



WESTERN RECORDER

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FOR THE RECORD

Beth Moore: True repentance takes guts, no butts

By Suzanne Darland
State Correspondent

LEBANON—The overwhelming majority of Christians fail to live the abundant life Jesus promised in John 10:10, author and speaker Beth Moore recently told a group of Kentucky women.

"People are in bondage," said Moore, who addressed 500 women at Lebanon Baptist Church in central Kentucky May 15-16. "Few believers are fulfilling their predestined plan. They are held in a yoke of slavery."

Moore, who has written three popular church study courses, cited 2 Timothy 2:26 in saying Satan sets traps for Christians so they can do his will. "Satan wants to handicap our walk."

The conference at Lebanon Baptist Church was for women primarily from Nelson, Taylor, Marion and Washington counties. About 400 women from other counties were turned away for lack of room, said

steering group member Theresa Miles. Conference organizers wanted to target women from rural counties who tend not to go to big name conferences in larger cities, she explained.

"We could have had this at the high school or another larger site," Miles said. "But we wanted to reach women who had never been to a conference and who would feel more comfortable in a church."

Moore told the women that Satan wants to bring shame into a Christian's life, and that everyone has a potential trigger the devil tries to use to entrap them. People's sinful natures make them vulnerable, she said, and everyone has a weak point, whether it's food, sex, alcohol or pride. When Christians are ashamed of their behavior instead of repentant, they live in bondage, she explained.

"Many are not getting up off their knees as the purified bride of Christ," Moore said. "We're not claiming our right." She said that Christians who



WOMEN'S CONFERENCE Author and speaker Beth Moore addresses the recent women's conference in Lebanon. The event attracted 500 women from Marion, Nelson, Taylor and Washington counties. (Lebanon Enterprise photo by Beth Foster)

Foster care
The need for foster parents is growing, say leaders at Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. *Page 3.*

Shepherding the shepherd
A new conference is scheduled to minister to Kentucky Baptist pastors and spouses. *Page 3.*

Holy War?
Is there a secret battle going on against parents? *Page 4.*

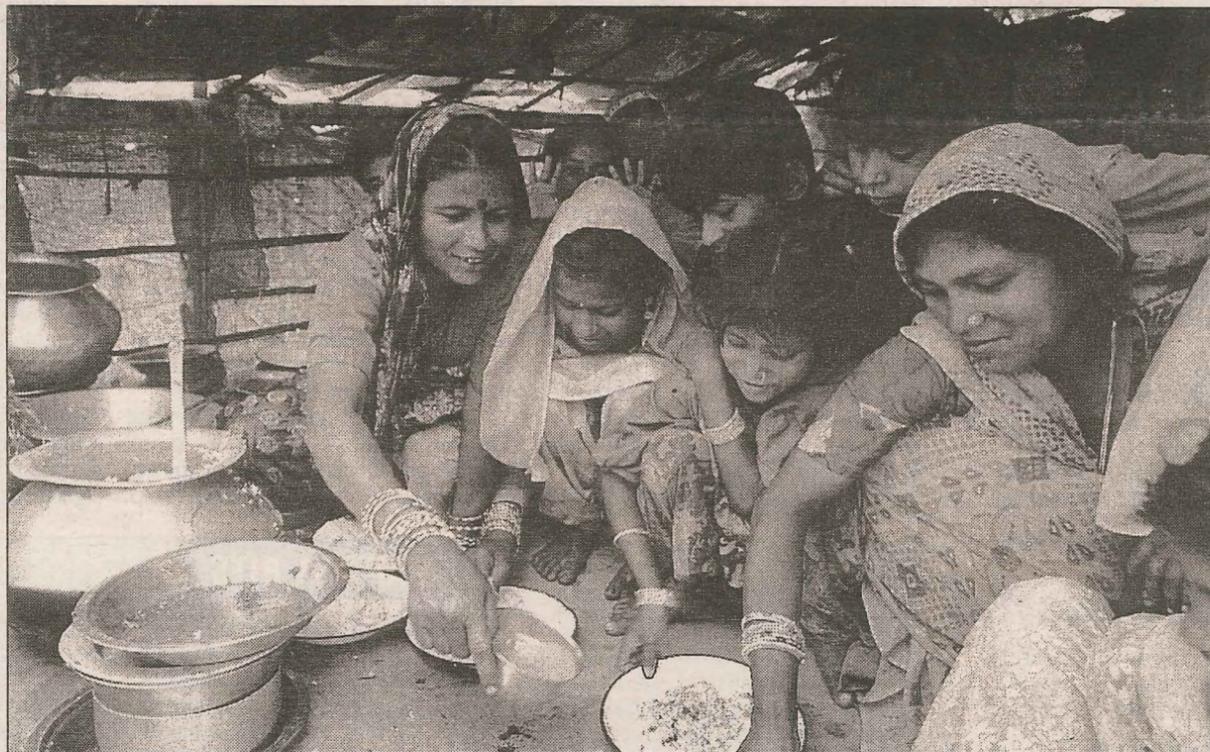
Editorial
Lessons from a dying boy no one helped. *Page 5.*

Resources
Family Forum asks, "How can I help my child enjoy organized sports?" *Page 6.*

Russia
Clear Creek has agreed to provide professors for a pastors' school in Novgorod. *Page 7.*

Horsing around
Waynesburg church finds equestrian ministry is a good outreach. *Page 7.*

Just as they are
Billy and Franklin Graham are calling their co-preaching events festivals instead of crusades. The two recently discussed the future of their ministries. *Page 9.*



HELP WANTED The 15 million Bihari Muslims of South Asia are among the many groups that Southern Baptist International Mission Board leaders say are in need of a "church planting movement," a massive stirring of the Holy Spirit that will draw thousands of them to Christ. IMB leaders say that if every person on earth is to have the opportunity to respond to the message of Jesus, Christians must multiply churches rather than simply add them. "Business as usual just isn't getting the job done," said David Garrison, IMB associate vice president for strategy coordination and mobilization. *Story on page 8. (BP Photo by Don Rutledge)*

Is politics on tap for Salt Lake City convention?

By Mark Wingfield
Editor

SALT LAKE CITY—No elected officials will address this year's annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, but messengers nonetheless will hear from one of the most potent political power brokers in America today.

He recently has been on the cover of U.S. News & World Report, has been the focus of articles in the New York Times and Washington Post and has struck terror in the hearts of Re-

publican leaders on Capitol Hill. He is James Dobson, an otherwise mild-mannered psychologist with a national radio and television audience totaling 28 million people weekly.

Since 1977, Dobson has been gaining reputation among evangelical Christians nationwide as an authority on family issues. He left his job at Children's Hospital in Los Angeles that year to begin a radio program called "Focus on the Family."

That one program today has multiplied into a worldwide ministry with a \$113 million annual budget and the

No. 1 program on Christian radio. Dobson has written dozens of books, the most popular of which have sold 16 million copies. He created a video series on parenting that has been viewed by 70 million people. "Focus on the Family" now includes the daily radio broadcast and several shorter spin-offs, including "Family News In Focus" and "James Dobson Family Commentary." He writes a syndicated advice column that appears in secular and religious newspapers alike. His organization produces a variety of

□ See Dobson's address ..., page 2

Heath parents launch effort to fight violence

WEST PADUCAH (RNS)—The parents of the three Kentucky teens who were gunned down last December in their school prayer circle have created a national foundation to address school-related violence.

The KNJ Foundation was named for the three girls, Kayce Steger, Nicole Hadley and Jessica James. They were students at Heath High School.

"This foundation is not about Paducah or the state of Kentucky—it's about the safety of our children across the country," said Sabrina Steger, Kayce's mother. "This is an effort to get people to share their experiences and ideas to help us find ways to end the violence. Our goal is to reach out to all Americans along with the families who have lost loved ones to violence."

The creation of the Paducah-based foundation, announced May 14, comes at a time when other efforts to help the victims of the shooting are continuing.

Contemporary Christian singer Steven Curtis Chapman, a graduate of Heath High, performed at a benefit "Concert of Hope" at the school May 15. Money raised from the concert will help pay the medical expenses incurred by the victims' families as well as a scholarship fund and counseling fund.

"After singing at the funerals of Kayce, Nicole and Jessica, I felt the best gift I could give ... was to come together with the community that is still a big part of who I am, and have a celebration of hope," Chapman said.

Moving? See page 4 (1526)

Dobson's address to SBC might focus on politics



Dobson

Continued from page 1
special-interest magazines for adults, teachers, attorneys, teens and children.

Dobson's influence and family message should resonate well with Southern Baptists, said Rick Ferguson, chairman of the SBC's committee on order of business and a Colorado pastor.

"He is so well-known and has such a strong ministry with regard to families, giving biblical foundations for family life," Ferguson explained. "In today's world there's a desperate need for ministry to families."

This will be an important message for Southern Baptists to proclaim in Salt Lake City, headquarters of the Mormon church, he added. "Mormons are typically known for having a strong emphasis on family. Not that we're competing with Mormons, but while we're there we'll be letting the Mormons know we have a strong interest in families."

But the family emphasis may not be the most notable thing about Dobson's address at the SBC's closing session June 11. According to early hints, the message may pack a political punch.

In a February speech in Arizona to 300 members of the Council for National Policy, Dobson warned of his frustration that the Republican-led Congress has continued to "betray" conservative Christian voters. He threatened to abandon the Republican Party and "do everything I can to take as many people with me as possible."

Dobson's speech was reported by the New York Times, which obtained a tape recording of the closed-door session attended by political and religious leaders such as Pat Robertson, Rep. Dick Armey of Texas, Oliver North and Sen. Jesse Helms of North Carolina.

In that speech, Dobson said he intended to sound the same overtly political warning in his speech to the SBC this summer.

A spokesman for Focus on the Family said he could not confirm on

the record what Dobson's topic would be when he addresses the SBC, but he did acknowledge Dobson's February statement as reported by the New York Times.

Ferguson, the chairman of the SBC's committee on order of business, said the invitation to Dobson was issued long before Dobson became involved in his latest round of political posturing.

"I don't know what he has on his heart to say to Southern Baptists," Ferguson explained. But he acknowledged that if Dobson does delve into political issues of interest to conservative Christians, it would be well-received.

"Dobson is recognized today as a strong voice for morality and biblical morals," he said. "He's calling our nation back to moral sanity. He's probably one of the most influential voices to that effect in America today."

Added Bill Merrell, director of communications for the SBC Executive Committee: "I think Southern Baptists are by and large very amenable to the socially conservative sections of the Republican Party platform, which Dobson has recently supported publicly and vocally."

By his own admission, in recent years Dobson's focus has extended from how to help families internally to advocating changes that impact families externally. That means going head-to-head with government and with societal forces he perceives to be anti-family.

Focus on the Family, based in Colorado Springs, Colo., has its own public policy arm, a separate though loosely connected organization called the Family Research Council. This Washington-based advocacy group, headed by former Reagan administration official Gary Bauer, promotes conservative issues such as tax relief for parents, school prayer, anti-abortion initiatives and anti-homosexuality initiatives.

Some of the followers of Dobson's

more generic family advice have frowned upon his recent foray into politics, urging him to stick with his original mission. But Dobson has insisted in response that his original mission of strengthening families cannot be accomplished without attacking related political and social issues.

