his retirement in 1971.

■ **Sunday School Board posts gain.** The Southern Baptist Sunday School Board ended the year with record revenues of \$284.1 million, an increase of \$23 million or 8.8 percent over the previous year, according to President Jimmy Draper. Provided from Operations, monies available after expenses, were \$14.4 million, an increase of \$4.6 million or 47.3 percent over 1995-96. Also, the board's one remaining debt was paid off during the year, Draper said.

■ **Mohler on Top 40 list.** Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President Al Mohler has been named one of 40 "Young Leaders of the Academy" by *Change* magazine, published by the American Association for Higher Education. The magazine is read by 13,500 administrators and faculty in colleges and universities in the United States.

■ **IMB names vice president.** The International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention has named Jerry Burkett vice president for global information systems. Burkett, a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army, most recently has served on the executive management staff of the U.S. Army's Software Development Center at Fort Lee, Va.

## Elliff urges prayer for Clinton; addresses other questions

By Laurie Lattimore  
*Alabama Baptist*

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (ABP)—Southern Baptists should pray for President Bill Clinton, said Southern Baptist Convention President Tom Elliff, because "all Christians are commanded to pray for their leaders."

And while Elliff said he is reserving judgment on the current sex scandal rocking the White House, he said citizens have a right to expect good character from their president.

"God is far more concerned about character than us," said Elliff, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Del City, Okla.

Elliff said at the Alabama Baptist state evangelism conference in Huntsville he did not have an opinion on charges that Clinton had an affair with a White House intern and covered it up. Elliff said he would leave judgment up to God but noted that forgiveness does not mean the absence of consequences for wrongdoing.

Although Clinton is a Southern Baptist, his presidency seldom has been a source of pride for conservative leaders of the nation's largest Protestant faith group who are at odds with many of his social policies.

Elliff also addressed other questions during an interview with reporters at the Jan. 26-27 meeting.

Elliff said he does not expect hostility over Southern Baptist plans to proselytize among Mormons at this summer's SBC annual meeting in Salt Lake City.

"Mormons have written the book on going door to door," Elliff said. "They are no strangers to one-on-one witnessing, so I don't think they will be upset."

Each year, the SBC encourages messengers to participate in a "Cross-

over" evangelistic event. Elliff said it would be hypocritical for Mormons, known for their aggressive evangelism, to feel intimidated by the influx of Southern Baptists.

"We're not going to Salt Lake just to share the gospel with Mormons," Elliff said. "We believe everybody needs to hear the gospel."

Elliff, who was in the state at the invitation of the Alabama Baptist State Convention, said he would not attend a meeting of the recently formed Southern Baptist Conservatives of Alabama.

Elliff sidestepped a question about the effect such conservative groups could have on the denomination in the future, particularly when those groups evolve into separate state conventions. Conservatives recently have taken that step in Virginia and Texas.

However, he noted that there is no bylaw that would prevent the SBC from recognizing more than one convention in a state, and he claimed that as long as the SBC remains open to all Southern Baptists, no problems should arise.

"I think the record shows that we have encouraged nominations from every Southern Baptist," Elliff said. "There are certain gender and ethnic considerations, and often I've gone back and asked for more nominations to fill those out."

The president of the Baptist General Association of Virginia recently raised the fairness issue, noting that 75 percent of the state's trustees appointed to SBC leadership posts came from churches associated with the much-smaller Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia.

Elliff denied any attempt by the SBC to seek nominees from the conservative conventions over the established state conventions.

## IMB statistics show gains in '97

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Missionaries associated with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board recorded growth in many statistical measures in the past year, the IMB reports.

The IMB's 4,249 missionaries worked among 336 people groups in 127 countries in 1997. In many areas, they worked in cooperation with national Baptist conventions and churches.

Worldwide, IMB partner groups reported 2,451 new churches last year. That total number was up by about 3.5 percent from the 2,367 new churches reported the year before.

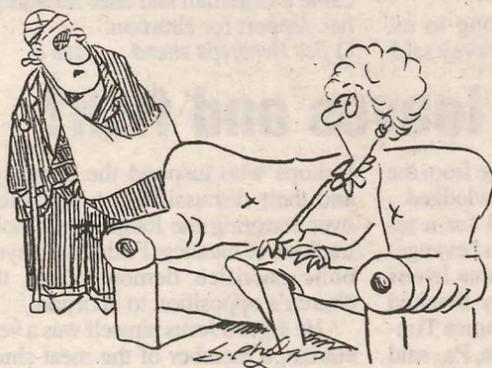
Spurred by new growth, the total number of churches worldwide in groups with which IMB missionaries cooperate rose by 4.1 percent, to 41,521—for the first time in history surpassing the number of stateside Southern Baptist churches. The number of overseas churches the IMB relates to has doubled since 1987.

Other significant factors:  
■ Participants in discipleship programs more than tripled from 1996 to 1997, to 657,988.

■ Total financial contributions to churches increased from \$287 million to \$478 million, a 66 percent jump.

■ Church membership reached 4.11 million, less than a 1 percent increase from the year before.

■ Baptisms, at an average 6.8 per church and one per 14.5 members, totaled 283,100, a decrease of about 0.2 percent from 1996.



"Just another typical pulpit committee meeting. Why do you ask?"

## Bible club at home in Lexington apartment complex

By Nzong Xiong  
Lexington Herald-Leader

LEXINGTON—The Friday Bible school at Pickway Manor Apartments has finally found a home in Heather Hoskins' apartment.

For the last year, Mildred Sturgill and her 10 young students gathered wherever they could at the complex.

The group met in the laundry room "until we couldn't meet in there any longer," said Sturgill, a member of Porter Memorial Baptist Church. "We just outgrew it."

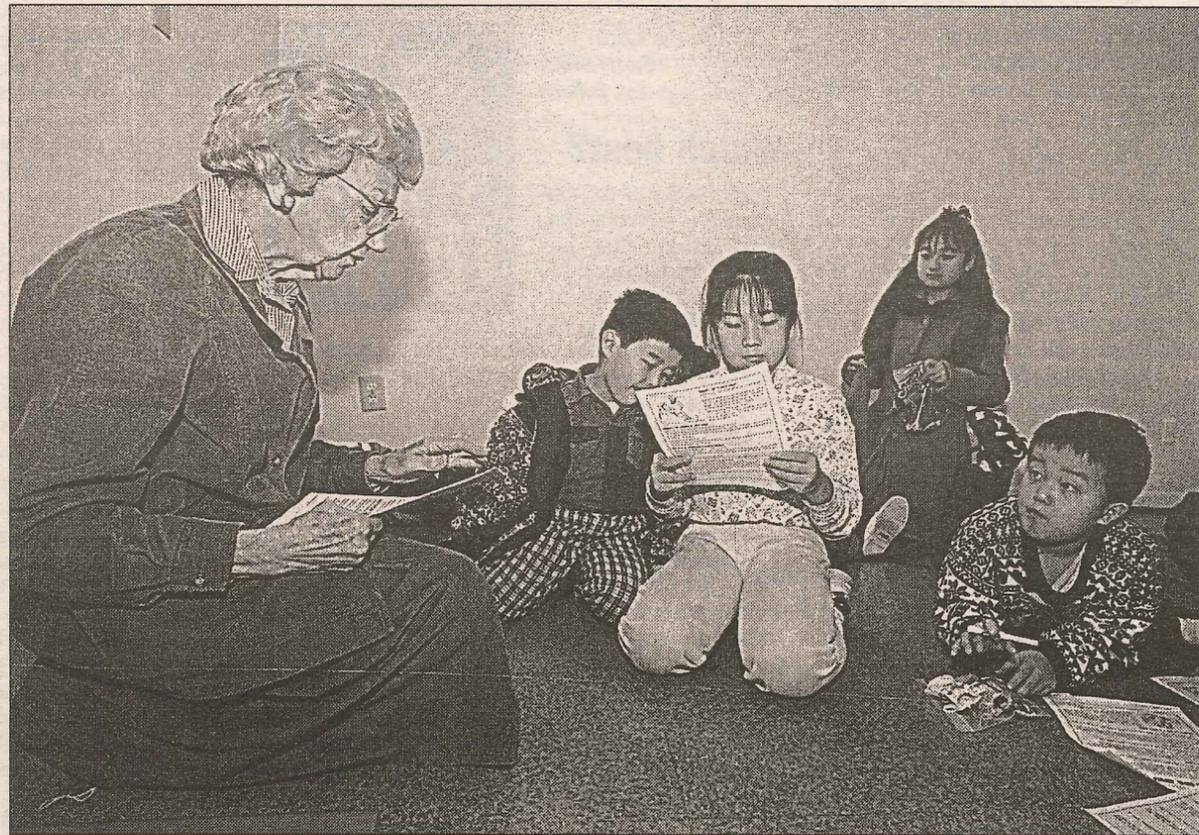
Hoskins, a junior at Lexington Community College, moved into the complex, on Victoria Way off Nicholasville Road near Fayette Mall, a little over a week ago.

She and Porter have worked out an agreement whereby the church will pay \$150 a month toward Hoskins' rent in exchange for use of her apartment on Fridays for the Bible school.

"I know God will bless this ministry," said Hoskins, 25. "Sometimes we get so caught up in getting someone saved that we forget to disciple them and teach them how to grow up godly.... That's what we're doing with this ministry."

The ministry began as a backyard Bible school in an outreach effort by the church and Elkhorn Baptist Association. After receiving a warm welcome from residents, the church started the current after-school program. Named after the 66 books in the Bible, the program is called the "66 Bible Club."

After returning home from school on Fridays, the students get together with Sturgill and her two assistants, Christie Davidson and Mabel King. The children munch on a quick snack first, then discuss the day's Scripture passage, which they were to have studied during the week. The class,



**COMPLEX CLASS** Mildred Sturgill leads the Bible study class for children each Friday at 5 p.m. at Pickway Manor. The class was without a permanent meeting site until recently.

which lasts about a hour, ends with the assigning of the next Scripture reading.

"We're not trying to cram anything down anyone's throat," said Jim McGee, a pastor at Porter Memorial. "We want to make Christ available the very best way possible."

McGee said this apartment ministry is part of a bigger plan called "Building Bridges." The church's vision is to reach people citywide.

"Our ultimate goal is that people

get to know Christ," he said. Although, he adds, the final decision will be up to them.

Since the program began, it has made a difference at Pickway Manor. "They have been a godsend to this complex," said Diana Maldonado, the property manager of Pickway Manor's 120 units. "They're just wonderful."

The complex has had a good relationship with the church for as long as she has been there, said Maldona-

do, who arrived in 1979.

For many of the youth in the apartments, the church has provided an outlet for their energy. Many have joined the church's athletic program, church choir and youth group.

"It's a wonderful thing that the children are exposed to these experiences," Maldonado said. "Anything that's a positive on young people, you can't put a value on it."

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## Churches in southeast Kentucky see growth & excitement

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

MANCHESTER—A combination of increased attendance, community outreach and expanding youth programs are creating enthusiasm among churches in Booneville Baptist Association.

"We've definitely seen God working," said Bill Nichols, associational director of missions. "Word gets around easy in Clay and Owsley counties. People are excited."

Calvary Baptist Church in Burning Springs has experienced the most growth. Last year 42 people were baptized at the church, part of more than 60 new members added to its rolls. That boosted Sunday morning attendance to 200 people.

Pastor Wayne Reid attributes it to the church helping the poor through a food pantry started 18 months ago. Members felt a burden for elderly residents, many of whom live on meager incomes, he said.

Calvary now provides 125 families with \$100 of groceries per month, he said. The church also distributes clothing to the needy about five times a year. This spring a group of college

students from Tennessee will help members remodel 20 area homes.

And Calvary offers emergency assistance to fire victims and the unemployed, such as some of 200 men laid off recently when a coal mine closed.

"We witness to them and give them a tract," said Reid. "This has been a blessing to us. We've seen things happen that only God can do."

"Every need we've had, God has supplied it," he added. "It's come through people who have been sensitive to what the Spirit would have them to do."

Pleasant Point Baptist Church in Clay County baptized more than 30 people last year thanks to its youth ministry, which boosted Sunday attendance to between 65 and 70 people.

Pastor Frank Peters credited three couples—Marcus and Marlene Ward, Denver and Jessica Thompson, and Ranny and Sharon Hacker—with sparking youth outreach.

"The church has put out a strong effort to get kids there and work with them," said Peters, who became pastor four years ago. "It's also got older people a lot more enthused."

The fervor helped the congregation pay off \$70,000 in renovation costs in

just two years and purchase two vans. It also led to a new visitation program aimed at reaching unchurched parents of children who have attended.

