



WESTERN RECORDER

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Cosby: Don't give up on God

By Suzanne Darland
State Correspondent

LOUISVILLE—Christians must not give up on God just because God doesn't always answer on someone's schedule, Kevin Cosby said during the annual sermon for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Oct. 10.

Cosby, pastor of St. Stephen Baptist Church in Louisville, brought the crowd to its feet with a message that explored the mysteries of why bad things happen



Cosby

to people and how God responds to prayer and suffering.

"You ask and there's no answer, seek and don't find, knock and the door seems to be padlocked and bolted and no one seems to be there," Cosby said. "When God doesn't come, what do you do?"

Amid applause and exhortations of "Preach on" and "Amen," Cosby told the group, "Don't give up on God if he doesn't show up when you think he should show up."

Cosby, an African-American pastor noted for innovative programs to mentor young men, began his sermon by saying he was proud to be Southern Baptist.

"When you go to Baskin Robbins, you see, they don't have just vanilla ice cream," he said. "I'm glad there can be diversity in the church and in the body of our

□ See Cosby: ..., page 7

Layman Barnes elected KBC president

By David Winfrey
News Director

LOUISVILLE—Newly elected Kentucky Baptist Convention President Charles Barnes said he isn't looking to push his own agenda during the upcoming year.

Rather, he said, he wants to spend the next 12 months supporting the vision and work of Executive Secretary-Treasurer Bill Mackey.

"We can't have two leaders," Barnes said shortly after the close of the 161st annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. "He is the leader."

Barnes became the first layperson in 23 years to be elected KBC president at a quiet meeting in Louisville's downtown Galt House East hotel.

Barnes said he hopes his election sends a message to both pastors and laypeople.

"I would hope that my election would signal the fact that laypersons should and can play an important role within our church and denomination in terms of its leadership," he said. "We need the same kind of commitment in the pew as we need in the pulpit."

Eldred Taylor, former president of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, nominated Barnes, calling him "a product of our Baptist family."

Barnes is a graduate of Oneida Baptist Institute and Cumberland Junior College before it achieved four-year status. He retired as executive vice president of National City Bank in Louisville.

He currently serves as interim executive director for Long Run Baptist Association in Louisville, chairman of the financial board for Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, a trustee for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation and an honorary trustee at Cumberland College.

"That and the local church keeps



NEW PRESIDENT Outgoing KBC President Gayle Toole (left), hands the gavel to new President Charles Barnes. Terry Freeman, newly elected second vice president, looks on.

me busy," said Barnes, 62, a member of Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville.

Barnes won an election that featured four candidates and required a runoff because no one received a majority of votes. He received 328 votes in the election's first round.

Steve Hadden, pastor of Crestwood Baptist Church, was the other candidate to make the runoff with 310 votes in the first round. He was nominated by Robert Baker, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Lexington.

Rodney Burnette, pastor of Ninth and O Baptist Church in Louisville, received 195 votes. He was nominated by Phil Ellis, pastor of Kenwood Baptist Church in Louisville.

T.A. Prickett, pastor of Seven Hills Baptist Church in Owensboro, received 160 votes. He was nominated by Jerry Oakley, director of missions at Warren Baptist Association in Bowling Green.

In the runoff, Barnes received 422 votes compared to 376 for Hadden.

Hadden had the support of the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship, a group of churches opposed to the leadership of the Southern Baptist Convention.

In the race for first vice president, Mark Hopper, pastor of First Baptist Church of Bowling Green, was elected over Michael Stacey, pastor of Dripping Spring Baptist Church in Olmstead. Hopper, who was nominated by Jim Holladay and had the support of the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship, received 489 votes. Stacey received 340 votes.

In the race for second vice president, messengers elected Terry Freeman, pastor of Grace Baptist Church, over Paul Badgett, pastor of Oakland Avenue Baptist Church in Cynthiana. Freeman, who was supported by the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship, received 476 votes compared to Badgett's 325 votes.

KBC Secretary Wilma Simmons and Assistant Secretary Joe Priest Williams were re-elected without opposition.

Catholic priest finds fellowship as liaison to Southern Baptists

By Bob Allen
Associated Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE (ABP)—Growing up as a Catholic in northern Wisconsin before the Roman Catholic Church's Vatican II document, understanding Protestants was easy for Frank Ruff. He was right, and they were wrong.

After becoming a priest, however, Ruff moved to Georgia to plant a church in the heart of the Bible Belt. In the first six months—in a county with 30 Southern Baptist churches—he found a grand total of seven Catholics, two of whom were immigrants who could not speak English.

Now in the minority, "I thought, maybe I should learn something about Baptists," Ruff, who now is Catholic liaison to the Southern Baptist Convention, told a small-group gathering at the Nov. 4-7 Reconciliation NOW (Networks of Our World) conference in Louisville.

Ruff began his study of Baptists in the library of Truett-McConnell College, a nearby school affiliated with the Georgia Baptist Convention. "I'm really glad I went to a Baptist college to learn about Baptist life from a Baptist perspective," he said, instead of relying on portrayals of the faith written from a Catholic perspective.

As he continued to study Baptists, he was asked to speak on the subject. One invitation brought him to the Baptist Student Union at Furman University, a Baptist school in Greenville, S.C. After time ran out at the lecture hall, the group moved to the library to continue the conversation. When the library closed, Ruff moved to a male dormitory where he was staying, and continued to talk with students for most of the night.

"It was a conversion for me," Ruff said. "I found family that I never knew existed." Before the experience, Ruff said, he had felt alone in White County, Ga.

Afterward, he discovered that had

he seen things differently, he would have recognized he was near many brothers and sisters in Christ in other denominations.

"What came with that conversion was joy," Ruff said. "The joy of discovering family."

That revelation meant change. "Once you know you've got family, you can't act anymore as if you don't," Ruff said. "You've got to communicate with the rest of the family."

One way Ruff sought to interact with Baptists was to attend worship at their churches. "I'm confident that the time I spend in Baptist churches is more effective than any amount of time I spend talking to people" in interfaith dialogue, he said.

Worshipping together, he said, "takes away fear and prejudices and it builds trust" across denominational lines.

"We need to acknowledge we've got a lot of fear of each other," he said, adding that Baptists and Catholics have "a long, long history of isolation

and separation."

Official dialogue between Southern Baptists and Catholics has been going on since 1978, Ruff said. While there has been some meaningful work, "it hasn't been publicized," except in academic journals, he said.

"I think we have to move beyond dialogue," Ruff said. "If we want to let God do the work of reconciliation between Baptists and Catholics, we're going to have to pray for that a lot more."

Ruff said he shared that concern with an employee of Southern Baptists' Woman's Missionary Union auxiliary who reported that WMU leaders will discuss the issue in a future planning session.

Southern Baptists and Catholics have "hurt each other," Ruff said. There is a "backlog of forgiveness" that must take place, he said.

"Maybe we can even learn to love one another as family members," he said. "And I think the Lord would be pleased by that."

Moving? See page 4 (1117)

BAPTISTS

BAPTIST BITS

W.D. "Doc" Lindsey was elected unanimously to be executive director/missions director for the Dakota Southern Baptist Fellowship by its executive board Oct. 3. He began work Nov. 1. Lindsey, 55, has been state missions/evangelism director for the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention since 1994. He is a career home missionary, having served in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan and California, as well as pastor of several churches in Illinois.

Patsy Davis, a former Southern Baptist missionary to Venezuela, became director of Baptist World Alliance's women's department last month.

International Mission Board may step up disaster relief

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)— Trustees of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board are expected this week to consider a proposal to greatly increase relief funding for Central America after the horrific destruction caused by Hurricane Mitch.

Trustee Chairman Bill Sutton of McAllen, Texas, said he will ask trustees to set aside "a major amount of money" from board reserves to facilitate emergency response to the October disaster.

The storm killed at least 11,000 people, forced about 3 million from their homes and devastated agriculture and business in the region.

The board is scheduled to meet Nov. 16-18 in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

A short supply of funds has hindered Southern Baptist response, according to the director of the agency's human needs program.

As of Nov. 12, the board's disaster relief fund was down to \$21,773.54 — woefully inadequate to the challenges ahead.

In addition to Central America, missionaries also are engaged in major disaster relief efforts in Bangladesh and the Caribbean.

"Right now we are confining our response to emergency, life-threatening situations," said John Cheyne, interim director of the IMB human needs department. "We have had to say to our missionaries, 'Give us



MITCH AFTERMATH Guatemalan men and women wait for food aid in the village of Madre Vieja Nov. 7. Hurricane Mitch has left at least 11,000 people dead and hundreds of thousands homeless throughout Central America. (Reuters photo)

\$5,000 of your life-threatening problems, and we can go ahead and try to deal with that."

Part of the problem comes from the fact that Southern Baptists have given generously for hunger relief, but gifts designated for world hunger cannot be used for disaster relief, Cheyne said.

"We desperately need funds designated for general relief," he said.

"So many people in Nicaragua and Honduras have lost homes and businesses that it's just beyond description. We can't use hunger funds for development and rehabilitation programs like that. The general relief funds are going to be very, very important in the months ahead."

The International Mission Board might have the best network for distributing emergency aid in Honduras,

he added.

"Other groups are coming down there with massive loads of material but really have no way for proper widespread distribution," Cheyne said.

"We have a tremendous network set up," he added. "Our missionaries are working with Honduran Baptist pastors, and 61 churches have been set up as feeding stations. We have warehousing facilities and transportation from the airport out to the feeding stations."

A cargo plane loaded with food relief purchased with \$178,000 of Southern Baptist hunger funds is scheduled to leave this week for Honduras.

That will meet emergency requests filed by missionaries for projects that will feed 6,000 people for one week. Another \$35,000 was released for food aid in Nicaragua.

Contributions to the General Relief Fund may be sent to: Office of Finance, International Mission Board, P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230.

In Louisville, Ninth & O Church Baptist Church is collecting clothes, cleaning supplies and blankets for Nicaraguan and Honduras flood victims.

Items can be dropped at a trailer at 401 Breckenridge Lane. For information, call (502) 493-3939.

Tanzania missionary found guilty for wreck in Kenya

By Mark Kelly
SBC International Mission Board

NAIROBI, Kenya (BP)—A Kenya judge recently found a Southern Baptist missionary guilty of charges stemming from a 1995 accident in Nairobi in which a pedestrian was killed after she darted in front of the missionary's car.

Terry Bell, who now works in Tanzania, was convicted on Oct. 8 despite the fact no evidence was presented that he had broken any law.

A civil suit brought by the 16-year-old girl's parents against Bell's insurance company now can proceed because of the verdict.

The judge's decision came after multiple delays that dragged the case out for 17 months. Bell first received a summons in June 1997—two years after the accident. The judge granted several delays because prosecution witnesses or lawyers failed to appear in court.

The judge ruled Bell was guilty of "causing death by dangerous driving" and "failing to stop after an accident." She fined Bell the equivalent of \$540 and banned him from driving in Kenya for three years.

Bell and his wife, Twylia, serve as International Mission Board missionaries working in agricultural development in Shinyanga, Tanzania.

"We were all very surprised about the verdict," Bell said. "Throughout the whole process the prosecution never was able to prove that I had done anything wrong. All of their witnesses were either contradictory in their testimony or could not state a single fact to point out that I had done anything wrong."

Bell admitted he left the scene of the accident. Missionaries in some countries are

told to go straight to a police station after an accident to avoid vigilante violence at the hands of the crowd that invariably gathers.

"Our lawyer said he himself would never stay at the scene of an accident because of the possibility of vigilante violence," Bell said. "He said what we did was fully within the limits of the law as he understands it and that he could not understand why the judge came to these conclusions."

Bell said he was tempted to ask God why he allowed such a verdict, which could have included a 10-year prison sentence.

"But we must remember that his ways are not our ways," Bell said. "He has answered the prayers of every person who interceded for us. The outcome could have been much worse."

Bell could seek an appeal of the decision, but he said his family would seek God's guidance about it first.

"I think we would be happy that the matter be put to rest right now," he said.

Bell added that the prayers of fellow Christians meant a lot to the family.

"We want to express our deepest gratitude and thanks to every prayer warrior who had any part in praying," Bell said. "We have been constantly amazed, and even more humbled, by the constant influx of letters and e-mail from people all over the U.S. and even from other countries who tell us of their concern and intercession to the Father on our behalf."

Bell said he wants those who prayed for him to turn their attention to the people groups of the world that need to hear about God's love.

"There is a great prayer support force that needs to be utilized to intercede for people who have a greater need than we ever had during this trial," Bell said.

Texas Baptists hold meetings as two distinct state conventions

HOUSTON—Texas Baptists met as two distinct groups for the first time at their annual meetings, confirming the splintering of the convention which began last year.

Messengers to the Baptist General convention of Texas re-elected officers and passed a record \$49.7 million budget.

Meanwhile, those attending the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention met for the first time since the group voted to split and form an organization that would be more closely identified with the national Southern Baptist Convention.

"I am a Southern Baptist first and a Texas Baptist second," said Ronnie Yarber, administrative director for Southern Baptists of Texas.

Yarber and others claimed the more-established Baptist General Convention of Texas is setting up a new independent denomination in Texas, a charge that BGCT leaders deny.

BGCT President Russell Dilday, shortly after his re-election, stressed the independent, autonomous nature of BGCT and all other Baptist bodies.

"I think there will always be cooperation in the future," Dilday said. "It may change in nature and extent, but it will always be there and we will continue to participate in programs the messengers of the BGCT feel they can still support."

