

PRactical Resources for Christian Living

# WESTERN RECORDER

May 12, 1998  
Vol. 172, No. 19

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## KBC adviser lists good & bad findings

By Mark Wingfield  
Editor

**CEDARMORE**—Kentucky Baptists have a generally positive impression of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, even though they perceive the convention's purpose differently and believe some problems exist, a consultant told the KBC Executive Board May 4.

Bob Orr, president of a research and consulting firm called Executive Board on the results of 43 listening sessions held across the state in March. Orr and Bill Mackey, the new KBC executive secretary-treasurer, conducted the listening sessions together.

The 340 participants in the focus group interviews included clergy and lay leaders from a randomly selected churches of all sizes and geographic locations were represented. Listening sessions also were held with

KBC Executive Board staff members, associational directors of missions and campus ministers.

Orr identified six major impressions he heard repeated most often when people were asked about the work of the KBC.

The people interviewed "really want to be a part" of the convention and have a "generally positive image" of the convention, he said.

However, the purpose of the KBC is understood differently, he added. Some people see the convention as a resource center, others as a help for larger churches only, others as a help for all churches, others primarily as a missions organization.

Orr cited these examples of perceived problems within the KBC:

■ That ministry appears to be concentrated in the "holy triangle" formed by Louisville, Lexington and Bowling Green.

■ That larger churches appear to get more attention.

□ See *Listening sessions ...*, page 7

## Kentucky's double dare



## Churches to get options for international partnerships

By David Winfrey  
News Director

**CEDARMORE**—One is in the tropics of Eastern Africa and the other is in Eastern Europe.

One is influenced by Muslim, Christian and animist religions. The second is predominantly Catholic, often Christian in name only.

Both have survived occupation and face strong futures through free trade.

Starting next year they will share an ally in Christian missions as Kentucky Baptists link efforts with churches in Tanzania and Poland for three years of evangelism, construction and medical missions.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention's Executive Board voted last



**TWO DIFFERENT WORLDS** After Kentucky Baptists finish the partnership with Russian Baptists this year, leaders will begin working with two countries at the same time: Tanzania and Poland. ■ Top: A Masai village. ■ Above: A Polish plaza. (Photos by Calvin Wilkins and Don Rutledge, respectively)

week to establish two partnerships, based on the advice of Calvin Wilkins, director of the KBC partnership missions office.

The growing demand for partnership links and a need for varied cost options are among reasons for □ See *Kentucky Baptists ...*, page 9

## Researcher: Most churches found to be woefully lacking leaders

**MESQUITE, Texas (ABP)**—The bad news: Many American churches suffer from a woeful lack of leadership, religion researcher George Barna claims.

The good news: Leadership can be cultivated.

"People need to be led," said Barna, who recently visited Louisville with his nationwide seminar tour.

His organization, Barna Research Group, studied a cross-section of effective churches and polled Americans to examine the status of U.S. church life.

"More than four out of five people

are followers, although up to 60 percent of people describe themselves as leaders," he reported.

"Most people hate the responsibilities of leadership," he explained, noting they don't like the burdens of criticism, loneliness and pressure that accompany leadership.

But people need leaders, because "left to their own devices, people make wrong decisions," he said. "A leader has the vision to make right decisions."

Unfortunately, most churches have too few leaders, Barna said. "Most churches have about 4 percent of

adults in leadership," he said. "But effective churches have 8 percent to 12 percent of adults in leadership."

"A church cannot be understaffed in leadership and make progress."

Barna defined a Christian leader as "someone who is called by God to lead, leads with and through Christlike character and demonstrates the functional competencies that permit leadership to take place."

"A Christian leader leads people by motivating, mobilizing, resourcing and directing them to fulfill a vision from God that they jointly share," he said

Leadership takes place on at least three levels, he added:

■ "Micro-level" leadership influences small groups, like a youth group, a ball team or a Bible study class.

"Most leadership is micro-level," Barna said. "Therefore, the church primarily is shaped by the cumulative effect of micro leadership."

■ "Mezzo-level" leadership provides modest leadership, such as that of a pastor of a small church or a church Sunday school director.

"Many clergy and lay leaders □ See *Barna: Leaders ...*, page 12

Moving? See page 4 (05/12)

# BAPTISTS

## SBC and KBC mark gains in most areas for 1997

### SBC and KBC annual statistics for 1997

Item/Statistic	SBC statistics			KBC statistics		
	1997	1996	Change	1997	1996	Change
Total membership	15,891,514	15,694,050	1.26%	772,858	772,545	0.04%
Baptisms	412,027	379,344	8.62%	15,976	15,359	4.0%
Sunday school enrollment	8,140,017	8,242,128	-1.24%	354,751	350,585	1.2%
Discipleship training participation	2,433,802	2,347,695	3.67%	89,914	88,960	1.1%
Music ministry participation	1,826,583	1,915,288	-4.63%	87,745	87,684	0.07%
WMU enrollment	995,898	1,071,240	N/A*	48,097	51,548	N/A*
Brotherhood participation	522,303	769,248	N/A*	20,985	30,098	N/A*
Undesignated receipts	\$5,230,303,634	\$5,040,070,313	3.77%	\$183,930,749	\$180,955,462	1.64%
Cooperative Program gifts				\$18,659,031	\$18,150,873	2.1%

\* 1997 statistics for WMU and Brotherhood participation are not comparable to previous years because of a change in the way these statistics were measured.

NASHVILLE—The number of people baptized in Kentucky Baptist churches and Southern Baptist churches nationwide increased last year, one of several positive statistical trends from analysis of the 1997 Annual Church Profile.

Nationally, baptisms in Southern Baptist churches topped 400,000 for the first time since 1982, with a total for 1997 of 412,027. That's an 8.6 percent gain over the previous year.

In Kentucky, baptisms increased 4 percent, to 15,976. Kentucky Baptist churches baptized 617 more people in 1997 than in 1996.

Baptisms are seen as a key indicator of church and denominational health because they are one measure of how well Baptists are fulfilling Jesus' Great Commission to "make disciples and baptize them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit."

Kentucky Baptists registered slight gains in all major areas measured, except for participation in Brotherhood and Woman's Missionary Union programs. These figures for 1997, however, are not comparable to previous years because of a change in the method of counting participation.

Nationally, Southern Baptists marked decreases in two key areas: Sunday school enrollment and music ministry enrollment.

Annual Church Profile data is compiled based on local church responses to an annual statistical questionnaire.

## NAMB approves restructuring, names 2 vice presidents

### NAMB links with First Priority

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—The Southern Baptist North American Mission Board has pledged leadership and potential financial support to First Priority of America, which promotes and supplies resources for Christian clubs on secondary school campuses.

Currently more than 1,000 Southern Baptist churches of all sizes are active partners in First Priority ministries.

First Priority has been at the forefront of an explosion of Christian clubs on school campuses. Currently more than 3,000 campus Christian clubs are affiliated with local First Priority organizations in more than 165 cities—up from about 200 clubs in 10 cities just three years ago.

First Priority helps churches facilitate such clubs. The national organization supports local chapters organized in each participating city. Those organizations in turn provide resources for students who wish to start clubs.

FORT WORTH, Texas—Less than a year after it was formed, the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention is undergoing a staff restructuring.

NAMB trustees, meeting May 5-6 in Fort Worth, Texas, approved organizational changes proposed by President Bob Reccord. They also filled a vice presidential slot that has been vacant since NAMB's creation.

The new vice president for evangelization is John Yarbrough, who since June has been NAMB's lead strategy coordinator. Yarbrough, a former Georgia pastor, came to NAMB's staff after serving as chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention task force that created NAMB's staff structure and salary scale and hired most of the agency's initial employees.

He preceded in that chairmanship by Reccord, who resigned to be nominated as NAMB's first president.

Reccord told NAMB employees prior to last week's board meeting that he was proposing an organizational change, but one he said involved only "minor tweaks."

Only about 10 people will change direct supervisors, Reccord said. However, several work units will be shifted from one work group to another, one new vice presidential position was created, and another vice presidential position eliminated.

NAMB's media technology center, located in Fort Worth, Texas, has been elevated from department



Yarbrough



Clark

level to that of a vice presidential group. That unit is what remains of the old Radio & Television Commission, one of three agencies merged to create NAMB last June.

With this change, David Clark, executive director of the media technology unit, becomes vice president of the newly named broadcast communications group.

Media technology originally was one of five units within a media and missions education group. That vice president-headed group also has changed names in the restructuring, becoming the mobilization and missions education group, with Nate Adams remaining as vice president.

Adams' group, however will gain a smaller unit into its fold. The volunteer mobilization unit, which had been housed in a strategic planning and mobilization group, will come under the purview of Adams' group.

The vice president for business services position, held by Ernest Kelley, has been eliminated, and all units previously reporting to that vice president instead will report to the current vice president of strategic planning and mobilization, Mike

Day.

Day's unit has been renamed the strategy and business services group.

Kelley, who served as interim president of the Home Mission Board before it was dissolved to form NAMB, will take on a new role as special assistant to the president. Reccord said Kelley, who is nearing retirement age, will enhance partnerships in new work areas, particularly Alaska, the Northwest and Canada.

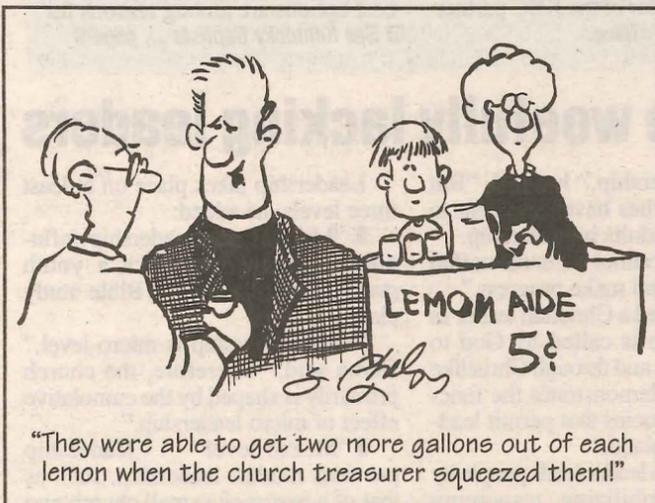
Reccord told NAMB employees that the agency's structure was "created last year almost in a vacuum, knowing that some adjustments would be necessary. Now that we have developed a solid strategic direction, we must have a structure that allows us to be more effective."

Reccord also said this would not be the last organizational change at NAMB.

"We cannot allow ourselves to get in comfort zones that are unproductive," he said. "We must be willing to constantly change in order to meet the changing needs of our partner churches, associations, state conventions and sister agencies."

In other staff news, NAMB has announced the hiring of a former Kentucky Baptist Convention employee.

Rob Carr, Brotherhood Services director for the Illinois Baptist State Association since 1989, has been named adult missions education strategist. Carr was associate Brotherhood director for the KBC from 1982-89.



## Hirings include media, information services directors

By Mark Wingfield  
Editor

CEDARMORE—A new communications director and information services director were hired by the Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Board last week, while a new campus minister was approved for Georgetown College.

In other personnel matters, the KBC Executive Board also has approved part-time contracts for a family ministry consultant and an information services consultant.

Robert Reeves, currently communications director with Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, was named director of the KBC's communications and media department. He succeeds Monty Carter, who took a pastorate in South Carolina.

Reeves, 37, has served the Kentucky child care agency since 1993. Previously, he was director of communications and public relations for Connie Maxwell Children's Home in Greenwood, S.C. Prior to that, he was editor and general manager of the Field & Herald, a weekly newspaper in Conway, S.C.

At Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, Reeves has won numerous awards for his work and has been credited with starting several new initiatives, including developing the agency's presence on the World Wide Web.

Reeves earned the bachelor of arts degree in journalism from the University of South Carolina, and he currently is a candidate for the mas-



Reeves



Fulkerson



Felton



Vincent

ter of arts degree in communications from Western Kentucky University.

He and his wife, Elza, are the parents of two sons. They are members of Lakewood Baptist Church in Louisville.

Troy Fulkerson, technical services team leader with Professional Software, Solutions and Technology Inc. in Louisville, was named the KBC's director of information services. He fills a position created by the retirement of Douglas Hays. The position has been redefined and renamed at this transition point.

Fulkerson, 31, will direct all the KBC's computer operations, an area that has been growing in recent years as technology advances have been implemented.

Fulkerson holds the bachelor of science degree in computer science from the University of Kentucky. Through work with his current employer since 1991, he has done extensive consultation with the KBC. He was the lead programmer on one of the KBC's major computer databases, in addition to work with clients such as the Kentucky Department of Education, Kentucky Soci-

ety of Pathologists and American Fidelity Assurance Co.

Fulkerson and his wife, Kim, are the parents of two young children. They are members of Highview Baptist Church in Louisville.

Sharon Kirkpatrick Felton, 29, has been named campus minister at Georgetown College, a joint appointment between the KBC and the college. She succeeds Jack Birdwhistell, who continues to teach at Georgetown but has stepped down from the campus minister position.

Currently, Felton is editor of Life and Work curriculum for college students at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville. She also is college and singles minister at Bluegrass Baptist Church in Hendersonville, Tenn.

Previously, Felton was an intern with the Baptist Student Union at Murray State University, BSU campus minister at Paducah Community College, development director for Centrifuge camp at North Greenville College in South Carolina and Union University in Jackson, Tenn. She also has been a consultant for women and ethics with the Texas

Baptist Christian Life Commission.

Felton earned the bachelor of arts degree in psychology from Baylor University and the master of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Her husband, Keith, is a singer and songwriter.

Felton, Reeves and Fulkerson were approved for their new positions by the KBC Executive Board May 5.

Earlier, the Executive Board's administrative committee approved two new contracts for part-time consultants.

