

**NEWSPAGE EDITION**

**DECEMBER 15, 1998**  
Vol. 172, No. 49

**FOR THE RECORD**

**Advocates aim to make underage alcohol sales harder**

**Baptists**  
Glenn Hinson has been named editor of the theological journal formerly associated with Southern Seminary. *Page 2.*

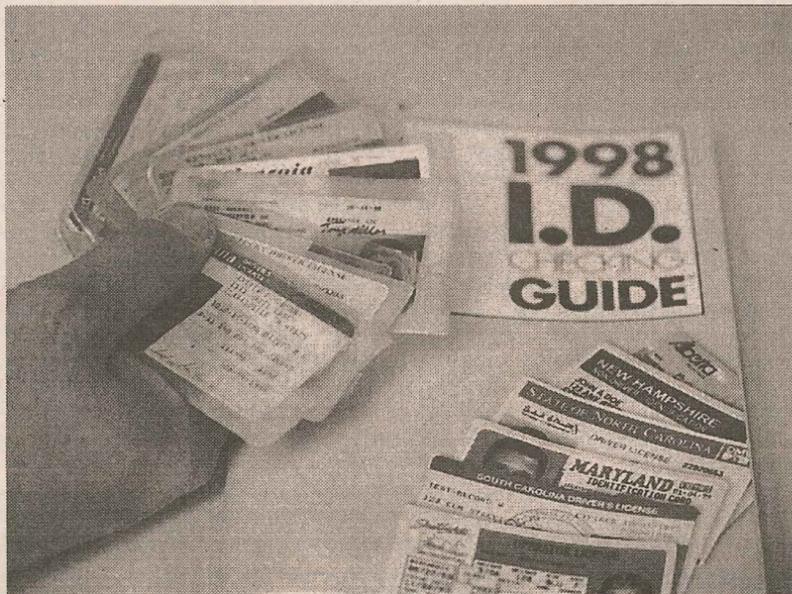
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A wife wonders why her marriage counselor isn't straightening out her husband. *Page 5.*

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**Future**  
One of the most valuable resources in the 21st century will be people's attention, according to a strategic planning leader with LifeWay Christian Resources. *Page 9.*



**FAKE IDENTIFICATION** Ken Singer holds a handful of confiscated fake and altered driver's licenses. He and Claude Witt, executive director of the Temperance League of Kentucky, say they want to make it harder for underage people to buy alcohol.

**By Ken Walker**  
State Correspondent

LOUISVILLE—Why is it easier for an underage person to buy a six-pack of beer in Kentucky than it is to buy a pack of cigarettes?

That's an issue two advocates for stricter alcohol-purchasing laws say they intend to push between now and the next state legislative session in 2000.

Kentucky laws prohibit stores and restaurants from selling alcoholic beverages to anyone under 21. Laws also bar tobacco product sales to people under 18.

But tobacco laws are very specific to require training for store vendors and limit what qualifies as sufficient proof of age, according to Claude Witt, executive director for the Temperance League of Kentucky, and Ken Singer, a Louisville liquor store owner.

Alcohol laws have no such require-

ments, making it easier for underage buyers to use a fake identification card successfully, Singer said.

Witt and Singer formed an unlikely alliance earlier this year to pursue stronger alcohol laws during Kentucky's legislative session.

Singer said he wants to see stronger laws that will keep alcohol out of the hands of kids. Witt, who calls Singer a friend, said he'll work with anyone advocating limits on the flow of alcohol.

One law they pushed that didn't pass would have made alcohol vendors and buyers subject to the same identification restrictions already in place for tobacco.

They said they intend to promote the issue between now and the next state legislative session to raise awareness and gain support.

Fake IDs, they insist, is one area that must be tightened.

Singer has a handful of proof. "I  See Advocates want ..., page 3

**Christian family counselor asks singles to think before marrying**

**By David Winfrey**  
News Director

NASHVILLE—Too many people put too little consideration into the choice of whom they marry, according to a Christian marriage counselor and author.

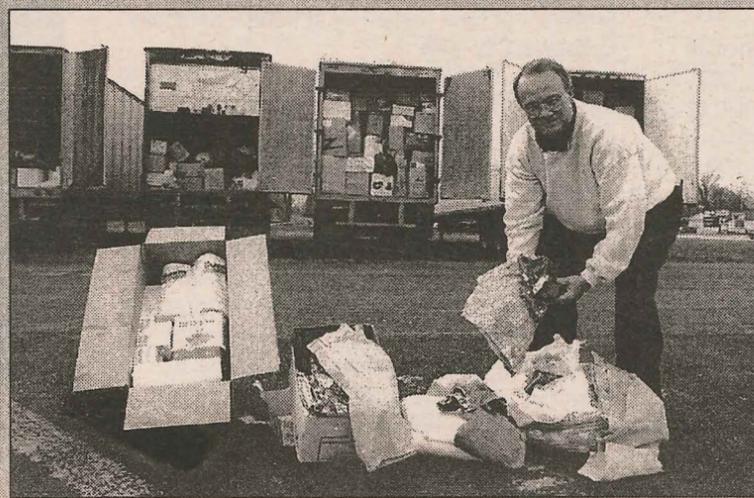
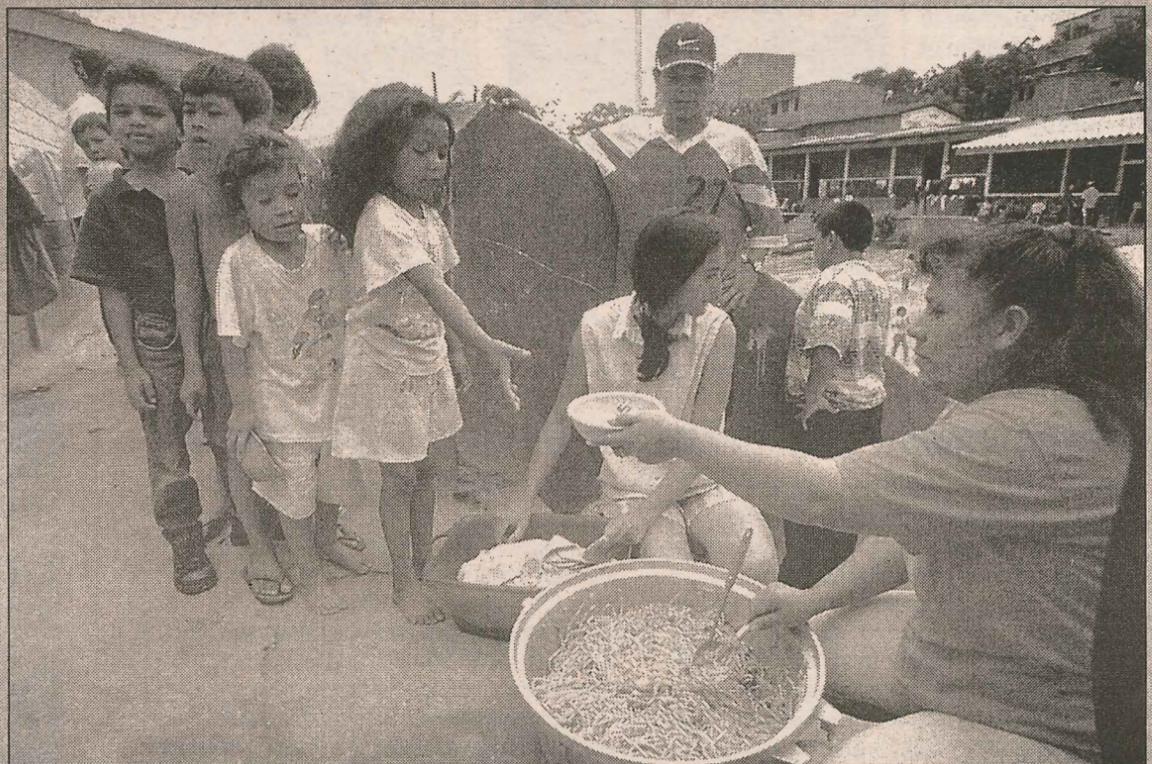
"As a psychologist who works with hundreds of singles and married couples, I am constantly amazed at how many people stumble their way into marriage and then wonder why their relationship grows miserably stagnant or chronically contentious," Neil Clark Warren writes in the January edition of *Christian Single* magazine.

"Most of the failed marriages I have encountered were in trouble the day they began. Why? Quite simply, the two people involved chose the wrong person," states Warren, author of "Finding the Love of your Life." "The idea of approaching the decision of matrimony objectively and proactively, before the ceremony, simply never occurred to them."

Since the 1970s, he adds, Americans have been staying single an average of five years longer—a trend he applauds. He quotes the National Center for Health Statistics as saying the average age of marriage for women is 28; men, 29.

"Their desire to wait is frequently based on the need 'to be sure' about their choice of a  See Christian ..., page 6

**Baptists respond**



In Kentucky and throughout America, Baptists are donating money, supplies and transportation to help the hurting and homeless in Central America after Hurricane Mitch.  Above: Communion Baptist Church in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, feeds children of families stranded at a shelter. More than 1 million people across Honduras were left homeless after Hurricane Mitch struck the country the last week of October. (BP photo by Warren Johnson.)  Left: Rodney Burnette, pastor of Ninth & O Baptist Church in Louisville shows some of the more than three truckloads of supplies collected for relief. Stories on pages 2 and 3.

Moving? See page 4 (1215)

# BAPTISTS

## BAPTIST BITS

■ **The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools**, a regional accrediting association has removed the University of Mobile (Ala.), a Baptist school, from probation. Also, the school's Central American campus, which is at the center of the school's financial problems, may be sold to Gardner Webb University, a North Carolina Baptist college. SACS took the probation-removal action during its December meeting, said Mark Foley, Mobile's president.

■ **The Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond (Va.)** has received a grant of more than \$800,000 to pioneer the use of new technology to make theological education more accessible to the local church. The school received the grant from the Lilly Endowment to develop a program of distance education that will use high-tech tools to offer access to theological education in person, through teleconferencing and via the Internet.

## Baptists help hurting, homeless in Central America

By Wally Poor  
SBC International Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Southern Baptists responded dramatically to the needs of hurricane victims in the Caribbean and Middle America—giving not only money and goods, but themselves.

Throughout the United States, Southern Baptist churches large and small collected money, food, clothing and medical supplies.

When International Mission Board missionaries requested 42 volunteer teams for relief projects in Middle America, Southern Baptists responded so readily that 38 of the requests were filled in four days.

IMB trustees, meeting in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., voted to earmark up to \$1 million for relief efforts in Middle America. Even as this action was taken, disaster relief funds were pouring into the board's headquarters in Richmond, Va. More than \$220,000 came within a week's time.

Mississippi Baptists shipped 270,000 pounds of food, said Paul Harrell, director of the state convention's Baptist men's ministry. The ship reached Honduras Thanksgiving Day, and six volunteers left Dec. 2 to help with distribution.

In Germantown, Tenn., Acteens collected \$11,000 toward the purchase of 1,000 mattresses requested by missionaries in the Dominican Republic.

In addition to the mattresses, the Germantown church is in the process of shipping 100,000 pounds of rice, 30,000 to 40,000 pounds of beans and 10,000 gallons of cooking oil to the Dominican Republic.

The hardest hit countries were Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala. The death toll remains uncertain; government and relief officials were estimating that as many as 9,000 people had died and thousands more were missing.

A team of Southern Baptist volunteer coordinators from Tennessee, Texas and North Carolina are making

a 10-day assessment trip to Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala and El Salvador this month.

Previous contacts with Baptists in countries battered by hurricanes Georges and Mitch paved the way for relief efforts.

