

WESTERN RECORDER

PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

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On Mission



Together

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FOR THE RECORD

Kingdom model

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Y2K responses vary from caution to end-time panic

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—In Christian circles, conversion is often a topic of conversation as believers seek to bring more people into their fold.

But lately, leaders of Christian groups—like many others—are preaching about a different kind of conversion—adapting computer systems to avert problems with what's known as the Y2K computer bug.

Ministries used to disseminating books, videos and correspondence about the Trinity now also are distributing materials about how to deal with computers and other technology that could read dates ending with "00" as 1900 instead of 2000 at the turn of the century, prompting possible computer malfunctions.

Although the range of concern is wide—from those unaware of the

problem to those in a survivalist panic mode—many Christian groups are seeking a moderate approach.

James Dobson, president of Focus on the Family in Colorado Springs, Colo., and host of the popular program by the same name, recently aired a three-day series of talks with Christian experts on the topic.

"Don't panic everyone," Dobson said as he closed the third program.

"There is a middle ground between panicking and doing nothing and that's what we're trying to find."

In May, Shaunti Feldhahn, a former analyst of Asian financial markets for the Federal Reserve Bank, founded an interdenominational ministry called Joseph Project 2000 to help congregations prepare their communities for whatever small or large

impact could be felt from Y2K.

What churches do with that information varies. Some Joseph Project churches simply are checking on how local utilities are doing in becoming Y2K compliant. At least one church is leading an effort to dig a well and store grain in case there's a massive community need for food and water.

In September, 3,000 people attended a public meeting in Atlanta sponsored by the Woodstock, Ga.-based project to build awareness and encourage networking.

Feldhahn said she hopes other churches will sponsor similar gatherings across the country.

"If you look at it, there's a church or a synagogue standing in every single community in the nation," said Feldhahn. "We don't have time to build a new infrastructure to respond to Y2K. We need to use what we al-

ready have and really, faith-based organizations are it."

She hopes to educate churches so they will not be blind-sided by the pending technological problem, which could affect not only computers but embedded microchips in systems that provide everything from music to heat and air conditioning.

Her concerns are backed up by a recent survey of Protestant senior pastors.

The poll by Barna Research Group found 78 percent of respondents were familiar with the Y2K problem, but only 21 percent had taken any steps to evaluate its potential effect on their church.

Fewer—13 percent—said they had taken steps to alert their congregation about potential ministry opportunities or social consequences related to the issue.

Despite the middle ground of prep-



Who's afraid of the big, bad bug?

'Brand loyalty' less important when people pick a church

By Marv Knox
Texas Baptist Standard

VENTURA, Calif. (ABP)—Doctrine, care and sermons top Americans' list of priorities when they choose a church, according to a new study by the Barna Research Group.

Americans have discarded church "brand loyalty" and now base their church affiliation on a range of factors that suit their preferences, tastes and needs, reported George Barna, president of the polling organization and a researcher of religious trends.

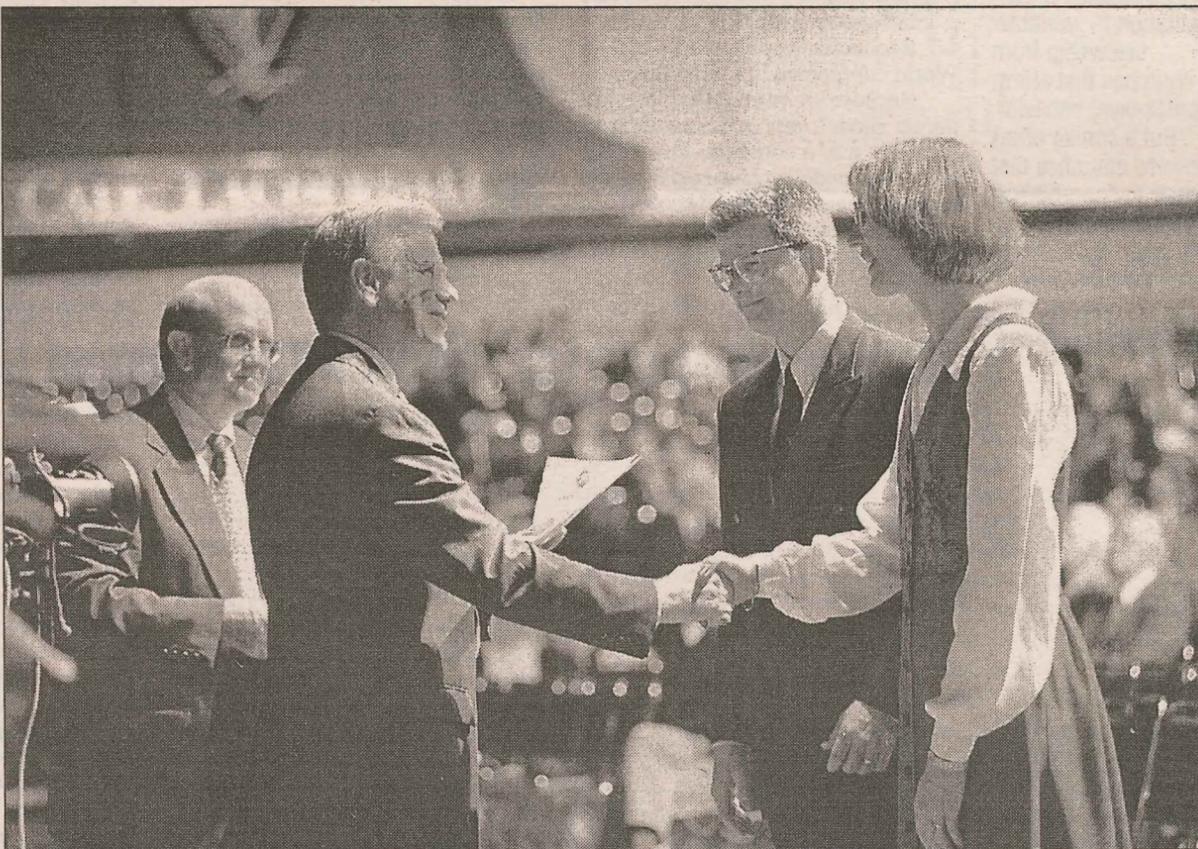
"A century ago, the church that most Americans attended was virtually arranged for them at birth," Barna said. "Most people went to the church of their parents, which was the same church their grandparents attended."

"Things have changed," he added. "Church loyalty is a modern casualty."

For example, more than one in seven adults changes churches annually, he said. And one in six "attends a carefully chosen handful of selected churches on a rotating basis" rather than affiliating with just one congregation.

Gone, too, are the days when people selected churches solely because of their denomination, with Baptists only joining Baptist churches, Methodists sticking with Methodist churches and similar denominational connections, he noted. "There is less concern about brand loyalty than there used to be."

See 'Brand loyalty' ..., page 6



NEW MISSIONARIES Marty and Sheri Holley receive their missionary appointment certificates from Southern Baptist International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin during a Nov. 17 service in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. The service included the appointment of 90 new missionaries and pushed Southern Baptists' total number to 4,523. This year the agency appointed more than 700 missionaries. If an equal number are appointed again in 1999, Southern Baptists will surpass the "Bold Mission Thrust" goal of having 5,000 international missionaries by the year 2000. (BP photo by Roy Burroughs)

Central Kentucky work with Hispanics growing

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

LA GRANGE—Many Hispanic congregations in Central Kentucky hold Spanish-speaking services, but the predominately Anglo Buckner Baptist Church recently integrated its Sunday morning worship service to welcome about 30 Hispanics every week.

The services feature a bilingual hymnal, bulletins in both English and Spanish and translation of sermons

into Spanish.

Anglos and Hispanics are coming together at the church in other ways, according to area missionary Gus Reyes. Adults work together at church work days, and youth are mingling through various fellowships and recreational activities.

The church recently ordained factory worker Manuel Hernandez as a deacon, the first Hispanic to hold that office in Oldham County, Reyes said.

"This definitely has to be of God because there are many obstacles to

overcome," said Reyes, a long-term volunteer who serves through the Southern Baptist Mission Service Corps.

"This is more than two cultures coming together," he explained. "Hispanics are from North and South America, Mexico and Cuba."

The joint services began in April of last year. Pastor Bob Hanses said members felt everyone who wanted to join the church should be included in Sunday services.

See Central Kentucky ..., page 3

BAPTIST BITS

■ **Gardner-Webb** University's trustees have named their divinity school after the school's current president, Chris White. The university, in Boiling Springs, N.C., opened a divinity school in 1993 with 35 students. Today, enrollment has grown to 130 students in three degree programs.

■ **Florida Baptists** made history at their annual meeting by electing their first African-American president. Elroy Barber, pastor of Westside Baptist Church in Hollywood, was unanimously elected president of the Florida Baptist State Convention.

■ **Georgia Baptists** voted to amend their constitution to withdraw fellowship from churches that affirm homosexual behavior. But a similar effort toward churches that engage in "non-biblical charismatic worship practices" failed to get the two-thirds majority needed for a constitutional change.

Professor: SBC must go from corporate to kingdom model

By Bob Allen
Associated Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE (ABP)—Southern Baptists must adopt a "paradigm shift" in how they do missions if they are to remain relevant in a post-modern society, a longtime denominational employee told a gathering in Louisville.

Instead of a "corporate" model of missions that has characterized the Southern Baptist Convention for more than 40 years, congregations should shift to a "kingdom church" model, emphasizing cooperation across denominational lines, said Ron Johnson, professor of missions and evangelism at Mercer University's McAfee School of Theology in Atlanta.

"I am ecumenical in my approach to life and my approach to missions," said Johnson, a career denominational employee who formerly worked for the SBC Sunday School Board, the SBC Home Mission Board evangelism division and the Georgia Baptist Convention evangelism department and who taught briefly at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

During the 1950s, Southern Baptists adopted a "corporate model" for denominational agencies borrowed from the business world, Johnson told a small-group gathering at the Nov. 4-7 Reconciliation Networks of Our World conference in Louisville.

"Because we were raised in a corporate model, our understanding of missions was a corporate vision," he said. That model emphasized financial and numerical growth and encouraged individual churches to support the denomination in the name of loyalty and pride.

Baptists have tended to function so

"that each individual church is part of the denominational franchise," Johnson said.

Johnson cited former denominational leader James Sullivan who described Southern Baptist polity as "a rope of sand with the strength of steel." In Sullivan's analogy, each grain of sand represented a local church, which working together could accomplish things far greater than they could separately.

In today's Southern Baptist Convention, racked by two decades of denominational infighting and the emergence of post-denominational thinking, Johnson said, "the problem is that rope has been broken into pieces."

Sullivan's rope of sand, he said, has crumbled to the ground, no longer bound together by a strong sense of denominational unity. From those individual grains, however, is springing a new vision of missions, Johnson said.

The future of Southern Baptists, he said, lies in a "paradigm shift" that is postmodern in perspective. That shift, he said, has led him to understand "the reality of the kingdom church."

Kingdom churches, Johnson said, are concerned primarily with seeking and doing the will of God in their community. Instead of looking to denominational headquarters for programs, they will partner with other faiths, capitalizing on strengths of various traditions to reach unchurched people.

"When we talk about missions, we can't think about it parochially," Johnson said.

Other denominations could learn

from Southern Baptists' passion for missions and evangelism, Johnson said. In the same way, he said, Southern Baptists should be willing to learn from other faith groups.

For example, he said, Southern Baptists can learn from Roman Catholics, who have traditionally been very strong in social ministries. "Southern Baptists have used social ministry, unfortunately, as a license to preach the gospel," he said. The denomination has met human needs primarily as a means to an end—evangelism—rather than because the Bible teaches Christians should reach out to others with compassion, he said.

Johnson said Southern Baptists have embraced a truncated view of evangelism and missions. "We need to recover something of a sense of holism in ministry which I'm afraid we do not have," he said.

Under the corporate model, "Southern Baptists have paid our taxes to the denominational headquarters, who did our work for us," Johnson said. Now, churches are becoming interested in doing missions for themselves.

"What I am sensing is God is stirring in a lot of our churches," he said. "They are restless."

He said congregations now are asking, "How can you talk with integrity about Bold Mission Thrust (the SBC's plan to present the gospel to every person by the year 2000) when you can't even reach your own community for Christ?"

He suggested that the SBC's North American Mission Board, "instead of being a corporate kind of agency that defines what missions is in this country," become a "catalyst" for missions

in local churches and then get out of the way.

"Southern Baptists are in more trouble than they think they are," Johnson said. Sixty percent of baptisms in Southern Baptist churches are rebaptisms, he said, and only half of church members ever share their faith.

"The cold, hard fact is we are not penetrating the culture," he said. Instead, "We have become a subculture in the larger culture."

"The controversy among Southern Baptists is not really theological," Johnson said. "It's a response to the declining demographics of Southern Baptists."

In the 1950s, he said, the "baby boom" assured there would be evangelism as children grew and became baptized into church membership. As Southern Baptists have climbed the socio-economic ladder, they had fewer children, he added.

Post-modernism has made matters worse, with many children growing up in blended families with little exposure to church.

"When we see declining numbers, we turn to our orthodoxy and say we don't believe the Bible enough," he said.

Evangelism methods used by many Southern Baptists amount to a "crash course" in the Christian faith. The numbers of people leaving churches, characterized by some as a "back-door" revival, "is a scandal," Johnson said.

Johnson said his goal is to lead churches not to measure success by how many buildings they have but whether they capture a sense of what God wants them to do in their community.

