

PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

# WESTERN RECORDER

April 27, 1999  
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## FOR THE RECORD

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## Helping hands



**FOOD BAGS** Less than a week after seven Southern Baptist missionaries arrived in Albania to minister to refugees fleeing Yugoslavia's Kosovo province, workers had rented a warehouse in Tirana and begun assembling food packets. Missionary Bill Steele estimates each \$10 worth of supplies can feed a family of four for about a week. As of April 16, Southern Baptist churches and individuals had given \$95,746.79 toward relief efforts among Kosovo refugees. ■ **Below:** Bekim Beka, a Kosovar pastor in Tirana, Albania, carries an elderly refugee to a guard station. (BP photos by Grace Robinette)

## Baptist aid begins in Albania as needs grow

By Mike Creswell  
SBC International Mission Board

TIRANA, Albania (BP)—Southern Baptists have sent an eight-member task force into Albania to help cope with the flood of Kosovar refugees that swells literally by the hour.

Seven missionaries arrived in Tirana from Bosnia on April 9 to set up a food distribution program, led by Bill Steele, a missionary based in Sarajevo.

They are working with a \$100,000 appropriation from Southern Baptists' International Mission Board. The seven joined missionary Lee Bradley, who already was serving in Tirana as a church planter.

On site for less than a week, the workers already have rented a warehouse in central Tirana and begun assembling packets of provisions that include flour, beans, sugar, salt, cooking oil, yeast, soap, onions and potatoes. Steele estimated that each \$10 worth of supplies can feed a family of four for about a week.

Workers hoped to distribute 1,000 food boxes a week, enough to feed 4,000 people, and perhaps be able to double that number. They also are distributing blankets against the cold Albanian nights, mattresses, diapers, cleaning materials, coats and clothes.

The team has been able to buy food locally, which not only al-



lowed them to fill orders immediately but also helped the sagging Albanian economy, Steele said. A wide range of evangelical Christians are working together to bring physical and spiritual relief to Muslim Kosovars and Albanians.

For now, Southern Baptist workers are targeting Albanian families who have taken thousands of the Kosovo refugees—who also are ethnic Albanians—into their homes. One Baptist family has 22 people crowded into a two-story house on the outskirts of Tirana.

Baptists also sent four tons of supplies to Kukes, the key town in northern Albania where thousands of refugees pour in daily. Plans

were being made to set up a distribution center in the coastal city of Lezhe, where a large congregation hopes to feed up to 1,000 refugees a week.

Most international aid programs, like the Red Cross, have directed relief efforts at the ever-growing refugee camps around Albania's borders. Baptist workers said the needs of refugees living in private homes largely would go unmet.

Many of the refugees have escaped with little more than the clothes on their backs and will have no homes to go back to in the Kosovo area of Yugoslavia because

□ See Baptist aid ..., page 9

## Kentuckians key for new Baptist effort in Appalachia

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

SCOTT DEPOT, W. Va.—Appalachia has occupied a place in the nation's consciousness since the federal government launched the "War on Poverty" in the 1960s.

But leaders of the recently organized Appalachian Mountain Ministry say they hope to inject a spiritual component into such practical outreaches as food and clothing distribution, housing rehabilitation, job training and health clinics.

The effort also plans to strengthen Southern Baptist churches in the region by supplying volunteers for construction, personnel needs, evangelistic outreaches and starting congregations.

"Here's a way we can do missions in our own back yard," said Tommy Goode, director of the ministry network, which will be formally launched Aug. 20-21 in Roanoke, Va.

"This will create more of an opportunity; more sharing of information will go on," Goode continued. "It's not better. It's just a different way."

Formed by 10 state Baptist conventions, including Kentucky, AMM also will involve the North American Mission Board and Woman's Missionary Union. It will encompass more than 4,200 Baptist churches with about 931,000 members and touch an estimated population of 15.7 million.

The effort is modeled after the Mississippi River Ministry, which Goode coordinated for seven years while working with the Arkansas Baptist Convention.

One of Appalachian Mountain Ministry's primary goals is publicizing missions projects in the nine-state region. A project list is being developed by state missions directors and regional directors of missions. The information will be published in a booklet that will be distributed throughout the convention next January.

The advantage of a multi-state effort is that it encourages more networking among churches and broadening their vision, he said.

Maintaining a regional perspective is vital, said Goode, who works out of the West Virginia Baptist Convention office. He said provincialism thwarts the unique strength offered by a regional partnership.

Goode saw the benefit of this kind of emphasis in the Mississippi River area. He said one regional director of missions in Missouri told him that, because of the seven-state collective, his association didn't stop at the county line.

"It brought more involvement

□ See Kentuckians key ..., page 6

# BAPTISTS

## Southern Seminary unveils \$70 million campus plan

About half of the construction projects are new buildings and half are renovation of existing buildings and infrastructure, some of which date to the 1920s.

By Bob Allen  
Associated Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE (ABP)—Trustees of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary approved during their spring meeting a master plan for development of the Louisville campus, anticipating building projects totaling \$70 million during the next decade.

About half of the construction projects are new buildings and half are renovation of existing buildings and infrastructure, some of which date to the 1920s, seminary President Al Mohler told trustees meeting on the seminary campus April 19-20.

Mohler said aging buildings, projected enrollment growth, changing demographics and growth in library holdings were factors behind the master plan, developed over four years.

Projects in the master plan include a 1,500-seat performing-arts facility, expansion of the library and a 21,000-square-foot center for the seminary's Billy Graham School of Evangelism, Missions and Church Growth. Another

er calls for a new building connecting Rice and Judson residence halls and converting the entire facility into conference housing, creating 67 guest rooms. The plan also calls for renovation of Alumni Chapel, more office space and new student housing.

Mohler said about half of the projects—principally those for student and conference housing—would be funded through partnerships with private investors. About 13 percent will come from the seminary's own money and 37 percent must be raised from donors, Mohler said.

Mohler said in an interview there is a trend in higher education toward privatization of student housing through limited partnerships. The seminary already has one such arrangement, with Village Manor Apartments, which the seminary formerly owned but entered into a limited partnership making it a minority partner.

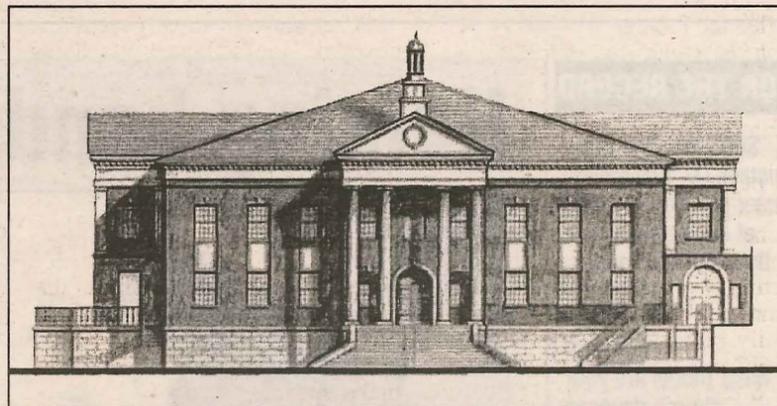
The seminary currently has about \$70 million in endowment funds, Mohler said. He announced a goal of increasing that total to \$250 million through major gifts and investment by the seminary's 150th anniversary in 2009.

The master plan projects construction through 2009, coinciding with the seminary's sesquicentennial. Each project must be approved individually by trustees, who OK'd one piece—a \$1.9 million renovation of Carver Hall—during their two-day meeting.

The Carver project will provide additional classroom and dormitory space for the James P. Boyce College of the Bible, an undergraduate arm of the seminary launched last year. The college, which offers two-year and four-year degree programs, had 125 students on campus this year and is expected to double next year, said Doug Walker, the seminary's vice president for institutional development.

The seminary's on-campus enrollment this spring is 1,372, Mohler told trustees, about 8 percent above last year. Total enrollment, including off-campus centers, stands at 1,828, he said.

In other business, trustees ap-



**BILLY GRAHAM CENTER** Southern Seminary's master development plan includes construction of a 21,000-square-foot center for the school's Billy Graham School of Evangelism, Missions and Church Growth (artist's rendering above). Other projects include a 1,500-seat performing-arts facility, expansion of the library and renovation to Alumni Chapel.

proved an \$18.5 million budget for next year, which includes a 4 percent wage increase for employees and raises student fees and rent 5 percent.

