



WESTERN RECORDER

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FOR THE RECORD

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Church size affects decision making

By David Winfrey
News Director

SCOTTSVILLE—As small churches grow, they should change how they make decisions, perform ministries and relate to the pastor and each other, Kentucky Baptist Convention church growth leaders said during the recent small church growth tour.

"A theme that you will hear us say in a lot of different ways today is 'relationships,'" said Vernon Cole, leader of the KBC church growth team.

The annual small church growth tour is designed to encourage and affirm smaller churches in Kentucky while offering ideas and resources to improve their outreach.

Cole said small churches have many positive characteristics and virtues. Among them are:

- A determination for members to stay together during lean years.
- A willingness for members to pitch in and perform needed work.
- An informal, word-of-mouth communication style that spreads news fast.

But any virtue, if pushed too far, can become a problem, said Chip Miller, church leadership specialist.

Small churches often operate like families, Miller said. "That really



ON TOUR Vernon Cole, leader of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's church growth team, explains the differences between churches that follow a family, pastoral or program model for their congregation. About 275 people attended conferences, held in five towns, Jan. 25-30.



serves us well until we try to bring in

this son-in-law who's a little bit different from us," he said. "If we really are the body of Christ ... we've got to be open to new people."

Cole, Miller and Jim Cordell of the KBC church music department described three styles of small churches. The models were offered to help church leaders recognize the characteristics in their churches and re-evaluate whether they were using the best models for their churches' size.

"I refer to them as small, smaller and smallest," Cole said. "As a church

gets larger, it needs to readjust, or as it gets smaller it needs to readjust."

LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention often refers to "small churches" as those with 150 people enrolled in Sunday school and an average Sunday school attendance of 50-75 people.

The KBC church growth team, however, prefers to talk about small churches in relationship to the three models they outline. "A church of 300 people can operate like a small church," Cole said.

The three models are:

□ See *Leaders: Church size ...*, page 6

Kidnapped SBC missionaries credit prayer for their safe return

By Mark Kelly
SBC International Mission Board

MORIJA, Lesotho (BP)—While millions of Americans watched the Super Bowl Jan. 31, a missionary couple in the southern African country of Lesotho were robbed at gunpoint and kidnapped by a gang of thieves.

Gene and Jean Phillips, emeritus Southern Baptist missionaries serving a volunteer term in Morija, Lesotho, were awakened at 2 a.m. Feb. 1 (7 p.m. EST Jan. 31) by five armed men who had entered the bedroom where they were sleeping.

The men demanded money and forced the pair into the back of the couple's four-wheel-drive vehicle, which was parked in front of the house.

As the kidnapers started the vehicle, they set off its theft alarm. The shriek awakened a neighbor, who looked out to see the vehicle pulling away. When a telephone call to the local police station went unanswered, other phone calls set in motion a chain of prayer that reached all the way back to the United States, including the couple's home congregation, First Baptist Church in Camden, S.C.

"The chain of prayer started about 3 a.m.," said Wes Gestring, the Phillipses' son-in-law who serves with his wife, Elizabeth, as a Campus Crusade for Christ missionary in the nearby town of Roma.

As the thieves drove the couple into an isolated area in the mountains, they repeatedly threatened to kill them, Gestring said. At 3 a.m.—just as fellow Christians began praying—the gang decided to leave the couple on the road, alive and unharmed.

Officials at the Southern Baptist International Mission Board in Richmond, Va., were relieved to hear the couple had been released safely.

"In similar circumstances in southern Africa, people are commonly killed because they can identify the kidnapers," said Clyde Berkley, associate director of the board's work in southern Africa. "There were a lot of people praying, and there's no doubt God answered those prayers."

The Phillipses were appointed as missionaries to Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) in 1956 and served through a period of strife and revolution that resulted in the country's independence from the United Kingdom in 1980. They retired in 1996. In December they began the Lesotho assignment in

□ See *Missionaries credit ...*, page 2

New missionaries



Chuck and Julie Quarles of Pineville share their testimonies during their appointment in Houston as missionaries with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board. Quarles has been a professor at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College. They have three children and attend First Baptist Church of Pineville. They will serve in Central and Eastern Europe. (SBC International Mission Board photo by Bill Bangham)

Moving? See page 4. (0209)

BAPTISTS

BAPTIST BITS

■ **NAMB, Southeast join forces.** The North American Mission Board and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., have jointly named Bill Brown to head the seminary's new NAMB church-planting center, which is part of the board's Nehemiah Project. The Nehemiah Project ultimately will establish a church-planting center on each SBC seminary campus. The center at Southeastern is the third designed to produce church planters with both academic preparation and practical, field-based experience in church planting.

■ **Lesson teaches against homosexuality.** At least seven Bible passages teach homosexuality is wrong, according to a Sunday school lesson writer in the winter "Life & Work" Bible study book published by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. Chuck Lawless, assistant professor of evangelism and church growth at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, wrote that Christians face three choices regarding the issue—acceptance, condemnation from spiritual superiority or "maintain God's standards on sexuality while proclaiming his power to save and to free from sexual sin." Lawless cited Leviticus 18:22, Genesis 19:1-11, Leviticus 20:13, Romans 1:24-28, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, 1 Timothy 1:8-10 and Jude 7 as opposing homosexual behavior.

■ **Baptists respond to tornado victims.** Baptists in Tennessee and Arkansas have responded to recent tornado damage in those two states. Feeding units and clean-up crews worked in Clarksville, Tenn., and Beebe and Newark, Ark. "We always combine ministry and evangelism—they're never separate," said Dan Clevenger, disaster relief coordinator for Arkansas Baptists. "We'll be expressing love to people, helping them and caring for them. People respond to that."

■ **WMU awards \$65,000 in grants.** Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union executive board awarded \$65,000 in Second Century Fund grants during its annual meeting last month. The grants, assigned to both home and international fields, will fund a variety of projects designed to educate and involve women in missions. Of the 31 grants awarded this year, eight went to international projects and 23 were given to support projects in North America.

■ **Pro-lottery bid opposed.** Alabama Baptist churches around the state are circulating a petition opposing gambling legislation. Some citizens expect new Gov. Don Siegelman to call a special session to authorize a lottery. Recent polls state a majority of respondents would favor a lottery.

■ **Historical society meeting planned.** The Southern Baptist Historical Society will hold its annual meeting May 26-28 at William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo. Among the programs planned are a panel discussion that includes Molly Marshall of Central Baptist Theological Seminary and Robert Vaughn of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Registration costs \$60. For more information, call (800) 966-2278.

■ **Baptist Center for Ethics gets diverse.** The Baptist Center for Ethics, an organization started by moderate Southern Baptists in 1991, has named its first American Baptist board member. Dwight Stinnett is executive minister for the American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region, an affiliate of the American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A.

■ **Baylor forms major health care alliance.** Baylor Health Care System will retain its vision, values and ethical codes, President Boone Powell Jr. said Jan. 26, the day the system's board voted to create a new alliance with Texas Health Resources. The alliance of Baylor Health Care System with the parent of Presbyterian Healthcare Resources, Harris Methodist Health System and Arlington Memorial Hospital creates the seventh-largest non-profit healthcare system in the United States. The new umbrella organization will be called Southwest Health System.

■ **Alliance of Baptists endorses chaplain.** A New Orleans pastoral counselor is the first chaplain to be endorsed by the Alliance of Baptists. Ann Madden, who works at the Pastoral Counseling Center in New Orleans, sought endorsement so she can apply to the American Association of Pastoral Counselors, according to the Washington-based Alliance's January newsletter. The 12-year-old moderate Baptist group's board of directors approved a process for endorsing chaplains in September. Ten more applicants are nearing completion of the endorsement process.

Boston & Las Vegas to get evangelistic help in 2001

By James Dotson
SBC North American Mission Board

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP)—Boston and Las Vegas will be the focus of large-scale evangelism and church-planting efforts in 2001 by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, the agency's trustees learned Feb. 3.

The two cities are among 17 targeted for a special effort as part of NAMB's Strategic Focus Cities initiative.

The effort will include a coordinated influx of resources—volunteers, funding and prayers—from Southern Baptists across the country. Leaders in Chicago and Phoenix currently are gearing up for the inaugural strategic focus in their cities in 2000.

Ken Lyle, executive director of the Baptist Convention of New England, said some of the great spiritual awakenings of the past have started in that area, and Boston leaders dream to see similar revival and renewal through the NAMB effort.

"There are prayer networks all over New England praying for exactly that, that we would be able to create an atmosphere in which God could do this renewing work that could impact New England and hopefully the rest of the world," he said. "That's a God-sized dream for this particular part of the nation, but we are already seeing it being energized."

He also noted an existing movement among colleges and universities. "This brings a global dimension to what we're talking about ... because many of the people that are on our college campuses come from the nations of the world, and they are going to go back to their countries as leaders," Lyle said.

David Meacham, executive director of the Nevada Baptist Convention, praised the announcement. "This is thrilling news," he said during a phone call broadcast to NAMB trustees. "I've been serving the Lord here for 18 years in this state, and this has been one of the happiest moments in our missionary lives."

The church-planting impact is

timely, he said, because Las Vegas is still a relatively young city. The population has grown from 400,000 to 1.4 million people in the 18 years Meacham has served there.

Lyle and Meacham both mentioned the need for partnering with other evangelical groups, as is happening in both Chicago and Phoenix for the 2000 effort.

"We really won't do this job by ourselves," Lyle said. "But the networks are pretty well laid out and in place."

NAMB President Bob Reccord, during his address to trustees, outlined some of the work NAMB could accomplish if Southern Baptist churches fulfill a national goal of giving \$750 million toward the Cooperative Program in 2000-2001.

New projects could include increasing the number of Strategic Focus Cities, helping establish more churches in Canada and mobilizing more teens and young adults for missions.

In other business, the board:

■ Approved an increase of \$2.5 million in the 1999 budget for the agency—about 2 percent of the total. The increase is possible because of greater-than-expected revenues from the Cooperative Program and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions.

