

PRactical Resources for Christian Living

WESTERN RECORDER

March 2, 1999
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On Mission



Together

See insert

FOR THE RECORD

Hello, Orlando

The executive committee of the Southern Baptist Convention voted to keep the annual meeting in Orlando next year but not to fund a study on changing the convention's name. *Page 2.*

Split leadership

North Carolina Baptists are looking at a new model of leadership that would share power between conservatives and moderates. *Page 2.*

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C.R. Daley reminds us that kindness is still alive and well. *Page 5.*

Abortion

The U.S. Supreme Court let stand a state's parental-notification law. *Page 9.*

Music

Gospel artists won Grammys in six categories. *Page 9.*

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Young: Stop making outreach & evangelism efforts boring

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

LEXINGTON—Creativity is the spark missing from many churches' and Christians' lives, according to a pastor whose sermon illustrations have included live sheep, interviews with baseball players and sugar and salt piled on a plate.

"God says create," said Ed Young Jr., senior pastor of the Fellowship Church in Grapevine, Texas. "Every time we do, it's an act of love and worship to God. A lot of us get creativity cramps. We trade in creativity for dogma."

Speaking at the state evangelism conference Feb. 23, Young lamented pastors and laypeople who feel they are sleepwalking through life because of embracing the same daily rituals.

They mistakenly reason that a different marital relationship, better-paying occupation or new climate would change life for the better, he said. But their real problem, Young insisted, is neglecting creativity.

He said his church goes to great lengths to put this gift into practice.

When it moved to a new home three miles from the Dallas-Fort Worth Airport, the church painted a 150-by-45-foot logo atop its building. Not only does it attract the attention of flyers, Fellowship Church has been featured on "Good Morning America" and in publications like the New York Times and USA Today.

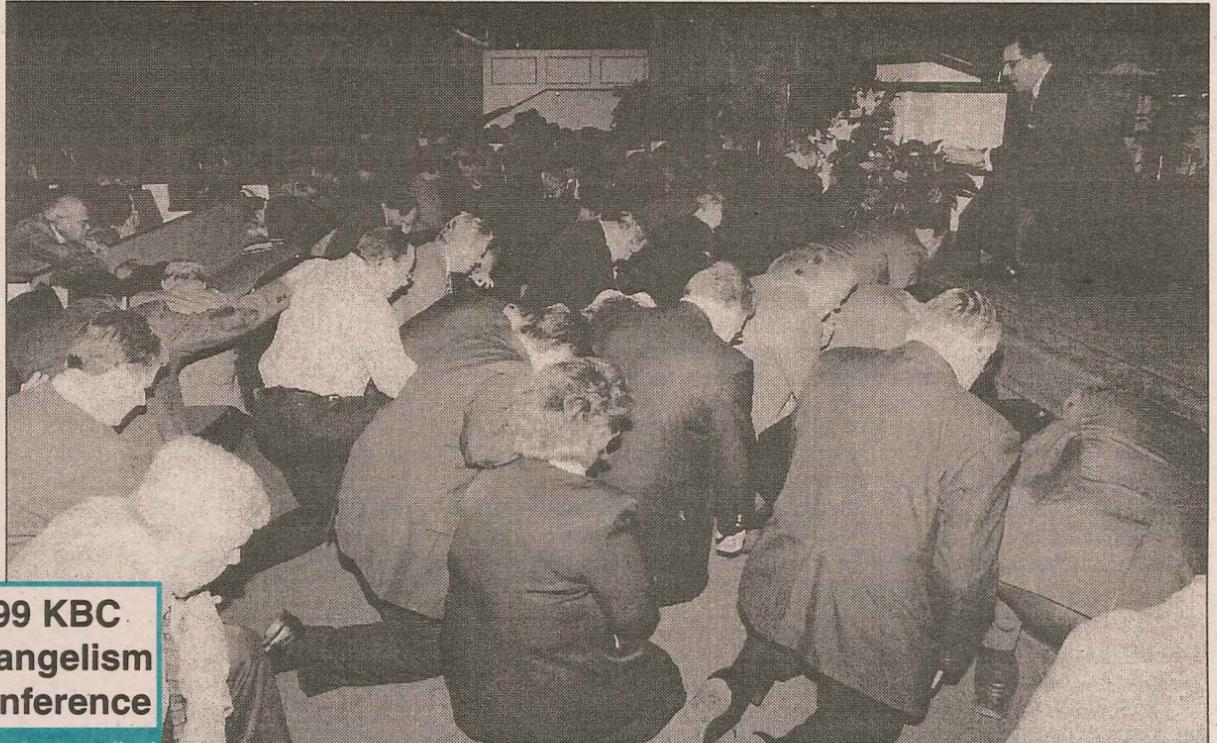
Stunts like bringing sheep on stage while preaching on the 23rd Psalm also attract attention. So do drama, multimedia shows and videotapes—a favorite element of Young's sermons.

Thanks to connections in the baseball world, he once taped major leaguers talking about the designated hitter—an illustration of the roles played by members of blended families.

On another occasion, a crew filmed him ordering a meal at McDonald's. He compared that to "drive-through Christians" who cruise through church for a quick serving of grace but who never commit to serve.

But Young said innovation doesn't require the same resources as Fellowship, which

□ See Young: From ..., page 6



ALTAR CALL Craig Loscalzo, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington, leads pastors and church leaders in a prayer of dedication during the Kentucky Baptist Convention evangelism conference. The event, Feb. 22-23 at Porter Memorial Baptist Church, drew an estimated crowd of 1,200 at the most-attended session.



1999 KBC
Evangelism
Conference

'Restoring a passion for evangelism'

Conference urges passion for evangelism

By Ken Walker & David Winfrey
State Correspondent & News Director

LEXINGTON—Reclaiming a passion for leading people to faith in Jesus was the theme for this year's Kentucky Baptist Convention evangelism conference, Feb. 22-23.

Speakers from near and far urged pastors to lead their congregations in taking the message of God's love and Jesus' sacrifice to their communities.

"Sometimes we get so busy doing church business we forget what the business of the church is," said John Yarborough, vice president for evangelism at the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Southern Baptists have produced many programs, but they are no substitute for a personal passion to share the love of God, Yarborough said.

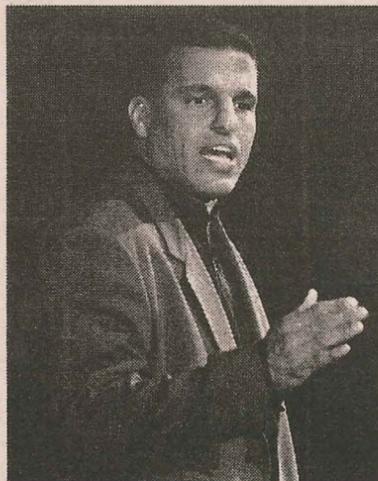
As an example, he noted that before he married his wife he had a passion to kiss her. Although he had taken no training courses on the subject, Yarborough said he discovered that his passion drove him to accomplish that task. "And she says that over the years I've gotten good at it."

Herb Reavis, pastor of North Jackson Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla., said churches have gotten too distracted by their own concerns to share their Christian faith.

"We're debating what kind of paper plates to have," Reavis said.

"Everything's a big deal in the Baptist church except for the fact that the world's going to hell," he said. "We shouldn't be hung up on what's convenient for me and what do I like, but what's it going to take to reach my city for Christ?"

Steve Cloud, pastor of Northside Baptist Church in West Columbia, S.C., said many churches are like the



FORMER MUSLIM Saleim Kahleh, a former Muslim, described how he became a Christian partly through the friendship of Christians who were willing to love him despite the fact he was came from a different faith. "What if you were raised in Saudi Arabia. Would you be a Muslim today?" he asked. "It's one thing to know what you believe. It's another to know why you believe it."

church at Laodicea—neither hot nor cold.

"When you look at (Southern Baptists), you see 70 percent of the churches are plateaued or declining. The last 30 years, we've lagged behind population growth 11 percent, and 6,000 churches a year baptize no one," he said.

The church at Laodicea had done deeds that God commended, Cloud said. But the church was so wrapped up in its own progress that members forgot the power behind their deeds.

"They were doers," Cloud said. "They were a busy church, but they had lost sight of why."

The Laodiceans also possessed an element of disbelief. They lost their

INSIDE:

- Mathison: Build evangelism through prayer, discipleship and unity. *Page 3.*
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God-dependency and became self-dependent, he said. Thus, it became easy to compromise and find a comfort zone.

Cloud said he sees the same thing happening in America's churches today. Ironically, side by side with the lack of spiritual fire is more knowledge about evangelism and about evangelism methods than ever before, thanks to a wealth of books, seminars and tapes, he said.

"Our problem is not knowledge; it's a lack of fire," said Cloud. "The issue is where is the fire? What would it take to ignite a passion in my heart for lost souls to come to Christ?"

Cloud said that if Baptists are willing to go through the motions and settle for being average Christians, they also will settle for a watered-down image of God.

"I need the fire. Passion, hunger and brokenness are needed on the inside," he said. "People respond when the fire falls down."

This year's evangelism conference blended music and messages with break-out conferences and testimonies. Held at Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, it attracted an estimated crowd of 1,200 during the most-attended sessions.

Next year's conference will be Feb. 28-29 at Highview Baptist Church in Louisville.

BAPTISTS

BAPTIST BITS

■ **Robert Naylor**, 90, president of Southwestern from 1958-78, died early in the morning Sunday, Feb. 21, in his Fort Worth, Texas, home. During Naylor's presidency, Southwestern's enrollment increased from 2,400 to 4,100 and the facilities were expanded significantly.

■ **Southern Baptist** Convention officials have set a goal of \$750 million during the 2000-2001 fiscal year in honor of the 75th anniversary of the Cooperative Program. The \$750 million goal encompasses not only state and national Cooperative Program gifts by church members, but also gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for international missions, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American missions and all state missions offerings.

■ **The home** of former Southern Baptist Convention President Tom Elliff was destroyed by fire late Sunday night, Feb. 21. Elliff, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla., and his wife, Jeannie, were out of the state at the time of the blaze. Arson has not been ruled out, officials said.

■ **The Wayland Baptist** University center located at Glorieta (N.M.) Conference Center will be moved to Albuquerque June 1 to be more accessible to a larger number of students, administrators announced. For the past three years, Wayland, based in Plainview, Texas, provided higher education opportunities at Glorieta, near Santa Fe.

SBC Executive Committee: Orlando, yes; name change, no

By Bob Allen
Associated Baptist Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (ABP)—Despite its boycott of the Walt Disney Co., the Southern Baptist Convention will not pull its 2000 annual meeting out of Orlando, Fla., the SBC Executive Committee voted Feb. 23.

The Executive Committee also voted during the meeting against a feasibility study for changing the name of the nation's largest non-Catholic faith group.

Three separate motions at last summer's convention asked that the group move its annual meeting elsewhere in light of a 1997 resolution urging Southern Baptists to refrain from patronizing Disney theme parks, stores and subsidiaries.

The motions, which were referred to the Executive Committee, said it would be hypocritical for Southern Baptists to meet in Orlando after boycotting Disney for alleged anti-family and pro-gay policies.

But the Executive Committee will recommend to this year's convention in Atlanta that Southern Baptists move forward with plans to meet in Orlando, noting that messenger involvement in witnessing efforts while observing the boycott would "be a profound testimony for the cause of Christ."

Jack Wilkerson, vice president for business and finance, said the SBC has signed contracts with three hotels adjacent to the convention center.

No contract has been signed with the Orange County Convention Center, but space has been reserved for the 2000 SBC meeting since 1991, and intensive negotiations have been going on for a year.

Backing out now could create "ad-

verse financial and/or reputational consequences" for Southern Baptists, he said.

The vote on whether to study a name change followed a postponement at the meeting in September. Then, the committee deferred action on two motions concerning a possible name change pending a preliminary study by staff.

In a written report, Augie Boto, the Executive Committee's vice president for convention policy, concluded a name change would be neither practical nor popular.

Supporters of a new name say the current regional designation hurts Southern Baptists' image in new work areas of the North and West. Opponents, however, argued that any bias against Southern Baptists is more likely due to the convention's policies than its geography. A new name might weaken the convention's hard-won image as a bastion of conservatism, they said.

While a new name might "afford a modicum of relief" to Southern Baptists in new-work areas, "the Executive Committee finds no compelling rationale for changing the name of the convention nor for underwriting a study of the same," the report concluded.

Blaine Barber, a Michigan pastor who pushed for a name-change feasibility study at the Executive Committee meeting last fall, cast the lone dissenting vote.

In other business at the Feb. 22-23 meeting in Nashville, Tenn., the Executive Committee:

■ Declined to act on a motion to amend Article I of the "Baptist Faith and Message" after referring the matter to a council of seminary presidents.

The proposal would have amended a sentence describing the Bible as

Conservatives, moderates look at joint leadership

By Yonat Shimron
Raleigh, N.C., News & Observer

RALEIGH, N.C. (RNS)—Faced with a two-decade-old division between theological and political moderates and conservatives, leaders of both factions in North Carolina are scrambling to devise a means of shared leadership.

Leaders say they hope such a model could stave off the kind of schisms that have marked Southern Baptist life in other state conventions.

Although support for what is believed to be an unprecedented plan is still tentative, advocates say it may call for amending the state convention's constitution to require moderates and conservatives to take turns as president of the convention and president of its 100-member General Board.

For nearly 20 years, since conservatives took over the national Southern Baptist Convention, Baptists in different states have waged a bitter fight over the control of independent state conventions.

In North Carolina, the presidency of the 1.2-million-member state convention has in recent years fallen to the conservatives, while its General Board has been ruled by moderates.

The de facto division of power led

to a yearlong study of a possible shared leadership plan.

"This is a very diverse group. Obviously there will have to be some give and take on both sides if we're to move forward together," said Greg Mathis, pastor of Mud Creek Baptist Church in Hendersonville and a conservative who co-chairs the reconciliation committee.