But Southern Baptists of Texas have no difficulty supporting the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Anyone is our friend if they are friends of the current leadership of the Southern Baptist Convention," said

Jim Richards, who was called at the meeting to be the group's first executive director. Richards was a former director of missions in Arkansas.

Half of the group's \$903,500 budget is pledged to go to Southern Baptist national ministries and agencies.

Meanwhile, BGCT messengers approved a resolution titled "biblical equality." It comes after an amendment to the Southern Baptist Convention's "Baptist Faith and Message" statement. The amendment drew national attention for calling on "a wife to submit graciously to the servant leadership of her husband."

The resolution states, "Male and female alike are created in the image of God and God gave both the responsibilities of caring for their children and being stewards over all creation."

Both sides mentioned the other group while sounding both cordial and firm.

"Let us all examine our hearts and our motives and leave behind any bitterness or animosity toward our brothers with whom we disagree," said Miles Seaborn, a leader of the new convention.

BGCT leaders held a moment of silent prayer for Southern Baptists of Texas.

Southern Baptists of Texas elected as its officers: President Stan Coffey, pastor of San Jacinto Baptist Church in Amarillo; First Vice President Casey Perry, pastor of First Baptist Church of Malakoff; and Second Vice President David Fannin, pastor of Nassau Bay Baptist Church in Houston.

Compiled from Baptist Press reports

KENTUCKY

Campbellsville University establishes school of theology

CAMPBELLSVILLE—The Campbellsville University Board of Trustees unanimously approved establishing a school of theology at its October board meeting.

The school would be the first of its kind among the three Kentucky Baptist liberal arts colleges, announced Campbellsville University President Ken Winters.

The board, in executive session, voted and approved the school of theology at its Oct. 27 meeting, Winters said through a press release dated Nov. 12.

The thrust of the school will be to provide those seeking to enter the ministry, as well as education, with a broad-based approach to church and social ministries, he stated.

The school will oversee the university's current undergraduate program as well as the new master of

arts in Christian studies, which was approved last spring, and future graduate initiatives.

"The establishment of the school of theology at Campbellsville will enable this Christian university to reach out to our church and educational constituencies in an even greater way," Winters said. "We wish to position the university and this new school as true resources for churches across the state and region."

Campbellsville is not identifying the school with any particular interest within the Southern Baptist Convention, Winters added. "It is our contention that there is a solid group of men and women who feel God's call for them to enter the ministry and who wish to do their undergraduate and graduate experience on a Christian university campus."

The School of Theology at Campbellsville University follows the reorganization of the university's academic structure this past July. This new structure is a direct result of Campbellsville assuming university status two years ago, said Winters.

On July 1, Campbellsville altered its structure from departments to schools.

University spokesman Marc Whitt said the theology school will seek accreditation from the Association of Theological Schools. "We should be announcing a dean for the school within the next week or so."

Whitt said the school is not designed to compete with theological seminaries, but to offer the best graduate and undergraduate courses it can from a Baptist university perspective. "We're not looking at becoming a seminary."

Al Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, said he didn't consider the new school to compete with Southern.

"Indeed, I would not expect any new theology program in Kentucky to be competitive with Southern Seminary," he said. "Our students know who we are, where we stand and what Southern Seminary represents as the flagship institution of the Southern Baptist Convention."

In addition to the new master of arts in Christian studies, the school of theology offers undergraduates the option of seeking a major, minor or area study in Christian studies, religious education, Christian social ministries and Christian ministries.

The school also is planning other graduate degrees as they will relate to the university's other schools, Whitt said.

KBC Executive Board OKs restructuring, logo, mission statement

LOUISVILLE—The Kentucky Baptist Convention's Executive Board approved a staff reorganization as well as new logo and vision statement during its Nov. 9 meeting.

The staff will be organized into six teams of work instead of the former four divisions and executive office.

The new structure, vision statement and logo were all adopted during the meeting on the eve of the KBC annual meeting.

More than a change in terms, the shift from divisions to teams is intended to increase staff flexibility to work on projects and to better serve churches, according to KBC executive secretary-treasurer Bill Mackey.

"The idea is to see that we're all in this together and each person's work is every person's work," he said.

The structure is similar to one Mackey saw implemented while he was evangelism head for the South Carolina Baptist Convention, before moving to Kentucky.

He said that structure improved the state staff's response to affiliated

churches and he hopes that occurs in Kentucky as well.

"We're here to serve the churches so that they can better serve and reach their communities," he said.

Mackey said the teams and positions affiliated with them came from the listening sessions he conducted with churches throughout the commonwealth.

As many as five new positions could be added to the staff. They are:

■ **Leadership development director.** Mackey said he wants someone for this vacant position to help train and strengthen leaders in churches and at the KBC executive board staff.

This person would work with pastors and lay leaders as well as coordinate the "Shepherding the Shepherd" conference to encourage pastors and their spouses, Mackey said.

"I would see this person developing an intensive leadership development seminar that would go beyond just information and would impact leadership behavior," he said.

■ **New work consultant.** Mackey

said he hopes the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board will fund this as a full-time position to develop strategies to start new churches throughout Kentucky.

■ **Sunday school associate for young adults.** This currently unfunded position would help churches reach and retain young adults ages 18-34, Mackey said.

■ **Youth evangelism director.** Mackey said studies show 85 percent of people who make professions of faith in Jesus do so before age 18. "We should have major strategies to reach this group and disciple them," he said.

■ **Communications associate.** Mackey said he wants to expand visual reporting of missions work in order to better promote and "put a face on missions." Larry Brannin, who previously worked part time for the communications department, recently was hired to fill this position.

Mackey said he hopes the new structure shows Kentucky Baptists that the Executive Board staff is available to serve them. That message also



is seen in the new mission statement, he added.

That statement is: "As a servant team, empowered by Jesus Christ, we work with Kentucky Baptists in fulfilling their God-given purpose."

The new logo for the state convention features four elements: a globe, whose outline includes a cross, an outline of the state and an image of a kneeling servant.

The logo symbolizes a strong emphasis on missions, Mackey later said while unveiling it to messengers at the annual meeting. "All we do must contribute toward missions," he said. Kentucky is the first place of service, he noted, but the globe shows that the work extends around the world.

New KBC Executive Board staff: Teams, not divisions

Leadership Development Team	Church Growth Team	Missions Growth Team	Evangelism Growth Team	Business Services Team	Executive Office Team
Leader: Guy Futral (Minister/Church Relations)	Leader: Vernon Cole Church Leadership Specialist: Chip Miller	Leader: Larry Martin	Leader: vacant Associate: Shelly Hill	Leader & Manager: Lowell Ashby	Executive Associate: Jim Hawkins
Leadership Development Director: vacant	Sunday School Director: Darryl Wilson Associate, Preschool/Children: Wendy Dever	Cooperative Ministries: Lincoln Bingham	Student Director: vacant Associate & Director of Student Missions: Ralph Hopkins	Administrative Services Director & Assistant Business Manager: Jim Donnell	Communications Director: Robert Reeves
Annuity Director: Don Spencer	Future Priority—Sunday School Associate for Young Adults	Town & Country Missions Director: Randy Jones Mountain Missions Director: David Aker	Associate: Tom Smoot 12 Campus Ministers	Accounting Services Director: Cathi Roy-Sanders Senior Accountant: Tamara Murphy	Associate, Media Production: Larry Brannin
Family Ministries Director: vacant	Discipleship/Stewardship Director: Doug Strader Associate, Discipleship: Jim Clontz	Metropolitan Missions Director: Tony Hough New Work Consultant: vacant	Youth Director: vacant	Support Services Director: B.J. Watts	Archives Cheryl Doty
	Church Music Director: Jim Cordell	Brotherhood Director: Randy Foster Associate, Disaster Relief: Larry Koch Associate, Missions Education: Mike Markham		Information Services Director: Troy Fulkerson Systems Specialist: Rick Pryor	
		Partnership Missions Director: Calvin Wilkins Consultant: Ken Murphy			

Note: Bold indicates new position

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

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Jefferson, sin & getting caught

"Beware, your sins will find you out" was a warning repeated by my youth minister to his flock of rowdy teenagers in the hope of scaring us into good behavior.

As a firm believer in an omnipotent God, he only hinted at how God might catch us in our iniquities.

But not even he would have imagined that someone might get caught nearly 200 years later by a new technology and a revived interest in the personal lives of presidents.

Poor Thomas Jefferson.

We have to assume he's faced his maker and dealt with the divine implications of his earthly transgressions. But the lurid interest of the contemporary public isn't willing to let it go. And what makes this a story is not the historical implications but the current ones.

The American public seems fascinated with sinners—especially famous ones. And we seem especially interested in finding out everything we can about the sin itself.

This reminds me of the man who once came to our church when I was a child to tell us of how he had been saved from a life of sin. He spoke of gambling and making a fortune, of dating models and famous women, of living a life of luxury in Las Vegas. Then he repented and became an evangelist.

I don't think I was the only person in the audience who thought his life of sin sounded a whole lot more interesting than his current gig. And it also occurred to me that deciding to become a Christian as a child might not be the best idea. After all, I hadn't had much experience with sin and might be a better Christian if I first dabbled a little in this exciting

other life before "settling down" and becoming boring.

Obviously, I had missed the point. But that's easy to do when sin is made into something it's not and sinners are seen as people who need to be judged and punished by their earthly comrades.

Bad people sin. So do good people. People who believe in God sin.

COMMENTARY



Dale Hanson Bourke

People who don't believe in God sin. The fact is, we are all sinners but only some of us get caught.

And one of the mistakes of the church is elevating the "getting caught" part to a higher level than it should occupy. Because according to the Bible, a sin still counts whether anyone knows about it or not.

Sin, according to the Bible, separates us from

God. To those who really understand the meaning of it, that is a scary proposition. But it seems that many people—like my youth minister—think it is their job to make sin more immediately frightening.

So they tell stories like the oft-repeated one of my youth about the man who skipped church on a beautiful summer morning to go water skiing and then drowned. Or the couple who failed to tithe money to the church and went bankrupt.

Perhaps these were true stories, perhaps they were allegory. The fact is, they didn't do much to help my image of God or understanding of sin. Could I really put my trust in a God so petty that he would zap a water-skier for skipping church?

I happen to think God is a whole lot bigger than that, so big in fact, that we can't even imagine how our sin must affect him or hurt us. Getting caught is the least of our worries.

What has happened to Thomas Jefferson could happen to any of us. Who knows what the technology of the future might offer to uncover our deepest, darkest secrets?

But what difference does it really make?

Sin is a problem between us and God. Sure, sin usually affects others, but sin is sin because of our relationship to God. If you don't believe in God you probably don't believe in sin. You just think people act mean or selfish.

But if you do believe in God, then it's worth believing in a God big enough to make sin more than an occasion for a divine swat.

My current minister is a man who believes in a God that big. Recently he preached his annual sermon on giving and he started it out this way: "God doesn't need your money."

I was thinking how great it was to have a minister like him, when he gave us the punch line: "God wants your life."

Instead of dumping my wallet he had asked me to turn myself inside out. It would have been much easier to think of God holding out his palm than holding out open arms.

It is also easier to think of God with his hand held up ready to strike. But I think that is a very human view of God. I think God has his arms stretched out whether we are sinning or not; it's just that when we sin we have a hard time moving in for a divine hug.

I hope Thomas Jefferson got his divine hug and made peace with God. Now I think the rest of us should leave him alone.

As for the rest of us sinners, it seems to me that it is time for us all to spend a little more time listening to God than looking at each other.

Dale Hanson Bourke is publisher of Religion News Service

CHARITY

Here are rules on deductions for charity gifts

By Laurie Valentine

Here is a quick review of the rules regarding the deductibility of gifts made to charity.



First, to be deductible, the transfer must be a gift. At a minimum,

the IRS requires that what you give have a value that exceeds any benefit you receive in return. If you receive some thing or benefit when you make your gift to charity, your deduction is limited to the difference between the value of what you gave and the value of what you received.

If you receive or expect to receive a bargained-for benefit, you are not entitled to a charitable income-tax deduction, no matter how the transaction is styled.

Gifts must be completed by Dec. 31 to be deductible in that tax year.

Cash gifts are completed if the check is dated Dec. 31 or earlier and delivered to the charity or placed in the mail with appropriate postage. Gifts of stocks or bonds are completed when properly endorsed stock or bond certificates are delivered to the charity or when the security is retitled on the books of the issuing company, whichever occurs first. Real estate gifts are completed when a properly executed deed is delivered to the charity, even if the deed has not yet been recorded in the public records.

There also are percentage limitations on the amount that you can deduct in a single year.

The maximum allowable deduction—50 percent of your adjusted gross income—is available for cash gifts and gifts of ordinary income property made to "public charities" such as your church, other religious organizations, schools and hospitals.

If you make a gift of appreciated assets to a public charity, the amount deductible is limited to 30 percent of your adjusted gross income.

If the amount of your charitable gifts in one tax year exceeds the 50 percent or 30 percent limits, you are permitted to carry the unused portion of the deduction forward and use it during the next five tax years.

No deduction is permitted for a contribution of services to a charity. Giving a charity free use of your property also is not deductible.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children

By his words and actions, Jesus demonstrated that children have great value. "But Jesus said, 'Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven'" (Matthew 19:14).

Jesus stated that child-like trust is the basis for entering the kingdom: "Verily I say unto you, whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein" (Mark 10:15).

Churches of the Kentucky Baptist Convention have been responding to the needs of children for nearly 130 years now. Beginning as the Louisville Baptist Orphans' Home in 1869, Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children has grown to become a multifaceted agency that meets the needs of children and families all across the commonwealth.