Trustees also elected three faculty members who previously taught under presidential appointment. They are Herschael York, associate professor of Christian preaching; Charles Tackett, associate professor of psychology and Christian counseling; and Tom Bolton, professor of church music and worship.

In addition to the elections, Mohler announced presidential appointment of 10 new teachers, including two in the Boyce College of the Bible. The new appointees are Don Cox, assistant professor of evangelism and church growth; William Cutrer, associate professor of Christian ministry; Stephen Drake, assistant professor of Christian ministry and supervised ministry experience; Peter Gentry, associate professor of Old Testament interpretation; Kenneth Magnuson, assistant professor of Christian ethics; Ronald Nash, professor of Christian ethics and apologetics; Brad Waggoner, associate professor of Christian education and leadership; and Stephen Wellum, assistant professor of Christian theology.

The new Boyce professors are David Adams, professor of youth ministry and dean of students, and

Chad Brand, associate professor of Christian theology. Adams is former president of Lexington Baptist College, which recently voted to close its doors, saying the opening of the Boyce school in nearby Louisville made the Bible college unnecessary. Mohler described Brand, who comes to Boyce from North Greenville College in South Carolina, as "a rising star among young Baptist theologians."

Mohler also unveiled a restructuring of the School of Theology, the seminary's largest academic division, which he said is structured basically the same as it was in the 19th century. The shift will eliminate "cumbersome committee structures," Mohler said, and replace them with administrative units supervised by faculty.

Mohler said the new structure, developed by administration and endorsed by the faculty, is "intended to liberate" professors from "cumbersome committee structures."

"Faculty will spend less time in faculty meetings and more time doing what faculty is supposed to do," Mohler told trustees.

The new structure will be divided into four units: Scripture and Interpretation, Theology and Tradition, Worldview and Culture, and Ministry and Proclamation.

Trustees also approved two new study centers. The Center for the Study of the Southern Baptist Convention will be the first academic-research unit specifically dedicated to the study of America's largest non-Catholic faith group, Mohler said. The center will unite scholars, denominational leaders, strategists, demographers and other researchers to study trends and other denominational patterns, he said.

The second center approved by trustees, the National Center for Youth Ministry, will be the first research unit in the James P. Boyce College of the Bible. Citing declining youth baptisms and "the multiple challenges facing today's youth," Mohler said the center would "assume a leadership position in the training of effective and faithful youth ministers and evangelists."

New officers of the trustee board elected April 20 were Roger Spradling of Bakersfield, Calif., chairman; Stephen Cortis of Greenville, S.C., vice chairman; Otis Ingram of Macon, Ga., second vice chairman; and Byron Boyer of Louisville, secretary.

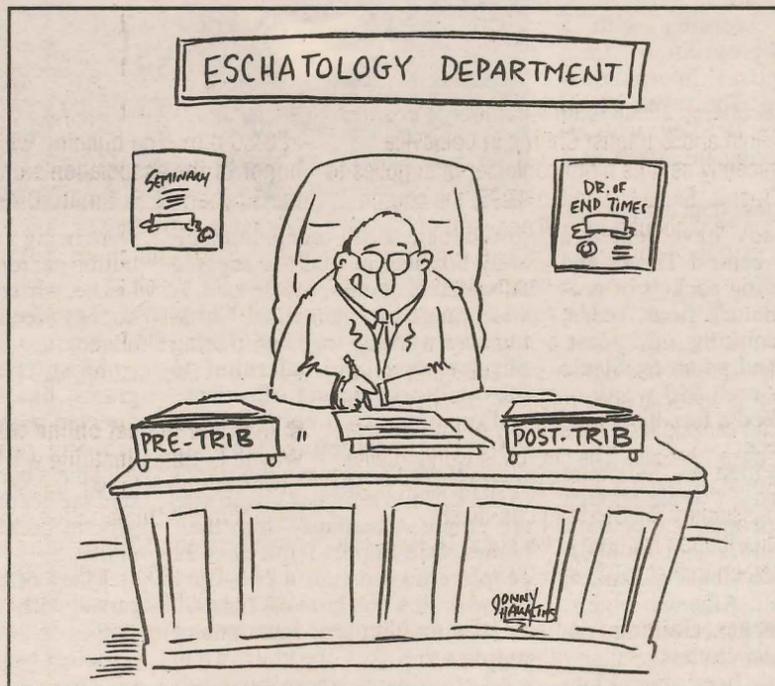
### BAPTIST BITS

■ **Southern's Roy Honeycutt recuperating.** Nearly three weeks after open-heart surgery, former Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President Roy Honeycutt left a Louisville hospital April 19 and is recuperating at home. Honeycutt credited prayer for his turnaround. "It was the prayers of our friends in Louisville and beyond that made the difference. I am convinced of that," Honeycutt told seminary staff. "I would like to express my deep appreciation to the seminary family for their prayers." He also asked for continued prayers during the next several weeks of rehabilitation. Letters to the Honeycutts may be sent to 2911 Lilac Way, Louisville, Ky., 40206.

■ **First Baptist of Dallas pastor chosen?** First Baptist Church of Dallas, without a pastor for 18 months, apparently has offered the job to the president of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, a pastor in High Point, N.C. Media outlets in the Dallas/Fort Worth area reported that Mac Brunson, senior pastor of Green Street Baptist Church in High Point, N.C., has been offered the Dallas post but has not yet given the church an answer.

■ **Southeastern OKs degrees, tuition hike.** Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary's board of trustees voted during their April 12-13 meeting to approve two new degree programs and increase the school's budget for the 1999-2000 fiscal year by nearly \$2 million. The new degrees are the master of divinity with North American church planting and the master of theological studies. Trustees also approved a 20 percent increase in tuition for seminary students and 33 percent for college students. President Paige Patterson described the tuition hike as regrettable but necessary for the school to meet its budgetary needs mandated by the institution's growth in recent years.

■ **New England pioneer Lawrence dies.** Edith Lawrence, former director of church extension ministries for the Baptist General Association of New England, died April 8 after a long bout with Alzheimer's Disease. She was 81. Lawrence joined the Baptist General Association of New England as the second of only two staff members at a time when fewer than 20 Southern Baptist churches existed in New England. During 14 years as a Southern Baptist leader in New England she encouraged people and developed resources for dozens of church planters who were busy starting new congregations across the six-state region. Today, more than 200 churches and missions affiliate with the BCNE.



## Community is key to rebuilding, child advocates say

By Dannah Prather  
Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children

LOUISVILLE—Tapping into community resources could turn the tide in the battle against the abuse and neglect of children, according to child advocates at Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.

"Ninety percent of my job is connecting families to resources in their communities," said Lee Eubank, a family reunification specialist for KBHC in Somerset.

"Some parents are real reluctant to admit that they are stressed," he said. Stress, a lack of supervision and inconsistent discipline can lead to serious problems that require the removal of a child from the home. It is Eubank's job to help bring families back together.

One recent example was Marion, a single mom, who couldn't control her teenage daughter. Memories of molestation by a neighbor kept the daughter frightened near paranoia. She frequently ran away and talked about suicide. Marion is nearly blind and also has a son at home. "I was getting calls from school every day," she said. "It was hard not knowing what she was going to do next."

## Henderson to be nominated as next editor for Western Recorder

LOUISVILLE—Western Recorder trustees voted unanimously during their April 20 meeting to nominate the current editor of the Arkansas Baptist newsmagazine as the next editor for the Western Recorder.

Trennis Henderson will be nominated May 2 to the Kentucky Baptist Convention's executive board during its meeting at Cedarvale Baptist Assembly.



Henderson has been editor for the Arkansas publication since 1992. He previously was managing editor for the Word & Way, the Baptist newspaper for Missouri.

Henderson is a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, with a master's degree in religious education. During his study there, he was a staff writer and advertising representative for the Western Recorder.

During his career he has won several awards from Baptist Public Relations Association for writing, photography and publication design.

If elected, Henderson would follow Mark Wingfield as editor. Wingfield resigned in October to become managing editor for the Baptist Standard newspaper in Texas.

Henderson and his wife, Pam, have two daughters, Emily, 12, and Audrey, 9.

After stays in three psychiatric hospitals, the daughter was doing better, but the whole family needed help if they were to be reunited. Through KBHC's family reunification program, Eubank devoted a few times each week for about four months, counseling the family and helping them through the transition.

