



WESTERN RECORDER

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FOR THE RECORD

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Kentucky Acteens named to state, national panels

By Mark Wingfield
Editor

Eight Kentucky girls have been named to the 1997-98 Kentucky Acteens Advisory Panel.

Additionally, one Kentucky girl has been selected for the 1998 National Acteens Panel and three others have been honored nationally as Top Teens by Woman's Missionary Union.

Selection for the national advisory panel is the highest honor possible in Acteens, a missions-education organization for teenage girls.

Named to the national Advisory Panel this year is Autumn Alcott, a member of First Baptist Church of Murray. The senior at Murray High School is among only eight girls nationwide chosen for this honor.

The three Kentuckians named Top Teens nationally this year are Charity Gardner of First Baptist Church in Shelbyville, Andrea Honeycutt of

First Baptist Church in Somerset and Kelley Travis of First Baptist Church of Murray. They are among 20 Top Teens named nationally.

Gardner is a junior at Shelby County High School; Honeycutt is a senior at Somerset High School; and Travis is a senior at Calloway County High School.

The national Top Teens and National Acteens Panelists will provide leadership in state and associational WMU meetings throughout the year.

On the state level, eight girls have been chosen for Kentucky's Acteens Advisory Panel, the highest honor

awarded Acteens by Kentucky WMU.

The Kentucky panelists are Katie Alcott of First Baptist Church in Murray; Meredith Burgher of Northside Baptist Church in Princeton; Meredith Carter of Okolona Baptist Church in Louisville; Andrea Honeycutt of First Baptist Church of Somerset; Missy Mahurin of Westport Road Baptist



KENTUCKY ACTEENS PANELISTS This year's members of the Kentucky Acteens Advisory Panel are Meredith Burgher, Andrea Honeycutt, Jennifer Royalty, Katie Alcott, Meredith Carter, Amy Travis, Nichol Pedigo and Missy Mahurin.

Church in Louisville; Nichol Pedigo of Middleton Baptist Church in Franklin; Jennifer Royalty of First Baptist Church in Lawrenceburg; and Amy Travis of First Baptist Church in Murray.

Alcott is a sophomore at Murray High School; Burgher is a senior at

Caldwell County High School; Carter is a junior at Seneca High School in Louisville; Honeycutt is a senior at Somerset High School; Mahurin is a junior at Central High School in Louisville; Pedigo is a junior and home schooler; Royalty is a sophomore at See Kentucky teens ..., page 3

Barna: Few churches are highly effective

By Marv Knox
Texas Baptist Standard

MESQUITE, Texas (ABP)—"Highly effective" churches have the power to transform lives and communities, religious researcher George Barna is telling church leaders across the country.

Unfortunately, only 10 percent to 15 percent of the 320,000 Protestant churches in America are highly effective, he lamented.

Barna focuses on habits of highly effective churches in his "Inward, Outward and Upward: Ministry That Transforms Lives" seminar, which he is conducting nationwide this spring. He recently launched the tour with presentations in the Houston and Dallas areas.

Barna is scheduled to present the same seminar in Louisville April 27 and in Nashville April 28.

To be highly effective, churches must intentionally implement a set of habits—repeated behaviors—which produce life-transforming ministry, he said.

Barna cited a definition of "highly effective" used by author and lecturer Stephen Covey—"the systematic and intentional application of great and complementary habits."

"The development of those habits makes you highly effective because it means you have achieved complete maturity," Barna said.

The effectiveness of a church's ministry should be rated according to the "six pillars of ministry"—Christian education, evangelism, stewardship, worship, relationship-building and community service, he noted.

See Researcher: Few ..., page 9



POST-TORNADO EASTER Sandi Capps sings in front of what's left of Open Door Baptist Church in Minor, Ala., during an Easter sunrise service April 12. Sixty-seven worshippers were taking classes or preparing for Easter services at the independent Baptist church April 8 when a tornado destroyed the building, but no churchgoers were killed. The tornado and the storm system from which it was spawned killed at least 44 people in four states. (Reuters photo)

Baptist churches touched by killer twisters

TUSCALOOSA, Ala.—As a deadly tornado ripped through Tuscaloosa Wednesday night, April 8, members of Bethany Baptist Church held a prayer and praise service in a hallway.

As they sang, the killer storm ripped through the church building, taking with it a chunk of the sanctuary.

As if God had a message for the members when they emerged from the hallway into the blown-away sanctuary, the cross that was made for the Easter pageant remained standing amid the rubble.

"It takes your breath away to real-

ize what you've lived through," said Pastor Jim Roberts, describing the train-like noises they heard while singing and praying in an interior hallway. "The Lord protected us. ... He really took care of us."

Two of the church's youth were not as confident during the storm. Chad Mills admitted freely he "thought we were going to die."

But while the building damage was somewhat extensive, Roberts noted that it is important for churches to keep the right perspective on such disasters.

"You can rebuild a building," he said. "The Lord protected the church

because he protected the people."

That sentiment is shared at Bethel Baptist Church near Mason, Ala., where two new buildings worth \$3.25 million were ripped apart in a flash.

For a few tense minutes that seemed like forever, Pastor Chris Burns said, he was afraid at least two people were inside the church when the deadly winds leveled the sanctuary.

"My building supervisor and his wife were going to stay at the church when everyone else went home because they thought it would be safer than their mobile home," Burns re- See Spring tornadoes ..., page 2

Carson-Newman will elect its own trustees in future

By Mark Wingfield
Editor

"This action will provide a more stable and secure future for Carson-Newman and ensure that the college can remain true to its Baptist heritage and its commitment to serving Tennessee Baptists."
Board chairman
Jeanette Blazier

JEFFERSON CITY, Tenn.— Trustees of Carson-Newman College followed the example of several other Baptist colleges April 17 by voting to reclaim the right to name future members of the trustee board.

For the past 79 years, Carson-Newman's trustees have been nominated and elected by the Tennessee Baptist Convention, from which the school receives \$2.4 million annually.

School officials did not release the number of trustees voting for and against the proposal in executive session, although the vote reportedly was not unanimous. One college official described the proposal as passing by a "significant" majority.

By taking this step, the trustees said they were returning Carson-Newman to its historical method of naming individuals to the 36-member board. From 1851 to 1919, the board was self-perpetuating.

In 1919, the college entered into a voluntary relationship with the Tennessee Baptist Convention. Trustees said they hope to maintain that cordial relationship even without the formal link of allowing the convention to name the school's board.

Carson-Newman is the first Tennessee Baptist school to take such an

action, but follows in the path of several Baptist schools associated with other state conventions. Baylor University in Texas, Samford University in Alabama, Furman University in North Carolina and Ouachita Baptist University in Arkansas are among schools that have changed their trustee-selection process in recent years.

In previous cases, the changes were adopted as conservatives who have captured control of the Southern Baptist Convention have begun making inroads into controlling some state Baptist conventions. The schools, fearing that the upheaval and controversy that have washed over SBC seminaries might come their way, have taken steps to prevent a similar take-over of their boards.

Reasons given for Carson-Newman's switch include the "stability" of the school and a desire to avoid the geographic restrictions placed on the trustee-selection process by the state convention.

"This action will provide a more stable and secure future for Carson-Newman and ensure that the college can remain true to its Baptist heritage and its commitment to serving Tennessee Baptists," said board chairman Jeanette Blazier.

A question-and-answer sheet presented by the trustees said the school will remain a Baptist college.

"This decision was made to ensure that Carson-Newman remain a Baptist college committed to helping the cause of Christianity in a world of need," the statement said. "The trustees feel a tremendous responsibility to the alumni, donors, individual Baptists and Baptist churches who have given their students, money and prayers over the past 147 years. It is the conviction of the trustees that Carson-Newman will remain a place for all Baptists."

Concern about future control of the college has been a significant issue for potential students and donors, the trustee sheet said. "Persons desiring to include the college in their wills and churches who have included Carson-Newman in their budgets ... want to know that the gift they give today will still be used for its original purpose tomorrow."

The fact sheet said all current trustees will continue their terms. All future trustees will be Baptists, although 25 percent will be chosen from outside Tennessee. The president and executive director-treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention will remain as ex-officio members of the board with full voting privileges.

That strong connection to the state convention is more than some other colleges have allowed when taking steps to distance the trustee selection process from state convention politics.

But whether that will be enough to prevent a challenge to Carson-Newman's action by the Tennessee Baptist Convention remains to be seen.

James Porch, executive director-treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, issued this statement in response: "I am saddened and sincerely regret that the board of trustees at Carson-Newman College felt major action altering their trustee selection process was necessary."

"Further, I believe that continued discussions through the process of the (TBC) education committee meeting with the trustees and administration of the college would have resulted in a more congenial solution. I have great concern about the scope and intensity of potential effects this action may have both on Carson-Newman College and our state convention."

"The college's trustees and administration have requested immediate dialogue with the education committee concerning the continuation of a mutually beneficial relationship."

Carson-Newman has an enrollment of about 2,300 students, about 40 percent of whom are Tennessee Baptists. The remaining 60 percent come from across the United States. About half the school's 16,000 living alumni reside in Tennessee, including 350 who serve in full-time ministry positions in Tennessee churches.

Spring tornadoes damage Baptist churches in Alabama

Continued from page 1

called. "I just began to pray, 'Lord don't let anybody be in here, and if so, don't let them be hurt.' The terror just engulfs you."

The couple was spared. The building supervisor and his wife decided at the last minute to go home.

All across Alabama, church members attending Wednesday night services and classes suddenly encountered life-threatening situations as the deadliest tornado in Alabama history tore through the cen-

tral part of the state.

The twister registered F-5 on the Fugita scale—a level the Fugita scale experts reverently refer to as "God's Finger." The storm was fatal to at least 32 people in central Alabama and tragic for thousands more.

But as improbable stories of survival surfaced, some observers said "God's Finger" also demonstrated God's hand. With winds reportedly topping 300 mph, the death toll was remarkably low, experts contend.

Most of the destruction was to land and material things.

"This is nothing but stuff, and stuff comes and goes," said Burns, pastor of the church which lost \$3.25 million in property.

John and Nancy Ling, members of Westwood Baptist Church in Forestdale, Ala., returned from their Easter musical dress rehearsal to find the roof of their house gone, windows blown out and the interior severely damaged by water. Their neighbor across the street had nothing left.

"It looked like a war zone," Mrs. Ling said, noting that when she saw her house her first thought was whether she would have a dress for the musical. But being a procrastinator, she said, the dress "was still in the plastic bag it was shipped in, so it wasn't damaged at all."

Ricky Creech, director of missions for Birmingham Baptist Association, toured the ruins of several churches, including Edgewater Baptist Church, which was torn apart and scattered around the community. "I found the steps to the baptistry over there," Creech said, pointing into the distance.