Douglas Hays, who is retiring as computer services director, will continue in a part-time consulting role over the next year.

Valerie Vincent has been employed as a family ministry consultant, working out of the KBC's minister/church support division.

She earned the bachelor of arts in religion and psychology from Samford University and the master of divinity degree in pastoral care and counseling from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. She also has done a clinical pastoral education residency at Montclair Baptist Medical Center in Birmingham.

Most recently she has been assistant director of Fairdale Area Community Ministries in Louisville, where she worked with families in crisis and developed programming for senior adults.

She and her husband, Andy, are members of Crestwood Baptist Church.

### BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ Roy Honeycutt, retired president and chancellor of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, was the commencement speaker for Campbellsville University May 9. The school had 211 graduates.

■ The Baptist Student Union at Northern Kentucky University recently received campus awards for Best Visibility on Campus and Best Program for an overnight lock-in for area high school students. The BSU also received one of the school's merit awards as a top 10 organization on campus, said Baptist Campus Minister Bill Ellis. "These are tremendous honors coming from the campus at large."

■ Correction: Last week's KBC accommodations ad had an error. The rates for Holiday Inn Downtown are \$55 for one person, \$65 for 2-4 people.

## Fellowship won't compete with KBC, new head says

By Mark Wingfield  
Editor

LOUISVILLE—John Lepper has been named the first full-time coordinator of the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship effective June 1.

Lepper, 51, has been director of family ministry for the Kentucky Baptist Convention since 1986. He also is a part-time counselor at Personal Counseling Service in Clarksville, Ind.

In his new role, Lepper will coordinate and develop the ministry of the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship, said Bob DeFoor, the organization's moderator and pastor of Harrodsburg Baptist Church.

The statewide organization, which is linked to the national Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, previously has had part-time employees. However, the organization voted earlier this year to seek a full-time coordinator.

DeFoor said Lepper's work will include administration, fund-raising, leading in the establishment of Fellowship churches, networking among Fellowship-minded Baptists and other tasks related to developing a Fellowship ministry.

He emphasized that neither Lepper nor the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship intends to compete with the

Kentucky Baptist Convention. The Fellowship movement nationwide was born out of moderate Baptists' discontent with the conservative takeover of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"We will continue to be a buffer between those who would transform the KBC into a fundamentalist organization; we will try to be between them and the KBC," DeFoor said. "But we're going to have a ministry that's more than simply a defensive posture toward fundamentalists."

"It will not be competitive with the KBC. We'll not be doing stuff that simply duplicates what the KBC does. We intend to develop our own ministry much like an association would."

In announcing his resignation from the KBC staff, Lepper praised the KBC and said his work there has been "a labor of love."

"I have a deep appreciation for the Kentucky Baptist Convention and for Bill Mackey," the KBC's new executive secretary-treasurer. "I am committed to maintain a warm, friendly and supportive relationship with the Kentucky Baptist Convention," he said.

He noted that four of the six purpose statements in the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship's bylaws "speak

specifically about the desire to maintain fellowship" with the KBC.

Lepper earned the bachelor of arts degree from Carson-Newman College, as well as the master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is a member associate of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors.

Prior to joining the KBC staff, Lepper was pastor of Hardwick Baptist Church in Hardwick, Ga.; First Baptist Church of Lebanon Junction; Upton Baptist Church in Upton; Center Point Baptist Church in Springfield, Tenn.; and Shiloh Baptist Church in Seymour, Tenn.

Lepper has been a regular columnist for the Western Recorder's Family Forum series. He has written numerous articles for magazines and journals, such as Home Life, Deacon, Living with Teenagers, ParentLife and the Journal of Family Ministry. He is the author of the 1993 book "When Crisis Comes Home."

Lepper will establish an office somewhere in the Louisville area, although arrangements have not been finalized, DeFoor said. An installation service will be held during the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship's spring meeting May 16.

Lepper and his wife, Connie, are the parents of two daughters. They are members of Crestwood Baptist Church in Oldham County.



Lepper

## Christian musicians work on project for Paducah students

PADUCAH (RNS)—Fifteen contemporary Christian artists and groups have united in a recording project to honor members of the Heath High School prayer group in Paducah that was gunned down last December.

The effort is titled "B. Strong," a reference to prayer group leader Ben Strong, who talked the teen gunman into putting down his weapon during the shooting.

"It's going to be released as a single and it's going to benefit Ben Strong and the kids," said Brian Mayes, executive producer of the project.

"B. Strong"—a play on words simultaneously honoring the prayer group leader while offering an inspirational message—will feature artists who perform a range of Christian music, from reggae to inspirational.

The song, conceived by Ohio singer-songwriter Everett Darren, is a "straight-ahead pop" selection that will be marketed to radio stations that play contemporary Christian music. "It's something that's really going to unite people," Mayes said. "Hopefully, it's going to bring healing to people in Paducah."

The song also could get air play on secular stations, said Mayes, president of BMP Artist and Management Nashville and vice president of Audience Records, a Christian record label in Tennessee capital. "It's not so Christian-specific that other people can't appreciate it," he said.

Mayes said proceeds from sales of the recording initially will go to a college fund for Strong and to a second fund for medical expenses of the victims and their families.

Artists involved in the project include Selena Bloom, Scott Wesley Brown, Christafari, Morgan Cryer, Rick Cua, Al Denson, Jordan Dickerson of Christian pop trio Squirt, Mancy A'lan Kane, Greg Long, Michael O'Brien, Peter Penrose, Pam Thum and Marcia Ware.

## WESTERN RECORDER

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**MARK WINGFIELD**  
Editor

**DAVID WINFREY**  
News Director

**MAURI SMITH**  
Marketing & Business  
Manager

**C.R. DALEY**  
Editor Emeritus

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

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## A clergy class?

John Dunaway's letter about considering a layperson as president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention raises a more pointed question: Why do Baptists tolerate a clergy-laity distinction in the first place?

As a "people of the book" Baptists claim the sufficiency of Scripture as the basis for religious practices, yet there is no Scriptural basis for a clergy-laity distinction. Quite to the contrary, the New Testament describes Christians as a "royal priesthood" wherein all may go directly to God and all have a duty to bear witness and minister.

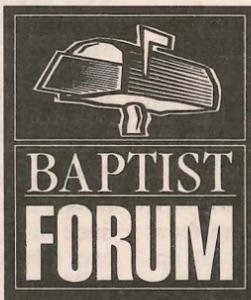
Our current practice of limiting many church practices to a clergy class is a violation of each member's privilege and responsibility for ministering as God gifts and calls. Church rules restricting the conduct of such activities as administering the Lord's Supper and baptizing new converts are not found in the New Testament.

One person defends such thinking by writing, "The reason for insisting upon ordination as a requisite for administering the Lord's Supper is to keep it from being treated carelessly." Does this person really think non-ordained persons would treat the Lord's Supper carelessly?

A kingdom of priests needs only one high priest, and that is Jesus himself. Local pastors are given to the church to "equip the saints (all members) for the work of the ministry" (Ephesians 4:11-12). Instead of equipping, it becomes all too easy to accept a model in which pastors are seen as the minister of the church.

Local congregations would do well to adapt our nation's First Amendment to church bylaws. Such an adaptation might read, "This church shall have no rule nor take any action to prohibit, circumscribe, or otherwise limit the practice of any ministry activity or function by any person where such limitation is based on the holding of any office."

Luther McIntyre  
Louisville



## Training gamblers

The morning of May 7 as I was driving across Louisville's expressway system and casually listening to the radio, an advertisement caused my blood to boil.

It seems Louisville's favorite gambling attraction, Churchill Downs, is going to sponsor a day of learning how to bet. For \$10 you get a seat, instructions and a \$2 bet.

That's a bad idea from my point of view, but even worse is that the event

is sponsored by the Courier-Journal. Indirectly, that makes me and anyone else subscribing to the newspaper a part of the action because my subscription fee, in the large picture, is paying part of the sponsorship.

Does not God's word warn us to shy away from the very appearance of evil? We all know that gambling is evil, so, therefore I for one will be canceling my subscription to the Courier-Journal until I am assured they will no longer sponsor gambling events.

Claude Witt  
Executive Director  
Temperance League of Kentucky

## Thanks from Russia

As the contact person for the Kentucky-Russia partnership, I wanted to express my appreciation to all the wonderful people in Kentucky.

I am a missionary in Russia with the International Mission Board. It is a joy to serve our Lord here. He has provided for me over and above what I ever imagined.

One of the ways he has met some of my needs is through the great generosity of the Baptists in Kentucky. Although it may seem insignificant, when the volunteer teams bring items such as baking powder, cake mixes, etc. for the missionaries, this means we can experience a little of America and also know our names are being brought before our Father's throne.

Thanks to all the many people who willingly give so we can continue to

serve our Lord with joy and strength. Although many of the people who give will never meet the Russians on this earth, they will meet them in heaven. They can rejoice that they had a part in helping them come to know Jesus.

Jane Meredith  
Penza, Russia

## Thanks from Kentucky

On May 4, I was recognized by the Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Board for 25 years of service in the KBC office for evangelism. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Kentucky Baptists for the gift and extra vacation time allotted to me.

I also would like to say that I am grateful that I have had the privilege to serve the Lord through the office for evangelism, and I look forward to more years of service here.

Marjorie Oliver  
Louisville

**Have an opinion?** The Western Recorder welcomes letters to the editor in response to articles, editorials, columns and other issues of concern to our readers.

**Correction:** The April 28 letter by John Dunaway contained an error when it stated no woman had been elected to a Kentucky Baptist Convention office other than secretary since the 1970s. In 1991 Ginny Sisk was elected second vice president.

## Is anyone listening to our teens?

By Dale Hanson Bourke

You'd think someone would hear the cry for help behind a nickname like "Satan."

In retrospect, the signs of trouble were all there. But somehow no one heard or heeded the warnings. That is until one man was dead, a school was traumatized and one 14-year-old boy is finally being heard.

Now every whisper, every thought will be analyzed. He will be surrounded by psychiatrists and lawyers. His childhood will be dissected and any trauma carefully documented. At last, he will be known.

But what about the other teenagers struggling in our society. Is anyone listening to them?

Our own community faced this question when a boy from a nearby town committed suicide after his team lost a game. Again, there had been signs of trouble, whispers for help. But instead of lashing out at others, he simply took his own life, ending the pain forever.

As I talked to my own teenage son about the tragedy, I asked him to tell me or someone else if a friend ever talked about dying or wanting to end his life. I wanted to know if he had friends who felt hopeless.

My son acknowledged some of his friends felt that way.

As we talked further it became clear I was a fortunate parent. Many kids don't talk to their moms or dads at all. They have no place to go when

adult-sized fears invade their teenage worlds.

I asked if some of the kids talked to teachers or coaches. "Sometimes..." my son said without conviction.

I remembered a conversation I had last year with a teacher who told me how much things had changed over time.

"You have to be careful not to seem too interested in a child because of all the allegations of improper relationships," he said. "And last time I called a parent because I saw some troubling signs I was threatened with a lawsuit for slander."

I could see why teachers might hold back and why kids would not feel free to talk.

My own son has a support group at church with a group of guys who have a regular Bible study. And his youth director is in his early twenties—young enough to be hip, but old enough to be wise. When my son

seems troubled and uncomfortable talking to me about a situation I can always say, "Why don't you call Dave?"

But many kids aren't actively involved in a church or synagogue and don't have a place to take their concerns. Finding a young, caring role model is difficult.

And the fact is, most of us parents just don't take the time to be available to our teens.

The conversations that once happened spontaneously seem to disappear during adolescence. Innocent

questions are viewed as prying; talk is often one way.

Some days when I pick my sons up at school, my younger boy is ebullient while my teenager barely mumbles. Other days my teenager bursts into the car with news. Some nights I stick my head in to say "good night" and feel I should apologize for the intrusion. Other times I am rewarded with a hug and "I love you."

There's no predicting when the moments will come. Listening to teens is like playing full-time detective.

And talking to teens is often frustratingly confusing. A passing comment will be taken to heart while an important warning will go unheard. Parents of teenagers share a general sense of incompetence that transcends anything experienced during previous years.

Perhaps that is one of the reasons we pull back. We see these tall people and think they can take care of themselves. We feel insulted and rejected by them at times and take it personally.

Most of us know less about parenting teens than we did about diapering babies. We think we should have it down by now, but we don't. And we let our own insecurities get in the way of the job we still have to do.

The growing problems of teens in our society need to be taken seriously. We shouldn't just pay attention to the ones that lash out or mourn those that end their lives. We need to find ways to reach teens who just suffer in silence, hoping someone will listen and take the time to know them.

(RNS)  
Dale Hanson Bourke is publisher of Religion News Service and the mother of two sons.

## Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

Anthony Showalter was a young preacher and singing school teacher active in the last decades of the 19th century.

In 1888, during a revival in Hartselle, Ala., he received letters from two men who attended a singing school he taught, bringing news of the deaths of the wives of both men.

As he pondered what he should say to these friends, he recalled the biblical promise of Deuteronomy 33:27: "The eternal God is thy refuge and underneath are the everlasting arms."

Slowly he began to piece together a song. The lines and melody of the refrain took shape first. He wrote the melody for the stanzas but, hard as he tried, he was unable to complete the words for the stanzas. He then wrote to Elisha Hoffman, a well-known writer of hymn texts, asking if he could supply the needed stanzas.

Several weeks later, Hoffman's letter with the stanzas arrived. That evening in a revival service, Showalter sang the song for the first time: "What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms? I have blessed peace, with my Lord so near, leaning on the everlasting arms. Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms. Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms."