In a 1995 letter to Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, Dobson asserted: "My concerns, and the concerns of millions of evangelical Christians, are not political in nature. They are profoundly moral and ethical, and we are determined to defend them with our very lives if necessary."

Armed with his millions of loyal listeners and a mailing list campaign managers would kill for, Dobson today has found himself in the role of kingmaker in some political circles.

In Kentucky, Dobson's influence is being wielded in the current race to fill the U.S. House seat being vacated by Rep. Jim Bunning. Dobson has thrown his endorsement behind state Sen. Gex Williams, whom the Washington Post recently described as running the "moral wing of the Kentucky Republican Party."

Though Williams' opponent in the May 26 Republican primary has the backing of Republican Party officials, Williams has the corner on the Religious Right endorsements, and his campaign strategist is none other than Ralph Reed, former head of the Christian Coalition.

This Kentucky race is typical of others nationwide in which Dobson and other Religious Right figures are asserting increasing influence this year. Dobson also has supported Robert Dorman, the flamboyant former California representative who narrowly lost his seat in the last election and whom Time magazine recently dubbed "the loudest, loosest cannon in all the right wing." Dorman is attempting to regain the seat he lost.

What's different this year is that Dobson's endorsement takes more work to get. Dobson has made known his displeasure with Republicans who

came into office with the support of religious conservatives but have not fulfilled the agenda of religious conservatives.

In a Feb. 26 letter to all Republican legislators on Capitol Hill, Dobson outlined his demands for continuing to support the Republican Party.

"Our great frustration with Republican leadership ... is not the failure to pass pro-family legislation in every instance. It is the failure to try," he wrote.

Some specific issues Dobson demanded action on included override of the presidential veto of the Partial-birth Abortion Ban Act, defeat of any pro-gay agenda in legislation, defunding of Planned Parenthood, defunding of condom distribution programs, passage of legislation requiring parental consent for abortions performed on minors, defunding the National Endowment for the Arts and enacting an outright ban on human cloning.

This spring, Dobson held a series of meetings with Republican officials on Capitol Hill in which he elaborated on his agenda. He publicly threatened to start supporting independent candidates rather than non-performing Republican candidates, even if that means a split vote putting a Democrat in office.

Joining Dobson in some of these Capitol Hill sessions has been Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

"The go-along, get-along strategy is dead," Land told the New York Times in March. "No more engagement. We want a wedding ring, we want a ceremony, we want a consummation of the marriage."

Dobson's recent threat to take nationwide his campaign for holding Republicans accountable for fulfilling promises to the Religious Right has produced some immediate results. Gingrich, for one, emerged from a May meeting with Dobson proclaiming anew the importance of Dobson's agenda and pledging to work on it.

BAPTIST BITS

■ **SBC on Internet.** The June 9 opening-day sessions of the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting in Salt Lake City will be broadcast live over the Internet. With technical support from the North American Mission Board's broadcast communications group, the Tuesday sessions will be available on two Internet sites: www.sbc.net and sss.namb.org.

■ **Insurer's name changes.** Preferred Risk, the property and casualty insurance carrier endorsed by the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, has changed its name to the Guidant Insurance Group. Coverages and rates will not be affected by the name change, officials said.

■ **SBC prayerwalks planned.** Messengers and guests to this year's Southern Baptist Convention annual

meeting will have two opportunities to participate in prayerwalks. An all-day event is scheduled for Friday, June 5, beginning at 9 a.m. on level one of the Salt Palace Convention Center in the Green Room. No reservations are required. A second event June 7 will begin at 9 a.m. in the lobby of the Doubletree Hotel. Reservations are required for this event; call (800) 968-7301.

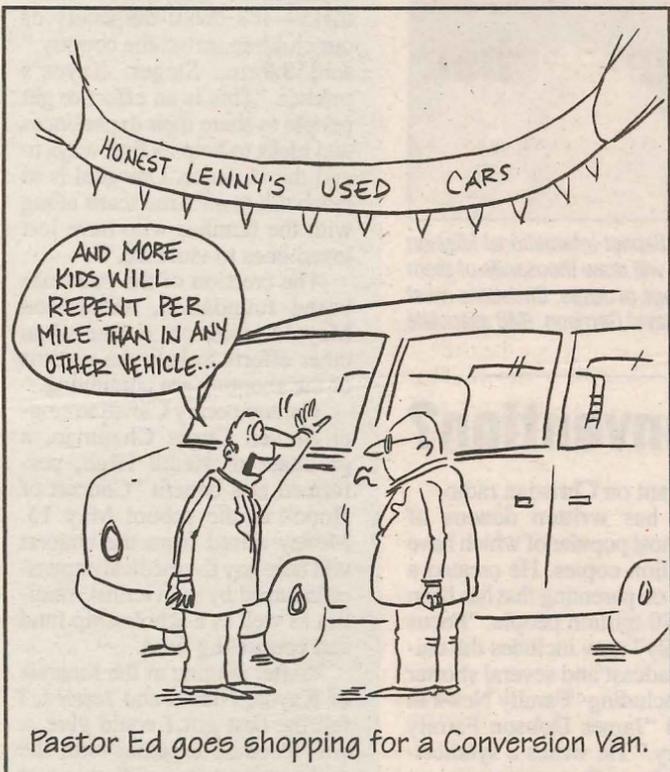
■ **Gaddy to head Alliance.** Welton Gaddy, pastor of Northminster Baptist Church in Monroe, La., has been named executive director of the Interfaith Alliance, a Washington-based group organized to counter the Religious Right.

■ **CBF to meet in Houston.** The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship will hold its 1998 general assembly in Houston June 25-27. With a theme of "Celebrate the Spirit," the moderate Baptist group will kick off a

three-year emphasis on spiritual formation, community building and global missions. Keynote speakers will include Richard Foster, William Hendricks, Paul Duke and Barbara Joiner.

■ **Wagner to be nominated.** Bill Wagner, an emeritus missionary to Europe and the Middle East, will be nominated as first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention by Darrell Robinson, special assistant to the vice president for evangelization at the North American Mission Board. No other candidates for the position have been announced to date.

■ **Medical rates will rise.** Ministers and church employees covered by the Personal Security Program medical plans of the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention will experience a 5 percent rate increase July 1.



Pastor Ed goes shopping for a Conversion Van.

'Shepherding' conference for pastors planned

A new statewide conference for pastors and their spouses has been announced by Bill Mackey, new executive secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

The "Shepherding the Shepherd" conference is scheduled for Jan. 21-23, 1999, at the Marriott Griffin Gate in Lexington.

The purpose of this conference will be to "provide encouragement and enrichment for pastors and their wives," Mackey told the KBC Executive Board May 4.

Pastors often become so busy in ministry that they neglect their own spiritual development and their relations with family members, especially spouses, Mackey explained. This new conference will be an annual opportunity for taking time out for reflection and strengthening marriages, he said.

The three-day program will include a "date night" for couples to enjoy on their own, he said.

Confirmed speakers for the 1999 conference include:

■ Reggie McNeal, leadership consultant with the South Carolina Baptist Convention. McNeal was one of the featured speakers at last year's Church Health Summit in Bowling Green.

■ Charles Lowery, pastor of Hoffmantown Baptist Church in Albuquerque, N.M., who is known nationwide for his humorous presentations.

■ Ray and Ann Ortlund, nationally known speakers and writers on ministry and family.

Other nationally known program leaders are being recruited and will be announced later, Mackey said.

Foster care needs growing, agency says

BOWLING GREEN—Finding homes for children is Karen Burnham's mission.

As a foster care specialist for Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, Burnham encourages single adults and couples to open their hearts and homes to young victims of abuse, neglect and family crisis.

"If youth are given positive role models and experience love and acceptance, they really and truly can turn their lives around," said Burnham.

May has been declared Foster Care Month by Gov. Paul Patton. In 1998, the role of foster parents is becoming more and more important, according to leaders at Kentucky

Baptist Homes for Children.

"Current statistics reflect a greater need than ever for people to open their homes to children in crisis," said KBHC President William Smithwick.

A report from the Child Welfare League of America indicates that nearly one-half million children are in out-of-home care in the United States because of abuse, neglect or family crisis.

Kentucky has 1,636 foster parents caring for about 3,800 children, according to the National Foster Care Awareness Project.

Burnham said there is a particular need for foster parents for teenagers. "We have a lot of teenagers in residential care who are ready to move in

to a home environment."

Smithwick said KBHC's foster care program is committed to providing foster parents with training and support during the placement process.

"Many of our staff are foster parents, and we know that it is never easy for families to open their hearts to children who may be with them only a short time," he said. "Our ministry is to the family as well as to the child."

Single adults, couples and families who open their doors to foster children receive training, financial assistance and ongoing support, including respite care. For information on KBHC's family foster care program, call (800) 456-1386, or (502) 568-9115 in the metro-Louisville area.

Moore: True repentance takes guts, no butts

Continued from page 1

still feel enslaved either are struggling with an unwarranted guilt trip or have confessed the sin but not actually repented of it.

She said more Christians should practice 2 Corinthians 7:10, being sorry to the point of not repeating the sin, instead of just feeling bad about it.

"It takes guts and no butts," she told the women. "It takes courage to let him clean you out and then take up your cross daily. But you'll have an impact on others you may never know until you get to heaven."

Moore told the women God doesn't need Christians or their obedience. It "doesn't make him Godder when we do better," she said. Instead, Christians benefit when they are in tune with God and living an abundant life.

"Salvation is a gift," she said, "but godliness is a pursuit. We don't have to plan to be carnal, but we have to deliberately plan to be righteous."

Christians often pray for healing or deliverance from temptation, but God will "sometimes jerk out the thorn and other times leave it in." She said God wants to teach Christians something

through the process of praying, studying and believing. "We've got to learn to love the healer more than the healing," she said.

Moore first began writing Bible studies for the women at a friend's church. She was teaching several hundred women weekly, and they had asked for "homework." She wrote the work on the day before their Bible study, and her friend copied the material. This was how she wrote her first LifeWay Bible study, "A Woman's Heart," about the Old Testament tabernacle. Another study, "Jesus One and Only," is scheduled for 2000.

Other seminars at the central Kentucky conference, titled "A Place to Hang Your Heart," dealt with women's heart issues. Debby Hatchett, minister of children at Park Cities Baptist Church in Dallas, led "The Fractured Heart," dealing with divorce recovery. She offered steps to follow, including seeking medical help, finding a trusted friend and seeking counseling.

Hatchett said she saw four counselors before she found the right one after her pastor/husband admitted to a long-term affair with the church sec-



UNEXPECTED WRITER Moore

retary and left their marriage. She said she found special solace in Isaiah 54:5-6, "Your husband is your maker. ... The Lord has called you as a wife rejected."

Alison Lusted, women's ministry coordinator at a church in Atlanta, spoke on "The Confident Heart," telling her audience that when Christians have confidence in God, they are like trees with deep roots during times of drought, "never ceasing from yielding fruit" (Jeremiah 17:8).

Kentucky Fellowship welcomes leader, 'adopts' unreached group

By Bob Allen
Associated Baptist Press

GEORGETOWN—The Kentucky Baptist Fellowship installed John Lepper as the group's first full-time coordinator, voted to "adopt" an unreached people group in Thailand and elected new officers at a spring meeting May 15-16 in Georgetown.

Fellowship leaders hailed the recent election of Lepper, who until recently worked as director of family ministry for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, as a new era in the group's history.