While Garrard Baptist Church in Clay County hasn't seen much numerical growth, a 1997 building renovation stimulated members' interest in missions, according to Pastor Marvin Cress.

Its old block building had no insulation, an old oil furnace and no steeple. Doing all the work themselves except for bricking the exterior, members installed wallboard, insulation and carpet, expanded the foyer and built a steeple.

They also poured a new concrete floor in an unused section, converting it into a combination fellowship hall and Sunday school classrooms.

The church recently voted to increase giving to the association and Cooperative Program from 5 percent to 6 percent. Their goal is to raise contributions one percent annually until both causes receive 10 percent.

Members distributed three dozen food baskets at Christmas and bought presents for seven needy children.

"We've grown spiritually and in maturity," said Cress, a bivocational

pastor. "The people have learned if they step out in faith, the Lord provides."

Royal Oak Baptist Church in Owsley County has seen its Sunday morning attendance surpass the 40 mark, quadruple the average when David Foley became pastor a few years ago.

Although Foley recently accepted a full-time pastorate in Northern Kentucky, deacon Gene Lynch said Foley's leadership attracted many children. On a recent Wednesday night, attendance consisted of nearly 80 percent children.

"He was the one who started the growth, and it has continued on," Lynch said. "Through prayer and getting out and shaking the bushes, we reaped the results."

Active recruiting for vacation Bible school last summer paid off with a record attendance of 90 kids. Many children were from unchurched homes and some continued coming to Royal Oak, he said.

Their presence has stimulated a Christmas gift program for children from low-income families. The church recently called Bill Walton as pastor.

### BLUEGRASS BURGOO

■ **Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children** has opened a Cornerstone professional Christian counseling ministry in LaGrange. The office is located at the Sulphur Fork Baptist Association office, 3714 West Highway 146 in LaGrange. Counseling is offered for individuals, couples and families. For more information, call the office at (502) 225-0011.

■ **Clarification:** A Dec. 23, 1997, story headlined "Leaders' CP giving record mixed" cited the Cooperative Program giving record of three churches where officers of the newly-formed Southern Baptists of Kentucky are pastors. The figures reported are a correct representation of contributions received by the Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Board in the 1996-97 fiscal year. Mike Routt, president of the group and pastor of Rose Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Ashland, subsequently has explained that two checks from his church for the 1996-97 year were mailed late to the KBC. The total amount his church intended to give during that fiscal year was \$57,968, which would have been a 6 percent increase over the previous year. However, in fairness to all parties, KBC records reflect only what actually was received during the fiscal year. Contributions received after Sept. 2 are credited toward the new fiscal year. The Recorder accurately reported Rose Hill's official giving record with the KBC.

## WESTERN RECORDER

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

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## Good Men's Day

I want to tell about the wonderful experience we had at Bethel Baptist Church in Eubank during our observance of Baptist Men's Day.

One of our laymen, Lloyd Hart, spoke in our morning worship service. As a result of his heart-stirring testimony and challenge to our congregation, we had 23 decisions made during our time of invitation. We had three who came to receive Christ as personal Lord and Savior, two united with our church for membership and 18 others came rededicating their lives to a closer walk with the Lord.

There was a stirring of God's presence in our church. Tears of joy could be heard throughout the auditorium.

God moved in our church family. Excitement filled our church, and even today the atmosphere is that of revival.

Praise the Lord!  
*Curtis Brock  
Eubank*

## Which best?

The news of a "conservative"/fundamentalist group that has formed in Kentucky is an example of a concerted effort to bring the Southern Baptist Convention controversy of the 1980s to the forefront of Baptist relationships in this state.

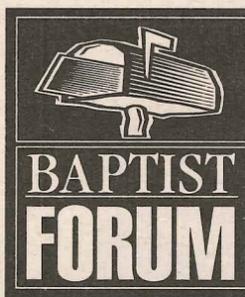
As a lifelong Southern Baptist, a

graduate of Southern Seminary and a pastor in our state for the past nine years, I have watched with dismay

how we have lost our focus of cooperation based on unity for evangelism and missions in the name of Jesus Christ.

Now, the confession "Jesus Christ is Lord" and a desire to share that life-transforming message in proclamation and tangible service is replaced with doctrinal and political agreement.

Each Baptist must answer the question, "What is more important to the needs of our world and our communities?" Do we need to focus on co-



## Our demagnetized moral compass

By Dale Hanson Bourke

When I was a child, I found a compass in a pile of junk. I was thrilled with my discovery until I noticed its arrow bobbing around, pointing in various directions.

I took it home to my father, who explained that the once-useful tool had probably come in contact with a strong magnet. It no longer pointed to true north. Instead it pointed east at times, then west or south.

I couldn't help thinking about my old compass as I listened to the various commentators during the past few days. Whatever becomes of the allegations against President Clinton, the last week has provided unique insight into our national moral compass.

We no longer seem to recognize true north. Instead, we have come in contact with the strong magnet of the legal system and are willing to forgo any discussions of morality in favor of the prevailing legal sentiment.

On the many news shows I have watched or heard, I have listened to countless attorneys but no clergy. I have heard the question asked about what is illegal or impeachable, but the morality of any of the possible sce-

narios is rarely discussed.

Some would say the answer is obvious, but it seems clear we are more concerned about what the nation is willing to forgive than what the Ten Commandments mandates.

And then there is the large number of people who openly say that what happens in one's personal life should not be used to evaluate one's ability to lead the country.

For any politician, there is a message beyond the current crisis—the voting public has a high tolerance for what the Bible calls sin, especially if the economy is strong and the country isn't at war.

Politicians live by votes. But individuals—even presidents—have to live with themselves and the moral code defined by their personal beliefs. Morality is not a democratic concept. Neither is it a legal issue.

So how do we find true north, especially in a society that turns first to lawyers in a time of moral crisis? And how do we teach our children to be moral, when the obvious message is

that it is less important to be good than it is to be cagey?

The debate over right and wrong reached a peak in our home last year when my teen-age son and I spent a great deal of time arguing about music, friends and movies. Sometimes I won and he refrained from doing something out of obedience to me. But it became clear to me that I would never be able to monitor every circumstance in his life.

Finally, after much prayer for guidance, I came up with a suggestion that seemed at the time more like human foolishness than divine inspiration: I asked Chase to pray each day for guidance in making choices and to read the Bible for 10 minutes a day. I promised that if he did those two things, I would let him

make his own choices. At first I was sure I had made a mistake. But over the next weeks, Chase began to make choices that surprised me. And over time, he actually sold most of his old CDs and started to distance himself from some of his friends.

A year later, I see in him a strength

## COMMENTARY



Dale Hanson Bourke

## Moral values not learned from Washington

By Tom Ehrich

It was a tough week for people with power.

President Bill Clinton found himself under attack for an alleged affair. Microsoft Corp. lost a face-off with a federal judge over marketing tactics. Fidel Castro went to mass and heard the Cuban people cry, "Freedom!"

Power, it seems, has its limits. It was a tough week for truth, as well.

The president's carefully phrased denials and his critics' gleeful dispensing of rumors made the Monica affair/non-affair seem like rival soap operas, or a Leno-Letterman conspiracy to generate new material. Did Microsoft cave in because it saw the light about healthy competition, or because Bill Gates suddenly recognized that arrogant bullying is bad public relations? And what in the world possessed Fidel Castro to invite the pope and 3,000 journalists to his island prison?

The search for truth, it seems, isn't nearly as interesting as the spin-doctoring of perceptions. Our search isn't for truth, but for advantage.

As fact and fiction blended and the

line between politics and theater blurred, I remembered "The American President," a film about a president falling in love.

What brought it to mind wasn't parallels between Michael Douglas and Bill Clinton, or between Annette Bening and Monica, but the film's bad guy: an opportunistic wannabe whose nasal moralizing about "family values" is obviously cheap and self-serving.

Early in the Bill-and-Monica drama, one conservative commentator referred to the president as the "moral leader of the nation" and said Clinton was leading the nation astray. In an age when claiming the righteous high ground is effective politics, we will hear more of that theme.

But let's be clear about one thing: The president isn't our moral leader. The morals of this nation aren't shaped in the White House, or in the bizarre hothouse of Washington D.C. These are politicians, and we expect so little of politicians that many refuse to vote and we sigh in relief when Congress is in recess.

Bill-and-Monica isn't a moral Gettysburg holding the nation's future. It's the usual stuff: libido, partisan maneuvering, crocodile tears, journalists looking for the next Woodward-and-Bernstein opportunity, and pols conducting polls to make sure they're seated when the music stops.

The morals of this nation are shaped much closer to home.

We learn values from our parents. If they value truth, we will, too. If father molests daughter, if mother drinks away the food money, our values may be warped.

We learn about love by being loved. We learn about justice by being treated fairly.

The cruel don't become cruel because they watched breathless exposes in Washington. The cruel are passing along their own personal pain. Sexual predators usually are acting out childhood experiences; the mistaken moral compass is deep inside, not in the Oval Office.

We learn values from our teachers. If they display love of learning, we will want to learn. If they seem bored or burned out, we will scheme for grades.

operative measures of evangelism and missions in the larger Baptist family (where there will be differences of opinion) or do we need to focus on stamping each church and each individual with specific and sectarian definitions of faith and practice?

With this new group's admitted aggressive and organized agenda, congregations can no longer be content to hide in the shadows. I take this group's pledge to be "inclusive" to mean there is a large segment of Baptists in our state they hope to sway toward their agenda of repressive conformity. Let's hope and pray for wisdom and discernment for all Kentucky Baptists.

*Mark D. Johnson  
Midway*

of conviction that seems unusual among his peers. And I realize he has developed within him a moral guidance far stronger than anything imposed by his parents or any other external force.

In seeing his example, I have been reminded again that I, too, must ask each day for divine guidance and instruction. I must be willing to let God show me the way. As Proverbs 3:5-6 says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your path straight."

Without that regular discipline, it is too easy for me to survey my friends or calculate the risk before I make a decision. When I honestly ask God to guide me, I have a clarity that is often painful. I am sometimes struck by my selfish motives or my prideful attempts to make myself look good.

Whatever happens in the current White House crisis, we must all face the need for a moral compass in our own lives. Choosing what is right is rarely a question for lawyers. We will all save ourselves a great deal of money and pain if we start out by asking God. (RNS)

*Dale Hanson Bourke is publisher of Religion News Service.*

We learn values from our pastors. We can tell when a preacher is unprepared or insincere.

We learn values from each other. If the norm in our workplace is to cheat and goof off, our own honesty and diligence might waver. If the way to get ahead is to step on people, we might buy heavier shoes. If our neighbors are rude, we might become a rude neighbor.

If this nation is in moral collapse, as the religious conservatives love to assert, it isn't because politicians are scoundrels, and it sure won't be resolved by electing right-wing zealots to office.

Morals collapse because people close to us fall into sin, and because we ourselves fall into sin. It is specious for us to project our own failings onto others, or to blame politicians for leading us astray.

Americans discovered the lure of adultery long before they knew Presidents Washington, Cleveland, Wilson, Harding, Roosevelt, Eisenhower, Kennedy and Clinton shared their weakness.

*Tom Ehrich is a former reporter for the Wall Street Journal who now is an Episcopal priest in Winston-Salem, N.C.*

## HE SAID/SHE SAID

### To tell the truth, we all need to remember to tell the truth

#### HESAIID



Mark Wingfield

We were traveling together as a family on an airplane recently, when in an attempt to occupy the time Alison tried to interest our boys in looking at the pictures in the airline magazine.

They came to a full-page advertisement with a touched-up photograph of workers running around an office with their hindside on fire. I can't remember what the clever point of the ad was—something about fast work

maybe. But I'll never forget a 5-year-old's interpretation of it.

Luke looked excitedly at Alison and declared: "Mommy, there's a picture of liar, liar pants on fire!"

After containing her laughter, Alison tried to explain that it was just a made-up photo for an advertisement, but Luke would not be convinced. And maybe that's just as well. I mean, what parent wouldn't mind their child having a scary mental image of what might happen if you tell a lie?

OK, so maybe that's too harsh for parenting in the '90s. Doesn't matter, because that mental image apparently was forgotten or discounted within hours. Before we touched ground again, both our boys had regained their full child-like capacity to tell a story to their own glorification.

Given the national events of the last two weeks, it's no stretch to suggest that even children may have a higher standard for truth-telling than many adults. Or at least children know they ought to be concerned about lying.

And above all, they know a burning bottom when they see one.

#### SHESAIID



Alison Wingfield

Luke and Garrett's latest game is to see how far they can go with a tall tale before I catch them on it.

Right now they aren't terribly adept at fooling me. They usually say something like "Today was *everybody* in the school's birthday, Mommy."

And when I challenge them, Garrett will say, "It's the *truth*." And Luke will chime right in with, "We're *not* lying."