Until recently, North Carolina was considered a state ruled by moderates. But conservatives have won the presidency of the convention for two terms in a row. They also have forced the convention to begin naming conservatives to its General Board—the body that rules the convention between its annual meetings.

"As I perceive it, there's a genuine intent to do what we can do to avoid the situation that happened with the Southern Baptist Convention where the conservative effort succeeded and the moderates have no voice in the leadership," said Marion Lark, pastor of First Baptist Church in Henderson and a moderate.

The state also has grown weary of the political infighting that has gripped the denomination for a generation.

"North Carolina Baptists don't care much about the political wrangling," said Michael Queen of First Baptist

'Transitional' budget remains

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (ABP)—A Southern Baptist Convention budget that purposely was marked "transitional" for two years won't be changed, the SBC Executive Committee determined Feb. 23.

The same percentage splits that have divided Cooperative Program gifts among various SBC agencies and institutions in the two-year transitional period after denominational restructuring will be retained at least for the next two years.

Denominational restructuring was promoted, in part, as a way to get more Cooperative Program money to "front-line missions." But beneficiaries of funding percentage increases since restructuring have been some of the SBC's seminaries, the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission and the Executive Committee itself.

The International Mission Board, hailed as the flagship missions enterprise of Southern Baptists, will continue to receive the same percentage (50 percent) of Cooperative Program money it got before restructuring.

The SBC's other direct missions

"truth without any mixture of error" by adding the phrase "in every area of which it speaks."

■ Approved an almost \$160 million Cooperative Program allocation budget to be recommended at the June 15-16 convention in Atlanta.

The SBC operating budget includes \$425,000 for the Baptist World Alliance, a global network of Baptist groups.

The Executive Committee is proposing a 1.6 percent increase in its

agency, the North American Mission Board, was created in the denominational restructuring plan by merging three old agencies, the Home Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission and Radio & Television Commission.

In the transitional SBC budgets since restructuring—and now in the planned budgets for the next two years—NAMB has received 22.79 percent of all Cooperative Program gifts, less than the combined 24.15 percent given to NAMB's predecessor agencies.

Meanwhile, the total portion of SBC funds given to the seminaries has grown from 20.4 percent before restructuring to 21.64 percent now.

The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission now receives 1.49 percent of the SBC budget, up from 0.99 percent before restructuring.

Executive Committee members crafted their proposal for the 1999-2000 budget in a day-long subcommittee meeting in Nashville Feb. 22, then presented it to the full committee the next day. The budget must be approved by messengers to the SBC annual meeting in June.

staff salary structure, effective Oct. 1.

■ Extended for two more years a policy requiring the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference to reimburse the Executive Committee \$38,000 for meeting expenses.

■ Approved a \$9,000 contract hiring Barry McCarty as chief parliamentarian for this year's annual meeting.

■ Recommended that the 2004 annual meeting be held in Indianapolis. Scheduled dates are June 15-16, 2004.

Missionaries survive ambush

KAABONG, Uganda (BP)—Missionaries Bruce and Martha Schmidt and two of their children narrowly escaped when unidentified gunmen fired on their double-cab pickup truck Feb. 14 near Kaabong, Uganda.

The Schmidts, Southern Baptist International Mission Board missionaries in Uganda, were traveling from Kampala, Uganda's capital, to their home in Kaabong when assailants shot three bullets into their truck, said IMB missionary Mark Pierce, a friend and co-worker of the couple.

The first bullet blew a front tire and the brake line, Pierce said. The second passed over Michael, the couple's 8-year-old son, then went through Schmidt's headrest and blew out his window. Schmidt drove on three wheels and a tire rim as the truck took a third bullet.

Schmidt, his son and 13-year-old daughter, Stephanie, suffered only minor injuries from flying glass and fragmenting bullets.

Mathison: Build evangelism through prayer, discipleship

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

LEXINGTON—The pastor of the nation's fastest-growing United Methodist church said inter-denominational, inter-racial groups represent the wave of the future in evangelism.

Most conversions to Christianity in Montgomery, Ala., occur through groups composed of Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians and others, said John Ed Mathison. He is senior pastor of that city's Frazier Memorial United Methodist Church.

One of Montgomery's most exciting outreaches is a health care program for the poor, he said. Though led by the Baptist Health Care system, it originated with a free clinic led by a doctor from Frazier Memorial. It involves members of six churches, three of them Baptist.

Still, this blend of evangelical cooperation relies on the local church, he said.

"If evangelism doesn't happen in the local church, it's not going to happen," said Mathison, who has written books on church growth and involving lay members in ministry.

He said that while some predict the church is going out of style, he believes Christians soon will see one

of God's greatest moves in history.

For inspiration, he suggested looking at the church outlined in Acts 2:42-47. The practices followed in that time should be the norm for all denominations, he said. They include:

■ **Devotion to biblical instruction.** Christians can't know God's will if they don't know his Word, Mathison said. Noting that Southern Baptists' Sunday school attendance has declined for the past 20 years, he said Methodists face the same dilemma.

"The problem is not agnostics, it's ignostics—people are ignorant of God's Word," he said. "When we get back to studying the Word, we will have power."

■ **Prayer.** He recalled meeting the pastor of the world's largest Methodist church in South Korea. When Mathison asked about the secret behind their growth, he replied, "We pray."

The Korean said members gather daily to pray at 5 a.m., except Saturdays. On that morning, Friday night prayer meetings often still are in session. Members also spend two

days a month fasting and praying at a site known as "Prayer Mountain."

■ **Unity.** Just as early Christians had "all things in common," modern churches must stop dividing into separate groups and factions, the speaker said.

"Evangelism isn't going to happen until people get together and people outside the church sense if they came to that church, they would be accepted," he said.

To illustrate, he said a friend's grandfather drives 40 miles to a Wal-Mart every week for free coffee. The man likes being greeted by people who know

his name and act glad to see him. The same love and acceptance should prevail in churches, Mathison said.

■ **Giving to those in need.** Growing churches empower members to identify needs in their area, design ministries to meet them and lead those people to Christ, Mathison said.

Commonly, a congregation relies on staff members to do ministry, he said. But the job of staff is to train laypeople to minister in the commu-

nity.

Pastors, however, share the blame, he said. Too many pastors try to keep their thumbs on everything that's happening and don't let their people venture out.

"I'd like to say to pastors, 'If you know everything that's going on in the church, there isn't enough going on in your church,'" he said.

■ **Joy.** The early Christians met and ate together with gladness, he said. Today, however, a lot of Methodists look like they've been baptized in vinegar. But, he said, when people become passionate about evangelism, there will be excitement and enjoyment from a life of faith.

The result of following these practices will be praise and God adding new members to the church on a daily basis, Mathison said.

Asking if there are any Kentucky Baptist churches where that is occurring, he said it can happen as people lead others to Christ and those converts touch others, sparking excitement.

"Church is not about building buildings or how many folks you have here," he said. "It's about winning people to Jesus Christ. Where you have study, fellowship and empowering people for ministry, you will see growth."

BLUEGRASS BURGEOO

■ **The Kentucky Baptist Convention creative ministry festival** will be March 5-6. The event, held at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, will teach youth and adults ways to use performing arts as tools for sharing their Christian faith with people who might never visit a church service. The cost is \$50 per church, or \$25 for one person from a church. For information, call (502) 244-6465 or (800) 266-6477.

■ **Louisville is one of several cities nationwide participating in a week of prayer** March 7-13 for black churches concerning AIDS. For more information, contact Balm in Gilead Inc. at (888) 225-6243 or visit the Web site, www.balmingilead.org.



1999 KBC
Evangelism
Conference

Restoring a passion for evangelism

West Kentucky pastor: Trying new ideas can lead to growth

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

LEXINGTON—The pastor of a growing West Kentucky church credits the congregation's turnaround to a reliance on the Bible and a willingness to try new things.

Jeff McCain led an evangelism conference break-out session on creative growth for smaller churches.

His congregation, New Harmony Baptist in Wheatcroft, fits that theme. When he went there in May of 1993, there were only six members attending. The youngest was age 65.

Today it has 103 members, with average Sunday morning attendance of 75. The church also added a 3,600-square-foot educational building.

A former coal miner, McCain said he gradually learned what worked and what didn't. Noting the church is called the bride of Christ, he uses the acronym WIFE, which stands for worship, instruction, fellowship and evangelism.

He said he began with biblically-based preaching. His other emphasis was on discipleship training. Today the church offers 45 class options during the year, including "Experiencing God" and "Mind of Christ."

Laying a groundwork was a key part of growth, McCain said.

"It amazes me that people can be in church for 40 years and a Christian for 35, but they're a one-year-old Christian for 35 years," he said. "They haven't grown. A pastor is called to prepare people. I may not be brilliant, but I can work harder than anyone else."

The church also needed to revive

its worship, he said. For years New Harmony had a reputation of having lousy music, he said.

To change that, he bought new hymnals and used more praise songs. After noticing people sang more when they weren't holding a hymnal, he transferred songs to transparencies and projected the words onto a screen.

The pastor also experimented with new forms of music. Some weren't always accepted, but the church now has a praise team to lead worship. Some members clap their hands, he added. "We have to keep trying and working," he said. "Real worship is not just singing. It's praising the Lord and people testifying. There ought to be times where the preacher doesn't get to preach. It's exciting when that happens."

Fellowship and evangelism have occurred as the church increased its emphasis on missions. That has included starting an active Women on Mission group and Brotherhood for men.

Both go out in the Webster County area to help residents clean up yards, paint homes and fix roofs. They also take regular trips to Eastern Kentucky to distribute supplies and witness to residents in mountain areas.

The church's evangelism plan includes a regular visitation program led by a team of women. He said that when he hears the days of visitation are over, he shakes his head.

"It may not work in Lexington, but if you live in Mayberry, USA, where I do, it works," he said. "Look for what works in your area. We can't take evangelism and try to make it like somebody else's."

Strack: Mandate & multitudes motivate evangelism

By David Winfrey
News Director

LEXINGTON—Christians must be self-motivated to share their faith with other people, Jay Strack told the KBC evangelism conference audience.

"It all starts with us," Strack said during the closing session of the conference Feb. 23.

"Jesus' last words should be our first priority," Strack said, referring to the Great Commission to make disciples throughout the world.

Strack, a vocational evangelist from Orlando, Fla., said 2 Corinthians 5 shows the Apostle Paul had five motivations that also can spur Christians today. Paul was on mission, Strack added. "He kept his focus."

Strack said the five motivations were:

■ **A mandate from God.** God sent Paul out to make disciples, Strack said.

"Jesus said, 'Don't be ashamed of me,'" he said. "He was obedient to the mandate from above. And if I have my theology right, you and I have the same mandate from above."

■ **The multitude of people.** Paul considered himself a debtor to the people who didn't know about Jesus, Strack said.

Strack, who often leads devotions with sports figures, recalled that when former New York Mets catcher Gary Carter became a Christian, he developed a passion for his non-Christian friends to know about Jesus. "He had a burden for them."

"Some of us are more excited about being a prophet than we are telling our family and friends what a difference God makes in our lives," Strack said.

■ **A meeting with God.** Paul knew he had an

obligation to tell others about Jesus because one day he would have to account to God for what he did with his faith, Strack said.

"When I stand before God, nothing's going to matter except what I've done for the Lord Jesus Christ," he said.

■ **The misery of hell.** Paul never lost sight of the fact that there is a hell to be avoided, Strack said.

"There is a place of suffering and torment," he said. "How many more nights will I go to bed dry-eyed, when so many around me cry themselves to sleep?"

■ **The mountain called Galvary.** The love of God that resulted in Jesus' sacrifice compelled Paul, and it compels Christians today, Strack said.

In closing, Strack reminded pastors they have a high calling from God.

Strack encouraged pastors to keep their zeal for reaching others for Christ despite the fact that some church members might distract them from the importance of evangelism.

He said pastors must never commit the sin of the desert—knowing where the water is but never sharing it with others.

"Don't let someone rob you of your dream," he said. "Playtime's over, folks. It's scoreboard time."

"It's real simple," he added. "You and I have allowed other people, other things and our own insecurities to make the most important message of all time become burdensome."

He said that Rick Warren has a tip for pastors who want to know the direction their churches are headed. "You want to know the temperature in your church? Stick the thermometer in your own mouth."

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

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Why impede gospel?

The Feb. 9 edition of the Western Recorder contained two articles referring to Christians dealing with homosexuality. In the "Baptist Bits" section, a story about Chuck Lawless' new lessons about homosexuality was printed along with Wanda Howard's opinion letter on the firing of a lesbian woman who had worked for the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.

As I read Romans 1:24-28, which was cited by Mr. Lawless, I read on to verse 29 where Paul talks about people who gossip in the same context as homosexuals are being mentioned. It seems to me that gossip is a much more widespread problem among Southern Baptist Christians than homosexuality. Should people dealing with gossips be held to the same three choices (acceptance, condemnation or to maintain God's standards on gossips) that are given by Mr. Lawless to act toward homosexuals? I would guess that most Southern Baptists would not agree with this conclusion. Why are we writing lessons about problems that Southern Baptist Christians generally don't deal with when it is these same lessons that make it nearly impossible for people to reach out to homosexuals in their community?

We as Christians need to remember that the gospel is for everyone, and everyone deserves a fair shot at knowing Jesus. When Jesus was anointed by the sinful woman in Luke 7:36-50, he said at the end that her faith saved her. We need to remember that when we are dealing with people we believe are sinful, Jesus did not write three ways to face them. It seems obvious from this that the only way Jesus knew how to deal with sinful people was love and acceptance. Southern Bap-

tists should be thankful that the grace of God that covers homosexuals also is extended to them when looking at and judging others.

*James Hodges
Louisville*

Some sins greater?

I am writing in response to the letter "Admires KBHC" by Wanda Howard. I trust that my opinion on this subject may be received in a loving context.

