

PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

WESTERN RECORDER

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FOR THE RECORD

Refugee relief

Primary needs in the Balkans remain prayer, money and volunteers, Baptist agency leaders say. *Page 2.*

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Kentucky WMU annual meeting focus: Ministry and missionaries

By David Winfrey
News Director

ELIZABETHTOWN—From trying to halt violence in Kentucky to taking the gospel of Jesus Christ around the world, ministries and missionaries were the highlight of last week's annual meeting for Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union.



Smith

About 1,000 WMU members and Girls in Action members attended the event, April 16-17 at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

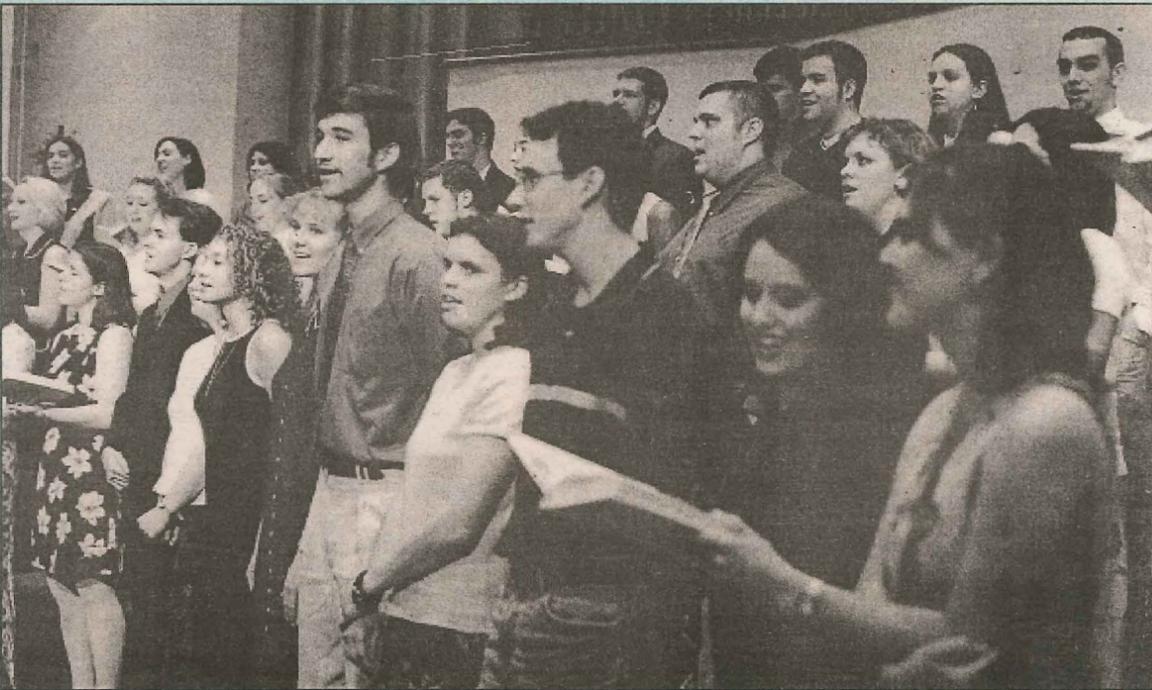
Larry Pumpelli, a Southern Baptist missionary to Uganda, said Christians are living in a time like no other because they have the funds, mobility and ability to take the message of Jesus to the ends of the earth.

Officials with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board estimate that 1.7 billion people—or one-quarter of the world's population—have no access to the gospel, said Pumpelli, who currently is serving at the IMB's headquarters in Richmond, Va.

While IMB officials are now able to quantify the groups with no access to the message of Jesus, they also have had opportunities

□ See WMU meeting ..., page 6

Summer missions



SING PRAISES Students sing at First Baptist Church of Somerset during the commissioning service for student summer missions. Kentucky Baptists are sponsoring 120 students this summer, a 50 percent increase compared to any previous year.

Record 120 students serving this summer

SOMERSET—Kentucky Baptists will send a record 120 college students to missions projects this summer—50 percent more than any previous summer.

Students, parents and friends assembled April 10 for the commissioning service at First Baptist Church of Somerset.

Organizers said they were surprised by the responsiveness of students wanting to serve.

"God has truly blessed us," said Ralph Hopkins, KBC associate director for collegiate ministries. "We're investing more lives over-

seas and across the United States than we've ever done before."

When an opportunity arose to minister in Bosnia, officials weren't sure many students would want to go, Hopkins said. Instead, almost 100 students applied for 30 positions to go. The trip has been canceled because of the current unrest in that region. Those students will instead go to El Salvador, Hopkins said.

But the large response caused organizers to assemble other overseas missions groups. In addition to El Salvador, students also will serve in

Australia, China and Wales.

In Kentucky, 27 students will serve on Son Teams, groups of students organized to perform drama, sports, music and other ministries at churches and summer camps. Also, 40 student summer missionaries will come to Kentucky to serve in a variety of ministries, Hopkins said.

A theme repeated throughout the commissioning service was the impact the 10-week summer projects will have on the students.

"These students will depend on God like they've never had to depend on him before," Hopkins said.

Churches should cross sociological barriers, pastor says

By David Winfrey
News Director

GEORGETOWN—When Winter Park Baptist Church of Wilmington, N.C., was considering starting a contemporary worship service, pastor Mike Tutterow asked each church member to interview four people who didn't attend church.

"Only one person (interviewed) said, 'I don't go to church because I don't believe in God,'" recalled Tutterow, who spoke at last week's Georgetown College Pastors Conference April 12-14.

Instead, nearly all of the objections to attending church were sociological, Tutterow said. Instead of raising theological objections, people said they found church boring, irrelevant or inconvenient, he said.

"We simply were not speaking their language," he said.

Tutterow led the congregation three years ago to start a second worship service with contemporary

music and other "seeker sensitive" characteristics. It now attracts about 350 people each week and is resulting in many new Christians, he said.

But leading the church to offer a contemporary worship service required several types of changes, Tutterow said, including:

■ **Change from traditional worship to indigenous worship.** Just as foreign missionaries seek to present the gospel in an indigenous culture, the new service seeks to offer worship with as few barriers between the church and the indigenous, contemporary culture it seeks to reach, Tutterow said.

Billed as "church for folks who don't like church," the service invites people to come as they are—referring to both how they dress and their stage of belief about Christian-

ity.

■ **Change in preaching.** One of the most influential people in the design of the new worship service was a non-Christian who started attending the church while members were planning the new service. He was even referred to as the "token pagan" and was eager to offer advice.

"If you're going to design a worship service for seekers, you ought to listen to a couple of them," Tutterow said.

One day, Tutterow said, the visitor asked, "Why don't you preach about the world I'm in?"

"He made me see I was preaching for the church crowd," Tutterow said, adding that his previous sermons offered no practical way to apply the biblical message being offered. "People are transformed not by in-

formation, but by application."

Tutterow said he changed how he preached; his application points became the organizing structure for the message. He also began listing the Bible text and an outline of the sermon for people to follow in the printed order of service, he said.

■ **Changing from church maintenance to church mission.** The church has been restructured from operating with long-term committees to teams that tackle individual tasks. Tutterow works to keep his church administrative work limited to one day a week so he can focus on "the work of the kingdom."

And more members also are recognizing the importance of the contemporary service and other events that link non-Christians with the church, he said. "They're catching on that there are services that are designed to not be threatening yet engaging to people who are exploring the faith."

□ More stories on page 3



Georgetown Pastors Conference

Moving? See page 4 (0420)

BAPTISTS

BAPTIST BITS

■ **Roy Honeycutt**, former president and chancellor of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, remains hospitalized after open heart surgery April 1 and is facing difficulties recovering, family members have acknowledged, asking for prayers on his behalf. Honeycutt's condition does not allow visitors or personal phone calls. He is able to receive correspondence at Norton Hospital, 5H Room 6, Louisville, KY, 40202.

■ **William Reynolds**, a former editor of the Baptist Hymnal and The New Broadman Hymnal, is recovering in a Fort Worth, Texas, hospital from a mild stroke suffered April 8. His wife, Mary Lou, said he is in good spirits. "He's still Bill Reynolds. His sense of humor is intact," she said. "He's very interested in what's going on around him." The stroke, which occurred in Reynolds' brain stem, has not resulted in paralysis or impairment of mental facilities, his wife said. She added he is improving and doctors expect a full recovery.

Sutton to be nominee for SBC Pastors Conference presidency

NASHVILLE (BP)—Jerry Sutton, pastor of Two Rivers Baptist Church, Nashville, Tenn., will be nominated for president of the Southern Baptist Convention Pastors Conference in Atlanta in June.

Johnny Hunt, pastor of First Baptist Church, Woodstock, Ga., announced April 13 in Nashville that he will nominate Sutton.

Sutton "is a visionary pastor and leader who is a great example for pastors across our convention," Hunt said. "He has a great heart for pastors and will give superb leadership to our Pastors Conference."

The annual gathering of pastors will be June 13-14 at the Georgia Dome just prior to the start of the SBC annual meeting June 15-16.

Sutton told news media last year he might be nominated for the Pastors Conference presidency at the 1998 meeting in Salt Lake City. But Mike Hamlet, pastor of First Baptist Church of North Spartanburg, S.C., was the only person nominated when the pastors' group met and was elected by acclamation.

As pastor of the largest Southern Baptist church in the Nashville area, Sutton has been at Two Rivers since 1986. It has 6,500 members with more than 2,000 people baptized since 1986 and more than \$3 million channeled through the Cooperative Program for missions.

Refugee relief needs: Money, volunteers & prayer

By Bob Allen
Associated Baptist Press

TIRANA, Albania (ABP)—Money, volunteers and prayer are priority needs in efforts to relieve suffering created by war in the Balkans, Baptist sources in the region report.

The Baptist Center in Tirana, Albania, needs \$100,000 to provide food and other necessities for refugees fleeing Kosovo by the hundreds of thousands, according to the center's director, Canadian missionary Jonathan Steeper.

Baptist churches have joined in a coordinated plan to serve the estimated 310,000 refugees who are already in Albania.

Meanwhile, refugees continued to pour across the Albanian border. Reuters quoted a relief official who said more than 3,000 Kosovar refugees arrived in the Albanian town of Kukes on April 13.

European Baptist Press Service reported that 20,000 Danish Marks the European Baptist Federation allocated for emergency funds already has been spent on food and hygiene items for refugees.

Baptists and other evangelicals in Albania are working closely in the larger relief effort with the Salvation Army, which has trucks for distribution of materials and field kitchens for people in refugee camps.

With help from the Southern Baptist Convention's International Mission Board, food boxes also are being prepared for Albanian families who are housing refugees from Kosovo. Many of the host families already live at a subsistence level.

Bekim Beka, a Kosovar who is directing the Tirana Baptist Center's refugee ministry, said receiving money is critical because it is quicker to buy needed goods locally.