William Reynolds  
Southwestern Seminary

## HE SAID/SHE SAID

### Warning: Frequent hymn singing may make you uncomfortable

#### HESAIID



Mark Wingfield

I've decided there are some hymns I just shouldn't sing anymore. It's not that they're bad hymns, but that I'm not a good enough person to be able to sing them with honesty.

Somewhere I was recently—I don't remember where, which is probably fodder for another column about memory loss—we sang the words of Grace Crowell set to music by Phillip Landgrave. The hymn starts out OK: "Because I have been given much, I too

must give." That's a generic enough platitude; no problem.

But then things get tough: "Because of thy great bounty, Lord, each day I live, I shall divide my gifts from thee with every brother that I see who has the gift of help from me."

Suddenly singing wasn't so much fun. Suddenly it sounded a whole lot like preaching, and I was both the preacher and the preachee.

Of course, that's not the only hymn we can't sing with complete honesty. "I Surrender All" is a tough one, and even "Seek Ye First" isn't all that easy if you really think about it.

It's easy to become immune to the words of some hymns if you sing them enough. Growing up, I sang all the verses of "Just As I Am" so often that I probably still could recite the words more easily than the Pledge of Allegiance. Reminds me of that old theater director's command: "Once more, with feeling."

But every once in a while amazing new insight comes from an old hymn, perhaps when heard or sung in a new way. The other night in choir we were singing John Rutter's beautiful arrangement of "Be Thou My Vision." New insight broke through the rote singing and the words took on profound meaning. For the text says that God is the best thought we will have by day or by night.

I never had seen it before, though I know I've sung it dozens of times. To borrow from another hymn: "Sometimes a light surprises."

#### SHESAID



Alison Wingfield

Admittedly, praise songs and hymns are a little easier to sing without evoking a guilty conscience. But the praise hymns also serve to put me in the right frame of mind for worship, helping me remember to "Praise God from whom all blessings flow."

There are some hymns I never tire of singing: "All Creatures of Our God and King," "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" and "It Is Well with My Soul," to name a few. Some I can take in small doses,

every once in awhile.

And then there are those that, despite all my efforts, I have the hardest time singing or listening to, because of past memories. With all the best effort in the world, some of the soloists in the church I grew up in were not to my taste, and they tended to sing the same songs over and over again. I heard so many butchered versions of "His Eye is on the Sparrow," that it took Larnelle Harris' version to help me appreciate the words again.

One of my best memories of hymn-singing is the feeling of true fellowship that enfolds the whole congregation as we sing a beautiful hymn together. Young and old, perfect pitch and tone-deaf. The results were inspiring.

One church we were members of had the best hymn-singing congregation I have ever experienced. The acoustics of the sanctuary helped, but so did the spirit of the people singing. You knew you had worshipped after singing hymns together.

So the next time you sing a hymn, remember: "O, Zion Haste" for we are "Near to the Heart of God," when we "Bless His Holy Name."

## Is your church susceptible to closing?

Will your church still be in existence 20 years from now?

According to Baptist sociologist Nancy Ammerman, the answer for many Baptists is no. It's a hard word to hear, but one we must face up to.

Ammerman made this point recently at Georgetown College in a speech based on her research of nine churches in changing American communities. To paraphrase her warning: Churches that fail to change their approach (not their gospel message) as society changes might as well ask the last person to die to turn off the lights before they hit the ground.

Some will counter that this just isn't true. After all, many churches in Kentucky have been in existence for 150 years, 200 years or longer. If they've survived this long, surely they'll keep going.

Maybe, but don't fail to take into account two important factors.

First, many of those historic churches for the first time ever have failed to transfer ownership to a new generation. Look around today and you'll see mainly gray hair in the pews and a lot of dust in the nursery. This has happened for several reasons, but placing blame isn't nearly as vital right now as admitting the situation exists.

Second, at no time in the past 300 years has the church faced the potential for so much change happening so rapidly. Historians and other observers of church trends note that the shape and function of the Christian church is in a state of major transition, and no one knows exactly where it will come out.

And the sad truth is that the church is highly resistant to change.

I saw this illustrated several years ago while working for the Home Mission Board. I visited a church in the metropolitan Miami area, a church where a thriving Hispanic congregation of several hundred was crammed into the basement of a church building, beneath the spacious sanctuary where about 50 English-speaking white folks were rattling around.

The mission had outgrown the mother church, and in fact the mother was on life support. But the people who "owned" the building insisted on keeping everyone in their place, even if doing so was illogical.

I asked the missionary accompanying me to explain what was going on. The answer was simple, he said: The church had become the last holdout in resistance to change. "These people have seen their neighborhoods change, their city change, their jobs change, their schools change, everything change. Their church is the last place they can still come and not be forced to change."

It was a pitiful commentary on a church that did not comprehend the gospel it purported to preach.

"Behold, I make all things new," Jesus said. And the entire earthly ministry of Jesus was one of introducing change, of declaring that the kingdom of God is about transforming what is stale into something vibrant, of making the comfortable uncomfortable.

The church should not be the last institution in a community to adapt to changing needs, it should be the first. When mission is more important than methods, churches thrive. When method is more important than mission, churches commit a slow and ugly suicide.

Stories in this week's Recorder highlight the findings of recent focus-group interviews across the state. These listening sessions revealed that Kentucky Baptists are doing many things well and that God is working from the mountains to the Mississippi.

But like Ammerman's research, these listening sessions also demonstrated that the churches which are thriving have broken out of their 19th century mold and even moved beyond the 1950s update of that old mold.

Where will your church be 20 years from now? If you want the answer to be "open and thriving," invest in the future by becoming open to healthy changes today.

— Mark Wingfield

## EDITORIAL

### Why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye?

By Charles Midkiff

*"Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?" (Luke 6:41)*

The late Clarence Jordan's modern translation in the Codex Patch versions of Luke and Acts gives this translation of the text: "Now why do you keep looking at the splinter in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How do you have the nerve to say to your brother, 'Brother, please let me pick the splinter out of your eye,' without even noticing the plank in your eye? You phony, first get the plank from your eye, and then you'll see better to pick the splinter from your brother's eye."

In Luke 6:41, Jesus was saying to his disciples that it is very easy to judge the fault of someone else without taking into account our own faults. Jesus is consistent and persistent in his warnings to us about being slow to judge and careful in what judgment is exercised.

We are called upon daily to make

decisions and show good judgment. We are never called upon to "play God" and make decisions and judgments that God alone should make. In doing so, we do become phony.

Jesus gets his disciples' attention by using hyperbole and humor to make his point (speck in the brother's eye as compared to the beam in the beholder's eye). He goes on to say that you must first get the beam out of your own eye; then you can clearly see to remove the speck from your

brother's eye.

The temptation to judge someone else without first looking at ourselves is constantly before us. Peggy Haynes in a recent publication noted that we do this in the family of faith as well: "We put our energies into thinking and talking about people who aren't measuring up to our standards. We focus on someone else's apparent lack of commitment. We shake our heads at their failures, their differences with us. We spend so much time figuring out what 'they' ought to be doing (especially the ministerial staff) that we never have the time to look at

our own lives. After all, that's much harder, isn't it?"

It is important for us to get our own houses in order before we begin telling someone else to straighten theirs. It is so easy to be blind to our own faults, our own sinfulness.

The best cure is to be honest with God. When we judge others, we are judging when we are created by God, one who is created in God's image. David said in confessing his sin, "Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight."

Let God remove the beam in your eye by giving it to him. Name it, claim it and give it to him. He is fully able to remove it from you.

After he removes the beam, the speck will be seen in an entirely different light. It will then seem like a speck, very small. The attitude will be different too. There will be a heart filled with compassion rather than an attitude of condemnation and judgment. Jesus asks

us to be slow to judge and generous in forgiving.

Charles Midkiff is pastor of First Baptist Church of Greenville.



# RESOURCES

## This week's questions:

- When is a person too old to drive?
- How can I pray for my child?

**Q. My children keep saying I'm too old to drive. They kid me that they are going to have to take away my car keys. When is a person too old to drive?**

**A.** You are facing a traumatic decision. In our culture an automobile and driver's license are symbols of mobility, freedom and independence. I recall the difficulty of convincing my mother to give up her car; she was backing into cars in parking lots without realizing it.

I don't think it is a question of age so much as loss of alertness and reflex reactions. Also physical impairments, such as cataracts, hearing loss and rheumatism add to the dangers.

Perhaps your doctor or a close friend can give you honest counsel. Remember your children's concern is for your safety, not to handicap you.

Meanwhile, here are a few suggestions:

- Avoid driving at night or in rainy weather when the glare of lights makes it harder to see.
- Go out mid-morning or early afternoon when there is less traffic.
- Avoid school zones, factory en-

trances and busy highways and intersections by finding alternate routes.

■ Be careful; your best argument is a good driving record. — *Al Shackelford*

**Q. How can I pray for my child?**

**A.** In his letter to the Christians at Colosse, Paul had this to say about their mutual friend, Epaphras: "He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured" (Colossians 4:12).

Like Epaphras, parents have the privilege and responsibility of praying for our children. Here are several ideas that may help:

■ **Gratitude.** Give thanks to God for your child and pray for the opportunity of being a parent. Pray for wisdom (see James 1:5). Ask God to help you train and instruct your child in the ways of the Lord and to never exasperate or provoke in any way (see Ephesians 6:4).

■ **Guidance.** Ask God to help your child grow to know and love Jesus. Ask for protection from evil and for safety in a dangerous world. Know your child's daily schedule and

whereabouts and visualize them in their activities as you pray. Ask God to help them make good choices. Pray for teachers, friends and others who influence your child. Pray occasionally for their future—school, work, spouse.

■ **Grace.** Ask God to help your child experience grace and pray for opportunities to show grace. Pray also God's grace for yourself when you make a mistake as a parent.

■ **Scriptures.** Pray Scriptures into your child's life. Personalize passages like Philippians 1:9-11, Colossians 2:6-7 and Colossians 3:15-17 and pray them for your children.

■ **Be specific.** The question "How can I pray for you?" gives your child the opportunity to express specific cares, concerns and needs that you may not be aware of. — *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](mailto:wesrec@ntr.net).



## FAMILY

### Use compounding as friend, not foe

By Jeremy White

In last month's column, I discussed the first of my two doctrines of successful personal finance: "Recognize how useful and useless money is."

Money has practical uses in providing for your family or funding God's work. However, it is useless in obtaining the best of life, such as a satisfying marriage, good health or peace with God. Remembering this doctrine keeps our mind on things above and improves our financial decision-making.

The second doctrine encompasses the practical aspects of spending less than you earn, reducing debt and saving.

Financial Doctrine No. 2: Harness the power of compounding to work for you, not against you.

Compounding is earning interest (or a return) on principle and interest. Albert Einstein called the power of compounding the greatest discovery of the 20th century. Here's an idea of that power. Save just 50 cents a day for 40 years, earning 10 percent. Then you will have \$100,000 even though you only set aside \$7,300.

A real-life example is Oseola McCarty. The most this uneducated washerwoman in Mississippi ever made in one year was \$9,000. In 1995, she gave \$150,000 to a university. How did she do it? Mrs. McCarty explained: "Compounding interest."

Solomon directly affirmed this principle in Proverbs 13:11, "Dishonest money dwindles away, but he who gathers money little by little makes it grow."

Compounding can work against you just as powerfully. This is where most of us live—swimming upstream, fighting the current instead of floating down the river. Making the minimum payments on a credit card balance of \$6,000 would result in paying a total of \$11,300 over the next eight years. Or an \$80,000, 30-year mortgage at 8.5 percent will cost you a total of \$221,000. In other words, you would pay out \$141,000 in interest alone.

These doctrines, like those of Jesus, are simple in theory but tough to apply. With God's help and your commitment, you can overcome your financial challenges.

*Jeremy White is a CPA in Paducah.*



## 4.7 million pounds of food sent to North Korea

### Small church gives big

By Joyce Sweeney Martin  
Staff Writer

**RADCLIFF**—The numbers tell the story. When Red Hill Baptist Church near Radcliff heard about the desperate need for food relief in North Korea, members knew they wanted to help.

They figured they could spend about \$900 which would fill 21 boxes with food items requested by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, Pastor James Royalty said.

But after checking prices, they found they could buy the food more cheaply than expected. Instead of each box of food costing the estimated \$41.70, each would cost \$27.58.

And in addition to the \$900 the church had voted to give from its budget, members donated another \$810.

Plus, a local business man offered to donate 700 pounds of beans worth about \$224.

So they refigured. With the \$1,710, they could fill 62 boxes.

That's 754 pounds of beans, 930 pounds of corn meal, 930 pounds of flour, 930 pounds of rice, 496 pounds of spaghetti and 248 pounds of powered milk.

Grand total: 4,288 pounds of food. Remarkable for a church averaging 30 people in Sunday morning worship.



**MEAL IN A BOX** Dozens of bags of corn meal sit ready to be placed in boxes by members of Red Hill Baptist Church near Radcliff for shipment to North Korea. The church sent 930 pounds of corn meal, along with many other items, to help the famine-stricken nation.

**NEW ORLEANS**—Southern Baptists sent another shipment of aid to North Korea May 3 to ease the mounting pressure from an extended famine that has left many people malnourished and weakened.

More than 4.7 million pounds of food donated by Southern Baptists and LeSea Global, a private relief organization, sailed from New Orleans on board the ship *Evangeline*. It was bound for a mid-June arrival in Wonsan, a port city along the coast of the Sea of Japan.

The *Evangeline* originally was slated to leave April 29, but it was delayed by rain and a shortage of volunteers to help load the food.

Southern Baptist church members responded on short notice to an urgent call in March from three of their denominational agencies to help assemble the shipment. In a little more than a month, they bought and packaged

650,000 pounds of boxes filled with dry beans, corn meal, flour, spaghetti noodles, rice and powdered milk, and prepared them for shipping to New Orleans. Baptists from 28 states donated boxes of food, each of which should feed five people for a month.