In September, Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn., led a 55-member delegation to a Central American pastors' conference in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

When news of the disaster in Honduras broke, IMB missionary Joyce Harms was in Memphis. She and her husband, David, serve in Honduras.

Mrs. Harms relayed immediate needs to the church, which responded within three days with \$20,000 and 35,000 pounds of food and medical supplies. Executives of Federal Express who are members at the church, arranged for a Boeing 727 to deliver the relief materials to Honduras.

Other Tennessee churches joined in sending a Federal Express DC-10

to Honduras with clothing, food and medicine.

Texas Baptist Men delivered three water purifiers bought and shipped with IMB hunger funds, as well as generators and more than three tons of food and medicine, to Honduras.

The University of Mobile, a Baptist school which has had a branch in Managua, Nicaragua, is collecting money to purchase food, medicine and other supplies for storm victims in Nicaragua.

From Florida, David Lema, director of Hispanic ministries for Miami Baptist Association, took Baptist Spanish-speaking healthcare providers to Honduras, where they evaluated how they could plug into Honduras' great needs.

Baptist World Aid has released an initial grant of \$5,000 to help storm victims in Honduras, according to Paul Montacute, director of the relief arm of the Baptist World Alliance, a worldwide fellowship of Baptists based in McLean, Va.

Meanwhile, Central American church leaders, joining a host of international luminaries including Baptist and former President Jimmy Carter, are calling on international lenders to forgive the foreign debt of Honduras and Nicaragua.

"It makes no sense to receive massive amounts of international aid and then turn around and send money out of the country to pay interest on the debt," said Noemi Espinoza, executive president of Christian Commission for Development in Honduras.

Honduras' foreign debt stood at about \$4.5 billion in 1996. Nicaragua has a foreign debt of \$5.9 billion.

"The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund should forgive Nicaragua's and Honduras' outstanding debts because it will probably take them 10 to 15 years to recover," Carter said.

With additional reporting by Associated Baptist Press and Religion News Service



**DISASTER GETS RAPID RELIEF** Many Hondurans were killed or lost property when mud slides broke loose from the mountains and barreled through highly populated areas. ■ **Left:** This mudslide traveled more than 2 kilometers and took out several city blocks in a residential area. ■ **Right:** David Harms, a Southern Baptist missionary, oversees the distribution of food to the Continental Evangelical Center in a rural area along the northern coast of Honduras. The area was cut off by flood waters for several days before relief reached residents. (BP photos by Warren Johnson)

## Hinson named new editor for Review and Expositor

RICHMOND, Va. (ABP)—Former Southern Seminary professor Glenn Hinson has been named to a two-year post as editor of Review and Expositor, a scholarly theological journal supported by a consortium of moderate Baptist schools.

Hinson, now professor of spirituality, worship and church history at Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond, Va., previously was editor of the journal when both he and the Review and Expositor were affiliated with Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

After the seminary's shift to a conservative focus drove Hinson and other moderate faculty members away, Review and Expositor also broke its ties with Southern Seminary. The journal is now affiliated with a consortium of new and emerging theological schools.

The journal's primary sponsors are the McAfee School of Theology at Mercer University, Baylor's George W. Truett Theological Seminary, Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond and remaining faculty at Southern Seminary who represent the historically moderate "Southern tradition."

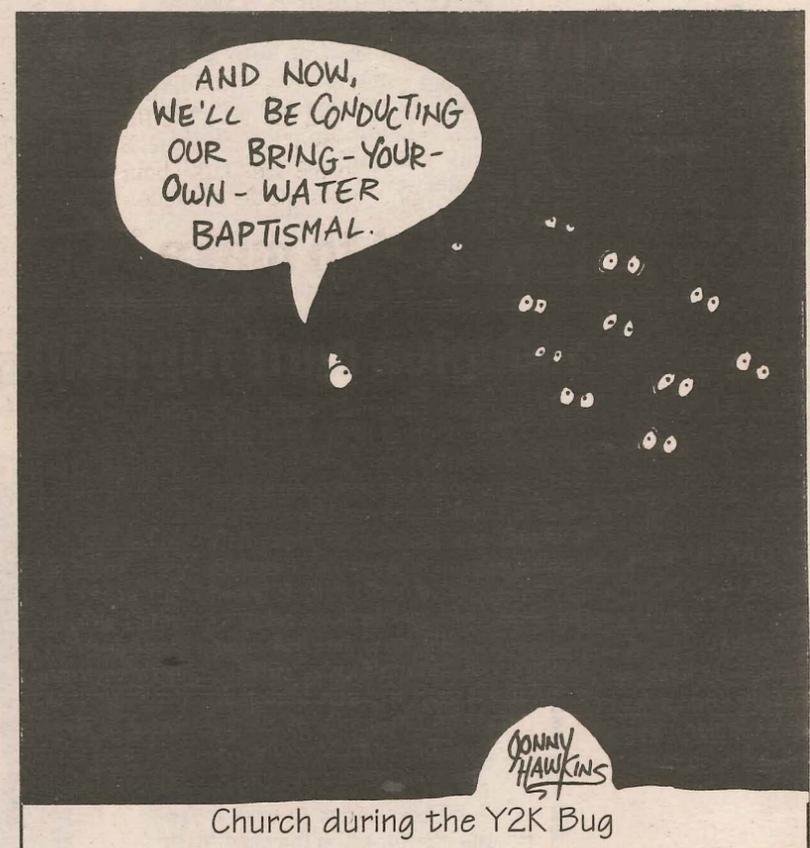
Central Baptist Theological Seminary and the Gardner-Webb University Divinity School were the

initial new patrons of the journal. Since the founding of the consortium, three other schools have signed on as patrons, said Dan Stiver, the journal's outgoing editor. Those schools are the Logsdon School of Theology at Hardin-Simmons University in Texas, Campbell University Divinity School in North Carolina and Northern Baptist Theological Seminary in Illinois.

Along with Hinson's new role as editor, the board of Review and Expositor has named as book-review editor David May, associate professor of New Testament at Central Seminary in Kansas City, Kan.

The journal's upcoming Winter 1999 issue will focus on E.Y. Mullins as a central figure in Baptist life. Authors will include Hinson, James Dunn of the Baptist Joint Committee, Russell Dilday of Truett Seminary and current president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, and Curtis Freeman of Houston Baptist University.

Stiver, who now teaches at Logsdon but previously taught at Southern Seminary, said the issue on Mullins is fitting for the Review and Expositor, a publication begun by Mullins, a theologian who was president of the Louisville seminary from 1899 to 1928.



## Kentuckians respond to needs in Honduras, Nicaragua

By David Winfrey  
News Director

LOUISVILLE—When Ninth & O Baptist Church in Louisville began collecting clothes and supplies for the victims of Hurricane Mitch, Pastor Rodney Burnette hoped to get enough goods to fill a 40-foot shipping container.

Today he has more than three times that and is thanking Kentucky Baptists for the help they have given. "It's been overwhelming," Burnette said.

Supplies have come from around the state, he added. Baptists from Owenton brought a 26-foot trailer full of goods, he said, and Owensboro Baptists brought another truckload.

Goods also have come from Little Flock Baptist Church in Shepherdsville, Greenland Baptist Church in Corbin as well as from Bardstown and Frankfort, he said.

"Kentucky Baptists are what's made this possible," Burnette said last week as he showed clothes, cleaning supplies and other donated items.

In addition, one company donated 1,800 pairs of children's shoes, he said. Another was considering donating a truckload of paper goods.

The church was paying about \$2.70 per box to package the goods until a cigarette company donated its box seconds.

Burnette said the effort shows the

combined strength of teamwork as some Baptists donate, others sort and package and still others ship the supplies abroad. "Missions is more than money," he said. "It's all working together for the kingdom."

Ninth & O has a lot of experience in collecting goods to send abroad. In the past three years, the church has collected and shipped about \$2.2 million worth of materials to Bosnia.

Now the church is focusing on getting these goods to countries like Nicaragua and Honduras.

"We're still trying to raise some money for the shipment," he said.

Initially a fruit company offered to take donated materials for free, Burnette said. But the company was so overwhelmed by donations that it cannot carry everything, he added.

The church has raised enough money for half the cost to ship one container and the Kentucky Baptist Convention has promised to pay for one container, he said.

The church also is working to get clearance from the Nicaraguan government to not pay import taxes for taking the goods in. "We just hope to have that any day. We're just sitting by the fax machine waiting," Burnette said.

After the details are ironed out, a Savannah, Ga., company can have the containers on site in Central America in 12 days, Burnette said. Transportation costs about \$4,800 per container,

he said.

One thing church leaders don't want to happen is for the goods to go to waste. Burnette said one missionary told him a port in Honduras had 70 shipping containers with food and materials that no one has claimed.

"We will not ship until we've got every 't' crossed and every 'i' dotted," Burnette said.

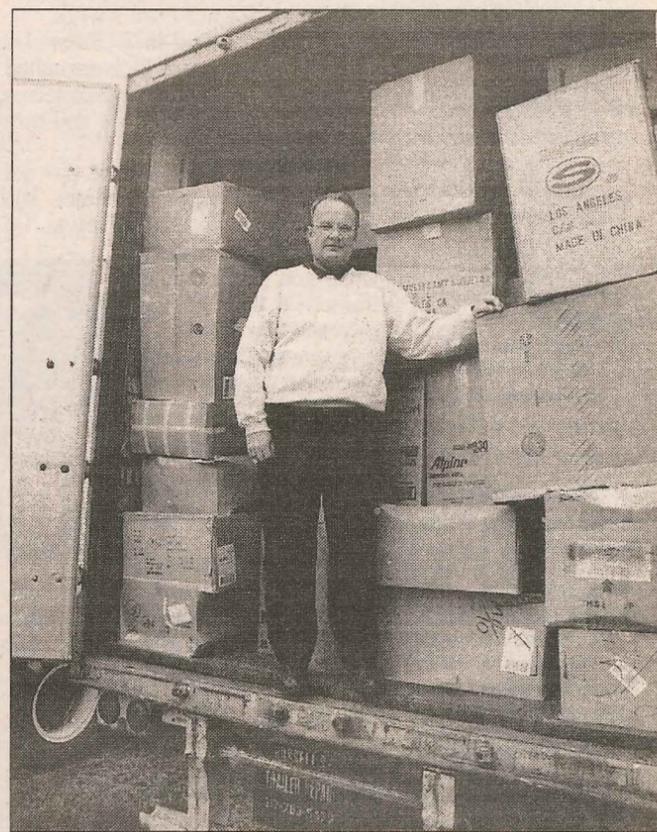
Late last week, Burnette said he just learned that 22 tons of rice could be sent to Central America for \$8,000, and he is now looking for donations for that project.

Also in Louisville, Highland Baptist Church is encouraging members and others to spend some of their Christmas money this year to help victims in Central America. The church is collecting money and suggesting people make donations in honor of someone.

The church doesn't want to compete with other charities during the holiday, but with the holiday buying frenzy, said Terri Phelps.

"The idea began when my husband and I walked through the mall recently. ... The pressure to buy things just because it is Christmas is incredible," she said. "We suggest that people take some portion of what they will spend on Christmas gifts to make a donated gift in honor of their family and friends."

Highland church has made cards



to tell recipients what kind of contribution is made in their honor. Amounts range from \$10, which can feed a person for two weeks, to \$400, to rebuild a house.

**READY TO GO** Rodney Burnette, pastor of Ninth & O Baptist Church in Louisville, shows a full container of clothes, paper products and other goods donated by Kentucky Baptists for Central Americans affected by Hurricane Mitch. The church has collected enough goods to fill three 40-foot shipping containers.

