

October 13, 1998
 Vol. 172, No. 40

FOR THE RECORD

Dunn in transition
 James Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee, has announced plans to move into a lesser role with the religious liberty organization in 1999.
Page 2.

On mission
 Frankfort-area churches have increased their hands-on missions involvement this year.
Page 3.

Editorial
 Where will your church look for a pastor?
Page 5.

Crisis ministry
 A pastor from Pearl, Miss., gives advice on how to be prepared to minister in a time of community crisis.
Page 7.

Reconciliation
 "The Ministry of Reconciliation: Spirituality and Strategies" is one of four books reviewed this week.
Page 13.

Christian presence dwindling in Holy Land

By Steve Chambers
Religion News Service

JERUSALEM—Candles lit the darkness of the Syrian Orthodox Convent of St. Mark, built in 70 A.D., with roughly 200 worshippers packing the pews, crowding the aisle and cramming the altar as they prayed in the rhythmic Aramaic language of the first Christians.

Metropolitan Mar Sewerios Malki Murad, patriarch of Jerusalem, Jordan and the Holy Lands, chanted a mournful reading from a 500-year-old Bible, asking God to forgive the sins of his people.

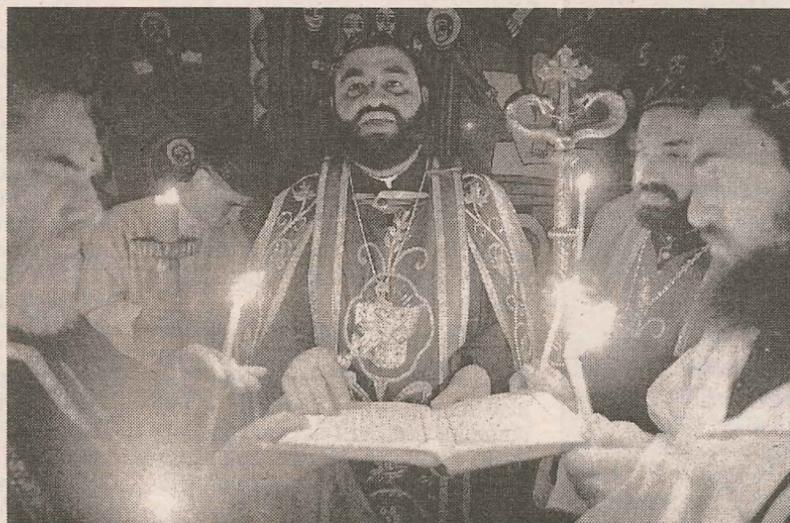
At this crowded Sunday service, roughly a quarter of those attending came from the United States, pilgrims led by Archbishop Cyril Aprhen Karim, who from his church in Teaneck, N.J., oversees the Orthodox faithful along the East Coast of the United States.

The Christians who live and work in the place where Jesus began his teachings increasingly are isolated in a land of warring Jews and Arabs.

"I think there will always be Christians here, but only a small minority," Karim said. "The future of the Holy Land Syrian Orthodox, I believe, may be looking after empty churches and monasteries."

Not everyone is so pessimistic; but Christians in the 15 denominations recognized by Israel, most of them Arabs who face the same kind of day-to-day problems Palestinian Muslims suffer, agree they are in crisis.

Christians, who accounted for roughly 10 percent of the population when Israel declared its independence 50 years ago, now represent just 2 percent of the 5.7 million Israelis and



CHRISTIANS IN ISRAEL The Syrian Orthodox Church is among the 15 denominations recognized by Israel. Christians, who comprised about 10 percent of the population when Israel declared its independence 50 years ago, now represent just 2 percent of the 5.7 million Israelis and 2.5 million Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza. (RNS photo)

2.5 million Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza.

While some of this dilution can be explained by massive Jewish immigration and higher Muslim birth rates, experts said there also is great incentive for Christians to leave.

Besieged by wars, unemployment and the un-

stable peace between Arabs and Jews, increasing numbers of young people have decided to leave the land their families inhabited for centuries.

"This trend started before World War I, and it's only gotten worse," said Jane Handal, a Catholic who lives in Bethlehem, not far from the Church of the Nativity built on the site where tradition says Jesus was born. "The economy makes it very difficult, and the inappropriate peace process is

worsening things."

Handal and other young professionals working in Bethlehem say they stay because they want to improve conditions in their country. They also talk of a special responsibility of maintaining the Christian presence in the land where Jesus once walked.

Part of the problem today is that the estimated 170,000 Christians living in the Holy Land are divided into so many denominations. They are Roman Catholics and Armenians, Syrian Orthodox and Greek Orthodox, Ethiopians and Uniates, not to mention various Protestant groups.

They occasionally struggle over ceremonial rights in some of Christianity's holiest sites. Still, as keepers of those sites and with representatives from around the world running liaison offices, schools and social service agencies, they often have influence beyond their numbers.

□ See *Christian presence ...*, page 9



Burkett: Stewardship a heart, not head, issue

By Charles Willis
SBC LifeWay Christian Resources

NASHVILLE (BP)—Stewardship—the careful and responsible management of resources entrusted to people—is a requirement of God, not an option, money management expert Larry Burkett said recently.

Burkett told state Baptist stewardship directors meeting in Nashville that stewardship isn't complicated. "It's just that common-sense stewardship isn't being taught in America."

Burkett, whose daily radio broadcasts are carried on more than 1,100 outlets worldwide, contends Southern Baptists "have been duped into not dealing with this, in part, because some people feel it is wrong to talk about money [in church]. In some cases, pastors aren't practicing it themselves."

A strong believer in using the Bible as a guide to money management,

Burkett said his initial search of Scripture for references to money uncovered more than 700 entries that deal with subjects such as borrowing, lending and saving money.

Evangelical Christians give, on average, 2.4 percent of their income to religious causes, Burkett said. In contrast, they average paying 11.5 percent interest on their personal debt.

"They don't have a material problem," he said. "They have a spiritual problem related to finances."

"You won't change those attitudes with financial programs," he continued. "You change attitudes by changing their hearts. You can't tell them they need more money; you need to train them to be good stewards."

Burkett said he believes God's plan is extremely simple. For example, he said scriptural guidelines for borrowing money include only three principles: Borrowing should be short-term; it should be uncommon; and one

should not take on an obligation without a sure way to repay it.

Burkett, a Southern Baptist layman, said Baptists haven't educated people enough about money. "You need to inundate people with Scripture related to money until no one can come along behind you and undo that."

Urging state leaders to lead the way in "freeing God's people," Burkett told them, "You cannot be financially bound and spiritually free. Christians have financial bondage of debt, greed or even having too much money."

Some Christians never have been challenged with the question "How much money is enough?" he said. Others have drifted away from God, are in debt and "don't see how they could give to God," he added.

Burkett said Baptists should teach people scripturally about money "and help them, including how to make out and live within a budget."

NFL Hall of Famer: Living out faith at job takes integrity

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

BOWLING GREEN—Christians who expect to live out and share their faith where they work must have integrity, Raymond Berry told 200 men and teenagers at Kentucky Brotherhood's annual convention Oct. 2-3.

"If Christians are in a consistent position of obedience, God will work through them to reach a lost world," said Berry, an NFL Hall of Famer. "He has the assignment for each of us."

Christians won't necessarily be aware of God's activity in their lives, Berry said. He told of being at odds with a Baltimore Colts' trainer for years. But after Berry accepted Jesus as his Savior, their relationship improved without a word spoken about it.

Another illustration involved a story about him putting a block on 300-pound defensive tackle Rosey Grier during the legendary 1958 NFL championship game.

The play ended with Berry, a 178-pound wide receiver, on top of Grier—apparently a key to the touchdown. When he reviewed the game films, however, Berry realized his teammate Jim Parker already had blocked Grier. Berry just had the good fortune to fall over both of them.

"I think that's how it is with the Lord and us," he said. "We get the play and go to the line, but when it's all over we'll know what happened."

Berry was the keynote speaker for the convention at Greenwood Baptist Church in Bowling Green. While having a well-known speaker helped, Brotherhood Director Randy Foster said broadening the meeting's scope also stimulated a 60 percent increase in attendance.

The state office replaced a past focus on disaster relief with training sessions for leaders in missions education, men's ministries and Kentucky Changers.

And, rather than trying to convince those attending to "do the impossible," Foster said, testimonies emphasized what God had already done through outreaches like Experiencing God Bible study weekends, disaster relief work and equestrian ministries.

"That was bound to be a good incentive for people in the coming year," said Foster. "This convention was evidence of spiritual maturity and cohesiveness that was extremely significant."

Berry retired from football in 1992 after 38 years as a professional player and coach. But he

□ See *Berry: Living out ...*, page 3

Moving? See page 4 (1013)

BAPTIST BITS

■ **McCall to be honored.** Duke McCall, former president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, will be honored with a "Duke McCall Day" at Broadway Baptist Church in Louisville Oct. 25. The 11 a.m. event is co-sponsored by the church and Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond, Va.

■ **Miller to Southern.** Norman Miller has been named news and information director at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. He moves from the Southern Baptist International Mission Board in Richmond, Va., where he was a staff writer. He is a former news writer and editor at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., and at Criswell College in Dallas.

■ **Angelov to head EBF.** Bulgarian Baptist leader Theodor Angelov has been elected general secretary of the European Baptist Federation, replacing current leader Karl Heinz Walter, who retires next fall. Angelov was elected by the EBF council at a Sept. 23-26 meeting in Kiev, Ukraine. He will be the federation's eighth general secretary and the first from Eastern Europe.

■ **Albanian Union formed.** Albania Baptists are planning to form a union of churches, since Baptist work there has grown, according to a report at a European Baptist Federation council meeting Sept. 23-26 in Kiev, Ukraine. Baptist work in Albania began in the early 1990s as a cooperative missions effort under oversight of the European Baptist Federation. In September 1998, representatives from four congregations met to discuss the formation of a Baptist union. They formulated an initial covenant that has been taken back to the churches for ratification. The church representatives plan to meet later in October to pursue forming a union.

■ **Reccord calls for Clinton to resign.** Bob Reccord, president of the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, has joined other SBC leaders in calling for President Bill Clinton to resign the nation's presidency. Speaking to NAMB trustees Oct. 7 with "an incredibly heavy heart," Reccord said, "I personally believe the president should question staying in office." Stressing that he spoke for no one but himself, he said a resignation is both the moral and logical choice to spare the nation further turmoil.

■ **WMU builds for Habitat.** About 200 women, and a few men, affiliated with Woman's Missionary Union built the first of eight Habitat for Humanity houses Sept. 12-19, launching a new agreement with between Habitat and WMU. The first WMU house, built in Fairfield, Ala., was built mainly by employees of WMU's Birmingham-based staff. The seven other projects are planned for 1999 in West Virginia, South Dakota, Mississippi, Ohio, Oregon and New Mexico.

■ **SBCNet to close.** SBCNet, a private forum for Southern Baptists on the CompuServe computer network, will close Jan. 1, 1999. SBCNet webmaster David Haywood said the popularity of the Internet has created a declining interest in the CompuServe forum. Most Southern Baptist Convention agencies and institutions now have their own web sites, which may be accessed without going through CompuServe.

■ **Glorieta visionary honored.** Harry Stagg, credited with swaying Southern Baptist opinion to establish a conference center at Glorieta, N.M., was honored at Glorieta Oct. 2, the occasion of his 100th birthday. Stagg, who served as executive director of the Baptist Convention of New Mexico from 1938-68, brought a minority report favoring the New Mexico site to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in 1948, and the convention accepted his proposal over a committee's majority recommendation to locate the assembly in Harrison, Ark. This is believed to be the only time in SBC history that a minority report has been adopted.

Dunn stepping down as BJC executive

GREEN LAKE, Wis. (ABP)—James Dunn will step aside from his role as executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee by Sept. 1, 1999, when he will become a visiting professor of Christianity and public policy at the Wake Forest University Divinity School in Winston-Salem, N.C. Dunn, who has headed the BJC since January 1981, told the agency's directors he would stay on after that date on a part-time basis. He pledged to continue to serve the religious-liberty agency "in a different role as long as my health, my successor and our mutual understanding of the Lord's leading allow me to do so."

During their annual meeting Oct. 5-6 in Green Lake, Wis., BJC directors accepted Dunn's proposal. They also named an 11-member search committee and a five-person committee to determine the title, compensation and related details of Dunn's reduced role.

Dunn, who will be 67 by next September, said the transition "will represent a change in pace, not a change in place."

BJC Chairman Aidsand Wright-Riggins said Dunn has been "the most dynamic personality for religious liberty in the United States over the past 18 years. The vacuum created by his announcement is a very huge space largely due to his perspective, his political savvy, his persistence."

While Dunn is stepping out of the executive director's role, "our hope and full expectation is that he will step

into new areas of responsibility that will help us to build on the legacy that he's created," said Wright-Riggins, director of National Ministries for American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A.

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Coordinator Daniel Vestal said Dunn "was and is a Baptist statesman, a prophetic voice and a caring person. Only time will tell and the historical record will show his impact on Baptist life at a tumultuous and transitional time."

At Wake Forest, Dunn will teach an elective course titled "Christianity and Public Policy," according to Bill Leonard, dean of the divinity school.

Dunn's tenure at the Baptist Joint Committee coincided with more than a decade of unrest that left conservatives in power in the Southern Baptist Convention, one of the founding bodies of the BJC. As the SBC moved away from its previous views on separation of church and state, Dunn and the BJC became frequent targets of the new SBC leadership. The BJC's refusal to back new SBC positions on issues such as school prayer was among disputes that led to the SBC severing ties with the agency in 1991.

Since then, however, Southern Baptist support for the BJC actually has grown because of gifts from individuals, churches, state conventions and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.



Dunn

Named to an 11-member committee to complete the search for a new executive director were Wright-Riggins; Daniel Weiss, general secretary of the American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A.; Elaine Smith, a Washington, D.C. attorney; Vestal; Marion Grant from Raleigh, N.C.; Reginald McDonough, executive director of the

Baptist General Association of Virginia; Patricia Ayres of Austin, Texas; Phil Strickland, director of the Christian Life Commission of the Baptist General Convention of Texas; Robert Ricker, president of the Baptist General Conference; Marvin Griffin, pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church, Austin, Texas; and a representative to be named later from the North American Baptist Conference.

Also during their annual meeting, the BJC board adopted a strategic planning statement. It states that the agency's mission is "to defend and extend God-given religious liberty for all, bringing a uniquely Baptist witness to the principle that religion must be freely exercised, neither advanced nor inhibited by government."

The statement also emphasizes that "freedom of choice in religion is essential, and that separation of church and state is indispensable to ensuring religious liberty."

BJC directors also approved a statement calling on states to pass state Religious Freedom Restoration Acts.

Southwestern trustee chair resigns abruptly

FORT WORTH, Texas (ABP)—The chairman of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's board of trustees has resigned from the board and been suspended as pastor of his church, pending an investigation into allegations of sexual misconduct.

Chairman Ollin Collins resigned Oct. 7 from the seminary's board of trustees, a day after the Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported his suspension as pastor of Harvest Baptist Church in Watauga, Texas.

According to the paper, Collins is being sued by two female church members who claim they had sexual relationships with him during counseling sessions.

Church officials declined com-

ment, and Collins reportedly could not be reached, having started a 60-day sabbatical in Hawaii.

Church leaders said in a Sunday-night worship service that both the congregation and Collins would be sued. In a letter sent Oct. 5, church leaders said Collins had been suspended "immediately and indefinitely with full pay and benefits pending further investigations."