Although neither of them can keep a straight face during all this, they never admit the story isn't true until I act like I believe them. Then they come back with, "Just teasing."

Unfortunately, as they become more adept at this game, I'm afraid they will become better at lying as a general practice.

Luke's standard reply when I challenge him on something he has done wrong is "I forgot." Never mind if I've told him the same thing 50 times and he has nodded his head in understanding each time. And never mind that he can remember what he wore a year ago.

It looks like he might be heading toward a career in politics. Heaven help us all.

Even as an adult and parent, the easy path is not always the best path. Sometimes a "little white lie" just shoots out of my mouth before I have time to even think about what I'm doing.

Self preservation is a strong mechanism in all of us. Look at Adam and Eve. Adam blamed Eve for his sin, and Eve pointed to the serpent. Neither of them wanted to admit they might possibly be responsible for their own actions.

Maybe we all need to put back some important words in our everyday vocabulary. Words such as "I was wrong" and "Forgive me." If we do, we can reap the rewards of stronger relationships, stronger families and a stronger society.

## America's real scandal: The loss of truth

While it may be weeks or months until we know the full truth about Monicagate (if we ever really will), it's not too early to draw a few lessons from looking at ourselves in the reflection of this scandal.

For while Bill Clinton may or may not turn out to be guilty of the crimes and sins of which he has been accused, it is we the people who have need of deep soul-searching already. The facts are in about us, and they're not all so pleasant.

So as we collectively clamor to peek inside the White House, let the window panes become mirrors that reflect our own scandalous behavior for review.

Perhaps the overarching flaw we should notice is that we the people have not created a climate where truth thrives. We have tolerated and glossed-over untruths and half-truths for such a long time that real truth hardly can find a place to land. We should not be surprised, then, when truth eludes us in our time of need.

In our overzealous litigiousness we have given legal maneuvering precedence over truth-telling. Thus it is possible for the president's words to be guided entirely by what his lawyers advise rather than by what common sense dictates he ought to say to the people who elected him.

What is legal has become more important than what is right. And so our laws have become our master rather than our servant. But we made the bed and now we're having to lie in it.

In our unquenchable quest for partisan political gain, we have given victory precedence over truth-telling. Even well-meaning Christians on the left and the right have discounted truth for pragmatic gains for so long that we are found unreliable witnesses when a crisis like this hits.

The Religious Right has spent so much effort vilifying the president with the most absurd and partisan

agenda, it's no wonder much of the American public can give ready credence to the First Lady's assertion that a "right-wing conspiracy" is behind the president's woes. Whether such a conspiracy actually is behind the latest charges or not, it is shameful that we've created a culture where such a charge reasonably can be leveled with the church named as coconspirator.

Likewise, the Christian left has been so caught up in reaction against the Religious Right that we may have thrown out

the baby with the bathwater. It is awkward for the Christian left to suddenly agree that character issues matter, after having been nearly silent on that count before.

What's worse, partisans on both sides are willing to overlook the character flaws of anyone who will carry their water politically. This has been shown to be true of Democrats and Republicans alike, feminists and fundamentalists alike.

In our demands for personal freedom, we have given selfishness precedence over truth. This is no doubt the source of the schizophrenic poll results now coming in that show we want one thing in a leader but are happy with another.

This is merely a continuation of other polling trends that for years have found Americans saying church is important while not actually going to church, that commitment to a marriage partner is important while not actually being committed to our marriage partners, that there's too much violence on TV while not actually being willing to turn off the violence.

What we have in the current Washington scandal actually is a microcosm of who we are as a people. It's not really somebody else's problem; it is our problem.

The truth hurts, but creating a culture without truth hurts far worse.

— Mark Wingfield

#### EDITORIAL

### Is anything too hard for the Lord?

By Floyd Price

Then the Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Will I really have a child, now that I am old?' Is anything too hard for the Lord? I will return to you at the appointed time next year and Sarah will have a son." (Genesis 18:13-14)

God visited a very old Abraham and Sarah to reveal to them that Sarah would bear a son promised to them. Isaac would be a very late child, but he was coming just as God promised. Being well past the childbearing stage of life, Sarah laughed inside herself. The very thought of old people having a baby provoked doubt. Surely this was not possible.

The Scripture raises the question "Is anything too hard for the Lord?" At first glance you would think this question comes from Sarah. But the question comes from neither Sarah nor Abraham. It is from God. And it's not a question; it is a statement.

This statement translated from the Hebrew language literally says, "It is too miraculous for the Lord?" Is there

anything that is within the will and way of our God that he cannot do? Is there anything too "heavy" or miraculous for him?

A number of years ago I was planning to move to another community. We owned our own house. The community from which we were moving

was no place to sell a house. None were selling. None. Stale market.

I announced my resignation and intent to move on Sunday. The next night a man called me and said, "I want to buy your house." He could have bought any house in the county. He had just received a windfall

of money and wanted to buy a house. Why mine?

A need existed and we were trying to walk in the will of our Heavenly Father. God knew what we needed before we even asked. If we had been doing things in our own strength we would have had a very difficult time. But God easily met the needs we had. What would have been too hard for me was not hard for God.

Every person faces the impossible at some time in their living. We all have needs that we cannot meet with-

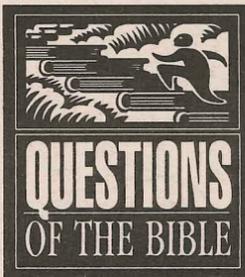
in our own resources. Sometimes our needs are physical or financial. Sometimes we just don't have the emotional resources to cope with what we face. There are times when even our religion seems to fail us and we wonder where God is with the promises we have been given. In the middle of the crises of life we are faced with the impossible. We ask the question, "Can God?"

In Matthew 8 we are told of a man who came to Jesus and said to him, "Lord, if you are willing you can make me clean." Jesus' reply? "I am willing! Be clean." The implication is akin to that found in this Old Testament encounter. "Is anything too hard for God?" Absolutely not, Jesus said, "I am willing." If we walk with mature faith we can discover God's willingness to "grace" us.

Mature faith is not living in a silly dreamland thinking that is a "Fairy Godfather" walking around with a wand doing magic. But real faith recognizes the fact that there is absolutely nothing within the framework of God's will that he cannot do. Nothing is too hard for God. We just need to learn to trust him.



Floyd Price is pastor of Scottsville Baptist Church in Scottsville.



# RESOURCES

**Q. Our son breaks everything he gets. He just does not take proper care of his stuff. He is 15 and has no watch, no radio and no bike to ride. He loses his things also. What can we do? We already have bought three watches and two boom boxes. We can't afford another bicycle.**

## This week's questions:

■ Our 15-year-old son does not take proper care of his belongings and keeps losing things. What can we do?

■ Is it possible to be happy as I get older?

**A.** Do not do anything. Do not replace these items for him. He seems to not value his possessions. Perhaps they came too easily and get replaced too effortlessly. Let him earn his things and he will value them more.

If he cannot find a part-time job in your community, help him find someone to hire him for odd jobs and extra help. Suggest that he tend a garden, care for a pet or attend to a house plant. He needs the experience of being responsible for something beyond himself.

Also, start teaching by word and example. Tell him how you care for your things. Talk with him, remind him and require him to account for things on a regular basis. This most likely will upset him. Explain that he has a right to be frustrated, but that until he can care properly for his things, this will be your response.

When he does begin to care for his belongings, be sure to praise him and to take note of his responsible behavior. — *Wade Rowatt*

**Q. Is it possible to be happy as I get older? It seems like most of the joys of my life now are in the past.**

**A.** The caption of a cartoon in *The New Yorker* reads: "And they lived happily ever after—except for the age thing." The cartoon calls attention to the seeming difficulty of reaching happiness in old age. We may never live happily ever after in this life, but we can have deep inner peace and abiding joy through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Each life stage has its challenges and goals. As each of these are successfully met, happiness can be achieved.

Consider the challenges and growth goals as we face "the age thing." The goal for this stage of life is to balance the tension between integrity and despair. We begin to accomplish this goal as we reflect on our life history. We may have the tendency to despair over life's losses and failures. On the other hand, integrity is

achieved as we are able to hear the "well done" of our master.

We can achieve a sense of meaning today by claiming successes of the past. What have you achieved in the broad sweep of your life? You may remember a career filled with successes. You may recall positive experiences with family and friends. Claim the contributions you have made in the past.

You may have difficulty affirming your victories because they seem overshadowed by losses or failures. Take care to avoid denying past failures. The goal is to embrace the failures while claiming the successes. Come to terms with failures or losses and don't allow the negatives to overshadow the positives.

As we make sense of our history, we begin to balance the tension between despair and integrity. The result of this struggle is the achievement of wisdom. And having moved toward the achievement of wisdom, we are able to make an even greater contribution to family, friends and the world.

Through Christ, we face the challenges of old age with renewed strength and achieve a quality of peace, joy and wisdom not possible at any other age. Indeed, the best is yet to be. — *John Lepper*



**CHARITIES**

## Substantiating your charitable deduction

By Laurie Valentine

It's that time of year again. Time to gather W-2s, 1099s and all the other paperwork that will be needed to prepare your 1997 income tax returns.

As you begin the gathering process, make sure you have the documentation necessary to substantiate your charitable income-tax deductions.

For gifts of less than \$250, all you need is your canceled check (in the case of a gift by check) or a receipt which describes what you gave and the date of your gift.

For gifts of \$250 or more, your canceled check is not enough. You must obtain a written acknowledgment receipt from the charitable recipient before you file your income tax return. The written acknowledgment must contain the following information: (1) the amount of a cash contribution; (2) a description, but not the value, of a property gift; (3) a statement that you did or did not receive any goods or services in return for your gift and, if you did receive something of more than "insubstantial value," the charity must give you a good faith estimate of the value of what you received; and (4) if the only benefit you received was an "intangible religious benefit" the acknowledgment must state that.

The \$250 rule applies to each separate gift you make. If you give \$100 each week to your church, your canceled checks are sufficient for substantiating your gifts, even though your total gifts in a year are \$5,200. However, if you give \$250 once a month, you must have the required acknowledgment to deduct your contributions.

For non-cash gifts worth more than \$500, you must file IRS Form 8283 with your income tax return and keep written records which include the name and address of the charity, date of your gift, description of the gifted property, market value of the property on the date of the gift and the terms of any agreement which limits or restricts the use of the gifted property.

A qualified appraisal is required if your property gift, other than gifts of cash or publicly traded securities, has a value of more than \$5,000.

*Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.*

## Poll: Quarter of Baptist teens think of suicide

Continued from page 1

them. Likewise, almost half (44 percent) of the youth are not bothered by nudity in movies.

Seventy-six percent indicated they have some problems containing their anger. Of those, 18 percent reported having serious temper problems.

Twenty-nine percent of the youth respondents said they were "sort of" holding a grudge against someone in their youth group, and 8 percent said they were definitely holding a grudge against a friend.

"Youth are not being taught ways to deal with anger and hostile feelings. They are not being encouraged to relate to one another and to have relationships based on Christian principles of love and Jesus and peace," Hall

said.

"They get their impressions from entertainment media that say, 'Be a bully. Take from life what you want.' It doesn't seem like 'turn the other cheek' exists in today's culture," he said.

Other topics of the 1997 survey included:

■ **Sex.** About three-fourths (74 percent) said sex before marriage is wrong. That's a 6 percent increase compared to the 68 percent who answered the 1994 survey. Three percent of the youth said sex before marriage is "OK." Eleven percent said it's OK only if the people love each other; another 11 percent just weren't sure how they felt, and 1 percent didn't answer the question.

■ **Conflict.** A slim majority (51 percent) of the youth surveyed said they handle their problems with others by "sitting down and talking it through." When checking "all that apply," the youth said they also handle problems with other people by: ignoring them (26 percent); crying (14 percent); tearing things up (8 percent); clamming up (8 percent); and most or all of the above (26 percent).

■ **Lying.** A total of 73 percent of the youth said they would lie for a friend to keep him or her out of trouble (24 percent said yes; 49 percent, maybe). Ten percent said they would not; 17 percent were undecided.

Seventy-one percent of the youth surveyed said they lie to their parents, 28 percent said they do not and 1 percent didn't answer the question. Of those who said they lie to their parents, the majority (56 percent) said they do so seldom, and 32 percent do so occasionally.

■ **Peer pressure.** The majority (58 percent) reported that their friends do along with what their friends do, even if they know it is wrong." Another 7 percent said they do this on a regular basis.

Fifty percent of the youth said their friends do (8 percent) or sometimes do (42 percent) get them into trouble, while 48 percent said their friends do not get them into trouble. Two percent of those answering the survey said they are more likely to get their friends into trouble.