## Often recipients of help, they were ready to help others

LaGRANGE—The residents of 100 North Fourth, a home for developmentally disabled adults in LaGrange, often are on the receiving end of Christmas generosity.

But this year they worked to make Christmas brighter for residents at Spring Meadows Children's Home in Louisville, a home for young victims of abuse and neglect.

The residents of 100 North Fourth, and seven other adults living in supported living apartments, bought Christmas presents for five children at Spring Meadows. They also baked cookies and wrapped presents for all the youth to enjoy at their campus Christmas party Dec. 11.

Cedar Lake Residences, an orga-

nization that serves mentally retarded and developmentally disabled adults, administers the supported living program and 100 North Fourth. Spring Meadows is a Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children facility that serves up to 60 boys and girls who come from backgrounds of abuse, neglect and family crisis.

Involving the special needs adults in Spring Meadows' annual Christmas party was Jo Brewer's idea.

Brewer began the Spring Meadows party five years ago when two runaways from Spring Meadows entered the I-64 Waffle House. Over cups of hot chocolate, Brewer listened to the kids talk about their painful pasts and the frustration of living away

from home in a residential facility.

Spring Meadows staff arrived and took the teens back to campus, but the incident stuck with Brewer. After work she drove to the campus and asked: "What can I do for you?" Nine days later, the first Christmas party took place.

"This thing has a life of its own now," Brewer said.

"I can't take credit for the idea" of involving 100 North Fourth, she added, "It was God. I remember thinking that this time of year people are always being asked to give and get involved, but here is a group of people who never get asked to contribute anything, so why not get them involved in our party?"

Evelyn Francis, manager at 100 North Fourth, said Brewer's insight was right on target. "These people have their problems, but they are very knowledgeable. They know that people are giving things to them and donating money to take care of this house. They want to help people because people have helped them and it's part of being a responsible member of the community."

Francis said the residents in the Cedar Lake programs have jobs and work up to 20 hours a week. "They are independent and can do a lot of things on their own. ... These men and women are always willing and waiting to do something—to give something—just like the rest of us."

## Advocates want to make it harder for underage buyers of alcohol

Continued from page 1

get fake IDs from the store," said Singer, whose store is near the University of Louisville. "Every fall we get a crop because of incoming freshman."

The sophisticated IDs are close replicas of state driver's licenses. The only things that give them away are the wrong color tint or the obvious age of the person in the photo. The cruder ones are obvious cut-and-paste jobs.

"In an average month we'll bring in four or five," he said. "Most will tell you real quickly, 'I'll just get another one.'" Singer uses a guide book that lists what each state driver's license is supposed to look like. He also gives employees a \$10 bonus for confiscating a fake ID.

"Everyone's got a story," he said as he flipped through a handful of fake cards. On the back he's written what

happened when the card was confiscated. "There's a bunch on here who don't know their birthday."

The bad part, he said, is how successful they are. "As obvious fakes as they are to you and me, they work in a lot of places and I don't mean by accident either."

Another scary fact is that Singer has found at least two Web sites that specialize in fake IDs. One allows anyone to download a state's driver's license template and the seals or designs imprinted on it.

Dan Gahafer, spokesman for Kentucky's Alcoholic Beverage Control, said a store that sells alcohol to an underage customer faces a 20-day suspension for a first offense, although that can be avoided by paying a \$1,000 fine. Meanwhile, no fine is levied on minors who attempt to pur-

chase alcohol, he said.

Witt and Singer said that if minors faced a penalty for trying to purchase alcohol they would be less likely to try it.

The measure Witt and Singer tried to get passed in the legislature last winter was modeled on an Arizona law. Under it, buying alcohol would require state-issued identification with photo, such as a driver's license or other government ID.

The proposal calls for a six-month driver's license suspension for minors convicted of trying to purchase beer or liquor. It also would require store owners to train employees regarding prohibitions of sales to minors.

Singer said he also wants stores to be required to use a guide book so they'll have fewer excuses for selling alcohol to underage buyers.

The two intend to push the bill again during the next Kentucky legislative session in 2000. "You can be sure that we're going to be on the doorstep with a bill," Witt said.

Added Singer: "About all we can do is get these guys to understand the need for it. It will be difficult. The liquor industry always fares better under ambiguous laws."

Witt said he hopes to enlist Kentucky Baptist pastors and directors of missions in contacting their state representatives to urge its passage.

"We're asking them to write their legislator and let them know they are informed and would like to see them correct the problem," he said. "Then when the time comes, we already have some built-in support."

With additional reporting by News Director David Winfrey

## WESTERN RECORDER

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**MAURI SMITH**  
Interim Executive  
Officer

**DAVID WINFREY**  
News Director

**C.R. DALEY**  
Editor Emeritus

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

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## Thanks, KBHC

Thank you Ms. Gray for taking a godly stand for our Lord's work.

As the Lord said in 2 Chronicles 7:14, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways..."

God in his word said he did not make us lesbians or imperfect. We choose the wrong way ourselves. So we, therefore, are punished and really punish ourselves through our own sins toward God.

If we make a wrong choice to do wrong, we should pay the price for our own sins. God is against this type of lifestyle. We, as Christians called of God, must oppose this lifestyle among our children, so God can bless us for all our efforts toward others as we work for him in his work.

God bless you again as you toil in his kingdom.

*Doris Poston  
Evansville, Ind.*

## Like grandfather

In May 1952, my grandfather walked across the stage of Alumni Memorial Chapel at Southern Seminary and received his master of divinity degree. He spent the next 37 years preaching the gospel and pastoring churches. On Dec. 11, I walked across that same stage and received my master of divinity degree, some 46 years later. While students, he and I both pastored churches in Kentucky; this year my wife and I lived in the same apartment building on campus that he, my grandmother and their four children, including my mother, lived in

the first year it was open.

Southern Seminary drew me for the same reasons it did my grandfather: a love for the Lord, his Word, the church and the lost. I am not a five-point Calvinist, and never once did I feel pressured by any faculty member to adopt that system of thought as my own. Instead, teachers challenged me to walk with integrity before my God, to prove myself as a workman pleasing unto God, adequately handling the word of truth, to live a life of service to the local church and to involve myself and others in the cause of global missions. The Lord is at work at Southern Seminary. Men and women, called of God, are sinking roots deep into things of eternal substance. Another generation of bond-servants of Christ are going

forth unto the harvest fields.

Men like Albert Mohler, Thom Rainer, Danny Akin and other teachers and faculty members at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary will serve Kentucky and the Southern Baptist Convention well. I want the Baptists of this state to know that they can be proud of Southern Baptists' flagship seminary.

*Rhett Wilson  
Louisville*

## Flunks test

Thoughtful Baptists will see through the distortions in Al Mohler's "Opinion" piece (Nov. 24, page 6) regarding President Clinton's "Baptist buddies."

His statement vilifies all Baptists who oppose Clinton's philandering and the unethical behavior of the fundamentalist movement Mohler de-

fends and praises.

Amazingly, he slanders three of Baptists' finest, Glenn Hinson, James Dunn and Foy Valentine, without exploring the issues behind his attacks.

His brief against Glen Hinson would be silly were the charges not so serious. True, Hinson's writings were used against him. When Hinson criticized the anti-Semitism behind Bailey Smith's comment about "God not hearing the prayers of a Jew," he became the object of vicious attacks.

Mohler skirts the critical issues pertaining to the study of the Gospels, then falsely accuses Hinson of saying they "must be discounted because they were 'embellished' by the early church!"

Further, blaming Hinson for Clinton's sexual problems is calumny by any measure. Hinson is one of the spiritual giants among Baptists, as Mohler fully knows. Blaming him for Clinton's sexual escapades is like blaming Mother Teresa for the child molesters among Catholic clergy.

Mohler doesn't like Dunn and Valentine because they are committed to religious liberty. Both signed the "Call to Concern" circulated by the Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights based on the fact that proposals to ban abortion violated the First Amendment. Mohler belongs to that radical fringe attempting to abolish the wall that separates church and state.

Further, his statement that the three were part of the "theological compromise (that) led to the collapse of any moral sense of gravity within SBC leadership" is surely a non-serious effort to divert attention from the repeated ethical violations of his takeover buddies.

Mohler is an artful polemicist; but he flunks the test for Christian ethics.

*Paul D. Simmons  
Louisville*

## PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

### Shepherding the Shepherd

One of the most demanding and stressful careers of our day is that of pastor. The pastor is expected to preach three captivating sermons each week, personally care for every member, lead the church in numerical growth, be present for all community and denominational functions, solve all church conflict, be all things to all people and occasionally walk on water.

When you add to the above the call of God, the needs of people, a caring heart and sacrificial commitment, you have the ingredients for stress overload, neglected family, personal burnout and other consequences.

I remember being a young pastor of a growing church with three new mission churches and 70 percent of the population unreached for Christ. There were long days, short nights and too little family time.

I would like to suggest several ways churches can encourage and support their pastors:

■ *Be realistic in your expectations.* Expect the pastor to lead with those strengths and gifts provided by God. It will be rare for a pastor to excel in

all areas of ministry and meet all expectations. Complement other areas with staff or lay leaders. An increasing number of people are willing to give 20 hours a week as volunteer staff.

■ *Pray for your pastor and your pastor's family.* Recently, after a message at First Baptist Church of Henderson, several lay people said, "I didn't hear the sermon because I was in the prayer room." Then I knew why there was such freedom to preach and such responsiveness from the people.



Bill Mackey

■ *Pray for God's hedge of protection to surround your pastor and your pastor's family.* Pray for the Lord's leading in study time and in the proclamation of God's word to his people.

■ *Pray for your pastor to have quality time with God and family.* Pray for staff and lay leaders who will complement the pastor's ministry.

■ *Encourage your pastor and spouse to participate in the Shepherding the Shepherd Conference in Lexington, Jan. 21-23.* This special event, sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention in conjunction with Bap-

tist Healthcare System, is designed to provide encouragement and enrichment for the pastor and spouse. The program will include four outstanding plenary speakers:

■ Reggie McNeal, a popular speaker, author and nationally known pioneer in leadership development.

■ Charles Lowery, pastor of Hoffmantown Church in Albuquerque, N.M. He has a doctorate in counseling and is a humorist and writer.

■ Ray and Anne Ortlund, a former pastor and his wife, from Hollywood, Calif., who are accomplished conference speakers and authors.

■ Calvin Miller, a former pastor, professor, author and popular speaker.

The event also features inspirational music, workshops and a date night for the pastor and spouse. I encourage each church to provide the \$145 per couple for this three-day renewal experience. Your church will benefit directly from an encouraged and renewed ministry couple.

To register or find out more about the Shepherding the Shepherd Conference, call the KBC building at (502) 254-4700 or toll free at (888) 254-5712. Space is limited to just 150 couples, so call right away.

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

## CHARITY

### Life insurance is one good way to give to your church, charity

By Laurie Valentine



Using life insurance to fund your charitable gift can provide both current and deferred giving benefits.

It also can provide the opportunity to make a larger ultimate gift for charity than you ever thought possible.

While you might not be able to make a gift of thousands of dollars all at once, you might be able to make a gift of smaller amounts on a regular basis to cover the cost of premiums for an insurance policy on your life. Or, you might be able to give up ownership of a paid-up policy that you purchased years earlier to cover a particular financial need that no longer exists.

Your life insurance gift may be accomplished either by irrevocably transferring ownership of an existing policy to your church or other charitable cause, or by purchasing a new policy on your life for the charity to own.

If the policy is not already "paid-up," each year thereafter you will either pay the premiums due on the policy directly to the life insurance company or make gifts to the church or other cause that can be used to pay the premiums.

If you give an existing policy, your income tax deduction is approximately the policy's cash surrender value at the time of the gift.