■ Approved and appointed 11 new missionaries and learned that the agency's Chaplains Commission had endorsed 22 new chaplains.

■ Heard details of plans for the NAMB Vision Center, an interactive experience under construction at the agency's Alpharetta, Ga., offices. The center, which will be open during the SBC annual meeting in June, will teach visitors about the history and current work of NAMB and its missionaries and encourage visitors' involvement in missions.

■ Heard a report on evangelistic efforts during Super Bowl XXXIII. At least 200 people made professions of faith during the effort, which included distributing 125,000 copies of Sports Spectrum magazine, which contained athletes' evangelistic testimonies.

Missionaries credit prayer for their safe release

Continued from page 1
discipleship and leadership training through the IMB's International Service Corps program.

From 3 a.m. to 6 a.m., while emergency prayer networks spread the news of the kidnapping, the Phillipses wandered through darkened cornfields. As daylight dawned, they found a man who got help for them.

A couple of hours later, they were safely back in Morija, where police agencies and other missionaries were mobilizing to mount a search.

"Missionary Aviation Fellowship was preparing to put planes up in the air to search for them," Gestring said. "Their landlord already had been out looking for them on dirt roads he knew of."

A major in the South African Defense Force was about ready to send



The Phillipses

out troops to look for them, Gestring said.

The South African troops were sent into Lesotho, a small country completely surrounded by South Africa, in September 1998 after an army mutiny and crippling strikes forced the government to ask for help.

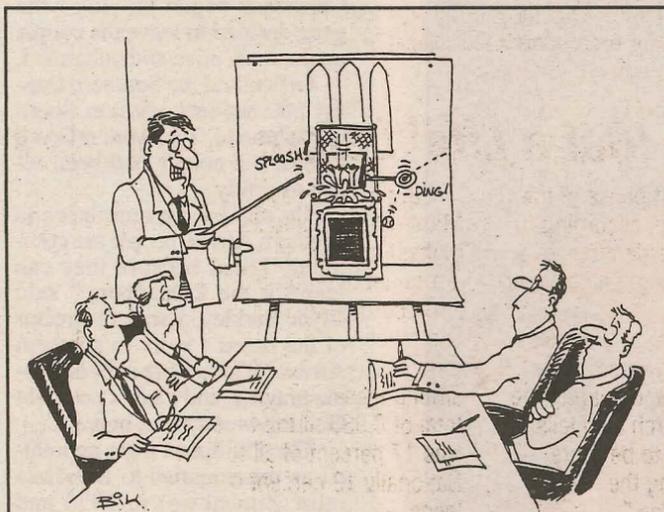
Popular resentment toward the

South African soldiers had been developing into anger toward foreigners, Gestring said.

"Sundays are days for political rallies here," Gestring said. "We were worried about the kidnappers' motives because a political armband was found in the house. The attitude toward foreigners was something that could have made the situation worse."

Mrs. Phillips said, "When we heard people had been praying for us much of the night, we understood why we were not killed and why we had such strength to walk all those hours and why we found just the right people to help."

She asked Christians to continue praying for them, the kidnappers and Lesotho. "Pray that God will heal our memories and continue to give us his peace."



A dunk-tank baptismal pool would prove to be a tough-sell for church supply salesman, Dale Stevens.

KENTUCKY

Rally seeks to strengthen men in Danville & Harrodsburg

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

DANVILLE—Hundreds from the central Kentucky town of Danville have been to Promise Keepers rallies, but organizers hope thousands attend "Men's Night In," Feb. 20 at Danville High School.

The racially-mixed steering committee says it wants to cross racial barriers and unite residents of Danville and neighboring Harrodsburg.

"There's been a lot of division and denominationalism," said Greg Coker, who attends Harrodsburg Baptist Church. "We felt there should be more tearing down of walls. God was calling us to do something locally."

"For me, it's bringing Washington, D.C., to Danville," said businessman Terry Stevens, a member of Gethsemane Baptist in Danville.

"But this isn't a Promise Keepers event," he added. "A majority of blacks don't have a positive impres-

sion of it. They're probably more familiar with T.D. Jakes' 'Manpower' meetings."

The meeting will feature praise and worship music, testimonies, drama and speakers on a variety of subjects.

Organizers used a play on words to name the rally. Some refer to a "night out" as a chance to get away from family and perhaps go drinking. Organizers adopted the opposite term for a spiritually-based meeting, Stevens said.

The idea grew out of discussions he had with Gary Johnson, an African-American friend. A few others met with the pair in late November, and they set up weekly organizational sessions.

They had hoped to attract a nationally-known speaker, but none had responded by Feb. 1. Except for Louisville pastor Lincoln Bingham, those addressing the rally will come from the area.

Among them are Alvis Johnson, assistant athletic director at the Uni-

versity of Kentucky, and his son, Dennis, a UK football player and Harrodsburg High School graduate.

But Coker said that the lack of a big-name attraction appears to be God's work.

"Dennis Johnson is going to motivate a 14-year-old boy who is spiritually confused more than a Tony Evans, who is known worldwide," said Coker, regional public relations manager for Bell South.

Several pastors have been invited to speak, but the event is led by laymen. Coker said it is impossible for pastors to do all the spiritual work needed in the community.

The local emphasis is important, Stevens added.

He recalled urging an African-American pastor to accompany him to PK's "Stand In The Gap" rally in Washington, D.C.

The pastor replied, "Why should I go halfway around the country to pray with you when we should be praying together every day at home?"

Regardless of how many come Feb. 20, Stevens insists God already has been touching men. The steering committee has grown steadily, and men excited about the rally have been spreading the word, he explained.

"My goal is Christian men in these cities come together and demonstrate what God wants us to be," Stevens said. "We're kind of reclaiming these cities for God."

"There are a lot of Christian men in the community who have been in the closet," he continued. "We want to allow them an opportunity to come out of the closet and be known as spiritual leaders of their families."

Coker said attendance, money raised and press coverage are typical ways of measuring an event's success.

But he said he has different expectations, with the rally being only the first step toward men's spiritual growth. "I'd like to view this as a process ... where people say, 'What's next? What can we do to keep this going?'"

BLUEGRASS BURGEOO

■ The Kentucky Baptist Convention's church music department will host six "keyboard festivals" at which participants can get evaluations of their musical accuracy, technique and presentation. The festivals will be held on three dates at six locations:

■ March 20 at First Baptist Church of Ashland and First Baptist Church of Bowling Green. Registration is due March 12.

■ April 24 at Zion Baptist Church in Henderson and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. Registration is due March 19.

■ May 8 at First Baptist Church of London and Immanuel Baptist Church in Paducah. Registration is due April 2. The cost is \$ 10. For more information, call (888) 254-5707 or (502) 254-4727.

■ Cumberland College will host a campus visitation day Saturday, Feb. 20. For more information, call the admissions office at (800) 343-1609.

■ Southern Seminary will host a weekend missions conference Feb. 12-13, led by George Martin, associate professor of missions at the seminary's Billy Graham School of Missions. For more information, call (800) 626-5525.

Mostly white Owensboro church hires African native as pastor

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

OWENSBORO—Plenty of churches talk about racial reconciliation.

Liberian native Garswa Matally says his predominately white congregation in Owensboro lives it.

Matally became pastor of Wing Avenue Baptist Church Jan. 17, after about 10 weeks as interim pastor.

"I think the people have an understanding of Christian love," said Matally. "Race doesn't seem to make any difference. You don't hear much talk about races coming together."

A seven-member search committee unanimously recommended Matally's election, agreeing that he was the right person for the job.

"We're not trying to set any kind of precedents," said committee chairman Mike Little. "We just feel he's the man God called to be our pastor, and I'm very excited about it."

"We don't look at Garswa as a black man, but as our spiritual leader,"

member Darlene Blair said. "He's feeding us and giving us what we need."

Matally's first pastoral experience came in his West African homeland, where civil war forced his family to flee to Ghana. He started a church in a refugee camp before attending Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

After graduation in 1993, he answered a call from Cedar Street Baptist in Owensboro. He left the black mission in 1997 and had been working another job while doing supply preaching.

Members of Wing Avenue already were acquainted with him because they hosted a household shower for his family after they moved to Owensboro.

When their former pastor left in July, deacon chairman Bob Williams led the search for speakers. When he asked Matally to come, the first sermon stirred favorable reactions.

"It was tremendous," said Williams, a member of Wing Avenue since it began in 1955 as a mission of First

Baptist Church.

"Many people commented on how they wanted him back," he said. "They were also vocal in expressing their desire to have him as interim (pastor)."

Though located in a racially-mixed neighborhood, Wing Avenue's membership rolls include only one other African-American family. But several blacks have visited recently.

Neither the pastor nor search committee members emphasize racial reconciliation, but members said having a black pastor is making a difference.

"We feel that God's working," Blair said. "We're more loving than before. I tried to love everybody, but through this experience God has opened a lot of our hearts."

Matally agrees that his selection could help break down barriers.

He would like to see more black families join, saying the congregation should reflect the larger church's diverse colors and background.

Still, he is aware his presence could create a backlash.

He said he prays that calmer heads prevail, adopting the teaching of Henry Blackaby's "Experiencing God" course.

"I hope people will see God is do-

ing something different, and we will join him in what he is doing," he said.

Aside from the groundbreaking nature of the appointment, both members and pastor said they see spiritual forces at work.

In addition to his preaching, Williams also praises Matally's work as a minister.

Besides visiting families in crisis, he is also leading pre-marital counseling, which recently led one couple to become Christians. As interim, he volunteered to teach a new believer's Sunday school class, Williams added.

After Matally assumed interim duties, Wing Avenue took in the highest offerings during a one-month period for the past five years, Williams said.

"I told the church council, 'It's a sign from God,'" the deacon said. "We have a group of people willing to do God's work. We were just looking for someone to lead us."

Besides crediting the people's love, the pastor said he sees their hunger for scriptural teaching as the other reason for his acceptance by the church.