■ **Blame.** A total of 91 percent of the youth said they make excuses when they know they are wrong or trying to cover up a mistake. (68 percent marked sometimes, while 23 percent marked yes.)

■ **Gossip.** Seventy-seven percent said they do (9 percent) or they sometimes (68 percent) say bad things about people behind their backs.



# LEADERSHIP

## Author: 21st century churches must empower members

By Ken Camp  
Baptist General Convention of Texas

FORT WORTH, Texas (ABP)—Churches will thrive in the 21st century only if they love Jesus more than culture and give laypeople permission to minister, author Bill Easum told a recent conference.

But control issues will prevent most churches from making the transition into the postmodern era, added Easum, executive director and senior consultant with 21st Century Strategies Inc.

"Control is the sacred cow of established churches, and it needs to be ground into gourmet burgers," he said.

Easum, author of "Dancing with Dinosaurs" and "Sacred Cows Make Gourmet Burgers," was a speaker for the Texas Baptist evangelism conference.

The postmodern way of viewing the world is more sensual than rational, more Hebrew than Greek, more chaotic than organized, more experiential than cognitive and more biological than mechanical, he said.

Yet most established churches are firmly grounded in the modern world view and will not be able to break radically with the past, Easum said.

"You can't morph a machine into an organic substance," Easum said. "I believe the hope of the future is not in transitioning older churches but in starting new churches."

New churches for the 21st century will be permission-giving networks which empower people to exercise their spiritual gifts, Easum said.

"The body of Christ is whole only when individuals are free to live out their God-given gifts without asking permission," Easum said.

Key elements of permission-giving churches include empowerment, trust, a common mission, freedom, decentralization and collaborative networks, he said.

"Permission-giving churches encourage autonomous, on-the-spot decision making by collaborative individuals and self-organizing teams," Easum said. "They encourage ministry to be delivered any time, any place, by anyone, no matter what."

The only boundaries in a permission-giving church are the clear teachings of Scripture and the purpose statement and core values of that particular church, Easum said. He cited a model presented by Charles Wesley, an 18th century founder of the Methodist Church: "In the essentials, unity. In the nonessentials, freedom. In all things, love."

Standing committees are replaced in permission-giving churches by loosely knit teams that focus on single issues, Easum said. The clergy's role is to equip laity to exercise their spiritual gifts in daily life while the church creates an environment to fa-

cilitate ministry. Consensus about the church mission replaces majority rule or committee structure to set a church's direction.

Easum identified other characteristics of postmodern churches that will thrive in the 21st century. Easum predicted the postmodern church will be:

■ **Grounded in the Bible, not theology.** The point of entry for many postmoderns will be identification with the story of Jesus as the "man of sorrows," not with theological truths about the nature of Christ.

■ **Culturally relevant.** Music and technology are essential parts of the life and language of postmodern people. Music and technology—blended so thoroughly that they cannot be distinguished from each other—will become essential parts of worship in postmodern churches.

■ **Transformational.** Postmodern people respond to "radical faith that makes a difference," not to logical presentations of doctrine.

■ **Lay-led.** Postmodern Christians reject distinctions between laity and clergy. They demand the freedom to exercise their spiritual gifts. "Clergy must be willing to lose control of ministry," Easum said.

■ **Centered around community.** The 21st century church will offer life in community, not activities for leisure time. It will place strong emphasis on discipling and accountability.

**"I believe the hope of the future is not in transitioning older churches but in starting new churches."**

Bill Easum, author of "Sacred Cows Make Gourmet Burgers"

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**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of music for growing church; seminary degree preferred. Please send resumé to: Marvin Alsip, 201 4th St., Corbin, KY 40701.

**SEEKING:** Administrative secretary. The right person will make this position a ministry. Parr's Rest, a personal care home for elderly ladies in Louisville, is seeking a person with outstanding word processing and telephone skills with experience in desktop publishing. Excellent skills in grammar, spelling and proof-reading are a must. This busy position provides vital support to the administrator and management team. Resumés may be faxed to (502) 459-5455, or you may call (502) 451-5440 to obtain an application.

**SEEKING:** Pleasant Hill Baptist Church of Campbellsville, Ky., is currently receiving resumés for the full-time position of minister of youth, children and music. All interested may send their resumés to: Minister of Youth/Music Search Committee, Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, 6380 Old Lebanon Road, Campbellsville, KY 42718. Resumés will be accepted until Feb. 28, 1998.

**SEEKING:** Pastor. Loving, giving SBC church in Southeast Missouri. Membership 1,500; Sunday school 600. Send resumé to: Bob Crane, 5836 Quail Meadows Road, Poplar Bluff, MO 63901. (573) 785-3935.

**SEEKING:** Applicants for the following part-time ministerial staff positions: minister of music; minister of education; minister to youth. Submit resumé to: Personnel Committee, Lyndon Baptist Church, 8025 New LaGrange Road, Louisville, KY 40222. No phone calls please.

**FOR SALE:** Hammond console organ (Model 101) in good condition. Asking \$800. Call Susan Wullen, (606) 478-5042 (h), or (606) 478-2223 (w), or Betsy Layne, Calvary Baptist Church, (606) 478-5369.

**WANTED:** A used 1990-1993 model 15-passenger van. New Hope Baptist Church, Franklin, Ky., (502) 539-6423.

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music for a growing music ministry in a suburban Louisville church. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Midlane Park Baptist Church, 6500 Six Mile Lane, Louisville, KY 40218.

**SEEKING:** Preschool teachers. Fern Creek Baptist Child Development Center is currently looking for preschool and parents' day out teachers for the 1997-98 school year. Hours are MWF, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. for preschool and TT, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. for parents' day out. We offer competitive wages, a friendly environment and other benefits. Please contact Debbie Gorbandt or Linda Barnes at (502) 239-0316.

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**SEEKING:** Accepting resumés for full-time minister of youth and children. Mail resumé to: Southern Heights Baptist Church, 3408 Clays Mill Road, Lexington, KY 40503, Attn: Youth Pastor Search Ministry Team.

**SEEKING:** Part-time associate pastor of worship. Send resumé to: Pastor Virgle R. Grant, Eastside Bethel Baptist Church, 1675 East Main St., Richmond, KY 40475, Fax to: (606) 624-9646. E-mail: EastsideBethel@CompuServe.com.

**SEEKING:** The Pastor Search Committee of First Baptist Church of Frankfort is accepting resumés at this time. Mail to: Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 201 St. Clair St., P.O. Box 5008, Frankfort, KY 40602.

## 7-year-old taught 'Roe' about God's unconditional love

**"I didn't have the faith, and Emily said, 'That's OK, Mommy, I know she's going to accept Jesus.'"**

Ronda Mackey

By David Winfrey  
News Director

FRANKFORT—Every time Ronda Mackey saw Norma McCorvey, she saw the reason she nearly aborted her baby.

As a worker for the anti-abortion group Operation Rescue in Dallas, Mackey had several occasions each week to see McCorvey, better known as "Jane Roe" of Roe vs. Wade, the U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing most abortions.

Through coincidence or God's sense of humor, Operation Rescue moved next door to the office occupied by an abortion clinic where McCorvey worked.

But through the unconditional love of Mackey's 7-year-old daughter, McCorvey learned of God's unconditional love, leading to a change of heart few dared believe possible.

And the two women have developed a friendship that initially was as unlikely as their first encounters were nerve-racking.

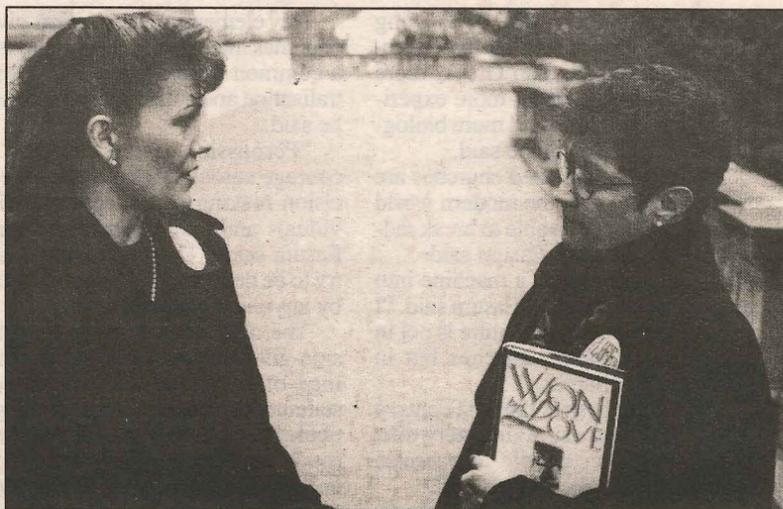
As abortion's poster child, McCorvey thought nothing of storming into Operation Rescue's office and cussing out staff for incidents as minor as hammering a nail into the wall separating the offices. Even today, McCorvey doesn't resent what her harshest critics said or did. "I treated them a lot worse than they treated me." Sometimes it took clinic workers to pull McCorvey away from Operation Rescue volunteers, Mackey recalled.

Then one day McCorvey noticed an act of mischief that required an apology. Mackey's two daughters often played on the sidewalk that stretched in front of both Operation Rescue and the abortion clinic. The clinic used an escort to help get clients through the gauntlet of protesters urging women not to have abortions.

McCorvey saw that the escort was slumped down on the park bench outside the office with her leg stretched toward the girls running back and forth. McCorvey went outside and asked what she was doing.

"I'm trying to trip those girls."

"But they're children," McCorvey protested.



**UNLIKELY FRIENDS** Norma McCorvey (right) and Ronda Mackey work together with Roe No More Ministry. McCorvey said that on Jan. 22, the 25th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe vs. Wade decision, she gave 30 interviews. The two women hope the ministry eventually expands to include a crisis pregnancy center.

"Yeah, but they're OR (Operation Rescue) kids."

This time McCorvey turned her fire storm toward one of her own, telling the escort to get off the property and threatening to call the police.

She marched into Operation Rescue's office "like she owned the place," Mackey recalled, and apologized for the escort's behavior. She told 7-year-old Emily that all grown-ups aren't mean and that she'd never let somebody hurt little children.

"Then why are you letting them kill the little babies inside," Emily replied.

Everyone braced for the ensuing tirade, but McCorvey turned around and left. Mackey figured that was the end of any pleasantries for a long time.

The next morning, however, as Mackey and her daughters were walking up to the office, Emily ran to McCorvey, who was sitting on the outside bench, and gave her a hug.

Both adults were taken aback by this, but that hug was the start of what became Emily's almost daily routine of finding some way to befriend McCorvey.

But every time Emily ran up to "Miss Norma" was a gut-wrenching event for Mackey. "It killed me in-

side," she admitted.

Mackey would recall eight years earlier, when as a 20-year-old engaged woman she got pregnant. The father's family encouraged her to get an abortion, and she almost conceded. Only the looks in the faces of her friends who'd already had abortions convinced her not to go through with it.

"It wasn't like they came back and they were happy and they went on with their life. There was something missing," she said.

The object of her daughter's hugs was the person she saw as responsible for her friends' pain and her nearly not having Emily. "I looked at Norma and blamed her."

Despite those feelings, Mackey determined not to let them interfere with her daughter's willingness to love someone many considered unlovable.

"I knew there was a special friendship building there, not knowing what was going to come of it," she said. "Emily loved Miss Norma in a way that I don't think anyone else did."

It was through that unusual friendship that Emily started inviting McCorvey to church and praying that McCorvey would become a Christian.

"I thought, 'There's no way,'"

## Hundreds attend 'Rally for Life' to back laws limiting abortion

Continued from page 1

Last week she introduced herself to the audience with, "My name is Norma McCorvey, and I'm one of God's ongoing construction projects."

It was while still working for an abortion clinic that she encountered Christian love, she said. "Because of this love and though his (God's) love, I now know the truth."

"Never give up," she added. "If my standing here isn't a miracle, then I don't know what is. ... I was won by love, and I am Roe no more."

McCorvey was one of several anti-abortion speakers and legislators who braved cool temperatures for the hour and a half rally Jan. 27. The crowd of several hundred was among the largest to gather for the annual event, said Margie Montgomery, executive director for Kentucky Right to Life.

At least two Baptists were among

those speaking at the rally.

Rick Røeder, associate pastor of Northside Baptist Church in Mayfield and author of a booklet about "partial-birth" abortions, gave the invocation. "Though we don't deserve it, we pray your mercy upon this nation," he said in the prayer.

Hershael York, professor of preaching at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, told the audience public opinion is shifting away from support for abortion. "Life is sacred. There is a creator. He made it. He's entrusted it to us."

In a nation that spends billions on children, York said, "Where else can we put the focus but on the baby?"