Two women, 32-year-old Kimberlee Brokaw and 37-year-old Lucy Thompson, claimed they had sexual affairs with Collins that began after they had gone to their pastor for counseling for personal problems.

Collins has served as an at-large member on the seminary's 40-member

board of trustees since 1990. He was elected chairman in March.

He was a member of the board when it fired seminary President Russell Dilday in 1994. Collins later met with local pastors to defend the action and was acting chairman of the search committee which recommended Dilday's replacement, current President Ken Hemphill.

The trustee vice chairman, retired Fort Worth pastor Miles Seaborn, will function as chairman of the board until a new chairman is elected next spring. Seaborn has been a key leader of a group of conservatives dissatisfied with the Baptist General Convention of Texas who have begun formation of a new state convention.

Sue Enoch called as Prescott Memorial's pastor

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (ABP)—Prescott Memorial Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn., which 11 years ago sparked a controversy by calling a woman as senior pastor, has hired another woman as her successor.

The church voted Aug. 22 to hire former Kentuckian Sue Henson Enoch as its new pastor.

Enoch, 49, comes to the Memphis church from Austin, Texas, where she was associate pastor of Highland Park Baptist Church. She previously was on the staff of Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville.

Enoch preached her first sermon at her new church Sept. 20. Her official installation is scheduled Oct. 25.

"As a congregation, you've had

tough days, taken unpopular stands and lost members over it because you believe every person has worth and value and deserves a place in God's kingdom," she said in her first sermon at Prescott. "God's measure is not about earthly success but about faithfulness and love."

Enoch's election ends a three-year pastoral search begun with the 1995 resignation of Nancy Hastings Sehested. Sehested was the first woman to lead a Southern Baptist church in Tennessee. Her hiring led to the church's expulsion from Shelby Baptist Association.

The church later left the Southern Baptist Convention and Tennessee Baptist Convention and now is affili-

ated with the American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A. The church also supports the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and the Alliance of Baptists, moderate splinter groups which disagree with the SBC's conservative stances.

Hastings, who was thought to be one of only four female Southern Baptist pastors when she went to Prescott in 1987, is now pastor of Sweet Fellowship Baptist Church in Clyde, N.C.

Today, according to estimates compiled for Baptist Women in Ministry in Kansas City, Kan., 91 Southern Baptist women serve as senior pastors, 100 as associate pastors, 270 in other church-staff positions and 310 as chaplains.

Frankfort churches increase their missions involvement

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

FRANKFORT—Kentucky Baptists in and around Frankfort have benefited from a host of mission trips this past summer, said the area's director of missions.

Seven churches in Franklin Baptist Association sent teams overseas or to other areas of the state and nation. Members also hosted 108 students who renovated eight homes as part of the annual Kentucky Changers project.

And the association sponsored a trip to Ghana that was organized by Mikel Robinson, director of the Baptist Student Union at Kentucky State University. Robinson also led a group of students to Haiti.

"I would say it has enhanced the overall attitude of people," said Ken Forman, Franklin's director of missions. "We've encouraged them to invest themselves in missions and ministry."

"I think it's part of a larger picture," added Larry Martin, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's mis-

sions and evangelism division. "I see much more responsiveness to God's movement and the leadership of the Holy Spirit the past six months.

Besides missions, more Kentucky Baptists are forming prayer groups and have a hunger to see God work, Martin said.

Foreman said he doesn't have church growth figures, but he does cite giving as one indicator of the impact of this missions emphasis. Between 1993 and 1997, missions gifts grew 30 percent from the 31 churches in the association.

This activity helped stimulate Crestwood Baptist Church's mission to North Dakota, said Jerry Chase, the congregation's minister of music. It was easy to get members to go because friends and co-workers from other churches already had been on trips, he explained.

A team of 10 Baptists visited Burlington, N.D., to install vinyl siding and paint the interior of Burlington Baptist Church. While Crestwood had been involved before, Chase said it was time to return.

"I told people a missions church

ought to be doing missions," he said. "They give to Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong, but to get out and do it is on a different level."

After supporting Vancouver missionary Vincent Paul financially for a decade, First Baptist Church of Frankfort decided to adopt a hands-on policy this year.

Eighteen members traveled to British Columbia to help Paul, who operates two missions to immigrants from East India, according to Tim Simpson, minister of youth and children.

Volunteers conducted surveys, worked on backyard Bible clubs, helped renovate the missionary's home and led Sunday services.

"To participate helps us realize it's important to support the mission with more than money," he said. "To be up there and involved in the work he does gives us a totally different perspective."

Buck Run Baptist Church took two trips: One in-state to Pippa Passes and another out-of-state to Romania.

This summer's two-week trip to Romania involved 150 volunteers, about 20 from Buck Run. The group

included medical, construction, youth ministry and evangelistic teams.

About 2,000 Romanians accepted Jesus as Savior during the trip, said Buck Run's pastor, Bob Jackson.

In Ghana, God's presence was obvious during the association's 11-day trip, Robinson said.

They went to do preparatory construction work on a new mission church, but nearly three dozen Ghanians accepted Jesus as Savior. Most decisions came at an impromptu preaching session that was organized after a malfunctioning projector canceled a showing of the "Jesus" film.

Six people traveled to Haiti, a trip that required flying to Port-Au-Prince, driving four hours, walking two hours and crossing four streams. Once there, they held a two-day medical clinic for 300 villagers, distributed clothing and held a vacation Bible school.

Robinson said he hopes to stimulate more missions involvement by African-American students. "It's only when you give of yourself that you will see what Christ is all about," he said.

"To participate helps us realize it's important to support the mission with more than money."

Tim Simpson, minister of youth and children at First Baptist Church of Frankfort

Leader: Kentucky Brotherhood adjusting after much change

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

BOWLING GREEN—After a year of change on the state and national level, Kentucky Brotherhood Director Randy Foster said operations are stabilizing.

Not only was most staff new last year, he said, but Brotherhood lost national leadership when the North American Mission Board absorbed the Brotherhood Commission. The move was part of 1997's restructuring of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The recent state Brotherhood convention in Bowling Green was a key in establishing relationships with NAMB, he said. Three officers of the

agency led training sessions for leaders in Royal Ambassadors, Challengers and men's ministries.

"Folks here had gotten very restless the past year," he said, "not because of our leadership, but because of a lack of national leadership and vague promises. People thought nothing was going to happen."

National leadership is vital for producing strong missions education material, which is important for Kentucky, he said.

For the past 10 years Kentucky's Baptist men's organization has focused on projects and not much on missions education, he said.

While projects are important, he said, they don't lay a foundation for long-term involvement. The emotion-

al boost from working on a project can fizzle after it ends, he explained.

Vision also is vital in spreading the word of Brotherhood's missions emphasis, said new President Mike Melloan. A member of Yellow Creek Baptist Church in Owensboro, he served two years as the group's president in the late 1980s.

Church members need a missions vision, he said. Without it, there's no need to explain Brotherhood's variety of programs.

"I want Kentucky Baptist men to catch the vision of serving," he said. "There's a pent up desire of laypeople who want to serve."

"I can get 25 to 30 men to go do a missions project but only two or three are here," Melloan added. "If you

can't sing or teach that doesn't mean you can't serve. We want to get the word out where more people can serve the Lord."

Brotherhood also must do a better job of reaching children, he said. Forty years ago there were fewer influences competing for youngsters' attention, he said.

Brotherhood officers elected

President: Mike Melloan, member, Yellow Creek Baptist Church in Owensboro

Vice President: Gary King, pastor, Fairview Baptist Church in Lincoln County

Secretary: John Lott, pastor, Eastern Parkway Baptist Church in Louisville

Project Coordinators

Baptist Builders: Rick Lucas

Campers on Mission: Ken Curry

Church renewal: Carl Powell

Criminal justice: Charlie Simmons

Disaster relief: Doug Sharon

Equestrian ministries: Wilburn Bonta

Experiencing God Bible studies: Frank and Linn Harris

Family missions: Jerry Butcher

Hope for Homes: Kene Bullock

Legacy Builders: Greg Burton

Missions education: Glen Canada

Prayer ministry: Franklin Meserve

Professional areas: Morris Norfleet

Retirees on Mission: Terry Shinkle

Sports missions: Richard Easterling

Volunteers in missions: Carl Powell

Regional Coordinators

Southwest: Harlan Williams

South: Bob Bottoms

North Central: Mike and Wanda Klein

Central: Calvin Bohannon

South Central: Randall Rogers

Southeast: Mark George

Northeast: Harold Moore

West: Jerry Spencer

Berry: Living out faith at work requires integrity

Continued from page 1

still attracted autograph seekers and others eager to talk.

During three sessions, he mixed preaching and stories to show audiences how obedience to God's commands can help them live a successful Christian life.

That doesn't mean they won't have struggles as a Christian, he added. But he said that the key to integrity is found in Romans 5:19, which states that Jesus' obedience enables others to become righteous.

Obedience helps Christians overcome human nature, which opposes attempts to follow the Holy Spirit, he said. It also helps answer God's primary call, which Berry defined as loving one another, loving enemies and forgiving each other.

"Trying to fulfill those commands will bring you face to face with the reality you don't have the power to do that."

Yet it is possible to fulfill God's will because of the promise of John 7:39, that out of you will flow rivers

of living water, said Berry.

"That's the defining part of what a Christian is. (God is) living in us and wants to use that to communicate with people."

The Colts' 1958 title win over the New York Giants—the first-ever overtime game and a spark for the NFL's popularity—also was crucial to his spiritual life.

Afterward he found a quiet place to contemplate what God had done, he said. During the next year he realized God was the source of his tremendous drive and physical talents.

This searching led to a discussion with teammate Don Shinnick. That night Berry simply prayed, "God, I want you to take my life and I'm serious about it."

When he finished, Shinnick told him, "God will give you the power to follow him. Your job is to let him, and if you screw up, tell him."

Berry said it took a year to fully realize his past condition and the awesomeness of Jesus' sacrifice. Soon after, he said God whispered in his ear,

"You never really asked me what I want do with your life."

In the prime of his career, Berry wondered whether God wanted him to quit football. Ultimately, he realized God wanted to know if Berry was willing to give up something he loved.

"There's nothing wrong with football, but it's not meant to be first in your life," he said. "It could crumble overnight. Whatever you love the most is your god. I had served a false one. I stayed in the game, but it was for a different reason."

Berry was one of several athletes who appeared in a Gospel Films production, which has been translated into more than 30 languages.

That experience helped him better grasp his assignment to share the gospel. Referring to Jesus' statement in John 5:30 that his aim was to do his father's will, Berry said.

"In order to carry our assignment, we need to understand (God's) power and how to release it in our lives," he said. "Love is the key factor in submitting to and obeying him."

WESTERN RECORDER

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

MARK WINGFIELD
Editor

DAVID WINFREY
News Director

MAURI SMITH
Marketing & Business
Manager

C.R. DALEY
Editor Emeritus

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

Western Recorder is published weekly by Western Recorder Inc., an agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Box 43969, Louisville, Ky. 40253, except for one week in July and December. For general information, call (502) 244-6470. Fax: (502) 244-6474. Periodicals postage paid at Louisville, Ky.

To subscribe: Send \$10.60 for a one-year, individual subscription. Group subscriptions on the church budget plan are \$8.50 per year. An additional church newsletter service is available for churches of all sizes. All subscriptions are payable in advance, except church accounts, which require a tax exemption number.

To register change of address: Send the mailing label from page 1, along with your new address, to the subscription department at the Western Recorder address.

To give news tips: Call (502) 244-6471, fax to (502) 244-6474 or write the editor or news director.

To submit a letter: Letters on any subject will be considered for publication, provided they do not make a personal attack on anyone. Letters are limited to 300 words and may be edited for length. Submit by mail or fax or by e-mail to: mark_wingfield@kybaptist.org

To place an advertisement: Rates are available upon request by calling (502) 244-6470. Institutional columns on an inside page are paid space. Claims made by advertisers are not necessarily those of the Western Recorder's staff and directors.

Directors: Bill Thurman, Lexington, chairman; Barry Howard, Corbin, vice chairman; Jim Abernathy, Covington, secretary; Laura Beville, Bowling Green; Mark Boes, Cecilia; Tom Curry, Louisville; Mike Harmon, Princeton; Frank Hatfield, Shepherdsville; Bill Marshall, Louisville; Charles Midkiff, Greenville; June B. Rice, Paintsville; Kenneth Wells, Somerset.

A message from the Recorder board

The last issue of the Western Recorder carried the report of Mark Wingfield's resignation as editor. Though the board of directors of the Recorder had known for some time the likelihood of this occurring, it was, nevertheless, with great reluctance that we had to accept his formal resignation after the board of the Baptist Standard in Texas voted to offer him the job of managing editor of that publication.

Mark's tenure as editor of the Recorder has been profound. While his frank and thought-provoking editorials are what many will immediately

recall, it is Mark's genuine love of Christ and for Kentucky Baptists, and his creative mind in seeking out innovative ways by which Kentucky Baptists can be given the practical resources for Christian living as we move into the 21st century for which this, and future boards of the Recorder will remember him.

He has been faithful to his calling, diligent in his work, enabling in his management and effective in his ministry, and that is all that we could ask of him. We genuinely wish Mark, Alison and their sons "God speed!" as they journey on.

The task of the Recorder continues, however, and there is already in place a search committee and a process by which to find a new editor. The search committee consists of Jim Abernathy, Mark Boes, Bill Marshall, June Rice and myself, and our task is to find a suitable candidate to recommend to the full board of directors of the Recorder for its approval.

Upon the approval of the Recorder's board, that nominee will then be presented to the Executive Board of the Kentucky Baptist Convention for the approval of its members. The Executive Board's meetings are held in November, December and May of

each year. Upon the approval of the Executive Board, the nominee will have been elected as the new editor.

The search committee has met to formulate its plans, and it intends to begin the search process Nov. 4. Resumes of interested persons should be sent to: Editor Search Committee, c/o 333 W. Vine St., Suite 207, Lexington, Ky. 40507.

The search committee and the Recorder board will covet your prayers as we seek God's will in this task.

*Bill Thurman
Western Recorder
board chairman*

Seeing Clinton, seeing ourselves

By Tom Ehrich

"Stop writing about Clinton and Monica," said my wife. "Write about the man who hit a pedestrian in the school parking lot and then got out of his car and yelled at the man for getting in his way."

I can't. I feel like a war correspondent who wakes up every morning to the same war that he is tired of reporting. Now that we have read their words and heard their voices, we know just how deep is their pettiness.

We hear smarmy prosecutors delighting in sex talk. We hear opportunistic politicians trashing an opponent. We hear a desperate leader playing with words. We read the sad delusions of a young woman craving attention.

The more we know of them, the more we are forced to see of ourselves.

The fascination with dangerous sex, the mean and selective moralizing, the disrespect for privacy when privacy gets in the way of profit, the tendency to lie as long as lying works, the abandonment of any sense of the commonweal—this goes beyond groping.

We are seeing deeply into a sys-

tem that is not only sick, but is a reflection of us. We aren't watching the royals at their dim-witted play; we are watching ourselves writ large.

Bill Clinton, for example, looks more and more like a person addicted to sex, an addiction that is more about power than about pleasure. He shows all the signs of addiction: out-of-control behavior, self-destruction, a cycle of remorse and misdeed that leads to self-loathing, compulsive over-achievement, grandiosity, a downward spiral of progressively worsening behavior that begins to endanger job and family, empty promises to reform and a panicky determination to hold on to the job which feeds the addiction.

