



WESTERN RECORDER

February 2, 1999
Vol. 173, No. 5

FOR THE RECORD

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Kentucky pastors explore family, calling & leadership

By David Winfrey
News Director

LEXINGTON—Pastors generally are romantic people, according to seminary professor and author Calvin Miller. "But, you know, lay people and deacons take it out of you."

Such observations weren't unusual during the first "Shepherding the Shepherd" conference Jan. 21-23 in Lexington.

Miller was among many conference leaders who combined such topics as mirth, ministry and marriage at a retreat designed to help pastors and their spouses recharge their spiritual and emotional batteries.

Conference sessions addressed topics ranging from intimacy and parenting to leadership and a call to ministry.

Miller, who led two plenary sessions, urged couples to have a love affair in the parsonage that would be a blessing to each other, their children and the members of their congrega-

tion. "It will bless your people a million times over."

Miller observed that as a church gets bigger, it is less of a blessing on the minister's family.

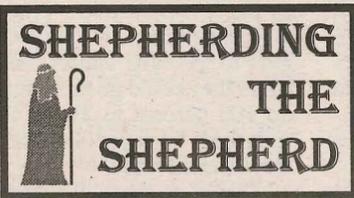
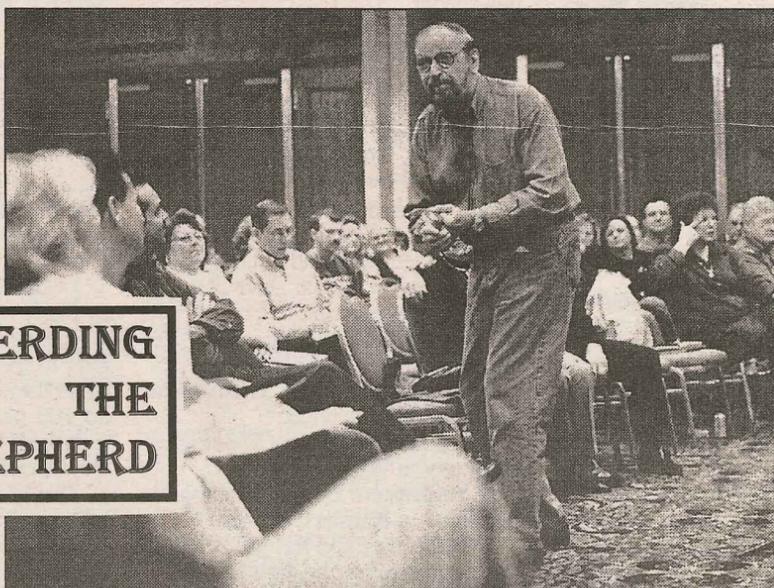
"It takes more than a romantic notion about love to survive in the parsonage," he said. "It takes a lot of servanthood, and the promises and integrity that go with it."

About 110 couples attended the meeting, co-sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention and Baptist Healthcare System.

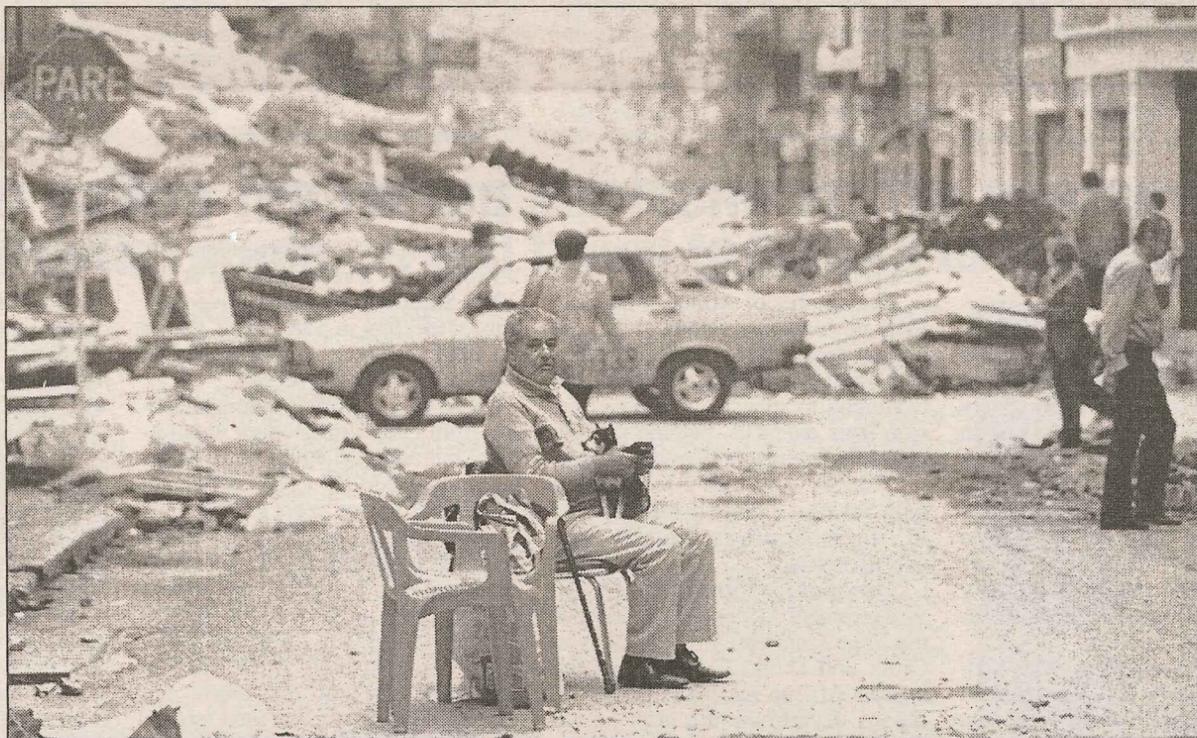
Plans already are underway for a similar conference in Louisville next year, said Bill Mackey, KBC executive secretary-treasurer.

"This is deliberately planned to allow them to get away from task and allows them to be in a setting where they can be creative and relational and

See Conference explores ..., page 8



LOVE AFFAIR Calvin Miller talks about having a love affair in the parsonage during a general session of the Shepherding the Shepherd conference in Lexington Jan. 21-23. About 110 couples attended the retreat for pastors and spouses sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention and Baptist Healthcare System.



COLOMBIA QUAKE A senior man, holding his dog, takes a break in a central street of Armenia, Jan. 26. A powerful earthquake, measuring 6.0 on the Richter scale, ripped Colombia's central coffee-growing region Jan. 25. At least 2,000 people died and thousands were injured. The Southern Baptist International Mission Board is seeking volunteers and donations to assist the area. (RNS/Reuters photo)

Volunteers sought for relief work in Colombia

BOGOTA, Colombia (BP)—Southern Baptist workers are evaluating ways to aid people injured and displaced by a powerful earthquake that killed as many as 2,000 people in Colombia Jan. 25.

The earthquake, which registered Magnitude 6 on the Richter scale, flattened towns and neighborhoods across the country's western coffee-growing region, even shaking buildings 140 miles away in Bogota, the capital.

Thousands of people were driven from damaged homes. Large areas have no water or electricity, and initial relief efforts were slow to get started.

Several Baptist churches are located in the area. One is serving as a shel-

ter for people whose homes were destroyed, said John Cheyne, the Southern Baptist International Mission Board's interim director of human needs ministries.

The board released \$50,000 in emergency relief funds Jan. 27. Also, Baptist World Aid, the relief agency of the Baptist World Alliance, has made available \$5,000 for earthquake relief in Colombia.

Two large Baptist churches in the Colombian town of Armenia were reported destroyed, along with their pastors' homes, and a small church in Tebaidda was damaged. A house being used for a Baptist church in the town of Calarca also was destroyed.

Southern Baptists will provide

some immediate relief in the form of plastic sheeting to help shelter families from the elements, Cheyne said. Hunger relief also is expected to be needed.

A more detailed analysis of needs and ways Southern Baptists can respond will be available once workers survey the damage and talk to Colombian Baptist leaders, he said.

People interested in helping with relief efforts can contact Cheyne at (804) 219-1525. Donations to the IMB General Relief Fund can be sent to: Office of Finance, International Mission Board, Box 6767, Richmond, Va. 23230.

With additional reporting by Baptist World Alliance reporter Wendy Ryan

Baptist students from Kentucky going to Bosnia to help rebuild

By Brenda Smith
KBC Communications Office

LOUISVILLE—A group of 30 Kentucky college students and their leaders will travel to Bosnia in May to help rebuild the war-ravaged nation.

The "Bosnia Changers," from 12 Kentucky colleges and universities, will work on construction and repair projects in Sarajevo May 13-29 as part of a ministry jointly sponsored by the student and Brotherhood departments of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

The students will help Bosnian home owners repair houses damaged during the recent civil war. Students will work alongside Bosnians to re-roof, stabilize or repair 10 homes during their two-week mission.

Nearly every house in Sarajevo has mortar shell holes, is scarred by machine gun fire or has had its roof blown off, said Randy Foster, director of the KBC's Brotherhood department.

Foster, along with Ralph Hopkins, director of student missions, visited Sarajevo in November to explore possible project work sites.

"The human need is inexhaustible," Hopkins said. Most people have managed to seal off a room or two of their homes to live in while hoping to rebuild the rest of the structure later, he said.

The Bosnia Changers mission is an outgrowth of Kentucky

See Kentucky Baptist ..., page 3

Dilday: Texas churches could reduce money for SBC

"It is inevitable that in El Paso there will be some votes on the way Texas Baptists share resources."
Russell Dilday, president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas

DALLAS—When Texas Baptists meet this fall, they likely will consider reducing funding for selected Southern Baptist Convention entities, the president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas told an Abilene newspaper.

At stake is more than \$2.4 million, the total amount Texas Baptists sent last year through the Southern Baptist Convention to help fund three seminaries and one agency.

In a Jan. 19 story in the Abilene Reporter-News and subsequent stories in the Texas Baptist Standard and Baptist Press, Texas Baptist convention President Russell Dilday predicted messengers to the state convention's annual meeting in El Paso will consider recommendations to decrease funding to four entities:

- Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

- Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

- Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo.

- The Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville.

The prediction drew immediate criticism from Southern Baptist Convention leaders and agency heads.

Dilday later said he did not mean to imply he was advocating such changes. But he said he has heard strong sentiment expressed for decreasing funding for certain SBC causes that now are included in Texas Baptists' unified budget.

"It is inevitable that in El Paso there

will be some votes on the way Texas Baptists share resources," Dilday said.

Dilday said some Texas churches might want to "pick-and-choose those items that they would like to support."

"The people I'm hearing would rather it be expressed in terms of, 'Here are the things we feel good about and would like to continue to fund.' And those were the foreign mission and home mission enterprises and several of the seminaries, including Southwestern [Baptist Theological Seminary]." Dilday led the Fort Worth-based seminary nearly 16 years until being fired by trustees in 1994.

Dilday also said the budget changes likely would allow churches "to give either 1 or 100 percent of their gifts to the SBC causes, undesignated, or they could go the other way and do 100 percent to Texas causes, or split them 50-50 or 60-40 or any way they wanted to do it."

Dilday predicted "cooperation between churches in Texas and the SBC is still going to continue. I believe there will always, at least in my lifetime, be that relationship and cooperation. The extent and nature of it may shift over the years, and already has to a certain extent."

The Texas convention already offers churches latitude in which organizations receive the money given for ministries outside the state.

Under the current Texas Baptist Cooperative Program, churches have four funding options. Most choose the

option allocating 67 percent of the funds they send to Dallas for BGCT causes and 33 percent for SBC causes for use according to each convention's budget. Messengers adopted a reduction in the SBC percentage, from the previous 37 percent, in 1995 by a two-to-one vote.

Churches also can "negative designate" up to five state or national entities they do not wish to support.

Morris Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee, said Dilday's comments represent "a serious and unnecessary departure from the proven method of the Cooperative Program."

"It is disappointing in a day when state conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention are strengthening their partnership that Dr. Dilday would suggest an approach which erodes the relationship between the BGCT and the Southern Baptist Convention," Chapman said in a written statement.

He said the Cooperative Program was designed to be more efficient than a "pick-and-choose" model.

"If a state convention can be persuaded to jeopardize this historic arrangement, then the SBC would be morally obliged to do greater promotion directly on the local church level," Chapman said. "But that seems to be an unnecessary and inefficient approach which would surely waste resources and certainly is not what we favor."

Southern Seminary President Al-

bert Mohler called Dilday's remarks "a case of posturing in an attempt to dissuade Texas Baptists from their historic and long-standing partnership with the Southern Baptist Convention."

"I am convinced that the vast majority of faithful Texas Baptists cherish and will continue to support the historic partnership we share," Mohler said.

Last year, the BGCT forwarded \$22.66 million in Cooperative Program gifts to the SBC Executive Committee, in addition to more than \$20 million given to the SBC's two mission boards through special offerings. According to the SBC's distribution formula last year, the undesignated SBC Cooperative Program gifts of Texas Baptists provided \$11.33 million to the International Mission Board, \$5.16 million to the North American Mission Board, \$1.38 million to Southwestern Seminary, \$926,794 to Southern Seminary, \$788,568 to Southeastern Seminary, \$401,082 to Midwestern Seminary and \$337,634 to the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission.

Richard Land, president of the ERLC, said any segments of the Texas convention that are unhappy with the agency "have a scriptural obligation to contact us and give us an opportunity to respond to their concerns before they reduce funding."

Compiled from news reports by the Texas Baptist Standard, Baptist Press and Associated Baptist Press

Later, those who opposed reaffirming the divorce policy asked that the issue be brought back to the floor so they could vote with the majority and make it unanimous.

IMB trustees affirm missions personnel policy on divorce

By Louis Moore
SBC International Mission Board

HOUSTON (BP)—Southern Baptist International Mission Board trustees voted during their winter board meeting to pursue more aggressively African-American involvement in missionary efforts.

Also at the Jan. 26-27 meeting, trustees declined to change the board's current policy on divorced people serving overseas and received a report showing that the rate of missionary retirements and resignations remains low.

The decision to pursue more African-American involvement resulted from the fact that African-American missions involvement is not increas-

ing as fast as Hispanic and Asian Southern Baptist involvement.

The number of African-American IMB missionaries stands at 16, the highest this century. African-American Southern Baptist churches are beginning to sponsor volunteer mission trips overseas, but the rate remains low compared to other groups.

Trustees approved a relationship with Shalom, a ministry that mobilizes African-American Southern Baptists in missions.

Gary Frost, a former SBC second vice president and former president of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, and David Cornelius of the board's African-American church relations department are both on the Shalom board.

The vote on the divorce issue was a response to a request made at the 1998 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Salt Lake City for the IMB to study its current policy on appointing divorced people.

That policy restricts divorced people from career missionary appointment but allows them to serve as International Service Corps personnel for periods of two years or less.

A motion to end debate on the divorce issue passed 32-24, then trustees voted 46-12 to affirm the present policy. Later, those who opposed reaffirming the policy asked that the issue be brought back to the floor so they could vote with the majority and make it unanimous. The final recorded vote showed a unanimous endorse-

ment of the current policy.

A report on missionary attrition showed that in 1998 resignations and deaths amounted to 4 percent of the missionary force. This is the lowest number in four years and is in line with rates throughout the 1990s, the report stated.

The report helped answer questions about whether the board's "New Directions" philosophy of aggressive church planting was creating an exodus of missionaries from the more traditional mission fields.

