


**PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING**  
**WESTERN RECORDER**

**March 16, 1999**  
**Vol. 173, No. 11**

**FOR THE RECORD**

**Anthrax hoax**

The Southern Baptist Convention Building in Nashville received a letter earlier this month claiming to contain the deadly anthrax virus. *Page 2.*

**Conference ends**

The Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberties Commission will stop holding an annual issues conference because of poor attendance. *Page 2.*

**Financial Forum**

Real estate is another way to donate to charity. *Page 4.*

**Family Forum**

Can romance cure the pain of divorce? *Page 5.*

**Editorial**

What turns speed demons into holy rollers? *Page 5.*

**Show must go on**

A Southern Seminary music professor suffered a near-fatal accident earlier this year. This week the school will host his new musical drama based on the Gospel of John. *Page 6.*

**Get creative**



**CLOWNING AROUND** ■ Above: John Bailey (right), pastor of Monterey Baptist Church in Monterey and Scott Winstead, a pastor from Hudson, Mich., show off during the Kentucky Baptist Convention Creative Ministry Festival, March 5-6, at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. The event attracted nearly 900 people to learn creative ways to share the Christian message. (Photo by David Winfrey.) ■ Below: Jeff Smith (right), of Salt & Light Ministries in Richmond, Va., teaches creative movement. (Photo by Brenda Smith.) More photos on page 3.

**Conference teaches arts to share Christ**

**By David Winfrey**  
*News Director*

LOUISVILLE—With the right attitude, even a juggling act can become a way to talk about the Christian faith. Just ask Terry Kelly.

"People ask me, 'Terry, why do you juggle a bowling ball?'" the ordained minister said during the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Creative Ministries Festival.

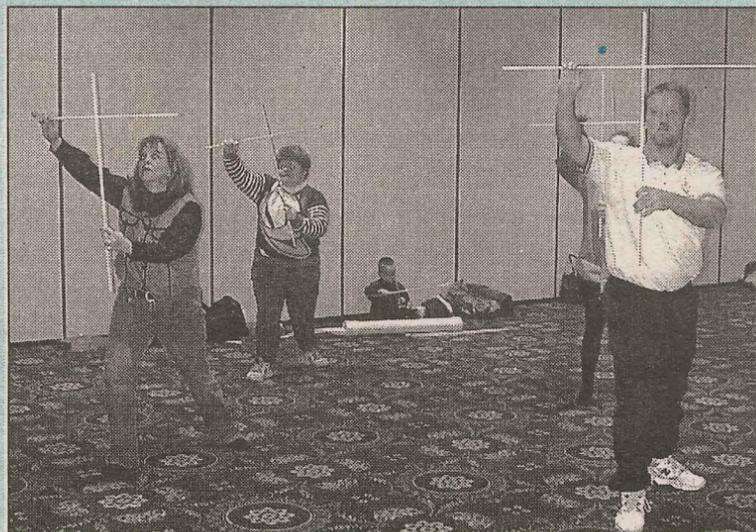
"Because, 'I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me,'" he answered, quoting Philipians 4:13. Kelly used that verse to encourage conference attendees. "This weekend you're going to learn to do a lot of new things."

Those things included using such creative arts as puppetry, drama, creative movement, clowning and storytelling to find new ways to tell the timeless story of Jesus' love.

Almost 900 Kentucky Baptists attended the annual festival March 5-6 at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. The event also hosts the youth missions workshop, teaching Acteens and other people how to prepare for their summer missions trips.

The festival brings together 40 teachers from several states to teach their skills and encourage churches to incorporate more creativity into their worship and outreach.

"It just seems like churches are headed in that direction," said Tom



Smoot, KBC youth department director and organizer of the event. "Churches are doing more creative ministry, and it is our purpose to teach them how to do it right."

Jeff Smith, director of Salt & Light Ministries in Richmond, Va., agreed. He said he encourages people to take "a little different approach about the same message about the same God and the same Christ."

"We have to be visual. We have to be creative," he told participants during the opening session.

After the opening session, Smith said creative arts can attract people who aren't interested in traditional worship services and help bring the

Bible and biblical characters to life. "I call it sanctified bait."

He said he doesn't believe people who claim to not be creative. "We're created in the image of God. We're created as creative beings," he said. He offered two ways for people to get their creativity flowing.

"Journaling is integral to the creative process," he said.

He also recommends "rut-busters" to help people think differently about the things they face daily.

Simple rut-busters can be taking a different route to work or "brush your teeth backwards," he suggested. "Routine, to me, is like religion. Creativity is like relationship."

**Munfordville's links to Russia inspire ministry commitments**

**By Brenda Smith**  
*Kentucky Baptist Convention*

MUNFORDVILLE—What started out as a "routine" mission trip to Russia for a Kentucky Baptist pastor has turned into a life-changing experience for him, his family, his church and other Baptist churches in the Munfordville area.

Pastor Gerald Murphy and his wife, Sheila, recently were commissioned as missionaries by the International Missions Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. They will leave this spring along with their 13-year-old daughter, Melissa, to move to Bryansk, Russia, where they will share their faith and start new churches.

Their move comes as a result of their participation in the Kentucky Baptist Convention's recent partnership with Russian Baptists. The family's experiences not only affect them and their church, but also other churches in Lynn Baptist Association.

"Three years ago my church was like most other KBC churches in that our missions endeavors only consisted of Cooperative Program giving and special emphasis offerings," said Murphy, who was pastor of Munfordville Baptist Church. "When I was a student, missions never occurred to me, but as a pastor I always encouraged my church to give."

That all changed in the fall of 1994 when Murphy spotted an advertisement in the Western Recorder seeking pastors to teach at the pastor's school in St. Petersburg, Russia.

"When I saw the ad, I said 'That's for me,'" Murphy said. He shared his feelings at a deacons meeting, and the deacons were enthusiastic supporters. They told him that if he felt God was calling him to teach, the church would cover his expenses.

Murphy spent two weeks in February 1995 in St. Petersburg teaching Old Testament at the pastor's school. After his return, excitement for the partnership continued to build in both his church and the association. The Lynn Association sent two more people to Russia in the summer of 1995.

"I credit it with the genius of partnership missions and personal involvement in missions," Murphy said. "Whenever someone has gone off, they've come back changed."

By 1996 another team from the Lynn Association was ready to go to Alexandrov, Russia. But

Moving? See page 4 (0316)

# BAPTISTS

## SBC Building sent anthrax hoax letter

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—A suspicious letter opened March 5 at the Southern Baptist Convention Building in Nashville resulted in precautionary decontamination treatment for four SBC Executive Committee staff members and one fire department captain.

The letter claimed that the opener of the envelope had been exposed to anthrax, but the letter contained no

reason for being sent to the building.

Bill Merrell, vice president of convention relations for the Executive Committee, said local authorities were contacted and precautions they recommended were taken, including limiting access to the building.

The Metro Police Department, Metro Health Department, Nashville Fire Department, Metro Office of Emergency Management and the Federal Bureau of Investigation responded to the event.

Officials said the suspicious envelope did not appear to contain any toxic contents, Merrell said. Tests were being done to eliminate any doubt, he added. The letter, postmarked from the West Coast, was forwarded by the Federal Bureau of Investigation to a lab for tests.

The SBC Building was closed Monday, March 8 after the incident.

Executive Committee President Morris Chapman said staff members confined to the building's seventh floor had a sense of calm throughout the event. "There was a sense the Lord was here, guiding us through the day and giving us strength."

Four employees of the SBC Executive Committee and a fire department captain underwent a decontamination wash of 10-percent Clorox and water, in addition to being given antibiotics, for possible exposure to deadly anthrax bacteria.

Emergency workers led a debriefing session with Executive Committee staff, and Chapman led in a prayer of thanksgiving for God's grace during the incident and the local officials' assistance.

The opener of the envelope, who asked not to be identified, said she was "stunned" to read the contents of the letter, but later experienced "a peace about it, knowing it must have been a hoax."

Jack Wilkerson, vice president for business and finance, and one of the four employees exposed to the letter, said, "We're thankful all of our employees are OK." They responded appropriately to the situation, he said, "and we fully cooperated with the police and health officials. The health and safety of our employees and other people in the building were our paramount concerns."

## ERLC to drop its annual national issues seminar

AUSTIN, Texas (ABP)—The Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission has voted to drop its annual national seminar, citing low attendance.

This year's seminar, March 1-3 in Austin, Texas, was well received but not well attended, Barrett Duke, director of denominational relations, told agency trustees meeting on the heels of the 33rd annual conference March 4.

"It was a good meeting, but the attendance was not good," Duke said.

In its heyday, the annual seminar was a rallying point for moderate Baptists attuned to its progressive "social-gospel" agenda during the 1970s and early 1980s. As the SBC came under control of conservatives during the latter 1980s, the program's tone turned decidedly conservative, and attendance gradually declined.

This year's meeting had good attendance at evening sessions, Duke said, but small crowds during the day. He said the annual seminar is no longer an effective way to provide information on moral and social issues.

Trustees unanimously voted to cancel future seminars and also the spring semi-annual meeting held in conjunction with the annual gathering. Cutting back to one trustee meeting a year will save the agency \$18,000-\$20,000, reported ERLC President Richard Land. Trustees could call a special meeting if needed, and a contingency fund will be set aside to pay for such needs, he said.

Despite halting the annual event, the ERLC is experiencing unprecedented success on other fronts, staff members reported at the trustee meeting.

Land said the ERLC is "in the midst of our best year in terms of sales of products" and of staff being able to do what God called them to do.

World hunger funds climbed to \$10.4 million from the previous year's \$7.9 million, prompting the North American Mission Board and the International Mission Board to reverse earlier decisions to stop contributing about \$50,000 for fund-raising efforts for hunger relief.

Financially, Land reported that the ERLC revenues are \$67,000 over budget and expenses are \$128,036 under budget after the first four months of the fiscal year.

In other business, ERLC trustees unanimously voted to present Land with the agency's "religious-liberty award."



"It's my dad's fault. He asked the church secretary to watch me."

## BAPTIST BITS

### ■ Appalachian ministry to host meeting.

The Appalachian Mountain Ministry Summit will be held March 22-23 in Bristol, Va. This is the first regional meeting for the ministry, intended to mobilize Baptists to meet the spiritual and physical needs of residents in the Appalachian area. For more information, call (304) 757-0944.

### ■ Louisville foundations support seminary.

Two Louisville-based foundations made significant grants to a seminary in Virginia in honor of the former president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, also in Louisville. Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond (Va.) received grants of \$50,000 each from the V. V. Cooke Foundation and the Gheens Foundation in honor of Duke McCall. The grants were added to the endowment of the Duke K. McCall Chair of Christian Mission and World Christianity at BTRS.

