

FOR THE RECORD

Baptists

Wounded Heroes, a ministry for burned and burned out pastors, will merge with a ministry of LifeWay Christian Resources. *Page 2.*

Kentucky

An innovative church conference speaker said churches must prepare now for the future. *Page 2.*

Family Forum

Are video games good clean fun or the source of brain rot? *Page 5.*

Editorial

Telling the truth and trusting the people. *Page 5.*

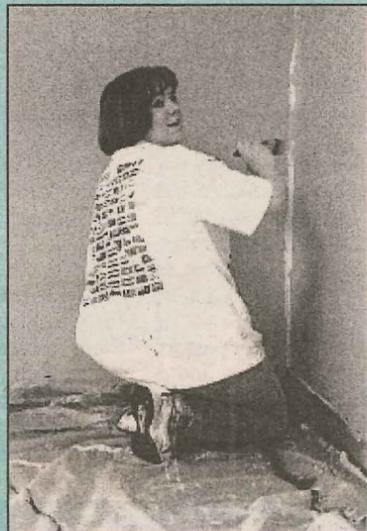
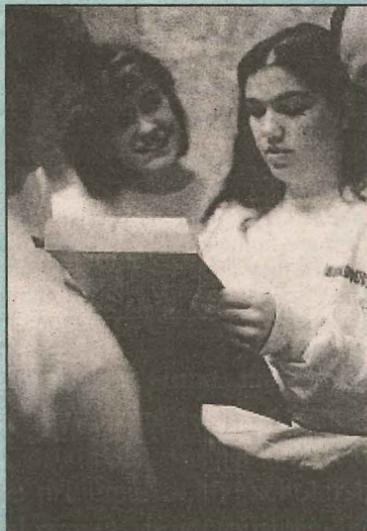
Nation

A national gambling study might target lotteries and the Internet. *Page 6.*

Missions

Campus- and church-based missions leaders say they are playing catch up with the large number of college students wanting to be involved in international missions. *Page 8.*

Three for the road



ROAD QUEST Twenty-five students from the University of Louisville's Baptist Student Union split into three teams and crisscrossed New England performing ministry work. "You never know where God is going to lead you," said student Lisa Carson. ■ **Left:** Chris Hall cleans a gutter. ■ **Middle:** Lisa Carson reads the clue for the next city to which her team will drive. ■ **Right:** Meredith Salyers paints a church classroom. (Photos by Angela Perkins)

Students spend break competing in ministry

Brenda Smith
Kentucky Baptist Convention

LOUISVILLE—While many college students spent their spring break looking for fun, 25 students from the University of Louisville found their thrills by helping others. The students—all members of the school's Baptist Student Union—worked their way across New England the week of March 12-21 as part of the second annual Road Quest.

The group was divided into three teams that raced to complete mission projects. Their work included helping churches with repair and main-

tenance, assisting with evangelism and church planting, ministering in the inner city, leading a mini-retreat for youth and helping a small Baptist Student Union.

As teams completed each mission, they earned clues leading them to their next mission project and their next destination.

"We got the idea for Road Quest from MTV's 'Road Rules,'" explained Angela Perkins, Baptist Student Union campus minister at the University of Louisville. "Road Quest plays on the spontaneity of college students."

Most team members didn't even know they were going to New Eng-

land until they arrived at Louisville International Airport March 12 and received tickets to Providence, R.I.

"You never know where God is going to lead you," said Lisa Carson, a 20-year-old biology major from Beaver Dam.

"It was kind of neat to hear people try to guess where we were going," said Greg Rice, a 22-year-old business management major from Louisville. Rice, along with Sarah Beumel of Louisville and Chad Butler of Radcliff, served on the planning committee that organized Road Quest.

In order to throw curious students
□ *See Students spend ..., page 3*

Missionaries in Yugoslavia leave before air strikes

By Mark Kelly
SBC International Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Southern Baptist missionaries in Belgrade evacuated from Yugoslavia just hours before NATO forces launched air strikes against the Yugoslav army March 24.

Two couples—Randy and Joan Bell and Ben and Meredith Hanna—left Belgrade with their families in the early morning hours and drove to Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, where they rested before continuing on to Zagreb, Croatia.

NATO is trying to stop months of bloodshed in Yugoslavia's southern Kosovo province, where ethnic Albanian forces are trying to break away from largely Serbian Yugoslavia.

Nine other International Mission Board missionaries also headed to Sarajevo from Banja Luka, Bosnia-Herzegovina, an area where sympathies would run high for Yugoslavian Serbs suffering from the air strikes. Those missionaries were not fleeing because of possible military action, however. They simply left early for a meeting already scheduled in Sarajevo, and no decision has been made about whether they will return to Banja Luka, IMB officials said.

Though Southern Baptists are concerned about the safety of their missionaries, missions leaders emphasize the importance of praying for the people of Yugoslavia, whose lives are in turmoil because of the conflict.

□ *See Missionaries ..., page 7*

Easter's religious emphasis keeps commercialism under control

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

CANTON, Ohio (RNS)—At Christmas, Elizabeth Neel buys holiday greeting cards for many of the people she knows. But as she prepares for Easter, her spending and sending patterns are markedly different.

"At Easter, I buy cards for people that are closest to me because it's a much more meaningful holiday," said Neel, a clerical worker who was shopping recently at a Christian bookstore. "It's not really focused on the candy. ... It's really on Christ's resurrection and death."

Neel, 23, a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, gave up soda for Lent this year and sees Easter as a time for personal reflection rather than public commercialism.

She's not alone. Those savvy about holiday traditions note the clear difference between Christmas and Easter in gift giving, which is so much a part of the former but not the latter.

"In the Western world, especially in the U.S. and in northern Europe ... Christmas has undoubtedly been boosted by the exchange of gifts and the opportunity that provides for commercial interests, whereas there's been nothing quite like that surrounding Easter, except for outrageous hats," said Thomas Talley, professor emeritus of The General Theological Seminary in New York.

Hats—along with other clothing items—and candy are two of Easter's enduring symbols that stem from the purse rather than the pew.

Americans spent more than \$1.4 billion on Christmas candy last year, but they shelled out even more—about \$1.7 billion—on Easter candy.

But the opposite holds true for cards and flowers, two other popular holiday purchases.

For the greeting card industry, Easter is the fourth busiest occasion, but still way behind Christmas. Last year 2.6 billion Christmas cards were sold, but Easter cards amounted to a comparatively meager 120 million.

In the floral industry Christmas poinsettias sales dwarf those of Eas-

ter lilies. In 1997, about 9 million potted lilies were sold, compared to almost 60 million poinsettias.

Despite the far less commercial interest, Easter does have its enduring cultural icons, noted Leigh Eric Schmidt, author of "Consumer Rites: The Buying and Selling of American Holidays."

"I can imagine one not even being at church on Easter and having the big, say, Sunday meal that day and also having Easter egg hunts," he said. "Even the White House has an Easter egg roll. There's a kind of civic religion of Easter."

But Schmidt, a Princeton University religion professor, said the fact that Easter isn't as all-consuming in the popular culture the way Christmas is might help Christians hold onto its core meaning.

"To the extent that they're both secularized and they both have taken on these deeply American pop cultural forms, I think there's always some loss in that for Christian liturgical traditions," he said. "There's a certain sense that you lose control. You no longer have abilities to really shape the

meanings of these fundamental festivals once they have such large play in the culture."

For shoppers during the days leading up to Easter, even the music emanating from stores' sound systems is far more secular than during the Christmas season.

"You hear Christmas carols on Muzak, but you don't hear Easter church music on Muzak," said Carl Daw Jr., executive director of the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada. "What you hear, if anything, (is) 'Here Comes Peter Cottontail' or 'In my Easter Bonnet.' ... We don't have the same kind of social reinforcement of Easter in the secular culture."

Daw, who is based at Boston University School of Theology, and Talley of General Theological Seminary, agree that Easter's focus on the Resurrection rather than birth makes it less a commercial opportunity.

"The Resurrection is unique, and that doesn't happen to everybody," said Talley. "It's a very much more unique phenomenon and one that for that reason is more adamantly rooted in faith."

BAPTISTS

Ministry to pastors merging with LifeWay

"Where we could reach 100 persons, LifeWay can reach 10,000."

Freddie Gage, founder of Wounded Heroes

NASHVILLE (BP)—Wounded Heroes, a ministry to hurting and depressed ministers, will merge May 1 with LeaderCare, LifeWay Christian Resources' ministry to ministers and their families.

Southern Baptist evangelist Freddie Gage, who started the ministry in 1997, said the merger "will take the stress off of me and set me free to continue raising awareness for ministry burnout and related emotional problems."

Gage will hand off day-to-day administration duties to LeaderCare, but will continue to speak at Wounded Heroes retreats and in other settings, including the April 19-23 retreat at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center.

LeaderCare provides a network of personal development help for pastors and staff as well as resources and a network for help in personal crisis prevention, intervention and restoration. All services, including responses to

crisis calls, are provided confidentially.

Resources and services are provided in partnership with state conventions, associations and other minister support groups, taking advantage of established, quality sources for help, rather than duplicating efforts.

Gage said Wounded Heroes is the result of "a dream God gave me in 1978 when I completed treatment for depression in a psychiatric hospital in Houston."

Admitting he "had preached against psychiatrists and psychologists out of ignorance," Gage said he learned "preachers are human. They cry, too. Many times they are walking wounded. The Christian army often not only shoots them, but we leave them to bleed to death in the field."

Teaming with LifeWay will maximize the ministry, he added. "Where we could reach 100 persons, LifeWay can reach 10,000."

In the 15 months since Wounded Heroes began in Dallas, Gage said the ministry has served more than 7,000 people through tapes, individual sessions, retreats and the national luncheon preceding the SBC annual meeting.

LeaderCare has developed conferences and materials for prevention and identification of potential life crises and life transitions concerns.

LeaderCare's crisis intervention service includes an emergency telephone number, (888) 789-1911. Last year more than 3,000 callers used the crisis service. Of those, 300 people were referred to counselors and other clergy-care organizations. The toll-free number will also provide information on Wounded Heroes retreats.

Those interested in career assessment, personal development resources, wellness information or other non-emergency LeaderCare services can call (615) 251-2265.

Virginia's Fellowship chapter asks for refund

VINTON, Va. (ABP)—Virginia's Cooperative Baptist Fellowship chapter has made an unprecedented request that national CBF rebate a portion of funds it receives from Virginia churches to bolster the organization's work in the state.

Most state and regional Fellowship groups receive money from local churches. They keep part of it and forward the rest to national CBF offices in Atlanta.

In Virginia, however, most churches that support the moderate

Baptist organization do so through a giving-plan option administered by the Baptist General Association of Virginia.

At their annual meeting, March 19-20, Virginia CBF leaders said they do not wish to set up a pass-through funding method that would compete with the state association. But they said their group needs more money to hire staff to promote the Fellowship's missions and ministries in the state.

"We are not growing in Virginia, and we will not grow with volun-

teers," said Richard Clore, pastor of Hulls Memorial Baptist Church in Fredericksburg.

The state group is asking the national CBF to return 15 percent of the undesignated money it receives from Virginia to the state group.

National Fellowship leaders discouraged the Virginia CBF from making the request this year, saying it would have the effect of amending a budget approved at the national group's general assembly last summer.