The Atlanta-based Cooperative Baptist Fellowship reported it has three couples on the ground near Ko-

Missouri cancels Balkan mission trips

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (ABP)—Missouri Baptists and their counterparts in the former Soviet republic of Belarus are praying for a swift end to the war in Yugoslavia so they can renew joint ministry efforts.

Administrators at the Missouri Baptist Convention announced April 5 that mission trips through the state convention's partnership with the Belarus Union of Evangelical Christians-Baptist are suspended until conditions in the Balkans improve.

Missouri Baptist leaders said they made the decision because of potential danger to missions volunteers in Eastern Europe due to anti-American sentiment stemming from the NATO bombing of Serb military targets.

MBC staffer Roger Hatfield led the last group of volunteers to minister in Belarus. They returned from a vacation Bible school training event March 31.

"There were conditions or situations that would make some Missouri Baptists a little bit apprehensive or anxious," Hatfield said.

sovo with contacts in Albania and Macedonia. Urgent needs include prayer, financial contributions for food, clothing and medical supplies, and medical volunteers, primarily doctors, according to Fellowship officials.

The Fellowship immediately made \$10,400 available to its Albania team for relief efforts. Additional designated gifts are also coming in, officials said.

Volunteer medical workers, particularly those with skills in dealing with trauma and field settings, are needed, and may be on their way as early as April 25.

He said he saw several anti-American and anti-NATO demonstrations while in Europe.

"The Belarussian Baptists were asking questions of us about why we were bombing, which indicated that they were not getting maybe the full story from their news agencies about what was going on," he said.

Missouri Baptist partnership-missions coordinator Willard Zeiser, who helped make the decision to postpone the trips, said friends in Belarus have confirmed his decision.

He cited an April 9 e-mail message received from Elena Vogdanova, who has served as tour guide to every Missouri Baptist team to visit Belarus since the partnership began.

"After consideration, I must admit that it was right and timely," she wrote of the decision. "The more I listen to the reports from Russia, the more frightened I become."

Zeiser noted that, though the mission trips have been canceled, the prayer and financial support the state's Baptists provide to Belarus continues uninterrupted.

Volunteers will be expected to pay their own expenses, CBF officials said. Other volunteer opportunities are expected as refugees in Albania are sent to other countries including Turkey, Germany and the United States.

Baptist World Aid, the relief and development arm of the Baptist World Alliance, said April 13 it is continuing to support relief efforts for those suffering from the conflict in Kosovo.

Local Baptists in Macedonia are caring for refugees in their homes, and the BWA has provided \$10,000 for the purchase of food and medicines.

Baptist World Aid Director Paul

Want to help?

■ Send a check designated for "Kosovo relief" to the Southern Baptist International Mission Board's General Relief Fund, Office of Finance, Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230. To volunteer, call Michael Hester, director of volunteer efforts in Europe, at (804) 219-1530.

■ Send a check designated for "Balkan appeal" to the Baptist World Alliance's Baptist World Aid fund 6733 Curran St., McLean, VA 22101.

■ Send a check designated for "Albanian refugees relief" to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Box 450329, Atlanta, GA 31145-0329. Call Marie Moore to explore volunteer opportunities, (770) 220-1631.

■ Call Samaritan's Purse, (800) 665-2843.

Montacute said he has also been in contact with Baptist leaders in Serbia. Three Baptist relief agencies—Bread of Life in Belgrade, Tabita in Novi Sad and Love Your Neighbor in Vrnjacka Banka—all report suffering among the people they serve and limitation of their own activities, he said.

A missile damaged a relief warehouse at the Baptist Church in Nis, Serbia, Montacute said, and an economic embargo against Yugoslavia's government makes it difficult to provide aid from outside the country.

Montacute said response to BWAid's "Balkan Appeal" has been generous but will likely be needed for many months. "It is five years ago this month that the Rwandan genocide occurred, and we are still at work in that situation," he said.

Martha Skelton and Wendy Ryan contributed to this story

□ NAMB official: U.S. sponsors could be needed for refugees. Page 7.

Total SBC membership shows slight decrease

By Linda Lawson
SBC LifeWay Christian Resources

NASHVILLE (BP)—For the first time since 1926, total annual membership in Southern Baptist churches registered a decrease.

For 1998, the decline of 162,158 SBC church members, or 1.02 percent, brings the new total to 15,729,356 members, according to figures from the 1998 Annual Church Profile.

Baptisms topped 400,000 for the second consecutive year, but the 1998 total of 407,264 represents a slight decrease of 4,763 or 1.16 percent from the 1997 total of 412,027. The ratio of baptisms to total membership remained at one baptism for every 39 members.

Increases were registered in Sunday morning worship attendance, Sunday school enrollment, discipleship training enrollment/participation, music ministry enrollment/participation and Brotherhood enrollment/participation while WMU enrollment decreased less than 1 percent.

The total number of Southern Baptist churches declined by 17 churches or .04 percent, bringing the new total to 40,870.

In financial categories, increases were registered in total gifts, undesignated receipts and total receipts.

The Annual Church Profile is compiled by LifeWay Christian Resources from church reports routed through local Baptist associations and state conventions.

Sunday morning worship attendance increased by 3.33 percent, or 174,052, to 5,398,692 compared to the 1997 total of 5,224,640.

Sunday school enrollment increased by 7,832, or .1 percent, to 8,147,939 over the 1997 total of 8,140,107. The program has increased three of the past four years.

Discipleship training enrollment/participation increased for the third consecutive year with a gain of 103,823, or 4.27 percent, to a new total of 2,537,625. The 1998 total represents the highest enrollment for the program since 1965.

Music ministry enrollment/partic-

ipation increased by 103,823, or 4.27 percent, to a 1998 total of 1,832,592, after a 1997 decrease.

Brotherhood enrollment/participation increased by 3,352, or .64 percent, after a 1997 decline, bringing the new total to 525,655.

WMU enrollment decreased by 4,666, or .47 percent, to 991,232, marking the second year of decline after three years of increases.

Total gifts (tithes, offerings and special gifts) totaled \$6,888,796,898, an increase of 4.41 percent or \$291,185,556. Undesignated receipts for 1998 were \$5,421,234,605, an increase of 3.65 percent, or \$190,930,971. Total receipts were \$7,452,098,393, a gain of 5.35 percent, or \$378,179,553.

Totals in four categories—value of church property, church-type missions operated by churches, number of churches giving to associations on a percentage basis and number of churches with ongoing intercessory prayer—represented decreases from 1997 but data was not reported by all states.

Pastor: Get out to the streets where Jesus would be

By David Winfrey
News Director

GEORGETOWN—Churches that decide to represent Christ in their communities will minister and take the Christian faith anywhere they can, according to a pastor whose church reaches more than 3,000 people outside the church walls every week.

"We are here to live our lives in the shape of the cross—loving God, loving others," said Charles Wade, pastor of First Baptist Church of Arlington, Texas.

Wade, speaking to the annual Georgetown College Pastors Conference, April 12-14, said some churches believe they should target a specific niche or demographic group. "That doesn't work in my theology."

Through Mission Arlington, a wide-ranging network of ministries and Bible studies, First Baptist is taking the message of God's love through Jesus to a variety of people, from the needy to the wealthy.

Wade said his church encountered a defining moment during the 1980s at a deacons meeting where church officials were considering whether to host a shelter for battered women and their children.

Several deacons suggested reasons to avoid the idea, including insurance liability and disgruntled husbands who might turn their wrath on the church.

But one deacon finally spoke up

and said that if Jesus were present, he'd care about the women, Wade said. That changed the attitude of the deacons, and they overwhelmingly voted to start the new ministry.

"On that wonderful evening, we decided to be a church that was going to be the presence of Jesus in our city," Wade said.

And that has been the driving vision behind Mission Arlington, he added—getting outside the church and into the neighborhoods.

During the 1980s the church bought a set of apartments intending to create more parking for the church. The apartments were never razed, as planned, but instead have been used for a variety of ministries, Wade said.

Mission Arlington is directed by Tillie Burgin, a former missionary to South Korea who gave up a school district job that paid twice what she now makes, Wade said.

Mission Arlington meets needs and starts Bible studies with the people whom volunteers meet, Wade said. Burgin "describes it as taking the church to the people," he said.

First Baptist attracts about 2,000 people to the church each week, but Mission Arlington volunteers reach

about 3,000 people every week in 220 locations throughout the city, Wade said. "It's like a bus ministry without buses."

Mission Arlington seeks to reach people from a variety of backgrounds, Wade said. He compared it to Jesus, who in back-to-back Gospel stories healed a blind beggar and met the spiritual needs of rich Zacchaeus.

In the case of the blind man, Wade noted that Jesus took the time to find out what the man wanted. "Did it ever occur to you that we tell people what they need instead of listening for what they feel and where they're hurting?" Wade asked.

Through ministry, Mission Arlington volunteers gain an opportunity to witness about Christ, he said.

In the case of Zacchaeus, Wade pointed out that the tax collector was having trouble seeing Jesus. The problem was not with Zacchaeus' eyes, Wade said, but with the fact that Jesus' followers wouldn't let Zacchaeus get close to Jesus.

"That's still the reason a lot of people can't see Jesus," Wade said. "Because the church won't get out of the way."

Wade said pastors should strive to



Georgetown Pastors Conference



CONFERENCE SPEAKER
Charles Wade, pastor of First Baptist Church of Arlington, Texas, responds to a question about Mission Arlington. The program is a network of ministries and Bible studies his church operates. It reaches 3,000 people each week outside the church walls. Also pictured is Ken Chafin, former evangelism professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, who organized the Georgetown Pastors Conference.

strengthen their congregations around five principle tasks Jesus modeled in the Gospels: worship, evangelism, discipleship, ministry and fellowship.

"The problem with WWJD ("What would Jesus do?") bracelets is most people don't understand what Jesus did," Wade said. "You can't read the Gospels without getting fully enmeshed in the idea that Jesus was in the streets."

As the son of a pastor, Wade said he doesn't agree that only the recent generation of churchgoers are hesitant to tithe or get active in ministry.

"It's never been easy to get people to tithe. You've got to work real hard to get them to do missions somewhere they've never been," he said. "It's never been easy making disciples in any generation."

The pastor's role in that task, he said, is to "model it, believe it, don't quit."

Speaker: Seminaries don't teach everything

By David Winfrey
News Director

GEORGETOWN—Seminaries don't teach people everything they need to know about leading a church. Just ask former Kentucky pastor Greg Hunt.

Hunt, who spoke at last week's Georgetown College Pastors Conference, said that after graduating from seminary he still had to learn some valuable lessons related to leadership and to structuring a congregation to be an agent to transform lives.

Hunt was careful to say he had "incredible, wonderful teachers" while attending Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. "But I have to confess to you, there were things (in the pastorate) I felt like I was having to learn by the seat of my pants," said Hunt, now pastor at Holmeswood Baptist Church in Kansas City, Mo.

