



WESTERN RECORDER

NEWSPAGE
EDITIONJanuary 5, 1999
Vol. 173, No. 1**FOR THE RECORD****Missions**

A church finds its missions event raises both awareness and support. *Page 3.*

Financial Forum

Cash isn't the only item charities need. *Page 4.*

Editorial

A sabbatical memory of a mentor. *Page 5.*

Family Forum

Need ideas for getting a singles ministry out of a rut? *Page 5.*

Giving increases

Church members' giving rose slightly, but average donation still far from a tithe. *Page 6.*

Music wars

New styles of music create challenges for churches. *Page 7.*

Faith at work

Spiritually minded capitalists apply their faith to business principles. *Page 9.*

Missionary says ministries to Bangladesh are now paying off

By Erich Bridges
SBC International Mission Board

FENI, Bangladesh (BP)—Though the haze of alcohol fogged his mind, old Kumar saw clearly enough to know something was happening in the next village. Something powerful.

Whatever it was, he knew his own people needed it. Kumar, a Tripura tribal patriarch, saw the sufferings of his own village and felt despair. Food was increasingly scarce. Children and old people were dying from dysentery and diarrhea, and no one knew how to cure them.

Worst of all, the Tripura collection of Hindu and animist deities did nothing to relieve his community's hardships. Kumar and his people sacrificed dogs, pigs and chickens—all to no avail.

The Tripura village down the road had suffered, too. But Kumar and others noticed things seemed to be changing there.

Baptists had come there to talk about the Bible and their belief in one God who reigns over all.

Southern Baptist missionary R.T. Buckley helped start ministry work in the area with a Bengali Baptist co-worker.

"We were having a Bible meeting at that first little church one afternoon," Buckley recalled. The pastor insisted that Buckley visit a cousin's daughter, who was sick.

"When we got into this little village, the father told us his daughter was dying. They were getting ready to sacrifice a rooster for her life," Buckley said.

"I suggested he let us pray for

□ See *Work in ...*, page 2

New leadership & focus characterized 1998

By David Winfrey
News Director

For Kentucky Baptists, changes in leadership, structure and focus characterized 1998 more than any one specific or dramatic event.

In 1997 Kentucky and Kentucky Baptists gained worldwide attention from horrendous flooding along the Ohio River followed by an unparalleled outpouring of relief, massive volunteerism with Habitat for Humanity in Eastern Kentucky and a tragic shooting in Paducah's Heath High School.

In contrast, 1998 was defined by events that, while newsworthy, were

more likely to be important specifically to Kentucky Baptists than to a broader audience.

Below is a list of events and issues that highlighted 1998:

■ **Carver School transferred.** After nearly three years of negotiations, Campbellsville University obtained the Carver School of Church Social Work from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The deal, announced in January 1998, included the transfer of library materials and documents that would allow the school to be established at Campbellsville, but did not include the endowment.

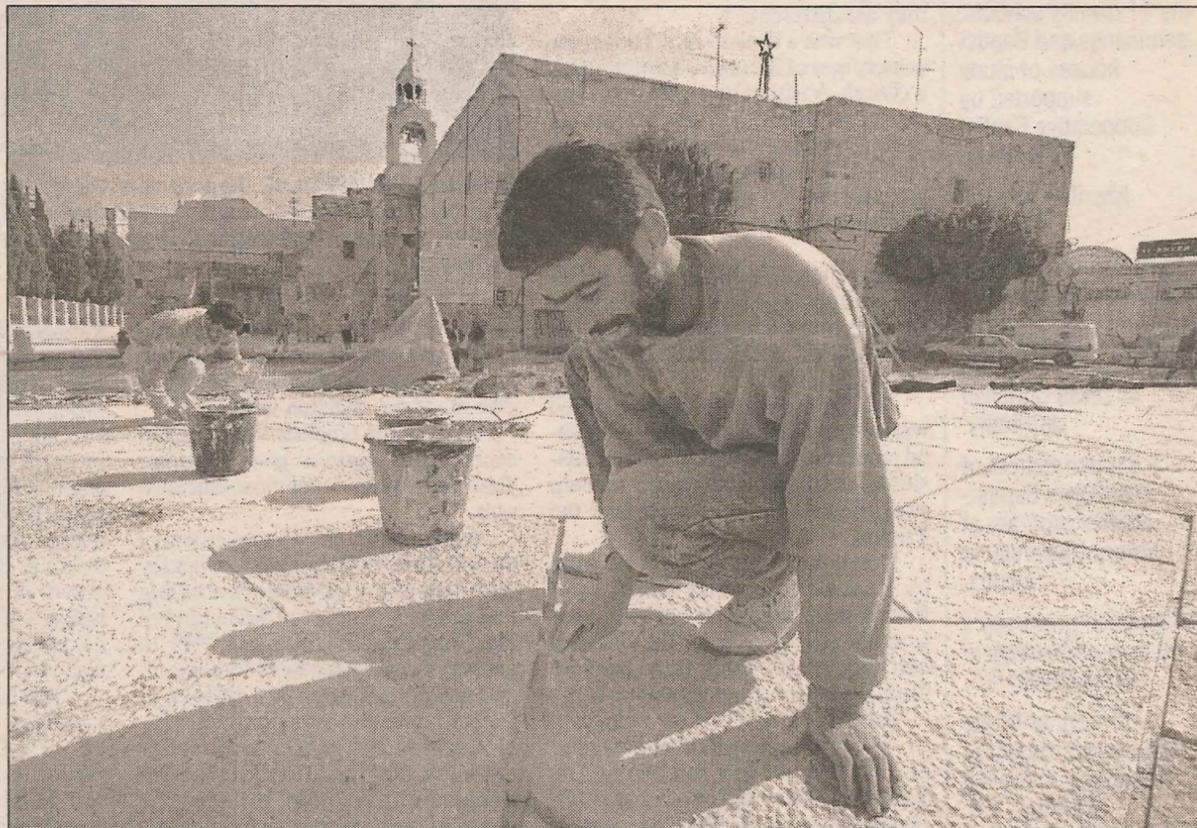
■ **Abortion milestone noted.**

Groups including some Kentucky Baptists noted the 25th anniversary of the court decision *Roe vs. Wade* Jan. 27 with a demonstration outside the state Capitol in Frankfort. The event included an address by Norma McCorvey, the woman referred to as "Jane Roe" in the landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion.

Later in the state legislative term, Kentucky lawmakers passed a bill that prohibits a late-term procedure called "partial-birth abortion" by its critics.

■ **New leadership arrives.** New Kentucky Baptist Executive Secretary-Treasurer Bill Mackey arrived at

□ See *For Kentucky Baptists, ...*, page 3



GETTING READY Palestinian workers pour grout in between large stone tiles as work continues on Manger Square in front of the Church of the Nativity (behind), traditional birthplace of Jesus Christ. Manger Square and the roads leading to the square currently are undergoing extensive reconstruction under a multi-million dollar plan called "Bethlehem 2000" to make the city ready to accommodate the expected huge influx of tourists for the millennium. (RNS/Reuters photo)

Churches must change radically, says church growth professor

By Cameron Crabtree
Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)—Evangelical churches in North America must undergo radical change with new kinds of leadership to fulfill their mission in the post-modern context of the next century, according to church growth scholar Eddie Gibbs.

"This ongoing process of dying in order to live should not unnerve us if we are reading the Scriptures right," said Eddie Gibbs, professor of church growth at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif. "Crucifixion followed by resurrection is at the very essence of the ministry of Christ."

Speaking during the annual meeting of the American Society for Church Growth in November, Gibbs

warned that churches must embrace transitions or forfeit any chance of demonstrating transformational ministry to changing cultures.

The conference was hosted by Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif.

In the shift from a modern era emphasizing rationality and unified progress to a postmodern era characterized by pluralism, ambiguity and relativism, churches face a context in which former concepts of self-identity and purpose are being challenged, Gibbs said.

"The church itself will need to go through a metamorphosis in order to find its new identity in the dialectic of gospel and culture," he said. "This new situation is requiring churches to approach their context as a missional encounter."

Cultural changes with which

church leaders must grapple are:

■ **Global.** "There is nowhere to run to."

■ **Rapid.** "There is no time to reflect."

■ **Complex.** "There is too much information to absorb."

■ **Comprehensive.** "They affect every area of life."

■ **Unpredictable and discontinuous.** "They cannot be planned for."

Most ministry leaders, Gibbs said, are ill-prepared for these new realities.

"For the church to become a missional church, a new kind of leader will be required," Gibbs said. "It will not simply be a matter of people with traditional mind-sets acquiring new ministry skills to supplement what they already know."

Such tension provides opportunity for spiritual growth, he said.

"As Christians, we must recognize

that uncertain times provide a fertile context for our faith to grow," he noted. "We have to learn to trust God in the midst of perplexing circumstances which are full of paradox and ambiguity."

Gibbs labeled some of the ministry models in church growth thinking as only tactical attempts to breathe new life into old structures.

"I rejoice at new movements, but ... we have yet to see renewal movements at any place in the western world that have, in fact, turned the tide of [declining] church attendance," Gibbs noted. "The significance of those movements have been in the reconfiguration of what is already there."

According to pollsters, North America continues to be as religious as ever, Gibbs said. "But the significance

□ See *Churches must ...*, page 2

BAPTISTS

Work in Bangladesh finally paying off, missionary says

Fellowship schools form consortium

ATLANTA (ABP)—Representatives from 11 schools are founding members of the "Consortium of Theological Schools Partnering with GBF."

"This is an effort to have fellowship and look for ways to cooperate," said Alan Culpepper, the group's first chairman and dean of Mercer University's McAfee School of Theology in Atlanta.

The consortium includes deans or presidents of the 11 divinity schools, seminaries and Baptist houses of study supported by Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Member schools include:

■ Duke Divinity School's Baptist-studies program.

■ Brite Divinity School's Baptist-studies program at Texas Christian University.

■ Candler School of Theology's Baptist-studies program at Emory University in Atlanta.

■ Campbell University's school of theology in Buies Creek, N.C.

■ Gardner-Webb University's school of theology in Boiling Springs, N.C.

■ Hardin-Simmons University's school of theology in Abilene, Texas.

■ Mercer University's school of theology in Atlanta.

■ Wake Forest University's school of theology in Winston-Salem, N.C.

■ Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond (Va.).

■ Central Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City.

■ Truett Theological Seminary at Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

Continued from page 1

her—and for them just to eat the rooster. He agreed, and we both prayed God would heal the girl. A day or two later, the father came and said, 'My daughter is well,' and they had not offered the rooster sacrifice," Buckley said. "Then he said, 'Please come back. I want to learn about this Jesus.' He and his three brothers were the first to come to Christ."

A little church was born, and word spread about a God who listened to prayer and answered with power. Village leaders like Kumar observed the new Christians for several months.

"Then one day we went over and met with Kumar," Buckley recalled. "We told him we would like to come and share the story of Jesus with him. He said, 'We want you to come. We have watched these people who have become Christians. Something is happening. We don't know what it is, but they are different.'"