Developing communication skills and practicing consistent discipline were priorities for the family. It was also decided that a change in school might help the daughter make a positive change as a student.

"I saw a big difference after (KBHC) started seeing her," Marion said. "She's more outgoing; she's a different person."

Schools, counselors, churches and many other community resources connect in getting individuals and families back on their feet, according to Eubank and Bill Smithwick, president of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.

"The new incentive from the Kentucky Cabinet for Families and Children and private agencies such as KBHC is an innovative way to extend community-based services," Smithwick said.

The plan, known as the Quality

Care Initiative, "allows the money to follow the child through a continuum of services that includes an aftercare plan involving the child's parents or other family member," Smithwick said.

The aftercare plan might include a program such as KBHC's youth support center in London. The center is open in the afternoon and evening daily, with longer Saturday hours. "This program is our effort to serve at-risk kids who might have had a brush with the law or other court involvement who need supervision as part of their treatment," Smithwick said. The Center is also a preventive program for youth whose environment or behavior creates the potential for removal from their families.

The Center offers counseling, tutoring, work projects and other activities to help youth reach educational and employment goals and to stay with their families. "This program is the first of its kind in Kentucky, and we hope to develop other sites around the state," Smithwick said.

"We want to offer early intervention services closer to children's homes to keep them from coming

### Did you know?

■ At least three children die as a result of abuse and neglect in the United States each day.

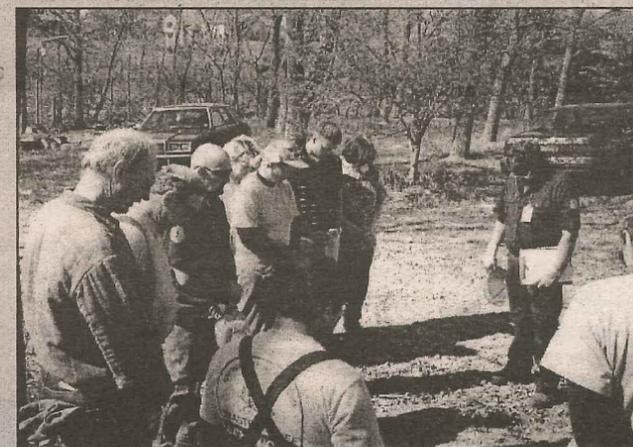
■ Only one state has more substantiated cases of child neglect than Kentucky.

■ Out of every 1,000 children in Kentucky, 17 are confirmed victims of physical abuse, sexual abuse or neglect.

■ Kentucky ranks seventh in the nation in the number of child maltreatment-related fatalities, yet is near the bottom in the number of children in out-of-home care.

Source: Child Welfare League of America

into residential care in the first place," Smithwick said. "But if residential care is needed, those same services can assist in reuniting children with their families and their communities. The goal is to shorten the length of stay in residential facilities. It is less expensive and much better for the child."



**DISASTER RELIEF** Volunteers from Kentucky helped with clean up work in Ohio recently after tornadoes swept through an area in northeast suburban Cincinnati. ■ Left: Workers remove a tree from a home. ■ Above: Volunteers gather for prayer before work crews are sent out.

### Bluegrass Burgoo

■ **Church sends ninth shipment to Bosnia.** Ninth and O Baptist Church in Louisville recently sent its ninth container of supplies to Bosnia. Since November 1995, the church has sent about \$2.5 million worth of medicine, computers, clothing and other supplies, according to pastor Rodney Burnette. The last shipment is expected to reach Sarajevo by the end of May, he said. The church has now begun collecting money for food for Kosovo refugees, he added. "We can provide food for a family of four for five bucks," he said. The church is working with Southern Baptist International Mission Board missionary Bill Steele to coordinate distribution for both collections. To help, call the church at (502) 493-3939.

■ **Association to dedicate new building.** Warren Association of Baptists will

dedicate its new building Tuesday, May 4 at 6:30 p.m. The building will be named in honor of the association's only treasurer for 50 years, L.E. Smith. Director of Missions Jerry Oakley said the building will be used for church starting and Christian outreach as well as for training and recreation events. The new building is at 6448 Scottsville Road, near Bowling Green. For more information, call (502) 842-4160.

■ **Institute to host online workshop.** The Wayne E. Oates Institute will host an online workshop on "Human Values in the New Millennium." Registration costs \$50 for members and \$79 for non-members. For more information, call (502) 459-2370 or visit the institute's web site, [www.oates.org](http://www.oates.org).



**BAUER ANNOUNCES** Kentucky native Gary Bauer announced April 20 that he will run for the Republican nomination for president of the United States. Bauer, a Georgetown College graduate, met before his announcement at Newport Baptist Church. Bauer is expected to focus on moral concerns, including abortion, during his run. (RNS/Reuters photo)

## WESTERN RECORDER

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

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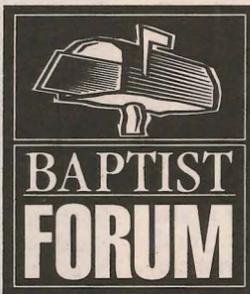
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## Puzzled by statement

I am puzzled why the group Evangelical and Catholics Together document to repent.

I have read a summary of it and find it to state clearly the beliefs that we have in common and the ones that are very different. It also encourages two of the major branches to work together on social issues. There is nothing to indicate one is changing into the other.

Why is there the anger? Are we not brothers and sisters together?



*Anna Abell  
Lake Forest, Calif.*

## Estes tribute

On March 14, 1999, the Christian community and Kentucky Baptists lost a great giant of the faith, Joseph R. Estes. He was pastor of churches in Kentucky for many years and was very involved in denominational work on all fronts, from the local association, at the state level, Home Mission Board and on the foreign mission field. There aren't many men or women who have a resume like that. He served the Southern Baptist Convention faithfully for many years. Estes was reared in the home of a preacher, E.F. Estes, longtime pastor of West Broadway Baptist Church.

I was Estes' associate for six years and learned something new from him almost every day. He taught me about Southern Baptist

history, about life, and how to minister to people no matter the situation. As a pastor, his advice to me was to love the people the Lord gives you to minister to.

We at Beechwood Baptist Church are saddened by his loss, but his going was something he looked forward to. It was something he preached and taught about for many years. His faithfulness to the word of God and his love for the church will be remembered for many years to come.

He touched the lives of untold numbers of people during his lifetime. On March 14, that great company of witnesses welcomed him home to the land that is fairer than day. Your presence will be missed by the Beechwood family.

*Robert Blackburn  
Louisville*

## Audit group reports

The audit work group of the Kentucky Baptist Convention executive committee met Jan. 26, 1999, to perform the annual review and evaluation of the financial condition and practices of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's affiliated entities and its executive board as reflected in their 1998 audited financial statements.

The entities include Campbellsville University, Cumberland College, Georgetown College, Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Oneida Baptist Institute, Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, Baptist Healthcare Systems, Woman's

Missionary Union, Western Recorder, Kentucky Baptist Assemblies and the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.

This annual audit review process is one important way Kentucky Baptists can receive an accountability report from the convention and its affiliated entities.

Baptists in Kentucky can be pleased that a procedure exists whereby the convention and its institutions and agencies can give an accounting of the stewardship of the resources entrusted to them. They also can be pleased and encouraged with the sound financial condition and stability of their institutions and agencies and the level of cooperation demonstrated by them.

The work group was complementary of the board and administrative leadership of the convention and each of its affiliated entities.

Kentucky Baptists are encouraged to increase their support of these institutions and agencies prayerfully and financially.

Members of the audit work group were: Eva Combs, Hopkinsville; John Mitchen, Crestwood; William George, Shelbyville; Ray Provow, Arlington; Warren Hale, Corbin; Ralph Rascoe, Owensboro; Chairman Bob Long, Louisville; Bill Messer, Ashland; Gene Siler, Williamsburg; KBC Business Manager Lowell Ashby; and KBC Accounting Services Director Cathi Roy-Sanders. Also present were Sheri Hume and Bridget Anderson, auditors from KPMG Peat Marwick.

The work group's report was made to the business and finance committee on March 26, 1999.

*Robert Long  
Louisville*

## PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

### Principal and pastor

There are many wonderful testimonies of people who were successful in secular careers before they became Christians and were called to preach. Often this was not the first time they had felt the tug of the Holy Spirit on their hearts.