Kentucky Baptists sent 624 boxes plus \$9,351 in designated gifts.

Among all state conventions, North Carolina Baptists provided the largest number of boxes, 2,609, more than twice as many as any other state.

Also included on the *Evangeline* were about 950,000 pounds of dried corn, flour, rice and sugar, and 925,000 pounds of dehydrated soup mix—enough for 23.1 million soup meals—all bought with \$725,000 in Southern Baptist World Hunger Funds. Those funds represent offerings from Southern Baptists, including about \$136,000 designated for North Korea just since March.

## FAITH strategy testing well

**NASHVILLE (BP)**—It's been only four months since leaders from 28 Southern Baptist churches were trained in how to carry out a new strategy that "marries" Sunday school and evangelism. But early reports from the "FAITH Originator Churches" indicate hundreds are already coming to faith in Christ as a result of the initiative.

"It's going phenomenally well, beyond what any of us really expected," said Steve Cretin of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

"One of the exciting things is that most every church I've talked to is not only reporting large numbers of decisions, they're also having the highest attendance in Sunday school they've ever had," Cretin said. "That tells me we're not only reaching people for Christ, but we're getting them in-

involved in Bible study too. And that's what this is all about."

Designed to turn around a "flat-line" baptism rate in the Southern Baptist Convention, FAITH ties ongoing, personal evangelism training to a church's Sunday school organization. Participants agree to attend 16 training sessions and practice what they learn in home visits.

A FAITH awareness luncheon will be held June 9 from 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. The featured speaker will be Bobby Welch, senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Daytona Beach, Fla., the church that launched the FAITH initiative last year. Tickets may be purchased for \$10 each in the SBC exhibit hall.

## Listening sessions produce 12 recommendations

Continued from page 1

■ That the farther removed geographically from Louisville a church is, the more likely it is to feel alienated.

■ That people generally don't know what services the KBC offers.

■ That the convention is perceived to be divided politically.

Despite these concerns, those interviewed said their experience with KBC personnel has been positive, Orr reported. "Whether lay or clergy, people time after time complimented the personnel at the secretarial or professional levels for courteous, timely and useful assistance."

A related finding is that when KBC staff members make face-to-face visits in churches, it

"pays big dividends," Orr said. "Churches are desirous of having face-to-face contact and feel that when they have had that, their people got ownership of the new directions, their commitments increased and the support for the KBC was enhanced."

All this means communication needs to improve, Orr said. This need was seen at every level, he explained. "The breadth of services offered is not understood by directors of missions, pastors and key lay leaders. How to access what is available in a simplified fashion is desired by all."

As a result of the listening sessions, Orr made 12 specific recommendations to Mackey and the Executive Board. They are:

■ **Listening should continue.** "In every group the comment was made that these listening sessions were invaluable. As a result of being heard, people feel a greater sense of connectedness to the mission."

■ **Small churches need help.** This is a pivotal issue because the majority of the KBC's churches are small, Orr said. And even the definition of a "small" church must be redefined, he said, suggesting less than 40 in average Sunday school attendance as the benchmark.

The KBC, he said, should take steps to address the self-esteem of small-church pastors, to provide curriculum that meets the needs of small churches, to help bivocational pastors upgrade their skills and offer training that is accessible to all

churches.

■ **Promote learning clusters.** Orr said pastors affirmed the benefit of getting together regularly to learn and share. He recommended encouraging formation of small groups of 10-15 pastors to begin studying together and discussing solutions to common problems.

■ **Help churches reach youth.** Contemporary youth are open to the gospel but turned off by traditional churches, Orr said. He recommended two immediate needs: developing statewide activities for evangelizing and edifying youth; and offering specific help to local churches desiring to develop new ministries to youth.

■ **Affirm the partnership with directors of missions.** "The director of missions really is the face on the KBC," Orr said. "They need to be seen as the experts on their churches." He recommended the KBC invest more in the professional development of directors of missions to better equip them as consultants and to involve them in the design of ministry strategies.

■ **Avoid political landmines.** "It is extremely important that the KBC staff be seen as pro-mission," he said. "If tension arises, it should be around mission, not issues. Part of the alienation many churches feel from the KBC is the fact that personnel have been seen to take sides."

■ **Help churches with assimilation.** Several barriers commonly prevent people from uniting with Baptist churches, Orr said. Among specific examples he cited: the image that all KBC churches are white and middle-class, the exclusion felt by people who are divorced, a perceived bias against people of color and interracial marriages, tensions between old and new members, the family clan mentality that controls many churches.

■ **Put a face on missions.** "The importance and value of telling the story about where and how God is working is one of the most powerful and effective instruments for eliciting support," he said. "It would be a recommendation that things like the partnership mission be continued."

■ **Develop core values to guide ministry development.** "You don't

start by determining a corporate vision. You start by developing corporate values," Orr said. He explained that identifying common values allows members of an organization to engage in a common vision.

"To identify the beliefs that are not going to be compromised and are going to drive the ministry will keep the KBC focused on what is right and aid it in avoiding conflict," he said.

■ **Simplify the organizational structure.** Changes should be made to help people access the KBC's services more easily, Orr said. He cited his own confusion trying to make sense of a massive book of KBC programs and resources he was given to study.

■ **Personalize the delivery of services.** "Churches have very little interest in 'canned' programs," he said. "They need help to work through the process to develop a strategy they have confidence will work. Churches that have had a face-to-face experience with the KBC are much happier and productive regardless of what the final program they use is."

■ **Encourage risk-taking and innovation.** The natural inclination in an organization like the KBC is to encourage the status quo and frown upon risk-taking, Orr said. But success in the future will demand creating a climate that encourages risk-taking and holds up innovation as a model for others to emulate.

Mackey said Orr's research will be used by the Executive Board staff in the coming months to clarify and state the Executive Board's values and determine objectives for the coming years.

Mackey said the most urgent concern he discovered in the listening sessions is the need to encourage innovation in reaching young adults in Kentucky Baptist churches. He announced that Vernon Cole, director of the KBC's church growth and administration division, will lead a task force "to develop innovative and strategic plans for reaching persons born after 1964."

This process will include prayer, research, identification of successful models and resources and creation of a process to assist both churches in transition and new church starts, Mackey said. The task force will make its report by Dec. 1.



**LISTENING**  
to  
**Kentucky Baptists**

### Where is God at work in Kentucky?

While conducting listening sessions across Kentucky in March, consultant Bob Orr asked Kentucky Baptist pastors and lay leaders to identify where they see God at work in Kentucky. Here is a summary of the most frequent responses:

■ **Experiencing God.** This popular study course "was mentioned the most often as something that had revitalized the spiritual life of many believers," Orr said. "In churches that had done Experiencing God or other prayer ministries, we saw contagious enthusiasm." The bottom line, he said, is that "growing churches are praying churches."

■ **Small groups.** "Over and over again, people talked about the value of prayer groups, support groups, discipleship groups, accountability groups as a vehicle through which life change occurred."

■ **Missions involvement.** "Churches and individuals who had been involved in mission projects reported life change among participants and their increased involvement in service at home when they returned."

■ **Ministry outside the church walls.** Churches that are empowering members to take the gospel outside the church building through neighborhood Bible studies and similar efforts are experiencing greater results in evangelism.

■ **Promise Keepers.** The national men's movement was mentioned "numerous times" as a positive influence on men.

■ **Longer pastoral tenures.** More pastors appear to be staying at churches for longer tenures, which is creating positive results within the churches, Orr said. "Numerous pastors mentioned that they had been there longer than any pastor in the church's history." This is significant, he said, because of a basic principle: "Long tenure does not guarantee growth, but short tenure is a prescription against growth."

■ **Cooperation.** Churches are finding success by working together in small clusters to accomplish things they cannot do alone. He cited the example of three smaller churches that cooperated to start a new congregation.

■ **TeamKid.** This discipleship program for children, produced by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, is "a fresh wind working in many churches."

■ **Gift-based deacon ministry.** Churches that have made the transition from deacons as an administrative board to deacons using their God-given gifts in specific ministries have been revitalized, he said. "This has reduced internal conflict and had people functioning rather than just holding office."

■ **Intentional planning.** "Virtually every church that had an intentional plan and strategy it was implementing was seeing the blessing of God as new people were added to the church."

■ **Openness among children, youth and young adults.** Across the state, children, youth and young adults appear highly receptive to the gospel message, Orr said. The difficulty, however, is that these same people are turned off by many traditional expressions of church.

■ **Coloring outside the lines.** "The churches whose growth had a significant number of conversions could be classified as contemporary and innovative in ... ministry."

■ **Sports and recreation programs.** Sports programs that are clearly tied to the message and mission of the church are effective in evangelism, Orr said. He specifically cited the results of programs such as Upward Basketball leagues.

■ **Ethnic ministry.** "Churches and associations which have invested in Hispanic and other ethnic ministries are seeing many come to Christ. First generation immigrants into an area are more responsive to the gospel than people who have lived there for years."

■ **Meeting needs.** Meeting human need creates a door of entry for the gospel, Orr said. "Specific programs that start with a felt need have been very fruitful. Divorce or drug recovery programs are two examples of ministries that start at the point of felt need."

### Macro issues facing the KBC

Consultant Bob Orr asked Kentucky Baptists what they perceive to be the most critical issues facing the Kentucky Baptist Convention at the dawn of a new millennium. Five issues surfaced with "virtually unanimous" support:

■ **Unity around mission is needed.** "Pastors from vastly different perspectives in the same focus group found themselves having more that unites than divides and a common desire to see KBC churches move forward in mission. The tolerance

and acceptance of differences increases as the commitment to mission increases."

■ **Local church autonomy needs to be affirmed.** "There is a desire among churches to feel the freedom to develop new ministries without feeling the constriction of other churches and associations."

■ **Cooperative giving will change.** "Fewer persons are understanding the nature of mission from a historical perspective. People want to have

a 'face' on their giving at an individual or church level."

■ **The "age wave" is coming.** "Churches are going to need to think about creative ways to minister to the 76 million people who will start retiring in the next five to 10 years."

■ **Innovative churches are needed to attract today's Generation X.** "The large number of former and present Baptists who are now attending alternate, contemporary churches is a simple testament to the need."

# KENTUCKY

## \$21 million KBC budget gives raise to most ministries

### 1998-99 KBC budget

#### Where the money comes from:

Source	Amount for 98-99	Dollar Change	% Change
Cooperative Program gifts	\$19,604,116	\$384,394	2%
Restricted Kentucky Only gifts	\$400,000	\$60,000	17.6%
Annuity Board	\$25,000	0	0%
Sunday School Board	\$81,400	(\$4,620)	-5.4%
North American Mission Board	\$240,000	(\$12,313)	-4.9%
Eliza Broadus Offering	\$448,010	(\$9,978)	-2.2%
Kentucky Baptist Foundation	\$80,000	(\$4,929)	-5.8%
Registration fees	\$35,000	\$7,000	25%
Colleges	\$77,910	\$814	1.1%
Miscellaneous	\$35,000	0	0%
<b>Total income</b>	<b>\$21,026,436</b>	<b>\$420,368</b>	<b>2%</b>

#### Where the money goes:

Recipient	Amount for 98-99	Dollar Change	% Change
SBC Cooperative Program	\$6,909,275	\$182,372	2.7%
Baptist Healthcare System	\$5,227	\$87	1.7%
Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children	\$290,000	\$58,682	25.4%
Christian Education*	\$4,250,000	\$155,654	3.8%
Western Recorder	\$315,606	\$7,810	2.5%
Kentucky Baptist Foundation	\$229,090	\$4,089	1.8%
Kentucky Baptist Assemblies	\$325,000	0	0%
Kentucky Baptist Historical Commission	\$37,950	\$5,000	15.2%
Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union	\$416,385	\$8,164	2%
<b>Total KBC agencies and institutions</b>	<b>\$5,869,258</b>	<b>\$239,486</b>	<b>4.25%</b>
KBC missions & evangelism division	\$3,705,312	\$168,824	4.8%
KBC church growth & administration div.	\$1,077,837	\$36,073	3.5%
KBC minister/church support division	\$402,613	\$14,497	3.7%
KBC business division	\$877,139	\$49,768	6%
KBC executive office	\$755,916	\$93,376	14.1%
KBC general items	\$1,429,086	(\$364,028)	-20.3%
<b>Total KBC Executive Board</b>	<b>\$14,117,161</b>	<b>\$237,996</b>	<b>1.7%</b>
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>\$21,026,436</b>	<b>\$420,368</b>	<b>2%</b>

\* Christian education funds are divided among Campbellsville University, Cumberland College, Georgetown College, Clear Creek Baptist Bible College and Oneida Baptist Institute according to a predetermined formula that is partially based on enrollment. Therefore an exact breakdown is not yet available.

By Mark Wingfield  
Editor

CEDARMORE—For the first time in more than a decade, the Kentucky Baptist Convention has adopted a budget that provides increases for most ministry areas supported by the convention.

The \$21 million budget for 1998-99 was approved by the KBC Executive Board May 4. The overall budget represents a 2 percent increase over the current fiscal year's budget.

The percentage of undesignated Cooperative Program funds to be forwarded to the Southern Baptist Convention will be increased under the new budget, which takes effect Sept. 1. Under terms of an action taken at the KBC's 1996 annual meeting, the SBC's percentage split of Cooperative Program funds is tied to increases in the percentage of undesignated offerings Kentucky churches give to the Cooperative Program.

The percentage given to the Cooperative Program by churches, as measured by reports on the Annual Church Profile, has increased in the last year. So the portion of Cooperative Program funds shared with the SBC also will increase by 0.244 percentage points.