### ■ Texas Bible studies to debut in 2000.

The Baptist General Convention of Texas will produce its own Bible-study material beginning next March. Texas Baptists authorized publication of the material in 1997, when the state convention approved a slate of recommendations by an Effectiveness/Efficiency Committee. Critics said the recommendations signal a distancing from the Southern Baptist Convention by the moderate-led BGCT and that publishing literature will compete with the denomination's official publishing arm. Supporters say the materials will fill a niche not currently being met.

### ■ Midwestern's accreditation resolved.

Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary has received word from the Association of Theological Schools that two notations which had been in place since before 1996 have been removed from Midwestern's accreditation. Reports prepared by the

academic dean and vice president for business affairs stated the seminary had implemented procedures addressing all the ATS concerns. The ATS Commission on Accrediting met in January and accepted the seminary's report.

### ■ IMB seeks to multiply partnerships.

A former missionary to Kenya will help Southern Baptists multiply partnerships with places where missionary evangelism and church planting are needed. Sam Turner, an associate director in the International Mission Board's volunteers in missions department, was selected to become partnership development coordinator for the IMB and the North American Mission Board. Turner will work with Baptist state convention leaders to identify places that need missions assistance and then share the list of such places with Baptist associations interested in forging missions partnerships.

### ■ IMB selects global research leader.

Southern Baptist missionary Scott Holste was named by the International Mission Board to direct the agency's global mission research efforts. The IMB's global research department monitors the advance of the Christian message among the world's 12,862 ethnic people groups and works with other mission agencies to share information about worldwide response to the gospel.

### ■ Southwestern approves record budget.

Trustees for Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, approved four new professors, elected officers and approved a school record \$27.3 million budget during the trustees meeting March 8-10. Miles Seaborn of Fort Worth was elected chairman of the trustees. Seaborn chaired the search committee that recommended Ken Hemphill to the seminary's presidency in 1994, and he is immediate past president of the Southern

Baptists of Texas Convention, a conservative break-away convention from the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

### ■ BJC creates fund-raising arm.

The Baptist Joint Committee approved the creation of a new fund-raising and development arm to be headed by James Dunn after he retires as executive director of the Washington-based religious-liberty agency. BJC directors voted unanimously to establish the Baptist Joint Committee Foundation with the assignment of increasing endowment and annual gifts. The foundation will not manage endowment funds but will place them in existing foundations, including one affiliated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

### ■ Digital church resources offered.

Smyth and Helwys Publishing announced the launch of NextSunday.com, which the company claims is the first online source dedicated exclusively to digital resources for worship and Christian education. The World Wide Web site offers church resources for download. Shoppers purchase a license allowing them to make a limited number of copies for use by Sunday-school classes or other groups. The site can be found at [www.nextsunday.com](http://www.nextsunday.com).

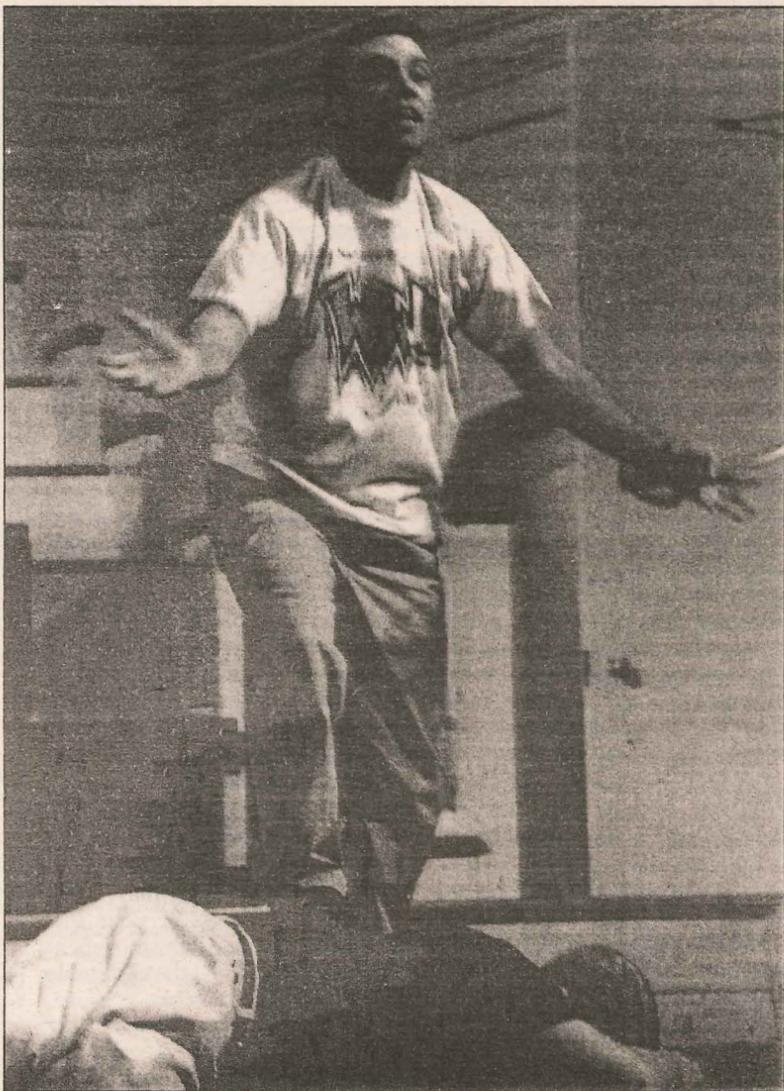
### ■ Leaders affirm pan-Baptist network.

The Baptist Center for Ethics must create an ethics network that includes Baptists from various traditions and regions to adequately address today's pressing ethical issues, BCE leaders said at a meeting of the organization's board. Executive Director Robert Parham said BCE began in 1991 with the idea that it would serve Baptists beyond the moderate Southern Baptist constituency that birthed it. Now that BCE has established a base in the South, it is time for the agency to venture into other regions and include other Baptist groups, Parham said.

# KENTUCKY



**CREATIVE ENERGY** Leaders for the annual Kentucky Baptist Convention Creative Ministries Festival show their skills. Almost 900 people attended the conference, held March 5-6 at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. The event encourages Kentucky Baptists to discover new ways to present the message of Jesus. Next year's festival will be the first weekend in March. (Clockwise, starting from top left) Jeff Smith sings a song comparing life to a box of cereal. John Bailey, pastor of Monterey Baptist church in Monterey, teaches students how to make balloon hats. Clown Scott Winstead (left) a pastor from Hudson, Mich., sprays John Bailey with water. Kevin Sigsby talks with a puppet handled by his wife, Pamela. Terry Kelly prepares to juggle bowling ball. Todd Parish (standing) and Todd Bowling of T 'n T Ministries tell the story of David and Goliath. (Photos by David Winfrey and Brenda Smith)



## BLUEGRASS BURGEOO

■ **Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children** will open a new youth center in London. The Youth Support Center, located on what once was the Sue Bennett College campus, will work with teenagers recently discharged from residential care of the juvenile justice system. "We want to be the net that prevents these kids from falling through the cracks," said director Lloyd Jackson.

■ **Thirty Georgetown** College students recently completed a 16-hour course for teaching English as a second language, designed to help them teach conversational English to non-English speaking people. The training had a two-fold purpose—to prepare the students for foreign missions and to help them organize classes for international families who live in their local communities.

■ **Jay Close** has been hired by Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children to develop religious life activities for agency children, families and staff. Close, who was a therapist for a family treatment program at Boys' Haven in Louisville, has also previously held ministry positions at Walnut Street Baptist Church and Fern Creek Baptist Church in Louisville.

■ **Correction:** A story in last week's Western Recorder about Lexington Baptist College stated an incorrect enrollment figure. The college has 133 students, up from 12 students in 1994, according to President David Adams.

# OPINION

## WESTERN RECORDER

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

**MAURI SMITH**  
Interim Executive  
Officer

**DAVID WINFREY**  
News Director

**C.R. DALEY**  
Editor Emeritus

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Today's world requires missions boldness

By Al Mohler

*"Like cold water to a weary soul  
is good news from a distant land"*  
Proverbs 25:25.

A Southern Baptist missionary leader recently reported that when trouble breaks out in some part of the world, he is immediately called by interested Southern Baptists who want to know if the missionaries are safe.

The International Mission Board cares deeply about our missionaries, but it cannot assure their safety. As this leader reflected, "If we do what God has called us to do, somebody just might get killed."

In India, an evangelical missionary was murdered earlier this year, along with his two young sons—just for preaching the gospel. Southern Baptist missionaries have been kidnapped, maimed and ambushed in recent months. Added to these sad events is our knowledge of the new realities faced by missionaries in the world after the Cold War. Nationalist movements and terrorist organizations threaten to destabilize the world, state by state. Christian missionaries are considered fair game by those who kill in the name of their cause.

It has always been so. The witness of the early Christians was met with opposition from many quarters, including the power of the Roman Empire. Christians were put to death for bearing witness to their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and historians have often observed that the blood of the martyrs watered the expansion of the gospel.

This year marks the 48th anniversary of the death of Bill Wallace at the hands of Chinese communists. A missionary doctor sent to China by the Foreign Mission Board, Wallace served the poor of Wuchow and shared the gospel with the Chinese people. As the Korean conflict broke

into open warfare between Chinese and United Nations forces, the Chinese arrested Wallace in a round-up of Americans, tortured and interrogated him and eventually beat him to death in prison.

In a farewell message to his home church, shared on his last Sunday in America, Wallace declared, "I don't know why God should call me and not another, but he did and I'm glad. And what could I do but answer his call?"

He knew the sacrifice made by his Savior.

"He has made the supreme sacrifice for us, then surely we can obey God's plan and will for our life."

God had put China on Wallace's heart. Wallace explained that God had made the call clear by showing him that "in our mission field today in China and other countries, hundreds and thousands are going to their death without the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ because we do not have enough missionaries to tell the story."

Bill Wallace was—and is—a hero to me. As a youngster in a Southern Baptist church, I heard of Wallace's brave life and martyr's death. I am certain he never saw himself as a hero, but a generation of young Southern Baptists came to understand what was at stake in our Lord's missionary mandate by remembering his bold witness, even unto death.

Most Southern Baptists living today were born after Wallace's death almost 50 years ago. I wonder if Wallace's missionary witness still lights the fire of Great Commission conviction in Southern Baptist hearts. I fear that today's youth and college students (not to mention their parents) do not even know of our missionary heroes.