Baylor chancellor lobbies for Baptist Convention of the Americas

By Marv Knox
Baptist Texas Standard

HOUSTON (ABP)—Texas Baptists should consider creating a Baptist Convention of the Americas to embrace like-minded Christians and evangelize the Western Hemisphere, Baylor University Chancellor Herbert Reynolds said Nov. 10.

At the annual breakfast meeting of Texas Baptist Committed, a group of Texas moderate Baptists, Reynolds

outlined why he believes a new convention is both needed and possible.

Reynolds also took aim at current Southern Baptist leadership, saying moderate Baptists should never expect to be granted access to meaningful roles of leadership.

"We find ourselves at the point of a schism in Texas Baptist life," Reynolds said, citing the departure of a group called Southern Baptists of Texas, who formed a new convention just hours after he spoke.

They left after failing to convince the Baptist General Convention of Texas to march in step with the SBC.

"There seems to be no doubt that this present circumstance has arisen because the majority of Texas Baptists ... have made it clear that Texas must and will chart its own course to stay true to our mission by avoiding the destructive influences of the leadership of the Southern Baptist Convention," he said.

Two groups—supporters of recent developments in the SBC and a "reconciliation movement" comprised of "well-intentioned pastors and laypeople who continue to believe that the fundamentalists do not want to be divisive"—have attempted to thwart the BGCT's "destiny that might lie quite apart from the Southern Baptist Convention," Reynolds noted.

"One might reasonably conclude that the two parallel movements we

have been encountering in Texas are just further ploys" of ultra-conservatives who gained control of the SBC in the past two decades, he said.

Those SBC leaders have a vested interest in holding onto the "annual tribute" Texas Baptists provide to the national convention—\$43 million in budget and missions contributions, he said, adding they also covet the "possibility of taking over Texas and all our institutions and agencies."

Reconciliation will not happen, Reynolds charged, because SBC leaders will not be reconciled. "There is not even the remotest possibility that the fundamentalists in Baptist life will abandon their world view for any kind of meaningful and lasting reconciliation, since giving up power and control would be like the loss of life itself to those who are the most psychologically afflicted," he said.

A hemispheric convention is needed because of the region's burgeoning population, Reynolds said.

Such a convention is possible because technological advances now minimize enormous distances and other logistical barriers, he noted. And it's affordable if Texas Baptists channel the money they currently contribute to the SBC into the new venture, he said.

Moreover, the needs are great, Reynolds stressed. The Americas are home to 800 million people, and the

population likely will reach 1 billion soon, he reported, noting up to 400 million of them are not Christians.

Two significant factors—strength and need—form the context of a possible Baptist Convention of the Americas, Reynolds said.

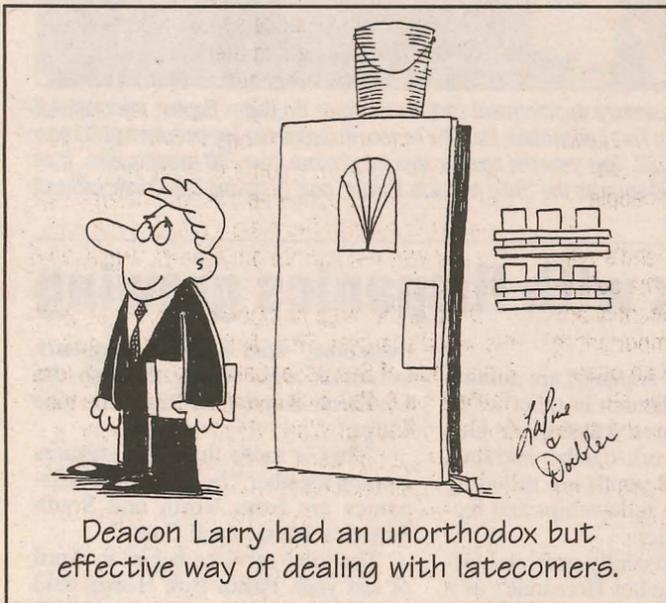
Texas Baptists contribute almost \$100 million annually for cooperative missions and ministries, he reported. Almost \$48 million of that amount goes for worldwide causes, with \$43.3 million earmarked to the SBC and \$2.4 million to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, he said.

"While maintaining the autonomy and integrity of our state convention and that of any partnering states, it might well be possible to create a Baptist Convention of the Americas with a very lean staff, where the outsourcing of many services and functions could maximize the use of our financial resources," he said.

Ingredients that could support such a move include telecommunications advances, good airports and convention facilities in Dallas and Houston.

As an example of the ability to outsource some duties, he noted seminaries and theology schools at Baptist universities could be contracted to provide theological education.

"For the \$11.4 million tribute Texas is now sending to the six SBC seminaries, we could ... support a very sizable group of students," he said.



Deacon Larry had an unorthodox but effective way of dealing with latecomers.

Kentucky native helps plant churches in Venezuela

By Betty Poor
SBC International Mission Board

CARACAS, Venezuela—Louisville native Becki Glenn was reared with first-hand knowledge about missions.

"I wouldn't trade what I experienced for anything," said Glenn, who spent her early childhood in Honduras and Peru, where her parents served as missionaries.

Now Glenn serves as a Southern Baptist missionary in Caracas, Venezuela. She said she's glad her son Aaron and daughter Cassidy, now grown, had the same opportunity to know people from other cultures. "It has given them a world view."

The Christmas season traditionally is a time when all Southern Baptists are encouraged to have a world view during the Season of Prayer for International Missions.

The season includes the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions, which this year has a national goal of \$110 million.

Glenn and her husband, Mike, work to reach the middle class residents of Caracas, a city of 5 million people. Their vision is to start home Bible studies that will develop into churches.

"My gift is hospitality," Glenn says. "Here we have a lot of people come through our home. Just lately the Lord has put so many people in my path."

Relationships are the key to a successful ministry, she added. "We're not going to see great numbers."

Evencio and Marlene Leon are examples of personal relationships that make a difference in the Glenns' ministry. One of the Bible studies they are starting meets in the Leons' apartment. "Marlene is my best friend here in Venezuela, and her husband is Mike's best friend," Glenn said.

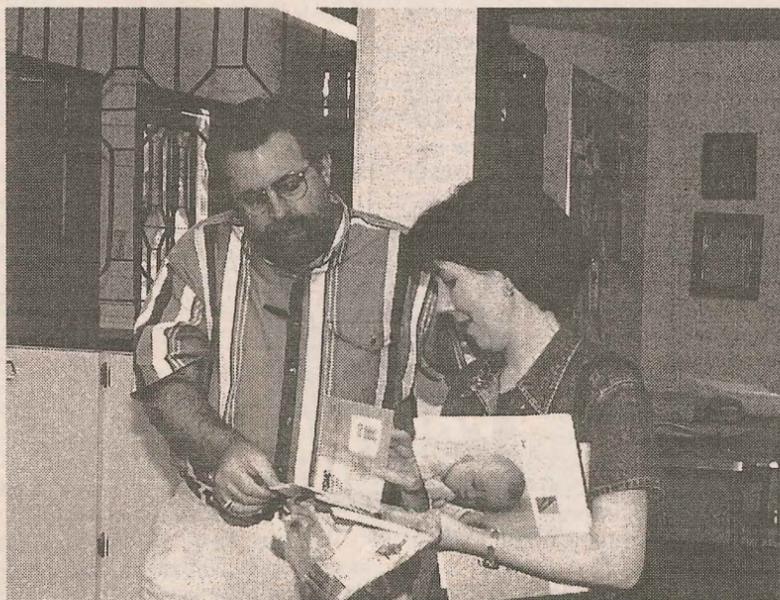
The Leons' children are young adults and have invited their friends to the Bible study in their parents' apartment.

The Glenns meet every week with the Leons and five or six of their children's friends, men and women in their early 20's. The Glenns explained the Christian faith and answered questions in an informal manner for two or three months. Then one night all of the young adults prayed to receive Christ.

Glenn also emphasizes the importance of building good relationships with fellow missionaries. "I'm going to work at keeping those relationships strong," she said.

That's the kind of life she grew up in. She became a Christian when she was nine and living with her missionary parents in Lima, Peru. "My dad was pastor of First Baptist Church of Lima," she said.

Her parents were on furlough, serving as camp missionaries in New Mexico, when she said she first felt



MAIL CALL Kentucky native Becki Glenn and her husband, Mike, look over letters and magazines from their post office box at the mission office in Caracas, Venezuela. The Glenns are church planters with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board. (BP photo by Betty Poor)

God calling her also to become a missionary.

She met Mike Glenn and they married in 1971 and were appointed to Venezuela in 1978.

At the time of their appointment, Glenn's father was a trustee for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, now the International Mission Board. "His last official activity as a trustee was our appointment service,"

she said.

The Glenns served in church planting in Puerto Ordaz and Puerto La Cruz before moving to Caracas in 1992.

Now Glenn asks Kentuckians to pray for their ministry with people in Caracas. "We could be pulled in so many ways," she said, adding that she and her husband want to be sure they follow God's way.

BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ **Campbellsville University** is seeking families willing to host international students during the holidays. Of the 1,600 students at Campbellsville, 67 come from 25 foreign countries. For more information, call Susan Walters at (502) 789-5479.

■ **The Christian Heritage Center** will host a speech by Alabama Judge Roy Moore, Dec. 4 in Louisville at 7:30 p.m. Moore's display of the Ten Commandments in his courtroom prompted a federal lawsuit. The event will be at the American Legion Post's Highland Hall. Tickets cost \$5 for adults and \$3 for students.

Central Kentucky Baptists' work with Hispanics growing

Continued from page 1

"This may not work for everyone else, but it works for us," he said. "The Hispanics are becoming involved and becoming more comfortable with the church. There's been some good, solid friendships made."

While newcomers have boosted average attendance by 25 percent, the pastor said Buckner Baptist's primary goal in reaching out was ministry.

Sometimes more than a dozen immigrants cram into one trailer and have no food to eat, Hanses said. They also have needs other than food, he added.

"Our Hispanic members have taken on the bulk of ministering to Hispanics," he said. "We're seeing steady growth, and we're excited about that."

Despite the assimilation, the church still has some separate activities.

Twice a month Hispanics leave just before the sermon to hear a message preached in Spanish. They also gather Tuesday evenings for a fellowship dinner and worship service in their native tongue.

Reyes said such fellowship is needed, especially for those who haven't adjusted to American culture.

Buckner is one of eight Hispanic works formed through the North Central Regional Hispanic Council, composed of Shelby County, Henry County and Sulphur Fork Baptist associations.

Collectively, these missions now

average 170 people for weekly worship services, Bible studies, fellowships and classes in English as a second language.

Their work extends beyond the boundaries of their associations. The council's largest mission meets Sunday afternoons at Cooper Chapel Road Baptist Church, just south of Louisville.

The newest, home-based group held its first meeting in late October and will ask Bedford Baptist Church to become its sponsor, Reyes said.

Another group sponsored by Franklinton Baptist Church hopes to open a Christian coffee house in Eminence by January.

Besides promoting church and social life, the group emphasizes spiritual training through a seminary extension class. A dozen men currently are enrolled. The weekly courses, which began in 1996, meet at Buckner Baptist.

The area's population is growing rapidly, and Reyes said he would like another family to come help with Hispanic work in Central Kentucky. His wife, Gloria, and Mission Service Corps volunteer Kelly Thorne are the only other missionaries to Hispanics in the region.

"I feel there is a great revival coming and part of it is among Hispanics," he said. "They are part of the means God is using to shake us up, get us out of our comfort zones and get us reaching out to Anglos and Hispanics."

Cross collector: Museum gives permanence to work

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

WILLIAMSBURG (BP)—His head recently went bald, evidence of a renewed bout with malignant lymphoma. But the Southern Baptist pastor who organized the nation's largest cross museum finds comfort in knowing his accomplishment will outlive him.

"We all want our life to have some permanence beyond our years on earth," said Robert Williams, who retired from the pulpit 10 years ago. "It gives me a good feeling to know I've done something that will be here after I'm gone. A lot of people don't have that opportunity."

The Carl Williams Cross Museum is the outgrowth of a hobby that began several decades ago. It is named after his late son, a pastor who died in an accident in 1981.

The elder Williams maintained the collection for a while in a storefront operation in downtown Louisville. Several years ago he donated it to Cumberland College. More than 5,000 people visit the museum annually.

Bob Dunston, chairman of Cumberland's religion and philosophy department, said the collection reinforces the college's Christian identity and lets the public know what values are important to their educational process. "It gives me an opening in Christian history class and to have students involved in research on the cross and symbolism in the church," he said.

More than 7,100 crosses and crucifixes fill the museum, along with paintings, photographs, carvings, candles, communion trays and Bibles.

The crosses include a number owned or fashioned by Williams, a craftsman and self-

described "trader" who still uses sales from a Louisville flea market to help generate funds for the museum.

There's the chaplain's cross he received while serving in the United States Air Force in the early 1950s. And a wooden cross he made from an old kitchen counter at one of the churches where he was pastor. His favorite is a six-foot-tall cross he made by welding metal scraps together.

The far-ranging variety of crosses come from places like Ireland, Honduras, Peru, Germany and Czechoslovakia. There is a crystal cross from Russia, which was donated by two Southern Baptist missionaries there, and a dark-colored Russian Orthodox item with two holes in it. Williams suspects they are bullet holes.

The collection includes some unique selections—and stories behind them.

There is a small cross tipped in gold which came from Alabama's Libby Prison, an 1863 Civil War heirloom donated by one family. The only place gold could have come from in those circumstances was someone's teeth, Williams said.

Another reflects the state's tobacco heritage—it was made from portions of Camel cigarette packs.