In his report to trustees, IMB President Jerry Rankin said that if the growth rate in missionaries seen last year continues, the agency likely will meet the Bold Mission Thrust goal of 5,000 missionaries by the fall of 2000.

Craft started more than 400 churches cooperatively with the Baptist Convention of New England and other evangelical groups.

Baptist missions advocate Ira Craft, 80, helped start New England churches

By Dan Nicholas
New England Baptist

COLUMBIA, S.C.—Missionary statesman Ira Craft of Columbia, S.C., died suddenly Jan. 21 following congestive heart failure. He was 80.

Craft was vice president of the Cecil B. Day Foundation of Norcross, Ga., which has funded evangelical work in New England for more than 30 years.

A World War II veteran, Craft worked for Butler Shoe Corp., rising quickly through the corporate ranks. In the mid 1960s, he was transferred to New England. There he and his wife, Betty Jo, developed a life-long

burden for the spiritual needs they saw in New England.

After two and a half years, the shoe company planned to transfer Craft, but he said God had other plans. At the height of his business career, Craft resigned as vice president of store operation personnel with Butler Shoes in January 1968, and moved to Atlanta. His vision was to involve churches in the South in ministry in New England.

A few months after he resigned, Craft took a fellow church member from Georgia to experience New England first-hand. That man, Cecil Day, was founder of the Days Inn hotel chain. Shortly thereafter, Day set up the Cecil B. Day Foundation

to fund Christian work in New England and asked Craft to direct it.

For the next 31 years, Craft and his wife, Betty Jo, were strong advocates for evangelical work in New England. Not only did the foundation help put Southern Baptist work on firmer ground, but it also worked closely with any evangelical church or organization that Craft sensed was preaching the gospel in New England.

Craft started more than 400 churches cooperatively with the Baptist Convention of New England and other evangelical groups across the region.

Additionally, the Crafts traveled the world, leading lay evangelism schools, lay renewal weekends and

retreats for pastors and spouses in more than 30 countries as well as in the United States and Australia.

Craft also served as a member of the Men's Department of the Baptist World Alliance, and on the board of trustees of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in South Hamilton, Mass.

He was a member of the board of trustees of the Southern Baptist Convention Foreign Mission Board (now International Mission Board), the SBC Executive Committee and the Southern Seminary Foundation.

He also was a member of the Baptist Foundation of South Carolina and First Baptist Church of Columbia, S.C.

Campbellsville hires deans for theology, Carver schools

By David Winfrey
News Director

CAMPBELLSVILLE—Campbellsville University recently named Walter Jackson III to be dean of its new school of theology and Jerry Wilson as dean of the Carver School of Social Work.

The new hirings were part of the naming of deans for all five of Campbellsville's schools as it seeks to change its structure from a college with different departments to a university with separate schools.

Jackson was formerly senior professor of pastoral care at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. He also served as acting dean of the seminary's school of theology during the 1990-91 academic year.

Before teaching, he was pastor of churches in Virginia and Kentucky, including Payneville Baptist in Payneville, Mt. Moriah Baptist in Mt. Eden and Vine Street Baptist in Louisville.

Jackson has bachelor of divinity, master of theology and doctor of philosophy degrees from Southern Seminary.

Campbellsville's school of theology will offer a 30-hour master's degree program in Christian studies.

Jackson said the school will have a two-fold purpose—providing advanced education for practicing ministers who don't have a master's degree and offering laypeople university-level studies to deepen their own faith or ministries.

As the school develops, it might one day offer a doctor's degree program, he said. "But there have to be a lot of years of scholarship and experience before that could happen."

Jackson said he doesn't view the program as a competitor to Southern Seminary, pointing out that Southern's President Al Mohler said the same thing when the school was announced.

"I'm not very enamored of competition," Jackson said. "We forget what the Bible says when it says love one another and work together."

Jackson also said the school will remain committed to Southern Baptists. "It is very conservative and very traditional and not likely to take any sides in anybody's controversy. And that's what I love about it."

No students will be recruited for the new master's degree program until it is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools' commission on colleges—a step the theology school hopes to accomplish before year's end, Jackson said.

Campbellsville already has received phone calls from churches in some Kentucky cities interested in establishing a satellite center of the theology school, he added.

"We hope that larger population centers will have a large enough interest that we can maintain a regular program of studies," he said. "We're going to wait until the student response hits us."

Another option is that the school could send a professor to a region if 15 or more area ministers wanted to

study a specific course, Jackson said.

The school projects that within 2-3 years it will have 100 students, 50 of whom will have completed enough courses to be candidates for a degree, he added.

Carver School President Jerry Wilson has worked since 1988 at the Woodlands Behavioral Healthcare Network in Cassopolis, Mich., a public agency that offers services to emotionally disturbed, developmentally disabled and substance abuse clients.

Wilson has a master of social work degree from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Mich., and a doctor's degree in administration and higher education from Michigan State University in East Lansing, Mich.

His professional experience includes teaching and curriculum development as well as fund raising and grant writing.

Wilson said he was raised a Baptist but currently attends a Methodist church. The Illinois native said he was not familiar with the Carver School's history before applying to be dean.

Campbellsville acquired the Carver School from Southern Seminary last year. Trustees of the Louisville seminary voted in 1995 to close the school, established in 1983, following a dispute between the seminary's president and the social-work dean. Classes at the Carver School in Louisville ceased in 1997.

Wilson noted that social work education has prided itself on focusing on three areas of studies—psychological, sociological and medical.

"I thought they were always miss-

ing a leg on the stool, ... that there ought to be a spiritual component as well," he said.

Wilson said his first goal is to get the school's bachelor's degree accredited by the national Council on Social Work Education.

A future goal will be to get the school's master's degree program developed and accredited.

Wilson, 63, said he's hopeful that the Carver School can work with Campbellsville's new school of theology to allow cross training.

Students might want to get a bachelor's degree in social work and then a master's in theology, he suggested.

"Or they might want to do it the other way around," he said. "I think there's a good probability that we'll put something together between Christian studies and social work."

Other deans recently named at Campbellsville are:

■ Linda Cundiff, dean of the school of education. Cundiff, former chairwoman of the university's division of education, has been a teacher at Campbellsville for six years.

■ John Cox, dean of the school of business and economics. He was a former associate professor of marketing and director of the Dallas Master of Business Administration Program at Our Lady of the Lake University in Texas before joining Campbellsville last year.

■ Robert Gaddis, dean of the school of music. Gaddis previously was chair of Campbellsville's division of fine arts and has been a faculty member since 1982.

BLUEGRASS BURGEOO

■ **Campbellsville University** will host canned food drives Feb. 6 and 20 at Campbellsville men's and women's basketball games against Georgetown College and Cumberland College. The drives are sponsored by the student involvement arm of Partnership 2000, a joint-fundraising effort between Campbellsville, Cumberland and Georgetown.

■ **Hymnwriter Carl Daw Jr.** will be the guest hymn writer at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's annual community hymn sing Tuesday, Feb. 9 at 7:30 p.m. at Alumni Chapel. Daw also will lead a service of hymns Monday, Feb. 8 at 3 p.m. at the Heeren Recital Hall at the seminary. Both events are free and open to the public.

■ **Correction:** Last week's Western Recorder incorrectly identified the counties that comprise the Northern Kentucky Baptist Association. They are Boone, Campbell and Kenton counties.

Kentucky Baptist students will travel to Bosnia to rebuild homes

Continued from page 1

Changers, a construction missions program in which Kentucky high school students repair homes for people in need within the state each summer.

"This project is much different from those projects done in the states," said Dwayne Doyle, a two-year missionary serving in Sarajevo with the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. Before accepting his IMB appointment, Doyle helped direct Kentucky Changers as part of his work with the Brotherhood department.

In Kentucky, "Changers provide the labor and the (local) government provides the funds for the project," Doyle said. "This is not the case here in Sarajevo. We have permission from the Bosnian government to do projects like this, but the government has no money to offer assistance."

The 30 students will provide their own funding for the mission and will be seeking financial sponsors. Each student must raise \$1,500 to go on the trip; \$200 of that amount will purchase supplies for the mission work.

Foster said an additional \$30,000 in donations also is being sought to buy construction and repair materials.

Doyle said he hopes churches and individuals will reach out to be a part of the mission by providing funds for the projects.

"One idea would be for individuals, churches and associations to come together and sponsor a project such as

a roof, new walls or clearing (rubble)," Doyle said. "Churches could also support those who are slated to serve on the Changers team."

The Bosnia Changers themselves already are working on ways to raise money for their mission.

"I am planning to begin writing letters to churches and friends and teaming up with the rest of the Cumberland (College) students to plan fundraising events," said April Vermillion, a 21-year-old religion major from Greensburg, Ind.

Greg Rice, a 22-year-old University of Louisville business management major, said he also plans to send out letters asking for support. So far his efforts have been fruitful. "I've got about one-third of the money raised."

The young people also are preparing themselves spiritually to help meet the needs of people who are struggling not only to rebuild their homes but their lives, said Ed Pavy, campus minister at Campbellsville University who will serve as a team leader for the Bosnia Changers mission.

"The students need to be spiritually built up to adapt and see how God is going to use them in communicating God's truth and God's love," said Mike Markham, a Brotherhood department associate.

Markham will provide the Bosnia Changers with a Bible-study curriculum written for the needs of college students preparing to minister abroad.

"I hope to minister to the Bosnians

in any way that I can," said Travis Wills, a 19-year-old Piner native who attends Cumberland College. "If they need someone to listen to them and pray with them or if they need to be led to Christ, whatever they need I want to supply for them through God."

The work in Bosnia also might open opportunities for the students to explore their own call to missions. Hopkins said most of the International Mission Board personnel now serving full time in Sarajevo are recent college graduates.

"I am trying to discern if God is calling me to a lifetime of missions, even overseas," said Brandy Hall, 20, who attends Cumberland College. "I figure this trip would bring me one step closer to hearing what God is saying to me."

In addition to Wills, Rice and Vermillion, team members include:

■ Krissy Filiatreau, Monica Haydon, Brad Parham and Jamey Short of Cumberland College.

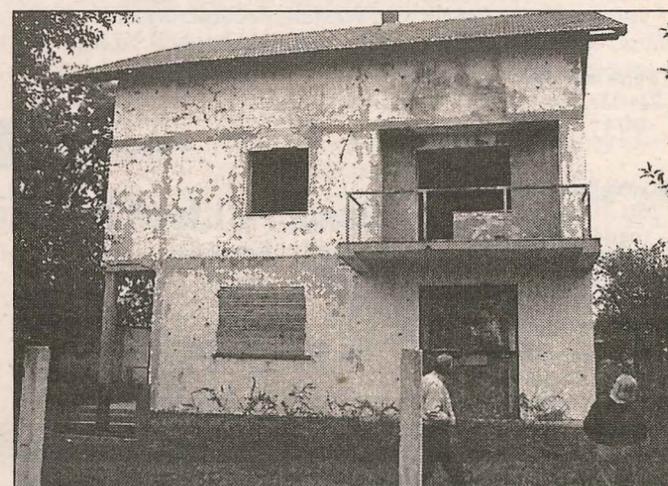
■ Megan Basham, Steve Blan, Shane Garrison and Rachel Pavy of Campbellsville University.

■ Chad Acklin, Cody Davidson, Erica Elliot and Stacy Hemlepp of Georgetown College.

■ Joey Dewees, B. J. Donohue, Steven Seeberger and Johnathan Tussey from the University of Kentucky.

■ David Adams and Janet Brown of Western Kentucky University.

■ Jennifer Hale and Jason Kilby of



Eastern Kentucky University.

■ Amy Morris and Nanette Smith of Murray State University.

■ Mark Moreland of Morehead University.

■ Lina Chapman of Alice Lloyd College.

■ Jennifer Hicks of Berea College.

■ Karissa Krahwinkel of Kentucky Wesleyan College.

Team leaders for the trip include Pavy and Dean Whitaker, campus minister for Cumberland College.

Construction coordinators include Terry Thompson of Goshen, Ron Boyd of Richmond, Dick Wolfe of Louisville and Joe Ball, minister of youth at Edgewood Baptist Church in Hopkinsville. Foster will serve as facilitator for the team.

HOMES IN NEED People inspect a house damaged by the civil war in Bosnia. Kentucky Brotherhood will coordinate a trip for college students to rebuild damaged homes in March. Anyone wishing to support the project can contact the Brotherhood department at (888) 254-5720 or (502) 244-6489.

WESTERN RECORDER

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

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*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.

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KBHC clarification

Thank you for printing our interview in the Jan. 19 issue of the Western Recorder. You did a thorough job and got the details of the story correct. However, there is one statement your readers may misconstrue.

You correctly quoted me as saying, "He said he understands the need for ministries to homosexuals, but added that is not the role of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. 'Our job is to employ people to be role models to kids,' he said. 'Our job is not to be a ministry to homosexuals.'"

I think most readers will understand the intent of what was said. Our ministry is not to homosexual employees. We do not discriminate against any child or adult we serve for any reason including sexual preference or any gender identity issue. I would not want Kentucky Baptists to think we refuse our ministries to anyone for any reason including sexual preference. But when it comes to employment we need people who can be ministers to care for our children and families who exemplify our traditional Judeo-Christian family values.

Thank you again for your timely response to this issue and your objective, thorough reporting.

*Dr. William K. Smithwick, president
Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children*

Editorial insight

In response to the guest editorial in Western Recorder by Carey Newman, "Moving beyond Y2K parties and paranoia," (Jan. 12), I believe

this demonstrates once again his prophetic insight.

In the first place, Newman notes the commercialization in the Y2K glitch, as in the selling of trinkets to feed fads.

In the second place, he notes the feverish projections in a particular end-time view by A.D. 2000. But in keeping with his stress on the sovereignty of God, Christians must rest in the certainty of redemption. This allows believers to participate in kingdom work, not with an obsession of disaster.

The insight of this editorial is in keeping with Newman's quality of scholarship over all.

I have just studied once again his exposition of the first chapter of Ephesians on the doctrine of election and predestination.

His emphasis on 1:4-6b is on Christ's historical timing more than the choosing of human souls in prehistory. Paul's reference to election tracing to the foundation of the world can go no further back than Christ's work. Newman puts the credit for election where it belongs:

"Christians are no more able to ensure the goal of election, complete transformation, than they were able to initiate and secure election in the first place. The beginning, middle and end of the Christian life is wholly and wonderfully dependent upon the mercy, love and grace of God." (Christological Realization of God's Purpose," by Carey Newman, Review and Expositor, Vol. 93, No. 2, Spring, 1996.)

By his study of Greek participles, Newman places the predestination in Christ. His vital point of timing and the effectiveness for souls is a

vital grounding point.

"In this sense, both election and predestination, have more to say about the certainty of the believer's future than about their past." (Ibid.)

*Don Cassidy
Premium*

Wehmeyer is right

Every TV news network needs a Peggy Wehmeyer. (The ABC News religion reporter was profiled in the USA Weekend magazine's Dec. 6 story "My Faith Makes Me a Better Reporter.")

Through Creator Jesus, God made everything in heaven and earth. The basic issues of life and death are spiritual.

In the New Testament books Matthew, Mark and Luke, one out of 10 verses contains direct teaching on economic issues such as the danger of wealth and concern for the poor. Government is God's creation. All the news directly or indirectly involves God's creation. Our Creator is still in control of the universe and holds it together.