The Bible teaches us that homosexuality is a sin, and I agree with the teachings of the Bible. According to the first paragraph in the referenced letter, it seems that anyone who has sin in his or her life should be dismissed as an employee of KBHC, since all sin is of Satan.

Paragraph two refers to Leviticus 18:22, stating that the sin of homosexuality is detestable. God detests all sin. Is there any place in the Bible we find that some sins are greater? Although God ordained a perfect plan and order for life, are people with special needs or rare syndromes lying to themselves when they say, "I was born this way?"

We tend to forgive and overlook life struggles that are acceptable or in our comfort zone (i.e. obesity, loss of temper—by saying "it's a battle, but I'm working on it"). Yes, sin is a choice. So do we all serve Satan each time we sin?

Homosexuality is a tough issue because the orientation of desire is not a choice for everyone, while it is a choice to act and live the lifestyle. Homosexuals need a Christian atmosphere if they are to develop the needed strength and discipline for life changes. I think we are to love, accept and support despite the struggle and help them seek biblical counsel. Becoming a Christian

doesn't take away our desire to sin; it takes a lifetime of developing Christian discipline.

Perhaps we should recall the teaching of John 9:1-3. As we learn to accept all people and help them discover the power found in Christ, God is glorified.

*Shirley French
Warsaw*

Covering all bases

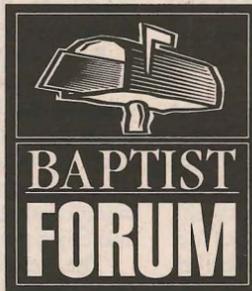
Many years ago, I heard of a man who was nearing the end of this mortal coil. Aware of his impending demise, he called for a minister. The minister arrived and shortly asked him, "Have you accepted the Lord, and cast out the devil?" to which the candidate for immortality replied, "I have accepted the Lord, but I have not cast out the devil. A man in my condition cannot afford to make any enemies." He was, to use a baseball metaphor, covering all the bases.

Which brings me to my first point. Have you noticed that churches are now "asking" for "resumes" to fill a vacant pastorate? I have always believed that a man was "called of God" to a certain church.

Secondly, like the dying man above, churches today are also covering all the bases in regard to affiliating with Baptist denominational groups. I recently saw an advertisement that said "we are accepting resumes for the position of pastor." The advertisement continued "we are a progressive, medium-sized church aligned with the Southern Baptist Convention, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and the American Baptist Churches of the USA." I immediately wondered why they had not also affiliated with the "Baptist Alliance." They surely wouldn't make any enemies by not doing so, would they?

Accept the Lord, but don't cast out the devil! He might be of some use down the road!

*Oscar Davidson
Somerset*



FAMILY

Dare to differ from world's financial ways

By Jeremy White

The Bible urges Christians not to conform to this world and its philosophy. This also applies to your personal finances.

If you apply biblical principles to your finances, your life will contrast dramatically (and, of course, positively) with others around you. Unfortunately, I suspect, Christians live their financial lives about the same as non-Christians.

The statistics below reveal where everyone else is headed. Are you conforming? May a review of these trends either confirm the path you are on or present to you a challenge of change:

■ Americans age 32-41 now carry an average credit card debt of \$8,000 (Adweek magazine).

■ The United States ranks last among the world's leading countries in the category of national saving—about 2.3 percent of income (American Savings Education Council).

■ The average American who itemizes on his tax return claims approximately 3 percent for charitable contributions (IRS Statistics of Income Bulletin).

■ Consumers redeemed fewer than two percent of the 287 billion manufacturer's coupons distributed (NCH Promotional Services, a coupon processor).

■ The average American spends 18 years in retirement. Less than half of Americans have put aside money specifically for retirement (U.S. Labor Department).

■ A survey of 18-34 year-olds revealed money is the biggest stress in their life, ahead of job, time and family pressures (Swing magazine).

What is the prescription for you to improve your finances? Start with the biblical attitudes of contentment, patience and thankfulness. Follow the biblical principles of giving generously, saving wisely, borrowing rarely and spending prudently.

Churches can help by teaching practical financial discipleship instead of offering only one Sunday of "stewardship emphasis." Ultimately, however, Christians must be transformed by the renewing of their minds and their wallets.

Jeremy White is a certified public accountant in Paducah. His Website, www.consultcpa.com, features a weekly financial tip.

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

Mission of hope

Young people sometimes are criticized for their lack of commitment. I'm finding, however, that more and more of our youth are excited about putting their faith into action.

A good example of this is a group of 30 college students from Kentucky who will go to Sarajevo, Bosnia, May 13-29 to minister in Christ's name. The young people, who will be accompanied by two of our KBC campus ministers and four volunteer construction chiefs, will repair 10-15 homes damaged by the recent civil war and build two playgrounds. This mission of hope is a joint project of the Kentucky Baptist Brotherhood and student work departments.

The students will be able to share their faith as they work alongside the homeowners and live out Christ's compassion in a wonderfully practical way. The young people also will

lead Bible studies and share their faith in other ways while in Bosnia.

The repair work is desperately needed. Although the fighting ended three years ago, many people continue to live in only small sections of their war-damaged homes.



Bill Mackey

The students already are praying and preparing spiritually for this trip. Every Kentucky Baptist can be a part by beginning to pray now for these students, their leaders and the people of Sarajevo. Pray specifically for those young people

whom the Lord may call into full-time Christian service as a result of participating in this mission.

In order to go on the trip, each student volunteer is raising \$1,500. Of this amount, \$200 will purchase construction and repair materials. A number of the students who are going are on scholarships and borrowing money to go to college and therefore do

not have extra money for themselves. They are willing to sacrifice and raise the needed funds, however, because they care about the Bosnian people.

An additional \$24,000 is being sought to pay for materials. I believe there are 24 readers who will affirm these students and bless this outstanding ministry by contributing \$1,000. More information, including a seven-minute video about the project, is available for those who would like to learn more. Call the KBC media library at (502) 254-4731 or toll-free (888) 254-5713 to receive a copy.

Checks should be made out to the Kentucky Baptist Convention, c/o the Brotherhood Department, Box 43433, Louisville, Ky. 40253-0433. Gifts should be marked for "Bosnia Chang-ers." Gifts need to be made by May 1 so that arrangements can be made for the purchase of the materials.

I plan to make my contribution by March 2. I consider it a wonderful opportunity to be a partner in meeting a critical need.

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

Taking marriage problems to parents isn't wise in long run

Q: My parents won't listen to my marriage problems. Any time I try to talk to them about problems my husband and I are having, they change the subject or sometimes tell me outright that they don't want to hear about it. This is confusing. You'd think they'd be interested.

They probably are interested, but wise. Often when a son or daughter goes to his or her parents with complaints about a spouse, it can strain the relationship between the parents and their son/daughter-in-law.

For instance, if you run to tell your parents when you and your husband have a fight, they will hear your side of what is usually a two-sided argument. Being your parents, they likely will take your side, agreeing with you that he is being unreasonable. Soon, however, you and your husband will make up, and you will likely forgive and forget or even realize that you, too, were at least partly wrong. Your parents, however, are still rather angry about what he said or did and without an easy way to resolve their feelings. After all, it really is your issue, not theirs. This obviously can lead to bad feelings between parents and the son-in-law.

Of course, there are times when outside help is needed. In such cases, talking to someone who is trained and who can be objective (e.g., a marriage counselor or pastor) can be very beneficial. But rarely will much good come from hashing over your spouse's faults with your parents.—Susan Howell

Q: How much should we tell our three teenage children about their father's cancer? He has a chance of surviving and doesn't want them to begin to question his authority now.

The impact of chronic illnesses like cancer reaches far beyond the patient. Spouses, parents, children, siblings and others feel the hurt and adjust to the changes in lifestyle.

The patient understandably grows into a different person in response to the illness. They might attempt to deny change, but others can tell something is wrong. They are like a boiling pot of explosive emotions. Fear, anger, loneliness, anxiety, depression and a variety of other emotions intermingle with the task of accepting the illness as real.

However, if no real reason is given, teenagers could be confused or even blame themselves. They deserve to know something in order to adjust and respond appropriately. If handled properly, this could be a time of growth. Your husband should find the right time and place. Leave time for questions and private discussion. Give them the facts and be honest.

Do not expect a miracle of understanding. Other discussions might be necessary. Regular talks keep the growth in relationships alive.

Doing something can help. If he can be specific and ask something from each teenager, they might adjust better. For example, he could consider asking someone to care for additional chores, run errands or even change plans.

The family would do well to build a network of support for themselves and for the teenagers. Others who are facing similar circumstances can offer hope and support. Most medical centers sponsor such self-help groups through the chaplain's office or with social workers. The teens may want to talk with a personal counselor about their adjustments.

The benefits of telling teenagers about these types of crises far outweigh the dangers. Secret keeping leads to mistrust and family distance.—Wade Rowatt

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



Kindness is still alive and doing well

By C.R. Daley

Much about the mood and the spirit of today leads us to conclude regretfully that consideration, accommodation and kindness are forgotten virtues. It appears every man is for himself and the devil takes the hindmost.

We not only pay twice as much for gasoline, but if we try to save a few pennies, we have to pump our gas, check the oil, the radiator, the battery and the pressure of our tires. Recently I went to three service stations before finding one with even self-service for tires.

But the milk of human kindness has not all dried up. I learned this on a recent Sunday when I was as much blessed by kindness from strangers as by the day's worship services.

It was one of those too-frequent Sunday mornings when proper Saturday preparation had not been made. My preaching appointment was many miles away and the gasoline tank was almost empty. Acting on the questionable theology of the ox being in the ditch, I pulled into a service station and waited on myself to the tune of \$6.50. When I handed the young attendant a credit card he noticed it had expired. My total cash resources were \$1, and only cash and one particular credit card could be accepted by the attendant.

The sole attendant was this young high school boy, and both of us faced a crisis. He entered into my sufferings and agreed I could pay him the next day. He had never seen me, had no sure reason to believe me and took no security like a spare tire or my American Express card. He risked \$6.50 of his own money on my word. My faith in human kindness was renewed, and I hope his was strengthened when I drove 30 miles early Monday morning to pay him.

The end of that Sunday was more painful than the beginning, but it set my grateful heart to singing. On

the return trip, far from a garage or service station, I heard a disturbing motor knock. Pulling off the road as soon as I could, I discovered an engine hot as only an engine can be hot. I found a milk carton by the side of the road and a farm pond about a half mile away. My inclination first was to climb the fence and get water from the lake. A light in the nearby farm house persuaded me I had better ask before climbing the fence.

This way I met another complete stranger who was already in the bed. He not only gave me permission to have water but got up, dressed and brought a bucket of water from a nearby faucet. The radiator would not accept the water, and obviously more was wrong. To make the story short, a half-hour later my car had been pulled into the light from his garage, tools had been found by him and a stuck thermostat had been removed from the cooling system and the radiator filled. He refused to consider any pay and never knew I had but one dollar in my pocket.

Our conversation revealed he was a truck driver and had moved from Louisville to this farm with his wife and seven children. Furthermore, he was a Roman Catholic and knew I was a Baptist preacher. I could not but wonder as he strained his muscles and burned his hands to help a Baptist preacher get home, how many Baptists, including myself, would have done as much for a Catholic priest.

One thing is certain. I arrived home with renewed confidence in humanity and the conclusion that the kindness of two strangers was a better sermon than I preached that day.

C.R. Daley is former editor of the Western Recorder. This editorial from Sept. 7, 1974, is among 75 collected in the book "Daley Observations: The Best of C.R. Daley's Western Recorder Editorials." It is available by sending \$15 to the Western Recorder at Box 43969, Louisville, Ky. 40253.

Do you want us to pull the weeds?

By John Dunaway

"But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. ... The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?'" (Matthew 13:25 & 28b)

A farmer sowed his grain seed and then went to bed. During the night, an envious enemy came and sowed weeds. When the seed began to come up, the weeds and grain were mixed. The workers asked if they should pull up the weeds.

Jesus' interpretation revealed much about kingdom ways and the church. The deeper question was, "If the evil one or the enemy invades the life of a Christian or gets someone in the church to do wrong, what do we do?"

Down through the years the enemy, which in Greek means "twist," has twisted the minds of some people to cause them to act in evil ways. They have been plucked up or thrown out. For example, church minutes have

recorded people being put out of church for smoking, drinking, dancing, gossiping and immorality. So the question is, do we act to exclude or act redemptively? If redemptively, we learn to leave judgment to God.

What about those whose minds have been twisted and have done something wrong—shall we exclude or redeem?

Jesus made a surprising statement to the people when he said, "Wait, because you might damage the grain." Did Jesus practice what he preached? I believe he did when Simon Peter denied him in the garden by saying he did not know Jesus.

What if Jesus had banished him? Would the church have a valuable servant? No, it would not. But Jesus loved him and drew him back. Because of this love, a new commitment of love and service developed with Simon Peter.

When John Mark fled the mission field with Paul and Barnabas, the impatient Paul was ready to exclude him, but Paul loved him back to service. Near the end of Paul's life, he admitted that Mark was profitable to the

kingdom.

I think of a young lady who came to see me, burdened with guilt because she was involved in an affair. What she did was morally wrong. The question was should she be plucked out like a weed or redeemed? The hand of love and not quick judgment was extended, and today she is a devoted wife, mother and grandmother.

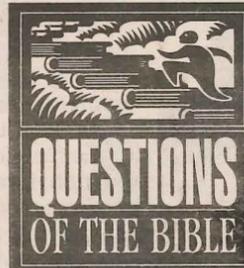
There are four things to recognize. One is that we are too quick to judge, which can result in losing a person for both the church and kingdom service.

Second, for a time when a person has stumbled, it is hard to distinguish between the weed and the grain because even good seed can get twisted up by the twister and messed up. But love and a hand of help by God's people can help the person pick up the pieces. As found with Mark, the church can say that person is useful now.