BAPTIST BITS

■ **FBI: No anthrax in letter.** FBI lab results confirm that a letter opened March 5 at the Southern Baptist Convention Building in Nashville claiming to contain the deadly anthrax virus was a hoax. Officials reported the results March 19 to SBC Executive Committee officials. Four staff members and a fire department captain underwent a decontamination wash because of the threat.

■ **New Orleans seminary gets master plan.** A master plan detailing a total renovation of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary's current buildings was approved by the school's board of trustees during their annual spring meeting. Trustees also approved an \$11.8 million budget for 1999-2000, endorsed a restructuring of masters-level classes with an emphasis on interpersonal skills and a one-year mentorship program, and elected William Hanberry of Hattiesburg, Miss., as chairman; Ronald Jackson of Gaffney, S.C. as vice chairman; and Michael Claunch of Slidell, La., as secretary-treasurer.

■ **Annuity Board paid record benefits.** A 10 percent permanent increase in benefits starting Jan. 1, 1998, for most annuitants, and 2,906 newly established benefits resulted in a record for total benefits paid last year by the Southern Baptist Convention's Annuity Board. Trustees learned that total assets for the board were \$7.09 billion at year's end.

■ **Smyth and Helwys launching new study.** Curriculum-and-book publisher Smyth and Helwys announced plans to launch a new line of adult Sunday school materials following the Uniform Series study plan used by various denominations. The announcement follows a decision by the Southern Baptist Convention's LifeWay Christian Resources to end its long-time involvement in the Committee on the Uniform Series, which coordinates lessons used in 40 denominations. Officials said the new line would be launched in January.

■ **Southern students helping crusade.** More than 160 students from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville have signed up to be counselors for the June 3-6 Billy Graham crusade in Indianapolis. As counselors, the students, who recently attended a one-day seminar, will be responsible for seeing that new Christians are linked with a local church. For more information about the crusade, contact the crusade office at (317) 577-4242 or visit the Internet site, www.IndianaCrusade.org.

■ **Religious educators meeting in April.** "Discovering, Discipling and Deploying the People of God ... Now" will be the theme of the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association's annual meeting April 15-17 in New Orleans. The SBREA is a 1,100-member organization open to church, association and

convention staff members working in Christian/religious education and teachers in the field at the college and seminary level. Information about the group and meeting is available by calling (817) 326-4509.

■ **NAMB to sponsor "On Mission '99."** The North American Mission Board will host the "On Mission '99" conference June 26-July 2 at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center. The conference will target the needs of local churches and their leaders. The eight tracks of the conference will emphasize worship, education, students, member mobilization, evangelism, church starting, prayer and growing an "on-mission" church. The cost is \$79 for individuals, with discounts for multiple registrants from the same church. For more information, call (800) 588-7222 or visit the Internet Web site: www.namb.net/onmission99.

■ **Southwestern to host youth lab.** "Pressing on ... Millenium and Beyond," is the theme for the 31st annual youth lab at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, April 16-18. The event equips ministers with skills in various areas of ministry and with an understanding of some of the high-tech tools used to take the Christian faith to youth today. For more information, call (817) 923-1921, ext. 8888. Information may also be obtained from www.swbts.edu/youthlab.

College's new discrimination policy threatens Baptist relation

By Robert Dilday & Michael Clingenpeel
Virginia Religious Herald

RICHMOND, Va. (ABP)—The University of Richmond has added sexual orientation to its non-discrimination policy, a move which the Baptist General Association of Virginia's top executive said puts the university and state convention at odds.

The BGAV founded the University of Richmond 169 years ago.

The rewritten UR policy prohibits discrimination of gays and lesbians in student, faculty and staff recruitment and promotion. UR officials said the decision merely explicates a long-standing practice, although the previous non-discrimination policy prohibited bias only on the basis of gender, race and religion.

"This policy bespeaks our current practice," said UR President William Cooper. "We do not and will not discriminate against individuals on the basis of sexual orientation."

But the policy may be incompatible with the position on homosexuality taken by the BGAV, which still maintains ties to UR.

At last year's annual BGAV meeting, messengers "commended" to churches a statement "affirming the biblical teaching that homosexual behavior is sinful and unacceptable to Christians," while offering guidelines for expressing "Christ-like compassion for homosexual persons."

Since 1969, when a \$50 million gift was made to UR contingent on a looser relationship between the school and Baptists, the BGAV has diminished its ties with UR.

Today the convention allocates about \$230,000 primarily for a program that provides financing for students from churches affiliated with the BGAV. The association also nominates one trustee each year for a four-year term; at any one time four trustees nominated by the BGAV serve on the 40-member board.

Virginia Baptist leaders expressed regret at UR's decision. "In this day of relative values, it is important for institutions that are educating the future leaders of our churches and communities to advocate and model the highest standards of Judeo-Christian morality," said Reginald McDonough, executive director of the BGAV.

The four trustees nominated by the BGAV also issued statements following the decision. Two of them said they voted against the new policy. Another said he voted for it. The fourth did not divulge his vote.

Ayers: Churches should start planning for the future

By Cheri Glass
Campbellsville University

CAMPBELLSVILLE—Churches must start now to adapt to the multicultural world they will be in five years from now, Steve Ayers told a recent innovative church conference at Campbellsville University.

"The world we are entering into has absolutely nothing to do with the world we are leaving behind," said Ayers, pastor of Hillvue Heights Baptist Church in Bowling Green.

"We must figure out ways to connect to new technology and the high-tech, high-touch society we live in," Ayers told more than 40 participants at the conference.

"God allows windows for the gospel to spread at a rapid pace," he said. "This is a global community for missions everywhere. We must connect the young people with the high-tech knowledge with those who don't have it."

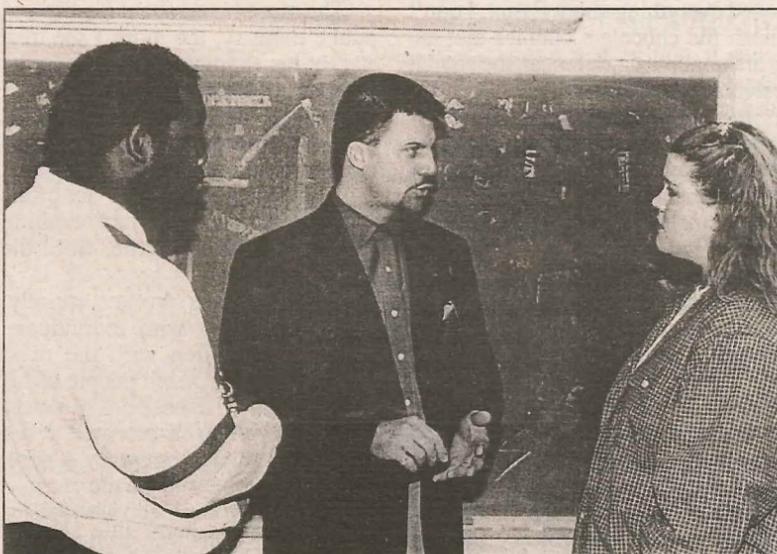
Ayers said that many churches today lack both passion and authority. "Baby boomers must wake up to the fact that there's no comfortable gospel and imagine what the church of Jesus Christ will be like in the 21st century."

Christians should remember that they have one responsibility—getting other people into a "divine walk with Christ," he added. "The only way to fail in a ministry is to never attempt."

"We have entered the age of spirituality and a quest for the supernatural. But there is no magic to church growth—for pastors, Jesus Christ has the magic," Ayers said.

The Innovative Church Conference is a yearly event sponsored by Campbellsville University.

John Chowning, assistant to the president of Campbellsville University for church, community and government relations, presented Ayers with the first Innovative Church Leadership Award from the school's office of church relations.



INNOVATIVE CONFERENCE Steve Ayers (center), pastor of Hillvue Heights Baptist Church in Bowling Green, talks with Campbellsville University students Cara Pelletier (right) and Will Holland. Ayers was the featured speaker at Campbellsville's Innovative Church Conference. (Photo by Cheri Glass)

Students spend spring break involved in New England missions

Continued from page 1

off the trail, Rice and Perkins enlisted friends at the Kentucky Baptist Convention to call and leave phony messages at the Baptist Student Union. Some students thought their destinations would include California, Texas or Utah.

Once they arrived in Rhode Island, the Road Quest group split into three teams and prepared to head in different directions. The clues to each group's first destination were hidden inside a yellow, green or purple suitcase Road Quest organizers sent ahead to be claimed in Providence. Team members learned of their mission assignments while en route to their first destinations.

"They told us at midnight Friday that we would lead a youth retreat at 9 a.m. Saturday morning," recalled Louisville-native Steven Simpson, 18.

Simpson and his fellow Team Green members spent the rest of their van ride to Waterbury, Conn., planning games and small group Bible studies for 30 youth from three different churches.

The team arrived at about 3 a.m. Saturday at Waterbury Baptist Ministries, a small, ethnically diverse congregation established in 1992.

"We're short on staff," explained Pastor Maner Tyson. "It's just me and a missionary who primarily works with children, so I work with youth. The youth are often shorted because I don't have a lot of time."

The impact of the retreat promises to be felt by the congregation for some time to come, Tyson added. The retreat unified churches in the area, and youth who participated already are planning another event.

Kevin Litchfield, a Southern Baptist

North American Mission Board church planter/strategist, also felt the impact of Road Quest on his ministry. Members of Team Purple helped him compile data from a community survey.

"Each one of those pieces of paper represents a soul," explained Litchfield, referring to the 5,000 responses generated by the survey.

Through the survey, Litchfield learned 125 families want to be on a mailing list for a new church in Waterville, Maine.

Teams earned points for getting their picture snapped in front of famous landmarks and for collecting souvenirs from each town visited. Students couldn't buy the souvenirs, but had to receive them as gifts or through barter. At the Ben and Jerry's ice cream outlet in Stowe, Vt., a worker literally gave one team the shirt off his

back.

The adventure had an impact on the Road Questers.

Chris Hall, a 22-year-old senior majoring in computer engineering, said the most significant part of the trip was the worship service at Waterbury Baptist Mission.

"There was a broad range of people—youth, adults, people from a variety of ethnic groups," he said. "It was really an involved worship service. The people picked their favorite hymns to sing, held group prayer, group praises."

Lisa Carson said her most significant experience was seeing how willing the people were to learn about God. Carson attended a Sunday school class with all the adults of Waterbury Baptist Church. She noticed that class members asked many questions, discussed answers and shared freely.

"In a place like that, so many things for God can happen," Carson said.