In the area of leadership, Hunt said he entered the pastorate afraid of the power a pastor has. Hunt said he'd seen too many pastors abuse or manipulate that power, and he was committed to not do the same.

Hunt said that one time he arrived at a home in Sanders, Ky., where the patriarch had died, and the family was noticeably comforted just by his presence.

"It scared me because I wanted to make sure they could distinguish between me and the power of God," he said.

He admitted he thought "shared leadership" meant giving up power

and letting anyone around decide the agenda.

Hunt recalled how early in his career he refused to instruct his deacons or give any hint of where he stood on an issue. Often that led to frustration by the end of a meeting, he admitted.

By refusing to take a stand, Hunt said, he had created a leadership vacuum.

He said he learned through experience that the power of the pastor's position could be used responsibly to influence people without manipulating them. Hunt said he learned to exercise his power as pastor in three ways:

■ **Vision.** Through the principles of "shared idealization," Hunt said he learned to present a vision for the church and create a dialogue that allowed members to explore possibilities.

Hunt said he came to better understand this skill from a telephone executive who arrived at a meeting with an outline of ideas and asked people to give feedback. The outline was designed to be a starting point only, and the group eventually went in a different direction than the executive's outline would have predicted.

Recalling those early frustrating deacons meetings, Hunt said he realized, "What they'd been wanting was not someone to tell them what to do, but to give them somewhere to start."

■ **Initiative taker.** "We are in churches that are desperately in need of people who lead," he said. Hunt added, however, that he learned being a leader doesn't require controlling every outcome.

■ **Accountability.** "I have a frightening level of autonomy," Hunt said of his role in his current church.

Although initially the deacons technically were responsible for supervising the pastor, Hunt said he didn't find he had much accountability to them.

So he formed a group from among the deacons designed to offer affirmation, confrontation, troubleshooting and feedback. He meets regularly with them.

"Some people thought I was an idiot to do this," he said.

Nevertheless, Hunt said he is surer of his leadership because he has a supportive accountability group. "I have greater confidence that I understand what's going on in the life of the church."

In the area of structuring a church to change lives, Hunt said he realized the importance of being intentional with every aspect of the congregation.

"Change will not happen unless the programs are systematically structured to produce change," he said.

Hunt said that too often people who've attended church all their lives are no different than the day they first joined. "What we want is not perfection. It's progress."

Churches should measure their progress by what percentage of their new members are new Christians rather than family members and transfers from other churches.

"You've got to incorporate the evangelical imperative into every nook and cranny of the church," he said.

BLUEGRASS BURGOO

■ **Pat Hopkins undergoes successful surgery.** Pat Hopkins, wife of Ralph Hopkins, the KBC associate collegiate ministries director, underwent successful surgery to remove a cancerous tumor from her lung April 15. "We had people all over the country praying for her, and we're just very grateful," Hopkins said. On a scale of zero to 10, with 10 being the most malignant, doctors graded the tumor to be a one, Hopkins said. Doctors say there is no reason for chemotherapy or radiation and that they don't believe the tumor will return, Hopkins said. Mrs. Hopkins was expected to remain at Baptist Hospital East in Louisville about a week.

■ **Russell Springs to host discipleship event.** The Kentucky Baptist Convention discipleship training department and Russell County Baptist Association will offer training for Christians to become new Christian and new church member encouragers in their churches. The training will be held April 17 at First Baptist Church of Russell Springs at 7 p.m. CDT. For more information, call the KBC discipleship department at (888) 254-5708 or Chris Holloway at (502) 866-2580.

■ **Georgetown scholarship available.** Georgetown College's woman's association is accepting applications for the Virginia Dempsey Scholarship. Women who will be freshmen in the fall 1999 semester and have a 3.0 cumulative GPA are eligible. A recommendation is required from the student's pastor and an official from her high school. The deadline for consideration is June 1. For information, call (502) 863-8027.

■ **Mid-Continent College to hold baccalaureate service.** Jim Hill, executive director of the Missouri Baptist Convention, will be the keynote speaker for Mid-Continent College's baccalaureate service, May 2 at Northside Baptist Church in Mayfield at 2:30 p.m. For information, call (502) 247-8521.

■ **Former Georgetown music chairman dies.** Wayne Johnson, former chairman of Georgetown College's music department, died April 5. Johnson served Georgetown 35 years before his retirement in 1990.

OPINION

WESTERN RECORDER

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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*

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N.C. Trojan horse

Efforts of reconciliation for fundamentalists and moderates in the North Carolina Baptist Convention by well-intentioned persons reminds us that the philosopher Hegel was right when he said, "people have never learned anything from history."

Remember when the fundamentalists claimed that all they wanted was parity in our convention institutions and agencies? As soon as they gained a majority in places of power, hundreds of moderates were forced out of their positions. Thousands of children were uprooted from their communities and friends. No moderates are permitted to hold any place of leadership in the convention. It was a Southern Baptist ethnic cleansing by the fundamentalist convention leaders.

Now we see the old Trojan horse being trotted out to begin the process of capturing the convention in North Carolina. Ah, history teaches us nothing.

Henlee Barnette
Louisville

Kosovo & Christ

Richard Land of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission has been calling for military action against Milosevic "for several years," as reported in the April 6 edition of the Western Recorder.

According to Land, this violence is morally justified by the "just war" criteria Christians have adhered to for centuries.

As a non-violent Christian, I must answer this justification. It is a propagation of Neibuhran thought which assumes that the nonresistant way of Jesus is irrelevant to the realism of today's world. Our religious leaders who espouse moral violence, according to

James McClendon, effectively deny Jesus a viable place in his own moral world.

It seems to me that to those Christians who support "just war" theory, Jesus is a religious but not morally relevant figure. They hope for a peace de-toured around Christ.

Over the last 1,700 years we Christians have become captives of the systems of state. Just as the Roman empire under Constantine became the protector and guardian of the way of Christ, where the ethic of beating "swords into plowshares" did not apply to the state, so is democracy and capitalism that justification of Christians to violence.

The non-violent way of Christ can be reality only if we can remove Christian ethics from under the eyes of the liberty-protecting state. When we support the "just war" theory and condone violence we comply with the very patterns of domination and violence displaced by the way of Christ.

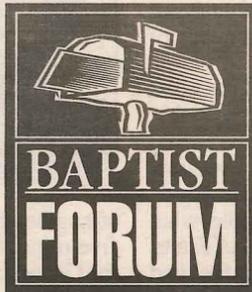
Andy Watts
Louisville

New York & Hillary

To paraphrase some "talking heads" on TV who are promoting Hillary Clinton, "New Yorkers want Hillary Clinton as their Senator because of her interest in children and the issues that sanction their well being."

This is the same Hillary Clinton who just mourned the passing of Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun, who, she eulogized, "had done so much for the pro-abortion movement" since he had authored the high court's renown Roe vs. Wade Decision of 1974. But will she mourn the deaths of millions of babies aborted under the sanctions of the Roe vs. Wade decision since 1974?

This is the same Hillary Clinton who



CHURCH

How does your church address topic of money?

By Doug Strader

One of the most timid subjects in churches is money. Many people seem to think Paul said money is the root of all evil. Others think the subject is a taboo

and should be avoided in the pulpit altogether.

But while these sentiments are paramount, many churches are experiencing a difficult time growing stewards and meeting ministry budget needs. What should leaders do? I don't know of a cure-all answer, but I do have some suggestions that might help solve some problems related to the church and money:

■ The pastor could preach a series of sermons on the teachings of Jesus on money and possessions. Dialogue luncheons after worship could facilitate spiritual growth.

■ Small groups could review books and articles on the subject of money, possessions and sharing one's possessions with the church.

■ Sunday school classes could study a series of lessons related to stewardship and one's possessions. They could explore the LifeWay Christian Resources material, "How Much Is Enough?"

■ The pastor could get people from each age group to share their personal testimonies about how they came to their beliefs and practices related to earning income and giving to the church.

■ People from different age groups could share their practices of money management and their views of debt, making major purchases and how these practices relate to their Christian commitment as stewards.

■ High school-age youth could study what the Bible says about making and spending money and how that relates to being faithful stewards of God's gifts.

■ Children and older preschoolers could have Bible studies that help build a foundation for their stewardship beliefs and practices as teens and then as adults.

This isn't an exhaustive list of ways to address the church and money, but perhaps it will spark an idea that will prove to be valuable to you and your church.

One thing is sure, the problem of dwindling finances will not be solved by refusing to talk about it. Money should not be a taboo in our Baptist churches.

Doug Strader is director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's stewardship department



just recently announced the Clinton administration's plan to include \$4.5 million to bolster protective security measures for abortion clinics. But who's to bolster protective measures for the unborn? Not the Clintons. Last we heard, Bill Clinton was against any legislation that would outlaw partial-birth abortions.

The hypocrisy of some of her promoters on TV is very transparent. They have ridiculed and made degrading jokes about anyone who is not "in the Clinton camp."

It will "take more than a village," if New Yorkers can't find better representation than Hillary Clinton.

Edna Smith
Ashland

Y2K: Yield to the King

There is much talk today about the subject of Y2K. From economic downfall to computer fallout, major companies have spent millions of dollars addressing a problem some say doesn't even exist.

But the Y2K of the world is not the Y2K we find in the Word. The world says stock up on food, buy generators.

The Word says, "Take no thought for your life what you shall eat or drink, nor for the body or what you wear." But some would note Hebrews 11:7, "By faith Noah when warned about things not seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family."

So how are we to define Y2K as a lost and confused world as Christians? The world's equation is that Y stands for "year" and 2K stands for "2000." But I believe the Word's equation is found in Romans 6:13. In this equation, Y stands for "yield" and 2K stands for "to the King."

Defining Y2K is easy. The question is, are we prepared to yield to the King our all before he returns and judgment falls? Remember, God's still got the whole world in his hand.

David Renfroe
Franklin

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

Cooperative giving

The unparalleled opportunities of the 21st century compel us as Kentucky Baptists to pursue creative and innovative ways to support cooperative ministries. To this end, I want to call upon all Kentucky Baptists to join together in pursuing the mission God has for us with godly passion and abandon. Cooperative giving, special missions offerings and missions partnerships add significant resources for reaching people locally and around the world.

As I think about cooperative giving here in Kentucky, I thank God for the many ways he enables us to work together to share his love within our communities and state. Did you realize that by working together we now have 47 Hispanic ministries, 44 college campus ministries and seven Baptist schools in Kentucky?

That's just the beginning, though. Our cooperation also provides funding for mountain missions, for the Baptist Fellowship Center in Louisville, for the care of children through

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children and for the start of churches. Missions education, disaster relief, Super Saturdays, dynamic training conferences and associational ministries also are funded cooperatively.

Cooperation also makes possible assistance to ministers and churches in leadership transition as well as our partnership missions work in New England, Poland and Tanzania. You also can add summer camps, missions communication to Kentucky Baptists, new work emphases and ministries to children to the list, and you still wouldn't exhaust the ways Kentucky Baptists work in our own state.