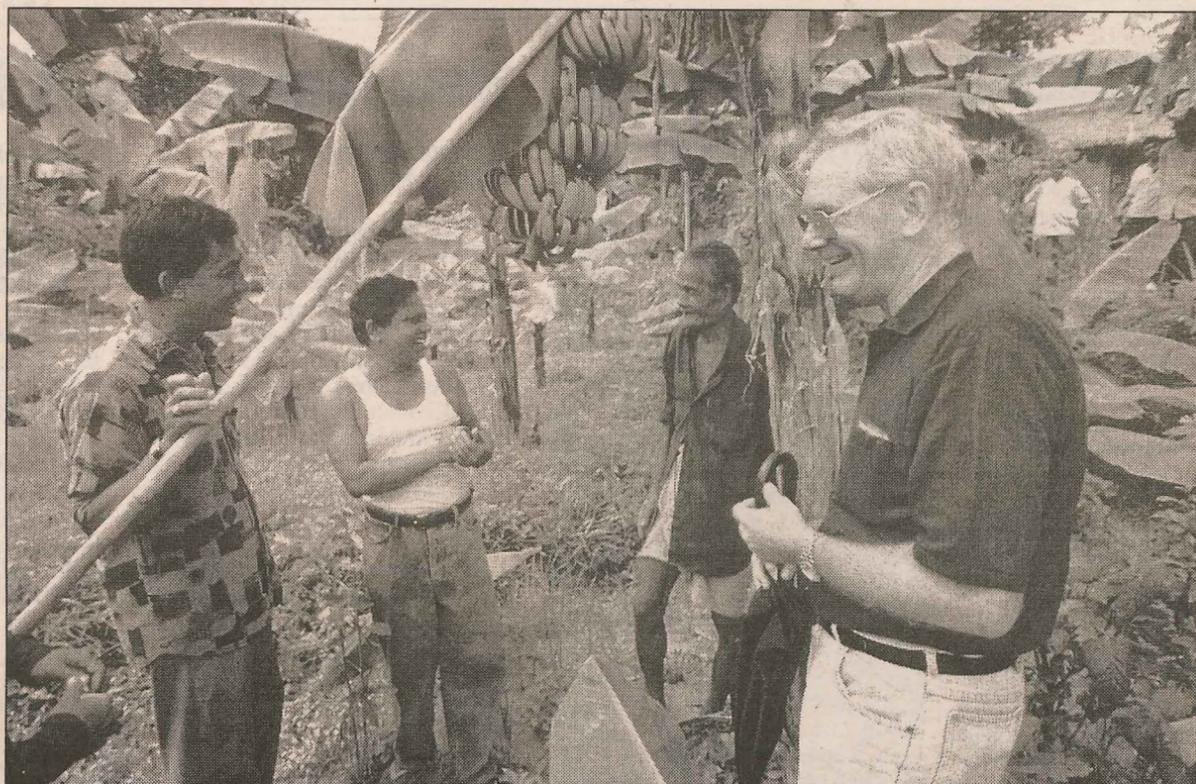
That was a decade ago. Today, the centerpiece of Kumar's community is a church. Visitors hear children singing in the building. They're learning Bible songs and stories—and how to read—in a Baptist-sponsored tutorial program that gives them an educational beginning while they learn about Jesus.

The church building faces a fish pond originally stocked by Baptists. Church members now manage the pond, sell the fish and use profits for church programs.

Nearby they grow crops planted with sloping land technology, a method pioneered by Southern Baptist missionaries in the Philippines to help struggling Asian hill people like the Tripura.

Down the hill is a tube well, sunk by Baptists to provide fresh water from a deep spring. It not only protects the villagers from the disease-carrying river water they used to drink, but also irrigates rice land.

Kumar led a tour of the village. "We are learning that without God and his help, we can do nothing," he explained. "We used to offer sacrifices that did no good. When we heard it



SOMETHING'S HAPPENING The good news of God's love has spread through the villages of Bangladesh's hill country, resulting in 150 new churches among tribal peoples that had never heard of Christ. Leaders like Rana Bikram (left) and Kumar (second from right) are leading their Tripura tribal people to Jesus, and that makes veteran missionary R.T. Buckley (right) very happy. (BP photo by Roy Burroughs)

was only through Jesus that we could get forgiveness, we embraced Christ. When I made the decision, everyone else made the decision with me."

What of the chickens they used to sacrifice to various gods? Kumar chuckled. "We just eat those chickens now."

Kumar symbolizes a movement in the hill tracts of Bangladesh, Buckley said. "He was responsible for leading that group of people to Christ, kind of like Cornelius," Buckley said. "We're getting so many requests to come in and share the gospel. It's difficult to keep up with all the opportunities."

Buckley and other missionaries have labored for a long time with Bangladeshi Baptists to meet the physical and spiritual needs of the

majority Bengali people. In recent years, however, they've spent more time working with tribal minority groups like the Tripura.

Tribal groups total 3 million or more people in Bangladesh. But their extended ethnic families flow across political borders—into India and Myanmar. As the gospel spreads among them, it crosses borders too. It also moves farther into the hills of Bangladesh—into areas strictly off-limits to missionaries because of political unrest and rebel activity.

"We haven't been anywhere the Lord hasn't gone ahead of us," Buckley said. "We can rush into these areas for Jesus, and when you get there you find he is already there. Somebody in there was already receptive to

the Holy Spirit. We're just doing follow-up work."

That first congregation has multiplied to more than 150 churches in the hill region. Last summer leaders of another tribe, the Bongshi, approached Baptists to declare, "We want to follow Jesus."

"We're sitting on a keg of dynamite," said Buckley, who's savoring a spiritual harvest after more than 30 years of hard labor in Bangladesh. "When you walk up a path you've never walked before and you hear voices already singing, 'We praise you (God), we praise you,' you know something is going on."

Buckley cocked his cap, leaned forward and added, "If you aren't careful, you could get excited."

Churches must change radically, says church growth professor

Continued from page 1

cant new factor is the increasing number of people who are seeking answers to the basic questions of life outside of traditional churches," he said. "This is especially true of younger generations, wherein the majority are beginning their search outside of Christianity or with a 'religious cocktail' of their own mixing."

He predicted stressful and confusing days ahead for churches throughout North America.

"Some churches will simply entrench and fire salvos over their protective ramparts and other churches will become subverted by the cultures they are seeking to engage," he predicted. "Still others, hopefully in increasing numbers, will demonstrate a true incarnational ministry which entails becoming immersed in the culture as a challenging and transforming presence, welcoming people as they are, but at the same time not con-

doning destructive and degrading lifestyles."

Gibbs advocated leaving church growth models from the last two decades behind: "In the 1970s and 1980s, when church growth thinking took its cue from the world of secular management, it placed great emphasis on long-range planning, emphasizing the four principles of the managerial task—plan, lead, organize and control. That mind-set is disastrous in the late 1990s when the unpredictable is always happening and tomorrow always arrives ahead of schedule."

Much like the church in the first century, churches in the new millennium must operate from the margins of society, without power, prestige or privilege, Gibbs added.

"In postmodern society, church leaders ... must be apostolic in that they are venturing into new territory as well as reclaiming lost ground to bring people to Christ and to multiply

missional communities," he said.

"The church in the 21st century must be one which empowers its members, is faithful to the gospels and has a growing understanding of its radical and subversive nature," Gibbs declared. "The effective leaders in the churches of tomorrow will not be power-seeking controllers but relation-building equippers and mentors."

Gibbs cited several "marks" that should characterize an evangelical church in the new millennium. It should:

■ Live out the transforming message of the gospel in its corporate life.

■ Empower members to contextualize the gospel in every segment of society.

■ Partner and network with churches that share their missional vision across the evangelical spectrum.

■ Proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ as the only hope for humankind with urgency, boldness, compassion

and sensitivity.

■ Worship God in three persons, encountering his transcendence and incarnation.

■ Develop communities of reconciliation and transformation.

■ Train a new generation of leaders who can lead the church into the 21st century.

"In today's tumultuous and fragmented world, it is far from clear what the church in the 21st century will look like," Gibbs said. "Given the degree of social fragmentation we witness around us, it is unlikely that any one model will prevail. Rather we will see emerging a variety of models ... that will contradict many of the things we have assumed as we extrapolate our church growth theories from just one impressive mega-church or promising new movement. We should adopt a more prayerful and humble stance, and we cannot ignore what is happening more globally."

KENTUCKY

Missions emphasis creates understanding, commitments

SHEPHERDSVILLE—More than 100 people committed to missions involvement as a result of Little Flock Baptist Church's Global Impact Conference last month.

"The Lord blessed this conference in a tremendous way," said Van Sanders, minister of missions and prayer at Little Flock.

The event, Dec. 4-7, was designed to personalize missions for members, Sanders said. It included 25 missionaries from the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, he added.

"Members were personally involved with the missionaries throughout the conference as they housed the missionaries in their homes, had meals together, organized class fellowships with each missionary and shuttled the missionaries from place to place," he said.

Missionaries represented about a dozen countries, including Malawi, Tanzania, Togo, Columbia, England, Albania, Mexico and Venezuela.

"The missionaries were also able

to give testimonies, presentations and detailed explanations of their ministries," Sanders said.

The weekend event included a mission banquet on Friday evening, a men's prayer breakfast on Saturday morning, a seniors' brunch, a youth event and presentations in Sunday school classes.

Home missions also was represented. Phil Roberts of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board's interfaith witness department spoke at the Sunday morning services.

"The conference literally changed the lives of many Little Flock members as they learned first hand who our missionaries are and what God is doing in their ministries," Sanders said.

The personal commitments ranged from short-term volunteerism to career missions, he said. "Their response was, 'We want to get personally involved in the harvest.'"

Members also pledged \$60,000 to the church's mission budget, he added.



MISSIONS Members of Little Flock Baptist Church in Shepherdsville met missionaries from around the world during a recent conference to boost awareness and support for world missions.

For Kentucky Baptists, 1998 remembered for new leadership, focus

Continued from page 1

his job Feb. 1. Mackey began his duties by hosting 37 listening sessions with Baptists throughout the state.

In a report to the KBC Executive Board, a consultant for the listening sessions said Kentucky Baptists have a "generally positive image" of the convention, but added that many people don't know what services the KBC offers and that churches farther from Louisville are more likely to feel alienated from KBC staff.

In November, Mackey unveiled a new structure for KBC staff that includes teams. The new structure, he said, would allow workers to better respond to church needs.

■ **Campbellville breaks new ground.** Campbellville University announced in March that it would begin offering a master of arts degree in Christian studies. This was the first foray of a Kentucky Baptist school into master's-level theological education, a territory previously reserved for seminaries.

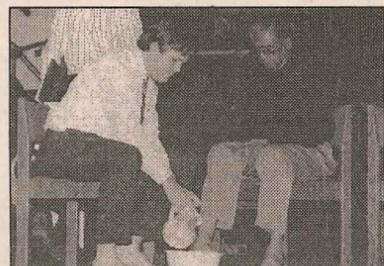
In November, the school announced it would establish a new school of theology.

■ **New challenges accepted.** Nearing the end of Kentucky Baptists' partnership with Russian Baptists, the KBC Executive Board approved launching two partnerships in Poland and the African country of Tanzania.

■ **Group names leader.** In June, John Lepper became the first full-time coordinator for the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship, a group affiliated with the national Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

■ **Other group dissolves.** Later that same month, Mike Routt, pastor of Rose Hill Baptist Church in Ashland, announced that Southern Baptists of Kentucky would disband in order to support Bill Mackey's vision for Kentucky Baptists. Routt called on Kentucky Baptist Fellowship to disband, but the group declined.

■ **Acteens invade Kentucky.** About 10,000 teenage girls and their leaders invaded Louisville July 1-4 for the National Acteens Convention. In



1998 IN REVIEW ■ **Right:** About 10,000 Acteens and their leaders came to Kentucky in July for the National Acteens Conference. While in Louisville, they learned about missions from missionaries and through firsthand involvement. ■ **Above Left:** KBC Executive Secretary-Treasurer Bill Mackey (left) talks to International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin and his wife, Bobbye, during a missionary commissioning service at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in September. ■ **Bottom Left:** Les Hollon, pastor of St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville, washes the feet of Lincoln Bingham, pastor of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in Louisville, during the Reconciliation Networks of Our World conference in November.



addition to learning about Southern Baptist missions, the teens made a first-hand impact on the city through a variety of ministry projects.

■ **Two more waves of volunteers invade.** About 230 volunteers from 10 states worked to renovate houses in Pikeville July 4-11 with the World-Changers project, coordinated by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board.