Despite the large number, the collection isn't the world's largest. That distinction belongs to Ernie Rada of San Jose, Calif., who recently was notified his 8,400-plus inventory had made the Guinness Book of World Records. However, it's in Rada's garage because he hasn't been able to find financial backing for a museum.

Besides, Williams said his goal is not enlarging his collection, but to begin cataloging and explaining it. A museum should be an interpretive center, he said, not simply a collection of things.

WESTERN RECORDER

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

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Confessional editor?

Let me begin by saying that, overall, I thoroughly enjoyed my first trip to the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Only one thing seemed to trouble me, and that was the Western Recorder report. I was concerned by the statement that in searching for a new editor there would be no requirement of confessional commitment except one to "Baptist freedom," the priesthood of the believer and the autonomy of the local church. I have no problem with these three, when they are understood properly in the context of our Baptist heritage, but that heritage is a confessional heritage which informs how Baptists have understood these terms throughout our history.

Will you expect the new editor to profess to be a bandaging believer in Jesus Christ, a believer in the doctrine of the trinity, believers' baptism and a member of a Baptist church? If so, then you do have a confessional standard by which candidates will be judged. If not, will you open the selection process to non-Christians of demonstrated journalistic ability so long as they pledge to honor your three tenants stated above?

This question may seem trivial, but I am asking it in all seriousness. If we are going to be faithful to our calling as Christians we must have some kind of confessional standard. If we don't, then we open the door to all kinds of heterodox teaching that can only lead us to spiritual declension.

Subscription to a particular confession should never take the place of a living relationship with God in Jesus Christ, but it should certainly help to inform that relationship under the authority of the Scriptures.

A.J. Smith,
Jonesville

Consistent discipline

A few weeks ago I read an article about Bob Jones University. They requested a former student not to return to the campus. The student has identified himself with the gay community. This must have been a difficult decision on the part of the University.

Appropriate discipline is needed to gently restore Christians to the body of Christ again. The church and Christian institutions lack the balance needed to discipline properly. A proper discipline requires an equal judgment. If a known adulterous heterosexual relationship is not confronted the same way, then the balance has shifted.

We must treat everyone with the same level of correction. The example of discipline is given to us in the Word. Go privately to the person to encourage them to stop their deviant behavior. If the person refuses, then you are to bring two or three others to establish your words of correction. If he/she continues to live in the lie, then we are compelled to deny fellowship and excommunicate the prideful person from the church or institution.

I would be stupefied if Kentucky churches and their institutions would follow these biblical teachings for all known sexual sins. Do we look the other way when we see heterosexual couples living together and condemn homosexuals? Are we willing to ask our people who are in positions of authority to remove themselves who are in sexual sin? If repentance does come to the people of God then a much greater awakening will occur. Be ready to take in hurting, lonely and desperate people. People who do not know how to love or who they are in Christ. Are we ready?

John Lawlor
Louisville

Commend KBHC

Whenever an employee is released, the decision has unpleasant aspects. Lives are disrupted, and feelings are hurt. It's not fun for either the one terminated or the one compelled to make the termination decision.

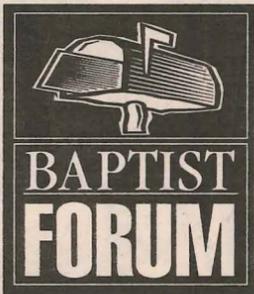
Therefore, I am writing to commend the leadership of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children for having the courage and consistency of conviction to fire the self-confessed lesbian, supervisor Alicia Pedreira.

Spokesperson Linda Gray is correct in stating the importance of the homes "staying true to our Christian values." It is also perfectly consistent with biblical revelation that "homosexuality is a lifestyle that would prohibit employment" in an entity which purports to minister in the name of Jesus and is supported and operated by Kentucky Baptists.

Is this hatred? No. I have no room for or tolerance of hatred directed at those who are engaged in homosexual behavior. Is this homophobia? That rubric is being employed far too loosely to label as fear that which is, in fact, strictly thoughtful, biblical evaluation of a behavioral choice that is patently offensive to God and historically offensive (not frightening) to those who embrace a biblical, or even theistic, world view.

It is quite possible that with neither hatred nor homophobia, the leadership of an entity that is charged with operating itself in consistent alignment with biblical principle may have to make the types of decisions made by the leadership of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. It is also quite possible, in fact it may be inevitable, that those who are not committed to a biblical world view will prejudicially evaluate such decisions as hateful or bigoted. Such conclusions only convey substantial ignorance of the Word of God and the Baptists of Kentucky.

Russell Howard
Lexington



FAMILY

This Christmas, opt for the more meaningful, not expensive, gifts

By Jeremy White

Gift giving can be a budget buster. If the sheer dollar amount is not bad enough, we often buy things that are useless, meaningless or frivolous.

Don't think I'm Scrooge or thoughtless. I applaud, as does the Bible, generous giving. It's just that many of us buy things that someone else doesn't need or want. People want treasured items, not trinkets.

Advertising and our own laziness has overwhelmed our creativity. Think about this: What are a few of the most meaningful gifts you have ever received?

For me, two gifts come to mind. One memorable gift from my grandmother was a collection of handwritten stories of funny, touching or silly things I did or said as a child. My parents couldn't remember them or weren't present to see them. But my grandmother not only pondered them in her heart but also wrote them down for future generations.

Another meaningful gift was a video I received from my parents. They gave this video to my brothers and me after we all had left home. My mother gathered certain family pictures, organized them chronologically, wrote inscriptions of the event and date, and transferred them to a video-cassette with a musical background. This video told the White family story.

These gifts were "not available in any store" but invested further in relationships. Here are a few ideas to begin your creative thinking of meaningful gifts:

- Write and frame a tribute of praise to someone (more than just a line at the bottom of a card).

- Have your kids make memorable presents for relatives.

- Give your children a coupon for a half day with you (they choose the activity).

- Make a scrapbook of an event or a collage of pictures with special memories.

- Give a coupon to offer someone babysitting, lawn services or laundry services.

- Write a poem for poetry lovers or compose and perform a song for music lovers.

- Contribute money to a church, mission or charity in honor of someone.

Jeremy White is a certified public accountant in Paducah

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

The value of one

As I reviewed the glowing reports about Southern Baptist international missions, I am overwhelmed by the impressive numbers:

- 4,249 overseas personnel.

- 17,261 volunteers.

- \$100 million given to the Lottie Moon Offering for International Missions.

- Missionaries in 127 countries.

We must pause to thank God for the great things he has done. However, there are yet 2 billion people with no one to share the gospel with them. More than 22 million internationals pass through U.S. borders in a single year from 185 countries. More than 500,000 of these internationals are students, and 25 percent are from countries where missionaries are prohibited. More than 80 percent of these future world leaders are never invited into an American home.

The tendency sometimes is for Christians to be paralyzed by such needs. But one person can make a difference, and so many Baptists are

making a big difference by informed praying, sacrificial giving and bold going. Here are some examples:

- Ruth Baker saved money all year from baby sitting and gave more than \$700 to the Lottie Moon offering. Did she make a difference? She did in her pastor's heart. It is no surprise that her daughter, a certified public accountant by career, led in establishing a church in a low-rent community near Charleston, S.C. where she lives.



Bill Mackey

- Wade Akins, former director of missions with several academic degrees, went to Brazil with one pas-

sion—to start new churches in every town in his state. While on a construction project for Akins in Brazil, my brother was invited to stay another week to supervise the construction of a mission chapel. That experience led my brother to sell his construction business in Charlotte, N.C. Three years later, 104 mission chapels have been constructed in Brazil and thousands have become Christians while

watching the Jesus film. Has he made a difference? My brother continues to go, and when he is at home he is recruiting at night and working days.

- While assisting with a chapel construction project in South America, my brother met the leader of some volunteers from Mississippi who were involved in medical missions and evangelism. The leader of the group was the famous fiction writer John Grisham. God is using him to make a difference.

- Clayton Corsey has witnessed growth in the number of churches from seven in the 1970s to more than 400 today in Malindi and Kilifi, Kenya. God has used him to make a difference in Kenya.

- David Watson has led a network of church planting in an unreached people group of 90 million. In seven years there are more than 1,000 churches and 30,000 believers. Has God used him to make a difference?

This Christmas, God can use you and me to make a difference. One gift, one prayer and one bold trip with God can change someone's world and make an eternal difference.

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

I've got my list of what I want in a man. Why can't I find him?

There is both a negative and a positive in such list making. First, the negative: Harold Ivan Smith recently reminded a group of single adults that with every item on your list you eliminate between 10,000 and 100,000 possibilities. You might have a list with so many characteristics that such a person does not exist. It might be just a fantasy—the male version of your ideal self appearing as your “knight in shining armor.”

Now, the positive: Differences are comparable to bank withdrawals, similarities are like money in the bank. Neil Clark Warren has written that any list of the most important similarities must consider the following:

■ **Intelligence.** This does not equal education. If one partner feels “talked down to,” emotional connection disintegrates.

■ **Values.** Things such as the priority of God or family must be agreed upon to prevent severe friction in this area.

■ **Intimacy.** This includes communicating well, being accepting and removing all pretense.

■ **Interests.** A diversity of interests held in common contributes to happiness.

■ **Role expectations.** It matters little which style the couple chooses; it matters a lot that they choose the same one.

Neil Warren's book, “Finding the Love of Your Life,” contains a list of 50 things to consider when looking for potential areas of similarity. “Know thyself,” a wise man once said. It contributes greatly to any future marital happiness when you know what you are looking for. — *James Stillwell*



What is the perfect gift for my child this Christmas?

They are called “Pass It On” cards, and you can find them at any Christian bookstore. One side carries a colorful message of encouragement; the other side is blank. They are about the size of a business card. They cost less than a quarter.

On the blank side print “Dad” or “Mom,” your child's name and the coming year. Drop the card in your child's Christmas stocking, place it on your tree or put it by your child's place at the breakfast table Christmas morning.

Your child will find it and ask, “What's this?” Explain that the card expresses your desire and commitment to spend time with him or her during the coming year. Here's how it works:

When your child presents the card to you (at least once a week), you schedule a special time together. The together time doesn't have to cost money. Play a game, go for a walk or a bike ride, shoot baskets, play on the swing set, read a story, visit a pet store. Let your child suggest and choose.

Don't make the mistake of turning your gift of time into another task that can be checked off your calendar. The idea of “quality time” is a myth. Your child needs vast amounts of your time and attention—much more than one or two hours a week. Simply let the card be a reminder and a jump starter.

Remember that regular, routine activities count. Don't do it alone if you can do it together. Remember, too, that time spent together talking, laughing, playing and enjoying the little things of life will set the stage for time spent later talking about big, important things. — *David Garrard*

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

The danger of making bad assumptions

We returned Nov. 19 from Oxford, England, having finalized details of accommodations and local orientation for the Center for Christian Ministry's first participant in its minister study leave program.

Georgetown College's recently developed partnership with Regent's Park College includes this special opportunity for ministers to engage in a one-month study leave in the Oxford University environment.

Feeling gastronomically motivated one evening, I stopped by a shish-kebab stand for a filafil sandwich. Assuming from his appearance and use of English that the vendor was an Arab, I threw out a few rusty greetings in Arabic and asked where he was from. He responded in English that he was Iranian, not an Arab, and that he did not speak Arabic!

The national elections held early in November demonstrated in a very public manner what can happen to political party leaders who make wrong assumptions about how the American people will react. As in this case, wrong assumptions can sometimes cost dearly.

Through their actions, individuals and institutions might demonstrate some of their assumptions.

In 1999, 20 years will have passed since the beginning point of the Southern Baptist Convention's “conservative resurgence,” the term preferred by those who gained control.

However, it took about 14 of those years to secure control of the trustees of the SBC boards and agencies. It is probably only during the past five years, with the old leaders out and the new leaders in, that one might discern some “assumptions” with which SBC leadership works:

■ **The leadership assumes it has a mandate to take the SBC in whatever direction they, their trustees and the relatively small number of annual messengers want to take it.** The most recent example is the action of Southwestern Seminary to add to their Abstract of Principles the newly approved amendment to the Baptist Faith and Message, which takes the strict biblical interpretation that the husband is “head” of the wife. This seminary's faculty must either sign it or seek other employment.

■ **Current leaders assume Cooperative Program funds, designated giving and estate gifts will continue to flow generally undiminished.** While Cooperative Program

gifts to the SBC are strong, the real challenge for denominational funding at all levels is yet ahead when factors, largely unrelated to the controversy, begin to kick-in. They include the die-off of an entire generation of “storehouse-tithers” and the uncertainty of this new generation, which seems to be more specifically “need-driven” in their giving and less inclined than this generation to our practice of unquestioned giving to the Cooperative Program.

■ **SBC leadership appears to assume it can get along without Woman's Missionary Union.** Internal reorganization at the national agencies suggests SBC agencies may well intend to do in the future as much as possible of what WMU has done in the past.

■ **That the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship someday will break away and become a denomination or some such entity.** While a growing number within CBF would welcome

that opportunity, in annual assembly they have rejected that idea. Most Southern Baptists who participate in or support the Fellowship consider its existence as relevant and necessary, not only for fellowship, missions and extending the opportunities for graduate religious studies, but because its very existence is their statement of opposition to the direction of SBC leadership.

■ **That in time, SBC seminaries will produce more and more pastors who will support a conservative agenda, inevitably moving Southern Baptist churches in a more conservative direction.** With the continued expansion of graduate religious studies and the increasing religious focus in the undergraduate programs of many Baptist colleges, the educational options for young Baptist ministers will significantly impact that assumption.