Considering the fact that Wednesday evening is a prime night for activities in Alabama Baptist churches, experts are calling it a miracle more people were not injured or killed. In fact they joke that all the people in prayer meetings probably spared their own lives.

Padgett Cope, pastor of Liberty Baptist Church in the Oak Grove area, said one neighborhood woman came to the church during the storm as Liberty members were piling into the basement. The woman, who was afraid to stay in her trailer and did not

want to drive to her church, told Cope that if she were going to heaven, she would rather go from church.

Though many lives were miraculously spared, the heartache of families touched by death through the storm was profound.

"It's awful ... so heart-wrenching," said Kenny Allen, pastor of Concord Baptist Church just outside the Rock Creek and Oak Grove communities, where some of the worst damage occurred. "Every sixth or seventh call is someone looking for a loved one or to say they lost someone."

"What can you do? You do your best to reassure them and then you just pray," Allen said.

Concord operated as a "transition" shelter during the Wednesday disaster and served as headquarters for the disaster-relief feeding unit jointly operated by the Red Cross and Alabama Baptist State Convention.

Red Cross and Salvation Army units were not able to get in to the Edgewater and McDonald Chapel areas until April 12, four days after the storm, reported Creech who is helping coordinate cleanup efforts.

"This is going to take weeks to clean up," he said.

Disaster-relief volunteers from Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina and Tennessee were expected to participate in the cleanup. From within Alabama, crews from about 10 Baptist associations had worked in the feeding and cleanup efforts by April 12.

Kentucky Baptist disaster relief workers were on standby, but as of press time had not been called in to help with the Alabama cleanup.

Compiled from Associated Baptist Press and Baptist Press reports

SBC buildings damaged

NASHVILLE (BP)—The Southern Baptist Convention Building and Sunday School Board complex were damaged by tornadoes which ravaged an estimated 300 buildings in downtown Nashville April 17.

One Sunday School Board employee was reported injured after a tornado hit the Baptist facilities around 3:30 p.m., forcing several hundred employees to take shelter in their respective buildings. A second tornado struck another part of the downtown area.

The Sunday School Board closed Friday, April 17, in response to emergency officials' pleas that offices in the debris-laden downtown close for safety reasons; the SBC Building across the street operated on limited staffing.

At the SBC Building, which houses the Executive Committee, Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, Seminary Extension and Historical Library & Archives, about 35 employees took shelter in the basement as the storms roared past.

More than 20 windows were damaged at the SBC Building.

At the Sunday School Board complex,

preliminary estimates showed minor damage to each building, with broken and damaged windows, antennas down and two parking lot security booths destroyed. On the parking lots, several cars of employees had windows blown out. One car was picked up and moved several feet.

As the tornado approached downtown Nashville, several employees saw it coming before evacuating offices on the upper floors of the board's buildings and heading to the basements as transformers blew and the power went out throughout the facilities.

John Garner, director of the church recreation program, watched from an eighth-floor window as the funnel cloud approached from the west. "When I saw a building go a few blocks away, I decided it was time to head downstairs," he said.

Shelby Bracy, security guard at the board's main entrance, said she first became aware of the storm's severity when she saw people on the street looking distressed and searching for shelter. She ran to the front doors and urged them to come inside where they took shelter in restrooms away from windows on the first floor.

100 Kentucky churches find WMU not just for women

By Suzanne Darland
State Correspondent

ELIZABETHTOWN—Say "Woman's Missionary Union" and you might get a mental image of women meeting for prayer for missionaries, teen girls handing out sandwiches to homeless people and girls making construction paper cards for shut-ins.

But that picture is too narrow, according to WMU leaders. Almost 100 churches across Kentucky have gone coed in their WMU organizations' activities for children and adults. Boys and men are joining the women in WMU-sanctioned meetings and activities.

About three years ago, national WMU re-thought its structure to provide more types of organizations and units to meet the needs of more women. Women were encouraged to start WMU groups at work during lunch and to start support groups at church for divorced women or those who had lost a loved one. As a byproduct of that change, it offered coed groups for churches who wished to try them. Several Kentucky churches have.

On April 4, the Kentucky WMU office offered its first training to affirm churches that had begun the coed groups and to offer information to those thinking about it.

"This is the direction missions is going in" said Anna Mary Byrdwell, state WMU consultant. "It helps more people plug in."

Denise Jones, state WMU consultant for Women on Mission, the adult

WMU component, said she has a list of 94 churches that have begun Adults on Mission for men and women. "They just sprang up without any training," she added.

Most of these are in addition to their regular women's mission groups, she said. Some smaller churches simply have invited husbands and other interested men to join the women.

These groups have no desire to take support from Brotherhood or Royal Ambassadors or Girls in Action, said Etta Butcher, a member of a WMU resource team that goes to churches to strengthen missions training. "This is for those who don't have any missions groups or don't have leadership for men's groups."

Groups might meet weekly or monthly, she said, to pray for missionaries, to work on ministry and witnessing projects, to learn about current events and how Southern Baptists are working in the world. Groups could rotate emphases, or do all three, she said.

"People like the flexibility of not being tied to something for years," she said. "They want something they can see an end to, something they can complete."

Jones told of a church where a young couples Sunday school class was interested in AIDS patients. The WMU leader linked the class with an AIDS patient care facility where they regularly visit and minister to residents.

At Tunnel Hill Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, about 30 adults meet one Wednesday night a month for

Baptist Men and Women. They've had a lot of ribbing about their acronym, BMW.

Pastor Harmon Popham said the church didn't have enough people for a specific men's or women's group. "So we just decided to combine men and women into one group."

He said the coed group, meeting for about four years now, promotes missions offerings and brainstorming ministries to attract unchurched people.

They have an ongoing ministry to hunters, fishermen and parents of teens. They also are exploring ways to reach out to career women. And several couples work on disaster relief projects when needed.

"This is so flexible," Jones said. "Teams work on projects and ideas to meet needs."

National WMU recommends that the different ministry teams meet at least quarterly for a "Mission Crossroads" or celebration gathering so groups can report on what they're doing, pray for each other and celebrate victories.

Coed groups work especially well for teenagers, as well. "Youth like to do things together," said Byrdwell. The undated materials for Youth on Mission contain heavy doses of Bible study along with simulated mission activities and ideas for local ministry. Youth are also challenged to minister directly to missionaries and their families.

Tanya Koch leads a monthly Youth on Mission group at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington that

was begun about a year ago. The church's Acteens group, for teenage girls, continues to meet as well. The well-attended group regularly reaches out into the community with ministry projects.

Many of the 100 or so churches having coed children's missions groups are medium-size and small churches which perhaps have small Girls in Action and Royal Ambassadors programs and decide to combine the groups.

"If churches can't find leaders for RAs and are putting boys in with the girls, it's OK," said Brenda Price, GA and Mission Friends consultant for the state WMU. "The important thing is our focus on missions. The rest isn't as important."

She said while boys and girls have different learning styles and so thrive in single-sex missions groups, churches have found that Children in Action groups work well too. The materials are user-friendly, she said, for busy adults who don't have much time to prepare.

Price, who is also interim executive director for Kentucky WMU, lamented a trend for churches to do away with missions programs and instead substitute Team Kids, a group discipleship children's program, or Awana, a Bible activity series. "Their intent is not missions," she said.

"Our mission is to tell children that Jesus loves them and that Jesus wants them to tell other people. If we're using another program that's not teaching missions, then we've lost something crucial."

BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ **Kentucky's legislature** April 15 overrode Gov. Paul Patton's veto of a bill requiring women seeking abortions to wait 24 hours and receive information about the procedure. The House voted 71-24, and the Senate voted 23-10.

■ **Kentucky Baptists** will feature the Celebrate Jesus 2000 balloon in the Kentucky Derby Festival balloon race Saturday, April 25. Launch time is scheduled for 7 a.m. at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center in Louisville. Rusty Ellison, president of Kentucky Baptist Assemblies Inc., is the pilot. The balloon promotes the goal of sharing the Christian faith with every person in America by the year 2000. For more information, contact Denise Withers of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's communications department, (502) 245-4101 or toll free statewide (888) 254-5713.

Kentucky teens named to state, national panels

Continued from page 1
Anderson County High School; and Travis is a sophomore at Caloway County High School.

The state panelists are chosen by the Acteens committee of the Kentucky WMU executive board. They serve throughout the year in a variety of roles, including service as pages during Kentucky WMU's annual meeting which will be held this weekend in Louisville.

Selection for both the national and state honors is based upon accomplishments in StudiAct, the individual achievement plan for Acteens; involvement in Acteens and other church ministries; achievements in school; and recommendations from pastors and church leaders.



Gardner



Honeycutt



Travis

Children give haunting answers to KBHC counselor's questions

LOUISVILLE—When Dawn Oak asks children questions, their answers are sometimes haunting.

As a family specialist at Spring Meadows Children's Home, Oak's clients are some of the youngest victims of abuse and neglect at this Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children facility in Louisville. They tell her about worlds of violence and fear.

It is her job to help the boys in her care find healthy, safe ways to express and deal with the emotions that make their lives so difficult.

Because she works with younger children, some with learning disabilities and poor verbal skills, Oak knows she cannot expect an insightful answer to the question "What's bothering you?"

Instead, she uses puppets, stuffed animals, games, computers, art and a tool known as a sand tray to give the boys a new means of communicating their pain and frustration.

"Kids play out their traumas," Oak said. "But it begins with the boys knowing that when they are with me, it is a non-threatening time and they get to have fun in here."

Oak sits on the floor across from Sammy. Separating them is a long plastic tub with sand. Oak opens another box full of toy figures, plastic plants and dozens of other items Sammy will use to create his world.

The world Sammy builds in the

sand centers around an isolated turtle named Tiffany whose greatest struggle is to hide her eggs from careless, heartless beings that would destroy them. As the boy tells Oak about his world, she asks him if there is anything the turtle can do to help herself, or if there is anyone she can turn to for help.

Sammy's answers are tinged with hopelessness, but eventually new characters appear who intervene on the turtle's behalf. Sammy also says that by looking to God, Tiffany taps into a strength that can help her.

"It is a real long process for play therapy to work," said Oak.

Whether it is a fictional tiger, a plastic turtle named Tiffany or a favorite hand puppet, the children like creating a go-between for themselves and the therapist, Oak said. "It is so safe for them to use a puppet. It doesn't feel like they are talking about themselves."

Children who have been physically and sexually abused and severely neglected struggle with how to respond to patience and respect, Oak said. "They haven't had something they needed and it takes time for them to see that they can get it here," she said.

"I wanted to work in a place where I could develop relationships with kids and be able to see change," Oak said. "God couldn't give me a better gift."

Pastor encourages Georgetown students to take risks for God

GEORGETOWN—Christians should have the courage to take more risks, according to James Somerville who led "Spring Renewal" lectures at Georgetown College April 5-8.