If you give a new policy, your deduction will be the amount of premiums paid in the year the policy is given. You also will be entitled to deductions in future years for the premiums you pay each year or for the gifts made to the charity to cover the premiums.

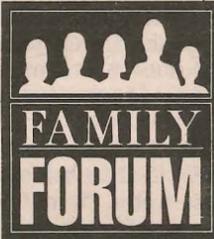
At your death the charity, as the life insurance beneficiary, can collect the proceeds immediately; there is no waiting for settlement of your estate. The charity usually will incur no expense to collect the death benefit. Best of all, the amount the charity will receive is generally far larger than the total premiums paid during your lifetime.

A charitable gift of life insurance is one way to make a lasting difference.

*Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation*

## Wife wants marriage therapist to straighten out her husband

My husband and I have been seeing a marriage counselor for a few weeks now, and I'm so disappointed. I was so hoping she would tell my husband he should become more responsible as a husband and a father, but she doesn't say much. She just listens to us talk to each other. Does she know what she's doing, or should we go somewhere else?



Without knowing more about your therapist I couldn't say if she's qualified or not. It is likely, however, that your therapist wants you to talk with each other during sessions so that she can help you learn to do so more effectively.

Often, couples expect a marriage therapist to tell them what to do to fix their marriage quickly. The reality is that your therapist will serve as a guide to helping you and your husband work through problems, which so many times involve learning to communicate more effectively. It is also likely she is still trying to understand the dynamics of your relationship before she says much about your situation. While this might be frustrating to you, her understanding of your relationship is essential for her to do her work effectively.

You mention that you had hoped she would tell your husband that he needs to change. It would be good at this point for you to think about what you hope to gain from marriage counseling. Going to a therapist with the idea that he or she will straighten out your spouse is often disappointing because most of the time each spouse has contributed at least something to the problem. You will probably benefit more from your counseling experience by realizing that each of you can learn some things to make your marriage stronger and that each of you probably should change somewhat in order for you to see lasting improvement in your relationship.

But it would be appropriate for you to share your concerns with her. Even ask her about her technique so you will know what to expect from her and what she will be expecting from you and your husband.—*Susan Howell*

## Is it true that teenagers who talk about suicide are not going to do anything about it? Are they just trying to get attention?

No, that is not true. In fact, most teenagers who attempt suicide give some type of verbal clues before the act. They want help and only turn to suicide when they see no other way out of a seemingly impossible situation. While about 10 percent of teenagers try some type of self-harmful action, an alarming 45 percent report that they have thought of taking their own lives.

If a youth feels enough internal pain to mention suicide, he or she must be taken seriously. Running the risk of over-acting is better than the pain of not speaking up and losing a teenager to suicide.—*Wade Rowatt*

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](mailto:wesrec@ntr.net).

## Helping others get home for the holidays

By Tom Curry

One of the Christmas traditions in our family is visiting Louisiana for the holidays. On the journey home, we listen to the "Carpenters Christmas" compact disk. One of my favorite songs is, "I'll be Home for Christmas." I used to think going home was a singular indulgence of mine. I have discovered that being at home is a common quest in the human journey of life. The Advent season offers us a time to reflect on the hope of finding home.

This hope implies that people who desire to go home are somehow homeless. In some way, a person looking for home does not feel like he or she belongs where they are now. A student expressed his homelessness to Paul Tournier in the book, "A Place for You," "Basically, I'm always looking for a place—somewhere to be." Our world is filled with folks like the student who feel they do not belong where they are. Whether a college student trying to find himself, or a church attender looking for family, many people are looking for home these holidays, a place to belong.

The Advent story addresses the homeless dilemma. The Son of God left his home in heaven to become displaced along with Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem and Egypt. He understands our need to be at home. However, Jesus cautioned his disciples to avoid letting the homecoming urge hinder their ministry. "The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head (Luke 9:58)." The challenge from Jesus is twofold. First, we are to minister to people as one who is also homeless. Second, we are to be careful that our home is not a place, necessarily, but a journey, a pilgrimage of obedience to his call.

Christ has given us a ministry to homeless people all around us. The more conspicuous homeless of Louisville gather at places like Jefferson Street Bap-

tist Center to eat a meal, exchange old garments for newer ones and listen to home-like counsel in Jesus' name. The homeless who flock to our shelters need our ministry. Like them, we all are children of God who need a home to receive nurture and unconditional love, a place where we are treated with dignity.

The homeless also might be those who try desperately to fit in but find no room except in our lives. They wander from place to place, looking for the warmth and familiarity of home. Other home seekers simply want a trusted friend or a familiar face to share in conversation.

Etymologically, "familiar" is related to "family." The ancient Greek word for family signifies, literally, that which is near the hearth. The hearth in Greek mythology was the medium between mortals and immortals. In early American history the fireplace became a symbol of family unity and warmth. Jesus calls us to minister to people who need a hearth of love and friendship. Making room for new friends offers home to them.

Henry Nouwen defined home as a place or space "where we can laugh and cry, embrace and dance, sleep long and dream quietly, eat, read, play, watch the fire, listen to music and be with a friend. Home is where we can rest and be healed." Home for Nouwen is personal and spiritual intimacy.

Home is not confined to a house or landmark. Augustine located home in our heartfelt relationship with God; "Our hearts are restless until they rest in thee."

Home, then, is embraced in our hearts as we journey in faith with Jesus each day. Creating home is a ministry we can offer to others from the hearth of our own home in Christ. Why not give the gift of home this Christmas season? The more we offer it to others the more we are at home too for the holidays.

*Tom Curry is pastor of Parkland Baptist Church in Louisville, and chairman of the Board of Directors of the Western Recorder*

GUEST EDITORIAL

## Who has believed our message?

By Travis Collins

Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? (Isaiah 53:1)

Many people who read this, and countless others, have seen their earnest attempts to communicate the gospel fall on unresponsive ears. Some folks just won't listen.

The disheartening question of Isaiah reflects that tragic reality. But who asked the question? Perhaps this is the question of the prophet—he who had poured his heart into the delivery of an important message only to have no one respond to the invitation. Perhaps it is the question of Israel—people who finally realized that precious few of them had taken God's heralds seriously. Some suggest this is the lamentable report of the messengers who are described in the previous chapter as those who proclaim peace, bring good tidings, proclaim salvation and declare "Your God reigns."

Whichever is the case, God's truth

had seemed just too incredible and unpalatable to be embraced by the majority of the hearers.

But let's not forget the fact that many did hear. Most did not pay attention but, by God's grace, many did.

A story I heard Fred Craddock tell years ago has been encouraging to me.

Craddock was pastor of a small church when he was a young man. There was a little girl in the church who Fred thought never heard a word he said. She was constantly fidgeting—down in the floor, up in the pew, scribbling or giggling—everything but listening.

Many years later he was invited to speak at the funeral of the father of this little girl, now a woman. After the funeral Craddock went with the family back to the family's house for a meal provided by the church. The young lady said to Craddock, "Do you know what got me through the grief of my father's death? It was the words of a sermon you preached on the Lord's Supper when you were pastor here."

Craddock was floored. He couldn't

remember the sermon. And he couldn't imagine that the fidgety little girl had heard a word he said. But something she heard when Craddock didn't even know it gave her strength in the valley of the shadow of death.

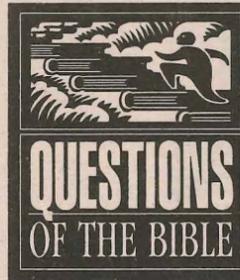
Craddock used that story to encourage the young, inexperienced ministers present in the seminary chapel that day. He assured us that, though we often wonder if we are making a difference, God works through us in ways we might not even imagine. Throughout his sermon he echoed, in his unique, high-pitched voice, the three-word message that has inspired me for years: "You never know!"

You never know! Yes, many will reject our message. But some will hear.

When you think you aren't getting through, when you think you aren't making a difference, when you think those children in Sunday school aren't hearing anything you say, when you think folks around you aren't impacted by your faith, when you think no one is listening, don't give up, for ... You never know!



*Travis Collins is pastor of First Baptist Church of Mount Washington*



## Christian counselor has marriage advice for singles

### More Points to Ponder

According to Neil Clark Warren in the January issue of "Christian Single" magazine:

- Television promotes the idea that appearance is the most important mate-selection factor. But studies show that over time, appearance slips far down the "most-important" list.
- The vast majority (75 to 80 percent) of all divorces involve at least one partner with an emotional health deficiency.
- Prior to marriage, couples should discuss and agree on what their individual roles in the family will be.
- There is no research indicating marriage works better when the man is older than the woman.
- Divorce rates are lower for both men and women who marry for the first time at age 28 or older. Studies show this is the age when most people clarify who they are, have emotionally separated from their parents and know where they're going and how they want to get there.
- Both men and women tend to choose marriage partners who have qualities like those of their mother.
- When there is no chemistry between a man and woman, they are well-advised to let their relationship remain a friendship instead of trying to force it into a romance.
- Intimacy between two people requires they both know themselves well. You can't share deeply about yourself until you have mastered self-discovery.

Continued from page 1

mate," he writes. "And waiting until you are sure is a good policy for such a monumental decision."

The importance of choosing the right mate might sound obvious to many, but, Warren writes, "you would be surprised at the large percentage of people who are so intent on getting to 'I do' that they don't invest the necessary time and effort to make a good decision."

Warren lists 15 factors singles should consider that give themselves the "best chance for a fulfilling and lasting marriage." They are:

■ **Better later than sorry.** Research shows that couples who date two years or longer consistently score higher on marital satisfaction, he writes. "When a couple is ready to decide on something as all-encompassing as marriage after only a couple of months of dating, I assume their decision is long on fantasy and short on reality," he states.

■ **Happy now?** Too often, people choose a mate to please someone else, such as a parent or the person who is asking them to get married, Warren writes. "Your decision must be made in light of your own needs and dreams—those that God is revealing to you and guiding you toward." Friends' input is important, he notes, "but don't let anyone select your marriage partner for you."

■ **Truth is harder than fiction.** Unrealistic expectations for marriage could be the primary reason

for most early divorces, Warren states. "The truth is, successful marriages require an incredible amount of work, patience, and endurance."

■ **"I can change her."** Personality or behavioral problems will not vanish after marriage, he writes. "If there are qualities about your partner's personality or behavior that you question, ... ask yourself if you are willing to spend the rest of your life dealing with these problems."

■ **Experience preferred.** Warren recommends that couples have lots of "life experience" with each other in order to really know one another. "Spend time with your partner early in the morning and late at night; in heavy traffic and on country roads; in times of stress and ease."

■ **Mr. or Ms. Perfect.** People generally aren't conscious of how greatly they are influenced by their mental image of the ideal spouse. Warren states. "It's vital to mentally clarify the type of person you want to marry. Think long and hard about all kinds of factors—appearance, intelligence, education, spirituality and so on."

■ **Just like me.** Opposites might attract, but that doesn't always mean they should marry, according to Warren. "Similarities are like money in the bank, and differences are like debts they owe," he writes. "If you want to make a marriage work with someone who is very different from you, you'll need a large number of similarities as permanent eq-

uity in your account."

■ **Hey, hard charger.** An important similarity to consider is ambition, Warren states. "If the person you marry is much less or much more ambitious than you, it's likely you will both be frustrated."

■ **Listen. Talk. Repeat.** Communication is vital to marital success, Warren states. "It's impossible to imagine a great marriage without two people who have worked hard at mastering the art of talking and listening."

■ **Fight fair.** Couples must know they can resolve conflicts before they get married, he writes. "In my opinion, more marriages fail because couples don't know how to handle their differences than any other reason."