Third, it is important to realize the truth from Jesus' encounter with the adulterous woman and realize that we who are flawed cannot cast the stone.

Fourth, we must leave the plucking, or judgment, to God because he alone is capable in judging us.

John Dunaway is pastor of Community Baptist Church in Henderson



EVANGELISM

Young: From sheep to salt, be creative

Continued from page 1

attracts 7,300 people on Sundays.

In 1990, with 150 members blending in stage space, he carried a blender on stage to illustrate blended families. For a message on the body as the Holy Spirit's temple, he heaped up the sugar and salt in the average diet to demonstrate the harm of overeating.

"You don't have to have cash to be creative," he said, recalling the time he passed out Juicy Fruit gum after speaking on the fruit of the Spirit. "That's an illusion."

Young answered three questions about creativity:

■ **Why be creative?** Because God invented it, he said, reading about the creation of the earth. Also, Ephesians 5:1 tells us to be imitators of God. Jesus modeled creativity, us-

ing illustrations and stories to drive home a point, he said.

People also need it, Young added, referring to a statistic that 74 percent of people are visual learners.

"They're begging for it," he said.

"They want to hear (Bible truths) in compelling, authentic and creative ways. God used a piece of fruit with Adam and Eve, salt with Lot, a boat with Noah ... and ultimately a cross with the world."

■ **Where should Christians be creative?** Wherever they are involved in marriage, he said, ranging from marriage to the local church. The Bible is exciting, so if people hear a boring message, they should blame the messenger instead of God, he said.

Saying some might suspect his motives as the leader of a "seeker-sensitive" church targeting young people, Young admonished pastors to employ their unique talents in bringing new life to sermons.

"Don't get off on this style stuff," he said. "Preach and teach this message filtered through your creative style and let God do what he will with it."

Many church-goers have an incomplete picture of God, he said. Some think he is like a grandfather, others see him rewarding his children with riches, and others as simply a

sword carrier, Young said.

In an effort to round out these pictures, he recently preached a series on the nature and character of God. He showed how God also believed in work, purpose and value.

■ **How can Christians be creative?**

Ask God to enhance your creativity, Young said. He mentioned his surprise in reviewing his prayer journal and realizing how often he has made that request.

Pastors must also take action to become more creative, he said. Associate with creative people and take time during the day to do the hard work of thinking, Young advised.

Finally, he suggested using the "confusion principle." He learned it from his personal trainer, who kept changing his workout routine every few weeks. When he asked why, the trainer said he wanted to confuse the muscles because they get used to the same workout and don't grow.

"Boom! That's churches!" Young said. "If you confuse them, they'll grow."

BEING CREATIVE
Ed Young Jr. models one way to be creative by delivering part of his address from the audience during the pastor's conference. "You don't have to have cash to be creative."

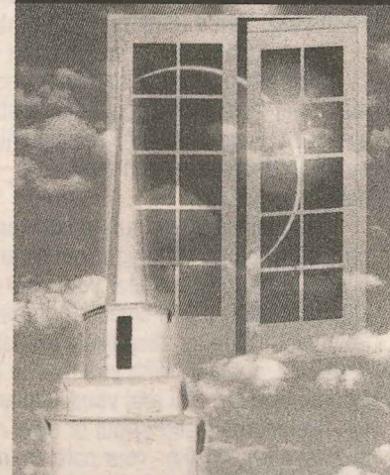


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REAL FAST

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Real Life magazine; (888) 254-5728

50 years later

On March 8, your foundation will celebrate 54 years of service to Kentucky Baptists.

The late A.M. Vollmer was the first full-time executive of the foundation. I never met him, but I have felt a kinship with him through the reading of his reports. This birthday column contains an abbreviated version of a report he made 50 years ago, which is quite relevant for us today.

"... What a man does with what he has tells the story of what he is. ... Men and women who are blessed with earthly possessions have serious responsibilities. Great wisdom, cautious consideration and a keen Christian conscience should be used in planning the future of these possessions. The one who fails at this point will lose the power of Christian testimony. He will soon be forgotten by succeeding generations. Failure in an opportunity for doing good can weaken prospects of a reward in heaven. He who makes good in the use of possessions will show strength of character, sincerity of caution and leave a powerful Christian testimony for succeeding generations by doing good in the world until the Lord comes

again and will win a rich reward in the final reckoning day."

"There is every reason why every Baptist should give serious consideration to the matter of placing his Lord's money in that place where its usefulness will never cease and its testimony to the loyalty of the donor will never die. Our income tax laws urge them to do it. The great need of our institutions and agencies urges them to do it. The cry of a lost and dying world urges them to do it. The example of the compassionate heart of Christ urges them to do it. The desire of every heart to be remembered after death urges them to do it. To be the recipient of a full and rich reward in heaven urges them to do it."

If you are having the urge to practice your stewardship at a deeper level as Vollmer suggested, please give Laurie Valentine and me the privilege of assisting you. Call us toll-free at (888) 254-5701.

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

CONFERENCE ON CULTS

Monday, March 22, 1999

Beacon Hill Baptist Church, 7:00 p.m. - 9:15 p.m. (EST)
274 Old Monticello Road, Somerset, Kentucky

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Ft. Mitchell Baptist Church, 7:00 p.m. - 9:15 p.m. (EST)
2323 Dixie Highway, Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky

- ▶ **Witnessing to Jehovah's Witnesses** - Joe Kreisle
- ▶ **Witnessing to New Agers** - Don Metcalf
- ▶ **Witnessing to Devotees of the Occult** - Mark Terry
- ▶ **Witnessing to Mormons** - Jack Oliver

This conference funded by:

Eliza Broadus State Missions Offering & Cooperative Program

*Acteens Advisors: May fulfill MissionsQuest requirement.



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ON MISSION TOGETHER

A quarterly publication of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union
P.O. Box 436569, Louisville, KY 40253-6569 • (502) 244-6485 • Toll-free: (888) 254-5726
Supplement to Western Recorder

Inside This Issue

- Organizational Happenings Page 2
- Calendar Page 2
- Training Opportunities Page 3
- Project HELP: Violence Page 3
- Camp Page 4
- And much more!

Spring 1999

Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting

April 16-17, 1999

Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown

MISSIONS

From the Heart to the World.



Friday Morning 8:50 a.m.

Music for Worship
Prayers from the Field
Executive Director/Treasurer and Staff Sharing

Special Recognitions Peggy Hicks
Ministers and Spouses; Directors of Missions and Spouses; International Missionaries; North American Missionaries; Parents of Missionaries; MKs; Volunteers; Office Volunteers; Past Presidents, Executive Directors and Staff
Missions: From the Heart of God: The Source

Larry Pumpelly

1998-99 State Acteens Panelists
Thank You from a Kentucky Missionary
From a Missionary's Heart: Africa
Missions: From the Heart to the World

Kym Mitchell
Betty Smith
Sharon Pumpelly
Acteens Panelists

Saturday Morning 9 a.m.—Noon

GA and Children in Action Missions Event

Saturday Morning 8:50 a.m.

Music for Worship
Prayer from the Field
Missions: From the Heart to the World: The Challenge Business

Combined College Choir
Acteens Panelists
Larry Pumpelly

Recognition of Retiring Board
Nominating Committee Report
Election of Board and Officers
Installation of the Board

Peggy Hicks
Bettie Wright

Partnership 2000

Thank You from two MKs
Project HELP: Violence
Missions: From the Heart to the City
Our Children: Our Future

James Taylor
Beth Perkins
Emily and Keely Brandon
Brina Stephens
Lora Lee Smith
Brenda Price

Child care will be available during the Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting by reservation only. To reserve a place for your child, call KY WMU toll-free at (888) 254-5726 or locally at (502) 244-6485.

Friday Afternoon 1:15 p.m.

Music for Worship
Eliza Broadus Offering Promotion
Eliza Broadus: From Her Heart
Eliza Broadus Offering Recipients Prayerwalk

Anna Mary Byrdwell
Heidi Corner

Friday 5 p.m.: Dinners

By reservation for Acteens, Youth on Mission, and Baptist Nursing Fellowship (Forms on pages 3 & 4)

Friday Evening 6:45 p.m.

Music for Worship
From the Heart of God: The Call
Greetings from Kentucky Baptist Convention

Jae-Song and Youn-Joon Ha
Larry Pumpelly
Charles Barnes

A Personal Word

Partnership 2000

A visit to the campus of Georgetown College for a GA event caught my attention as a young child. The buildings, students and overall atmosphere made an impression I have yet to forget. Through the years that impression has broadened into appreciation and support for all three of our Kentucky Baptist liberal arts institutions—Campbellsville University, Cumberland College and Georgetown College.



Brenda Price
Interim executive director

Since 1829, Kentucky Baptists have supported Christian higher education. Out of a sense of joint heritage and purpose, Campbellsville, Cumberland and Georgetown have embarked upon a combined effort called **Partnership 2000** to help secure each school's financial future. Most of the funds acquired through **Partnership 2000** will be devoted to endowing scholarships, grants and other types of financial aid for students. The effort also will address capital projects at each school.

Most of the funds acquired through **Partnership 2000** will be devoted to endowing scholarships, grants and other types of financial aid for students. The effort also will address capital projects at each school.

Kentucky WMU is in partnership with our institutions of higher education through **Partnership 2000**. Why? We know from them will come our future leaders in religion, business, government, education, etc. Thirty percent of missionaries who claim Kentucky as their home state graduated from one of these three institutions. What more can be said?

What will you as an individual or as a family do to support **Partnership 2000**? How will you lead in getting your church involved in Christian higher education in Kentucky? Together we can make a vital difference for Christ and his mission. Let's go for it!

Kentucky State Acteens Conference

April 9-10, 1999



Westport Road Baptist Church
Louisville



Featured speakers:
Ken and Beth Perkins

"Light Up the Night" with more than 1,000 Kentucky Acteens!

Be challenged to allow God to use you!

Worship through great music, drama and listening to inspirational speakers!

Attend special interest sessions and participate in off-site ministry projects!

Meet exciting missionaries and hear their stories!

Please see a list of motels for SAC on page 4



Featured musicians:
Michael and Terri Higdon



ON MISSION TOGETHER

A quarterly publication of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union

Information for WMU directors

■ **North American Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering** are foremost in our thinking as spring begins. We hope you will attend the **Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting** in Elizabethtown, April 16-17. Then, in May learn all you can about the work of your association. May 17-23 is designated as **Associational Missions Week**. Your association is dependent upon your church and other churches for the support of its work. Do you know how much your church contributes to the work in your association? Can you name ministries that are conducted through the association?



■ WMU directors have overall responsibility for the success of missions in the local church. You have a great source of help this year as you can bring ALL your local church leaders to "World Missions Unlimited," a training conference at Campbellsville University, July 30-31, or Cumberland College, Williamsburg, Aug. 6-7. From your church, bring at least one person for EVERY age level, and that person can go back home and share information with fellow leaders. This can even be a 'mini-retreat' for your leadership team. See additional information elsewhere in this *On Mission Together* or the brochure in the recent package mailed to WMU directors.

■ If you have never been to a **national WMU Annual Meeting**, this is a great year to go because:

* Atlanta is closer to Kentucky than most national meetings.

* June 13-14 (Sunday/Monday) will be filled with missions emphases.

* Be there to wish Dellanna O'Brien well as she begins her retirement.

* For the first time, participants will be able to attend four worship sessions and choose five different conferences.

* Wieuca Road Baptist Church, 3626 Peachtree Road NE, will host the meetings.

See the inside back cover of spring *START* or March *Missions Mosaic* for registration and additional information. You may also call (800) 968-7301 or visit the WMU Web site at www.wmu.com.

—Anna Mary Byrdwell

Calendar

March

- 5-6 Creative Ministries Festival, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville
- 7-14 Season of Prayer for North American Missions and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
- 15 Women's Lifestyle Evangelism Conference, 9:45 a.m.-3:15 p.m., Lexington
- 15 Women's Lifestyle Evangelism Conference, 6:45-9:05 p.m., Louisville
- 16 Women's Lifestyle Evangelism Conference, 9:45 a.m.-3:15 p.m., Bowling Green

April

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

May

- 13 Central Camp Staff Training, Jonathan Creek
- 13-15 Camp Staff Training, Jonathan Creek
- 15 KBC SALT, First Baptist Church, Winchester

Adults on Mission

✓ If you have an **Adults on Mission** group in your church, please be aware that a significant curriculum change is coming your way. Because of the low number of subscriptions for *The Source*, WMU, SBC has decided that this summer's issue will be the last. Beginning with the 1999-2000 church year, **Adult on Mission** materials will be available on the WMU Web site at no charge. If you do not have access to the Web site, contact the Kentucky WMU office for these materials.



Women's Lifestyle Evangelism Conference

✓ Don't miss the "Being a Woman of Faith" **Women's Lifestyle Evangelism Conferences** set for **Lexington, Louisville and Bowling Green March 15 and 16**. These one-night conferences will feature nationally known speakers and worship leaders. Call the KBC Office for Evangelism for additional information.



✓ If you want your **Women/Adults on Mission** members to feel more closely connected to missions,

encourage them to subscribe to the new *Kentucky Missions Newsletter*. For more information, see page 4.

✓ Brochures promoting the **Women on Mission/Adults on Mission Retreats** were mailed in February to all WMU directors, church contacts and associational directors of missions. Start making your plans now to attend. Featured speakers include:

Cedarmore:
Oct. 1-2: Stuart Calvert.
Oct. 8-9: Karla Worley.

Jonathan Creek:
Sept. 24-25: Edna Ellison.
Oct. 29-30: Karla Worley.