I also thank God we can cooperate with 9,300 North American and international missionaries and 10,000 seminary students preparing for ministry. Every piece of this puzzle is important as we seek to respond to our Lord's command to go into all the world.

Although it certainly is not the only



Bill Mackey

way Baptists give and serve together, our passion for working together is powerfully demonstrated in one of the greatest partnerships of all time—the Cooperative Program. Born right here in Kentucky, the Cooperative Program's 75th anniversary will be celebrated next year.

I believe Kentucky Baptists want to sacrificially support missions and ministries that have integrity and that make a real difference in the world. All KBC institutions and agencies comply with complete financial audits, which are reviewed by their boards and by the KBC Executive Board's business and finance committee's audit group. On behalf of all KBC, national and international ministries, I thank God for the resources provided by Kentucky Baptists for local and world evangelism and missions.

The world is looking for a supernatural demonstration of love and service that transforms lives and society. Working together locally, nationally and worldwide, Kentucky Baptists are demonstrating what God can do through his people.

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

Ideas offered to help a smart aleck child be more respectful

Q. What can I do to help my 14-year-old son behave at school? He has been disrespectful to his teachers and refused to stop interrupting their teaching with wise remarks and jokes. They have sent him to the office, but he doesn't change. At home he has a lot of freedom, but he is respectful and responsible. He is bright and does well on the exams.

The easy alternatives are to have conferences with the teachers, let him take the consequences of increased discipline at school and tell him you expect better from your son. You probably already have tried those things.

So consider why he does this. Will he tell you what it feels like in those classes? Is he bored because the material is too easy, too hard or poorly presented? Is he having trouble paying attention to most things? Perhaps he needs to be tested for attention deficit disorder. Does he have a girlfriend in the class whom he's striving to impress? Is he showing off for the guys in the class? Is he upset or angry with particular teachers?

After you evaluate his situation, then confront the root problem. If you are unable to talk this out with him, consider a family counselor who specializes with teenagers. Also, impress upon him the importance of basic respect. We might not always want to behave, but we can act responsibly because of respect for others and for ourselves.—*Wade Rowatt*



Q. My heart breaks when the single people in our church feel shut out from the rest of the congregation. Help!

Sometimes a married person in the "married world" has no concept of what it's like to be in the minority. When announcements are made that everyone is either in a couple or should be, it does damage to a significant part of the body of Christ.

We must reclaim the biblical vision of the church as a body. When single people are discriminated against, the body is not only damaged—it has become self-mutilated.

It also is a blow to the church's effort to reach non-Christians. When a church ignores singles, nearly half the adult population is excluded from the message of salvation.

Here are a few ideas for knocking down the doors of prejudice and helping married people become aware of single adults:

- Ask for 15 minutes of a deacon's meeting. Have three single people from a variety of contexts (never-married, divorced, widowed, single parent) briefly share from their own hearts.

- Have single adults share their testimonies with the congregation.

- Have single adults teach married adult classes occasionally.

- Go to the pastor, ask where there are needs in the church and offer to serve.

- Pray for a vision to "color outside the lines." God wants to match your gifts with the needs of the world. Perhaps the church can be a vehicle to help make your dreams a reality. A church that wants to grow in the 21st century will encourage all members to do service in the areas of their gifts and passions.

The church that was designed for 1959 will not meet the needs of 1999. Single adults can help point the way. —*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.

World will be watching Baptists in Atlanta

By Wayne Ward

Some of us have spent a large part of this past year trying to repair the damage that was done to our worldwide mission by the unfortunate report that went out from our Salt Lake City convention last June. The media trumpeted the news that Southern Baptists had joined other religious groups that subjugate women, by demanding that wives submit "graciously" to their husbands.

That message probably was heard by more people than were reached by all our missionaries around the world. It was the last word oppressed women in most of our mission fields, at home and abroad, needed to hear.

It would help if we honestly could claim that the media, as usual, missed the point. But, for once, the press and television—both Baptist and secular—really did get the point. Leaving out the biblical teaching of "mutual submission to each other out of reverence for Christ" (Ephesians 5:21) was no oversight. When a former missionary tried to include that verse which introduces this passage on the Christian family, the committee and the convention rejected it.

This faithful pastor knew that the wives (and husbands) to whom he had preached the gospel on the mission field needed to hear the whole message in Ephesians 5, not a doctored version. Yes, wives are told to submit to their husbands, but all Christians are commanded to submit to one another. Even more important than our submission to each other is our mutual submission to Christ.

It is a terrible distortion of this biblical teaching to suggest a wife should "graciously submit" herself to a husband who has not already submitted himself to Christ. Also, Paul plainly says the husband

should love his wife as "Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her" (Ephesians 5:25). That is the picture of a Christian marriage, and it is beautiful to behold.

If this had been an unintentional oversight, the committee surely would have hastened to include the omitted verses. They might even have thanked our missionary brother for saving them from a tragic misrepresentation of the biblical teaching.

Instead, they rudely slapped him down.

One of our pastoral patriarchs even thundered: "Why, if we include those verses, it will stand the whole statement on its head." He was exactly right.

Was everybody asleep? Did everyone miss the point? Or did they have another agenda they were going to push through even if they had to exclude the absolutely crucial opening and closing verses? If those verses, as he said, turned the committee's statement "on its head," then obviously their interpretation already had turned the biblical text upside down. In an action that shocked the world, Christian and non-Christian alike, the crucial verses which the committee ignored were loudly voted down by a convention of biblical inerrantists.

Please, fellow Baptists, let us remember that the world we want to reach with the gospel is watching and listening to our "in-house" politics. What we try to do in secret will be shouted from the rooftops. Do we really want to proclaim a distorted message by voting down the biblical texts we don't like? Or should we invite the world to look into our hearts and deeds to see if we are really faithful witnesses to our Lord Jesus Christ?

The world will be watching—and listening—in Atlanta.

Wayne Ward is a retired professor of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville

GUEST EDITORIAL

When did we see you sick or in prison?

By Wyman Copass

"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'" (Matthew 25:37-39)

In the judgment, Jesus will confront the righteous with some hard-hitting questions. Interestingly enough, it is too late for those who are being judged to do anything about either the hungry, the stranger or the sick.

Jesus uses a strong play on questions to confront his followers with a very important subject—ministry in Jesus' name. This is the kind of "reasonable and perfect service" (Romans 12:1) the apostle talks to the church about. He is addressing

the ministry of believers today. It is ministry in Jesus' name.

The key word is "righteous." Jesus is talking about believers. Feeding the hungry, befriending the stranger and ministering to the sick are works Christians should routinely be involved in.

Note one problem. We want very much to be thought of as good Christians who pray, witness and minister, when in reality we do a lot more thinking and dreaming than we actually do ministering.

There's a reason for this. We've failed to discover an important teaching of Christ. We spend too much time working for Christ, working in our own strength, rather than allowing Christ to work in us. Much of our work is in the flesh and not in the Spirit. It is difficult to serve when we are trying to do it in the flesh. There is no joy in it.

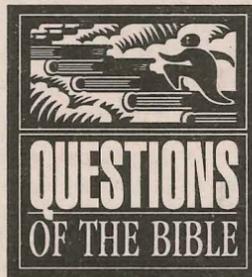
One lady had surgery for cancer. She told me with tears in her eyes, "Everyone has been so good to me during this time. I'm going to start giving a cup of cold water to others." She meant she was going to start ministering to the sick. She never really did. Why? It was because of self-control. She needed to be Spirit-controlled. It is not easy to give up control of self. It takes place when the abiding presence of Christ takes up residence in our lives.

Christ continues to ask the same questions. He is not interested in what you would like to be known for doing. He wants to know what the righteous are doing right now.

What are you doing in Jesus' name? Judge yourself. Don't wait until later. "How do I do that?" you may ask. No one can speak for you, but you might put it alongside the contemporary song, "I've Just Seen Jesus!" Have you seen him lately? Was it while you were ministering to the sick?

Hopefully, the answer to that question is a resounding, "Yes."

Wyman Copass is an evangelist in Owensboro



MINISTRY

WMU meeting highlights ministries & missionaries

WMU executive board

ELIZABETHTOWN—Peggy Hicks was re-elected president of Kentucky WMU during last week's annual meeting.

In addition to Hicks, of Louisville, Garnett Hutchinson of Dry Ridge was re-elected recording secretary. Pat Howard of Bowling Green was elected vice president for the 1999-2000 year.

Other WMU executive board members elected are:

■ **Central region:** Bonnie Cecil, Bardstown; Sheila Rose, Lawrenceburg; Leigh Anne Alexander, Louisville.

■ **North central region:** Susan Stinnett, Frankfort; Tyanna White, Lexington; Velma Clifton, Hebron.

■ **Northeastern region:** Margie Wilson, Wheelwright; Andrea Cable, Campton; Sara Ann Billups, Cattleburg.

■ **South central region:** Joan Wheat, Russell Springs; Geneva Faw, Waynesburg; Irma Woodrow, Burgin.

■ **Southeastern region:** Estella Brashear, Viper; Janrose Dewees, Corbin; Wanda Whited, London.

■ **Southern region:** Sharon Gilliland, Russellville; Etta Butcher, Franklin; Oleta Money, Upton.

■ **Southwestern region:** Carlann Harris, LaCenter; Debbie Bell, Murray; Gloria Hatzakorjian, Hopkinsville.

■ **Western region:** Linda Jones, Nebo; Sharon Westerfield, Owensboro; Joyce Paris, Sturgis.

Continued from page 1

to minister in such areas as North Korea, China and elsewhere where Christians never would have dreamed of being able to take the gospel, Pumpelli added.

"It's fantastic. It's wonderful the open doors that Jesus keeps presenting to us," he said.

But that access has added a sense of urgency to the task of missions because no one can predict how long some of the doors will be open, he added.

Emily and Keely Brandon, the twin daughters of missionaries Cathy and David Brandon, thanked WMU for their financial and prayer support, both while they were with their parents and now that they attend Georgetown College.

"It's great to know there's so many people who love us even though they don't really know us," Keely Brandon said.

WMU continues to work through its special emphasis, "Project HELP: Violence," an effort to get Christians involved in ministries and projects to reduce violence and abuse in their



DOUBLE TAKE Emily and Keely Brandon, twin daughters of missionaries David and Cathy Brandon, thank WMU for their support while abroad and now while they attend Georgetown College.

communities.

"WMU desires to pave the way to peace," said Brina Stephens, coordinator for the emphasis.

Lora Lee Smith, a Southern Baptist missionary in Cleveland, shared

her testimony, which includes being abused as a child, being a single mother and a series of personal and professional challenges and setbacks.

"We were never promised that life would be fair, only that God would be there, and that's enough," Smith said.

She challenged people to get out of their comfort zones, noting that after she became a Christian she became angry that she had not heard about Jesus until she was 28 years old.

Often, she said, younger Christians claim they are too unskilled to do missions work; older Christians say they're too old; and middle-aged Christians claim they're too busy.