"They want to know the word of God," Matally said. "I've been looking for a church that wants to receive the word of God."



Matally

Media campaign starts second phase encouraging kids 'Get a Life' before having sex

FRANKFORT—A teenage boy finds out he has a sexually transmitted disease. A teenage girl struggles to balance work and life with a new baby.

These themes are part of the second phase of a comprehensive advertising campaign designed to encourage young Kentucky teens to think seriously about the life-changing repercussions of having sex.

The media campaign began last year with radio and television spots using the tagline, "Get a Life First. Wait to Have Sex."

The new statewide \$500,000 campaign, which began last month, will continue the "Get a Life" theme, but feature four new television spots and four new radio spots.

The campaign features teens facing a harsh reality. Shown is a pregnant teen overhearing criticism during her high school prom, a teen mom holding down a job as a short-order cook and teen boys realizing they have contracted a sexually transmitted disease.

"We all know the serious impact of teen pregnancy: less education, increased health risks and less opportunity for success in life," said Viola Miller, secretary for the Cabinet for Families and Children.

"These new ads are very direct in informing teens about the likely outcomes of having sex, in language they'll relate to. The ads will get their attention."

The response to the first phase of the campaign was encouraging, according to Dan Barbercheck, vice-president/creative director of Red7e Advertising—a designer of the campaign.

"Our goal was to first raise awareness, and, based on the research sample, we know that kids are seeing and hearing the spots," he said. "But research also tells us that the messages needed to be more specific in terms of showing the consequences teens will face."

National and state research has indicated a decline in teen birth rates, a trend that the campaign is designed to support.

"But we still have much work to do," Morse said. "Kentucky ranks among the 20 highest states in teen births, and we have got to get that number down."

According to 1996 statistics, Kentucky continues to have a high rate of adolescent births, ranking 17th highest in the nation among teenagers aged 15-17. There were a total of 8,938 births to teens in 1996, which was 17 percent of all births in that year. Nationally 13 percent of all births are to teens.

Since 1991, birth rates are on the decline in the U.S. and in Kentucky. For ages 15-19, the birth rate has declined by 10.7 percent in Kentucky and 12.4 percent nationally.

OPINION

WESTERN RECORDER

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

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Fellowship: Joyful acceptance and love

By Ben Mitchell

As a young and naive recent seminary graduate, Chuck was unprepared for the racism he experienced in his first church. While preparing for the church's spring revival meeting, he wrote all the churches in his southern town, inviting other Christians to attend the services. When two black women showed up one evening at the door of the church, they were turned away by a pair of deacons.

Band-aids will not fix the deep racial fracture that plagues American culture and evangelical churches. Only genuine Christian love and fellowship can stem the tide of racial violence and bring the healing necessary for our ethnically divided world.

The apostle John points out in his first epistle that darkness and light cannot co-exist. "If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth" (1 John 1:6). Walking in the light is the conscious and sustained effort to live a life in conformity with the revelation of God who is "light." A lifestyle of obedient discipleship marks the life of the true believer. Obedient discipleship does not have only a vertical dimension, however, it also has a horizontal dimension.

Admires KBHC

I admire the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children for the dismissal of the homosexual employee. This was the right thing to do, since we serve God only. God's plan from the beginning was that man and woman be joined together for the purpose of replenishing the earth, so therefore, homosexuality is of Satan.

The Bible says, "that men shall not lie with men and women with women, and in so doing it is an abomination to God. He also tells us to not

commit any of these abominable customs" (Leviticus 18:22 & 30.) The homosexual is lying to themselves when they say, "I was born this way." All they have to do is go back to the creation of man and woman to find that each was given chromosomes and X and Y factors to determine male and female. In a female one has two X factors and in a male an X and Y factor. It only takes

a test to prove this, so therefore it can be only by choice they err from God's plan and serve Satan. God strictly disapproves of these actions, which morally abandons his word and gives them over to a reprobate mind, telling them they will pay richly for the error of these vile affections. (Romans 1:26-28)

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Wanda Howard
Penrod

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

Shepherding report

The recent Shepherding the Shepherd conference exceeded my expectations.

The conference had four goals for the pastors and spouses—to help them rekindle spiritual dreams; to help them strengthen the love relationship between spouses; to provide an environment in which they could experience the joy and presence of Jesus in worship; and to engage them with new insights that will enrich and enhance their ministries.

If the response of the 100-plus couples in attendance is an indication, all of these goals were accomplished.

The idea behind this kind of conference is that if we strengthen the primary care giver in the church and community, the church and community will benefit. The pastor and spouse will have a stronger relationship to face challenges and walk through valleys together. They can draw strength from their worship experiences for days to come.

The messages of the conference were powerful:

■ Reggie McNeal reminded participants that God works through our background, call, circumstances and community to shape us for ministry.

■ Charles Lowery shared that power comes from being and doing what God calls us to be and do.

■ Ray and Anne Ortland shared from their 50 years of ministry that God will make a way through tough times to fulfill our ministries.

■ Calvin and Barbara Miller inspired and challenged us with beautiful word pictures and stories of God creating and relating to his children.

■ Dave Love and the Living Hope praise team led meaningful praise and worship in each session.

■ Joan Clagett, Les and Vicki Holton, Kevin and Erin McCallon, and Kay and I led break-out sessions, which allowed participants opportunities to share with one another.

Responses from pastors and spouses

were most gratifying:

■ "This is just what we needed. I hope you will do it again."

■ "The arrangements and the quality of the speakers were outstanding."

■ "I am in my first church. This conference has provided the encouragement that I needed."

■ "I didn't know pastors and their wives could have so much fun. The laughter has been great therapy for us."

■ "God has renewed my dream for ministry. This is the best conference I have ever attended."

We are grateful for the willingness of Baptist Healthcare System President Tommy Smith and BHS trustees to co-sponsor this conference. This is a recognition that total healthcare involves wellness. This conference has contributed to wholeness in ministry.

I am also grateful for our staff and their work with planning and arrangements, especially Jim Hawkins, who was the primary coordinator. The next Shepherding the Shepherd conference is scheduled tentatively for Jan. 27-29, 2000, at the Galt House in Louisville.

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

FAMILY

Many retirement plans have IRAs as a cornerstone

By Don Spencer

There are so many retirement plans available today—401(k), 403(b), SEP, TSA, IRA and more. Each has unique rules. Added to this complexity are recent suggestions by the president and some in Congress to add another type of retirement savings plan.

What we really need are fewer plans with simpler rules. An important retirement saving vehicle for many is the individual retirement account. But which type of IRA? Here are a few of the basics about IRAs:

With a tax-deductible IRA, up to \$2,000 per year may be contributed and deducted from taxable income by qualified people. Taxes are deferred on the amount deposited and on the earnings until you withdraw the money. When withdrawn, all of the money is generally taxable.

With a non-deductible IRA, you do not deduct your IRA contribution from taxable income. You pay taxes on that money now, but the earnings grow tax deferred. When withdrawn, taxes are paid on the earnings but not on the original investment.

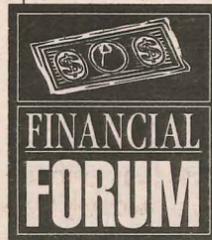
The Roth IRA (or IRAPlus) has a "backloaded" tax advantage. The original amount invested (up to \$2,000 for qualified people) is not deductible. The earnings may be tax-free depending on how and when withdrawn.

When one reaches age 70 1/2, there are two critical differences in the Roth IRA as opposed to the other two types. First, a person over age 70 1/2 cannot continue to contribute to regular IRAs, but they might be able to contribute to a Roth IRA.

The second difference might be a critical advantage for the Roth IRA for some people. With regular IRAs, at age 70 1/2 there are required distributions that must be made (and taxed). The Roth IRA can continue to be invested well past age 70 1/2. This advantage allows one to let the money continue growing tax deferred and leave the IRA money for their heirs if not needed during retirement.

A reminder for ministers: You have better tax advantages through your denominational retirement plan. An IRA should be used only under certain circumstances by ministers.

Don Spencer is a certified financial planner and directs the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annuity department



If a friend says you're marrying for the wrong reasons, listen up

Q: My friend just told me that I'm getting married for the wrong reasons. What is that supposed to mean?

There are many reasons for marrying, some of which are more likely to result in a happy marriage than others.

For instance, getting married because you want to spend your life with someone you love would be more likely to lead to happiness than getting married because you want to be independent from controlling parents or because friends are pressuring you to do so.

Ultimately, you are probably the best judge as to whether your reasons for getting married are the right ones or not. However, you might want to ask your friend what he or she meant.

Your friend might have noticed something about you or your relationship that you have overlooked. Sometimes people who know us well can see things we don't, particularly if they are able to be more objective than we are at the moment.

If, after talking with your friend, it seems that his or her concerns are valid, it would be a good idea for you and your partner to give your friend's comments some thought.

It certainly will be better for your upcoming marriage to have dealt with potential problems before the wedding so that you have fewer surprises after.—*Susan Howell*

Q: How should I talk with my child about death?

■ Help children understand the permanence and finality of death in terms of the presence of the person in the child's world. Choose your words carefully. Grandpa is not sleeping; he is not sick; he has not gone away on a trip.

Describing death in these ways can produce anxiety when a child goes to bed ("Will I wake up?"), when they are sick ("Will I get well?") or when a parent goes on a trip ("Will they come home?"). It also can create false hope for recovery and return.

Attending the funeral and seeing and perhaps even touching the body provide concrete handles for helping children better understand the finality of physical death.

■ Strive to find balance between the sadness we feel when someone special dies and our belief that if they loved Jesus, they are in heaven. Hope and happiness can be found in remembering good times and in the fact that one day we will be together again. However, the sadness of realizing we are not together now, and won't be together any more on earth, cannot and should not be downplayed or overlooked.

The phrase "sad day, happy day" expresses this tension in ways children can understand, as does the story of Jesus' death and resurrection.