A few years ago I was participating in a national conference when a well-known preacher from another denomination came to the pulpit

## COMMENTARY

## PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

### The presence of God

The manifest presence of God was obvious at the recent Kentucky evangelism conference at Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington.

I have planned and conducted state evangelism conferences for 19 years, but only a few have been spiritually transforming experiences. People still talk about those memorable conferences 15 to 20 years later. I believe this year's event will be one of those.

People came with a high level of anticipation. There was exciting worship and anointed preaching. Each speaker seemed to move into the flow of the Holy Spirit.

By the Monday afternoon session, more than 1,200 people had gathered. When the concluding speaker for that session, Steve Ayers, extended an invitation, the aisles and a wide circular area between the platform and pews

filled with hundreds of people on their knees. There was a similar response the next day when Craig Loscalzo challenged pastors to refuse to go through the motions without the reality of God's presence.

Another powerful moment occurred Tuesday night as the Porter Memorial choir presented drama to show the reality of hell through the dream of a teenage girl whose brother was not a Christian. When the live flames appeared to engulf the young man, my thoughts and emotions were captured by the reality of separation from God.

That final session also featured one of the most dramatic testimonies I have ever heard. Saleim Kahleh shared of his conversion from Islam to Christianity. His brother and sister are now Christians, and he asked that we pray for his parents. The next speaker, Jay Strack, led the entire conference to their salvation.



Bill Mackey

with a newspaper article dealing with a Southern Baptist missionary who had been forced to leave Lebanon—then a war zone—by the U. S. State Department. Though Americans were under a constant threat of kidnapping and several American citizens had disappeared, this woman had not wanted to leave. When she arrived in America, a reporter asked why she had held out for so long and why she had resisted earlier pleas by the State Department. "The State Department didn't send me to Lebanon," she said, "Jesus did."

Lamenting the decline of missionary commitment within his own denomination, the preacher said sadly, "I want to belong to a church that produces people like that woman." I do too, and we must settle for nothing less.

Missions apathy follows fast on the heels of theological compromise and biblical ignorance. When the cross of promise is not held high, when the promise of salvation is not preached, when the eternal peril of the lost is not made clear, apathy in missions inevitably follows. That is why evangelistic missionary activity has nearly ceased among liberal denominations.

On the other hand, where the Lord Jesus Christ is proclaimed as Savior, and the good news of the gospel is boldly preached; where sinners are invited to believe in Christ and find salvation in him and him alone; where the glory of God is our end and the salvation of sinners is our great joy, missionary commitment inevitably rises.

We must pray for missionaries who follow in the footsteps of Bill Wallace and other martyrs and who look danger in the face day by day. We must know that if Southern Baptists do what God has called us to do, somebody might get killed. But we also know, thanks be to God, that our missionaries go in order that somebody might get saved.

*Al Mohler is president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville*

Jay concluded his message on the theme of the session "It's Up To You" with an illustration from his visits to the Holy Land. He once visited to an Arab friend that because he was his friend he was compelled to share Jesus with him. His Arab friend said, "Oh, you mean you don't want to commit the sin of the desert." When Jay asked what the sin of the desert is, his friend replied, "To know where to find water and not to share it." When Jay led the time of commitment, the altar and aisles filled once again.

I want to thank all of those who helped plan the conference, especially the Kentucky Baptist Convention evangelism growth team. Almost every day I hear from someone saying God has used the conference in their lives. Please join with me in praying that God will continue to manifest his presence among Kentucky Baptists.

Plans are already under way for next year's conference, Feb. 28-29, 2000, at Highview Baptist Church in Louisville. I hope you'll make plans to attend.

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

## CHARITABLE

### Real estate might be the way to make a charitable gift

By Laurie Valentine

If you own a home or other property that you no longer want to live in or manage and you are thinking about making a charitable gift, consider using



that real estate to accomplish your charitable giving objectives.

An outright gift of real estate that has appreciated in value can provide double benefits—an immediate income tax deduction equal to the current market value of the property and avoidance of the capital gains tax that would be payable if you sold the property.

If the property's value has depreciated, you should sell property and make a gift of the sale proceeds to charity. You may be able to use both the charitable income tax deduction and the capital loss on your income tax return.

Like gifts of other types of assets, gifts of real estate do not have to be an "all or nothing" proposition.

If you are not comfortable with giving up the full value of the property, a bargain sale to charity may be the answer. In a bargain sale you agree to sell the real estate to the charity for a price which is less than its current market value.

The transaction is part gift (the difference between the market value and the sale price) and part sale. You are entitled to a charitable income tax deduction equal to the gift portion of the transaction, and you will only incur capital gains tax on a portion of your total gain in the asset. The charity obtains the property for a below-market price.

Real estate may also be used to fund a charitable remainder trust. These types of trusts provide an income stream to the donor or others for a term of years, with the remainder passing to charity.

When considering a gift of real estate, consider its salability, current market value and whether it is subject to a mortgage. These issues may affect the way in which your gift should be made to be most beneficial to you and the charitable recipient.

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

## Is a new romance the best cure for the sharp pain of divorce?

**Q. I'm recently divorced, and it feels like my life is over. Do I need a new relationship in order to feel better and be healed?**

It has been said that you're not ready for a new relationship until you are ready to be single for the rest of your life. It doesn't sound like you're there yet.

The Christian literature on divorce recovery is unanimous—it takes at least two to four years to heal, and that's if you apply yourself to the divorce recovery process. There are several reasons for this. First, divorcing spouses often are interested in reconciliation during the first year after the decree. If you are pursuing someone else, that's not likely to happen. Second, it's for your own healing. You should take this time to work on reclaiming yourself. A new relationship quite possibly would feel good, but like injecting Novocain on a broken limb, it would not help you to heal. You would have a rather false sense of recovery.

You are most vulnerable at this time in your life to "discount relationships." These are relationships of the most dependent kind. On the surface, they look good, but there's no depth there to carry them over the long haul. When the time comes that you begin to feel some recovery in your life and it seems like a new relationship has appeared, be sure to ask yourself the question, "What is it about this relationship that I am refusing to admit to myself?"

Have honest people in your life who can give you necessary feedback on where you need to grow. Surround yourself with a true Christian community. Out of those relationships can come the most fulfilling life God intends for both married and single adults.

Don't shortcut the process. God will do the healing one day at a time. Learn to let go of the past and hold on to God in your present and for your future.—James Stillwell

## Q. How can I help a child who struggles with weight problems?

Twenty-five percent of children in America today are overweight. Fifteen percent of these would be considered obese. Research indicates that overweight children tend to become overweight adults. They also become greater risks for cardiovascular disease and other health problems. In addition to health risks, overweight children often experience extra struggles with self-esteem issues.

The fight against obesity begins in childhood. Dick Couey, an exercise physiologist and professor at Baylor University, offers the following suggestions:

- **Assess your child's activity level.** Children should be encouraged to participate in vigorous physical activity and exercise. You might want to consider a simple incentive-based exercise program. One summer, I gave my children \$1 each time they exercised aerobically for 20 minutes (\$4 a week maximum). We used an ordinary calendar to chart our progress.

- **Practice moderation in high fat, high caloric food choices.** These are the foods that put on the pounds. They also are the foods families are turning to more frequently due to packed schedules and hurried lifestyles.

- **Work to change the way your children relate to and think about food.** Keeping healthy, nutrient-rich but calorie-light snacks on hand can make a difference. Also, teaching children to eat only at the kitchen table can cut down on hours of snacking in front of the television.

- **Set a good example.** Parents play a key role in children's fitness, so eat smart, watch the snacks and fast foods and make sure you get plenty of exercise yourself.—David Garrard

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



## What turns speed demons into holy rollers?

By David Winfrey

Maybe driving every weekend at 180 mph encourages a strong relationship with God.

Regardless of the reason, NASCAR driver Darrell Waltrip and his wife, Stevie, are wonderful reminders of the impact Jesus Christ can have on one's life if he is the focus and not simply a once-a-week distraction.

The Waltrips recently talked about their Christian faith and how it affects them. They did this for Real Life magazine, a publication produced by the Western Recorder.

The Owensboro natives don't hold themselves out as defenders of the faith, and both admit to weaknesses and faults. But they continue to ask God to use them, and they say he's faithful to make a difference personally, professionally and in their community.

Personally, the Waltrips credit God and prayer for a variety of miracles great and small.

Professionally, the pair are an example for how more Christians should take their faith with them into the workplace. Eleven years ago, the Waltrips helped start Motor Racing Outreach. That ministry has grown from one chaplain leading Bible studies to a small army of ministers reaching out to racers and fans from 23 different racing leagues, including motorcycles and speed boats.

Stevie talks about having a ministry in racing, counseling other racers' wives on ways to cope with the pressures and frantic schedules. She also is straightforward with others about the difference God makes in her life.

What makes this all the more remarkable is that the couple have worked in an environment that "church folk" regularly turned their noses up at not too long ago.

Before NASCAR developed a cleaner, family friendly reputation, not only was racing on Sunday a no-no, but the whole sport often was dismissed as the

domain of drunkards and womanizers. The Waltrips are evidence that God is still at work in some places and situations where many of his followers might not expect.

In their community, Darrell Waltrip lends his influence to touch the lives of businessmen in Franklin, Tenn., through a weekly Bible study he hosts.

If you're looking for ways to better integrate Christianity into your life, Real Life's stories about the Waltrips can give you some ideas.

If you know someone who might be encouraged by the Waltrips' story, consider sharing the spring issue of Real Life with them.

We want this magazine to help churches do the same thing that the Waltrips are doing in their circle of influence—explain in straightforward language the difference that Christ makes in his followers.

Real Life offers stories about family, finance and fun from a Christian perspective. Each issue's cover story is written to show what a personal relationship with God through Jesus means to a Kentuckian or to the issues that all Kentuckians face. Each issue's back cover has an evangelistic ad.

Real Life is an ideal product for churches to use in outreach—given to visitors or distributed throughout a community. It shows that you or your church cares about them and that Christianity has relevance to the real life issues they face.

Want more information? Give us a call at (502) 244-6471 or toll-free (888) 254-5728.

The Waltrips make a great cover story for Real Life because they are so honest about their struggles and how real God is in their life.

If more Christians were as willing to integrate their faith into everything they do, and be transparent about their struggles and triumphs, I think we'd see more people racing to our churches to check it out.

David Winfrey is news director for the Western Recorder and interim editor for Real Life magazine.

## Can you drink this cup?

By Gayle Toole

"You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?" (Matthew 20:22)

A farmer went with his son into a wheat field to see if it was ready for the harvest. "See, father," exclaimed the boy, "how straight these stems hold up their heads! They must be the best ones. Those that hang their heads down I'm sure cannot be good for much."