"Who's left to do kingdom work?" she asked. "If you're not willing to go now, then when?"

Next year's annual meeting will be April 14-15 at First Baptist Church of Bowling Green.



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If you love

Love is something you do. If you love your family, you act like it. If you love your friends, you demonstrate it. If you love God, you show it.

Christian financial stewardship boils down to loving God and others and showing it.

Although it is true one's love for God cannot be measured or evaluated just by one's financial contributions through one's church and church-related organizations, it is also true one cannot love God without some evidence of that love in the stewardship of giving.

If you go to a sports event, spend \$25 to \$100 on each ticket plus the cost of transportation, meals and refreshments while there, and perhaps even the cost of overnight lodging, and then come home and put \$10 to \$20 in the offering plate at church, you have said a great deal about your love for God.

If you go out to eat, see a movie, catch a snack on the way home and then give \$5 to \$10 to your church, there's something wrong with your love for God.

If you have money to get your hair styled, to go hunting or fishing, to play golf or tennis and to do anything else you desire but

you have little or no money for God, the way you love God is evident.

If you tip a waiter or waitress 15 to 16 percent and are content to give God much less, then you are more concerned about what the waiter or waitress thinks than what God thinks.

Our Lord said, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:21)

Our pattern of giving clearly evidences our real love for God. Therefore, since love is something you do, let me encourage you to love God and do something about it in the way you give through your church and church-related organizations.

Laurie Valentine and I are available to assist you in discovering a pattern of planned giving that will clearly reflect your love for God, your family and one or more of your favorite Baptist causes, including your church. Our toll-free number is (888) 254-5701.

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

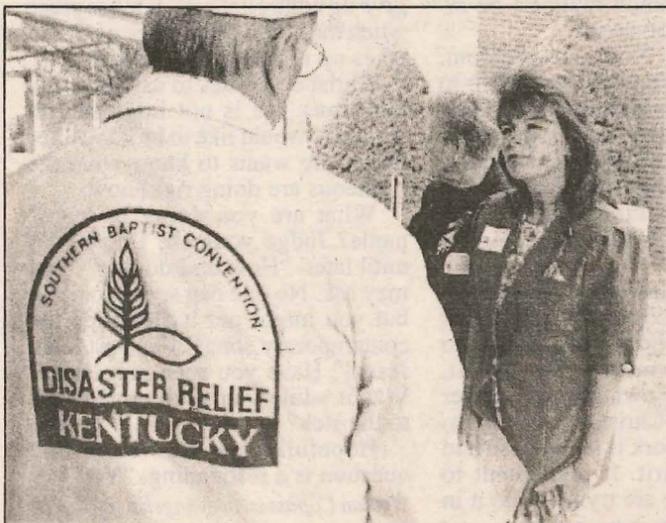


WMU ANNUAL MEETING About 1,000 women and girls attended the April 16-17 meeting in Elizabethtown. ■ **Above:** Beth Perkins, missionary in residence at Georgetown, talks about Christian Ministry Corps, a project to link Georgetown, Campbellsville University and Cumberland College students for mission projects.

■ **Top left:** Young girls who attended the Girls in Action program. ■ **Middle left:** Missionary Larry Pumpelli.

■ **Middle right:** Julie Losch of Cynthiana, Ky., (left) talks with Kim Davis, camp specialist for Kentucky WMU, at a prayer walk booth.

■ **Middle right:** Kentucky Disaster Relief volunteer Jerry Butcher, of Franklin, gives Cheryl Hicks (right) and Pearl Wilson a tour of the organization's mobile emergency cooking unit. ■ **Bottom right:** Women watch a film about migrant missions. (Photos by Billy Suratt & David Winfrey)



MISSIONS

Church Seeks Pastor

Lexington Avenue Baptist Church in Danville, Ky., is seeking candidates for the position of pastor. The successful candidate for this position will be the senior member of the ministerial staff of the church, and in this capacity has the following responsibilities:

- ◆ Planning and conducting worship services and observing ordinations;
- ◆ Leading the church in an effective program of witnessing and in a caring, sensitive and inclusive ministry in the church and community;
- ◆ Working with deacons, church officers and committees as they fulfill their designated responsibilities;
- ◆ Facilitating the church's relationship with state and denominational organizations, both within the Baptist denomination and with other denominations;
- ◆ Leading the planning, execution and evaluation of the total church program, including serving as the chief administrator of the paid church staff.

A competitive compensation package will be based on the successful candidate's training and experience.

Lexington Avenue Baptist Church, established in 1927, is a moderate congregation of approximately 600 resident members, affiliated with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and the Southern Baptist Convention. Lexington Avenue Baptist Church is located in the Bluegrass Region of Kentucky, named by Time magazine as one of the "ten best small towns in America."

Those wishing to make nominations or to apply for the position should contact the search committee by letter. Each candidate should submit the following materials: (1) A letter describing his or her approach to and qualifications for ministry; (2) A current resumé, including references; and, (3) A videotape of a Sunday service that he or she conducted.

All contacts should be addressed to: Mrs. Barbara Beck, secretary, Pastor Search Committee, Lexington Avenue Baptist Church, 339 West Lexington Ave., Danville, KY 40422.

All communications and materials will be held in the strictest confidence. Candidates will be kept informed of the search's progress.

Baptists may be asked to help Kosovo refugees move to U.S.

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP)—If the United States begins accepting refugees from war-torn Kosovo, Southern Baptists likely will be among those asked to help, the North American Mission Board's immigration ministries specialist said.

"At this point, there has been no discussion to resettle Kosovo refugees in the United States," said Richard Robinson of NAMB's ministry evangelism team. "But this discussion will likely take place very soon."

Robinson said he anticipates refugees will request asylum in the United States and asks that Southern Baptists begin praying about their involvement in resettling these families.

"The United States government does not finance the resettlement of refugees," Robinson said. "Charitable organizations and churches bear the responsibility."

Thus far, more than 600,000 people have fled the Kosovo region of Yugoslavia, seeking refuge in Albania, Macedonia, Montenegro and Bosnia-Herzegovina. The United States has committed to building refugee barracks in Albania and may airlift up to 20,000 refugees to Guantanamo Bay Naval Base in Cuba, Robinson said.

Robinson said concerned Southern Baptists can respond in at least three ways:

- Pray for an end to the hostilities in Kosovo.
- Provide financial help. Contributions can be sent to the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, designated for Kosovo relief, at IMB, Office of Finance, Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230, Attention: Kosovo Relief.
- Pray about serving as a sponsor for refugees if Kosovo refugees are resettled in the United States.

"Refugee sponsorship is an exciting way to be on mission with God among future Americans," Robinson said.

For information about refugee resettlement ministry opportunities, contact NAMB's office of immigration ministries at (770) 410-6343.

Spring break in Charleston

By Robert Dunston

Two years ago, Amy Hart, a Cumberland pre-med student and the daughter of Tony Hart and Rebecca Jones of Clinton, Tenn., went to Charleston, S.C., to help transform an older building into a mission dental clinic.

The experience was so meaningful to her that she suggested Cumberland College consider going for a spring break mission trip. So this year our campus minister Dean Whitaker, Hart and 24 other Cumberland students headed for Charleston in March.

The students who ministered in Charleston were Stephen Ambrose, Brooke Andrew, Mac Brown, Sherry Clark, Andy Cooper, Nadia Ghoughi, Kris Gilliam, Lori Grigsby, Matt Joyce, Carrie Keener, Emily Kress, Sonny Lethcoe, Jeremy Lynch, Stephanie Mahler, Jessica Margrave, Travis Masters, Matt McKee, Roni Beth Minix, Nathan Riner, Julie Ross, Aric Schadler, Jamey Short, Jessica Strimple and Jennifer Van Camp along with Hart. Everyone had a wonderful time.

Whitaker and the students stayed at the Dorchester-Waylin Baptist Church fellowship hall and gym with mission teams from Middle Georgia College, Western Kentucky Univer-

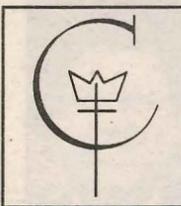
sity and Cumberland University of Tennessee.

Each morning the students scraped and painted the homes of two elderly Charleston residents. One of the residents, who had experienced great hardship in life, was an inspiration to the students particularly through her constant giving. When the students arrived she had fresh, homemade cookies ready for them. One day she greeted them with fried chicken. Having gone to Charleston to give of themselves, the students had to learn how to be gracious receivers.

In the early afternoons, they divided into three teams. One team worked in multihousing ministry with children and brought back a desire to engage in that type of ministry here in Williamsburg. A second team worked in a neighborhood in sports ministry, teaching basketball skills while also proclaiming their Christian faith. Children who had been difficult to work with all week hated to see the caring team members leave. The third team worked in the marketplace providing coffee for the vendors and engaging in creative ministry activities.

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

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



Truth remains

It seems that society is finally figuring out what we believers have known for some time—church works.

Prominent sociologists and psychologists are now confirming that church attendance makes a significant difference for people striving to turn their lives around.

Desmond Runyon of the North Carolina Chapel Hill School of Medicine studied 667 children considered to be at risk of behavioral problems stemming from abuse, neglect or other crises. The study "determined that regular church attendance was the leading indicator of who would avoid trouble." I like that adjective.

John Dilulio, a former street kid from South Philadelphia who is a professor at Princeton and senior fellow at the Brookings Institute, has written dozens of articles on faith-based social solutions. From a scientific perspective, Dilulio suggests research seems to point to religion as the most powerful factor to help youth escape poverty.

Societies and cultures have tried so many things to meet the needs of hurting people. I find it refreshing that society is catching on to the reality that faith in God makes a

difference.

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's mission to provide care and hope to hurting children and families through Christ-centered ministries has stood the test of time, science, cultural change and secular scrutiny. When all else crumbles like castles in the sand, truth remains.

Kentucky's Christian heritage is so rich and vibrant I fear that sometimes we forget the thousands of children in our commonwealth who have never heard the good news of Jesus Christ and don't know the joy that comes from being part of a family of believers.

As child abuse awareness is promoted this month, I hope you'll take stock. When you see a blue ribbon, remember those thousands of children who are hungry, battered or just plain ignored. KBHC is approaching its 130th birthday. Obviously something's working; we think it's God. Join us.

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

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Bill Smithwick

NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Court refuses to hear father's case about abortion.** The U.S. Supreme Court has refused to hear an appeal from an Illinois man who claimed a hospital should have obtained his permission before performing an abortion on a woman he impregnated. In refusing to hear the case, the high court left standing lower-court rulings that rejected the claim of the man. The 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a ruling by a district court that granting the claim would "impede" the woman's constitutional right to have an abortion as interpreted by the Supreme Court.

■ **\$10 million religion project launched.** The Pew Charitable Trusts have launched a \$10 million initiative to study the expanding and changing role of religion in American public life. The "Religious Communities and the American Public Square" initiative was started with grants of \$1.25 million each being awarded to researchers to study the civic contributions of mainline Protestant, African-American and Jewish congregations in the United States. The projects will include public forums as well as research.