David Herbert Banks had this kind of experience. As a young man David had promised God that if God would allow him to return home from foreign military conflict that he would serve him. But he got to college, and there were questions about science and faith, and he was discouraged

about faith. Instead of remembering his promise, David settled in Jenkens, where he served effectively as a school principal. Later in his career he built a home near his roots five miles west of Whitesburg.

I met David 27 years ago in his living room. The family had attended the church revival service the night before. I shared the gospel with

David and asked if there was any reason he could not pray to receive Christ. He said, "I think that is what I did when I got home last night. Then I shared with my wife, and she prayed to receive Christ. Then we shared with my daughter and son, and each of them prayed to receive Christ." He said the entire family planned to be at church that night to present themselves for baptism.

David and his family became active in church. David served as a deacon, and his wife, Juanita, joined the choir. His daughter, Carolyn, served four years as church pianist until she entered college. I remember the celebration when David and Juanita returned from witness visitation with the report of a couple praying to receive Christ.

Within three years God called David to preach. By this time, he was willing to become pastor of the Premium Mission attended by 25 chil-

dren and a few adults. Due to the initiative of another Baptist layman, Carter Bradshaw, property was secured. Then funds were given by two young Lexington attorneys. Don and Dudley Webb, who grew up in that community, provided materials for a two-story church building. Volunteers provided the labor. David soon retired from teaching and could spend most of his time in ministry.

The church has continued to grow under the godly leadership of David and Juanita Banks. In 1993 Kentucky Baptists recognized David as the Bivocational Preacher of the Year.

The latest convention annual reported 25 baptisms, five by letter and 188 members and strong participation in all church programs of Premium Baptist Church. David Banks was respected as a school principal, and now he is highly regarded as a godly man and minister of the gospel.

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

## FAMILY

### Men & women have different responses to financial issues

By Jeremy White



Y o u might have heard the saying, "If each of you is the same, then one of you is unnecessary."

This might sound like a corporate downsizing slogan, but it applies to husbands and wives. God designed men and women uniquely. Each has different gifts, abilities and perspectives.

From counseling many couples, teaching younger married couples and using my own family experience, I've observed that men and women each have financial strengths.

Now, here is where the fun begins within the marriage context. Those strengths tend to be opposites. The challenge is to maintain the right balance at the right time between these opposing strengths.

Men's financial strengths include:

- Often being willing to take risks to provide for the future, including investments and business opportunities.

- Being willing to make sacrifices to take those risks. That can include going into debt, working long hours and forgoing current luxuries.

- Being interested in financial planning, financial products and the financial big picture.

Women's financial strengths include:

- Being cautious about taking on significant risk and large debt.

- Being more willing to make sacrifices for family and relationships than for future financial reward.

- Being interested in the detail matters of the family budget and household financial matters. These strengths are my observations, not judgments in superiority or inferiority. Of course, individuals may differ from my general categorization.

I believe that all of the above are financial strengths. If any of these strengths is carried to an extreme, it can become a weakness. Then, our spouse can help check our extremes.

We can benefit from understanding these financial strengths by appreciating, respecting and relying on our spouse's strengths. Besides reducing potential conflict, this can result in better financial decisions for our families.

*Jeremy White is a certified public accountant in Paducah. See his free weekly financial tip on his internet website at [www.consultcpa.com](http://www.consultcpa.com).*

## Clear rules & enforcement can teach kids to be considerate

Our three teenagers are inconsiderate of each other. They wear each other's clothes without permission. They interrupt phone conversations with each other's friends. They even eat all of the snack food without sharing. Of course, this leads to a lot of commotion, fussing and bickering. How can we stop this selfishness?

Reward good behavior and take away privileges and possessions for bad actions. Tell them that you are disgusted with this predicament. Remind them of the golden rule. Ask that they treat each other as they want to be treated. Do not accept this "get them before they get you" attitude.

Set out clear rules for right actions. Ask them to agree that these rules are how they would like to be treated. Include rules such as:

- Ask before you borrow anything.
- Divide the food evenly and then let the other person choose the first portion.
- Give each other a time for sharing the phone.

Let the discipline be related to the offense. For example, anyone who interrupts a phone conversation does not get to use the phone for three days. If you wear someone's clothes, they get to select one of your items to wear the next day.

Finally, catch them being good and offer praise. When they do fuss, give them a reward if they can resolve the conflict without your help. Suggest that they read Matthew 18:15-22 and tell you how it applies.—*Wade Rowatt*

### How can I protect my children from gambling?

Gambling can be every bit as addictive and destructive as drugs or alcohol, and the willingness to wager often begins in childhood.

Research indicates that gambling among children and adolescents continues to increase—a simple reflection of trends in society at large, and an indicator that parents might need to start setting a better example. Our children should be taught the truth about gambling. Here are several ideas that might help:

■ Pay attention to gambling issues and legislation. Baptist state papers, like our *Western Recorder*, do an excellent job of keeping Christians aware of pending legislation.

■ Write your state and local representatives and speak out against gambling whenever possible.

■ Don't gamble personally in any form. Kicking in a quarter, 50 cents or a dollar at the Derby party or to the NCAA office pool will silently, but surely convey the message that gambling is OK.

■ Teach your children the value of working for what they want, and the importance of delayed gratification and self-control.

■ Look for opportunities to talk with your children about the true nature of gambling and the problems it creates. Balance the glitz and glamour of the come-on with stories of lives ruined and promises broken.

■ Know what you believe about gambling. Christians oppose gambling on a biblical basis for many reasons, including the fact that gambling preys off those who can least afford to lose, promotes behavior that is often destructive to individuals and families, and plays to materialistic and hedonistic tendencies which are, at the bottom line, sinful.

—*David Garrard*

*Family Forum* writers are David Garrard, minister to children at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville; James Stillwell, minister to singles at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington; Susan Howell, assistant professor of psychology at Campbellsville University; Wade Rowatt, director of the St. Matthews Pastoral Counseling Center in Louisville; and Al Shackleford, 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](mailto:wesrec@ntr.net).



## What model is your church following?

*Editor's note: The following editorial was written by Western Recorder Editor Emeritus C.R. Daley and was published Jan. 10, 1963. It is among the 75 editorials that comprise the book "Daley Observations."*

By C.R. Daley

A widespread complaint among Baptists today is that our churches are not democratic. The most frequent criticism is that deacons and other church leaders dominate the church and decide what is to be done before the church members even hear about it.

Many Baptists are asking how much authority do deacons have and whether or not all items of business must come through the deacons to the church. The simple answer is that a Baptist church does as it chooses. It even has the choice of using or not using deacons and assigning to them whatever duties it chooses. A Baptist church, however, is always under obligation to follow the New Testament in all its affairs, including those related to deacons.

What does the New Testament say? The answer here is not as simple as we sometimes make it sound. The New Testament describes the actual circumstances of the early churches and how deacons came to be used by these churches in carrying out their Christ-given assignment.

By now conditions and circumstances have changed. For example, what Baptist church today elects deacons to distribute necessities of life to widows on the benevolent rolls as was the case of the first deacons? The value of the New Testament, then, is in the principles found there concerning deacons. But even these principles are not easily found.

It's easier to pattern the church after the world around us than after the New Testament because we spend so much more time looking at the world than we do examining the New Testament. Maybe this has happened to some Baptist churches. We are surrounded by a business world in which established practices are accepted,

and it is very easy to baptize these procedures for church use. This is altogether proper when these business procedures are consistent with New Testament principles.

The violation would seem to come when the church becomes a business operation more than a witnessing community of saints. In such a business operation the deacons become a board of directors and the pastor the company president. Like company directors, the deacons are chosen for the number of shares they own in the business and for their ability to manage the venture efficiently and profitably. "In the black" becomes more important than "in the Spirit," and boasting of statistics replaces humility of service.

In such a situation the rest of the church members feel left out. They get the impression that only the official recommendations of the deacons are considered worthy of consideration by the congregation. They feel that they are not considered wise enough to be trusted, and only those in the know are really qualified to direct policy. To question the official recommendation is to act foolish, if not to become downright undesirable.

This may be overstating the case, for not many churches are dominated by deacons to this extent. And when this is the case, the fault is shared jointly by the other church members and the deacons. But let exaggeration serve as a caution because any church operated mainly as a business organization rather than a fellowship of equals is headed for tragedy.