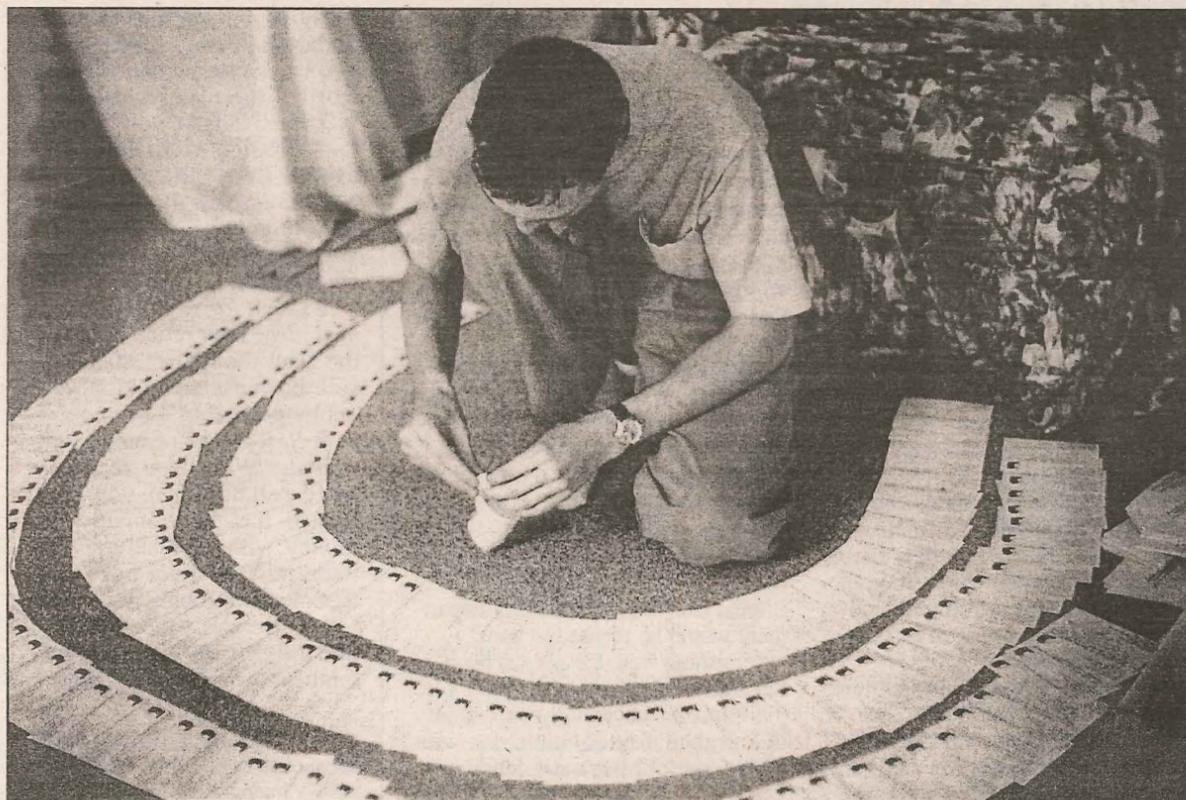
Scott Brooks, a veteran of last year's Road Quest, said, "It was kind of unsettling not knowing where we were going from day to day." He said the experience deepened his trust and faith. "I learned teamwork, cooperation and patience."

Perkins said students never knew what would happen from day to day. "They had to trust God."

Road Quest team members from Louisville included Andrea Cheatham, Dawn Deatrick, Kelly Grey, Marshall Lee, Scott Brooks, Sarah Beumel, Carrie Sheehan, Greg Rice, Ryan Greene and Steven Simpson.

Other team members were Lisa Carson, Beaver Dam; Meredith Salyers and Erin Megerle, Ft. Thomas; Jennifer Hardin, Mt. Eden; Heather Gipson, Madisonville; Chad Butler, Radcliff; Matt Allen, Liberty; Jody Hurt, Prestonsburg; Matt Rosencrans, LaGrange; Patricia Allen, Brandenburg; and Chris Hall, Lewisburg.

Tommy Johnson, assistant campus minister and John Willingham, St. Matthews Baptist Church, Louisville, youth minister, lead the students along with Perkins.



MISSIONS Chris Hall puts stamps on cards to be mailed by a New England church to its neighbors. University of Louisville students performed a variety of ministries during the second annual Road Quest missions event during spring break. (Photo by Angela Perkins)

BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ **Esther Burroughs** will be the featured speaker for a women's conference April 9-10 at Lone Oak First Baptist Church. The Paducah-area West Union Baptist Association Woman's Missionary Union will sponsor the event. For more information, call (502) 554-7517.

■ **Leonard Sweet** recently addressed the Pastor Peer Exchange Network at Georgetown College. "Only four other times in history has there been a transformation like the one we have now," said Sweet, vice president and dean of the theological school at Drew University in Madison, N.J. "We have to recognize that just as the printing press of 500 years ago revolutionized the way society received information, the microchip and Internet are changing it again. Churches and pastors must adapt accordingly."

■ **The Kentucky Baptist Fellowship** will hold its annual spring meeting April 23-24 at First Baptist Church of Shepherdsville. Featured worship leaders will include Cooperative Baptist Fellowship missions education specialist Grace Powell Freeman and CBF missionaries Rick and Ellen Burnett. Registration for the meeting is free, but a Saturday luncheon will cost \$5. For more information, call (502) 721-6060.

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.

What would Jesus do about Easter?

Ever since I was a little girl, I have loved everything about Easter. I don't mean the chocolate bunnies and the marshmallow eggs. I mean the church celebration of Easter.

It always seems wonderfully extravagant to spend so much energy on this one day. The sanctuary bedazzled with banners and swags, the sweet smell of lilies filling the air.

I especially love the triumphal music that seems to shake the windows of the church. I always find myself singing full-voiced (if slightly off-key), caught up in the moment and forgetting to be self-conscious. When the last hymn is over and the sheet music closed, I have a sense of sadness that we will have to wait another year to hear the songs again.

Most ministers will say that all this pageantry surrounding Easter is appropriate. After all, even more than Christmas, this is the biggest holiday Christians have. It is the Resurrection that gives Christianity transcendent mystery. In Jesus' triumph over death we are offered eternal life. That's certainly worth some hoopla.

But, I also wonder what Jesus

would do to celebrate Easter.

The more I read about his life and public ministry, the more I see how starkly his example compares to the practices of the modern church.

Because we dramatize the events of his life in order to teach them, it is easy to get the impression that Jesus made a big deal out of his ministry. In fact, nothing could be further from the truth.

Jesus worked quietly, usually with individuals, and often with the most marginalized people of his day. He healed a nameless woman in a crowd and a cynical beggar by a pool. He touched the life of a fallen woman who was considered unclean and dared to befriend a despicable tax

collector.

He never performed miracles to prove who he was, and when he did supercede the laws of nature, he did so pointing heavenward to "the father who sent me." His Crucifixion appeared to disprove his claims, and he did nothing to save himself. And then, even after his followers held on to hope, he did not appear to them.

Instead, he waited three days, long

COMMENTARY



Dale Hanson Bourke

Changing subject?

I want to express appreciation for Dr. Al Mohler's splendid article entitled "Today's world requires missions boldness." I especially liked the focus on Bill Wallace of China. I was a part of that generation of Baptist students who were in seminary at the time of Wallace's death, and his example helped many of us to come to a commitment to world missions and evangelism.

Also, I'm sure that your readers will be comforted by professor Mark Terry's letter telling of all the good

things being done in the Billy Graham School of Missions and Evangelism.

Since both the article and the letter were responses to my article calling on Southern Baptist leaders to speak up about President Mohler's belief in limited atonement, I was surprised that neither mentioned the only issue that I raised.

If Dr. Mohler has renounced his past position, he should plainly state

after the disheartened crowd had left and only one person was there to witness the supernatural event. And the witness was a woman, a person without credibility in his time.

Jesus was never about pageantry or triumphalism. He did his father's work and said little about it. He didn't even seem to be concerned that his deeds would be appreciated or recorded.

My guess is that Jesus would find all the celebration of Easter to be shockingly overblown. And judging from the pattern of his life, he'd be much less concerned about the pagan customs of bunnies and baskets than he would be about the actions of those who call themselves his followers.

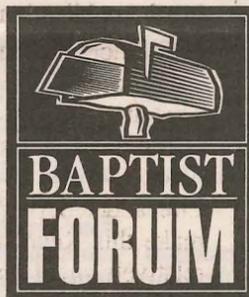
It's not that I think we should abandon all of the beautiful, glorious customs that have come to mean Easter to Christians. But we should realize that all of this celebrating is for us. In our human longing for transcendent moments, we have decided that bigger is better.

But after the lilies wilt and the sanctuary is stripped of its finery, we may discover that following Jesus Christ's quiet example may be the best way to celebrate after all. Doing the work of the Father, quietly and to those who have no power or prestige, is the way to sing "Hosanna" all year long.

Dale Hanson Bourke is publisher of Religion News Service

that he now believes that Christ died for every person who ever lived. When he does, I will apologize to your readers for misrepresenting him and will ask Dr. Mohler to forgive me for misunderstanding him. Until then I will assume that, rather than dealing with the issue at hand, they would like to change the subject.

Ken Chafin
Louisville



PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

Finishing well

On a recent Sunday afternoon, I participated in a recognition service honoring five retiring pastors in Gasper River Association. Family members and former church members were invited, and the entire association turned out to express thanks for the ministries of Orval Snodgrass, Bill Cook, Frank Dorris, Hayward Casey and Thomas Carver. Their combined time of service was about 180 years.

The church was filled with people of all ages who took pride in honoring their former pastors. During the service, a fellow pastor or deacon who had been mentored by the retiring pastor paid tribute to the man of God who had finished his full-time ministries well. Associational leaders are to be commended for their vision in planning this significant service.

Ministers finish well for a couple of basic reasons. First and foremost, ministers who finish well do so because of their personal commitment to

Jesus Christ and their willingness to follow his leading. Second, these ministers have a strong supporting cast of family and church members.

A minister's family has to be flexible due to demands that may come 24 hours a day. Often the minister's family sacrifices in order to be available and support the ministry. In many cases the spouse works to help support the family financially.

The church also has significant roles in enabling a minister to finish well. Church members should pray for their pastor, work to complement their pastor's strengths and to provide adequate financial resources. Here's what I mean:

■ **Prayer.** I appreciate so much lay people who feel led to pray for their ministers. They understand the nature of spiritual warfare and know God will use their prayers to make a difference.

■ **Complement strengths.** The

church must maintain realistic expectations. It is easy to assume that the pastor can walk on water all the time. The truth is that all ministers have strengths. Thank God that the kingdom of God moves forward on strengths. I dream of a day when all church lay leaders and staff will commit to leadership development. Each will understand and accept strengths and be willing to build on those strengths.

■ **Financial Support.** The church also needs to make sure their ministers have adequate funds for retirement. Make sure that your church is in the annuity plan of the Southern Baptist Convention. (By the way, churches with less than \$40,000 in annual receipts can receive special help. Don Spencer in the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annuity department would be pleased to assist.)

Finishing well doesn't just happen. Let's all work and pray to make sure our ministers have every opportunity to end their formal ministries with worthy recognition and celebration.

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

FAMILY

What's the best thing to do with that tax refund?

By Jeremy White

Many families are now receiving their 1998 tax refunds. With the average federal tax refund near \$1,500, a refund represents a significant amount of

money to manage.

Rather than letting your refund fritter away like a dandelion in the spring breeze, consider these ideas for making good use of your tax refund:

■ **Add to your emergency savings.** If you seem to have trouble building your emergency savings to four to six months of living expenses, give it a big boost by depositing all or most of your refund.

■ **Pay off debt.** Enjoy the satisfaction of getting rid of that persistent credit card debt or installment loan.

■ **Begin a college savings plan.** The hard part about funding major financial goals, such as retirement or college, is getting started. After you have started, it is much easier to add later.

■ **Fund an IRA.** An investment today can start the power of compounding to work for you. Make a downpayment toward your future.

■ **Give until it feels good.** If you don't believe you gave your tithe in 1998, make up for it by giving your refund. Think of how many missionaries you could help with a substantial donation to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions. If you tithed only on your net pay, then consider your refund as another source to tithe.