■ Use care in talking with children about God's role in death. Saying "God needed him more than we did" or "God took Grandpa" creates images of God that children may have trouble dealing with. A child may become angry, and even blame God. This may happen anyway, but words can fuel the misunderstanding.

Remind boys and girls that God knows how we feel when we are sad. God knows and cares because God loves us.—*David Garrard*

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



What's right with Christian higher education?

By Garland Young

Read the titles of recent books on higher education in America and you'll see a definite trend among authorities in this field: "Inside American Education: The Decline, the Deception, the Dogmas," "What's College For?: The Struggle to Define American Higher Education" and "As If Learning Mattered: Reforming Higher Education."

The themes of crisis, disillusionment and loss of purpose dominate this field of literature.

Critics claim these institutions have lost their purpose and sense of direction. They are havens of inefficiency and greed, hoarding the millions they take in annually in tuition while turning out students who lack character and the skills that prospective employers need.

Faculty members turn indifferent, it is claimed, because they work in a system that encourages them to focus on research rather than on students. Insulated from employment accountability by tenure, these teachers grow jaded and lethargic, critics say.

Recent reforms in public higher education in Kentucky and in other states demonstrate that the public is beginning to demand more of its colleges and universities. But the din of pessimism swirling around this industry obscures what is good and right with Christian higher education.

Many of our secular critics fail to understand how higher education could even exist in a Christian context. How can you be objective in your search for truth, they demand, if you come to that search with a Christian bias? Such assessments reflect a dismal failure to appreciate our unique mission in education.

Our mission, in a few words, is not merely to inform students but to teach them to evaluate. To evaluate means to attach a value to something. The great myth promoted in many circles is that learning can and should be value-neutral. But value-neutral learning is impossible. You always learn facts in some context that leads you to evaluate them in a certain way.

Not only is value-neutral learning impossible; it is

also undesirable. The moral vacuum that exists in our culture today is due, in part, to the mistaken belief that facts are the only real, true things and that morals and values are only matters of personal preference.

In his book, "The Outrageous Idea of Christian Scholarship," George Marsden reminds us of this very point. Christian higher education begins with the notion that certain fundamental values always apply to learning.

No, there is no such thing as Christian biology or Christian mathematics. But there are and should be Christian biologists and mathematicians. Just like secular scholars, Christian college and university teachers begin their work with basic, ground-level assumptions about what the world is like.

We believe that the particular assumptions Christian scholars bring to their search for truth will make the schools where they teach more sane and humane places. And the results of that research are more likely to be used in a sane and humane way when those armed with that truth are infused with the values taught by Jesus Christ.

Do not listen to the prophets of doom. There is much that is good and right in the higher education taking place in our Baptist colleges and universities.

It is here that we are silencing those detractors who complain that higher education takes more than it gives. It is here that our students are prepared for careers that will make them a life and not just a living. It is here that our students are encouraged to participate in community service projects as well as to excel academically. It is here that our students will encounter ministry and Bible study opportunities and a cadre of committed Christian faculty.

The students who Kentucky Baptists send our way can be assured that they will be rigorously trained to discern truth. But they also will be inspired to use that truth to transform the world in a way consistent with the gospel of Christ.

Garland Young is a professor of religion at Cumberland College.

GUEST EDITORIAL

Do you believe I am able to do this?

By Terry Ellis

When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" (Matthew 9:28)

My big brother, Ken, was eight years older and much larger than I. He took seriously his role as the elder brother, alternately aggravating and teaching me the ways of young boyhood.

He used to play a game with me where he would lift me to the highest branch of a tree I could grab. I would hold on, clinging tightly to the safety of the branch, and Ken would say, "Drop."

Looking back on it, I could not have been much more than five feet off the ground, but at the time I was quite certain the air was thinner because of the altitude.

"Drop!" he'd command again. I would let go and fall. He caught me.

Every time. At first it was scary. Later it was thrilling and fun.

The blind men had followed Jesus for some time. They had heard of his raising back to life the daughter of a synagogue leader. A touch from Jesus

also had healed a woman with a 12-year hemorrhage. Jesus' power was well known. Here was the opportunity of their dark lifetimes. Finally, they stood before him in a house. "Do you believe that I am able to do this?"

On the surface, the question is puzzling. If you can raise someone from the dead then repairing a retina or restoring an optic nerve would not seem to be much of a challenge. Is Jesus able? Of course, he is able. The emphasis of the question, however, is not on the ability of Jesus, but on the belief of the blind men, and actually their trust. Do they trust Jesus?

The Scripture eventually aims its questions at its readers. How will I answer? Do I trust Jesus to act on my

behalf? Do I trust him to release his power in my life and in the lives of those around me? Do I trust him enough to act?

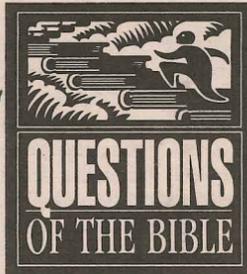
My confession as well as my observation is that a great many times we believe in the power of God with the top of our heads, but that belief has not worked its way to our hearts. We acknowledge, but we do not trust.

Then God comes along with some task for me to accomplish, and he says, "Drop." Or I come to him with some anxiety or need, and he responds, "Drop." At that moment I have to decide to let go of whatever security I have in my hands and trust that God will catch me.

The height might be truly dizzying. The fall sometimes may seem endless. But I have never let go and been disappointed by God.

At times, God might be asking not so much for your belief as for your trust. He might be saying to you right now, "Drop." Go ahead. Let go. It may be scary or thrilling. It might not even be safe. It could possibly be fun. I can only assure you of this—God will catch you, every time.

Terry Ellis is pastor of First Baptist Church of Murray.



CHURCHES

Leaders: Church size affects decision-making process

'Rules for the road'

SCOTTSVILLE—Leaders of smaller churches should remember to celebrate their successes and remain committed to people, Chip Miller said during the recent small church growth tour.

Drawing from "The Big Small Church Book" by David Ray, Miller listed 10 rules for the road small church leaders should keep in mind.

Celebrating successes can help members become more receptive to other changes, Miller said. A commitment to people is vital both to be an effective minister and—from a practical point—to earn their trust.

"If we don't love our people, do you think they know that? Sure. ... They're not going to follow us," he said. "If they know you love them, you can get by with murder."

Other rules he offered were:

■ **Be an avid listener.** "We want to give brief, quick solutions to complicated problems," Miller said. "Listen to God. ... Listen to the heartbreak of our people."

■ **Work on the worship experience.** "Younger people want quality," Miller noted. "You only have one time to make that first impression."

■ **Make changes slowly.** Some changes might even be temporary, Miller suggested.

■ **Become intergenerational.** Small churches have the ability to include people from all ages in activities, Miller said.

■ **Keep an outward focus.** In a day of rapid change, churches should be careful that they don't take on a "fortress mentality," he said.

■ **Have a world awareness.** Make world missions a focus.

■ **Say thanks.** Gratitude is important to people, he said.

■ **Communicate a personal vision.** "What is your vision for that ministry," Miller asked. "Just to survive or do you really have some goals?"

Continued from page 1

■ **The family church.** This model usually is seen in the smallest level of the small churches.

Family churches usually are comprised of two to four extended families, and most decisions are made by a matriarch and/or patriarch who operates like the parent of the congregation.

The pastor is not the formal leader, but operates more like a chaplain, performing such duties as marriages, funerals and hospital visits. As a result, pastor turnover can be high, Cordell said.

"Most pastors are go-getters," he said, and conflict can occur if a new pastor expects to lead the church to make a lot of changes.

Pastors who stay more than five years, however, often gain in influence "because they become a part of the family," Cordell added.

Worship is often informal—like a family reunion, and growth occurs biologically as family members have babies, Cordell said.

Communication often is by word-of-mouth. That decreases the need for newsletters or other formal means of communication, but "unfortunately, a lot of the times the pastor is not in the loop," Cordell said.

■ **The pastoral church.** In a pas-

toral church, the pastor has become a gatekeeper for both decision making and recruiting new members, Cole said.

"Now the pastor knows more about everybody than anybody else does," Cole said. "The people can connect and stay connected only with so many people."

While the family church has low expectations of the pastor for leadership, pastoral churches have quite high expectations.

Church growth usually depends on the popularity of the pastor and can plateau based on

the pastor's time, energy, competency or desires. As a result, pastors can get overwhelmed by the growth of such a church.

Decisions might still be made informally. Instead of being made by a matriarch or patriarch, however, they might be made by the pastor in consultation with other leaders in the parking lot or on the front steps.

■ **The program church.** "As a church gets larger, it gets more complicated," Cole said.

An even greater expectation is made of the pastor at this largest size of small churches, Cole said.



An encouraging lunch

Last week, Jack Ellerbrook, our Cedarmore director, and I were invited to lunch with two very successful Lexington businessmen.

That the lunch came about was no accident. One of the men had been to a retreat the week before at Cedarmore. While at the retreat, through conversation with Jack, he began to embrace the vision we have for what Cedarmore can become in the next millennium.

A few days after the retreat, we got a phone call from the man saying he had a friend he wanted us to meet and that we should get together for lunch. So we met, according to plan, and spent two hours declaring the mighty work God had been about during the last 18 months at Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek.

Both men returned the enthusiasm, and both stated that they had a great desire to be involved in what way they could as we move ahead.

We talked about a brief piece I had written, "Rebuilding A Treasure From God," which goes into some detail on what has happened during our new era as Kentucky Baptist Assemblies, Inc. I have witnessed miracle after miracle. Seldom does a week go by that I don't melt before God in awe and won-

der as he works in our ministry.

That day we discussed with two men I had never met before the rebuilding process, a process that will not be accomplished overnight. We told them that the condition of most of the 51 buildings is critical. There is work that must be done on Boone Lodge and Byrdwell, and it must be done soon or we will pay an even greater price of repair.