Meanwhile, more than 300 Kentucky teens also renovated houses in Frankfort and Hopkinsville as part of Kentucky Changers program.

■ **Endowment launched.** The Western Recorder launched an endowment Aug. 31 to honor former editor C.R. Daley and his wife, Christine. The endowment will support the Recorder's commitment to send the paper to every pastor of a Kentucky Baptist church free of charge.

■ **Kentucky hosts commissioning service.** Eleven people with ties to Kentucky were among the 67 South-

ern Baptist missionaries commissioned by the International Mission Board at a service Sept. 15 at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

■ **Kentucky CP sets record.** Giving to almost all Kentucky Baptist Convention causes increased in the 1997-98 fiscal year as undesignated Cooperative Program gifts totaled nearly \$19.9 million.

■ **Library built.** Georgetown College dedicated its new \$12 million Anna Aschraft Ensor Learning Resource Center—a facility with enough space for 240,000 books, a computer lab and a teleconference center.

■ **Partnership closes.** After five years of sending volunteers and other support, Kentucky Baptists closed their partnership with Russian Baptists. Baptist leaders in Russia called the link a vital help in preparing churches to respond to the spiritual void after the collapse of communism.

■ **Winters announces retirement.** After 10 years as president of Camp-

bellsville University, Ken Winters announced he will retire at the end of the 1998-99 academic year.

■ **Christians study reconciliation.** Christians from six continents gathered in Louisville Nov. 4-7 for a grassroots conference to study the nature and impact of peacemaking efforts. Members of St. Matthews Baptist Church and St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church co-hosted the event, which drew about 650 people.

■ **KBC elects new kind of president.** For the first time in 15 years, Kentucky Baptists elected a layman to be president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Charles Barnes said his focus will be to support the vision and work of Executive Secretary-Treasurer Bill Mackey. "We can't have two leaders," Barnes said.

■ **KBHC draws protest for firing.** Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children drew state-wide attention for firing a worker whom the agency learned is living a lesbian lifestyle.

OPINION

WESTERN RECORDER

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

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*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Southeast preaching

Southeast Christian Church in Louisville has received an unusual amount of publicity from local newspapers. The story line has centered on their new \$78 million worship center and campus, and the fact that the church draws at least 13,000 worshippers through its doors each weekend.

Beginning in the basement of a borrowed building in 1962 with less than 100 members, the church has steadily grown to one of the largest congregations in the nation with a weekly offering of \$240,000 and a cash total of over \$50 million for the new building.

Such phenomenal success for this church when others are static or in decline may be the reason for the newspapers' interest. The question is bound to occur: What's the secret?

It is easy to oversimplify, but if one took an exit poll of Southeast members it is likely the answer would be preaching. This is not to ignore that this church has a diversified program of daily ministries, but the fact remains that there was a time when the church did not possess gymnasium, dining rooms, counseling center, food store or anything else other than the basement of a rented building.

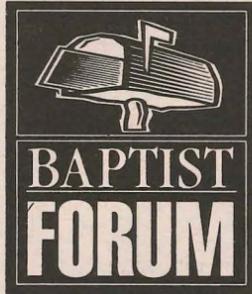
Evidently people came then to hear evangelistic gospel preaching; evidently they still do. Southeast Christian casts doubt on the assumption that biblical preaching is old fashioned and distasteful to the modern, and that the evangelistic gospel of the cross has to be dressed in some innovative garb to lessen its starkness. The gospel is not of this

world, and to try to make it so is to lose the redemptive power it contains. It appears that many are hungry to hear a life-changing message.

In an age of communication and incredulity, it is inspiring to discover any church trusting its future to the efficacy of preaching the gospel.

John C. Huffman
Louisville

Ritual & proclamation



We are all familiar with the story of Rip Van Winkle and his sleep of 20 years. When Van Winkle awoke, he found almost everything he had known to be changed. He wondered how this could be, because he thought he had been asleep only over night. Such an experience of

feeling that suddenly Christmas has changed within our churches must be a familiar experience to many Christians.

Many churches appear to be caught up in the ritual of Advent and the lighting of candles. Just as in the secular world, the manger scene has been removed in favor of lighting candles. While I understand the sincerity of those who advocate this practice in an attempt to find a more religious observance in a time of materialism, the question is what is Christmas about? Christmas is about God entering into mankind in a very unique way—through a babe born in a lowly manger whose birth was proclaimed by a host of heavenly angles. This is the old, old story, and there is no more beautiful way of telling this story.

In visits to the Far East, I observed many people who visited

what we classify as the pagan temples. In sincerity they lighted their candles. As I watch the ritual of Advent, this picture is renewed in my mind. I worry about the children of the next generation; will they remember that Christmas is about the Lord Jesus coming as a babe born in a manger?

Jacqueline Gurnette
Cynthiana

Moral stand

As pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Hopkinsville, I wish to express to Bill Smithwick the support of the membership of Trinity Baptist Church on the biblically correct moral stand taken by the leadership of the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children in the dismissal of the homosexual employee. We appreciate the fact that you have chosen to be biblically correct and are not swayed by outside influences to be politically correct. Our prayers will be with you, as well as our support, as you deal with these outside pressures that are being placed on you, your staff and the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

We believe this situation will affect all Baptists in Kentucky. Those outside our faith may refer to us as homophobes and bigots and protest our stand on this moral issue. But we believe that this stand will bring many of our Kentucky Baptist Convention churches to a higher Christian standard. It is our hope that other churches in our state convention will also acknowledge their support for your biblically moral stand in this matter.

Daniel L. Belcher
Hopkinsville

This letter was accompanied by 66 signatures from Trinity Baptist Church in Hopkinsville.

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

1999 Kentucky Evangelism Conference

"Restoring a Passion for Evangelism" is the theme for this year's Kentucky Evangelism Conference Feb. 22-23 at Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington.

If you attend, I think you can expect that:

■ God will restore your passion for evangelism.

■ You will receive creative approaches for reaching people.

■ You will hear nine innovative and effective pastors plus dynamic testimonies.

Dan Garland, our new KBC evangelism director, will open the conference

Monday at 2 p.m. Other speakers will include Cliff Knechtle, a pastor and college campus apologist/evangelist, and Steve Ayers, pastor of Hillview Baptist Church in Bowling Green and a Kentucky leader in baptisms.

Speakers for the Monday night session are Herb Reavis, a preacher's preacher from Jacksonville, Fla., and E.K. Bailey, a dynamic pastor from Dallas. Inspirational music will be provided by Imani Baptist Church of Lexington. A dra-

matic "life after death" testimony also will be shared by Henry and Suzanne Ray.

The Tuesday morning session will feature John Yarbrough, the new vice president for evangelism at the Southern Baptist

North American Mission Board, and John Ed Mathison, pastor of Fraser Memorial United Methodist Church in Montgomery, Ala. Mathison preaches to more than 6,000 each weekend and has led 80 percent of his church members to accept a specific role in ministry. Ten 75-minute workshops led by outstanding program guests will conclude the morning.

Three creative pastors will speak Tuesday afternoon. Steve Cloud has led Northside Baptist Church of West Columbia, S.C., in a 10-year transition from plateau to exciting growth. Ed Young, the founding pastor at Fellowship Baptist Church in the Dallas area, currently preaches to 7,000 each weekend. Craig Loscalzo, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington and former seminary professor, will close the session.

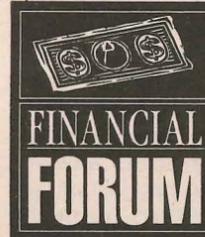


Bill Mackey

CHARITIES

Here are 10 non-cash items you can give to help charities

By Jeremy White



As the new year begins, set giving goals for your family. In addition to making financial plans, plan on how much

and to whom your giving will be.

When I talk about giving, or you hear other challenges to give, it is usually about giving financial resources. Money is certainly an important need for churches, ministries and other charities.

Although these organizations need money, they also have other needs. Many organizations desperately need the handiwork of a carpenter, the leadership of a business manager on a board of directors or the encouragement of an exhorter.

Expand your giving potential by finding new ways to give. You can offer far more than your financial resources.

Maybe the following list of non-cash items will prod you to give generously and cheerfully.

■ **Prayer.** If you don't have money to give (or even if you do), prayers are more useful to a ministry than cash.

■ **Promotion and word-of-mouth advertising.** Many people in need or others who can give might not know about worthwhile ministries.

■ **Time for service.** Time often is much harder to give than money.

■ **Skills and talents.** Everyone has something to offer. Ask God and the ministry's leadership how you could use your skills.

■ **Property.** Instead of a yard sale, give used items away to ministries. They do not need household trinkets, but might need used furniture, computers or cars.

■ **Ideas, leadership and vision.** A fresh perspective and new approach, given in constructive ways, can be very valuable.

■ **Love to the staff and their clients.**

■ **Hospitality.** Host a meal for the leaders, keep out-of-town guests or provide treats for a meeting.

■ **Appreciation and thanks.** Let the staff and leaders know you appreciate how they serve others.

■ **Encouragement.** Those involved in ministry need this far more than they realize.

Jeremy White is a certified public accountant in Paducah. See his free weekly financial tip on his Internet web site at www.consultepa.com.

Need some ideas for getting a singles ministry out of a rut?

Q. How do I get our single adults off "dead center" and into a more positive direction? I've been a part of this church for years, and it seems we end up doing the same old things all the time.

Begin by helping your single adult ministry to become more purposeful. Rick Warren, in his book, "The Purpose Driven Church," outlines the five functions of a church, based on the Great Commission and the Great Commandment. They are: evangelism, discipleship, worship, ministry and fellowship. Consider forming a single adult council, with representatives from each of those areas.

Second, recognize the gifts, passions, dreams and needs of those who already are within your ministry. Work through the book "Start a Revolution" by Steve Felts. When your team is operating out of their own unique gifts, passions and dreams and has done an inventory of needs, you will have come a long way toward your goal. Think in terms of ministering to the needs of the whole person, not just spiritually or socially. "Giving the Ministry Away," by Rich Hurst and others, is one tool to help you target your single adult needs.

Third, do the work of trustworthiness. Have each person on your leadership team write out his or her own personal mission statement. Steven Covey's "Seven Habits of Highly Effective People" has some good suggestions for this. Then you will be ready to do the work of trust—working together on a mission statement for your ministry/organization. The statement must fit within the mission statement for your entire church. For example, at Chicago's Willow Creek Community Church, the single adult ministry exists "to turn irreligious single adults into fully devoted followers of Christ," which fits within that church's overall statement.

The quartet Point of Grace sings about a typical single adult young lady named Grace who is far from God and the church, "It's all about saving Grace." Not a bad mission statement. Remember, when your ministry knows where it's going, it's more likely to get there.—James Stillwell

Q. Our marriage is in trouble. I won't consider divorce. I want to get help, but my spouse won't go with me. My pastor advised me to go by myself. What good would that do?

You might gain a lot by going to counseling even if your spouse won't go. Sometimes counseling can help us develop more awareness and insight into our own behavior and learn how we might be contributing to unhealthy patterns in our relationships. I don't mean that you are necessarily to blame for whatever problems exist in your marriage, but it could be that there are things you could do differently which might change your marriage for the better. A good counselor might help you see the relationship dynamics more clearly and help you make whatever changes you decide are necessary.

Even if your marriage doesn't benefit, however, counseling might help you to cope with the stress of a difficult marriage and help you learn what you can do within your situation to maintain your own health and well-being.—Susan Howell

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 Shackleford, 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.



A sabbatical memory of a mentor

By Dwight Moody

Seven years ago this month, a great preacher, teacher, and scholar went home to be with the Lord. I write to pay tribute to his remarkable influence on thousands of Christian people, including me.