■ **Set it aside for a vacation.** Plan to enjoy a vacation with your family without relying on credit cards.

■ **Use it for your small business idea.** Your refund might be the seed money for starting a side business or making your hobby profitable.

■ **Resolve to reduce future refunds.** When you receive a large refund, then you have loaned the government your money without receiving any interest. You could have used that money throughout the year for your family needs. Head into the year 2000 with the government owing you less money.

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

Are video games clean fun or do they rot my teen's brain?

Q. Will video games hurt my 13-year-old son? He plays them for hours every day. They are filled with fighting and savagery. His father says, "He knows this is just make believe. Let him have some fun." What do you think?

Whatever fills a youth's mind controls his (or her) lifestyle. Yes, he knows at one level that these are not real, but there is still an impact.

If these are vicious, brutal and barbaric, they can poison his attitudes toward property, people and principles for living. Disrespect for people and things makes destroying them easy. Yes, it is just a game, but it teaches an approach to life. The ideas that trickery, fighting and overpowering others lead to success are not exactly what you want to teach your son.

Furthermore, if he spends so much time playing video games, he is missing other, more productive activities. Other endeavors offer more potential for growth. Of course, he could spend the time on homework, in organized or "backyard" sports activities, with a musical instrument, in service projects or just enjoying friendships. He could build something, read about adventures or help you around the house.

The time alone with a video game is harmful at its worst and at its best still keeps him from more beneficial activities.—*Wade Rowatt*

Q. How do you develop a mission statement for a single adult ministry?

It is helpful for your leadership to first have the experience of working on individual mission statements.

Have the members ask these questions: What's most important? What goals of doing, having and being would be in alignment with those values? What would you do, have or be for God if there were no limits? What would you like to be known for when you die? What really touches your heart? What could be your unique contribution?

In order to know what unique contribution each person is truly designed for, it can be very helpful for members to first do an inventory of each person's gifts, talents and passions. One resource that can help you accomplish this task is the book, "Start a Revolution," by Steven Felts.

Once the individuals on the team have an appreciation for the heart of every other member, the team can begin their corporate work. That corporate mission statement should focus the thoughts of the team members on one overarching ideal. It should reflect the purpose of the group as discerned from Scripture. So that it can be effectively communicated, it should use simple words and phrases, be short and concise and easily understood.

It should always fit within the mission statement of the church as a whole. If the senior pastor has communicated his own vision to the church, it should fit within that. When the team finally comes forward with an easily communicated statement of its calling from God, both leaders and members will be in a position to be energized to pursue that calling. The momentum that can come from such a focus can move your group from the floundering stage to being in a position for exciting growth and accomplishment.—*James Stillwell*

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.



Telling the truth and trusting the people

By Bill Marshall

During this interim period of replacing an editor, several of us Kentucky Baptist folks were invited to write an editorial or two for the Western Recorder. This is my second and, I hope, my last, unless the search takes longer than the committee intends.

I don't know about the other writers, but I have had some of the same feelings I experienced when last year I served as the interim preacher for my home church, First Baptist of Frankfort. I made a serious effort in my preaching, but even with their more-than-generous affirmation, I sensed their eagerness to have again, as soon as possible, their very own pastor.

As much as I may have enjoyed writing again, and reading the other writers, I make no bones about the fact that I am ready for a new editor of the Western Recorder.

While it is sometimes helpful—even needed—for a church to have periods in which there is no pastor, a "leadership pause" is created. Sure, the deacon body and/or church committees can keep the church flowing and, in the case of multiple-staff churches, will hardly miss a lick in the programs. But there is still that "waiting-till-we-call-a-pastor" reality.

The Western Recorder has been in the capable and creative hands of its staff, and a special commendation is due Mauri Smith and David Winfrey in assuring the publication of this venerable Baptist newspaper without the leadership of an editor.

Assembling and publishing the newspapers for several other state conventions—an innovative ministry of the Western Recorder initiated by editor Marv Knox—and an attractive, quarterly magazine, Real Life, added during the editorship of Mark Wingfield, make this Kentucky newspaper a challenge for its relatively small staff and any new editor.

However, it is the editorial page which sets the tone

of the Western Recorder and awaits the special touch of a new editor. It is really in the editorial pages that Kentucky Baptists will continue to see the more intimate reflections of themselves. Inevitably, some will like the tone while others will not. But so it is with editors, and so it is with life among Kentucky Baptists.

For 14 years I read most of the newspapers of state conventions and, often, the news releases by Baptist Press and Associated Baptist Press. The latter sprang up from the concern that there would be no free voice when prior Baptist Press leaders were fired.

It was and still is obvious to some of us that some state convention newspapers have a lesser degree of editorial freedom than others. Baptist Press, supported by Cooperative Program funds, now largely, if not exclusively, has a markedly conservative tone while Associated Baptist Press, supported by gifts and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, generally reflects a moderate perspective. Kentucky Baptists have had the advantage of a newspaper that includes both perspectives.

When a new editor is elected, readers should be patient in their judgments. One cannot fairly judge a book by reading only the first chapter. There are so many changing realities in Baptist life that folks like me need someone to report what's going on and interpret its meaning, whether or not I understand or agree. Beginning with Chauncey Daley in my lifetime, the Western Recorder has been my "eyes" into the broader Baptist life and Kentucky Baptist life in particular. I am the richer for it.

The Western Recorder's historically affirmed "freedom for its editor" should assure all of us that our new editor can "tell the truth and trust the people." May it ever be so among Kentucky Baptists.

Bill Marshall is former executive secretary-treasurer for the Kentucky Baptist Convention and a member of the Western Recorder's board of directors

GUEST EDITORIAL

How many times shall I forgive?

By David Flack

"Then came Peter to Jesus and asked, 'Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?'" (Matthew 18:21)

The Braves had scored two runs. The window air conditioner hummed as I watched TV and drank a glass of iced tea. During a lull, I faintly heard my name.

Although muffled, the tone registered anger, and the voice came from the fireplace. Reality hit. I jumped up.

Daddy was on the roof patching a hole. He was shouting down the chimney to get my attention. Earlier I had held the ladder that was perched on the oil drum so he could climb up. Now he was ready to come down. From the tone in his voice, he had been ready for some time. I figured about two innings. I wasn't looking forward to holding that ladder for his descent.

Chapter 18 of Matthew begins with the disciples asking a question about greatness. The chapter con-

cludes with Peter's question and Jesus' explanation using a parable.

The disciples obviously needed some continued education about the teaching and presence of Jesus. It seems Peter expected the answer to be, "Seven times and revenge is justified."

Jesus answered with what can be translated as "seventy-seven" or "seventy times seven" and follows with the parable of the unforgiving debtor whose refusal to forgive evoked his creditor's wrath. Jesus wasn't interested in numbers or keeping score. He was interested in the heart.

Jesus taught that to be forgiven is directly related to our willingness to forgive. Both require an attitude grounded in God's love. Isn't that how Jesus comes, forgiving us?

To forgive is a heart's journey, a search that begins and continues in the love and teaching of Christ our Savior. Does a journey willing to ask tough questions of oneself mean getting off scot-free, giving up one's position, being willing to let go of hurt and anger, giving up revenge or being willing to see our own human-

ness?

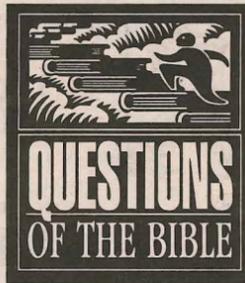
When we forgive someone, it is tempting to think that we do it for the good of the offender. In reality, it benefits the forgiver because it offers freedom from resentment, anger and revenge. Peter's question does prompt a stern warning: "How can we be forgiven when we are unwilling to forgive?" The warning invites us to experience the magnitude of God's forgiveness in our own lives, which results in our desire to forgive others.

My father taught me a lot about forgiveness. I didn't mean to leave him on the roof. I was sorry even before I heard, "How would you like to be the one up here in the hot sun hollering down a chimney?"

But my Dad didn't seek revenge by making me get on the roof. He let his anger go; resentment never became an issue. Over the years we often have shared laughter at this story, the small stuff of life. But the small stuff builds the foundation of our learning and attitude. Then, when the big stuff comes, we can respond by mirroring Christ's love.

How many times? As many as it takes.

David Flack is pastor of First Baptist Church of Drakesboro



Gambling study may target lotteries, Internet

A Duke University team found that 5 percent of lottery participants accounted for 51 percent of lottery sales. That group spent \$3,473 or more per person.

WASHINGTON (BP)—A congressionally established commission studying the impact of gambling recently signaled that some of its strongest criticisms in its final report might be directed at state lotteries and wagering on the Internet.

The National Gambling Impact Study Commission met in Washington March 17-19 as it prepares its report, which is due in June. The panel, which was criticized by both pro- and anti-gambling forces even before its first meeting in 1997, demonstrated its work may have produced some agreement.

Several commissioners indicated their discomfort with state-sponsored lotteries.

"I really believe some of our strongest negative comments need to be" on the promotion of lotteries, said commissioner James Dobson, president of Focus on the Family.

While he said he is not suggesting the commission recommend outlawing the practice, Dobson said the panel has an obligation to speak out on the lottery's "regressive nature, the way it exploits the poor, the way it preys on desperation."

Robert Loescher, president of Sealaska Corp. and a member of the Tlingit Tribe of Alaska, said he strug-

gles with the idea that state government is not just a "regulator, but an operator" of lotteries. He said he is concerned about the impact lotteries have on people who are trying to move from welfare to work.

The commissioners' concerns were expressed after receiving a preliminary report on lotteries from a Duke University team showing that 5 percent of lottery participants accounted for 51 percent of the sales. That group spent \$3,473 or more per person.

The "lottery is a lousy bet" in comparison to the payout provided by pari-mutuel wagering and casinos, said Philip Cook, who testified on behalf of the Duke researchers.

Acknowledging he is uncomfortable when the state promotes gambling, Cook said, "I would feel quite different if it were Proctor and Gamble" sponsoring a lottery instead of a state agency.

William Bible, chairman of the commission's regulation, enforcement and Internet subcommittee, said his subgroup would recommend to the full commission a ban on Internet gambling. Legislation to prohibit the practice will be considered in Congress this year.

The commission also expressed

concerns about the problem of pathological gambling. A report by the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago estimated 2.5 million American adults are pathological gamblers and another 3 million adults are problem gamblers.

The full commission has two more meetings scheduled before issuing its report. The 1996 legislation establishing the commission was opposed strongly by the gambling industry. When congressional leaders and President Clinton made their appointments, they were attacked on both sides for the inclusion of perceived gambling advocates and opponents.

Despite the differences among the panel members, commission chairwoman Kay Coles James said she is hopeful about the final report. "I think at the beginning of this there was a great deal of skepticism that we would be able to achieve any level of consensus," she said.

But commissioners' agreement on the need for lottery regulation shows the group can work together, she said. "I think in many areas we will be able to reach that kind of consensus and come up with a document that at the beginning of this process we didn't really believe we would have the opportunity to do."

NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Court: School board prayer unconstitutional.** The Cleveland Board of Education is violating the Constitution by opening its meeting with a prayer, a federal appeals court said March 18. The 6th U.S. Circuit of Appeals, in a 2-1 ruling, reversed a 1996 decision that said the prayer was permissible because it was similar to opening a state legislative session with prayer. Federal courts have ruled such prayers are permissible. But the appeals court ruling stated that prayer at the school board meeting is more like prayers at school graduation ceremonies or in classrooms, which federal courts deem unconstitutional.