"The state of the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship is good, but it's going to get a lot better," said moderator Bob DeFoor, pastor of Harrodsburg Baptist Church.

DeFoor said Lepper's election signals a major shift for the state Fellowship. While the group will continue to function as a "buffer to fundamentalism" in the state, it also will begin to move more into providing services to congregations.

DeFoor said that transition will require higher levels of funding from Kentucky churches. He encouraged pastors to enlist new churches and for congregations already supporting the national Cooperative Baptist Fellowship to designate a portion of their contribution for the state. "Churches need to get on board," he said.

Meeting at Faith Baptist Church in Georgetown, the state Fellowship organization adopted a budget of \$102,404 for the current fiscal year, which began May 1.

Lepper said the Kentucky Fellowship is only beginning to get over strife that divided Southern Baptists in the 1980s. "In many ways, the sparkle went out of our Southern Baptist family about 1979," he said. "Through the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship we can rediscover what it means to be family."

The group will soon open offices at Broadway Baptist Church in Louisville, DeFoor said.

In other business, the Kentucky Fellowship elected a nominating com-

mittee, a slate of new officers and members of state and national coordinating councils.

Bob Quisenberry, a layman from Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington, will succeed DeFoor as moderator. Gary McAbee of Brandenburg was elected secretary, and Jerry Dooley of Louisville as treasurer.

Vicki Hollon, a member of St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville, will represent the Kentucky group on the national CBF Coordinating Council, along with DeFoor, who is serving a term set to expire this year but will stay on another year in place of a current Kentucky representative who is resigning.

The group also voted to "adopt" an unreached people group for prayer and mission support. The Rock people, one of the poorest tribal groups in Thailand, lives in a remote area and has had little exposure to Christianity, said Philip Vestal, a missionary from Charlotte, N.C., who coordinates CBF's Adopt-A-People program.

The Rock people are so called be-

cause of the distinctive craggy rock formations that jut out from the mountaintops around their villages. The group's traditional tribal name is not used by missionaries because of political persecution in neighboring countries where other Rock people reside.

There may be as many as 5,000 members of the tribe in about 10 villages in northern Thailand, but perhaps a million live in neighboring China, Laos and Burma, Fellowship officials say.

Kentucky Fellowship leaders encouraged local churches to participate in the Adopt-A-People program, in which churches learn about a particular unreached people group, correspond with a missionary who lives and ministers with the group and participate in missions through prayer, giving and volunteer opportunities.

The Kentucky Fellowship closed its two-day meeting with a missions emphasis, featuring a sermon by Keith Parks, global missions coordinator for the Atlanta-based CBF.

BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ A conference on ministry to residents of multi-housing communities will be held May 28 at Red House Baptist Church in Richmond. For more information, contact Todd Robertson of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's metropolitan missions department toll-free at (888) 254-5725 or (502) 244-6461 in Louisville.

■ The Marshall Center for Christian Ministry at Georgetown College named its Outstanding Christian Service Awards, given to a faculty member, staff member and graduating senior at the school. Those selected were Lydia Hoyle, associate professor of religion; Bonnie Redditt, director of foundation and corporate relations; and students Dawn Austin of Shelbyville and Tim Vredenburg of Roseburg, Ore.

■ Charles and Alma Blair recently were named citizens of the year for Hickman County. The two were recognized for their community service, involvement on local projects and volunteer work. Charles Blair is director of missions for West Kentucky Baptist Association.

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

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Concealed carry

I am writing in response to a May 5 letter (page 4). One brother wrote evidently attacking mere gun ownership in general and concealed carry (especially in church), in particular.

He used a much-quoted absurdity manufactured by the anti-Second Amendment organization HCI: "A handgun kept at home is 43 times more likely to be used on a family member or friend than on an intruder." The media never, ever challenges these bogus claims simply because they go along with their own agenda. Indeed, they cheerfully parrot them.

Without doubt, violent crime occurs in the home, but according to the Department of Justice, 87 percent of all violent crimes occur outside the home. This being true, would it not seem reasonable and prudent to have the right at least to remove said handgun from the home and carry it where 87 percent of violent crime occurs?

Our writer doesn't seem to think "ordinary" citizens can be trusted to do so. He goes on to write, "for concealed weapons in public, the figure (bogus to begin with) probably would not be as high, but still more innocent people than criminals are probably victims." That is an assumption.

As for one carrying in church, that's a personal choice. Who, I ask, can be better trusted to do so than a God-fearing, born again Christian with the spirit of God and scriptural mandates? If you are fearful of all those unstable people sitting around you, perhaps you should consider changing congregations. The Apostle Paul said "In Jesus Christ, I am of a

sound mind."

Chuck Estridge
Williamstown

Only Jesus

The mailman arrived today with the usual publications from conservatives, moderates—each publishing their philosophies, agendas and ideas.

I have found since I read quite a bit and do some writing that the leadership, pastors, professors, the so-called "learned," their ideas are accepted as the last word. Therefore if the average church member writes an article, it is considered a controversial letter and is subject to change in order to be published. Is it any wonder the average church member is sometimes complacent?

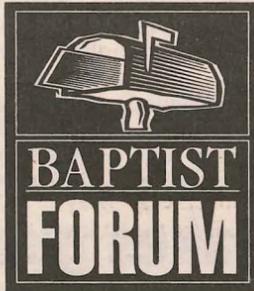
Some of the most stupid remarks have come from the pulpit, when a pastor is so full of himself, instead of the Holy Spirit.

Energy is being wasted on who is right and who is wrong. What difference does it make in comparison to eternity and Christ? The world is basically lost. People are searching, drowning in remorse and degradation.

We Baptists should create a generic business office, the "Christian Baptist Headquarters." A sign at the entrance door should read: "No politics spoken here. No aspired goal, except heaven only. The love and grace of Jesus spoken here."

A reminder for all of us. In heaven, no denomination, no Southern Baptist Convention, etc. Only love, grace and Jesus. Isn't that enough?

Phyllis Barnes
Louisville



Fighting a holy war for parenting

By Dale Hanson Bourke

It's not all in your head. Being a parent today really is hard. Finding time for your kids truly is difficult. Making your family a top priority isn't easy, no matter what your economic strata, marital status or geographic situation.

But it's not all your fault. And you're not alone. Nearly every parent in America struggles with stress caused entirely by the consequences of their choice to have a child.

Economist Sylvia Ann Hewlett and activist-educator Cornel West have decided to do something about this dire situation. Together, they have formed the National Parenting Association, written a book called "The War Against Parents," and issued a Parents' Bill of Rights.

Their goal is to form a movement rivaling the American Association of Retired People, organizing the nation's 62 million parents of children under 18 into an economic, political and social force to be reckoned with.

In "The War Against Parents" they make their case in defense of parents. According to them, a combination of over-the-top capitalism, greedy government and mass media manipulation have conspired against parenting.

To them, this is a holy war. "Make

no mistake about it: the work of moms and dads is of utmost importance to our nation," they contend.

"At a fundamental level of analysis, the parent-child bond is the strongest and most primeval of all human attachments. When it weakens and frays, devastating consequences ripple through our nation, because this elemental bond is the source of connectedness in society."

How have we gotten ourselves into such a mess? Hewlett and West believe some of it was a deliberate campaign, much of it was simply a slipping of values and a great deal was the lack of organization that allows parents to believe their own families' issues are unique and need to be solved individually.

The government, they believe, has made parenting difficult by devaluing a stay-at-home parent and instituting tax policies that work against families.

For instance, they point out that if you raise horses in America, you are allowed to deduct the cost of food, stabling, training, vets, transportation, insurance and other related expenses. If you hire someone—even a spouse—to care for the horses, you may deduct

What has happened to your dream?

By David Profitt

"I have a dream!"

Those words were the centerpiece of Martin Luther King Jr.'s epic message delivered in 1963 from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial as he addressed millions of people across this land. And even though Martin Luther King's dream of all God's children being able to live together in harmony has yet to come true, still, it was (and is) a worthy dream around which one's life can be properly built within the context of the biblical pillars of faith.

I believe everybody ought to have a dream. And furthermore, I believe for our lives to have any real meaning and satisfaction, that dream must rest on the solid rock, Jesus the Christ, and on the biblical accompaniment of his person.

Sadly though, as I meet and talk with people, I realize that many of us are dream-less. And I realize too that many who began with a worthy dream have, somewhere along the way, been sidetracked so that this dream has been altered and prevented by an attempt to reconcile that dream to the factual realities of the way they are living, cast in the mold of Demas (2 Timothy 3:6-7) we have exchanged the substance of God for the glitter of this world.

There are those of us, too, whose dream has been muted out by compromise. We have "given" a little here and a little there until we have sold our dream for less than a bowl

of red porridge. We have lacked both the courage and the energy to hold fast to the uncompromising purity of our dream. We are spiritual prostitutes. We are amiable, good-hearted souls but have become only cannon fodder in the war between God and Satan.

Dreams are elusive things and must be referred to often if they are to be kept. But, even so, dreams must be held in open hands and open hearts, for a dream encased in a dream easily forgotten for lack of companionship. Dreams must rest in our hands and our hearts only in so

much as our hands and our hearts rest in God's hand and God's heart. Without that foundation, dreams are elusive things.

What is your dream today? Is it pure and unchanged, unblemished by perversion or compromise? I ask these questions of you only because I ask them of myself in an effort to be exactly what God wants me to be.

I have a dream. It is not to be pastor or leader or missionary or preacher. I had lost sight of my dream and had turned it into those things but it is not those things. My dream is to walk with God in the privacy and purity of a faith that I cannot share with others. My dream is not to build the church or have great ability; my dream is loftier than that. My dream is to know God and to recognize his voice when he speaks and to know no other thing but him. I have a dream.

David Profitt is pastor of Licking River Baptist Church in Salyersville.

MINISTERIALLY SPEAKING

the salary you pay that person from your tax bill.

As every parent knows, there are no deductions for a child's food, lodging, schooling, transportation or insurance. Furthermore, a parent who stays at home to provide care is basically considered to have no economic value.

This is just one example of a tax policy working against parents. And the authors maintain it is the kind of policy that has been systematically adopted since the 1950s by both conservatives and liberals who had nothing to fear from a group with no lobby.

The way the media portrays parents also raises the ire of Hewlett and West. They see the daytime talk shows destroying families by glorifying fringe problems and setting up parents as inadequate and unfit role models. Sitcoms and other shows have a tendency to

make parents look ridiculous. And movies rarely show parents as heroes or even respectable characters.

And despite the wonderful state of the economy, the authors show how the economic system values those whose first commitment is to it rather than their families, and who wind up living unbalanced lives in which work has a higher priority than children.

The latter, in the current system, must be fit into job schedules rather than work being tailored around them.

Interestingly, "The War Against Parents" devotes an entire chapter to discussing the Nation of Islam and Promise Keepers, crediting both groups with helping fathers and beating back the anti-family forces. It is an example of the authors' attempt to rise above politicizing and to remain neutral on all agendas but their support of families.

In fact, their Parents' Bill of Rights has what might be called both liberal and conservative agendas, with a policy to strengthen marriages, support social services that help families and protect children from alcohol, drugs and R-rated movies.

It remains to be seen how groups like Focus on the Family, Children's Defense Fund and other family-related groups will respond to the National Parenting Association. The focus is broad enough to offend someone in every camp.