Kentucky Right to Life President Frank Schwendeman of Lexington called abortion the greatest issue to face family and nation.

"Everything hinges upon how we

resolve this," he said.

Roman Catholic Priest Richard Merideth of St. Joseph Parish in Bowling Green said abortion opponents must dedicate themselves to four tasks:

■ Education to counter the ideology of those supporting abortion.

■ Political responsibility to keep the issue in the civic forum.

■ Christian social service to dedicate church resources toward ministries targeting the causes and results of unplanned pregnancies.

■ Asking the Holy Spirit to accomplish conversions.

"There will never be a time when we will be able to declare victory and retire from the field," he said.

Kentucky Right to Life currently supports four issues being considered by the state General Assembly:

■ Senate Bill 121 would ban "par-

Mackey recalled. She even felt compelled to explain that although God answers prayers, people still make choices. "I didn't have the faith, and Emily said, 'That's OK, Mommy, I know she's going to accept Jesus.'"

Eventually, McCorvey accepted an invitation to attend church, and it took just one sermon for her to walk the aisle, with Mackey's help, to accept Jesus as her personal Savior.

"I don't know who was more scared, me or her," Mackey said.

Today McCorvey marvels at the miracle of God's limitless, unmerited love. "It's just fascinating. You never can get enough of it," she said. She has written a book, "Won by Love," chronicling her story.

Mackey marvels at the irony. "It's God. God used a child that was almost aborted to bring the woman who started this issue in the first place."

Initial news of McCorvey's conversion was tempered by reports that she still supported first trimester abortions and intended to remain in a lesbian relationship. But she's since renounced both views, and her only remaining vice is cigarettes, Mackey said.

"It's not going to be wham and everything's perfect," Mackey said in her defense. "It's just amazing to see the progress in two and a half years. You can tell God's changed her and given her this glow. ... She never smiled before she became a Christian."

Their story proves no one is beyond the reach of God's love, she added.

"Look at people in the way a child would look at them," she said. "I don't care what their sin, what their lifestyle is. There's hope for everyone."

And loving a non-Christian doesn't require compromising one's beliefs, she added.

"Just because you love someone, you don't have to agree with what they do," Mackey added. "We never told Norma that 'Oh, what you're doing is OK.' We always said it's a sin. Even Emily told her it's a sin, but yet we loved her. It's a hard line to walk there but it can be done through the grace of God."

tial-birth" abortions. It is in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

■ Senate Bill 29 and House Bill 85 would require abortion clinics to inform clients 24 hours before an abortion is performed about the procedure and any health risks. Both are in their respective Judiciary Committees.

■ House Bill 70 would require licensing requirements for abortion facilities. It is in the House Health and Welfare Committee.

■ House Bill 292 would include "unborn child" in the definition of person in homicide laws. House Bill 293 would include "unborn child" in the definition of person in wrongful death lawsuits. Both are in the House Judiciary Committee.

Montgomery encouraged abortion opponents to communicate with their legislators "respectfully but forcefully" about those issues.

## Supreme Court declines to hear church's zoning case

Larry Chesser  
Baptist Joint Committee

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The U.S. Supreme Court has refused to hear arguments that a California church's First Amendment rights are violated by a local ordinance requiring voter approval to rezone land on which it wants to build a new church and school.

A California appeals court previously rejected arguments that requiring voter approval for the rezoning would subject the church to a "popularity contest."

The 25 acres owned by First Assembly of God are outside the city limits of Ventura but within its planning area. The land is designated for agricultural purposes in the city's plan.

An ordinance approved by voters in 1995 bars rezoning of agricultural and open space lands until Dec. 31, 2030, unless the land is shown to be unsuitable for agriculture or

the rezoning proposal is approved by city voters.

The ordinance was challenged by an association of residents and property owners in Ventura County. Two lower courts rejected the complaints before the nation's high court turned the case away Jan. 20.

The ordinance "calls for nothing other than a vote on a land-use designation," the state appeals court said. "It does not call for a vote on anyone's religious beliefs. It does not infringe in any respect on the free exercise of the church's religion."

The appeals court also dismissed arguments that the ordinance would jeopardize the church's tax-exempt status by forcing it to devote a "substantial" part of its activities in seeking voter approval for rezoning. The Internal Revenue Code bars certain nonprofit groups from devoting more than an insubstantial portion of their resources to influencing legislation.

## Appeal by 700 Club no help for pickax murderess

AUSTIN, Texas (RNS)—Texas' highest criminal court rejected a request to spare the life of pickax killer Karla Faye Tucker, who is scheduled to be executed Feb. 3.

Tucker had argued that the state's clemency process is unconstitutional, but the Court of Criminal Appeals turned aside her argument, Associated Press reported.

Tucker, 38, also has asked the Board of Pardons and Paroles to alter her sentence to life in prison. The board can forward a recommendation to Texas Gov. George W. Bush or deny her request.

Tucker, who is scheduled to die by lethal injection, was convicted and sentenced to death in 1984 for her role in two brutal killings in Houston in 1983. Texas has not executed a woman since 1863.

Christian leaders ranging from mainline Protestant officials to Catholic bishops to religious broadcaster Pat Robertson have issued pleas to halt the scheduled execution.

In an interview on "The 700 Club" that aired Jan. 27, Tucker told co-host Terry Meeuwsen that she was not afraid to die.

"I know where I'm going," she said. "I know

that Jesus has already gone to prepare a place for me. I know that if I have to go February 3rd, that he's going to come and he's going to escort me personally."

CBN has announced that Tucker has requested that "The 700 Club" broadcast her last interview from her Texas cell. The interview was to be aired Feb. 3, from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. EST.

Robertson has long commented on Tucker's case.

"I understand that there is, within the ranks of Christianity as well as among other people of faith and people of good will, a wide disagreement about capital punishment," he wrote in a December op-ed piece in the Plano (Texas) Star Courier. "However, this case crosses the gulf between the camps. There are times when justice must be trumped by mercy. This is one."

American Atheists President Ellen Johnson has accused Robertson of being hypocritical.

"Robertson has been a big supporter of the death penalty, but now he wants a 'Christian' exemption," Johnson said. "And what if Karla Tucker were an atheist, Jew or Muslim? And what if this involved Karl Tucker rather than Karla Tucker?"

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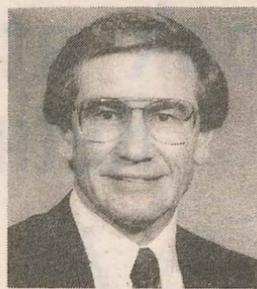
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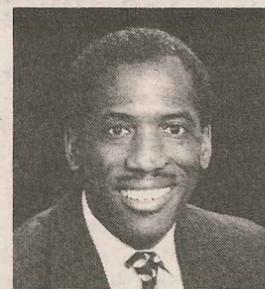
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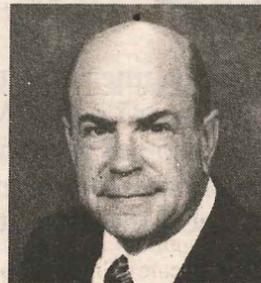
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## No loopholes for adultery, say Bible scholars, ethicists

By Marv Knox  
Texas Baptist Standard

**"Sometimes a relationship that does involve sex is not as threatening to a marriage as one that doesn't."**

Mary Stedham, a marriage and family therapist affiliated with First Baptist Church in Abilene, Texas

DALLAS (ABP)—President Clinton's recent morals morass has put a new spin on the 7th Commandment: "You shall not commit adultery."

A former White House intern claims she had an affair with the president. Clinton denies it. In an attempt to reconcile conflicting accounts, some have turned to semantics.

Webster's Dictionary defines "adultery" as "voluntary sexual intercourse" between a married person and someone who is not his or her spouse. Some have suggested that sexual acts other than intercourse between consenting adults, strictly speaking, are not adulterous.

But those seeking such a loophole will not find it in the Bible, according to ethicists, counselors and Bible scholars interviewed by Associated Baptist Press.

The Bible defines adultery as any "sexual relationship outside the boundaries of marriage," reported Gerald Keown, professor of Old Testament interpretation at Gardner-Webb University's School of Divinity in Boiling Springs, N.C.

Furthermore, the Bible does not make distinctions regarding various types of sexual acts, Keown said. The Bible does not mention the kind of sexual activity Monica Lewinsky claims she had with the president.

"The Bible never addresses that issue whatsoever," Keown noted.

The attempt to navigate around a

### Christian leaders praying for Clinton

Three Christian leaders have added their names to the list of people praying for President Clinton.

Rex Horne, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock, Ark., where Clinton is a member, told a newspaper he talked with Clinton the week the news broke.

Horne said he did not offer Clinton any counsel, but told the president the congregation would be praying for him.

According to the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, "Horne asked that people put politics aside—even he disagrees with the president on several issues—and warned against

cynicism and rejoicing in the discovery of the sordid."

Tom Elliff, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, told an Alabama evangelism conference that "all Christians should pray for their leaders." Elliff said he is reserving judgment on the current sex scandal, but he said citizens have a right to expect good character from their president.

Bill McCartney, founder of Promise Keepers, said prayer was needed for all people in the scandal. "I don't know what happened. It's not important that I know what happened. Only God knows."

rigid definition of adultery is symptomatic of culture at-large, observed Phil Strickland, director of the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission.

"We go to great efforts to define the heart out of the Christian understanding of adultery," Strickland said. "Our culture has narrowed this to a point where much inappropriate sexual interaction is approved and is thought to not have serious consequences."

And the recent focus on specific varieties of sexual activity misses the point of adultery entirely, two marriage and family counselors agreed.

"The issue is the violation of the marital agreement, and that's violated regardless of what you do" sexually, stressed Rebecca Land, a marriage

and family therapist in private practice in Nashville.

"I've had people say, 'We just kissed,' but that's a violation of the commandment," Land said. "I've worked with people who have had affairs of the heart—strong feelings—and that can wreck a marriage. We're talking about an emotional commitment to someone besides your spouse, and an affair of the heart breaks that commitment."

"Sometimes a relationship that does involve sex is not as threatening to a marriage as one that doesn't," added Mary Stedham, a marriage and family therapist affiliated with First Baptist Church in Abilene, Texas.

"When you get hung up on the letter of the law and look past the spirit

of the law—to respect your marriage, your marriage partner and yourself—anything or any behavior that puts that in a disrespectful light' threatens the marriage, she said.

Land counsels people almost every day who are involved in adulterous relationships but who do not or will not see how inconsistent that is with their Christian faith, she said.

"The heart is deceitfully wicked," she explained. "We have the ability to deceive ourselves, because we don't want to think we're not nice."

People come into her office and talk in one moment about their Bible study groups or church involvement and in the next describe their sexual affairs, Land said.

Adultery didn't make a list of things God is against just because God is arbitrary or doesn't want people to have fun, said Robert Parham, director of the Baptist Center for Ethics in Nashville.

Adultery is "distorted sexuality," Parham said. "It's distorted because it's dangerous and becomes destructive. It breaks the trust that has been established between two individuals."

Despite the trauma of the current national discussion of adultery, perhaps the situation can be redemptive, Stedham said.

"The key is this: Will people change their behavior in any way as a result of the attention this has received?" she said. "God can bring good out of anything. Maybe he'll even squeeze some good out of this mess."

### Ten Commandments staying in courthouse for now, judge says

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (ABP)—Both sides are claiming a semi-victory in the Alabama Supreme Court dismissal of the Ten Commandments case that has received nationwide attention.

Alabama's high court threw out the case on a technicality Jan. 23, without addressing the constitutional issues it raised.

Instead, the court said Gov. Fob James and Attorney General Bill Pryor lacked legal grounds to seek a declaratory judgment on behalf of Etowah County Judge Roy Moore.

Despite the apparent side step by the Supreme Court, Moore said he considers the decision a green light to continue his practice of praying in court and to display the Ten Commandments on the wall above his bench.

But Joel Sogol, the American Civil Liberties Union attorney who initiated the case against Judge Moore in 1993, noted that with the Supreme Court dismissal, the only ruling still standing on the issue is a decision by a trial court last February that Moore's practices are banned by the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment.

After a judge threw out a federal suit filed by the ACLU in 1995, James and Pryor turned to the state's courts for final word on whether prayers and the Ten Commandments display are allowed in Alabama courtrooms.

A trial judge ruled last February that Moore's practices of praying before court and displaying the Ten Commandments violate the First Amendment's ban on establishing religion. That decision sparked a nationwide controversy, in which the Alabama governor claimed that, if necessary, he would use the National Guard to protect the display of the biblical laws. Pryor appealed the case to the Alabama Supreme Court.

"Despite the public attention it has attracted, the lawsuit out of which these proceedings have arisen ... was invoked merely to try disputes involved in another action," the high court declared.