Should other church committees report to the deacons before bringing recommendations to the church? No, unless they are instructed to do so by the church. The deacons are selected by the church for specific responsibilities. Let the deacons report to the church on the stewardship of these responsibilities.

If we believe a Baptist church is a fellowship of equals, we ought to practice it. Until we do, many church members will be unhappy, others will laugh at us for saying we are democratic when we are not, and the Lord will frown upon us for saying we are New Testament churches when we are not.

GUEST EDITORIAL

## How long, O Lord?

By Louis Humes

*My soul is in anguish. How long, O Lord, how long? (Psalm 6:3)*

Certainly, the Bible is a book for all people of all times since its inception. However, there are passages that are not for all people at all times. That is true of Psalm 6. It is not a Psalm for someone who never has felt the depths of grief or pain too deep for words. It is not a Psalm for small children who have yet to experience the realities of life.

It is, instead, a word of hope for the hurting, of comfort for the lonely, of forgiveness for those in the midst of the guilty consequences of their own sin.

David was a "man after God's own heart," yet he had sinned. Perhaps this Psalm follows his adulterous affair with Bathsheba. However, the details of his sin aren't important. It is his pain and his response to it that are both illuminating and instructive.

He begins by crying out, "Do not

rebuke me in your anger, nor chasten me in your wrath." Notice, David does not shirk from God's judgment. He only asks that God will not discipline him in anger.

Then comes David's plea for mercy. He asks for grace and healing. He confesses his weakness, his sorrow and his pain. There is no effort to justify himself. No effort to excuse himself. Just tears expressing his brokenness before God. Then comes his question, "How long, O Lord, how long?"

Did you notice? Words ultimately failed him. In the very middle of a prayer, a plea for mercy, he simply collapsed. How long would God's judgment last? How long would the pain endure? How long before there was forgiveness, healing and fellowship once again? What an exclamation of need, "O Lord, how long?"

God heard David, and the whole Psalm turns, in verse 8, to confident, victorious assurance.

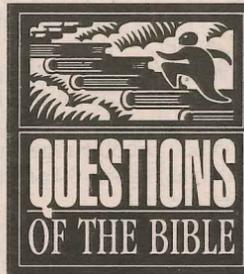
I remember my first semester of college, my first extended time away

from my home and my home church. Though God had already called me into the ministry and I was filled with a desire to grow as a Christian, I still made some poor choices. In addition, I felt haunted by the sins of my youth while in high school. I will never forget that moment when I finally fell to my knees and prayed before God. I reached the point where I could no longer express my pain, and I simply cried until the leather cover of my Bible was soaked. When I finally stood up, I felt the returning of circulation to my legs and of joy and peace to my heart.

It was not the last time I have hurt that deeply. C.H. Spurgeon once called tears "liquid prayers," and I have learned that God pays special attention to that silence and the accompanying tears that come in the midst of pain too deep for words. He is always moved by "a broken and contrite heart" (Psalm 51:17; Isaiah 57:15; 66:2).

Are you hurting? Are you dealing with your own private guilt or shame? Bring your heart to him in all honesty, and he will give you grace and mercy. His head is cool, his heart is warm and his love is always just right.

*Louis Humes is pastor of First Baptist Church of Hodgenville*



# KENTUCKY

## Kentuckians key for new Baptist effort in Appalachia

Continued from page 1

and developed a missions-field mentality," Goode said. "It caused people to respond in ways they might not have responded to a lesser missions context."

"People don't call and say, 'I want to go to (a particular town),' he added. "They say, 'I want to go to Appalachia.'"

"Keeping the local church and association in the forefront of what we're doing is also essential," he added. "They own this and will make Appalachian Mountain Ministry happen or not happen."

Goode will visit Kentucky next week for a presentation at the Kentucky Baptist Convention's executive board meeting. He also will speak at a Mission Service Corps orientation June 4-6 in Mayfield.

Kentucky Baptists are expected to play a vital role in this effort. In a recent, region-wide summit in Bristol, Va., a quarter of the 75 mission leaders who were assembled came from the commonwealth.

Randy Jones, director of missions

for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, is 20-chairman of the ministry's 20-member steering committee. David Aker, director of mountain missions, is the state's other representative.

Seventeen associations covering 47 Eastern Kentucky counties will be part of the ministry. But Jones said he hopes churches across the state will send volunteers throughout Appalachia.

He said he also wants to see those who receive aid going out to help others.

"This is a two-way street," he said. "We don't want to create a spiritual welfare mentality where we're only receiving missions teams."

The ministry will provide a more effective way of matching volunteers with needs, he added, noting that Kentucky regularly receives inquiries from churches around the nation.

Though this is a convention-inspired initiative, Aker said he senses it will promote interdenomi-

### At a glance

The Appalachian Mountain Ministry will encompass 262 counties in nine states. There are 4,258 Southern Baptist churches in the area, which has about 15.7 million residents.

The ministry will officially be launched Aug. 20-21 at a meeting in Roanoke, Va.

Participating state conventions and national agencies include:

- Georgia Baptist Convention.
- Kentucky Baptist Convention.
- Baptist Convention of Maryland-Delaware.

■ Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

■ State Convention of Baptists in Ohio.

■ Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania-South Jersey.

■ Tennessee Baptist Convention.

■ Baptist General Association of Virginia.

■ Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia.

■ West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists.

■ North American Mission Board.

■ Woman's Missionary Union.



national unity and sharing of volunteers.

As for practical needs, Aker said he hopes to see more food and clothing distribution and housing upgrades, saying the latter is a major need in the region.

"An offshoot of this will be a general sense of encouragement that will help the area feel better about itself," Aker said. "There's a feeling of desperation among some who have been debilitated and pressed down. Knowing that someone cares will instill hope."

A missions director in Hazard said the new ministry represents a new direction for the convention that is tapping a groundswell of interest in mountain areas.

Ray Cooper, director of missions for Three Forks Baptist Associations, points to an effort that donated hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of clothing, toys and food to southeastern Kentuckians last Christmas. Collected by two churches in Knoxville, Tenn., the items were distributed through associations, churches and social agencies.

"A lot of this is already going on," he said. "This is an effort to do evangelism through ministry. People need to know God is concerned not only about their spiritual welfare

but their welfare as a human being. We're not doing this as social ministry but as an evangelistic tool," he added.

Carl Boyd, director of missions for Pike Baptist Association, said he wants to see more homes for unwed mothers, literacy training and medical and dental screening developed.

In addition, he hopes more accurate pictures of the region will emerge as these projects unfold.

"I've had calls from people telling me about starving children," he said of past news media reports. "I've never run across a starving child. Some have improper diets, yes, but nobody's starving. I've seen TV reporters pick out something and make it like everyone's that way. But you can find a \$300,000 brick house around the curve from a shack."

Those attending the summit in Bristol told Goode this will be the first time for a grassroots-level effort in the region.

"They've seen a lot of outside intervention, government and denominational efforts," he said. "But this is driven by the local church. It pushes on the local church to develop intentional programs for accessing mission volunteers. We can't bring in outsiders where insiders aren't requesting them."

## Help welcome but not stereotypes, Appalachian Baptists say

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

SCOTT DEPOT, W. Va.—Appalachia has long been known as a region that has more than its fair share of poverty.

Yet Tommy Goode said he knows the region is much more diverse than the stereotypes held by outsiders.

Takes the upper middle-class area where he lives, midway between Huntington and Charleston, W. Va. Homes there commonly cost at least \$150,000, he said, a situation duplicated in many other areas of the nine-state region.

"What we did in the past isn't relevant to the new affluent—the new people coming in or Generation X," said Goode, director of Appalachian Mountain Ministry. "A lot of people aren't being reached because they're different from church cul-

ture," he said.

When it comes to Appalachia, statistics show that a lot of others aren't being reached with the gospel, either.

While it might have a reputation as being solidly in the Bible Belt, Appalachia's percentage of unchurched people ranges from 50 percent to as high as 80 percent in some areas, he said.

And old-line poverty is still a problem. Along with it comes such concerns as illiteracy, chronic unemployment, inadequate housing and poor access to health care.

The influence of evil is another concern, Goode said. He calls spiritual warfare a dilemma for most communities, as evidenced by teen pregnancy, cult activity, illegal drug and alcohol use and pornography.