■ **That as long as the SBC continues to elect leaders who will carry forward “the cause,” the Southern Baptist Convention will continue on its present course.** Southern Baptist leadership, in the past five years, has led in significant changes in our convention structures and personnel, resulting in great pain for many people. The “chain of pain” may ultimately be a movement's undoing.

Even good leaders will make an occasional mistake. But good leaders will not continue making the same mistakes based on wrong assumptions.

Bill Marshall

‘How will this be since I am a virgin?’

By James Pierce

But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. . . .” How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?” (Luke 1:30-31, 34)

This is a legitimate enough question for Mary to ask, wouldn't you say? Imagine the shock for this teen-aged girl when the angel made the earthshaking announcement that she would give birth to a child. After all, she was only engaged to Joseph. They had not had sexual relations. It was impossible for her to be pregnant otherwise, or so she thought.

It wasn't until the angel explained the “how” of the situation to her in verse 35 that she understood: “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.”

The question with which Mary struggled nearly 2,000 years ago is

one still debated back and forth, even among those who profess to know Christ as personal Savior. “How will this be since I am a virgin?” And the answer is so clear; it's classic: With God all things are possible!

I am always amused a little bit if people say, “I have difficulty believing in the virgin birth.” It is not hard

at all for me to believe that God could bring a man into this world with an earthly mother and a heavenly father when he made the first man with no father or mother at all. Just think about it. We are talking about God. Paul couldn't understand it, but he said to Timothy, “Great is the

mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh . . .” (1 Timothy 3:16). That's a great mystery. You can't understand it, but you can stand on it.

Some might ask, “Well, why make such a big issue out of it anyway? Is it really all that important?” Some so-called theologians say, “No, it's not at all important.” But if the virgin birth of Christ is not important, then you have difficulty with the character of

Mary because if Jesus was not born of a virgin, Mary was a harlot.

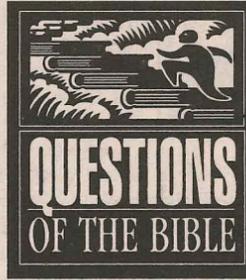
Second, if there's no virgin birth you have difficulty with the word of God because the word of God says he was born of a virgin.

Third, if there's no virgin birth you have difficulty with the character of Jesus himself. Jesus would then simply be a son of Adam and an illegitimate son of Mary.

Don't think you can take the virgin birth out of the Bible and still have the truth of Christianity. No, what we have here is a mystery; the mystery of the incarnation. He was born of a virgin that you might be born again. He came to earth that you might go to heaven. He became the Son of Man that you might become the son of God.

If there's no virgin birth, there's no deity of Christ. If there's no deity of Christ, there's no sinlessness of Christ. If there is no sinlessness of Christ, there is no atonement. You are still in your sins. You are going to die and go to hell. So thank God for the virgin birth of Jesus Christ.

James Pierce is senior pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington



CHURCHES

'Brand loyalty' a low priority when people pick a church

Age & education matter

VENTURA, Calif. (ABP)—Age, education and marital status make a difference in how Americans choose churches, religion researcher George Barna has discovered.

Barna's new study of how Americans decide where to go to church cross-referenced 22 church-selection factors according to several demographic components. They include:

■ **Age.** Baby Busters care less about the quality of adult Sunday school and the quality of worship music.

Baby Boomers are less interested in ministries to the disadvantaged, convenience of worship times, quality of music, comfort of the sanctuary and ease of parking.

Builders, adults in their 50s and 60s, show the most concern about theology and doctrine, worship music and the importance of attending church with good friends.

■ **Education.** People who did not attend college are more interested than college graduates in quality of children's programs and the type and quality of worship music, quality of adult Sunday school and convenience factors such as worship times, ease of parking and comfort of worship facilities.

College graduates also are notably less concerned about how much church members seem to care about each other and the quality of the pastor's sermons.

■ **Marriage.** Single adults show greater interest in factors such as the style of worship music, the amount of music used in worship and ease of parking than their married counterparts.

Unmarried adults care less than married adults about theology and doctrine as well as how much people in the church care about each other.

Continued from page 1

Barna Research Group asked American adults to rank 22 factors people sometimes say they use to choose a church.

Three factors easily outpaced all others, researchers found.

First was the theological belief and doctrine of the church, which was cited as extremely important by 58 percent of respondents.

Second was "how much the people seem to care about each other," called extremely important by 53 percent.

Third was sermon quality, ranked extremely important by 52 percent.

Three other variables round out the top tier of considerations—the church's friendliness to visitors (ranked extremely important by 45 percent of respondents), the quality of programs and classes for children (45 percent) and the church's involvement in helping the poor and disadvantaged (43 percent).

Only three factors hold the middle ground for decision-making, Barna said. They were the church's denomination, (ranked extremely important by 36 percent of respondents), the likability of the pastor (35 percent) and the quality of adult Sunday school classes (26 percent).

Thirteen factors provide much less impact on which churches people decide to attend. In fact, none of these "lower echelon" factors was called extremely important by as many as 20 percent of the adults surveyed.

They are convenience of times of

weekend services (considered extremely important by 18 percent), types of ministries and other programs a church has in addition to its weekend services (16 percent), type of music in the weekend services (16 percent), quality of music in worship services (15 percent), how far the church is located from the respondents' home (14 percent), amount of music in the service (14 percent), comfort of the auditorium (14 percent), length of sermons (13 percent), emphasis on fund raising and money (13 percent), availability of midweek small groups or home groups (12 percent), number of friends the person has who attend that church (12 percent), availability of parking space (11 percent) and demographics of people who attend (8 percent).

Baptists' key variables are how much people care about each other, friendliness to visitors, involvement in helping the disadvantaged, quality of sermons, quality of adult Sunday school and quality of children's programs, he reported.

Non-Baptist evangelicals mirrored that list, with two exceptions, he said. The evangelicals placed a higher pri-

ority on theological beliefs and doctrines, and they did not equally emphasize children's programs.

Catholics showed less concern than Protestants about theology and doctrine, care for each other, friendliness to visitors, quality of sermons and quality of adult Bible study, the survey showed. Catholics exhibited higher concern than Protestants about length of sermons, denominational affiliation of their church.

The distinctions can be misleading, Barna cautioned. "The most fundamental differences are those between Protestants and Catholics regarding doctrine and practice," he said.

"Apart from that, ... the big story is that people are people," he said. "They want substance from their church, they want to make a difference in the world through their church, and they need to feel connected to God and to other God-loving people as a result of their church experience."

"If those factors are in place, people will put up with a lot just so they can have these primary spiritual needs met," he said. "If a church does not satisfy these particular needs, people will feel spiritually unfulfilled and restless and probably search elsewhere for a church home."

The Ken and Beth model

Have you considered how important our Christian education institutions are to the cause of international missions? With the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering upon us, it's a propitious time to consider this question.

I believe the synergism of the Christian education focus of Campbellsville, Cumberland and Georgetown and the Christian missions focus of the International Mission Board produces an effect on our state and world of which each of the four organizations separately is incapable of producing. Currently, 30 percent of the active and inactive IMB missionaries who claim Kentucky as their home state graduated from Campbellsville, Cumberland or Georgetown. While the IMB did not have this statistic, Mark Snowden, our Kentucky colleague in the gospel at the IMB, agreed the percentage of Kentucky missionaries who graduated from a Baptist college is even higher when we factor in those who attended a Baptist college in another state.

Ken and Beth Perkins epitomize for me that special synergy between our Christian education institutions and the IMB. Both were reared in Kentucky Baptist churches. Beth

was called to missions while at Cedarcrest Camp through the leadership of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union. She later served as a BSU summer missionary. Ken was called into the pastoral ministry while a student at Georgetown where he and Beth met. From 1983 until recently they served as missionaries in Africa. Today they are missionaries in residence at Georgetown helping to perpetuate this magnificent cycle of synergism in other young lives. Beth is involved in the Partnership 2000 effort, which has as its focus to provide students with scholarships, grants and other forms of financial aid at our three Baptist colleges.

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

As you pray this year about your gifts through the Lottie Moon Offering for International Missions and Partnership 2000 for Christian higher education, consider what a difference your generosity can make in facilitating the communication of the wonder-working power of the gospel of Jesus Christ to the people of a world beyond what you can see or where you can go.

Barry Allen is president of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, 10605 Shelbyville Road, Louisville, KY 40223; (888) 254-5701

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- ◆ High Stress
- ◆ Hopelessness
- ◆ Anorexia
- ◆ Bulimia
- ◆ Drug & Alcohol Addictions
- ◆ Thoughts of Suicide

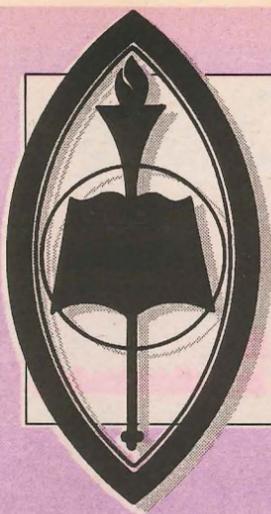
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ON MISSION TOGETHER

A quarterly publication of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union
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Supplement to Western Recorder/Winter 1998/1999

Support Eliza Broadus Offering

Please remember to support the Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions. The goal for 1998-99 is \$750,000.



Project HELP: Violence

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God" Matthew 5:9 (NRSV). Woman's Missionary Union desires to PAVE the way to peace.

Project HELP: Violence is the 1998-2000 Woman's Missionary Union national ministry. The purpose is to focus on ways to educate and involve Christians in reducing violence and becoming peacemakers within families, churches, communities and the world. The theme is **PAVE: People Against Violence Everywhere**.

What is violence? Violence is a force or threat of force used to harm a person.

Project HELP: Violence is the first time a WMU emphasis project will have a two year emphasis. It is divided into four sections:

- ◆ Reflecting on the Christian mandate to care for others.

- ◆ Recognizing the causes and consequences of violence in our communities.

- ◆ Reducing violence in our communities and beyond through one-time, short-term and ongoing ministries.

- ◆ Rejoicing in God's redemptive work through the lives of those touched by these ministries.

Here are some ways you and your church can plug into **Project HELP: Violence**:

- ◆ Utilize the **Project HELP: Violence Resource Kit's Prayer Plan and two-year biblical outline**.

- ◆ Encourage members to read *Create a Safer World: Ideas for Reducing Violence in Your Community* or hold a book study.

- ◆ Complete a community survey to identify area needs and volunteer assistance.

- ◆ Sponsor members on short-term missions to Bosnia.

- ◆ Host a conference for the community.

- ◆ Incorporate community stories in worship services.

- ◆ Invite a member of the Kentucky WMU violence task force to speak.

Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting

April 16-17, 1999

Theme: Missions: From the Heart, To the World

Sessions at 9 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Friday

8:50 a.m.-noon Saturday

Severns Valley Baptist Church

401 West Poplar

Elizabethtown

Missionaries:



Larry and Sharon Pumpelly
Eastern Africa



Lora Smith
Cleveland, Ohio

Kentucky State Acteens Conference

April 9-10, 1998

Westport Road Baptist Church, Louisville

- Gather with more than 1,000 girls like yourself from Kentucky!
- Attend special interest sessions and participate in off-site ministry projects!

- Be challenged to allow God to use you!



- Take part in great music and drama!

- Meet exciting missionaries and hear their stories! • And much, MUCH MORE
Featured Speakers - Ken & Beth Perkins

Project HELP: Cultural Diversity Update

Eight associations sent in reports of their involvement in **Project HELP: Cultural Diversity**. Ten churches representing five associations sent in reports. Many of the reports indicated that churches engaged in the church prayer project and observed a day of reconciliation. Many of the churches reported working with a local migrant ministry and participating in worship services with local African-American churches. If you have not mailed in your report, please do so.

A Personal Word

It takes teamwork

By Brenda Price

It is said that time flies when you are having fun. These past 13 months as interim executive director-treasurer of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union have gone by quickly. One thing is certain, this has been a time of revelation.

I have come to a new appreciation for the meaning of the word "team". For instance, recently in the absence of a data-specialist on the WMU staff, we were presented with the task of retrieving,



Brenda Price
Interim
Executive
Director

revising, and printing a particular document in the computer. After a combined effort of five staff members, we proudly were able to accomplish the task. Teamwork gives you a good feeling of accomplishment as each person contributes his or her part. It gives you a feeling of being an important part of the whole. I am grateful for the team spirit and commitment of the Kentucky WMU staff: Anna Mary Byrdwell, Denise Jones, Donna Dye, Doris Riddle, Denise Gardner and Kim Davis.

We are saddened to bid farewell to Julie Keith, who has served as Acteens and Campus Women on Mission Associate for five years. Julie's energetic and creative leadership has been a tremendous asset to Kentucky WMU. Kym Mitchell of Shelbyville and Brina Stephens of Louisville will serve as contract workers in the area of **Acteens** and **Project HELP** until a successor is named by our WMU Executive Board. Kym and Brina have strong backgrounds in missions and we welcome them to our staff.

The team involvement of Kentucky WMU is broader than the relationship of our staff and the day-to-day tasks of Kentucky WMU. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve churches and associations across our state. Together, with the Kentucky Baptist Convention and its affiliated institutions and agencies, our efforts are multiplied as we work cooperatively to fulfill our God-given responsibility.



ON MISSION TOGETHER

A quarterly publication of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union

Information for WMU directors

Give Lottie your best! Your best effort, that is. Go all out to reach your goal for the **Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions**. Needs have never been greater.

Your planning has to go forward, beyond Christmas, as you watch for the sample package of materials for the **Season of North American Missions and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering** emphasis. You will receive the package soon after Christmas. See your 1998-99 *WMU Year Book* and your winter *Dimension* magazine for help in planning **Focus on WMU** for early February.