The farmer plucked a stalk of each and said, "See here, foolish child! This stalk that stood so straight is lightheaded and almost good for nothing, while this that hung its head so modestly is full of the most beautiful grain."

The 12 apostles needed another lesson about the way greatness is obtained in the kingdom.

Salome, the wife of Zebedee—and possibly the sister of Mary, the mother of Jesus—asked that her sons, James and John, might have the highest rank in the protocol of the king-

dom. She asked that her sons might sit on the chief seats of honor, next to the king.

Salome, James and John did not know what they were asking. To identify so completely with Jesus by being on the right-hand and left-hand meant something altogether from power and prestige.

The cup and the baptism Jesus mentions referred to his suffering. James and John wanted to identify with Jesus. Jesus wanted to know if they would be willing to share his suffering.

Their immediate answer was, "We are able." James and John did not understand exactly what Jesus meant. At this time they had no idea of the nature or the degree of suffering that would be theirs to endure. Jesus greatly reproved their ambition of gaining rank in the kingdom.

Jesus told these two close disciples that they really didn't know what they were asking. He had been talking about his coming death, while they were thinking about having first place in the kingdom.

He asked whether they were, "able

to drink the cup" he was going to drink. Jesus was asking them, "Are you ready to die with me?" The brothers confidently answered that they were able. It was evident that they did not understand the kind of kingdom Jesus would have. However, their loyalty at this point was commendable.

Later, they demonstrated they were not able. All of them, including James and John, deserted Jesus when the crucial moment came. His arrest, trial and crucifixion found none of them drinking from his cup or sharing in his baptism of suffering.

The disciples later proved they could pay the price. James went to a martyr's death, and John had a baptism of suffering through both imprisonment and exile.

Jesus taught his disciples that when they were thinking of being great in the kingdom, that the way to the higher life was down. Therefore, we should not seek or ask for exaltation—that is God's work. Let us take no place before God or man but that of a servant.



Gayle Toole is retired pastor of Edgewood Baptist Church in Nicholasville and immediate past president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

# BAPTISTS

## Panelists: Denominationalism in decline for Baptist churches

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (ABP)—Baptist churches are reclaiming their autonomy and rejecting a reliance on national bodies, speakers said at a recent discussion on the future of denominationalism.

William O'Brien, director of The Global Center at Samford University's Beeson Divinity School, predicted that denominations will not die but denominationalism would diminish in the next millennium. Denominationalism, he said, is "reflected in those attitudes and actions that put the work of the denomination above the work of the church."

The local church is "reclaiming" the initiative on missions and no longer relying on national bodies, he said. "I think the last frontier of missions is not geographic; it is the frontier of collaboration."

Michael Clingenpeel, editor of the Religious Herald, newsweekly of the Baptist General Association of Virginia, said churches are moving back "to where we should have been." He described an "enormous wind of freedom, where churches feel the power to be where they feel God wants them to be."

Clingenpeel compared the Southern Baptist Convention to a religious corporation in which the churches were local franchises. "Increasingly, this kind of franchising is no longer occurring. Independent churches are beginning to reclaim their autonomy and act like Baptists," he said.

Clingenpeel said one of the most important developments in Virginia is the development of alliances among churches and a variety of other Christian, but not necessarily Baptist, entities. The alliances are going to increase, he said, noting that it is "very frustrating" to denominational bodies when churches begin to align with such groups.

Columbia Baptist Church and The John Leland Center sponsored the panel discussion on "The Future of Denominationalism in the New Millennium."

## Southern's show will go on despite injury

By Steve Smartt  
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

LOUISVILLE (BP)—Phil Landgrave usually walks off the tennis court after a match. In January, paramedics had to carry him off.

The professor of church music at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville slipped and hit his head on the court, fracturing his skull.

The injury threatened his life and completion of Landgrave's musical drama, "God's Love Song." Today, however, Landgrave is on the mend, and his composition is set to debut this week.

After his accident, Landgrave was unconscious for three days. Doctors considered his condition grave and instructed family members to prepare for the worst.

Landgrave regained consciousness, but he temporarily lost the ability to speak and hear. While countless friends and family around the globe prayed, a subsequent X-ray revealed Landgrave's condition to be improving.

"It was an overwhelming experience to get e-mails sent by friends from South Korea, Brazil, Panama and many other places," Landgrave said. "It is a witness to me of how God can use his people to uphold other people."

Still lightheaded and dizzy, Landgrave worked from his hospi-

tal bed to fine-tune and add finishing touches to "God's Love Song," which is based on the Gospel of John. The deadline was approaching fast, and public performances already were scheduled.

Despite physical limitations, Landgrave completed the 500-page score. He put together the remaining pieces of orchestral parts, sometimes working up to 12 hours a day.

Friends and colleagues helped Landgrave finish the composition, as the events surrounding it unified the commitment of Southern Seminary's music faculty and students to complete the work.

The need to finish ignited heightened energy and was identified as a "mission of ministry" for all involved, said Mozelle Clark Sherman, also a church music professor and director of the Church Music Drama Theatre at Southern who primarily has been responsible for staging and producing "God's Love Song."

"We who are working on this can feel it," she said. "This is a mission that has been given."

What began two-and-a-half years ago as a project involving a broad sweep of the Gospels has evolved into

a presentation specifically of the Gospel of John. Landgrave has based every word of his musical drama on the Gospel narrative. Virtually every word from John's account is either spoken or dramatically portrayed.

"John, the evangelist, told us of the things that he had seen and heard so that we might believe," said Landgrave, who added that he sees the purpose of John's writing as a way for people to indeed understand who Jesus Christ was and have an opportunity to believe in him.

"I want for 'God's Love Song' the same thing the apostle John wanted for what he wrote—that people would believe in Jesus," Landgrave said.

Landgrave continues to recuperate at home. "I have to be careful that I walk straight and don't fall down," he said. "Hey, now there's a message."

"God's Love Song" is a 140-minute musical drama featuring more than 50 acting roles, two choirs and Southern's orchestra.

The Church Music Drama Theater at Southern will offer two performances, March 20 at 1:30 p.m. and March 23 at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free. Groups of 20 or more may reserve seats for the March 20 performance by calling (502) 897-4115.

### What if?

Our son, Justin, will be 18 this month. Under Kentucky law, he becomes an adult. For the purpose of this column, I shall refrain from including any "parenting remarks" about what we think and what he thinks about becoming 18. His attaining adulthood under the law has prompted Larie and me to consider some changes to our estate plans and to assist Justin in developing his own Christian estate plan.

We have gone back to the basic questions we asked ourselves when we last updated our plans in May 1994. Although the questions are basically the same, some of the answers are different due to the changing circumstances of our lives. I share these questions with you for whatever value they may have as

you revisit your plan or as you consider a plan for the first time.

What if: I predeceased Larie, Justin and Glen (age 15)? Larie predeceased Justin, Glen and me? Justin predeceased Larie, Glen and me? Glen predeceased Larie, Justin and me? Larie and I died simultaneously? Larie, Justin and I died simultaneously? Larie, Glen and I died simultaneously? Larie, Justin, Glen and I all died simultaneously?

Under each of these potential circumstances, does each of our es-

tate plans reflect God's current purposes for our possessions given our financial and spiritual stations in life? Are the proper estate planning documents executed? Are those empowered to act as our fiduciaries still the ones we desire to serve in those capacities? Are they still willing and able to serve when necessary?

What if: I became temporarily incapacitated? Larie became temporarily incapacitated? Justin became temporarily incapacitated? Glen became temporarily incapacitated? Larie and I simultaneously became temporarily incapacitated? Larie, Justin and I simultaneously became temporarily incapacitated? Larie, Glen and I became temporarily incapacitated? Larie, Justin, Glen and I simultaneously became temporarily incapacitated? Do our advance directives still reflect our wishes? What documents does Justin now need to execute?

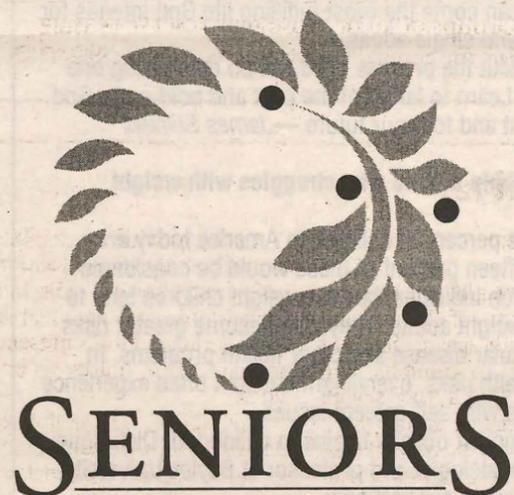
If you need estate planning assistance, please give us the privilege. Laurie Valentine, our trust counsel, is just a toll-free call away at (888) 254-5701.

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

### KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen



## 1999 SENIOR ADULT CELEBRATIONS

Five Kentucky Locations/Dates

April 26 - Paducah  
Lone Oak First Baptist Church

April 27 - Elizabethtown  
Severns Valley Baptist Church

April 29 - Lexington  
Calvary Baptist Church

May 11 - Ashland  
First Baptist Church

May 18 - Williamsburg  
Cumberland College

Mayrene and Paul Bobbitt  
Drama and Music Leaders

Common Call and  
The Promise Quartet  
Musical Guests

**COST**  
\$6.00 for reservations made 2 weeks prior to event;  
\$7.00 at door and for reservations made less than 2 weeks prior to event  
BOTH INCLUDE LUNCH

For more information, please contact:  
Family Ministry Department of the Kentucky Baptist Convention  
502-245-4101, ext. 250 or 1-888-254-5704  
E-mail: valerie\_vincent@kybaptist.org

# KENTUCKY

## God's Love Song

World Premiere of a New Sacred Musical Drama

Music and Lyrics by J. Phillip Landgrave

Based on the Gospel of John

World Premiere Production by Mozelle Clark Sherman

**Saturday, March 20 at 1:30 p.m.**

**Tuesday, March 23 at 7:30 p.m.**

(The March 23 performance will be televised Live on the Faith channel.)

Free admission and parking

Featuring: Gregory Church as Jesus

Nathan Platt as John

Mass Choirs from Kentuckiana Churches

The Church Music Drama Theatre

The Seminary Orchestra and Vocal Ensemble



**The Southern Baptist  
Theological Seminary**

2528 Lexington Road · Louisville, KY 40280

Groups of 20 or more may reserve seating for the Saturday matinee by calling 897-4115.