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## Louisiana having second thoughts about gambling

BATON ROUGE, La.—Louisiana, which has become one of the United States' most open locales for legalized gambling, is having second thoughts.

A new poll by the Baton Rouge Advocate finds only 16 percent of Louisianians saying gambling has had a positive effect on the state. That's down from 30 percent who saw a positive effect in gambling the year before.

In the latest poll, 49 percent of Louisiana residents said gambling actually has had a negative effect on the state. Sixty-four percent of respondents said gambling has become a "serious" or "very serious" problem in the state.

More than one-third of Louisiana residents say they know someone who has gotten into serious financial trouble because of gambling.

"I do agree that more people are filing for bankruptcies, more divorces are happening, more John Q. Citizen people are either being directly affected or know someone who has been

affected" by a gambling problem, said Audrey McCain, a state representative from Plaquemine, La. "The longer that tends to happen, the more disgruntled the public is going to be."

Another 1997 study conducted by the Louisiana State University School of Medicine found children developing gambling problems as early as 11 years of age.

"Sixth grade gamblers already exhibiting addictive behavior—that was astonishing to us," said James Westphal, associate professor at LSU's medical school.

The extensive study of students in grades six through 12 found that 86 percent of them had gambled. Two-thirds had tried scratch-off lottery tickets. One-fourth or more said they had tried video poker, the lottery, bingo, dice and cards.

Overall, the study found 10 percent of Louisiana could be considered high-risk for gambling problems and 6 percent already gave responses indicating they have pathological gambling problems.



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## NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Alabama abortion clinic bombing decied.** Organizations on both sides of the abortion debate are decrying the Jan. 29 bombing of an abortion clinic in Birmingham, Ala. The explosion at the New Woman All Women Health Care clinic left an off-duty police officer dead and a nurse seriously injured. Clark Forsythe, president of Americans United for Life; Gary Bauer, president of the Family Research Council; and Roman Catholic Cardinal Bernard Law, chairman of the Committee for Pro-Life Activities of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, were among those voicing opposition to the bombing.

■ **Broadcaster in hall of fame.** Ben Armstrong, the former National Religious Broadcasters executive director, was inducted into that group's Hall of Fame during the organization's annual four-day convention, which began Jan. 31.

■ **School starts elective Bible class.** A controversial Bible history class based on the Old Testament has been introduced in Lee County, Fla., public high schools following a ruling by a federal judge that the course could begin. The course was a target of a suit by church-state separationists. The classes, which began Jan. 22, are being videotaped to allow plaintiffs in an ongoing lawsuit to see how the instruction is handled.

■ **Senator to propose human cloning ban.** Sen. Christopher Bond, R-Mo., said he will propose an emergency prohibition on human cloning when Congress reconvenes this week. The senator said Chicago scientist Richard Seed's recent announcement of plans to try cloning a human being will cause Congress to act quickly, Associated Press reported. "While we may be prepared from a technological standpoint to proceed with this research, we are not prepared from an ethical standpoint," Bond said.

■ **Group wants airline miles.** The NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund has asked 13 major airlines to freeze frequent flier miles of Randall Terry, an anti-abortion activist, in hopes of transferring them to the National Organization for Women. The fund has a claim on more than \$500,000 in court-ordered fines from three lawsuits involving Terry.

■ **Three Pennsylvania churches torched.** Three rural churches in southwestern Pennsylvania have been intentionally burned recently. The most recent fire was Jan. 27, when Pike Run Church of the Brethren in Somerset, Pa., was destroyed. On Jan. 20, Barren Run United Methodist Church in West Newton was burned to the ground. Jan. 22, Salem Baptist Church in Rostraver

Township was spared from major destruction because a passer-by smelled smoke shortly after a firebomb was thrown at the church. The Methodist and Baptist churches are about 10 miles apart. All three churches have predominantly white congregations.

■ **Black church leader elected.** A Kansas City, Mo., pastor has been elected as the new chairman of the board of directors of the Congress of National Black Churches. Wallace Hartsfield Sr. succeeds Roy L.H. Winbush, who recently finished his three-year term as board chairman.

■ **Spencer Perkins dies.** Spencer Perkins, a leader in an evangelical Christian ministry focusing on racial reconciliation, died suddenly Jan. 27 at his home in Jackson, Miss. Perkins, 43, had a heart attack, ministry officials said. The son of John Perkins, a veteran civil rights leader, Perkins was the former president of Reconcilers Fellowship, which had sponsored conferences aimed at fostering racial reconciliation.

■ **Trial ordered for Methodist pastor.** An Omaha, Neb., United Methodist pastor will be tried in a church court on charges he violated denominational rules by performing a same-sex union last September between two lesbians. A Nebraska Conference Committee on Investigation found Jimmy Creech of the

prestigious First United Methodist Church can be tried on violating the church's Social Principles, a statement which serves as a guide to individual and church behavior and action.

■ **Book stores help hunger fund.** Shoppers in Baptist Book Stores across the United States have donated \$12,147 to the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission's World Hunger Fund. Giving mostly change from purchases in the 71-store chain, customers contributed in canisters at the check-out counters beginning June 1 and continuing through the end of 1997.

■ **Former Coalition official sentenced.** The Christian Coalition's former chief finance official has received probation for embezzling more than \$40,000 from the political group. Jeanne DelliCarpini, 43, also received a suspended six-year prison sentence Jan. 22. She had admitted to the embezzlement, pleading guilty in September to one embezzlement count, the Washington Post reported.

■ **National Baptists keep backing Lyons.** The National Baptist Convention, USA, ended its recent winter board meeting with some pastors continuing to voice support for their embattled president Henry J. Lyons. The few pastors willing to be interviewed at the meeting, which ended Jan. 22, had nothing but praise for Lyons.

## Carlee Ballard Cornett

By Robert Dunston

During our Founders Day convocation Jan. 19, Rick Fleenor, director of alumni affairs, presented the Alumni Award on behalf of Cumberland College's many alumni. The award recognizes a student for his or her outstanding efforts in the areas of student recruitment and alumni services. The recipient of the award receives a plaque to commemorate the special honor and a monetary gift from the alumni board of directors.

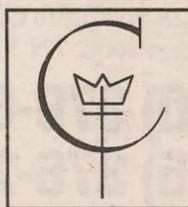
This year's recipient was Carlee Ballard Cornett, the wife of Wes Cornett, of Williamsburg. Cornett is the daughter of Jeff and Dale Marie Frey, and Jimmy and Jackie Ballard. This semester Cornett is involved in student teaching which will complete her degree in elementary education with an endorsement in music.

Cornett has been a vital part of many campus activities. She has served as a resident assistant in the dormitories and as a mentor for children in Cumberland College's mentoring program sponsored by the Knight Foundation. Cornett has far exceeded the college's community service requirement for graduation. She has provided more than 1,000 hours of community service

and has been named a Hutton Scholar for her outstanding work.

Cornett's vocal talents have found expression in both Cumberland College's chorale and Cumberland Singers. Her skills as a pianist have been used as she accompanied the women's chorus and vocal majors.

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



Christian missions is another of Cornett's loves and gifts. She has served in the Baptist Student Union as secretary and missions coordinator. During the summer of 1995, Cornett was a member of the Son Praise missions team in Kentucky. The following summer she spent seven weeks in St. Petersburg, Russia, working as part of the Kentucky-Russia

partnership. After volunteering many hours in our admissions office, Cornett spent the fall 1997 semester as an admissions and alumni associate traveling to tell high school students about Cumberland College and counseling students through the application process.

Cornett has added so much to the atmosphere of missions and service at Cumberland College.

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

## We're all up for adoption

Recently, in an effort to get folks here at KBHC to call me Bill instead of Dr. Smithwick, I sent out an e-mail that described that title as "the curl in the pig's tail"; it looks good in front of your name but alone really means very little. However, I have two titles that say a lot about me, I think; they are father and son.

One of the greatest thrills of my life is to be called dad. I was present for the birth of all three of my wonderful children. The miracle of birth is equaled only by the love I receive from each of my kids. For them to call me dad is worth more to me than anything else in life.

To have a father and mother who love me is another staple that makes life so fulfilling. For me the title of son is special because my parents adopted me as an infant. I feel I was especially blessed with the parents who "chose" me.

During the recent observance of Sanctity of Life Sunday, I'm sure many believers reflected on our status as adopted sons and daughters of God. The New American Standard translation of the Bible even uses that term in Romans 8:15: "You have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out,

'Abba! Father!'" The reverence conveyed in that verse reminds me of the privilege of being an earthly father as well as a child of God. It makes the reality of abortion all the more sorrowful.

I want to offer you a challenge. Come on board with us at Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children and live the Sanctity of Life Sunday message.

We have a pregnancy counseling and adoption service that we use to compassionately help birth parents facing unplanned pregnancies. And we actively are promoting the need for adoptive parents for children with special needs—medically fragile children, older children, children with emotional problems stemming from abuse and others. We also have a great need for

Christian families to provide foster homes.

If you're interested in learning more about any of these programs for life, give us a call.

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Bill Smithwick

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/>

## WORLD VIEW

■ **Algeria inquiry requested.** An interfaith coalition of religious organizations is calling on the U.S. government to take an active role in helping stop massacres that have left more than 75,000 people dead in Algeria during the past six years as Islamic fundamentalists try to gain control of the North African nation. Signers of the letter of request include the U.S. Catholic Conference, the National Council of Churches, the General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church, the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the International Religious Liberty Association, the Presbyterian Church (USA) and Church of the Brethren.

■ **Archbishop urges debt relief.** Archbishop of Canterbury George Carey, spiritual head of the worldwide Anglican Communion, called for using the coming millennium observances to "remove the chains of indebtedness" that continue to "enslave" Africa. His speech put the archbishop in a growing camp of religious leaders and others urging that the year 2000 be marked as a "jubilee" year, a reference to the Old Testament vision that every 50 years debts were forgiven, mortgaged land returned and slaves freed.

■ **More aid planned for North Korea.** Church World Service, the relief and humanitarian arm of the National Council of Churches, has

announced it plans to send \$500,000 in new aid to North Korea to help people survive the next crucial "crunch" in March or April, when basic food supplies will again begin to run out.

■ **How now, red cow?** A "holy cow" may not be so sacred after all. Last May, a red heifer named Melody was born at an Orthodox Jewish village in northern Israel. She attracted a lot of attention because of the ancient Jewish belief that only individuals purified with the ashes of a red heifer could enter the biblical Jerusalem Temple. Some ultra-Orthodox Jews said her birth was a harbinger the Temple would be rebuilt and the Jewish Messiah would soon be born. But it turns out Melody is not so pure after all. The animal's caretaker said the cow has spotted white hairs on its tail.

■ **Pilgrims use access for plunge.** Thousands of Christian pilgrims marked Epiphany and the feast commemorating the baptism of Jesus by being dunked in the Jordan River at the spot where tradition says John the Baptist baptized Jesus. The baptism site, in the shadow of an abandoned 13th-century monastery just south of the biblical town of Jericho, is open to pilgrims only three times each year. Besides the Epiphany opening, pilgrims are granted access at the end of October and at Easter.

■ **Europeans ban human cloning.** Officials from 19 European nations Jan. 12 signed an agreement banning human cloning. The ban was prompted in part by an announcement by independent scientist Richard Seed that he was ready to set up a clinic to clone human babies, Reuters reported.

■ **Vatican, PLO negotiate.** The Vatican and the Palestine Liberation Organization have agreed to form a committee to deal with the status of Roman Catholic holy sites and churches in Palestinian-controlled territories. The panel is expected to look into the "status, rights, obligations and privileges of the Catholic church" in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, said Afif Safieh, the PLO's Vatican representative, Associated Press reported.

■ **Bible translation unveiled.** The International Bible Society has released a new translation of the New Testament and Psalms in a language spoken by 1.5 million people in Ghana. The new translation in Dangme, one of 72 languages spoken in Ghana, required 16 years to complete. It is the first new Bible translation in the language since 1909. It is also the first of 80 Bible and New Testament translations planned during the next six years in the "Let There Be Light" global evangelization initiative sponsored by the Bible society, based in Colorado Springs, Colo.

## Workers hope Olympians leave games with 'More Than Gold'

NAGANO, Japan (BP)—One of the largest teams at the 1998 Winter Olympics isn't competing for gold medals. More than 350 Christian volunteers and full-time ministers are ready for work when the Olympics begins Feb. 7 in Nagano, Japan. The group includes several Southern Baptist International Mission Board missionaries and 60 Southern Baptist volunteers.

The teams will work in coffeehouses set up for evangelism, in hotel information booths, as garbage collectors and as chaplains.