Make reservations to participate in the **Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting** in Elizabethtown, April 16-17. Hotel information is in this issue of *On Mission Together*.
--Anna Mary Byrdwell



The 1998 Women on Mission/Adults on Mission retreats were a tremendous success. Thank you so much for your support of these important programs. I hope you will begin to plan now to attend a retreat in 1999.

For those of you who live in Western Kentucky, please note that the retreats at Jonathan Creek will be held on two separate weekends. The 1999 dates are:

Cedarmore: Oct. 1-2; Oct. 8-9.

Jonathan Creek: Sept. 24-25; Oct. 29-30

There's a new Women on Mission Option!

TIME (Totally Internet Missions Experience) is the new Internet Option. To use this new option, go to the new Women on Mission web site, <www.womenonmission.com> or access the Women on Mission pages through WMU's site, <www.wmu.com>. Based on the World Issues article each month, **TIME** takes you over the Internet as you learn more about that month's topic.
--Denise Jones

Being a Woman of Faith Women's Lifestyle Evangelism Conferences

Conferences will be held in three locations and will feature Mamie McCollough, writer and humorist; Alma Randolph, gospel singer; and Ken and Beth Perkins, international missionaries.

Dates:

March 15 (day program) Lexington, Porter Memorial Baptist Church

March 15 (evening program) Louisville, St. Matthew's Baptist Church

March 16 (day program) Bowling Green, Living Hope Baptist Church

Brochures will be mailed to each church in January.

Boys and girls in Children in Action are invited to join GAs in attending the GA and Children in Action Missions Event on Saturday, April 17 from 9:00 a.m. to noon at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown. The event is held each year in conjunction with the WMU Annual Meeting. There will be missionaries to meet, singing and lots of other fun. The cost is \$1.00 per person attending. Look for more information in the next *On Mission Together*.
--Brenda Price



Ideas for Mission Friends Leaders

Do people in your church know about Mission Friends?

Focus on WMU, February 14-20, will be an opportunity for teachers to help the church recognize Mission Friends as a part of WMU. Plan with the church WMU director for Focus on WMU. Ideas for this emphasis are in the winter issue (December-January-February) of *Start* and the 1998-99 *WMU Year Book*, pages 27-28.

Don't forget the North American Mission Study this quarter! The mission unit features Missionary Don McMurry in Dayton, Ohio. The unit of study for all ages of preschoolers is available as an insert in the winter issue of *Start*. It is designed to take place during the churchwide study. If your church does not have a churchwide study, use the study material during any regular Mission Friends class.
--Brenda Price



Help for Girls in Action leaders

Have your GAs begun the journey into WorldVentures? The individual achievement plan is designed for girls who want to do extra missions learning activities. "Resourcefully Yours", in the winter issue of *Aware*, gives leaders some helpful hints in making WorldVentures a meaningful experience for GAs.

February is the time for the North American Mission Study. The kit, Association Investigation, will help leaders involve children in understanding associational missions. Use the study event as an enlistment time for GA prospects.

Bring GAs to the GA Missions Event on Saturday, April 17 during the WMU Annual Meeting at Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown. This is a special time for GAs and leaders to meet missionaries, make new friends, sing and have lots of other fun. The cost is \$1.00 per person attending. No pre-registration for the event is required. Further information will be in the March 2 *On Mission Together*.

Do you have the new GA address? The new Web site address, that is. Girls in Action now has its own address. It is: www.gapassport.com GAs can go directly to the area just for them without going through the WMU Web site. Try it. You'll like it!
--Brenda Price



Congratulations to Andrea Honeycutt, Acteen from First Baptist Church, Somerset, on receiving the Kentucky State Citation! This is the highest level of StudiAct.

Calendar

December

11/29- Season of Prayer for International Missions
12/6 and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

February

14-20 Focus on WMU
21-24 North American Mission Study

March

5-6 Creative Ministries Festival, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville
7-14 Season of Prayer for North American Missions and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
15 Women's Lifestyle Conference, 10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Lexington
Women's Lifestyle Conference, 7:00 p.m. Louisville
16 Women's Lifestyle Conference, 10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Bowling Green

April

9-10 Kentucky State Acteens Conference, Westport Road Baptist Church, Louisville
16-17 Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown
16 Missionary/Missionary Parents Luncheon DOMS & Spouse; Associational WMU Directors Luncheon Acteens and Youth on Mission Dinner Baptist Nursing Fellowship Dinner
17 GA and Children in Action Missions Event
23-24 KBC SALT, Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly

WMU announces 1998-99 Kentucky Acteens Advisory Panel

1998-99 Kentucky Acteens Advisory Panel

Elizabeth Bailey
Calvary Hill Baptist Church,
Stanford, Grade 12

Charity Gardner
First Baptist Church
Shelbyville, Grade 12

Holly Jeffries
Calvary Hill Baptist Church
Stanford, Grade 11

Missy Mahurin
Westport Road Baptist Church
Louisville, Grade 12

Jennifer Royalty
First Baptist Church
Lawrenceburg, Grade 11

Leigh Ann Summers
Bellview Baptist Church
Paducah, Grade 12



You and your youth are invited to a Youth on Mission/Acteens dinner at the WMU Annual Meeting. The dinner will be on Friday, April 16, 1999 at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown. The dinner will be at 5:00 p.m.

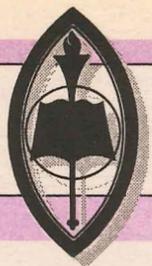
Farewell to Kentucky Baptists from Julie Keith

Thank you, Kentucky Baptists, for allowing me to serve as the Kentucky WMU Associate for Acteens/Campus Women on Mission these last five years. As I announced my resignation to the Kentucky WMU Executive Board, I was reminded that my ministry with Acteens, Acteens advisors, youth ministers, student leaders and many other individuals in the state has been an enriching and rewarding experience. My life has changed drastically in the last three months with the arrival of Chandler Dalton Keith. With this new blessing has

come a new lifestyle as a stay-at-home mom. Another change that will be occurring soon for my family is moving back to North Carolina so we can be close to our families. I will miss all of the special people I have met and worked with in Kentucky. It has been a privilege to serve on the Kentucky WMU staff and my experience will be remembered fondly. May God continue to bless the ministry of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union and each of you.



Dale, Julie and Chandler Keith



ON MISSION TOGETHER

A quarterly publication of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union

President's Perspective

We are on mission together

By Peggy Hicks

Dear Co-laborer,
The Executive Board of Kentucky WMU is made up of 24 women, three from each of the eight areas of the state and three officers. These you elected and put in place at our annual meeting in April and they have represented you well. This structure gives us representation on the board for promotion of missions education and mission involvement and carrying on the business of our organization. The re-presentatives from your part of the state attended the fall board meeting and worked really hard and faithfully to accomplish what is needed in planning and promotion. The business session at our annual meeting is a very important part of your participation, and your continued prayers for those you elect sustains us. We are on mission together. Make your plans now to be at annual meeting in April. We need you! The plans for the meeting are coming together well. The speakers are outstanding, the musicians exceptional and the inspiration will richly bless you. Make every effort to be there. You will have a great time.



Peggy Hicks
Kentucky WMU
President

Brenda Price has given strong leadership as interim executive director. The staff's planning and projections for training leaders has been approached creatively and there is great anticipation for the training conference for association and church leaders in 1999. We will miss the contribution that Julie Keith always has given to training and leadership with Acteens and Campus Women on Mission. Julie resigned as WMU Associate/Acteens and Campus Women on Mission because she and her family are moving back to North Carolina. Her husband, Dale, has a new job and they will live closer to family there. Their son, Chandler, is a beautiful baby and is growing so fast. Being a grandmother, I know how they anticipate the family being closer to home. Julie will be greatly missed. She has given strong, enthusiastic, creative leadership. Pray for them in this change and for us as we seek a replacement.

The search committee for an executive director-treasurer is still in process. Continue your prayers for God's person for this position. This is not an easy job, especially since there are other states without executive directors.

I pray God will empower you to become involved to pray, to give and to go. There is a real urgency to reach our lost world. We need people who can pray for our missionaries to minister in the special energizing power of the Holy Spirit. This calls for real commitment!

Kentucky WMU 1999 camp "My Life and Example"

Looking for opportunities to serve Jesus?

Do you love children and youth?



Be a camp staffer!

Call (888)-254-5726 for GA/Acteens camp staff information and applications.

Here's what the 1998 staff had to say about serving God at camp:

"God gave us and the campers an awesome summer. I would love to serve him again at Cedar Crest if that is in his plans."

"Be flexible and dedicated. If you don't like kids, this isn't the job for you."

"I love being part of the work God does in the campers' lives...."

"Be prepared to be flexible, to do hard work, be humbled and to hear from God if you chose to do so."

Not afraid of hard work?



Jonathan Creek

Volunteer and paid positions are available for the one week of GA and Acteens camp. You must attend the training weekend to be on staff. Great mission project for Women on Mission groups - be a volunteer counselor team!

Cedar Crest

Paid staff positions are available for the six weeks of camp. We need summer camp counselors, assistant camp counselors, a life-guard, a kitchen coordinator and people to lead recreation, crafts, worship, canteen, hiking and tent camping.

Both camps need volunteer nurses.

Cedar Crest Unit Leader and Specialist positions application deadline is January 15th, 1999.

Deadline for all other paid staff positions, including Jonathan Creek paid staff is February 15th. Application deadline for Jonathan Creek volunteer counselors is April 19th.

What's new with camp?

IT'S NEW AND IT'S COMING TO KENTUCKY WMU CAMPS THIS SUMMER!!

Culture Camp: Hear the sounds, see the sights, taste the treats from another part of the world! Which country will you experience? Come to GA/Acteens camp and find out.

YOU CAN'T FIT A WHOLE WEEK OF CAMP INTO YOUR SCHEDULE? Try these options:

Senior High Acteens Overnight at Jonathan Creek: Swimming, missionaries, girl talk and campfire worship—a week of fun and inspiration crammed into one night!

GA Mini-camp and Acteens Mini-camp at Cedar Crest: Two separate programs full of the same great adventures, friendships, creative worship and missions challenges as our week-long program, just a little shorter.

We're making plans to open up one of the mother/daughter weekends to the deaf community. More details later.

SO YOU WANT TO COME TO CAMP...

Our new camp poster and registration form will be available at the end of January. It will look different! Registration information and the registration form will be on the back of the poster. Just put the registration form from the back of the poster on the copier and you'll be set. Everything you need will be on the poster. So don't look for a gazillion pieces of paper for camp, look for the poster!

Lives are transformed at camp. Help a child have the opportunity of a life-time. Help send a child to camp.

Here are a few suggestions:

- Offer to provide the transportation to and from camp.

- Include camp in your church's annual budget.

- Enlist Sunday school classes and Women on Mission Groups to adopt campers.

- Do your spring cleaning early—have a yard sale and donate the proceeds for a camper's registration fee.

- Take up a free-will offering for camp.

- Pray for God to touch the lives of those who attend camp in 1999.

New Camp Dates

MY LIFE AND EXAMPLE - "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus..." Colossians 3:17a

CEDAR CREST

June 14-20 Camp Staff Training
June 21-25 GA
June 28-July 2 GA
July 6-8 GA Mini Camp
July 6-8 Acteens Mini Camp
July 12-16 GA/Acteens
July 19-23 GA

JONATHAN CREEK

May 14-15 Volunteer Staff Training
June 14-18 GA/Acteens Camp
June 18-19 Mother/Daughter Overnight
June 18-19 Senior High Acteens Overnight

Mother/Daughter Overnights:

June 25-26, July 8-9, July 9-10, July 16-17

- GAs is for 4th-6th grade girls. Acteens is for 7th-12th grade girls
- Mother/Daughter Overnights are for 1st-3rd grade girls with their mothers
- Senior High Acteens Overnight is for High School Acteens

You do not need to be a member of Acteens or GAs to attend camp. Week-long camp costs \$105 per camper. All overnights cost \$26 per camper. Mini-camp Costs \$53 per camper. Price includes meals, lodging and program fees. Linens are not provided. Price increase reflects higher costs for meals and lodging.

New Camp Video

The new *Kentucky WMU Camp Promotional Video* will be available at the first of the year. The video has three parts: A segment promoting GA and Acteens week-long camp and our mother/daughter camps, a 40-second commercial which can be shown during church service announcements and a segment about serving on camp staff. Copies will be sent to each director of missions, and associational GA and Acteens consultants. You may borrow a video from those associational leaders, the state WMU office or the Kentucky Baptist Convention video library.



ON MISSION TOGETHER

A quarterly publication of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union



Scholarship Application Deadline: February 1, 1999

The time has come for scholarship applications to be completed and mailed to the Kentucky WMU Office.

Invite a student to apply if:

■ She is a high school senior, member of Acteens who has completed a level in **Studiact** or **MissionsQuest**; been an **Acteens Activator** or **Acteens Intern**.

■ She is preparing for a church related vocation and will be in college or seminary.

■ She or he is from Kentucky, preparing for a missions, social work or WMU career and will be at least a second-year student at Southern Seminary.

Call (888)-254-5726, FAX (502)-244-6486 or e-mail:

Anna Mary Byrdwell
@kybaptist.org

to receive an application form and other information. Don't miss the deadline!

FOR YOU in 1999

Woman's
World
Missionary
Missions
Union
Unlimited

July 30-31
Campbellsville University
Campbellsville

August 6-7
Cumberland College
Williamsburg

Mark your calendar now.