Many Baptists are familiar with KBHC's two oldest and largest facilities. Spring Meadows Children's Home is located in Middletown,

while Glen Dale Children's Home is located in Glendale, just south of Elizabethtown.

KBHC ministries can be found all over the commonwealth of Kentucky, however. With six other residential facilities, 20 Cornerstone Counseling offices, a statewide foster care network, an adoption program and many other services, KBHC's work has a tremendous impact on meeting the needs of hurting children and families in our state.



Bill Mackey

KBHC President Bill Smithwick even has a wonderful vision for assisting churches with day care. His plan would make it feasible for any size church.

The nature of the needs of children and families have changed over the years, but the needs never have been greater than today. Children deserve the best during such impressionable and formative years. Because children are so vulnerable to abuse, the best in professional care is demanded.

To this end, KBHC does an outstanding work in filling the gaps in education for children with difficult emotional and learning needs. A recent tour of one of KBHC's campus schools was an unforgettable experience. Thank God for dedicated teachers and workers who work with parents and family members as well. Please pray for well-trained and caring workers in all the Home for Children ministries and encourage people in the high calling of Christian social ministry.

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children is prepared to deal with the many difficult issues facing children and families today, but the administration and staff need the support of Kentucky Baptists more than ever. At Thanksgiving, Kentucky Baptist churches will collect a special offering. You will have an opportunity to express your appreciation for an outstanding ministry and to help it continue its fine work.

The goal this year is \$1,025,000. Giving toward this goal will be a wonderful way to express thanks to God!

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

How can I help a child who is increasingly defiant and disrespectful?

I hope you'll find these ideas as helpful as they are challenging.

■ **Set limits, and follow through.** Establish clear and firm rules, and then enforce them with consistency. This may be one of the hardest things we have to do as parents—especially if we have been too lenient and permissive.

■ **Be a parent, not a peer.** David Elkind reminds us that the parent/child relationship is not one of equals, and was never meant to be. God has given us responsibility in raising our children—responsibility that involves setting limits our children many times will not like, and often times not understand. We have to hold the line. Parents can be authoritative without being authoritarian.

■ **Be careful about making excuses for your child's behavior.** Many children face special challenges, including attention deficit disorders, hyperactivity, learning difficulties, broken homes, physical difficulties, family moves and financial limitations. But they still must learn to be responsible for their own behavior. Believing that they can't help it, or that this is just how they are wired, or that something or someone else is to blame simply provides an excuse and fuels the fire.

■ **Decide to give your time to your children in new ways.** According to Ross Campbell, time is one of the most important ways we show our love to our children and one of the ways we often head off behavior problems. Campbell says that when a child misbehaves, the first question to ask is, "What does he or she need?" It might be food. It might be rest. It might be limits. Many times it is attention and time.

■ **Ask God for wisdom and grace.** James 1:5 states that if we lack wisdom, we can ask God and he will give generously. As a parent, I find myself claiming this promise all the time. Impossible as it seems, God loves our children even more than we do. — *David Garrard*

Can you stress in your column that not all never-married single adults are sex-craved, going to Christian single groups looking for a spouse? Some of us just want to form friendships with other single people, especially with those who don't have children.

There long has been the need for churches to recognize the reality of the never-married single adult. After all, 2,000 years ago a 33-year-old never-married single adult lived the only perfect life ever. His single adult fellowship group included Mary, Martha and Lazarus. Most of his disciples probably were single. Christ, too, was not always understood, even by his own mother and brothers (Matthew 12:46-50).

Missionary Lottie Moon provides another example. She gave up a significant romantic relationship so she could remain in China, serving the people she loved with the gospel of Christ. Single people are to be held in honor, not treated as abnormal, second-class citizens who have somehow skewed society by taking "the road less traveled," delaying marriage or choosing not to marry.

What can churches do to better minister to those who have never been married? One suggestion is to hold a retreat for never-marrieds. Out of such a retreat could grow a schedule of monthly activities that could offer relevant teaching as well as fellowship opportunities.

Often churches focus on the needs of the married, divorced or widowed and forget about the huge numbers of never-married adults who have their own unique joys, challenges and opportunities. Churches have a unique ability to network single people together around the common theme of growth in Jesus Christ, to affirm singleness as a lifestyle and to provide meaningful opportunities for service through the body of Christ. — *James Stillwell*

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



Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty

By June Baxter Rice

A recent celebration of Heritage Day at my church resulted in my reading every existing word of the written record of its 129-year history. Our church was 12 years old when Enterprise Baptist Association was carved out of Greenup Baptist Association.

I found that after an auspicious beginning in which the church started churches and mission points all over Johnson and Magoffin counties, the members embarked upon a crusade to rid its membership of all sinners, especially the ones who drank spirituous beverages, played cards, danced, fought, used profane language, went to law against a fellow church member, committed fornication or adultery. (Read: marry after being divorced.) This resulted in much ill will among the excluded's family members; wheat was uprooted along with the tares.

The early church clerks began the minutes, written in beautiful copperplate handwriting, "Fellowship ascertained," which meant that business could be conducted because everybody present could shake hands with everybody else.

The church was beginning the climb out of the decline caused by the judgmentalism and the leadership drain from establishing so many churches when I married into the church family in 1950.

Shortly thereafter, we had a bivocational pastor who preached hyper-Calvinism so successfully that most of the church members went home and sat down, convinced that if God would save his elect whether or no, nobody need bestir himself to witness to the lost. Indeed, it might be going against God's will if one were to witness to the non-elect.

Some years later, we were again growing steadily when a couple who were graduates of Clear Creek who had been working diligently in the church were tapped to begin a work at Mt. Beulah Mission in Martin County. I told KBC worker Ken Forman, who was responsible for the removal of half our leadership, "I told the Lord that Liberty was his church, and if he wanted to kill it, go ahead."

Brother Ken looked stricken. "How do you want me to pray?" he asked.

"Pray ye the Lord of the Harvest," I said, "That he

will send forth workers."

Within two years, seven couples with incomes, expertise and abilities joined the church by letter or by baptism.

Our church is a grassroots church, made up of working poor. Nobody is rich, but in the last few years we have added a fellowship hall and baptistry, paid off a \$39,000 debt in 18 months, and currently are embarked on building a bigger sanctuary.

We have the Baptist attitude that we are saved by grace and Jesus loves us as much as he loves everybody else. We have always had a bivocational pastor. We have a distinguished past and are looking forward to a future of service.

The evangelist who preached our latest revival spent all week preaching, "Husbands love your wives, and wives submit graciously." The congregation loved him, but the relationships of all the couples seem much the same: the men no more loving, the women no more submissive. No soul was saved during the meeting.

The church members who are divorced and married again are diligent and welcome workers in our church. Women are welcome to speak out in business meetings, and their views are respected—though their freedom to pray in public is subject to the views of whoever is pastor. Youth are an integral part of the life of the church.

We have recovered from the crippling blows dealt by judgmentalism and hyper-Calvinism, and our position on the controversy between the Southern Baptist Convention and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship is that, whether or not their fellowship is ever ascertained, we don't have a dog in that fight.

We do our best to go by the Bible as we understand it, fighting Satan rather than our fellow Christian. We continue to preach, baptize, disciple, teach, pray for, do and give to missions, support each other, cooperate with our association and our state and national conventions, and be light and salt in our community.

Long live Liberty Baptist Church of Denver, Ky., and the fellow autonomous Baptist churches who agree with her—that "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty!"

June Rice, a retired school librarian, is a member of the Western Recorder's board of directors

GUEST EDITORIAL

Have you any right to be angry?

By Jay Robison

But Jonah was greatly displeased and became angry. ... But the Lord replied, "Have you any right to be angry?" (Jonah 4:1,4)

Anger is a universal experience, but we all are uncomfortable about it. We hide our anger, deny our anger and excuse our anger. But, as unspiritual as it may seem, we all get angry.

Consider the exchange in Jonah 4:1 and 4:4. God's reply to Jonah is an important question.

It is not a coincidence that anger and danger are separated by only one letter.

Let's begin with a basic understanding about anger. Anger is part of being human. At the 1998 Georgetown College pastor's conference, Andy Lester discussed anger at God. I like his definition of anger. "Anger is the physical, mental and emotional arousal pattern that occurs in response to a perceived threat to the self char-

acterized by the desire to move against." Anger is a response to what is happening around us.

Ephesians says to be angry and sin not. Jonah was clearly angry with God. Is it OK to get angry with God?

Lester suggests three questions go through our minds when we are angry with God: ■ A character question, "What is God like?" ■ A providence question, "How does God work in the world?" and ■ A personal question, "How does God feel about me?"

Jonah was dealing with all these questions.

How could God love the dreaded Ninevites? Is God coloring outside the lines when God offers grace to someone other than Israel? God has used me as an instrument of salvation to my enemy. How could God do such a thing?

I have badgered God in my anger with those three questions. Answers have come clearly sometimes and not so clearly sometimes. But remember Jonah believed in God enough to get

angry with God.

You cannot get angry with someone in whom you do not believe. A real friend is someone with whom you can risk complete honesty. You do not have to play a role or stuff your anger with someone who loves you completely. When our anger with anyone is unresolved, however, walls are erected that cut off relationship.

I am awed to know that God cares for us enough to work through our anger in love. Anger is destructive when it isolates us from God and others. God dealt in redemptive compassion with Jonah's anger, and God will do the same with us. The Psalmist often expressed anger with God. Anger is one of our most complex and deeply personal responses.

We must always approach God with reverence. My anger often is rooted in arrogance. Have we any right to be angry? Often none at all, but God recognizes the possibility present even in anger. Anger is a doorway either to destruction or deeper intimacy.



Jay Robison is pastor of Central Baptist Church in Paris

Russia's minority religions debate American law's impact

Russian Baptists, despite their 130-year history in the country, are among those considered to be a non-traditional faith.

By Frank Brown
Religion News Service

MOSCOW (RNS)—A new U.S. law aimed at punishing governments that restrict religious freedom has met with a mixed response from leaders of minority faiths in Russia.

The International Religious Freedom Act, recently signed by President Clinton, includes a range of possible actions, including economic sanctions, on countries found to be oppressing religious expression.

In Russia, minority religions are especially vulnerable after last year's enactment of a religion law that has the potential to severely restrict their activities.

To date, that has not happened, but some religious leaders fear the ongoing crisis and the new political influence of old Communists and nationalists could lead to less tolerance of non-traditional faiths.

"The movement toward more of a red-brown (communist-fascist) kind of coalition in the Duma (parliament) means that the religious situation may be more difficult in the future," said George Law, the Moscow-based American president of the Association for Spiritual Renew-

al, a Protestant missionary organization that has helped start more than 500 churches in the former Soviet Union.

"I have noticed in the regions recently, newspaper articles lambasting evangelicals and Protestants with a lot of twisted presuppositions," he added.

The U.S. law, the International Religious Freedom Act, also establishes a 10-member Commission on International Religious Liberty to investigate incidents and mandates the creation of an ambassador-level post in the State Department for monitoring religious freedom.

A yearly, country-by-country report will require more detailed assessments by U.S. embassies around the world.

This bureaucratic enshrinement, one Western diplomat in Moscow who specializes in religious affairs said, means the religious freedom issue will develop a staying power it never previously had.

"Just like the (U.S. State Department's) human rights report has become an institution and it is recognized as one of the most important human rights documents to come out every year, I would expect the same

thing could happen with religious freedom," said the diplomat, who asked not to be named. "Every year that report generates attention, news stories."

Among U.S. supporters of the new law were Jewish groups, the U.S. Catholic Conference and the Christian Coalition.

Because Judaism is defined as one of four "traditional" religions in Russia—the other three are the Russian Orthodox Church, Buddhism and Islam—the country's 500,000 Jews rarely encounter legal obstacles to religious expression although widespread anti-Semitism certainly has a dampening effect.

Russia's Roman Catholic and evangelical Protestant communities, who are dwarfed by the dominant Russian Orthodox Church, are considered non-traditional faiths and face legal hurdles erected by Russia's new law on religion.

Russian Baptists, despite their 130-year history in the country, are among those considered to be a non-traditional faith.

The role of the Russian Orthodox Church in determining the shape of the country's religious landscape may well become more important in

the wake of the economic crisis which has caused many people to turn away from the West for solutions and look for more homegrown answers.

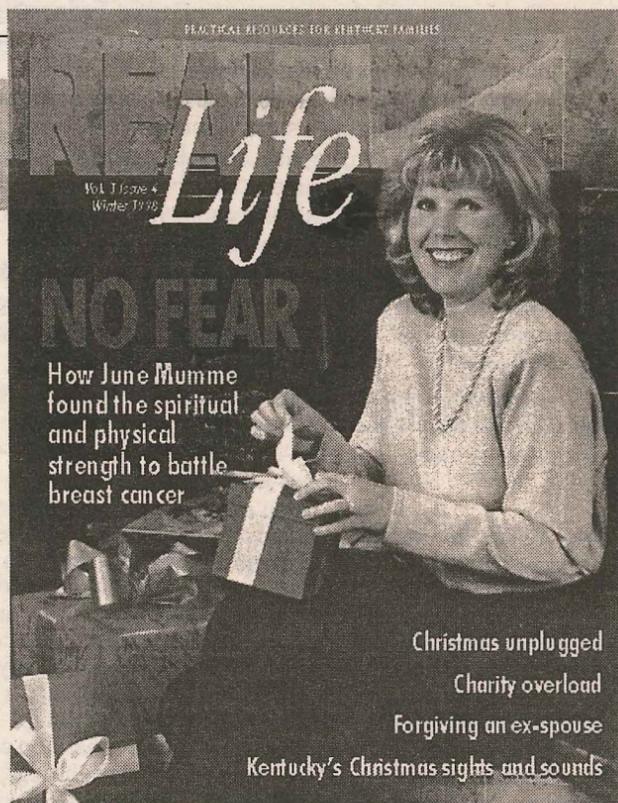
In such an environment, the new American law's most effective provision is likely to be the threat of economic sanctions.