And yet, Hewlett and West are definitely on to something. Every parent knows there has to be a better way to nurture a family. By raising our voices together, we may have a chance to change things for the sake of our children. (RNS)

Dale Hanson Bourke is the publisher of Religion New Service and the mother of two sons.

COMMENTARY



Dale Hanson Bourke

OPINION

HE SAID/SHE SAID

How do we raise compassionate kids in a 'gimme more' world?

HESAIID



Mark Wingfield

Some friends recently reported that their 3-year-old saw a commercial on TV for the "Anastasia" video, then politely turned to her mother and said, "Mommy, I would like to have that sometime."

It was another great moment for parent-child communication, and for Madison Avenue hooking a child for the first of many requests to come. Only as I advised our friends, the "requests" won't be so polite and cute for long and the communication will become one-way before you know it.

Our boys once made cute requests for things. Now as they approach their sixth birthday, they appear obsessed with accumulating all the loot they can before their first visit from the tooth fairy.

You would think our children have been seriously deprived, the way they talk. Whatever is offered is never enough. After a recent event at church at which they both performed well, I took them to the local Dairy Queen (my favorite, of course) and said they each could choose anything they wanted. Luke immediately asked if he could have two things. One wasn't enough.

This is our life now, every day. Regardless of what is offered, Luke's always bargaining for more. And Garrett's sure to be close behind. What ever will we do when they become teenagers?

And where do they learn this? Alison and I have lectured, we have explained, we have threatened. I've developed quite an impressive speech on selfishness and greed that rivals any your mother ever gave you about the starving children in China. It seems to go in one dirty ear and out the other despite the wax.

SHESAID



Alison Wingfield

One of our recent bedtime Bible stories was on the Ten Commandments. Although the words were set for their age, the boys still needed some clarification, particularly with the word "envy" (in place of covet).

I seized the opportunity for an object lesson. Envy, I explained, is what happened recently when they came home from playing at a friend's house. They were whining because their friend had a lot more Beanie Babies than they

do. That, I told them, is envying what somebody else has, and what the Bible says we shouldn't do.

Luke promptly replied, "Cody has more than a hundred Beanie Babies, which is more than Dillard, so it's OK."

What happened here? Somehow the lesson was lost.

I am fast becoming hard-hearted when it comes to the boys asking for things. No is not only in my vocabulary, it is the primary word that begins most of my sentences lately. I have given up trying to put a positive spin on things.

Mark talks a good talk, but when it comes down to it, he is not as reliable to hold fast against their onslaught. I have learned the danger of sending the boys and Mark off to Target or even Kroger by themselves. These adventures skew the budget, and load up our pantry with too much junk food.

We attempt to instill compassion in our children by talking with them about our church's special missions offerings and projects. And as one other small way to balance things out and to give the boys a practical demonstration of compassion, we have started sponsoring a child through World Vision. Hopefully, as we continue to discuss how this young boy about their age copes with everyday life in Ethiopia and as we begin to correspond, the boys (and their parents) will get the message that life is not about things.

The physical need in Ethiopia is great, but our need at home is to learn to put things in perspective and act accordingly.

Lesson from a dying boy no one helped

It was just a small item in the newspaper. Twelve paragraphs about another child victim of gun violence in America. Hardly news anymore, unless the bullets are hitting where you live.

What brought this story into the daily newspaper was not who was killed or by whom or why, but instead who didn't come to the rescue.

Just two days after America laughed at Jerry Seinfeld and his cohorts getting their just desserts for failing to aid someone in need, the real thing happened in Chicago. Only in the real story it wasn't a car theft, but a murder. And it wasn't a quartet of self-absorbed friends standing idly by, but a hospital and its employees.

Fifteen-year-old Christopher Sercye was playing basketball near Ravenswood Hospital in Chicago May 16 when he was felled by gunfire, allegedly at the hands of three other teenagers.

Though the shooting occurred just steps away from the hospital's door, Sercye bled toward death in an alley. Hospital workers, those trained to save lives, would not leave the hospital to help him. They said it was against hospital policy to leave the building.

Friends, neighbors and police officers begged the hospital workers to aid the injured boy, but to no avail. Finally, after about 30 minutes of frustration, a police officer commandeered a wheelchair to bring the boy inside the hospital himself. But it was too late.

The boy died inside the hospital that wouldn't help him. Where's a real-life "Good Samaritan" law when you need one?

Embarrassed by the media attention of their indifference, the hospital changed its policy about not allowing employees to help those in need outside the hospital walls. But even that took two days.

The newspaper didn't include comments from any of the hospital workers on duty that day. You have to wonder what they were thinking and feeling. And you have to wonder why they made adherence to an ill-advised policy more important than saving a life.

What would compel people who have the expertise and equipment to save a life—indeed who have devot-

ed their careers to saving lives—to ignore the pleas for help from a dying person's friends, neighbors and police officers? How do you grow that indifferent.

It's easy to feel righteous indignation toward such "health" workers. But did you know we do the same thing every week in the church?

It has been rightly said that the church should be a hospital for sinners, not a museum for saints. In the church, we have the equipment and know-how to bring new life to all who are dying of sin.

Yet all around us people are dying, headed for hell without anyone to stop the bleeding. They do not know that the blood that matters already has been shed, that there is a way to be rescued from spiritual death by faith in the risen Christ.

Perhaps their friends and neighbors have pleaded with us to help them. Perhaps we have said we're too busy doing God's work inside God's house to come out and help. Perhaps we've said our church has a policy against doing things like that, or that our denomination has a policy of not going places like that or associating with people like that.

Perhaps, amazingly, we appear like the hospital workers who didn't seem to care. Just another kid shot in an alley. Just another poor sinner who wasn't smart enough to figure it out.

Yet Jesus himself has told us to "go out into the highways and hedges and compel them to come in, that my house may be full."

Hymn writer Fanny Crosby has shown us God's desire as well. In words now familiar to those inside the spiritual hospital, she wrote: *Rescue the perishing, care for the dying. Snatch them in pity from sin and the grave. Weep o'er the erring one, lift up the fallen. Tell them of Jesus the mighty to save. Rescue the perishing, care for the dying. Jesus is merciful. Jesus will save.*

We often sing this hymn as we stand inside the church, waiting for those who need God's love to come inside. What will it take for us to rescue the perishing who are outside, perhaps just outside our doors?

— Mark Wingfield

Are you the one who is to come?

By Brad Johnson

When the men came to Jesus, they said, "John the Baptist sent us to you to ask, 'Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?'" (Luke 7:20)

Let's press rewind for a moment before we play out this question. John the Baptist had been conducting a pre-evangelism preaching ministry getting people ready for the arrival of Messiah. John was doing an effective job.

Nearby, word was spreading about John's cousin who reportedly had started quite a controversial ministry himself. Already, people were being stirred by his authoritative teaching, already the crowds had begun to grow wherever he went, already miracles of physical healing and raising the dead had taken place by his hand, already cousin Jesus had faced run-ins with the local religious types.

The reports circulating about Jesus had made their way to John and were enough to at least make John ponder, "Hmmm?" and at most make him ex-

claim, "Wow!" So, he organizes a committee of two, a messianic pulpit committee, he instructs them to go to Jesus and confront him. This is classic John the Baptist, no beating around the bush, no hidden agenda, just straight up. Here's what they were to ask, "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?"

It's a good question, a relevant question, a contemporary question. Because John's sincerity never really has been called into question, we have to believe there is no sinister motive here nor is there a lack of faith. He just wanted to know for sure before he began telling his large following that Jesus was the Messiah.

Once John knew for sure that Jesus was The One, it clarified his ministry, it gave urgency to his task and it raised the level of power in his preaching. Think about it. Once he knew that Jesus was the Christ, and he concluded that very quickly after the committee returned with their report, John began saying things like, "I can no longer be a big deal. He's the big deal

... follow him!"

His task was clear: Give full attention and focus to Jesus. When we minister from the conviction that "he's the one," we'll do the same.

There's also an urgency in John. John had the privilege of baptizing Jesus and afterward the pieces of John's life that are revealed in Scripture mark him as a zealot. More rural than urban, less flash but lots of lightening, that's John.

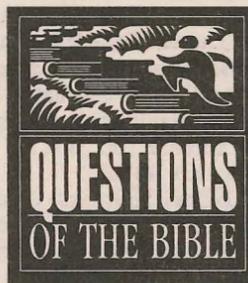
Why so fiery? Because he knew that God had shown up and it fueled his passion like nothing else. Zeal and passion will mark our ministry when we know "he's the one."

Finally, John's preaching in his last years bore the marks of divine power. Few pulpites in our culture have the power of preaching or range of influence that can unsettle kings, but John's preaching had such impact. We may not change everyone for Christ, but our witness can have impact where we are when we speak with the power born from the conviction that Jesus is the Christ, he's the one for whom

people have been searching.



Brad Johnson is pastor of Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green.



RESOURCES

This week's questions:

■ Should I be concerned about my teenage daughter's low weight?

■ How can I help my child enjoy organized sports?

Q. How can I help my child enjoy organized sports?

A. Organized sports provide opportunities for children to develop skills and have lots of fun while also learning important lessons about teamwork, commitment, competition and sportsmanship. At the same time, sports can be a tremendous source of stress, pressure and frustration in the lives of children.

Make sure your child wants to play. Don't force your desires on him or her or try to relive your glory days through your child. Look for leagues that emphasize fun and fundamentals and that are well run. Choose a coach carefully. Talk to league organizers and other parents. Coaches' reputations will be known.

Encourage children to play hard and do their best, but be careful about pressuring them to perform perfectly. Teach them to play by the rules. Make time to take them to the batting cage, play catch, shoot baskets or encourage them in some way.

Sports can easily become all-consuming. Understand the commitment at the outset, and talk about it with your child. Try to anticipate schedule conflicts. Automatically sacrificing church, school or family events for sports may send a wrong message about priorities. Work to balance your commitment to sports with other commitments.

The tension, drama and demand of sports can produce feelings of failure and inadequacy, as well as feelings of success and achievement. Help your child keep the game in proper perspective. Teach him or her to win and lose with grace. Model sportsmanship. Always remind children that you love them, no matter how they play the game.

Cheer your children on and enjoy their games, but don't make sports a matter of life and death—for you, or them. — David Garrard

Q. My 16-year-old daughter has been losing weight for several months. She is about my height (5'-

4") and only weighs a little over 100 pounds. She says she still looks fat. I think she is a little too thin. Is she? What should I do to make her eat?

A. As Christians, we believe we have a duty to treat our body with respect as a dwelling place of God. You are correct to be concerned about your daughter's weight loss.

Your daughter is in danger of being too thin. For females, a good guideline is 100 pounds for 5 feet tall and 5 pounds for each inch above that. So, 5-foot-1-inch would correspond to 105, 5-foot-4-inches to 120. Usually, plus or minus 10 percent would not be a cause for alarm. For your daughter, the low end of normal would be about 108.

Since you said she is closer to just 100, I would suggest that she see your family physician or a doctor who specializes in eating disorders. At least have a physical check-up to rule out some illness. Probably trying to force her to eat will just make it worse. If they find no physical cause, then perhaps she needs special counseling to determine what is behind her condition. — Wade Rowatt



CHARITABLE

Reasons to give through the Kentucky Baptist Foundation

Laurie Valentine

Using the Kentucky Baptist Foundation to accomplish your Christian estate stewardship objectives provides a variety of advantages to you and the causes you wish to benefit.