I showed them pictures of the place, pictures that clearly show the need for repairs. But many of the pictures were of beautiful scenes that show the beauty of Cedarmore—wild turkeys in flight across a snowy hillside, vivid autumn colors that are magnificent in their splendor, the deep green cedars that line the drive with deer

grazing safely in the shadows. Jack and I both deal with the fact that it would be easy to become discouraged because the task seems to be overwhelming at times. We don't have the answers for where the resources will come to rebuild. We face a daunting task, but God is doing a great work. To him be the glory.

Rusty Ellison is president of Kentucky Baptist Assemblies, Box 37, Bagdad, Ky. 40003. Call (502) 747-8911

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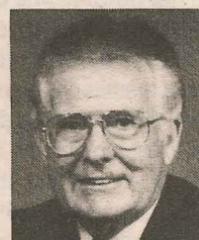
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Kenny McKinney and Jason Mitchell

By Robert Dunston

In 1996 the Cumberland College alumni board of directors instituted an annual Student Service Award to recognize the contributions of one student each year who has provided assistance in the area of student recruitment. This year two students, Kenny McKinney and Jason Mitchell, received the award.

Kenny McKinney, the son of Dexter and Kim McKinney of Whitley City, is a senior with a double major in health education and physical education. While at Cumberland he has played on the baseball team, worked in the freshmen orientation program and has been active in Baptist Student Union. He also has served as vice president and, last year, president of Fellowship of Christian Athletes. In addition, McKinney served as interim pastor of Mill Creek United Methodist Church.

During the summers, McKinney has continued to serve God and others. For two years he was a member of the staff of Crosspoint and for one year was a Crosspoint team director. Last spring he received the T.J. Roberts Leadership Award and was selected for Who's Who Among Students in American Uni-

versities and Colleges.

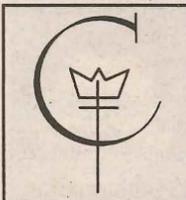
Jason Mitchell, the son of Gary and Linda Mitchell of Frankfort, is a senior with a major in communication arts. He has also been active in both the freshman orientation program and in BSU. God has particularly blessed Mitchell with vocal talent, and Mitchell has employed his gift in many ways on campus and off. He has been a member of Sacred Vision, a male singing group that has performed in chapel, in churches and in other venues, and a member of Abundance, a singing group that ministers through the admissions office. This year he serves as assistant director of Abundance.

During the summers, Mitchell has served on the program and sales staff at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center. He has been on the National Deans' List and was selected for Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.

We thank McKinney and Mitchell for their dedication and work.

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

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



Clinton focuses on peacemaking at prayer breakfast

By Ira Rifkin & Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—President Clinton urged historic enemies in the Middle East and elsewhere to reconcile and work for peace in a National Prayer Breakfast talk Feb. 4.

"I ask you to pray for all of us, including yourselves, to pray that our purpose truly will reflect God's will, to pray that we can all be purged of the temptation to pretend that our willfulness is somehow equal to God's will," Clinton told more than 3,500 religious, political and diplomatic leaders.

Among those on hand was Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, whose attendance prompted some conservative Christian and Jewish groups to boycott the 47th annual breakfast. Arafat's critics charged him with being soft on terrorism and had unsuccessfully sought to get his invitation to the event rescinded.

In his remarks, the president made no reference to his own impeachment woes as he noted tensions between India and Pakistan, Ethiopia and Eritrea; in Kosovo, the Middle East and elsewhere.

But evangelist Tony Campolo—one of three ministers Clinton has relied on for spiritual guidance in recent months—said he interpreted the president's comments also to be about himself and the partisan political bickering that has characterized the impeachment process on Capitol Hill.

"Beneath the message of peace and reconciliation between Israel and the Palestinians, and in Northern Ireland and everywhere else, I

heard a deep desire on the president's part to see a coming together on the Hill when the Senate trial is over," said Campolo, a Baptist from Eastern College in St. David's, Pa.

"I think he was really thinking today about people coming together across all sorts of lines so that they may work together to the benefit of all," Campolo said in an interview.

In his remarks, Clinton talked about the need to overcome past differences for real peace to take hold. He asked his audience "to remember that all the great peacemakers in the world in the end have to let go and walk away, like Christ, not from apparent but from genuine grievances."

Christian Coalition executive director Randy Tate said that by inviting Arafat, breakfast organizers had provided legitimacy "to an unrepentant terrorist." But conservative radio talk show host Michael Reagan, President Ronald Reagan's son, said the breakfast's religious nature warranted Arafat's inclusion.

"As Christians, we pray for peace and love all human beings," said the younger Reagan, who recently became chairman of the Campaign for Working Families, a leading Washington political action committee started by Gary Bauer, a Republican presidential hopeful favored by many in the Religious Right.

"We're here today to put aside politics and praise Jesus and hope he will touch Arafat as well," Reagan said.

Prayers were offered for those who could not be there because of health problems, including Jordan's King Hussein and evangelist Billy Graham. Prayers also were offered for victims of the recent earthquake in Colombia.

Cup-of-water evangelism

Brought up the Southern Baptist that I am, evangelism, faith, church and religion are synonymous.

I have experienced the emphasis, the primacy, the zeal placed on foreign, home and personal evangelism. I've heard many inspiring sermons emphasizing our need to give to Lottie, Annie, guest evangelists and other efforts to win the lost.

Books, stirring sermons, world missions conferences, personal evangelism classes come out year after year, all bent on moving us to share the gospel. Yet, from my observation, most Southern Baptists do not share their faith personally.

My guess is we have not emphasized enough the many ways we can share our faith. For some, the personal visit and sharing the good news with people on visitation night is right for them. Others are not so comfortable with this approach. They need to know there is more than one way to "go and tell."

Southern Baptists are moving toward what I refer as "cup of water" evangelism. We have the perfect model. Jesus met the physical needs of those coming to him,

and then he spoke of meeting their spiritual needs.

Last summer, a group of Baptist Builders from Western Kentucky made a trip to Somerset. During the hottest week of the summer, these men worked with our staff and boys building log cabins for our wilderness program. You really get to know a guy when you can smell his sweat and share a soda under a shade tree. Later, these men and boys worshipped together, sharing personal stories of faith.

When you work alongside people, meeting their needs and really caring for them, sharing your faith isn't as intimidating as the cold call on Tuesday-night visitation.

This kind of evangelism is what Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children is all about. This is how 171 children made their professions of faith in Jesus last year through our ministry. If you never have thought of us as an evangelistic ministry, I hope now you will.

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

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Bill Smithwick

NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Anti-abortion web site loses.** A Portland, Ore., jury has awarded \$107 million in damages to abortion doctors who it said were illegally threatened by a Web site that considered them to be criminals. The defendants responded that the verdict trampled on their First Amendment rights while representatives of the doctors who sued hope the decision will reduce violence against abortion providers. The case dealt with a Web site called "The Nuremberg Files" that listed the names and addresses of doctors who provided abortions. Names of doctors who were killed were crossed off.

■ **Child Online Protection Act halted.** A federal judge has issued a preliminary injunction preventing Web site operators from being prosecuted under the Child Online Protection Act. "While the public certainly has an interest in protecting its minors, the public interest is not served by the enforcement of an unconstitutional law," wrote U.S. District Judge Lowell Reed. The law would require commercial Web sites to obtain a credit card number or some other access code that proved a user's age before Internet viewers saw online material considered "harmful to minors."

■ **"The Prince of Egypt" makes profit.** "The Prince of Egypt," which some have said would not be a blockbuster, will at least be a profit-maker. The animated story of the life of Moses that was produced by DreamWorks SKG has grossed more than \$90 million in North America, USA Today reported. It cost \$75 million to make, plus an undisclosed amount in advertising.

DreamWorks' unusual marketing of the film to secular filmgoers—emphasizing its action, romance and famous voices—and to Christian family movie watchers—focusing on the moral tale and biblical origins—may have contributed to the profits.

■ **Methodist group encourages "transformation."** In an open letter to the bishops of the United Methodist Church, leaders of Good News, the conservative, evangelical caucus within the nation's second largest Protestant denomination, have urged the bishops to encourage and support ministries that seek to "transform" gays and lesbians. The letter follows the defiance of church rules by clergy who support same-sex marriages. The letter added that any move by the denomination toward accepting homosexuality would cost the church in terms of both members and financial support.

■ **Presbyterian body approves "unions."** The Presbytery of the Hudson River of Presbyterian Church (U.S.A), north of New York City, voted overwhelmingly to allow ministers to perform same-sex holy unions—as long as the ceremonies are not called marriages. The Presbyterian Book of Order, or church code, states it is improper to perform same-sex unions "that the minister determines to be the same as marriage." Under the presbytery's motion, ministers could perform ceremonies of holy union for same-sex couples "reflecting our understanding at this time that these ceremonies do not constitute marriage as defined in the Book of Order."

'End of our rope'

A wonderful letter came last week from a mother who was very happy about the progress her son had made here. I will share part of it:

"I am writing in regard to my son, David (not his real name), who attended Oneida last year in the eighth grade. My husband and I truly believe that Oneida Institute was directly responsible for saving our family and preventing David from being returned to the foster care system.

"When David was accepted at Oneida we were at the end of our rope and our family was at the brink of despair.... We felt our only hope of saving the rest of our children... was to do an adoption interruption on David and in effect sacrifice him for the good of his brothers and sisters. We had seen David fail at many schools, get charged with shoplifting and make everyone miserable with his lying, hostile, demanding behavior. We knew with his mind and his talents he was capable of so much, but we had almost lost hope of ever seeing any of his potential realized. Also, although we still loved David very much, we did not like him much anymore.

"This summer, for the first time since David was eight years old, we have had a great summer. Our children have enjoyed being together, and we have seen once again how much David has to offer our family. He has gentled toward the younger children, participated in family activities and shown some respect for his family and parents.

"And the reason for the change in David is the year he just spent at Oneida. For although ... it was not easy for the staff there to deal with David, you hung in and gave him a chance, and he was able to complete his first successful year at school since first grade. It was the first year since

first grade that he managed to stay at one school for the entire year.

"We are so ... pleased with Oneida that we have discussed it with David and we have come to the agreement that he will continue school there until he graduates.