"Talking with my Russian friends in the past about this sort of thing, the consistent opinion was that the efforts by the U.S. government to effect this sort of policy has a negative effect on the parliament and a positive effect on the executive," said Larry Uzzell, director designate of the Oxford, England-based Keston Institute, which monitors religious freedom issues.

"Right now, it is in the hands of the executive branch, not the parliament," he said.

Uzzell, who headed Keston's Moscow bureau for several years, said the economic crisis may offer a respite.

"In the short run, some people have said the situation is a bit better than it was a few months ago," Uzzell said. "It tends to distract people. Government officials are too worried about the crisis to go around harassing minority religions."



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Cosby: Sometimes God wants to show off

Continued from page 1
Lord Jesus Christ."

Using the story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead, Cosby offered some reasons why God sometimes doesn't answer prayer. Lazarus was sick, and relatives Mary and Martha sent a message to Jesus to come. But Jesus didn't come until four days after Lazarus' death.

"Why didn't Jesus show up when we needed him the most?" Cosby said. Mary and Martha must have asked, "Why does God allow bad things to

happen? Why is he silent? Why is he absent when we need him? Why does he not show up?"

Sometimes, Cosby said, God's love prevents him from showing up. God sometimes won't let Christians get involved in things that would be bad for them. He compared it to him not letting his 15-year-old daughter go out recently with a boyfriend.

God sees the future and knows what's best, Cosby said. "We pray foolish prayers sometimes."

Sometimes, he added, God wants

Christians to grow and mature. Cosby described being too thin to play football in high school and noticing other players who were muscular because they lifted weights. "They were picking up heavy things," he said. "God puts heavy things in our way and wants us to pick them up and grow."

And sometimes God wants Christians to do the work instead of him, Cosby said. Often Christians ask God to work in someone's life or change a situation when God wants the person praying to be instrumental in doing it.

"God doesn't waste miracles," Cosby said. Miracles are reserved for "only when we can't do it ourselves." Christians are like tea bags; they don't get active until they get in hot water, he said.

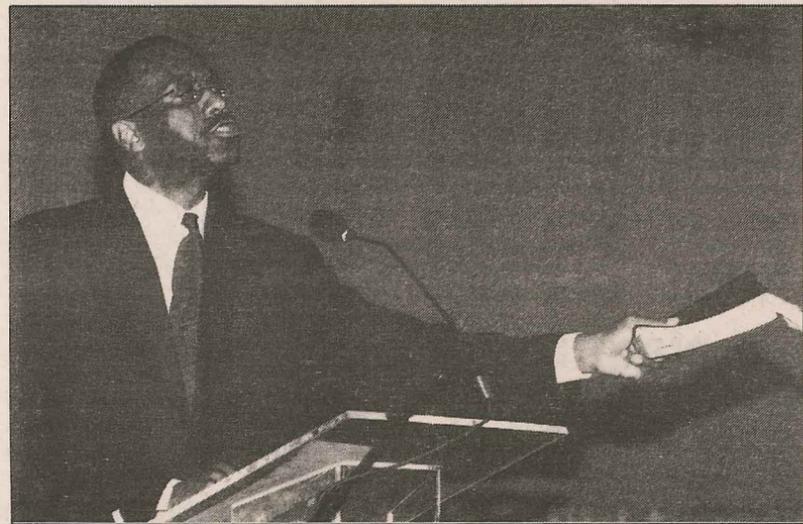
God might need to judge Christians, Cosby added. God can't respond when sin is in Christians' lives. He said God uses "caller ID." He checks to see who's calling, and if there is sin blocking their relationship, God says, "I'm not home for him," Cosby said.

Or, as in the case of Lazarus, God might just want to show off, Cosby said. Jesus had brought two children back to life, and critics claimed that in both cases they weren't really dead, just unconscious.

"So Jesus waited until Lazarus was good and dead," Cosby said. Lazarus had been dead so long that Martha was afraid he would smell, and protested Jesus' request to go to Lazarus' tomb.

"There are a lot of Lazaruses in our world today," Cosby said. Some are on drugs or in jail or have serious problems, he added. Too many Christians say it's too late to help them, or they're unreachable, he said.

But Christians can't give up on them, because "God stood in front of your cave, your drug house, your bar, your house of prostitution and called you," Cosby said.



CONVENTION SERMON In a sermon that brought messengers to their feet, Kevin Cosby, pastor of St. Stephen Baptist Church of Louisville, told messengers, "Don't give up on God if he doesn't show up when you think he should show up."

Capital Campaigns

by

Dr. John R. Bisagno, Author and Founder
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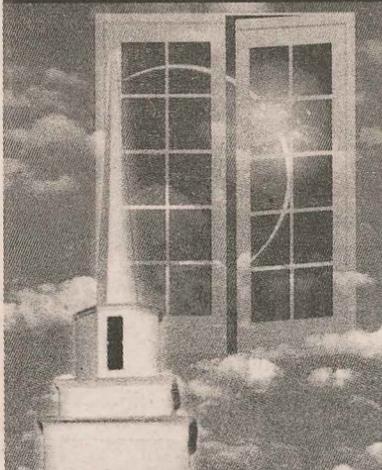
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CONVENTION REPORTS

■ **Oneida Baptist Institute.** During the past five years, the endowment has grown 300 percent for the Christian boarding school for students in grades 6-12. More than 100 students made professions of faith in the past year, said President W.F. Underwood. The school now has a web site for learning more about the school: www.oneidaschool.org.

■ **Clear Creek Baptist Bible College.** More than 200 people made professions of faith through ministries, sermons and other activities performed by students, said President Bill Whittaker. The school is providing instructors for the Novgorod pastors' school near St. Petesburg, Russia. The eventual goal is to train pastors for about 40 churches throughout that region.

■ **Kentucky Baptist Assemblies Inc.** "We've got a long way to go, but we've had a great first year," said President Rusty Ellison. Combined revenues for Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore assemblies were up 16 percent in its first year as a new agency. Other highlights include construction of a new lodge by Lone Oak First Baptist Church at Jonathan Creek and a new challenge course at Cedarmore.

■ **Woman's Missionary Union.** More than \$803,000 was given to the Eliza Broadus offering for state missions for the fiscal year 1997-98. This year's goal is \$750,000, said Brenda Price, interim executive director-treasurer. For the past year, Kentucky WMU has emphasized cultural diversity to help churches become aware of different cultures and reduce prejudice. More than 11,000 teenage girls visited Kentucky for the National Acteens Conference July 1-4 in Louisville.

■ **Baptist Healthcare System.** Kentucky Baptist hospitals delivered more than 8,000 babies in the past year. They also treated about 140,000 patients in their emergency rooms and performed about 55,000 surgeries. Ted Hodge, senior chaplain at Baptist Hospital East, said chaplains receive an average of 25 requests for prayer while making rounds to see patients. The system is a sponsor for the January "Shepherding the Shepherd" conference for Kentucky Baptist pastors and spouses.

■ **Western Recorder.** Reception has been good for Real Life, a quarterly features magazine intended for church use in outreach or members, said Bill Thurman, outgoing chairman of the Western Recorder's board of trustees. Circulation for the Western Recorder is about 43,000, just slightly down from the previous year. The board of directors this year established the C.R. and Christine Daley Endowment. That fund helps underwrite the paper's commitment to mail the Western Recorder to every Kentucky Baptist pastor free of charge.

■ **Kentucky Baptist Foundation.** Total funds for the foundation are now more than 100 million, according to President Barry Allen. The foundation exists to serve individual Baptists who want to support Baptist churches and institutions. The foundation also exists to serve churches and associations and KBC institutions and agencies.

■ **Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.** KBHC foster homes helped 235 children in the past year, according to President Bill Smithwick. The seven housing facilities provided care for 552 children. Cornerstone Counseling now has 20 branches throughout the state. Smithwick outlined a goal for every church having a family that will adopt a special needs child or become foster parents. "Help us find those families and then help your church realize this is your missionary right at home," he said.

■ **Partnership 2000.** Campbellsville University, Cumberland College and Georgetown College presented a joint report emphasizing Partnership 2000, the schools' combined fundraising effort for scholarships and capital improvements on all three campuses.

Compiled from oral and written reports

Motion, resolutions include blood drive, hunger & beer

By David Winfrey
News Director

LOUISVILLE—Messengers to next year's KBC annual meeting in Northern Kentucky will be asked to consider rolling up their sleeves for a good cause and a symbolic gesture.

In the only motion brought from the floor of the 161st annual Kentucky Baptist Convention, messengers voted to invite the local blood bank to future meetings.

Robert Stephens, a messenger from Victory Baptist Church in London, said he proposed the motion to be a symbolic gesture, representing the blood Jesus gave on the cross to save lives.

"It's a very small thing we can do, and actually a very easy thing we can do to give life," he said.

The annual meeting was unusually quiet in terms of business brought from the floor. During two business sessions, when messengers could have introduced a motion or resolution, no

one went to a microphone.

"I've been to a lot of conventions, but I believe we're making history today," Toole said at the close of the second business session. "And that's all right, because we can get out of here sooner."

Toole later said one reason there was so little business brought from the floor because so much already had been worked out in committees.

"You know, I think we need to carry on the Lord's business that way," he said. "I think if you do things right and work through the committees and bring that news to the larger body and church, it's a proven fact for me that that works."

Russian hunger, drunk driving and Olympics-related beer ads were among the topics addressed by KBC resolutions, which were approved on the second day of the meeting.

No resolutions were submitted from the floor of the convention, but the committee on resolutions brought six resolutions before the convention

during its last business session. Topics were:

■ **Hunger in Russia.** Noting the economic oppression in Russia, the resolution asks the convention to go on record encouraging government officials to take action to help Russians. It also encourages Christians and churches to contribute to a Russian hunger relief program administered through the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

■ **Drunk driving.** Messengers asked the Kentucky General Assembly to lower the legal limit of intoxication while driving from 0.10 to 0.08 percentage of blood alcohol content.

■ **The year 2000.** The resolution encourages celebration for the 2,000th anniversary of the birth of Jesus and participation in millennium-based evangelistic activities, such as Celebrate Jesus 2000. It also calls on Christians to approach the coming years "not in a spirit of fear spawned by popular culture or misemployed prophecy, but in a spirit of hope."

■ **Partnership 2000.** Kentucky Baptist churches were asked to consider becoming a partner in the joint fundraising campaign for Campbellsville University, Cumberland College and Georgetown College.

■ **Beer ads and the 2002 Winter Olympics.** Alcohol consumption was presented as glamorous during the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, according to this resolution. It asks the Salt Lake Organizing Committee and the U.S. Olympic Committee to minimize the negative impact of alcohol ads on youth during the 2002 Winter Olympics by prohibiting "beer tents" and limiting beer ads.

■ **Appreciation.** Convention messengers thanked hotel staff, Louisville and Jefferson County Baptists, churches in the Louisville-area Long Run Baptist Association, convention officers, Bill Mackey and the KBC Executive Board staff and Louisville's mayor for their hospitality and work on the 161st annual meeting of Kentucky Baptists.

CONVENTION NOTES

■ **Attendance drop.** Attendance for KBC meetings in Louisville traditionally is down, and this year was no different. This year's annual meeting drew 1,326 messengers, 276 fewer than last year's convention in Lexington. With another 155 church members and 49 visitors, the total attendance was 1,530.

■ **Committee appointments made.** Outgoing Kentucky Baptist Convention President Gayle Toole named three men to the KBC committee on committees at the annual meeting: Floyd Price, pastor of First Baptist Church of Scottsdale; Willis Henson, pastor of Lone Oak First Baptist Church in Paducah; and Toole's son, Todd Toole, pastor of Hickory Grove Baptist Church in Independence. Their terms will last until 2001.

■ **Music ministers elect officers.** New officers of the Kentucky Baptist Music Conference are President Randy Holt, of Lone Oak First Baptist Church in Paducah; Vice President Johnie Dean, of Calvary Baptist Church in Lexington; Secretary-Treasurer Roxane Nanney, of First Baptist Church of Brandenburg.

■ **Ministries with aging group elects officers.** The Kentucky Baptist Association of Ministries with the Aging named new officers: President Wayne Moore, assistant to the president at Cumberland College; and Vice President Ron Wilburn of Lexington.



NEW OFFICERS New officers elected during the 161st Kentucky Baptist Convention are Second Vice President Terry Freeman (left), pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Lexington; President Charles Barnes, a Louisville layman at Hurstbourne Baptist Church; Secretary Wilma Simmons, a layperson from Ekron; and Assistant Secretary Joe Priest Williams, a retired pastor from Louisville. Not pictured is First Vice President Mark Hopper, pastor of First Baptist Church of Bowling Green.

No change made in election of Executive Board

LOUISVILLE—A proposed motion that would have changed how KBC Executive Board members are selected was abandoned during the annual meeting.

Last year, Mark Baldoff of Harrodsburg, offered a motion to amend Article 7, paragraph 2 of the Kentucky Baptist Convention Constitution to read that "each district association shall nominate one person for each vacancy on the KBC Executive Board."