The disturbed behavior of young Monica Lewinsky looks like a variation on that same addiction. She flashes the president, she offers her body, then she demands respect. Meanwhile, the Miss America Pageant celebrates women as sexual flowers, Redbook magazine teaches the art of seduction, female golfers are photographed in full breast-

thrusting pivot, mothers dress daughters like dolls—and we hear the age-old counsel, "Be pretty, dear, for this is where your power will come from."

We see the self-righteous antagonist Kenneth Starr and the chorus of moralizing he has unleashed in Congress and American pulpits, and

we see that dark side of American religion which uses morality-talk to compel obedience, which judges harshly in the name of one who didn't judge, which revels in turning political disagreement into good vs. evil, at the expense of true morality.

We who watch cannot confine these events to the tidy boundaries of video display. This is our addictive system, too. We are enablers, we are fellow addicts. We elect these people and reward their compulsive behaviors. We teach flirting and stalking in pursuit of power. We project our own moral failures onto others and then denounce them. We created this culture of blaming and denial, binge investing, credit-card wealth and thoughtless drivers blaming victims for getting in the way.

The paradigm of addiction might seem hopelessly soft to those gun-

slingers who want a showdown. But once this current macho scene is over, we'll still have a mess on our hands. In addition, truth goes far deeper than documenting the latest bender.

I have no idea whether our president is close to that dark night of the soul when reality comes crashing down and the addict's world seems populated by people one has hurt and consequences one has brought about. My guess is not. My guess is his powers of self-delusion aren't yet exhausted.

Congress, meanwhile, is just getting wound up in its binge of remorseless moralizing. Newt Gingrich got caught in a shady book deal, and adulterers Dan Burton and Helen Chenoweth were forced into candor. But shame hasn't tamed their invective.

In facing addiction, however, we can only look inward. Like the co-dependent spouse who escapes one addict and marries another, we keep rewarding the same compulsive personalities. Bill Clinton looks more and more like Richard Nixon without the glower. Ken Starr looks like Joe McCarthy.

We've been here before. And we'll stay until we put down the Starr report and examine ourselves. (RNS)

Tom Ehrich is a pastor, writer and software developer living in Winston-Salem, N.C.

COMMENTARY



Tom Ehrich

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

Disaster relief

Disaster relief has become one of the truly outstanding and nationally recognized ministries of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Since the launch of KBC disaster relief in 1984, volunteers have responded to 37 disaster situations. From January-September 1998, volunteers have responded to eight different calls for help: snow and ice storms in Tennessee; flash floods, a plane crash and tornadoes in Kentucky and West Virginia; Hurricane Bonnie in North Carolina; and flooding in Boston. At the time of this writing our volunteers were on alert status for Hurricane Georges.

The response to needs are coordinated through Red Cross and Southern Baptist Convention disaster relief directors at the North American Mission Board. Kentucky volunteers respond in three areas: mass feeding units, chain

saw and mud-out. Volunteers must receive training in order to participate. Kentucky has more than 2,100 volunteers who are certified to respond, but more are needed.

The next basic training session will be Oct. 24 from 8:45 a.m.-noon at the Elkhorn Baptist Association office on Red Mile Road in Lexington. Volunteers who already have had the initial training are encouraged to receive advanced training through Red Cross and KBC.

Larry Koch serves the Brotherhood department as director of disaster relief. For more information on the upcoming training, call the Brotherhood department at (888) 254-5720.

Volunteers are not only trained

in disaster relief, but also in how to share the presence and joy of Jesus. During the KBC's response to Hurricane Andrew, more than

150 professed faith in Jesus and completed decision cards that were shared with local churches for follow-up. (These numbers do not even include those from 11 other state conventions who also responded.) What a wonderful opportunity for ministry evangelism!

The Kentucky volunteers have influenced others to launch disaster relief ministries. I was serving in South Carolina during Hurricane Hugo. Because South Carolina Baptists experienced the outstanding ministry of Kentucky volunteers, they were inspired to launch an effective disaster relief ministry jointly with associations. Hundreds of volunteers have been trained and

they have been responding along with Kentucky volunteers.

The pastor of a small church at the center of Hugo's destruction led his church, Providence Baptist Church, to build a large warehouse for storage and distribution of donated building materials. Also, the church purchased a feeding unit which was later adopted by the local association. The pastor at that time, Mickey Caison, currently serves as a director of disaster relief with NAMB.

When you are willing to follow Jesus in ministry, he will multiply the results. Thank you, Kentucky Baptist disaster relief volunteers for your obedience to Jesus and for your outstanding ministry to people who are so devastated during and following a disaster. Missions and ministry efforts like these make me grateful that I am a Kentucky Baptist!

Bill Mackey is executive secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention



Bill Mackey

HE SAID/SHE SAID

Parents need the wisdom of Solomon to sort out kid fights

HESAI



Mark Wingfield

From the basement, where the boys were playing, I heard screaming, wailing, gnashing of teeth. Perturbed, but not surprised, I walked to the stairway door and called down, "What's the problem down there?"

More crying and yelping. Then Luke moved to the bottom of the stairs and sat down, indicating to my astute parental sensor that he wasn't the one crying.

"What did you do to your brother?" I asked Luke, who had his back turned to me while playing with a belt that hadn't made it back to the closet.

Silence, then Luke volunteered in a frustrated voice, "I can't remember all I did to him."

"Did you hit Garrett?" I asked.

"Yes," he nodded after a moment's reflection.

"Did you pinch him or squeeze him?" I inquired further.

"No," Luke insisted, glad to find some guilt-free territory for a moment.

"He hurt me!" Garrett suddenly wailed from the unseen recesses of the basement playroom.

"Garrett hit me first," Luke interjected as he began slipping the looped belt over his head.

"Don't do that!" I sputtered, envisioning a 6-year-old choking himself.

That's the amazing thing about parenting: Crisis resolution doesn't happen just one thing at a time but in mixed sets. Sometimes it's like trying to catch a monkey swinging from the rafters while stepping over banana peels on the floor and dodging bullets from three directions.

I kept Luke from absentmindedly choking himself, but I lost the momentum for my investigation into Luke's mistreatment of Garrett, which may have been prompted by Garrett's mistreatment of Luke, but who knows?

SHESAI



Alison Wingfield

Getting to the root of the problem is not always easy, or even possible when it comes to sorting out an argument between the boys. Those famous words—"He started it!"—come all too often from both their mouths, giving me no choice but to put them both on notice or in time out, or (the biggie) remove a privilege.

A mother could use the wisdom of Solomon on these occasions.

One of the other tried and true phrases I often hear is "It was an accident, Mommy," spoken in a most innocent voice. Yeah, right, you accidentally whacked your brother with a baseball bat when you weren't even playing baseball. Or "I didn't mean to hurt him." This after pinching his brother's arm as hard as he could.

To make life even more complicated, if Mark and I both are here trying to sort out a problem, we don't always agree on how it should be handled. We each have our own hot buttons, and if the boys cross the line on those issues, one of us comes down harder than the other. We try not to disagree in front of the boys (I think the parenting books call this a united front), but we probably confuse them when whoever is the person-in-charge at the moment metes out a stronger punishment for some transgression than the other did.

Parenting with grace, tough love, being fair—it's hard to sort them all out, especially in the midst of a crisis. Makes me appreciate the wisdom of God to keep things sorted out when he deals with us—even us grown-ups—on a daily basis.

Where will your church look for a pastor?

If your pastor were to resign or retire next week, where would your church look for a new pastor? What kind of education would you expect the new pastor to have, and from where?

In the past, these were not difficult questions for Kentucky Baptist churches to answer. Most churches in the central region of the state turned automatically to Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. Churches in the eastern region often turned to Clear Creek Baptist Bible College or Southern. Churches in the western region usually turned either to Mid-Continent College in Mayfield, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, or Southern.

But today, answering that question isn't nearly so easy. The landscape of theological education has changed, and in fact is still changing, and for a variety of reasons.

Among those reasons is a massive sociological change that has brought about the rise of multiple new seminaries and university-based theology schools in the last decade. Whereas Southern Baptists once relied almost exclusively upon the denomination's six official seminaries, those six seminaries no longer have a corner on the pastor-training market.

Another reason, of course, is the political and theological changes that have swept the Southern Baptist Convention since 1979. In Kentucky especially, there is no more profound manifestation of the SBC's "controversy" than the divergent attitudes felt about changes at Southern Seminary.

Most informed Kentucky Baptists fall into one of only two camps on this issue: Either they think what has happened at Southern is the greatest thing imaginable or they think it is the most despicable thing imaginable. There is little middle ground.

Some Kentucky churches and pastors have renewed confidence in Southern. While in the past they might have sent students out of state to a more conservative school, they are delighted now to send students to Louisville.

But other Kentucky churches have lost confidence in Southern. One measure of this is the number of Kentuckians graduating from Southern in recent years. Enrollment numbers paint a partial picture of what's happening at a school, but the one statistic that cannot mislead is graduation numbers. Like it or not, this statistic shows a downward trend for Kentuckians at Southern.

EDITORIAL

Last spring, for example, the seminary graduated only 16 students with Kentucky ties, down from an average of 30 to 40 in previous years.

Within this context, some Kentucky Baptists have called for creation of a new seminary. Several options have been explored. Some have wished one or more of our Kentucky Baptist Convention colleges would step up to the plate and launch a divinity school. Others have hoped Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond (Va.) or Truett Theological Seminary at Baylor University would create satellite campuses in Kentucky. Yet another group has announced plans to launch a new independent seminary in Georgetown.

What finally will emerge remains to be seen. But a few observations are in order about what might fail or succeed:

■ Building a new self-contained seminary is a daunting challenge today due to the enormous cost of erecting buildings, hiring faculty and staff and stocking the kind of library needed for accreditation. Spending money on bricks and mortar should not be the only option considered.

■ The cost of student tuition is a major factor in where students choose to go. Education at the SBC's six seminaries is heavily subsidized by the Cooperative Program, a fact that has made the education of SBC ministers among the most affordable of any denomination. Without significant scholarship resources, any new venture in theological education will face difficulty in attracting students due to the cost differential.

■ To be successful, any new venture in theological education in Kentucky must appeal not only to moderate Baptists but also to centrist Baptists. That means such a venture must have leaders who are known to be authentic scholars with a passion for missions and evangelism but who are not so narrow in their thought and theology as the fundamentalist side of the SBC. These leaders must be free of baggage carried over from past SBC struggles and must be perceived as representing the mainstream thought of Kentucky Baptists.

Whether anything can or will be begun that successfully faces all these challenges is impossible to say at this point. What can be said with certainty is that how this question is answered will shape the nature of Kentucky Baptist churches and the KBC itself for the next century and beyond.

— Mark Wingfield

'Will a man rob God?'

By Lynn Traylor

"Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse—the whole nation of you—because you are robbing me." (Malachi 3:8-9)

It's an "in your face" kind of question, isn't it? After all, no one likes to be called a thief. Yet the people of God are called "robbers," and the charge is made by God!

The prophet's question comes in response to Israel's self-estimate of her faithfulness. In their minds there is no basis for such questioning. The King James Version's rendering of the verse 8 reveals this attitude: "Wherein have we robbed thee?" They ask, "At what point have we taken what belonged to God?"

At first glance, Malachi's answer, "in tithes and offerings," tempts us to think in terms of money. Indeed, this passage is often used to encourage faithfulness in financial giving. But the text moves beyond dollars to devotion. The "tithes"

were intended to support the Levites, and "offerings" were sacrifices to be made in worship. Malachi's response suggests that the nation is guilty of an underlying ailment. Their half-hearted sacrifices (1:6-14) show Israel had become confused in its thinking, believing that blessings and curses were the measure of faith.

Israel had given in the past. They were weary of worship, of giving their best. They were waiting on God to "reward" their "faith."

"Will a man rob God?" The fact that God loved them had been all but forgotten (1:2). Malachi lit-

erally means "my messenger," and the message is to a people who have become weary in faith. When we no longer are willing to respond to God's love for us, our faith and worship evaporate into self-centeredness. In losing sight of God's love for them, Israel had wearied themselves and their faith. They were robbing God of the sincere worship that divine love calls forth.

"Wherein have we robbed thee?" Israel had become so disillusioned that they

openly questioned their relationship with God (3:14). Malachi's dialogues point to this drift in faithfulness. Though generations had responded to the "Thus says the Lord" of earlier prophets, no such statements are found in Malachi. The root of their disillusionment lay in their sense of how God ought to bless them.

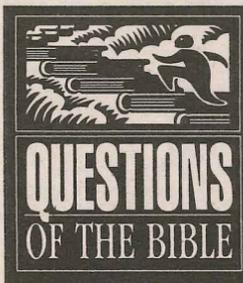
When faith is measured by our own standards, it is easy to become disillusioned when blessings we think are deserved don't appear. The robbery occurred when they replaced God's standards for faithfulness with their own.

A news story told of a man who found an extra \$20,000 in his checking account. The man used all the money to pay his bills. When confronted, he replied that he thought the money was his. While the man argued his ownership, the bank's fraud charges challenged his motivation.

For many Baptist churches, a new church year is beginning. Malachi's question challenges us to consider whether we are willing to give the best of our time and talents to God on God's terms rather than our own. "Will a man rob God?" Don't we?



Lynn Traylor is pastor of Westport Baptist Church in Westport



RESOURCES

This week's questions

- Is it OK to live together before marriage?
- How can I help my child learn to be content?

Q. Is it OK to live together before marriage?

Beware whenever there is the attempt to experience some of the benefits of marriage without the accompanying responsibilities. God designed the sexual union to celebrate the ever-growing bonds of love in a committed, long-term marriage relationship. It is not to be used as a "test run" situation. Christians are called to sexual purity.

The reasons for this are practical as well as moral. If you have children, you want them to see the example and feel the security of a fully committed marriage relationship, not a half-committed arrangement. Statistics tell a different story from popular misconceptions; the majority of people who live together outside of marriage never marry the person they live with. The majority of cohabitants who eventually do marry divorce at a higher rate than that of the general population.

Eric Fruge of Lexington outlines the dangers of what he calls a "pseudo-marriage." A pseudo-marriage insists on unhealthy control, lack of privacy, unlimited access, a demanded parental role and "prove it to me" sex. A healthy dating relationship, on the other hand, knows the proper priority of self-control, respect, family and friendship.

In order for a home to be a safe

sanctuary, the prospective mate should "pick up the key" only at the marriage altar. If a marriage is to be healthy, it is best begun with no fears, regrets or pressure, through the respectful door of a healthy courtship.



There is the added bonus in a wedding celebration of having the support of family and friends in an open and memorable way. You make the wise choice when you enter marriage from the door of a respectful courtship, and you increase the odds of a love for a lifetime. — James

Stillwell

Q. How can I help my child learn to be content?

Contentment does not come naturally for most of us. It has to be learned. One of the ways boys and girls learn to be content is by learning to wait. Teach your children to:

■ *Wait until you have the money.* Borrowing money is easy. Paying it back is much harder and can cause many problems and pressures. Don't let your children get in the habit of borrowing money. Waiting until they have the money will teach children to be satisfied with what they have, will help them enjoy what they have more and will help keep things from becoming too important to them.

■ *Wait until the next gift day.* Learning to wait until Christmas or your next birthday instead of having

to have something right now is another good way to keep stuff from becoming too important. Waiting builds the excitement and often helps children appreciate things even more.