"Every little town in West Virginia has its showgirl bar and X-rated bookstore," he said. "I've been

in a lot of communities where I'm told the most prominent social sin is still incest. That's not pleasant, but it's there."

June Rice said she favors the new ministry but still has some misgivings about the publicity it could generate.

Rice, missions development chairwoman for Enterprise Baptist Association, said reports such as a "60 Minutes" program—aired several years ago—on an area known as Muddy Gut Hollow have stirred up resentment.

"I'm sure the people who come will find the (residents) warm and hospitable," she said. "But they've been warm and hospitable before to people who have written mean and nasty things about them, to the point they're a little gun shy."

The public should learn that Appalachia is changing, she said. Illiteracy and other problems aren't as

widespread as commonly portrayed, said the retired high school librarian. A few years ago, she noted, Paintsville High School counted three Merit Scholars in its graduating class of 60.

Among her other former students are a three-star general, the dean of Yale's Law School and an English professor at a California university.

The director of missions for Pike Baptist Association agreed that people in the Pikeville area resent being labeled a welfare state, since the county doesn't have that kind of mentality.

But Carl Boyd said he isn't too concerned about negative reports arising from a stronger focus on Appalachia.

"This area has been stereotyped for years," he said. "I don't know that this would add to it. My concern is meeting needs. I don't care if it's in Eastern Kentucky or the West Coast."

**"They've been warm and hospitable before to people who have written mean and nasty things about them."**  
June Rice, missions development chairwoman for Enterprise Baptist Association

# YOUTH

## YouthLink 2000 locks up valuable millennial venues

By Celeste Pennington  
Baptist Press

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP)—First MTV, then the Church of Scientology requested space last year for new millennium celebrations at Tampa Ice Palace overlooking Tampa Bay. Because YouthLink 2000 already had the 20,000 capacity dome under contract, each group was turned away.

The foresight of YouthLink 2000 planners has left them in an enviable position among millennial party-planners—many of whom have been left waiting in the wings waiting for prime meeting venues. As early as 1996, planners for YouthLink 2000—the

millennial event for 200,000 teenage and college students—had under contract most of its seven venues across the U.S.

Perhaps the resolve on the part of YouthLink 2000 to hold its space has surprised a few, like the Church of Scientology. They first made an offer to buy out its contract—at a nice profit for YouthLink 2000. After that was turned down, in January the Church of Scientology offered free use of costly sound and light setup if YouthLink 2000 would give up two days of occupancy. Concerned for its own full schedule and the quality of its event, YouthLink 2000 once again said no.

In Philadelphia, negotiations are

currently under way over space in the Philadelphia Convention Center. The mayor's millennium committee would like to share use of the elegant Grand Hall where on Dec. 29-30 YouthLink 2000/Philadelphia will hold pizza parties and other gatherings.

"The shock for the city of Philadelphia is that this venue is part of the city, and the mayor's committee was not aware that the space was under contract," noted Charles Snow, site coordinator for Philadelphia.

While other groups are just now scrambling to put together large millennium events, the vision for YouthLink 2000 came in the 1980s to Southern Baptists Richard Ross, one of the originators of True Love Waits, and Dean Finley, who brought Win Our World and See You At the Pole to the denomination. Their life work has been with students: Finley at the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board and Ross at LifeWay Christian Resources. They wanted to offer a quality event that would touch the lives of the 170,000-plus teenagers who annually attend Southern Baptist youth evangelism meetings and related events.

In 1989, Finley and Ross shared

their vision with a small group of denominational leaders. By 1992, they had formed a steering committee to explore the idea seriously and to seek bids on a management plan. Realizing the potential to challenge hundreds of thousands of young people with the gospel, in 1995 agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention—now LifeWay Christian Resources, the International Mission Board, the North American Mission Board and Woman's Missionary Union—agreed to fund the dream.

In 1997-98 YouthLink 2000 set up offices near the seven YouthLink 2000 sites.

The result of the early planning: hosts on talk radio in Houston these days are puzzling over some group called YouthLink 2000 that has locked up most hotels around that city for New Year's Eve 1999.

In Atlanta, meanwhile, YouthLink 2000—currently set for the Georgia World Congress Center with its 30,000 capacity—is eyeing a first option on the 70,000-seat Georgia Dome. If the date ultimately chosen for the Peach Bowl allows it, YouthLink 2000 is first in line.

For more information about YouthLink 2000, 1-888-YOUTHCLK. Registration is \$60 now; \$75 after Aug. 1; \$90 after Oct. 1.



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### 1999 Conference Personalities

**Dr. Guy Futral**, Middletown, KY, Director of the Minister/Church Support Division, KBC, Conference Seminar Leader on Minister Relations

**Dr. Jerry Lowrie**, Williamsburg, KY, Pastor, Main Street Baptist Church; Conference Preacher

**Rev. David Scott**, Louisville, KY, Minister of Music and Senior Adults, Ormsby Heights Baptist Church; Conference Music Leader

**Dr. Garland Young**, Williamsburg, KY, Professor of Religion, Cumberland College; Conference Bible Teacher, teaching I and II Thessalonians, subject of the 2000 Winter Bible Study

For more information contact:

Rev. Wes Roy

Office of Church Relations

7934 College Station Drive

Williamsburg, KY 40769



1999 Pastor/Staff and Family Conference

# RESOURCES

## Consultant: Churches can reach alienated youth

### What they're saying

"There will be more Littletons. In the best of circumstances it would be impossible to eliminate youth violence. But instead of throwing up our hands in despair we could consider doing such things as teaching moral values to our children, living with integrity and stability before them, monitoring their friendships and media preferences, and turning away from our love affair with violence and weaponry."

David Gushee, director of the Center for Christian Leadership at Union University in Jackson, Tenn.

"It is well past time for the media to be held accountable for the severe emotional child abuse they have perpetuated upon our nation's children."

Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberties Commission

"They need solid role models in their lives. Unfortunately, most are not getting this support at home."

Jimmy Lee, director of Turning Point Ministries, a Christian grief counseling agency in Chattanooga, Tenn.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Alienated youth like those in the "Trenchcoat Mafia" at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo., can be reached for Christ, insists Richard Ross.

"Knowing a student doesn't really fit anywhere does reveal the touch point for the church," said Ross, a youth ministry specialist at LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Two members of the black trenchcoat-clad school group—loners who gloried in Satanism, weaponry and Nazi lore, among other societal ills—have been identified as the killers in the nation's deadliest school shooting spree April 20, which claimed 13 lives before they took their own lives.

"High school students today value relationships above everything," Ross said last week after the shooting. "The hurting ones may initially ignore our buildings, ceremonies and doctrine,

but most will respond to someone who genuinely cares.

"When they experience the warmth of relationship with other Christian students, a youth leader or even a senior adult, they are much more likely to understand God's offer of the ultimate relationship. In that relationship, damaged and even destructive hearts can be transformed."

Ross said too many Baptist churches are happy to see a new student visiting—as long as he is white, wears nice clothes "and was once state Bible drill champion."

"They are less than thrilled when the new ones smoke on the parking lot, have fishing tackle in their faces and clap loudly when they like some-

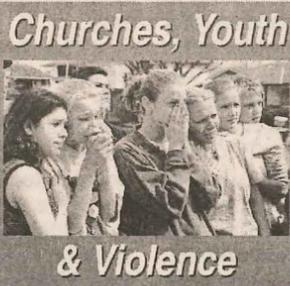
thing in worship," Ross added.

"Almost weekly I am with youth ministers who know how to reach those students, but they get their hands slapped by leaders when they do so," he said.

"A church youth group must provide a uniquely Christian subculture, and we must not allow new students to wreck that. We need more parents and other adults to volunteer to provide gentle but firm structure around all students," he said.

"With that structure in place, we need to aggressively seek out and bring in students who have been damaged by life.

"If we don't," he added, "we can expect tragedies among students to continue."



## Divine planning? Ministry team in Denver to promote clubs

By James Dotson  
SBC North American Mission Board

DENVER (BP)—In the aftermath of last week's suburban Denver high school massacre, a touring ministry group is offering a program designed to bring lasting hope to area schools.

Benny Proffitt, founder and president of First Priority of America, and about 40 college students are spending five days in Denver as part of a national "What's Up America Tour."