Join us on Friday, beginning at 2:30 p.m., for 25 hours of worship, learning, fellowship, spiritual growth, missions preparation, prayer, music, food—and perhaps a little sleep!

Elected church and associational missions leaders will be trained, as well as anyone else who has a desire to be used by

God to carry out the Great Commission.

Eat in the cafeteria, sleep in the dorm. Reservations will be accepted beginning March 1.

Look for complete details and registration information in the March 2 issue of *On Mission Together*. Why not make this your summer get-away?

Motels for State Acteens Conference

Microtel
1221 Kentucky Mills Lane
Louisville, KY 40299
(502) 266-6590
1-888-333-8188
\$55.95 + tax double
\$40.95 + tax single
use "Acteens"

Holiday Inn Hurstbourne
1325 Hurstbourne Lane
Louisville, KY 40222
(502) 426-2600
\$79.00 + tax flat rate

Louisville Marriott East
1903 Embassy Square Blvd
Louisville, KY
(502) 499-6220
\$85.00 + tax

Travelodge, Hurstbourne
9340 Blairwood Road
Louisville, KY 40222
(502) 425-8010
\$45.00 + tax
cut-off date March 26, 1998

Comfort Suites Hotel
1850 Resource Way
Louisville, KY 40299
(502) 266-6509



Atlanta, Georgia
June 13-14, 1999

State Acteens Conference Registration Form

Registration begins at 4:00 p.m. (E.S.T.) Friday, April 9; the first session will begin at 7:00 p.m. (E.S.T.). The conference concludes at 4:30 p.m. (E.S.T.) on Saturday, April 10.

A confirmation letter and map will be sent once your registration is received.

An offering will be taken. Off-site ministry projects will also be offered for interested participants.

Kentucky State Acteens Conference Registration Form

Church: _____

Association _____

Advisor _____

Complete Address _____

Daytime Phone Number _____

Number Attending _____

Total number of Acteens and Advisors (One chaperone per seven Acteens). _____

_____(Number Attending) X \$14.00 = Total Enclosed: \$ _____

(\$14 conference fee covers registration, one T-shirt, and other gifts. Make checks payable to Kentucky WMU)

STUDIACT/MISSIONS QUEST

During the opening session on Friday evening Acteens who have completed a level of StudiAct or MissionsQuest this past year will be recognized. They will be asked to wear regalia, line up and walk with others who have completed the same level and sit together during the evening session. Please mark how many will be recognized in each level/quest.

Queen: _____ Quest for Confidence: _____

Queen with Scepter: _____ Quest for Courage: _____

Queen Regent: _____ Quest for Creativity: _____

Queen Regent in Service: _____ Quest for Character: _____

Service Aide: _____ Quest for Excellence: _____

Kentucky Citation: _____ Quest for Vision: _____

Mail form with payment to: State Acteens Conference, Kentucky WMU, P.O. Box 436569, Louisville, KY 40253-6569. Questions? Call (502) 244-6485 or 1-888-254-5726.

Hotels for WMU annual meeting

EXIT 94

Comfort Inn Atrium
Gardens
1043 Executive Dr.
Elizabethtown, KY 42701
(502) 769-3030
\$59.95 + tax
use code KWMUI

Days Inn
2010 North Mulberry St.
Elizabethtown, KY 42701
502-769-5522
\$41.65 + tax

Hampton Inn
1035 Executive Dr.
Elizabethtown, KY 42701
502-765-6663
\$59.00 + tax

Holiday Inn
1058 N. Mulberry St.
Elizabethtown, KY 42701
502-769-2344
\$63.00 + tax

Super 8 Motel
2028 N. Mulberry
Elizabethtown, KY 42701
502-737-1088
\$52.88 + tax

EXIT 91

Best Western Cardinal Inn
642 Dixie Ave.
Elizabethtown
(502) 765-6139
\$39.95 + tax

Y2K predictions range from frustrations to end times

Continued from page 1

aration and precaution voiced by many, some groups link the computer problem to end-times prophecies.

"It is too large an issue to ignore for someone who has very specific millennial or apocalyptic beliefs," said David Kessler, executive administrator of the Center for Millennial Studies at Boston University. "They can point to Y2K and say, 'Look at this impending, horrible crash. We are obviously in the end times.'"

Evangelist Morris Cerullo has written a book called "January 1, 2000 ... The Day the World Shuts Down?" in which he links the millennium bug to prophetic predictions.

"Simply put, the government and business leaders are terrified that they will not get the Year 2000 problem fixed in time and the world will be thrown into utter chaos ...," he writes. "The world may very well be headed into the worst tribulation it has ever known."

Others are taking an opposite tack.

The Assemblies of God, a Pentecostal denomination based in Springfield, Mo., issued a statement in October encouraging the denomination's churches to bring their computers into compliance but strongly condemning "alarmist tactics."

"We encourage our people to not engage in activities such as hoarding food, withdrawing money from banks, believing doomsday scenarios or expecting the economic, political and social collapse of western civilization when the clock strikes Jan. 1,

2000," the statement reads.

Religious broadcasters Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell said they have worked to educate their audiences in ways they hope will not induce panic.

"This is not the end of the world," Robertson told reporters prior to a three-day "Preparing for Y2K" conference held by his Virginia Beach, Va., ministry. "But it will be a serious dislocation ... I believe that an intelligent low-key warning is not going to panic people. I think it will lead to intelligent action."

Robertson's Christian Broadcasting Network, which also has aired a two-part special on Y2K, has received requests from more than 120,000 people for free materials on Y2K. More than 1,250 copies of Falwell's three-part sermon on the topic have sold at \$28 each.

"I would say the response of the Y2K message exceeds any response we remember in recent years," said Falwell in an interview. "I think we do have a major problem coming, but I think it's wrong to be too strident about that because it can become a self-fulfilling prophecy."

For Feldhahn and others involved in the preparations for Y2K—whether it turns out to be a crisis or not—the foundation of their work is biblical.

"Why is this a Christian issue?" she asked. "Because this is a situation that

Meanwhile, back at the ranch ...

WASHINGTON (RNS)—From crashing computers to doors that won't open, Christian organizations are working to make sure their offices don't suffer an electronic meltdown Jan. 1, 2000.

Groups are varied in how they encourage followers and supporters to approach potential problems when computers' internal calendars go from "99" to "00."

Meanwhile in their own offices, groups ranging from Catholic Charities to the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association are racing to get their own technical houses in order.

In at least one case, a Christian ministry changed the date of an upcoming meeting to avoid potential problems as the new century dawns.

And many high-profile ministries are checking to see if the businesses they depend on also are becoming Y2K compliant.

At Insight for Living, a ministry of Bible teacher Chuck Swindoll, a survey was distributed to vendors providing services to the ministry. Responses are being filed in red, green and yellow envelopes, depending on the answer.

"If they come back with an unacceptable response or one that suggests that they're not paying attention to this, there's a red folder for you," said Curt Swindoll, chief operating officer of the Anaheim, Calif.-based radio program featuring his father, Chuck Swindoll.

In addition, Curt Swindoll sent a memo to managers of the ministry informing them that if they buy technology not "Y2K ready" they won't be reimbursed.

Erring on the side of caution, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, a college student ministry, announced in October that it would postpone Urbana, its usually triennial conference in Illinois, from Dec. 27-31, 1999 to the same dates in 2000.

Catholic Charities USA in Alexandria, Va., is performing a vendor check similar to the Swindoll ministry. Their computers are Y2K compliant "to the degree that we can believe Bill Gates and Microsoft," said David Feeley, chief administrative officer for the group.

But Feeley admitted there are still unanswered questions. "Our security system is automatic. Are the doors going to open on January 1, 2000? We don't know."



Who's afraid of the big, bad bug?

has a potential—not a certainty—to seriously impact people's lives. As such, it's something we are command-

ed in the Scriptures, to love our neighbors as ourselves, and this is an opportunity to do that."

Y2K response varies

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Here is a sampling of responses to the Y2K bug:

■ The Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, which distributes 28,000 retirement checks a month and handles assets of close to \$7 billion, does not anticipate having any problem getting benefit payments delivered on time, officials said. Board staff completed an assessment of computer systems in the second quarter of 1998, and modifications and testing of software are supposed to be completed this fall.

■ InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, a college student ministry based in Madison, Wis., postponed its usually triennial conference from Dec. 27-31, 1999, to the same dates a year later.

Ministry officials cited several reasons, including "many unknown variables" concerning the Y2K computer glitch and the decision by the person coordinating travel to the event to pull out of her contract because she couldn't assure quality service. The conference attracts about 20,000 people.

■ Religious broadcaster Morris Cerullo, who links the Y2K computer issue to end-times prophecy, has written that business and government leaders are scared they will not fix the millennium bug by the year 2000.

■ Bishop Eddie Long, senior pastor of New Birth Missionary Baptist Church in Decatur, Ga., gave a brochure, "Preparing For the Third Millennium," to about 12,000 worshippers one recent Sunday. It includes precautionary information about such topics as food, shelter, clothing, transportation and record keeping.

Hope

By Jessica Faught

"Beginnings are scary and endings are usually sad, but it's the middle that counts the most."

I like this quote from the movie "Hope Floats" because there is never a time when we aren't beginning, ending, or experiencing a "life adventure."

When I started college, I began the scary process of figuring out where I fit in, what I believe and why I believe it.

Soon I will be facing graduation and a life completely on my own. I'm frightened, excited, anxious and reluctant all at once.

Mary and Joseph probably experienced these same feelings when they learned they were to be the parents of the Messiah!

This period of my life is also full of endings and yes, they are often sad. Moves, failed friendships and broken relationships remind me that endings bring bitter tears and unfulfilled dreams.

I cannot imagine the pain of Jesus' family during the time of his crucifixion. However, God did not choose to leave us with a sad ending to the story of his Son's life. Because of Jesus' resurrec-

tion, "we have fixed our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all men" (1 Timothy 4:10).

The middle is the most important part in our lives. For me, this means developing and enjoying relationships, dreaming of my future, and learning all I can. It is a time to pursue Christ and grow, like Jesus, "in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man" (Luke 2:52).

As Christians, our hope is the trustful expectation that the Holy Spirit will enable us to live in the present with complete confidence and look to the future with courage.

Jessica Faught is a junior with a major in communication arts and a minor in English. Currently she serves as worship chairperson for the Baptist Student Union at Cumberland College.

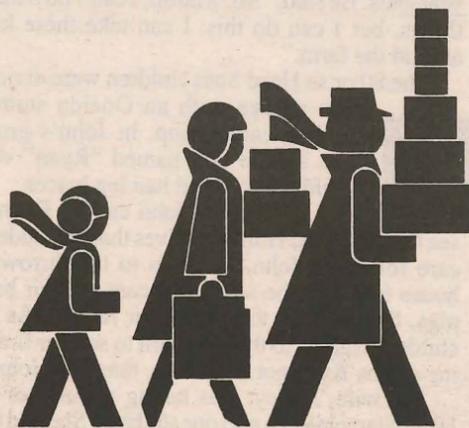
Her parents are both professors at Cumberland College. Her father, Kenneth Faught, is associate professor of religion and served again this year as editor of our Advent Devotional Book. Her mother, Jolly Faught, serves as assistant professor of English.

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



Don't forget the kids!

Make Christmas happy for a child in care of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.



- collect Christmas stockings and stuffers

- contribute tickets to holiday events in your area

- donate \$100 to purchase gifts for one child

- encourage your church to sponsor an entire shelter, cottage or family
- bring a Christmas party to a campus or program

Blessings abound! Find out more:

1-800-456-1386

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children

Internet - <http://www.iglou.com/kbhc/>



Baptist church among those damaged by Indonesian rioters

JAKARTA, Indonesia (BP)—Rioters in Jakarta, Indonesia, threw stones and damaged the windows of the Baptist church in Grogol, burned a car belonging to the church and beat up a church guard Nov. 22.

The riots left 13 churches damaged or burned and at least six people dead.

Baptist leaders from Indonesia, who sent a report to the Baptist World Alliance office in Alexandria, Va., described terrifying encounters with the rioters who twice approached Calvary Baptist Church in Jakarta and the offices of the Union of Indonesian Baptist Churches.

According to reports, the mob approached the church in downtown Jakarta and said they came to burn it. They told Baptist leaders that two Muslim leaders had died that day and they were there to avenge the deaths. Earlier that afternoon, they had damaged a Pentecostal church nearby and burned two church cars.

Guards, people who live in the area and other church leaders who were guarding the building persuaded them to leave. When they returned later that evening, military personnel, who by this time were guarding the church and nearby union offices, dispersed the crowd.

"Please pray for us," one Indonesian Baptist leader said in the report. "We do not know what will happen to our country."

According to another source, the rioting is not being done by students but by "the average person in the street," who has been hit the hardest by the downturn in Indonesia's economy.

Many businesses are run by Christians—usually wealthier ethnic Chinese—sparking a backlash by the mostly Muslim Indonesians.

"Tragic and false rumors have caused hysterical reactions among uninformed youth," said Denton Lotz, BWA general secretary. "Let us pray for our Baptist brothers and sisters who in patience and love seek full religious freedom."

Christian cult members show up in Jerusalem

JERUSALEM (RNS)—At least 10 members of a Denver-area doomsday cult have surfaced in Israel, where authorities are concerned they and other Christian extremists might try to commit suicide as the millennium approaches.

More than 70 members of the Concerned Christians cult led by Monte Kim Miller sold their belongings and left the Denver area in October. Reports at that time said the cultists probably were headed for Israel. Miller has

said he will die in Jerusalem in December 1999 and be resurrected three days later.