"Most of us don't take risks in life because we are hobbled by fear," said Somerville, pastor of Wingate Baptist Church in Wingate, N.C.

"It's not that we can't do something. It's simply that we are afraid to try. This is not about the joys of risk-taking like zipping down the tracks of the world's fastest roller coaster," he said. "It is about the necessity of doing something with what God has entrusted to our care."



Somerville

Somerville, a Georgetown graduate, questioned the wisdom of "pulling weeds" out of wickedness. "I think we should accept the sad truth that we live in a world full of weeds, rather than pull up every plant that looks vaguely suspicious."

He said a survey of people age 95 and older found they said they would risk more if they had their lives to live over. "Now they are in a nursing home wondering, 'What if I had gone for it instead of playing it safe?'" he said.

Somerville conducted five services during the Spring Renewal, challenging students and faculty to re-examine the parables of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew.

The event at the school also included the third annual Random Acts of Kindness Week, during which members of the college community perform acts of kindness without seeking credit.

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

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At the heart of every great father ... You'll find gentleness

By Clark Cothorn

"You did what?!" I fumed, louder than I had intended. My son, "little Clark," looked even smaller than his six years. He seemed to shrink in embarrassment as I puffed up with anger.

"I guess I lost my key," he mumbled, looking at the ground.

I looked from his red face to the locked bike and down to his feet, which were shuffling.

At that moment I had at least three options.

A. I could have patted him on the head and said, "That's OK, son. I've lost things too. I'll help you look for it when I get home from work."

B. I could have gathered my composure and said, "I'm upset right now, but it's not the end of the world. I'll go to my meeting, and after I get home, we'll talk about this when I'm not so upset, OK?"

C. I could have blown up like a pressure cooker with its lid unscrewed too early and said, "I TOLD you that if you wanted a lock for that bike you would have to take responsibility for the key. I can't walk around keeping track of your stuff for you. I guess you can't ride your bike today. If we can't find the key, I'll have to cut the lock off and it will be ruined."

Oh man, I really wish I'd chosen Option A. And failing that, it would have been so great to say I selected Option B.

But I didn't. In this instance, I jumped directly to Option C. I blew up and, as Howard Hendricks is apt to say, gave him a piece of my mind I couldn't afford to lose.

The Clarkster practically bit a hole in his lip trying not to cry. I stomped off to the car and slammed the door as he walked like a little soldier to his room—where I'm sure he fell apart. I can bet he had a lousy morning at school.

Yeah, he's the Little Clark and I'm the Big Clark. I'm stronger than he is. Bigger. Louder. And I had the advantage. He had messed up, and I was in a position to tell him about it, and boy, did I tell him. I was sure that my speech (which was really just a grown-up temper tantrum) had taught him that proverbial Lesson-He-Would-Not-Soon-Forget.

Little did I know I would be in for a lesson of my own later that afternoon.

I drove 90 minutes to my meeting, and by the time I arrived, I had completely forgotten about the lost-key incident. Instead, I was clearly focused on the order of business for the day.

Six long hours later when I left the building, I was still so focused on business that I grabbed my calendar notebook and made a beeline for the car, the same way I had hurried off a dozen times before.

An hour and a half later, as I approached my driveway, a sinking feeling began deep down in the pit of my stomach. I retraced my steps that morning and recalled how upset poor Clarkie had been after I had chewed him out.

In my mind I replayed the hurt look

on his face as I had settled myself in the car, placing the briefcase on the backseat and ... my briefcase!

I hardly ever took my briefcase to those meetings, but today I had. And why? Because I had planned to drop by the bank on the way home to deposit ... my paycheck!

Now I admit, it's pretty dumb to forget your briefcase in a building 90 minutes from where you live. It's even dumber to leave your paycheck in that briefcase, especially with bills to pay that weekend and especially when the building containing your briefcase will be empty all weekend.

All the way into the house I shook my head. I quickly walked to the phone and called the office. As I punched in the numbers on the phone, I felt my heart beating and heard the blood surging through the veins in my temples. My ears were red hot. I was looking at my feet, which were shuffling uncontrollably.

Then it hit me. I was feeling exactly the way my

son must have felt earlier that day. My face changed from eat-crow crimson to shame red. My wife entered the room after I had explained my problem to a secretary and just as I said, "Is anyone going to be there later this evening? No? Uh, does anyone live out this direction? OK, thanks. I'll hold on."

Ah, the wisdom of wives. They have a sixth sense for this kind of thing. She said, "Clarkie told me what happened this morning."

I kept the phone to my ear and just nodded my head up and down. I chewed my bottom lip. She continued, "It seems somebody forgot where he put his keys." Again I nodded. Just then the secretary came back on the line, and I held up my finger toward my wife in order to say, "Just a second."

I exclaimed, "He is? Oh that's great! Seven o'clock? Fine. That'll be a lifesaver. Thanks!" I scribbled the name of a restaurant into my calendar. And as I looked up, my wife was looking at me with "that look."

"What?" I tried to act innocent.

She said, "I don't know anyone else who EVER forgets where HE

puts things..." and she paused (mercilessly) for effect, tightening her gaze before adding the coup de grace, "do you?"

I smiled in spite of myself. I'd been had. I called the kids into the room so I could explain they were going to have to miss their evening of TV and pizza so we could all go on a long drive. They moaned.

Glancing away from my wife's impassive face, I continued, "Um, do you remember this morning when a certain somebody lost his key to the bike lock?" My son recoiled like I was about to grind a handful of salt into his already-sore wound. "Well," I went on, "it seems someone else in the family has lost something." I looked from face to face.

"Like," I looked straight at Clarkie, "a briefcase." The lad's eyes grew suddenly wide. "And the briefcase just happens to be in someone else's car right now, because he's taking it to a restaurant where I can get it back." The two girls looked at me with faces that scolded, Dad, how could you?

"And," I added, dropping the last shoe, "we can't eat supper until I get the briefcase back because"—This time it was my turn to pause for effect, and all eyes narrowed as they awaited my big news—"I left my paycheck in the briefcase."

Suddenly everything erupted but differently than I had expected. Our two daughters both said, "Dad!" and shuffled off to their rooms to get ready for our out-of-town excursion.

But my son surprised me.

He walked over to me and nearly knocked me off balance throwing his arms around me.

"Oh, Dad," he said, "it's OK. We all lose things once

in a while."

That Sunday as I stood before our congregation to preach, I noticed my son sitting very attentively on the second pew from the front. I told a story based on Matthew 18:21-35 about a man who was really upset.

It seems he owned a business that manufactured briefcases. People were buying laptop computers that year instead of briefcases, and his business didn't do well at all. In fact, he owed 500 grand to the bank. There was no way he was going to be

able to pay back the half-million dollars. The man pleaded with the bank president. He said, "I'm working on a killer new briefcase design for next year. This one'll sell a million! It holds a laptop, cell phone and a minifax machine. Please give me another chance!"

Fortunately for him, the bank presi-

dent was a gentle man and very reasonable. He told the fellow, "You don't have to pay me back. I've been in worse scrapes than you, and I know what it means to be forgiven. Go ahead and build that new design this year. And when you do well, just be sure to give me one for Christmas."

The man was overjoyed. He couldn't believe it! As he practically skipped out of the bank to go celebrate, he bumped into one of his middle managers, who just happened to owe him \$50.

"Hey, buddy," he barked, wiping the delighted smile from his face, "pay up. Things have been tight lately, and I want my 50 bucks!"

The little man pleaded with him, "Please, just give me a little longer. I'll come up with the money, I promise. I just don't have it today. I had to buy antibiotics for my three kids."

"Nope. You've had enough time. I'm taking you straight to small claims court."

And just about that time, the bank president was on his way out of the door to run down the street to Max O' Millions for a "Frugal Burger" when he overheard his recently forgiven client reaming out the poor guy who only owed \$50.

He walked over and tapped the angry briefcase inventor on the shoulder.

"Let me get this straight," he said. "I just forgave you a loan of \$500,000 ... and you are going to take this man to small claims court for a debt of \$50?"

"Uhm ... but ... well," was all the man could stammer.

"That does it," said the bank president. "The loan's back on, and if you can't pay it by Friday, I'm throwing the book at you. You deserve everything you get if you can't even forgive such a small amount." As he stormed off down the street, he could be heard muttering "And after what I did for him."

After church I asked my son, "Did you understand the story?"

Clarkie flashed a tentative smile at me and said, "I think so."

I picked him up and hugged him. "Son," I said, "I'm the one who was forgiven a huge debt. My forgetfulness was much worse than yours. I'm the one who should be the most grateful. Thanks for your forgiveness."

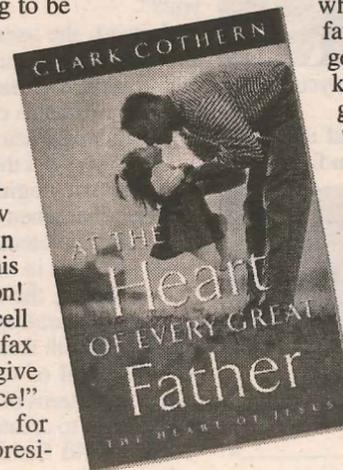
His small, sheepish grin ripped wide open into a gigantic smile. He hugged me back.

It felt great to be back on good terms with my boy again.

Where do we dads find true gentleness? One place is smack-dab in the middle of our own mistakes, where we recognize our faults. It's a lot easier to be gentle on our kids when we know we can be just as guilty as they are for the things we get so upset about.

This story is excerpted with permission from Clark Cothorn's new book, "At the Heart of Every Great Father," published by Multnomah Publishers, © 1998. Cothorn is pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Adrian, Mich.

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HE SAID/SHE SAID

Teaching kids some things must require mental telepathy

HE SAID



Mark Wingfield

Someone really ought to write a step-by-step how-to manual for parents.

I'm not talking about the Dr. Spock stuff or any other psychology of parenting. I'm talking about a guide to the down-and-dirty practical stuff that leaves a parent speechless and hopeless.

Like how to teach a kid to ride a bicycle. Seems like you ought to be able to say, "Just get on and pedal." But there's some secret ingredient to

balancing on a bicycle that's hard to put into words.

I still haven't figured out how to impart this vital wisdom, so our boys' training wheels continue to get a good workout.

And then there's skating. In recent weeks I've taken the boys ice skating and roller skating. It's smart to teach kids to roller skate before putting them out on ice skates. If only I had thought about that before taking them ice skating first.

Both events were disasters. The only redeeming thing is that nobody got seriously hurt. But I fear I've instilled into both children a fear of skates that will haunt them into adulthood, just like some people are haunted with the memory of being forced to eat peas for dinner.