The Kentucky Baptist Foundation is the only Kentucky Baptist agency which may receive gifts for the support of every Kentucky Baptist and Southern Baptist cause. As a "member of the family," the Foundation has a special appreciation and affection for the ministries and causes that will be supported through your gifts.

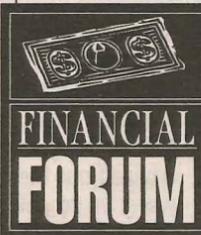
Many donors want to provide support to more than one cause and realize that dividing their gift may result in a lower total support to their charitable beneficiaries. A single trust or endowment fund established with the Kentucky Baptist Foundation can be set up to provide support to more than one Baptist cause. This can result in more consistent levels of support for all—each cause will have the benefit of the same level of competent investment management services and the economies of centralized fund management.

Designating the Kentucky Baptist Foundation the manager of your gift allows the causes you wish to support to do what they were called to do—missions, Christian education, child care, evangelism, disaster relief, etc. You relieve the charity's board or staff from day-to-day investment research, analysis, decision-making, transacting and reporting, and place those responsibilities with the organization whose purpose is to provide competent, prudent financial management for the causes designated by its donors.

The Foundation's board and staff have a sincere desire to help each Kentucky Baptist determine how to practice Christian stewardship at a higher level. This desire is reflected in the variety of gift plans offered and in the ability of the Foundation to accept gifts of any size.

Contact our president, Barry Allen, or me toll-free at (888) 254-5701 and let us show you how you can make a lasting difference.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.



CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Ashland, Ky., is seeking a full time Minister of Music. Applicants should be energetic, responsible and possess leadership qualities. The position requires blending of music and ministry. Prior experience is desirable, but not required. Interested parties should submit resumes to: First Baptist Church of Ashland, P.O. Box 787, Ashland, KY 41105.

WANTED: 21 new/used church pews 14 feet long. Contact Tish Kneller, (502) 245-5695 after 8:30 p.m. or write to P.O. Box 43004, Middletown, KY 40243.

WANTED: Social worker/director of special ministries, part-time (15 hours/week). Dare to Care Ministry, government commodities, church financial assistance. Send resumé to: Bethlehem Baptist Church, c/o Dr. Jon Bishop, 5708 Preston Highway, Louisville, KY 40219.

SEEKING: Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children seeks a director for communications to oversee public relations and program marketing activities for the state's largest residential child care provider. Bachelor's degree in communications-related field and a clear understanding of Baptist organizational structure required. Position requires good interpersonal, writing, public speaking, time management and budget management skills. Graphic design, photography and video skills a plus. Send resumé to: Brenda Gray, 10801 Shelbyville Road, Louisville, KY 40243.

FOR RENT: 40-foot entertainer's bus for rent by small groups; driver included; rent from one weekend up to one year. 16 seats, 6 bunks, shower, lounges front and rear. Ride in comfort, arrive in style. Day: (606) 292-8877; Night: (606) 458-4889.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of youth. Good potential for growth in youth department. 15 to 20 per week. Send resumé or contact: Rodney Groff, 175 Mexico Road, Marion, KY 42064; (502) 965-9026.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Leitchfield, Ky., is seeking a full-time minister of music. Responsibilities include: sanctuary choir, graded choir program, handbell choir, youth instrumental ensemble, traditional and contemporary music services. Applicants should send resumé to: First Baptist Church, 106 East Walnut St., Leitchfield, KY 42754.

SEEKING: Two staff positions for Highland Baptist Church, Louisville: Part-time minister of outreach (10-12 hrs/week); part-time minister of administration. Send resumé to: Personnel Ministry Group, HBC 1101 Cherokee Road, Louisville, KY 40204.

WANTED: Name, address and phone of churches that have any weekday preschool program (nursery school, half-day preschool, mother's day out, full-day preschool or child care). Send to: ABC Ministries, 8205 Camberley Drive, Louisville, KY 40222.

SEEKING: Part-time youth minister for traditional, county-seat Baptist church. Excellent salary and benefits. Great ministry opportunities in growing area. Affiliated with Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 26, Shepherdsville, KY 40165.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church, Barbourville, is looking for a minister of students. All applications and/or resumé 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).

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

TOUR: 10-day Holy Land tour, Nov. 2-11. First class—only \$1,795. Call Pastor Studie, (502) 247-8331.

SEEKING: Director of college relations for Clear Creek Baptist Bible College. This individual will be responsible to the executive assistant for advancement for developing and enhancing relationships between the college and her various constituencies. The successful candidate must have: a minimum of a bachelor's degree; experience and/or training in administration and public relations; a strong church background; the ability to relate well to individuals and groups; the ability to meet strict deadlines. Interested individuals should submit resumé with cover letters explaining why they would be interested in applying for the position to: Randy Pressnell, Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, 300 Clear Creek Road, Pineville, KY 40977. Resumé must be received by June 12, 1998.

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.

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.

KENTUCKY

Clear Creek to help Russia pastors' school

By David Winfrey
News Director

PINEVILLE—Kentucky Baptists' five-year partnership with Russian Baptists will end this year, but for Clear Creek Bible College the link could lead to an even-longer relationship.

The school in Novgorod, Russia, for Baptist pastors and church planters has asked Clear Creek to provide 10 faculty a year, said Clear Creek President Bill Whittaker.

"It's another indication of the mission emphasis that we've had at Clear Creek for years," he said.

The school, which will have about 35 students in September, serves as a regional training center to equip new pastors to start congregations in house churches, Whittaker said. Students take 20 courses in a year to prepare for ministry, he said.

Whittaker and other Clear Creek professors already had taught at the school. The first professor to teach under the new agreement will arrive in September, Whittaker said.

The school already has relied on teachers from the United States, including professors at Golden Gate Theological Seminary, he said. School leaders in Novgorod asked for indefinite help from Clear Creek to provide a continuity of syllabi, he added. "It's our anticipation that before too long they can have some of their own teachers developed to use in the school," he said.

Some of the students also might continue their studies at the Baptist seminary in Moscow, he added.

First Baptist Church of Little Rock, Ark., recently completed a \$305,000 renovation of the Christian Evangelical Church of Novgor-

Proposed degree causes stir

A proposed new degree at Clear Creek Bible College has stirred a disagreement between some faculty and the school's leadership.

But college president Bill Whittaker said he hopes the issue is settled after trustees decided the new degree does not conflict with the Bible college's mission statement.

The school's academic affairs committee is studying the possibility of offering a degree for students' spouses to train them in teaching, counseling, office management and music.

The intent is to help prepare spouses who feel called to serve in the ministry but not to pursue a traditional Bible college degree, Whittaker said.

The proposal drew "sincere and genuine" objections from five professors and one visiting professor who considered the degree a step away from ministry training and toward becoming a liberal arts institution, he said.

Whittaker added that the school has no desire to move away from

its calling to be a Bible college.

Whittaker said the professors all signed a statement affirming the authority of the trustees to decide the matter and agreeing to be "instruments of reconciliation" after the issue is settled.

Trustees during their recent meeting voted that such a degree would not conflict with the school's mission statement, he said.

Clear Creek recently mailed a letter to its alumni, explaining the proposal, the trustees' statement and the professors' statement on reconciliation, he said.

"I've only heard from three alumni," Whittaker said. "They just called wanting to hear the rest of the story."

Repeated calls to a professor named as being among those objecting to the new degree were not returned.

The proposal will be presented to the trustees' executive committee in July, Whittaker said.

Professors' contracts, which recently were mailed for the upcoming year, were not affected by the disagreement, he added.

od, the Baptist congregation that sponsors and houses the school.

Whittaker said he and the faculty are excited to think about the long-term impact of such a project. A poll of trustees received a strong majority of support, he added. "They feel like this is another way of fulfilling our mission emphasis."

Professors will teach two classes each for four-month periods. Five instructors will be needed for the term

from September to December, and another five for January to April.

Whittaker estimated the commitment will cost \$20,000 for the first year to provide travel and care for instructors in Russia.

Novgorod is between Moscow and St. Petersburg. The pastor of the Baptist church there has a vision for planting churches in many communities in the region, Whittaker said. "We're looking forward to it."

Waynesburg church is horsing around for sake of the gospel

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

WAYNESBURG—It only took a pair of trail rides and several visits to Fairview Baptist Church before Jeff Olds decided to accept Jesus as his personal Savior last summer.

Today the Danville factory worker remains active in the church's equestrian ministry and has invited co-workers to join him on the trails.

"I enjoyed the atmosphere on the rides," he said. "And then when I was at church, I wanted to go that way. ... It's hard for me to explain."

So far, his is the only conversion as a result of the year-old outreach, but members at Fairview Baptist expect to see more in the near future.

As many as 10 non-Christians regularly join the 15 to 20 church members on horseback outings, said Youth Pastor Danny Bertram.

"It's an exciting ministry for rural churches," said Bertram, the first chairman of the group. "We've got several lost people riding with us now, where we couldn't have gotten their attention before."

"I'm not sure what the Lord's going to do with it, but we're allowing him to open doors," said Pastor Gary King, who started the outreach. "This is a family thing. We have mothers, fathers and teenagers who ride together."

An avid rider, last spring King announced a meeting for anyone interested in equestrian ministry. Instead of the few he expected, 10 responded. But several people who live in town said they had no place to board horses.

The next morning the pastor contacted a landfill company about using some of their vacant land. The owners agreed to lease the church 25 acres for 10 years for \$1 per month.

Riders have been keeping five to seven horses in a small shelter on the land, which also serves as a starting point for some rides.

In addition, Lincoln County Baptist Association recently agreed to let the church fence part of its camp near Stanford for an alternate site.

"When you have many horses on 20 acres it doesn't take long to pick the grass clean," Bertram explained. "We'll rotate between the two, and there is the potential of increasing the number (of horses boarded)."

Most events have been informal. The church also has sponsored a pair of Memorial Day rides, followed by a cookout and gospel sing. Devotion time is an integral part of each activity.

The group also will host the South Central Regional Brotherhood equestrian ministry's family days June 5-6.

The event will feature rides both days, capped by a six-hour outing on June 6. Bertram said he expects at least 125 riders to attend.

The weekend will include a camp-out and activity day for Royal Ambassadors. Saturday's program will feature a talk by Jimmy Carter, punter for the University of Kentucky football team.

Ministry volunteers will be active in two other upcoming events:

- Helping operate the Kentucky Brotherhood's booth at the international Equitana horse show in Louisville June 18-21.

- Distributing brochures and water at the Lincoln County Baptist Association's booth at the Lincoln County Fair June 29-July 4.

Bertram recently stepped aside as chairman to concentrate on leading the youth, but he is still active in the group. He and his wife attended chaplain's training last fall conducted by South Carolina Brotherhood.

"We want to share our love of horses and get people involved in church work too," Bertram said. "We've seen how it's expanded over the past year and gotten others involved."

"I had ridden before but now I'm really into horses; I own one," said Olds. "This is a good way for people to get together, enjoy themselves and still talk about the Lord."

AUDITIONS

June 6, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Lyndon Baptist Church
8025 New LaGrange Road
Louisville, Ky.



Benny Beloved Christian Products for Kids is holding auditions for children ages 3-10 (under 3, send photo) for upcoming nationally-distributed Christian children's video, *Benny Beloved's Mystery Party*.