Dale Moody is his name. For 44 years Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville was his post. There he learned, there he lectured, there he left a legacy of theological brilliance and doctrinal controversy.

I first met Dale Moody in 1970 when he came to Georgetown College for seven consecutive Monday nights. He spoke to students on Paul's letter to the Ephesians. It was standing room only in the lecture hall of Asher Science Center. We were spellbound by his knowledge, his passion, his wit and, most of all, his genuine interest in students.

Dale Moody came to Kentucky from Texas, from Baylor University and Dallas Seminary. He came to study with W.O. Carver and A.T. Robertson. He stayed to earn master and doctoral degrees in theology. Later he traveled to Oxford University to secure yet another doctoral degree, this one with a dissertation—and later a book—on baptism. He wrote six other books as well as hundreds of articles for both popular and scholarly audiences.

It was his book of theology that constituted the sum and substance of his thinking. It was published in 1981 under the title "The Word of Truth: Christian Doctrine Based on Biblical Revelation." He sought to integrate the very best of science and literature with the deepest truths of the Word of God. With this agenda, he sought to exorcise what he thought were the four demons of the Baptist tradition, namely, fundamentalism, Calvinism, Landmarkism and dispensationalism.

The "Word of Truth" was part of a remarkable and unparalleled wave of Baptist theology published in

the last three decades of this century. More than 30 volumes written by a dozen Baptist scholars made this the most productive era of systematic theological work in the 400-year history of the Baptist movement. Other contributors to this theological renaissance include James McClendon, Carl F.H. Henry, Millard Erickson, Stanley Grenz and James Leo Garrett. While political wars dominated Baptist life (some of it fueled by rhetoric bemoaning the "dearth" of doctrinal teaching), these pious and learned men, Dale Moody among them, labored to think, to teach and to write—and thus to present to God their best offering of mind

and spirit.

Dale Moody was my teacher, not only at Georgetown, but in Israel (where I was a student and he was on sabbatical) and in Louisville (where he was my mentor and I was his fellow). He was the preacher at my ordination; he was an invited Bible teacher for the churches where I was pastor, first in Indiana, then in Pennsylvania. Through it all, his wide-open, no-holds-barred approach to the biblical text stirred my soul and shaped my mind. I am one of many.

In January 1992, while pastor of Owensboro's Third Baptist Church, I was preaching and teaching my way through the book of Ephesians when word of his death came. I dedicated the sermon series to his memory. I attended his funeral and wept.

Few remain who share with him that remarkable combination of vast learning, impressive memory, bold ideas and yet bolder speech. Yet how often it came with a wink and a smile. Some there are who knew only his contentious side; many there are who remember with deep affection his great and gracious spirit. Dale Moody loved the Lord, he loved the Bible, he loved his students; and we loved him.

Dwight Moody is dean of the chapel at Georgetown College

Where is the one born King of the Jews?

By Mark Johnson

"Where is he that is born King of the Jews?" (Matthew 2:2)

We are well familiar with the New Year duty of setting goals and determining values. What will I hope to accomplish by the end of this year? What areas need to be strengthened? What bad habits need to be expunged? What will be the better and clearer guiding principle for my life?

My family pokes fun at my time-saving devices. How many times have they endured the frantic search for the misplaced Daytimer? They quickly see through the difference between organizing my schedule and actually doing some good. They truly know this supposed king has no clothes.

In our text, the question of kingship is introduced in the very company of the king himself. To be looking for the king in the presence of a king does not immediately win

awards in the field of diplomacy. In fact, it challenges the very power that sits upon the throne of authority. These wise visitors from the East are something more than wayfaring wanderers. They are troublemakers of the first order, resolutely following a heavenly vision regardless of the costs.

It would be a high cost indeed. Herod orders the death of the innocent babies of Bethlehem. Earthly powers do not quietly disappear when challenged. Our sentimentality with the Magi's visit is interrupted by mind-boggling sorrow. Who can bear the terribly evil demise of Rachel's children? This gospel is not merely about holiday punch and Christmas cookies. It stirs us to the core of our very existence.

But challenging the who of kingship is a prerequisite to answering the question of where this king might be found. We are discouraged from looking in obvious places. We will not find this king in the ornate castle. Nor will this king be found in any assumed

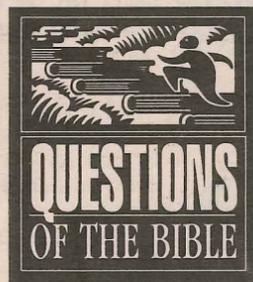
delusion of personal importance.

Our search carries us to a refugee family of little description. They are a family willing to listen to dreams as a protection from danger and as a guide to destiny. If they showed up one Sunday morning for worship, I fear I would too quickly prejudice them as poor, uneducated and needy. How stupid of me not to recognize the identifiable marks of a family of a real king.

Where is the King of the Jews? The reader of Matthew's Gospel cannot hear this question without racing ahead to the 25th chapter. There we learn that this unexpected king would show up in the unlikely places of human need. Hospitals, prisons and homeless shelters seem to be the places this king desires to frequent. But there's more. "Jesus, King of the Jews" becomes the banner upon the cross. Who would look there to find a king?

Here I am. A year's worth of blank calendar pages stare back at me. Will I tolerate personal inconvenience? Will I confront blinding prejudice? Will I take risks for justice? Am I the king in charge of my own schedule? Where in my life, is the King of the Jews?

Mark Johnson is pastor of First Baptist Church of Midway



Republicans name appointees for religious freedom group

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Congressional Republican leaders have selected their four members of the new, 10-member U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom.

Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott of Mississippi named former Colorado Sen. Bill Armstrong and John Bolton, a former assistant secretary of state.

Outgoing House Speaker Newt Gingrich of Georgia picked Nina Shea, director of Freedom House's Program of Religious Freedom, and Elliot Abrams, a former assistant secretary of state. The appointments are for two-year terms.

President Clinton will name three additional commission members, while Congressional Democrats will pick two more. The commission's 10th—and only non-voting—member will be the White House's ambassador-at-large on religious freedom issues.

The commission was established by the International Religious Freedom Act passed by Congress in October. The act, widely supported by American religious leaders, makes the treatment of religious believers by foreign governments a U.S. foreign policy priority.

The commission is responsible for evaluating and recommending U.S. responses to violations of religious freedom by foreign governments.

Armstrong is a conservative evangelical Christian who served two terms in the Senate. Bolton served in the State Department under Presidents Reagan and Bush and is currently a senior vice president of the Washington-based American Enterprise Institute.

Abrams, formerly assistant secretary of state for human rights under Reagan, is now at Washington's Ethics and Public Policy Center. Shea has been among the most visible of Washington-based activists on behalf of religious freedom. She also is a member of the State Department's Advisory Committee on Religious Freedom Abroad.

Church members' giving increases slightly

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. (RNS)—Congregation members gave a slightly larger portion of their incomes to their churches in 1996 compared to the previous year, a new study reports.

"The State of Church Giving through 1996," a study by Empty Tomb, Inc., also reveals a continuing decline in contributions to benevolences, which includes general denominational support, such as local and international missions.

In 1968, church members gave an average of 3.12 percent of their income to their congregations. That figure decreased by 17 percent to 2.58 percent in 1996, the latest year for which statistics are available. But giving has increased from the 1993 level of 2.47 percent and the 1995 level of 2.56 percent.

The portion of personal income that supports congregational finances, which sustain the local church operations, decreased from 2.46 percent in 1968 to 2.17 percent in 1996. The latest data represent an increase from the 1992 level of 2.04 percent.

Researchers noted that given the slight upturn, future data will determine if the present trend is a reversal or "merely a respite in the decline of the last three years."

The decline in benevolences has continued for a period of 11 years, though the rate of decline slowed from 1995.

Giving in that category has dropped from 0.66 percent in 1968

to 0.41 percent in 1996.

The study also reviewed personal giving by members of evangelical and mainline denominations.

The researchers found that giving in evangelical denominations increased between 1968 and 1985 and decreased between 1985 and 1996. Giving by individual members of evangelical denominations to congregational finances increased between 1985 and 1996, but giving to benevolences decreased during the same period.

In mainline denominations, there was an increase in giving by individual members for total contributions and congregational finances

but a decrease in giving to benevolences during the period between 1968 and 1996.

Empty Tomb is a Christian service and research organization based in Champaign, Ill. The study includes data from 29 Protestant denominations that published statistics in the "Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches."

The denominations include 29 million members and comprise about one-third of the estimated 350,000 religious congregations in the United States.

The group's research is available through its Internet web site: www.emptytomb.org.



Church Buses Rental Buses

(New & Used)

Carpenter Bus Sales Inc.

Brentwood, Tenn.

(800) 370-6180

(615) 376-2287

We Buy Used Buses

Since 1953

Available in 20' to 37' Models
(12 to 43 passengers)

Guaranteed Buy-Back Program

www.carpenterbus.com

It's inventory time

As 1998 has ended and 1999 begins, each Christian and each Christian group should take an inventory of our lives. The Apostle Paul offers some helpful guidance in Philippians 3:12-16.

Much like the Philippian church of Paul's day, we find ourselves in a world that does not place a premium on spiritual values. Instead, contemporary society invites participation without restraint in various kinds of immorality.

By some modern-day standards, there is no "right" or "wrong." Seemingly, every individual has the privilege of doing what is "right" according to his or her standards.

In the words of Robert Bork, our nation is "sloughing towards Gomorrah." Unfortunately, we do live in a world bent on decay.

In contrast to our contemporary American scene are the Apostle Paul's words which specify the values and goals of a Christian. Instead of seeking to satisfy self-desires and carnal pleasure, Paul encountered self-denial and commitment to Christ as his life's purpose. His values were spiritual, his goal was Christ.

The intensity of his desire was expressed in such vivid language as

"press on," "straining for" and "seize."

The most important aspect of his life was his relationship to God in Jesus Christ. Christ, instead of self, was at the center of his being.

If we, then, honestly evaluate Paul's perspective, these questions arise: Are our values in the right place? Is Jesus Christ the goal of our lives? Has our spiritual progress been deterred because of self-centeredness? Do we have the courage to struggle with our sin and the sin of the world?

As Christians in today's world, we are challenged prayerfully to consider our values, our goals and our commitments. Let these words of Paul help you meet the challenge:

"Friends, I don't think I know it all, but one thing I do know—by letting bygones be bygones, I'm going to try to be the best Christian I can. I hope all of you will feel the same about this so we can all work together. If you don't, let God talk to you about it. We've had a good start; let's keep up the good work."

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

KENTUCKY
BAPTIST
FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

Tell Us Where It Hurts

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

Some problems are too big to handle alone ... problems that leave God's people in pain, feeling helpless and hopeless. It doesn't have to be this way. Rapha's Christ-centered professional counseling can help Christians struggling with emotional and substance-abuse problems turn life's most difficult situations into opportunities for personal growth, restoring God's peace and joy in their lives. Help is a phone call away 24 hours a day.

1-800-383-HOPE

Located in Caritas Peace Hospital

Rapha

Where the healing begins

MUSIC

Music wars: New styles create challenges in churches

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—At Metropolitan Baptist Church, a prominent African-American congregation, the music winds through the service like a carefully orchestrated symphony.

Members of the Young and Adult Fellowship Ensemble sit under shiny silver organ pipes and lead the congregation in "Come, Ye Thankful People," a traditional hymn.

But not much later, the pipe organ is silent and the piano and electronic instruments take over as they perform "Jesus, How Sweet the Name" in a manner that barely resembles the version in the closed hymnal in the church's pews.

Young people stand to clap along with the male soloist and older women in their Sunday hats nod their heads to the beat.

Throughout the service, the music sways back and forth from old-time religion to contemporary praise, meeting the needs of young and old, hip and not-so, bridging what often is a generational divide in the nation's churches—black and white, Catholic and Protestant, conservative and liberal.