The ice skating trip was inspired by the Winter Olympics. But let me tell you, the distance between admiring Tara Lapinsky's triple axles and a bumbling dad attempting to coax 5-year-olds to keep their skates pointed straight is as far as the distance between the polar ice caps.

We finally made some progress on the roller skates after a kind woman (who obviously had done this before), stooped down to talk to Garrett as he and I emerged from one of our tangled collapses on the floor. "Bend your knees and lean forward, like you're dribbling a basketball," she advised.

That immediately communicated to my aspiring UK starter. And it left me wondering where in the parents' rule book I could have found that gem of advice.

SHESAID



Alison Wingfield

What Mark didn't mention is that neither of us is terribly athletic, so teaching our children (one of whom actually is quite athletic, despite inheriting his parents' genes) certain skills is made even more difficult.

Garrett just learned basketball on his own. Why can't this innate understanding kick in on other hard-to-teach things?

One of the other things I can't demonstrate is how to whistle. I've

never been able to master this particular skill, so I know it's hopeless for me to teach them. It is all up to Mark. But I don't know if I want them to learn his annoying habit of whistling little tunes all over the house.

I've read the helpful hints on tying shoes. I even bought a book in the shape of a shoe with shoelaces enclosed that gives string-by-string instructions. But it is one step forward, two steps back—on an untied shoelace. Perhaps we need to return to velcro, since shoe tying won't stick.

With boys, the ultimate lesson I can't seem to impart is how to pee in the potty and not on the floor. Aiming at Cheerios for the rest of their lives is not the answer. Whoever does come up with a solution will be rich by selling their idea to frustrated mothers all over the world.

Speaking of clean up, the ultimate guidebook to parenting—and all other aspects of life—is still right at our fingertips. The Bible might not give us detailed instructions on bike riding, but it does tell us how to love each other as we muddle through life's troubles and triumphs.

When criticizing churches, compare fruit

Not long ago at a dinner meeting I sat next to a prominent individual in Southern Baptist life. As we chit-chatted about various topics, I mentioned that my parents' church in Albuquerque, N.M., is undertaking a major transformation in an effort to reach more people with the gospel.

The pastor and staff of this church, I explained, have been greatly and positively influenced by Rick Warren and Saddleback Community Church in Southern California. Saddleback is one of Southern Baptists' great success stories, now ranking as the largest church in our denomination and one of the most effective at reaching people with little or no church background.

My parents' church isn't attempting to make itself a clone of Saddleback. Rather, they have studied some of the techniques and strategies that have been successful at Saddleback and are attempting to adapt those lessons to their own situation.

This really is no different from what Southern Baptist churches all across the South did in the 1940s and '50s, when the Sunday School Board and other agencies determined what a successful Southern Baptist church should do and then helped make that happen in churches big and small through publication of books and curriculum and training sessions.

Anyway, the person I was talking with wasn't altogether pleased to hear what my parents' church was doing. But this person took some comfort in one odd fact: "Well, at least they haven't been influenced by Bill Hybels and Willow Creek."

That wasn't the first time I've heard a Baptist leader make derogatory comments about Willow Creek Church, another success story of American evangelicalism. And I'm perplexed as to why Willow Creek seems to have become the poster child for what another Baptist told me was "unbiblical" church growth.

In the first place, how can church growth be unbiblical? Does Satan want to grow the church? I don't think so. Does Satan want the gospel to be made relevant and understandable to all people? Surely not. Does Satan want lives to be changed, families to be healed and heaven enlarged? No way.

Certainly some churches and pastors have been guilty of unethical church growth—"stealing" members from sister churches or inducing child conversions through give-aways and deception.

But that's not the case at Willow Creek Church in

suburban Chicago. This church, where Bill Hybels is pastor, perhaps has done more than any other modern entity to sensitize American Christianity to the need to be relevant to a culture that has no connection to the gospel. Much like Saddleback, they have pioneered the whole notion of "seeker" services and relational evangelism. And with great success. They have baptized tens of thousands of people who perhaps never would have come to faith in Christ without such a witness.

Many Southern Baptist churches have taken lessons from Willow Creek's success, have studied at Willow Creek and as a result have attempted to make their own ministries more relevant to people.

So as I've heard the increasing slurs against Willow Creek in some quarters, I've

been puzzled about what's behind this trend. After all, Willow Creek is quite conservative in theology and clearly calls people to repentance and faith in Christ as the only way to salvation. What could be evil or unbiblical about that?

Of course, Willow Creek and Saddleback always have had critics, mainly among those who don't like contemporary worship styles. But why is such a distinction suddenly being made between Willow Creek and Saddleback?

The only explanation I know is Willow Creek's affirmation that God has the right and authority to call whomever God chooses to serve him, whether male or female. This, in some quarters, has been deemed heresy on the same level as denying the virgin birth of Christ.

Let's get things in perspective. The call to salvation is important; the means by which people hear the message or the person from whom they hear the message is of lesser importance. What these newfound critics of Willow Creek appear to be doing is making non-essential matters more important than the one essential matter.

Christians of goodwill—including conservative Christians—disagree on issues such as the ordination of women, worship styles, music styles and outreach methods. But that should not, must not become a litmus test for which churches practice "biblical" church growth.

Next time you hear someone criticize another Christian church, ask yourself who's bearing what kind of fruit. Better to bear the fruit of authentic conversion of souls to God than of jealous criticism of others whom God is using.

— Mark Wingfield

'Isn't this Joseph's son?'

By Chip Pendleton

All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. "Isn't this Joseph's son?" they asked. (Luke 4:22)

Not long ago my wife and I were having a disagreement, as spouses sometimes do, when our little girl came into the room. She looked at us and said, "The Bible says to bear with one another!" It was something she had learned that week in Sunday school.

My wife and I both had a good laugh and we talked about how we had been reminded of God's word by a 4-year-old. It really is kind of amazing. Who would think that a 4-year-old could teach two adults with three advanced seminary degrees the word of God? But she did.

That is how the people in Nazareth were feeling when Jesus read to them from the book of Isaiah. They were amazed at his gracious words, but there was still the question, "Isn't this

Joseph's son?"

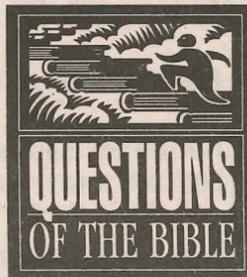
Jesus had just proclaimed in Luke 4:21 that the Scripture was fulfilled, but the Scripture was about the Messiah, and wasn't this Joseph's son?

They could not believe that Jesus was the Messiah or even someone special. He was the son of a lowly carpenter, a boy they all knew and had watched grow up. How could they learn the word of God from a carpenter's boy?

We have the exact same problem today. God speaks to us daily in

a million ways, but often we miss his voice. One of the main reasons we miss God's voice is we do not value or consider important those God may be speaking through. We do it both as individuals and as a church, and in doing so we miss the voice and blessing of God.

We say, God can't speak through you because you are a woman, or from the wrong denomination, or a different race. We refuse to hear the word of God because the one who is pro-



claiming it has less education than we do or a lower income or is the wrong age or a different nationality.

The truth is we can learn from anyone at any time. If God used a donkey to show Baalam his word, he can still speak through the most unlikely people and in the most unlikely places to us.

The shame of our Scripture passage is that the people in Nazareth were hearing from the Son of God himself. The long foretold Scripture was literally being fulfilled in their ears, but their response was rage and anger because they could not believe the Messiah was Joseph's son.

Today, God speaks to us daily and in a variety of ways. Instead of stopping God's voice because we are not comfortable with the messenger, we need to be actively seeking a word from God through everyone we encounter.

We are all sinners saved by an amazing grace. None of us deserve God's salvation or have a monopoly on God's direction or voice. So listen for the word of God today. It may even come from a 4-year-old.



Chip Pendleton is pastor of Lewis Lane Baptist Church in Owensboro.

RESOURCES

This week's questions:

- How can my husband and I keep day-to-day stresses from harming our relationship?
- How can I teach my children to pray?

Q. I have noticed that my husband and I seem to be busy out lately. Besides being so busy, we seem to allow other stresses to build up until we explode at one another. How can we keep the day-to-day stresses from harming our relationship?

A. The issue you raise is a constant challenge for all couples. We are constantly bombarded with stresses outside and inside our homes.

Remember it is impossible to control the behavior of another person. You cannot keep your spouse from "blowing a fuse." The beginning place is to accept responsibility for your own behavior.

Paul's fruit of the Spirit list ends with self-control. This word can be translated "inward power or strength to hold on." Our colloquial phrase "get a hold of yourself" gives us a picture of self-control. The biblical image here is one of wrapping your arms around yourself and holding yourself.

In most instances we get visibly angry and lash out at another person when we are overstressed or when we are threatened. By "getting a hold of ourselves" we are able to provide ourselves a safe place and minimize our need to get into an argument.

As we find healthy ways of deal-

ing with our anxiety, we also minimize stress. Healthy ways are:

- Talk to God. By making our concerns a matter of prayer, we call on a source stronger than ourselves.

- Talk to another person. While others cannot carry our stress for us, they can share our load.

- Identify triggers of your anxiety. Identifying and dealing with those things that trigger anxieties can be a first step toward becoming less anxious.

- Speak to others with respect and courtesy. Doing so builds up the other person and might even reduce stress. —John Lepper



Q. How can I teach my children to pray?

A. Preschoolers and younger children will learn about prayer as you pray with them. They may enjoy repeating phrases after you. Encourage older children to begin voicing their own prayers. Help them know they can talk to God about anything and everything and that they can use ordinary words.

Be specific in your praying. Before you pray, ask your child if there are things or people or situations they would like to pray about. Keep prayer fresh, conversational and full of feeling. Make sure you talk about ways in which you see answers to prayers.

Prayers with older children can be organized around the elements of praise, confession, thanksgiving and petition. You might try taking turns, alternating who prays what part each night. Using Scripture verses (like Psalm 8:1) will help children learn how to praise God through prayer.

Look for ways to model prayer as part of everyday life. Take turns saying grace at mealtimes. Give thanks for your food, even when eating out. Pray at the beginning of a trip; pray for special occasions, like the first day of school, a big test or an important meeting for mom or dad; pray when you see an ambulance approaching, or when you hear news, good or bad. Bedtime may provide a good opportunity for more focused prayer, especially with children.

Finally, keep praying together even as your children grow. Don't let prayer become uncool. Just do it! —David Garrard

Family Forum writers are David Garrard, minister to children at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville; James Stillwell, minister to singles at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington; John Lepper, director of family ministries with the Kentucky Baptist Convention; Wade Rowatt, director of the St. Matthews Pastoral Counseling Center in Louisville; and Al Shackelford, editor of Mature Living magazine. Send questions for Family Forum to Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, Ky. 40253 or e-mail us at wesrec@ntr.net.