■ **Bible society opens first regional office.** The best-selling book of all time got an extra boost in Houston this month with the opening of the American Bible Society's first regional office. Headquartered in New York since its founding in 1816, the society hopes that adding a stronger grassroots approach will permit more local volunteer involvement and help develop customized programs to distribute Bibles. Society representatives are working with Houston pastoral groups seeking custom Bibles for special observances and with literacy and youth outreach programs. The society's products include video and CD-ROM versions of Scripture stories to capture youngsters' attention. The society distributed 64 million Bibles, New Testaments, Scripture portions and other items in the United States last year.

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REAL PRACTICAL

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Oneida 1899-1999, a look back

Oneida, like many other ministries of faith, has had its share of difficult and challenging times. The following is from a letter written in October 1930 from the founder of our school, James Anderson Burns, who had been traveling across America, trying to raise sufficient funds to keep his struggling mountain school going.

"I am writing this to you because I know from long experience how much you need encouragement under this distracting crisis. I want you to pass this on to the rest of the workers. It may make the burden a little lighter.

"It is more difficult to get money now than ever before in the history of our work. The great common people, who have played so large a part in the support of Oneida, have no money to give. They are barely able to keep up their own living expenses, and many of them are gradually falling behind. Many of them were completely crushed in the collapse of the stock market a year ago. This forces us to appeal to the people of large means.

"To this end we are here in the heart of New York working constantly and meeting with much encouragement every day. We find the people who are at the head of things here very kind and sympathetic.

"The editors of the great newspapers and periodicals are most gracious in their attitude. The schools, clubs and churches are opening their doors to our appeal.

"With the timely ads which are being so nobly given here, it looks like we shall succeed in this campaign beyond doubt if we can only keep up living expenses a few weeks longer. Several times since we came here we have hardly been able to buy a meal ticket. But, as always in the past, some-

thing occurs to keep us from getting too hungry to work and too discouraged to pray.

"We spend the daylight hours on the subway and the elevator hastening from place to place, conferring with people of vast means and influence. At night we write letters. We are too busy to become discouraged, and almost all the people who give us kindly advice tell us to go right on.

"You see, Charley, it would never do to abandon our work now. We have so much of our lives invested in it that we cannot afford to give it up. We must stand by it in this time of trial because it has saved so many of our boys and girls in the past and will save so many more in the future.

"Then we must not forget that our Heavenly Father knows all our needs and will supply them. He knows about our deficit and our grocery bills. We must trust him.

"I am trusting you—all the force there—to keep up the high standard of our work in the classrooms and on the campus. I never doubt the workers there for one little hour. I know that all of you will work and watch and pray with me till the mists have cleared away.

"Just remember that while we are laboring almost beyond endurance in the heart of this great metropolis, Oneida with its past, present and future is in our hearts. Then, just think how glad and grateful we shall be when the Master crowns our labors with success and Oneida has sufficient endowment to protect her from crises like this in the future."

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

'93 student body president is Ohio pastor

While Chris Tannreuther was at Clear Creek in 1989-93, his involvement was in music and youth work. He preached few sermons, but knew God had called him to be a pastor.

That calling now finds fulfillment at Amanda Baptist Church in Middletown, Ohio. Since Chris went to Amanda in January 1996, the average Sunday morning attendance has grown from 20 to 83. Offerings increased from \$500 a week to \$1,083. After 14 years as a mission, the congregation constituted as a church in August 1998.

A significant turning point came in 1996. Strained relations with the sponsoring University Baptist Church culminated in an outward step of reconciliation. At a celebration for the 30-year ministry of the University church's pastor, 28 Amanda members stood to express thanksgiving and ask forgiveness for things said and done.

"From that time on we had revival," Chris said. "Two weeks later, seven people were saved."

With a grant from the Miami Valley Association, Amanda Baptist became debt free in July 1998. With classes meeting in the foyer, the congregation now considers

building plans.

The church's ministry is expanded through the pastor's diverse involvement in community life. As a volunteer chaplain for the Germantown Police Department, Chris rides with officers and does counseling, weddings and funerals. He works a regular shift with other pastors as a volunteer chaplain at the Middletown Hospital.

This year he serves as president of the ministerial association and moderator of the association. The problem of domestic violence motivated Chris to prepare materials "to give people an informed choice." He has made presentations at the association executive board, two churches and the city schools' GED program.

With this "full plate" of ministry, Chris and his wife, Donna, also are in the final weeks of the adoption process for 8-year-old Jimmy, whom they received in November.

"I'm thankful for all God is doing and just want to be faithful, willing and obedient in following my Lord," Chris said.

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

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

MEDIA

Soul Tsunami: Sink or Swim in New Millennium Culture. Leonard Sweet, 1999. Zondervan Publishing Co. 448 Pages. \$19.99. ♦♦♦♦♦ (out of five)

Leonard Sweet is dean of the theological school, as well as vice president and professor of postmodern Christianity at Drew University. He also is an ardent observer of postmodern culture and a fervent advocate of embracing the challenges and possibilities facing the church in the new millennium.

Of his latest book, Sweet writes, "This book is best read, not in one 448-page gout, but in snatches and snippets, where you can give the ironies time to play and work themselves out." I would both agree and disagree with his admonition. One should read this book through from cover to cover. The scope is breathtaking, the writing stimulating and the insights thought-provoking. Having completed the initial read through, the true benefit will come by going back through and re-reading those parts that got stuck in your mind or imagination.

Sweet states "SoulTsunami" was written to advocate the exciting new advantages for the body of Christ in postmodern culture." He sets out to do this by leading the reader through a tour of the hopes and fears of the new millennium. His basic assumption is that a tidal wave of change has swept through our culture and that we are living through a time of transition whose end is not in sight. The key question for the church is, "Will we

be swept away by the change, or will we transform the direction of the change?"

This book is chock full of theory, social-observation, practical suggestions, ways to help church leaders look at the world as it is and even a little preaching. I found some of the on-line resources he references particularly helpful and stimulating. The book also has its own web site: www.soulsunami.com. *Jim Holladay*

What Are They Saying About the Formation of Israel? John McDermott. Paulist Press, 1998. 113 pages. \$10.95. ♦♦♦♦♦

This book is a part of a series from Paulist Press that seeks to make the current views of scholars available to laypeople.

The "they" in the title of each of the 25 books in this series are scholars from the particular area. Since Paulist is a Catholic press, some of the titles deal with specifically Catholic Church issues. Most, however, concern ethical and biblical issues that Protestants will find interesting. For example, each of the four Gospels and Paul get treated in the series.

McDermott's book addresses an issue that initially seems to be a non-issue. But a careful reading of the biblical accounts of the settlement of Canaan shows that the seemingly continuous narrative from the Pentateuch through Joshua contains numerous contradictions if viewed as a literal history. Therefore, McDermott

shows how most scholars believe the "history" has a theological purpose rather than a literal purpose.

These questions are then asked: What is the history of the formation of Israel? How much of that history is in the Bible? How much of it can be reconstructed from other textual and archaeological sources? McDermott walks the reader through the three classic models proposed for the formation of Israel and then shows how recent advancements in archaeology and biblical studies have birthed new models.

McDermott's book is valuable directly because of the well-presented material on his subject matter. The book also is valuable because it seeks to bridge the gap between scholars and the person in the pew. The other books in this series I have used are equally valuable, and I commend the series to ministers, laypeople and especially church libraries as reference material. *Wayne Hager*

When True Simplicity is Gained: Finding Spiritual Clarity in a Complex World. Martin Marty and Micah Marty. 1998, William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. 112 pages. \$16.00. ♦♦♦♦♦

Simplicity. Everybody wants it. A lot of folks are ready to tell you how to get it. Few of us have it.

Church historian and observer of American religion Martin Marty observes that most of the "advertised paths to simplicity can be quite com-

plex." In his review of the vast array of literature on the simplified or simple life, he finds that most of them have something in common: "they [give] complicated advice on how to live simply."

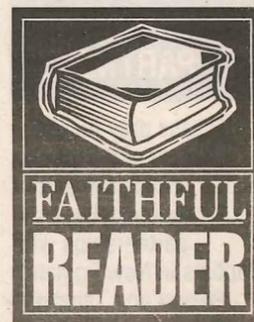
With the words of the Shaker hymn "Simple Gifts" in mind, Martin and Micah Marty invite us into a different type of book of simplicity. Rather than something to be won, they see simplicity as a gift. With that in mind, the key question is not, "What must I do to live simply?"

Rather it is, "How should we receive it and the other gifts that come with it?"

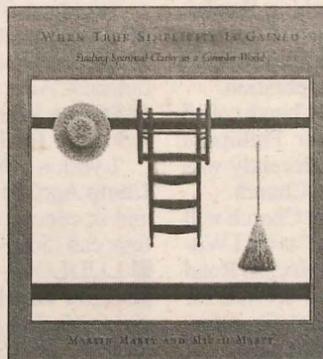
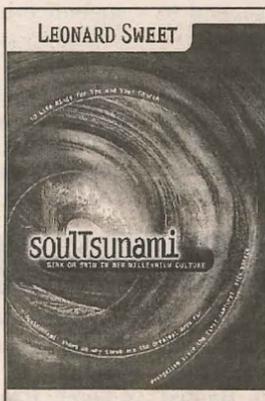
Instead of another self-help book with 30 steps to simplicity, this book invites the reader to experience the gift of simplicity. The book consists of 47 pairings of photographs and text, which are designed for daily reflection. The text is arranged around 47 words that relate to the simple life. Each day contains a prayer, a reflection and Scripture.

The accompanying photographs are simple, black-and-white scenes from Kentucky at Shaker Village at Pleasant Hill. Their stark, spare beauty testifies to the symmetry of the gift of simplicity. Photographer Micah Marty notes that the photographer's work is especially suited to representing the theme of the book: "Photography, unlike most other arts, involves at its essence the stripping away of the superfluous."

"When True Simplicity is Gained" is a treat for the stressed soul. *Jim Holladay*



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



Daley Observations



A book of 75 columns by Western Recorder Editor Emeritus C.R. Daley. The perfect gift for pastors or anyone interested in Kentucky Baptists.

Send check for \$15 to Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253

Gospel Hall of Fame inducting six

NASHVILLE (RNS)—The Gospel Music Association will induct six gospel music groups and two individuals into its Hall of Fame this week.

The groups being inducted are the Cathedral Quartet, the Fairfield Four, Florida Boys, Gaither Trio, Mighty Clouds of Joy and Second Chapter of Acts. The two individual inductees are George Younce, the bassist with the Cathedral Quartet, and evangelist Billy Graham, who is being honored for "providing a platform" for Christian artists, the GMA said.

The inductions will occur April 21 at the conclusion of the association's annual Gospel Music Week, an industry conference in Nashville.