We the people and TV news networks are hopefully good stewards of what God has entrusted to us. Our faith should make us better people.

*Paul L. Whiteley Sr.
Louisville*

Thanks

Dear friends in Christ, we appreciate your love and support during the loss of our husband and father, William Louis Walters.

Your many expressions of sympathy are greatly appreciated.

We continue to covet your prayerful support.

*Dorothea Walters
Stan Walters
Lesley W. Carr*

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

Women's lifestyle evangelism conference

"Being a Woman of Faith" is the theme of the women's lifestyle evangelism conference planned for three locations March 15-16.

The objectives are meaningful—to encourage women in their faith walk, to share how to handle life's challenges, to inspire women to share the joy and presence of Jesus and to promote understanding and awareness of missions.

I want to encourage every woman to attend, but rather than have that encouragement just come from me—a man—I thought it might be better to share what women who attended similar conferences said. The following are some of their comments:

■ "I took a vacation day from work to come to this conference; it was the greatest vacation day I've had in years."

■ "I came looking for a blessing, a strength and an encouraging word. I found these things today."

■ "This has been so refreshing to my soul and healing to my body.

You will never know how much I needed this. Thank you from the bottom of my heart."

■ "This day has made a big difference in my life. It has been a long time since I've been to a meeting like this, but it won't be my last."

■ "First time to come, but there will be many times to come. I'll bring many friends."

■ "Extremely delightful. Leaving with joy in my heart. Can't wait until next one."

The same outstanding speakers and musicians will be at all locations. Pat Ashley, a noted conference speaker, presents Biblical principles from a realistic and personal point of view illustrated with humor and audience interaction. Writer Mamie McCullough has provided more laughter for women than anyone I know.

Ken and Beth Perkins provide powerful inspiration and challenge for missions through dramatic presentations and passionate messages. Alma Randolph, who is known for

her gifted voice, will provide inspirational music.

The conference is sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention evangelism office, Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union and the Woman's Missionary Auxiliary of the General Association of Baptists and of the Central District.

Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington will host the conference March 15 from 9:45 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. That night, St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville will host from 6:45 to 9:05 p.m. Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green will host on March 16 from 9:45 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

Registration information has been sent to all churches. Advance registration is \$10, plus \$5 for the meal at the day sessions. Women are encouraged to register as a group through their local churches before March 1. For individual registration information, call (888) 254-5722.

Pray that God will enable those who will benefit most to be present for this exciting and memorable experience.

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

FAMILY

Survey: Many people fail to keep track of spending habits

By Jeremy White



Money magazine recently published their results from a survey of middle to upper-income Americans. Unsurprising

to me, the primary survey findings were:

■ People actually spend more than they claim for many items (especially clothes, entertainment and miscellaneous).

■ People actually save less than they think.

■ Most people think they are smart shoppers and savers.

We apparently are kidding ourselves. Like many financial advisors, I recommend keeping a budget. How can you stop the bleeding if you don't know where it's happening?

If the word "budget" bothers you—reminding you of work, church business meetings or your financial insecurities—think of it as your spending plan. That's all a budget is, a spending plan. Almost sounds like fun, right?

For most of us, the problem is overspending, not a shortage of income. We yearn for more than we earn. Is your household income greater now than it was 10 years ago? If yes, have your financial challenges gone away with more income?

Many different and effective budget systems exist. Choose what works for you. You could use your computer and personal finance software programs like Quicken. You could use paper materials or software from Christian Financial Concepts. Or, use a cash envelope system, putting cash in envelopes for different categories. When the money is gone, don't spend any more.

So how should you start a budget? Here are some ideas:

■ List your spending for two to three months in meaningful categories.

■ Review where your money has gone.

■ Decide where you want your money to go.

■ Review regularly your budget compared to your actual spending.

■ Be flexible and make adjustments as necessary.

Budgeting is simply planning how you are going to spend your money, or, I should say, God's money that he's entrusting to you.

Jeremy White is a certified public accountant in Paducah. His Web site can be seen at www.consultcpa.com.

Choose church and add one other commitment for children

Q. How can I protect my child from over-commitment?

The old line about parents being a taxi service proves itself true in many families most every day as children are rushed frantically from activity to activity. "Together time" suffers. (When was the last time your family ate together and wasn't in a hurry?) Fatigue sets in, and, too often, the fun disappears. Here are several ideas to remember as you try to protect your children and your family from the stress of over-commitment.

■ **Understand your child.** Young children live in what Kathryn Chapman calls a "widening world." Asking to do, go and participate come naturally, so you must take the lead in protecting them from over-involvement. Your desire to provide opportunities for your children and to see them enjoy new experiences must be tempered. Be wise enough to set limits, and to sometimes say "No."

■ **Choose church.** Children identify commitment to church with commitment to God. Your regular participation in worship and Bible study, and your willingness to give and serve, will model the right messages about the nature of Christian commitment. Make sure church remains a priority as your child chooses activities. When conflicts arise, don't automatically move church to the back burner.

■ **Add one.** Today's world offers many wonderful activities for children. But an overloaded schedule can stress children physically and emotionally and even take the fun right out of an activity. Beyond involvement in basic church activities, allow your children to choose one other outside interest to pursue. Family size, family structure and family finances will factor into these choices.—David Garrard

Q. We moved here from out of state. My 8-year-old child is doing fine, but our 14-year-old daughter seems miserable. She cries after school most days because she has no friends. No one ever calls her. She has not been invited to a single party in four months. Even the youth at church shun her because she is quiet. She says she seldom says one word in Sunday school. She had a best friend who went to the same school and church before we moved. We have let her go back for weekends twice and call her often, but that helps for only a short time. What can we do to help her adjust?

Your daughter lost her social web when you moved. Let her grieve and express her sadness, but then take action to get her connected in this new community. Limit the visits back to the former town. Cut back the number of phone calls, but encourage letter writing.

Be careful to support her, but do not join in "ain't it awful" pity parties about what is wrong with this new place and these new people. Help her find positive aspects of the new. Be realistic, but look on the bright side.

Get her involved in some organized activities. Ideally something new will form and all the teens will be getting acquainted. Youth who work, rehearse, serve and play together begin to bond as friends. Offer to host some events at your home. Invite some of the new acquaintances to spend the night. Have a party for the group.

Consider talking with Sunday school teachers about helping your daughter become more involved. Perhaps they can influence other teens to be friendlier. Sometimes youth need an adult to bridge the gap of social isolation.

Put the focus on the new activities, not on the fact that she is making new friends. If she can enjoy herself, new relationships will grow and develop. She first needs to become satisfied with herself and her interests.—Wade Rowatt

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



Don't view worship as a spectator sport

By Barry Howard

I met the silver-haired salesman while visiting the coffeepot in the lobby of a hotel near Atlanta. He is from south of Atlanta, and when he learned I'm a minister, he immediately asked, "Which denomination?" "Baptist," I said, thinking that would end the religious dimension of the conversation. I had a major writing project underway, and the last thing I wanted to do was debate religious politics.

"I was baptized in a Baptist church," he volunteered proudly. "I do not attend church very often, but I watch services on television almost every week." Then he named his favorite television preacher from Atlanta and asked, "Do you watch his show?"

"Not often," I replied, trying to mask my contempt for the wording of his question.

"What about the lawyer-preacher from Chattanooga or the guy from Florida who preaches in a robe? What's his name? Do you watch their shows?" he inquired.

"Sometimes," I responded with an obvious lack of enthusiasm.

"Do I watch their shows?" I repeated silently to myself. "That is what worship has been reduced to," I thought. "Just watching the show."

Televised worship services are not intended to be a substitute for regular worship in a local congregation. Religious telecasts are extremely beneficial to hospital patients and homebound people and their caregivers. Also, televised religious services can help other growing Christians looking for additional spiritual nurture. But watching a church service on television is not virtual worship.

Whether on television or "live" in the sanctuary, for some Christians, worship has digressed into an exercise in critical observation, an event for spectators rather than participants.

Reject that definition quickly and decisively. Worship is an encounter with God, an encounter that cannot be fully communicated through the lenses of a cam-

era. Worship is a visit with God, a visit that requires personal attendance and attentiveness. Worship is spiritually intimate and cannot be experienced by proxy. In the Bible, worship almost always is described as occurring in the company of other believers.

Jesus said, "God is spirit, and those who worship God must worship in spirit and truth" (John 4:24). Worship is not a passive religious exercise for "pew potatoes," but worship is an interactive encounter with God wherein both God and worshipers participate.

The whole experience of regular worship attendance and participation has a cumulative effect on the heart, mind and soul of the worshiper. Worship is much more than enjoying any one beautiful hymn or meaningful prayer or inspiring sermon. Meaningful worship involves more than attending an occasional service. Worship involves focusing on the presence of God, celebrating the grace of God, reflecting on the work of God and harmonizing with the people of God. Faithful participation in the worship life of a local congregation helps build a meaningful spiritual life.

Do not stay home this Sunday to watch someone else worship on a television program. And when you attend your church this Sunday, do not get caught just watching the show by merely evaluating the quality of the singing or critiquing the sermon. Come to worship.

If you are in the hospital or homebound or sick, tune in to a local or national telecast, then convert your den into a sanctuary and experience the presence of God and be reminded of the warmth of Christian friendship.

The salesman in the lobby confessed that he had not been to church in years, but he loved to watch his favorite television preacher. "Who is your favorite television preacher?" he asked.

"I really do not have one," I admitted. I really prefer to experience worship live and in person. For me, worship is not a spectator sport.

Barry Howard is pastor of First Baptist Church of Corbin and a member of the Western Recorder board of directors

GUEST EDITORIAL

Why eat with tax collectors and sinners?

By Kevin Hamm

When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" (Matthew 9:11)

Alan opens his lunch pail and complains, "Peanut butter, peanut butter; that's all I ever have for lunch is peanut butter! I am so sick and tired of peanut butter."

Tim leans over to encourage him, "Doesn't your wife know you need variety to balance your nutritional intake?"

Alan snaps back, "Now wait just a minute. You leave my wife out of this. I make these sandwiches myself."

One of the keys to Christianity is balance. In this passage, we find Jesus and his disciples eating with tax collectors and "sinners." Yet the Bible warns believers to maintain a distance from unbelievers.

2 Corinthians 6:17 states, "Therefore come out from them and be separate," says the Lord. "Touch no unclean thing and I will receive you."

This seems to be a paradox. How

can we accomplish what seems to be an impossible assignment? How can you enjoy a dinner "with" sinners yet be separate "from" sinners? The answer is balance.

Balance begins with a clear understanding that we all have sinned and come short of God's glory. Each one of us stands in desperate need of the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is for this purpose that we must strive for balance.

We must remain close enough to non-believers so that we have the opportunity to impact their lives with the good news of Jesus. Yet we must maintain a distance so as not to forfeit our testimony or ability to refrain from sinful temptations. But how?

Obviously, the ultimate example of balance is the life of Jesus. He was a friend to the woman caught in adultery, but he never became an adulterer. Jesus was a friend to Judas, yet he never became a liar. Jesus was a friend to Zacchaeus, yet he never became a thief. He understood that you can not impact people from a distance. It has been well said that people do not care

how much you know until they know how much you care.

We are quick to criticize the Pharisees for being so insensitive and arrogant. But ask yourself, "How would my church really respond if we began to truly carry out the command of Jesus to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world?"

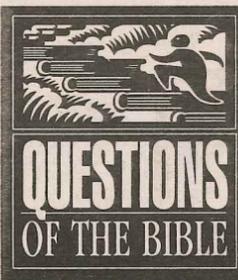
What if your bowling buddies really showed up for worship? What if your neighbors actually came to church? What if your unbelieving friends showed up next Sunday?

The real test of Christianity is the ability to love people who do not think like you, look like you, talk like you, dress like you and act like you. The church must be able to love the sinner without loving the sin. The apostle Paul's challenge was to become all things to all people so that by all means God, through him, might save some.

While eating your next peanut butter sandwich, ask God for the wisdom to balance the difference between being a friend to the world and being a friend of the world. We cannot impact people from a distance.



Kevin Hamm is pastor of Valley View Baptist Church in Louisville



Lowery: Balance can prevent leaders' busyness burn out

"Loving jerks does amazing things, because they want to be loved, too. They're as neurotic as you are."
Charles Lowery, pastor of Hoffmantown Church in Albuquerque, N.M.

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

LEXINGTON—Comparing the pace of American life to having three minutes to change planes in a major airport, Charles Lowery said it's no wonder so many pastors face burn out. Whether it's fast food, photo developing or tax returns, everyone wants things quickly, said Lowery, pastor of Hoffmantown Church in Albuquerque, N.M.

"We have faxes, beepers and cell phones," he said. "But we need to stop and think a minute. Not only does stress squeeze the life out of you, it will squeeze the love out of you."

In his talk at the Shepherding the Shepherd Conference in Lexington, the humor columnist for Home Life magazine said stress leads people to desperate searches for answers.

This leads to such solutions as the Psychic Friends Network ("If they were your friends, you could call them collect"), New Age prophets and strange methods like numerology.

Pastors know God is the answer, but they still risk getting caught up in this frenzied pace, Lowery said. Forgetting who they are, they base their identity on what they do, he said.

On the other end of the scale are those who rust out, he added—pastors who work so slowly they take two hours to watch "60 Minutes."

The secret is finding balance, he said, which often includes overcoming a neurotic past.

Watching his father who also was

a pastor, Lowery said he mistakenly thought happiness came from pleasing people.

But after marrying, his wife pointed out, "Do you realize you never say 'No' to anybody? You never have time for your own family."

"She was right," he said. "You have to refuse some things. Put off neurotic thinking and put on biblical thinking."

Lowery, a former psychologist, said he learned he could never please everyone in his first church position.

After struggling with bitterness toward a man who vehemently opposed his hiring, Lowery said God reminded him he received divine love when he wasn't very lovable.

"I could (then) do loving things for that guy," he said. "Over time, loving jerks does amazing things, because they want to be loved, too. They're as neurotic as you are."

Many people know what to do, but lack the power to do it, Lowery said. He used the acronym POWER to outline a five-fold plan for healthy pastors.

■ **Purpose.** Pastors should know who they are and what God has called them to do, he said. Pastors often try to be "divine duplicates," with too many sounding alike and reaching the same people, Lowery said.

"God's made you in a different

way and given you different talents," he said. "You can't be anything you want to be. You can only be what God designed you to be."

■ **Other people.** Pastors should understand the various ways people communicate.

He described the complexity of women as reflected by their wide-ranging wardrobe. Meanwhile, "a man grabs a shirt, sniffs it and says, 'There's no dirt on it, I've got an outfit.'"

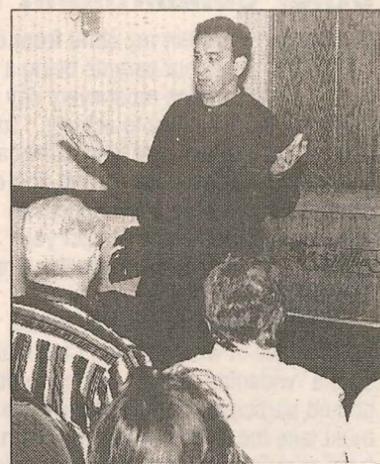
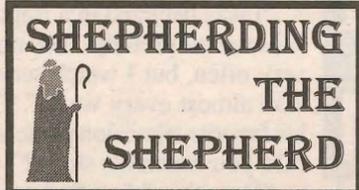
Not only should pastors understand ways others talk, they must share their feelings, he said.