ANNUITY

Borrowing from retirement costly

By Don Spencer

When you have an expense that requires borrowing money, your thoughts may turn to a prettily alluring lender: yourself. If you're in a 401(k) or a 403(b) retirement plan, it's likely your plan charges a hard-to-beat rate of about 9.5 percent. Money for your loan is taken from your retirement account. Payments, including interest, are then credited back to your account.

Sound good? Well, think again.

First, a loan eliminates one of your plan's biggest advantages, tax deferral. If you borrow from your tax-deferred plan, money you use to repay the loan is taxed once as income, and again when you withdraw it in retirement.

Second, the interest you pay back to your account could be less than the amount your account might have earned otherwise. Plans often use prime rate plus 1 percent as the interest rate you pay. Since 1950, the prime rate plus 1 percent has averaged 8.26 percent while stocks have averaged 12.8 percent. Using these average returns over a five-year period, \$25,000 would earn \$9,500 more in stocks than it would using the prime rate plus 1 percent.

Third, if you fail to repay your loan as required, you could have adverse tax consequences. In this situation, the unpaid balance is treated as an early distribution from your retirement plan. Ordinary income tax is due plus a 10 percent penalty tax if you are under age 59 1/2.

For some employees in a 401(k) plan, if you leave your job before you've repaid the loan, you must settle the debt. Generally if not settled within three months, it is treated as a withdrawal and you are liable for the income tax and 10 percent penalty tax.

Finally, if you stop contributions to your plan until your loan is repaid, you will significantly reduce your retirement benefit. According to a study by the General Accounting Office, your plan could be worth at least 20 percent less by the time you retire.

Borrow from your retirement plan only if you can keep investing while you repay the loan and after you've exhausted all other avenues of funding. Ask: Is what I hope to purchase with the loan as important as having adequate retirement income?

Don Spencer is a certified financial planner and directs the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annuity department.



Protect kids: Pay attention

LOUISVILLE—It takes an adult to protect a child.

That's the message child advocates are spreading across Kentucky during April, which has been designated child abuse prevention month.

One of the most important ways to prevent and stop child abuse is for more adults to pay attention to the signs of abuse, according to Bill Smithwick, president of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.

The Baptist child-care agency often witnesses the results of abuse, sheltering and caring for children and teenagers from abusive homes.

Many people know to look for bruises or other physical injuries as potential signs of abuse, but there's more to be aware of, according to Tammy Keezer, director of Genesis Home, a KBHC facility in Mayfield.

"A child who has been abused usually withdraws from a group and becomes isolated," she explained. "They don't want to talk about home, or they suddenly start exaggerating about what their home life is like. That kind of fantasizing could be the child wishing for something else because the reality is so bad."

But be careful not to ask a child leading questions, Keezer warned. "You don't want to ask directed questions such as 'Did your mother or father hurt you?' You want to ask open-ended questions and try to get the child to tell you something specific."

Other potential warning signs of abuse include when a child:

- Shrinks at the approach of adults.
- Has difficulty walking or sitting.
- Suddenly refuses to change clothes for gym or to participate in physical activities.

Report child abuse

Anyone suspecting a child is being abused physically or sexually or is being neglected should call the 24-hour child abuse hotline at (800) 752-6200. If a child is in imminent physical danger, call the local police or sheriff's office immediately.

Church Weekday Education Seminar

June 6, 1998 -- 8:00 AM til 3:20 PM

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, KY

FEE: \$10.00 per person

CREDIT: Six hours

Lunch will be provided!!

Hear Dr. Kathryn Chapman during lunch!

Tour the Child Development Center!

Attend age-level as well as special interest conferences such as Discipline, Directors, Play, Family, Music, Art, Special Needs, Before/After School, Reading, Environment!

For more information and to receive registration forms call:

**Kentucky Baptist Convention, Sunday School Dept.
502/245-4101, ext 300/301**

You will be pre-registered when your fee has been received by the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Refunds will be given until June 3, 1998.



CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Full-time weekday ministries director. Director's responsibilities include: Leading the program to be safe, Christ-centered and educationally sound; supervising and training caregivers and teachers; ministering to children and families in the program; assisting the church in outreach and ministry to children and families in the program. This thriving program includes 2- and 3-year developmental daycare, 4-year preschool, kindergarten and after-school program for grades 1-6. The program has a healthy budget, adequate material resources and a qualified, caring staff of more than 25. Applicants must meet state licensing requirements. Seminary degree preferred. Salary negotiable based on qualifications. Resumes and inquiries: First Baptist Church, 1400 South Main, Hopkinsville, KY 42240, Attn: Keith Stillwell. (502) 886-1216.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of youth (grades 7-12). Calvary Baptist Church of Tuscaloosa, Ala., is located adjacent to the University of Alabama campus. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve in a growing, multi-staff church. Youth Sunday school enrollment currently is 160; average SS attendance, 800; average worship attendance, 1,200. Please send information to: Calvary Baptist Church, 1121 Paul Bryant Drive, Tuscaloosa, AL 35401. (205) 758-0495.

SEEKING: Full-time youth and children's minister. College graduate or seminary graduate. A great foundation has been laid. Dry Ridge is a growing church in a growing area—the potential is unlimited. If you have a heart for ministry and outreach to youth and children, send your resume to: Dry Ridge Baptist Church, P.O. Box 14, Dry Ridge, KY 41035, Attn: Personnel Committee.

NEEDED: Pastor for Clay First Baptist. Send resume to: Danny Hodges, 9639 SR 132 W, Clay, KY 42404.

SEEKING: Lexington Avenue Baptist Church, Danville, Ky., is seeking a full-time minister of music. Responsibilities include: sanctuary choir; graded choir program; worship planning; youth and adult handbell choirs. Send resume to: Dr. Tim Noel, Lexington Avenue Baptist Church, 339 W. Lexington Ave., Danville, KY 40422.

SEEKING: Full-time minister, Hill Grove Baptist Church, Guston, Ky. Country church 35 miles southwest of Louisville. Please send resume to: Pastor Search Committee, 55 Ammons Lane, Guston, KY 40142.

SEEKING: Director of development, Tennessee Baptist Adult Homes. Two-year position; possible permanent status. Send resume by May 15 to: TBAH, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024.

NEEDED: Church van for youth ministry. Please call (502) 788-6576.

SEEKING: Part-time church organist, Versailles Baptist Church, Versailles, Ky. Responsibilities: Wednesday nights, Sunday mornings; blended worship style. Paid position. Contact Greg Brewton, (606) 873-7338.

SEEKING: Persons with secretarial experience and computer application skills to accept temporary work assignments. Contact: Administrative Services Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Louisville, Ky. Phone: (502) 244-6468.

SEEKING: Applicants for the part-time staff position of minister of education. Submit resume to: Personnel Committee, Lyndon Baptist Church, 8025 New LaGrange Road, Louisville, KY 40222. No phone calls please.

WANTED: Good, used piano. Contact Wayne Reid, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Rt. 6, Box 303, Manchester, KY 40962, or call (606) 598-4244.

NEEDED: 1st trumpet and 1st trombone, grades 9-12, for Kentucky Baptist All-State Youth Orchestra, June 21-28. For audition information, call church music department at (888) 254-5707.

WANTED: Church custodian, 20 hours a week. Flexible hours and days. Call: Les Demaree, (502) 241-7511.

SEEKING: Foreign-language teacher—French or Spanish—for Christian school in Lexington. Part- or full-time, degree required. Call (606) 272-1217 for application.

SEEKING: Part-time youth minister for dynamic, growing church in Frankfort, Ky. Come work with a well-established program and a great group of teens. Good salary and expense account for the person God calls. Send resume to: Evergreen Baptist Church, 2698 Evergreen Road, Frankfort, KY 40601.

SEEKING: Full-time secretary. Send resume: Personnel Committee, Farmdale Baptist Church, 1238 Durrett Lane, Louisville, KY 40213-2080.

TOUR: 10-day Turkey tour, Sept. 16-25; 7 churches of Revelation, plus Troy and Istanbul. Call Pastor Studie for brochure, (502) 247-8331.

RETREAT: Glorieta Conference Center. Stay with family spring, summer, fall or winter. Call (800) 797-4222 to make reservations or for information.

RETREAT: Myrtle Beach Ocean View Retreat. Youth, seniors and musical groups (groups of up to 50). 307 1st Ave., Myrtle Beach, SC 29577. Leave message: (803) 626-7069.

Smith decision gave support to Russian law

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The author of a controversial Russian law restricting nontraditional religions used a 1990 U.S. Supreme Court decision as "support" for the Russian measure, according to a religious legal expert.

The high court's decision in *Employment Division vs. Smith*, which led to an outcry from the U.S. religious community and passage of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, gave Victor Zorkaltev comfort, said Barry Fisher.

Fisher, former chairman of the American Bar Association Subcommittee on Religious Freedom, spoke at a congressional hearing March 26.

Zorkaltev, chairman of the Public Organizations Committee of the Russian Duma, authored a law giving special status to the Russian Orthodox Church and restricting activities of minority religions.

Fisher told the House Subcommittee on the Constitution that the high court's *Smith* decision stated that a society making exemptions to general laws for those acting under their religious beliefs "would be courting anarchy," and the "danger increases in direct proportion to the society's diversity of religious beliefs."

Fisher, who recently spoke with Zorkaltev, said "the Duma committee chairman understood the American Supreme Court to be proceeding from the premise that the stability of society is threatened by the proliferation of religions, each with its own demands for accommodation of its particular beliefs and practices, and that the general laws of the state are a necessary anchor to assure social equilibrium," Fisher said.

NATIONAL NOTES

■ A federal appeals court in Minneapolis has ruled that a Minnesota church may keep money donated to it by a couple who shortly thereafter declared bankruptcy. The 8th Circuit Court of Appeals based its ruling on the federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act, a law the Supreme Court ruled unconstitutional because the Congress exceeded its power in applying RFRA's provisions to state laws. But the appeals court said the Supreme Court's ruling did not apply to federal laws such as the bankruptcy code, Associated Press reported. Religious groups active in church-state relations called the victory an important one for religious freedom.

■ The Alabama Senate has passed a religious freedom amendment to the state constitution that would give religious groups broader protection in the expression of their beliefs. The proposed amendment would accomplish on the state level what the 1993 Religious Freedom Restoration Act sought to do at the federal level.

RECOGNITION OF DECEASED KENTUCKY BAPTIST LEADERS

The 1998 KBC Obituaries Report will include information on deceased persons who have served our Lord and Kentucky Baptists in a noteworthy manner. We are including persons who died during the convention year, September 1, 1997 through August 31, 1998.

These persons would be Kentucky Baptist ministers, missionaries, educators, laypersons, institutional leaders and staff and others whose Christian service has significantly benefitted our state convention fellowship and mission programs.