■ *Wait until tomorrow.* Waiting until tomorrow gives children time to think and to ask themselves, "Is this really how I want to spend my money? Is this something I really want?" Sometimes they will change their mind. Sometimes the desire will go away. Sometimes they may even decide they can do without whatever it is they wanted.

■ *Wait, even when you don't have to.* Self-control is a good thing. Learning to control our desires and even to say no to ourselves is a good way to keep stuff from becoming too important. It gives children the chance to ask the question, "Do I really have to have this?"

These suggestions are adapted from the content of a retreat on materialism I conduct for older children. If you'd like more information on this resource, call (502) 896-8882. — David Garrard

Family Forum writers are David Garrard, minister to children at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville; James Stillwell, minister to singles at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington; Susan Howell, assistant professor of psychology at Campbellsville University; Wade Rowatt, director of the St. Matthews Pastoral Counseling Center in Louisville; and Al Shackelford, editor of *Mature Living* magazine. Send questions for Family Forum to Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, Ky. 40253 or e-mail us at wesrec@ntr.net.

CHURCH

Should ministers be concerned about money?

By Don Spencer



No one ever enters the ministry for financial reward. However, to live in today's world and to fulfill the requirements set forth in 1 Timothy 5:8, every minister

must have some concern about adequate finances. Many churches are considering new budgets at this time of year, so this is the prime time to consider some important questions:

■ Does your church pay your minister an amount comparable to other professionals with similar educational background and responsibility?

■ If a church owned home (parsonage) is provided, has your church made some provision to offset the minister's inability to build equity in a home?

■ Have all elements of financial support for your minister kept pace with inflation?

■ Are ministry-related expenses paid on an accountable reimbursement basis and not considered part of the minister's "pay package"?

■ If your minister should die unexpectedly, is the amount of life insurance coverage adequate to meet the needs of the minister's family?

■ If your minister should become disabled, has the church provided disability insurance that would replace a portion of the minister's current income?

■ Does your church contribute an adequate amount toward the minister's retirement that will allow the minister to maintain the same standard of living in retirement?

■ Does your minister's family have adequate medical insurance coverage?

■ Is your church truly committed to being biblical and fair with financial support so ministers and church employees serve without undue worry about finances?

God's plan is that those who preach the gospel shall be supported by those who receive it (1 Corinthians 9:14). We are reminded in 1 Timothy 5:17-18 that while ministers who serve well are not necessarily to receive double pay, they are worthy of it and should at least receive adequate financial support.

Your KBC annuity department can provide additional information to guide in setting up a minister's financial support plan.

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

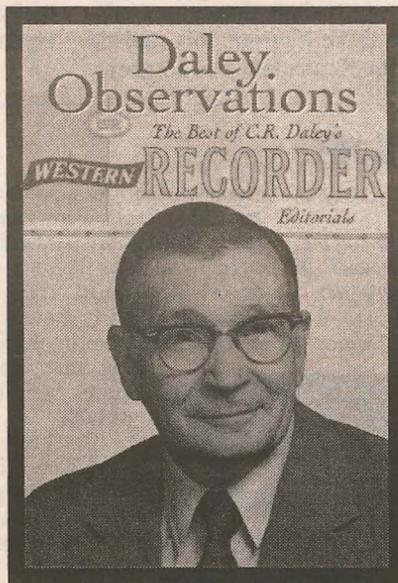
Now at Baptist Book Stores

"He recognized the unique faith and convictions resident among Kentucky Baptists."

A.B. Colvin

"This collection will light the fires of memory for some and introduce to new generations this teacher, preacher, prophet and poet who wrote what he saw, felt and believed about almost everything that mattered most to Kentucky Baptists."

Bill Marshall



This new book presents the best of C.R.

Daley's editorials during his 27-year tenure as editor of the Western Recorder. He wrote during pivotal times in Baptist life and American life, prophetically addressing such issues as civil rights while at the same time penning lyric remembrances of Kentucky's great outdoors.

Daley Observations is a treasure of Kentucky Baptist history, yet contains insight relevant to Baptist clergy and laity alike today.

Visit the Baptist Book Store in Louisville, Lexington or Owensboro, or use the former at right to order directly from Western Recorder.

Name: _____
Mailing Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

I'd like to order _____ copies of Daley Observations at \$15 each (including shipping)

Mail this form with check to Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253

Pearl pastor: Prepare to minister in crisis

PEARL, Miss. (BP)—Churches should recognize that violence could happen in their communities and take steps to respond with ministry, said a Mississippi pastor all too familiar with the subject.

One year ago this month, Pearl, Miss., became the first in a string of cities to experience high school shootings.

A teenager killed his mother before going to school and killing two teenage girls and injuring seven others. He has since been sentenced to life in prison.

"What happened in Pearl can happen in your town," Tommy Mitchell, pastor of First Baptist Church of Pearl, wrote in the November issue of Youth Ministry Update, a newsletter for churches.

Mitchell advised churches not only to acknowledge the possibility of violence but also to consider in advance how they can respond.

A church's first response will be determined by its preparation, or lack thereof, he wrote. "What kind of help is needed? Any kind of servant ministry that meets a need will be greatly appreciated," he stated.

Churches should make arrangements in advance with community

leaders to be involved as a pre-approved helping group, responsible for specific tasks, he wrote. That allows a smoother response to a crisis that won't tie up communications during the crisis.

"Determine what your church can do to help, and then arrange to do just those things," he suggested.

Among his ideas for ministry were:

■ **A gathering place.** "In Pearl, we were amazed at how quickly parents, relatives and curiosity seekers arrived at the school after the shooting." Offering facilities as a gathering place for students, teachers and parents might help, as fewer people would flock to the school and police department, he wrote.

■ **Comfort.** Comfort can be offered in a variety of packages, he stated. After the Pearl shooting, many students, teachers and parents were at the police department to give statements.

"Though the adults had coffee to drink, there were very few creature comforts for teenagers," he wrote. "Our church provided a van-load of cold drinks that were quickly consumed by the teenagers who were there. Rendering such aid may seem small before a crisis, but it will be deeply appreciated during the crisis,

especially by a teen who cannot stop shaking from fear."

■ **Counseling.** "People who are trained in crisis intervention counseling are a prized group during such a tragedy." He wrote.

■ **Ministry and care.** Don't overlook the importance Sunday school workers might have, he added. "The teenagers know, love and trust them. Just being present to hug a child is a valuable ministry."

Two crucial items that need attention are responses to news media and care for the caregivers, Mitchell wrote.

"Exercise a great deal of restraint and caution with the news media," he advised. Failure to select a spokesperson could result in a well-meaning but misinformed church speaking for the congregation.

"Rumor control in a school shooting requires a major effort on the part of all responsible people," he wrote. "Remind your youth and parents that if they do not know something as a fact, they should not speak of it. The same is true for ministers."

Regarding care for the caregivers, Mitchell counseled leaders to consider the emotional drain from such an event. "After two weeks of dealing with the most horrible tragedy I have ever endured, I had to seek out help for my own emotions and get some rest.

"The needs and demands of people involved in a school shooting will outlast your ability to care," he added. "Your ministry staff and other caregivers need to know that they cannot endure all the pain and emotions of others without support.

All participants who work at an incidence of violence will need crisis intervention counseling to sort through the a variety of feelings, he wrote. "Three common feelings that will emerge are fear, guilt and anger."

U.S. religious liberty official: 'Pre-emptive diplomacy' likely

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The leader of a new State Department office established to address religious freedom said it will aid in providing "predictable" U.S. responses for people who have been denied religious liberty abroad.

Robert Seiple, special representative of the secretary of state for international religious freedom, said the office will assure that all available resources from the government and the faith community are being tapped to promote religious freedom in other nations.

For 12 years, Seiple served as president of World Vision, a Christian-based organization that provides humanitarian assistance to more than 45 million people in more than 100 countries. He also has served as president of Eastern College and Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania.

The new State Department office is housed in the department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor. Seiple will report to the secretary of state and to the White House.

Seiple told religious leaders at a Sept. 15 meeting that he hoped the office could use "pre-emptive diplomacy" in promoting religious freedom and reconciliation abroad. The office can bring about "bureaucratic leverage" on foreign powers, he added.

He said it is important that "we are good stewards of this tremendous resource, which in some quarters is known as the last remaining superpower."

Seiple said that when a religious persecution issue arises, his office would first go to the desk officer in the State Department for that country and would coordinate with the U.S. embassy in that country. The relationship with churches in the area also would be used, he said.

Seiple said the United States should stand for religious freedom around the world "every time we have a chance to stand for that kind of thing—given the way this nation was founded, given who we are as a people, given what we believe in terms of human dignity."

Religious freedom should be "woven into the fabric ... of the American people and the institutions of this democracy in such a way that it will not fall out," he said. "So that if I leave at the end of this term, there are railroad tracks that are forever laid and someone else can come in and continue the exercise."

1999 Senior Adult CELEBRATIONS!

NASHVILLE,

Tennessee

April 26 - 29

BRANSON

Missouri

April 5 - 8

MYRTLE BEACH

South Carolina

April 12 - 15

Featuring:

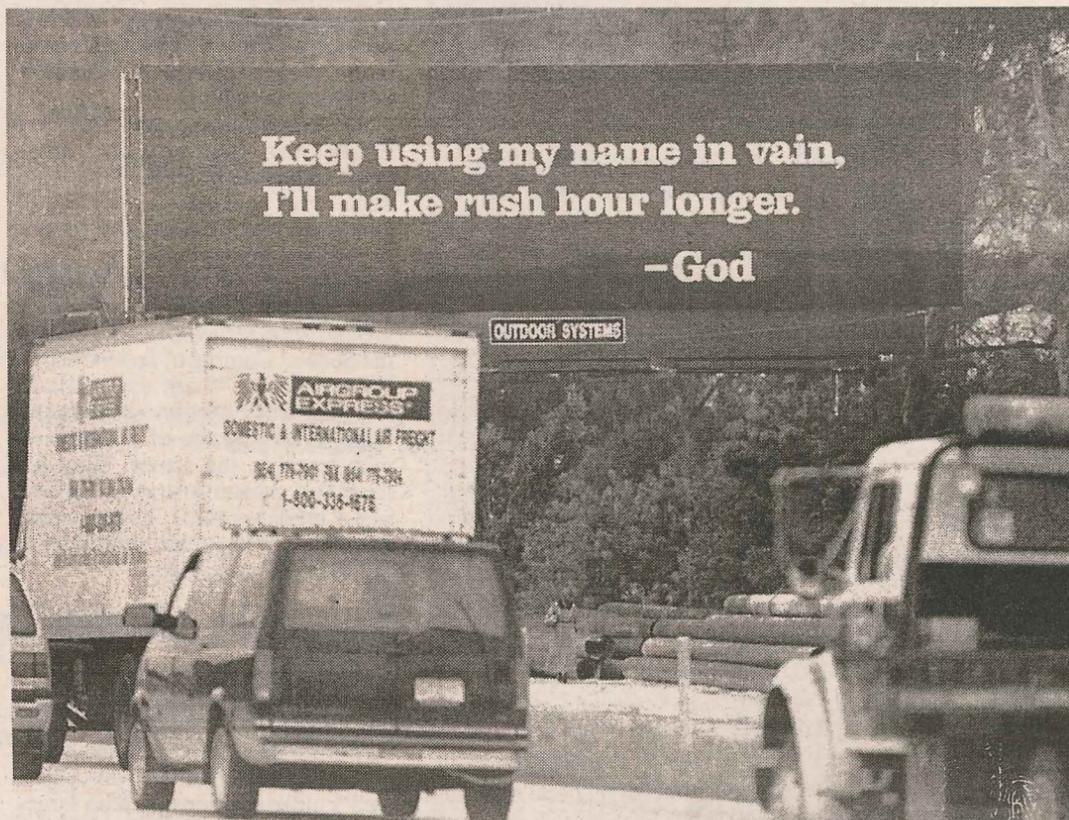
Charles STANLEY (Myrtle Beach)

Bob Pitman (Branson)

Jim Henry (Nashville)

1-800-475-0819

ministry of phil waldrep
evangelistic association



ADVERTISING GOD Commuters in Pompano Beach, Fla., who think gridlock on South Florida streets has reached biblical proportions pass a light-hearted billboard. An anonymous Fort Lauderdale area-based, not-for-profit group has spent several hundred thousand dollars in an ad campaign to get people to return to religion. (Reuters photo)

End times prophecies drive evangelical support for Israel

Netanyahu courts evangelicals

By Elaine Ruth Fletcher
Religion News Service

JERUSALEM (RNS)—Thousands of evangelical and Pentecostal Christians gathered in Jerusalem for a conference Oct. 5 cheered Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's tough stand in peace negotiations with the Palestinians just days before he flies to Washington to seek a deal with Yasser Arafat on a second phase of West Bank redeployment.

Appearing before a crowd of more than 5,000 Christians from around the world, Netanyahu told a cheering throng waving blue and white Israeli flags that their support for his hardline stand has been "very, very effective" in protecting Israel from "undue pressures and threats."

"The state of Israel is stronger because of your support," Netanyahu told the annual Christian Feast of the Tabernacles gathering sponsored by the ardently pro-Israel International Christian Embassy, a private organization with no official diplomatic standing.

"We are in the midst of negotiations on an agreement we didn't sign, but are pledged to honor ... but there will be no peace without security, without an end to the hatred, hostility and the threats of violence," said Netanyahu, due in Washington in mid-October for meetings with Arafat and President Clinton.

"I cannot tell you now if we will have an agreement in the upcoming meetings in Washington. If they (the Palestinians) honor their agreement, then we will have an agreement. But there can be no unilateral concessions," said Netanyahu, who has gone out of his way to court Christian Zionist support.

Speaking prior to the prime minister's appearance, an International Christian Embassy official from Oslo, Norway, suggested that the "real message of Oslo" was that Israel should hold on to the entire West Bank—rather than concede territory to the Palestinians in return for peace, as was promised in the 1993 Oslo agreement between Israel and Arafat's Palestinian Authority.

"God has brought you back to this land, he will uphold you here, and he will have his way," said Leif Wellerop. "This is the message we want to give you from Oslo as Christian Zionists."

Netanyahu, himself a secular Jew, later told the crowd, "You don't have to be a believing Jew or a believing Christian to understand that the birth of Israel, the rise of Israel had something of the miraculous and eternal to it."

"Our claim to this land is based on the greatest and most incontrovertible of documents in creation, the holy Bible. It is the Bible that has given us the deed to this land. ... The Palestinian people have to come to terms with the fact that we are in this land and we will stay here."

During the 10-day feast gathering, which celebrates a biblical pilgrimage to Jerusalem known to Jews as Sukkot, Christian Zionists also will visit controversial Jewish settlements in the West Bank and in Arab east Jerusalem to express their support for continued Jewish settlement in all parts of the biblical land of Israel.

Freezing settlement activity is a key agenda item in the ongoing Israel-Palestinian negotiations. Christian Embassy spokesman Dave Parsons said Christian Zionists—who view Israel's existence as part of the New Testament's plan for Jesus' Second Coming—ardently oppose such a move.

"We support the right of Jews to live anywhere in Jerusalem or anywhere in the communities of Judea and Samaria (the biblical names for the West Bank). And we're going to let some of the pilgrims go see the sites and hear from some of the groups that are trying to maintain a Jewish presence in some of these places which have been in the headlines," Parsons said.