■ **Faith matters.** Couples must be rooted in shared religious and spiritual beliefs, he states. "When two people are spiritually sensitive and their lives are centered on common beliefs, they have a solid foundation on which to build a relationship."

■ **Passion passes.** Passionate love usually fades substantially within eight months, he writes. That's when "companionate" love becomes important. "Companionate love is characterized by a strong bond based

on tender attachment, enjoyment of each other's company, mutual support and close friendship," he states. These characteristics are what a long-term relationship is built on, he states. "But because this takes time to cultivate, some couples get impatient and give up on their relationship."

■ **Trust me.** Trust is essential for a good marriage because it enables couples to flourish in the good times and hold together in the bad times, he writes. "When tough times come along, the couples don't panic. They cling to the fact that their marriage has been wonderful before and will be again."

■ **A chip off the old block.** To understand a potential mate's psyche, explore his or her family relationships, Warren advises. "All of us are enormously influenced by our parents, and we carry into marriage many of the patterns and methods of relating that we learned in our own families."

■ **Dream a little dream with me.** "People who love each other have shared dreams and plans for reaching them," Warren writes. "At the center of all this dreaming and planning is a recurring theme: 'I want the future to be good for you. If it isn't good for you, it can't be good for us.'"

### In America's Heartland

It was my privilege to represent the KBC-related institutions and agencies at several annual associational meetings this fall. One of those was West Kentucky Baptist Association. Upon my arrival, I discovered the association was going to pay tribute to Mid-Continent College because it marked the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the resolution by the association that birthed West Kentucky Baptist Bible Institute, which is now Mid-Continent College.

What a joy it was to fellowship with President David Jester and others of his staff, and to present a word of affirmation of the college's unique Great Commission ministry which begins in the heartland of America and reaches to the remotest parts of the earth.

Located in Mayfield, its mission is "to educate students for Christian leadership and service throughout the world." Mid-Continent is a fully accredited and licensed four-year co-educational institution. While maintaining its original purpose of training ministers and church leaders, it also offers programs to prepare men and women for Christian leadership roles in the secular world.

Its immediate service area includes Kentucky, Tennessee, Mis-

souri, Illinois and Indiana. Its ministry is entrusted to Baptist leaders from nine Kentucky associations, three in Illinois and three in Tennessee. W. A. Sloan, the first full-time president, previously taught at Clear Creek Baptist School (now college). Jester graduated and was on staff at Georgetown College.

In 1994, messengers to the KBC annual meeting affirmed Mid-Continent's ministry among Kentucky Baptists, adopted a statement which recognized a mutually supportive relationship and encouraged Kentucky Baptists to use the Kentucky Baptist Foundation to make endowment gifts for the benefit of Mid-Continent. The foundation is pleased to manage endowment funds for the college, the most recent of which is the David Jester

Endowment Fund established in honor of the college's president.

Let me encourage you to inquire how you can become involved in changing peoples' lives through this unique ministry "in the heartland of America." President Jester or Institutional Advancement Vice President Phil Rowland would love to hear from you at (502) 247 8521.

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

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Barry Allen

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# CHRISTMAS

## Christmas pageants more advanced, but not new

By Mark Wingfield  
Texas Baptist Standard

FORT WORTH, Texas (ABP)—While church Christmas pageants might have advanced from bathrobes to elaborate costumes during modern times, the basic idea is anything but new.

Christians have been telling the gospel story through drama since at least the fifth century, according to Lyndel Vaught, associate professor of church music at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

"Everything that goes around comes around," said Vaught, who himself directed special events as a music minister for more than 30 years.

Scholars agree the church of the fifth century used dramatic devices, but the earliest surviving example of a church drama comes from the 10th century, he explained.

"By the time of the 10th century, there was an introit, a piece of music in dialogue form which represented the three Marys coming to the tomb," Vaught said. "This really is the first example of a liturgical drama that used dialogue, and the accounts indicate it was sung but also accompanied by dramatic action."

Liturgical drama reached its peak in the 12th and 13th centuries, Vaught said. Those events were a mixture of sacred and secular elements, much like many Baptist churches put together today in Christmas programs.

The church drama went through several variations in the following centuries, including the madrigal and then opera.

Opera eventually gave birth to the Broadway musical. And that, in turn, eventually influenced the church drama, Vaught explained.

He points to 1968 as a pivotal year, "the advent of the church musical in Baptist churches." That was when the youth musical "Good News" premiered, becoming the first in a long line of musical dramas used to tell biblical stories in a Broadway-like fashion, combining choral numbers with a dramatic story.

These new church musicals weren't confined to youth choirs for long. Soon adult choirs had their own dramatic musicals, and the Christmas cantata gave way to the Christmas musical and ultimately the Christmas pageant.

Around 1972, the Christmas program in Baptist churches took a new twist that some thought might be a passing fad but has endured now more than 25 years: The Living Christmas Tree.

This, too, began as a vehicle for youth programs but soon expanded to include a growing number of adult choirs. Pinpointing exactly where the Living Christmas Tree concept originated is difficult, but some believe the first such event was staged not in a church but by a secular choir in North Carolina. The Charlotte Choral Society put 85 singers in a 33-foot-high

tree of steel construction in 1958.

But it was a Baptist minister of music who brought this trend into the church. In 1963, John Gustavson introduced the Living Christmas Tree at First Baptist Church in Van Nuys, Calif.

First Baptist Church of Denton, Texas, led by then Minister of Music Bill Shadle, and Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn., were the first two churches to copy the Van Nuys tree, according to Shadle.

It was the Texas connection, however, which turned out to spread the use of the Living Christmas Tree worldwide. When Shadle returned to Denton from California, he asked a member of his church, Millard Heath, if he could design the structure needed to form the backbone of the Living Christmas Tree.

Heath, a mechanical engineer who owns a heating and air conditioning business, gladly did so, creating a perfectly balanced and secure structure of steel and wood that could be covered with greenery and lights to look like an enormous Christmas tree while allowing space for singers to stand in ascending rows inside the tree.

Word of mouth quickly spread, and soon Heath was approached by other churches about building a structure for their use. Eventually, he patented the design and launched a second business to produce the Living Christmas Trees.

Business peaked in the late 1980s, when Heath and his wife, Pat, shipped

out 37 trees in one year. Things have slowed down a bit, but they still sell 10-15 trees each year, Mrs. Heath said. Last year they sold one to the City of Bethlehem, to be used on Manger Square.

Churches can spend between \$10,000 and \$40,000 on a tree and accessories, such as greenery, ribbons, bows, lights, stars and crosses, she continued. That might sound expensive, but it's actually economical considering the many years a church will use the tree, she added.

Vaught said the Living Christmas Tree, with its computerized light displays, might be only one of a continuing series of technological innovations that will shape church productions in the years ahead.

"What I see in the future is a greater and expanded use of technology," Vaught explained. "Costs are coming down. ... It's more accessible to many churches."

Whether tempted by Living Christmas Trees, video, Broadway-style dramas or something else, the danger any church faces, Vaught said, is remembering the underlying reason for the production. Worship, "which remains the most important thing the church does," must not be replaced by pageants and special events, he warned.

And pageants and special events should be tied to a well-planned outreach effort, Vaught added. "Churches that follow up on it have seen some significant results."

**Around 1972, the Christmas program in Baptist churches took a new twist that some thought might be a passing fad but has endured now more than 25 years: The Living Christmas Tree.**

### Joy

By Jolly Faught

*"Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore" (Psalm 16:11).*

The acrostic for joy that I have heard for years is Jesus first, others second, yourself last. Unless we are able to follow these priorities, we may only experience temporary joy.

People can manufacture temporary joy through events, possessions and even other people. Events such as concerts, ball games or special dinners add pleasure to one's day.

Purchasing new toys, clothes, books or movies creates happiness for a time. Certain people give us joy, too: parents, close friends, boyfriend/girlfriend, spouse, children, extended family members.

Joy is more than a feeling of pleasure, however. Real joy is a choice. We can choose joy that comes through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Christian joy is permanent because Jesus was born, lived, died, rose again and will return. Christian joy goes beyond mere feelings of pleasure.

That does not mean everything will be perfect here on earth, but it

does mean Christ will be with us and we can draw upon his ability to see us through any earthly calamity.

Temporary joy is only a feeling, while permanent joy is a choice and an opportunity. Heart-felt joy allows for personal growth and also gives us the privilege to share Christ with others.

**CUMBERLAND COLLEGE**



At this special time of year, we can choose to sing, "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee."

Jolly Faught is assistant professor of English at Cumberland College. Her husband, Kenneth Faught, also teaches at Cumberland in the department of religion and philosophy. Their daughter

Jessica, who wrote the devotional on hope printed two weeks ago, is a junior at Cumberland College. Along with their son, Josh, a high school student, the entire Faught family is making an impact for Christ at Cumberland College, in Williamsburg and throughout Kentucky and neighboring states. We are grateful for their ministry through life and word.—Robert Dunston

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

### That sneaky calendar

"Where has the year gone?" "It can't be time for Christmas!" "It seems just last week we were celebrating Fourth of July."

You hear those comments a lot this time of year. We heard them in the check-out lines at the grocery stores a few weeks ago as people bought their Thanksgiving feast.

We hear them now at the mall and the Christmas tree lot. The calendar does have a way of sneaking up on us.

There comes a time every December when I put my feet up and reflect on how I've spent my time, energy and money during the last 365 days. You probably do the same.

After an honest evaluation, we might discover that we haven't followed through on some of the giving plans we made in January. The water heater needed fixing. Your daughter wrecked the car. The vacation cost a little more than you expected. In other words, life kind of got in the way of your giving.

Now is the time to make up that ground you might have lost during the summer. Take a moment and evaluate what you have given, and consider making a year-end gift to Kentucky Baptist Homes for Chil-

dren.

In addition to supporting a great ministry, you can acquire some tax deductions that will come in handy in the spring. Charitable gifts are one of the few tax deductions within your control.

If you don't expect to have enough deductible expenses to itemize, gifts can make that happen.

Instead of selling assets such as stocks, mutual funds and other qualified properties owned for more than one year, consider making a gift of them. By donating these assets, you can avoid capital gains taxes.

Now is also a good time to review your long-term financial plans and consider gifting through wills, life insurance, retirement plans, trusts or charitable gift annuities.

Dec. 31 will be here before you know it. Why not do something to help a child, and yourself, before the apple drops in Times Square?

Call me at the number below for details.

Brenda Gray is vice president for development and communications of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, 10801 Shelbyville Road, Middletown, Ky. 40243. Call (800) 456-1386. KBHC's Internet address is: <http://www.iglou.com/kbhc/>

**HOMES FOR CHILDREN**



Brenda Gray

## NATIONAL NOTES

■ **N.J. abortion law "unconstitutional."** A New Jersey law that would have banned a controversial late-term abortion procedure called "partial-birth abortion" by opponents was ruled unconstitutional Dec. 8 by a federal judge. The judge said she overturned the law because its wording was so ambiguous that it could be interpreted to ban all abortions, Associated Press reported. She also said the law was unconstitutional because it did not include an exception if the health of the mother is in jeopardy.

■ **Poll: Viewers approve assisted suicide.** More than half of those who watched Dr. Jack Kevorkian help end the life of a man with Lou Gehrig's disease said they agree that doctors should help dying patients commit suicide. But the same poll of 1,158 adults—taken by CBS News after the airing of the "60 Minutes" episode featuring Kevorkian—showed a 49 percent disapproval rating of Kevorkian and only 43 percent approval. According to the poll, 52 percent of those who watched the televised assisted suicide said they would allow doctors to help the dying take their own lives. That compares with just 37 percent of non-viewers.