"Only last week there was an article in the newspaper on juveniles ... who were in serious trouble with the school and the law, and the mother of one of the young men made the statement that her son had been at Oneida and done well but that she took him out ... he immediately lost his way. When I read the article I thought that only by the grace of God was that not David's picture and name in the paper."

I wish we were this successful with every young person who comes to Oneida. We do the very best we can with each student. Some come to us with few, if any, problems. Others come with a multitude of social and academic problems. No two are the same.

A structured environment, firm but sensitive discipline, encouragement at every opportunity and God's love are our tools. We try to be sensitive to each person, just as Jesus was.

We are reminded daily of Jesus' words: "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into the harvest."

Please pray that we will be faithful and diligent. You are a part of our efforts. Our victories are yours.

Reprinted from WR, Aug. 15, 1995

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

Campus Discovery Days

The faculty, staff and students at Cumberland College invite you to experience some of the excitement of being a college student by taking part in our Discovery Days. You can join us for this Saturday event on February 20, 1999.

This is an excellent opportunity to discover first hand what college life is like. A schedule highlighting our academic departments, campus activities, student services and housing will reveal what Cumberland College can offer you. All activities are free of charge. To make reservations, call 1-800-343-1609 today.

8:15-9:00am	Continental Breakfast (optional)	Boswell Campus Center
8:30-9:00am	Registration	Gatliff Chapel
9:00-9:10am	Welcome	Gatliff Chapel
9:10-10:00am	"Why I Chose Cumberland" Student Panel	Gatliff Chapel
10:10-10:45am	Parent Information Session Mock Classes for Student	Gatliff Chapel
10:55-11:25am	Academic Program Financial Planning	Gatliff Chapel
11:30-12:00 noon	Departmental Browsing	Rollins Center
12:00 noon	Campus Tour (optional)	Rollins Center
	Lunch - our treat!	Boswell Campus Center

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admiss@cc.cumber.edu

1-800-343-1609

www.cumber.edu

Quarles appointed missionaries to Romania

We always regret losing quality faculty, but when they go to the mission field it seems as if we are fulfilling part of our mission.

"The heart of Clear Creek is missions," New Testament professor Charles Quarles once said. Now he and Julie will go to Romania as missionaries appointed by the Southern Baptist Convention's International Mission Board.

At the end of the semester, the Quarleses will complete orientation at the missionary learning center in Rockville, Md., and depart for Europe in August.

Quarles will teach Baptist theology at the University of Bucharest and serve as professor of New Testament and Greek at the Bucharest Baptist Theological Seminary.

After developing some proficiency in the language, Quarles also expects to write much-needed material for theological training. Mrs. Quarles' appointment focuses on home and church responsibilities. They have three children: Rachael, 7, Hanna, 5, and Joshua, 2.

I wish our entire campus family could have attended the Jan. 26 appointment service at First Baptist Church of Houston. It was a thrilling experience and stirred memories of our own appointment to the Philippines.

Testimonies from the new missionaries elicited tears throughout the crowd. The 126-voice choir and orchestra moved our spirit with "All Hail the Power" and "Instruments of Peace."

Several people responded to IMB President Jerry Rankin's charge to have "beautiful feet" taking the gospel to a lost world.

On a volunteer evangelism assignment to Kenya, Quarles preached in a remote village. Afterwards, an older woman asked him, "Why has it taken you so long to tell us this good news?"

Mrs. Quarles said, "When I accepted Christ, I promised him I would go anywhere he desired." We are thankful their experience at Clear Creek nurtured the call to missions.

Now we have another motivation to continue our personal involvement in support of missions through prayer, giving, going and leading our churches to be strong bases of missionary support.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

MEDIA

Communications merger includes CCM Magazine

CAMARILLO, Calif. (RNS)—The publisher of CCM Magazine, a leading publication on contemporary Christian music, has been purchased by another Christian media group.

CCM Communications in Nashville was bought by Salem Communications Corp., it was announced last week.

The sale was one of a series of publishing and Internet acquisitions by the Camarillo, Calif.-based company.

Salem officials said they also have bought OnePlace LLC in Greensboro, N.C., and they have reached an agreement to acquire NavPress Software of Austin, Texas.

The acquisitions position Salem as a broad-based Christian media company with radio, Internet and publishing capabilities, according to a statement from the company. Salem owns 45 radio stations and a radio network with more than 1,000 affiliates.

CCM Communications is a contemporary Christian media company that produces radio programs and magazines.

OnePlace is a pioneer in the application of Internet e-commerce and other advanced information technologies.

NavPress Software is a supplier and developer of electronic Bible and Christian reference materials.

The Undying Fire: A Novel Based on the Book of Job. H.G. Wells. Broadman and Holman Publishers, 1998. 179 pages. \$9.99. ♦♦♦♦ (out of five)

As children or adults, most of us have been exposed to H.G. Wells and his science fiction. Through the novels and the movies made of them, "The War of the Worlds" and "The Time Machine" are a part of our literary and cultural worlds.

Few know that in 1919, two decades after the writing of these classics, Wells delved into the question of humanity's search to understand God.

The Undying Fire is the story of headmaster Job Huss. After providing a good life for his family, tragedy, in the form of cancer, strikes Huss, and his world is in for a radical change.

Huss loses everything, and he is faced with the ancient question of the book of Job—how to maintain faith in God in the midst of anger at God for what has happened. Along the way, of course, wonderful theological conversations occur between Huss and friends, doctors, neighbors and family.

The language of this edition has been updated and makes for easier reading than the original edition. The reader still might find some of the language stiff by today's conversational standards. Even so, Wells proves himself to be not just a great science-fiction writer, but a compelling storyteller.

Along the way, he also brings us into consideration of some of the ultimate questions of life. *Wayne Hager*

Free and Faithful: Christian Discipleship in the Twenty-First Century. Dwight A. Moody, 1998. Providence House Publishers. 53 pages. ♦♦♦♦♦

Don't let the size of this book fool you. A lot of food for thought is packed between its covers. Don't let the fact it is a collection of edited sermons dissuade you. While challenging and stimulating, it is never preachy.

Dwight Moody, dean of the chapel at Georgetown College, developed the sermon series that provides the basis for this book in 1994 while pastor of Third Baptist Church in Owensboro. The ideas he advances grew out of the turmoil in Southern Baptist life that engulfed him as a college and seminary student preparing for ministry.

Heavily influenced by James McClendon, Jr., a theologian who has written a two-volume theology from the Baptist tradition, Moody asserts the two watchwords of Baptists are "free" and "faithful." He explores what that means in many contexts—before God, in the Bible, in the church and to the world. While making the case for the "Baptist love of freedom at both the personal and corporate level," he also points out "freedom is not all there is to being a Baptist kind of Christian. Baptist meant faithfulness. ... Freedom without direction and discipline is chaos."

In the face of a rising crescendo of voices arguing that denominational labels and traditions are meaningless, Moody asserts, "I wish to make a case

that our best contribution to the Christian movement is by being Baptist." *Jim Holladay*

God's Man: A Daily Devotional Guide to Christlike Character. Edited by Don Aycock. Kregel Publications, 1998. 320 pages. \$12.99 ♦♦♦♦

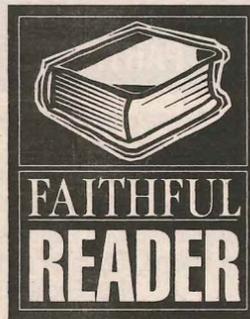
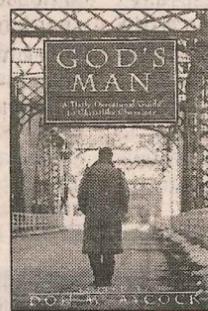
As daily devotional guides go, "God's Man" is adequate. Each day begins with a Scripture reading of one to two verses, a brief reflection related to the theme for the day, and a one-sentence prayer, which serves as the thesis sentence for the devotional.

Forty-seven authors, from a diverse spectrum of the Christian tradition and walks of life, seek to provide men with insight on strengthening their personal relationship with Christ.

Each author was assigned topics within an outline of 10 major themes involving men and their relationships, birth family, church, work, community, emotions, special problems, body and finances. The strength of this approach is also its weakness. Each person brings his unique perspective, but a certain unevenness also results.

Another limitation is that the book assumes men's spiritual issues and needs are so unique that they can only or best be addressed by men. A quick perusal of the table of contents indicates a wide array of issues faced by men and women. Even the section on "A Man and His Special Needs" reads like a catalog of human temptations and struggles.

Perhaps the best use of the book is to introduce men to the gospel. For committed Christians, find something deeper. *Jim Holladay*



By Wayne Hager, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Mt. Airy, N.C., and Jim Holladay, pastor of Clifton Baptist Church in Louisville. Holladay and Hager welcome feedback or suggestions for book reviews. Contact them via e-mail at: docholladay@juno.com or jwhager@surry.net

Kirk Franklin is lifting souls while raising eyebrows in gospel music circles

By John Soeder
Religion News Service

DALLAS (RNS)—Somebody up there seems to like Kirk Franklin. Not everyone down here does, though.

The controversial gospel singer's latest release, "The Nu Nation Project," has sold 1.3 million copies since it debuted in September. Franklin recently received Grammy Award nominations in five categories, including best contemporary soul gospel album and song of the year for the single "Lean on Me."

His Grammy-winning previous effort, 1997's "God's Property From Kirk Franklin's Nu Nation," is the best-selling gospel album ever, with 2.5 million copies sold. It yielded the crossover hit "Stomp," which received substantial air time on MTV.

Nonetheless, some hard-liners who believe gospel music belongs in church, not in music videos, have been slow to sing Franklin's praises. His hip-hop leanings and collaborations with mainstream artists like Salt-N-Pepa's Cheryl James, who rapped over a funkadelic groove on "Stomp," have come under fire from devotees of old-school gospel.

"There are a lot of people in the church community who don't agree with what I do,

like incorporating beats and raps and what some people consider more of a secular sound," said Franklin, 28.