By David Winfrey
News Director

LOMBARD III.—Fostered by Sunday school maps and driven by their reading of Bible prophecies, many evangelicals are linked in an unusual union with Israel that influences public opinion and sometimes foreign policy, according to a church historian.

"To many observers, the close relationship between Israel and many American evangelicals seems baffling," Timothy Weber wrote in the Oct. 5 cover story of Christianity Today, "How Evangelicals Became Israel's Best Friend."

Weber is professor of church history and dean at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary in Lombard, Ill. He formerly taught at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

"Many American evangelicals pledge their love for the State of Israel, support its claims against those of the Palestinians, and resist anything that might undercut Israel's security. But they also target Jews for evangelism and sometimes blame them for the mess the world is in," he stated.

On a primary level, many evangelicals view Israel as their "home away from home," because that is where Jesus lived, died and rose again, he wrote.

But understanding how a group of Christians could align themselves so closely with a group that rejects Jesus as the Messiah requires an understanding of the way many evangelicals interpret Bible prophecy, Weber stated.

Evangelicals who support Israel generally follow a biblical interpretation system known as dispensationalism, he wrote.

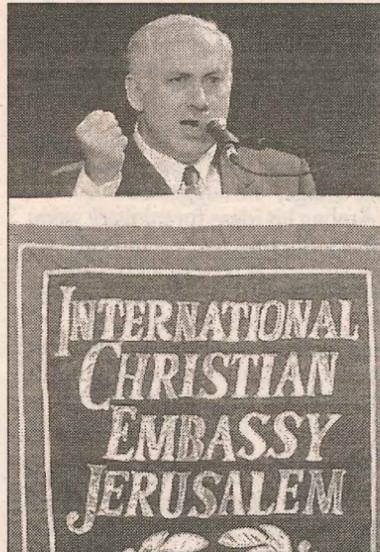
Developed in the mid-1800s by Englishman John Nelson Darby, dispensationalism teaches that God deals with humanity according to two plans, one for Israel and the other for the Christian church.

Followers of dispensationalism "believe that the Holy Land will be ground zero for events surrounding the Second Coming of Jesus Christ," Weber wrote. "Such evangelicals read the Bible as though it were a huge jigsaw puzzle of prophecies, with Israel in the center. They believe that human history is following a predetermined divine script, and they and Israel are simply playing their assigned roles."

Falwell's Liberty University plans high class trip to Israel

LYNCHBURG, Va. (RNS)—Jerry Falwell's Liberty University will send 3,000 of its students to Israel in January for a religious-studies tour that is an outgrowth of Falwell's close relationship with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Falwell has led 26 student pilgrimages to Europe since he founded Liberty University in 1971, but



ODD ALLIANCE Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addresses the International Christian Embassy, an ardently pro-Israel group. Church historian Timothy Weber charts the linkage between evangelicals and the nation of Israel. He also questions whether that relationship has hurt Christians' witness and damaged peace talks in the region. (Reuters photo)

Included in Israel's role, dispensationalists believe, is that the country will sign a peace treaty with the Antichrist unknowingly, suffer betrayal by the Antichrist and be attacked by armies from all directions.

"Obviously, the key to this entire prophetic plan is the refounding of Israel as a nation state in Palestine," he wrote.

While most dispensationalists were content to let God work things out, others actively worked to help bring about the series of events needed in this script.

When the Zionist movement began in the 1880s and '90s, supporting establishing a home country for Jews, "dispensationalists at that time seemed more eager for Jews to move back to Palestine than did Jews themselves," Weber wrote.

Ironically, he stated, the same evangelicals who wanted to see the Jews establish a Middle Eastern homeland were some of the same people who accused the Jews of plotting to destroy Christian civilization and take over the world.

In the 1920s and '30s, some dispensationalists distributed "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion," which supposedly were the minutes of a secret meeting of Jewish conspirators.

During World War II, dispensationalists opposed the Nazis but viewed them as God's instruments for judgment and for increasing

Jewish desire for a homeland, Weber wrote.

After the war, the Jews established a nation by declaring statehood after Britain withdrew from Palestine. Although immediately attacked by Arab armies, Israel stood firm and was recognized by the United Nations within a year.

When Israel attacked Egypt in 1956 to capture Sinai, dispensationalists supported the move even though the U.S. government opposed it, Weber wrote. "For dispensationalists, not to support Israel was to align oneself against the purposes of God."

That opinion continues to motivate many dispensationalists, he said.

In the 1970s, Israelis began to recognize the influence of American evangelical support, Weber wrote.

Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson are key players in evangelical support for Israel, Weber stated.

"When (Israel Prime Minister Benjamin) Netanyahu visited the United States in January 1998, Falwell helped arrange a meeting between the prime minister and a number of other evangelical leaders, including John Hagee and Southern Baptists Morris Chapman and Richard Land. Falwell and the others pledged to mobilize the evangelical community against the Clinton administration's pressure on Israel to give up more land to the Palestinians," Weber wrote.

Such friendship has been costly, Weber contended. "Supporting Israel has often meant that evangelicals must not be as evangelistic as they would like to be."

And some evangelicals have demonized the Palestinians, he added. "Because they are the enemies of the modern State of Israel, they are also the enemies of God and the servants of Satan."

But the biggest issue is whether the relationship between evangelicals and Israel helps or hurts the Middle East peace process, Weber stated.

"Because of their prophetic views, evangelicals are often less than optimistic about the prospects for peace," he wrote.

"Part of the problem is the overconfidence evangelicals have about their prophetic views. Bible teachers are not inerrant; and they have changed their minds often," he wrote. "History is still full of surprises—so why make categorical statements about what cannot happen between Israel and her neighbors?"

"The future is in God's hands; in the end, Jesus wins," he concluded. "But getting to that point may be more complicated and full of surprises than many people think. It is time for a strategy of humility and hope."

the January trip will be the largest by far. Participants in the tour will be drawn from the 5,700 students on Liberty's campus in Lynchburg, Va., and another 7,000 enrolled in off-campus programs.

An anonymous donation of \$4 million will cover the tour, the Chronicle of Higher Education reported in its issue dated Sept. 25.

The tour will visit sites important

to Christians situated both in Israel, such as Nazareth and the Sea of Galilee, and in areas of the West Bank controlled by the Palestinian Authority, such as Bethlehem.

"There's not an institution of higher learning in the United States that has made this kind of trip—ever," said Jay Spencer, Liberty's vice president for enrollment management.

Christianity
and Israel



Christian presence still dwindling in the Holy Land

Continued from page 1

In the governing council of the Palestinian Authority, for example, they hold 7 percent of the 88 seats.

Yet, Hagopian and other "living stones," as Arab Christians often are called, say they often feel forgotten by Western Christians, who seem eager to claim the historic landmarks of the Holy Land but not so quick to embrace its people.

"Unfortunately, pilgrims come and go. They visit the churches, visit the stones, but not the living church," said Claudette Habesch, secretary general of Caritas Jerusalem, the Catholic charities office in the Holy Land. "Many pilgrims come and go without ever realizing there are Christians liv-

ing in the Holy Land."

Squeezed by a poor economy and increasing fundamentalism by both Jews and Muslims, Christians said it is sometimes better to look for a fresh start elsewhere.

"This is a church of love, so when you see dictatorship, war and bloodshed, it goes against your beliefs," said Jack Khazmo, a Syrian Orthodox who edits a pro-Palestinian political magazine.

Orthodox Jews argue Muslims are the ones persecuting Christians, and

Khazmo agreed there have been isolated incidents of abuse. But he and others said the relationship is much better between Arab Christians and Arab Muslims than it is between Arab Christians and Israeli Jews.

Habesch, whose family has been in Jerusalem and its surrounding area for generations, said it is the occupation of Palestinian land by Jews that has caused Arab Christians the most pain. She said she lost her family home during the 1967 war, a home just a few minutes from her office outside the

New Gate into the Old City.

"I can forgive, and I will, but I can't forget," she said. "Still, I don't want to become a prisoner of the past."

To that end, Habesch said, her work with Caritas involves everything from low-interest loans to young couples struggling to remain in the Holy Land to college scholarships and programs for the elderly.

"It is important for us never to forget that we are Christians living in the Holy Land," said Bernard Sabella, a professor of sociology at Bethlehem University, who has studied Christian emigration trends. "This is something very special. What better witness could there be than to be in Palestine and working for peace?"

Christianity and Israel



"It is important for us never to forget that we are Christians living in the Holy Land."
Bernard Sabella, a professor of sociology at Bethlehem University

THE 8TH ANNUAL COOPERATIVE MINISTRIES WORSHIP/EVANGELISM CONFERENCE MAYFIELD & PADUCAH, KENTUCKY



Dr. Larry Martin
Director of Missions & Evangelism (KBC)



Dr. Lincoln N. Bingham
Conference Coordinator



Mrs. Lois Jane Huddleston
Renowned Soloist



Rev. T.D. Stubblefield
Keynote Speaker



Mr. Darryl Wilson
Lecturer



Dr. Charles H. Charlton
Lecturer



Dr. Aubert Rose
Former Sunday School Director, FBC Atlanta, Georgia

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1998

LOCATION: MID-CONTINENT COLLEGE (MAYFIELD, KY)

99 Powell Road East (800) 232-4622 **Dr. David Jester, President/Host**

MORNING/AFTERNOON SESSION

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
12:00 PM
1:30 PM - 3:30 PM
3:30 PM

Celebrate Jesus Together Worship Service
Seminars (*)
Free Lunch for first 100 registered (non-students) (School Cafeteria)
Seminars Repeated
Close (Dinner on your own)

Our Goal:
1200 Black & White Baptists
Celebrating Jesus... Together!



EVENING SESSION

6:30 PM

Celebrate Jesus Together Rally
To Eternity
(An African-American Music Ensemble)

LOCATION: TRACE CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH (MAYFIELD, KY)

Highway 131 - Exit 27 off Purchase Parkway go 3 1/2 miles (502) 658-3304
Rev. Ronnie Stinson, Pastor/Host

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

LOCATION: GREATER HARRISON STREET BAPTIST CHURCH (PADUCAH, KY)

1126 Harrison Street. (502) 442-8946 **Rev. Marian Daniels, Pastor/Host**

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM
12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Celebrate Jesus Together Worship Service
Seminars/Workshops
Lunch
Workshops, Seminars & Closing

***Seminars:**

"The Power to Change Lives: How to Build a Great Commission Sunday School"
(Mr. Darryl Wilson, Director of Sunday School Department (KBC))

"The Agony and the Ecstasy of the Ministry"
(Dr. C. H. Charlton)

"Intentional Partners in Christian Reconciliation"
(Dr. Lincoln N. Bingham)

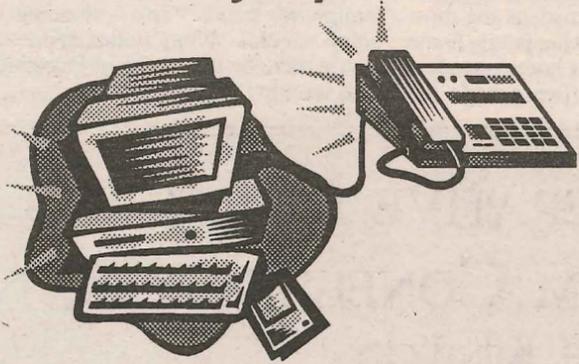
Sunday School Workshops: Good News for Youth: The Power to Change Lives (Ages 12-17); Good News for Kids: The Power to Change Lives (Ages 6-11); and Good News for Preschoolers & Their Families: The Power to Change Lives (Ages birth to 5)

Sponsored by the Mission and Evangelism Division of the Kentucky Baptist Convention - Dr. Larry Martin, Director & The Baptist Unified Christian Leadership Conference of the General Association of Kentucky Baptists - Rev. Porter Bailey, President Lincoln N. Bingham - Conference Coordinator & Cooperative Ministries Consultant (KBC)

ANNOUNCING

Great New Communications Services

for the Kentucky Baptist Convention



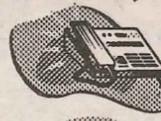
Toll-free Voice Lines

Target your call with great new directed toll-free numbers!



Fax Lines

Need to send a document to the Baptist Building? Send it straight to the department you need to reach with our new fax lines!



Voice Mail

Need to leave a message for someone after hours? Use the new voice mail system to get your message through!



E-Mail

You can now reach anyone at the Baptist Building, Kentucky WMU, the Kentucky Baptist Foundation and the Western Recorder by electronic mail. Just send your message to firstname_lastname@kybaptist.org!



World Wide Web

And don't forget to catch the Kentucky Baptist Convention on the World Wide Web! A wealth of information is now at your fingertips - <http://www.kybaptist.org>.

Kentucky Baptist Convention

Phone and fax lines

Main Switchboard - 1-800-266-6477 or 502-245-4101

Annual Church Profile

Voice: 1-888-254-5715 • Fax: 502-254-4755

Annuity Information

Voice: 1-888-254-5703 • Fax: 502-254-4758

Brotherhood Ministries

Voice: 1-888-254-5720 • Fax: 502-254-4761

Church Building Loans

Voice: 1-888-254-5721 • Fax: 502-254-4765

Contributions Assistance

Voice: 1-888-254-5717 • Fax: 502-254-4753

Communications and Cooperative Program

Voice: 1-888-254-5713 • Fax: 502-254-4774

Convention Messenger Cards

Voice: 1-888-254-5712 • Fax: 502-254-4773

Developing Healthy Churches

Voice: 1-888-254-5710 • Fax: 502-254-4768

Discipleship and Stewardship Assistance

Voice: 1-888-254-5708 • Fax: 502-254-4770

Evangelism Opportunities

Voice: 1-888-254-5722 • Fax: 502-254-4766

Family Ministry Information

Voice: 1-888-254-5704 • Fax: 502-254-4759

Kentucky Baptist Foundation

Voice: 1-888-254-5701 • Fax: 502-244-6467

Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union

Voice: 1-888-254-5726 • Fax: 502-244-6486

Minister/Church Support

Voice: 1-888-254-5702 • Fax: 502-254-4757

Music Leaders

Voice: 1-888-254-5707 • Fax: 502-254-4771

Partnership Ministries

Voice: 1-888-254-5724 • Fax: 502-254-4767

Starting New Churches and Ministries

Voice: 1-888-254-5725 • Fax: 502-254-4764

Sunday School and Bible Study

Voice: 1-888-254-5709 • Fax: 502-254-4769

Western Recorder

Voice: 1-888-254-5728 (subscriptions)

1-888-254-5729 (reporting news)

Fax: 502-244-6474

Hurricane Georges requires massive Baptist response

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP)—The killer wind and rain of Hurricane Georges forced the largest mobilization of Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers since Hurricane Andrew in 1992, with 14 feeding units and nine cleanup and recovery units being activated.

The storm claimed more than 320 lives in its journey across the Caribbean and across southernmost Florida before making landfall on the Mississippi coast.

Most of the heaviest damage and loss of life occurred in the Caribbean. Four Southern Baptist disaster relief airlift feeding units prepared meals for victims and relief workers in Puerto Rico. The Southern Baptist International Mission Board coordinated a response plan for the Dominican Republic, Haiti and other affected nations.

Mickey Caison, coordinator of Southern Baptist disaster relief work, said the response needed in the United States was somewhat less than originally had been anticipated.

"What will happen is we'll transition from the emergency (response) to the long-term in the next week or so," Caison said. Long-term recovery efforts include coordination of rebuilding, which in the past has lasted as long as a year.