—Denise Jones

GIRLS IN ACTION...CHILDREN IN ACTION

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS OF GIRLS IN ACTION AND CHILDREN IN ACTION

The annual **GA and Children in Action Missions Event** is scheduled for Saturday, April 17 at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown. Because both **Girls in Action** (girls, grades 1-6) and **Children in Action** (boys and girls, grades 1-6) are a part of WMU, this special event is planned during the **WMU Annual Meeting**. The event will begin at 9 a.m. and will conclude around 12 noon (EDST). As the general WMU meeting is in session for everyone else, children and leaders will meet in the church gymnasium for their own event with opportunities for meeting

missionaries, singing and having all kinds of fun. Children are encouraged to wear tennis shoes to help protect the gym floor. Watch for signs to direct you to the gym entrance. (See map to church on page 4.)

No pre-registration for the event is required. However, the cost is \$1 per person attending to be paid on arrival.

Additionally, **GA and Children in Action** members and leaders can be involved in a ministry project by bringing canned food (one item per person) to the Missions Event. The food will be distributed to programs for families in the Elizabethtown area.



—Brenda Price

Acteens

Make plans now to attend the **Acteens/Youth on Mission Dinner** at the **WMU Annual Meeting**. The dinner will begin at 5 p.m. (EDST) Friday, April 16, at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown. Meet the **Kentucky Acteens Advisory Panelists** and the **National Panelist and Top Teens** from Kentucky. Plan to stay for the Friday evening session of the Annual Meeting when the panelists and Top Teens will be recognized. Use the reservation form on page 3.

Missy Mahurin, an Acteen from Westport Road Baptist Church in Louisville, has been selected as a **1999 National Acteens Panelist**. In addition, Katie Alcott, Charity Gardner, Zita Pedigo and Amy Travis have been selected as **1999 National Acteens Top Teens**. Congratulations to all these young women for being chosen to receive these national honors.

Plans for **SAC** are well under way. It is going to be a weekend to remember as together we "Light Up the Night." See **SAC** promotion on page 1 of this issue. Encourage your Acteens to attend this meeting April 9-10. If you need a brochure or have questions about this event, please call the Kentucky WMU office at (888) 254-5726.

Acteens Advisers, please note these upcoming conferences on cults as possible fulfillment for a **MissionsQuest** journey: March 22, Beacon Hill Baptist Church, Somerset; and March 23, Ft. Mitchell Baptist Church in Ft. Mitchell. The conferences will be held from 7 to 9:15 p.m. at each location. Conferences will address New Age, Mormonism, the Occult and Jehovah's Witnesses.

—Kym Mitchell

MISSION FRIENDS

Spring is here and an exciting adventure in **Mission Friends** continues for preschoolers. Begin now to plan some special experiences for your **Mission Friends** organization. Here are some ideas:

- Ask parents to help you take your **Missions Friends** on a hike. Use suggestions on page 8 of the spring issue of *Start* magazine.
- Daytime and early evening meetings can be held outdoors.
- A family cookout is an excellent opportunity to involve all **Mission Friends** and their parents.



Keep the menu simple: hot dogs, hamburgers, potato chips, drinks and dessert. Plan a brief time with parents, discussing the value of **Mission Friends** while Acteens host the preschoolers in a game time. Include a time for family games, too!

• Send a **Mother's Day** card to each mother in your church who has a prospective **Mission Friend**. Identify yourself as the **Mission Friends** teacher and invite each mother to bring their children to **Mission Friends**.

Spring and summer months don't have to interfere or prevent **Mission Friends** meetings. Do your best to make these months a special time for missions education for preschoolers.

—Brenda Price



ON MISSION TOGETHER

A quarterly publication of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union

President's Perspective

We will miss her

By Peggy Hicks

Dear Co-laborers,
Words can't express the deep-felt gratitude, love and appreciation we all feel toward Dr. Dellanna O'Brien. She has served us admirably the past 10 years, accomplished much, caused us to dream dreams and see some become realities. We as Kentucky WMU want to say thank you to Dr. O'Brien for keeping national Woman's Missionary Union on course through some difficult waters and keeping our focus in fulfilling God's commission "that the world may know him." She will be greatly missed. We love her strong, sweet, indomitable spirit and her strong gifts of leadership. May God continue to use her.



Peggy Hicks
Kentucky
WMU
president

One of the quotes from the January executive board meeting of national WMU was, "The best way to predict the future is to create it." Your Kentucky WMU staff has done some innovative thinking and planning that should affect our future and give direction for missions education and involvement. It is urgent for us to broaden the vision and awareness of missions and help people see it as an investment of self. Our churches can experience missions first hand and we want to be a part of that experience. In this issue of *On Mission Together* you will read about opportunities to train, be challenged by new approaches and how to be a part of the future. We want to be available to help individuals and churches discover a sense of urgency for reaching the world for Christ and become so consumed by this that nothing can divert them.

Speaking of the future, how exciting it is to anticipate the inspiration of our annual meeting April 15-16. This can be a time of drawing together and feeling like a family on mission together. You will be challenged and moved by Larry and Sharon Pumpelly, International Mission Board associates for Eastern Africa, Lora Lee Smith, North American Mission Board missionary associate for the Greater Cleveland area, and others. The international and national music experiences at the beginning and during each session will stir your heart. Don't be late for any session. You'll just have to be there.

See you in Elizabethtown.

In Service Together,
—Peggy Hicks

World Missions Unlimited Campbellsville University, July 30-31 Cumberland College, Aug. 6-7

• Training • Motivation • Inspiration • Fellowship

Special Program Guests: Missionaries Ann and Dale Beigle, South Africa, at Campbellsville
Missionaries Carrie and Charles Hedrick, Nigeria, at Cumberland

Conference Leaders: Kentucky WMU Staff, Resource Team members and others

Locations/Dates: Campbellsville University, Campbellsville
July 30-31
The geographic center of Kentucky

Cumberland College, Williamsburg
August 6-7
Southeast Kentucky off I-75

Cost: \$45 per person, if registered by July 1. \$50 after July 1
Includes:

Lodging, two persons per dorm room
(Bring your own sheets/pillow/towels/toiletries.)
Dinner, breakfast and lunch in the college cafeteria

Conference/Registration fee
Conference handouts
\$20 per person for those NOT eating/sleeping at the school and registering by July 1.
\$25 after July 1

Features: Conference Track for Local Church Leaders
Conference Track for Associational WMU Leaders
General Interest Conferences
Two General Sessions
Late Night Funtime
Seven conference choices

Schedule:
The program begins at 2:30 p.m. on Friday and ends at 3 p.m. Saturday.

Registration materials have been mailed to all church/associational WMU leaders. If you have questions or need additional registration materials, call WMU at (888)-254-5726



Project Help: Violence

• Each year 18,000 children are permanently disabled as a result of near-fatal abuse and neglect.

• More than 40 percent of the increase in the prison population since 1980 is due to an increase in the prisoners convicted of violent offenses.

• 83 percent of very low-income mothers have been victims of severe physical violence and/or sexual abuse during their lives.

• Violence is the reason stated for divorce in 22 percent of middle-class marriages.

• Someone dies from suicide every 17 minutes.

• More than 20,000 Americans die annually from homicides.

Every day the media infiltrates our homes and lives with more

horrific, but real statistics. The sad thing is every statistic represents a real person. The goal of **Project Help: Violence** is for Christians to acknowledge the prevalence of violence in our society and be proactive in its reduction.

Individuals and groups can make an impact on violence through simple acts such as:

- ✓ Boycotting violent media events.
- ✓ Serving as a CASA volunteer for a child involved in the legal system.
- ✓ Volunteering and supporting programs at local residential facilities for troubled young people.
- ✓ Leading worship services at a jail.
- ✓ Lobbying politicians as a victim's advocate.
- ✓ Sponsoring a prayer walk.
- ✓ Inviting a Kentucky WMU violence task force member to help make your community aware of violence issues.

These are only a few of the opportunities available to offer Christ's love to those impacted by violence. Prayerfully consider the role you or your church will accept in WMU's mission to "PAVE the way to Peace."

Acteens/Youth on Mission Dinner

Friday, April 16, 5 p.m.

Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown

All Kentucky Acteens, Acteens advisors, Youth on Mission members and leaders are invited. Cost: \$7 per person. Use this form to make reservations:

Please make reservations for _____ people.
Total amount enclosed \$ _____
Person sending reservation: _____
Street address: _____
City, State Zip: _____
Church: _____
Association: _____
Daytime phone: _____

Reservations must be in the Kentucky WMU office by April 12. No refunds after April 12. Make checks payable to Kentucky WMU. Mail to: Acteens/Youth on Mission Dinner; Kentucky WMU; P. O. Box 436569; Louisville, KY 40253-6569.

WMU SBC Web Sites

WMU, SBC, maintains the following Web sites, which can be accessed through the WMU, SBC, index page:

- www.wmu.com (The WMU, SBC, index page).
- www.wmystore.com (WMU, SBC, online bookstore index page).
- www.womenonmission.com (Women on Mission index page).
- www.acteens.com (Acteens index page).
- www.gapassport.com (Girls in Action index page).
- www.newhopepubl.com (New Hope Publishers index page).



ON MISSION TOGETHER

A quarterly publication of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union

Camping News

Jonathan Creek news

Come celebrate more than 20 years of missions camping at Jonathan Creek June 14-18. Kentucky WMU will use the entire facility for GA and Acteens camp. It should be a great week!

Kentucky Baptist Assemblies is leading the Jonathan Creek facility in a new direction. The Kentucky WMU week-long girls camping program is not scheduled at Jonathan Creek in the year 2000. We will continue to sponsor mother-daughter and Acteens overnights at Jonathan Creek.



Jonathan Creek. At our overnight staff retreat May 14-15, you will meet other women willing to invest themselves in the lives of children. You'll learn about the camp program and prepare to lead children in Bible study and other

camp activities.

Summer staff positions for Cedar Crest and Jonathan Creek will be accepted until all positions are filled. Cedar Crest positions available include: assistant counselor, counselor, unit leader, kitchen coordinator and lifeguard. One volunteer nurse is needed for each week of camp at both facilities.

Camp Registration

It's time to register for Kentucky WMU summer camps!

Week-long Camp: \$105 per camper. *Mini-camp:* \$53 per camper. *Mother/Daughter Overnight Camp:* \$26 per person. *Acteens Overnight:* \$26 per person. Price includes meals, lodging and program fees. Linens are not provided. For camp dates, registration and promotional materials, volunteer or paid staff applications, contact Kim Davis, Kentucky WMU Camp Specialist, P.O. Box 436569, Louisville, KY 40253-6569. Local calls 244-6485, in-state toll free calls (888) 254-5726 or e-mail: kim_davis@kybaptist.org.

Can't spend a week at camp?

Senior High Acteens Overnight is a new option for high school teenagers on the run. This will be a compact missions camp experience for girls who want to come to camp, but just can't spend an entire week. This is only offered at Jonathan Creek. (June 18-19, \$26 per camper)

Acteens Mini Camp features fun, friends, camp-fires, recreation, music, missions, crafts, Bible study and more packed into three days and two nights. Mini Camp is offered only at Cedar Crest. (July 6-8, \$53 per camper)

Camp staff needed

If you love children and are willing to share your life as an example, volunteer for the one-week GA or Acteens camp at

Hotels for WMU Annual Meeting

EXIT 94:

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

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

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

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

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

Ramada Limited • 108 Commerce Dr. • Elizabethtown, KY 42701 502-769-9683 • \$48.00 + tax

EXIT 91:

Best Western Cardinal Inn • 642 Dixie Ave. • Elizabethtown, KY 42701 (502) 765-6139 • \$39.95 + tax

Rodeway Inn • 656 E. Dixie • Elizabethtown, KY 42701 • (502)769-2331 \$44.66 + tax • 2 people, \$5.00 each additional

Commonwealth Lodge • 708 E. Dixie Ave. • Elizabethtown, KY 42701 (502) 765-2185 • \$39.95 + tax

Kentucky Baptist Nursing Fellowship

Dinner Meeting

Friday, April 16, 1999

Severns Valley Baptist Church,

Elizabethtown

Room 20W, 5 p.m.

The cost for this dinner meeting is \$7 for BNF members and \$10 for non-members. Payment must accompany the registration form. Please call Denise Jones for additional information.

Name _____

Street Address _____

City, State & Zip _____

Phone _____

Church _____

Association _____

KY BNF Member? yes _____ no _____

Reservations must be in the Kentucky WMU office by April 12. No refunds after April 12. Make checks payable to Kentucky WMU. Mail to: Kentucky Baptist Fellowship Dinner, Kentucky WMU, P.O. Box 436569, Louisville, KY 40253-6569.

Motels for State Acteens Conference

Club Hotel/Doubletree
9700 Bluegrass Pkwy.
Louisville, KY 40299
(502) 491-4830
\$89 + tax

Louisville Marriott East
1903 Embassy Square
Louisville, KY 40299
(502) 499-6220
\$85 + tax
Cut-off date: 3/26/99

Travelodge, Hurstbourne
9340 Blairwood Road
Louisville, KY 40222
(502) 425-8010
\$45 + tax

Comfort Suites Hotel
1850 Resource Way
Louisville, KY 40299
(502) 266-6509
\$89 + tax; Cut-off date: 3/15/99

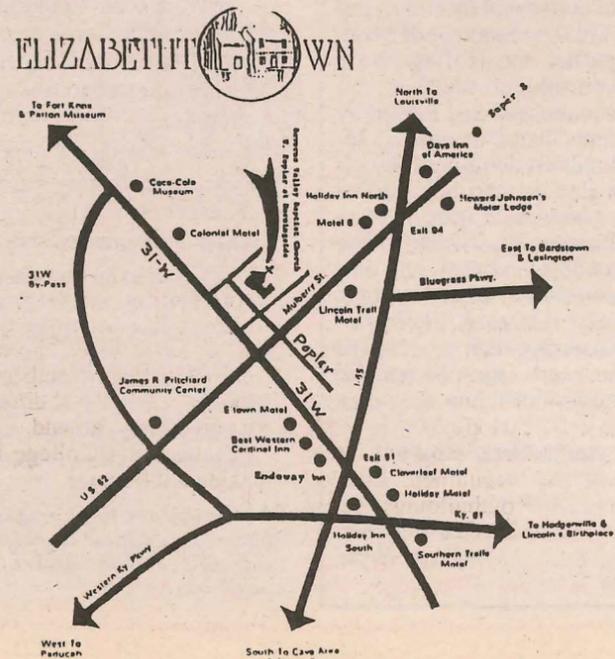
Microtel
1221 Kentucky Mills Ln.
Louisville, KY 40299
(502) 266-6590
\$55.85 + tax (db); \$40.95 + tax (sgle)
Specify "Acteens"; Cut-off date: 4/4/99

Holiday Inn Hurstbourne
1325 Hurstbourne Lane
Louisville, KY 40222
(502) 426-2600
\$79 + tax
Cut-off date: 3/16/99

Sleep Inn East
1850 Priority Way
Louisville, KY 40299
(502) 266-6776
\$65 + tax

Severns Valley Baptist Church

401 Poplar
Elizabethtown



Kentucky missions news

Have you ever wished there was an easy way to get up-to-the-minute missions information about international missionaries from Kentucky and missions in Kentucky? If you have, the new **Kentucky Missions Newsletter** is for you! This newsletter can serve as a vital link in helping your church support missions through prayer and missions awareness.