The Executive Board, which conducts the business of the convention during meetings throughout the year, is made up of representatives from every association.

Currently, the constitution requires that associations nominate two people for each vacancy. The KBC commit-

tee on nominations then chooses one nominee from among the two suggested.

Baldoff's motion was referred to the KBC constitution and bylaws committee. That committee's chairman, Mike Rust, said he initially favored the change, which has been proposed before.

"It comes up all the time," said Rust, pastor of Buena Vista Baptist Church in Owensboro. "I've voted twice for it before."

After studying it, however, Rust said he grew to appreciate the current selection process.

Letting associations pick the Executive Board members would establish a hierarchy, Rust said. As it currently is done, associations get input, but the Executive Board retains its autonomy

by not letting other groups determine its makeup, he said. "Some states don't even allow the associations to nominate two."

During his report, Rust recommended that no action be taken on the matter, and no vote was taken.

Baldoff then rose to say he introduced the motion because he's heard of people being nominated several times and not chosen by the committee on nominations. He also said he thinks the associations would be better qualified to select who should represent them on the Executive Board.

But Harold Mauney, pastor of First Baptist Church of Williamsburg, went to a microphone to disagree.

"We're dealing here with historic Baptist principles," he said. "No entity dictates to another Baptist entity."

KBC adds 8 churches; some criticized for not saying 'Baptist'

LOUISVILLE—Eight churches were accepted as new members of the Kentucky Baptist Convention last week during the annual meeting Nov. 10-11.

The additions raise the number to 2,400 churches that contribute to the ministries and agencies of the 161-year-old convention.

The additions include three predominantly African-American churches and five Anglo congregations.

None of the churches were challenged specifically, but the announcement of the new churches did draw a general criticism.

Danny Belcher of Trinity Baptist Church in Hopkinsville said he was concerned about the convention admitting churches that did not have the word "Baptist" in their name.

"I do not understand why they want to associate with the Kentucky Baptist Convention but they don't want to identify themselves in the community as a Baptist church," he said. "I know it takes more than a name to be Baptist, but we ought to be Baptist in name also."

KBC President Gayle Toole ruled Belcher out of order. Toole later said

he did so because Belcher was not challenging a specific congregation or offering a motion.

The churches added to the convention were:

■ Emmanuel Baptist Church in Stanton.

■ First Baptist Church of Georgetown.

■ New Jerusalem Baptist Church in Louisville.

■ New Zion Baptist Church in Louisville.

■ Unity Baptist Church in Cecilia.

■ New Work Fellowship in Hopkinsville.

■ Falls of Rough Baptist Church in Falls of Rough.

■ Garner Missionary Baptist Church in Rush.

Also, four congregations were accepted into the convention under "watchcare" status:

■ Living Faith Baptist in Utica.

■ Living Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Slaughters.

■ Charleston Second Baptist Praise and Worship Center in Charleston.

■ People of the Way Community Church in Fairdale.



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Toole calls for truce among Baptists

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

LOUISVILLE—Kentucky Baptist Convention President Gayle Toole called for a truce between warring factions in the Southern Baptist Convention during his address at the KBC annual meeting.

With tears in his eyes and voice quivering, Gayle Toole told of hearing people say "awful things" about fellow believers at past state and national conventions.

Instead, Baptists should reflect the same love for each other that God has for each Baptist, said Toole, pastor of Edgewood Baptist Church in Nicholasville.

"Why don't we call off the name calling and saying ugly things about people who the Lord has given his life for?" he said, stirring a chorus of "amens" in the audience.

"I'm at the age where I still love the piano and organ," said Toole, who will retire in January. "But I want to love you who see it another way and package the gospel in a different way, to reach people for Christ."

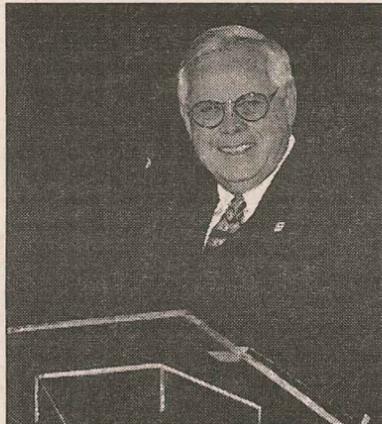
Baptists must display behavior consistent with what they say they believe, he added. "If we say we believe in Scripture from beginning to end, why don't we act it out?"

After his speech, the veteran pastor said his remarks were aimed at the convention as a whole. Despite some differences, he said he believes Kentucky Baptists generally are united.

Toole said during his travels as president he saw churches in the state basically preaching the same gospel.

"You hear the words about liberals, but I haven't seen any," said Toole. "As long as they're committed to Jesus Christ I don't have any problem with it."

He also praised Bill Mackey, saying the executive secretary is focusing on missions, evangelism, educa-



TOOLE TIME In his president's address, Gayle Toole praised the work of Kentucky Baptists while urging them to stop saying "awful things" about each other. "Why don't we call off the name calling and saying ugly things about people who the Lord has given his life for?"

tion and reaching out to smaller churches.

He opened his speech by thanking Mackey for his support. He also lauded state partnership officials Calvin Wilkins and Ken Murphy for their work in Russia.

"What a wonderful time we had (there)," he said, noting that 1,503 people visited that nation as part of Kentucky Baptists' partnership with Russian Baptists. "I'm proud of what Kentucky Baptists did to help people there, to help them minister until Jesus comes."

To think of what happened in Russia leaves him in "culture shock," he said. He used that theme for his sermon from Hebrews 13:1-9.

The shock he said America faces is one of change. Yet, Jesus remains a constant presence in the midst of an age that worships change, he said.

Many turnabouts in world developments aren't expected, he said. Toole noted some failed predictions

of the past:

■ A 1911 statement that airplanes were interesting but wouldn't have any military value.

■ A man who once rejected buying stock in Ford Motor Company, saying horses "are here to stay."

■ Joseph Kennedy—father of John, Robert and Ted—saying in 1936 that he had no political aspirations for himself or his sons.

Toole said that after reading futurist Alvin Toffler's observations about the accelerating pace of technological development, he now realizes the future already has arrived.

"The breadth of change today increases our challenge," he said. "But with all this change I am glad to know someone who never changes. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. We're called to walk with an unchanging Christ in a changing world."

But when Christians build barriers between each other, Toole said, they also build walls between themselves and God.

Yet, God will never leave or forsake Christians, he said, adding that statement has been proven throughout his 38 years of ministry.

Because of God's faithfulness, Toole said, he resists gloomy predictions about the future, saying he wants to believe God has a plan for his grandchildren.

"We don't need to be prophets of doom," he said. "Christian people are the glue that keeps our society together. They're going about making a difference in people's lives."

He encouraged listeners to make evangelism their priority, saying it disturbs him that people freely discuss cars, gas mileage and basketball but "clam up" when it comes to their faith.

Sharing Christ should be on Christians' hearts morning, noon and night, he said, because they know the best news that will ever be heard.

Richard Jackson: Church's only mission is Great Commission

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

LOUISVILLE—Exhorting Christians to remember that evangelism is their main assignment, Texas evangelist Richard Jackson said Jesus' "Great Commission" is his only instruction for the church.

Furthermore, the task of making new Christians and building the church rests on Christ's shoulders, said Jackson, the final speaker at the 1998 Kentucky Baptist Convention.

God made it clear in the Gospel of Matthew that he would build the church, said Jackson, head of the Jackson Center for Evangelism and Encouragement at Howard Payne University in Brownwood, Texas.

"Jesus said to take these keys to the gospel and share them with the world," he said. "Without Jesus, we are simply gathering together to try to do things to make ourselves feel better."

"But with Jesus, we are the church," Jackson said. "He is our unity, salvation, forgiveness and the difference in our lives."

Sounding like a tent revivalist, Jackson spoke in rapid-fire delivery as he reviewed the book of Matthew. He called the first Gospel's primary theme, "God is with us."

Because first-century Jews were so concerned about "pedigree," he said, the author traced Jesus' genealogy to Abraham, the father of Israel.

"It's interesting to see Matthew show us Jesus, son of David, son of man, is Immanuel—Christ with us and Christ in us, making the difference, relating us to God the father."

The genealogy also breaks down barriers between Jew and gentile, he said. The listing in Matthew includes Rahab, a harlot, and Ruth, a Moabite, breaking the exclusive Jewish blood lines.

The mention of Tamar, Rahab, Ruth and Bathsheba in Jesus' ancestry also eliminates walls between male and female, Jackson said.

"We can see the grace of God pouring out of Matthew's pen as he declares that Jesus breaks down the barriers. We are made acceptable to God."

The message of Kentucky Baptists and Christians must stress that Christ was God in the flesh, lived without sin and made a way to the God.

When Peter recognized Jesus as Messiah and son of God, Jackson said, the disciples understood what distinguished Jehovah from pagan gods was that no other gods had breath in them.

Likewise, only Christ can stimulate church growth, he said.

"Do you understand that nobody can add to the church but him?" he asked. "Do you understand nobody is added to the church unless they are saved? Jesus said, 'I am the church's founder ... and I will build it.'"

Jesus is the focal point of Christian faith, he said. The only thing that has united Southern Baptists is missions and faith in Christ, he added.

Before Jesus left earth, he declared that all power had been given to him, as recorded in Matthew 28.

But Christ wasn't saying that everyone would respond to the salvation message, Jackson pointed out. Instead, he was defining discipleship, the former pastor said.

"He never told you to win the whole world," Jackson said. "But, 'I want you to make everyone in your world a follower after me.' We get to tell them about God's love. They're not all going to respond, but that's not my problem (or) your problem."

"The Holy Spirit will reach their heart. We need to see that everyone has the opportunity to hear the gospel, baptize those who respond and teach them to be like (Christ). That is the only assignment the church is given."

Christ living in Christians will make them the kind of people who will help the hurting and feed the hungry, Jackson said, but evangelism remains the main assignment.

Mackey: 'Our unity is our witness to the world'

By Suzanne Darland
State Correspondent

LOUISVILLE—Kentucky Baptists should be united to be better at taking the gospel throughout the commonwealth, Bill Mackey told Kentucky Baptist Convention messengers in his first speech at the annual meeting as KBC executive secretary-treasurer.

"Our unity is our witness to the world. We must come together so our witness is strong," Mackey said Nov. 10.

"We cannot afford to continue to inflict wounds," Mackey said, quoting John 17:23. "The needs of the world are too great."

Mackey urged Kentucky Baptists to find common ground so that plans for mission outreaches in the state and around the world will be fruitful.

The thought of loving everyone might be overwhelming, Mackey said, but he offered two steps Kentucky Baptists can take to achieve reconciliation.

First, he said, "address one another with terms of endearment and not

labels."

Second, begin to bridge the gap one by one. "Seek out someone who thinks differently," Mackey said. "Pray with them and share with them."

Mackey said the convention's mission is to help Kentucky Baptists "dare to believe" that by faith they can achieve what God has for them.

An example of success, he said, was that Kentucky Baptist relief teams quickly filled all five requests for aid after recent flooding in Bangladesh left 30 million homeless. Another is the partnership the state has had the past five years with Russia. The SBC International Mission Board has called the partnership a model for other state conventions, Mackey said.

"When we do missions we're at our best," he said. He spoke of attending an appointment service for 122 college student summer missionaries with 1,000 students at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington. The students committed to raise \$98,200 for their classmates' support.

He mentioned record attendance this summer for Super Saturday training conferences around the state and

a growing Hispanic ministry in the central portion of Kentucky.

This past year also saw record giving in regular and special offerings, he said.

"God is at work among Kentucky Baptists," he said. "Our mission is clear. We're not to fortress ourselves but to go into the world. 'We need to make sure that we're sanctified and committed. Through our words others will come to him,'" he said.



MACKEY Executive Secretary-Treasurer Bill Mackey said Baptists must have unity to better witness to the world. "We cannot afford to continue to inflict wounds," he said. "The needs of the world are too great."

Pastors' Conference encourages Christians to press on

By David Winfrey & Ken Walker
News Director & State Correspondent

LOUISVILLE—Attendees at the annual Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference were encouraged to continue pressing on in their work despite discouragement or challenges.

Among those who delivered messages:

■ Laverne Butler encouraged pastors to press on through adversity, saying they must answer the call God placed on their lives. Butler recalled how he once felt like quitting the pastorate until he remembered problems that confronted some biblical saints.

"Life is an agonizing experience," said Butler, staff evangelist at Ashland Avenue Baptist Church, Lexington. "I don't know where we got the idea life was to be a bed of roses. Let's stop bickering and complaining. Let's get

in the harness and run the race."

■ Paul Badgett said Americans are living in the "last days" Paul described in 2 Timothy 3:1-5. Despite increasing immorality, pastors should love those who haven't accepted Christ as Savior, he said.

The pastor of Oakland Avenue Baptist Church in Catlettsburg posed the question of why people lie, cheat, steal and kill.

"What's the answer?" he asked. "I don't believe it's a political answer. I believe (it's) a spiritual one. It's because people are lost and without Jesus."

A temptation in Baptist life is to pay too much attention to prosperous church buildings and fancy titles, Badgett added.

"What about those who are ... outside the walls of the church?" he said. "I hope we never get so busy taking care of stuff that we forget about them."

■ Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Secretary-Treasurer Bill Mackey said prayer and fasting had vastly increased the quality of his relationship with God.

This occurred during the past two years, said Mackey, who came to Kentucky from South Carolina in 1997 to lead the state convention.