We are looking for bright, enthusiastic children who enjoy singing, dancing and having fun! There are four to six major roles and many minor roles that need to be filled. All children are welcome! Video will be filmed in Louisville this summer.

CALL NOW TO REGISTER AND TO GET FURTHER DETAILS!

In Louisville: 493-9616; Outside Louisville: Toll-free (888) 493-9616

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MISSIONS

Strategists needed to multiply international missions work

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—If every person on earth is to have an opportunity to respond to the gospel, Christians must quit adding churches and start multiplying them, say Southern Baptist International Mission Board strategists

"Business as usual just isn't getting the job done," said David Garrison, IMB associate vice president for strategy coordination and mobilization.

"Evangelical missionaries are incrementally increasing the number of new believers, but we are only barely keeping pace with population growth rates," he said.

The answer, he said, lies in "church planting movements," stirrings of God's Spirit that result in explosive church growth. He cites examples like a country in Southeast Asia where the number of Baptist churches jumped from five to 120 in just four years, and India, where 1,000 new churches were started in three years where no churches existed before.

"We see God at work in various places around the world where churches are springing up and multiplying in phenomenal displays of his power and grace," Garrison said.

Explosive church growth can happen when a missionary concentrates on mentoring local evangelists and multiplying a vision for starting many new churches, he said. The missionary emphasizes lay leadership and low-overhead meeting places that can be duplicated easily.

This insight has led IMB leaders to place a higher priority on one type of missionary urgently sought for overseas assignment: the strategy coordinator.

"The strategy coordinator isn't doing the job himself but leading a team of church planters, Bible translators, gospel broadcasters, literacy missionaries and health and relief workers," Garrison said.

Half of the board's most critical vacant positions are for strategy coordinators. For more information, call (888) 422-6461.

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Bob Hancock

By Robert Dunston

The recipient of Cumberland College's 1998 Excellence in Teaching Award is Bob Hancock, associate professor of biology.

His students use adjectives like enthusiastic, energetic and contagious to describe him. One student said Hancock exemplifies the special nature of the Cumberland community through his teaching, mentoring and friendship.

Hancock employs many teaching styles in his classes including lectures, discussions, teamwork, role-playing, computer and laser disc presentations. While he demands much from his students, he motivates them not only to meet his challenges but to excel and to realize the abilities and potential they possess.

This summer Hancock is repeating trips he has made in the past with students. In mid-May he and a group of students left for several weeks of study in London, England. Toward the end of the summer he will lead a group to the Bahamas to experience the flora and fauna of a beautiful part of our world.

Hancock always seems to be on the move. He invites students to his home for social and educational events and participates in athletic

and cultural activities on campus. When the weather is nice, he often can be found in the afternoons playing Frisbee football with students. Hancock keeps extensive office hours and is accessible to students to answer their questions and provide guidance.

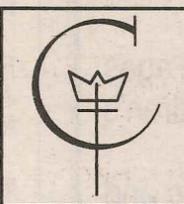
A practicing biologist, Hancock is an expert on mosquitoes. He has published several papers, and films he has taken have been featured on science programs on cable television. His enthusiasm for discovery rubs off on students, many of whom often spend weekends working on their own research projects.

A true Renaissance man, Hancock enjoys playing trumpet. He, his wife, Diane Jobe, and friends recently completed recording a music CD. He also is an artist who particularly enjoys sculpting.

Hancock influences his colleagues as well as his students. Knowing him can be exhausting at times because he is so enthusiastic. But he glows with the joy of teaching and helping students and that inspires the rest of us in and out of class.

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

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



Helping the helpers

Victims of incest show up in our schools, live down the street from us and, yes, worship in our churches.

Knowing the signs and acting upon them could save a child's life. Knowing the baggage that incest survivors carry could empower you to make a profound difference in a child's life as he or she tries to recover.

Be observant. Looking good doesn't mean feeling good. Being the best, brightest and prettiest is a common way of covering it all up. Adult victims of incest often say that when they were young, no one ever suspected.

Believe allegations. Children seldom lie about incest unless their family is involved in a custody battle or similar situation. You immediately should report and gain appropriate services for all youth who allege incest. You may clarify information; never dispute it. (Source: Child Welfare Report, April 1998)

Fill in the gap. Survivors often say a school teacher was their source of shelter and trust, and losing that relationship at the end of the school year was devastating. These children need someone

trustworthy to fill in that gap. It might be you.

Create a place of healing. If you become the adult whom an incest survivor trusts, give time and space to move through his or her emotions. Help those perfectionists realize that it is okay to make mistakes. Don't pressure them to discuss details. Keeping the family's secret was once the child's top priority and took a great deal of energy. The transition can bring out anger that wasn't always there, and it could be directed at you. The child needs to know that you are there, no matter what.

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's Cornerstone Counseling program has 20 sites around the commonwealth to help survivors in their healing process. This service is also there to "help the helpers" equip themselves for such a unique ministry to a hurting child. For the location of the Cornerstone office nearest you, call (800) 981-7493.

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

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Bill Smithwick

Grahams discuss their ministry's future

By John Loudat
Baptist New Mexican

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (BP)—Billy Graham acknowledged his days as an evangelist are numbered, but he expressed confidence in his named successor, son Franklin Graham.

Both Grahams addressed the future of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association during a news conference in Albuquerque, where the younger Graham preached May 6-8 and his father preached May 9-10.

Billy Graham, 79, told reporters he will retire "when the Lord retires me." Indicating he did not expect that day to be too far in the future, he affirmed his commitment to continue as head evangelist for his association for "as long as I have the strength." When he is no longer able, Billy Graham continued, "I'm going to step aside and let Franklin take over."

"Franklin's a far better preacher

than I am now," his father said. "Maybe I'm a little bit better known, but he is becoming known in various parts of the world."

Billy Graham said one reason he believes the transition will go well is that he and his son believe and preach the same message—Jesus Christ is the only way to God.

Acknowledging some people consider that viewpoint "narrow," he noted it is what the Bible says.

For the time being, Billy Graham is still preaching the gospel. He said he feels a little weak when he stands nowadays, but the moment he puts his hands on the pulpit, he feels the prayers of Christians and strength from God.

When asked what one message he wanted to leave with New Mexico during his visit, Billy Graham answered, "God loves them."

Franklin Graham, 45, said he hopes the benevolent organization he

now heads, Samaritan's Purse, eventually will become "the passion ministry" of the BGEA.

The five-day evangelistic effort, which yielded nearly 6,000 decisions for Christ, gave every indication that things will be different when Billy Graham retires and Franklin takes over preaching responsibilities at major crusades. Not only was the effort called a "festival," both father and son showed up Friday night in denim and leather coats and blue jeans, with Franklin wearing a ball cap.

During the week, Billy Graham affirmed the use of the name "festival," noting the negative connotation the word "crusade" has in some places of the world.

Even the use of the invitation hymn that has followed Billy Graham's sermons for decades, "Just As I Am," was jettisoned during the week in favor of the more contemporary-sounding "Come Just As You Are."

Library books spark controversy

WICHITA FALLS, Texas (BP)—A Southern Baptist pastor has caused a stir by refusing to return two children's books promoting homosexuality to the Kemp Public Library in Wichita Falls, Texas.

Meanwhile, deacons at his church, First Baptist Church of Wichita Falls, have asked the city council to direct the library to refrain from carrying such books.

The issue surfaced when the library purchased the books, "Daddy's Roommate" and "Heather Has Two Mommies."

A church member saw the books, checked them out and brought them to Pastor Robert Jeffress, who showed them to the congregation while preaching a May 12 sermon on God's destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Groups including the American Civil Liberties Union lambasted Jeffress and the church for their actions.

Jay Jacobson, ACLU executive director for Texas, threatened to sue the city if it allows the books to be banned.

"I would consider it a badge of honor to be sued by the ACLU," Jeffress countered. "There comes a time when Christians must stand up and say enough is enough."

NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Boycott vs. "buycott."** Seeking to counter the boycott of the Disney Co. by religious groups who claim the company has an "anti-family" and "anti-Christian" drift, leaders in the homosexual community have announced a nationwide "buycott" of Florida's Walt Disney World and Disney stores nationwide June 6. An Internet site for the Disney Gay Day event urges homosexuals to purchase Disney merchandise using \$2 bills to demonstrate their support for Disney's stand against "the reprehensible behavior" of organizations targeting the entertainment giant.

■ **Same sex marriage ban to get vote.** Alaska's legislature voted to put a same-sex marriage ban on the November ballot. Currently all 50 states limit marriage to a union between one man and one woman, but Alaska is one of three states where litigation might change that. The other two are Hawaii and Vermont.

■ **Netanyahu gets Jewish, evangelical support.** American Jewish and evangelical Christian leaders have rallied to support Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, saying the White House should stop pressuring Netanyahu into ceding another 13 percent of the Israeli-controlled West Bank to Palestinian control. Netanyahu has said anything more than a 9 percent pullback would endanger Israeli security. The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and a group of prominent evangelicals, including Pat Robertson, agreed.

■ **Christian-Jewish relations scholar dies.** Roy Eckardt, a leading scholar of Christian-Jewish relations, has died in Coopersburg, Pa., of a brain tumor. He was 79. Eckardt, chairman emeritus of religion studies at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pa., was a United Methodist Church minister who frequently spoke out against Christian teachings he considered anti-Semitic.

■ **Presbyterian membership decline slows.** Membership in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) continued to decline in 1997 but at a slower rate than the previous year. Officials of the church's Office of the General Assembly announced that total membership at the end of 1997 was 2,609,191, a decrease of 22,275 from 1996.

Previous membership declines had been above 30,000 every year since 1983.

■ **Report: Mormons study race teachings.** The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints reportedly is studying a secret plan to repudiate historical church doctrines once used to justify white superiority and keep blacks from Mormon priesthood. The Los Angeles Times reported that the proposal is under review by the church's Committee on Public Affairs, which is composed of high-ranking Mormon officials. The newspaper also said church leaders were searching for a way to repudiate the doctrines without undercutting church credibility.

■ **Liberal group gives 'award' to Istook.** People for the American Way, a liberal civil liberties group that does ideological battle with the Religious Right, has given Rep. Ernest Istook, R-Okla., its first "Equine Posterior Achievement Award." The bronze award is a symbol of the group's distaste for Istook's proposed Religious Freedom Amendment to the Constitution.

■ **Creech says bishop won't reappoint him.** Pastor Jimmy Creech, the central figure in the United Methodist Church's firestorm over homosexuality, says his bishop has told him he will not be reappointed to his church. Creech, who in March barely was acquitted of charges he broke church law by performing a same-sex union ceremony, said Nebraska Area Bishop Joel T. Martinez told Creech he has been unable to lead his congregation, which has lost what Creech called a "significant number" of members opposed to last September's lesbian ceremony.

■ **Conservatives come to White's defense.** A group of conservative Christians and lawmakers rallied recently to the defense of football great Reggie White after he was criticized for condemning homosexuality and abortion as sins. The Family Research Council, a conservative advocacy group aligned with the Religious Right, held a luncheon in White's honor May 18. Among those attending were Rep. Ron Lewis of Kentucky. Senate Majority leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., and House Majority Leader Dick Armey, R-Texas, sent letters of support.



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Calling all boys and men to Camp Rabro

Summer weather has come quickly this year, and soon school will be out, much to the gratitude of our kids across Kentucky.