■ **Enrollment up at evangelical Christian colleges.** Evangelical Christian colleges and universities far outpace their secular counterparts in growth, according to the latest enrollment figures published in the March 5 issue of the Chronicle for Higher Education. From 1990 to 1996, undergraduate enrollment in 90 evangelical Christian colleges affiliated with The Council for Christian Colleges and Universities showed a 24 percent increase in enrollment. Students at the participating schools number about 129,000. During the same period, private and secular colleges gained just 4 percent to 5 percent.

■ **Home-schooled children get high test scores.** The average home-schooled child ranks well above his or her public and private school counterpart in reading, language and mathematics skills, according to a nationwide study. The study, sponsored by the Home School Legal Defense Association, evaluated 20,760 home-schooled students contacted through the mailing lists of Bob Jones University in South Carolina. The university is home to the nation's largest home-school testing service. Currently, 700,000 to 1.2 million U.S. children are taught at home.

■ **Lyons: Investigation was not racist.** Henry Lyons, who recently resigned as president of the National Baptist Convention, USA, and pleaded guilty to federal charges, said he now believes the investigation into his wrongdoing was not racist. "We do have a ways to go in this country in terms of racism," Lyons told Matt Lauer on NBC's "Today Show." "Yes, I still hold that, but no, I feel that this was a legitimate investigation. I have made some legitimate and actual mistakes and ... I'm here to take that responsibility."

Tell Us Where It Hurts

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

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

1-800-383-HOPE

† CATHOLIC HEALTH INITIATIVES

CARITAS Peace Center

Rapha

Where the healing begins

7th Annual Georgetown Pastor's Conference

at the Leadership Center of Georgetown College

Theme:
Leading the Church into a New Millennium

April 12-14, 1999
(Monday evening-Wednesday morning)

Keynote Speaker:
Charles Wade

Bible Teacher:
Mike Graves

Other Speakers
Greg Hunt
Ken Massey
Michael Tutterow

Closing Address:
Will Campbell

Registration fee: \$50

For information or registration, contact:
Dwight Moody,
Phone: (502) 863-7037
Fax: (502) 868-8888;
e-mail:
dmoody0@georgetowncollege.edu

Sponsored by:
Georgetown College
400 East College Street
Georgetown, Kentucky
40324-1696

William H. Crouch, Jr.
President

BAPTISTS

Missionaries evacuate from Yugoslavia

Continued from page 1

"While we are grateful for the safety of our personnel, our deep concern and prayer support continues for the many Christian believers and other citizens of Serbia and Kosovo among whom they worked," said IMB President Jerry Rankin. "We are praying the fighting will quickly diminish and, as in many areas of the world, God will use this conflict to draw many to Jesus Christ as the only hope of peace and security."

"Our prayers must focus on kingdom concerns first, then on the needs of the people in the endangered area, and then on the safety and well-being of our missionaries," said Don Kammerdiener, IMB executive vice president. "Sometimes God's kingdom advances through adversity and even tragedy."

The decision to evacuate in a time of crisis is one of the hardest a missionary ever has to make, noted Roger Briggs, associate director for IMB work in the Balkans.

"The Bells and Hannas really struggled hard with this decision. They all just sat there and cried," Briggs said. "It's a very difficult decision for a missionary to make."

"A missionary makes a life commitment to a people and goes to live with them through good and bad," he said. "Then here's a time of need for the people they are ministering to, and the missionaries have to leave. You feel like you are losing your credibility."

Most of the time, local Christians will encourage the missionaries to leave,

and sometimes those local believers would be endangered if the missionaries stay, Briggs explained.

"If Americans become a target of violence in a volatile situation like this, then their close friends also can become targets, which puts their lives and property in jeopardy," he said. "Their friends try to take care of them when they should be taking care of their own families."

When Christians understand how much God wants to bring a lost world back to himself and when they invest their lives in missionary service, their perspective changes on issues like personal safety, Briggs said.

"Those of us who are outside the situation think it's so obvious what they ought to do," he said, "but they deal with it from a different perspective than we do."

"It shows an awful lot of integrity on their part to struggle with a decision like this," he added. "You've got to admire their commitment. You just gotta

love 'em."

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship has no missionaries working in Yugoslavia, but three CBF missionary couples work with the Albanian people group, according to an agency spokeswoman.

"They are expecting increasing numbers of Albanian refugees in the places where they live," said Sarah Zimmerman, CBF associate communications coordinator.

Tom Prevost, CBF associate missions coordinator, is with those three couples now in Macedonia for an Albanian team meeting, she added. "We've heard from those couples and they're all doing fine now."

Arville and Shelia Earl live in Macedonia, near Kosovo, she said. "They're likely to be the ones having the most work." Also, Rick and Martha Shaw and Darrell and Kathy Smith work with Albanians in Thessalonika.

With additional reporting by News Director David Winfrey

Glorieta & Ridgecrest centers to get new name, more events

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Glorieta (N.M.) and Ridgecrest (N.C.) conference centers are changing their names and expanding their conference offerings.

Effective April 1, the new name for the Southern Baptist owned-and-operated facilities will be LifeWay Conference Center at Glorieta and LifeWay Conference Center at Ridgecrest.

For decades LifeWay Christian Resources has offered leadership conferences at Glorieta and Ridgecrest, primarily in the summer months. Some of the more popular events include Sunday school leadership conferences, discipleship conferences, church music week and camps for youth.

While these will continue, Lifeway is expanding its offering of conferences.

Several new events are already in the works, including a women's conference May 14-16 at Ridgecrest. Henry Blackaby will be the featured speaker for a May 17-19 conference at Ridgecrest targeting to ministers and spouses.

Twice a year, Ridgecrest also plans to offer "Your Church Staff Retreat," offering time and experiences for staff bonding, calendar planning, relationship building and spiritual counseling. Nationally recognized pastors will address participants, and ministry consultants will be available to meet separately with church staffs.

Among other Ridgecrest conferences under development are events for law enforcement officers, families, graduating seniors, bicycling and other sports enthusiasts, and the National Day of Prayer.

New events at Glorieta in 1999-2000 will include a dozen "Personal Institute of Growth" conferences, a minister's enrichment conference, a women's ministry workshop, single parents' seminar, ministers' retreats, a "Get-a-Way" for couples, "Boot Camp" (basic training for church leaders) and a "Kingdom Princess Conference."



Available in 20' to 37' Models
(12 to 43 passengers)
Guaranteed Buy-Back Program
www.carpenterbus.com

Church Buses Rental Buses

(New & Used)
Carpenter Bus Sales Inc.
Brentwood, Tenn.
(800) 370-6180
(615) 376-2287
We Buy Used Buses
Since 1953

Resurrection faith

By Robert Dunston

The resurrection of Jesus Christ changed the disciples from a group huddled together in fear to a courageous band intent on proclaiming and living the good news.

Paul's encounter with the resurrected Christ on the Damascus road changed him from a persecutor of Christians to a powerful missionary and church planter.

The reality and power of Jesus' resurrection changes us as individuals, too. In the place of weakness, we find strength through Christ. In the place of condemnation, we find forgiveness. In the place of life lived toward our own goals, we find the abundant life lived for God's glory and in his service.

What does Christ's resurrection mean to a college? At Cumberland College, it means several things. Christ's resurrection means we have good news to share on campus. Not every student on our campus is a Christian. While it might be nice to have a campus composed only of Christian students, we enjoy having the opportunity to introduce non-Christian students to Christ. Students, faculty and staff all engage in introducing others to Christ and encouraging them as they make their deci-

sion and mature in their faith. Our evangelizing begins in our community just as yours does.

Christ's resurrection also means we seek to live by a different set of standards. Cumberland College's academic standards are not lower than other schools, but equal to or higher than theirs. We believe God expects our best in every endeavor. Faculty and staff as well as students are held to high Christian moral standards, too. While none of us ever attains perfection, we seek to live more like Christ.

Christ's resurrection also means we seek to be involved in something more than simply training students for good careers. We prepare our students well in their fields, but our goal is to help them understand their need to serve others in Christ's name. We want them to make a difference for Christ even as faculty and staff seek to make a difference in the lives of students and each other here at Cumberland College.

Our world needs Christ, and we seek to help our students and ourselves proclaim Christ's resurrection in word and deed.

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

CUMBERLAND
COLLEGE



Learning from children

In the days when an ice cream sundae cost much less, a 10-year-old boy entered a hotel coffee shop and sat at a table. "How much is an ice cream sundae?" the boy asked his waitress.

"Fifty cents," she replied. The little boy pulled his hand out of his pocket and studied a number of coins in it. "How much is a dish of plain ice cream?" he asked.

Some people now were waiting for a table, and the waitress was a bit impatient. "Thirty-five cents," she said harshly.

"I'll have the plain ice cream," he said. The waitress brought the ice cream, put the bill on the table and walked away. The boy finished the ice cream, paid the cashier and departed.

When the waitress came back, she began wiping down the table and then swallowed hard at what she saw. There, placed neatly beside the empty dish, were two nickels and five pennies—her tip.

We can learn much from those we are to teach. In my years devoted to child welfare, often I have found that children have more "on the ball" than their parents or guardians. More than once, I found the child's understanding

of her situation much clearer than her parents', her priorities on target when mom's or dad's were way off. Kids can see things in simpler contexts more often than we "mature," complicated adults.

I found if I could get close enough for a child to trust me and risk their feelings, the real problems and obvious solutions were within our grasp.

Jesus said we must have faith like that of a child—a trusting belief—to enter the kingdom. A simpler, more childlike view of life probably would serve each of us well.

Unfortunately it usually takes a tragedy for us to refocus our priorities in life and renew that childlike simplicity we outgrew. We can learn much from those we are to teach. Try it at home, Sunday school, or wherever you have the privilege of touching and being touched by a child. See if you don't learn something simple that helps make life grand.

HOMES FOR
CHILDREN



Bill Smithwick

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/>

MISSIONS

Missions leaders look to involve more college students

By Mary E. Speidel & Erich Bridges
SBC International Mission Board



MOBILIZING STUDENTS

Kathy and Jeremy Wideman (foreground) of Stillwater, Okla., share a laugh during a Southern Baptist missions mobilization conference for local church college ministers. The Widemans, who were summer missionaries in Asia during college, work with students at a church in Stillwater. The conference promoted ways to involve more college students in international missions. (BP photo by Denise McGill)

ROCKVILLE, Va. (BP)—College students are responding to missions opportunities so fast that Southern Baptist campus and church-based college ministers are racing to keep up with them.

That's the report from those attending two recent missions mobilization conferences sponsored by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board.

"This generation is way ahead of us. We need to catch up with them," said Brenda Sanders, former campus minister at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.

Sanders, who recently left Samford to mobilize Texas students as a missions consultant with the Baptist General Convention of Texas, joined more than 40 other ministers from 35 colleges and seminaries at the March 11-14 Baptist Campus Ministers Mobilization Summit.

That gathering—and a separate conference Feb. 22-24 for more than 30 church-based college ministers—focused on ways to steer thousands of students already excited about missions in the right direction, as well as ways to get many more involved.

College students serving annually through the International Mission Board didn't break the 200 mark until 1992. In 1998, more than 700 students went abroad for missions

through the IMB.