■ **Abortion rate remains at low level.** The U.S. abortion rate held steady in 1996—the most recent year for which figures are available—at its lowest level in two decades, the government said. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said there were 20 abortions per 1,000 women ages 15 to 44, the same rate as in

1995. States reported 1,221,585 abortions in 1996, an increase of less than 1 percent from the year before. It was the first time the number of abortions has not declined since 1990. Abortion rates climbed steadily between 1973, when the procedure was legalized, until 1980, when they reached 25 per 1,000 women.

■ **Youth with a Mission chooses leader.** Youth with a Mission International, a Colorado-based missionary organization, has chosen its first non-white international president. Frank Naea, 41, will lead the organization with 10,500 missionaries in 2000 during the group's 40th anniversary year. A New Zealander of Samoan and Maori parents, he is the group's regional director for the Pacific. He will serve a four-year term as president. The organization also voted to work in a partnership with Voice of the Martyrs to assist persecuted churches around the globe. Seven hundred of YWAM's full-time workers serve in places where Christians are persecuted, the ministry said.

■ **VeggieTales get network special.** VeggieTales, the series of computer-animated, Christian-theme children's videos that are also popular with teenagers, have their own network Christmas special. The VeggieTales Christmas Spectacular will air nationwide on the PAX TV network Dec. 19 at 8 p.m., EST. The new family-focused network has no stations in Kentucky, but most of the network television debut involves footage from the VeggieTales video, "The Toy that Saved Christmas."

## A lot of work and a lot of play

Each fall our farm manager and his three assistants honor the boys and girls who are part of our agriculture and Future Farmers of America programs. Last Tuesday evening we had a Harvest Banquet for those students. We invited their parents to attend, and most were able to come.

I do not know how long it takes our farm personnel to come up with some of the awards they presented, but I thought you would enjoy hearing about what happened that evening. After a delicious meal of steaks raised on our farm, baked potatoes and all the trimmings, the meeting began with the seating of the FFA officers. Greg, the president, began the proceedings.

One of the awards went to Thomas, who is a new sixth-grader from Tennessee. Thomas' mother claims that he weighs 96 pounds. He is for sure one of our smallest boys. We gave him the "Newcomer" award. David received the "Academic Improvement" award because of the progress he has made academically. David enrolled in August as a 10th-grader from Georgia with grades ranging from B's to F's. While he has not attained honor roll status yet, he has made a lot of progress academically and is also in choir.

Pam is a sophomore from Illinois and is in her second year at Oneida. Pam received the "Best Speaker" award. Although she is rather bashful and does not really enjoy public speaking, she has real potential to be an effective speaker. Jon is one of our staff kids. His father is in charge of the boys' work program and his mother works in the office. You only have to be around Jon a short time to know why he received the "Most Cooperative" award. Jon is happy to do about anything he is asked to do.

### THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Shane is another newer student. He enrolled in October as a 10th grader from Ohio. Shane received "God's Timing" award. Shane has a lot of experience in the FFA program and has been a real asset to our fledgling FFA. We believe God sent him to us to help develop our program.

David came to Oneida Baptist Institute during summer school in 1997 from London, Ky. We knew he was going to be a challenge for us, and he has been. In addition to working on the farm

as his job requirement, David has spent more than a few days on the farm for disciplinary reasons. We use our agriculture program much the same way any school would use athletics, the fine arts or academic programs to motivate students. While spending so much time on the farm, David gained a real interest in our farm program. He received the "I'm Glad to be a Farm Boy" award.

Jackie received the "I Am the Clay" award for being so willing to be molded into the kind of person you want to work with. Jackie is also one of our staff children. She is in the 10th grade and has been here since she entered staff

kindergarten. In addition to being a delightful person to work with, Jackie is also a member of choir.

Joe came in January from Hopkinsville and is a sophomore. When he enrolled, he told me most of his grades were D's. Last grading period he received one A, two C's, two D's and one F. Joe still struggles academically, but is a real pleasure to work with. He received the "Best Welder" award.

To be continued

W.F. Underwood is president of Oneida Baptist Institute, P.O. Box 67, Oneida, Ky. 40972. [www.oneidaschool.org](http://www.oneidaschool.org)

## Christian retailers concerned about Barnes & Noble merger's impact

NASHVILLE (RNS)—Christian retailers have voiced concerns about how the plans of Barnes & Noble to purchase Ingram Book Group will affect their business.

Ingram Book Group, a subsidiary of Nashville-based Ingram Industries, owns Spring Arbor Distributors, a major wholesale distributor to Christian book stores. In early November, Barnes & Noble, which is based in New York, announced its plans to purchase Ingram for \$600 million.

Bill Anderson, president of CBA, the trade group formerly known as the Christian Booksellers Association, said retailers affiliated with his organization have expressed a number of concerns.

"It raises questions about service levels," said Anderson, whose office is in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Some Christian store owners are

wondering if other stores will get preferential treatment when there are new releases or limited stock available should Barnes & Noble, which also carries Christian products, purchase Ingram.

In addition, retailers are particularly concerned about whether their confidential account information will continue to be protected.

"They feel like Spring Arbor has a fair bit of account information history on them as a Christian retailer," he said. "In effect, now that another retailer owns that distributor ... they're in effect sending their information to their competitor's house or would-be competitor's house."

Anderson said some retailers plan to change the way they prioritize their orders, placing Spring Arbor further down their list of publishers and distributors from whom they make their purchases.



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## WMU Christmas quilts

At the August annual meeting of the Pulaski County Association, an idea came to association WMU Director Goldie McCann, a member of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church. "I think God gave us the project," Mrs. McCann said of the goal to provide a hand-made quilt for each Clear Creek student family.

"At first, the WMU groups felt overwhelmed, but they came through." They certainly came through—with 137 quilts!

On Dec. 4, a group of 24 men and women from the association delivered the quilts to campus.

Quilts lined the walls of the classroom building lecture room as students made a selection. Debbie Garrett showed the beautiful brown colors of her choice. Her husband, Ron, graduated in May and recently answered the call as minister of music and youth at Calvary Baptist Church in Somerset.

Pastor Gilbert Robinson, an alumnus, accompanied the quilt makers to campus.

Ruby Estep, a member of Eden Church, joins the monthly quilting group at Bethel Baptist Church. "I love to quilt. With 10

children I've been doing it all my life. It's good during the winter; keeps you from going crazy. We have lots of fun and also get to eat."

The ladies gave my wife and me an antique quilt in the "lone star" pattern. Pearl Fitzpatrick, a member of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, made it before her death.

Mrs. McCann remarked, "We hope when these students serve churches without a WMU they will remember this day. Hopefully, they will have a good feeling about WMU and realize the good work that can be done by the women of the church."

WMU certainly helps Clear Creek. Kentucky WMU provides annual scholarships, and many local groups support our Christmas Shopping Spree and other campus needs.

"These quilts are a tangible way to tell your students we care about them and pray for them. Many of our churches depend on Clear Creek students and graduates. We are grateful for the help they give to the churches," Mrs. McCann said.

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

### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

## Theology group: Homosexuality not biblical

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP)—A resolution declaring homosexual activity to be contrary to the Bible was adopted by the Evangelical Theological Society during its 50th annual meeting Nov. 19-21 in Orlando, Fla.

The group's statement also rebuked the national media for "unsubstantiated, untruthful and hateful accusations against evangelical Christians."

The 2,500-member society is the largest association of evangelical professors of theology.

Its membership includes professors of Bible and theology from every evangelical denomination and every evangelical college and seminary in the United States. A prerequisite to membership is acceptance of the statement that, "the Bible alone, and the Bible in its entirety, is the word of God written, and therefore inerrant in the autographs."

Wayne Grudem, newly elected ETS president and professor and chairman of Trinity Evangelical Divinity School's department of biblical and systematic theology, Deerfield, Ill., said the society "has only rarely adopted positions on questions of national concern in the past, but this situation transcends denominational and political differences among our members."

Scholars said in the statement, "We abhor the terrible sin of doing intentional physical harm to another human being for no reason other than hate."

"... we equally abhor using the rhetoric of hate to prejudice the power of civil government against the open and complete proclamation of moral standards revealed in God's Holy Word—including both God's love for sinners as well as his judgment of sin," the statement adds.

The scholars specifically opposed violence against gays.

"We affirm as biblical and do ourselves agree with the position that Christian moral opposition to homosexual behavior is not and can never be license for anyone to engage in any form of slander, harassment or violence against one with whom we disagree," the resolution continued.

The resolution also voiced opposition to hate crimes legislation.

"The idea of hate crime is about adding civil sanctions for something no human being can accurately or fairly discern in any other," the statement reads. "...Accepting the idea of hate crime invites persecution of any moral belief of the church that is at odds with the desires of sinful human nature."

A record total of 1,296 people attended the meeting.

With additional reporting from Religion News Service

## IRS reports filed against voter guide users

WASHINGTON (RNS)—A church-state watchdog group has asked the Internal Revenue Service to investigate eight churches for allegedly violating their tax-exempt status by distributing Christian Coalition voter guides the Sunday before the November election.

Barry Lynn, executive director of the Washington-based Americans United for Separation of Church and State, said the "partisan" guides were "deliberately designed" to help elect conservative Republican candidates.

Distributing them in churches, he said, violated IRS tax codes that prohibit religious institutions from directly supporting individual candidates.

Lynn urged the IRS to revoke the churches' tax-exempt status or assess monetary or other penalties if the allegations are upheld. His allegations were contained in formal complaints sent Dec. 10 to the IRS, which does not comment on its investigations.

The guides claim to give candidates' views on selected issues. Lynn, a United Church of Christ minister, maintains the guides distort positions

and always favor conservative Republicans. While the Coalition has the right to distribute the guides, churches are enjoined from handing them out and maintaining their tax-exempt status, he said.

The eight churches are Bayside Christian Fellowship, Green Bay, Wis.; MetroChurch, Edmond, Okla.; Crossroads Cathedral, Oklahoma City, Okla.; Lighthouse Baptist Church, St. Maries, Idaho; First Assembly of God, Worcester, Mass.; Calvary Chapel, Santa Ana, Calif.; Wheaton Evangelical Free Church, Wheaton, Ill.; and Sunrise Church, Hillsboro, Ore.

Randy Tate, Coalition executive director, dismissed Lynn's allegations as "religious bigotry." Lynn, he said, "is once again seeking to discourage people of faith from taking their rightful place in engaging the big issues of the day."

Tate, who said more than 75,000 churches distributed about 45 million voter guides during the recent primary and general elections, noted that no church has ever been censured by the

IRS for distributing the guides.

Lynn said the eight churches cited were singled out because their cases were well-documented and because of their geographic distribution. Although Lynn and other liberal opponents of the Christian Coalition have attacked the voter guides as partisan, this is the first time Americans United actually has asked the IRS to consider the tax implications for churches who pass them out or otherwise make them available to congregants.

Arni Jacobson, Bayside Christian Fellowship's pastor, said the guides "were simply a way of educating congregants about the issues. We don't tell anybody who to vote for. We're non-partisan."

In November, Americans United asked the IRS to revoke the tax-exempt status of a Baltimore church at which President Clinton appeared just days before the Nov. 3 election. The organization said Clinton's appearance along with Maryland Gov. Parris Glendening, who was then up for re-election, amounted to little more than a Democratic rally.

## 21st century's most prized resource? Attention

By Linda Lawson  
SBC Sunday School Board

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—In the world of the 21st century, the most precious resource will be people's attention.

As technology enables an increasingly global society, the number of languages likely will decrease significantly.

The focus of learning will be more on where to get a vast array of information than on personal knowledge of a limited amount.

Technology will lead to a greater gap between the cyber savvy and the cyber klutz.