The extensive damage across the Caribbean created an immediate need for volunteers and monetary dona-

tions to help people rebuild their devastated lives, said a Southern Baptist disaster relief expert. The need is compounded by massive flooding in Bangladesh, for which Southern Baptist missionaries also are mobilizing relief ministries.

"These people (in the Caribbean) are going to have a real challenge rebuilding," said Eddie Pettit, a disaster damage assessor who works for the South Carolina Baptist Convention. "They've lost more than 25 percent of the available resources for rebuilding. When you're talking about 12,500 homes that need repair, you're talking about a large-scale task."

Pettit arrived on the scene just days after the hurricane hit, assessing how Southern Baptists can best respond to help people recover.

"We can respond immediately with water purifiers and with feeding programs, but one of our strengths is construction. A lot of these people won't have the means to rebuild, so we will come in and help them get their lives back together."

Teams of volunteers are being recruited to go to the islands. Those interested in participating in a project can call (804) 219-1331.

Southern Baptists who want to contribute to the effort can send gifts designated for "general relief" to: Southern Baptist World Relief, Office of Finance, P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, Va. 23230.

Having a holiday at the assemblies

Just so you know, Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek are now open year-round to meet your conference and retreat needs.

While we are only half-way through October, Christmas is only 10 weeks away. How many shopping days do we have left? I don't know—don't want to know—and I'm not counting!

But I am reminded that as we move closer to the holiday season, we move to a time of celebration during which we often get together as groups.

A Sunday school class dinner, a choir banquet (after our musical is completed), a staff function, a deacon dinner. The list could go on and on. You know what I mean. It's a busy season, Christmas is.

So why not, in anticipation of the busyness, retreat to Cedarmore or Jonathan Creek for your Christmas function? Or even a New Year celebration? We would love to host you and your group during the holiday season. We'll be seasonally decorated and feel real "Christmasy" when you come.

Historically, we have been closed from about Thanksgiving through February, but as we con-

tinue to chart new waters for both Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek, we have become year-round operations. Now all we need is you.

The quiet peacefulness of either place makes Cedarmore or Jonathan Creek a perfect place for your festive holiday function or your pensive post-Christmas and New Year planning retreat.

January and February are both months during which many groups get together for retreats. It's a time of the year in which the weather's often dreary, but folks are looking for someplace warm to go and meet.

We're not Florida, but we're also a lot closer. And we hope that our warmth and hospitality will make up for

most of the difference in geography.

So I invite you to consider Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore for any function you might be planning, at any time, during any season. We're eager to help make your meeting or celebration a success.

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST ASSEMBLIES



Rusty Ellison

Supreme Court opens session by protecting church donations

WASHINGTON (RNS)—The Supreme Court opened its new session Oct. 5 and rejected an appeal whose goal was to force a Minnesota church to return \$13,450 in donations from a bankrupt couple.

The court will be making decisions on a number of others cases on topics of concern to religious groups, including welfare reform, sexual harassment, census regulations and immigration issues.

In the federal bankruptcy matter, the court refused, without comment, to use the case to clarify its 1997 decision striking down the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, which had made it more difficult for government to interfere with how Americans practice their faith.

By leaving intact decisions that stopped attempts by the couple's creditors to recover the money, the court's action appeared to have been prompted by a new federal law protecting religious donations in bankruptcy proceedings.

Also the court turned aside an appeal by a Baptist minister in Texas who had sex with two women while giving them marriage counseling.

Without comment, the justices rejected Shelby Baucum's argument that a federal jury violated his religious freedom by ruling he had committed malpractice and violated his fiduciary duties. Baucum, the now-resigned pastor of Casa View Baptist Church in Dallas, must pay each woman \$115,000.

Porn restrictions enacted at prisons, military bases

WASHINGTON (BP)—Efforts to restrict the distribution of pornography moved forward on two fronts recently: the United States military and prisons.

The Department of Defense announced it had banned 153 sexually explicit magazines from being sold or rented at military facilities, such as commissaries, exchanges and ship stores. The department's action is the first step in fulfilling a 1996 law originally titled the Military Honor and Decency Act.

A federal appeals court, meanwhile, ruled another 1996 measure that blocked the distribution of sexually explicit publications in prisons is constitutional. The legislation had been blocked by a federal judge's 1997 ruling that it violated the First Amendment rights of prisoners and

publishers.

The list of magazines determined to be sexually explicit by a Department of Defense board of review includes Hustler, Penthouse and Playboy. The board ruled, however, Playboy and 13 other magazines it reviewed are not sexually explicit under the law.

Some proponents of the ban criticized the review board for failing to remove Playboy when the Department of Defense released the lists Sept. 21. Army and Air Force stores averaged selling \$12.6 million in adult magazines each year, according to the office of U.S. Rep. Roscoe Bartlett, R-Md., sponsor of the bill.

Meanwhile, a three-member panel of the District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals ruled Sept. 15 in favor of a ban on sexually explicit magazines in federal prisons.

Judge Stephen Williams wrote in his opinion: "Common sense tells us that prisoners are more likely to develop the now-missing self-control and respect for others if prevented from poring over pictures that are themselves degrading and disrespectful."

Under the law, inmates may not receive pornographic magazines even if they pay for them. Unlike the military's review board, the Bureau of Prisons found Playboy to be sexually explicit.

Hell House adds Bill & Monica

DENVER (RNS)—"Hell House," the controversial, widely-publicized Halloween show staged by a fundamentalist Denver-area church, is adding a scene about the White House scandal to its depictions of the evils the church believes afflict contemporary America.

"We'll have an Oval Office scene and a married couple playing Bill Clinton and Monica Lewinsky," said Pastor Kenneth Roberts of Abundant Life Christian Center in Arvada, Colo. Roberts is director and founder of Hell House.

"Three demon spirits—lies, lust and adultery—will show the undoing of the president of the United States," he added.

But the Oval Office scene will be suggestive rather than the sometimes all-too-real scenes usually portrayed in Hell House. "Everyone knows all the details," he said. "So we'll concentrate on the demons."

Hell House, now in its fourth year, has stunned, scared and sickened observers with such scenes as a car accident caused by drunken driving and an operating room showing a woman getting an abortion. It depicts hell with people writhing and screaming in misery.

Roberts said this year's script is new but still retains its anti-abortion, anti-gay messages. The abortion, for example, will be set in the womb of the mother, giving viewers an idea of what the aborted fetus would have become "if her mother had not killed her," Roberts said.

But in addition to those scenes and the new Oval Office scene, the show also will depict a shooting in a high school cafeteria.

CTI GROUP SKI



WEEKEND PACKAGES STARTING AT..... **\$79**

1-800-285-7273



Church Buses Rental Buses
(New & Used)
Carpenter Bus Sales Inc.
Brentwood, Tenn.
(800) 370-6180
(615) 376-2287
We Buy Used Buses Since 1953

Available in 20' to 37' Models (12 to 43 passengers)
Guaranteed Buy-Back Program
www.carpenterbus.com

Elizabeth Iles

By Robert Dunston

Each year Cumberland College selects and sponsors two students to travel to China to study Chinese language and culture and to live out their Christian faith. Elizabeth Iles, the daughter of Sharon Iles and the late Raymond Iles of Alexandria, was one of the two students Cumberland sent this past summer.

Each morning Iles and the other students with her took classes in T'ai-chi from 8 a.m. Three hours of classes in Chinese language followed. Afternoons and evenings were spent doing homework, sightseeing and shopping. On Fridays students attended lectures about Chinese culture.

The students stayed in a local hotel in Beijing. Each was paired with a Chinese student majoring in English. The Chinese students tutored their American partners and invited them to their homes. This immersion approach to learning helped the American students develop a better knowledge of Chinese language and culture.

While in China, Iles visited the Great Wall, which she describes as "magnificent." The American students also took a train trip to Xian. Living in a different culture

brought several challenges. Iles was bothered by the fact she constantly stood out among the native population. Having people stare at her became uncomfortable. She also missed her privacy. In China people are everywhere. Conversations always are overheard by others. While Chinese people are accustomed to this, Iles had to adjust.

Iles also missed her home church where she could sing Christian songs and hear a sermon in her own language. Yet, she was amazed by the faith and commitment of the Chinese. She attended the Haidan Christian Fellowship, which was one of six legal, established Christian churches in Beijing, a city of 10 million people.

At Cumberland College we believe exposure to other cultures and peoples can make a great difference in a young person's life. We are delighted to help students experience life and learning in other nations. Iles decided to go to China when other students who had been offered their encouragement. We know she will encourage others to have the same rich experience.

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

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



"I was a stranger and you took me in."

Matthew 25:35

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children needs foster parents to care for children who have been abused and neglected. Training, ongoing support and compensation are provided.

Call the office nearest you!

Eastern Kentucky-1-800-752-5063
Louisville/Northern Kentucky-1-800-928-5242
South Central Kentucky-1-800-952-3724
Southern Kentucky-(606) 677-1008
Western Kentucky-(502) 825-2191
or call 1-800-456-1386 toll free!

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children
Internet - <http://www.iglou.com/kbhc/>



NATIONAL NOTES

■ **D.C. voucher plan stalls.** A proposed voucher program that would have allowed some poor parents in the District of Columbia to receive federal funds to send their children to private schools, including religious schools, has been dropped from congressional spending legislation following a veto threat from President Clinton. A spokeswoman for House Majority Leader Richard Armey, R-Texas, said Armey dropped the proposal "in the interest of getting things done" and with what she said was the realization Republicans "will have a bigger majority (in Congress) next year."

■ **Christian Coalition spending detailed.** The Christian Coalition says it will spend \$2.7 million to get religious conservatives to the polls on Election Day, Nov. 3—that is if supporters' donations are sufficient. If more is raised, the coalition said it will spend even more on its get-out-the-vote effort, according to Associated Press, which obtained a copy of the organization's proposed budget that was mailed to supporters. More than \$1 million would be spent on distributing 45 million copies of the coalition's controversial voter guides.

■ **dc Talk's new album debuts at No. 4.** Christian rock group dc Talk's new album "Supernatural" has debuted at No. 4 on Billboard's Top 200 Album Chart, the highest debut for a Christian rock artist in the chart's history. In addition, the sale of 106,213 units of the album in the first week since its Sept. 22 release amounts to the most albums ever sold in Christian stores in that period of time.

■ **Religious leaders oppose impeachment.** On the same week the U.S. House of Representatives voted to begin an inquiry of impeachment, about 30 religious leaders said President Clinton's sexual misdeeds do not meet the Constitution's standard for impeachment. In a statement issued Oct. 7, and signed by James Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, the leaders urged Congress to end its inquiry and focus instead on "the larger moral imperatives that urgently demand our attention."

■ **Graham schedules St. Louis crusade.** The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association recently announced that the evangelist will conduct a crusade next year in St. Louis. The event is set for Oct. 14-17, 1999, in the TWA Dome. Graham was not present, but his longtime associate Cliff Barrows was. "The joy of the team comes when we hear 'We've been praying for you,'" said Barrows, music and program director for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

■ **Ads aimed at homosexuals go to TV.** A group of conservative religious and family policy organizations said they would take to television their advertising campaign on behalf of ministries that seek to change homosexuals to heterosexuals. Two 60-second ads for the program have been produced by Coral Ridge Ministries of Florida. The groups, including the Family Research Council, contend Christianity can help homosexuals become heterosexual and that "transforming" ministries offer "a message of compassion and hope."

Friends

Where would we be without friends? They help us when we are in need, they support us during hardships and trials, they give us smiles on cloudy days, and they love us in spite of ourselves.

Oneida has lots of friends. Some have loved and supported us for many years, while others have become our friends more recently. Some of our friends send us letters or cards telling us how much they appreciate us and the ministry we provide, and saying they pray for us daily. Many support us financially. Today as I signed letters thanking our friends for their financial support, I signed letters for gifts of \$1 and some for several hundred. They are all friends. They cared enough about this school and her ministry to share their resources with us.

Friends visit us nearly every day. They encourage us by their presence and kind words. They tell us our campus is beautiful and they are proud of our work.

We have many friends who are giving their lives as faculty and staff. Some of our staff have known about Oneida for many years. Others only recently have discovered us and have chosen to leave family and jobs to join us.

They help us shoulder our load and have brought relief when we were nearly exhausted.

We have many wonderful friends who are volunteers. Some are full-time volunteers. Other volunteers give a week or two each month, while hundreds of others work for a week or two every year. Last week we were blessed again by some real friends. The Kentucky Campers on Mission have been coming to our campus for years. We look forward to the arrival of these and many other volunteers because we know they will help us

get many projects completed that would otherwise go undone.

I do not know all that these folks did last week. Some worked on the farm, welding in the hog barn. Others helped harvest our corn crop. Two men overhauled the engine and made other repairs on an old, worn-out forklift that we use every day. Several of the men enclosed one of our walk-in freezers, protecting it from the elements and shading it from the sun, helping to reduce energy costs. Three of the men drove our trucks on two different trips to gather and deliver items. One man and his wife drove to Lexington to take a broken printer for repair. Several of the ladies worked in our print shop, while others worked in our used clothing store. Two or three ladies helped clean some of our rest rooms and painted an apartment in preparation for two new, full-time volunteers who are moving from New Mexico in two weeks to join our staff.

Other ladies worked in our craft shop making items to sell. Three of the men helped repair one of our bridges, and another hauled several loads of creek gravel while the creek was low. Three or four men helped install a new water line, and one of the men did some bulldozer work to improve the drainage on our corn fields. Some other men worked on various pieces of equipment on our farm. I am sure other work was done that I have forgotten or did not know about. Friends. They are such wonderful blessings!

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Please God and help others

In 1982, the Correll brothers of Somerset gave the funds needed to build a library and classroom building in memory of their parents, Charlie and Clara Correll. The facility is scheduled for remodeling, which will nearly double the space for books and provide an expanded computer lab, an archival room and a faculty lounge.

Funding for this project was a goal of the Beyond 2001 Campaign, which officially closed Aug. 31. The Lord works on his own timetable.

Ward Correll asked my wife and me to visit him at Cumberland Lake Shell. After his staff filled the room, he gave me the opportunity to talk about Clear Creek. He emphasized our students' evangelistic zeal. He recalled days as a 16-year-old selling eggs in Bell and Harlan counties.

Correll then announced the blessing of giving the school \$100,000 for the library project. A check was drafted and photos made. "Let's go for a ride," Correll said, and the result was the gift of a 1997 vehicle with only 5,200 miles. Correll did not know the college needed to replace a 1993

model that had 206,000 miles and burned three quarts of oil between changes.

In 1997, the Corrells lost their son Vince. Months earlier, without any health problems, Vince asked his dad to write down the things he considered most important, "as if it was the last time I ever wrote to you or talked to you on earth."

The letter included these words: "Take care of God's world. Be a good steward. Leave the world in better shape than what you found it and every person you meet, leave them a better person by having met you. In your home, talk of God's greatness. Delight yourself in him, remembering God is a jealous God. Our whole purpose of being here is to serve God, please him and help our fellow creatures as we go through life. Many times in this life you will be alone except for God Almighty."

Clear Creek praises our Lord for friends like Ward Correll. Christ working through them has helped us become better people.

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

Make Your Move!

Be a Winner with Sears.



Sears, an industry-leading provider of home appliance repair information, is part of Sears Home Services, a \$3 billion division of Sears, Roebuck and Co. We currently have full-time and part-time **PERMANENT** opportunities available for:

Customer Service Consultants

Some schedules include weekends.