This year, the agency expects more than 1,200 students will participate in about 200 IMB-related mission projects. Those projects include assignments in some of the world's hardest-to-reach places—both physically and spiritually. And that number is only a fraction of Southern Baptist students now heading abroad to share their faith.

Involving college students in missions is the key to helping them grow into faithful disciples, IMB President Jerry Rankin told the college ministers.

When students finish college and enter the work world, what most helps them stay on track as believers "is not an interactive study program or a group they've met with during college, but the experience they've had of God working through their lives to touch a lost world," Rankin said.

During both conferences, Rankin and other IMB leaders shared their vision to involve students in outreach in strategic places.

The campus and church ministers quizzed mission board leaders—and each other—about ways to mobilize students more effectively.

At the end of the second conference, IMB student mobilization team leader Mike Lopez asked six college and seminary students attending to share their passion for the world. Their testimonies brought many of the ministers in the room to tears.

"It took me going overseas to come

to a point in my life where I realized it no longer can be me, me, me," said Paula Chaney, 26, a student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. Chaney has completed two extended assignments in the near-anarchy of Albania and Bosnia.

"God had to take me out of America and take every single thing I was comfortable with out from under me," she recounted. "So here I was, stranded with me and God—surrounded by people who had never had the oppor-

tunity to know him."

Lopez said students like Chaney aren't the "future" of missions.

"They're the present," he said. "They're doing it. They're out there. They want to go to the hard places. They say, 'We're out on the edge, and we love it.' You can't argue with that," he said.

For more information on student missions opportunities abroad, call (800) 789-4693, or visit the IMB student web page: www.imb.org/students/.

Exciting Career in Christian Retail Management

Excellent salary and benefits package available. Relocation to one of more than 80 book stores will be required. Qualifications include: 4-year college degree or comparable business management experience, outstanding leadership, computer skills, strong vision for the future and active role in a Southern Baptist church. Send resumé to: Retail Store Operations, Manager Training Search, 127 9th Avenue, North, MSN 165, Nashville, TN 37234-0165.

Baptist Book Store Lifeway Christian Stores

Owned and operated by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention

Oneida 1899-1999: A look back

Here is another look back in history. The following is part of an article written by the founder and then president of Oneida Baptist Institute, James A. Burns, in October 1929:

"A few months more than 30 years ago we began building our first house with no money in sight. We had a vision of peace for our mountain people, and we were willing to work our lives away, without money and without price, to materialize our vision. We were willing to trust all the results in the hand of the good, merciful Lord. We believed that he knew all about it, that he had given us the vision, that he had made our hearts willing, that he would lead us in paths we knew not and would establish our cause.

"There have been no changes, except incidental ones, throughout the years. The same vision still abides, and the same faith still bids defiance to the seemingly impossible. We are filled with anxieties and fears. Very often we feel so discouraged, worn and tired that we want to lie down and rest and forget.

"But we cannot do this. We cannot be disloyal to the heavenly calling. We cannot be unfaithful to the friends who have fed us and clothed us for 30 years. We cannot turn a deaf ear to the importunate appeal of our mountain children. We must work right on, no matter how weary we may be.

"Ten thousand friends read this little paper every month. They talk to other people about our school work here, and in this way the number of our friends and helpers is constantly increasing.

"Some of us go to the chapel service each morning. We look into the earnest, hopeful faces of 400 mountain children as they listen to the Scripture reading and join in the singing and the prayer. We

go to the dining room and watch them eat and wash the dishes and set the table for the next meal. Then we wonder where the next meal is coming from and whether there will be money enough to pay the grocery bill. This makes us think of the next mail, and we go to the office and look over the letters. Sometimes they make our hearts glad, and sometimes we turn away with a sigh. Thus we work, we hope and pray and expect. We are always expecting the good Lord to send us relief through the friends he has given us.

"We did not expect to have a deficit at the beginning of this month, but we have one amounting to nearly \$1,200. We did not expect it, but it came upon us. The optimist never expects the thing he doesn't want.

"A successful businessman wrote me some time ago that every successful business institution needs a healthy debt. I am not certain of this as I might be. I am not even certain that Oneida Institute is a business institution at all. I am certain, however, that we do not want debts and deficits, we do not pray for them. To us they have all the effects of nightmares.

We hope that not another one of them may ever be allowed to mar the beauty of our visions and dreams again.

"We are expecting greater things for October. We know that our many friends are still faithful and that new friends are constantly joining the ranks. How we do wish that our roads were just a little better. ... By next summer we hope that we can invite many who are interested to come and visit in our school."

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

'It's amazing what praising can do!'

I hope you find encouragement in these responses from a recent testimony and praise chapel.

"The support of the campus family since my diagnosis with MS has blessed our family and had a significant influence beyond here. Members of my family are lost, and we pray all of this will help turn them to Christ."—Jim Barnhouse, third year

"In 1993, I was in an accident in which my truck turned over and I could have been killed. I was lost with one foot in hell. I praise God that he saved me."—Scott Keen, first year

"The chorus we just sang is known to many of us as Charles Rice's song. For many years, he has taught it to new students in orientation. In 1986 while I was pastor in Everts, Brother Rice came and taught it to our people, and occasionally after that, the church would sing it. One Sunday the invitation closed, and usually we (would have) prayed and departed. That Sunday, I asked everyone to sing, "It's amazing what praising can do!" That extra chorus was what my daughter needed, and she stepped out to profess faith in

Christ."—New Testament professor Bill Helton

"For some time, we've prayed for my mom's relationship to Christ. I recently became pastor of this small church, and two weeks ago mom started attending services. I praise God for answered prayer."—David Brumfield, second year

"The weeks we were foster parents for our three second cousins was the only thing they have seen about Christ. Little Willie asked me one day, 'Is everyone here a Christian?' I thank God for the kind, open hearts that showed love to them. Pray with us they will not forget those lessons and be preserved from evil in their present situation."—J.W. Lewis, senior

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

MISSIONS

Liberia Baptist seminary opens doors again after civil war

MONROVIA, Liberia (BP)—After a seven-year shutdown during a brutal civil war, the campus of the Liberia Baptist Theological Seminary reopened in March, launching a new era of training leaders to evangelize and start churches in the West African country.

"Today we are rededicating the land and buildings, which are the tangible, material expression of the will and providence of God for his people in Liberia," said Bradley Brown, a Southern Baptist International Mission Board missionary, during a rededication service March 2 in Monrovia, the nation's capital. Brown was the seminary's first president and currently teaches several classes at LBTS.

Although the campus had been closed since the civil war began in 1990, the seminary offered classes at another location in downtown Monrovia between 1993 and 1996.

During the seven years the campus was closed, Ghanaian peacekeeping soldiers lived on the campus and protected it from looters.

The civil war that ravaged Liberia began in 1990 when current Liberian President Charles Taylor led a rebel insurgency against the military government, which had controlled the nation since 1980. In 1997, Taylor became the first democratically elected president of the country in 12 years.

Liberia and China were the first two countries entered by Southern Baptist missionaries, both in 1846, a year after the convention organized its board for missions work abroad.

Missionary work in the country was interrupted in 1875 and reopened in 1960.

Liberian Baptists began formal training programs in 1969, when Brown started the Baptist Training Center. The center evolved into the seminary, which opened in 1976. In 1983 the seminary became the first to be officially accredited by the Accrediting Council for Theological Education in Africa.

"This is very exciting and very fulfilling," Brown said. "I was the first president of the seminary, and it is very special to see it reopen."

Brown left the seminary in 1983 to lead the organization of Southern Baptist missionaries in Liberia.

The current seminary president is Lincoln Brownell Jr., a Liberian and graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Currently 95 students take classes at the seminary.

NAMB's U.N. speaker: Christ is the answer

By Marty King
SBC North American Mission Board

NEW YORK (BP)—The answer to problems facing governments around the world is not communism, socialism or capitalism, but Jesus Christ, a member of Great Britain's House of Lords told nearly 200 members of the United Nations community.

"The old left has failed and the old right has failed," said Lord Brian Griffiths. Griffiths was the featured speaker at a luncheon March 16 sponsored by the Southern Baptist Convention's North American Mission Board.

"The left and right both say the path to the good society is the renewal of our political life, (that) if we change the architecture of our societies, people will behave basically in a good way." But both have failed, Griffiths said.

"The genuine alternative is Jesus, who said, 'I am the way, the truth and the life,'" Griffiths said. "I believe there

is something different that results from trying to follow him."

Griffiths, an economist, educator, author and political strategist who served as domestic policy adviser to former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, explained the basic tenets of Christianity, "the first of which is an encounter with the living God."

Quoting Scripture as often and as easily as he did economists, philosophers and theologians, Griffiths asked, "How does the Christian faith impact society? I believe if you are a Christian you become a part of the church, the body of Christ, and you have an immediate responsibility to your brothers and sisters. Jesus said we are called to serve our neighbors and to love them.

"This experience changes your life, your thinking, your ambition and your worldview," Griffiths added. "I'm convinced if we want the 21st century to be different, we have to accept one fundamental point: changed architecture may

be good, but if we want to create the kind of society God intended, the renewal of our societies starts with renewal of people."

He concluded by challenging those in attendance with the claims of Christ. "Every one of us must face up to the challenge which Jesus gave his disciples when he said, 'Who do people say that I am? Who do you say that I am?' I believe being prepared to answer that question openly and honestly could give politics in our countries a new dimension in the next millennium."

Paige Patterson, SBC president and president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., praised Griffiths for "beginning where these folks were and moving to that which is most vital ... a relationship with Christ."

NAMB president Bob Reccord presented each person with a Bible in their own language and a book by Christian apologist Ravi Zacharius.

Missionaries' new church has missions vision

By Mary Speidel
SBC International Mission Board

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (BP)—Suely Sirazawa Patricio switches on an overhead projector. At El Bosque Christian Community in San Jose, Costa Rica, it's time for the weekly prayer focus on the "10/40 Window."

That's the area sweeping from North Africa through the Middle East and much of Asia, where people have little or no opportunity to hear about Jesus Christ.

Tonight's prayer focus is an unreached Muslim people group in India. Patricio's listeners include about 100 Christians—many of them new converts—from nearly 10 nations. Together they form a Baptist church that's barely a year old.

But this new congregation already has developed a mature vision for taking the message of Christ to the rest of the world.

Patricio and her husband, Calixto—Brazilian Baptist missionaries—have something to do with that. So do the four other members of El Bosque's pastoral team—IMB missionaries Roy and Dirce Cooper and Barbara Carter and Costa Rican Baptist Rolando Vargas.

While leading this congregation from its birth, they've emphasized the church's responsibility in the Great Commission.

"A church without a world missions vision is a church that doesn't have a complete vision of its task," notes Calixto Patricio, who serves with Cooper as co-pastor.

"At El Bosque our vision isn't that of the Dead Sea—just receiving, receiving, receiving," he adds. "Our vision is to be like the Sea of Galilee, a body that receives the water of the Jordan River and then sends it on out. We want to be a church that wins souls in Costa Rica but also sends missionaries to other parts of the world."

It didn't take long for both to start happening at El Bosque. After the first few services, the congregation outgrew its meeting place because new Christians invited so many friends.