■ **Widened horizons.** Stress levels remain high when someone gets upset over seemingly negative events, Lowery said. "Pastors often tell me what they thought was bad turned out to be good."

He recalled the seminar when he accidentally used the word "erotic" when describing "erratic" sleep patterns. That tape became a best-seller. Some people listened to the series just to hear the bloopers—and accepted Jesus as their personal Savior.

■ **Encouragement.** "It's a discouraging world," Lowery said. "Everyone wants encouragement. Share an encouraging word with someone. You'll be amazed at how much it will help them."

■ **Realizing God has the power.** Thinking that people or circumstan-



COUPLES CONFERENCE In addition to talking about avoiding burn out, Charles Lowery also led a break-out conference on the differences between husbands and wives. Christian marriages have four stages, he said: wonderful, war, work and worship. "You can't get through the war unless you have the worship."

es have the power is guaranteed to bring self-pity, he said. Recognizing God has the power leads to pitying others, he added.

In the end, faith, family and friends are the only things that last, meaning Christians should be powerful in those areas, he said.

"I'm richer than Donald Trump," he concluded. "I not only have a roof over my head, but the woman I love lies in my bed. Lord, give us eyes to see what we're worth, because we're the richest people on earth."

Couple's lessons include finding identity in God, not the pulpit

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

LEXINGTON—A successful pastor will take days off, emphasize family fun and find identity in Christ instead of the pulpit.

Those were three of 15 lessons Ray and Anne Ortlund shared from their 35 years in the pastoral ministry. Their workshop was offered at the "Shepherding the Shepherd" conference.

"Take a day off every week," Mrs. Ortlund advised. "We didn't do that at first, and after awhile we had tummy troubles. The doctor said we were headed for a stroke or ulcers."

Frantic living sets the wrong pattern for Christian living, Ortlund said. "Do you own the church or does the church own you?"

Married for 52 years, the couple

operates Renewal Ministries, based in Newport Beach, Calif. Between them they have written 21 books.

Starting at a church in rural Pennsylvania, the Ortlunds also led a suburban congregation in upstate New York and finished their service at two Southern California churches.

While raising four children, they learned the importance of having fun as a family, they said. Sometimes that meant withdrawing a child from school on a day off, but teachers never objected.

"Our kids grew up with happy impressions of ministry so they wanted to go into ministry," Ortlund said. "We wanted to (teach) our children that ministry is fun. It's a great privilege."

But he cautioned pastors to avoid tying their identity to the pulpit. Pastors should never think of it as "my" church, he said, something he learned in his final pastorate.

Called by a congregation that had been through a painful split, nothing went right, he said. Finally, he and the elders agreed he should step aside.

"After 29 years of success, the next two were full of pain," he said. "I couldn't please the people or do anything right."

That experience taught them another lesson: that church leaders always are one step away from disaster, Mrs. Ortlund said. "You always have to stay humble."

Still, God will become precious, her husband said. Ortlund noted that

Job was blessed by praying for his critical friends, and he and his wife continued to pray for that church. Today it is regarded as one of the nation's most innovative, Ortlund said.

They said they also learned that a pastor and spouse must maintain a Christ-centered—rather than a ministry-centered—mentality.

"There's never a problem that fixing your eyes on Jesus won't help," Mrs. Ortlund said.

Ortlund added, "No matter what happens, remember you're still in one of the greatest callings of God."

Their remaining 10 lessons:

■ **The best way to succeed in a pastorate is by following a lemon.** At their first church, the previous pastor had been unpopular, which made them look great. But, Mrs. Ortlund said, pastors should never speak ill of a predecessor.

■ **Set a high priority on study.** Ortlund listed his schedule in the church bulletin to let people know he devoted mornings to prayer and Bible study.

■ **Expect to have trouble with church founders or leaders.** The Ortlunds recalled one man who fought them constantly. "He was a good guy," Ortlund said. "Remember, the people who oppose you aren't bad; they just see things differently."

■ **When under attack, don't say anything.** Three women at one church accused him of being too liberal, Ortlund said. He resisted the impulse to respond, he said, and they left the

church after deacons gave him a vote of confidence.

■ **Be wary of a false sense of power.** Ortlund recalled the day he was "swaggering" and said if anyone didn't like the church they could go leave. But he interrupted the final hymn to apologize for his intemperate remarks.

■ **Learn to co-exist with negative people.** Mrs. Ortlund said negative people will be found regardless of where a pastor goes.

■ **Develop a specific philosophy.** Ortlund outlined how his most successful pastorate came by developing three priorities and making sure every church ministry reflected them.

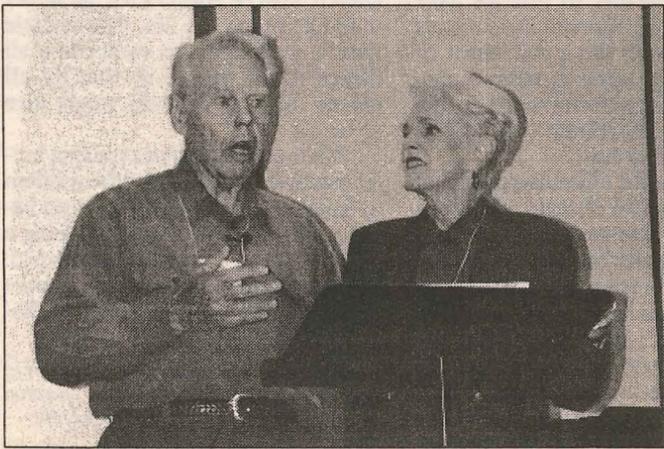
■ **Handle finances according to the Bible.** Ortlund said that includes not cosigning for loans—a lesson they learned just 10 years ago.

A businessman they knew and liked asked them to guarantee a note, Ortlund said. After the businessman declared bankruptcy, the bank took everything the Ortlunds owned with the exception of their home.

■ **Don't let a ministry take on a strident tone.** Ortlund said a friend who let battles become personal and political confided that it cost him his anointing.

■ **Remember, the best wine comes last.** "Don't worry about becoming old," said Ortlund, who at age 75 hosts a radio show aired over Moody Broadcasting. "You'll become saggy and wrinkled, but God becomes more wonderful to you."

TOP 15 Ray and Anne Ortlund shared 15 lessons from their 35 years in the pastoral ministry. Among the lessons was to take a day off every week. "We didn't do that at first, and after awhile we had tummy troubles," Mrs. Ortlund said. "The doctor said we were headed for a stroke or ulcers." (KBC communication office photo by Robert Reeves)



MINISTRY

Author asks: Will your church choose refuge or mission?

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

LEXINGTON—While some people despair over immorality and hostility toward the Christian faith, Christians should not lose heart, a leadership specialist told Kentucky pastors and their spouses.

In fact, God uses challenges to shape the hearts of leaders, said Reggie McNeal, director of the leadership team for the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

Many Christians complain that the challenges have never been as bad as they are today, but McNeal said a glance at history proves that's not true.

"God has decided to let you live at one of the most fantastic moments in human history," he said. "It is the best day I know of to be a Christian minister and serve God. We have opportunities that are unparalleled."

McNeal spoke to Kentucky pastors and their spouses during the "Shepherding the Shepherd" conference Jan. 21-23 in Lexington. The author of the forthcoming book, "The Heart of the Leader," said God molds leaders' hearts in six primary areas:

■ **Culture.** Many evangelicals scream about the wickedness of the

culture, but McNeal said the times in which we live influence our thoughts and actions.

Moses needed exposure to Egyptian, Hebrew and Midianite cultures to prepare for the task of leading Israel, McNeal said. Likewise, David was empowered to become king by enduring battles with the Philistines and shifts in his society's makeup.

The same is true today with the collapse of the "church culture." That

isn't going to happen—it already has, he said. Christians can attempt to "revive this dinosaur" or live by faith, he added.

Recalling his family's trip over the continental divide on a vacation, he said Christians stand at a similar watershed.

"Many churches are going to choose refuge over mission," he said, adopting a "hunker down" and hide-behind-the-walls mentality.

"The church that chooses to be on mission will quit trying to prop up the past," said McNeal. "It doesn't go kicking and screaming into the unknown; it embraces it. Leaders will

make the decision—refuge or mission."

■ **God's call.** This key to shaping the heart of a leader is illustrated through the life of Christ, he said.

Jesus especially showed what a life lived under God's call looks like, he said. Jesus' model was not to assume a lofty role or position, but to live in obedience to the God.

McNeal said a seminary official once told him half the students at that

school were searching for God's call. "I don't know about you, but I wouldn't have gone to seminary without a call," he said, joking. "And I sure

wouldn't have stayed."

McNeal said the key question every pastor must ask is why he or she has been placed on this planet. Knowing one's call helps develop an intentional ministry and maintain focus, he said.

■ **Community.** This starts with family origins, which give leaders certain qualities, McNeal said.

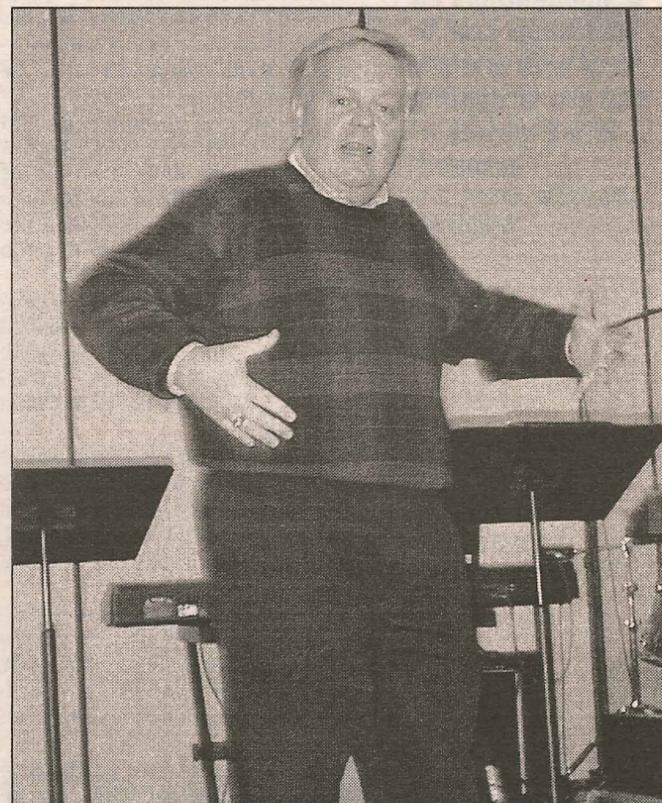
Paul was "like a pit bull on cocaine" before becoming a Christian, McNeal said. God then used the apostle's ambition, drive and zeal to spread the gospel.

Community continues affecting people throughout their lives, he said, and often creates messy situations. Half the New Testament wouldn't exist without early church fights. But those conflicts shaped Paul's leadership, he added.

"Take from the community what God is trying to teach you," said McNeal. "Now, being outside the church, I miss that community."

■ **Communion with God.** McNeal used Moses as an example.

The world fussed over Princess



LEADERSHIP LEADER
Reggie McNeal, director of the leadership team at the South Carolina Baptist Convention, said Christians shouldn't listen to people complaining about today's culture. "God has decided to let you live at one of the most fantastic moments in human history," he said. "We have opportunities that are unparalleled." (KBC communications office photo by Robert Reeves)

Diana, and a billion people watched her televised funeral, but that doesn't compare to having God as one's pallbearer, McNeal said.

Many pastors are in danger of getting so tied up in a wealth of activities that they don't spend enough time seeking God.

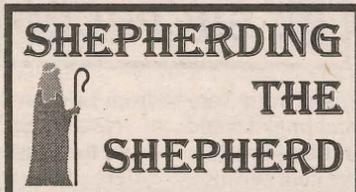
"We don't have anything to say to those who look to us for leadership until we have been to the King," McNeal said. "I'm talking about walking in such a way that you're constantly looking for God. He's not first place, he's center place."

■ **Circumstances.** Pastors often treat phone calls, hospital visits or children's demands like interruptions, he said. But they are the very things that shape people's character.

Leaders should accept daily circumstances as God's work, he said, humbly accepting the position God has provided.

■ **Conflict.** Biblical leaders encountered feuds with everyone from Egyptian rulers to Pharisees, McNeal said, and there will always be people who oppose pastors for no reason.

Yet, he said, it is important to remember two points: Many people will watch leaders to see how they resolve conflicts. Also, the higher the heat, the more God can shape a leader.



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More ministries offering counsel to burned-out pastors

"Denominations do not know how to deal with pastors who are struggling with a variety of issues."
Minnesota pastor Larry Magnuson

WOODLAND PARK, Colo. (RNS)—To Bob and Sandy Sewell, it's a tale as familiar as any Bible story, a saga of sincerity gone sour. They know it firsthand.

In the early '80s, the couple was heavily involved in a north Dallas megachurch—he as a minister of evangelism, she as the senior pastor's administrative assistant—when the demands of ministry began to undo them.

"We were teaching in front of people all the time, living the so-called good Christian life," Mrs. Sewell said. "Yet our personal lives were spiritual con artistry. We were not doing what we professed."

Their battle with burnout ultimately led the Sewells to form SonScape Re-Creation Ministries, a nonprofit organization near Woodland Park, Colo., that ministers to worn-out ministers.

Pastors come with a variety of issues: addiction, perhaps, or an extramarital affair or sexual identity crisis. For many clergy, the message is muted, seeping into church and home as

weariness, loneliness, depression.

For pastoral couples accustomed to proclaiming what they believe is God's word, organizations like SonScape provide the opportunity to retune the mortal, fallible ear to that still, small voice. They provide a safe haven clergy often can't find within the church they serve.

"Denominations do not know how to deal with pastors who are struggling with a variety of issues," said Larry Magnuson, a Minnesota

pastor who has benefited from SonScape. "It could be gambling; it could be self-doubt; it could be sexuality. Pastors are afraid to get help because, when they do, it ends up becoming a disciplinary action."

More than 300 ministries exist nationwide that aim to help ministers. Most cater to conservative, evangelical Christians who historically have been leery of psychotherapy.

Such help doesn't come cheap;

stays ranging from a week to 12 days can cost \$1,000 to \$2,500 per person, though discounts for couples and scholarships for financially strapped pastors often are available.

Some groups, like SonScape, strive to prevent burnout. Others, like Wounded Heroes retreats, often try to raise the phoenix from the ashes.

Wounded Heroes is for Southern Baptists. The conference retreat was started by evangelist Freddie Gage with help

from Lifeway Christian Resources. Next week 30 couples will benefit from the fourth such conference that offers encouragement and fellowship along with counseling and therapy.

The event, at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center, is free of charge. The 30 couples involved were chosen from among hundreds who made inquiries.

"More than 6,000 Southern Baptist ministers walk away from their

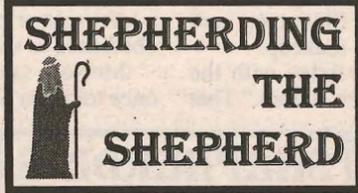
ministries each year," Gage said. "Some 1,200 are fired. Almost eight out of 10 pastors and their spouses are discouraged or deal with depression, and half of those are experiencing burnout."

Louis McBurney, a pioneer in clergy counseling, said that it's not unusual for pastors to develop a sense of despair. "We need to try to encourage laymen to become more aware of the problems of their clergy and supportive of them."