## Russia partnership sparks Munfordville to missions

Continued from page 1

in the early morning hours on the day the team was to depart, the team got a call from Ken Murphy, associate director of the KBC's partnership missions department, telling them the trip would have to be canceled due to political unrest in the region.

Team members were transferred to other mission groups going to Russia that summer. That's when Ken Murphy, who was coordinating the reassignments for the association, came across a request for a pastor and nurse on a medical missions trip to Bryansk. The trip seemed tailor-made for Gerald Murphy and his wife, Sheila, an ophthalmology nurse.

It was on this trip that the Murphys said they began thinking God might be calling them to serve in Russia full time. Murphy discussed returning on future mission trips with the pastor of the Bryansk church, and both decided to pray about the possibility.

The Murphys are not the only ones at Munfordville Baptist Church deeply touched by their experiences with partnership missions. According to Murphy, two more couples and a young person are praying about calls to full-time mission service. One couple even has started preparing themselves financially by paying off debts and getting other affairs in order.

During the past two years, more than 60 members of Munfordville Baptist Church have been involved in state, national or international missions. These members have participated in mission trips through the church's Antioch Mission Program and Fund, a program by which

5 percent of the church's general offering is set aside to help members become personally involved in missions.

Lonnie Sheets, director of missions for the 22-church Lynn Association and a member of Munfordville Baptist, said the recently completed five-year partnership has affected many people in the association.

"Our association has been revitalized because of the Russia partnership," Sheets said. "There is an interest in missions—not so much in putting money in a pot as in doing missions work."

Since 1994, 30 members, representing two-thirds of the churches in the Lynn Association, have gone on mission trips to Russia. Two more traveled to the Ukraine, and one pastor led a revival in New England where Kentucky Baptists also have an ongoing partnership.

One of the smallest churches in the association, Pikeview Baptist Church in Magnolia, pledged \$500 to the KBC's Poland and Tanzania partnerships which are just getting under way this year.

At the association's annual meeting, messengers voted to extend partnership missions involvement to Poland and Tanzania. The Lynn Association has pledged to send one pastor and two lay people every year of the partnership.

Munfordville Baptist Church has seen growth, as well. In August of 1997, the church was averaging 130 in Sunday School. Today, the average is closer to 160.

"Missions has blessed us spiritually and numerically," Murphy said. He added with a laugh, "It has also rid this church of its pastor."

## Spring revival

By Robert Dunston

March 1-3 brought spiritual renewal to the campus of Cumberland College. Although spring had not officially come to campus, the warm winds of God's love swept through the college community.

Our preacher for the revival services was Bill Clark, a 1994 graduate of Cumberland who currently serves as associate pastor and minister to students at Hickory Grove Baptist Church in Independence.

While a student at Cumberland, Clark was involved in almost every facet of college life.

Clark has the ability to connect with the thoughts and lives of students. His

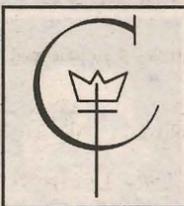
knowledge of young people and his awareness of life on college campuses enabled him to preach messages that brought healing and challenge to our students.

Chad Cates of Nashville provided ministry through music at our revival services. For the past two years, Cates has served as a full-time worship leader and concert performer. As part of his ministry, he travels to schools and camps leading young people and adults in worship. He has led worship in revivals, retreats and at camps such as Centrifuge.

Cates provided worshipful music written by himself and by others at each service. His music allowed those at the revival services to experience God's presence and prepare their hearts to hear his word.

Joe Ellison, the son of Joseph and Deborah Ellison from Cincinnati, served as student coordinator for the revival. The services he and his committee members planned allowed maximum participation by students through the various Baptist Student Union ministry teams on campus.

**CUMBERLAND  
COLLEGE**



Cumberland campus minister Dean Whitaker expressed joy for the impact the revival services had on students. Students'

lives and relationships were changed, and God will continue to work in the lives of all who attended.

Fall and spring campus revivals are part of life at Cumberland College. "Providing a Christian atmosphere for learning and maturing" is not just a slogan for us. We truly want to help people find Christ and mature into Christians who are actively involved in the church and in society.

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

## 'Ask me about my foster kids!'

Once you start down a path, it is sometimes hard to turn around. Sometimes that is a bad thing, but some paths are meant to be explored.

I think foster care is a great example.

It might begin with respite care. That means you partner with full-time foster parents to offer them a break from caring for their foster child, and perhaps their biological children, too.

It could be a Saturday afternoon, a long weekend or a holiday. For many foster parents, this feet-wetter leads to greater blessings than they ever imagined or experienced.

One example is the family that watched their foster daughter blossom into a basketball player.

Because of this child's unstable living situation before coming to her foster home, she had never been in one school long enough to pursue this dream.

The chance to reunite siblings led another couple to open their home to a second foster child.

One foster mom decided to quit her full-time job and go to part-time status so she could spend more time with the child in her care.

John's foster parents, by their

loving example and teaching, introduced this angry, battered boy to Jesus. When John went on a home visit at Thanksgiving, he asked to say the blessing.

A single mom with an adoptive special needs daughter invited a teenage mother and her baby into her home.

Linda's van could have a bumper sticker that begs, "Ask me about my foster children!" We currently have a dozen people signed up for foster parent training who can trace their interest back to Linda's testimony. No, she's not on Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's payroll; she's on God's payroll.

God could be calling you down the path of foster care. There are two informational meetings this month, one in Owensboro on March 18 and another in Lexington on March 25. Call (502) 825-2191, or the toll-free number below, for details. It could be the beginning of blessings you have never imagined or experienced.

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

**HOMES FOR  
CHILDREN**



Bill Smithwick

## NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Death sentences not commuted this time.** Missouri Gov. Mel Carnahan has refused to intervene in the execution of two convicted murderers since he commuted the death sentence of a triple murderer at the request of Pope John Paul II in late January. Carnahan is a Southern Baptist layman and popular Democrat planning a run next year for the U.S. Senate against incumbent Republican John Ashcroft, a former Missouri governor. When he commuted the sentence of Darrell Mease on Jan. 27 at the pope's request, Carnahan noted "the historical significance of the papal visit to the city of St. Louis and the state of Missouri."

■ **Churchgoer discounts "discrimination."** A Maryland minor league baseball team's policy of offering ticket discounts to churchgoers who showed up with their church bulletins is a form of religious discrimination, the Maryland Human Rights Commission has found. The finding follows a lawsuit by an agnostic who challenged the practice. The state agency has charged the team with violating state and federal laws against discrimination on the basis of creed in places of public accommodation. If settlement efforts next month do not succeed, a public hearing will be scheduled.

■ **Amy Grant files for divorce.** Contemporary Christian singer Amy Grant has filed for divorce from her husband Gary Chapman after 16 years of marriage. Grant, a recording artist with Myrrh Records in Nashville, and Chapman, who records with Reunion Records, another contemporary Christian label in Nashville, announced their

separation in December.

■ **Commandments removed from courthouse.** Church-state separationists are claiming a victory with the decision by the Lumpkin County, Ga., County Commission to remove a Ten Commandments display from the local courthouse. The decision came after Americans United for Separation of Church and State and the Georgia affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union threatened a lawsuit.

■ **Lyons' congregation keeps him as pastor.** The Florida congregation where Henry Lyons is pastor has decided to retain him as its leader despite his being found guilty in a state trial of grand theft and racketeering related to his roles as president of the National Baptist Convention, USA. One of Lyons' lawyers said members of Bethel Metropolitan Baptist Church in St. Petersburg made the decision to continue supporting Lyons at least until all of his appeals have been exhausted.

■ **Mormon records to go online.** Much to the delight of genealogists, the Mormons are preparing to make some of their vast holdings of family records available on the World Wide Web for the first time next month, if not sooner. The new Web site, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org), won't officially launch until mid-April. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints collects genealogical records of all kinds because the Mormons believe it is important to perform religious rites, including baptism, on behalf of dead ancestors. It has the world's largest collection of such data.

## 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.*



**KBC**  
KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION

Evangelism Growth Team

10701 Shelbyville Road, Louisville, KY 40243

502-254-4737 or Toll Free 1-888-254-5722

<http://www.kybaptist.org>

## What's going on at Oneida?

We use various methods to communicate with friends, alumni, parents and others who are a part of Oneida in one fashion or another.

For the past two years, we have provided parents, grandparents and others who have students here a quarterly publication called "On Campus." The primary purpose of this newsletter is to keep parents up to date on the many activities in which our students are involved. One of the difficulties we have as a boarding school is the fact that parents normally are not near enough to attend ball games, drama performances, choir and band presentations and many other activities.

It also is difficult to keep parents informed on how their child is doing in the many activities available to our students. This morning I was reading this quarter's publication of "On Campus." I thought you may be interested in knowing some of the activities and accomplishments of the past few weeks.

On Feb. 11, advance placement biology and environmental science classes visited a gas well near Oneida Baptist Institute. John Dees from the Shenandoah Energy Company discussed natural gas as an environmentally safe form of energy. Students learned how gas is produced and transported and the geological aspects of this job.

Thirteen agriculture students visited the National Farm Machinery Show held on the state fairgrounds in Louisville. Farm manager Ken Martin called it "the best trip we take all year, ... a tremendously educational day for us." Students saw agriculture's most current technology and a variety of agriculture-related careers.

On Feb. 12, the environmental science classes hiked to a coal mine located behind OBI's farm.

Earlier, they went to the Cincinnati Zoo.

Four high school Beta Club members participated in the District Governor's Cup competition Feb. 18. Jennifer Lovelace placed second in social studies and Matt Episcopo placed third in science.

Ten OBI students "made the gallery" in the regional art show held in Eastern Kentucky University's Guiles Gallery. The show opened Feb. 14 and ran through March 14. Melissa Wetherington placed first in photography, earning her a spot in the state show in Maysville.

Office practice classes gathered on Feb. 10 to meet a recruiter from Spencian College, a school that specializes in business vocations and technology. Our new field placement program is going strong. Participating seniors keep a daily journal about their work experiences and complete chapters in a workbook titled, "Real Life." Program leader Connie Smith described the curriculum as "a skills book that deals with decision making at the work place." Smith meets every two weeks with all field placement students to discuss their workbooks, journals and job experiences.

OBI's Future Farmers of America chapter kicked off National FFA Week with a demonstration in chapel Feb. 23. In addition to memorized recitations, the club re-enacted a meeting, including the opening rituals and the use of parliamentary procedure rules to conduct club business.

There's a lot more, but I am out of space.

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

### THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

## O.G. Lawless Scholarship established

A scholarship in memory of O.G. Lawless, director of missions for Warren Association of Baptists from 1966 to 1972, has been established at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College. The initial contribution to create the fund came from Calvary Baptist Church in Bowling Green in response to the Beyond 2001 Campaign.