Metropolitan Baptist's answer to the frequent debate over music is variety, variety and more variety.

Other churches have decided to cater to varied musical tastes by offering different Sunday services every

week. Many communities are dotted with church signs announcing a traditional service at 9 a.m. and a contemporary one two hours later.

Decisions about music—as central a part of the service for many churchgoers as the sermon—can bring congregations together or tear them apart.

"Music, if not carefully monitored and intentionally developed and guided, can either be a very useful vehicle for growth development and forward movement, or it can be used as a divisive tool for people looking for a certain niche of entertainment," said Thomas Tyler, Metropolitan Baptist's director of music ministries.

Tyler, who helped coordinate a Howard University School of Divinity conference on church music in November, is a proponent of educating congregations to help them appreciate a variety of styles.

So is Carl Daw Jr., executive director of the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada.

"We believe there is a place for a broad spectrum of congregational song," said Daw, whose society is housed at the Boston University School of Theology.

In many of the nation's churches, members reach for one of the 40 hymnals that have appeared in the last 20 years with more of a blend of traditional and contemporary music.

That publishing phenomenon represents a "remarkable period of creativity" that reflects the diverse musi-

cal tastes within congregations, Daw said.

But with that creativity comes a challenge for church music directors.

"One of the things that is required by all this development is that worship really needs to be planned more carefully than it has in the past," said Daw. "And that's one of the challenges, to find, say, a traditional hymn and a contemporary chorus that may both be related to whatever the theme of the service is going to be."

John Witvliet, director of the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, said the division over musical genres is not only generational but also a matter of how members view worship.

If they see it as sacramental, they tend toward the traditional. If they see it as evangelistic and oriented toward outreach to Generation Xers or baby boomers, they "tend to argue for the most accessible forms of music," said Witvliet, whose institute is based at Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary in Grand Rapids, Mich. When the institute opened in the fall of 1997, 20 of its first 30 phone calls were about worship disputes. Music was a factor in most of them.

"You wind up with disagreements," Witvliet said, ticking off the various points of conflict. "Those who argue for contemporary music style versus traditional music style, bringing in the overhead projector ... or printed order of service, praise team or choir, band or organ."

Richard Smallwood, a Washing-

ton-based composer inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame in November, said the long-standing debates have related to the beat of music. Congregants who shun drums, synthesizers or other electronic instruments label them as secular instead of sacred.

But Smallwood, who spoke at the Howard conference in Washington, said any style should be accepted if the lyrics have a biblical basis.

"I have no problem with crossover music as long as you carry the cross over with you," he said.

Marva Dawn, a Vancouver, Wash.-based writer and lecturer on worship issues, said more churches are attempting to resolve the "worship wars" by holding separate services.

"Splitting is more popular, which is what I keep working against 'cause it's dividing the congregation," she said. "Young people need mentoring of old people and old people need the vitality of young people."

Dawn urged increased training in building a sense of community within a congregation and gradual efforts to introduce new kinds of music in services of a particular style. She said the church can be used to widen a culture's appreciation of "how big our God is" through the varied sounds of organs, oboes and guitars.

"The real problem is worship has been turned into a matter of taste," said Dawn. "It's God we're worshipping, not us, so our taste really is irrelevant and God has really eclectic taste."

"Music ... can either be a very useful vehicle for growth development and forward movement, or it can be used as a divisive tool for people looking for a certain niche of entertainment."
Thomas Tyler, director of music ministries at Metropolitan Baptist Church in Washington

Jennifer Morgan

By Robert Dunston

Jennifer Morgan, the daughter of Linda Morgan of Cincinnati, spent part of her 1998 summer in Israel working in a program sponsored by the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio. Morgan was one of only 26 individuals selected for participation.

Morgan and her fellow summer missionaries lived in Beit Jala and worked in Arroub, Israel, at a refugee camp for more than 6,000 people. Her specific assignment was to help in a day camp for Palestinian boys ages 6 through 12. She and her colleagues led the boys in crafts, sports and other special activities. The language barrier was overcome with two interpreters and pantomime.

At the end of camp each day, team members painted and cleaned in the camp. Women on the team were discouraged strongly from doing such "man's" work. Morgan learned to make "Arabic" tea, which she describes as "the best tea you'll ever have." It features lots of sugar.

Cultural differences also presented problems. The Muslim community in the camp basically ran the camp. Team members were not al-

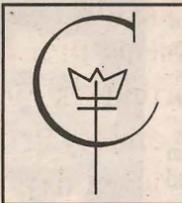
lowed to share their Christian beliefs with anyone unless they specifically were asked. Morgan and fellow women team members were not allowed to witness at all. Team members asked permission to say grace before meals because they were dining in Muslim homes.

Typically, men ate separately and earlier than the women and children. The community made an exception for the mission team members, allowing the women and men to eat together. As soon as the meal ended, however, women team members had to leave and sit with the women of the community. Because there were no women interpreters, Morgan and her women colleagues were on their own.

Morgan, a biology major who plans to work in the fields of ethology (animal behavior) and research, returned with a deep gratitude for the freedoms of worship and speech we enjoy in America. Yet she also returned with fond memories of how pleasant and welcoming the people were to her and the mission team. She said she would love to go back.

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

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



Application for missions

The goal of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children is to be the best, distinctively Christian, professional family services agency we can become for the glory of God and good of mankind.

This goal will not be achieved through a great plan, but rather through dedicated people who share our mission.

Some people apply to work with us because they need a job, or they like working with children and families, or other reasons. People needing jobs, or just wanting to work with families, often make very good employees.

There also are those who come to our agency from a different perspective. These are the employees who do not fill out an application for employment but an "application for missions." Many of us find our work with KBHC a fulfillment to a personal call God has made on our lives to full-time Christian service.

We don't just serve clients, we minister to people, caring for them as Jesus cares for us.

God calls us to different venues in life—some to serve families in crisis, others to preach or teach.

God calls some to care for rebellious, abused adolescents just as he calls some to foreign fields of service.

I can tell you from personal experience that when you do what God has called and gifted you to do, there is not a more peaceful place to be, no matter how difficult the task. I think most of my colleagues in ministry here at KBHC and elsewhere would agree.

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children needs dedicated Christians who have a desire to minister to children and families in crisis to join our ministry team.

Whether it is working directly with the children as a direct care counselor or as a credentialed professional social worker or family therapist, we usually have openings for service.

Maybe God is calling you to join our ministry team. If so, come talk to us, fill out an "application for missions" and let us see if we can't find a place for you to serve.

Bill Smithwick is president 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



Bill Smithwick

Judge says arrangement OK for Jesus statue to remain in park

MADISON, Wis. (RNS)—A federal judge ruled that a controversial statue of Jesus can remain in a park in Marshfield, Wis.

District Judge John Shabaz dismissed a lawsuit by the Freedom from Religion Foundation and Clarence Reinders, a city resident and foundation member, who said the statue was unconstitutional.

They had sued the city and the Henry Praschak Memorial Fund, which purchased from the city the site of the statue and is responsible for maintaining the area.

Although the city sold the statue to the fund to accommodate the foundation's concerns about church-state separation, the foundation said the sale of the property still was unconstitutional because it showed a preference for Christianity. The judge, however, disagreed in his Dec. 15 decision.

The Midwestern office of the American Center for Law and Justice, a public interest law firm founded by religious broadcaster Pat Robertson, helped represent the city of Marshfield in the case.

"This is a major victory for common sense and religious expression," said Francis Manion, senior regional counsel for the ACLJ-Midwest. "The plaintiffs thought they could bully the city into removing or destroying the statue of Jesus by threatening the city with expensive and time-consuming litigation."

Anne Nicol Gaylor, president of the Freedom from Religion Foundation, which is based in Madison, Wis., said her organization achieved a "partial victory" concerning the statue, which was erected in 1959.

"In arranging to sell the property, the city did recognize that government shouldn't own shrines," she said, adding her group is studying whether to appeal the decision concerning what she called "a sham sale to a predetermined buyer."

Festival of Theology

Food
for
the
mind,
food
for
the
soul

Jan. 31 — Feb. 3, 1999

The Caldwell and
Greenhoe Lectures

LOUISVILLE SEMINARY
www.lpts.edu

The Caldwell Lectures



Dr. Barbara Wheeler is president of Auburn Theological Seminary in New York and director of the Auburn Center for the Study of Theological Education.

The Festival Preacher



The Rev. Dr. Joseph Roberts Jr. is Senior Pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Ga.,

succeeding Martin Luther King Sr. During Dr. Roberts' pastorate, more than 2,000 new members have been added to the congregation and an expansive community-oriented program was initiated.

The Greenhoe Lectures



Dr. Ulrich Mauser is the Otto A. Piper Professor of Biblical Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary

and author of *Christ in the Wilderness: The Wilderness Theme in the Second Gospel and its Basis in the Biblical Tradition* (SCM Press: London).

Reunion Preacher



Rev. Dr. C. Ellis Nelson, Louisville Seminary President Emeritus, is a leading

author, consultant and advocate for theological education. He is the author of *Where Faith Begins* and *How Faith Matures* (both published by John Knox Press).

Admission is free

The lecture series is sponsored by the Office of Graduate Studies and Continuing Education and the Office of Alumni/ae Relations.

1044 Alta Vista Rd. • Louisville, KY 40205 • 502 895-3411
or toll-free 1 800 264-1839, ext. 450 • E-mail: dreistroffer@lpts.edu

REAL PRACTICAL

Real Life magazine offers the information you want about family, finance & fun in Kentucky.

Call (502) 244-6470 to subscribe or to learn how Real Life can help your church reach its community.

A lot of work and a lot of play (Part II)

Sorry about the interruption. When I began three weeks ago, I was telling you about our Harvest Banquet honoring students who were part of our farm and Future Farmers of America programs. Here are other stories of students who received awards.

James is a freshman from Lawrenceburg. He has real talent and interest in plumbing, therefore he received the Plumber Award. Nearly every time there was a plumbing project to be done, James was called upon to help. The Hardest Worker Award went to Josh, who came to Oneida Baptist Institute in 1997 as an eighth grader from Alabama. Like many students who come to OBI, his grades were not good. He still struggles academically but has made progress. He was recognized for his hard work on the farm because he gave his very best to any and every job.

Angel came in 1996 from Adairville when she was in the ninth grade. I believe Angel has done more for us than we have done for her. She is a delight for all who work with her. While she struggles academically, she does her

very best. Angel is part of our choir and is very active in Baptist Student Union as a small group leader. She received the Most Heart Award.

Nichole is in the ninth grade from Arizona. She has a love for animals and spends much of her time bottle feeding some of our calves. If you have ever bottle fed small animals, you know how patient and thorough you must be. If you get in a hurry and do not feed them adequately, they will go hungry. Additionally, like a lot of farm work, bottle feeding is a seven-day-a-week job. Nichole earned the Calf's Best Friend Award.

John came to us in 1995 from Somerset in the

seventh grade. He left us for a while but returned in January 1998. John always has struggled with his grades. Like many students, John has little interest in athletics or the fine arts, and his grades have contributed to his low self-esteem. When John returned, he decided to work on the farm. We knew he was skilled in operating tractors and other equipment used on the farm. It was no surprise to us when he received the Best Equipment Operator Award.

Melissa came last year from Lexington. Melissa is a junior and became interested in Oneida when the choir visited her church last winter. She loves working on the farm, especially with pigs. Melissa has taken a special interest in the newborn pigs. Often when a piglet is not doing well, she will spend extra time caring for the baby pig. On one occasion, she fell asleep in the pig pen caring for a little pig that was sick. She received the Pig's Best Friend Award.