That's the idea behind Clergy Appreciation Month, promoted each October by Colorado Springs, Colo.-based Focus on the Family since 1992.

"When we survey our pastors, they talk about isolation and the fact that the dreams and the hopes and the visions they have for their church and their community are met with a great deal of apathy," said H.B. London Jr. of pastoral ministries at Focus.

Pastors and spouses also complain of loneliness, London said. "We really suggest that clergy develop collegiate relationships with one another and friendships outside the church."



Calling comes from God, not captive to a church, pastor says

"Calling is a part of the Scripture, from Genesis to Revelation."
Leslie Hollon, pastor of St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville

LEXINGTON—Leslie Hollon said he realized during his third year of ministry he didn't like most of the work he was doing.

Hollon, pastor of St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville, said that was when God taught him a valuable lesson.

"God said, 'Les, you're trying to please people more than you're trying to serve me,'" Hollon told pastors and their spouses during the Shepherding the Shepherd conference in Lexington Jan. 21-23.

Hollon shared 10 lessons he learned in his first 1,000 days of ministry. He and his wife, Vicki, also shared lessons about God's calling and core values.

"My call and your call is not captive to a people. It's given by God," Hollon said.

He said he believes he has at least three different ministry callings. His

calling as a pastor might last 40 years, he said. His calling to preach will continue "till Alzheimer's," he added. And his calling as a Christian will last until it takes him to heaven, he said.

"Calling is a part of the Scripture, from Genesis to Revelation," he said.

In her remarks, Mrs. Hollon encouraged pastors and spouses to recognize their core values and how these values shape their responses to circumstances.

"We all operate out of our values; they just may or may not be out of our Christian experience," she said.

Hollon said the 10 lessons he learned in his first 1,000 days of ministry included:

■ *Be a Christian, resting in Christ's "shaping presence."* Hollon said that as he responds to circumstances, he wants people to see him as a Christian first and as a pastor second. "My calling to Christ is what people need

to experience as I am a minister."

■ *Be a lover of family.* "Our calling and values are really tested in the context of family," he said. But he said his witness would be damaged if he were attentive to the church but neglected his own family. "If the shoemaker's children don't have shoes, then I will not buy shoes from that shoemaker."

■ *Be a servant of God, not a people pleaser.* "To let the people be my feeder, I would die of starvation soon."

■ *Be a lover of people by knowing people.* Love is ministry's essence, Hollon said, and knowing a person's name, face and story makes love credible.

■ *Be a spiritual communicator.* "People want to know that we've been in communion with God," he said. Hollon said he starts his day by specifically visioning God going through

his day, seeing God at appointments and handling spontaneous crises.

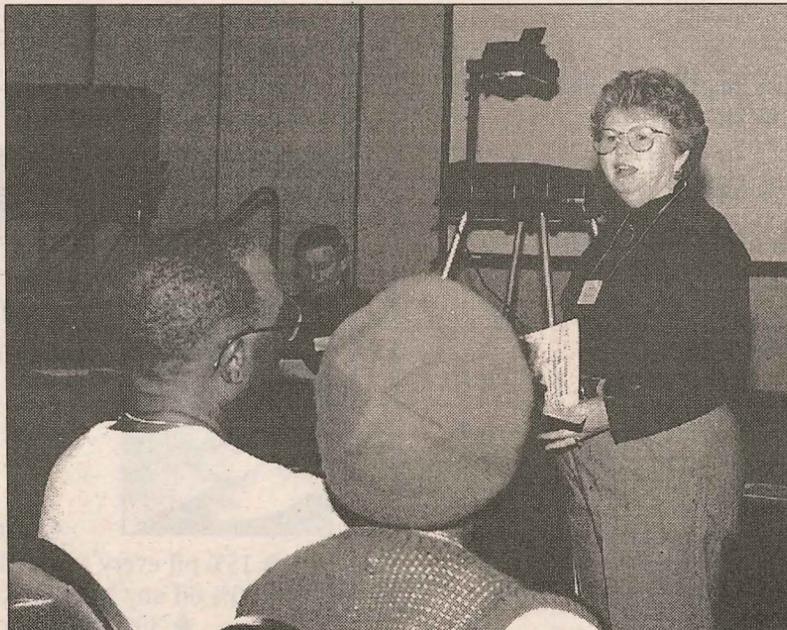
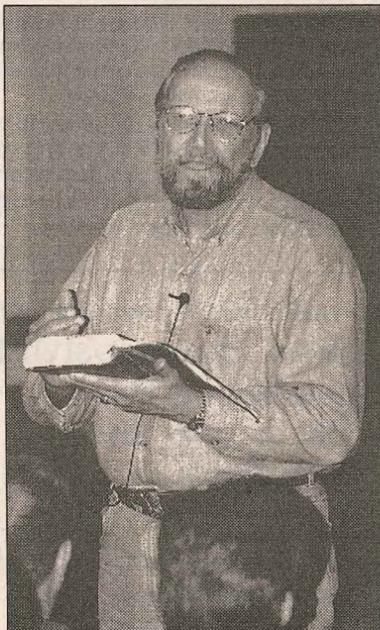
■ *Be secure enough to say, "I am sorry" and, "I don't know."* "My calling doesn't mean I have all the answers," he said.

■ *Be a master of the basics.* For a pastor, the basics include preaching/teaching, evangelism/missions, pastoral care and administration, he said. Continuing to develop his skills is one way he refreshes his calling, Hollon said.

■ *Influence people; don't control them.* "If I'm not inspiring people to live the gospel, then there's something amiss," he said.

■ *Be a person who ministers as you go.* Hollon encouraged ministers to recognize ministry takes place in even the smallest of encounters.

■ *Be successful through living by the formula of trust plus love plus work equals success.*



CONFERENCE SHOTS Kentucky Baptist Convention staff already are planning on sponsoring a second conference next year in Lexington. ■ **Left:** Calvin Miller talks about having a love affair in the parsonage. ■ **Right:** Kay Mackey talks about transitions for couples in ministry.

Conference explores family, leadership, call

Continued from page 1
open to each other and to God," Mackey said. "As we strengthen them, ... it strengthens the church family and it can strengthen their ministry."

Tim Mathis, pastor of First Baptist Church of Danville, said ministers were able to realize their experiences aren't totally unique.

"Sometimes you feel like you are alone in the ministry," he said. "I've liked it better than anything I've been to in a long, long time."

Glen Johnson, pastor of First Baptist Church of Moreland, said he and his wife, Cathy, enjoyed the opportunity to laugh and relate to people in similar situations. "It's been something we've really needed, to take a step back from what you've been doing and re-evaluate," he said.

Poll: Women growing more religious & conservative

By Amy Worden
Religion News Service

NEW YORK (RNS)—As the number of American women describing themselves as religious grows, so does the number of those who accept religious involvement in politics, according to a recent poll.

The survey, commissioned by the Center for Gender Equality, also found many women are increasingly conservative in their opinions on social issues.

The results of the poll represent "seismic shifts" in women's attitudes about the relationship between politics and religion and controversial social issues such as abortion rights and birth control, said the center's president, Faye Wattleton.

Seventy-five percent of women said religion plays a very important role in their lives compared with 69 percent who felt that way in 1996. And half of the Christian women surveyed described themselves as "born again" or evangelical, an increase of 7 percent over a 1996 poll.

Women were divided evenly

among those who felt politicians should be guided by religious values, and those who supported a clear division between politics and religion. In 1996, 63 percent of women thought "religion and politics shouldn't mix."

While most respondents felt women should have equal treatment in jobs, education and bank loans, the number of women who favored the most restrictive policies on abortion increased from 45 percent two years ago to 53 percent today.

The center and its religious advisers said the results show a "blurring" of the traditional divide between church and state. Wattleton, an opponent of the Religious Right, said the growing conservatism among women has paralleled the rise of political activism by religious conservatives.

"The American principles of separation of church and state are under attack," said Wattleton, the former president of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America. "We are increasingly concerned about the erosion of gains and the erosion of support for abortion rights, along with the increase in political action of religious

organizations in the national policy debate."

While neither Wattleton nor the survey's religious advisers could explain the reasons for the shift in women's attitudes, they speculated it might be related to the political climate, especially the trial of President Clinton.

"When other issues are off kilter—the national debate on the behavior of the national leadership that's going on—people may decide to return to a more moral footing than the national leadership," she said.

The poll also found:

■ The majority of women who attend religious services say religious teachings have had no influence over personal decisions such as whether to use birth control, whether and when to have children, what family decisions should be left to their husbands and whether to work.

■ Thirty-six percent of women agree with the Southern Baptist Convention statement at last year's meeting that "wives should submit graciously to the leadership of their husbands." Almost half (48 percent) of women feel it is better for society if

the man is the achiever outside of the home and the woman takes care of home and family.

The chairman of the committee that recommended the motion on the family as an amendment to the Baptist Faith & Message statement applauded the survey's results.

"This simply affirms what we have known," said Anthony Jordan, executive director-treasurer of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma. "Now a major liberal women's organization has discovered biblical living really does strengthen the family."

■ Forty-four percent of women believe divorce should be more difficult to obtain.

■ Seventy-three percent of women support the availability of birth control information in public schools, but the percentage of women who strongly oppose it increased from 9 percent in 1996 to 14 percent in 1998.

The study, conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates, was based on interviews with 1,000 women, a majority of them Christian, and had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Two school prayer bills introduced in Congress

WASHINGTON (ABP)—A constitutional amendment to allow voluntary school prayer was introduced by congressional Republicans during the opening days of the 106th Congress.

Sen. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., and Rep. Jo Ann Emerson, R-Mo., proposed the amendment in both houses of Congress. It states nothing in the Constitution should prohibit "prayer in public schools or other public institutions."

The proposed amendment, which routinely is introduced in Congress, also states "no person shall be required ... to participate in prayer," and government cannot decide the content or words of the prayer.

In presenting the amendment to the

House, Emerson said, "a student should not be prohibited from praying, just because he/she is attending a public school."

Emerson said "liberal courts and high-minded bureaucrats" have "eroded the right to voluntary school prayer" making a constitutional amendment necessary.

The bill was referred to the House Judiciary Committee.

Baptist Joint Committee General Counsel Brent Walker said in its best light, the proposed amendment "re-states what is already in the Constitution."

But the bill doesn't rule out the participation of the teacher going "way beyond what should be permit-

ted," Walker said.

In another approach, Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., introduced the "Voluntary School Prayer Protection Act," which would bar federal funds from going to "any state or local educational agency that denies or prevents participation in constitutional prayer in schools."

The need for school-prayer legislation has divided religious groups. Some conservative groups backed an unsuccessful attempt to add a "religious liberty" amendment to the Constitution last year.

Other religious groups say the Constitution already protects voluntary school prayer and an amendment is unnecessary.

Internet pornography law debated in court

WASHINGTON (RNS)—The federal government has told a U.S. District Court that it wants to make public the financial details of Web-based companies fighting a new law aimed at blocking children from accessing sexual material on commercial Internet sites.

The law is under attack by the ACLU and a dozen plaintiffs, including some of the companies whose financial details the government wants to make public.

The law, which imposes penalties of up to six months in prison and \$50,000 in fines for commercial Web sites that make sexually explicit material available to minors, would require businesses to erect electronic screens, such as credit card registration systems, to verify the age of on-line visitors.

Justice Department lawyers said they planned to attack the ACLU's contention that the cost of complying with the law poses an unreasonable financial burden on companies that operate Web businesses.

NATIONAL NOTES

■ Group touts Sunday observance.

The Lord's Day Alliance of the United States is asking churches to emphasize the importance of Sunday observance on Feb. 7. The Alliance, a group with strong Baptist support, recently has been involved with helping individuals who are forced to work Sundays against their religious convictions, said Jack Lowndes, the group's executive director. Information and resources are available from the Lord's Day Alliance, 2930 Flowers Road South, Atlanta, Ga., 30341 or (770) 936-5376.

■ Scholar Oscar Cullmann dead.

Oscar Cullmann—New Testament scholar, Protestant theologian and one of the century's ecumenical pioneers—died Jan. 16 in Chamonix, France. He was 96. He is perhaps best known for his 1952 book "Peter—Disciple, Apostle, Martyr" which many considered a path-breaking discussion of the role of Peter.

■ Presbyterian is new editor.

John Buchanan, pastor of Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago, has been named the new editor/publisher of the Christian Century, the moderate, interdenominational magazine that has been one of the most influential journals in American Protestantism. Buchanan is a former moderator of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

■ Tax break upheld.

The Arizona Supreme Court upheld a tax credit for people who donate money for scholarships at private schools, including religious institutions. In a 3-2 ruling Jan. 26, the court said opponents failed to show that the tax break violated either the state constitutional ban on public money being used for churches or the U.S. Constitution's prohibition on government involvement in religion. The law is promoted by those who previously were unable to win approval for cash grants to parents for tuition at public or private schools.

dc Talk's Toby McKeehan has most Dove Award nominations

NASHVILLE (RNS)—Toby McKeehan, a member of the Christian rock group dc Talk, received the most nominations—11—for the Gospel Music Association's Dove Awards.

The nominations, announced Jan. 27, featured seven for McKeehan's group and four additional ones for himself, including Songwriter and Producer of the Year.

The 30th annual presentation of the Dove Awards will be held March 24 at the Nashville Arena.

Close to McKeehan was Michael W. Smith, who received 10 nominations in categories including Artist, Songwriter, Male Vocalist and Producer of the Year. His "Live the Life" album is cited in the Pop/Contemporary Album of the Year category.

Bill Gaither, a well-known influence on Southern gospel and inspirational music, and Fred Hammond, a pioneer of urban praise and worship, each received eight nominations.

Most of Gaither's nominations related to his roles as songwriter and producer, but three of them were for his work as a member of the Gaither Vocal Band. Hammond's nominations in the contemporary gospel music categories recognize his work as an artist and songwriter.

Relative newcomers to the field also stacked up a number of nominations. Avalon, a Christian pop group that won New Artist of the Year in 1998, has six nominations. First-time nominee Jennifer Knapp, a Christian rock performer, also earned six nominations. Nominations include:

■ **Artist of the Year:** Avalon, dc Talk, Point of Grace, Michael W. Smith, Jaci Velasquez.

■ **Female Vocalist of the Year:** Jennifer Knapp, Crystal Lewis, Rebecca St. James, Kathy Troccoli, Jaci Velasquez.

■ **Male Vocalist of the Year:** Bob Carlisle, Steven Curtis Chapman, Jonathan Pierce, Chris Rice, Michael W. Smith.

■ **Group of the Year:** Avalon, dc Talk, Delirious?, Newsboys, Point of Grace.

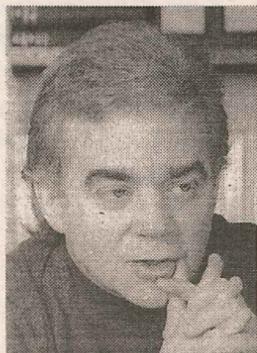
■ **New Artist of the Year:** All Star United, Burlap to Cashmere, Jennifer Knapp, Nichole Nordeman, Michelle Tumes.

■ **Song of the Year:** "Adonai," "Deeper," "Entertaining Angels," "God So Loved," "I Believe in Christ," "Live the Life," "Mercy Said No," "My Deliverer," "Testify to Love," "Undo Me," "We Fall Down."