These "future possibilities" were among about 60 listed in a Dec. 2 presentation on trends analysis to state convention executive directors meeting at LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville.

Steve Blount, manager of LifeWay's strategic information and planning section, said the possibilities are drawn from monitoring books, professional organizations and the Internet on strategy, innovation and change.

Drawing from demographics, education, societal change, entertainment, health, home and work, he said

church and denominational leaders should understand "items that are having an impact on the people in our churches and on the lost people we are trying to serve."

Bottom line, Blount said, trends indicate "we're building an unprecedented capability to do whatever we want to do."

That's the positive side. On the negative, "we don't know how to use these newfound capabilities wisely."

He emphasized leaders have a choice in relating to the world of the future. "We can choose to accept whatever comes our way or we can decide to influence the shaping of our world."

In the area of social change, there will be an emergence of a global culture with a corresponding decline in local cultures, he noted. In the United States, the populations of rural and resort areas may boom as information technology allows more people to work at home.

Information media will de-socialize people, making them more prone to antisocial behavior. More people could become electronic hermits, "unable to work with others because they don't play with others."

Educationally, Blount said virtual libraries and distance learning will

become more popular as people increasingly access information electronically. Information technology will allow students to complete courses at their own pace.

The field of health will include a myriad of ethical issues—euthanasia, cloning and genetic engineering—to name a few.

In the field of work, Blount said information technology will deprive some workers of their jobs and many will find themselves unemployed on a long-term basis. Equipping workers for new types of work will become a higher priority.

In business, there will be increases in electronic commerce, home delivery and virtual corporations with no home offices, Blount said.

In an increasingly global economy, the rich will get richer, but the poor will not necessarily be poorer. Technology will reduce the hierarchy in organizations.

To minister effectively in the 21st century, Blount urged leaders to "take a wide angle view of the world."

"Spend 30 minutes a day broadening your horizon. Get out of your box. Do this for a month. Keep a journal. Reflect on what you have learned," he advised. "Incorporate your trends analysis into your prayer life."

## New documentary on Billy Graham begins airing Dec. 27

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP)—A new documentary about Billy Graham produced by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board will begin airing Dec. 27 around the country.

"Common Ground" is not a biography of Graham's life, but rather a documentary about his influence.

The program will debut on Dec. 27, and local ABC affiliate stations can air it sometime during the eight weeks after the release date.

Most of the people interviewed on the program made a commitment to Christianity 10, 20 or even 50 years

ago, but they give testimony about the impact Graham's influence has had and continues to have on them and others.

"History is going to remember Billy Graham as perhaps the greatest evangelist this nation, perhaps the world, has seen," said former U.S. President George Bush.

In addition to Bush and his wife, the program includes testimonies from former U.S. President Gerald Ford, former Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services Kay Coles James, 1936 Olympic athlete Louis Zamperini and entertainers Kathie Lee

Gifford, Jerome Hines and Jeannette Clift George.

All five of Graham's children and his wife are featured in the program, as is Raymond Damadian, inventor of Magnetic Resonance Imaging scanner (MRI), and Phillip Goudeaux, former member of the Black Panther Party.

"I'm just one of millions that have been affected, but I am so glad that I am one that was affected through his ministry and his dedication and commitment," Goudeaux said.

For information on air time in a particular market, or to order a copy of the video, call (800) 777-1127.

## Kentucky leads U.S. for new religious radio stations

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Kentucky leads the country in the number of new religious radio stations, according to a report from the National Religious Broadcasters organization.

Kentucky added 13 religious radio stations this year, according to data from the new 1999 Directory of Religious Media published by the NRB.

Nationally, this year marked a record for the number of religious FM stations, which now total 829.

Preaching and teaching programs remain the most popular radio format, followed by inspirational and Southern gospel formats. A total of 934 stations airing religious programs are commercial and there are 423 noncommercial stations.

The report also stated that 1998 saw tremendous growth in the number of television and radio stations that carry Christian programs.

There are 51 more television stations featuring religious programs this year. In 1997, there were 191. Now there are 242.

"The increase in the interest in Christian broadcasting attests to the hunger of the American people for something better," said NRB President E. Brandt Gustavson.

# PEOPLE

## PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Praise God that missionary Jeanine Boyd has returned to Tanzania after medical treatment in the States.

■ A missionary among Tanzania's Hehe people to replace Will and Marie Roberts who will retire soon.

■ "The Translation Project," production of Bible study materials in Polish.

■ Steven and Deborah Reece, church planters in Poland, as they continue to learn the language. They request prayer that "the Spirit will equip Steve to speak clearly what the Lord has put on his heart," as he preaches twice a month in Polish.

■ Missionaries Gale and Verna Sadler in Dar Es Salaam, Kenya. He is mission treasurer.

■ The Northeastern Baptist School of Ministry as the education consortium expands its training base in the 13 northeastern states.

## Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Shirley Wooton

■ **ALEXANDRIA**—The adult choir of Fairlane Church will present "The Gift of Christmas" Dec. 20, 11 a.m.; children and youth will present a Christmas pageant Dec. 20, 7 p.m. Christmas Eve candlelight service at 5:30 p.m.

■ **ASHLAND**—Audrea "A.N." Lester, a former pastor of Kentucky Baptist churches, died Nov. 10 at age 83. Lester was a former clerk for Greenup Baptist Association. Contributions in his memory can be made

to Summit Baptist Church in Ashland.

■ **BURGIN**—Burgin Church will host a Christmas Eve candlelight Lord's Supper at 7 p.m. Joseph Vest is pastor.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Immanuel Church adult choir will present a cantata Dec. 19, 7 p.m.; Dec. 20, 6 p.m.

■ **ERLANGER**—Erlanger Church will host a carols and candlelight service Dec. 20 at 6 p.m.; Christmas Eve candlelight service at 6 p.m. William Crosby is pastor.

■ **FAIRDALE**—Fairdale Church will present "How Great Our Joy—A Victorian Christmas" Dec. 18 & 19, 7:30 p.m.; Dec. 20, 10:45 a.m. For information, call (502) 368-9053.

■ **FRANKLIN**—First Church's adult choir will present a Christmas program Dec. 20, 7 p.m.

New Hope Church children's, youth and adult choirs will present "Trimming the Christmas Tree" Dec. 20, 6 p.m.; candlelight Christmas service Dec. 23, 7 p.m.

■ **FRANKFORT**—Crestwood Church children's choir will present "Love Star Gulch" Dec. 20, 6 p.m.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Lynn Mitchell, minister of music for eight years at South Elkhorn Church, is retiring for health reasons. The music department will present a Christmas musical during the Dec. 20 morning service; candlelight Lord's Supper service at 6 p.m.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Cloverleaf Church will present the Christmas musical, "A Smokey Mountain Christmas Story," Dec. 18-20, 7 p.m. Refreshments after each performance.

Deer Park Church will host a

## Youth minister killed in crash

**LOUISVILLE**—Michael Embry, youth minister at Auburndale Baptist Church in Louisville, died in a head-on two-car accident in Breckenridge County Nov. 25.

Embry's wife, Laura, also was injured seriously in the Thanksgiving eve crash. She is recovering in a Louisville hospital, according to Harry Mills, pastor at Auburndale. Embry, 32, previously had served at Bethlehem Baptist Church and Brookview Baptist Church in Louisville. He was a student at Boyce College of the Bible at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The Embrys had attended a community Thanksgiving worship service in Louisville and were on their way to Hawesville to be with his family when the accident occurred, Mills said.

Christmas Eve candlelight service at 5:30 p.m. Kelly Stanley is pastor.

Fern Creek Church adult choir and cast will present "A Nativity Celebration" Dec. 20, 10:45 a.m. and an instrumental Christmas service at 6:30 p.m.

Highland Church will present an organ recital by Collin Redekop on Christmas Eve at 5 p.m., before its Communion service at 5:30 p.m. Joe Phelps is pastor.

Lyndon Church will present "A Family Christmas" Dec. 20 in the morning service. A Christmas Eve candlelight and Communion service will be at 6 p.m.

Rockford Lane Church will present a Christmas drama with music Dec. 19 & 20, 7 p.m. For free tickets or information, call (502) 447-2591. Christmas Eve service at 11 p.m.

■ **MAYSVILLE**—First Church called Paul Fields as interim pastor.

■ **MADISONVILLE**—Rodney Vincent resigned as minister of education, senior adults and outreach of Madisonville First Church. Vincent ac-

cepted the minister of education and administration position at First Church, Bowling Green.

Madisonville First Church will have a Lord's Supper service with special music Christmas Eve at 10 p.m.

■ **ROBARDS**—Cherry Hill Church called Brett Eblen as pastor.

■ **SMITHFIELD**—Smithfield Church ordained Lynn Fox as deacon. Ed Life is pastor.

■ **TAYLORSVILLE**—Plum Creek called Richard Graham as pastor.

■ **VERSAILLES**—Versailles Church youth choir will present "Code Red" Dec. 20, 6 p.m.; a Christmas Eve candlelight service, 5 p.m.

■ **WADDY**—Ron Nordan resigned as pastor and Cynthia Nordan resigned as music director of Pigeon Fork Church. Nordan accepted the pastorate of Trenton Street Church in Harriman, Tenn.

■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—The children's choirs of First Church will present a Christmas program Dec. 16, 7 p.m. A Christmas candlelight Communion service will be Dec. 23, 7 p.m.



**QUILT GIFT** Bill Whittaker, president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, displays a quilt given to him by Women's Missionary Union members from Pulaski Baptist Association churches. The women made 138 quilts for Clear Creek students. Column on page 9.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**SEEKING:** High Point Baptist Church of Mayfield, Ky., is accepting resumés for a part-time minister of youth. Interested applicants should send resumé to: Minister of Youth Search Committee, High Point Baptist Church, 220 West Farthing St., Mayfield, KY 42066.

**SEEKING:** WMU associate for youth and college. Position requires knowledge of WMU; commitment to missions education; master's degree; experience with youth. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. In order to be given full consideration, applications should be received by Jan. 15. Send resumé with references to: Personnel Committee, Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, P.O. Box 436569, Louisville, KY 40253.

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

**FOR SALE:** Minolta copier, AB Dick duplicator. Ideal for church setting. Lyndon Baptist, (502) 425-7150.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor, Frenchburg Baptist Church, Frenchburg, Ky. Please send resumé to: James Ligon, HCR 66, Box 90, Wellington, KY 40387.

**FOR SALE:** Brass bed, pillow top, queen, new, in original plastic, mattress never used, frame too, has warranty. Sacrifice \$350. Phone: (502) 566-6540.

**SEEKING:** Victory Baptist Church of Lexington, Ky., is seeking a full-time senior pastor. Please send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, Victory Baptist Church, 2261 Armstrong Mill Road, Lexington, KY 40515.

**SEEKING:** Grayson County Baptist Association is currently accepting resumés for the part-time and/or bivocational position of director of missions. Resumés will be accepted until Jan. 10, 1999. All applicants will be prayerfully considered. Interested parties may submit to: Denver Blain, chairman of DOM Search Committee, 498 Mulberry St., Leitchfield, KY 42754.

**SEEKING:** Calvary Baptist Church of Tuscaloosa, Ala., is seeking a full-time minister of music to lead a fully developed music ministry. Calvary is located adjacent to the University of Alabama and averages more than 1,000 in morning worship and about 500 on Sunday evenings. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Calvary Baptist Church, 1121 Paul W. Bryant Drive, Tuscaloosa, AL 35401. Resumés will be accepted thru Jan. 31, 1999. (205) 758-0495 for more information.