Jonathan came to Oneida in 1995 as a seventh grader from Russell Springs. He always has made good grades and

has been a real blessing to us. He is very generous with his smiles and has a wonderful disposition. Jon is the kind of student every teacher wants. Though small for a 10th grader, he is big on enthusiasm and dedication. When you give Jon a job, you never have to worry about it getting done properly. His easygoing personality enables him to get along with just about anyone. Jon received the Most Potential Award. All of us know he is mature well beyond his years. (To be continued)

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Thanks Dr. Robertson

On May 17, 1977, Jackson and Jeannette Robertson moved to Clear Creek. In an Alabama church, he had been pastor to the widow of L.C. Kelly. She often told him he needed to teach at Clear Creek.

"I sometimes wondered if that meant she didn't care for my preaching," Robertson said. "We moved to Pineville shortly after the big flood. First Baptist Church was meeting in the fellowship hall on the Sunday we joined."

He joined the faculty as L.C. Kelly Professor of Biblical Interpretation, our first endowed professorship. During the intervening years, "Dr. Jack" has earned a reputation for "crossing the t's and placing the periods in the right place" when students take theology tests.

"It may be part of my training as a lawyer, but punctuation is very important when it comes to doctrine," Robertson stressed.

Robertson moves to Birmingham on Jan. 19 to a retirement center near his daughter. He acknowledged the difficulty of moving from a place that has become as close as family. After his wife died, he moved into Kelly Hall. Single students, commuters and countless volunteers have caught his spirit

and easily seen his devotion to Christ and love for Clear Creek. He also leaves as the 17-year pastor of Lynch Baptist Church in Harlan County.

His decision to fully retire at age 82 came with the desire for the best timing. His application for an apartment meant he might have to leave in the middle of the semester. He

moved ahead and "left it in the hands of the Lord." The apartment became available the week after final exams and before another semester of classes. "What would we have done any better? We couldn't improve on the timing," Robertson exclaimed. "It is due to the grace of God that I'm able to go like this. Dr. Aldridge led the school to pay 15 percent on our annuity. With that and

Social Security I have enough to care for me the rest of my life. It shows concern and compassion by the school. A person doesn't just come here and give your life away without consideration for the last years. We don't believe half of what the Lord can do. We are not called to do it all ourselves."

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

Clinton scandal forced nation to look at morality in 1998

By Ira Rifkin & Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—The moral and religious implications of President Clinton's sexual scandal overshadowed all other religion stories during 1998.

There was no escaping the issue, which engulfed the nation and led the House of Representatives to make Clinton the first president to be impeached in 130 years.

Likewise, it was impossible to ignore the scandal's moral dimensions and the wealth of religious language employed to explain, or condemn, the president's behavior — even as polls showed most Americans wanted the matter to somehow go away.

Clinton's own attorneys called his extramarital relationship with Monica Lewinsky "sinful."

Religious broadcaster Pat Robertson, insisting the president's conduct warranted his ouster, said the "lamb of God is also the lion of Judah ... his justice still remains firm."

Like it or not, 1998 was a year of forced public reflection on the nation's moral values.

Richard Cizik, the National Association of Evangelicals interim Washington director, said the scandal could suggest a failure on the part of religious leaders.

"Why has the church not been able to nurture, discipline and train one of her own (Clinton, a lifelong Southern Baptist) for responsible leadership in civil society?" he wrote. "It's a question that should not go unanswered—and means that this crisis could be viewed as God's wake-up call to the church, as much as to Bill Clinton or the Congress."

But for religious believers, the scandal was by no means the year's only news item.

There was also homosexuality. Conservative Christian groups supported "ex-gay" ministries—which strive to transform homosexuals into heterosexuals—while liberals argued for the acceptance of gays and lesbians as they are.

Homosexuality also figured prominently on the denominational front. United Methodist, Anglican, Lutheran, Reform Jewish, Christian Reformed Church, United Church of Christ, Canadian Presbyterian and Southern Baptist leaders were among those who wrestled with the issues of homosexual clergy or same-sex unions.

In June, Southern Baptists affirmed their support for heterosexual marriage. But in doing so, they said wives should "submit ... graciously" to their husbands—opening another front in the nation's ongoing culture wars.

Conservatives applauded the stand for tradition; moderates and liberals viewed the statement as "morally questionable" and a reactionary response to increasing demands for gender equality.

Other leading religion stories of 1998 included:

■ Religious freedom became an American foreign policy priority with passage of the International Religious Freedom Act designed to curtail the persecution of religious believers abroad. The law was spurred in part by the situation in Pakistan, where a Catholic bishop killed himself to protest Muslim persecution of Christians, and a new Russian law that some local authorities used to limit the freedom of unpopular religious minorities.

Meanwhile, visits to China by President Clinton and an interfaith trio of American religious leaders drew attention to the plight of Chris-

tians and others persecuted by Beijing. Also, Robert Seiple, formerly of the evangelical aid agency World Vision, was named the State Department's senior adviser for international religious freedom issues.

■ Irish voters approved a peace plan for Northern Ireland that, if it holds, would end decades of Catholic-Protestant strife.

■ Led by Muslims, some religious groups protested the December U.S. and British military strike against Iraq, which came just before the start of Ramadan, the Islamic holy month.

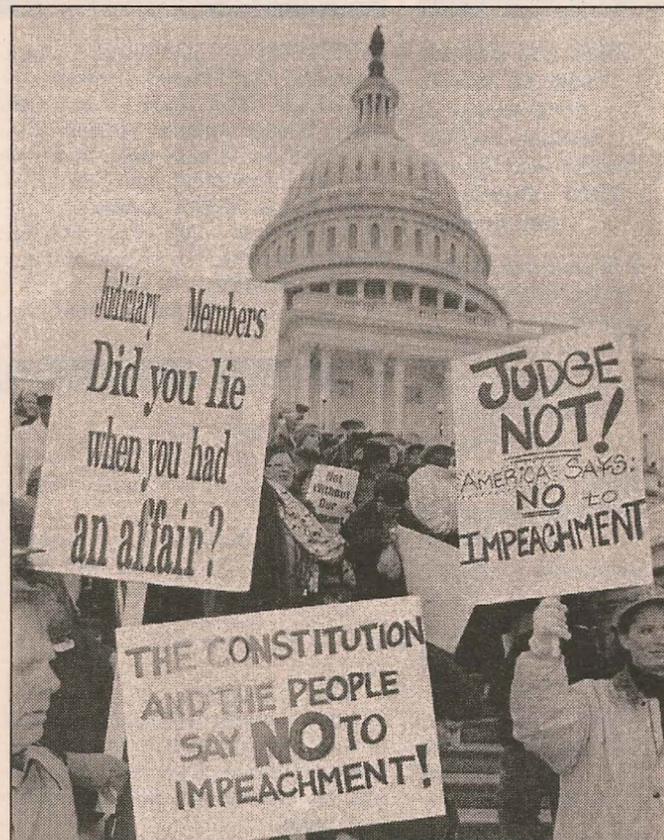
■ Baptists and other religious aid groups mobilized after Hurricane Mitch killed tens of thousands in Central America. Religious organizations also led the way in bringing food to famine-plagued North Korea and helping flood victims in Papua, New Guinea, and refugees in Kosovo.

■ Jack Kevorkian pleaded not guilty after being ordered to stand trial for murder after a November "60 Minutes" episode showed him helping end the life of a man suffering from Lou Gehrig's disease. In March, the first death occurred under Oregon's new assisted suicide law, which was strongly opposed by many religious groups.

■ The U.S. Supreme Court decided not to review Wisconsin's controversial school voucher program, keeping intact a lower court decision allowing the plan to include religious schools.

■ A controversial constitutional amendment that would have allowed organized prayer in public schools was rejected by the House of Representatives in June.

■ Promise Keepers, which gained prominence with a huge "Stand in the Gap" rally a year earlier, reduced its



staff and witnessed a drop in attendance at its regional men's rallies.

■ Fifteen-year old Michael Carneal of Paducah was sentenced to life in prison with no possibility of parole for 25 years after pleading guilty but mentally ill to the prayer circle shootings that killed three students in 1997.

■ The debate over the morality of genetic engineering heated up with announcements by Chicago physicist Richard Seed that he would begin work on cloning a human being, and by South Korean researchers who said they had cloned a human embryo they later destroyed.

BIG NEWS Demonstrators protest impeachment proceedings outside the U.S. Capitol late last year. The Clinton scandal was important not only for the government, but also for Americans who studied the moral and spiritual impact of the event. (RNS/Reuters photo)

Spiritually minded capitalists applying their faith in God to business principles

By Bob Weinstein
Religion News Service

MIDLAND PARK, N.J. (RNS)—A new spiritual awakening is at hand. It's not just happening at traditional weekly services, but in the workplace.

Evidence can be found in the raft of books arguing that religious virtue won't just get you into heaven, it also will make you a better person by providing meaning, purpose and job fulfillment.

It's not surprising, considering that spirituality in the workplace is grounded in the Puritan notion that economic prosperity is a reward for religious virtue.

A case in point: Paul Van Ostenbridge, who, as president and CEO of Atlantic Stewardship Bank in Midland Park, N.J., runs a bank that tithes.

To hear him tell it, tying religious virtues to business creates a special edge not only with customers but with employees.

"We have no Christian symbolism in our literature, and you'll find nothing on our walls when you walk into our offices," Van Ostenbridge said. "We're

more concerned with building Christianity into our daily lives. That's why we attract customers and employees who like the fact that we put a portion of our profits to good use."

That portion is 10 percent—known as the tithe—plucked from the corporate balance sheet from pretax profits each year and handed over to charitable causes.

"Tithing is the main focus of the bank and was one of its founding principles when we launched in 1985," Van Ostenbridge said.

Since then, Atlantic Stewardship's tithe has sent more than \$1 million to hundreds of local and national causes. This year, donations of about \$220,000 will go to more than 150 causes, including civic organizations, schools and voluntary fire departments.

Has there been any backlash? A cause not all customers could embrace? Some, he said.

"One person wasn't comfortable with one of our programs that encouraged young mothers to carry to term, so she didn't deposit here," Van Ostenbridge

recalled. "But that was her prerogative, and I respect it."

Then there was a customer upset because Atlantic Stewardship supported the Girl Scouts, an objection Van Ostenbridge never quite understood.

Like Van Ostenbridge, most entrepreneurs who seek to incorporate religious values into their workplaces know they can't force it on employees or customers.

There's the risk of being sued under Title VII, which prevents discrimination under the 1964 Civil Rights Act, said Michael Barabander, a partner at Grotta, Glassman & Hoffman, a labor and employment relations firm in Roseland, N.J..

In the past two years, Barabander said, at least two employees have sued, claiming they were unfairly terminated after refusing to adopt their employers' religious beliefs.

The employers prevailed, with the courts finding the firings were based on performance, not religion. Still, it's a red flag to be on guard.

Van Ostenbridge has a lot of

company. For one, there's Truett Cathy, the founder of Atlanta-based Chick-fil-A, the third-largest fast-food restaurant chain in the United States.

Cathy, a Southern Baptist, has built his company on Christian principles. He makes a point of saying his company hires people from all religions, but the 77-year-old Cathy says he's never strayed from his Christian beliefs since his first restaurant opened in 1946.

Cathy penned a book several years ago called "It's Easier to Succeed Than to Fail," explaining how he based his life on principles outlined in the Bible's New Testament.

Chapters such as "Crisis is opportunity in disguise" and "You can't succeed if you don't start" combine religious parables with homespun philosophy.

Staunchly upholding Sunday as the Christian day of rest and worship, he insists all of his 761 restaurants in 35 states close as a gesture of respect.

He also boasts no layoffs, low turnover and generous contributions to a range of organizations, most of which benefit disadvantaged children.

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:

■ Charles and Carolyn Dixon as they plan to begin Bible studies this year in the remote Uluguru Mountains village of Nyandila, Tanzania.