Franklin's music reflects his own eclectic tastes. He listens to everyone from gospel old-timers like Mahalia Jackson and Thomas Dorsey to contemporary R&B artists like Lauryn Hill and D'Angelo. On "The Nu Nation Project," Franklin embraces soul, R&B, hip-hop and funk, as well as traditional gospel.

"The goal was to create a format that every age and every culture could refer to," he explained. "We wanted to reach everybody."

He recruited several high-profile vocalists from different backgrounds to sing on "Lean on Me," an uplifting ballad that preaches compassion for those who are lonely, homeless or dying.

Franklin and his choir, the Family, are joined on the song by R&B heavyweights Mary J. Blige and R. Kelly, rocker Bono of U2 and Christian music star Crystal Lewis.

So how does this firm believer in divine inspiration justify working with the likes of R. Kelly, an artist known for sexually explicit material?

"The first thing is not to try to justify it," Franklin said. "I work with people because I'm compelled to work with them. There are things about my secular friends that I

don't agree with. But at the same time, how am I ever going to reach them if I don't fellowship with them?"

He insists he's not collaborating with secular artists for financial gain. "I'm trying to reach out to lost people. Imagine if a Garth Brooks or a Celine Dion started talking about Christ. Can you imagine what kind of impact that would make? That's why I affiliate myself with secular artists. As long as I believe that the person I get to know behind closed doors has the same heart I have, then I'll work with anyone."

Franklin hardly comes across as a saint in his autobiography, "Church Boy," published last year. The book traces his life back to humble roots in Fort Worth, Texas, where Franklin was abandoned by his teen-aged mother.

He was raised by his grandmother's sister, who made sure he attended Baptist church services regularly. She collected aluminum cans for recycling to pay for the piano lessons Franklin started taking when he was 4.

By the time he was a teen-ager, Franklin was leading church choirs. He also was smoking marijuana and struggling with "temptations of the flesh," as he puts it. He became a father, out of wedlock, at 18 to a son named Kerrion. "I'm no better than anybody else," Franklin said.



KIRK FRANKLIN The gospel artist's latest release has sold 1.3 million copies since it debuted in September. Some, however, question his work with mainstream artists. He insists it's not for financial gain. "I'm trying to reach out to lost people." (RNS photo)

He and his wife, Tammy, were married in 1996. Their daughter Kennedy was born the following year. Their family also includes Kerrion and Tammy's daughter, Carrington, from a previous relationship. They live in Dallas.

"At no time do I want to come across as the new messiah," Franklin said. "This isn't about me. I try to represent Jesus. The power is not in the messenger; it's in the message. For anybody who wants to do this Christian thing for real, it's a hard job, whether or not you're in the public eye."

PEOPLE

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Construction teams needed for the Baptist Convention of New England's new office building. Call Ray Allen or Ken Lyle at the Baptist Convention of New England office for information, (508) 393-6013.

■ Haven of Peace Academy and Rosslyn Academy in Tanzania and the teachers who work with the children who attend.

■ Prayer coordinators in Tanzania as they establish prayer networks focusing on each people group in that country.

■ Rain for drought-stricken Tanzania.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Shirley Wooton

■ **CADIZ**—Harold Rose announced his retirement as pastor from East Cadiz Church effective March 28.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Fairview Church called Ed Williams as pastor. Williams, from Alabama, is attending Campbellsville University.

■ **GEORGETOWN**—Dry Run Church will host a Christian estate planning seminar Feb. 21, 7 p.m. Trust Counsel Laurie Valentine and Barry Allen, chief executive officer of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, will conduct the free seminar. For information, call (502) 863-7443. Shane Terrebonne is pastor.

■ **GREENVILLE**—Bruce Queen resigned as pastor of Greenville Second Church. Queen accepted a call from Sharon Church in Smithfield, N.C.

■ **JEFFERSONTOWN**—Tracy Marshall resigned as children's minister at Jeffersontown Church to accept a call from Beechmont Church as children's minister. Sanford Hill is pastor at Jeffersontown Church.

■ **LEBANON**—Lebanon Church called Brian Horton as minister to youth. Horton, from South Carolina, is a student at Southern Seminary. Wesley Noss is pastor.

■ **LEXINGTON**—South Elkhorn

Church called Greg Waltermire as interim pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Cloverleaf Church will host The Perry Sisters in concert Feb. 26, 7:30 p.m. For information, call (502) 367-0218. Geoffrey Lacefield is pastor.

Deer Park recently ordained Kathy Vest, Ron Ragsdale, Helena Perry and Bill Earp as deacons. Kelly Stanley is pastor.

Gethsemane Church called Rolfe Dorsey as interim pastor.

Shively Heights Church will host The Nelons in concert Feb. 20, 7 p.m. A fellowship meal will be served 5-6:30 p.m. There is a charge for the meal. For information, call (502) 447-9544. Chris Butler is pastor.

Walnut Street Church celebrated Jennie Callahan's 20 years on the staff. Callahan is administrative assistant to the pastor. Scott Wigginton, minister of counseling, had his 6th anniversary, and Leigh Conner, part-time LifeCare staff person, will celebrate his 5th anniversary. Bob Long is pastor.

■ **MARION**—Jerry Thurman resigned as pastor of Caldwell Springs church to accept the pastorate at Marion Second Church.

■ **OWENSBORO**—Lewis Lane

Falwell apologizes for Antichrist remarks

NASHVILLE—Jerry Falwell has apologized for saying the Bible dictates that the Antichrist is a Jewish male.

In January, Falwell unleashed a torrent of criticism from Jewish groups when he said the Antichrist—Christianity's evil false savior—would out of necessity be a Jewish male because that's what Jesus was. Falwell said his comment was based on traditional Christian belief.

Feb. 2, Falwell told a Christian prayer breakfast in Nashville that he was sorry for his remarks, but had meant no disrespect to Jews.

"I apologize to my Jewish friends here and around the world, and I apologize to the Christians here for having creat-

ed any kind of rift," he said. "I apologize not for what I believe, but for my lack of tact and judgment in making a statement that served no purpose whatsoever."

The apology was welcomed by Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League. "We appreciate his (Falwell's) recognition that his comment had consequences for Christian-Jewish relations, and should not have been made," the Jewish official said in a statement.

In a recent interview with the Jerusalem Report magazine, Falwell said "there is not an anti-Semitic bone in my body. I doubt the Jewish people have a better friend outside their own community than Jerry Falwell."

Church called Ron Collier as minister of education and youth and Sandy Camp as part-time receptionist. Chip Pendleton is pastor.

■ **WADDY**—Pigeon Fork Church called Calvin Wilkins as interim pastor. Wilkins is director of Kentucky Baptist Convention partnership missions. Doris Riddle, who is with the Kentucky Baptist WMU, was called as interim music director.

■ **WINCHESTER**—Central Church called Hershael York as interim pastor. York is associate professor of preaching at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Rick Hatley is associate pastor of education.

■ **WHITESBURG**—North Fork Church called David Robinson as pastor. Robinson was previously on the staff at Oneida Baptist Institute.

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Brandenburg, Ky., is seeking a pastor. Please send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, 325 Monroe St., Brandenburg, KY 40108.

SEEKING: Mt. Zion Baptist Church is seeking a part-time minister of music. Average worship: 100-120. Duties: Lead Sunday worship, adult choir, special occasion children and youth. Salary to be discussed. Send resumé and inquiries to: Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 350 Mt. Zion Road, Elizabethtown, KY 42701, Attn: Music Committee.

FOR SALE: Baby grand piano. Excellent condition. \$5,000. Phone Don King at Everybody's Church, Lexington, Ky., (606) 252-8026.

SEEKING: Salvisa Baptist Church, Salvisa, Ky., looking for full-time ordained Southern Baptist pastor. For info, call: (606) 865-2212, Tuesdays-Thursdays, 8:30-3:00, or send resumé to: Pulpit Committee, c/o Chris Bryant, 178 Christina Drive, Salvisa, KY 40372.

SEEKING: Child care director. Energetic, enthusiastic, detail-oriented, budget-minded, authoritative w/ TLC, able to deal with cultural diversities, possessing cooperative attitude, knowledge of licensing regulations, degree in education/early childhood. Resumé to: Dr. Long, 1143 So. 3rd. St., Suite A, Louisville, KY 40203.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of youth and children. Send resumé to Burlington Baptist Church, P.O. Box 48, Burlington, KY 41005, Attn: Search Committee, or fax: (606) 586-6599.

SEEKING: Church secretary. 32 hours per week. Southside Baptist Church, 804 Camden Ave., Louisville, KY 40215. Please send resumé Attn: Personnel Committee.

SEEKING: Our pastor is retiring. The church has membership more than 1,000 in a growing area of central Kentucky and a budget of approx. \$450,000. Person should have a master's in divinity, seven years experience as a senior minister and an excellent reputation. Candidate should send resumé, work experience, associational membership and a brief outline of philosophy of ministry by April 15 to: Pastor Search Committee, EBC, 717 South Main, Nicholasville, KY 40356.

FOR SALE: Two lots in "Garden of the Apostles." Floral Hills Cemetery in Covington. \$800 for both. Call collect: (502) 267-6383.

FOR SALE: Queen-size brass bed with 10-year warranted Ortho Firm mattress set and frame. All new—still in original factory containers. Must sell \$275. Phone: (502) 566-6540.

OPPORTUNITY: Dreams do come true! Christian-based, Christian-operated company looking for leaders. Work at home; part-time or full-time. Call 24 hours, (888) 653-4026.

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: 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.

AVAILABLE: Full-time evangelist. Wyman Copass will be available March 1, 1999, for revivals, Bible seminars and conferences. Phone: (502) 683-6040; email: wcmia@aol.com; fax: (502) 688-8359; or write to: Wyman Copass Ministries, Box 21224, Owensboro, KY 42304-1224. Now scheduling for 1999 and 2000.

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

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

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: 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.