To receive the **Kentucky Missions Newsletter**, e-mail your request to Denise Jones in the Kentucky WMU office at: denise_jones@kybaptist.org.

Job Corps Training

Christian Women's Job Corps training will be offered in Nashville, Tenn., July 15-17, at the Baptist Center. For more information, contact Amanda Day at (205) 371-2038 or aday@tnbaptist.org.

EVANGELISM

Loscalzo: Churches must reclaim worship, prayer, Holy Spirit

By David Winfrey
News Director

LEXINGTON—Most Southern Baptist churches are plateaued or declining because they and their leaders have lost their zeal for the things that are important to God, a Lexington pastor told the KBC evangelism conference last week.

Craig Loscalzo, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington, noted that about 70 percent of the denomination's churches are plateaued or declining in membership.

This has happened, he noted, despite the fact that Southern Baptists constantly talk about Jesus' Great Commission for Christians to share their faith with all the world.

Another irony, he said, is that so many churches are "flat-lined" while giving is up to the Cooperative Program and missions offerings. "Oh,

they'll collect a good Lottie Moon (missions) offering, but they won't change the world."

"The real reason our churches are plateaued or declining is because we have lost our fire," Loscalzo said. "We've got to reclaim that fire."

Loscalzo said pastors must rekindle their passion for leading their congregations in prayer and fellowship with the Holy Spirit.

"I think the problem is that we have created too many timid technicians with tamed theology," said Loscalzo, a former professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. "I can say that. I taught at a seminary eight years."

While seminaries focus on programming, "You and I have a job to usher people into the presence of

God," he said.

Most Christians, however, are dissatisfied with a worship experience that lasts longer than one hour, he said. "It amazes me that these people are going to spend eternity with a God they can't even stand to spend 60 minutes with on Sunday morning."

Regarding prayer, Loscalzo said Baptists often use it not as a way to get close to God, but like a gavel to end a meeting. "In a Baptist meeting, you want to end it, just pray."

Others use prayer as a laundry list of church members' maladies, he said.

While noting that he believes in praying for healing, "We will pray for someone's gall bladder faster than we will pray for their soul."

"There are broken people in our

churches who long for us to pray about their brokenness," he said. "Let's pray for important things."

Many Southern Baptists have no interest in being filled with the Holy Spirit, he added. "We Southern Baptists are binitarian," he said, playing off the word "trinitarian."

"We love God the Father. We love Jesus. We'd just as soon let the Pentecostals have the Holy Spirit and say 'Two out of three ain't bad,'" Loscalzo said. "Until the Holy Spirit breathes down fire on our churches, we will continue to decline, and the world will continue to laugh at us."

Loscalzo urged pastors to "walk worthy of this calling" of church leadership and to stop going through the motions. "Your churches don't expect you to just be going through the motions," he said. "Jesus didn't die for that kind of mediocrity."



"Your churches don't expect you to just be going through the motions."

Craig Loscalzo

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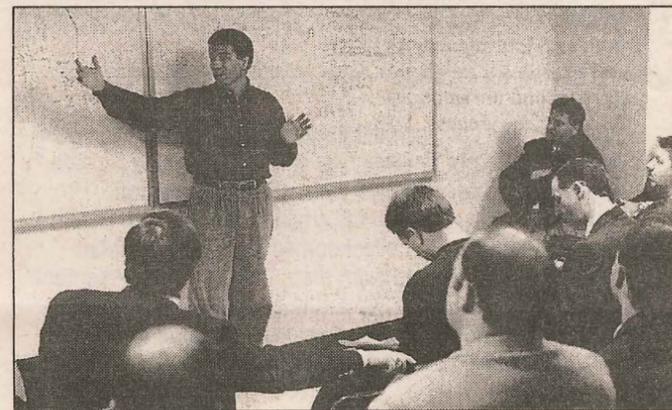
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Florida mission

By Robert Dunston

During the 1998 Christmas break, Mountain Outreach Director Will Jones and his wife, Robin, escorted nine students to Orlando, Fla., for a missions experience. The students were Amy Acree, Jamie Craiger, Doug Elliott, Michael Hesson, Matt Holbrook, Michelle Sanford, Troy Shafer, Emily Walters and Tracy Welsh.

The group departed Williamsburg at 5:30 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 5, arriving at Liberty Baptist Church in Orlando at 7 p.m. Cumberland College alumnus James Clark met the group and gave them their itinerary for the next few days.

On Wednesday, the team met Verne Murray, pastor of Liberty Baptist Church. The church is located in an inner-city area. The group members fanned out into the area surrounding the church, handing out information about the church and inviting people to come. During the afternoon, they cleaned the church from top to bottom. They scrubbed toilets, emptied trash, dusted and vacuumed, cleaned showers and outbuildings, swept floors, washed dishes and supplied elbow grease for any task that needed to be done. That night they

joined the congregation for their Wednesday evening service. Amy Acree and Jamie Craiger sang two songs, and Will Jones shared his testimony and the students' work through Mountain Outreach.

On Thursday, team members went to Clark's church, University Community Church. The church meets in the University Cinema 7 which is next to the University of Central Florida. The location has proven to be an excellent one that is non-threatening to students who haven't attended church in the past. Again, group members knocked on doors and told people about the church. That evening the group worshipped with the church

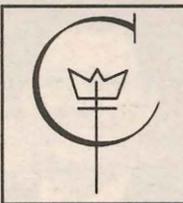
in their Thursday evening service. Acree and Craiger blessed the congregation through their songs.

Friday provided an opportunity to relax before the long ride home Saturday. The trip was a quick one but "a real blessing," according to Jones. The team members all felt they had made a real difference in the community, he said.

Cumberland College is about making a difference.

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

CUMBERLAND
COLLEGE



"I was a stranger and you took me in."

Matthew 25:35

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children needs foster parents to care for children who have been abused and neglected. Training, ongoing support and compensation are provided.

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Louisville/Northern Kentucky-1-800-928-5242

South Central Kentucky-1-800-952-3724

Southern Kentucky-(606) 677-1008

Western Kentucky-(502) 825-2191

or call 1-800-456-1386 toll free!

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children

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



OUTREACH IDEAS Brad Johnson, pastor of Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green, leads a conference on ideas for reaching young adults. One idea was to have a church web site and enlist non-Christians to help run it. "If you're not using technology in your church, young people are going to think, 'Where have these people been?'"

Report: 15 people committed suicide through Oregon's law

SALEM, Ore (RNS)—Fifteen terminally ill people in Oregon died in 1998 as a result of using the nation's only assisted-suicide law in the first year since it took effect, a study has found.

State health officials said those who used the law were most often patients who had a strong desire to control how they died. Of the 15 who died, 13 had cancer and two suffered from heart or lung disease.

The average age of those 15 people—eight men and seven women—was 69. The health officials found that most who took the drugs were unconscious within five minutes, and the average time before death was 26 minutes.

Archbishop John Vlazny of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland, Ore., denounced the assisted suicides, calling them immoral.

"Every time a physician writes a prescription for lethal medication, we are confronted again with our failure to offer compassionate care," he said. "In allowing assisted suicide to continue, the state of Oregon dismisses the value of human life."

Barbara Coombs Lee, the chief sponsor of the ballot measure that established the law, said the report showed the law is working the way it should.

"It's what we expected—a year of impeccable implementation," she said.

Critics of the law, including Dr. Herbert Hendin, author of "Seduced by Death: Doctors, Patients and Assisted Suicide," questioned whether the report was thorough enough.

"Under the law, the only information the (Oregon Health Division) is required to collect comes from the physician assisting the suicide, and even then, there is no enforcement mechanism should the physician not comply with reporting rules or simply not report the suicide at all," said Hendin, a New York Medical College professor.

Pastor faces removal for gay wedding

CHICAGO (RNS)—A popular United Methodist pastor in Chicago will be tried by his denomination this month on charges he violated church law by performing same-sex union ceremonies.

Bishop Joseph Sprague, religious leader of United Methodist Church in northern Illinois, said Feb. 24 that Greg Dell will go on trial March 25.

He has been charged with "disobedience to the Order and Discipline of the United Methodist Church" because he performed a same-sex union service for two gay men in his congregation Sept. 19.

The trial is expected to last two or three days. It will be the second trial of a United Methodist pastor for violating church rules barring performance of same-sex unions. In the first, Jimmy Creech was narrowly acquitted.

Following Creech's acquittal, however, the denomination's Judicial Council ruled that the provision barring performance of same-sex marriages, contained in the church's Social Principles, nevertheless had the force of church law.

Sprague said in October he felt duty-bound to bring charges against Dell.

If Dell is found guilty, he faces a range of penalties, including removal of ministerial orders, the equivalence of being defrocked.

Presbyterians to monitor persecution

LOUISVILLE (RNS)—The General Assembly Council of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has created a team to monitor religious persecution and intolerance abroad.

The move came as a response to the national debate over religious persecution that last year saw Congress passing legislation making the issue a key element in U.S. foreign policy.

The new Presbyterian group, the Human Rights and Religious Freedom Abroad Initiative Team, will track issues of human rights and religious freedom by following reports of the State Department, other government agencies and other rights groups and independent organizations, the PCUSA said.

The original federal legislation, sponsored by Rep. Frank Wolf, R-Va., a Presbyterian, and Sen. Arlen

Specter, R-Pa., was criticized by some mainline Protestant groups for singling out only Christians as cause for concern and for being too inflexible in imposing sanctions on governments found to commit religious persecution.

The groups also expressed concern that the legislation would lead to more persecution in countries targeted by the law.

Compromise legislation, sponsored by Sen. Don Nickles, R-Okla., was passed last fall and gives the president authority—and flexibility—to invoke a series of sanctions against countries.

Marian McClure, director of the PCUSA's Worldwide Ministries Division, said representatives of partner churches overseas where members may face persecution have urged policies that are tailored to individual situations.



JOIN PASTOR JON BISHOP FOR AN ALPINE ADVENTURE AND THE PASSION PLAY IN OBERAMMERGAU, GERMANY
JUNE 21-JULY 4, 2000

The tour includes the beauty and history of many parts of Austria, Italy, Switzerland and Germany. Availability is limited. For more information, contact Jon Bishop at (502) 964-6403 or (502) 267-8670

'We love Oneida'

One of the real joys of my position is meeting the many wonderful friends of this ministry. People I have never met often send me a card or letter saying how much they appreciate Oneida and the ministry we provide. I cannot tell you how often I have been facing a difficult situation or decision and have received a word of encouragement from a friend of this ministry.

I often wonder if the people who write those letters and notes question whether or not anyone really reads them. I am happy to say that I read every word. I am always amused at the number of people who will apologize for the quality of their handwriting. Often they explain that the quality is poor because the writer is 90, 95 or 100 years old. If only I could use that excuse!

I have a place near my desk where I stack special notes and letters. Sometimes the encouraging words are written on beautiful stationery. Often the note is written on a piece of scrap paper or other ordinary paper. One special note comes nearly every month with a contribution from a couple I am not sure I have ever met. It is a simple thing, but one I always appreciate. The note simply says, "We love Oneida." I know that statement may not do much for you, but I nearly always thank God for the many dedicated people who love and support this school.

Several years ago, just after I was asked to serve as president, I received a letter with two quarters in it. It was a faithful lady's annual Christmas offering. I remember thinking of the cost of thanking her. At that time the stamp alone cost 32 cents, not to mention the cost of bookkeeping and sending a thank you letter.

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

It did not take long for the Holy Spirit to bring me back to my senses. I didn't know her financial situation, but the odds were pretty good that I was in a far better position to pay the cost to thank her than she was in to send her 50 cents. Her contribution was always taped to a gospel tract, and her return address was a nursing home. I keep those first two quarters near my desk to remind me of this special friend. Every Christmas I look forward to receiving those two quarters. This year they did not come. For the past two months, I have often thought of the "widow and her two mites."

Another special letter came a few weeks ago. I often tell our readers, supporters and other friends that we are not always successful with every young person we seek to help. It is a comfort to hear from parents who believe we have succeeded and have met the special needs of their child. Here is part of a letter I recently received from one such parent:

"We thank God for OBI and its important ministry. ... We have marveled over the last two years at the dedication and commitment of the staff. It was a difficult decision to enroll our eldest adopted son and have him be apart from us. We felt guilt, failure and desperation. But had we not done so we would not have made it as a family. ... We quickly came to appreciate the staff of OBI. Their patience and endurance and compassion was more than we expected or imagined. ... We know God has his hand on all of you."

To all of the wonderful friends who take time to say, "We love Oneida," thank you!