"The only regret is it took me so long to come to this point in my life," said Mackey, a former pastor in Whitesburg. "We need to recognize the place of power is the altar of prayer. It's the basis of meaningful relationship."

A deep prayer life will give pastors the vulnerability and willingness to take the risks needed to follow God, he added. Such giants of faith as Abraham, Jonah, Daniel, Gideon and Nehemiah embraced those qualities, he said.

He confessed that as a pastor in Eastern Kentucky he was so busy with church work that he didn't make time for God.

"We feel we make the difference," he said. "But Jesus makes the difference. That's why I committed to stay on my face before Jesus, so I could hear from God, and stay out of his way so he could do what he wanted to do."

■ Al Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, outlined principles about contending for the Christian faith.

"The faith, if not proclaimed or well and biblically defined, it becomes confused and confusing," said Mohler.

Preaching from the story of Paul's message to the Athenians at Mars Hill, Mohler said defending the faith is not about winning arguments as much as it is "about winning souls."

"Did Paul win all the arguments? No, he proclaimed the truth," he said.

■ Johnny Hunt, pastor of First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga., spoke on God's grace for the Chris-

tian race.

One explanation of grace, Hunt said, is to pursue peace with all people. "We've got good news, but we don't have a good name because we're not pursuing peace," he said.

Hunt recalled the business meetings at his church before he arrived. He said the fighting caused half the members to join the Methodist church. "Harmonious living with other people is manifest proof of the living God in you."

■ Jerry Vines, co-pastor of First Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla., encouraged pastors to walk with God despite challenges.

Vines noted that Genesis states Enoch walked with God despite the challenges of alarming corruption because he had an amazing conversion that led to an appealing communion with God.

"If Enoch walked with God, you can walk with God," he said.

Vines encouraged pastors to please God and have a strong personal devotion time. That will lead to being separated from the world and a life of proclaiming the Christian message, he said.

"You can't please everybody but you can please God," he said. "We've got work to do until he does come."

PASTORS' CONFERENCE OFFICIALS Leaders elected for the 1999 pastors' conference are (from left) Vice President Walter Davis, pastor of Stithton Baptist Church in Radcliff; L.C. Gray, pastor of Parrish Avenue Baptist Church in Radcliff; and Steve Hill, pastor of Valley Creek Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.



Thanksgiving and families

I have fond memories of going to my grandmother's house on Thanksgiving, eating lots of food and playing with my cousins. Because we now live much farther away from our families than I did during my growing-up years, my children have not experienced that kind of Thanksgiving.

We have our own family tradition which includes inviting a special friend to spend Thanksgiving Day with our family. We pray a prayer of thanksgiving to God for all his wonderful blessings in our lives, and we make our annual contribution to the Thanksgiving offering for Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.

How fortunate we Kentucky Baptists are to be part of a larger family that includes a Christ-centered ministry to families and children. By giving through the Thanksgiving offering you have a part in providing care and hope to hurting families and children. You are there during the tough times in the same way Jesus was there for people during his earthly ministry—with compassion, lasting help and the love of God.

Our Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children is the oldest Southern Baptist child-care ministry and the

largest residential child-care provider in Kentucky. It is a hands-on ministry to victims of abuse, neglect and family crisis.

If you want to know more about how you can be involved in this ministry, call (800) 456-1386. President Bill Smithwick is challenging our Kentucky Baptist family collectively to give more than \$1 million this year through the Thanksgiving Offering. Let's demonstrate our conviction about helping "the least of these" for Jesus' sake by giving more generously this year.

Perhaps the Lord is leading you to make a more lasting difference in this world for Jesus' sake and for the sake of hurting families and children.

Perhaps you are in a position to establish an endowment fund whereby the principal would be invested permanently and the income would be distributed each year to Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children to provide the resources to enhance this wonderful ministry. Please call Laurie Valentine or me at (888) 254-5701 and give us the privilege of assisting you in establishing that lasting legacy.

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

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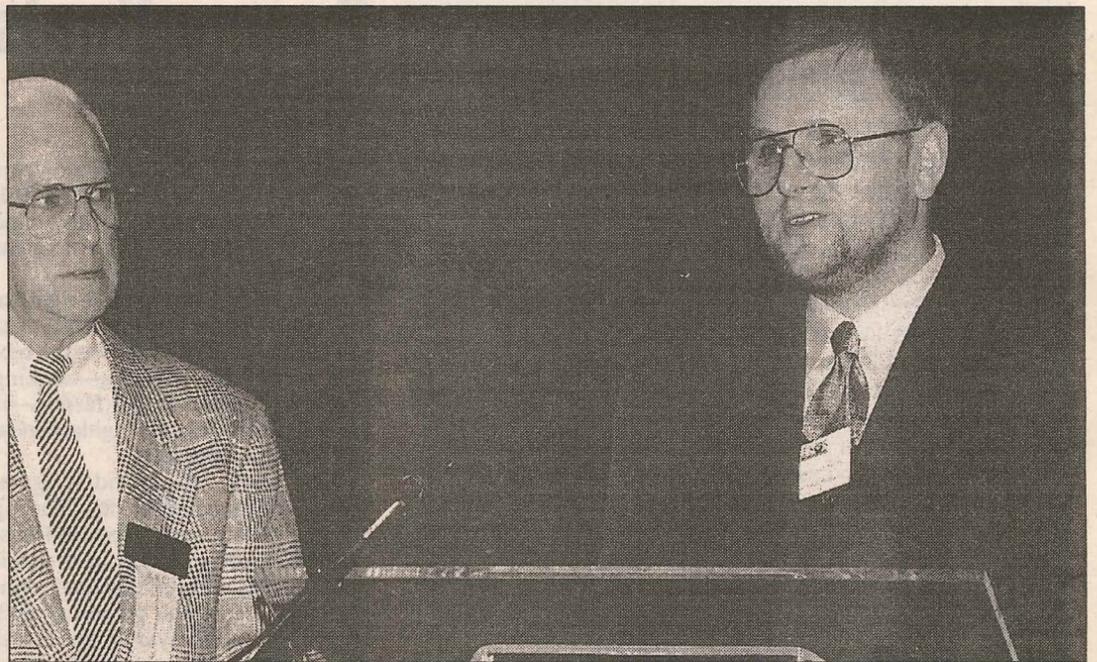
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CONVENTION '98
 ■ **Top left:** Members of the St. Stephen Baptist Church choir in Louisville sing during the 1998 Kentucky Baptist Convention.
 ■ **Top right:** Gustar Cieslar, president of the Polish Baptist seminary, invites Kentucky Baptists to Poland. ■ **Bottom left:** KBC President Gayle Toole shares a laugh with Bill and Kay Mackey during a reception for the Mackeys.
 ■ **Bottom middle:** Ed Tarleton, a Kentuckian and Southern Baptist missionary to Russia, discusses the impact of the five-year partnership between Russian Baptists and Kentucky Baptists.
 ■ **Bottom right:** Matt and Darlene Tullos perform one of many skits they presented to interpret the convention theme, "Jesus Makes the Difference."

Jennifer Blazer

By Robert Dunston

Jennifer Blazer, the daughter of Joy Peters of Florala, Ala., and Phil Blazer of Fort Walton Beach, Fla., served this past summer as a student ministry intern at Wright Baptist Church in Fort Walton Beach.

She was responsible for planning and administering two mission trips and one camping trip, leading a creative ministries team, teaching Sunday school and organizing local outreach opportunities for the youth in the church. In addition, she wrote devotions for the youth to use in their daily Bible studies.

Both trips were wonderful, according to Blazer. For her first trip she took 35 junior high school youth to Jackson, Mich., for World Changers, a Southern Baptist program in which students do construction work or home repair on homes of people who cannot afford to have the work done. The young people did roofing and painting and built a porch while learning to give God the credit rather than themselves.

The second trip was for approximately 30 high school youth. The group again worked with World Changers, this time in Casper, Wyo. The young people did roofing and painting and thoroughly enjoyed

visiting with people in the neighborhood in which they worked. A special bonus of the trip was the beautiful scenery not only in Wyoming but on the drive to and from.

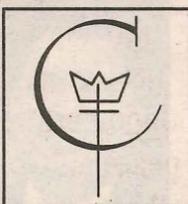
Blazer took 46 youth to the student life camp at Covenant College in Chattanooga, Tenn. The emphasis for the week was daily discipleship. Each night, the group gathered in a circle and talked about what was happening in their lives and what they were learning. The unity and excitement of the group as they watched God work in and through them was wonderful.

Wednesday evening activities sometimes focused on fun and sometimes on mission opportunities. Mission opportunities included stocking cans in a food pantry and helping produce a newsletter for a local maternity home.

Blazer, a psychology major and religion minor, graduates in May. She learned a great deal this summer, especially about herself, and is eager to follow Christ wherever he leads. Currently, she says she feels called to ministry with the homeless.

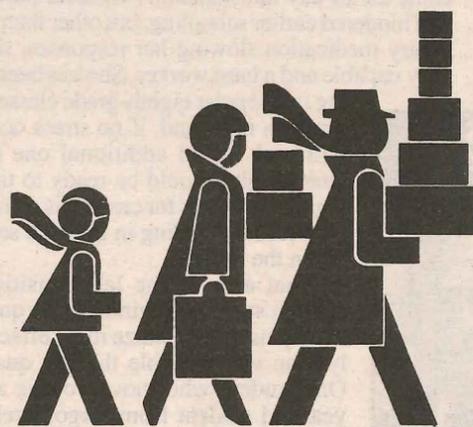
Robert Dunston is chairman of the religion department at Cumberland College, 6000 College Station Dr., Williamsburg, Ky. 40769

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State school voucher program survives Supreme Court case

WASHINGTON (RNS)—The U.S. Supreme Court, in one of the most closely watched church-state cases of its new term, said Nov. 9 it would not review Wisconsin's controversial school voucher program.

By deciding not to review a lower court ruling, the justices left intact the program. It provides up to \$5,000 a year per child in taxpayer money to parents sending their children to private schools, including religious ones.

The court's action, by an 8-1 vote and without any explanatory comment, is not a decision on the Wisconsin plan and sets no national precedent.

But supporters of vouchers, an issue that has become a hot button issue in education policy debate, were pleased with the ruling while opponents expressed disappointment.

Wisconsin Republican Gov. Tommy Thompson praised the court action.

"This historic decision clears the way for impoverished families who want a better life for their children to choose schools that make the most sense to them," Thompson said in a statement.

Pete Hutchison, general counsel of the Landmark Legal Foundation, a supporter of the program, also welcomed the court action, saying, "The court's decision today removes the last hurdle for Milwaukee's most disadvantaged children to reach the lifeline of a quality education."

Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, said the court decision was "disappointing but not that surprising."

"It does not amount to a high court blessing of tax aid to religious schools," he said.

Both Lynn and officials for the American Jewish Congress, another opponent, noted that court cases on voucher programs are underway in other states and that the Supreme Court "will soon have to render a decision once and for all on the constitutionality of vouchers."

Evangelicals host prayer & fasting event

By Cecile Holmes
Religion News Service

HOUSTON (RNS)—Four years ago, a 40-day fast upended Bill Bright's understanding of how God would use him and other Christians to bring revival to America.

Each spring since then, Bright, an evangelical leader for almost 50 years, has fasted again. He believes the biblical model for holiness—seeking God's face in prayer and fasting—is the best path to personal righteousness and global evangelism.

Last week, Bright did it again, hosting a national three-day "Fasting and Prayer '98," event, based in Houston but linked by satellite in an ambitious "virtual prayer meeting" connecting the Houston gathering with church sites and prayer groups across the country.

With leaders like Bright and Promise Keepers' Bill McCartney at the helm, evangelicals across the country say they are seeing a nation on the brink of a spiritual revival.

At the same time, national woes—including the moral and ethical scandals plaguing the Clinton administration and Congress—fuel the fervor for revival and are bringing thousands of evangelicals together in groups large and small for prayer, fasting and evangelism.

The Houston event, Nov. 12-14, simulcast in English and Spanish, was convened by some of the nation's most respected evangelicals—including Bright and McCartney, but also

Franklin Graham, president of the relief organization Samaritan's Purse.

Bright, who founded Campus Crusade for Christ in 1951, is at the forefront of the prayer and fasting movement, which he and others hope will woo a wayward America back to its religious roots. "I have spent over 47 years in evangelism. I've spent thousands of hours with our staff in strategy and planning sessions," said Bright, who turned 77 last month.

But, he said, only after he turned to prayer and fasting—drinking only water and juice each day—did he really begin listening to how God wanted things done.

"If you follow the logic of this, you come to the conclusion that if the Great Commission (evangelizing the world) is going to be fulfilled, it will be done God's way," Bright said. "Therefore it is more important that my heart be right with God than that I be a great evangelist or great strategist. ... The power and wisdom of man is so small compared to the incredible and awesome power of God."

He said his goal always has been to build strong disciples, or Christians with enough faith, biblical knowledge and zeal to prompt others to a conversion experience.

In American history, it took that sort of energy to prompt earlier periods of great spiritual fervor, commonly known as "great awakenings." Most historians date the first one in the first half of the 18th century and the second in the early 19th century.

Such movements always have be-

gun with a significant prayer movement, said Jerry Wiles, chairman of the Houston committee for Fasting and Prayer '98.

"I think this is another sign of the many signs that we're on the verge of another Great Awakening," Wiles said, comparing the revival of 1726 in America to the current growth of fasting and prayer among evangelicals. "Many of us are praying that will happen. We have not had a national revival in America in 150 years."

Bright said fasting is an essential seed for revival.