The visit, which will include opportunities to present the First Priority ministry in churches, was scheduled long before the tragic killings in Littleton, just south of Denver, Proffitt said. One of the primary purposes of the tour is to survey students as part of the "National Student Hope Census," in which First Priority is asking about 10,000 students nationwide where they find hope.

"We're getting calls from youth pastors in Denver saying, 'We can't

believe this is happening, and we're so glad you're going to be here," Proffitt said in a telephone interview from the tour's previous location in Kansas. "We're just praying that while we're there God will give us a chance to minister in his name, and maybe that God will use these students to minister in his name."

First Priority of America works with local churches to set up citywide organizations that help start church-based, student-led First Priority clubs on high school and middle school campuses.

The organization is part of an alliance with the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, which assists with funding and other resources, and with LifeWay Christian Resources, which distributes its materials.

School shootings are a special concern for the five-year-old organization. Proffitt said the Littleton shooting once again raises questions of how such a thing could happen.

"Your first thought is it's just so overwhelming and depressing to think there are young people in America so filled with hatred and anger. ... How do young people grow up in America filled with that much hatred, and how do we miss them?" he asked.

In some ways, Proffitt said, groups like the "Trenchcoat Mafia" meet some of the same needs in students'

### Resources

LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention offers materials related to youth and violence:

■ "Kids Who Kill: Confronting Our Culture of Violence," a book by Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee.

■ "Positive Impact: Teen Violence Intervention Kit." This packet calls on youth to become peacemakers in their communities and offers ways to do that.

■ "Tm 4 1 2: It's Your Life" is a large group youth discipleship study that offers ethical discussion topics, some of which deal with violence.

LifeWay can be reached at (800) 458-2772.



MEMORIAL A Columbine high school student puts up a sign on a memorial outside Light of the World Catholic Church in Littleton, April 21. Leaders of religious groups linked the school shooting to other issues in America. (RNS/Reuters photo)

## Be wary of emotional fatigue, chaplain tells trauma ministry providers

By Dan Martin  
General Baptist Convention of Texas

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (BP)—There is a high cost to caring, Joe Williams told participants at a conference that addressed churches and random violence.

Williams is chaplain to the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Oklahoma City. A longtime veteran police and sheriff's department chaplain, he was among those who arrived on the scene after the federal building in Oklahoma City was blown apart by a fertilizer-and-diesel-fuel bomb April 19, 1995.

For 19 days, he worked as the wounded and the bodies—and parts of bodies—were recovered from the rubble.

He talked of the high cost of caring, which comes to "people who observe and listen to experiences of pain, grief, suffering and loss—ministers, emergency responder personnel, therapists and others."

Those in ministry face the additional issue of listening to "the tears, groans, hysteria ... and the questions," he said.

"Parents, siblings, friends and the world are waiting for you to give them answers to make a difference in the

way they feel. Ministry people are seen as representatives of God ... are 'supposed' to have the answers.

"Ministry people are expected to be able to make reason out of the unreasonable, understanding out of chaos and to make sweet the bitter," he said.

After a while, he said, caregivers can experience an overload of caregiving.

The new term "compassion fatigue" has come into use in recent years, Williams said. He defined it as similar to burnout, but more focused on the results of the overload of caregiving.

Williams said compassion fatigue happens when a caregiver becomes so involved in providing care to others that he or she becomes emotionally and spiritually exhausted.

He encouraged caregivers to "practice self-management" and recognize when they are becoming overwhelmed.

Williams reminded caregivers "you do not have to give all of your blood, just transfusions."

Caregivers must also receive care and "find a place where you can squeeze out your emotional sponge. Reestablish balance and care for yourselves," he said.

# MISSIONS

## Baptist aid has begun in Albania, but needs still grow

### 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.

*Continued from page 1*  
homes have been torched by troops there.

At Kukes, the border crossing point in northern Albania, hundreds of families are camping out under flimsy plastic sheets spread over trailers pulled behind their tractors. They are afraid to leave their tractors, vital to the farms most of them work, and move into the camps. So they sit huddled in uncertainty.

The flood of refugees is particularly difficult to manage in Albania, Europe's poorest country. The collapse of pyramid-style investment schemes in 1997 brought financial ruin to many of Albania's 3 million people. The resulting riots led the country into virtual civil war that lasted for months. By the time order was restored, many Albanians had lost hope in their country and only wanted out.

"In Albania, everybody wants to leave. They've given up on their country," said Jonathan Steeper, a Canadian Baptist who is general manager of the Baptist Foundation of Tirana. Steeper said he knew of one family earning only about \$100 a month that had saved \$5,000 in hopes of leaving.

Now this struggling country is serving as host to hundreds of thousands of refugees as ethnic Albanians flee Yugoslavia. Thousands of Albanians opened their homes up to the refugees, but the Albanians have limited resources for such support.

The Southern Baptist missionaries in Tirana are working closely with the Baptist Foundation of Tirana, an organization uniting many Baptist organizations. British Baptists have 14 workers in Tirana, for example.

Southern Baptists also are cooperating with the Salvation Army, British Missionary Society, Dutch Christians and other Christians in the effort. Swedish Baptists sent 20 tons of baby food to help in the crisis, for example, and Hungarian Baptists also sent 20 tons of food.

Baptists are working with a group of small but growing evangelical churches to link physical aid with Christian witness. The Southern Baptist missionaries plan to turn over their warehouse operation to Albanian Christians as soon as possible.

"It is amazing to see churches come together as the body of Christ," said Dwayne Doyle, a



former Kentucky Brotherhood intern now serving as a two-year Southern Baptist missionary. "This has been a wonderful witness to young believers."

As of April 16, Southern Baptist churches and individuals had given \$95,746.79 for relief efforts among Kosovo refugees. Every penny donated is used solely for direct relief efforts.

Updates on refugee ministry efforts are being posted under the "Front Page News" link on the IMB's website, www.imb.org.

**WORD OF WITNESS**  
*Southern Baptist missionary Lee Bradley (right) visits ethnic Albanian refugees from Kosovo who were taken in by an Albanian family in Tirana. Church member Gani Mena took 22 refugees into his home. Southern Baptist relief efforts are targeting Albanian homes that have taken in refugees. (BP photo by Grace Robinette)*

## 1999 YOUTH EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

### Places to Stay.

Lexington hotels are listed below with any applicable special rates. Confirm all rates with the hotel at the time of reservation. Facilities should be contacted directly for unlisted rates.

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**Comfort Inn**  
2381 Buena Vista  
(606) 299-0302  
(800) 394-8403  
CB

**Courtyard by Marriott**  
775 Newtown Court  
(606) 253-4646  
(800) 321-2211  
R

**Econo Lodge - North**  
925 Newtown Pike  
(606) 321-6300  
(800) 424-4777  
Single: \$62.95  
2 people, 2 double beds: \$62.95  
3 people, 2 double beds: \$68.95  
4 people, 2 double beds: \$74.95  
R

**Hampton Inn, I-75**  
2251 Elkhorn Road  
(606) 299-2613  
(800) 426-7866  
Single: \$79.00  
2 people, 2 double beds: \$89.00  
3-4 people, 2 double beds: \$89.00  
CB

**Hilton Suites of Lexington Green**  
245 Lexington Green Circle  
(606) 271-4000  
(800) 445-8667  
R

**Hyatt Regency**  
400 West Vine Street  
(606) 253-1234  
(800) 233-1234  
All rooms \$79.00  
Cutoff Date 5/17/99

**Marriott Griffin Gate Resort**  
1800 Newtown Pike  
(606) 231-5100  
(800) 228-9290  
Single or Double: \$105.00  
R

**Quality Inn Northwest**  
1050 Newtown Pike  
(606) 233-0561  
(800) 876-3294  
All rooms \$71.00  
CB

**Radisson Plaza**  
369 West Vine Street  
(606) 231-9000  
(800) 333-3333  
Single: \$85.00  
2-4 people: \$95.00  
R

**Red Roof Inn - North**  
483 Haggard Lane  
(606) 293-2626  
(800) 843-7663  
Single: \$49.99  
All Others: \$57.99

**Red Roof Inn - South**  
2651 Wilhite Drive  
(606) 277-9400  
(800) 843-7663  
Single: \$40.99  
Double: \$54.99  
All Others: \$59.99

**Super 8 Motel**  
2351 Buena Vista Road  
(606) 299-6241  
(800) 800-8000

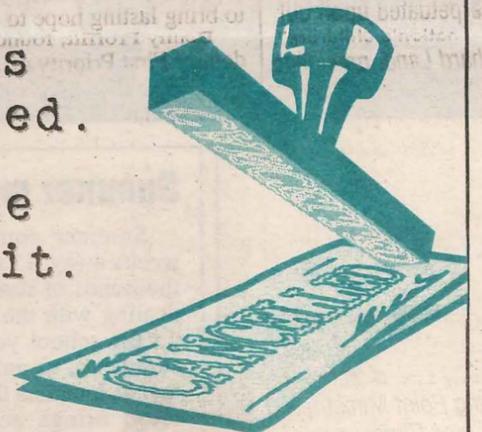
**Wyndham Garden Hotel**  
1938 Stanton Way  
(606) 259-1311  
(800) WYNDHAM  
R

CB = Continental Breakfast  
R = Restaurant

Your debt has been cancelled.