■ Efforts underway to strengthen evangelism efforts and the apprenticeship program of the International Baptist Theological Seminary of East Africa in Arusha, Tanzania. Missionary Elaine Lay and Dean of Students Esekia Kipomo coordinate the work.

■ Kevin Litchfield, new regional church starter in Maine.

■ Allyson Clark, new youth consultant on the staff of the Baptist Convention of New England.

■ A volunteer needed to live in Greece and coordinate the Baptist Convention of New England/Greece missions partnership.

■ The Brazilian Baptist Mission of Nashua, N.H.

■ A new Bible study that has begun in Provincetown, Mass., and layleaders Aubrey and Donna Schuldt.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Shirley Wooton

■ BENTON—Walnut Street Church has called **Joel Frizzell** as pastor.

■ CADIZ—New Hope Church will host a People Against Violence Everywhere conference Jan. 16 at 10 a.m. For information, call (502) 522-3609. **James Moody** is pastor.

■ FAIRDALE—Oak Grove Church recently ordained **Tim Clark** as deacon. **Dallas Catron** is pastor.

■ FAUBUSH—Burnetta Church re-

cently called **Stephen Bennett** as pastor.

■ FRANKFORT—Memorial Baptist called **Phil Champion** as minister of youth. Champion is a student at Southern Seminary.

■ HOPKINSVILLE—**Chris Short**, senior pastor at Eastview Church, resigned. Short will continue his work with Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's foster care program. He is

available for supply preaching and short-term interims. He may be reached at (502) 483-9570.

■ IRVINE—Beech Grove Church called **Stephen Creech** as pastor. Creech is from Camargo.

■ KEVIL—Kevil First Church called **Stephen Williams** as pastor.

■ LOUISVILLE—Cloverleaf Church will present Perfect Heart, from Brownsville, in concert Jan. 14 at 7 p.m. For information, call (502) 367-0218. **Geoffrey Lacefield** is pastor.

■ NANCY—Fishing Creek Church recently called **Dudley Bryant** as

pastor.

■ SANDERS—Jordan Church called **James Lyles** as pastor. Lyles is a student at Southern Seminary.

■ SOMERSET—Pleasant Hill Church will host its second annual women's conference Jan. 30, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. **Dorie Van Stone**, author of "Dorie: The Little Girl Nobody Loved," will be the featured speaker. For information, call (606) 679-3402. **Larry O'Bryan** is pastor.

■ WEST PADUCAH—Mt. Zion Church called **Michael Diggs** as minister of education. **Larry Davidson** is pastor.

Former missionary donates art to Campbellsville

CAMPBELLVILLE—A former missionary's love of African art and Campbellsville University have merged.

Margery Henderson of Burkesville, who served as a Southern Baptist missionary in Liberia from 1968 to 1972, recently donated African artwork to the Kentucky Baptist university.

The collection, worth about \$12,000, includes African masks used in rituals, clothing made and worn in Africa, domestic tools used in cooking, hand-made jewelry and many other items.

"We truly appreciate Mrs. Henderson's kind gift that will enable our students and others to study the art of Africa," said Marc Whitt, vice president for advancement at the university.

Robert Clark, vice president for academic affairs, said the gift will emphasize the African-American sense of heritage. "The artwork is an educational opportunity that will help our students understand the African-Americans' sense of self-esteem."

Henderson and her late husband, Glenn, served as missionaries in Liberia, West Africa and England.

Henderson graduated from Bethel College, which closed in 1964 and whose records are stored at Campbellsville University.



DONATION Margery Henderson (middle) recently donated African art she collected while a missionary in Liberia. Marc Whitt, Cumberland vice president for advancement (right), models an African chief's robe. Also pictured is Robert Clark, vice president for academics. (Campbellsville photo by Joan McKinney)

"Glenn and I have had a lot of friends from Campbellsville University, and we've been supportive of the school," she said. She also said she wanted the art collection kept intact, and Campbellsville University officials assured her that would be done.

Henderson said art is a part of life that helps explain who a people group are. "Art explains why a people did what they did."

She said one of the pieces is a fertility doll and two are pieces that ap-

peal to the rice gods to ensure a good harvest. She also donated an antelope headdress, which she said is one of the most recognizable pieces of African art and is highly sought after.

Henderson's husband died in August 1998 in Great Britain while they were serving as missionaries with the International Service Corps of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board.

Her husband was an ordained layman, businessman and educator.

Drunk driver gets manslaughter in religion case

POMONA, Calif. (RNS)—A drunken driver was convicted Dec. 18 of manslaughter rather than murder in the death of a Jehovah's Witness, who died after refusing blood transfusions.

Keith Cook, 32, was convicted of gross vehicular manslaughter, driving under the influence and injuring the daughter of the woman who died.

Defense attorney Charles Unger admitted that his client could be held responsible for the March 7 accident in Azusa, Calif., but he argued that Jadine Russell died because she refused blood transfusions because of her beliefs.

Prosecutor Larry Larson argued that Cook was responsible solely because he set in motion a series of events that led to the death of the 55-year-old woman.

Suffering broken bones and massive hemorrhaging, Russell repeatedly told emergency personnel her religious beliefs forbade her from taking blood, Unger said.

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Ginter Park Baptist Church in northside Richmond, Va., is seeking a senior minister. Ours is an 80-year heritage of holding to historic Baptist beliefs. We support the BGAV and the CBF. Candidates must have master's degree. Send resumé preferably by Feb. 15 to: Pastor Search Committee, Ginter Park Baptist Church, 1200 Wilmington Ave., Richmond, VA 23227.

SEEKING: Highland Baptist Church of Shelbyville, Ky., is seeking a director for its weekday child care program. Interested applicants should send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Highland Baptist Church, P.O. Box 104, Shelbyville, KY 40066-0104.

SEEKING: Full-time associate pastor of worship/music gifted in leading contemporary praise/worship-style services in seeker-sensitive environment. Significant experience/education expected. Send resumé to: Bellevue Baptist Church, 519 W. Byers Ave., Owensboro, KY 42303, or fax (502) 685-5134.

SEEKING: Children's ministry

director, part-time (20-25 hours weekly). Primary responsibilities include planning and coordination of the children's ministry, birth-grade 6. This person should have a passion for children. Helpful spiritual gifts include administration, leadership and encouragement. Please forward resumé by Jan. 17, 1999, to: Personnel Committee, c/o Erlanger Baptist Church, 116 Commonwealth Ave., Erlanger, KY 41018.

FOR SALE: Sharp GMC coach. One-owner, air-conditioned, rest-room, automatic, Detroit Diesel. Very well maintained. See to appreciate. Asking \$46,000. Can be seen in Lexington at Northside RV. For information, call (606) 278-7224.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of music for Unity Baptist Church. Send resumé to: 2320 29th St., Ashland, KY 41101.

SEEKING: Audubon Baptist Church is currently seeking a part-time minister to children. The church seeks a mature Christian who is committed to children's ministry; experience preferred. Interested persons

should send a resumé to: Audubon Baptist Church, 1046 Hess Lane, Louisville, KY 40217, Attn: Personnel Committee, or call the church office at (502) 635-6750.

SEEKING: Accepting resumé for full-time minister of music/youth. Parsonage included. Send resumé to: First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 400, Lepanto, Arkansas 72354, Attn: pastor. E-mail inquiries accepted at GWD@eritter.net.

FOR SALE: 1980-model MCI-9 47-passenger coach. Nearly new engine with Allison automatic. Excellent condition. Asking \$44,000. For pictures or information, call (606) 278-7224.

SEEKING: High Point Baptist Church of Mayfield, Ky., is accepting resumé 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.

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.

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, Sevens Valley Baptist, (502) 765-7822, 862-9586.

Is Holy Land prepared for Christians' tourism blitz?

By Elaine Fletcher
Religion News Service

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (RNS)—The traditional birthplace of Jesus is in the throes of being transformed from a dusty backwater to what Palestinians hope will be a world-class tourist destination with tree-lined parks, luxury hotels and historic old-quarter renovations.

But it's not just Bethlehem that's being readied for an expected wave of millennium-connected tourism in the Holy Land. Key sites in other cities and towns such as Jerusalem and Nazareth also are filled with the sounds of construction.

But while work at ground zero proceeds, religious and political leaders are asking whether the Holy Land's residents will be ready—politically, emotionally and spiritually—by 2000 for the expected hordes of tourists.

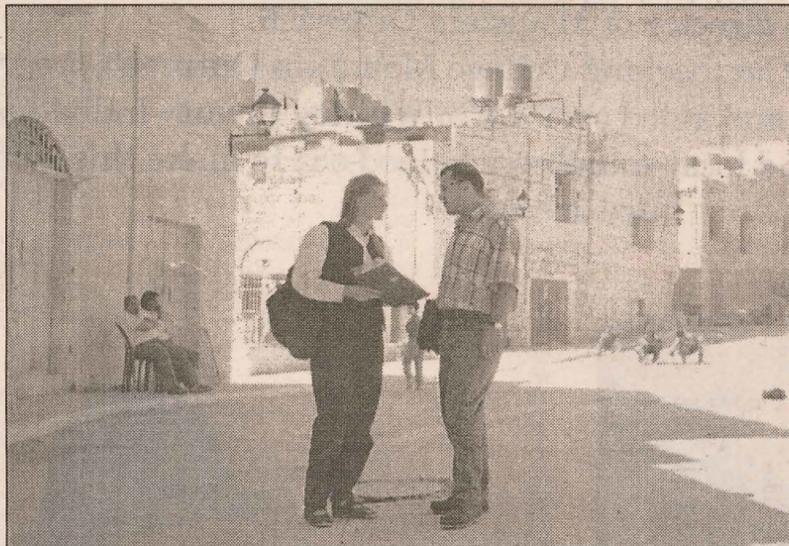
During the next year, several landmark political events likely will converge on the countdown calendar with unpredictable consequences. Chief among them are Israeli elections for a new prime minister and a possible Palestinian declaration of statehood in May 1999—events sure to set off a chain reaction impacting the Arab-Israeli peace process, as well as the tone and magnitude of millennial celebrations.

Religious and political leaders are wondering what impact millions of Christian pilgrims in the year 2000 might have on the delicate and troubled web of Jewish-Muslim relations in the Holy Land—and vice versa.

One fear is the possibility of collaboration between messianic-minded Jewish and fundamentalist Christian extremists aimed at sabotaging Muslim holy sites.

Far more likely, however, are simple incidents of petty intolerance or harassment that could take on larger-than-life proportions against the emotional backdrop of the millennium.

Israel expects about 4.5 million tourists to cross its borders in 2000—double the number who came in 1998. Bethlehem Mayor Hanna Nasser expects about 3 million will visit the city



BETHLEHEM 2000 Julie Bouchain (left) of the Bethlehem 2000 project and Jawwad Abu Dayyeh, a Palestinian tour guide, chat on a street in Bethlehem. The town is undergoing massive renovation to prepare for an influx of tourists and to attract visitors for longer than just a day. (RNS photo by Elaine Ruth Fletcher)

of Jesus' birth in the next two years.

Among the group might be up to 2 million Catholics, mostly from Europe and the United States, according to church projections. Catholics tend to be anti-apocalyptic, church leaders there say, and it is hoped that they will set the overall tone of millennial events there.

Still, Christian fringe groups could destabilize the celebrations if they manage to slip through the filter of Israel's security services, said Rabbi David Rosen, head of the Jerusalem office of the Anti-Defamation League and member of a committee on Israeli-Vatican relations.

Many messianic-oriented Christians believe that in order for the Messiah to return, the third Jewish temple must be built on Jerusalem's Temple Mount, where the Dome of the Rock and Al Aksa mosques now stand. They also believe Israel's Jews must convert to Christianity.