If you are looking for something constructive to do with your boys this summer, let me remind you that our Brotherhood is doing a radical overhaul of our RA/Challenger camps this summer. At either the Jonathan Creek or Cedarmore, your boys and young men can have a great experience.

Randy Foster, Larry Koch and Mike Markham, our new Brotherhood leadership, are working hard to deliver a great camp event this year.

At Jonathan Creek we're having Crusader/Challenger camp and Lad/Dad weekend in mid-June. Camp RABRO at Cedarmore will run most of the summer and will be better than ever before.

We're doing, with the help of the other campers, a major renovation of our cabins, our dining hall and wagons. This is long overdue, but by the end of the summer we'll have an outstanding facility that all Kentucky Baptists will enjoy.

Next week we're starting work on a fabulous ropes challenge course that will be a great addition to RABRO. This work will be com-

pleted in early June, so the boys will get to take full advantage of the course this summer. We're also going to have horses for the first time.

Let me encourage all RA leaders, children and youth ministers, pastors and others to urge your boys to come to Cedarmore for a week this summer. I promise you that the boys, young men and adults will have a great time, they will experience God while they are here, and as they work on the facilities they will make a difference that others will appreciate for years.

The information, registration forms and schedules already have been sent to churches. If you have questions, call Mike Markham at the Brotherhood office (888) 254-5720, Cedarmore (502) 747-8911 or Jonathan Creek (502) 354-8355.

This summer's theme is "Godly Men at Work ... Building a Legacy of Integrity ... a Camping and Missions Experience for Guys in Grades 1-12." We would love to see you at Jonathan Creek or Cedarmore this summer.

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST ASSEMBLIES



Rusty Ellison

PEOPLE

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ International Service Corps missionaries Joy and Larry Lindsey as they work with Kentucky volunteer teams in Moscow.

■ "Pray that the Lord would continue to give us avenues to touch and bless the lives of Russians in the name of Jesus," ask missionaries Ed and Teri Tarleton in Moscow.

■ Two home Bible studies recently begun in Jamaica Plain and Lowell by Iglesia Bautista Hispania (Spanish Baptist Church) in Lawrence, Mass., and Pastor Jose Reyes. Fifty-five people attend the Jamaica Plain study and 25 attend the Lowell group.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

■ BENTON—First Missionary Church called Terry Sills as interim pastor. He began his new ministry May 3.

■ CADIZ—Cadiz Church will host its third annual women's retreat June 6, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. For more information, call the church at (502) 522-6002.

■ LAWRENCEBURG—Bonnie Royalty, secretary at Sand Spring Church for 20 years, retired May 1.

The congregation hosted a reception in her honor May 3.

■ LOUISVILLE—Lyndon Church will host a community-wide job fair for United Parcel Service May 30 from 1-4 p.m. For more information, call Pastor Brian Shoemaker at (502) 425-7150.

Baptist Tabernacle will celebrate its 105th anniversary June 14. An all-day event is planned. All former and current members are invited. For res-

ervations call (502) 778-8403 or (502) 778-4419. Michael Shell is pastor.

Poplar Level Church recently ordained Ralph Hardin to the deacon ministry.

Hunsinger Lane Church will ordain Bill Wessner to the gospel ministry May 31. Wessner is associate pastor at Gilead Church in Glendale.

St. Matthews Church will host its third annual Great Parking Lot Party May 31 at 4 p.m. For more information, call David Garrard at (502) 896-8882.

■ MELBER—Melber Church recently called Nathan Rogers as youth minister.

■ OWENSBORO—Bellevue Church called Angus McKinley as associate pastor of discipleship. McKinley previously was minister of youth and education at First Church in Crawley, Texas. He will begin his new ministry mid-June.

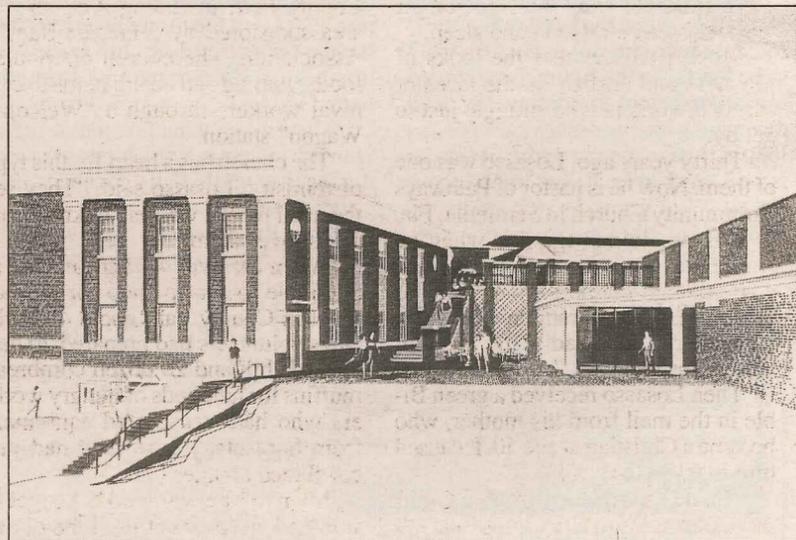
■ PRINCETON—First Church will host the Southwest Baptist University choral group Contempos of Bolivar, Mo., May 27 at 7 p.m.

■ SEDALIA—Lynville Church celebrated its 50th anniversary May 8.

■ SHEPHERDSVILLE—Vine Hill Church will host the Southwest Baptist University choral group Contempos June 5 at 7 p.m.



RENOVATION UNDERWAY Campbellsville University's science building is getting a facelift. The original building, constructed in the early 1960s, will soon house two new organic chemistry labs, an expanded general chemistry lab and four labs for biology field work, anatomy and physiology, microbiology and zoology. The project is scheduled to be finished by fall.



AWARD WINNER Georgetown College recently received the 1998 Athletic Management magazine's Award of Excellence in Outdoor Facilities for its East Campus Athletic Complex. The magazine, directed to athletic managers for high schools and colleges, recognized Georgetown for its partnership that allowed the institution to build the \$15 million facility and host the Cincinnati Bengals summer training camp.

Our graduation awards

On May 16 we watched proudly as 57 seniors accepted their diplomas. I'd like to share with you the recipients of our 1998 graduation awards.

The William A. Evans Award is Oneida Baptist Institute's highest honor, given to the most outstanding senior. This student must be a Christian who shows excellence in every area of his/her life. He/she must have attended Oneida for one complete year. The recipient should be a good citizen and scholar, be sensitive to the needs of others and appreciate the Oneida ministry.

The John-Michael Davis Award is our second highest honor, given to a senior who is outstanding in citizenship. This student is well known for his/her concern for others, and is outstanding in the area of service to others. This person should live out the principle of "ministering rather than being ministered to."

President's Awards are given to students who have grown in different areas of their lives and have taken advantage of Oneida's many opportunities. These students often have been considered strongly for other awards, and have been in second or third place when the votes were counted. President's Award recipients sometimes have overcome unusual personal circumstances.

"Mr. and Miss Oneida" are students who have attended OBI all four years of high school and who best characterize the Oneida spirit. These young people should demonstrate outstanding Christian character, strive hard in academics, show concern for others and be trustworthy.

The title of "Most Improved" is given to students who have shown the most improvement overall; in attitude, character and study habits.

Students named "Most Studious" have worked

the hardest to achieve academic excellence. They don't necessarily make the best grades but put forth much effort.

The seniors called "Most Versatile" are people who have been involved in many activities and have shown talent in different areas.

"Most Likely to Succeed" is not based on the world's view of success. These seniors may never acquire wealth, fame or power but will find happiness because of their commitments to Christ.

These are our 1998 award winners:

Jerry Boblett, Lawrenceburg: Evans Award, Mr. Oneida, Most Likely to Succeed, Most Studious. Andrew Burton, Columbus, Ind.: Most Improved. Aaron Colantino, Greenville, Ill.: Most Versatile. Sue Crockett, Casper, Wyo.: Davis Award. Jennifer Echert, Oneida: Most Likely to Succeed. Lola Hacker, Oneida: E.W. Frymire Scholarship Award. Brandon Odom, Leitchfield: E.W. Frymire Scholarship Award. Candace Oliver, Mt. Sterling: Most Versatile. Amber Sebastian, Loveland, Ohio: Most Improved. Bre Sharp, Lexington: Miss Oneida. Jeffrey Ximenes, Brazil: Mr. Oneida. Jennifer Ximenes, Brazil: Most Studious.

President's Awards: Caleb Carney, Shepherdsville; Ace Choate, Indianapolis; Heather Gay, Oneida; Ryan Gregory, Frankfort; Laura Beth Hasty, Shepherdsville; Christopher Lee, Garland, Texas; Travis Miller, Salvisa; Amy Passovoy, Henderson, Nev.; Mark Tully, Evansville, Ind.; Mike Tully, Evansville, Ind.

We congratulate all our seniors and their families.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Helping small churches reach higher ground

We usually have concern that full campus housing will deter some prospects from enrolling. It didn't stop Willis and Charlotte Hinkson in 1974.

The Hinksons rented a cabin at Pine Mountain State Park. Mrs. Hinkson remembers that fellow students David and Marsha Mitchell lived in campers parked beside the creek near Kelly Hall.

Willis Hinkson answered the call to preach while operating a hardware business in Melbourne, Ark. With several churches in the area without pastors, he soon became a circuit-riding preacher.

Hinkson's first full-time church was First Baptist Church of Hardy with 36 members. In the following 18 months, membership grew to 200. He baptized 66 members.

A guest evangelist told Hinkson about Clear Creek. "With a family, Willis did not have resources to attend college the conventional way. Without training, he was overwhelmed by the needs of a growing church," Mrs. Hinkson remembered.

As a student Hinkson was youth director at First Baptist Church of Pineville.

Hinkson never forgot Clear Creek founder and first President Lloyd Kelly's concern for the rural church. Hinkson was always grateful for the time and training he received at Clear Creek and throughout his ministry was very sensitive to the needs of rural churches.

In 1985 Hinkson established Small Church Support Ministries and developed a 68-acre retreat center in Clinton, Ark. Churches with a membership of less than 200 use the facility without charge. The ministry also conducts teacher-training seminars in local churches.

After a two-year fight with cancer Hinkson died in October 1997. He lived a year longer than physicians expected.

"I believe the Lord gave him that extra year as an opportunity to witness of God's sustaining power," Mrs. Hinkson said. The ministry they shared for 28 years continues under her leadership. You can contact the Higher Ground Retreat at Box 56661, Little Rock, Ark. 72215.

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

Minions of the midway find friend in former carnie

By Kristi Hodge
Florida Baptist Witness

SEMINOLE, Fla. (BP)—When Bill Losasso goes to the fair, he sees a lot of things most people miss—like strollers chained to rides so workers who can't afford child care can keep their children close by.

He notices how close the rides are to one another and knows workers must stay in that area most of the day and night. Many workers sleep on the ground under the rides themselves.

He knows that workers who disassemble and reassemble the taller, more intricate rides will go longer without breaks for food and sleep.

Most of all, he sees the looks of tiredness and despair on the faces of carnival workers who struggle just to get by.

Thirty years ago, Losasso was one of them. Now he is pastor of Pathways Community Church in Seminole, Fla.

Losasso joined the fair when he was 20 years old, taking a job driving a rig, though he didn't know how to drive one. "I was crazy then. I was a risk-taker. I just had a life without God," Losasso said.