Nicholasville business getting publicity from itty-bitty Bible

By Todd Van Campen
Lexington Herald-Leader

NICHOLASVILLE—Honey, they shrunk the Bible.

A British company with offices in Nicholasville says it has printed the entire King James Version on an 18 1/2-inch-by-26 1/2-inch poster.

OK, so we haven't read every word. But it looks legitimate, judging by a spot check under magnification.

From "In the beginning" to "Amen," there are 4.3 million characters on the poster, each 1/100 inch tall. To the naked eye, the words look like a gray haze. (A typical King James Version in book form has about 220 pages.)

Somewhere, Gutenberg's jaw must be dropping.

ICG Ltd., based in Cheltenham, England, printed the poster last summer to illustrate the capabilities of the Titan582, one of the company's products. The Titan582 uses a computer to make plates for printing presses.

People started reading the fine print this week after papers in the United Kingdom picked up the story. The Mirror had a ball with it, using the phrases "A-Wee in a Manger" and "David and Smaliath."

Since then, ICG Ltd. has been fielding more than 50 calls daily, said managing director Gordon Temple. Many of those calls have been from priests and ministers who want copies of the poster, according to reports in the Scottish Daily Record and Sunday Mail.

The increased demand has sales employees at ICG answering calls and stuffing posters into tubes. "I don't know whether I hope it goes on," Temple said. "They're people who should be helping us run the business."

"It's sort of fun, really. You can imagine, we put quite a bit of effort trying to get exposure in the trade press," Temple said. "We didn't expect this to pop out in the general mass media."

The poster isn't available in stores, but it can be ordered for \$10 by credit card through ICG's Nicholasville office, (606) 885-6757.

Don't even think about charging the Titan582. The equipment costs \$398,000 for an automatic version and \$225,000 for a manual version.

Reprinted with permission of the Lexington Herald-Leader

Church makes leap of faith buying mall

LAKELAND, Fla. (BP)—Imagine telling your congregation a month before the scheduled groundbreaking for its new worship center that the building plans should be canceled because "God's working in another direction but I can't tell you what."

Jay Dennis, pastor of First Baptist Church in Lakeland, Fla., faced that situation. "I spent every credibility buck I had with this congregation when I told them, 'Just trust me,'" he recalled.

The 4,000-member congregation had long since outgrown its 650-seat worship center and had tried various logistical approaches to remain in its downtown location—including using its facilities there for Sunday school and nursery classes and holding worship services at a theater a few blocks away.

Dennis wasn't sure the congregation would be willing to reconsider its unanimous vote to stay at the downtown site.

But the church faced a dilemma. Going ahead with the building program would require the church assume the cost of closing down an ad-

jacent city street to accommodate construction crews and machinery. That would cost \$500,000 to \$750,000 before construction began, and after a three-year building program, the church still would need educational space.

At the same time, an opportunity arose to buy a vacant facility that would give the church all the space it needed without having to build from scratch. But disclosing its location could have jeopardized the church's ability to negotiate amid other offers for the property.

With the support of key leaders in the church, Dennis asked the congregation to cancel the groundbreaking on faith that God was pointing them in a new direction.

"There was such a tremendous unity and willingness to be open to a change of plans that it had to be from God," Dennis said.

After Dennis' painstaking decision not to divulge the location of the property to his congregation, the local newspaper broke the story the next day: First Baptist Church was in talks to purchase Lakeland Mall, a 400,000-

square-foot facility vacant since 1989.

The church also had been granted first right to negotiate settling the lease on a vacant 103,000-square-foot warehouse owned by Sam's Club, a subsidiary of Wal-Mart, if it could close the deal within 45 days.

In a special called meeting, Dennis presented the proposal and, with one dissenting vote, approximately 1,600 church members agreed to relocate. The church closed the deal one day ahead of the 45-day deadline.

The "mall-turned-ministry," as the church calls it, includes 32 acres of property bordering one of the largest lakes in Polk County. It has 1,800 parking spaces and built-in facilities for food service, fitness and movie-showing.

Former stores will be classrooms, a warehouse will be converted into a worship center, movie theaters will become meeting places and fitness centers will become recreational facilities.

Beginning Feb. 21, the church will hold worship services in the mall's former Montgomery Ward building until the worship center is complete.

It's not exactly a miracle, but it's close

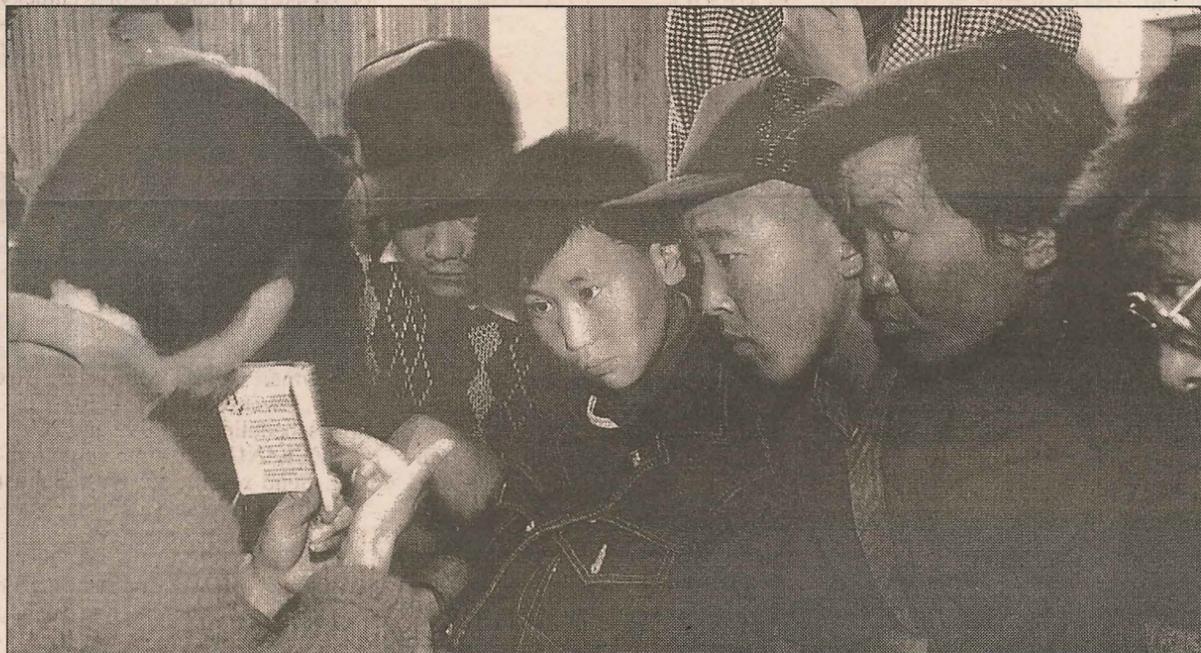
JERUSALEM (ABP)—Israel's National Parks Authority has authorized construction of a submerged bridge on the Sea of Galilee which will allow tourists to simulate Jesus' miraculous walk on water.

"In the beginning we thought it was a joke," the authority's head of planning, Zeev Margalit, told Associated Press.

The wire service quoted the official as saying that after researching the idea and reviewing the plans, he concluded it "would not hurt the feelings of the Christian tourists, and it would not be too kitschy, so we decided to go with it."

The span, to be built by a private contractor, will be in place by August, according to the report. It will be at Capernaum, the site where tradition says Jesus' walk on water reported in the Gospels took place.

The 13-foot wide, 28-foot long floating bridge will be submerged two inches below the water's surface, and will accommodate up to 50 people. To enhance the effect, it will not have handrails. Lifeguards and boats will be on hand in case a walker slips off.



WITNESS A group of people in Mongolia strain to hear as a church member explains Christianity to them. Since the collapse of communism in 1990, the number of Christians in Mongolia has grown from an estimated two or three people to more than 5,000 people in 40 congregations. (SBC International Mission Board photo by Charles Ledford.)

Not everyone who listens to Christian radio is a believer, Barna says

VENTURA, Calif. (RNS)—Four out of 10 adults listen to Christian radio in a typical week, a survey by Barna Research Group has found.

The research firm reports that 39 percent of adults listen to Christian programming on the radio each week, which amounts to a net audience of 75 to 80 million adults weekly.

Although most of the preaching and teaching broadcasts are aimed at a Protestant audience and feature Protestant clergy, researchers found such programs do not draw an exclusively Protestant audience.

Seventy-five percent of listeners are Protestant, but 10 percent attend Catholic churches and the remaining 15 percent are atheists or affiliated with non-Christian faiths. George Barna, president of Barna

Research Group, said he was surprised by some of the findings.

"Who would have imagined that more than 10 million people who never attend church services listen with some frequency to Christian radio broadcasting?" Barna asked.

"It appears that Christian radio broadcasts may fill a very significant religious need for millions of people—some of whom do not get all that they need from their church involvement, others of whom rely on non-church religious input for their spiritual development," he said.

Most of the adults listening to Christian radio hear two formats of broadcasting—preaching and teaching as well as talk and music. Fifty-eight percent of Christian radio listeners are exposed to both Christian

formats during the typical week.

The survey found that people in their 70s and 80s are the most loyal listeners of Christian radio, with 64 percent of them listening to some kind of Christian broadcast during a typical week. The likelihood of tuning in to Christian radio increases with age.

Barna added that adults who attend mainline Protestant churches are far less likely to listen to any Christian radio than are those who attend other Protestant churches—40 percent and 59 percent listen, respectively.

The findings were based on a survey of a random sample of 1,015 adults who were interviewed by telephone. The survey had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Oneida Baptist Institute

1899 - 1999



Photo courtesy of University of Louisville Archives

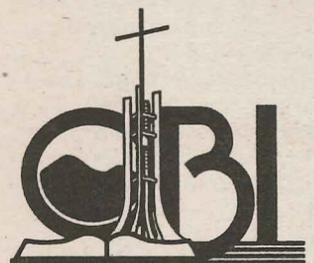
Through the years...

the faces have changed,



but our purpose remains the same.

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