"This is a great time for outreach," said Michael Fox, chaplain with Athletes in Action. "We'll be having chaplains here from Russia, Switzerland and Sweden, as well as Canada and the United States, since there will be athletes speaking various languages."

Southern Baptist missionaries see the Olympics as a perfect opportunity to work with other Christians to bring people worldwide to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. They will cooperate with Campus Crusade for Christ, Athletes in Action, International Bible Society, InterVarsity, Youth With a Mission and the American Bible Society.

Southern Baptist volunteers from Georgia will be involved in the coffeehouse ministries and in singing and drama performances in the marketplace, said Tony Woods, a Southern Baptist missionary and head of the Nagano Olympic Evangelism Committee.

Tracts using a "More than Gold" theme printed in many languages will be distributed at all locations. Trading pins, always hot collectors' items, will be affixed to cards detailing the plan of salvation in multiple languages.

"The Nagano sports evangelism outreach will serve as a catalyst for evangelism among many people groups for many months and possibly years," said Mark Snowden, an IMB spokesman.

## College-related churches needed

Church-related colleges need college-related churches.

Kentucky Baptists' three liberal arts colleges, Campbellsville, Cumberland and Georgetown, are essential to the Kentucky Baptist Convention's future and to the Commonwealth of Kentucky's future. From these institutions will come tomorrow's citizens—the people who govern our state and towns, doctor our sick, guide, nurture and teach our children.

These three Christian education institutions have been commissioned by Kentucky Baptists to provide our young people an advanced education and to prepare them for leadership in our churches and communities. Each is fulfilling this commission in marvelous ways, not only providing students with a quality education so they can make a living in this world, but also equipping them in the ways of faith so they will be able better to live their faith in this world through their vocations. Each deserves the sacrifice we parents and our churches may be called upon to make (a) in sending our students to Campbellsville, Cumberland and Georgetown and (b) by investing in the future of Kentucky Baptist Christian higher education.

These three family members are being faithful to their commission to serve the future generations of Kentucky Baptist churches. Now is the time for our 2,374 churches to be faithful to these three institutions to assure the future of Christian higher education in Kentucky and the future of Christ's mission in our state and world. Partnership 2000 offers a way for every Kentucky Baptist, regardless of his or her financial station in life, and every Kentucky Baptist church, regardless of its size or circumstance, to invest in this future—a future which is in our hands, and our hands only under the lordship of Christ.

### KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

It is essential you contact one of these Partnership 2000 leaders to discover how you and your church can become special partners. Scholarship certificates for your young people will be available in \$1,000 increments to churches who become special partners. Call Marc Whitt at Campbellsville (800) 264-6014; Rick Fleenor at Cumberland (606) 549-2200; or Steve Cook at Georgetown (502) 863-8000.

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



## Prepare your church for a Journey in FAITH.

FAITH is a new Sunday School strategy that places evangelism in the heart of Sunday School. FAITH is a cooperative evangelistic venture of the North American Mission Board and the Sunday School Board.

### Attend a FAITH Sunday School Evangelism AWARENESS MEETING

#### KENTUCKY:

##### Highview Baptist Church

7711 Fegenbush Lane, Louisville, KY 40228  
**Pastor/Contact:** Dr. Kevin Ezell, (502) 239-7711  
**Date/Time:** Thursday, April 23, 1998, 1:00 p.m.

#### ILLINOIS:

##### Tabernacle Baptist Church, Decatur

2000 N. Main Street, Decatur, IL 62526  
**Pastor/Contact:** Dr. Pat Pajek, (217) 877-5653  
**Date/Time:** Friday, March 27, 1998 at 10:00 a.m.

#### TENNESSEE:

##### First Baptist Church, Millington

8077 Wilkinsville Rd., Millington, TN 38053  
**Pastor/Contact:** Dr. Ray Newcomb, (901) 872-2264  
**Date/Time:** Monday, February 23, 1998 at 2:00 p.m.

For additional locations, times, and information on FAITH, please call the Pastor/Staff Leadership Department of The Sunday School Board: 615-251-2055

## PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Merwyn Borders, as he completes writing a history of Southern Baptists in New England. Borders, a Kentucky native, recently retired after more than 30 years as a missionary in New England.

■ Eleven Portuguese-speaking students enrolled in a seminary extension program in Bridgeport, Conn.

■ Semester missionary Jeremy Marr of Durant, Okla., as he works with Franklin Baptist Church in Franklin, Mass.

■ A new church beginning in Veednoye, Russia.

■ Missionaries in Russia who teach English-as-a-second-language classes.

## Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

■ ALLEN—Allen First Church called **Arnold Turner** as interim pastor Jan. 1.

■ HAZARD—The youth at Petrey Memorial Church participated in a Souper Bowl Sunday Charity Drive Jan. 25., collecting \$164 and food items for a local charity.

■ HENDERSON—Immanuel Temple ordained **Russ Brown** to the deacon ministry Jan. 25.

■ LOUISVILLE—Melbourne Heights Church will host an HIV/AIDS support group, CenterPeace, Feb. 5 at 7 p.m. All people, family and friends affected by this disease are welcome. Call Glenn Fisher, (502) 452-9169, or the church office, (502) 454-4681, for more information.

**Pat Bellinger** was ordained to the deacon ministry at Walnut Street Church Feb. 1.

Victory Memorial Church called **James Veal** of Dublin, Ga., as pastor. He is a student at Southern Seminary. He will begin his ministry Feb. 15.

Hurstbourne Church called **Tina Cundiff** as minister to preschoolers/children. She previously was minister of preschoolers/children at First Church in Richmond, Va. She will begin her new ministry March 1.

Valley View Church called **Tog Goodson** as minister of worship and drama. He currently is minister of media/music at Roswell Street Church in Atlanta, Ga. He will begin his new ministry March 1. Also, Valley View Church had 26 additions, including 14

by baptism Jan. 25.

Ridgewood Church is presenting a family forum series on divorce recovery, Feb. 11, 18 and 25 at 7:30 p.m., led by Pastor **Louis Twyman**, certified marriage and family therapist. Call (502) 935-1952 for more information.

■ MADISONVILLE—First Church called **Dennis Altizer** of Indianapolis, Ind., as minister of music and administration. He began his new ministry Feb. 1.

■ OWENSBORO—Bellevue Church called **Gregory Faulls** as pastor. He previously was pastor at First Church in Honey Grove, Texas. Faulls began his new ministry Jan. 5

■ PADUCAH—Lone Oak First Church, Kentucky Baptist Convention and West Union Association have joined together in a project to advance the Spanish speaking ministry in Western Kentucky. Call (502) 554-1441 for more information.

■ SHEPHERDSVILLE—First Church called **David Wells** as minister of education and outreach. He will begin his new ministry Feb. 8.

■ SYMSONIA—Symsonia Church called Interim Pastor **Johnny Phillips** as bivocational pastor.

■ UTICA—Utica Church recently ordained **Kevin Clark** to the gospel ministry. He is a student at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va. **Richard Sams** is pastor.

■ WARFIELD—Warfield Church called **Terry Wehunt** as pastor.

## Agency maps out strategy to pray for all U.S. households

By James Dotson  
SBC North American Mission Board

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP)—How do you pray for every individual household in America and keep track of the progress on a national scale?

That was the challenge faced by the evangelism section of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board in helping churches complete a goal for the Celebrate Jesus 2000 evangelism effort.

One early suggestion was for churches to simply divide up the pages of the phone book and have individuals pray for the names listed. But board officials said they've found a better way.

Through the Mapping Center for Evangelism—established jointly last year by NAMB and Campus Crusade for Christ—evangelical churches can receive names and addresses, organized by neighborhood, for an entire ZIP code.

With the comprehensive information, the church can pray for families in their chosen ZIP code street by street. The lists and maps also can serve as an easy guide for follow-up witnessing and other outreach efforts.

"For the first time we have a strategy where we can share Christ in an effective, non-threatening, clear way with every household on this conti-

ment," said Toby Frost, manager of event evangelism for NAMB.

Celebrate Jesus 2000 is an interdenominational evangelistic effort with a goal of giving everyone in the world an opportunity to hear and respond to the gospel by the end of the year 2000. One of the components is the prayer effort, which will serve as a foundation for follow-up visits and invitations to evangelistic events.

An average ZIP code represents between 5,000 and 10,000 addresses. Participating churches will be sent the comprehensive package of neighborhood maps, along with every listed name, address and phone number. An instruction and resource sheet also will provide further guidance on ideas for how to pray for every person.

"The bottom line is we can know who has been prayed for, and the name and address of every person who's not been prayed for," Frost said.

There is also another level of participation in which churches will receive not only the list for their chosen ZIP code, but also the entire software/database package from which the lists are developed. The access comes in a membership in The Mapping Center for Evangelism at a cost of \$250 per year.

To claim a ZIP code or receive further information, churches can contact Frost at the North American Mission Board, (770) 410-6304.

## Have choir, will travel

When was the last time a friend told you about a real deal or told you of some special place to vacation at very affordable rates? It has happened to me many times, and I find myself asking why more people don't know about this or that.

Time and time again people ask about our choir. Many are surprised to see our bus in the parking lot of a small country church where our choir may have more members than the congregation. Some ask, "How did they get your choir to come?" The answer is simple: They asked. That is how easy it is. From a small country church to some of the largest congregations across the commonwealth, our choir has presented many wonderful choral performances.

The choir begins practicing when school starts in August. It normally takes about two months to memorize the new music. We usually start traveling about mid October. Many of our students are not only very busy with choir responsibilities, but also are involved in other school activities. So we normally are able only to travel three Sundays out of four. We try to schedule churches that are farther away early in the fall or in the spring so we do not get caught trying to travel on snow or ice. We prefer to schedule churches that are closer in the months of December, January and February. We have canceled only once in the past four years due to bad weather.

Most of our choir trips begin about 5 or 6 a.m., depending on the distance to the church. We normally can travel as far as Bowling Green or Owensboro in the west, and nearly anywhere north and east of Oneida. Often we will schedule a church in the morning service that is the farthest from our campus, and we will sing for a church

that is much closer to Oneida in the evening.

For our friends in the far western part of the state, we plan one overnight trip per year. On that trip, we leave Saturday about noon in order to arrive at 6 or 7 p.m. We ask this church to provide housing for the 40 of us Saturday night. We sing in that church on Sunday morning. If possible, we'll sing for another church in the area Sunday evening, asking them to provide housing Sunday night. We return to Oneida on Monday. It is always a very demanding trip, so we can do this only once a year.

The only other favor we ask is that the host church provide us with lunch or an evening meal. This certainly is not required, but it does help keep our traveling costs to a minimum. We never ask that any offering be taken on our behalf. We don't even ask for fuel costs.

The choir performance takes about 20 minutes. Then several in the choir share monologues about the "broken" experiences many of our students have encountered; broken dreams, trust, hopes, families, promises, etc. This part of the service takes about 15 minutes.

By the time I share a few thoughts about Oneida, the worship hour is gone. On other occasions, I talk in detail about the Oneida ministry. We normally ask the pastor to tell us what he prefers. Either way, it takes the entire worship service.

While it is too late to have the choir come to your church this year, we are working on the 1998-99 calendar. If you would like for us to come, your church must contact us as soon as possible. Please call Kay Underwood at (606) 847-4111, ext. 203.

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

### THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

## More churches support Beyond 2001

The church goal for Clear Creek's Beyond 2001 campaign is \$610,000. As of Dec. 31, gifts and pledges totaled \$576,267. In the last few weeks commitments have come from several churches:

■ Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington placed Clear Creek in its annual Christmas mission offering for a three-year period. If they reach their goal, the college will receive \$15,000 for the north central region scholarship. Immanuel Pastor Craig Loscalzo recently presented our James Barry Lectures on preaching. Trustee Joan Parr is a member of Immanuel.

■ Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, where James K. Pierce is pastor, approved \$15,000 to help with the new classroom building. Trustee Richard Neal is a Porter Memorial deacon.

■ Pastor Billy Compton presented the campaign to Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown. The church will send \$6,000 during a three year period. The funds go into the central region scholarship.

■ Four of our alumni challenged their churches to help meet scholarship needs. Watts Chapel in Crab Orchard agreed to underwrite a

\$10,000 scholarship. Members of the church who attend Clear Creek will receive first preference for a grant. Dan Gutenson, a 1992 graduate, is pastor. Concord Baptist Church in White Plains, led by Pastor Ellis Payne, a 1987 alumnus, will lead an effort to fund a scholarship in memory of former Pastor and Mrs. Kermit Lovelace. White

Plains Missionary Baptist, led by Pastor Tom Cummings, a 1995 alumnus, approved to send Clear Creek two percent of its budget, estimated to be \$4,200 for three years. First Baptist, Cannonsburg, agreed to match a personal pledge made by their pastor, 1986 alumnus Stan Williams.