Israeli police confirmed at least 10 members of the group were now in Israel and were being watched closely, Associated Press reported. Police in Jerusalem said the cultists posed no danger to themselves or others.

Israeli officials have established a special task force to prepare for groups such as Concerned Christians who are expected to flock to Jerusalem as the

millennium approaches. Some Christians reportedly have rented housing in Arab neighborhoods on the Mount of Olives, which overlooks the Temple Mount within the walled Old City, in expectation that Jesus will return to earth on or around the millennium.

Officials are concerned some of the groups also might seek to destroy the Muslim mosques currently on the Temple Mount, site of the ancient Jewish temples, out of a belief that to do so will hasten Jesus' return.

WORLD VIEW

■ Missionary to Russia kidnapped.

Kidnappers of an American missionary working in southern Russia have not made any demands according to a mission official who asked that neither his name nor that of his evangelical Protestant organization be identified. Herbert Gregg, 51, was kidnapped Nov. 11 from an orphanage playground while teaching youngsters to play basketball in the city of Makhachkala on the Caspian Sea. A spokesman for the Southern Baptist International Mission Board said Gregg is not a Southern Baptist missionary.

■ Churchman: Ban Manson.

Fred Nile, a prominent Christian leader in Australia, is calling on the Australian government to bar shock rocker Marilyn Manson from entering the country. Marilyn Manson is best

known for his flamboyant personal appearance and crude lyrics. "The whole thing is absolutely sick and evil," Nile said of the scheduled January concert tour, "and is far more dangerous to Australians than that Irving bloke." Nile was referring to British right-wing historian David Irving, a revisionist historian who claims the Holocaust did not take place. He has been barred from entering Australia.

■ Government blamed for deaths.

A family of nine Pakistani Christians was buried Nov. 19 as mourners shouted anti-government slogans against Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who has proposed instituting a strict version of Islamic law as practiced by the Taliban government in neighboring Afghanistan. Police guarded the funeral proces-

sion in the town of Nowshera, where hundreds of Christians gathered to pay their last respects to the Bhatti family, whose bodies were found with their throats cut and whose unknown assailants daubed anti-black magic slogans in blood on their walls.

■ 'Extremism' law considered.

After a firestorm of controversy over a Communist Party lawmaker's anti-Semitic remarks, Russian government officials say they are considering drafting a law to ban parties that demonstrate "political extremism." At a rally last month, retired general and Communist lawmaker Albert Makashov blamed Russia's current economic crisis on "zhidy," or "yids," slurs against Jews. He also called for a quota on Jews in government.

A little boy's love

By Ken Martin
Farm Manager

Perhaps the greatest blessing of working on the farm at Oneida Baptist Institute is watching teenagers grow under our watchcare. Sometimes progress is remarkably fast and our role is simply to help a child identify his gifts and show him how to set positive goals. These students might make tremendous progress in their grades and behavior as their self-esteem grows. Usually however, progress is not so fast. Some students come to us with extremely poor social skills, terrible grades, poor work habits and low self-esteem. For these students, patience, love and empathy are our tools.

"John" (not his real name) first came to work on the farm last spring. Academically, he was reading at about the fourth grade level. John was constantly in a conflict with other students. In addition, he was not a good worker and was sometimes reprimanded for not showing up for work or not doing what he was told. John's way of handling his problems was to just quit and leave the farm, but he would always return and ask for his job back. I allowed John to return several times because I felt he would not be successful at Oneida anywhere other than the farm. I was convinced that he wanted to do better, but just did not know how.

Before John returned this fall, he called me to ask if he could work on the farm again. It was a blessing to see John make improvements in his social skills and work habits. Although he was far from perfect, I actually got to the point that I looked forward to seeing him come to the farm each afternoon.

This fall, as we were developing the first pro-

gram of activities for our new Future Farmers of America chapter, we included the annual tour of the farm by the local Head Start program as a community service project. I was absolutely shocked when 6-foot, 200-pound John came to me and asked to be a tour guide for the four- and five-year-olds. He said, "Mr. Martin, I can't do a lot of things, but I can do this. I can take these kids around the farm."

The 80 or so Head Start children were divided into groups with an Oneida student leading each group. In John's group was a little boy named "Ryan" who couldn't walk and had leg braces.

I watched as John carried Ryan to see the bottle-fed Holstein calves that our students care for daily. John took him to the farrowing house to watch the sows take care of their baby pigs, then outside to look at our rabbits. As the children walked to the cow barn to see our finishing steers, Ryan got to go also, thanks to John.

My wife, Nancy, was taking pictures of the Head Start children and our students. She had one picture left as the group was walking to the buses to leave. Nancy overheard Ryan ask John, "Do you love me?" She took her last picture, and as the camera flashed, Ryan gave John a big kiss on the cheek. I believe Ryan will always remember his trip to the farm and the big boy who carried him.

John accepted Jesus as his Savior at Oneida. Although he never will be perfect, I am sure he is growing as a young Christian. What greater success could we hope for than to see a young man gain God's love and that of a little boy while under our watchcare?

Contact Oneida Baptist Institute at P.O. Box 67, Oneida, Ky. 40972. www.oneidaschool.org

THIS IS ONEIDA

The influence of a wife and a graduate

Senior student Gary had good parents who took him to church as a child, and at age 10 he made a profession of faith and joined Central Baptist Church in Paris.

But in the seventh grade, older friends down the street introduced him to drugs. "Partying around, I skipped 137 days of the 11th grade," Gary recalled.

At age 17, he moved out on his own. "I got high once and stayed that way for 15 years," Gary said. "Once I shaved my head to see if 666 was on it. I thought there couldn't be any good in me."

With the help of a "money man," he became a supplier of speed, cocaine and other pills.

At age 21, his pockets bulged with money, and he felt powerful enough to do anything.

"I worked hard, paid my bills and appeared to be a clean-cut business man," Gary stated, "until a day I sold some drugs that went bad. The life of my son and wife were threatened, and I went to Chicago to try to cut a deal with those higher up in the organization."

"My mother had led my wife, Kay, to Christ the year before.

With her life in danger, Kay still prayed I wouldn't make the deal because she knew I then couldn't get out of the drug scene. The deal fell through, and I returned home praying for God's rescue.

"Friends loaned me enough money to pay off the drug buyers, and I soon forgot my promise to God."

But God brought 1970 Clear Creek alumnus Drew Martin to be pastor of Central Baptist. "Brother Drew loved me the way I was," Gary remembered.

"In our living room at age 25 I surrendered to Christ and immediately quit all the drugs."

Gary gave his all to serve Christ as a youth worker, Sunday school teacher, bus driver, deacon and trustee.

In 1992 he surrendered to preach and came to Clear Creek.

He completes the course this month and on Dec. 13 will move to Dunnellon, Fla., to be pastor of First Baptist Church of Citrus Springs. It is a new work of 70 members eager to reach a growing community.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

\$5 million invested in academic studies of forgiveness

By Holly Lebowitz
Religion News Service

RADNOR, Pa. (RNS)—Forgiveness. It is both a central concept in many religions, especially Christianity, and one of the most difficult human acts to carry out sincerely.

But even as the word seems to attach itself to every major event—from the sex scandal of President Clinton to building a new society in post-apartheid South Africa and moving beyond a ceasefire in Northern Ireland—the dynamics of forgiveness remain oft-debated but often little understood.

There are growing signs, however, that the fledgling field of forgiveness studies is beginning to gain a foothold in academia—and not just in the nation's divinity schools and seminaries.

To further strengthen this foothold, the John Templeton Foundation has launched a comprehensive effort to

fund studies on how people forgive each other, and what the world's religions have to say about why we should.

The foundation, a Pennsylvania-based philanthropic and research institute, has given \$5 million in awards to finance 29 research studies on different aspects of forgiveness. In addition, the foundation's publishing house is about to release a collection of essays on the subject, "Dimensions of Forgiveness: Psychological Research and Theological Perspectives."

And it hopes its projects will make contributions to academic fields as disparate as medicine, psychology, religion and politics.

Following the Foundation's philosophy that science and religion can and should be better integrated than they are right now, the studies encourage laboratory scientists to team up with theologians—a task that won't always be easy.

"This program needs brave theo-

logians," said Charles Harper, who is the executive director and senior vice president of the Templeton Foundation. Such theologians, Harper said, must be willing to take up issues such as how forgiveness can help patients who are recovering from heart attacks—one of the areas of study.

Other research topics include studies of forgiveness among chimpanzees, forgiveness in family relationships, forgiveness and health, the psychological dimensions of forgiveness and the effectiveness of forgiveness in volatile political situations, such as Rwanda and South Africa.

Many scholars of religion applaud the new effort, particularly in the way that it brings the resources of religion to bear on scientific and political issues.

"For Jews or Christians, our understanding of God is a God who forgives for the sake of reconciliation," said Gregory Jones, dean of Duke Divinity School and author of "Embodying Forgiveness."

"But because this God is also the creator of the world, it shouldn't surprise us that people that don't believe in that God recognize the importance of forgiveness to sustaining our communities," he said.

But not all theologians are convinced forgiveness is a useful model for genuinely solving some social problems.

Referring to what he terms "the feel-good doctrine of automatic forgiveness," Jewish writer and radio talk show host Dennis Prager recently criticized what he called a disturbing trend among Americans: They forgive without first demanding repentance.

"This doctrine undermines the moral foundations of American civilization because it advances the amoral notion that no matter how much you hurt other people, millions of your fellow citizens will immediately forgive you," Prager recently wrote in the Wall Street Journal.

Prager said he believes repentance,

not forgiveness, should be the cornerstone of conflict resolution because unearned forgiveness is useless and insincere.

"It undermines penitence, it undermines responsibility, it undermines contrition, it undermines repayment," he told Religion News Service. "Why do I have to make up to you when I've already been forgiven?"

But the pioneers of the new forgiveness studies field argue forgiveness is not a magic wand that will make pain disappear and fail to hold people accountable for their actions. On the contrary, they argue, forgiveness is itself a painful process that is a starting point for wider healing and reconciliation.

"Forgiveness can be an enormously important starting point," said Jean Bethke Elshtain, professor of social and political ethics at the University of Chicago Divinity School.

Elshtain, who has written on the international political possibilities for forgiveness, said that forgiveness must start with honesty and end with accountability. "The centerpiece of it is the requirement of truth," she said.

She admitted "too many people have the idea that if I forgive, there's no price to be paid." But genuine forgiveness, she said, just as it requires an honest admission of wrong-doing, also requires accountability if a person breaks the law. "It doesn't mean you're off the hook."

Forgiveness, however, while not guaranteed in any situation, is a useful model for addressing personal and political conflicts, according to experts in the field.

"If human relationships are conflictual and they leave behind them a trail of words, tears and even blood, the only way to deal with those wounds is via forgiveness of the past," said Croatian-born Miroslav Volf, a professor of theology at Yale Divinity School whose book "Exclusion and Embrace" used the Balkan conflict to study Christian reconciliation.

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County library's software to block Internet porn ruled unconstitutional

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (RNS)—A federal judge declared Nov. 23 that software installed to block pornography on a Virginia county's library computers violated free speech.

Although the filtering software was meant to protect minors from viewing sexually explicit material, Judge Leonie Brinkema ruled that the Loudoun County policy violated the First Amendment and failed to serve a compelling government interest.

Central to the case, filed by a group of adults late last year and joined by People for the American Way and the American Civil Liberties Union, was the filtering software's broad approach. Without regard for adult users, the program restricted access to any web sites deemed inappropriate for minors.

Brinkema indicated her ruling was affected by the frequency of

errors associated with the county's commercial software package, including blocking access to religion and even Beanie Babies web pages.

In her 46-page opinion, Brinkema, a former librarian, maintained that libraries seeking to protect minors could explore alternative means of censorship, including installing filtering software on computers specifically designated for children.

Although the U.S. District Court ruling is not legally binding on other courts, proponents believe the decision, the first of its kind, will set a precedent in the ongoing debate over Internet censorship.

An attorney for the Loudoun County Library Board said he will ask Brinkema to allow the filtering software to remain in place while the board determines if it will appeal the ruling or modify its policy.

PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for these people and projects, which are part of Kentucky Baptists' partnership with Baptists in Tanzania, Poland and New England:

■ Paul and Gail Hamline, who live in Mwanga, Tanzania. Hamline is a church planter. The Hamlines are parents of two children: Michael, 21, and Amanda, 15.

■ Charles and Carolyn Dixon, who live in Morogoro, Tanzania. Dixon is a church planter. Mrs. Dixon is a homemaker.

■ Gustaw Cieslar, president of the Baptist Seminary of Warsaw in Poland, his wife, Anna, and their three sons.

■ Baptist students who attend the many colleges and universities in New England.

■ Neal Davidson, church development team leader for the Baptist Convention of New England, as he helps churches disciple believers.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Shirley Wooton

■ **BELFRY**—First Church will present "The Miracle at Bethlehem Inn" Dec. 4 and 6 at 7 p.m. at the Belfry High School cafeteria. For more information, call (606) 353-4645.

■ **COLUMBIA**—Columbia Church called **Daniel Marcum** as minister of youth/activities. **Michael O'Neal** is pastor.

■ **CORBIN**—Antioch Church ordained **Bernard Ellison** to the gospel ministry Nov. 8. **Earl Caudill** is pastor.

■ **CRESTWOOD**—**Phil Potratz** resigned as education minister at Crestwood Church. Potratz was called by Immanuel Church in Nashville as minister of education.

■ **DUNMOR**—**Scott Hughes**, pastor of Dunmor Church, resigned to accept a position at Tinytown Church in Guthrie.