"We had prayed from the begin-



SUNDAY WORSHIP Missionary Roy Cooper (right) welcomes a family as they arrive for worship services at El Bosque Christian Community in San Jose, Costa Rica. Cooper and his wife, Dirce, missionaries of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, helped plant this Baptist congregation in an effort to reach San Jose's professionals, a largely unevangelized group. The congregation, barely a year old, averages 150 in worship and already has sent a missionary to the Middle East. (BP photo by Sandy King)

ning that this church would be a church that would draw non-Christians to salvation," Mrs. Cooper says. "God truly is answering our prayers."

At the same time, God is answering prayers that the congregation become an example of missions praying, giving and sending.

From the outset, each service has included a prayer focus on the "10/40 Window."

One church member who led these prayer times each week began to sense God's call to the Middle East. Although El Bosque then was just seven months old, church members affirmed her call by sending her out as a missionary tentmaker.

Soon the church also "adopted" a Costa Rican Baptist missionary couple in Honduras and voted to help support Costa Rican Baptist musician Noemy Roldan, now a missionary to Guyana. "It's been very exciting to see what God—and only God—is doing. It's wonderful to be part of his miracles," Mrs. Cooper says.

About three years ago, the Coopers and two other IMB missionary couples began meeting weekly to pray

about starting work among San Jose's professionals, a largely unevangelized group.

The group said God guided them to an IMB-owned house used previously by another congregation, now defunct. The team began meeting there weekly for prayer. They set their focus on excellent church music and meaningful worship as the means to attract professionals and start a church.

A week after holding an outdoor concert featuring a Baptist choir, nearly 80 people attended the first worship service, held in the house where they'd been praying.

Soon the new congregation was praying about finding a bigger place for worship. They located a former supermarket on a visible corner in the neighborhood. Nearly 150 people now worship there every Sunday.

Looking back on the church's brief history, El Bosque's leaders marvel at what they see as God's answer to prayer every step of the way.

"We believe only God could do this," Cooper says. "Everyone wants to give their best to God, but, in the end, only God can give the increase."

"Cowboy preacher" meets folks on horseback

POCAHONTAS, Mo. (BP)—Known as the "cowboy preacher," Mike Harrison rides his horse, "Red," about 150 miles a month (in good weather) in rural southeast Missouri, visiting with people along the way.

"As far back as I can remember, I've liked horses and cowboy things," said Harrison, pastor of New Bethel Baptist Church in Pocahontas. "I was told by my boys once that I was born 100 years too late."

Horses have been a lifetime hobby for Harrison, but a few years ago, he said, God revealed to him something from the Bible. "God asked Moses, 'What's that in your hand?' and I realized that we're to use what God gives us to bring honor and glory to him. I had always prayed that my desire for horses and to be a cowboy would bring honor and glory to God."

"So I just started doing visitation on horseback," he said.

Harrison rides his horse up to people in their yard and they start talking, or he'll be riding down a road and people will stop their cars to visit.

"I always try to say something about the Lord or invite them to church," he said.

The biggest feature about his horseback ministry, he said, is that it's just different. But it's popular. "You'd be surprised at the number of church people and other people that want me to come visit on horseback now."

Harrison said the ministry is something special God gave to him. "My hope is that people can see they can use any hobby they have or any desires they have to use for kingdom work. 'What's in your hand? What's God given you that you can use?'"

PEOPLE

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Praise God for the positive response to the "Jesus" film in Rzeszow, Poland. Missionaries Doug and Marcy Shaw ask prayer for one man who, after viewing the film, asked to buy a copy to show to members of his household.

■ Melody Regains, who teaches missionary kids in Gliwice, Poland, as she seeks to share Christ with her tutor.

■ Pastor Joseph Siebert and the new believers in the village of Kigwa, Tanzania. Much opposition to the gospel exists there.

■ The Digo people group, who live along the coast of Tanzania, and missionaries John and Sherri Herod who serve there.

■ Leaders and wisdom to plant congregations in Amherst, Mass.; Salem, N.H.; Waterboro, Maine; and Burlington, Vt.

■ Hispanic church planter Hector Diaz-Valasis who works with Thomas Memorial Baptist Church in Lewiston, Maine, as he juggles ministry responsibility with his post-graduate studies at Bentley College near Boston.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Shirley Wooton

■ **BELFRY**—First Church will host its third annual community Easter service at Belfry High School gymnasium, April 4, 11 a.m. Special music by Assurance, message by Pastor Steve Rice. Gavin Duerson, the Kentucky Wildcat mascot, will share his testimony. Childcare is available. For information, call (502) 353-4645.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Campbellsville Church will present an Easter drama, "The Living Promise," April 2-4. For information, call (502) 465-8115. David Johnson is minister of music. James Jones is pastor.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Round Top Church called Gary Durham, a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, as pastor.

Tunnel Hill Church held "A Celebration of Praise and Gratitude," March 28, 1999. The service included a note-burning to commemorate paying off the building debt. Plans for a new sanctuary were begun in February 1983. A loan was taken to be paid off in 2005. Construction began in April 1985 and was completed by October. The final loan payment was made in March 1999. Also, Harmon Popham, pastor since 1967, announced his retirement effective January 1, 2000.

■ **FLATLICK**—Concord Church ordained Derrick Poff and Marion Sowders as deacons March 13. Lar-

ry Sowders is pastor.

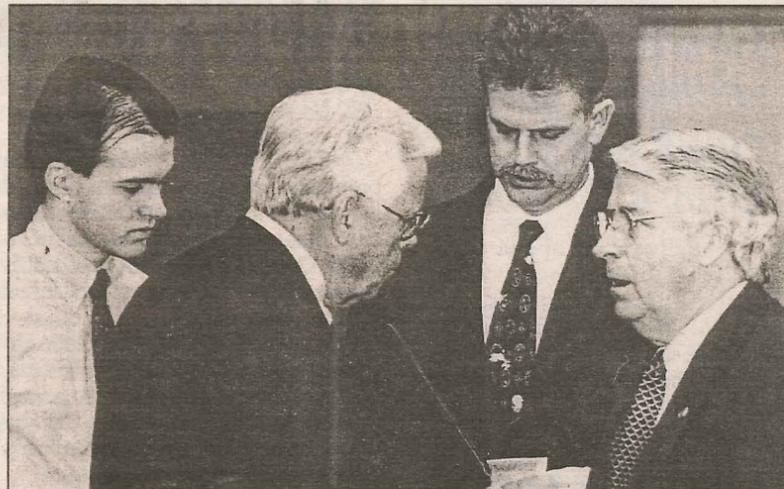
■ **HARRODSBURG**—Robert De-Foor was honored by Harrodsburg Church for his 20th anniversary as pastor. The church presented the De-Foors with a sabbatical trip to Oxford University in England, and a crystal vase.

■ **JAMESTOWN**—Pastor Daryl Covington, First Church, recently started a Sunday school class at Russell County Active Day Care Center. The class meets Thursdays at 1 p.m. They have 40 in attendance.

Nick Rutledge was ordained by First Church, March 7. At the end of the school year, Rutledge will assume the position of youth minister at First Church. Daryl Covington is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—The chancel choir of Crescent Hill Church will present "The Seven Last Words of Christ" April 2, 7 p.m. The choir will be accompanied by the orchestra and soloists June Bailey, Steven Paul Spears and Lloyd Mims. Louie Bailey will be the conductor. For information, call (502) 896-4425. Ron Sisk is pastor.

Former Kentucky pastor Joe Dick Estes, 73, died March 14. Estes, former pastor of First Church Carrolton, First Church Crestwood, First Church Bowling Green and other churches, also was the former director of interfaith witnessing for the Southern Baptist Home Mission



PARTNERSHIP 2000 Gayle Toole (middle left), past president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, talks with Campbellsville University President Ken Winters after an address to a rally at Campbellsville to gain support for Partnership 2000, a campaign to raise \$45 million for Kentucky's three Baptist liberal arts schools: Campbellsville, Cumberland College and Georgetown College. (Campbellsville photo by Andy Rocha)

Board.

Valley View Church will present an Easter musical drama, "Victorious King," April 2 & 3, 7 p.m. Admission is free, tickets required. For information, call (502) 935-5142. Tog Goodson is minister of worship and drama. Sheila Fulkerson is music associate. Kevin Hamm is pastor.

Victory Memorial Church will host revival services April 11-14. Chris Young, pastor of LaGrange Heights Church will be the evangelist. For information, call (502) 368-2521.

■ **MIDDLETOWN**—First Church will hold a "Service of Darkness," re-

membering the suffering and death of Christ as told through music and scripture, April 2, 7:30 p.m. Leslie Hancock is minister of music.

■ **OWENSBORO**—Lewis Lane Church sanctuary choir will present an Easter pageant, "Majesty," March 28, 6 p.m. Dawn Pendleton is minister of music. Chip Pendleton is pastor.

■ **SCOTTSVILLE**—"The Way of the Cross," an Easter musical, will be presented March 28, 6 p.m., by the adult choir and dramatists of Scottsville Church. For information, call (502) 237-3451. Floyd Price is pastor.

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Calvary Missionary Baptist Church in Henderson, Ky., is in search of a part-time music director. Responsibilities will include conducting adult, youth and children's choir rehearsals, as well as leading Sunday morning and evening music worship services. Background in music education preferred. Salary negotiable. Resumes should be forwarded to: 2360 Green River Road, Henderson, KY 42420, Attn: Music Committee. Resumes must be received by April 3.

SEEKING: Passport Youth Camps is seeking to fill a full-time position in administration and personnel. Masters-level education with youth camp experience needed. Send resumes by April 15 to: Passport, Inc., 1752 Frankfort Ave., Louisville, KY 40206, or call (502) 899-9313 for more information.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor. Please send resume to: Pastor Search Committee, Chevy Chase Baptist Church, P.O. Box 22113, Lexington, KY 40522-2113.

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

SEEKING: Full-time associate pastor for education and administration for young, growing church in a rapidly growing community. Send resume and/or recommendations to: Dr. Eric Goforth, senior pastor, Chancellor Baptist Church, 11324 Gordon Road, Fredericksburg, VA 22407, or e-mail: egoforth@juno.com.

SEEKING: Inner-city church planter/pastor for Cincinnati, Ohio. Send resume to: CBA, 135 Williams, Cincinnati, OH 45215.

SEEKING: Davis Memorial is seeking a part-time church secretary. Inquiries should be sent to Wes Brockway, (502) 491-6083.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music. Send resume to: Search Committee, Grace Baptist Church, 811 Bryan Ave., Lexington, KY 40505.

SEEKING: Christian education director. 20 hours/week. Oversee church school program (Kindergarten-adult). Work with and train teachers. Coordinate other activities. Must be present on Sunday mornings. Contact: Fr. Michael Pearson, St. Luke's Church, P.O. Box 23336, Anchorage, KY 40223. Telephone: (502) 245-8827.

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

SEEKING: Minister of student life. Vale, a growing, purpose-driven (SBC) church in a prosperous university community in central Illinois, is seeking an energetic team builder who has a sense of humor and a passion for youth to lead our students, parents and youth leaders in a seeker-sensitive student ministry. Send resume by April 20 to: Vicki Lawson, Vale Baptist Church, 1304 Morrissey Drive, Bloomington, IL 61701, or fax to: (309) 662-8558, or e-mail to: Vale BC1@aol.com.

SEEKING: Unity Baptist Church of Stephensburg is seeking a part-time minister to children and youth. We are a small rural church located 10 miles west of Elizabethtown. Send resume to Pastor Roger McGuffin, Fife Lane, Cecilia, KY 42724.