"Each of this year's Hall of Fame inductees have played a remarkable role in inspiring and entertaining millions through their special ministries," said Frank Breeden, GMA president. "Be it through the melody of song or through the spoken word of a spiritual address, our inductees reflect the diversity and worldwide appeal of the gospel music industry."

Younce has recorded more than 100 gospel albums, including the award-winning "Symphony of Praise" with the London Philharmonic Orchestra.

The Cathedral Quartet began in 1964, just as Southern gospel music was becoming popular, and is known for the hits "Step Into the Water," "The Master Builder" and "Boundless Love."

The Florida Boys, which began in 1947 as the Gospel Melody Quartet, is another Southern gospel group. Its hits include "When He Was on the Cross" and "Lead Me to the Altar."

The Fairfield Four, which became nationally known in 1942, is known for the hits "My God Called Me This Morning" and "Dig a Little Deeper."

The Gaither Trio introduced an upbeat style of gospel music in 1964 that has transcended to today's contemporary Christian style. The group's hits include "Because He Lives" and "The King is Coming."

The Mighty Clouds of Joy, a soulful group that began in 1955, was the first gospel group to perform on "Soul Train." Its hits include "Everybody Ought to Praise His Name" and "I Made a Step."

Second Chapter of Acts began in the early 1970s, adding intricate three-part harmony to the contemporary inspirational music scene. The group, which disbanded in 1988, is known most for its 1974 hit "Easter Song."

Book series helps schools teach religion's impact on America

ARLINGTON, Va. (RNS)—Teachers now have a new resource to aid classroom discussions about religion.

"Religion in American Life" is a 17-volume series from Oxford University Press that examines the role of religion in American history.

"This isn't an easy process—to encourage schools to do better in terms of dealing with religious issues," said Charles Haynes, senior scholar of religious freedom programs at the First Amendment Center in Arlington, Va.

Haynes, who spoke this month at the center about the series, and the center are producing teacher's guides to accompany the series.

Jon Butler, a professor of American studies and religion at Yale University and one of the general editors, said that in the past, the main materials on religion available to students were abbreviated encyclopedic entries and denominational publications.

The new books, written by historians, focus on religion's interaction with American culture more than theology, Butler said.

The volumes, which still are in the process of being published, are divided into three categories—topical, chronological and by group.

Among the volumes already released are "Church and State in America," "Mormons in America," "Jews in America" and "African-American Religion."

Others will include volumes on women, Native Americans, Orthodox Christians and religion in colonial times, the 19th century and the 20th century.

PEOPLE

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ **Urgent need:** Kentucky volunteers to lead vacation Bible schools in Poland July 6-19 and July 27-Aug. 8. Call the Kentucky Baptist Convention's partnership office for information: (502) 244-6462 or (888) 254-5724.

■ Give thanks for a generous financial gift which will make possible the completion of a hospital in Mbeya, Tanzania.

■ Larry and Joy Lindsey, volunteer coordinators for the Poland-Kentucky Baptist partnership.

■ Susan Carson, student minister in language school in Warsaw, Poland, asks, "As I work with students, ask God to equip and empower me with the Holy Spirit in my call and service."

■ Give thanks for a successful Alpha Conference recently in Boston. The conference trained church leaders to introduce non-churchgoers to the Christian faith.

■ The Baptist Convention of New England church music workshop April 23-24 in Randolph, Vt.

■ An Old Testament professor and librarian needed for the International Baptist Theological Seminary of East Africa.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Shirley Wooton

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Lowell Avenue Church called **Dave Walters** as pastor. Walters served as interim pastor and previously was pastor at Mt. Gilboa. Walters and his wife are employed by Campbellsville University.

■ **FAIRDALE**—Fairdale First Church rededicated its newly renovated education building April 18. The church also honored **Ethel Caple** and **Mildred Robertson** for each teaching Sunday school 49 years. Dove award winners **Terry and Barbi Franklin** presented a concert as part of the celebration.

■ **FINLEY**—Mt. Gilboa Church called **Damian Phillips** as pastor. Phillips, a native of Boyle County, recently was ordained by Mt. Freeman Church.

■ **FISHERVILLE**—First Church will host "Sunday Night Alive" as the I Witness Team presents "The Roman Road Tour," a special worship service for grades 6-12, April 25, 7 p.m. For information, call (502) 267-5606.

■ **HENDERSON**—Zion Church will

host **Two Tenors** in a concert of classic and contemporary Christian music April 26, 6:30 p.m. For information, call (502) 826-4952.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Cloverleaf Church will host revival services April 25-28, 7 p.m. **Steve Hale**, of Woodstock, Ga., will be the evangelist. For information, call (502) 367-0218. **Geoffrey Lacey** is pastor.

Highland Church called **Nina Maples** as associate pastor for family life. Maples previously served as minister of outreach. Also, the church will host tenor **Stanley Warren** in concert April 25, 4:30 p.m. **Joe Phelps** is pastor.

Lyndon Church will host **Steve Camp** April 25 as speaker at 10:45 a.m. and in concert at 6 p.m. For information, call (502) 425-7150.

■ **LUDLOW**—First church called **Jennifer Hawkins** as minister of music/youth. **Jim Daniels** is pastor.

■ **MT. WASHINGTON**—First Church will host the Kentucky Baptist

Former Ky. pastor & wife appointed missionaries

RICHMOND, Va.—Former Kentucky pastor **Thurman Penick** and his wife, **Carolyn**, were appointed recently by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board to be missionaries in Mexico.

Penick, former pastor of Bell City Baptist Church and New Mount Carmel Baptist Church near Murray, will work as a special projects coordinator. Mrs. Penick will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Since 1997 they have served in Mexico through the IMB's International Service Corps program—a four- to 24-month assignment to meet priority needs.

Born in Tennessee, Penick is the son of Leon and Julia Penick of Murray. His father is a retired Southern Baptist minister.

While growing up he also lived in Cuba, Ky. He earned a bachelor of theology and master of arts degrees from Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College in Mayfield.

The Penicks, who have three adult children and three grandchildren, are at the IMB's training center in Rockville, Va., in April for a seven-week orientation before leaving for Mexico.

They were among 26 people appointed by the IMB March 23 during a service in Lansing, Mich.



The Penicks

Singing Women in concert, April 25, 6 p.m. For information, call (502) 538-7361. Also, **Penny Franklin** recently celebrated 15 years as staff secretary.

■ **OWENSBORO**—**T.A. Prickett** re-

tired as pastor of Seven Hills Church. Prickett served as pastor for 34 years.

■ **VERSAILLES**—**David Curie** was called as youth minister at Glen's Creek Church. **Mickey Hyder** is pastor.

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Bivocational minister of music, able to lead hymns/choruses in worship, and conduct adult and children's choirs. Some music training/experience desired. Send resumé to: Music Minister Search Committee, Moreland First Baptist Church, 501 Old Danville Pike, Hustonville, KY 40437.

FOR RENT: 2-bedroom, 2-bath condo available for vacation rental, Sanibel Island, Fla. Large pool, tennis courts, bikes, canoe, kayak, screened porch, lovely secluded beach. Weekly rates May through mid-December: \$630. Call Pat Owen, (502) 895-8752 (home), or (502) 897-5079 (office).

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

SEEKING: Administrative assistant. Excellent phone, computer and organizational skills, plus strong work ethic required. Experience with financial planning, investments, insurance helpful. Send resumé: Dan Hardt, Kentucky Financial Group, 6100 Dutchman's Lane, 8th floor, Louisville, KY 40205; e-mail: Danhard@aol.com.

SEEKING: Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church, Bremen, Ky., is accepting resumé for a full-time minister of youth and education. Music background desirable. Send resumé and references to: Personnel Committee, c/o Joe Mitchell, 501 N 4th St., Central City, KY 42330.

SEEKING: Second Baptist Church, Greenville, Ky., is prayerfully seeking a senior pastor. Second Baptist is known as a progressive, growth-oriented, mid-size church with an average Sunday school attendance of 195, and 270 in morning worship. The church is aligned with the Southern Baptist Convention. Please send resumé to: Second Baptist Church, P.O. Box 390, Greenville, KY 42345, Attn: Pastor Search Committee.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Moriarty, SBC, "The People Church," is accepting applications for the position of senior pastor. Please forward resumé to: P.O. Box 33, Moriarty, NM 87035, Attn: Pastor Search Team. Phone (505) 832- ; fax (505) 832-0213.

NEEDED: House to rent for minister and wife (mature, no children) in the Somerset area. (502) 358-4323.

WANTED: A good, used audio tape duplicator. Must have capacity to reproduce at least three tapes at one time. Contact: Diane Cook, Hickory Grove Baptist Church, (606) 356-3162.

SEEKING: Bivocational minister of youth. Godly and mature minister needed to reach out to youth in growing community through discipleship, fellowship, missions and training. Some training/experience desired. Send resumé to: Youth Minister Search Committee, Moreland First Baptist Church, 501 Old Danville Pike, Hustonville, KY 40437.

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

SEEKING: Full-time pastor. Please send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, Cloverport Baptist Church, 314 West Main St., Cloverport, KY 40111.

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

SEEKING: Full-time associate pastor whose primary ministry emphasis will be working with students, and who also will be an assistant to the pastor. Send resumé and/or recommendations to: Rick Bowden, senior pastor, Ormsby Heights Baptist Church, 2120 Lower Hunters Trace, Louisville, KY 40216.

SEEKING: Bardstown Junction Baptist Church, located 20 miles south of Louisville, is seeking a full-time pastor. We are a Southern Baptist church with much interest in mission work, our youth program and various community outreach activities. Send resumé to: Woodie David, search committee chairman, 611 Kirsch Way, Fairdale, KY 40118.

FOR SALE: Your choice of 25 GMC coach-type buses. These are one-owner, low-mileage buses. All are equipped with Detroit Diesel engines, restrooms, reclining seats, large luggage capacities, ready to go anywhere. Priced at \$25,000 - \$55,000, depending on year model and optional equipment. MCI and Eagle buses also available. For photos or information, call (606) 278-7224.

SEEKING: Forks of Elkhorn Baptist Church of Midway, Ky., is seeking a part-time youth minister. Send resumé to above at 495 Duckers Road, Midway, KY 40347.

SEEKING: Ovesen Heights Baptist Church is seeking full-time pastor. 175 resident members, 80 to 100 in Sunday school, 100 plus morning worship. Send resumé to: P.O. Box 253, Hodgenville, KY 42748.

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 resumé 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: Rapidly growing Baptist church is seeking a full-time music minister who is experienced in leading choirs and congregational singing, and a full-time youth minister. Send resumé to: Mt. Elmira Baptist Church, 3644 Mt. Elmira Road, Shepherdsville, KY 40165, Attn: Pastor.

COMPUTERS

Preaching expert: Internet stories might be too good to be true

By Mark Wingfield
Texas Baptist Standard

JACKSON, Tenn. (ABP)—The almost-limitless supply of inspirational stories available on the Internet can be both a blessing and a curse to preachers, according to the editor of a national journal on preaching.