"When you spend time with the God of the universe, something absolutely incredible happens," he said. Despite years of Bible study, private prayer and devotions, he said, his life has been different since his first 40-day fast.

It initiated in his life an intimacy with God that has deepened each year since, he said.

"First of all, no one can spend a protracted, extended period of 2-to-3 days, or 40 days (fasting and praying) without something wonderful happening," Bright said. "It's just like in a human relationship. You spend time together, you talk to each other, there's a bonding."

"You do that in all earnestness for a few days, certainly for 40 days, and the old master ego that can destroy us—it's the key to all temptations—becomes crucified with Christ. The way to overcome that powerful attraction and the demand of the ego is to spend time with God."

Tutoring lab: Always changing, yet still the same

By Charmaine Nichols
Tutoring Lab Director

This has been an unusually busy year for the tutoring lab. It is the first time we have had to double our reading sections to accommodate all the middle school students who needed reading help.

But three students required one-on-one tutoring because of their first- and second-grade reading levels, and two others because of handicapping conditions, so five of the six tutors could not open their groups to the remaining 10 students. We went to two alternate periods for them, then integrated the math-only students, with teamwork from the middle school.

The one-on-one students are what we term "all-day" because they take only an elective outside the lab. Last year at mid-year we decided to let the other students try a half-day schedule, much like that of the high school students when they need reading, math and a period in the tutorials room for help with other subjects.

Our students seem to become increasingly discouraged with a full day of tutoring. We were gratified very soon after the change to observe their good efforts in the regular classes and their desire to have help from the tutors with those classes, using the reading strategies.

One of two students who has transitioned in part, "Julie," had the aptitude for regular classes when she first came in the summer. Along with some minor reading needs, however, she tended to erupt when relationships were not smooth, so she began as a half-day lab student. As she has acclimated to campus living, she also has learned

self-control. She focuses better, so she has been able to add a regular math class. Our goal is for her to become a full-day middle school student by January.

"Lillian" came to us in August as a 17-year-old seventh grader who, because of anxiety, became an all-day lab student. A medical problem had hindered earlier schooling, but other than necessary medication slowing her responses, she is very capable and a hard worker. She has been trying

two regular eighth-grade classes for a month now, and, if no stress occurs, will pick up an additional one each quarter. She should be ready to take a high school class for credit this summer, then resume reading in the high school lab in the fall.

That area of the lab transitioned enough students beginning this quarter to help us individualize more effectively than was possible the last quarter. One student who moved out is a 31-year-old student from Togo, lately of Senegal, who needed a refresher in mathematics as he prepares to go to college. After mastering the basics, he

picked up consumer math as a life-skills course. A reading student will be using the text from his farm science class along with the phonics-based reading materials, to get the assistance he needs for that class. Just three weeks ago the room teacher for middle school tutors installed our very own mini computer lab with appropriate programs. He and the high school room teacher are adept at using these to pre-teach computer skills while students work on math and reading concepts.

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

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W.F. Underwood

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Physical disability limited the life of Elmer Lacy, but he was determined to overcome these limitations.

At age 13 Lacy had polio, which left his legs paralyzed. He learned to walk in braces and drove a car with special equipment.

Lacy studied electronics and repaired radios and televisions. He lived with his parents until their deaths.

Lacy was a member of Broadway Baptist Church in Knoxville, Tenn. Although he was homebound in his later years, he maintained contact with the congregation. Members noted, "he was quite a Bible scholar." Deacons regularly visited him.

Deacon Jack Bounds said, "It was clear from our visits that he was a dedicated Christian. He enjoyed reading good books and magazines. His interest in current events always provided something to talk about."

Lacy regularly sent his offerings to the church and supported several other ministries.

Lacy died May 27. His will asked the Broadway Baptist deacons to serve as executor of the estate. They requested former deacon chairman Jack Bounds to act on their behalf. The probate court re-

quired each deacon to sign an affidavit supporting the decision.

After all bills were paid, the remainder of his estate was divided between Broadway Baptist Church, Clear Creek and Carson-Newman College. Through his estate plans, he continues to witness as a Christian steward.

Lacy was wise to make those decisions while he was alive. He was fortunate to live in a country with a tax code that encourages charitable giving.

This recent bequest from the estate of Elmer Lacy is similar to many others throughout our nearly 75 years of ministry.

This Thanksgiving we include our deepest thanks for the Christian financial planning of God's people.

Your wise and faithful estate plans can provide crucial resources for Christian work. So often, the estate gift comes just when it is needed most.

The Kentucky Baptist Foundation and I are available to assist you with estate planning.

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

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



BELARUS BAPTISM Despite economic difficulties and political tensions in the region, Baptists in Belarus are proclaiming the good news of God's love. Clvan Bukati, pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Minsk, baptizes Julia Neseimianova. Baptists in Belarus baptized one new believer for every 12 church members—a total of 862—and organized 12 new churches in 1997. (BP photo by Gary Franklin)

Germans gather to remember Jewish 'Night of Broken Glass'

BERLIN (RNS)—As ceremonies marking the 60th anniversary of Kristallnacht—the night when more than 1,000 German synagogues were destroyed—were held earlier this month, speakers urged continued vigilance against racism and warned of a resurgence of anti-Semitism.

The anniversary of the "Night of Broken Glass" recalled the burning and ransacking of Jewish shops and synagogues by Nazi storm troopers. The event is viewed as a harbinger of the Holocaust.

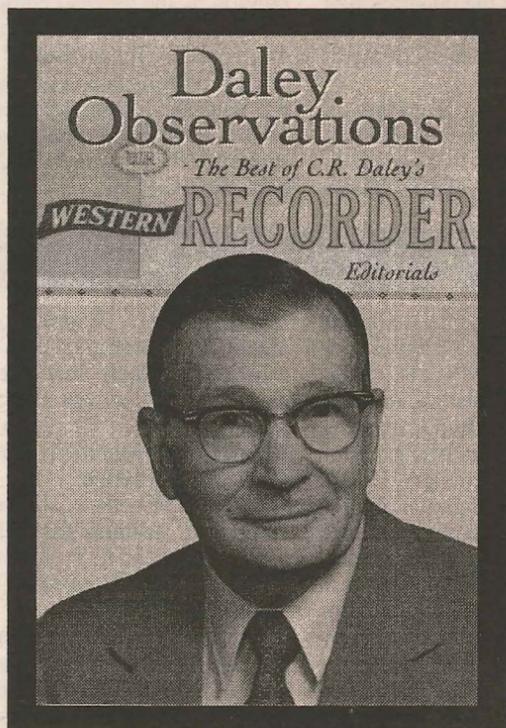
"The night of November 9 and 10, 1938, is one of the most horrible and shameful moments in German history," said German President Roman Herzog, who attended a ceremony at a restored synagogue with Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder to mark the occasion.

At least 91 Jews were killed during that violent night. Officials have said 200 synagogues were destroyed, but Jewish leaders in Germany said more than 1,000 were damaged if the smaller, unofficial places of worship are included in the count, Reuters reported.

Ignatz Bubis, the leader of Germany's small Jewish community, urged that attention to the Holocaust should not be permitted to subside.

"One cannot only look to the glorious sides of history and suppress the unpleasant ones," Bubis said. "Those who are not prepared to address this aspect of history and try to look away or to forget, must accept the fact that history can be repeated."

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■ Polish Baptists preparing for the partnership ministry of Kentucky Baptists.

■ Tanzanian Baptists preparing for the partnership ministry of Kentucky Baptists.

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

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Shirley Wooton

■ **BEDFORD**—Bedford Church will host an all-day crusade Nov. 22 led by **Jerry Pipes**. **Donald Kauffman** is pastor.

■ **CORBIN**—Faith Church ordained **Golvin Chadwell** to the gospel ministry. Chadwell is pastor of Ryans Creek in Williamsburg.

■ **CRESTWOOD**—Crestwood Church called **Anne Foster** as part-time preschool minister and **Theresa Stewart** as part-time children's minister. **Steve Hadden** is pastor.

■ **EMINENCE**—Eminence Church ordained **Brenda Satterly Black** as deacon Nov. 1. Also, **Michael Duncan** celebrated his 19th anniversary as pastor the same day.

■ **FAIRDALE**—Oak Grove ordained **Cletus Donaldson** as deacon. **Dallas Catron** is pastor.

■ **IRVINE**—New Harmony Church organized a youth group with **Jack Cahal** as director. **Ricky Kirby** is pastor.

■ **KEVIL**—Kevil First Church called **Donald Pippin**, a native of Ballard County, as interim pastor.

■ **LAGRANGE**—Buckner Church hosts COPE, a cancer victims support group, on the third Thursday each month. **Mary Upton** is leader. For information, call (502) 222-1735.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Immanuel Church will host "A Gathering of Grievors" Nov. 22 at 4 p.m. Author, speaker and research specialist **Harold Ivan Smith** will lead the event. Cost is \$10. For information, call (606) 266-3174.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Cloverleaf Church will present The Toney Brothers in concert Nov. 28 at 7 p.m. For information, call (502) 367-0218. **Geoffrey Laceyfield** is pastor.

Lynn Acres Church will host recording artists, The David Pitt Trio, Nov. 29 at 10:40 a.m. **John Meeks** is pastor.

New Beginning Church will dedicate its new building at 1060 Lynnhurst Ave. Nov. 22 at 10:45 a.m. Guest

speakers will be **Bill Sammons** from Long Run Association, **Fred Crysler** of Emmanuel Episcopal Church and **Dan Hatfield** of Southern Seminary. **Michael Baker** is pastor.

Shively Heights will join Rockford Lane and Shively Church for a Thanksgiving community service 7 p.m., Nov. 24 at Shively Heights. Pastor **Steve Andrews** will be the speaker. Everyone is welcome.

■ **OWENSBORO**—Zion Church will present "God for Us: A Worship Experience for All Seasons," Nov. 22, at 8:45 a.m. and 11 a.m. **Dan Garland** is pastor.

■ **ONEIDA**—Oneida Institute will present its fall drama, "The Favored Year," about the life of Christ, Nov. 19-21 at 7 p.m. For information, call (606) 847-4111.

■ **OWENSBORO**—Southeast Church had a record 101 people at a recent high attendance Sunday. **Randall Stallings** is pastor.

■ **RICHMOND**—First Church called **Kevin Sigsby** as minister of education and pamphlet. Sigsby and his wife, Pamela, served with the North American Mission Board in Utah. Also, **Laura Carr** was called as interim minister of youth. She previously served as Bible study leader at Centrifuge in Mobile, Ala. **Bill Fort** is pastor.

■ **ROCKHOLDS**—Pleasant Grove called **John Hash** as pastor. Hash has served several churches in South Union-Mt. Zion Association.

■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—Pleasant View Church ordained **Gerry Lemons** to the gospel ministry. He is serving as pastor.

■ **WINCHESTER**—Central Church conducted a lay-led revival at Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex at West Liberty, and 62 men made professions of faith. Also, Central Church will host a revival Nov. 15-18 with evangelist **Scott Smith**. **Morris Anderson** is pastor.

Religious stockholders won't back sweatshop agreement

WASHINGTON (RNS)—The Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, an umbrella organization of religious agencies that holds stocks, announced it will not endorse a White House-brokered agreement between other human rights groups and apparel manufacturers.

"Key principles, such as payment of a sustainable living wage to employees, and credible independent monitoring, are not sufficiently addressed," said Timothy Smith, the center's executive director.

The accord, which President Clinton praised as "a historic step toward reducing sweatshops around the world," was hammered out by a White House task force that included representatives of Nike, Reebok, Liz Claiborne and Phillips-Van Heusen.

Under the accord, American manufacturers pledge not to do business

with companies overseas that use forced labor or require employees to work more than 60 hours a week. Companies also will prohibit hiring children younger than 15 except in countries where 14-year-olds can work legally.

The agreement also commits the companies to pay the minimum wage required by local laws.

"The agreement provides for a study of wages," said David Schilling, who represented the ICCR on the task force that hammered out the deal. "But it does not commit participating companies to pay a sustainable living wage in apparel and footwear plants around the world."

The ICCR is a coalition of 275 denominations, religious communities, pension funds, hospital corporations and foundations with more than \$90 billion in combined portfolio worth.

Advocate: More medical schools give attention to spiritual health

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Seven medical schools and a school of osteopathy were honored with \$25,000 awards Nov. 11 for courses that will focus on spirituality and medicine.

More than 40 of the 126 accredited medical schools in the country now offer courses dealing with spirituality and medicine. The awards were given by the John Templeton Foundation and the National Institute for Healthcare Research for the fourth time.

The courses this year will look at the effect of religious beliefs on disease and health and the integration of spiritual aspects of healing with the mental and physical aspects of medicine.

Recipients this year are: Harvard University Medical School in Boston; Howard University College of Medicine in Washington; Medical Univer-

sity of South Carolina in Charleston, S.C.; St. Louis University Health Sciences Center, School of Medicine in St. Louis; University of Health Sciences, College of Osteopathic Medicine in Kansas City, Mo.; University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston in Texas; University of Virginia Health Sciences Center in Charlottesville, Va.; and Vanderbilt University School of Medicine in Nashville.

Nineteen other schools have received awards since 1995. The programs reflect increased attention on religion by the medical community.

"Five years ago, you could count on one hand the number of medical schools offering courses on spirituality," said David Larson, president of NIHR, a nonprofit organization that supports research on the relationship between health and spirituality.