■ **ELKTON**—Elkton Church will present its hanging of the greens and "Christmas at Home" Dec. 6, 5 p.m.

■ **FISHERVILLE**—First Church called **Harold Bridwell** as minister of music, **Keith Pound** as minister of children/youth and **Emily Pound** as assistant minister to children. **Orion Bell** is pastor.

Green Hills Church called **Scott Hancock** as pastor. Hancock previously served in Marion, Ill. Valerie Hancock, his wife, is secretary for the Kentucky Temperance League.

■ **HENDERSON**—Community Church will host Mission Recognition Day Dec. 6. Guest speakers will be **Bob and Pat Bellinger**, former missionaries to Liberia and the Ivory Coast. A potluck lunch will follow. For information, call (502) 830-9057. **John Dunaway** is pastor.

■ **HOPKINSVILLE**—First Church will present **Greg Buchanan** in concert Dec. 3, 7 p.m. For information, call (502) 886-1216. **Jim McKenzie** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Bashford Manor

Church called **Eric Garvey** as pastor.

Fern Creek Church will present "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" Dec. 11 and 13, 7:30 p.m. For information, call (502) 239-0316. **Linda Barnes** is pastor.

David Livingston resigned as pastor at Gethsemane Church to become a full-time music evangelist. Livingston is available for revivals and concerts. For information, call (502) 297-0297.

Hazelwood Church will host a dinner Dec. 6 to honor **Ed and Teri Tarelton**, missionaries to Russia. For information, call (502) 363-2697. **Hilton Davis** is pastor.

■ **MANCHESTER**—Horse Creek Church ordained **Glenn Roberts** to the gospel ministry Oct. 4. Roberts serves as associate pastor of education. **Scottie Sumner** is pastor.

■ **MT. WASHINGTON**—First Church will present MissionFest '98 Dec. 5-6. Guest speakers will be **Paul and Diane Davidson**, missionaries to Nigeria; **Claudia Veres** of Romania; and **Emily and Keely Brandon**, missionary kids from Burundi. For information, call (502) 955-6539. **Travis**

Collins is pastor.

■ **OWENSBORO**—Walnut Memorial Church will present its hanging of the greens Dec. 6, 6 p.m.

■ **ROCKHOLDS**—Faber Church called **Mike Keys** as pastor. Keys was associate pastor at Keck in Knox Association.

■ **SHEPHERDSVILLE**—Eastern Gate Church called **Greg Peck** as minister of music. Peck served at Mt. Elmira Church in Brooks. **Jeffrey Anders** is pastor.

■ **SHEPHERDSVILLE**—Little Flock Church will host a Global Impact Conference Dec. 4-6. Speakers will include missionary **Elbert Smith**; **Al Gilbert**, special assistant to the president of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board; and **Phil Roberts**, director of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board's interfaith witness department. For more information, call Van Sanders, (502) 955-8760.

■ **TAYLORSVILLE**—Kings Church will present a Christmas cantata and drama Dec. 5, 7 p.m. and Dec. 6, 3:30 and 7 p.m. For free tickets call (502) 538-6902.

Evangelist uses weekends to help churches focus on families

JACKSON, Tenn. (BP)—As evangelist Jerry Drace traveled the country in the early 1990s, he asked pastors, "Who's hurting the most in your church?"

"Almost 100 percent said the family," he recalled. So Drace decided to take action.

The father of two teenagers used his background in psychology and spiritual values to develop "Families Are Individuals Touching Hearts" weekends to address specific concerns in the local church.

"It doesn't matter if you have a church of 50 members or 50,000 members; if you don't have solid families, you don't have a solid church," Drace said.

In 1993, Drace began conducting the FAITH weekends, which today fill nearly half of his schedule.

A typical weekend begins with a Friday night married couples banquet.

Family devotions are the key, he said. "I've heard that 92 percent of Southern Baptist families don't have family devotions consistently, and 43 percent never do. That's why our churches are in such trouble today."

On Saturday morning, Drace challenges senior citizens to see the po-

tential of their elder years. Later in the day, Drace holds a seminar for separated and divorced church members addressing issues of time management and career demands, forgiving an ex-spouse and supporting children impacted by family strife.

On Saturday nights, teenagers attend a session with Drace on such issues as sex, dating and divorce, with an invitation to a first-time commitment to Christ or a recommitment.

During the Sunday school time, Drace talks with single young adults to age 30 who have never been married. "We discuss careers, the challenges of being single and choices of a mate," he said.

Drace's sermon on Sunday morning targets moms and dads.

"I preach on the American family building a home life, how men should be spiritual leaders. And I always give an invitation for families who will commit to daily Bible reading.

On Sunday afternoons, parents of pre-teens and teenagers learn about the characteristics of teenagers, how to communicate with their children and how to discipline. When the parents ask questions, Drace often lets other parents field them. That way,

'You do what for a living?'

JACKSON, Tenn. (BP)—Jerry Drace has a little game he plays with strangers on airplanes. "I ask people what they do for a living, and invariably they ask me what I do. When I say I'm an evangelist, some of them go to the lavatory and never come back."

For Drace, the game stems from a serious concern that the image of evangelists in America isn't what it should be.

"We're seen as screamers, shouters and Bible thumpers who give 30-minute invitations. TV evangelists fall under financial and immorality problems, and people develop false impressions of evangelists," he said.

As the new president of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evan-

gelists, Drace has set out to change such images. He's starting with its membership roll.

"To be a member of COSBE now, all you have to do is have your pastor send a letter to the North American Mission Board's evangelism department stating you are in full-time evangelistic ministry and in good standing at the church. We think there should be more," Drace said.

A covenant of principles called "Affirmations of Accountability" is being strongly considered for those wishing to be recognized as COSBE members. The statements, all aimed at maintaining accountability, include promises to uphold theological doctrines, good finances and individual morality.

church members know they're in this together.

On Sunday evening, Drace talks about different people Jesus met in his ministry and how he communicated with them. "Moms, dads and children need to know that Jesus is our model

for communication," Drace said. "After the sermon, I ask the people if there is someone in the room who they need to communicate with better. Do they need to say 'I'm sorry' or 'I love you'? That's when the real barriers come down."

CLASSIFIED ADS

TOURS: Scotland and northern England annual tour. July, great fellowship, outstanding guide. Telephone (606) 573-9771, fax (606) 573-2311.

SEEKING: Part-time youth director for Auburn Baptist Church. Please send resumé to: P.O. Box 67, Auburn, KY 42206.

SEEKING: Church secretary; 30-35 hours/week. Send resumé to: Hunsinger Lane Baptist Church, 3821 Hunsinger Lane, Louisville, KY 40220.

SEEKING: Part-time minister to youth; 20 hours/week. Send resumé to: Hunsinger Lane Baptist Church, 3821 Hunsinger Lane, Louisville, KY 40220.

SEEKING: Full-time accounts payable bookkeeper for the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Position requires 3-5 years of related experience. Computer, spreadsheet and word processing skills a must. College study in business preferred. Attractive compensation package. Send resumé and references to: Director of Accounting Services Department, P.O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433. No phone calls please.

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: Minister to children, part-time (20 hours/week). Principle function would be to assist church program leaders in developing a comprehensive ministry to preschoolers and children, grades 1-6. Please send resumé with references to: Dr. Scott Kilgore, Living Hope Baptist Church, 1805 Westen Ave., Bowling Green, KY 42104.

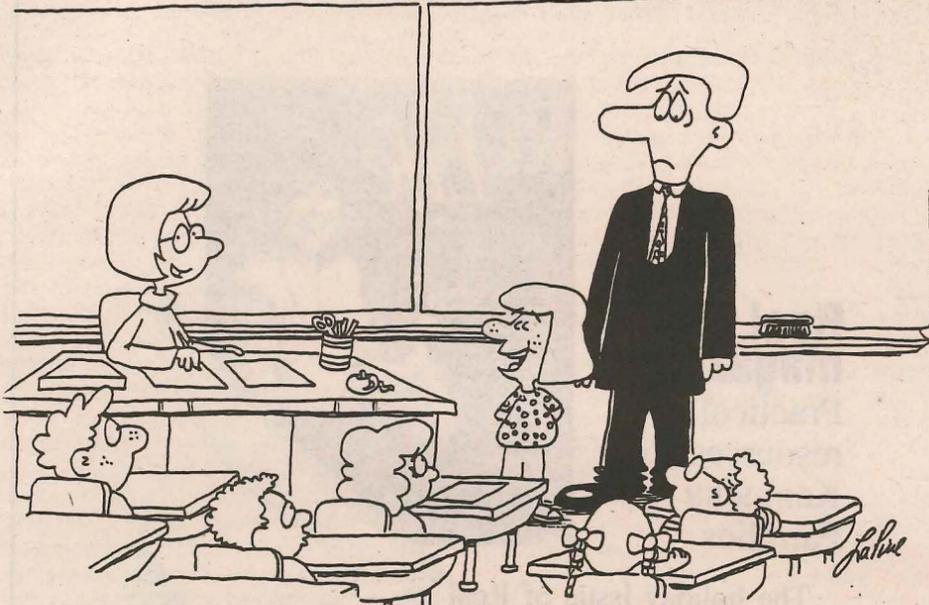
SEEKING: Part-time minister who uses music as a tool for leading worship and reaching others for Christ. Call Westport Baptist Church at (502) 222-0745, or send a resumé to: Search Committee, Westport Baptist Church, 6415 Washington St., Westport, KY 40077.

SEEKING: Bivocational minister of music. Ability to balance music (hymns, choruses) and to lead adults and children. Music experience/training preferred. Submit resumé to: Music Minister Search Committee, Hanson Baptist Church, P.O. Box 326, Hanson, KY 42413.

SEEKING: Data specialist/desktop publishing including periodicals, some secretarial duties and light financial functions. Knowledge of MS Office a must; Corel Draw experience a plus. Please forward resumé including salary requirements to: Human Resources, Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, P.O. Box 436569, Louisville, KY 40253-6569.

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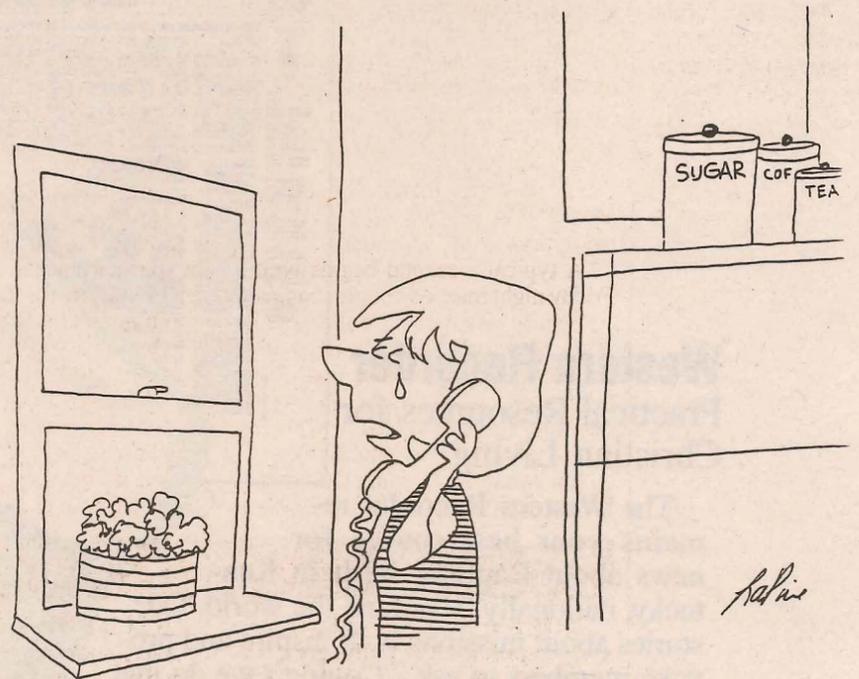
"This is my dad. He's a pastor. His job is to yell at people on Sunday mornings."



"What is it girl? Is Pastor Timmy's sermon in trouble?"



"What do you think, dear? Should I preach this Sunday on the topic of suffering, or should I just go an hour and a half and let them experience it firsthand for themselves?"

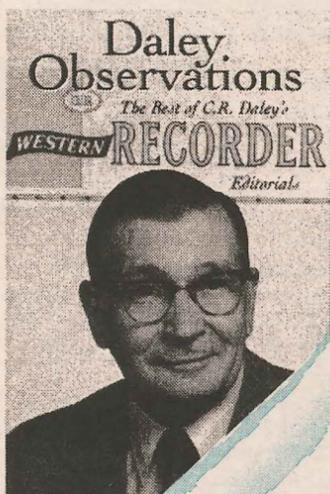


"Pastor Nudnik? This is Agnes Thorp. All your years of preaching finally hit home with us on Sunday. Ed and I wanted to let you know that we finally understand stewardship, and we're going to start tithing immediately. Of course, Ed has been transferred to a new job in Dallas, and our family will be moving in a week, but we thought you'd appreciate our good news."



"I wasn't going to vote for him as pastor either, but who can pass him up? He might be worth something someday."

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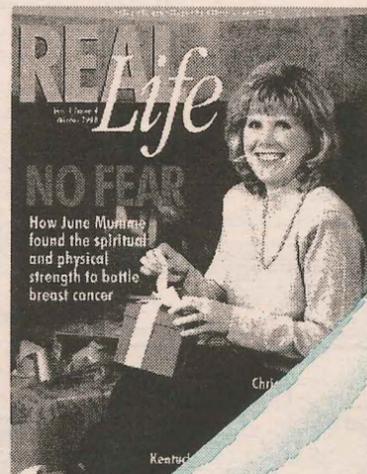
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