We need your help to gather the following information:

1. Full name of deceased
2. Date of birth
3. Date of death
4. Active or retired status in last position held in city, state where located
5. Name of church where member, association, state where located
6. Service or ministry worthy of recognition (briefly stated)

Please forward this information before September 2 to:

Executive Office
Kentucky Baptist Convention
PO Box 43433
Louisville KY 40253-0433
ATTN: Shirley Wooton

These obituary entries will be reported to the 1998 KBC annual meeting in Louisville. You are an important part of our network to gather information on those servants who deserve to be remembered among Kentucky Baptists.

Did someone say,
"Mountain Top
Experience?"

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Libraries study whether to 'filter' Web access

TV violence up

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (RNS)—A three-year study of prime-time TV shows finds they are growing more violent.

Researchers from four universities say about two-thirds of prime-time network and basic cable channel programs aired in June 1997 contained violent scenes, compared to about half of similar programs in October 1994.

"For those who think the TV violence problem is solved, it is not," said Daniel Linz, one of the researchers and chair of the law and society program at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

The study found that pay cable networks aired the most violence, averaging 92 percent since 1994, Associated Press reported.

Violence is defined as any "overt depiction of a credible threat of physical force or the actual use of such force intended to physically harm an animate being or group of beings." The definition did not include psychological or verbal abuse.

National Association of Broadcasters spokesman Dennis Wharton said the study's conclusions contradict a network-funded study by UCLA researchers, "which found that violence on broadcast television has declined steadily over the last three years."

"The simple, undeniable fact is that the vast majority of violence on television is on pay cable," Wharton said.

The report also concluded that most TV violence is sanitized and glamorized. Almost 40 percent of the violent incidents are prompted by "good" characters who could be perceived as attractive role models.

CAMAS, Wash. (BP)—A 15-year-old boy stood ramrod straight in his Boy Scout uniform as he urged the library board of Camas, Wash., to block Internet pornography from children.

High school sophomore Jake Anderson presented a petition to the library board signed by 186 students and 10 teachers to remove the suburban library's sole computer terminal from the children's section because it provides unlimited access to all Internet sites, including pornographic ones.

Library Board President Clay Anderson (no relation) thanked the student for his presentation. But after the meeting, the library board president said he anticipated neither a study session nor a vote on the matter.

The dispute in Camas is reflected across the nation, as community residents, library boards and courts of law grapple with issues related to pornography on the Internet.

"The situation has gotten much worse since the elimination of the Communications Decency Act last summer," said librarian David Burt of Lake Oswego, Ore. "A year ago, you wouldn't have seen ads for porn sites. Now they pop up (on your computer) even when you have no reason to expect them."

Libraries and schools alike for almost two years have been caught up

in the maelstrom of easy accessibility to Internet red light districts.

Filtering software, which blocks access to pornographic sites, is advocated by some. But the American Library Association's position is that parents are responsible to protect their children from Internet pornography. Filtering, the group says, is censorship.

The filters most often used by libraries block sites the software programmer determines are pornographic. The filters also offer a word-blocking option; libraries usually turn this off so words like "breast" do not impede people from researching breast cancer.

"The Internet knows there's a problem with pornography and they're looking for a solution," said Camas librarian David Zavortink.

"There will be a solution," he continued. "Let's just give it time to work through instead of knee-jerk reaction."

Time is not the issue and neither is censorship, filtering advocates say.

"It's a battle for the minds and morals of our children," said Jodi Hoffman of Broward County, Fla. She and her husband recently sued the local school board for the sex education and unlimited Internet access the board provides students despite parental objections. "What we're asking the library to do is to cut off pornography at the source."

Musical ambassadors

By Robert Dunston

In 1992 Cumberland College began the musical group Abundance as an outreach ministry to direct people to the abundant life which comes from knowing Christ as Savior and Lord. The group also encourages students to attend a private, church-related school like Cumberland College where they can grow not only mentally and physically but also spiritually.

The 1997-1998 Abundance ensemble has represented Christ well. The group shared its ministry of song and testimony in 40 concerts in four states. The team participated in church worship services, led a week of vacation Bible school, performed on the beach and in campgrounds, ministered during large youth events and sang in campus chapel services. More than 8,000 people were touched this year.

Dana Junker, a senior music education major from Corbin, and Jerry Kemper, a senior elementary education major from Verona, completed their third year as part of Abundance. Their leadership, commitment and dedication to serving Christ has blessed the team and those to whom they ministered.

Melissa Jackson, a junior elemen-

tary education major from Independence; Michelle Duty, a senior English major from Louisville; Laura Jacobs, a junior communication arts major from Stanford; and Steve McKelvy, a senior psychology major from Ketchikan, Alaska, have completed their second year with Abundance. Their experience and desire to serve provided stability to

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



the group which in turn blessed many with whom they worked.

First-year members of Abundance included Joe Ellison, a sophomore majoring in secondary education and English from Cincinnati; Lori Lunsford, a junior majoring in music education from Manchester; and Jason Mitchell, a senior majoring in communication arts from Frankfort. Their talent and enthusiasm blessed all.

Since the inception of Abundance, Rick Fleenor, associate director of admissions and director of alumni services, has directed, shepherded and ministered alongside our students. Through their ministry, more than 40,000 people have heard about the abundant life available through Christ.

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

High Court reviews decency standard

WASHINGTON (BP)—The U.S. Supreme Court considered last month whether a decency standard for federally funded arts projects constitutes a violation of the First Amendment's protection of free speech.

The high court heard arguments in a case resulting from a 1990 decision by the National Endowment for the Arts to refuse funding for four artists whose performances dealt with sexual themes.

In NEA vs. Finley, the artists challenged language in Congress' 1990 reauthorization of the arts agency directing the NEA's chairman to ensure "artistic excellence and artistic merit are the criteria by which applications are judged, taking into consideration general standards of decency and respect for the diverse beliefs and values of the American public."

The government was guilty of viewpoint discrimination by creating the equivalent of a public forum and establishing a decency standard for it, said David Cole, who argued on behalf of the artists and the Center for Constitutional Rights.

In presenting the NEA's case, U.S. Solicitor General Seth Waxman rejected the public forum claim by the artists, saying the government was "selectively providing art funding." He also said there was no injury to the artists because some of them later received grants.

The NEA lost at both the federal and appeals court levels. A federal court ruled in 1992 the decency provision was unconstitutional. In 1996, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the language as viewpoint discriminatory.



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Inhumanity at home

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month.

A report published by the Administration for Children and Families of the United States Department of Health and Human Services reveals the dark side of humanity here at home.

The latest data available, fiscal year 1995, paints a disturbing picture.

In 1995 there were 972,708 children under the age of 18 living in our commonwealth. During that year there were 40,470 reported cases of child abuse and neglect.

Of the reported cases, there were 7,265 substantiated cases of physical abuse, 17,651 cases of neglect and 1,396 cases of other abuse. This resulted in 2,968 children being removed from their homes and 48,153 families receiving additional services.

Who were the perpetrators of these crimes? According to the official report, 25,195 were parents and 3,045 were relatives.

Now we have children killing children in our schools and creating tragedies that transcend our comprehension. What must we do?

I sympathize with frustrated parents and educators who grasp for solutions in their state of shock and

suggest that the government must do something.

But can morality and values be legislated by society? I don't think so. Instead, they must be modeled in the home, by the church, through the media, at school, throughout the entertainment industry, by elected officials, athletes, etc.

To ask government to fix our morality/values problem in America is to pass the buck to the wrong entity.

Government should represent the solution; it cannot be the solution.

The solution? It is time for the majority to stand up, speak out, get involved and work to make a difference in the lives of children. Our "uncle" in Washington cannot fix the wrongs of our homes and communities. We can.

This is Child Abuse Prevention Month. Let us find a way through our civic, church and political involvement to make a difference.

After all, we are the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

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/>

CHURCHES

Researcher: Few churches rank as 'highly effective'

Continued from page 1

His organization, Barna Research Group, studied a cross-section of effective U.S. churches, he said. Their "created habits" are biblically consistent, consistent with their own philosophy of ministry, fully integrated into the life of the church and "firm but flexible" in the way they are implemented, he said.

From his analysis of those congregations, Barna highlighted nine habits of highly effective churches. Highly effective churches:

■ **Exhibit strategic leadership.** "Leadership is not a pillar of the church, but you cannot be effective without leadership," Barna said.

Despite what many people might expect, "the vast majority of senior pastors are not leaders," he reported. "They are called to ministry but not to leadership."

Still, in highly effective churches, the senior pastor is a leader, or the senior pastor facilitates leadership on the part of others, he said. For example, 8 percent to 12 percent of the membership of highly effective churches are leaders, compared to 4 percent of typical churches, Barna noted.

These churches identify and develop leaders, he said. "They don't accept the 'any warm body will do' philosophy" for staffing programs and ministries. Rather, they seek out people whose skills and interests qualify them as leadership candidates, and then provide them with training to be effective.

■ **Organize for effectiveness.** "The church must have a leader supported by a team of people who have complementary gifts," Barna said. Effective churches build their struc-

tures around such a team approach to ministry.

"Everyone in the church is expected to be involved in ministry, right from Day 1," he added. "The key is expectation—everyone is expected to be involved."

Weak, ineffective churches lack that expectation and are passive, Barna reported. Passivity, he said, is "what Satan has done to the church in America."

■ **Build upon relationships.** "The church operates on the basis of a hierarchy of relational priorities," Barna insisted. Jesus is the first relationship priority for each member, followed by family, church and community.

"These churches teach their people how to prioritize time for relationships," he said. "The goal of the church's internal relationships is spiritual renewal," which reflects the central focus on Jesus.

A consequence of strong relationships is minimal membership turnover, he said.

Members "keep coming back because that is where they develop their greatest fellowships in the world," he pointed out. "Twenty percent of Americans move in a given year, most within one to 25 miles. But members of effective churches will commute rather than move their membership."

Another benefit of relationships is strong community outreach. "The church grows numerically through word-of-mouth," he said. "People visit when they are invited by someone from that church."

■ **Invest in genuine worship.** "Genuine worship is a non-negotiable endeavor," Barna insisted. "It

calls into question everything we do. But worship is not attending an event; it is a state of mind and spirit. For God to be honored, our goal is to get people to obsess on God, not money, fame or security."

Effective churches evaluate worship by "determining if the people met God," he added. "Did they experience God's presence?"

■ **Engage in strategic evangelism.** "Highly effective churches focus on conversions, not (numbers of) decisions," Barna explained. "Last year, of all the people who made first-time decisions for Christ, the majority were not associated with the church in eight weeks."

"Why? Because the typical church focuses on evangelism but not discipleship, which the Bible doesn't separate. Evangelism without discipleship is just salesmanship."