Given such apocalyptic expectations, as well as the inherent emotional power of millennial events, Israel's authorities could be faced with a potentially explosive combination of re-

ligious emotions, warned Richard Landes of the Center for Millennial Studies at Boston University.

While millennial extremists might pose the most explosive threat, some church leaders also are concerned about how the Israeli public will react to such an overtly Christian event.

The locus of potential trouble is Jerusalem, which is home to a large ultra-Orthodox and Orthodox Jewish population playing an increasingly important role in local and national politics.

In contrast to Jerusalem, church-state relations in Bethlehem today appear to have improved since the Palestinian Authority took control of the city three years ago. Although Christians are a small minority of the Palestinian population—and Bethlehem itself is only 35 percent Christian—Christmas has been declared a national Palestinian holiday.

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat seems to have adopted the Bethlehem 2000 project of renovations and millennial events as a showcase to demonstrate the achievements of his fledgling Palestinian Authority.

Bethlehem wants to become more than stopover

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (RNS)—In the past, pilgrims to Bethlehem would come for just a few hours to take a peek at the Church of the Nativity, revered as the site of Jesus' birth.

Then visitors would climb back into their buses to return to hotels in Jerusalem.

Now, Palestinians hope a \$150-million investment in millennial renovations, funded largely by the international community, will persuade pilgrims to linger in the city for at least a day or two.

In addition, \$50 million is being spent on a 17-month calendar of concerts, nature and historical tours, and religious events designed to enhance Bethlehem's image as a world-class tourism destination year-round, not only at Christmas.

Dozens of renovation projects on roads, sewers and sidewalks have the city ringing with the noise of bulldoz-

ers and stone construction. About 265 different projects are being undertaken, all overseen by a new Palestinian Authority ministry called Bethlehem 2000.

Bethlehem 2000 seeks to use the momentum of the celebrations to undertake long-term development in the Bethlehem region, which is heavily dependent on the income earned through tourism, said Julie Bouchain, the ministry's public relations coordinator.

"For us, the year 2000 is a starting point, not a finishing point," she said.

New wells are being dug in a town chronically short of water, and sewage and electricity lines are being placed underground in the twisting alleys of Bethlehem's old quarters.

Nearly complete is the reconstruction of Bethlehem's famous Manger Square, just outside of the Church of the Nativity.

Once a big asphalt parking lot,

Manger Square has been repaved with giant white marble stone from the region's famous quarries and closed to traffic. Shade trees, decorative lights and expensive wooden benches will be added later, making the square a place where organizers hope tourists will want to linger.

From the square, a network of pedestrian walks through the winding alleys of the old city also are being designed to guide tourists through Bethlehem's traditional eastern "souk," or outdoor market, and its varied layers of Byzantine, Islamic, Crusader and Turkish histories.

New hotels are being built; the number of guest rooms in the town will double from the current 1,200 to 2,500.

Bouchain said work on the key tourism circuits should be complete by Easter 1999, but work on some of the longer-term projects will continue well into the new millennium.

Jerusalem ready to show off

JERUSALEM (RNS)—Extending from the ancient steps of the Temple Mount to the Kidron Valley, the Mount of Olives to the Garden of Gethsemane, the new "Valley of the Kings" is Jerusalem's showcase for its year 2000 celebrations.

The massive network of gardens, pedestrian promenades and archeological excavations links key Christian sites in and around the historic Old City in a pilgrims' circuit extending for several miles.

Traditionally, pilgrims wishing to retrace the last days of Jesus' life—from the room of the Last Supper to the site of Jesus' arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane, just north of the Old City walls, and back again to the Old City's Church of the Holy Sepulchre, were bused from point to point, snarling tourists in Jerusalem's maddening traffic jams.

Now, with the completion of the new circuits, pilgrims can reach the same points easily on foot, said Yoel Marinov, director of the East Jerusalem Development Authority, the city agency directing renovation work.

The new pilgrims' path passes by the impressive southern entrance to the ancient Temple Mount, intact since Jesus' time. Below the steps are newly uncovered Herodian streets dating to 30 A.D. and a new landscaped park of antiquities, ranging from Byzantine homes of the fifth and sixth century to more recent remains.

Heading northeast, the route descends the steep cliffs of the Kidron Valley to Gethsemane and the Mount of Olives, site of the ancient Jewish burial ground where Christians believe Jesus ascended to heaven. Another new promenade leads up from the valley and back to the Old City and the ancient pilgrims' route to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

The \$15-million Valley of the Kings project—which takes its name from a legendary garden of the biblical King David—is one of a half-dozen projects being undertaken in the city at a cost of about \$30 million to prepare for the millennium, said Marinov.

Massive illumination of the walkways and holy sites will make the circuits accessible at night, he added, easing the flow of pilgrims at certain bottlenecks should the flow of tourists dramatically increase in the year 2000, as expected.

Marinov estimated the new routes can accommodate more than 1,000 pilgrims per hour. Logjams still are expected, however, at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, where capacity is limited to a few thousand pilgrims daily. Disputes between different Christian denominations that control the site have impeded much-needed renovations.

Other projects in and around the city include a new shuttle-bus system to move tourists to and from the walled Old City; a new \$5-million bus terminal on the border between Jerusalem and Bethlehem to ease passage between Israeli- and Palestinian-controlled territories; renovation of the Old City's Room of the Last Supper and construction of an underground "virtual" visitor's center and auditorium near the Valley of the Kings promenades, featuring historical and archeological videos.

Jerusalem's hotel capacity also is being expanded by about 25 percent—from about 8,000 to 10,000 rooms by the year 2000, Ministry of Tourism officials add. If tourism hits the hoped-for peaks, then additional guests will be channeled to beds available in the guest houses within a 20- to 30-minute drive from the city.

Outside of the holy city, military airports and seaports are being prepared to accommodate an overflow of pilgrims, should Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion Airport become gridlocked. Tourism Ministry official Vardit Kaplan said the final number of tourists will be determined by the number of hotel beds available.

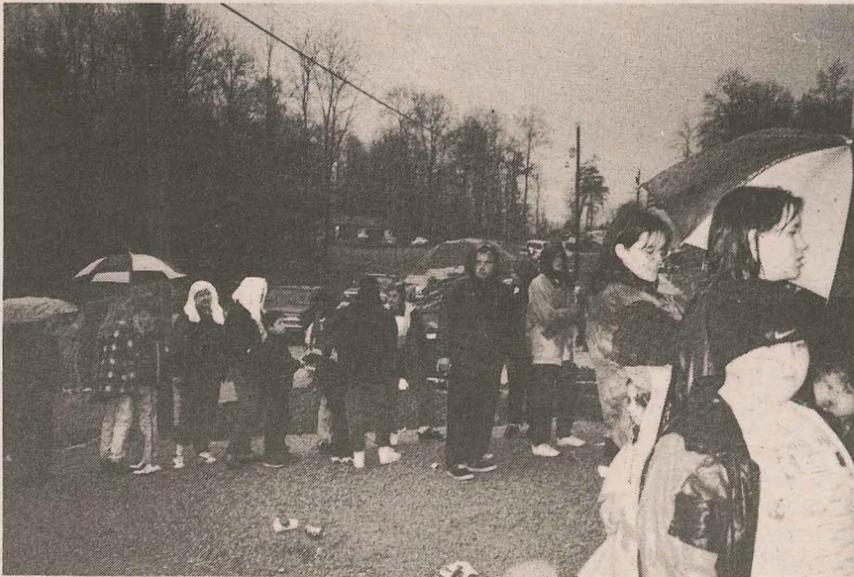
"No one will come in that doesn't have a bed," Kaplan said.

Still, many officials remain worried that sheer logistics remain the weak link in millennial preparations and fear Israel will be embarrassed if ease of movement is seriously impeded by the masses of pilgrims—particularly in crowded Jerusalem, whose mass transit is wholly reliant on buses.

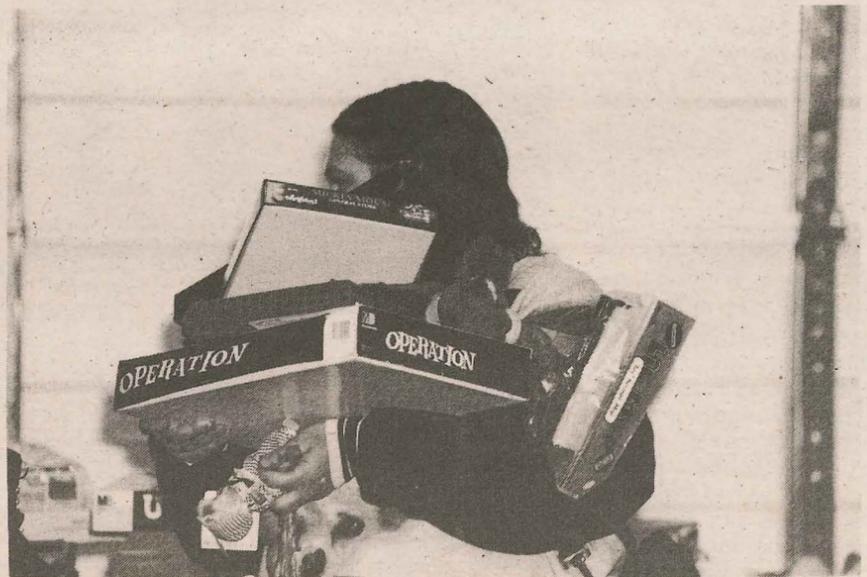
Cumberland College's Mountain Outreach Sponsors Christmas Giveaway

"We, all of us together, are making a difference in the lives of so many people," said Will Jones, director of Mountain Outreach.

On December 5, 1998, the Cumberland College Mountain Outreach program held its annual Christmas Giveaway and aided over 1,873 Whitley County individuals. Cumberland College students and local volunteers helped out to make this year's event a huge success.



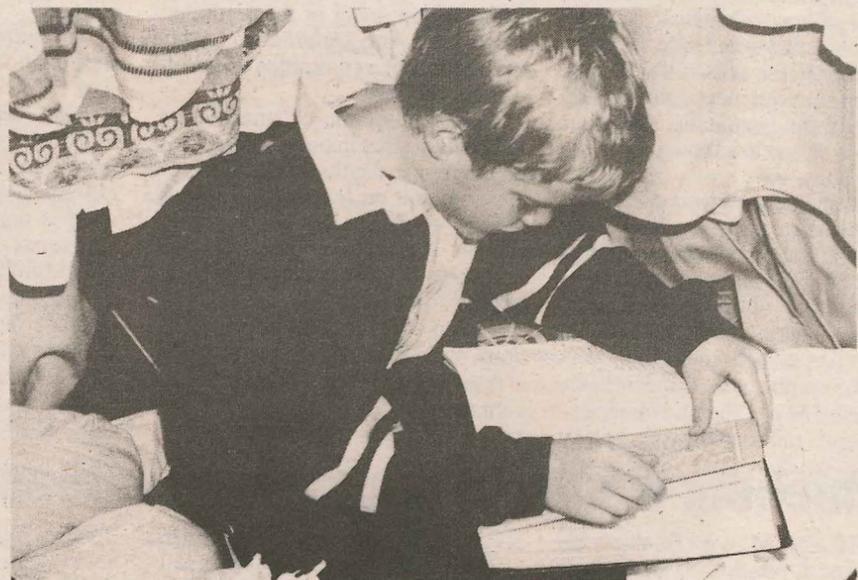
The first carload of people arrived Friday night at 8:20 p.m. in anticipation of the Giveaway which began on Saturday morning.



C.C. student volunteers helped carry toys into the Mountain Outreach warehouse.



There was a large crowd on hand for the Giveaway.



Children enjoyed looking at pictures in books donated for the Giveaway.

CUMBERLAND
COLLEGE

6191 College Station Drive
Williamsburg, Kentucky 40769
606-539-4201

"It's all about Discovery!"