Pastor Jerry Gifford said, "We wanted a lasting remembrance of the excellent leadership brother Lawless provided to our association. He was also a much-loved pastor of Calvary. This scholarship will help train other ministers who may return to work in our area."

Lawless was born in Russell County and was pastor of First Baptist churches in Albany; Ludlow; Byrdstown, Tenn.; Selmer, Tenn.; and North Knoxville (Tenn.) Baptist Church. He was a regional missionary for the Kentucky and Tennessee Baptist Conventions. He served one term as vice-president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, a trustee of Harrison-Chilhowee Academy and chair of the state paper committee. He was on the board of directors for the Western Recorder, a member of the KBC Executive Board and chair of the program committee.

Lawless died in 1992 and is survived by his wife, Pearlene, of Bowling Green, and three sons, Lyndell, Randall and John.

As a Bowling Green native and ordained by Calvary Baptist, this scholarship is especially meaningful. The endowment will provide needed financial aid for our students, most of whom are married with children and have a greater need than typical college students.

It is very appropriate to memorialize Lawless in this way. Our communities need pastors like him. I remember his unwavering commitment to the Scripture, fervent preaching, zeal for the lost, faithful labor to build up the churches and to fulfill the task of world missions. He was a great encourager of pastors.

We hope those who knew Lawless will help us reach a goal of \$10,000 to endow the fund; half of the goal already is committed. First preference for grants from the scholarship will go to students who attend Clear Creek from Warren Association and the southern region.

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

### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

# PEOPLE

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**SEEKING:** Full-time accounts payable bookkeeper for the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Position requires 3-5 years of related experience. Computer, spreadsheet and word processing skills a must. College study in business preferred. Attractive compensation package. Send resumé and references to: Director of Accounting Services Department, P.O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433. No phone calls please.

**WANTED:** Energetic person to work in the youth ministry of growing church. Part-time position available as youth director. Send resumé and picture to: Buena Vista Baptist Church, Youth Minister Search Committee, 2924 Plymouth Place, Owensboro, KY 42303.

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music, Bullittsburg Baptist Church of Burlington, Ky. Resumés may be sent to: Bullittsburg Baptist Church, 2616 Bullittsburg Church Road, Burlington, KY 41005, Attn: Music Search Committee. Phone: (800) 537-0786.

**SEEKING:** Children's ministry intern; June 1-Aug. 6; 30 hours/week. College or seminary students in ministry-related field. Send resumé prior to April 15 to: Belinda Berry, P.O. Box 130, Elizabethtown, KY 42702-0130, or e-mail: belinda@severnsvalley.org.

**FOR SALE:** Solid oak pews with cushioned seats. 32 years old, good condition. 31 pews 15' long; one pew 10' long; two pulpit pews 3'6"; two choir pews 16'; one choir pew 20'; \$8,000. Call First Baptist Church, Troy, Tenn., (901) 536-4710.

**SEEKING:** Pastor/church secretary. Applicants must have proficient computer skills, ability to perform administrative tasks, people skills, and be willing to strictly adhere to the confidentiality of such a position. Applicants should send resumés to: Broadway Baptist Church, 4000 Brownsboro Road, Louisville, KY 40207, Attn: Roger Lamb.

**SEEKING:** Part-time youth and children's minister for Burk's Branch Baptist in Shelbyville, Ky. Also looking for used church pews. Contact: Steve Price, 1120 Harrington Mill Road, Shelbyville, KY 40065. Phone: (502) 663-5954.

**SEEKING:** Floyd County-area church seeking part-time worship leader to lead the choir and congregation in meaningful worship and praise. Direct inquiries to: (606) 874-9468, or to: FBC, P.O. Box 541, Allen, KY 41601.

**FOR SALE:** Queen-size brass bed with 10-year warrantied Ortho firm mattress set. Frame all new. Still in original factory containers. Must sell: \$275. (502) 566-6540.

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of youth for a conservative, traditional Southern Baptist church family. Send resumé and/or inquiries to: Mitchellburg Baptist Church, P.O. Box 147, Mitchellburg, KY 40452-0147, Attn: Personnel Committee.

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

**SEEKING:** Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church of Atlanta, Ga., is seeking a minister with children. This person will serve as one of 12 pastoral staff team ministry equippers. SPdL is a 3,600-member congregation in north Atlanta, drawing people from 108 ZIP codes throughout the metro region. Offering both traditional and contemporary approaches to worship, SPdL offers its members the choice to support missions and ministries through either the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship or the Southern Baptist Convention, and ordains women and men to the diaconate. Applicants should have a seminary degree, professional experience in Baptist congregational leadership with children's ministry, awareness of the contemporary challenges facing children and their families, and a desire to build a team of children's teachers and leaders. Resumés with references should be sent to: Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church, Minister with Children Search Committee, 2715 Peachtree Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30305. Deadline is April 28, 1999.

**SEEKING:** First Baptist Church of Pineville, Ky., is looking for a youth and education minister. Please send resumés to: Search Committee, 405 Kentucky Ave., Pineville, KY 40977.

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

**SEEKING:** Persons with secretarial experience and computer application skills to accept temporary work assignments. Contact: Administrative Services Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Louisville, Ky. Phone: (502) 244-6468.

**SEEKING:** Part-time summer youth intern. Prefer college or seminary student. Plan, promote, conduct 11-week summer program of discipleship, recreation, outreach, missions. Salary, expenses, housing provided. Contact Springfield Southern Baptist Church, Springfield, Ill., (217) 544-0863, or e-mail KPLR1@aol.com.

**SEEKING:** First Baptist Church of Worthington, Ky., is seeking a bivocational youth pastor to build youth program from the ground up. Primary responsibilities are for grades 7-12. Previous experience in a Southern Baptist Church preferred; a burden for youth ministry is required. If led by the Lord to reply, send resumé, including your statement of faith to: Youth Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 368, Worthington, KY 41183.

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

**NEEDED:** High school history teacher; certification required. Christian school. Call: (606) 272-1217 or 273-8658 for interview.

**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:** 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 resumé to: Ms. Bryan, 530 Alfa Drive, Frankfort, KY 40601.

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

**SEEKING:** Fee Fee Baptist Church, St. Louis, Mo., prayerfully seeks referrals or resumés 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/resumés to: Minister of Education Search Committee, Fee Fee Baptist Church, 11330 St. Charles Rock Road, Bridgeton, MO 63044.

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

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

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

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

## Group wants Ted Turner out of baseball

NEW YORK (RNS)—A Catholic organization has asked that former Atlanta Braves owner Ted Turner be barred from baseball for one year because of comments made recently.

Major League Baseball officials said they are looking into the complaints made March 9 by Thomas Droleskey, head of the 500-member group Christ or Chaos, Associated Press reported.

On Feb. 16, Turner was a guest speaker at a dinner of the National Family Planning and Reproductive Association, which supports abortion rights, contraception and other practices condemned by the Catholic church.

When asked what he would say on meeting Pope John II, Turner stretched out an upraised foot toward the audience and said, "Ever seen a Polish mine detector?"

He also said the pontiff should "get with it—welcome to the 20th century" and suggested the Ten Commandments' ban on adultery should be lifted.

Turner has sold his holdings, including the Braves, to Time Warner Inc., but is still associated with the team as Time Warner vice chairman.

Turner subsequently offered a "heartfelt apology" to William Donohue, president of the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, which was accepted.

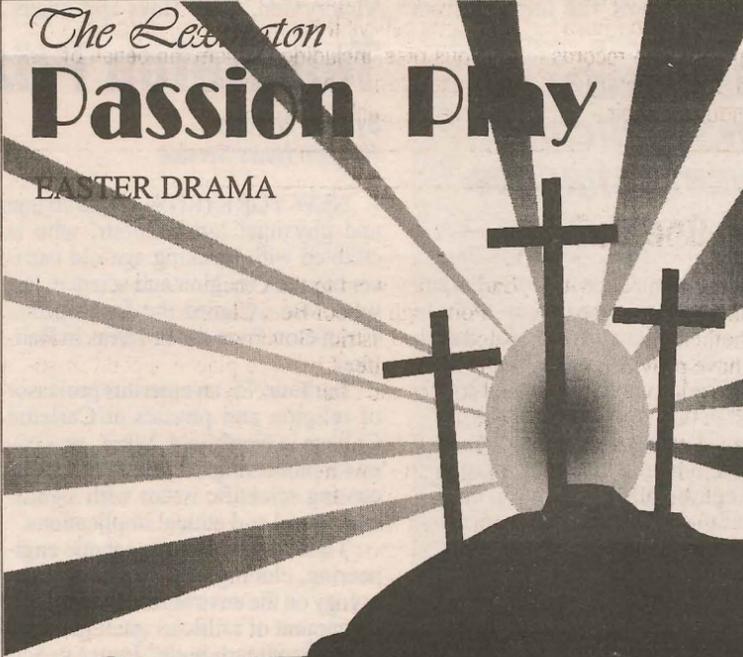
But Droleskey believes Turner should be sanctioned just as Cincinnati Reds owner Marge Schott was when she made remarks baseball officials said were racially offensive.

Baseball spokesman Richard Levin said the complaint was taken "very seriously." Turner's spokesman had no comment.

*The Lexington*

# Passion Play

EASTER DRAMA



## Gardenside Baptist Church

- \* See the EASTER STORY as never before
- \* Outstanding drama
- \* Cast of over 100
- \* Exciting choral presentation
- \* Childcare provided for children birth - 3 years of age
- \* Doors open one hour before presentation

Thursday, March 25 - 7:30 pm	Sunday, March 28 - 7:30 pm
Friday, March 26 - 7:30 pm	Thursday, April 1 - 7:30 pm
Saturday, March 27 - 3:00 pm	Friday, April 2 - 7:30 pm
Saturday, March 27 - 7:30 pm	Saturday, April 3 - 3:00 pm
Sunday, March 28 - 3:00 pm	Saturday, April 3 - 7:30 pm

**Free Group or Individual Tickets**  
**(606) 277-7391**

Gardenside Baptist Church • 1667 Alexandria Drive • Lexington, KY 40504

## PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Stephen and Deborah Reece, church planters in Poland, request prayer for volunteer groups from Kentucky and Missouri who are preparing for trips to Poland this summer. "Ask the Holy Spirit to begin, even now, to draw those whom he seeks, in preparation of hearts to hear the message of salvation through our Lord," they write.

■ Mark and Tatiana McNeil, church planters in Poland, ask for prayer as they move from Bialystok to Warsaw, where he will be pastor of the international church. "Ask God to give us the best price for our move, the best care of our possessions while in storage for five months, as we look for his choice of housing in April and May," they write.