■ **Implement systematic theological education.** "They provide their people with a basic but comprehensive foundation of Christian theology," Barna said. "They help people understand how it all fits together."

This kind of teaching contrasts with the norm, he said, noting "less than 10 percent of Christians have a biblical world view."

"Christians don't act like Christians because they don't think like Christians. Christians don't think like Christians because they don't understand their faith."

■ **Focus on holistic stewardship.** "Stewardship is integrated into all their teaching," he explained. "Stewardship is the management of everything that is God's—money, time, relationships, space and material goods."

Motivation for supporting the highly effective churches develops because people understand the church's cause and the impact it can have on the community and the world, he said.

■ **Serve the community.** "The church's leaders model a lifestyle of servanthood" that teaches the members to care about the community and to expand their "comfort zones" in order to serve less-fortunate people, Barna said.

Highly effective churches also "diligently foster cross-ministry cooperation," and work with other churches in the community, he noted.

■ **Equip families to minister to themselves.** "The role of the church is to equip families, not to satisfy all their ministry needs," Barna stressed. "They equip families for multiple purposes—individual growth, family growth as a unit and external service."

Barna offered encouragement for churches that would like to be highly effective.

"There is hope," he said. "God is for us. Some churches—tens of thousands of churches—are being effective. (And) people are very open about what they need and experience."

Nine habits of highly effective churches

- Exhibit strategic leadership.
- Organize for effectiveness.
- Build upon relationships.
- Invest in genuine worship.
- Engage in strategic evangelism.
- Implement systematic theological education.
- Focus on holistic stewardship.
- Serve the community.
- Equip families to minister to themselves.

A pastoral example

Last week Laurie Valentine, our trust counsel, and I met with a long-time, recently retired Kentucky Baptist pastor and his wife to consummate some estate plans in which they had asked us to participate and to advise them.

We had conducted a Christian estate planning seminar in this pastor's church last fall. It was in the context of the seminar he and his wife realized they had not reviewed their estate planning documents for many years. Upon review, they discovered circumstances had changed in their lives since those documents were first executed. They needed to make some changes to their wills and to their incapacity planning documents, including durable powers of attorney, living will directives and health care surrogate designations.

Laurie and I met with them several weeks ago and were inspired as they shared with us what they understood to be God's purposes for their possessions for the remainder of their lives and upon their deaths. We provided them estate stewardship planning information and answered their questions about alternatives they were considering. Following our meeting they met with their attorney who prepared the

documents necessary to accomplish their Christian estate plan.

On Good Friday they came by our office to establish, during their lifetimes, with a tax-deductible gift, a permanent endowment that will bear their names in perpetuity. They expect to make additional contributions during their lives, and they have a bequest in their wills that will give to this endowment upon their deaths. Two Baptist causes near and dear to their hearts will be the perpetual income beneficiaries of this endowment.

Before they left our offices I prayed and asked God to add his blessings to their lives and to the gospel seeds that will be planted, until Christ comes again, because of their faithfulness in determining God's purposes for the possessions he entrusted to them and in putting into place a plan to accomplish his purposes.

May each of us Kentucky Baptists, regardless of our financial stations in life, emulate this pastor and his wife's example. Call Laurie Valentine or me, (888) 254-5701, and let us assist you.

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

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PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Anatoly, landlord of International Service Corps missionary Lori Milburn in Moscow. He is very sick and is not a Christian.

■ New missionaries Brad and Lori Stamey and their sons Drew and Mark as they adjust to living in Moscow.

■ Northeast Missions Celebration and missionary appointment service, April 30-May 2, Somerset, N.J.

■ Wilderness Community Fellowship in Dexter, Maine, a new mission sponsored by River City Baptist Chapel in Bangor.

■ Open Door Fellowship, a meals ministry sponsored by Barre Baptist Fellowship in Barre, Vt.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

■ BEECHMONT—Beechmont Church recently called **James Watt Jr.** as interim pastor.

Hazel Creek Church will ordain **Barry Davis** to the gospel ministry May 3. **Don Piper** is pastor.

■ CARROLLTON—First Church ordained **Roger Williams** and **Roger Unker** as deacons Jan. 4. **Chris White** is pastor.

■ CARRSVILLE—**Mike Templeton** recently resigned as pastor at Carrsville Church.

■ ELIZABETHTOWN—Severns Valley Church will present Day-Spring, a women's annual event, June 6. This year's speaker will be **Billie Cash**. Special music will be provided by her daughter, **Kellye Cash Sheppard**, Miss America 1987. To register and for more information, call (502) 765-7822.

■ ELKTON—Elkton Church will hold revival April 26 at 6 p.m. and April 27-29 at 7 p.m. **Henry Lingenfelter** of Alcoa, Tenn., will be guest evangelist. For more information, call (502) 265-2239. **David Wilkerson** is pastor.

■ FALMOUTH—Trinity Southern Church will hold revival May 3-7 at 7 p.m. **Ron Davis**, pastor of Franklin Crossroads Church in Cecilia, will be the evangelist.

■ HOPKINSVILLE—First Church will hold revival April 26-29 at 7 p.m. **Bill Langley**, pastor of First Church in Mustang, Okla., will be the evangelist.

■ LOUISVILLE—Ralph Avenue Church will celebrate its 50th anniversary June 14. For more information, call (502) 447-2061.

Nancy Dobbs celebrated 33 years as administrative assistant at West Broadway Church April 19.

Cedar Creek Church ordained **Jason Ellerbrook** to the gospel ministry March 15. **Dallas Vincent** is interim pastor.

■ MAYFIELD—New Hope Church recently called **J.D. Graham** as youth director.

■ SHEPHERDSVILLE—Bardstown Junction Church will host **David Livingston**, pastor at Gethsemane Church in Louisville, in concert April 25 at 7 p.m.

CORRECTION

■ CRESTWOOD—**Tommy Purvis** celebrated his two-year anniversary at Ballardsville Church April 1.

First U.S. pastor expelled from Russia under new law

SALEM, Ore. (RNS)—An independent Baptist pastor from Oregon has apparently become the first U.S. church worker forced out of Russia since last fall's passage of a law restricting religious freedom.

The law provides the Russian Orthodox Church with special status while limiting the activities of other religious groups.

The pastor, **Dan Pollard**, left Russia at the end of March after local authorities in the state of Khabarovsk, in the far east of Russia, withdrew his certification and declined to renew his visa. He has since returned to his home in Salem, Ore.

"We were legally there and then they passed this new law and I knew from then on that we could be told to go at any time," Pollard said last week.

Lawrence Uzzell, Moscow representative of the London-based Keston Institute, which monitors religious freedom in Russia, said Pollard appears to be the first American church worker to be forced out since passage of the new Russian law limiting religious expression.

Since its passage, the law has been unevenly enforced, with local authorities interpreting the measure as they see fit, said Uzzell.

Pollard, 52, who is affiliated with the Cleveland-based Baptist Mid-Missions, led a congregation of less than 100 people he started about five years ago in the Russian Pacific coast seaport of Vanino.

"Viktor Nikulnikov (a Khabarovsk official who deals with religious affairs) told me he wants all foreign missionaries out," said Pollard.

Uzzell said Pollard was forced to leave Russia "because he refused to compromise in the way that some other foreign church officials have in order to be allowed to remain in Russia."

Uzzell said that had Pollard agreed to put a Russian pastor in charge of his congregation and had he affiliated with a Russian church agency he might have been allowed to stay.

However, Pollard said he considered such compromises "an attempt to push us into the same mode that the communists did by getting you into a position where they can control you."

ONE-DAY REVIVAL

Alton Baptist Church

1321 Bypass N., Lawrenceburg, Ky.

Sunday, April 26 • 8:30 & 10:45 a.m., 3 p.m.

Guest Speaker: Dr. Robert Smith

Former preaching professor at Southern Seminary

Guest Soloist: Rachel Dodson

John R. Charles, pastor

The longest trip of the year

Every year we plan one choir trip to Western Kentucky. This is a special trip because it has to be an overnight outing. Normally, we can travel up to five hours from our campus for a Sunday service. A five-hour trip usually means leaving between five and six in the morning. Fortunately we gain an hour going west, which is a big help. We generally have several churches in Western Kentucky that want the choir to come, but with our young people involved in so many activities, it is hard to schedule more than one overnight trip each year.

This year our trip took us to First Baptist Church of Hazel. It was the first overnight trip for many of our choir members, and the first time many had been to Western Kentucky.

We left Oneida at 2 p.m. Saturday. After a restroom stop in Somerset, we made our way to Bowling Green for our evening meal. When you are trying to get 35 students through the ordering line, there is no such thing as "fast food." After a few exchanges of wrong orders, everyone sat down to enjoy the meal. The three-and-one-half hour trip

to Bowling Green was the halfway point on our journey. We boarded the bus at 6:30 p.m. for the final leg of our trip. After one more restroom stop near Hopkinsville, we pulled into Hazel at about 10:30 p.m. We were greeted with a lot of friends and a wonderful evening snack before our students were paired with several families to spend the night. We had gained an hour traveling west, and were not affected like our hosts who lost an hour when the nation went to Daylight Savings Time Sunday morning. While they lost an hour, we were on our normal schedule. The choir gave a wonderful performance, (I am biased) and eight

of our students shared monologues depicting different reasons why students come to Oneida.

After church, we were treated to a favorite meal for young people: pizza and pop. After eating our fill, we boarded the bus for the long trip home. This time we were able to see the beauty of Western Kentucky, as it was dark when we made our way across the Land Between the Lakes on our way to Hazel.

As we crossed the bridge over the Tennessee River, some students were concerned that the bridge was not wide enough. It was a tight squeeze, but we made it even with semi trucks crossing at the same time. Several students had never seen the Tennessee River or the part of the Cumberland River which we crossed about 10 minutes later.

A cardinal rule of traveling is never fail to make scheduled restroom stops. I know better, but when we came to the predetermined stop I looked in the rear view mirror to see most of the students fast asleep. Since we had only been on the road for a little more than an hour, I decided to keep on driving. A second look in the rearview mirror revealed the unfavorable look on my wife's face. Within 30 minutes I think every student was feeling the effect of lots of soda pop. It is hard to find an adequate place for a group so large to use the rest room. We passed town after town before we arrived in Bowling Green. By then the major priority was not supper, but a restroom. I think I lost a lot of points with my choir over that.

After a delicious meal, we traveled the last 180 miles. We arrived in Oneida about 9:30 p.m.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Kentucky Utilities honors Harry Hoe

Kentucky Utilities Co. boosted our Beyond 2001 Campaign with a four-year \$100,000 pledge in honor of Harry Hoe of Middlesboro.

KU Chairman and President Michael Whitley wrote, "As a KU energy board member, Mr. Hoe has provided our company with guidance and direction for many years. We appreciate the opportunity to recognize his leadership while also supporting your fine institution."