Qualified applicants will possess a pleasant telephone personality, proficient keyboard skills, and a strong work ethic. Sears offers medical/dental/life insurance, 401(k), tuition assistance, paid training and much more!

At Sears, you'll find a strong team environment and supportive management. Qualified candidates may send a resume to or apply in person at:

Sears Home Services
9390 Bunsen Parkway
Louisville, KY 40220
Or call our toll-free
Jobline at (877) 732-7742



SEARS
Home Services
Customer Network

Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer M/F/D/V

BOOKS

I'm Alive and the Doctor's Dead: Surviving Cancer with your Sense of Humor and Sexuality Intact. Sue Buchanan. Zondervan Publishers, 1998. 196 pages. \$12.99. ♦♦♦♦ (out of five)

One thing you have to say about Sue Buchanan's book right up front: She is honest and pulls no punches. The telling of her story has an irreverent side, as indicated by the title.

Buchanan is a breast cancer survivor and she writes to encourage women from the moments they suspect something is wrong to, hopefully, the multi-year anniversary of being cancer-free.

Buchanan uses a great deal of humor to address a subject that sends fear to the core of those who hear the diagnosis. Because of the possible anatomical consequence of having breast cancer—some form of mastectomy—Buchanan must and does address the effects of surgery on sexual self-worth. She never gets technical or preachy; she just lays out her feelings and you can deal with them, or not, as you want.

This is a book of encouragement and Buchanan succeeds with flying colors. Its strength is also a weakness for some readers. Everyone's story with cancer does not end with being alive 15 years after surgery, not to mention being pleased with the results of reconstructive surgery.

Even so, there is a place for a book that celebrates recovery and thankfulness to God for the medical procedures which can and do save lives. Throughout the book Buchanan gives insights into how her faith in God helped her deal with the next step with cancer. Hopefully, that model for faith

will hold hope even when the results are less hopeful. *Wayne Hager*

Leading Change in the Congregation: Spiritual and Organizational Tools for Leaders. Gilbert Rendle. The Alban Institute, 1998. 184 pages. \$15.75. ♦♦♦♦

Change is inevitable. The final destination toward which change moves us is not always easy to identify.



The challenge for church leaders in managing change involves understanding the steps and stages of transition and helping congregations through them.

These three statements form the foundation upon which Rendle builds his model for leading change.

Much of the book represents familiar concepts from other books on leadership and change. Rendle reasserts the often stated, and perhaps overly simplistic, distinction between leadership and management.

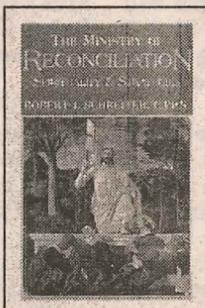
But "Leading Change" is more than simply a repackaging of familiar material. Rendle challenges us to use much of what we already know in a different way. In contrast to many writers on church leadership, he argues that a clearly defined vision for one's church may not be possible. The real issue for the church is not so much what we should do, but what we should be.

Two other contributions I found helpful were his reminder that leaders are always several steps ahead of their people in the change process and his description of force-field analysis as a means to deal with resistance. Overall, Rendle has compiled a useful tool kit for church leaders. *Jim Holladay*

The Ministry of Reconciliation: Spirituality and Strategies. Robert Schreiter. Orbis Books, 1998. 136 pages. \$16. ♦♦♦♦

This is Robert Schreiter's second book dealing with reconciliation. In it, he argues "reconciliation is more spirituality than a strategy ... [it] has to be a way of living ..."

Yet, it would be inaccurate to assume Schreiter's concept of reconciliation is purely subjective or strictly interpersonal. He believes the practice of reconciliation is vital, and applicable, not only in interpersonal relationships, but in intra- and international relations. For Schreiter, the building of a just and equitable society begins with reconciled people who take the lead.



Schreiter contends that only the victim can initiate the process of reconciliation. His reading of the Passion narratives is that Jesus is the victim of human sin. Out of his position as the wronged party, Jesus offers the grace and forgiveness of God that reconciles. In human relationships, God is the one who effects reconciliation, thus empowering people who have been wronged to take the initiative in restoring relationships.

The heart of Schreiter's presentation is a review of the post-resurrection appearance of Jesus. He sees these episodes as acts of reconciliation, or deeds through which the humanity of the people involved is restored.

I found Schreiter's discussion of reconciliation challenging and enriching. He does an excellent job of showing not only the effect of reconciliation on the divine-human relationship but on relationships between individ-

uals, as well as groups within society. I couldn't help but wonder how his model could help transform race relations, or perhaps even the schism in our own denomination. *Jim Holladay*

Hearing God in a Noisy World: Prayer as Listening. Timothy Owings. Peake Road, 1998. 119 pages. \$16. ♦♦♦♦

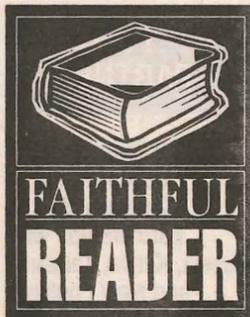
The first response most people would give if asked to define prayer is probably talking with God. Some would take the next step to say prayer is a conversation with God.

Owings contends that our thoughts about this conversation tend to concentrate on the human side. His book is a welcome corrective as he explores the ways in which we can listen to God's part of the conversation.

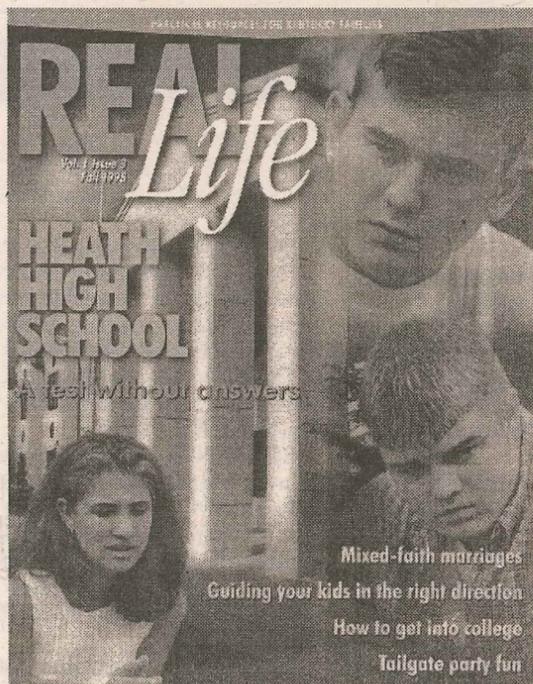
If prayer is a two-sided dialogue, how do we hear God's side in a world of noise? This book is Owings' answer.

Owings suggests that God speaks to the human heart through the interrelation of God's creation, the Bible, the people of God and the individual. God's side of the conversation might give us a yes, no, wait or silence. The conversation continues when we have to respond to the answer from God.

In the last chapter Owings challenges readers to allow the voice they hear to have an effect on the way they live. This work is not a how-to for prayer, but rather a consciousness raising experience that explores the ways God speaks and how we may respond. The book has a very personal feel as Owings speaks convincingly from his own spiritual struggle with polio. *Wayne Hager*



By Wayne Hager, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Mt. Airy, N.C., and Jim Holladay, pastor of Clifton Baptist Church in Louisville. Holladay and Hager welcome feedback or suggestions for book reviews. Contact them via e-mail at: docholladay@juno.com or jwhager@surry.net



The other side of the story

REAL LIFE visits Heath High School

The Fall issue of Real Life is ideal for use with youth groups, church outreach, direct mail, visitor handouts and more. Order the Fall issue today by calling 244-6470 in metro Louisville or (888) 254-5729 toll-free statewide. \$2.65 for individual copies. Annual subscription \$10.60. Discount given on bulk quantities.

Read the faith side of the story you've not heard

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Carol Smith, Dianne and Bobby Williford, and Kevin and Leslie Rutland as they study Russian.

■ D'Anna Beaty as she teaches English in public schools in Smolensk, Russia.

■ Follow-up to the ministry of eight mission teams from the South that worked in Portland, Maine, this summer.

■ A new mission planned for an area south of Portland, Maine, and Maine Baptist Association Director of Missions Mike Hoffman.

■ Leo Sayles, new associate pastor of worship and youth at First Baptist Church in Manchester, Conn.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Shirley Wooton

■ **ASHLAND**—Rose Hill Church will host a regional women's conference, Oct. 17, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. **Mamie McCullough** will conduct a seminar titled, "I'm not waving, I'm drowning." For details call (606) 329-2821. **Mike Routt** is pastor.

■ **BAGDAD**—Bagdad Church will host revival services Oct. 18-21 at 7 p.m. Pastor **Burney Manning** will be evangelist. **Dave Stahl** will be music evangelist.

■ **CORBIN**—Pastor **Ronnie Brasher** has resigned from West Corbin Church after 15 years. He has accepted a pastorate in South Carolina.

■ **COX'S CREEK**—Cox's Creek Church will host revival services Oct. 25-28. The speaker will be **Jim**

Craigmyle, pastor of Williamstown Church. **Craig Tackett**, new worship minister, will lead music. **Chuck Beighle** is pastor.

■ **EMLYN**—Pastor **Larry Day** has resigned from Cedar Gap Church.

■ **HEBBARDSVILLE**—**Joseph McKissick** has resigned as pastor of Bethel Church. He has accepted the pastorate of First Church of Riceville, Va.

■ **HEBRON**—Hebron Church recently ordained **John McVey** and **Scott Walton** as deacons. **Ryan Wagers** is pastor.

■ **HOPKINSVILLE**—Henderson Memorial Church called **Bill Clark Thomas** as interim pastor. Thomas, a Cadiz native, is a former International Mission Board missionary to Europe.

■ **KEVIL**—Pastor **Tom Hughes** resigned from Kevil First Church to accept the pastorate at Princeton First Church.

■ **LEDBETTER**—Pastor **Joey Donelson** has resigned from Ohio Valley Church.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Chevy Chase Church will begin a six-week class on "Master Your Money" Oct. 18, at 5:30 p.m. For information, call (606) 263-8011.

■ **LONDON**—Corinth Church honored **David and Sherry Slinkner** for 15 years of ministry in the music department. **Slinkner** is minister of music; **Mrs. Slinkner** is organist. **James Blaylock** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Franklin Street Church will celebrate its 130th anniversary Oct. 17, at 5 p.m. with a drop-in dessert. Special worship service Oct. 18 at 10:30 a.m. with a fellowship meal after. The church was planted by Walnut Street Church in 1868. For meal reservations, call (502) 584-3661. **Tony Hough** is interim pastor. St. Matthews Church elected **Leo**

George as church administrator. **Leslie Hollon** is pastor.

West Broadway Church continues Wonderful Wednesdays Revival Oct. 21 with **Brad Johnson**, pastor of Living Hope Church in Bowling Green and on Oct. 28, **Thurmond Coleman**, of Jeffersonton First Church. Services are at 7 p.m. **Skip Alexander** is pastor.

■ **LOVELACEVILLE**—Love-laceville Church celebrated its 157th anniversary Sept. 20. **David McCall** is pastor.

■ **PADUCAH**—**Tim Percy** resigned as pastor at Twelfth Street Church. **Denzel Dukes** is interim pastor. Also, the church ordained **Tim Adams** and **Billy Collins** as deacons.

■ **PARKSVILLE**—Parksville Church will host a revival Oct. 11-14. **Mike Caudill** will be evangelist. **Dale Niswonger** is interim pastor.

Lee Arnold was licensed to the gospel ministry by Parksville Church. He is available for supply. Call (606) 236-7881.

■ **PRINCETON**—Donaldson Church will celebrate its 175 anniversary with revival services Oct. 18-25,

7:30 p.m. Revival evangelists will be former pastors **Colin Lituri**, **Noble Cobb**, **Gary Cruse**, **H.G. Sullivan**, **W.E. Wyatt**, former interim pastor **J. Bill Jones**, and **Harold Greenfield**, director of missions for the Caldwell/Lyon Association. **Bill Mackey** will speak Oct. 18 in the morning worship service, followed by lunch and a celebration service at 1:30 p.m. **Alan McCutchen** is pastor.

■ **RINEYVILLE**—Rineyville Church ordained **Chuck Goodlet**, **Mike Lewis** and **Kevin Pyles** as deacons. **Donna Pearson** was called as director of children's and youth ministries. **Odis Weaver** is pastor.

■ **RUSSELL**—Russell First Church called **Kenneth Gowin** as pastor. Gowin was formerly at Black Creek Church in Mechanicsville, Va.

■ **WHITLEY CITY**—Whitley City First Church will host a lay revival Oct. 23-24, 6 p.m. and Oct. 25, 11 a.m. **Daryl Varble** is pastor.

■ **CORRECTION**: **Eddie Miller** resigned as pastor of Calvary Hill Church in Stanford. He is available for supply preaching and interim work. Call at (606) 376-9679.

Eastern Parkway celebrates 100th anniversary

LOUISVILLE—In 1965, when the current sanctuary was built for Eastern Parkway Baptist Church, a lighted steeple was added at the request of then-pastor, **Roy Puckett**, so the planes taking off and landing at the nearby airport could see the church.

Today the church hopes to be a beacon not only to pilots but to the entire community, said member **Doris Patterson**.

The church will celebrate its 100th anniversary Oct. 18. Former pastors **Paul Lee** and **Bill Green** will be guest speakers. Former minister of music, **Don Spencer** will present the music. A time capsule will be buried during the 10:15 a.m. service. A covered dish meal will follow the worship service.

Capital Campaigns

by

Dr. John R. Bisagno, Author and Founder
"How to be Your Own Fundraiser"

P.O. Box 79721

Houston, TX 77279-9721

For More Information:

Dr. John R. Bisagno
 (713) 688-9193
 bisagno@hfbc.org

Dr. Curt Dodd
 (719) 544-5000
 dodd@compuserve.com

Rev. Keith Newman
 (281) 897-0300
 Newman0300@aol.com

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Rapidly growing church seeks full-time minister of education. Excellent compensation package. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 9701 Blandville Road, West Paducah, KY 42086.

SEEKING: Ocean View Baptist Preschool, a ministry of Ocean View Baptist Church, seeks center director. Must be strong, growing Christian with a degree in early childhood education or related field, and have relevant experience. Salary and benefits commensurate with degree and experience. Send resumé to: OVBP Search Committee, 9513 Wells Parkway, Norfolk, VA 23503.

SEEKING: Pastor for small Southern Baptist country church. Parsonage provided. Respond promptly with resumé to: Blue Ball Baptist Church, 1482 Blue Ball Church Road, Elizabethtown, KY 42701.

SEEKING: Part-time youth minister in east Shelby County—20 minutes from Shelbyville or Frankfort. Please send resumé to: Youth Minister Resumé, 488 Cedarmore Road, Bagdad, KY 40003.

SEEKING: Part-time director of missions for Red River Association. Send resumé to: Ralph Lockard, HC 68 Box 263, West Liberty, KY 41472. Deadline for submitting is Oct. 31, 1998.

SEEKING: Cool Springs Baptist Church in Tate, Ga., is searching for a full-time minister of youth/education. Cool Springs is located along the I-575 corridor in beautiful north Georgia in an area that is fast becoming a bedroom community to north metro-Atlanta. We need a visionary, energetic self-starter to help us reach and disciple youth, and to help us strengthen all aspects of our education/discipleship ministries. Must be Sunday school/outreach oriented. Please send resumé with references to: Diana Brown, P.O. Box 22, Tate, GA 30107. Our fax is (770) 735-3805.