■ Missionaries who are leading a stewardship seminar in the Mwanza region of Tanzania this week.

■ The international church in Tanzania's capital, Dar es Salaam, as the church seeks a pastor. About 170 people attend the church.

■ Work among Hispanics in Turner, Maine.

■ Follow up to the March 5-18 "Spring Break Blitz" in Maine Baptist Association, when 92 college students from five states worked in the association. They surveyed communities for potential new churches, led worship services and worked on construction projects.

## Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Shirley Wooton

■ HENDERSON—Advance Church called **Russell Wood** as minister of education. **Harry Hunter** is pastor.

Sebree First Church called **Steve and Laura Lee Steiner** as youth and music ministers, respectively. **Bob Hardison** is pastor.

**Larry Butler** was called as pastor of Victory Church.

■ HOPKINSVILLE—Samford University's a cappella choir will present a concert at First Church March 29. For information, call (502) 886-1216. **Jim McKenzie** is pastor.

■ LEXINGTON—North View Church will host Moody Bible Institute's women's concert choir and hand bell ensemble, March 26, 7 p.m. **Terry Murphy** is pastor.

Palomar Church ordained **Clyde Reeves** and **Scott Campbell** as deacons. Also, five members completed FAITH Sunday school training in Knoxville and will begin the FAITH program March 30. **Bob Carpenter** is pastor.

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children will host a meeting for families interested in providing foster care. It will be held at Porter Memorial Church, March 25, 6:30 p.m. For details, call (502) 825-2191.

■ LOUISVILLE—Cloverleaf Church will host The Impacts, from

Louisville, in a gospel music concert March 27, 7 p.m. For information, call (502) 367-0218. **Geoffrey Lacefield** is pastor.

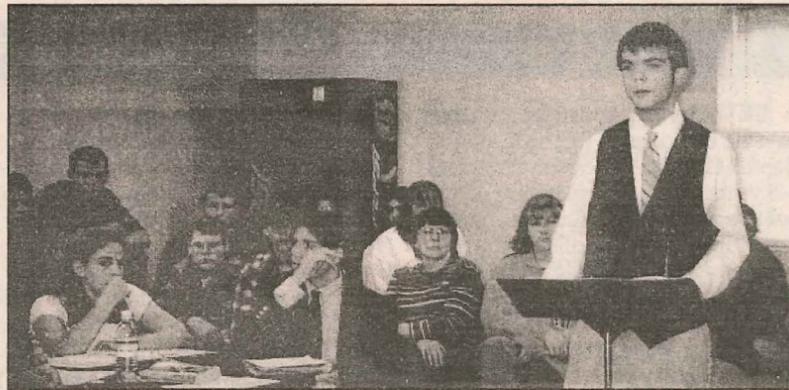
Kosmosdale will host a spring Bible conference with **R.F. Gates** of Louisiana, March 21-24. For information, call (502) 937-5234. **Spencer Haygood** is pastor.

Rockford Lane will host revival services March 21-24. Former pastor, **David Askins**, will be the evangelist. **Geoff and Richelle Garrett** will be music evangelists. For information, call (502) 447-2591. **Ron Abrams** is pastor.

Shively Heights Church will present **Dottie Rambo** in concert March 27, 7 p.m. There will be a fellowship meal at 5 p.m. For information, call (502) 447-9544. **Chris Butler** is pastor.

■ OWENSBORO—Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children will host a meeting for families interested in providing foster care. It will be held at Crabtree Avenue Church, March 28, 6:30 p.m. For information, call (502) 825-2191.

■ PADUCAH—First Lone Oak Church will host a benefit singing for Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children March 26, 7 p.m. Appearing will be the Hawkins Quartet, Immanuel Quartet, VictoryMen, Gage Boys and others.



**RESURRECTION TRIAL** Oneida Baptist Institute staged the sixth annual mock trial for its advanced Bible class. This year's case involved a high school teacher fired for teaching the resurrection of Jesus as a historical fact. ■ Above: "Attorney" Blake Barfield delivers opening remarks. ■ Left: "Expert witness" Josh Futrell answers questions. The two-day trial attracts many students to its audience.

For information, call (502) 488-3125. **Willis Henson** is pastor.

■ RICHMOND—The Baptist Student Union of Eastern Kentucky University will lead the evening worship services at Unity Church, March 28, 6:30 p.m. **Rick Trexler** is campus minister. **D.L. Brewer** is pastor.

■ ROBARDS—Robards Church called **Mike Cook** as minister of youth. **Ken Galyon** is pastor.

■ SHEPHERDSVILLE—Bullitt Lick

Church will host revival services March 28-31. **Don Mathis** of LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville, Tenn., will be the evangelist. For information, call (502) 543-2483. **Eddie Reynolds** is pastor.

■ SOMERSET—First Church will hold revival services March 21-24. **Craig Loscalzo**, pastor of Immanuel Church in Lexington, will be the evangelist. **Fes Robertson** of Brentwood, Tenn., will be the song leader.

## Templeton Prize winner links science & faith

By Amy Worden  
Religion News Service

NEW YORK (RNS)—Theologian and physicist Ian Barbour, who is credited with breaking age-old barriers between religion and science, last week was awarded the \$1.2 million Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion.

Barbour, 75, an emeritus professor of religion and physics at Carleton College in Northfield, Minn., was cited for pioneering a framework for discussing scientific issues with significant moral and ethical implications.

Those issues include genetic engineering, cloning, the impact of technology on the environment and the development of artificial intelligence.

His landmark book "Issues in Science and Religion" is regarded as having launched a new interdisciplinary field, and its concepts have influenced a generation of scientists, religious scholars, church leaders and lay people.

Barbour decades ago was a lone voice in academia, promoting the idea that the most profound questions about the origins of humankind and the creation of the universe could be explored by drawing on the wisdom of both the scientific and religious communities.

"Forty years ago, few scientists had even a passing tolerance for religion and few theologians had any interest in science. More than anyone else, Dr. Barbour has changed all that," said Robert Russell, executive director of the Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences, which is affiliated with the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, Calif.

Today there are scores of college

and graduate-level programs that bring together both disciplines, said Russell, whose 18-year-old center has 700 members and hosts dozens of conferences and public forums on topics in science and religion each year.

The Templeton Prize, named for its founder, global financier John Templeton, is funded in such a way that it is always larger than the Nobel Prizes. Templeton created the award to honor those who helped advance the world's understanding of God and spirituality because he felt the Nobel Prize overlooked spirituality as a human discipline.

Born in what is now Beijing to a Scottish Presbyterian father and an American Episcopalian mother—both professors at Yenching University—Barbour was raised in the United States and London. He described his upbringing in a home where "religious values were treasured but in an ecumenical way.

"My father was a geologist, a committed Christian and working scientist—but they were separate domains," Barbour said. "Later I would find out I wanted to see how they tied together."

After receiving an undergraduate degree from Swarthmore College and an M.A. in physics from Duke University, Barbour enrolled in the doctoral program in physics at the University of Chicago where he was a teaching assistant to world-renowned physicist Enrico Fermi during the heyday of nuclear research.

"It was the beginning of ethical concerns," he said. "I didn't work on the A-bomb, but others around me did and there was a debate about whether to work on the H-bomb. It was no longer just a scientific question but a political and ethical one."

Barbour said scientists and theologians have a great deal to learn from each other, especially at a time when scientific frontiers are being broken at a lightning pace and new ethical issues raised every day.

"There needs to be more openness on both sides because neither community has the whole truth," he said. "Theologians need to rethink their concepts of God. Scientists need more humility; they need to understand limitations of science. Why is there a universe at all? Science raises questions it can't answer."



## Church Buses Rental Buses

(New & Used)

Carpenter Bus Sales Inc.

Brentwood, Tenn.

(800) 370-6180

(615) 376-2287

We Buy Used Buses

Since 1953

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

Guaranteed Buy-Back Program

www.carpenterbus.com

## Cuba Baptists celebrate growth of new churches

By Wally & Betty Poor  
SBC International Mission Board

HAVANA, Cuba (BP)—For the second time this decade, the Baptist Convention of Western Cuba has added to its membership 10 new churches in one year, moving the group closer to its goal of reaching Cuba for Christ.

During the convention's annual meeting in Havana, Western Cuba Baptists welcomed those new churches into their fellowship and rejoiced over other Christian activity on the island.

During a citywide evangelistic event held in tandem with the annual meeting, 345 Cubans professed faith in Jesus as their personal Savior.

Also, during a convention session, more than 200 Cuban Baptists made public commitments to vocational Christian ministry.

"God is working marvelously in Cuba. We are the fruit of the prayers of thousands of people all over the world who do not speak our language," said Milagros Hernandez, president of the convention's women's department.

"We've always had the theme: 'Cuba for Christ.' We've always been praying and working. Now we're reaping the harvest," added Dulce Gonzalez, administrator of the Baptist seminary in Havana. "We see with a tremendous joy our full churches and people coming back to the Lord. The new ones are coming, and the old members are coming back."

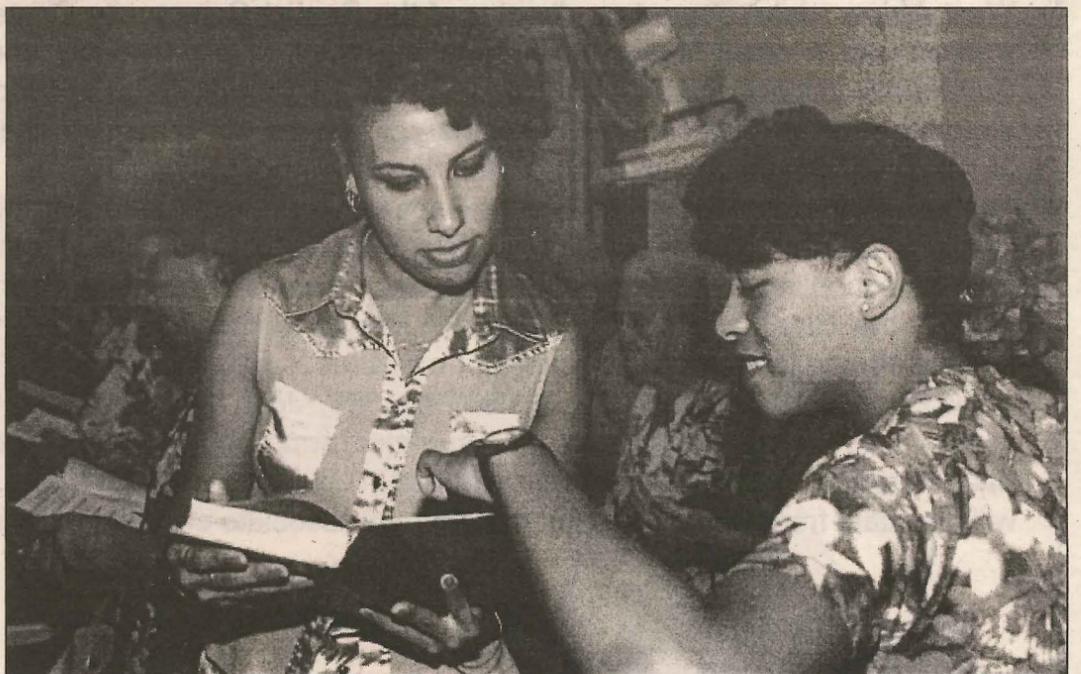
The convention's church growth statistics reflect that spiritual harvest. During the past decade, the denomination's total number of churches has grown nearly 50 percent, from 106 to 157. Membership totals have more than doubled, from 6,104 in 1990 to 14,129 in 1998. Last year churches reported 1,240 baptisms. An additional 2,844 Cubans are enrolled in pre-baptismal classes.