■ **Songwriter of the Year:** Joel Lindsey, Toby McKeehan, Cindy Morgan, Rich Mullins, Michael W. Smith.

Christian activist: 'Hurricane' coming for America's poor

By Holly Lebowitz
Religion News Service



"The Bible calls kings and governments to task for how it treats poor people, and we should too."

Jim Wallis, organizer for Call to Renewal

BOSTON (RNS)—Jim Wallis, the evangelical church leader, editor of *Sojourners* magazine and a convener of the ecumenical Call to Renewal advocacy organization, often uses the metaphor of a hurricane to talk about the impact of the nation's welfare reform effort.

Now, with new deadlines being implemented and more people cut from welfare rolls, Wallis says he sees the storm clouds gathering—and he's concerned that the church be ready to respond.

That involvement is the topic of a national meeting this week in Washington, when the National Summit on the Churches and Welfare Reform holds three days of talks on the issue.

"The welfare bill has galvanized the churches," said Wallis, whose Call to Renewal organization is sponsoring the Feb. 1-3 meeting.

The summit's purpose, Wallis said, is to address issues of poverty, child care, health care and homelessness—issues that have, during the past two years, increasingly fallen to the churches to solve.

The summit will bring together more than 400 leaders, policy analysts and faith-based community organizers, representing 40 states and virtually every Christian denomination. Wallis and the other planners hope it will provide a valuable network for Christians from often disparate political and theological perspectives.

"It's a chance for them to meet each other and find the resources that they need," he said. "It's also a time to find a unified voice and speak together on the issues of welfare that affect us."

Chief among these issues, he said, is the fact that a new round of welfare cuts is being instituted in states across the country, and with those cuts, health and child care benefits are disappearing.

New numbers released Jan. 25 showed welfare rolls at a 30-year low, with 8 million people still on welfare at the end of January. But for many of those moved off welfare, the safety net—particularly for food and medical care—no longer exists, driving them to clinics, food pantries, emergency shelters and other private aid sources.

The Clinton administration is indicating it will seek \$1.3 billion during the next five years to repair that safety net.

In Massachusetts alone, 2,300 families were sent notices in early January they soon would be taken off the welfare rolls. This has led to an increased caseload for many religiously based service providers in the area.

"There are more people showing up," said Michael Fetcho, community affairs director for the Massachusetts division of the Salvation Army.

Fetcho says that Boston winters normally bring more people into the Salvation Army's 31 area Worship and Service Centers, but that the welfare cuts have increased that even fur-

ther. But despite these strains, Wallis maintains hope for a new kind of cooperative activism among religious organizers—particularly across political lines.

"On principles, I think we're more and more together on what the Bible requires of us," he said of the division between politically liberal and conservative Christians. "Probably the biggest area where we can come together is children. You're hard pressed to say it's OK that 10 million kids don't have health care, and that 40 million people don't have health insurance," he said.

Wallis is highly critical of the Clinton administration's policy toward welfare, which he calls "self-serving" and "disingenuous." He added that for President Clinton to tout "the smallest welfare rolls in 30 years" in his State of the Union address ignores the real problem.

"How do people leave the rolls? They get kicked off," said Wallis, who said half of those who leave the welfare rolls succeed in getting jobs, and that three-quarters of those with jobs do not have health benefits.

Wallis, who will lead a delegation of his upcoming summit to a briefing on Capitol Hill, said he views his crit-

icism of the government as part of his religious vocation. "The Bible calls kings and governments to task for how it treats poor people, and we should too," he said. "We are more than social providers; we must be prophetic interrogators of our society."

Wallis said a recent upsurge in "faith-based organizers" is an important part of holding the government accountable. "I want to get to a day when politicians in both parties have to pacify the churches on the poor. They have to demonstrate that they hear and they care and they're doing something."

Call to Renewal, founded in 1971, works on poverty and social justice issues, often bringing together Roman Catholics, evangelicals and mainline Protestant denominations to confront the welfare problem.

Many people are moving from welfare to new jobs, but Wallis said he is worried about overconfidence created by the current economic boom.

"When the economy is the way it is now, there are a lot more entry-level jobs," he said. "(But) we're not going to keep this growth rate forever; there's going to be a downturn, and the downturn will hit hardest the poorest working people."

Every adult Christian should ...

I have three Christian estate stewardship convictions.

■ *I believe every adult Christian should have a Christian estate plan.* The Psalmist declared, "The earth is the Lord's and everything in it." The Proverbs teach us to "Honor the Lord with your substance." The root meaning of "honor" is "heavy." It suggests

God is to have great significance in our lives, and we are to show it by how we give. Our "substance" includes stocks, bonds, mutual funds, retirement funds, real estate, etc. Most of us have never tithed the value of those.

Jesus said, "For where your treasure is there will your heart be also." Notice Jesus did not say the heart should or should not be where the treasure is. He stated the fact wherever you find your treasure you will find your heart. Paul commanded us "... to invest the resources God has entrusted to us. In this way you will lay up treasure for yourselves as a firm foundation for the coming age so that you may take hold of the life that is truly life."

■ *You do not have to be financially rich to have a Christian estate plan.* God calls us to be faithful by giving what we have. Re-

member, he is the great multiplier. Also, remember you are a part of a larger family of Kentucky Baptist stewards. Our collective faithfulness in estate stewardship, along with God's ability to multiply what we give, is a dynamic combination for assuring Jesus' mission in this world until he comes again.

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

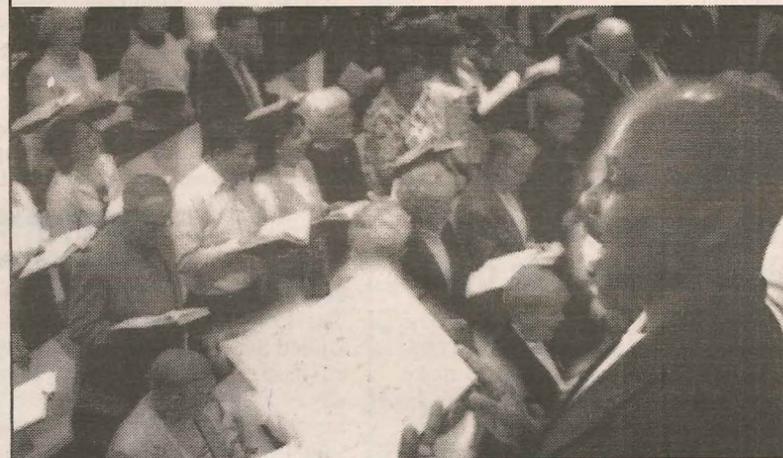
■ *Christian estate planning is not about death and dying; it's about living, dreaming, creating, leaving a legacy and making a lasting difference in the world for Jesus' sake.* The writer of Hebrews said, "By faith Abel offered God a better offering than Cain did. ... And by faith he (Abel) still speaks, even though he is dead."

May your estate plan reflect an inward faith that will continue to speak in and to every generation. Give Laurie Valentine, our trust counsel, and me the privilege of facilitating your Christian estate stewardship planning. Call us at (888) 254-5701.

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

'Come, let us worship...'

— Psalm 95:6



3rd Annual Community Hymn Sing

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E.O.E.



Louisville aldermen adopt ban on job discrimination for gays

LOUISVILLE—As expected, Louisville's board of aldermen voted 7-5 Jan. 27 in favor of an ordinance outlawing job discrimination against homosexuals. The bill, which failed on previous attempts, passed after elections changed the makeup of the board and publicity of a firing of a homosexual supervisor at Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.

Alderman Barbara Gregg noted at the meeting that more than 75 percent of those calling the aldermen's opinion line were opposed to the ordinance.

A Baptist Press story quoted Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Al Mohler as saying, "This is a very dark day for Louisville. Ordinances such as this one, which are proliferating across the United States, represent a direct rejection of the Judeo-Christian heritage and the moral order upon which this entire culture has been established."

Baptist Press also reported that before casting a vote in favor of the ordinance, Alderman Tina Ward-Pugh, the 1990-91 student body president at Southern Seminary, reacted strongly to "the many detractors who have called into question that which is most personal to me—my faith."

"Let me be very clear. Whether or not I am a person of faith and ... a follower of Jesus or anyone else, my vote tonight would have been yes," she said.

Ward-Pugh is a member of Louisville's Crescent Hill Baptist Church. She graduated from Southern Seminary in 1991 and holds a master of arts in social work degree from the Carver School of Church Social Work.

In 1995 seminary trustees voted to transfer the Carver School to Campbellsville University, after a trustee study committee determined "considerable differences exist in the structures, processes and issues of social work education and theological studies." The issue of homosexuality was cited as a factor in the decision to terminate the school as a part of the seminary, according to the BP story.

REAL FAST

Learn what keeps Darrell Waltrip's life on track in the next issue of Real Life

Call (888) 254-5728 for subscription information

Erin Walters and Chris Jones

By Robert Dunston

Each year on Founders' Day, Cumberland College honors two students who have made significant contributions to college life and who have demonstrated spiritual values in daily life. The Mary Mildred Sullivan Award honors a female member of the graduating class and the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award honors a male member of the graduating class.

Erin Walters received this year's Mary Mildred Sullivan Award. She is the daughter of Tom and Nancy Walters of Clayton, Ohio, and the fiancé of Justin Murphy, a 1998 Cumberland College graduate. Walters' major is elementary education with a middle school endorsement.

Walters has demonstrated her commitment to service and to Christ in many ways. At Cumberland College she serves as a senior resident assistant, befriending students who live in campus housing while also administering housing regulations. She has received the Hutton Award for Community Service, has been a cheerleader and is involved in Baptist Student Union.

Off campus, she is a member of First Baptist Church in Williamsburg. During the summer Walters

worked with the Crestview Learning Center helping children learn, supervising their play and field trips, and teaching weekly Bible studies. Her future plans are to secure a teaching position and work in ministry, possibly on the mission field with her husband.

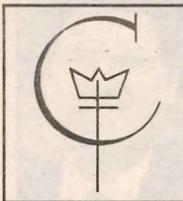
Chris Jones received the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award. Jones, the son of Gervis and Carol Jones of Harlan, is majoring in both accounting and public health and has a minor in computer information systems. He has been involved in many activities at Cumberland, including Appalachian Ministries, BSU, Alpha Lambda Delta (the freshmen honor society), Fellowship of

Christian Athletes and the Accounting Club. Currently he serves as an admissions assistant.

Off campus, Jones serves the elderly and/or disadvantaged through the Concerned Citizens of Harlan and raises money for the Leukemia Society through its Teams in Training program. His future plans include completing the CPA exam and entering the field of hospital/health administration.

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

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



Life or death

"You're pregnant."

The declaration of that reality can catapult a woman into a state of shock. That shock can be the welcomed astonishment of a baby to be born or can be a warning of an intrusive "alien being" taking a woman's womb and world hostage. Depending on one's perspective, perhaps a bit of both are true.

How one receives a report of pregnancy depends on a number of variables. Is this a convenient time? What resources are available?

The most important question becomes one of life or death. If life is continued, the second question becomes, "Who will parent this child?"

As a pregnancy and adoption counselor with Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, I assist women and families in answering these questions.

Notice the operative word "assist." My role is to provide supportive services in plans of parenting or adoption. KBHC does not assist in any other options available to women experiencing what society has labeled "unplanned pregnancies."

Personally, I take issue with that label when I read Psalm 139:13. "For you knit me together in my

mother's womb." And then verse 16 affirms, "All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be."

That sounds like a plan to me! It's one that is intentional and involves the creative handiwork of sovereign God.

As such, I believe that the created one is to be protected, respected and raised in a manner that will glorify God.

We live in a society where genetic engineering is on one end of a life continuum and euthanasia is on the other. Between those two parameters are abortion, infanticide, murder and suicide.

It seems that a civilized society has embraced a culture of death masquerading behind convenience, perfection and productivity. It is this writer's opinion that un-

til God is recognized as the sovereign giver, sustainer and eventual taker of life, then life will not be revered as precious and purposeful.

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Ava Bingham-Reynolds

Ava Bingham-Reynolds is a counselor with pregnancy counseling and adoption 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/>

Postal rate hike is a concern for churches & papers

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—A sharp increase in nonprofit postal rates has raised the eyebrows of Baptist newspaper editors and others who monitor the U.S. Postal Service.

The USPS's across-the-board rate increase took effect Jan. 10. Most visibly, first-class stamps rose from 32 cents to 33 cents, a 3.1 percent increase.

But the cost of mailing nonprofit periodicals—such as Baptist state newspapers—rose 8 to 12 percent, according to Bob Terry, a member of the Mailers Technical Advisory Committee and editor of The Alabama Baptist newsjournal.

MTAC includes commercial and nonprofit mailers who meet quarterly with the USPS senior management to discuss postal concerns.

"Over a year ago, the Postal Service said nonprofit costs should go up 3.6 percent," Terry said.

But when the USPS's request came before the independent Postal Rate Commission, the commission instead gave the USPS an 8 to 12 percent increase. The exact percentage of increase depends on the mail's weight, method of sorting and destination.

"Those of us on the nonprofit side find this quite unusual," Terry said. "The Postal Service says a piece of identical weight, size and preparation costs them more from a nonprofit mailer than if it's a commercial piece."

Terry said the increase is based on a sampling method of determining costs. But even the postmaster general has questioned the validity of sampling, Terry added.

Meanwhile, in standard "A" mail, many churches will experience sharp increases, Terry

noted.

"For many church mailouts, such as weekly bulletins, the rate has increased an average of 9.6 percent for nonprofits, compared to 1.7 percent for a commercial piece," Terry said.

Marv Knox, president of the Association of State Baptist Papers, said the rate increases come on the heels of record surpluses at the USPS.

"But they're continuing to pass along cost increases to Baptist state papers and other charitable nonprofit groups that contribute to the well-being of the country," said Knox, editor of the Baptist Standard in Texas.

Mauri Smith, interim chief officer of the Western Recorder, said the rate increase is a good reason for churches to consider partnering with the paper to publish their church newsletters.

The church newsletter subscription rate is \$8.50 per family for 50 issues a year—or 17 cents per issue, Smith said.

Currently, the paper has no plans to increase its subscription rates, a decision that rests with the paper's board of directors, she said.

"Every day we're working on our end to contain the cost and not pass it along to the churches," she said. Recent moves include updating postal software that will decrease some costs, she noted.

"Now, more than ever, churches that are trying to be the best stewards of their money should consider exploring the Recorder as a cost-effective way to send their newsletter," she said. Churches that want a consultation can call Smith at (888) 254-5728.

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Peer pressure—good or bad?

Most parents are very concerned about peer pressure. Nearly all parents can tell about the negative impact other children have had on their child. What most parents don't realize is that other parents often see their child as a bad influence.

When we are doing the phone interview on a prospective student, one of the most common comments a parent makes is that his child spends too much time with the wrong peer group. Ironically, if there is one area in which a student will disagree with his parent, it is over what is a good or not good peer group. The vast majority of the time, a student will agree with nearly everything a parent says, but won't agree that his peer group is not good for him.

While we often think of peer groups as negative, sometimes peer pressure or peer influence is good. Recently our pastor gave me a list of 10 boys who were to be baptized. As he talked with several of the boys who had recently made professions of faith, and with some who had made professions of faith a few months ago but had not been baptized, he began to hear about peer pressure.