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

Testimonies from student witnesses

Senior student Todd Salts described the emergence of a campus evangelism group: "I had a burden about doing more for the Pineville area. It went from prayer to sharing with others with a similar need on their hearts. We realized the best gift we could give the community was Jesus Christ. We prayed and formed The Watchmen, with Proverbs 11:30 as a foundation Scripture. We drafted a mission statement and objectives, which included discipleship in local churches, using the "Survival Kit" material. Visitation started in January; and we have had three decisions for Christ."

Interfaith of Bell County works with the group as a resource for names of people in need of a home visit and a witness. "The process is slow, but we know God will bless," Salt said. "We just need to go out and tell people about Christ. I now focus more on others rather than myself and have more compassion for their needs. This is an enjoyable way to serve the Lord, and I am hungrier for God's word. We have professors and staff who support us."

Dennis Wiley said: "I prayed

for something like this for a long time. My burden was to go and tell, not ask people to come and hear. Cult groups go and witness, and they don't have the truth. This has fed my fire and made classes more enjoyable. I find myself desiring the Word more because that is my strength."

Joe Booher testified: "Our efforts are bathed in fervent prayer. I have greater passion to witness and have concern about discipling believers."

Third-year student Chris Wilbanks said, "The Watchmen is a chance to help people, to win souls, and it is a privilege to serve our Lord in this way. More importantly is what this means to our Father. The heartbeat of God and the Scripture is missions. To be like him will be to hit the streets and share the gospel."

Salts added, "If we're not doing evangelism now, we won't do it in local churches later. We also want to help equip church members in evangelism, and we pray that others will have a desire to witness and The Watchmen will continue."

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Senators and clergy host reconciliation meetings

By Ryan Rockwood
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—As Congress struggles to put behind the bitter impeachment process and get back to passing bills and making laws, two senators, accompanied by a handful of clergy, last week urged healing and cooperation between politicians.

Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., and Sen. Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., hosted the early-morning "reconciliation gathering" in the Capitol.

They urged leaders of both parties to acknowledge that the impeachment proceedings were not a success for either party.

Co-sponsoring the event with Brownback and Lieberman was the

Center for Jewish and Christian Values, a public policy organization the two co-chair, and its parent organization, Chicago-based International Fellowship of Christians and Jews.

Coming from different political and religious backgrounds, Brownback, a Christian and Republican, and Lieberman, an Orthodox Jew and a Democrat, are symbolic of the center's main goal of building bridges between disparate voices, said Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein, founder and president of the international fellowship.

Eckstein said the impeachment's heaviest toll has been levied on leaders' ability to trust one another.

"And I am not just talking about trust of the president here, but across the aisle," Eckstein said. "What we

need is healing—and I am not suggesting that we homogenize. It is possible to maintain our convictions, while at the same time building bridges so that we are not polarized to the point of being immobilized."

The belief that Republicans and Democrats can and should build relationships with each other despite differing political views underscores a movement which has gained momentum among many faith-based groups on Capitol Hill.

From the Interfaith Alliance, a liberal alternative to the Christian Coalition, to the Park Ridge Center for the study of Health, Faith and Ethics, numerous groups have recently hosted events in Washington extolling the benefits of civility and compromise

while decrying the divisive rhetoric and behavior in politics and society.

That same goal also lies at the heart of the upcoming—and controversial—bipartisan retreat of House members in Hershey, Pa. Event organizers hope the retreat will offer politicians and their families an opportunity to see each other in a setting where they presumably have more in common.

Other participants in the gathering included Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission; Roman Catholic Archbishop Justin Rigali of St. Louis; Joan Brown Campbell, general secretary of the National Council of Churches; Lloyd Ogilvie, chaplain to the U.S. Senate; and gospel singer Witley Phipps.

Faith-healing parents get probation in son's death

PHILADELPHIA (RNS)—The faith-healing parents of a hemophiliac child have been sentenced to probation for letting their son bleed to death.

Dean and Susan Heilman were sentenced to 17 years of probation Feb. 18 in a Philadelphia court. They pleaded no contest in October to involuntary manslaughter and child endangerment charges.

Their son, Dean Michael, died in 1997.

Judge Carolyn Engel Temin ordered the Heilmans to immediately find a licensed pediatrician for their other two children, ages 1 and 5, and to get them medical insurance, Associated Press reported. They also were fined \$2,000 each.

The judge said there was no malice by the parents.

"The court is appalled that this little child bled to death for no reason," said Temin. "And nothing I do is meant to condone that kind of treatment. ... But the perpetrators are also the victims here."

Supreme Court lets 2 abortion cases stand

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear two abortion-related cases Feb. 22.

Their inaction left intact a ruling against a police officer who asked to be exempted from guarding an abortion clinic based on his religious beliefs and a decision upholding a Virginia parental-notification law.

The high court refused to hear an appeal from Chicago police officer Angelo Rodriguez. He alleged the city discriminated against him on the basis of his religion by refusing to exempt him from an assignment to stand guard outside an abortion clinic.

In 1998, the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals dismissed Rodriguez's claims. The 7th Circuit ruled that the city made reasonable accommodation in offering Rodriguez a transfer, holding that the Civil Rights Act "requires only 'reasonable accommodation,' not satisfaction of an employee's every desire."

In the Virginia case, the Supreme Court let stand the 1997 Virginia Parental Notice Act, which requires minors to notify their parents at least 24 hours before having an abortion.

The law exempts girls who can show abuse by a parent or guardian.

The Supreme Court has upheld parental-notification statutes in the past. But the high court has invalidated laws that require parental consent, because they allow a third party absolute veto of the abortion.

"Although we have held that a state may not constitutionally legislate a blanket, unreviewable power of parents to veto their daughter's abortion, a statute setting out a 'mere requirement of parental notice' does not violate the constitutional rights of an immature, dependent minor," the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said.

Gospel artists win Grammys in 6 categories

LOS ANGELES (RNS)—Gospel artists ranging from rock singer Ashley Cleveland to contemporary soul musician Kirk Franklin won Grammy Awards during the 41st annual ceremony Feb. 24.

Although the awards in the gospel categories were distributed before the televised portion of the awards ceremony, religion and music shared the stage a couple of times later in the star-studded evening.

When hip-hop celebrity Lauryn Hill won the Grammy for best new artist, she walked to the stage with her Bible in her hand.

"This might be a little different for the Grammys," she said, as she opened the volume to Psalm 40 and began to read.

The psalm includes the verse, "He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to my God."

When she finished reciting a few verses, Hill, who has been described as a lifelong Methodist, said, "I want to say thanks to God for honoring me with this huge responsibility."

The live show also featured a performance by Franklin of "Lean on Me" from his "The Nu Nation Project" album. He appeared on a stage filled with artists, including Mary K. Blige, Bono and Crystal Lewis.

Host Rosie O'Donnell noted that profits from the song have raised \$250,000 for a fund helping burned black churches.

The winners of the gospel music

categories were:

■ **Best Rock Gospel Album:** "You are There," by Ashley Cleveland.

■ **Best Pop Contemporary Gospel Album:** "This is My Song," by Deniece Williams.

■ **Best Southern Gospel, Country Gospel or Bluegrass Gospel Album:** "The Apostle: Music From and Inspired by the Motion Picture," by various artists.

■ **Best Traditional Soul Gospel Album:** "He Leadeth Me," by Cissy Houston.

■ **Best Contemporary Soul Gospel Album:** "The Nu Nation Project," by Kirk Franklin.

■ **Best Gospel Choir or Chorus Album:** "Reflections," by The Associates, O'Landa Draper, choir director.

Indiana man charged with burning 7 churches

YORKTOWN, Ind. (RNS)—An Indiana man has been charged with burning seven churches in southern Indiana since 1994, the Justice Department announced.

Two other people also have been charged in one of the arsons.

Jay Scott Ballinger, 36, of Yorktown, Ind., was charged Feb. 21 with setting the seven fires in several counties.

Donald A. Puckett, 37, of Lebanon, Ind., and Angela Wood, 24, of Athens, Ga., were charged with burning the Concord Church of Christ in 1994 in Lebanon. Author-

ities allege that satanic symbols were written in the church before it was destroyed.

The penalty for each of the charges is a prison term of 5 to 20 years and a maximum fine of \$250,000.

According to an affidavit filed in the case, Ballinger confessed to setting between 30 and 50 church fires between 1994 and 1998. He was arrested earlier this month after being questioned at a hospital where he was being treated for burns.

"We're aggressively pursuing leads in Tennessee and Alabama regarding these Indiana-based defen-

dants," said Jim Cavanaugh, director of the Tennessee-Alabama division of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. "We think they have traveled extensively down South."

All three suspects are white, and most of the church burnings in Indiana have involved predominantly white, rural congregations, Associated Press reported.

Court documents identify Wood as Ballinger's girlfriend.

The ATF said satanic books and writings and a gasoline container were found during searches of Ballinger's home.

NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Teens fast for world hunger.** Thousands of teens last weekend were expected to fast for 30 hours to raise awareness about world hunger. It's all part of the 30 Hour Famine, an annual project of World Vision, the evangelical Christian relief and development agency. Each year, participants seek pledges for each hour they fast; during that time, many also work in area soup kitchens or raise funds for the agency. The group estimates that 800 million people around the world are chronically undernourished, and 33,000 children die daily from hunger, malnutrition and disease.

■ **Anti-porn group names new president.** The National Coalition for the Protection of

Children and Families has named Rick Schatz as its new president. The coalition, formerly known as the National Coalition Against Pornography, is an alliance of citizens' action groups, businesses, foundations and religious groups that work to reduce sexual violence and exploitation related to pornography.

■ **Seminary names president.** Joseph Hough Jr., the dean and professor of ethics at Vanderbilt University Divinity School, was named the new president of Union Theological Seminary in New York. Hough, who becomes the 15th president of the seminary founded in 1836, succeeds New Testament scholar Holland Hendrix, who served as president

from 1991 to 1998. Hough is an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ.

■ **Expect less airport solicitations.** A U.S. Supreme Court ruling Feb. 22 will limit Hare Krishna solicitations in three southern states. The justices, without comment, rejected an appeal of a lower court ruling upholding restrictions on the group's soliciting donations and selling religious literature at the Miami International Airport. The International Society for Krishna Consciousness had argued such restrictions violated their free speech rights. The action sets no national precedent but does let stand a ruling that applies to all airports in Florida, Alabama and Georgia.

PEOPLE

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Thank God for recent rains in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, where drought has threatened much-needed crops.

■ Thank God for the peace and assurance given to church planters Mark and Tatiana McNiel on their recent move from Bialystok, Poland, to the International Baptist Church in Warsaw. Give thanks that their children, Heather and Jonathan, are adjusting.

■ Church planters Milton and Laura Magalhaes as they look for a building to rent in downtown Silute, Poland, in which to hold worship services.

■ Students who attended a dorm Bible study led by student minister Susan Carson Feb. 26, in Warsaw, Poland.

■ Kentucky Baptist volunteers are needed for projects in Poland and Tanzania this year. Call the partnership office for details at (888) 254-5724.

■ Church planter strategist David Jackson as he seeks to begin new churches in the Boston area.

■ "Alpine Worship Services" offered each Sunday by Mountain Christian Ministries in Bretton Woods, N.H..

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Shirley Wooton

■ DANVILLE—Calvary Church called Alex Parrish as minister of youth. Doug Wesley is pastor.

■ EUBANK—Wiley Faw Jr., 43, the son of Wiley and Geneva Faw, former missionaries to Nigeria, died Feb. 20 of a heart attack. The funeral was Feb. 24 at Olive Baptist Church in Waynesburg.

■ GREENVILLE—Second Church

will celebrate its 50th anniversary March 7, joined by founding church, Greenville First Church. John Brandon, pastor of Versailles Church and son of former pastor, the late John Brandon, will be guest speaker. Connie Thompson will be guest soloist. The 10:30 a.m. service will be followed by a noon meal provided by church members.

SEEKING: Hunsinger Lane Baptist Church, a growing congregation located in the Louisville metro area (east), is seeking a minister to youth 15-20 hours per week. Applicants should have a calling and experience working with youth. Resumes may be sent to: Hunsinger Lane Baptist Church, 3821 Hunsinger Lane, Louisville, KY 40220. Phone: (502) 491-4956. Pastor: Charlie Davis.

SEEKING: Farmdale Baptist Church at 5610 US Highway 127 South, Frankfort, Ky., is seeking a part-time children's minister. If you feel God is calling you to this area to work with children, send resume to: Ms. Bryan, 530 Alfa Drive, Frankfort, KY 40601.

SEEKING: Fee Fee Baptist Church, St. Louis, Mo., prayerfully seeks referrals or resumes for a minister of education. Located in north suburban St. Louis County, we average in excess of 650 in two morning services, over 500 in Sunday school. Fee Fee is a strong traditional Southern Baptist church. Responsibilities include directing ministry programs for Sunday school, discipleship training and missions. Strong Christian character a must. Send referrals/resumes to: Minister of Education Search Committee, Fee Fee Baptist Church, 11330 St. Charles Rock Road, Bridgeton, MO 63044.

FOR SALE: Beautiful 39-passenger GMC motorcoach. One owner, like new condition inside and out. Low-mileage Detroit Diesel engine, Allison automatic, restroom, reclining seats, ready to go anywhere! Asking \$25,000-\$49,500 (includes cost of church lettering). For photos or information, call (606) 278-7224.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor. Send resume to: Pastor Search Committee, Vine Street Baptist Church, 960 Vine St., Louisville, KY 40204.

TOUR: Northern England and Scotland annual tour, July 20-Aug. 5. The best guide in all of Britain. Direct flight from Atlanta. Details: The Rev. Fred Griffie, 308 East Clover St., Harlan, KY 40831, or telephone (606) 573-9771.

SEEKING: Turner Ridge Baptist Church, Falmouth, Ky., is seeking a part-time youth minister. Interested applicants should send resumes to: Youth Minister Search Committee, Turner Ridge Baptist Church, Route 5, Box 283, Falmouth, KY 41040.