For the 1998-99 fiscal year, the SBC will receive 35.244 percent of undesignated Cooperative Program gifts, an estimated \$6.91 million.

KBC ministries will be funded by a projected \$12.69 million in Cooperative Program gifts that stay in Kentucky plus an estimated \$400,000 in Restricted Kentucky Only gifts, contributions from churches that do not want a portion forwarded to the SBC.

Other sources of KBC income include a projected \$448,000 through Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union from the Eliza Broadus Offering for state missions, \$240,000 from the SBC's North American Mission Board and \$80,000 from the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.

Two SBC agencies will decrease their support of work in Kentucky next year. The Sunday School Board will reduce its support for program promotion in Kentucky by 5 percent, or \$4,620.

The North American Mission Board's support for Kentucky mis-

sionaries will decrease 5 percent, from \$252,313 to \$240,000. Combined with a 2 percent drop in anticipated income from the Eliza Broadus Offering, this has caused the KBC to reduce the amount it budgeted for support of missionary personnel, according to notes in the budget's introductory section.

Despite this setback, the KBC's new budget includes increases of \$164,044 in program funding for KBC Executive Board units, the first increases in 10 years. And the KBC's agencies and institutions together will receive an additional \$239,485 in the new budget.

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children will receive the largest percentage boost of all KBC agencies and institutions in the new budget. With a 25 percent increase of \$56,682, the child care agency will receive a total of \$290,000, up from \$231,318 in the current budget.

Within the Executive Board's own program areas, the largest percentage increase goes to the Brotherhood department, which will gain 39 percent in budget allocations to fund its newly expanded staff and programming. Most other program areas will receive increases ranging from 1 percent to 18 percent, although a few units will hold steady in budget.

In other budget actions, the Executive Board approved a special distribution of \$384,394 that had been held in reserve for the new executive secretary. Of this amount, \$143,394 will go to the KBC's five educational institutions, \$25,000 will go to Kentucky Baptist Assemblies Inc., and \$5,000 each will go to the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, Western Recorder and Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union.

The remaining \$196,000 of these special funds were allocated for Executive Board projects such as conferences, research projects and Baptist student center building repairs.

In other action during the May 4-5 Executive Board meeting at Cedar-more Conference Center, the board adopted a resolution in support of Partnership 2000, the joint fund-raising campaign of Campbellsville University, Georgetown College and Cumberland College.

## Study committee identifies resource for leaving gay lifestyle

**"In light of limited resources, it does not seem feasible at this time for the KBC to develop such a program."**

*Report of a Kentucky Baptist Convention study group investigating whether to appoint a program to assist people wanting to leave the homosexual lifestyle*

CEDARMORE—A work group appointed to investigate how the Kentucky Baptist Convention might assist people wanting to leave the homosexual lifestyle made a final report to the KBC Executive Board May 5 but stopped short of recommending any new programs.

The work group was appointed as a subcommittee of the Executive Board's administrative committee in December, in response to a motion made at the KBC annual meeting in November.

That motion, made by Donna Lawler of Louisville, asked the KBC to create a program to help people leave the homosexual lifestyle, families dealing with homosexuality, people dealing with sexually trans-

mitted diseases and other related issues.

The work group, chaired by Guy Futral, director of the KBC's minister/church relations division, studied the issue extensively, Futral said, and met with Lawler and her husband, who identifies himself as a former homosexual.

While sympathetic with the concerns the Lawlers expressed, the work group determined it would not be feasible for the KBC to meet the full scope of Mrs. Lawler's request, Futral said.

The work group issued a statement, received by the Executive Board, that thanked the Lawlers for bringing attention to this "important issue."

The statement noted that the issue "is worthy of the attention of Kentucky Baptists and their churches."

However, the statement concluded, "in light of limited resources, it does not seem feasible at this time for the KBC to develop such a program."

Administrative committee chairman Floyd Price explained to the Executive Board that the KBC previously has not taken on the development of new programs to deal directly with social issues but instead has networked and made referrals to other organizations.

He cited the KBC's work with the Temperance League of Kentucky on alcohol issues as an example.

The work group reported it had investigated what other organizations

already are addressing the need Mrs. Lawler raised.

"No Southern Baptist agency ... has a program specifically designed to meet this particular need," they reported.

However, "some non-denominational programs which report success in such ministries do exist, and one of them, Exodus International, has a representative in Kentucky."

Exodus International is a program and support network designed to help people turn from homosexuality.

The work group's report lists the name of Jerry Leach as a Kentucky representative of Exodus International. His address is P.O. Box 23744, Lexington, Ky. 40523. His phone number is (606) 277-4941.

# MISSIONS

## Kentucky Baptists get international partnership options

Continued from page 1

launching two partnerships at the same time, Wilkins said.

The number of countries where Baptists want partnerships is growing, according to the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, Wilkins said. "They could start 120 partnerships any time if they had the associations or churches or state conventions who could step in."

Furthermore, more Kentucky churches also are seeking partnership options, he added. "If we don't provide a place for them through our channels, they will go another way."

Travel to Tanzania will cost about \$2,400, he predicted. That's more expensive than current costs for Russia partnership trips, which have been getting more costly in recent years.

"Tanzania's going to be a little more expensive," Wilkins said. "We felt there ought to be another option." Travel to Poland will cost about \$1,500 per volunteer, he said.

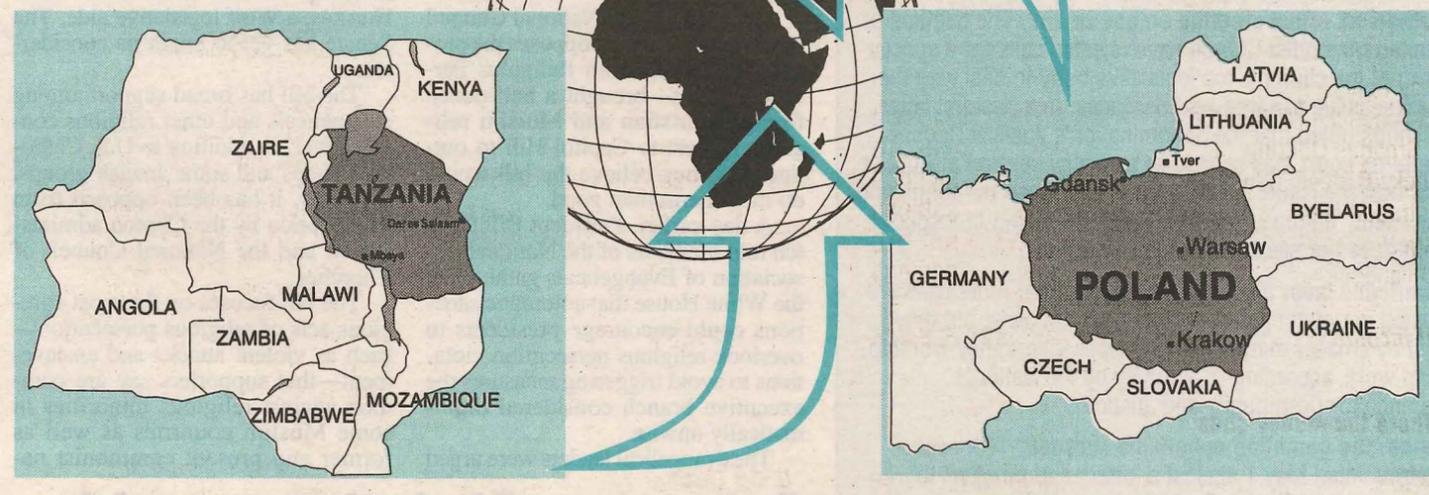
The two partnerships follow a five-year link with Russian Baptists that has attracted many Kentucky participants and helped Russian churches with construction projects, evangelism and education.

Wilkins said the Tanzania and Poland partnerships will differ significantly from the Russia work.

The Russia partnership started at a time when American missionaries were just beginning to enter that country. While many missionaries were still learning the language, Kentucky Baptists worked directly with Russian congregations. Teams to Poland and Tanzania will work more with IMB missionaries who are more established than their Russian counterparts, Wilkins said.

At the beginning of the Russian partnership, Russian Baptists were just beginning to build their own church buildings. In Poland, most churches

### Partnership with Tanzania & Poland



already have buildings, and in Tanzania congregations have no desire for buildings, Wilkins said.

Both Tanzania and Poland are seeking help with evangelism and children's work, Wilkins said.

Wilkins said he sees many similarities between Tanzania today and Kenya when Kentucky Baptists started their three-year partnership there in 1985. Wilkins said IMB area director Sam Turner says Tanzania "is where Kenya was in 1985."

During that partnership, the number of Baptist churches in Kenya doubled, and it has doubled again since then, Wilkins said.

Baptists in Tanzania have a goal of reaching several people groups who have had no exposure to Christianity.

IMB officials estimate one-third of

Tanzanians are Christian and one-third are Muslim. IMB officials say both groups are working to reach the one-third who have no religion or follow indigenous religions.

"They said the crucial thing is who is going to win that other third," Wilkins said. "That's going to influence the future of the nation."

Southern Baptist work began with Tanzanian Baptists in 1956. Today 18 Southern Baptist missionary families or individuals serve there. The country has 1,046 Baptist churches with more than 92,000 members, according to recent IMB estimates.

Poland has 64 Baptist congregations with about 4,000 members, Wilkins said. The country is 95 percent Roman Catholic, according to the New York Times Almanac.

Ken Murphy, KBC partnership missions associate, said missionaries told him their studies found about half Poland's Catholics are Christian in name only and have no personal relationship with God through Jesus.

Murphy said the partnership could teach Kentucky Baptists how to work with people in the commonwealth who claim a denominational title but are not Christians. "We have a lot of Baptists like that in Kentucky who grew up Baptists without having a personal commitment to Jesus."

Information about specific projects in Tanzania and Poland should be available by September, Wilkins said.

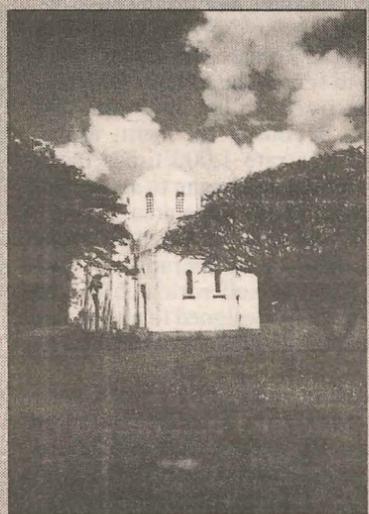
For more information, call the KBC partnership missions office at (502) 244-6476 or toll-free outside the Louisville area at (888) 254-5724.

### Tanzania at a glance

- **Location:** Eastern coast of Africa.
- **Size:** 198,456 square miles; roughly as big as Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and West Virginia combined.
- **Population:** 29.4 million.
- **Languages:** Swahili and English
- **Capital:** Dar es Salaam, population almost 1.1 million.
- **Religions:** One-third Christian; one-third Muslim; one-third indigenous beliefs, according to the International Mission Board.
- **History:** According to the New York Times Almanac, the mainland, formerly known as Tanganyika, gained freedom from British administration in 1961. Tanzania was formed from the union with the island of Zanzibar in 1964.

The country invaded Uganda in 1979 in an effort to depose Idi Amin. During the 1980s, however, Tanzania strengthened ties with Uganda and Kenya.

Tanzania has economic potential because of its extensive natural resources and one of Africa's best educational systems.



**TANZANIA CHURCH** International Mission Board officials say Christians and Muslims both are working to reach one-third of the population. (Photo by Calvin Wilkins)

In 1994-95, more than 700,000 refugees fled into Tanzania from civil wars in Burundi and Rwanda. The government closed its Burundi board in 1995.

### Poland at a glance

- **Location:** Eastern Europe.
- **Size:** 120,726 square miles; almost three times larger than Kentucky.
- **Population:** 38.6 million
- **Language:** Polish
- **Capital:** Warsaw, population 1.6 million.
- **Religions:** 95 percent Catholic; 5 percent Eastern Orthodox, Protestant and other.
- **History:** Poland's identity was revived after World War I, having risen and fallen with different European monarchies and leaders. Poland was the initial focus of both Germany and the Soviet Union at the beginning of World War II. At the end of the war, elections were postponed until after a Communist victory could be assured.

In 1978, Catholic Bishop Karol Wojtyla was elected as Pope John Paul II.

During the 1980s, a committee of labor unions called "Solidarity" grew in power despite Communist attempts to suppress it.

The Communist party voted to disband in January 1990, and the



**POLISH BAPTISTS** International Mission Board leaders estimate that Baptists comprise one-tenth of 1 percent of the population. (IMB photo)

new government drafted a new constitution. Poland now has free parliamentary elections. Its economy has been among Europe's fastest growing.

## NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Teen birth rates decrease.** Teen birth rates decreased across all races and in every state in the early 1990s, the government reported April 30. Black teenagers gave birth at the lowest levels ever recorded. Their birth rates dropped by 21 percent between 1991 and 1996, but they still are nearly double the rate of white teens. Hispanic teens now are giving birth at the highest rates, with more than one in 10 giving birth each year, according to the National Center for Health Statistics.

■ **Methodists reject meeting on gay issues.** The bishops of the United Methodist Church have rejected calls for a special meeting of the church's top legislative body to deal with the schismatic issue of same-sex marriages. In a pastoral letter the bishops noted that the denomination's Judicial Council, its supreme court, has scheduled a special session in August to deal with the issue. Because there is a "need for continuing discernment" on the issue, they said "the calling of a special session does not seem wise at this time."

■ **Americans favor diversity.** The majority of Americans are interested in greater diversity throughout society, but they value it by smaller margins in the places where they worship, live and work, according to a survey by the National Conference for Community and Justice.