Preachers are always on the lookout for good stories to illustrate their sermons, noted Michael Duduit, editor of Preaching magazine. And the Internet is full of stories.

But taking stories off Web sites or from e-mails can be risky, Duduit warned.

"One of the big issues to me is that some of the stories without much credibility that in the past have just been picked out of church bulletins and been repeated now have a faster and wider circulation," he said.

Stories that are too good to be true can be spread "at the speed of cyberspace," whereas in the past such stories were passed from one church bulletin to another, Duduit said.

"There is a danger for preachers in just picking up a good story and quoting it as fact simply because they got an e-mail," he said. "It's possible to be embarrassed by passing around information that turns out has no basis in fact."

Duduit advises preachers to avoid using a story in a sermon unless they know its original source.

A good dose of common sense is also in order, he said. "I would use my God-given judgment and discernment to say, 'Does this sound reasonable, authentic?' If it (sounds) too good to be true, it probably is."

The rapid and uncharted transmission of stories over the Internet also opens new possibilities for preachers to unwittingly become guilty of plagiarism, Duduit noted.

A case of just such a problem was spotted recently by Bob Guffey, associate pastor of First Baptist Church of Shreveport, La. "I received an e-mail with a copy of a prayer attributed to the Oklahoma City bombing memorial service," he said. "I happened to recognize it as a prayer from Marian Wright Edelman's 'Guide My Feet.'"

While the prayer might have been used at the memorial service, it was written by Edelman and published in a copyrighted book. Such a technicality might not cause a preacher to break a law in simply preaching a sermon, Duduit explained. But it could be more significant if the sermon is published or broadcast in any form, he added.

It takes guts to say 'no' to Jesus junk e-mail

By Mark Wingfield
Texas Baptist Standard

DALLAS (ABP)—Did you get the electronic-mail message warning about the "It Takes Guts to Say 'Jesus'" computer virus?

How about the Easter Cookies recipe?

Maybe you received the story about the scientist who claims NASA has proof for the Old Testament account of the Earth standing still?

If you're a Christian and have e-mail, you've likely received at least one of these messages or others like them.

They're just a sampling of religious-themed "spam"—unsolicited "junk" e-mails forwarded to multiple recipients—flying across the Internet each day.

Add to that the relative who broadcasts an unsolicited e-mail devotional every few days, or the friend with an affinity for weepy stories about children, angels or pets.

Some people thrive on sending and receiving such inspirational messages, but others regard them as an intrusion.

"How do you tell someone you don't want this scriptural information coming to your desk?" asked Sam Hull, a computer-systems manager for a Texas ministry and a graduate of Dallas Theological Seminary. "Then they'll think, 'What kind of pagan are you?'"

Because of his job, Hull gets a lot of unsolicited e-mail. But because he's a serious-minded retired Marine, he has no qualms about asking his well-intentioned correspondents to drop him from their mailing lists.

Roberta Echols, an elementary school teacher in Chattanooga, Tenn., shares Hull's weariness for unsolicited e-mail.

"We get tons of religious, weepy, devotional type e-mails," she said. "Often, I don't have the brain left at the end of the day, when we check our e-mails, to process the tenderness of the article."

Hull advised those who traffic in

religious e-mail to recognize that "one person's inspiration is another person's wince."

"But when people forward it in e-mail, they can't see you wince," he added.

Much religious-themed e-mail is harmless, even if the recipient finds it annoying.

For example, the week before Easter, Christians throughout the nation were sending and receiving a recipe for "Easter Cookies" that prescribed a litany of ingredients and Scripture readings to be mixed together as an object lesson for children.

Every ingredient had some relevance to the passion of Christ, concluding with placing the unbaked cookies in the dark oven overnight, symbolizing Jesus' death and the tomb.

Other religious-themed e-mails aren't so benign, though, said experts in communications, theology and computer systems.

For example, there are the numerous warnings about computer "viruses"—hidden programs that are downloaded unwittingly from the Internet or another source and then wreak havoc on the recipient computer.

While real viruses do exist, there are also virus hoaxes all over the Internet.

Virus hoaxes share some common characteristics experienced e-mailers can learn to detect, said Charles Hymes, a senior engineer with Hewlett-Packard Co. in Cupertino, Calif.

Hymes calls these messages "junk-mail viruses" because they act like real computer viruses, "only they use people as the method of infecting new systems."

A recent virus hoax took on an explicitly religious theme. An e-mail urgently warning how to avoid a purported virus traveled from person to person in rapid succession across the Internet.

"If you receive an e-mail titled 'It Takes Guts to Say 'Jesus,'" DO NOT open it," the warning began. "It will erase everything on your hard drive.

Forward this letter to as many people as you can."

According to Stiller Research, which makes the anti-virus program Integrity Master, this is one of the most common virus hoaxes currently floating around the Internet.

"There is absolutely no way for an e-mail message to infect your computer with a virus just by reading it," Hymes explains on his Web site devoted to debunking hoaxes (www.nonprofit.net/hoax/).

The only real danger lies in launching an executable program received via e-mail or from any source, he says. "For heaven's sake, don't run a program from a source you don't have very good reason to trust."

Christians also are susceptible to other kinds of e-mail hoaxes, Hymes and others said.

Usually, these involve alarming or heart-touching stories with an air of authenticity but lack any identification of their source or traceable documentation, he said.

"Some of the more interesting hoaxes are related to 'The government is going to end freedom of religion' paranoia," Hymes said. "Like most paranoia hoaxes, they rely on the fact that most people don't check the facts of these messages."

One example is e-mail that begins with a reference to real legislation but then adds false statements, which make the situation appear dire.

One such case referred to the "Freedom from Religious Persecution Act" passed last year by Congress. The bill was praised by evangelical Christians for putting United States pressure on nations that persecute individuals for their religious beliefs.

But the e-mail falsely reported that part of this measure requires "all pastors and priests must be licensed by the government" and that "standards for religious practices must be acceptable to the United Nations."

Further, it warned, "Those who say their religion is superior to any other will be punished for hate crimes." None of those provisions is in the real law.

How to spot an e-mail hoax

CUPERTINO, Calif. (ABP)—Charles Hymes, an engineer with Hewlett-Packard Co. and an authority on Internet hoaxes, offers these tips for spotting an e-mail hoax on his Web site (www.nonprofit.net/hoax/):

■ If you get a message that asks you to send it to lots of other people, or perhaps everyone in your address book, don't send it unless you know personally that the message is true. "The more urgent it sounds, the more skeptical you should be."

■ If you really want to forward a message, check with the originator. "This is the best way to tell a hoax or prank. Just reply to the first sender and ask them if it is true. If they can't tell you, then don't send it."

For more information on e-mail hoaxes, visit the "Urban Legends" Web site at www.miningco.com.

Computers & Internet make it easier to spread 'wacky' Christian rumors

DALLAS (ABP)—The spreading of false, paranoia-induced messages isn't new in Christian circles, but the Internet has made it faster and easier than ever before.

"Before Madalyn Murray O'Hair disappeared, editors of religious newspapers received the 'O'Hair's going to fill-in-the-blank' rumor every few months," said Marv Knox, editor of the Baptist Standard weekly newspaper in Texas.

Every so often, editors of religious publications would have to write a story, Knox said, debunking such rumors as the one that claimed O'Hair planned to petition the government to remove "In God We Trust" from the nation's currency.

"For three decades, well-meaning Christians wasted more time and alarmed more nice folks, all in the name of freedom," he said.

"The wacky rumors haven't changed all that much," Knox said. "But the pace at

which they circulate has zoomed."

Formerly, such rumors were passed from photocopier to photocopier and took weeks to travel across a state, Knox said. Now such false information can be sent "in a nanosecond."

The Internet has changed the ways people determine whether information they receive is credible, said Amanda Sturgill, a lecturer in journalism at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, and a researcher in new media.

"People may take information from a less-reliable source but think it's more reliable because it is forwarded by someone they know," she said.

More important than the credibility of the sender is knowing the original source of the information, Sturgill said.

Sam Hull, a computer-systems manager for a Texas ministry and a graduate of Dallas Theological Seminary, said Christians by their

nature might be particularly susceptible to passing along bogus information without considering the original source.

"The natural good intentions of believers makes them more likely to forward things than others in the secular world," he said. "Believers have a trusting nature, and we're just more susceptible. We don't necessarily have the skepticism that would be healthy."

Hull said he worries that Christians damage their witness when they become channels of far-fetched misinformation via e-mail messages. "It has reduced our credibility a great deal," he said.

Despite the dangers of hoaxes, Hull said there is a good side to Internet's influence on Christian ministry.

E-mail, he said, is an ideal way to keep in touch with missionaries and get timely prayer requests.

"The trick," he said, "is trying to focus on the things that are substantial."

Partner Churches Needed!

Throughout their existence, Baptist churches have established a reputation for responding to meet the needs of the world by becoming partners with other churches and organizations and, therefore; combining their resources for the collective benefit of others. The need for partners in meeting the needs of global missions is perhaps greater today than ever before!

PARTNERSHIP 2000 provides Kentuckians with both an opportunity and a challenge to respond to the call for partners in global missions. Its opportunity focuses on a call to unity and dedication by churches and individuals who seek a stronger Christian witness to the world, a morally vibrant society for our children and grandchildren, and a future filled with hope and promise. Its challenge comes as PARTNERSHIP 2000 inspires us to a mature discipleship, giving ourselves sacrificially to institutions who are preparing individuals to address the physical and spiritual needs of the world.

We urge you to join us in a commitment to this challenge by becoming partners with Campbellsville University, Cumberland College and Georgetown College in this effort through assuring the future of Christian Higher Education in Kentucky. Each of our 2,374 Kentucky Baptist Churches, regardless of its size, or circumstance, can become a Partner Church by contributing to PARTNERSHIP 2000. Each church contribution is an investment that ensures future leaders the opportunity to receive the Christian education offered by Campbellsville, Cumberland and Georgetown.

Church-related colleges need college-related churches!

The missions of the Kentucky Baptist churches and these three colleges are interdependent. The success of each will depend on the success of the other. All are essential in responding to the global mission needs of the future by developing leaders in our communities and our churches, today.

Kentucky Baptist churches may join PARTNERSHIP 2000 in this effort as a Partner Church by giving prayerful consideration to making a contribution equal to ½ tithe per year for three years of the church's 1996 undesignated receipts. For each \$5,000 gift, a church will receive one \$1,000 scholarship certificate for a student from that church to attend either Campbellsville, Cumberland or Georgetown once that student has met the admissions requirements of the chosen school.

Perhaps the greatest risk in this endeavor is that not enough people will care enough—about quality, about learning, and most specifically, about Christian Higher Education. There is no way to know whether enough people believe that Christian Higher Education can make a significant difference in the world, and thereby enable it to do so through their financial contributions. But surely this is a risk worth taking.

**The needs are great –
and so are the opportunities**



P.O. Box 436389
Louisville, KY 40253-6389
(502) 491-2012