SEEKING: Part-time youth minister. Send resumé to: First Baptist Church, 118 West South St., Mayfield, KY 42066, Attn: Pastor.

SEEKING: Part-time youth minister. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Parkway Baptist Church, 1915 N. Broadway, Lexington, KY 40505.

SEEKING: Minister of family life to provide leadership in family ministry with a concentration toward families with preschool and grade-school children for Naperville Baptist Church, a growing congregation located in the western suburbs of Chicago. Strong management skills with two to three years ministry experience is required. Send resumé to: Family Life Search Committee, Naperville Baptist Church, 29W771 79th St., Naperville, IL 60564.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for a small, South-central Kentucky church. Please submit resumé to: Pulpit Committee, Welfare Baptist Church 476 West Cumberland Ave., Jamestown, KY 42629.

SEEKING: Full-time director of children's ministry to administer day-care program of the church and coordinate church's ministry to children and their families. Church encourages school teachers to consider God's leading into this opportunity of a career in Christian service. Address inquiries or resúmes to: Southwest Baptist Church, 6401 Scanlan, St. Louis, MO 63139, Attn: Search Committee.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music. Send resumé to: Salvisa Baptist Church, Kirkwood Road, Salvisa, KY 40330.

SEEKING: Bivocational pastor for rural Harrison County church. We have three services weekly with an average Sunday morning attendance of 65. Please submit resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, Pleasant Green Baptist Church, Route 6, Box 499, Cynthia, KY 41031.

SEEKING: Peaks Mill Baptist Church, Frankfort, Ky., prayerfully seeks a full-time pastor. Please submit two resúmes to: Deacon Roger Combs, 203 Creekside Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601, and Trustee John Griffin, 8209 Owenton Road, Frankfort, KY 40601.

SEEKING: Northside Baptist Church, Elizabethtown, Ky., is accepting resúmes for position of part-time minister of music and part-time minister of youth or full-time minister of youth/music. Church is located in a rapidly developing residential area. Please send resumé to: Search Committee, 1800 Pear Orchard Road, Elizabethtown, KY 42701.

He didn't expect slot machines to cost him everything

By Rob Marus
Missouri Word & Way

HORSESHOE BEND, Mo. (ABP)—As a Christian, a respectable businessman, a husband and a father, David Rinehart thought an occasional dalliance with the slot machines in the Kansas City casinos couldn't hurt.

He was wrong—nearly dead wrong.

Rinehart is a recovering gambling addict who now lives in Horseshoe Bend, Mo. While in Kansas City, he lost his family, his home and his livelihood in a little less than two years. They all spun away like those whirling symbols on the riverboat slots into which he poured his money.

He never would have expected it. "My wife and I both thought we were born again, and we both had been baptized," Rinehart said. He was a member of an independent Baptist church in Kansas City.

He had tried a little gambling before, on business trips to Las Vegas. No problem.

But in 1996, Rinehart visited a Kansas City casino, played one time and got hooked. "I lost \$250,000 in 1996," he said. "I siphoned all the money off my business. ... I lost my wife, my children."

Rinehart said he never played anything but \$5 slot machines. He didn't even know how to play poker or blackjack. Nevertheless, he estimates his total gambling losses at \$300,000 to \$400,000.

"I just got addicted. My bank ATM was on the way from my house to the casinos."

By March 1997, with his marriage in ruins and his assets down to \$1,800, Rinehart paid one last visit to a riverboat to see if his luck would change.

Psychologists: Family life contributes to gambling addiction

ST. LOUIS (BP)—Psychologists who study gambling's impact on the family warned against believing, as the gambling industry states, that compulsive gambling is tied to genetic factors. But family context does make a difference.

"Without doubt, the strongest contributing factor is the family," psychologist Valerie Lorenz told those attending the conference of the National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling and National Coalition Against Gambling Expansion in St. Louis.

Calling compulsive gambling "the most serious of all addictions," Lorenz said, "I don't know of any compulsive gambler who came from a stable family situation. About 65

percent of the fathers of compulsive gamblers have a history of alcoholism, and their mothers often have a history of depression in which they're not there for their children."

Psychologist Durand Jacobs of Redlands, Calif., said the numbers of juveniles in trouble because of gambling will increase in the late 1990s and early years of the new millennium unless conditions change.

Jacobs, whose studies were the first to describe the extent and nature of gambling among high-school-age youth and to document the special vulnerability of children whose parents gambled excessively, said the rates of problem gamblers among kids are two to four times greater than adults.

Studies show more than 30 percent of children had gambled for money before the age of 11, Jacobs said. "During the past year, more than 14 million juveniles have gambled, and 2 million have serious gambling-related problems."

Another psychologist, Dennis McNeilly, a Jesuit priest, said studies show 60 percent of Americans over 65 gamble as a social pastime. But a growing number of seniors, especially women, have gambling disorders, he added.

Marketing by the gambling industry is contributing to the problem, he said. One casino, for example, gave senior adults a Players Club Card, promising 50 percent off some prescription drugs.

It didn't happen.

"I stood there in the middle of Harrah's, and it hit me that it had to end that night," he said. He went home and sat in his study. He put a revolver to his head and considered pulling the trigger.

He decided he couldn't do it there. Finding his body would be too much trauma to his wife and children, who were upstairs.

Rinehart wrote what amounted to a suicide note to his wife, then he drove away to find a more suitable place to kill himself. He felt led to Lake of the Ozarks in southern Missouri, where he had spent happier times with his family.

"I stopped in Osage Beach and bought a Bible," Rinehart said. He then drove to a cabin he and his oldest son had used on fishing trips. "I

sat down in the cabin, put the gun in my left hand and the Bible in my right and said, 'Show me which to choose; here I am.'"

The Bible won out. Rinehart said he had an intense experience of repentance and reconciliation with God, and he hasn't gambled since. He never received professional counseling for his addiction, and he attributes his healing entirely to God's power.

Regardless, he suffered major consequences. His wife divorced him. His business was ruined. And now he gets to see his three children only on weekends.

Embarrassed by his failures, he moved to the Lake of the Ozarks area to build a new life. "I was ashamed of this, and I hid from it," he said. "I didn't want anybody to know I was a gambler and have to admit that I was

stupid and weak."

But now he wants to warn others who think they're immune from the dangers of gambling. "I wasn't living a fast, loose life," he said. "I was just a guy trying to provide for my family. My mistake was, I went to the boats."

Rinehart now runs a successful home-audio business in his new hometown, and he is active in a non-denominational church.

Rinehart voluntarily bears a personal scarlet letter to remind him how much his mistake cost. He carries around an envelope containing hundreds of the "boarding passes" he used to enter riverboat casinos.

"I carry this envelope around because in this envelope is my family, my life and my business," he explained. "You couldn't get me to flip a coin to see who goes first now."

Voters split on gambling

ST. LOUIS (ABP)—Kentucky's neighbors to the west might not be as interested in gambling as originally believed.

A recent poll suggests likely Missouri voters are evenly divided on the question of whether gambling in man-made waterways adjacent to the Mississippi and Missouri rivers should be made legal.

The poll found 46.7 percent of respondents opposed the question: "Should the Missouri Constitution be amended to allow casino gambling in basins within 1,000 feet of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers—the so-called 'boats in moats'?"

The poll found that 42.5 percent of respondents answered "yes" to the question. Another 10.8 percent were unsure. The margin of error was plus-or-minus 4 percent, thus making the results a virtual tie.

Female pastor would rather walk through church doors than kick them in

By Ashlee Ross
Associated Baptist Press

WACO, Texas (ABP)—Julie Pennington-Russell is in the business of opening doors. She's also good at picking the right ones to walk through.

Not only was she the first person in her family to go to seminary, she also is one of the few women anywhere to be hired as a senior pastor at two Southern Baptist churches.

A pastor in California since 1993, the 37-year-old Florida native recently moved to Waco, Texas, to become pastor of Calvary Baptist Church.

"My call to ministry happened really by degrees," Pennington-Russell said. "For me, it was a series of doors opening one by one. I would walk through a door never knowing if another door was going to open but just sensing that this was the right door God wanted me to walk through."

Pennington-Russell grew up in Orlando, Fla., before moving to San Francisco to attend Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary. There she encountered for the first time women who said they felt called to the pastorate.

"My first semester I would get up every

morning very, very early, walk down the hall of my dormitory to the prayer room and pray for all of those poor, misguided women who thought that God was calling them to be pastors," she said. "I just thought, 'He will convict them eventually.'"

But Pennington-Russell said she soon sensed that she, too, was called to be a pastor.

"Because of some very wonderful professors in seminary and having the opportunity to study the Bible in some new ways, deeper ways than I ever had in Sunday school, I began to read the Scriptures for myself," she said. "It didn't seem to me that God was prohibiting women from serving in that way as pastors. Once I felt free in myself to be open to that notion, then I was able to see doors as they would open up in that direction."

In 1984, she became associate pastor at Nineteenth Avenue Baptist Church in San Francisco. She was hired as the church's pastor in 1993.

This summer, members at Calvary Baptist Church in Waco voted 190-73 to hire her as their senior pastor. She was not only the first woman to serve the congregation in that role but is thought to

be the first woman to become senior pastor of a Baptist church anywhere in Texas.

Linda Livingstone, associate dean for the Hankamer School of Business at Baylor University, was a member of the pastor-search committee at Calvary. She said Pennington-Russell was the only female candidate out of 120 names and resumes considered.

Livingstone said the search committee didn't set out to hire a woman but also didn't "want to close the doors on anywhere God might be."

"Let's be open to what God is doing," the committee reasoned, she said. "We felt such a clear sense that God was calling Julie."

The 11-member committee voted unanimously to recommend that the church hire Pennington-Russell as pastor.

"I think there were a lot of signs along the way that God was really in this because Calvary is not the church that many people would have expected to be the first to call a woman pastor," she said. "And I think it surprised Calvary. I think it surprised even the pastor-search committee along the way, but when God is in it, it's hard to deny."

Barry Harvey, a religion lecturer at Baylor, said he was surprised the search committee brought a woman's name forward. But after meeting Pennington-Russell and hearing her preach, "it was just really obvious that this wasn't just a woman pastor but an excellent pastor who was a woman," Harvey said.

On her first Sunday at Calvary, Pennington-Russell was greeted by protesters challenging her appointment as senior pastor.

"For me, the picketers were not a big deal at all," she said. "I'm coming from San Francisco, where people demonstrate over everything. If their coffee's not hot enough, they're demonstrating. I told somebody that I thought someone had staged a picket just to make me feel at home. That didn't bother me."

What does bother Pennington-Russell are attempts to undermine her call and question her direction.

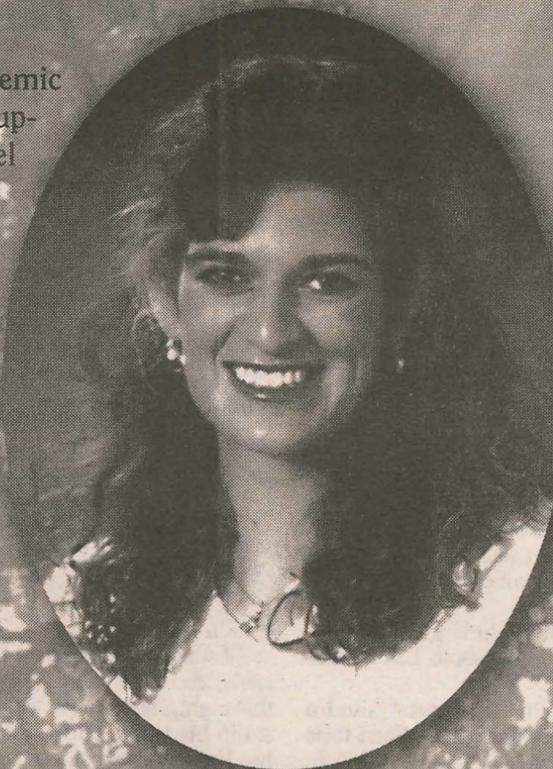
"It bothers me most when people will assume that I have not been listening to God, that I am disobeying God by doing what I'm doing," she said. "When I encounter people who pretty arrogantly assume that they know what God is wanting for my life, that bothers me."

Our Students Tell Our Stories

Campbellsville University, Cumberland College and Georgetown College

"Georgetown College is committed to providing a well-rounded academic experience, both in and out of the classroom. The faculty and staff offer a very supportive environment and an abundance of opportunities for each student. I feel confident and well-prepared as I look into the future, and I attribute much of that to my decision to attend Georgetown College."

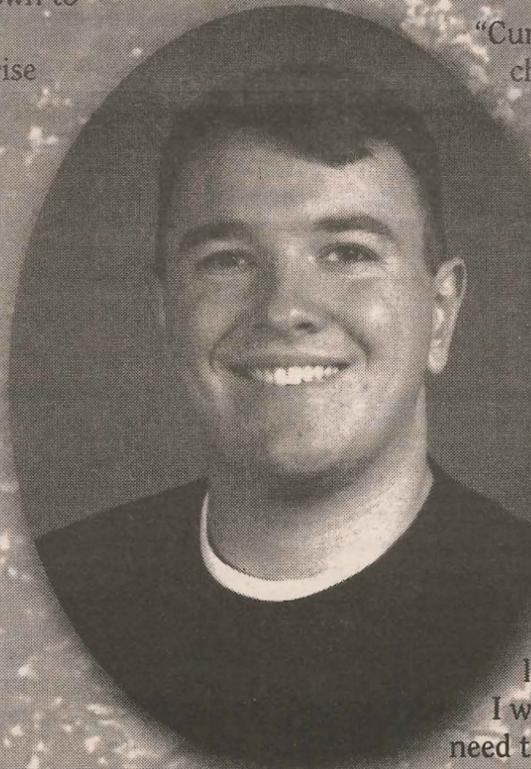
Jackie Gist, Senior
Business Adm./Ethics &
Media Studies Major



"Campbellsville University has offered me an environment to grow intellectually, socially and spiritually. From nationally acclaimed athletic programs to challenging academics, this beautiful Southern Baptist campus is one I have grown to call home.

Following the wise footsteps of my great-grandparents, grandparents and mother, I am certainly proud that I will one day be a fourth generation alumnus of this leading educational institution. Campbellsville offers a Christian education and atmosphere like no other and is constantly evolving to present the most current facilities and opportunities to its faculty, staff, and students. It has proven to be more loving and giving each new day, and I thank God for Campbellsville University."

Kelli Ann Corbin, Sophomore
Biology Major



"Cumberland College has changed my life. When I first arrived at Cumberland, I wasn't living for Christ, although I was a Christian. Through the influence of other students I became more spiritual, more focused and my professors have helped me to grow in my spirituality and have even shown a personal interest in my growth. Cumberland College has nurtured not only my intellect, but also my spirit. I know that when I leave here

I will take with me the skills I need to face the challenges of a continually advancing society."

Travis Masters, Senior
Business Administration & Political Science Major

These students' words could be multiplied over and over again in the lives of other students at Kentucky Baptists' three liberal arts colleges. Campbellsville, Cumberland and Georgetown believe that every qualified student should have the opportunity to experience our tradition of academic excellence and Christian values. That's why we've embarked on PARTNERSHIP 2000, a three-year effort primarily aimed at providing students scholarships, grants and other forms of financial aid.

Campbellsville
Cumberland
Georgetown **PARTNERSHIP**
2000 Unified in Purpose and Promise

2000 Embassy Square Boulevard, Suite 2050
Louisville, KY 40299
(502) 491-2012