As a former Clear Creek trustee, Hoe made a personal commitment to the trustee campaign and gave leadership to securing the involvement of Kentucky Utilities. In May, Hoe will conclude 19 years on the KU board.

Hoe's enthusiastic response included, "To God be the glory. I'm

glad we can share with Clear Creek." This pledge enabled the Bell County campaign to surpass its goal and reach \$246,000.

Hoe is an active member of First Baptist Church of Middlesboro, where he serves as a deacon and sings in the choir.

"You can always count on Harry for 100 percent enthusiasm and faithful support," Pastor Jeff Roberts said.

Hoe is immediate past president

of the Middlesboro Kiwanis Club and led the group to double its membership. He believes an individual always should give his or her best to fulfill a commitment.

Hoe's grandfather, J.R. Hoe, started a foundry in Middlesboro. The business now operates with the family's fourth generation in leadership. Harry Hoe remains on the job.

The KU commitment moves us closer to fully funding the new classroom building. We expect to dedicate the 8,600-square-foot structure at the August alumni reunion.

Gifts and pledges to the Beyond 2001 Campaign now total \$3,343,779, toward a goal of \$3,540,000.

Strong participation helped us surpass goals for trustees/former trustees, college community, alumni and Bell County phases of the campaign. We have exceeded project goals for endowed scholarships and student housing. The \$7 million friends campaign continues through June, with half the goal already committed. I agree with Harry Hoe. To God be the glory.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Power Team flexes faith through feats of strength

By Greg Garrison
Religion News Service

PLEASANT GROVE, Ala. (RNS)—They bend steel bars, break concrete blocks and perform other spectacular stunts to demonstrate their strength. But they insist the most important feat of all is to spread the love of Jesus.

Entertaining people with eye-popping muscle-flexing is just the bait to get people into churches and into a personal relationship with Jesus, according to John Jacobs, founder of the internationally televised and nationally touring Power Team.

"I do whatever I can do to reach people for Jesus," Jacobs said.

Jacobs discovered while he was a college student that demonstrations of raw power get people's attention, which he said is one of the first requirements of successful evangelism.

Power Team started 20 years ago when Jacobs, then a student at Oral Roberts University, went to lead Bible study at a prison. After a small turnout, the avid weight lifter decided to make a return visit and show off his physical talents: He could break a pair of steel handcuffs and inflate a hot-water bottle with his breath until it exploded.

The prisoners went wild over the



ICE BREAKERS Power Team member Trey Talley breaks blocks of ice during a performance at a Baptist church near Birmingham, Ala. Founder John Jacobs says the team uses spectacular stunts to gain an opportunity to share their Christian faith. "I do whatever I can do to reach people for Jesus." (RNS photo)

stunts, and everyone attending dedicated his life to Jesus, Jacobs said. Jacobs told his roommate, also a strongman, about how his stunts helped amplify his appeal for accepting the Christian faith. The roommate showed Jacobs how he could tear a telephone book in half and went along on the next prison crusade.

"There are now 18 guys who do power feats," Jacobs said. The ministry, based in Dallas, has a staff of 40.

"We're on TV in more than 100 countries every week," Jacobs added. "We'll be in more than a thousand schools. We will do 130 crusades this year. More than 100,000 people have come forward at our crusades."

Jacobs and the Power Team led a five-day crusade last month at First Baptist Church of Pleasant Grove, Ala. During the day they spoke at anti-drug, self-esteem assemblies for area elementary, junior high and high schools. For five nights, people packed into the church to watch the muscled men perform feats of strength and to hear their Christian messages.

More than 1,700 people attended the last night of the crusade. For the week, more than 500 people made decisions for Jesus, including 200 first-time professions of faith, said Keith McBroom, First Baptist's minister of music.

"This is for unchurched people," McBroom said. "They're drawn to it. It's so different from what people expect of the church. They expect us to have great music, and they expect us to have great preaching."

Instead of singing and preaching, the nightly Power Team crusade meetings featured breaking and bending.

While physical power may not be a trait every Christian has, every Christian has spiritual power, Jacobs said. "God has invested in you powers you can use for God," he said.

"Read the Bible every day, pray and share Christ," he added. "Stay in fellowship with the church and fellow Christians."

"We'll be in more than a thousand schools. We will do 130 crusades this year. More than 100,000 people have come forward at our crusades."

Power Team founder
John Jacobs

FOSLs working to preserve Spurgeon's library

LIBERTY, Mo. (ABP)—Wearing gloves, they pore over their subject, risking disease at every turn. They work cautiously, knowing one false move could destroy the delicate material.

They're archaeologists of sorts, preserving and repairing volumes from the private library of the great Baptist pastor Charles Haddon Spurgeon.

The Friends of the Spurgeon Library, who fondly refer to themselves as FOSLs, are volunteers from all over the United States. They work diligently to restore the books of the Victorian minister, who lived from 1834 to 1892. Some of the books date from the late 1400s; most are in desperate need of repair.

"Many of the books are infected with a fungus that spreads to nearby books and to those handling the books," said Jerry Cain, college chaplain and collegiate vice president of William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo., where the collection is housed.

In fact, Mary Henry, who rebinds the books, was hospitalized after coming in direct contact with the fungus. Antibiotics cleared the infection.

To protect both the handlers and other books, contaminated books are wrapped in a special paper until they can be rebound. Volunteers repair about 50 volumes per year.

Housed on the lower level of the college's library, the Spurgeon collection contains 6,618 volumes. It includes many of Spurgeon's personal works, as well as those of other noted Christian writers.

Spurgeon was one of the most prominent English Baptist pastors of the 19th century. In 1859, he preached in the Crystal Palace in London to a congregation of 23,654 people.

The collection has been described as the world's finest library of Puritan literature. Among its treasures: the first edition serial "All the Year Round," a weekly journal published by Charles Dickens.

"Most of his novels came out one chapter at a time in a magazine," Cain said. "At the end of the year, the articles were bound together in one book. We have the original articles."

The library also contains collections of hymns by Issac Watts, John Rippon and Samuel, John and Charles Wesley.

The oldest book in the collection is a commentary on the book of Psalms by Cardinal Juan de Torquemada. It is written in Latin and was published in Rome in 1476.

William Jewell College secured the Spurgeon Collection in 1906. During the sessions of the Missouri Baptist Convention in 1905, it was announced that the personal library of Charles Haddon Spurgeon was available for purchase in London for 500 pounds. In less than 10 minutes, the school negotiated to buy the collection and have it transferred to the campus.

As library volunteers gingerly thumb through the books, they search for Spurgeon's personal notes. "Any margin notes or underlined text give us insight into what Spurgeon found interesting," Cain said. "In some cas-

es, we've discovered letters between the pages. Those are a real find. There are a wealth of curiosities waiting to be uncovered here."

One of the volunteer archaeologists is Bill Lancaster, president of FOSLs. "I believe the Spurgeon Library represents a clear expression of the ministry of the gospel of Christ," Lancaster said. "It would be a shame to see this collection deteriorate, so we dedicate our time to making the books useful again—for Jewell students, scholars and the general public."

Keeping Baptist history alive motivates board member and FOSL founder Gary Long. "I sense a growing apathy among Baptists today toward our heritage," he said. "But we must understand our past before we can chart our future."

His commitment is shared by many across the nation, with board members ranging from pastors to business people from Maryland to California.

Both Lancaster and Long agree that it's easy to become frustrated when faced with their daunting task, but they find the company of fellow members energizes them.

The Friends would like to rebind 700 books in the next six months, which will require an aggressive membership drive.

Lancaster said that when he dreams about the future of the library, he would like to uncover other books in Spurgeon's collection that the pastor's family members may have. He also would like to see an on-site bookstore selling Spurgeon's works and, in a perfect world, he would like the library housed in a separate building.

Trucking firm says chaplains help boost employees' morale

DECATUR, Ga. (ABP)—A Georgia trucking company owned by Baptists boasts what is believed to be the largest force of industrial chaplains in the world.

Allied Systems of Decatur, Ga., has 125 industrial chaplains spread across the United States and Canada.

The current CEO, Robert Rutland, has continued a family tradition of endowing Baptist causes, but he is most proud of the chaplaincy ministry.

Because of the ministry's success, Allied Systems started a separate company to train chaplains. It has entered an agreement with the pastoral-care department at nearby Emory University to prepare college and seminary students for industrial chaplaincy. Rutland is called on frequently to speak to business executives about why a chaplaincy program is so important to a successful business.

"We see Christian chaplaincy as a vital component of the culture of our company," Rutland said. "We are a family-run business with a strong heritage of Christian commitment. It is good Christianity, and it is good business, to care for the spiritual, emotional and family needs of your employees and their loved ones."

Industry-wide, Rutland said, employee turnover is more than 100 percent a year in the trucking industry. At his company, he said, the turnover rate is about 4 percent. "We are able to keep our employees satisfied and happy and they stay with us," he explained. "The morale is better, productivity is better and the turnover is almost nil. That makes for bottom-line profits for everybody, including our customers."

Ed Salter is chief of the chaplaincy ministry. He was pastor of Redan Baptist Church in Atlanta for many years. While both Salter and his associate director, Huey Perry, are Baptists, their ministry is non-denominational.

Salter said the chaplaincy ministry is not intended to take the place of a pastor, priest or rabbi. "We urge our employees to be faithful to their churches and their local ministers. But we are there, on the job for any personal need which may arise on the job."

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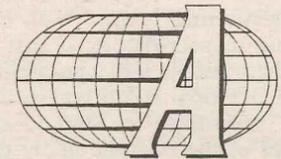
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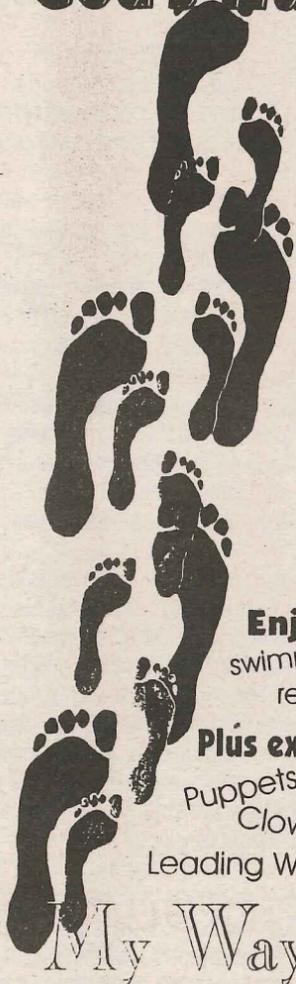
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July 6-10	(GA)	Overnights
July 13-17	(GA/Acteens)	June 29-30
July 27-31	(GA)	July 10-11
Aug. 3-7	(GA)	July 17-18
		July 24-25

JONATHAN CREEK

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