Upon investigation, I discovered a group of boys had been meeting during the past week in the dorms. Several were concerned about the behavior of some of their peers. They were equally concerned about their spiritual well-being.

In this case the peer pressure was very positive. Each boy, in his own words, told our pastor about the influence the other boys had upon him. I would like to tell you a little about three of the 10 boys who are to be baptized.

"Fred" (not his real name) came to Oneida in August from Louisville. Fred is in the seventh

grade and is on a full scholarship because he is from a low-income, single-parent home. We were told that Fred was a good kid and obeys rules. We also were told he was no problem at school and was a good student. When I interviewed Fred, he told me his two main goals were to be on the A honor roll and to be involved in a lot of activities. Fred is not on the honor roll yet, but I believe he will be before long.

Like Fred, "Ben" came to us in August as a seventh grader from a single-parent family. His father was killed when Ben was six years old. His mother had a limited income and asked for additional scholarship money so he could attend Oneida Baptist Institute. She told us Ben "does what he is told ... and is a very good boy." Ben said he made mostly B's on his report card, and his two main goals at OBI were to get a good education and be able to get a scholarship for college.

"David's" parents are not in this country, and his aunt is his guardian. The aunt told us David gets along and follows rules, but admitted he was the class clown at school. When we asked David what two things he wanted to accomplish while at Oneida, he said, "Get a better education, behave, have gratitude, get along with everyone, and learn about different cultures." It is not often a student gives us five goals he wants to obtain while at OBI.

All three of these boys came to us as good boys making good grades. None was living in what we call the traditional family. Peer pressure encouraged them to follow in the steps of our Lord.

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

Fighting the good fight

The 1983 Cincinnati Golden Gloves boxing champion now trains at Clear Creek to fight the devil.

"I put my pencil down in the 7th grade, but I liked to box," Greg Williams said. "After the championship, I celebrated in the bars and parties and lived for myself."

With little direction for his future, Williams entered the federal Job Corps in 1986 and had 14 months of welding instruction. He secured work first in Georgia and then in Ohio. An accident that crushed a hand led to painkillers and more drinking. He landed in the hospital under psychiatric care.

"They thought I was trying to kill myself, but it was just a matter of too many drugs," Williams acknowledged.

A turnaround began in 1990 at Cincinnati's Deaconess Recovery Center. "The Lord really worked on me there. Many nights I asked him to change my life," Williams remembered.

"My Mom and Dad taught me the right way and took me to church. Their prayers were answered. Feb. 23, 1990 was my first day of sobriety. The Lord saved me on April 29." Williams soon start-

ed a recovery support group for addicts, homosexuals and others with need. "We developed a 12-step recovery process from the Bible."

In 1991, Williams began five years as a welding instructor at the Cincinnati Job Corps and assisted the inner-city ministry of Cincinnati Baptist Center. A call to preach brought him to Clear Creek.

Williams is amazed at God's gracious work to use some of his past to help others now struggling. Last summer he worked at Job Corps sites in Illinois, Missouri, Arkansas, Kentucky, Ohio and North Carolina.

During the Christmas break, the North Carolina center brought Williams in as a guest speaker. "They had a gymnasium full of kids and parents; it was great!" he said. Last semester Williams was interim pastor of White's Chapel AME Church in Middlesboro.

"At Clear Creek, someone like me who has lost out on education can get it. The teachers are patient. I don't worry about grades; the main thing is to know the Bible and be ready to help others find Christ."

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Mob in India kills Australian Baptist missionary, sons

NEW DELHI, India (RNS)—An Australian Baptist missionary and his two young sons were brutally slain Jan. 23 in a wave of anti-Christian violence.

Graham Stewart Staine, 58, and his two sons, Philips, 10, and Timothy, eight, were burnt to death when the Jeep they were sleeping in was doused with gasoline and set on fire. Witnesses reported that a mob beat up anyone trying to rescue Staine or his sons.

The incident occurred outside the village of Manoharpur, about 620 miles southeast of New Delhi.

Staine's wife, Gladys, and daughter had stayed behind while he took his boys to help teach a five-day program of Bible reading and prayer, as Staine's group had done for 20 years.

Denton Lotz, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, condemned the attack and religious bigotry.

"We must say 'no' to bigotry and 'yes' to the forgiveness and love of our Lord Jesus Christ," Lotz said.

He also praised Mrs. Staines for her response in the face of persecution.

In a nationally televised interview Jan. 24, Mrs. Staines called for reconciliation. "We cannot demand a longer life span from God than what he has decided for each of us," she said. "I am grateful to God for giving him this long a life span to serve people," Associated Press reported.

As many as 10,000 people attended Staine's funeral Jan. 25 in Baripada, where the missionary had worked among the poor and lepers for more than 30 years. Many mourners watched from the roof of the clinic where he had worked treating leprosy.

Police said Staine, a secretary of the Evangelical Missionary Society, and his sons were attacked by activists from the Bajrang Dal, a radical group affiliated with the ruling Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party.

Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee pledged Jan. 25 that no mercy would be shown to the murderers.

So far, 47 people have been arrested, and the state police have begun an intense manhunt for Dara Singh, who is believed to have masterminded the

murder. A reward of \$600—25,000 rupees—is offered for information leading to his arrest.

Indian President K.R. Narayanan called on different religions to work side by side. Narayanan said the country's unity was based on a long tradition of tolerance and finding goodness in every religion.

Other violent incidents included the Jan. 24 beating of five Baptist missionaries who were distributing Christian literature at a Hindu holy site in Allahabad, police said.

Defending recent attacks, militant Hindu groups claim the attacks are not one-sided and accuse Christians of forcing people to convert and of offering enticements to would-be converts. Missionary groups insist they simply are trying to help.

Christians make up just more than 2 percent of India's population of nearly 1 billion people. Hindus make up 82 percent, Muslims 12 percent and others include Buddhists, Sikhs and Jains.

With additional reporting by Wendy Ryan of the Baptist World Alliance

Violence kills 43 in Indonesia

JAKARTA, Indonesia (RNS)—The death toll in Indonesia from Christian-Muslim violence rose to 43, even as lingering strife continued despite a curfew.

Police said more than 20,000 villagers had fled their homes on Ambon, Sanana and Seram islands, which are about 1,400 miles northeast of Jakarta, the Indonesian capital. Seven mosques, nine churches and 189 homes were burned in the violence.

Despite the reports of scattered violence continuing Jan. 22, hope increased that the strife might end when Christian youths guarded mosques on Ambon, scene of the worst violence, during the day's communal Muslim prayers.

Meanwhile, Indonesian President B.J. Habibie declared the situation under control. "Community leaders in Ambon have agreed to urge their followers of the two religions to forgive and forget each other for what happened," he said.

Indonesia is the world's most populous Muslim nation and has a small Christian minority. The fighting reportedly erupted after Muslims attacked a Christian they accused of being drunk and insulting Islam, which forbids the use of alcohol.

The violence was the latest in a series of ethnic and religious outbursts that have swept the southeast Asian island nation gripped by economic and political uncertainty.

WORLD VIEW

■ **120 Ghanaians convert.** More than 4,000 people attended a recent celebration for the 40th anniversary of Baptist Medical Center of Nalerigu, Ghana. About 120 decisions for Christ were registered during the event. The ministry has helped start three dozen churches in the area. "The chiefs always tell me, 'I know you. You are at the hospital and you have helped my people,'" said Diane Lay, a Southern Baptist International Mission Board missionary in Nalerigu.

■ **Many profess Christ.** Two weeks after a gas explosion destroyed an apartment building in Saran, Kazakhstan, killing 18 people, area residents responded warmly to outreach efforts sponsored by Baptists in the city. The explosion and other local poverty concerns set the stage for an evangelism emphasis of Saran Baptist Church held in December, two weeks after the disaster. Forty-five people made professions of faith, with more people making commitments later.

■ **Interfaith council started.** Representatives of Russia's major faiths have organized a new interfaith council that they say will foster cooperation between the groups. Meeting in December, Russian Orthodox, Jewish, Muslim and Buddhist leaders created the Permanent Interfaith Council—reportedly the first such organization in Russian history. The council is expected to add Roman Catholic and Lutheran representatives in the near future. The Religion News Service story about the group made no mention of Baptists.

■ **Aid groups battle malnutrition.** Five years of famine in North Korea have killed at least 1 million

people, according to a report from the World Food Program, UNICEF and the European Union. Food shortages have left 62 percent of children under age 7 with stunted growth and 16 percent suffering from acute malnutrition and are underweight for their height, the report stated. Relief continues through such groups as Amigos Internacionales, an independent organization of Southern Baptists in Texas, which recently sent about \$8 million worth of relief to the country.

■ **Israel group: 2000 means little.** The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem, a non-governmental evangelical Protestant group, has warned of a "growing tendency to distort the theological significance" of the new millennium. It said in a statement last month it "does not assign any prophetic significance to the passing of the years 2000 or 2001 on the secular (Gregorian) calendar." For the past 20 years, the ICEJ has hosted Christian visitors to Israel. The ICEJ is a strong supporter of Israel, seeing its existence as vital to Jesus' return in accordance with biblical prophecy.

■ **Churches seeing crime wave.** English churches are suffering from a crime wave that has been hitting at least a third of all Anglican churches every year. Officials say churches are getting ready to respond with a "Church Watch" program similar to Neighborhood Watch programs in America. Under the program, volunteers will watch over vulnerable churches and have a "hotline" telephone link to the police. "There is vastly more church crime than people realize," said Nick Tolson, a Church Watch coordinator for Bath and Wales.

Baptists see results among Suriname people group

By Mary Speidel
SBC International Mission Board

PARAMARIBO, Suriname (BP)—A downpour pelts Tim McClard as he floats down the Suriname River in a dugout canoe. The night is so dark that McClard, a Southern Baptist International Mission Board missionary, can hardly see who's in front of him, let alone the river ahead.

But he's not worried. His friend George Eduard, is steering the canoe.

Eduard is an evangelical Christian who grew up in the bush country of Suriname, a South American nation that's a former Dutch colony. Like many men from the Saramaccans tribe, Eduard knows every rock in this river. He often guides the boat at night without a light.

Tonight when Eduard nears Dang Village, he stops the outboard motor and drifts toward the bank. He and his passengers—McClard and some visiting Baptists—get out and slosh toward the village school. There they join a crowd of Saramaccans for worship.

During the service, Eduard tells a story about Satan and stresses Jesus' power to overcome evil. That's an intriguing topic for Saramaccans, descendants of African slaves who escaped from Dutch plantations in the 17th and 18th centuries. Today Saramaccans retain many African traditions, including voodoo and animism. Their religion—called "Kunu"—revolves around evil spirits.

"The evil is real—and you can feel it here, but we're trying to show them that the creator of everything loves them and is much more powerful than evil," says McClard's wife, Judy.

The McClards heard about the Saramaccans through some missionary pilots. They began to pray for the tribe and recruited Southern Baptist prayer supporters to pray, too. Soon they met Eduard, who then worked at the school their children attend in Paramaribo, Suriname's capital.

Eduard paved the way for McClard and IMB missionary Chip Collins to visit some Saramaccan villages and meet with the tribal chief. The chief



SET FREE Using a Scripture card with a picture of the cross on it, George Eduard tells the crucifixion story to children from the Saramaccan tribe, an unreached people group in Suriname's bush country. (BP photo by Sandy King)

gave them permission to bring in Southern Baptist volunteers to do human needs ministries in the area.

"Many groups have promised to help us, but they haven't kept those promises," the chief said. "We'll be watching you to see if you keep yours."

Since that conversation almost three years ago, volunteers have conducted medical and dental clinics, construction and water well projects and vacation Bible schools in several villages. "Their work has opened many doors for us to spread the gospel," says McClard.

The door to Dang Village opened in 1997 when volunteers from First Baptist Church of Palatka, Fla., renovated a school. During the project, about 175 Saramaccans professed faith in Jesus as their personal Savior after viewing the "Jesus" film.

Volunteer Steve Nettles witnessed their commitments in amazement. "Other than my own conversion, it was the most spiritually overwhelming moment of my life," he says.

Recently, the missionaries have baptized new Christians after volunteer projects last summer. The baptisms were the first ones resulting from work of an evangelical church-planting team that includes Eduard, the McClards and several other missionaries.

PEOPLE

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Pastor Jerry Dorsett, his wife, Kay, and son, Jonas, of Washington Baptist Church in Vermont, who were in a head-on car collision Jan. 22 in Berlin, Vt. Miraculously, their injuries are not life-threatening.

■ Betty Craft, long-time supporter of Baptist work in New England, in the death of her husband, Ira, Jan. 21 in Columbia, S.C.

■ Missionaries Kevin and Sonya Barnes as they work with the Zaramo people group in Bagamoyo, Tanzania.

■ Missionary Pauline Eardenshohn as she works with the women in Mbeya, Tanzania.

■ Missionaries Charles and Carolyn Dixon in Morogoro, Tanzania, as they search for a place to open a reading room which also will have space for English-as-a-second-language and theological-education-by-extension classes.

■ Baptist leaders in Poland and in Kentucky as they finalize summer mission partnership plans.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Shirley Wooton

■ **BEAVER DAM**—Larry Brown resigned as pastor of Green River Church. Brown is available for pulpit supply, interim and revivals. For information, call (502) 274-3680 or (606) 745-2507 or e-mail at lwbrown@apex.net.

■ **BEECH CREEK**—Beech Creek Church called Harry Neal as pastor.

■ **BOONEVILLE**—Vincent Church called Robert Napier as pastor. Napier is from Burning Springs.

■ **BOWLING GREEN**—Larry Bolton resigned as single adult ministry coordinator at Living Hope Church to become pastor of New Harvest Church, Caneyville. Brad Johnson is pastor of Living Hope Church.

■ **COLUMBIA**—Columbia Church will sponsor a "True Love Waits" rally Feb. 5, 7 p.m. For information, call (502) 384-3176. Guy O'Neal is pastor.

Gradyville Church called Wayne Morgan as pastor.

■ **CORINTH**—Corinth Church will host a gospel concert by Charles Mealing Feb. 6, 7 p.m. Robert Sain is pastor.

■ **DUNMOR**—Dunmor Church called Collas Davis as interim pastor.

New Hebron called Christopher Rippy as interim pastor.

■ **GREENSBURG**—New Hope Church called Ronnie Wilson as pastor.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Immanuel Church will host a divorce recovery workshop Feb. 22-March 29. For more information, call (606) 266-3174. James Stillwell, associate pastor, is the leader. Craig Loscalzo is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Crescent Hill Church will host a divorce recovery workshop, Feb. 7, 14, 21 and 28, 5 p.m. For information, call (502) 896-4425 or (502) 426-9794. Ron Sisk is pastor.

Davis Memorial Church called Kerry Landers as associate pastor of church growth and outreach and Susan Brockway as interim minister of music. Earl Craddock was ordained into the deacon ministry. Also, Davis Memorial began a radio ministry, on WNAI-AM 680, 8 a.m. Sundays. Wes Brockway is pastor.

Middletown First Church called Eddie Hatfield as interim pastor.

Lyndon Church will host Campbellsville University Choir Feb. 14, 6 p.m. Brian Shoemaker is pastor.

St. Matthews Church will host Kathy Troccoli in concert Feb. 19, 7:30 p.m. For information, call (502) 896-8882. Leslie Hollon is pastor.

■ **RADCLIFF**—Korean First has called Yong Cho as pastor. He is coming from Indiana.