Then Losasso received a green Bible in the mail from his mother, who became a Christian at age 50. It caused him to take stock of his life.

"I made a deal with God, a God I didn't even know," Losasso said. "I made a deal that I would read four pages of the Bible each day for five years. At first, I didn't agree with it and didn't understand it, but I kept reading it. I read it six times through

before I became a Christian."

Losasso had since changed jobs and moved to Dallas. He became a Christian at age 35 while attending First Baptist Church there.

A mission trip to Brazil convinced him that God wanted him to enter vocational Christian ministry.

He started Pathways Baptist Church in California in 1993. In 1995, he says, God led him to start a new church in Florida. He helped form Pathways Community Church in Seminole.

Each year, members have participated in ministries at the Pinellas County Fair, including a children's area sponsored by Suncoast Baptist Association. The church distributes food, clothing and health items to carnival workers through a "Welcome Wagon" station.

The church has a heart for this type of ministry, Losasso said. "They see the need for the workers to know that Jesus loves them."

When carnival workers arrived in Seminole to set up shop for the last Pinellas County Fair, about 40 Pathways volunteers had prepared 20 gallons of chili and 20 dozen cornbread muffins for hundreds of hungry workers who had transported equipment from Sarasota, where they had just concluded another fair.

Many of the workers do not get to stop and sleep or eat until they have disassembled, transported and reassembled equipment at their next stop, Losasso said.

"Most people just see the entertainment and the rides but don't see what



CARNIE Pastor Bill Losasso worked for a touring carnival when he was younger. Now he leads his church to minister to those working the annual fair in his town. Most people don't recognize how hard the work is, he said. "They don't see people sleeping under trucks or not having changed clothes for eight days. Fair life is one of the hardest forms of life in America today." (Photo by Kristi Hodge)

most of the workers' lives are like," he said. "They don't see people sleeping under trucks or not having changed clothes for eight days. Fair life is one of the hardest forms of life in America today."

Some church members drove around the fairgrounds to deliver food to workers who didn't have time to stop and eat.

Several churches in the association also provided clothing, blankets and health kits for Pathways to distribute. Last year, the need for blankets and food exceeded the supply, so the

church brought double the amount this year, said Kathy Marks, clothes closet coordinator for Pathways.

Marks and fellow church member Barbara Newfield befriended a female carnival worker during the fair—giving her food and clothes—but also lending a listening ear.

"Many of the workers need to feel that someone cares about them," Newfield said. "They are hurting, either physically—because they can't afford medical care—or emotionally, because of family problems. They need to know they're not alone."

"Many of the workers need to feel that someone cares about them."

Church member Barbara Newfield

Cowboy coach: Winning game plan includes Jesus

By Marv Knox
Texas Baptist Standard

GRAPEVINE, Texas (BP)—Chan Gailey may have Super Bowl aspirations, but the new Dallas Cowboys coach insisted his main goal is to pattern his life after Jesus Christ.

That hasn't always been the case, Gailey told Fellowship Church in Grapevine, Texas, during two Sunday morning worship services.

"I grew up in a Christian home and was baptized at 11 years old," recounted Gailey, who took the helm of the scandal-ridden Cowboys early this year.

"I grew up around Christian coaches, teachers and Sunday school teachers," Gailey told the Baptist congregation. "I was blessed in many ways, but for 17 years I really didn't have a relationship with Christ."

"Sure, I was doing a lot of things that good Christians do," he said, noting he went to church, read his Bible, prayed, sang in the choir and spoke on behalf of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

But that was the wrong "game plan" for his life, admitted Gailey, a lifelong Baptist.

He compared his life to an episode in the history of the people of Israel, recorded in 1 Samuel 4 in the Old Testament.

After losing a battle to their arch-enemy, the Philistines, the army of

Israel went back to battle carrying with them the Ark of the Covenant, their holiest artifact. But instead of winning the next battle, they lost 30,000 soldiers, and the Philistines stole the Ark.

"What's wrong with this picture?" Gailey asked. "They had a game plan. They did everything they thought they were supposed to do. ... The Ark of the Lord's Covenant was supposed to save them, but it couldn't save them. The bottom line of that story and my life are the very same."

Just as the army of Israel looked to the Ark for protection, Gailey said he depended on his good deeds for salvation.

"I thought reading my Bible, praying, going to church, giving money could save me. ... I finally realized it takes a relationship with Jesus Christ—it takes a relationship with our heavenly Father to make this life work."

"Going through the motions" will not provide salvation and personal peace, he said. "It's not trying to do as many things as you can. It's not the do's and the don'ts of Christianity. It's not following a list of commandments that makes us Christians."

"It's a relationship with Jesus Christ that makes us Christians, that allows us to have the abundant life that we read about in the Bible."

Although their theology says oth-

erwise, Baptists are among "the worst" at trying to earn salvation through good deeds, Gailey said.

"Do you remember the envelopes we used to have, with all the little boxes on there?" he asked, citing information requested on Sunday school envelopes: "Attending worship service, read my Sunday school lesson, giving to church, called somebody up and invited them to church, brought my Bible to church."

"If you checked enough of those boxes, you felt like a Christian," he said. "You could strut around all day, you know."

"And that didn't have anything to do with it."

Instead, good deeds are the "result of our relationship with Christ," not the ladder to Christ, he said.

Gailey compared the value of faith versus the value of good works.

"Somebody said, 'What's more important, walking the walk or talking the talk?' Now, I answer that by saying, 'Which is the more important wing on an airplane, the right wing or the left wing?' You've got to have them both to fly."

Although outspoken in his Christian beliefs, Gailey declined to set himself as the model for others.

"Never look at some kind of man," he said. "Don't look at me, ... don't look at people. Man will fail. We all come short, every one of us."

"Christ is the answer. That's who we look at. That's what the goal is."

Missionaries hoping to return to Peru despite slow recovery

JACKSON, Tenn. (BP)—Southern Baptist missionaries Wade and Nancy Watts attest that God is still in the miracle business.

Two years ago, the Watts family was involved in a head-on collision in Peru which left Watts and his son Marcus comatose with severe head injuries. Watts was not expected to live.

Watts was hospitalized in a Memphis, Tenn., hospital for more than a year. At first he could communicate only by blinking his eyes, but by last May he was beginning to speak. His condition progressed to the point that he returned to his Memphis home about eight months ago. He undergoes therapy five days a week on an outpatient basis.

Marcus, meanwhile, has almost fully recovered from the accident. Now in the fifth grade, he, along with his brother, Josh, a fourth-grader, played basketball on the church team this year.

Watts' wife, Nancy, reported that her husband's speech continues to improve and he has use of his right arm. He remains in a wheelchair but his goal is to walk again.

The Wattses led three conferences about their mission work in Peru at Tennessee Baptists' 44th annual Royal Ambassador Congress last month at Union University in Jackson. Watts led the group in prayer during the Friday evening worship service.

It was only the second public appearance he has made since the accident.

Though his speech was slurred, he was able to communicate with the many well-wishers who visited with him before and after his conferences.

"God has really done a miracle," Nancy Watts said. Long-range goals for the Watts family include returning to serve in Peru, she added. "Our call has not changed."

GIFTS OF REAL ESTATE

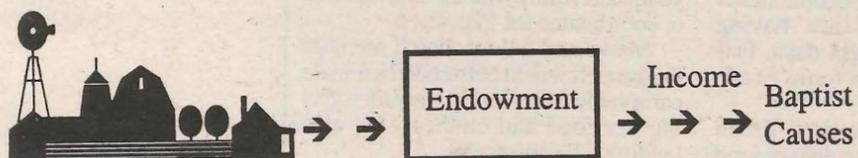
Endowment Fund
Charitable Remainder Trust

WAYS TO GIVE

Outright
Remainder Interest Gift

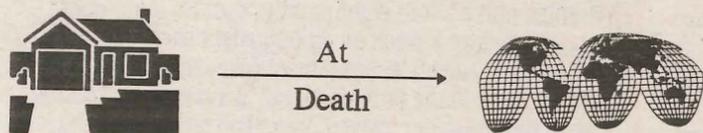
ENDOWMENT FUND

Mr. Jones bought his farm 25 years ago for \$30,000. It is now worth \$75,000. His wife has recently died and Mr. Jones wants to move into a retirement home. He has determined that he has sufficient other financial resources and income to provide for his needs for the rest of his life and, therefore, he does not want to worry with handling a sale of the real estate. Mr. Jones does not want the farm to stand unused until his death and would like to begin to fulfill a dream he and his wife always had---that all their assets would ultimately be used to support several Kentucky Baptist causes. Mr. Jones can make a lifetime gift of his farm to the Kentucky Baptist Foundation with directions that his gift be used to establish an endowment fund. The Foundation would sell the farm and invest the sale proceeds to provide income, in perpetuity, to his designated causes. The results---an income tax deduction equal to the current value of the farm, capital gains tax savings, and the establishment of a fund which will provide vital support to causes that have been important to he and his wife.



REMAINDER INTEREST GIFT

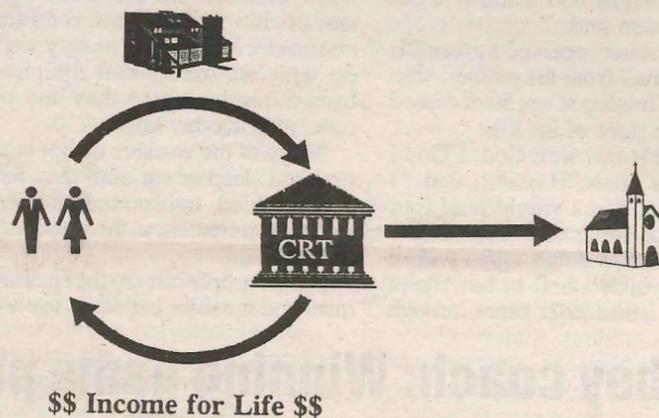
Miss Smith, age 65, has owned her home for 30 years. Her estate plan currently includes a bequest of her home to the Foundation to establish an endowment fund for mission causes at her death. Miss Smith will be receiving a substantial bonus when she retires later this year and her tax adviser has suggested a gift to charity as a way to reduce the additional income taxes that will result from the bonus. A gift of a remainder interest in her home to the Foundation this year will provide Miss Smith a current income tax deduction, while still permitting her to have all of the rights and benefits of home ownership for her lifetime.



CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUST

Mr. & Mrs. Williams have owned their lakehouse for many years. It's value has greatly appreciated and it is currently worth \$150,000. They seldom use the lakehouse and would like to make it an income-producing asset, but don't want the hassles of renting it. Mr. & Mrs. Williams have also been thinking about leaving a gift to their church after they are both deceased.

The Williams can avoid the capital gains taxes that a sale would incur, create a resource that will provide an income stream for the rest of their lives, and benefit from a current income tax deduction by transferring the lakehouse to a charitable remainder trust. The trustee would sell the property and invest the assets to pay a fixed amount each year ("charitable remainder annuity trust") OR a payment which varies with the investment experience of the trust assets ("charitable remainder unitrust") to them for their lifetimes. Upon their death, the balance of trust would be paid to their church. Tax benefits now for the Williams plus a substantial future benefit to their church---a win, win situation!



BENEFITS

- Significant financial support provided to causes that are important to you
- Income Tax Deduction based on market value of property
- Capital Gains Tax Savings



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