FOR SALE: Hammond Aurora Century Spinet Organ—two keyboards. Excellent condition. \$2,000. (502) 245-7284.

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

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

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music. Send resume to: Search Committee, Youngers Creek Baptist Church, 251 Youngers Creek Road, Elizabethtown, KY 42701.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of youth and children. Send resume to: Search Committee, Youngers Creek Baptist Church, 251 Youngers Creek Road, Elizabethtown, KY 42701.

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

SEEKING: Clear Creek Baptist Bible College announces an opening for a director of development, with employment effective July 1, 1999. The position requires a committed Christian, self-starter, team player and goal-oriented leader who can coordinate a full program of securing and maintaining the needed financial resources of a growing Bible college. A college degree and experience is desirable; significant travel required. Interested individuals may contact President Bill D. Whittaker, 300 Clear Creek Road, Pineville, KY 40977; ccbbc@tcnet.net; fax (606) 337-2372.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Mayfield, Ky., is seeking a full-time family life director. Major responsibility will be youth ministry, and secondary responsibility is negotiable in the areas of children, recreation, singles or administrative duties. Prefer studies and/or experience in youth work. Send resume to: Search Committee, c/o Pastor Bob Swift, 118 W. South St., Mayfield, KY 42066.

SEEKING: Jeffersonville Baptist Church is accepting resumes for full-time pastor. Send to: Bob Willoughby, 1305 Shadelawn Drive, Mt. Sterling, KY 40353.

■ LEITCHFIELD—Leitchfield Christian Academy, a ministry of First Church Leitchfield, is registering first and second grade students March 1-11 for the next academic year. For more information, call (502) 230-1200.

■ LOUISVILLE—Crescent Hill Church will host Parenting By Grace, a parent support and learning group, March 14, 21, 28, April 11, 18 and 25, 6 p.m. Wendy Dever, preschool & children's associate for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, will lead sessions. Childcare

will be provided. For information, call (502) 896-4425. Ron Sisk is pastor.

The youth ministry of Living Hope Church will have youth revival services March 12 & 13, 7 p.m. The evangelist will be Shawn Merithew, minister of youth at Carlisle Avenue Church. For information, call Bryan Ready, minister of youth, (502) 961-9043. Jack Naylor is pastor.

■ MAYFIELD—Mayfield native Michael James recently graduated from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Germantown, Tenn.

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Bivocational or student pastor for a new Cooperative Baptist Fellowship church in Elizabethtown. If interested, please contact the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship office at (502) 721-6060.

SEEKING: Clear Creek Baptist Bible College announces an opening on the faculty for the 1999-2000 academic year. This is a full-time position to teach Bible, theology and ministry courses. A Ph.D. in Bible or theology and five years full-time ministry experience in a Southern Baptist-related ministry are required; publishing record and/or college-level teaching experience would be helpful. Rank and salary to be determined by experience and educational background. Send credentials, including a statement of educational philosophy, to the Academic Dean, Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, 300 Clear Creek Road, Pineville, KY 40977. Clear Creek Baptist Bible College is an agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention with a mission to provide theological training to adults called into Christian service.

SEEKING: Walnut Street Baptist Church is currently seeking individual to fill part-time pianist position. Send resume to: Chris Kihn, Walnut Street Baptist Church, Suite A, 1143 S. Third St., Louisville, KY 40203.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music; lead worship services, adult choir, children and handbells. Send resume to: South Elkhorn Baptist Church, 4867 Versailles Road, Lexington, KY 40510.

SEEKING: Minister of church evangelism (full-time position). FAITH training in partnership evangelism will be provided if not already certified. If interested, please contact First Baptist Church East Bernstadt, P.O. Box 266, East Bernstadt, KY 40729, (606) 843-6211, or fax: (606) 843-2080.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Bardwell, Ky., is seeking a full-time youth minister and Christian outreach center director. Send resume to: Bardwell Baptist Church, P.O. Box 147, Bardwell, KY 42023, Attn: Chris Rigby.

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 resume and inquiries to: Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 350 Mt. Zion Road, Elizabethtown, KY 42701, Attn: Music Committee.

SEEKING: Mother's Day Out teacher, Tuesday-Thursday, 8:45-2:15. Rockford Lane, (502) 964-3041.

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.

NEEDED: Used church van. Call Poplar Grove Baptist Church at (606) 528-7205.

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 resume 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. Resume to: Dr. Long, 1143 So. 3rd St., Suite A, Louisville, KY 40203.

SEEKING: Our pastor is retiring. The church has membership of 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 resume, 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.

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

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 resume to: Search Committee, First Baptist Church of Allen, P.O. Box 541, Allen, KY 41601.

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

ISSUES

Mission clashes with scenery, traffic in church zoning rift

By Matthew Reilly
Religion News Service

BERNARDS TOWNSHIP, N.J. (RNS)—Ralph and Cindy Rizzo found the perfect home last year, a circa-1900 farmhouse on four acres here with a million-dollar view across a pristine meadow.

Peter Pennzell, senior pastor of the Millington Baptist Church, also found the perfect home for his flock, a large tract on which to build a church, classrooms, a multipurpose room and offices he needs to accommodate a growing congregation.

But Pennzell's perfect home will rise smack dab in the middle of Rizzo's million-dollar view. Rizzo and many of his neighbors are not happy about the proposed 67,000-square-foot facility, and they've hired a lawyer to fight it.

The battle being played out before the local planning board in this township 25 miles or so west of Newark, N.J., illustrates what some see as a long-simmering tension between religious freedom and control over local growth.

It's a battle being fought across the country. Earlier this month, for example, a court in Boston heard arguments in one of two lawsuits challenging plans of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to build a new Mormon temple that residents said would interfere with their property values.

"What you're experiencing is similar to what's going on with much greater frequency throughout the nation as we've become a little more protective of our privacy and a little less respectful of the role churches play in our communities," said Oliver Thomas, special counsel to the National Council of Churches.

Thomas said people gave churches and community organizations more deference in the past, but financial and sexual scandals involving local churches and more widely known televangelists have hurt organized religion's image.

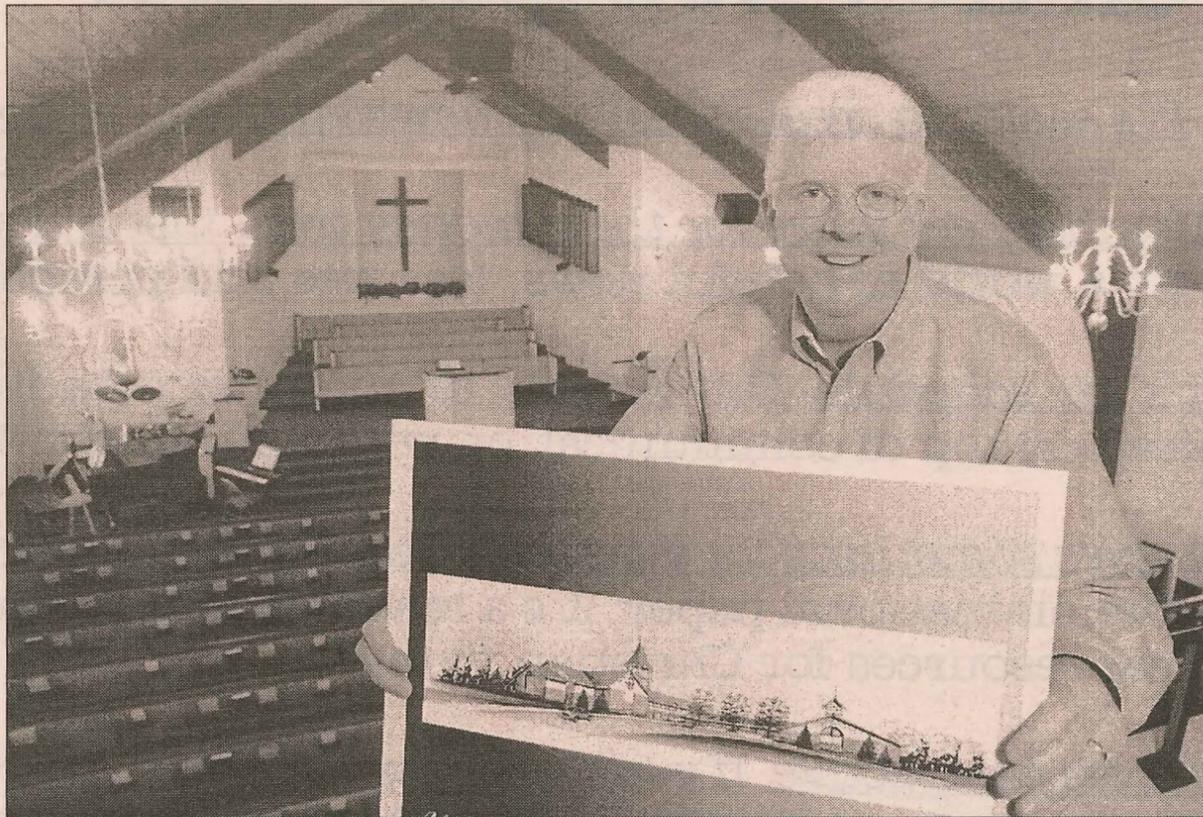
Melissa Rogers of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in Washington, D.C., said churches increasingly face problems in their dealings with the government entities that control growth.

"As zoning boards have gotten more and more power, churches and zoning boards have been butting heads more often," Rogers said.

Up and down Bernards Township's Mine Brook and Annin roads, neighbors whose properties border the proposed new home of the church have posted red-and-white "Save Mine Brook Road" signs declaring their opposition.

"Yes, I was surprised," Pennzell said of the reaction his planned church has generated. "One reason the land was attractive to us was that we thought there would be no opposition. It's such a large piece of land, we thought we could go there and use just 7 percent of it, and we didn't think anyone would have an objection to that."

But Peter Simmons, professor at Rutgers School of Law, is not surprised that a proposed church would generate such wrath.



CONTROVERSIAL CONSTRUCTION Peter Pennzell, pastor of Millington Baptist Church in Bernards Township, N.J., holds a drawing of a proposed new church building that has neighbors upset. Experts on church-state policy say the controversy is duplicated in communities around the country as residents grow more protective of their privacy and less respectful of churches. Pennzell said he was surprised by the outcry. "It's such a large piece of land, we thought we could go there and use just 7 percent of it, and we didn't think anyone would have an objection to that." (RNS photo)

"I think for a long time churches have been unpopular with many residential communities, in part because they're tax-exempt," Simmons said. "They're unpopular with immediate neighbors because people come to church and park in the street in front of your house. They are often more heterogeneous than the community in which they're located, so you may have churches that have black and white parishioners in a white community that may not want to see them coming in."

Rizzo said his only problem is the sheer size of the project. He said he was told when he bought his house a church might someday be built on the open land next to him, but he was assured it would be a small, country church.

"I have nothing against the church, or any church anywhere," Rizzo said. "But this is 67,000 square feet. The traffic is already backed up at Liberty Corner all the time. I guess we're looking for them to scale it down a little."

Neighbors said the Bernards planning board shouldn't even be reviewing the application, in part because the multiple uses proposed by the church on the 87-acre parcel make it a matter for the township zoning board. They've formed a homeowners association with more than 100 families and hired a lawyer to fight the church.

The plans filed by the church call for an L-shaped building, with parking for up to 500 cars. The building would house a sanctuary for worship services and a large multipurpose room, which could be used for performances, basketball games and aerobics classes. There would be a kitchen, offices and 21 classrooms, which Pennzell said are intended to be used

for Bible study and Sunday school.

"Those who oppose us think we're going to start a parochial school there," Pennzell said. "We're not even talking about that. We've got our hands full with paying for a new building."

The church has brought in Robert Drinan, a Jesuit priest and former congressman who is now a professor of law at Georgetown University and a specialist in church/state legal issues. He said the planning board does have jurisdiction.

Drinan said all the various uses the church is proposing—counseling, Bible study, Sunday school, even the fitness classes—are all just ancillary elements of its single-purpose: religious worship.

Wesley Neff, a spokesman for the neighbors, said such a reading of the law opens the door for the church to do almost anything, from holding aerobics classes to catering events.

"It's our contention that the definition of ancillary uses has been so broadened, anything they can think of would be an ancillary use," Neff said.

Rogers of the Baptist Joint Committee said trying to define what constitutes a given religion's worship is a road no government entity should start down.

"For a secular authority to try to tell people what is or is not part of our worship experience is very intrusive and offensive," Rogers said. "It's a perilous thing to make these determinations from outside."

The National Council of Churches' Thomas said those ancillary activities are an important part of any church's mission.

"The courts have a pretty good history of recognizing that what is and is not a legitimate ministry of the church

is up to the church," he said. "Civil magistrates are really not competent to decide what is a legitimate function. The social ministries are as central to their religious mission as anything that they do."

Drinan and Edward McKenzie, a lawyer representing the church, also point out that a Roman Catholic church sought and received permission to expand its sanctuary and school in Bernards Township, giving them a larger facility (115,000 square feet) on a smaller lot (18 acres).

"There is no compelling or overriding interest on the part of the township to deny the people of this church their rights," Drinan said. "I said if they deny this to the Baptist church, it's a denial of equal protection."

The Millington Baptist Church congregation has met at their current location for 148 years. Pennzell said a total of 650 people attend the three Sunday services and two Sunday school sessions.

Allan Smith, who chaired a search committee, said the church looked around the area for a site to build a new home and settled on Mine Brook Road.

The matter is on hold while the church's proposed septic system is reviewed, and the homeowners plan to continue raising questions about the project's environmental impact, traffic, lighting and the effect on property values.

Drinan said groups like the National Council of Churches ultimately may become involved if they perceive religious discrimination.

"There are a lot of people around the country watching what happens with this little church," he said.

"There are a lot of people around the country watching what happens with this little church."

Robert Drinan, a Georgetown University specialist in church/state legal issues

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