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

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

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.

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

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 resume, including your statement of faith to: Youth Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 368, Worthington, KY 41183.

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

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

Ted aims to be the Baehr who cleans up Hollywood

By Steve Rabey
Religion News Service

LOS ANGELES (RNS)—Hollywood has its Oscars, the golden statuettes that were handed out March 21 during the 71st annual Academy Awards.

Less well-known are the "Teddy Bear" Awards.

Named for Ted Baehr, publisher of the biweekly magazine *Movieguide*, this year's awards praised inspiring, morally uplifting and family-friendly films like "Life is Beautiful," while condemning other Oscar-winning films, including "Shakespeare in Love," which was described as "funny, but morally degenerate."

Most movie reviews rate films based on a combination of technical and aesthetic factors. *Movieguide's* awards and reviews rate these factors, too, awarding up to four stars for a film's production quality.

But *Movieguide* breaks with Hollywood protocol by evaluating movies' moral content, using a complex scale that not only counts obscenities and acts of sex and violence, but also evaluates a film's approach to issues like substance abuse, capitalism, patriotism, and evolutionary, feminist, environmental, humanist, New Age and occult worldviews.

"Our goal is to help people become better consumers," said Baehr, author of the 1998 book, "The Media-Wise Family." "We want to give people the motivation to choose the good and reject the bad."

Films like "Prince of Egypt," the animated film about the life of Moses, received a four-plus rating, which signifies "No questionable elements whatsoever," even though *Movieguide's* review noted the film was marred by "one shot up a man's tunic revealing underwear."

Films like "Ringmaster," about TV sleazemeister Jerry Springer, or horror flicks like "Bride of Chucky," receive a minus-four rating, which brands films as "evil."

Though little regarded by the mainstream media or by Hollywood movers and shakers, Baehr's reviews are a godsend for thousands of Christians who are deeply concerned about their own and their children's media diets.

Baehr said film—like all forms of God-given human creativity—should be about "the true, the good, and the beautiful." But most movies—and most *Movieguide* reviews—contain a mix of good and bad.

For example, *Movieguide* gave "Shakespeare in Love"—which won seven Oscars—four stars for its production values. But the film was given a minus-two acceptability rating, and topped Baehr's list of 1998's 20 worst films. *Movieguide* called the film "smart, bawdy, romantic and funny, but morally degenerate;" criticized its "pagan elements, feminist elements (and) homosexual elements;" and said

the film "has a banal plot that distorts history. It demeans Shakespeare's genius by neglecting the nobler passions that permeated Shakespeare's work."

Likewise, *Movieguide* praised "A Civil Action" for its "moral worldview" but complained that the film's personal injury lawyer "relies on big federal government when he loses (his) case due to his own pride and mismanagement."

"Rugrats" received a plus-one acceptability rating even though it contains "discussions and references to babies messing their diapers" while "Message in a Bottle" was called "a handsome, thoughtful but morally flawed date movie" which overly elevates romantic love, making it "idolatrous."

Movieguide praised "The Last Days," a Stephen Spielberg documentary about five survivors of Nazi Germany's slaughter of Hungarian Jews. But the reviewer complained that one of the featured survivors was Rep. Tom Lantos, D-Calif., "a radical from California who has said some pretty intolerant, perhaps even hateful, things about Christians and conservatives."

Movieguide's reviews themselves get mixed reviews. London's liberal daily paper, "The Guardian," featured an article titled, "The Weird Wide Web," which featured the writer's reaction to the *Movieguide* Web site (www.movieguide.org): "Proves Americans are at their funniest when deadly serious."

Helping believers decide which movies to see is only one of Baehr's missions. He also serves as chairman of the 14-year-old Christian Film and Television Commission, a non-profit organization aiming to reform films by acting as an advocate for Christian values.

Baehr, a past president of the Episcopal Radio-Television Foundation, would like his commission to perform the functions once filled by the Catholic Legion of Decency and the Protestant Film Commission. Both organizations acted as the film industry's moral guardians until the 1960s, when the Motion Picture Association of America adopted a voluntary film rating system. After that, Baehr said, "the church abandoned Hollywood."

He's trying to bring the church back to America's movie-making capital, and his most publicized effort is his annual Awards Gala.

At this year's event, March 18, at the Universal Hilton, Baehr handed out some big-money awards, including the \$25,000 Epiphany Prize, funded by the John Templeton Foundation to honor the year's most inspiring film, as well as two \$5,000 Grace Prizes, honoring actors or actresses in film or TV whose performances "exemplify God's grace and mercy toward us."

Baehr also is active behind the scenes, fielding calls from studios and production companies wanting to know what Christian teaching says about issues like religious observances, alcohol use and Satanism.

"My agenda is to present myself



Baehr

Teddy 'The Good News' Bear Awards

These are the 10 best 1998 films as rated by Ted Baehr for being family-friendly. Movies are rated for technical and aesthetic quality (zero to four stars) and the acceptability of their moral content. (-4 to +4):

- The Prince of Egypt. Quality: ★★★★★; Acceptability: +4.
- A Bug's Life. Quality: ★★★★★; Acceptability: +3.
- The Parent Trap. Quality: ★★★★★; Acceptability: +1.
- Ever After. Quality: ★★★★★; Acceptability: +1.
- Antz. Quality: ★★★★★; Acceptability: +2.
- Wide Awake. Quality: ★★★★★; Acceptability: +3.
- The Borrowers. Quality: ★★★★★; Acceptability: +2.
- Mighty Joe Young. Quality: ★★★★★; Acceptability: +1.
- The Mask of Zorro. Quality: ★★★★★; Acceptability: -1.
- Madeline. Quality: ★★★; Acceptability: +3.

Papa Bear Awards

Movieguide rated these 10 films from last year to be the best for mature audiences:

- Simon Birch. Quality: ★★★★★; Acceptability: +1.
- A Civil Action. Quality: ★★★★★; Acceptability: -1.
- The Truman Show. Quality: ★★★★★; Acceptability: +1.
- Deep Impact. Quality: ★★★★★; Acceptability: -1.
- Les Miserables. Quality: ★★★★★; Acceptability: +1.
- Life Is Beautiful. Quality: ★★★★★; Acceptability: +3.
- The Horse Whisperer. Quality: ★★★★★; Acceptability: +1.
- Men With Guns. Quality: ★★★★★; Acceptability: -1.
- The Man in the Iron Mask. Quality: ★★★★★; Acceptability: +1.
- The Ride. Quality: ★★★★★; Acceptability: +4.

The 'Un-Bearables'

These movies were among *Movieguide's* worst of the worst for 1998:

"These films have been chosen not necessarily because they have sex, violence, nudity or profanity, but because they have a worldview which is antithetical to the biblical worldview," according to *Movieguide*.

- Promoting the Worst PC Banality: "There's Something about Mary."
- Most Politically Correct Cinematic Voodoo and a New Level of Visual Disgust: "Beloved."
- Bloodiest Comic Book Promoting Occultism for Children: "Blade."
- Teaching Children to Kill: "The Butcher Boy."
- Tying for Most New Age, False Religion Award: "What Dreams May Come."
- Worst Promotion of Anti-Christian Occultism: "Practical Magic."
- Worst Pedophilia: (tie) "Happiness" and "Lolita."
- Worst Perversion: "The Opposite of Sex."
- Worst Pro-Suicide Propaganda for Teenagers: "Dead Man on Campus."

■ Most Banal: "Nerd Gets the Girl Before Her Wedding."

■ Revisionist Histories: "Elizabeth" and "Shakespeare in Love."

■ Worst Infomercial for Political Correctness: "Primary Colors."

■ Worst Anti-Jewish Feminism: "A Price Above Rubies."

■ Worst Anti-Christian Revisionist History: "Dangerous Beauty."

■ Most Shrill Proclamation of Anti-Christian, Anti-Communist, Darwinian Individualism: "Ayn Rand: A Sense of Life."

■ Worst Sleaze: "Basketball."

■ Worst Drug Promotion: "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas."

■ Worst Content: "Very Bad Things."

A special "Unbearable Television Award" went to "From Jesus to Christ: The Early Christians," a documentary in PBS's Frontline series, which "combines Scripture, skepticism and pretentious German higher criticism to form a very confused portrait of Christianity."

as a resource to the studios," said Baehr, who added he believes he has had an effect. "There are more films containing a strong Christian worldview now than there were 14 years ago."

Ralph Winter, a Hollywood veteran who was the supervising producer of last year's "Mighty Joe Young," agreed that Baehr is having an impact. "I'm amazed at the places Ted gets into and the people he gets to sit down with," said Winter. "Ted has to be congratulated for that, because I don't know who else could do what he does."

Sometimes Baehr feels like a lone voice in an industry served by hundreds of advocacy groups, including those representing ethnic groups, the

disabled, gays and lesbians, major corporations and powerful professional associations.

He also can feel like the odd man out among evangelical Christians, many of whom support anti-media watchdog groups like Donald Wildmon's American Family Association, while others support ministries to entertainment professionals like Media Fellowship International.

Few people, however, seem to understand or appreciate the role an advocate like Baehr can play in shaping movies' content and their portrayal of religious issues, he says.

"There are different types of ministry," Baehr said, "and we're trying to build bridges to Hollywood and help people there understand."

ENDOWMENT AND SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

There comes a time in each of our lives when we consider what difference our lives will make on the grand scheme of the world.

By establishing an endowment fund benefitting Baptist work or a scholarship fund for Christian education, you can make a lasting difference through a simple act of Christian stewardship.

Endowment Funds

An endowment fund is a gift that has been set aside as a permanent fund that will generate income for one or more Baptist causes of your choice. By designating your gift as an endowment fund, you will be specifying that the principal of the gift will never be spent, but the income earned by that principal will be paid out to the designated causes on a regular basis.

Scholarship Funds

If you wish to establish a fund that will help meet the educational needs of deserving students at an educational institution, you can establish a special fund known as a scholarship fund. The principal of the scholarship fund will be held, as with any endowment fund, but the income generated will be paid out specifically for scholarships on a regular basis.

With scholarship funds, you, the donor, may set the criteria for selecting the students who will be eligible for the scholarship.

Joe and Sarah

Joe and Sarah were particularly grateful for the high level of specialized care Joe received during his critical illness at the Baptist hospital. To show their appreciation, they decided to set up an endowment fund which would provide a means for the hospital to purchase much needed equipment.

Through their Wills, they will make a gift to the Kentucky Baptist Foundation to establish the fund that will generate income for the hospital on a regular basis.

Jennifer

Jennifer wanted to honor her grandparents, both of whom were school teachers, by establishing a scholarship fund in their memory at their Kentucky Baptist college alma mater. She contacted the Kentucky Baptist Foundation and established the fund with an initial gift of \$5,000. The endowment agreement provides that the net income will be paid to the Baptist college to provide scholarships for students working towards a teaching degree. Jennifer continues to add money to the fund, increasing the principal and increasing the money generated for scholarships.

Just like Joe, Sarah and Jennifer, you too can

.. Make A Lasting Difference

For additional information about the many ways your Foundation can assist you, please call or write us. You are under no obligation if you inquire about our services. We will be pleased to assist you.



Barry G. Allen, President
Laurie W. Valentine, Trust Counsel
10605 Shelbyville Road
P. O. Box 436389
Louisville, Kentucky 40253-6389

(502) 244-6466
(888) 254-5701

E
X
A
M
P
L
E
S