■ First Baptist Church of Hazard sent \$1,225 in memory of former pastor Ben Baird. The gift as-

sists with construction of the classroom building, which includes a room named for Baird and his wife. These churches affirm the need of our ministry and the desire to provide support above state Cooperative Program gifts. Action is pending in several other congregations.

*Bill Whittaker is president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Pineville, Ky. 40972*

# PEOPLE

## With 'Apostle,' Duvall tries to show positive side of faith

By Steve Rabey  
Religion News Service

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (RNS)—Since his 1962 film debut in "To Kill a Mockingbird," Robert Duvall has played good guys, bad guys and everything in between in films such as "The Godfather," "Apocalypse Now," "The Great Santini," "Tender Mercies" and "Phenomenon."

"It's all in a day's work," said the veteran of nearly 60 films.

But Duvall's latest project is more than just a day's work. Duvall feels a powerful passion for "The Apostle," which already has created an industry stir in small screenings. It opened nationwide last weekend.

A moving portrayal of a Southern Pentecostal evangelist's gradual fall and ultimate redemption, "The Apostle" has been Duvall's labor of love and his major preoccupation for more than a decade.

He researched, wrote, directed, financed and stars in the film, which has already won him Best Actor awards from the National Society of Film Critics and the L.A. Film Critics Association. And in a recent phone interview from his Virginia home, Duvall described how bringing this unique project to the screen was more calling than craft.

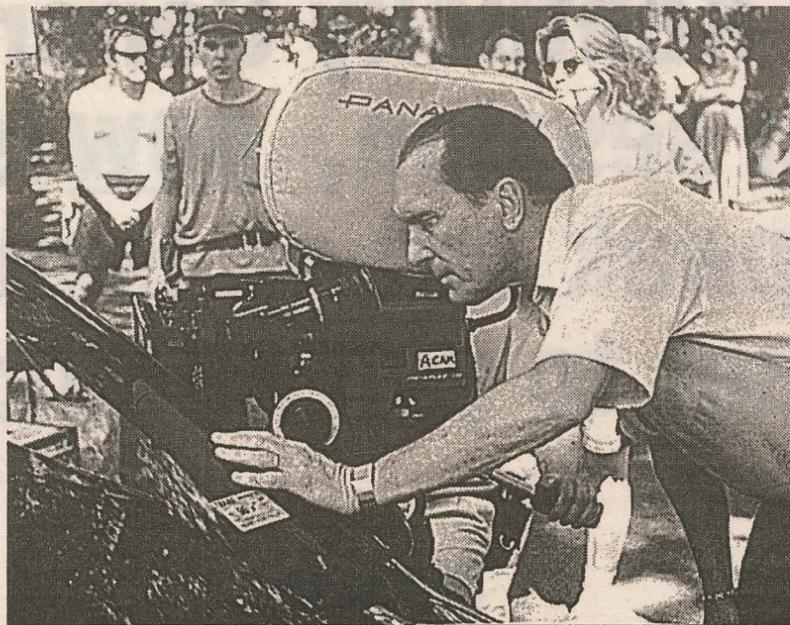
"It's something I had to do," he said. "I think in a way it could be a calling, but it's hard to judge in absolutes what that all means."

The son of a Methodist father and a Christian Scientist mother, Duvall inherited a deep respect for "the writings of Jesus Christ, the importance of his niche in this world and the fact that you gotta practice what you teach."

Today, many of those beliefs still hold. "I believe in one God, and I'm a Christian. But I have an individual outlook. It's a private thing."

With "The Apostle," Duvall's reverence for Christian teaching and his attraction to Southern Pentecostal preaching, which he calls "one of the true American art forms," have produced a unique and historic film.

For the first time in recent American movie history, the camera lavishes the same kind of respectful attention on a Bible-thumping evangelist that Hollywood usually gives to gun-toting gangsters and stiletto-wielding serial killers.



**THE APOSTLE** Robert Duvall invested \$5 million of his own money to make the movie about a Pentecostal preacher after studios turned him down. "I wanted to do something that I've never seen done without caricaturing these people or patronizing them. I wanted to give them their due and their respect." (RNS photo)

"We make great gangster movies, so why not make this kind of movie right, too?" asked Duvall, who invested \$5 million of his own funds to make "The Apostle" after numerous studios turned him down.

"This is something I've had in the back of my mind for years," he said. "I wanted to do something that I've never seen done without caricaturing these people or patronizing them. I wanted to give them their due and their respect."

In the film, Duvall plays Euliss "Sonny" Dewey, a sincere man who preaches the word, dances in the Spirit, and saves white, black and brown souls with a consuming zeal.

He does have a weakness for women, but so do many real-life preachers. A 1991 study conducted by the evangelical Fuller Institute of Church Growth found 37 percent of pastors surveyed said they had participated in inappropriate sexual behavior with a church member of the opposite sex. In the film, Dewey's lusts don't invalidate his deep devotion to God.

When his frustrated wife (Farrah Fawcett) flirts with a younger preacher, Dewey flies into a rage, hitting the minister with a baseball bat in front of his children and friends.

Leaving town and skipping out on family and flock, Dewey creates a

new identity for himself as "the apostle," which means "one sent out." He baptizes himself, rededicates himself to the cause of the gospel and pledges to follow God "every step of the way."

This isn't the first time Duvall has taken moviegoers on a tour of sin, salvation and sanctification. He won a Best Actor Academy Award for his touching portrayal of born-again country singer Mac Sledge in Bruce Beresford's 1983 version of Horton Foote's "Tender Mercies."

And it isn't the first time he's directed an anthropologically accurate take on a little-understood subculture. His 1977 directorial debut, "We're Not the Jet Set," examined the lives of a Nebraska rodeo family, while 1983's "Angelo, My Love" looked at New York street gypsies.

"When I finished these films, I said I would never do that again," he said. But 13 years ago he visited a small, out-of-the-way church, and it was there the inspiration for "The Apostle" began.

"I first noticed one little church in Hughes, Ark., and that kind of set off the spark," he said.

Since then, Duvall has studied dozens of preachers, including T.D. Jakes of the Dallas suburb of Oak Cliff and E. V. Hill of Los Angeles. Duvall was deeply moved by a sermon Hill

preached at his own wife's funeral.

Duvall's research shows up in numerous scenes based on real-life religion. When Dewey preaches to a man injured in a car wreck, he's only following the example of a woman evangelist Duvall knows. And when Dewey confronts a troublemaker played by Billy Bob Thornton, convincing him to accept the Lord instead of bulldozing Dewey's church, Duvall is simply choreographing an event a friend of his experienced.

In addition to professional actors, the film features true believers who've never starred in anything bigger than a church drama. Their zeal brings life to the film's many realistic worship scenes.

Duvall said he isn't trying to preach in "The Apostle," but he is trying to reach two distinct audiences: secular moviegoers who've never seen the power of Pentecostalism, and believers who often accept religious films Duvall considers "very corny movies, very melodramatic movies."

According to early reviews, Duvall may be succeeding.

The New York Times' Janet Maslin called the film "a rare display of spiritual light on screen." A reviewer in the conservative Christian Movieguide wrote: "There is much to be said in favor of this movie, but most significant is its positive affirmation of God, church and evangelism."

Likewise, the movie's soundtrack recording will be marketed to both mainstream and religious consumers. The album features a duet by Duvall and Emmylou Harris, "I Love to Tell the Story," as well as performances by Christian recording artists such as Steven Curtis Chapman and the Bill Gaither Vocal Band, and mainstream stars like Wynonna, Lyle Lovett, Sounds of Blackness and Duvall's friend Johnny Cash (whose wife, June Carter Cash, appears in the film as Dewey's mother).

The buzz in Hollywood is that Duvall may even pick up his second Oscar, a prospect he said holds little interest for him.

"Awards mean nothing," he said. "But if there's any award I should ever get, it should be for this, not for my other stuff."

Perhaps like Dewey, Duvall has his eyes on a higher prize.

"There's only one Jesus Christ," he said. "The rest of us are trying to catch up, and probably never will catch up."

### Movies with ministers

"The Apostle" may be Hollywood's first warm, positive portrayal of a Pentecostal evangelist in decades.

Here's a brief look at some of the most important films in the preacher-as-con-artist-and-hypocrite genre.

■ **Elmer Gantry** (1960): Based on the 1927 Sinclair Lewis novel, this film classic teams a garrulous salesman with a female evangelist for a damning look at the religion racket.

Burt Lancaster won one of the film's three Academy Awards for his over-the-top performance in the title role.

■ **Marjoe** (1972): This documentary about a former child evangelist, Marjoe Gortner, who still frisks the flock even after losing his faith, won an Academy Award for Best Feature Documentary.

■ **The Disappearance of Aimee** (1976): This made-for-TV film tells the story of famed-evangelist Aimee Semple McPherson's controversial absence in 1926. She claimed it was an abduction, others ascribed it to hanky-panky.

■ **Wise Blood** (1979): John Huston's adaptation of Flannery O'Connor's 1952 novel about religious fanatics in the South is the only film Duvall thinks "get's it right."

■ **Pray TV** (1980): A made-for-TV movie in which an idealistic young minister becomes entangled with a dynamic TV evangelist and experiences the pitfalls of celebrity.

■ **Leap of Faith** (1992): Steve Martin plays a traveling evangelist/scam artist Jonas Nightengale. His technique of receiving divine "revelations" about revival-goers from co-conspirators through a hidden ear piece was copied from a real-life religious con man.

## Volunteer hopes missions work is less like pulling teeth

By Clay Renick  
Baptist Press

MARION, Ill. (BP)—Getting some people to go on mission trips is like pulling teeth. But pulling teeth is precisely what missions volunteer Ray Odle does when he goes on such trips.

It's a job he hopes to do less of—not by going on fewer trips, but by using an innovative new tool that won't cause as much pain for patients.

"We're down there to do as much as we can for as many as we can," said the Illinois dentist, who has been on volunteer teams to Central America

almost every year since 1969.

Facing limits for treatment in areas with no electricity, volunteer dentists regularly must pull teeth rather than fix them.

Odle, a former chemist, knew innovation takes time and requires new combinations of technique and equipment.

Last year, Odle found a breakthrough by using scuba tanks on a trip to Belize. Air-powered dental instruments allowed dentists to fill cavities in communities where electricity is rare.

Now Odle is encouraging other dentists to use the same approach.

"I'm not a preacher type," said Odle, a longtime member and former president of the Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship, a global network of medical professionals who volunteer on short-term mission trips.

Yet Odle said he's felt an inward pull toward missions since high school. He learned about innovation as a Boy Scout, studied chemistry at Southern Illinois University and spent a year at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in North Carolina.

The former bivocational church planter had children who were too old for the family to enter foreign missions. So Odle began volunteer as-

signments as a dentist.

Many of his trips in Central America have been to small clinics in isolated areas where the need is greatest. But it also has had risks.

Four years ago, he and his wife were in the rain forest of Guatemala where she experienced a heart attack. "We came back and thought ... well, this is the end of our trips," Odle recalled.

Mrs. Odle lost half the function of her heart muscle. But the couple was able to continue the next year with a trip to Venezuela and again last year with a mission trip to the coast of Belize.

# With the Kentucky General Assembly in session, now is the time to speak out on issues important to you about:

## Alcohol

**House Bill 323** would allow cities legally classified as "third class," such as Somerset, Campbellsville, Corbin, Murray, Glasgow, Flatwoods and Mayfield to become *wet* without a citywide or countywide election. **This is a bad idea and should be defeated.**

**House Bill 327** would revise the commonwealth's laws regarding driving under the influence, including reducing the blood alcohol content level from 0.10 to 0.08. **This is a good idea and deserves your support.**

**House Bill 352** would reorganize the Alcoholic Beverage Control Department and increase fees for alcohol licenses. **This is a good idea and deserves your support.**

## Gambling

**Senate Bill 21** would establish merit scholarships for college access programs, grants and tuition assistance. But funds would come from the lottery, deepening the commonwealth's dependence on gambling revenue and sending the wrong message to our children. If Kentucky becomes more dependent on gambling, many people expect the commonwealth to legalize video lottery terminals, often called the "crack cocaine of gambling." **This is a bad idea and should be defeated.**

**House Bill 251** would prohibit the Kentucky Lottery Corporation or any state agency from using public funds to advertise for the lottery. **This is a good idea and deserves your support.**

The Temperance League of Kentucky encourages you to call (800) 372-7181 and leave a message for your legislator concerning these bills.

For more information, contact:

The Temperance League of Kentucky  
2722 Crittenden Drive  
Louisville, KY 40209-1114  
(502) 635-0002