■ **Tennessee gambling opponents succeed.** Tennessee legislators voted May 1 against a lottery and an effort to reestablish the state Racing Commission, which was reinstated 11 years ago to license and regulate pari-mutuel horse racing but is set to close June 30. Without the commission, plans for a \$15 million horse track and simulcast facility in Memphis cannot proceed.

■ **Gay Christ-like character on stage?** A new play that features a Christlike figure who has sex with his apostles could be on stage in New York next season. "Corpus Christi" by Terrence McNally was the subject of a reading April 28 at the Manhattan Theater Club, a non-profit off-Broadway theater that was the site of the premiere of the author's "Love! Valour! Compassion!" The sex in the play occurs off-stage and the play borrows dialogues from the New Testament, Associated Press reported.

■ **White House hosts atheist group.** The Clinton administration last week hosted what is believed to be the first formal White House meeting between an organized atheist group and representatives of the president. Ron Barrier, national spokesman for American Atheists, the Austin, Texas-based group, called the meeting a first step toward informing the White House about what his organization says are civil rights violations against nonbelievers.

■ **City sued over domestic partnership.** Santa Barbara, Calif., has been sued by the American Center for Law and Justice for offering health benefits to "domestic partners" of city employees. City Attorney Daniel Wallace said ACLJ's charge that the ordinances violate state protection of marriage is "ludicrous."



**TEENS TALK** Sen. Majority Leader Trent Lott of Mississippi talks with high school seniors Brad Tomas and Monica DePaz about their commitment to sexual abstinence before marriage. True Love Waits leaders were in Washington to ask officials to endorse sexual abstinence movements. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

## Opposition to persecution bill stepped up

By Ira Rifkin  
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Efforts to derail a proposed bill in Congress that would trigger automatic sanctions against nations found to persecute religious minorities accelerated recently on Capitol Hill and at the White House.

On April 28, the National Council of Churches—which opposes the proposed Freedom from Religious Persecution Act—brought a half-dozen foreign Christian and Muslim religious leaders to Capitol Hill to outline why they believe the bill would do more harm than good.

A day earlier, President Bill Clinton told members of the National Association of Evangelicals gathered at the White House that automatic sanctions could encourage presidents to overlook religious persecution violations to avoid triggering measures the executive branch considered diplomatically unwise.

The evangelical leaders were urged

by the president to withdraw their previously announced support for the proposed bill, introduced in the House by Rep. Frank Wolf, R-Va., and in the Senate by Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa.

In its first legislative test, the bill cleared the House International Relations Committee in mid-March. The full House could consider the measure as early as mid-May, said Anne Huiskes, a Wolf legislative aide. The Senate has yet to begin its consideration.

The bill has broad support among evangelicals and other religious conservatives, in addition to U.S. Catholic bishops and some Jewish groups. However, it has been opposed from its inception by the Clinton administration and the National Council of Churches.

The bill focuses on the most egregious acts of religious persecution—such as violent attacks and enslavement—that supporters say are common against religious minorities in some Muslim countries as well as former and present communist na-

tions. Supporters say minority Christians are among those most often subjected to religious persecution.

Nations found in violation of the law would be subject to automatic sanctions, including a cut-off of all non-humanitarian American aid and American opposition to international loan requests made by the offending countries.

The Clinton administration has long argued such provisions might force the White House to deal harshly with some of this nation's major allies and trade partners.

Congressional opponents of the Wolf-Specter bill have introduced a substitute measure giving the White House wider discretion in responding to a broader range of acts of religious persecution. Presidential options would range from a diplomatic protest through sanctions and a break in diplomatic relations.

The substitute measure has gained the support of Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., the powerful head of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

## Scientist: Christians seeking bio-ethics input must get smart

WACO, Texas (ABP)—Christians must "get smart" if they want moral objections to cloning and other reproductive techniques to be heard, a bioethicist said in a recent lecture at Baylor University.

"If you are like most Americans and you are opposed to these technologies, your reason is either you think it's unnatural or that in some way it violates the will of God," said Glenn McGee, an expert on reproductive technology who teaches at the University of Pennsylvania.

But in a complex society, not everyone will be persuaded by religious rhetoric, McGee argued.

"We have got to get smart about how we talk about our moral reasons for opposing certain kinds of technologies," McGee said. "What moral reason can we give, either as Christians or as members of the community, for thinking rationally about which of these technologies we will allow and which ones are nuts?"

McGee described being on a commission on cloning named by President Clinton in which participants "spent a long time arguing about whether or not cloning was playing God."

"It's a completely ridiculous line of argumentation," McGee said. "There is no way to tell."

A more important question facing Christians in the cloning debate, he said, "is what does it mean to be good stewards of reproductive technology and genetics."

McGee said the risks associated with genetic enhancements are a legitimate argument against certain reproductive technologies.

"There are dangers in calculating how your child is going to turn out," he said. "If you do engineer your child it might not make any difference because you are still sending your kid to a bad school where

teachers are not paid enough."

If "enhancement" does work, he added, it could take away a child's right to determine his or her own course of life. Being able to "improve" people through genetics might also create the false impression that there can be a perfect life, he said.

"Your motives for changing your child need to be shaped by your deeper sense of what a family means, not by your commercial sense of what looks good," he said.

Another problem with new reproductive methods is trying to assess their long-term effect, he said.

For example, researchers at Texas A&M developed a new tomato which had a better skin, was more insect-resistant and produced a 50-percent larger crop than ordinary tomatoes. Researchers failed, however, to screen the tomato for a particular insect called the purple fly, which devoured the fruit, reproduced at a rate 1,000 times faster than normal and began to attack cotton crops in the same area.

"If you have an Einstein today made from gene therapy ... , you may find yourself with a child who is genetically designed to not be able to meet the challenges of the future," McGee said.

McGee, a Baylor graduate, grew up attending a Baptist church in Texas. His father, Dan McGee, is also a bioethicist who teaches on Baylor's religion faculty.

"If you are against genetic enhancement because it seems unnatural, you are in the wrong boat; get off," McGee said. "The right boat is to use ordinary parental wisdom to think about these kinds of technology so we can talk with ministers, with scientists, with politicians and on the Web in a way that we can all understand and in a way that is still meaningful."

## Congress OKs D.C. vouchers; veto expected

WASHINGTON (RNS)—A controversial voucher program for District of Columbia public school students has been passed by the Congress but faces a veto from President Clinton and a legal challenge if it ever becomes law.

The bill passed in the House of Representatives by a 214-206 vote April 30, the first time a voucher plan for the District has won final approval. It passed in the Senate in the fall.

The program would give \$2,300 annual tuition to about 2,000 students from low-income families who want to attend a private or parochial school.

Congressional Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton, D-D.C., had sought Republican support of efforts to improve public education for all students and raise money through private donors for private school scholarships for some children. "Christ said render unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's and unto God the things which are God's," Norton said. "Public money belongs in public schools."

Organizations long concerned with religion and public affairs voiced different opinions about the vote.

The Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America praised the vote and urged Clinton to reconsider his planned veto.

Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, however, predicted the plan would be challenged in court as a violation of the constitutional separation of church and state if it became law.

## Faith-based colleges oppose NCAA ruling

By Adelle Banks  
Religion News Service

OVERLAND PARK, Kan. (RNS)—A clash between two of the most ardently embraced facets of life—religion and sports—is pitting religious higher education leaders against secular athletic officials.

At least two faith-based universities have decided to challenge an April 22 decision by the National Collegiate Athletic Association to jettison a rule that would accommodate Division I schools that do not want to play championship games on Sundays.

The board of directors of NCAA Division I has approved a proposal eliminating the 30-year-old rule requiring adjustment of championship schedules to assist schools who have policies against Sunday competition. The approved proposal also allows Sunday competition to begin prior to noon.

But Campbell University, a Baptist school in Buies Creek, N.C., has requested an override vote on the decision made by the board at its quarterly meeting in Indianapolis. On April 29, Brigham Young University, which is owned by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, joined Campbell in the challenge.

"This unnecessary action ... will ultimately place member institutions in the untenable position of choosing between the institution's fundamental principles and championship participation opportunities for their student-athletes," wrote Norman Wiggins,

Campbell's president, in a letter to colleagues seeking their assistance in getting the decision overturned.

Steve Mallonee, the NCAA's director of membership services, said the board's decision was motivated by a desire to be less discriminatory.

"The board was concerned that the current rule is actually more discriminatory than having no rule at all because, basically, you have student-athletes participating in institutions that are of all different religions," he said. "They wanted to show respect for all religions, not just one religion or particular religions."

Mallonee said the rule was not "sensitive to those whose Sabbath is not on Sundays."

The rationale for the change, which came from a division championship committee, noted there are few schools for which scheduling adjustments have been made. The rationale also noted that adjustments to avoid Sunday competition have reduced television coverage and promotional opportunities for some sports.

But Wiggins responded: "It is disappointing that the association, which in 1996-97 received over \$191 million in television rights fees and nearly \$250 million in total revenue, would sacrifice its traditional respect of religious principles in exchange for a few more additional television dollars."

Mallonee said that although promotional opportunities might be lost by limiting Sunday competitions, that was not a "driving force" in the

board's decision.

"When you see the rationale statement, one might get the feeling that you're sacrificing religion for revenue," he said. "I don't think that's the case at all ... The more you can promote a sport ... the more that helps student-athletes in general."

He added he expects there will be "a continued effort to accommodate kids from schools that may ultimately end up in championships on Sunday" if the decision to eliminate the rule remains in effect.

The board must reconsider its decision if at least 30 Division I schools send written requests for an override to the NCAA offices in Overland Park, Kan., by July 6. If 100 requests for an override vote are received, the decision will be suspended until the membership of the division votes on the matter.

For now, Wiggins said his school and other similar institutions have two choices—changing their long-standing policies against Sunday competition or forcing athletes from their schools to sit out championship games scheduled on Sundays.

"In a day when family break-up is so predominant, it is odd that the NCAA board of directors would take action to further separate student-athletes, coaches and support staff from their families," he said. "We feel strongly that the practice of setting a day apart from the rest of the work week serves to strengthen the individual, the family, and ultimately, our nation as a whole."

## Alabama governor: States can ignore Supreme Court rulings

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Alabama Gov. Fob James has told the U.S. Supreme Court that state officials need not follow high court rulings officials believe to be unconstitutional.

In court papers filed May 1, James declared his position on school prayer and asked the Supreme Court to overturn the decision of a federal judge who limited religious activities in DeKalb County public schools.

Alabama's attorney general distanced himself from James' action, saying the governor was not speaking for the state.

A lawyer with the American Civil Liberties Union who has opposed the state in the school prayer case said the governor's argument seemed to support an overthrow of the judicial system.

"This is treasonous," said Pamela Sumners. "The governor's actions are a profound embarrassment to the state of Alabama. The governor has succeeded only in underscoring how revolutionary his thinking is."

Bob Gambacurta, the governor's spokesman, said James was not calling for the overthrow of the U.S. court system, but he declined to comment further. "We'll let the lawyers argue this," he said.

At issue is a ruling made by U.S. District Judge Ira DeMent, who banned Bible giveaways, teacher-led devotions and vocal prayers during school hours. Dement also ruled that many religious practices were permitted in the schools.

In his arguments filed with the Supreme Court, James said the justices purposely have ignored the Constitution to create new rights, including the right to an abortion.

"In the absence of this court's acceptance of constitutional limitations, other constitutional officials owe no 'deference' to the decision of this court," he stated. "No constitutional official of integrity should exercise the authority of his or her office so as to legitimize this court's claim of unlimited power."

James also said Justice Sandra O'Connor's "agnostic" beliefs prompted her to "close her own mind to the risk that abortion on the whole may be equivalent to murder."

Two pages of the filing, written by his lawyer son, Forrest James III, were filled with explanations of Old Testament history and quotes from the Bible.

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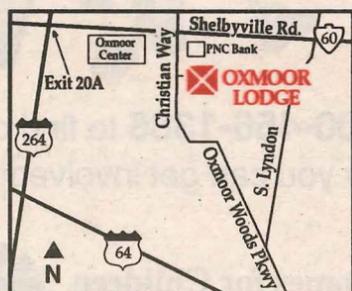
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# CHURCHES

## Barna: Leaders should have calling, character, competency

Continued from page 1

operate at the mezzo-level," Barna said. "Inability to grow beyond mezzo-level leadership will halt a church's growth."

■ "Macro-level" leadership is extensive and affects many people. Such leadership includes pastors of dynamic megachurches. "These are the global agenda-setters," Barna said.

Although most churches are not likely to exert macro leadership, churches can take effective steps to identify and cultivate their leaders, he added.

Churches should look for three primary traits in leaders, Barna noted. They are:

■ **Calling.** Leaders should have the spiritual gift of leadership, Barna said. He cited the 12th chapter of the book of Romans, which affirms the traits of exhortation, generosity, aid, mercy and cheerfulness.

Leaders also should be called by God to lead, he added, noting such a call usually is confirmed by the personal conviction of the individual and the affirmation of others who see leadership qualities in the person.

■ **Character.** "Character determines how a person responds to pressure," Barna said. He noted a variety of positive character traits—optimism, integrity, servant mentality, influence, intelligence, self-confidence but not arrogance, high standards, diligence, humility, willingness to take risks, interpersonal skills, respect and discipline.

■ **Competency.** Experience and results build competency, Barna said. Christian leaders can articulate God's vision for themselves and others, develop other leaders, strategize, motivate others, mobilize people for ministry and resolve conflict, he said.

## How can churches encourage leadership?

MESQUITE, Texas (ABP)—Churches can develop a process for "building champions," or developing leaders, says religion researcher George Barna.