■ **WHITESBURG**—Eolia Mission called David Sizemore, Clear Creek Bible College, as full-time pastor.

Quarles appointed missionaries

HOUSTON—Clear Creek Baptist Bible College professor Chuck Quarles and his wife, Julie, were appointed Jan. 26 by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board to be missionaries to Romania.

Quarles, a native of Florida, has been associate professor of New Testament and Greek at Clear Creek in Pineville since 1996. They are members of First Baptist Church in Pineville.

The Quarleses will live in Romania. Quarles will teach at a seminary and Mrs. Quarles will be involved in outreach ministries.

They were among 28 people appointed by the International Mission Board Jan. 26 during a service at First Baptist Church in Houston.

Quarles has a master of divinity and doctor of philosophy degrees from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Germantown, Tenn.

Mrs. Quarles, a native of Arkansas, has been the consultant for Mission Friends in Bell County Baptist Association. They have three children: Rachael Erin, born in 1991; Hannah Ellen, 1993; and Joshua David, 1997.



The Quarleses



BACK TO SCHOOL Campbellsville University students register for classes for the spring 1999 semester. Classes began Jan. 13. (Campbellsville University photo by Andy Rocha)

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Minister to children, 15 hours/week. Experience preferred. Please send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Woodland Baptist Church, 809 N. Pope Lick Road, Louisville, KY 40243.

SEEKING: Eastern Gate Baptist Church of Shepherdsville, Ky., is seeking a part-time youth minister. Resumés may be sent to Eastern Gate Baptist Church, P.O. Box 6686, Shepherdsville, KY 40165.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Lawrenceburg, Ky., is seeking a full-time youth pastor and Christian life center director. Send resumé to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 207, Lawrenceburg, KY 40342, Attn: Ronnie Fields, youth pastor search committee.

SEEKING: Church is seeking a person to fill the full-time position of minister of childhood education. Send resumé to: Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 701 South Main St., Jonesboro, AR 72401.

SEEKING: Part-time director of music. Tunnel Hill Baptist Church, Resumés: Search Committee, 307 Park Lane, Elizabethtown, KY 42701.

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

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Middlesboro is accepting resumés for senior pastor. First Baptist Church of Middlesboro is a progressive, mid-sized church aligned with the Southern Baptist Convention, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and the American Baptist Churches, U.S.A. Please send resumés to: Charles E. Sigmon Jr., secretary, Pulpit Committee, P.O. Drawer 428, Middlesboro, KY 40965.

SEEKING: Grace Baptist Church of Lexington, Ky., is seeking a part-time youth minister to work 10-15 hours a week. Send resumé or call Dr. Terry Freeman, (606) 252-1119, Grace Baptist Church, 811 Bryan Ave., Lexington, KY 40505.

FOR SALE: Beautiful 39- or 47-passenger GMC motorcoaches. One owner, like new condition inside and out. These buses are extremely reliable, inexpensive to maintain, and are a good investment. Asking \$25,000-\$49,500 (includes cost of church lettering). For information, call (606) 278-7224.

SEEKING: Music minister, part-time or full-time if experienced for rapidly growing Baptist church (400 average attendance). Traditional music. Experienced in leading choirs and congregational singing. Send resumé to: Mt. Elmira Baptist Church, 3644 Mt. Elmira Road, Shepherdsville, KY 40165, Attn: Pastor.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of youth for a church desiring to build a dynamic youth ministry. Send resumé to: Midlane Park Baptist Church, 6500 Six Mile Lane, Louisville, KY 40218.

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

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Sturgis, Ky., is seeking a part-time youth minister. Interested applicants should send resumé to: First Baptist Church, 802 N. Adams St., Sturgis, KY 42459, or call (502) 333-2691.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor, Springfield Baptist Church, Springfield, Ky. Please send resumé to: Springfield Baptist Church, P.O. Box 286, Springfield, KY 40069.

SEEKING: Director of missions (DOM) needed for Lincoln/Casey County Baptist Association. We are located in central Kentucky, and have 40 Baptist churches in our association. We have a beautiful association office building located south of Stanford on U.S. 27. Send resumé and inquiries to: Lincoln/Casey County Baptist Association, 4160 Highway 27 South, Stanford, KY 40484, Attn: Search Committee.

SEEKING: Second Baptist Church, Greenville, Ky., is currently seeking individual to fill minister of music position. Please direct resumé to: Staff Search Committee, Second Baptist Church, P.O. Box 390, Greenville, KY 42345-0390.

SEEKING: Experienced minister of music for full-time position. Responsible for all areas of music, including fully graded choir program. Send resumé to: First Baptist Church, 300 W. Main, Princeton, KY 42445, Attn: John Hina.

SEEKING: Ministry-oriented Southern Baptist church desires a full-time youth minister to minister to and lead youth in a program of excellence. Dynamic youth ministry includes Bible study, discipleship, fellowship, missions, ministry and evangelism. College degree required, seminary preferred. Send resumé by Feb. 28 to: First Baptist Church, P.O. Box U, Russell, KY 41169.

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

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Middletown, Ky., is prayerfully seeking applicants for pastor. Please send resumé to: John Vaughan, FBC Pastor Search Committee, 109 Wooded Falls Road, Middletown, KY 40243.

SEEKING: Growing Southern Baptist church seeks full-time associate pastor with experience or training to assist in fulfilling church's ministry of pastoral care, preaching and discipleship. If gifted for youth ministry or worship leader, the same should be noted. Send resumé to: Search Committee, First Baptist Church of Allen, P.O. Box 541, Allen, KY 41601.

SEEKING: Fee Fee Baptist Church, St. Louis, Mo., prayerfully seeks your referral for a minister to students and church outreach. Located in north suburban St. Louis County, we average in excess of 650 in two morning services, over 500 in Sunday school. Fee Fee is a strong traditional Southern Baptist church. Responsibilities include directing ministry programs for youth and college-age students. Will also administer the church-wide outreach program. Strong Christian character and experience a must. Send referrals to: Minister to Students and Church Outreach, Fee Fee Baptist Church, 11330 St. Charles Rock Road, Bridgeton, MO 63044.

SEEKING: Full-time minister to students. The position will require the ability to provide strong leadership, direction and training for our youth and children's educational programs, plus assist the pastor with the overall ministries of the church. Send resumé to: Morganfield First Baptist Church, 200 North Morgan St., Morganfield, KY 42437, Attn: Search Committee.

PEOPLE

O'Hair's auctioned Bible was gift from Baptist girls

By Art Toalston
Baptist Press

TULSA, Okla. (BP)—It was Madalyn Murray O'Hair's only Bible—sent to her in 1968 by a Sunday school class of 12-year-olds from Winnetka Heights Baptist Church in Tulsa, Okla.

The small white children's Bible was among the possessions of the famed atheist—who mysteriously vanished in 1995—sold at a Jan. 23 auction in Pflugerville, Texas, an Austin suburb.

Bidding for the Bible started at \$500 and ended at \$2,000.

The inscription of the Bible read: "Presented to Mrs. Madelyn (sic) Murray O'Hair by the 12-year-old girls class at Winnetka Heights Baptist Church, Tulsa, Okla., Dec. 15, 1968," according to news reports.

Janet Elliott of Tulsa was one of those 12-year-olds in a class taught by Kit Oldfather, now deceased.

Elliott recounted Oldfather told the class of O'Hair's efforts to get prayer and Bible reading removed from public schools.

"I can remember her (Oldfather) talking about how, if she's success-

ful, that would be the start of the decline of the United States," Elliott said.

The girls' class never got a response from O'Hair, said Elliott, who has been in Winnetka Heights church since age 5.

"It was the only Bible we found," an Internal Revenue Service officer was quoted as saying after the IRS seized O'Hair's five-bedroom home and its contents in 1997 to pay more than \$250,000 O'Hair owed in back taxes and to various creditors.

It was the lone Bible among hundreds of books O'Hair owned on such subjects as sorcery, the evils of organized religion, weight loss and a myriad of other subjects.

O'Hair, a plaintiff in the 1963 Supreme Court case that outlawed sanctioned prayer in public schools, was last seen at her American Atheists office in September 1995, when one of her sons, Jon Garth Murray, and her granddaughter Robin Murray-O'Hair also were reported missing. O'Hair's 1985 Porsche was found at the Austin airport.

The O'Hair trio was traced through cell phone calls and bank records to San Antonio, where \$500,000 was withdrawn from one of American

Atheists' bank accounts, the New York Times recounted Jan. 25.

Speculation over the unsolved mystery of what happened to O'Hair and her son and granddaughter ranges from being robbed and killed to fleeing overseas, perhaps to New Zealand, where they reportedly had bank accounts.

O'Hair was 76 at the time of her disappearance.

The successful bidder for O'Hair's Bible, Austin lawyer Jimmy Nassour, told reporters it eventually might be sold to a museum.

The auction, which raised an estimated \$25,000, was attended by 275 people who made cash deposits of \$250 in order to submit bids.

Among other personal items of O'Hair sold Jan. 23: the Porsche and a penny and several \$2 bills with "In God We Trust" crossed off. Bidders also picked through her needlepointing, collectible whisky bottles, bags full of clothing, dozens of boxes of books, stacks of videotapes and souvenirs from O'Hair's trips around the world.

Earlier reports stated O'Hair's diaries would be auctioned, but they were withheld for a later sale. Offi-

cials said they hope the diaries will bring up to \$100,000.

"Somebody, somewhere, love me," she wrote at least a half-dozen times in the diaries, which were written from 1959-72 and 1989-95, according to news reports.

Among other entries in the diaries: ■ In 1977, "I think atheism is done for this time. I have failed in marriage, motherhood, as a politician. ... At age 58, I have never had a bedroom of my own."

■ A 1973 New Year's resolution yearning to "humiliate Billy Graham on television, for money." Also: "I want money and power and I am going to get it. By age 50, I want a \$60,000 home, a Cadillac car, a mink coat, a cook, a housekeeper. In 1974, I will run for the governor of Texas and in 1976, the president of the United States."

■ In 1959, "The whole idiotic hopelessness of human relations descends upon me. Tonight, I cried and cried, but even then feeling nothing."

■ In 1953, "This living is the pattern of it. Work, hope — dream, realizing there is not much hope the dreams will become realization. Yet always the future invites, promises."

The successful bidder for O'Hair's Bible told reporters it eventually might be sold to a museum.

Educators link Christian U.S. pen pals with Chinese students

By Celeste Pennington
Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)—As educators John and Frances Carter conducted English workshops for Chinese teachers five years ago, they got an interesting request.

Could they recruit American students to correspond with students in China? The teacher—from the Anhui Province—believed it would be a lively way for Chinese students to hone English skills.

Carter, who heads the International Book Project of Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., agreed to give it a try.

The first year, almost 1,000 Chinese submitted their names and addresses. Since 1993, the program has

burgeoned. More than 9,000 Americans—junior high, high school and college students on urban campuses and in rural communities around the country—have been matched with Chinese counterparts.

At Baylor University, Frank McAnear recruited 100 students to take up correspondence in 1996; that number doubled in 1997.

"We have 2,000 students in freshman English," said McAnear, who works with internationals on campus. "Visiting in those classes, this year I found 400 signups."

Last year, instead of merely submitting names and addresses, Chinese students wrote letters of introduction, which Carter has distributed around the country.

In Clinton, Tenn., for example, in

December girls divided up a bundle of the letters from China mailed to their Achteans group.

Elizabeth Diggs, the leader, is delighted that teenagers in her small town can develop relationships with teenagers on the other side of the world. Her own daughter, Celina, 17, sifted through the letters and chose one with nice penmanship from a teenager named Gantingting who wrote about her family and closed, "I want to be a pen friend with you."

To American educators and leaders who sign on as a sponsor for a group of American pen pals, Carter sends guidelines. "We work within the framework of the Chinese government which is communist, and we want our corresponders to be aware of that," he said.

Carter also wants Americans to be aware that for the Chinese, correspondence is costly; replies are sometimes slow. He estimates that paper and postage for one letter equal the price of a student's food for one day. The Chinese view it as an investment.

"I doubt," one Chinese teacher told him, "that American students have any concept of the excitement their letters generate among our students."

Carter expanded the program this year to include students from Indonesia. "I am not surprised this has caught on," he said. "This is one of the things in my life that I have felt the Lord leading in."

For more information, call John Carter at (205) 822-4106 or write him at Samford University, Box 2305, Birmingham, Ala. 35229.

Clerics protest radio station's arranged wedding

BIRMINGHAM, England (RNS)—Church leaders in Birmingham, England, are protesting a local radio station's proposal to marry two complete strangers selected through a competition launched in December.

In a letter to Julie Fair, station director of BRMB Radio, the three co-chairs of the local church council—Anglican Bishop Mark Santer, Methodist District Chairman Christina Le Moignan and Roman Catholic Archbishop Maurice Couve de Murville—urged the station to "reconsider very carefully" the gimmick.

They said the project reduced a wedding to "a media event."

The couple was to be married in a civil wedding in a Birmingham hotel Jan. 25—followed by a honeymoon in the Bahamas—and were not to have met each other beforehand. They did, however, speak to each other on BRMB's radio program for the first time the previous Friday morning.

The couple also are being given an

apartment with all expenses paid for the first year of the marriage and a year's use of a car. They are known only by their first names—Greg, age 27, and Carla, 23.

In their letter, the church leaders said, "Marriage should be the celebration of one man's and one woman's decision to commit themselves to each other for life.

"By contrast, what you have arranged deliberately prevents the couple from meeting and reduces a sacred and momentous decision to a media event," they added. "Both marriage and the human beings involved are too important to be manipulated in this way."

The 12 finalists in the competition were chosen from more than 100 men and 100 women in interviews which took place earlier this month. The finalists then underwent in-depth interviews and psychological testing. Their family and friends also were interviewed—and their astrological charts

examined—before a panel of judges selected the man and woman considered most suited to each other.

Fair argued the station was being responsible.

"What we are saying is that marriages are based on common values and attitudes rather than looks and short-lived attraction," she said. "This is a real attempt to look at all the elements that make a marriage work and apply them responsibly."

The legality of the wedding has been challenged by Tom Pyke, Anglican chaplain to Aston University, on the grounds the financial inducements being offered are enough to call into question whether the couple are marrying of their own free will, as required by law.

But the chief superintendent of the city agency responsible for issuing marriage licenses, Bill Wilson, said: "It's nothing to do with the register office whether someone is marrying for financial gain."

Southern gospel's Cathedrals plan to retire after 1999 tour

ST. LOUIS (BP)—Southern gospel music legends The Cathedrals have announced that 1999 will be their last year in full-time ministry. Lead singer Glen Payne said the group believes this is God's timing for retirement, according to the January issue of the *Singing News Trade Review*.

The Cathedrals still will sing together occasionally for reunions or other special events, and some more recordings are in the works for this year.

"For the last 55 years, this is all I've done," Payne said during an interview before a recent concert in the St. Louis area. "To think I've lived out my dream is amazing. I don't have the vocabulary to describe how happy I am about that."

The Cathedrals' announcement comes after cutting back their touring schedule in recent years because of health concerns and to spend more time with families.

Payne, 72, and bass singer George Younce, 68, have logged a combined 108 years in music ministry. Both are in the Gospel Music Hall of Fame. The Cathedrals have recorded more than 80 albums. Some of their most popular songs have been "We Shall See Jesus," "This Old House," "Step into the Water" and "Champion of Love."



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