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Henry County Baptist Association is accepting applications for the position of director of missions. A seminary degree is preferred or equivalent work experience with background in pastoral or missions work. Individual must be self-motivated and willing to create new ministry opportunities in a growing county. Currently there are 15 churches in the association. Expectations include a 20-hour work week with salary and full fringe benefits. Send resumé or request additional information to: David A. Baird, chairman Personnel Committee, Box 164, Eminence, KY 40019. Telephone: (502) 845-4788. Deadline for applications is Nov. 20, 1998.

SEEKING: Part-time youth minister. Send resumé to: Hall Street Baptist Church, 2220 Landsdowne South, Owensboro, KY 42303, Attn: Youth Personnel Committee.

FOR SALE: Church pews—padded seats and backs. Also: pulpit, chairs and table. \$4,000. Call (502) 545-3443, or 545-3250.

SEEKING: Eastview Baptist Church of Henderson, Ky., is seeking a full-time pastor. Please send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, Eastview Baptist Church, 1017 Earl St., Henderson, KY 42420.

SEEKING: Minister of youth/associate pastor for a growing church located about 7 miles from Rough River State Park. This is a full-time position with primary responsibility for an existing high school youth group. Applicants should be young, energetic, creative and responsible. The church has contemporary worship services including praise bands. For consideration in becoming a part of this exciting multi-staff ministry team, please send a resumé to: Minister of Youth Search Committee, Corinth Baptist Church, P.O. Box 9, McQuady, KY 40153.

WANTED: Daycare worker—lead position. Excellent pay. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Resumé to: Pastor John Meeks, 5007 Southside Drive, Louisville, KY 40214.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Richmond, Ky., is accepting resumé for a minister of youth. Qualifications: Mature Christian, member of a Southern Baptist church, master's degree or pursuing a master's degree from an accredited seminary, skilled in human relations, minimum of three years experience directly related to youth ministry. A complete job description will be mailed upon request. FBC is a rapidly growing church located near Eastern Kentucky University. Send resumé to: Minister of Youth Search Committee, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 697, Richmond, KY 40476.

FOR SALE: Risograph Duplicator Printer, model RC6300. Includes two drums (blue and black). For more information, call Shively Baptist Church, (502) 367-9155.

SEEKING: Full-time or part-time pastor for a small, south-central Kentucky church. Please submit resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, 4555 S. Hwy. 619, Jamestown, KY 42629-6709.

SEEKING: Rapidly growing church in Paducah area seeks full-time minister of youth. Interested applicants should send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 9701 Blandville Road, West Paducah, KY 42086.

SEEKING: Bivocational pastor. Accepting resumé through end of November. Send to Yorktown Baptist Church, 7300 National Turnpike, Louisville, KY 40214.

SEEKING: Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church, Bremen, Ky., is accepting resumé for a full-time minister of youth and education. Music background desirable. Send resumé and references to: Personnel Committee, 1340 Crescent Haul Road, Bremen, KY 42325.

SEEKING: Henderson Memorial Baptist Church, Hopkinsville, Ky., is accepting resumé for pastor. Prayerfully submit resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, Henderson Memorial Baptist Church, 501 Noel Drive, Hopkinsville, KY 42240. (502) 866-3223.

Former Chicago Bear teams up with God to impact students

JONESBORO, Ark. (BP)—Jerry Muckensturm used to measure his career in yards and in points. Today, he measures his ministry by faithfulness.

One might imagine that his former job as a linebacker for the Chicago Bears had its triumphs and disappointments, but Muckensturm says his career as collegiate and singles minister at Central Baptist Church in Jonesboro also includes challenges.

"Adversity for me is this balance with the pull of ministry and your family," said Muckensturm, who also serves as chaplain for football team of his alma mater, Arkansas State University. He and his wife, Pamela, have three daughters.

Yet he can point to a poster hanging on his wall when the challenges begin. It features a picture of Christ and reads, "I didn't say it would be easy, I said it would be worth it."

His college and professional football career affects his ministry "tremendously," he said.

"The analogy to athletics is tremendous," he said. "I look at athletics and the training and discipline and rewards involved in athletics and transfer that over to the Christian life. If nothing else, athletics has given me an audience."

Muckensturm said he faces several challenges as collegiate minister, noting his chief challenge "is me and the struggle I have in myself. The personal struggle is to continually have that burning desire to be who God wants me to be. That's not always there."

"The challenge with students is it's not the same as when I was a student," he explained. "And to keep up with and relate to students is hard. There's a tension—you want to relate to them, yet I'm a dad. There's a tension of relating and not so much identifying as one of them. I'm not like them. I'm 44. Yet I want to know what they are going through."

Muckensturm says the key to ministering to students is relationships, between him and the students and between the students and God.

"I want them to come away where they're depending on God and see that this relationship with him is real, it's developing and it's growing," he said.

"Now, under that umbrella, there are certain things such as the importance of reading Scripture, prayer and spiritual gifts you must emphasize," he noted. "But the key element I stress with students is relationships—that you need to continue to look to the Lord for direction."

Spiritual retreats grow in popularity

By Cecile Holmes
Religion News Service

FLORENCE, Italy (RNS)—It's early morning. Sunlight filters into the airy chapel of Suore Francescane dell'Immacolata where 10 black-robed nuns kneel in prayer.

The sisters sing a cappella, softly chanting. Right after the priest enters, several sleepy latecomers—lay people in street clothes—slip into the service, signaling a new trend in monastic worship.

Most of the year, the convent functions as home for a small group of Franciscan nuns and as a residence for young women attending college or graduate school nearby. Located near Florence's center, it is within walking distance of some of the city's most famous sites.

But in recent years, its white-washed corridors have joined the picturesque halls of about 2,000 religious houses worldwide that now accept travelers and spiritual tourists for either brief stays or somewhat longer periods of retreat-like quiet reflection.

So many people are looking to incorporate these brief, spiritual retreats into their lives that some U.S. monasteries now take reservations a year in advance.

Some attribute the demand to the stresses of modern life, while others believe aging baby boomers, always a generation of seekers, are turning to monastic silence to grow closer to God.

Kathleen Norris, a poet and author of several bestsellers on spirituality, helped popularize the notion of finding soul space in monasteries with her own writing about her experiences at a monastery. But leading spiritual writers from the late Henri Nouwen to Thomas Keating long have advocated the value of contemplation.

What once was common practice only among priests and nuns is a growing trend among lay people of diverse denominations.

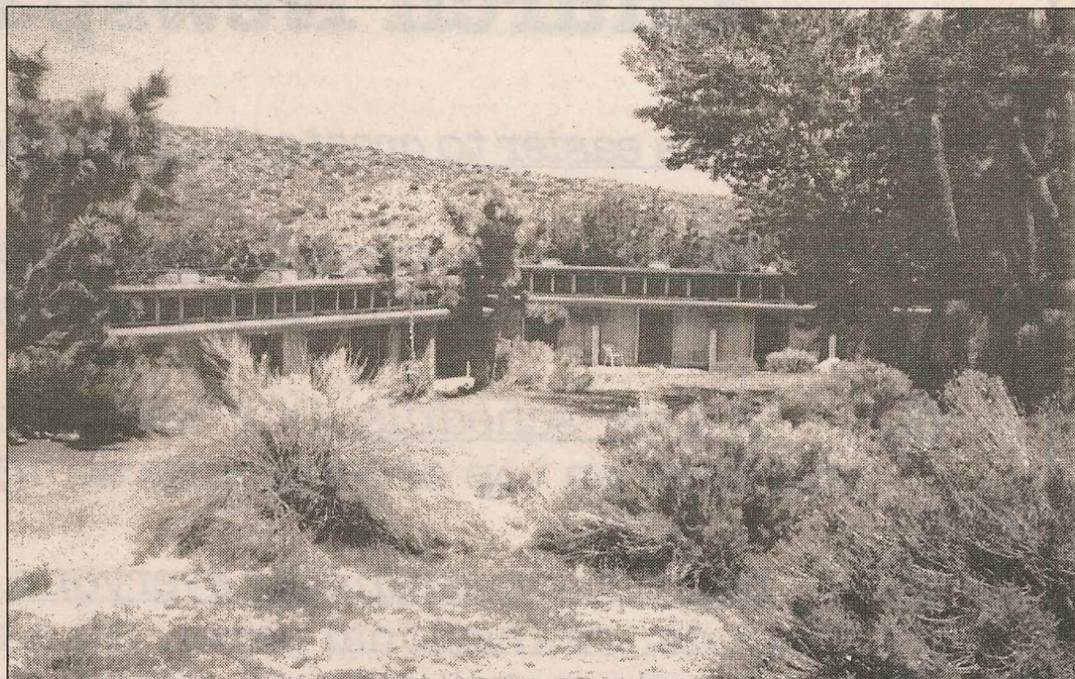
Indeed, interest is so strong that at least three recent guidebooks are devoted to such travel, listing and cataloguing the convents, monasteries, abbeys and retreat centers available to the short-term retreatant.

One of the most engaging was compiled by retired U.S. Col. James Hughes and his wife, the late Victoria. Hughes, 82, lives in Bloomfield, N.J., and is as enthusiastic about his self-published guidebook today as he was when its first edition appeared in 1990.

"Oh, we found some wonderful places," Hughes confided, rattling off a list that begins in Assisi, Italy, in the 16th century confines of St. Anthony's Guest House. The book is an extension of his European travels, he said.

Hughes' directory lists only addresses and telephone numbers; no details on types of accommodations or proximity to famous sites. The basic information was gleaned by Hughes directly, or acquired through friends and acquaintances.

Hughes' book offers ample details for resourceful travelers whether they are journeying to Africa or Thailand. Titled "Overnight or Short Stay at



Religious Houses Around the World," the book was an effort to give back the hospitality received at religious houses across Europe.

Until recently, the spartan pleasures of staying at a convent or abbey were a little-known secret. Only religious insiders—from Catholic lay leaders to Buddhist meditators—could outline the pros and cons.

Hughes advises travelers to decide what they're seeking before choosing a place to stay. Guest houses are best as "the base for a holiday," he writes. Retreat houses are more suited to people seeking physical rest, mental review, emotional reflection and spiritual renewal.

His paperback directory has found company with "Sanctuaries, The Complete United States" by inveterate travelers Marcia and Jack Kelly.

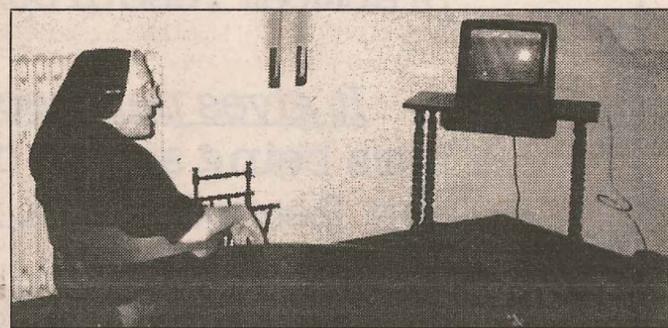
An update of two previous regional guides, this book describes 127 monasteries, retreat centers, convents and abbeys the Kellys have visited. It also provides listings in all 50 states of 1,000 other places, including Jewish, Buddhist, Hindu, Sufi and religiously-unaffiliated havens.

Unlike the Hughes' bare-bones guide, the Kellys offer details essential to novices on the retreat circuit. Each entry is an overview of types of lodgings, amenities, activities and proximity to points of interest.

Newcomers to this sort of travel should do their homework. There is, for example, a difference between a house of prayer and a retreat center. The former is designed for silent, soulful reflecting with periods of silence—or complete silence—often required. Retreat centers cater more to groups and families, but usually are noisier. Guest houses, usually adjuncts to a monastery, are designed for shorter stays.

Nearly all see hospitality to guests as ministry. Spiritual counseling is available, but usually only if requested. Non-believers generally also are welcomed.

In general, amenities are simple: usually soap, towels and linens. Prepare for inclement weather if the setting is woody. Expect company as diverse as the sponsoring religious



orders. You might meet a vacationing family, a soul-searching single or a married couple seeking a quiet weekend away.

The settings will be as different as their geographies. In the United States, at the popular St. Andrew's Abbey, located at Valyermo, Calif., in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains, retreatants can ponder God or the state of their soul beneath a star-studded night sky. The abbey, famous in the region for its ceramic studio, also offers a fall festival that attracts thousands and a series of summer workshops on themes including personal development and sacred dance. Families are common at meals.

On the East Coast, autumn travelers can rest in the comfortable arms of the Old South at Mepkin Abbey, a Trappist monastery along the Cooper River in South Carolina. It is built on property rich in ancient oaks draped in Spanish moss. Originally a rice plantation, the monastery was built after a parcel was donated to the local Catholic diocese by the Henry Luce family.

And there is always the unexpected: It is mid-afternoon, siesta time, at the Suore Francescane dell'Immacolata house in Florence. A younger sister is answering the phone. Most days her older peers would be napping. But listening carefully, visitors hear odd noises down a darkened hallway.

Closer inspection reveals a small black-and-white portable TV in a side room. Clustered around it, their chins thrust forward in determination, are three older sisters. "Hurrah, Go, Go, Hurrah!" they cheer in rapidfire.

Italy is winning in a soccer match. The siestas will have to wait.

SPIRITUAL RETREATS So many people are looking to incorporate spiritual retreats into their lives that some U.S. monasteries now take reservations a year in advance. ■ **Top:** St. Andrew's Abbey, in Valyermo, Calif., offers a fall festival that attracts thousands and a series of summer workshops on themes including personal development and sacred dance. ■ **Above:** A nun at Suore Francescane dell'Immacolata house watches a soccer game. (RNS photos)

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