The founder of a research group that studies trends in religion, Barna suggested seven ideas churches can use for developing better leaders:

■ "Subject every (leadership) candidate to a thorough assessment." Before assigning a person to leadership, look at his or her personality, gifts, leadership aptitude and spiritual commitment, Barna suggested. "Assess their heart."

■ Provide each leader a customized development plan. For example, baby boomers tend to learn best if they are coached through a relational learning process, he said. Baby boomers, however, tend to learn best through experience and respond best to goals.

Regardless of age and background, leaders should be led and trained by a mentor, someone who already has experienced leadership, he said.

■ Give leaders "ample, regular access to the 'directing leader.'" Barna called the "directing leader" the church leader who is best at describing the congregation's "big picture" vision.

"This tends to maintain motivation and creates a deeper sense of trust," he explained.

■ Provide leaders with "formal classroom-style instruction on leadership." "This is not just theology and doctrine. You need to go beyond that point" to help them understand the

### Leaders vs. teachers

Leaders and teachers possess quite different skills and interests, said religion researcher George Barna. While churches need leaders in order to thrive, many churches are "led" by teachers, he said. Here's how Barna distinguishes between the two:

Characteristic	Leader	Teacher
Influences through	Vision, character	Ideas, words
Provides followers	Direction, motivation	Intellectual challenge
Seeks	Corporate transformation	Individual growth
Loves to	Strategize	Study
Needs	Committed zealots	Teachable audience
Has courage to	Make unpopular decisions	Teach the truth
Motivates followers to	Action	Reflection
Deals with conflict by	Resolving it	Stirring it

challenges of leadership itself, he said.

Leadership education also should include peer interaction with other leaders in the church as well as aggressive exposure to a range of leadership resources, such as books, videos, tapes and conferences.

■ Provide intercessory prayer support for all church leaders. "These are the people on the front lines of (spiritual) battle," Barna stressed.

■ Give developing leaders "progressive leadership experiences."

Their responsibilities should be increased incrementally, so that they are not given more than they can bear, Barna added.

■ Establish a "reasonable accountability process." "Don't evaluate competency so much as ensure that character is in place," he explained. "Help leaders learn from their mistakes."

"Raise up heroic leaders," Barna urged churches. "It will revolutionize your ministry."

## Linda Carter

By Robert Dunston

At Cumberland College's annual faculty/staff banquet May 2, the Service Award was presented to Linda Carter.

The Service Award recognizes a member of our administrative or office/support staff who has demonstrated care and concern for all members of the college family and who has performed far beyond her or his assigned duties.

Linda Carter began her association with Cumberland College as a student. Following her graduation she taught in elementary school. When an invitation was extended to her to become Cumberland's assistant dean of women, Carter returned. Since returning she has moved from assistant dean to dean of women and now dean of student life.

As dean of student life, Carter oversees all aspects of student housing. She ensures that the dormitories have competent, trained and caring supervisors and student assistants who are ready and able to meet the needs of our students 24 hours a day. Carter also makes roommate assignments, works with security and interprets and enforces

college policies. She is on call 24 hours a day and has put in many late-night hours when emergencies have arisen. Her intent is always to create a safe, home-like environment in which our students can learn and live.

In addition to her duties as dean of students, Carter teaches in Cumberland's education department.

She especially loves teaching the children's literature course. Her love for children carries over to her involvement in the local church and community. Carter for many years taught four and five year olds in Sunday school and continues to serve on the family resource center advisory committee for Williamsburg Elementary School.

Carter was a co-recipient this spring with her colleague Kathy Fish of the 1998 Outstanding Freshman Advocate Award for their excellent work in Cumberland's freshmen orientation program. She knows most of the students on campus and is an active committee member on the Who's Who Selection Committee and the Student Awards Committee.

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

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



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## CLASSIFIED ADS

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**SEEKING:** First Baptist Church, Barbourville, is looking for a minister of students. All applications and/or resumés need to be sent to: FBC, 201 N. Main St., Barbourville, KY 40906, Attn: Search Committee.

**FOR RENT:** Sanibel Island, Fla., 2-bedroom, 2-bath condo available for vacation rental. Large pool, tennis courts, screened porch, lovely secluded beach, bikes, canoe, kayak. Weekly rates: May through mid-December: \$615. Call Pat Owen, (502) 895-8752 (home), or 897-5079 (office).

**FOR SALE:** 1991 Buick Park Avenue. Car of furloughing missionary. Excellent condition, silver, loaded, 95K, \$8,500 OBO. Laura at (606) 865-4487 after 7 p.m.

**NEEDED:** Funds, equipment, work crews for Jamaican Baptist Union Conference Center mission projects. (502) 545-3429 or van@ziggycom.net.

**SEEKING:** Full-time youth and children's minister (20 youth and 30 children). Must be a college graduate. The main emphasis will be with youth ministry. Average Sunday school attendance: 200. Average worship attendance: 250. Send resumé to: First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 327, Paris, KY 40362-0327, Attn: Personnel Committee. Resumés accepted until May 18.

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

**SEEKING:** Pastor, Oak Grove Baptist Church, Monticello, Ky. Mail resumé to: Chester Ramsey, chairman, Pastor Search Committee, 806 Spruce Drive, Monticello, KY 42633.

**NEEDED:** Nursery caregiver for infants through 12 months. Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. Pay is \$10 per hour. Experience and references required. Interested persons should contact Deer Park Baptist Church for further information: (502) 451-7220.

**AVAILABLE:** Minister/consultant for crisis management, program development, staff training. Webber Church Consulting, 325 E. Kentucky St., Louisville, KY 40203, (502) 583-6155.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of music and education (educational responsibilities: youth and children). Please send resumé to: Personnel Committee, P.O. Box 239, LaCenter, KY 42056.

**NEEDED:** Portable dental unit, equipment (mission trip to Ecuador, July 9-21). Central Baptist Church, Lexington. Contact Clay Parks, DMD, (606) 823-4341.

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music for worship services and choir. All inquiries please respond to: Mt. Freedom Baptist Church, 100 S. Lexington Ave., Wilmore, KY 40390.

**SEEKING:** Jamestown First Baptist is seeking a minister of youth and education; this is a full-time position. Mail to: Search Committee, Jamestown Baptist, P.O. Box 308, Jamestown, KY 42629-0308.

**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.

## WORLD VIEW

■ **A top South Korean Red Cross official says** famine-stricken North Korea has agreed to allow expanded monitoring of the distribution of food aid in some areas of the country. A host of religious, non-governmental and international agencies are involved in providing food and other aid to North Korea, which is in the third year of a famine.

■ **A 10-member Baptist World Alliance team held** an evangelism and leadership conference in Monrovia, Liberia, April 13-22. More than 250 people attended. The Liberian Baptist Missionary and Education Convention specifically requested an evangelism conference, which they opened to other denominations, out of a belief that Christianity is the answer for a new Liberia, a BWA spokesperson said.

■ **The Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe,** one of the largest Christian groups in the southern African country, has condemned the World Council of Churches, charging that the international ecumenical group plans to use its December assembly in Zimbabwe to promote homosexuality. The WCC, made up of 332 Protestant, Orthodox and Anglican member denominations, is scheduled to hold its eighth world assembly in Harare Dec. 3-14.

■ **Update:** American independent Baptist missionary Dan Pollard, who was expelled from Russia under a new law restricting minority religious groups, has received a three-month visa to return to his church in the remote port town of Vanino. Pollard said he will have to reapply for accreditation to extend his stay beyond three months.

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## Cedarmore to be 'RV-Friendly'

Two weeks ago, on a Saturday morning, I met a group of men and women at Cedarmore. This was no ordinary group of men and women.

This was a group who call themselves Campers on Mission. And on mission they are.

Campers on Mission travel around the state (and farther) ministering everywhere they go.

Until a month or so ago, I hadn't had much experience with the Campers on Mission. Guy King, their Kentucky leader, called one day and wanted to talk about the possibility of putting RV sites at Cedarmore. So I drove to Northern Kentucky to meet Guy. He (and others) had been praying

What a great morning it was. I fell in love with the spirit of these great men and women who are able to travel together and build

churches, do repairs and just make a great difference in the Kingdom wherever they go. Hopefully, we'll be ready for RV guests by late June.

This is just another of the marvelous ways we are seeing God work in our ministry at Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek.

Each week we make progress. Sure, we have a long way to go. But we've also come a long way in a short period of time, and I am so thankful as God continues to bless us.

Please continue to pray for us. Pray for Tom Smoot and his staff as they prepare for summer. Pray for Deward Hurst and his crew at Jonathan Creek.

In just a few short weeks, summer officially arrives when BSU staffers come for our camps. Pray that many would come to know Jesus.

Wow! I can't wait! I know God is going to do a great work this summer. To God be the glory.

## KENTUCKY BAPTIST ASSEMBLIES



Rusty Ellison

Rusty Ellison is president of Kentucky Baptist Assemblies, Box 37, Bagdad, Ky. 40003. Call (502) 747-8911.

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## PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Moscow church planters Ruslan and Elena Nadyuk and their new son Daniel Ruslanovich.

■ International Service Corps missionary LaRaine Dail in Moscow as she seeks direction for her life when she completes her assignment.

■ Certification workshops for leaders of Marriage Savers ministries, May 15-16; Northborough, Mass.

■ The men's retreat, sponsored by the Baptist Convention of New England, May 29-30.

■ Hope Baptist Church in South Dennis, Mass., needs 50-60 chairs and three tables. Contact Pastor Mike Beckner, (508) 398-7193.

## Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

■ **ASHLAND**—First Church recently called **John Kellogg** as interim minister of music.

■ **BOWLING GREEN**—Living Hope Church called **Daryl Woods** as financial manager. He began his new ministry May 11.

■ **ERLANGER**—Northern Kentucky Association held a World Missions Conference April 18-22. There were 44 missionaries and 44 churches participating. The missionaries spoke in 12 area schools. A missions fair was held. **Ira McMillen** was the director and **Rick Robbins** is director of missions.

■ **FRANKFORT**—Hillcrest Church recently ordained **John Updike Jr.** and **Stephen Stigers** as deacons. **Tom Troth** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Shively Heights Church will hold revival services May 17 at 6 p.m. and May 18-20 at 7 p.m. **Kevin Hamm**, pastor of Valley View Church, will speak. For more information, call (502) 447-9544. **Chris Butler** is pastor.

Clifton Church surpassed its goal for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American missions by \$312.45. The church set a goal of \$800 and collected \$1,112.45.

Minors Lane Church will host **David Livingston**, pastor of Gethsemane Church, in concert May 16 at 7 p.m.

Buechel Park Church will offer children's summer camp and parent's day out beginning in June. For more

information, call (502) 452-9541.

**Wayne Hager** resigned as pastor at Midlane Park Church May 3, to become pastor at Calvary Church in Mount Airy, N.C. He will begin his new ministry June 21. Also, **Joy Hager** resigned as minister of Christian social ministries at Walnut Street Church effective June 7.

■ **MANCHESTER**—Manchester Church will celebrate its 120th anniversary Sept. 20. An all-day event is planned. Former Pastor **Roger Williams** will speak. For more information, call (606) 598-5285.

■ **MIDDLESBORO**—First Church celebrated May 10 the completion of renovation to its 80-year-old sanctuary. **Jeff Roberts** is pastor.

■ **MOUNT WASHINGTON**—Bethany Church recently called **Charles Gruber** as pastor. He began his new ministry April 26.

■ **NICHOLASVILLE**—Edgewood Church recently held a surprise celebration for **Gayle Toole** on his 25th year as pastor. **Ted Sisk** was speaker.

■ **OWENSBORO**—Seven Hills Church will celebrate its 90th anniversary Sept. 6. For more information, call (502) 926-2473.

■ **UTICA**—Glenville Church called **Chris Duke** as part-time minister to children and youth. He began his new ministry April 12. Also, Pastor **Ray Cummins** recently participated in a New England partnership revival with Casco Bay Church in Harpswell, Maine.

## KBHC youth help annual Christian music festival

**WILMORE**—Young men in the care of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children were among the 2,000 volunteers responsible for the success of a recent Christian music festival in Wilmore.

About 15,000 Christian music fans attended the annual Icthus festival April 23-26.

Residents of KBHC's wilderness camping treatment program in Somerset volunteered to prepare the grounds, and the Baptist Youth Ranch in Elizabethtown cleaned up the grounds afterward.

In between, they witnessed nearly four days of Christian music, testimony and Bible study while camping on the hills of Jessamine County.

"We would never be ready for the thousands of people who come here if it weren't for our volunteers," said Nathan Emmelhainz, assistant head of security for Icthus.

Every year the Wilmore Campground is converted for the Icthus festival.

"People come to Icthus because they know they're going to have a lot of fun and hear good, quality music," Emmelhainz said. "In between the music are times of teaching. Everything shuts down then. You can't even buy a Coke, so everyone moves to their tents and listens to the teaching."

Mike Dixon, vice president for religious life at KBHC, said an event like Icthus can change lives, especial-



**SITE PREPARATION** A resident of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's Wilderness camping treatment program moves a mattress in preparation for last month's Icthus festival in Wilmore. He was among the many KBHC youth who helped the event and were exposed to four days of Christian music and witness. (Photo by Dannah Prather)

ly those previously hardened to God's word.

"If you take a young person and put them in a medium relative to them and present the pure gospel—not watered down—a lot of the time all you need to do is let God take over," Dixon said.

## Join us for a 'virtual visit'

By Michael Spencer  
Oneida Baptist Institute Chaplain

For almost 100 years the Oneida story has traveled all over the world, making new friends along the way. OBI founder James Anderson Burns used the school newsletter, the Mountaineer, to share the Oneida story. Barkley Moore wrote the "Oneida Journal," a regular column in the Western Recorder. The "Oneida Journal" was designed to give the reader a weekly glimpse of our campus.