"The climate of the country has created a favorable response to the gospel. This is the time we can do the most good. This is the greatest window of opportunity that we'll ever have," said Raul Vazquez, head of the Florida Baptist Convention's language missions department, who spoke to the nearly 860 convention delegates at Havana's Calvary Baptist Church.

Vazquez said he was inspired by "the sense of evangelism, the sense of revival, the sense of response to the gospel that I experienced here, which I've never experienced to this degree anywhere in the world."

Currently Florida Baptists are involved in the second year of a three-year partnership with Western Cuban Baptists, in cooperation with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board. That partnership has brought volunteers from Florida and other states to help with projects at a Cuban Baptist camp and retirement home.

As a leader of that partnership, Vazquez has traveled to Cuba numerous times. He recalled that during his



first trip to the island he was taken to about a dozen churches to preach.

"Every night people were walking 15 or 20 kilometers to get to the meetings," he said. "All they knew was that some guy from Florida was preaching, not that I'm famous or anything. They would flock. They would be watching through the windows ... even in the rain."

"Whenever I would make an invitation, they just flooded me. Half the church would come up. I said to myself, 'I'm not doing something right. Something's wrong,'" he said. "Then

I realized there's really a response to the gospel such as I've never seen in my life."

But that response doesn't tell the whole story. While Cuban Baptist work is flourishing, pastors are in short supply. The Baptist Convention of Western Cuba has only 65 pastors to lead its 157 churches. Its seminary is filled to capacity with 56 students; more than 200 Cubans are on a waiting list to attend. Cuban Baptist leaders said they hope to gain government permission to add on to the seminary's facilities.

**WELCOME GUEST**—A young Cuban Baptist woman (right) helps a visitor find her place in the hymnal during a recent evangelistic service at Cerro Baptist Church in Havana, Cuba. Before the service, the church member stood outside, inviting passers-by to attend and bringing them by the hand into the sanctuary. About 45 Cubans accepted Jesus as their personal Savior during the service, part of a city-wide evangelism night during the annual meeting of the Baptist Convention of Western Cuba. On that night about 3,300 people attended evangelistic services in 29 Baptist churches; 345 Cubans accepted Christ. (BP photo by Betty Poor)

## Wounded Heroes retreat offers support for hurting ministers

By Toby Druin  
Texas Baptist Standard

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)—Divorce, death and disappointments along the way can rob ministers of their song, but God can start the music again, more than 100 beleaguered ministers and their wives were told.

Greg Kirksey, president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, used the song and music analogy while speaking at the final session of the fourth Wounded Heroes retreat at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center.

Kirksey, who now serves at the Alexander Youth Services Center in Little Rock, lost his 39-year-old wife to breast cancer in 1994 and then the pastorate of First Baptist Church of Benton, Ark., when he announced he would marry a woman who had been divorced before she became a Christian.

After a "dream-come-true" existence for 40 years and a ministry that began when he was 16, Kirksey found himself out of the pastorate but exactly where he felt God wanted him—as pastor to troubled youth, including Mitchell Johnson and Andrew Golden, the shooters in the Jonesboro, Ark., school massacre last year.

"I broke down and cried because I knew God wanted me there," Kirksey said. "God's presence transformed a desert night into a wonderful place. It can do the same for you. His presence in this moment can transform your life

and start the music again."

Kirksey was one of more than a dozen "encouragers" who spoke to the 47 couples and seven singles attending the February retreat for ministers and their spouses, many of whom have also lost loved ones or their places of ministry or feel they are on the verge of it.

Ike Reighard, pastor of NorthStar Church in Kennesaw, Ga., lost his first wife in childbirth and had a disappointing experience at First Baptist Church of Atlanta, but was joined on the retreat rostrum by his new wife, Robin, and both rejoiced in the new life and ministry God has given them in a new congregation averaging more than 1,600 in worship.

Greg Mathis, immediate past president of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and pastor of Mud Creek Baptist Church in Hendersonville, N.C., reminded retreat participants they never would be forgotten by God, who cared enough to give his Son, and that only God will be their ultimate judge.

Michael Hamlet, pastor of First Baptist Church of North Spartanburg, S.C., said it takes "real courage to attack real issues" and there is "integrity in saying, 'I'm not going to quit.'"

"God is not through with you yet," he said, urging his retreat audience to "plow on."

Reenee Scheidt, who has a music ministry in China Grove, N.C., told of losing her pastor husband to suicide more than 11 years ago. "The healing

of emotions takes time," she said. "But as friends began to pray, I received God's grace."

Polly Cooper Brown of Dallas, who heads the counseling program for Wounded Heroes, noted that in spite of a doctorate in psychology and her own profession, she lost her identity as a pastor's wife when she was divorced after 30 years of marriage. Now remarried to Ned Brown, she said she has made a new life for herself but still has a sense of loss.

Millie Cooper, wife of Kenneth Cooper, founder of the Cooper Aerobics Center in Dallas, encouraged participants to become physically fit. "Nothing I know of will help your depression like walking," she said. "It's amazing how many people find time for exercise after their first heart attack."

Claude Thomas, pastor of First Baptist Church of Euless, Texas, reminded participants that though no two people may find themselves in the same circumstances or feel the same way about their circumstances, God cares.

Jesus demonstrated his care and concern in the Garden of Gethsemane, he said.

"You can't fix everything that goes wrong in your life," he said. "When you can't fix it, forget it."

Wendell Estep, pastor of First Baptist Church of Columbia, S.C., said that though ministers have wonderful expectations when they begin their work, "There's always someone or

something to make the ministry tough," including daily pressures and personal attacks.

"God can use difficult times for his purpose," he said. "Adversity contributes to humility. God can use the hard times to shape us" much as a blacksmith shapes steel.

God uses rough times to remind Christians of his presence and to release them from bondage and give them freedom, he said.

"In tough times we can rebel, quit or respond positively. React positively. Pray. It's right to pray. Wait for an answer and accept it when it comes and learn from it. Ask God what he is teaching you."

Jerry Rankin, president of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, and his wife, Bobbye, reminded those at the retreat that "fulfilling God's calling is the ultimate goal of what anyone can do."

They experienced difficulties in their early days as missionaries in Indonesia, they said. Feelings included isolation, serious illness, family crises, even rejection by the people to whom they were trying to minister, they said. But the encouragement of other missionaries and the presence of God sustained them.

Mrs. Rankin's father was killed and her mother seriously injured in an automobile wreck in Mississippi. Mrs. Rankin said that when she finally reached her mother's bedside she found "God was there. Within my Spirit, I saw God was on his throne."

# Clear Creek

## Making a Difference in Hearts and Lives

John and Debbie Enos were Southern Baptist missionaries in The Gambia, West Africa. John served as director of the Baptist Community Center and worked with a small church and preaching point. He previously attended Southern Seminary and took the required number of credit hours needed to be appointed as an International Missionary. Yet, as his responsibilities and direction of ministry changed, he felt the need for more training.

About this time God began leading the Enos family to Clear Creek. They began receiving letters written on Clear Creek stationery. They found pencils in a box of home schooling supplies with Clear Creek on them. After much prayer it was obvious that Clear Creek was the place for John to continue his education. The college offered the practical training John desired.

The Enoses left West Africa in November 1996. John moved to Clear Creek in May 1997 to get settled before the summer term began. Debbie and their daughters Ruth (16) and April (13), remained in Louisville until early June. John will graduate from Clear Creek in May with an Associate of Ministry Degree.



**John and Debbie Enos  
Ruth and April**

*"The time at Clear Creek has been a marvelous experience of growth not only academically, but also spiritually for the entire family."*

**John Enos**



**Sherman and Ruby Warfield  
Andrea and Greg**

*"God has provided many gifted teachers at Clear Creek. The training I am receiving will enable me to share with those to whom God calls me to shepherd."*

**Sherman Warfield**

Sherman Warfield worked for the government for thirty years. As he began planning for retirement, God called him to the ministry. The Warfields were familiar with Clear Creek for they often visited the Clear Creek booth at the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meetings.

After much prayer, God called the Warfields to visit the Clear Creek campus. After the tour they felt Clear Creek was where the Lord wanted them to be. "We are greatly attached to Clear Creek and the people here. The friendships we have made will last a lifetime," states Sherman. The Warfields look forward to the ministry God will lead them to after graduation.



**Sabrina Harper**

*"Clear Creek has played a vital role in my family's life. I pray my life will affect others as Clear Creek has me through the years."*

**Sabrina Harper**

Sabrina Harper is a second semester student at Clear Creek. "God brought me to Clear Creek for two very special reasons. First, He called me to come to salvation. I experienced my call to salvation on September 24, 1998 in the fall revival at Clear Creek. Second, God called me to get an education to prepare me for the ministry He has called me to do."

Sabrina's grandfather attended Clear Creek in the 60's, equipping him for a wonderful ministry until his death in February 1992. Sabrina's father and mother also attended the college and are now actively involved in ministry.

### CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

300 CLEAR CREEK ROAD, PINEVILLE, KENTUCKY 40977-9754

☐ (606) 337-3196 Fax: (606) 337-2372

Internet: [www.cbbc.edu](http://www.cbbc.edu)

E-Mail:

President: [bwhittaker@saintmail.net](mailto:bwhittaker@saintmail.net)

Admissions: [jbarnett@saintmail.net](mailto:jbarnett@saintmail.net) College Relations: [tbradley@saintmail.net](mailto:tbradley@saintmail.net)