**FOR SALE:** Beautiful 21-25 passenger mini-coach. Ford chassis with air suspension, overhead AC, rear luggage compartment, like-new reclining seats, excellent mechanical condition. Asking \$22,500. Call (606) 277-7391 or 278-7155 for photos or information.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of music and worship. Please send resumé to Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, 8645 Kenwood Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45242.

**FOR SALE:** Update your sound system. Two Electrovoice-interface audio mixing consoles, 32-channel modular. List \$16,500 each; asking \$4,900 each. Jim Cottrell, Severns Valley Baptist, (502) 765-7822, 862-9586.

**SEEKING:** Calvary Baptist Church of Tuscaloosa, Ala., is seeking a full-time minister of education and administration to lead a fully developed education ministry and to administer financial and personnel matters. Calvary averages more than 1,000 in morning worship (800 in Sunday school) and about 500 on Sunday evenings. Calvary is located adjacent to the University of Alabama. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Calvary Baptist Church, 1121 Paul W. Bryant Drive, Tuscaloosa, AL 35401. Resumés will be accepted thru Jan. 31, 1999. (205) 758-0495 for more information.

**SEEKING:** First Baptist Church of Chattanooga, Tenn., is receiving resumés for the position, minister of youth and recreation. This person will be one of six pastoral staff equippers for a congregation which supports both the Southern Baptist Convention and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. FBC is a regional congregation averaging 600 to 650 on Sundays with a resident membership of 1,300. Inclusive in its theology and creative in its approach to ministry, FBC is seeking a high energy person who reflects this perspective. Applicants should be comfortable with liturgical and contemporary services. Resumés and references should be mailed to: Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 401 Gateway Ave., Chattanooga, TN 37402 by Jan. 15, 1999.

**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:** 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.

## Evangelist's commitment was sharpened at knife-point

By Russell N. Dilday  
Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

FORT SMITH, Ark. (BP)—For most football players, defining moments come in the form of points, receptions or tackles.

For Ray Grandstaff, his biggest defining moment came at the end of a knife.

"I have always been a confident, athletic person," said Grandstaff, 31, Arkansas director of Fellowship of Christian Athletes and a former college football player.

"I felt like no matter what situation I got into, I could either fight or think my way out. God got my attention by putting me into a situation I couldn't get out of."

That situation occurred four years ago, he said, while "doing street evangelism in the slums of Moscow."

After a day of witnessing, he was invited to the apartment of a Somali national who said he wanted to know more about Christ. "I went to his room to witness to him," Grandstaff recalled.

"Then two more Somali guys come in and the next thing I know three Russian military guys come in—and all six were drunk," he said.

"They were trying to get me to drink. I refused," Grandstaff said. "They tried to get me to denounce Christ."

He soon found out that "under the guise of wanting to hear more of the gospel, they were going to kill me." After an hour of abuse and threats, one of the soldiers put a knife to Grandstaff's throat.

"I didn't think about 'Are the Hogs going to have a winning season?' or 'Are the Cowboys going to make it to

the Super Bowl?'" he said. "I thought about my mother and what it would do to her to go to the airport to get my body bag. It crystallized all that's important."

Overpowered and helpless, Grandstaff said, he was sure he would die. "Then there was a knock at the door. There was an enormous black man who spoke not only perfect Russian but also perfect English. He told me he was a friend of mine, that he wanted to talk to me outside and would bring me back."

Once outside, Grandstaff said, the stranger told him, "You're a marked man. Go back to your room, lock the doors and don't let anyone in."

"I don't know who he was. It was either an angel or a Christian friend whom I've never met," Grandstaff said. "God disciplined me, but he also gave me a way out."

Grandstaff points to the episode as one of God's blessings in his life and ministry with FCA. As state director, Grandstaff guides the efforts of eight staff members for the parachurch organization.

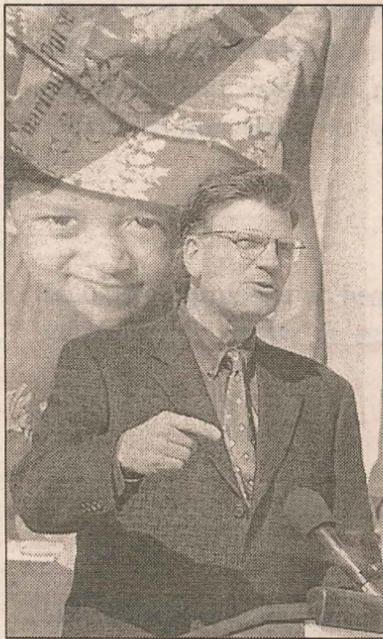
The organization claims about 240 groups in junior highs, high schools and colleges across the state, he said.

"Of the individuals involved on a weekly basis, we have around 15,000 and upwards of 5,000 to 7,000 more that may come in and check us out," he said.

Describing his work, Grandstaff noted he "can sum up FCA in one word: Influence. We use the platform of athletics that pervades all of society to present the gospel of Jesus Christ. We're a presentation ministry. Over the past five years, we've had over 3,600 kids pray to receive Christ in our local huddle groups."

**"I thought about my mother and what it would do to her to go to the airport to get my body bag."**

Ray Grandstaff,  
Arkansas director of  
Fellowship of Christian  
Athletes



**CHRISTMAS RELIEF** ■ Right: United States Army reservists load crates of 64,000 shoe box gifts for needy children in Managua, Nicaragua, onto a Russian cargo plane in Long Beach, Calif. The project is part of Operation Christmas Child. ■ Above: Franklin Graham, son of evangelist Billy Graham, addresses media in Long Beach. Graham heads Samaritan's Purse. The organization gathers shoe box gifts donated by American children along with youth in six other countries who desire to send a message of hope to a needy child during the holiday season. (RNS photo)



## Baptist school gets \$25 million gift from neighbor

NASHVILLE (ABP)—A friendship struck between two neighboring businessmen more than 50 years ago has paid off in the largest scholarship gift in the history of Belmont University, a Baptist-affiliated school in Nashville.

The gift, which eventually will exceed \$25 million, is from the estate of Ed and Bernice Johnson, who once owned and operated a gas station across the street from the university. But this story has more to do with their proximity to another neighbor, potato-chip manufacturer Herman Lay.

In 1939, the Johnsons opened their Esso station at the southwest

corner of Belmont Boulevard and Portland Avenue. It was a logical place for Lay's company, located across Portland, to fill and service its delivery trucks.

H.W. Lay and Co. incorporated in 1948, and Lay offered his employees an opportunity to buy stock in the business. He extended the offer to the Johnsons, as well. Ed Johnson took the family savings and borrowed what he could to invest \$8,000.

The company continued to grow and in 1961 merged with the Frito Co. to become Frito-Lay, Inc. In 1965, the board of directors for Frito-Lay and the Pepsi-Cola Co. announced the formation of PepsiCo, which today is a

\$29 billion company and is ranked 31st in the 1998 Fortune 500.

The Johnsons' connection to the school deepened after they enlisted the services of Lawrence Glover, a certified public accountant who taught at Belmont and was a member of Creeview Baptist Church.

Johnson died Dec. 31, 1994. His wife died Jan. 26, 1998.

This year, Belmont received the first third of a gift from the Johnson estate, in which the university, McKendree Manor and the Salvation Army are named as main beneficiaries. Belmont will receive the final two thirds of the gift in 10 years, when investments mature.

## Bats in belfries driving some English church caretakers mad

LONDON (RNS)—Several British churches have bats in their belfries and other dark places of sanctuary, damaging church treasures and making the buildings' curators more than a tad mad.

The simple solution, one might think, would be just to get rid of the bats.

But bats are a protected species under the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act. Anyone foolish enough to destroy a colony of bats could be fined up to \$3,320 per bat. There have been about 10 prosecutions under this act for ill-treating bats.

There are two governing bodies in this matter: English Heritage, which is concerned with historic buildings, and English Nature, which is involved in preservation of nature.

Together, they have produced one mouthful of a document—"Guidelines for the identification, assessment and management of bat-related damage to church contents."

The guidelines state that the artistic treasures found in many churches are vulnerable to damage from bats, whose droppings can cause pitting, long-term staining and etching, or cutting, into painted wall surfaces, stone and wooden monuments and sculptures.

Various solutions to the problem are offered by the joint guidelines. Among them are moving free-standing objects to somewhere not bombarded by bat droppings and urine. Bats most often do their business when entering and leaving their roost.

Other possibilities are covering objects with a protective coating or placing deflector boards overhead.

Otherwise, however, the options come down to relocating the bats' roost or access point—with the risk of simply moving the damage to another part of the church—or excluding the bats from the church completely by blocking all access points to the building and re-establishing the colony in some new roosting site away from the church, a difficult and expensive procedure.

Still, there could be another answer—though one apparently unknown to the two preservation groups. When Christopher Ardagh-Walter was vicar of the towns of Froyle and Holybourne in Hampshire from 1988 to 1995, he found there was no problem with bats in the church at Froyle, while that at Holybourne was "beset by filthy bats."

The two churches had different customs. Froyle was more Anglo-Catholic, with incense being used. It had no bats.

"So I put two and two together," he said. "I took the thurible (or incense) to Holybourne for a few weeks, and the bat problem disappeared." Moreover, it seems to have a lasting effect. Today there is still no problem with bats at Holybourne.

There are a variety of ways to make a gift to **PARTNERSHIP 2000** for endowment and/or one of the capital projects.



**PARTNERSHIP 2000** will accept these types of assets as gifts -- cash, real estate, publicly traded securities, life insurance policies, closely-held stock and other readily usable or convertible assets.

## Immediate Giving Opportunities

### Outright Gifts

You may wish to make an immediate, outright gift.

### Pledges

Your gift can also be made through a pledge that may be paid over a three-to-five year period from the date of commitment.

### Charitable Lead Trusts

This type of gift arrangement would provide a fixed (*Charitable Annuity Lead Trust*) or varying (*Charitable Lead Unitrust*) stream of income to **PARTNERSHIP 2000** for a designated term of years. At the end of the trust term, whatever remains in the trust will be returned to you or paid out to your family or other non-charitable beneficiaries.

### Corporate Matching Gifts

Your employer may have a matching gifts program designed to encourage personal financial support for the benefit of educational institutions in which you have an interest.

PLANNING  
your gift  
to  
PARTNERSHIP  
2000

## Deferred Giving Opportunities

### Life Income Gifts

*Charitable Gift Annuities* and *Charitable Remainder Trusts* are gift arrangements that can provide benefits both to you and **PARTNERSHIP 2000**.

A *Charitable Gift Annuity* will provide you with a fixed sum each year for your lifetime in return for your gift to **PARTNERSHIP 2000**. You can begin to receive income immediately or defer income until a later time. The annual payment rate depends on your age at the time you make the gift.

A *Charitable Remainder Trust* is an irrevocable trust which provides income to you and/or someone else for life or a term of years, with the remainder passing to **PARTNERSHIP 2000** at the end of the trust term. Income to you can be a fixed amount (*Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust*), or can vary with the investment experience of the trust (*Charitable Remainder Unitrust*).

### Life Insurance

You can transfer the ownership of a life insurance policy on your life to **PARTNERSHIP 2000** as the beneficiary. At your death, the proceeds will be used as you have designated.

### Retirement Plans Benefits

You can designate **PARTNERSHIP 2000** as the beneficiary of all or a portion of the survivor benefits under your retirement plan or IRA. At your death, the proceeds will be used as you have designated.

### Bequest in Will or Trust

You can include a bequest in your will or revocable living trust to **PARTNERSHIP 2000**.

For more information about these giving opportunities, contact:

Barry Allen, President  
or

Laurie Valentine, Trust Counsel

Kentucky Baptist Foundation  
PO Box 436389  
Louisville KY 40253  
(888) 254-5701