We still use these same methods. The Mountaineer is published in our own print shop six times per year. President Bud Underwood contributes a weekly "This is Oneida" column to the Western Recorder. Today, however, OBI also is telling the story through a new medium: the Internet.

Recently, our school's Internet web site recorded its 1,000th visitor. Our Internet site at [www.oneidaschool.org](http://www.oneidaschool.org) is the quickest and easiest way to learn about the Oneida school.

The Internet is the fastest growing communication medium in the world. Information, pictures, audio and video clips are all available at the click of a button, enabling the "web surfer" to search out information tailored exactly to his own needs and interests.

Oneida is able to use the Internet to present our ministry in a way no phone call or print ad can duplicate. With only a few clicks of a button, people can travel across the miles and experience Oneida's ministry.

The OBI web site currently is aimed primarily at the person searching for information about a Christian boarding school for his or her child. There is a basic introduction to the school and information about admissions, campus life

and Oneida's philosophy of ministry. Current news about students is frequently posted, along with this column. Visitors may read a message from our president and check out upcoming events on the school calendar. We are developing a frequently-asked-questions section, and will add a farm section soon. Our goal is to have the web site serve as a "virtual visit" to every aspect of our campus.

One of the unique features of this technology is the ability to hear audio clips (with the proper software.) We currently have a 1986 message by Moore available to enjoy, along with a current message from a daily OBI chapel service.

On the "Contact Us" page, visitors may easily send a message to many of our Oneida staff members. An employment page presents ministry opportunities on the OBI staff. A "Friends on the Web" section will direct visitors to other Kentucky Baptist ministries and churches on the web.

Richard Vance is OBI's "webmaster." He came to OBI to be a dormitory dean, but currently is serving as our computer teacher because of his training and experience with computers. The entire web site was developed and created on the campus by Vance and other OBI staff, a great example of how our gifted staff often serves in many different ways.

We hope everyone will stop by [www.oneidaschool.org](http://www.oneidaschool.org) and take a look around. If you are not currently receiving the school's newsletter, The Mountaineer, you can send us your address through the web site. The site will change frequently, and we hope it will be a regular stop for those cruising the information superhighway.

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

### THIS IS ONEIDA

## Should we help equip the pastor's wife?

In 1997 the college planning council and trustees approved a strategic plan goal to consider a degree program for spouses. All of our present curriculum is available to them, but through the years needs have been expressed for more specific options.

The issue generated significant campus debate. Sincere opposition came from faculty, students and alumni. The primary concern centered on the college's mission statement. Some feared the administration wanted to make Clear Creek a liberal arts institution. The policy decision rested with the trustees. On April 28 they voted that an associate of arts degree for ministry spouses did not violate the college mission statement.

Trustees approved the following statement: "Clear Creek Baptist Bible College will work with the partners of God-called ministers to help equip them for more effective service in the church and community. We believe the minister's spouse shares the calling to ministry. A partner with educational preparation can provide more effective service in the local church and have improved relationships in the community. With adequate preparation a partner adds needed

income for bivocational ministry positions. Equipping the partner nurtures God-called students. Clear Creek's Bible-based education with an emphasis on practical service is suitable for ministry partners."

The faculty academic affairs committee will determine areas of need but is considering leadership training for early childhood development, teaching, counseling, office management and music. Students can take half of the courses at cooperating area colleges.

One trustee noted, "22,000 SBC churches need bivocational ministers. If we can help train the pastor's wife, we ought to do it to help meet this need." Another said, "Growing up I had six pastors from Clear Creek.

I see the importance of the wife being able to take advantage of improving her skills."

A 1951 graduate said, "I remember Dr. Kelly declare his dream in chapel that God would take this school and make it what he desired and not what Dr. Kelly wanted. I know many situations where the family would be stronger if the wife could be equipped."

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

### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

# PEOPLE

## Holy Moses! Studio covers its theological bases

By Angela Aleiss  
Religion News Service

LOS ANGELES (RNS)—“Get all the advice you can, and you will succeed, without it you will fail,” says the book of Proverbs.

The honchos at DreamWorks SKG, it seems, are paying close attention.

The studio has covered just about every Judeo-Christian-Islamic base possible before releasing its much anticipated animated feature about the life of Moses, “The Prince of Egypt.”

DreamWorks’ Steven Spielberg, known for tackling such sensitive subjects as African-American history (“The Color Purple,” “Amistad”) and the Holocaust (“Schindler’s List”) is no stranger to controversy.

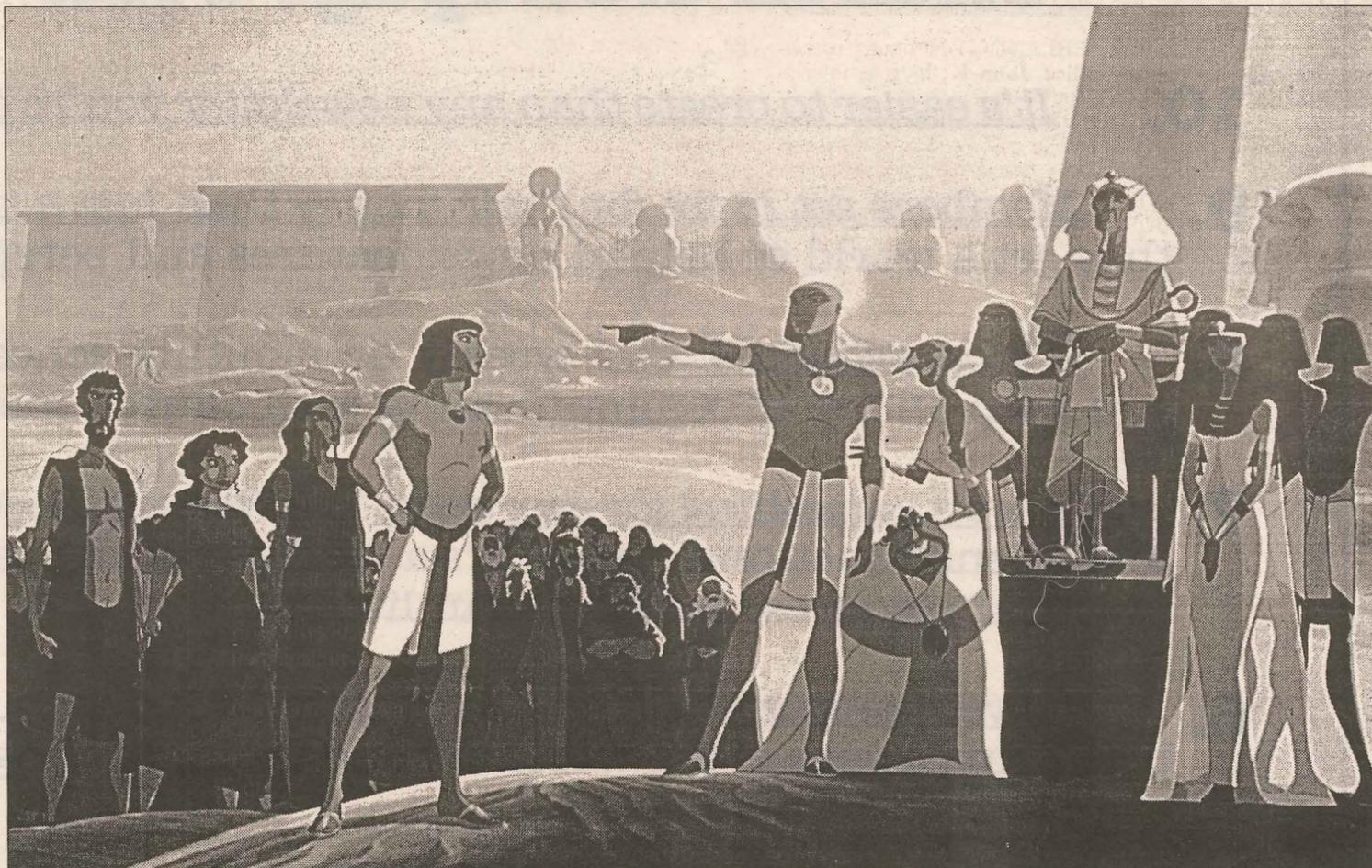
And neither is Jeffrey Katzenberg, Spielberg’s partner who reigned at Walt Disney Studios when it produced the animated feature “Aladdin,” which drew harsh criticism from the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee.

So when it comes to making films based on the Bible, no one at DreamWorks—including Spielberg and Katzenberg who along with David Geffen make up the trinity that founded the fledgling studio—wanted to risk offending the sensibilities of followers of the world’s three great monotheistic religions.

DreamWorks contacted more than 350 religious scholars and leaders from around the world to view parts of the film to make suggestions. Muslim advisers, Vatican officials, rabbis, Egyptologists—even former Christian Coalition head Ralph Reed and Moral Majority founder Jerry Falwell—weighed in with input, leaving no biblical stones unturned.

“I think they were trying to cast their net as broadly as possible,” said David Lehrer, L.A.’s regional director of the Anti-Defamation League, who was contacted by DreamWorks early in the film’s production.

DreamWorks’ proverbial net also included Maher Hathout, spokesman for the Islamic Center of Southern California and senior adviser to the Muslim Public Affairs Council.



“The story (of Moses) is abundantly mentioned in the Koran and my role is to project that version,” said Hathout, adding that DreamWorks has requested that consultants not discuss details of the film.

This much is known. “The Prince of Egypt,” set to hit screens nationwide Dec. 18, is a serious animated film producers hope earns a PG rating so more adults will see it.

“This is not a movie that parents can drop their kids off at for the afternoon,” Sandra Rabins, one of the film’s producers, told the Los Angeles Times. “Parents need to be prepared to answer tough questions. Is God an angry God? Why does he allow slavery? Why does he kill? This is not a movie for toddlers.”

“The Prince of Egypt,” whose budget is reportedly between \$60 million

and \$70 million, includes a computer-generated plague of 7 million locusts, huge crowd shots and, of course, the parting of the Red Sea, a complex, four-minute scene that took 12 people three years to create, according to the Times.

The movie also boasts an all-star cast including the voices of Val Kilmer as Moses, Ralph Fiennes as the Pharaoh Rameses, Jeff Goldblum as Moses’ brother Aaron, Sandra Bullock as his sister Miriam and Michelle Pfeiffer as his wife Tziporah. The voice of God, however, is still in the works, a combination of voice, sound effects and music.

But despite slick special effects and celebrity voiceovers, “The Prince of Egypt” is serious stuff. So serious, in fact, that DreamWorks has no plans for the fast-food tie-ins and spin-off

merchandise usually associated with animated features.

Instead, DreamWorks is developing study guides for the film, one for each of the major faith groups, the Times said.

But by attempting to please all, does DreamWorks run the risk of pleasing none?

“I think that’s always the danger you take,” said Francis Maniscalco, director of communications for the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and its social policy arm, the U.S. Catholic Conference, who was part of a small group of Catholic leaders invited to view some of the movie’s early rough cuts.

“It seems to me they’ve chosen the workshop approach because they see that as important for future productions,” he said.

**LIGHTS, CAMERA, COMMENTS** Officials at DreamWorks studio have talked to Christians, Jews and Muslims for their animated movie about Moses, “The Prince of Egypt.” The movie should open nationwide Dec. 18. (RNS photo)

## Who says revivals can’t last a whole week? This one went nine

By Russell N. Dilday  
Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

LAUREL, Miss. (BP)—Anyone who thinks revival services can’t last a week might need to reconsider.

Baptist evangelist William Blackburn recently finished a revival that lasted nine consecutive weeks and counted nearly 1,300 professions of faith in Jesus.

Blackburn said the experience at Highland Baptist Church of Laurel, Miss., “changed my life” and “has given me a boldness.”

Blackburn had led revival efforts for the 700-member congregation in 1995 and again last year. In planning this year’s revival, he and pastor Dennis Sewell “talked about a month-long campaign, but one that only committed the church to one week. The pas-

tor and I had come to the decision that you couldn’t have real revival in a Sunday-through-Wednesday revival meeting.”

Sewell and Blackburn were soon proven right.

In the first two weeks of the “Find Me Faithful Crusade,” 300 church members made professions of faith.

“It started on Jan. 31 with a men’s wild game supper. The next morning I preached a message called ‘Examine Yourself,’” Blackburn recalled. He said the message focused on listeners examining themselves to determine if they truly had made commitments to Jesus as their Savior.

The result, he said, was a mass of conversions as people committed themselves to Jesus. “After three weeks, it exploded in two ways,” he said. “First, in the worship services

there was excitement—a tidal wave of people wanting to stand the whole time for an hour, shedding tears, coming to the altar and lying flat praying. They really wanted to worship.

“They also got a tremendous burden for lost people—loved ones, relatives and friends,” Blackburn noted. Among the hundreds of people making public decisions, “we had 18 deacons saved, three preachers from other churches get saved and a deacon that had been a big troublemaker saved.”

The “explosion” continued when local media outlets picked up on the events, Blackburn said.

The majority of conversions were men, he noted. “We had several families on the verge of divorce where the family got saved and that saved the marriage.”

More than a month later, with more than 900 professions of faith recorded, the decision was made to take Saturday nights off and to conclude the crusade March 25. However, due to large crowds continuing to attend and the number of decisions being registered, the decision was made to continue until Easter.

After Blackburn had preached his final sermon, he said, there had been “1,275 recorded, counseled salvations and they had baptized more than 600 of those.”

Blackburn said the crusade changed his life and taught him how to worship God.

“He also gave me a vision that our problem today is that we have a lot of lost members in our churches,” he said. “The message to examine yourself is the message for today.”

**“We had several families on the verge of divorce where the family got saved and that saved the marriage.”**

Baptist evangelist William Blackburn

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