Celebrate the one who did it.

Jesus.



June 18-19, 1999

Starting Times (EDT): Friday 3:00 p.m./Saturday 8:00 a.m.

Rupp Arena - Lexington, Kentucky

### Registration Form.

Coolers, food, beverages, audio/video recording equipment and smoking are not allowed in the arena. Photography is permitted.

This form may be duplicated if you need more.

PLEASE PRINT.

Church: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of People: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10 (postmarked on or before June 4) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payment is non-refundable. \_\_\_\_\_ X \$15 (after June 4) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Our special needs are: # \_\_\_\_\_ seats for deaf interpretation # \_\_\_\_\_ wheelchair accessible seats

Make checks payable to the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Clip and mail registration and payment to: YouthFest '99  
KBC Evangelism Growth Team  
P.O. Box 43433  
Louisville, KY 40253-0433

## Christians, Muslims square off in Nazareth land dispute

By Elaine Ruth Fletcher  
Religion News Service

NAZARETH, Israel (RNS)—As the call for afternoon prayers is heard, about 100 Muslims, including jeans-clad young men and elderly sheikhs, gather in a makeshift tent to pray in the shadow of the tomb of Shihab-a-Din, a 12th-century Muslim hero who fought to expel the Crusaders from the Holy Land.

These men, members of the Shihab-a-Din Muslim Wakf (Trust), are waging their own modern-day battle to gain control of this one-half acre plot of land in the heart of downtown Nazareth's tourist district.

Their goal is to construct a large mosque alongside one of Christendom's most renowned holy sites—

the Basilica of the Annunciation, built over the site where tradition holds the Angel Gabriel told Mary she would give birth to Jesus.

Simmering Christian-Muslim tensions over that goal erupted on Easter Sunday, April 4, in violent street disturbances that left several dozen residents injured and damaged homes and cars.

The dispute also has already claimed one high-ranking Israeli official.

Avi Blustein, director general of Israel's Religious Affairs Ministry, was stripped of his authority after he said mosque construction would lead to a shutdown of churches across Israel during the year 2000, when the Jewish state hopes large numbers of Christian pilgrims—including the pope—will visit.

Eli Suissa, the minister for religious affairs and Blustein's boss, said Blustein's comments harmed efforts to find a compromise solution to the dispute.

Roman Catholic officials in Jerusalem said Blustein had overstated the situation. Wadie Abu Nasr, a spokesman for the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, said churches in Nazareth only—not all of Israel—would close in 2000 only if there was further violence, not if a mosque is constructed.

In Nazareth, meanwhile, preparations for the millennium have stalled. International investors have frozen plans to create a large amphitheater on the fringes of the city to

accommodate a public appearance by the pope before an expected crowd of thousands.

In addition, a much smaller plaza planned for the disputed plot next to the basilica—and which would serve as an official reception site—has become entangled in a court battle that has dragged on for more than a year, frustrating those on both sides of the religious divide.

Currently registered as Israeli state land, Muslims erected the tent-mosque on the disputed site in December 1997, maintaining that the plot is an Islamic holy place that rightfully belongs to the Shihab-a-Din Muslim Wakf.

The dispute has rippled across Israel's northern Galilee, souring Christian-Muslim coexistence in a region where Christian Arabs are already a minority, outnumbered and outflanked by rapidly growing Muslim and Jewish communities.

In Nazareth proper, where Christians now comprise less than 40 percent of the population, churches were closed for two days in protest after the Easter Sunday riot.

Israeli authorities have sought to paint the dispute purely as a power

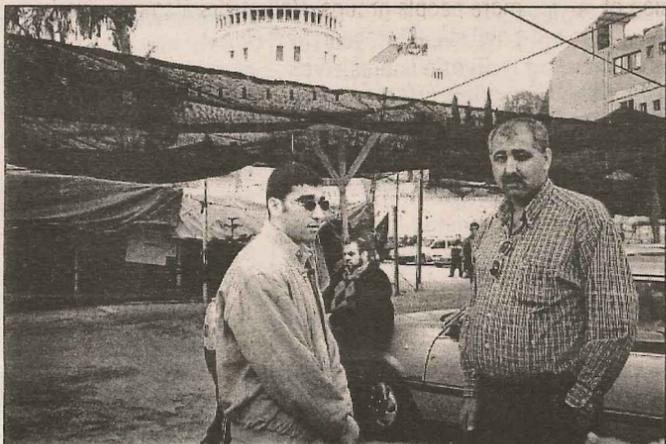
struggle between the more westernized Christian Arab elite and an increasingly assertive Muslim community. But Nazareth Arabs also point the finger of blame at the national government.

These critics say Israel's hardline Likud party, headed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, has played politics with the squabble, allowing it to fester.

Now, as Israel's May 17 general elections approach, Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav, a close Netanyahu associate, has offered a compromise offer to build a small mosque on a portion of the disputed site. That plan has been rejected by the Shihab-a-Din group.

"There are plenty of Israeli politicians who believe that a fight between the Arabs is good for the Jews," said Lutfi Mash'our, editor of the mainstream Nazareth weekly A-Sinaara. "What's happening between Muslims and Christians here is happening in an (Israeli) pressure cooker of discrimination and disadvantage. Muslims and Christians here have a lot of common problems, and instead of working together, they are now fighting each other."

**TENT MEETING** A couple of Muslims stand in front of a tent where Muslims hope to build a mosque, near the Basilica of the Annunciation. The groups' claim on the land has caused recent conflict between Muslims and Christians. (RNS photo)



### Summer means campers

Summer camp's just a few weeks away. I can't wait. I know thousands of students already are dealing with the anxiety to wrap up the school year and start the summer. I'm anxious too. Summer at Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore brings several thousand summer campers.

Just the other day I came across some statistical data that made a profound impression on me and reminded me of the incredible impact camp ministry can have on the lives of students of all ages. To begin with, it may or may not surprise you that 85-90 percent of all decisions for Christ are made before a person leaves his or her teen years.

In other words, 85-90 percent of us who are Christians became such before we turned 20 years of age. This should tell all of us that ministry to young people is a critical opportunity for us to lead and facilitate their coming to Christ.

Secondly, one out of every two decisions was made away from the local church, in a camp, conference or retreat setting. Half! God moves in remarkable ways in the hearts of students in retreats and camps. And that's what we

are about at Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore. These statistics reinforce the need for our rebuilding of Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek. And the future of Christian camping ministry has never been brighter.

Consider, in 1994 the teen population hit nearly 25 million. According to U.S. Census data for the next 11 years, the teen population will grow nearly twice as fast as the rest of the population. When the present teen boom peaks, it will top the baby boom teen explosion of the 60s and 70s in both size and duration. Today there are approximately 780,000 youth and children between the ages of 5 and 18. So let us remember

that great opportunities are ahead. This represents an unchurched, unreached population. God is surely expecting us to do our part in reaching these students.

Will we rise to the occasion? I pray that we will, and I'm praying that thousands will come to Christ in the years ahead as they come to know him in a personal way.

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

### KENTUCKY BAPTIST ASSEMBLIES



Rusty Ellison

### Prayer Seminar with Dr. T.W. Hunt

Valley Creek Baptist Church  
4685 Springfield Road  
Elizabethtown, Ky. 42701  
Rev. Steve Hill, pastor

Friday, April 30, 7-9 p.m.  
Saturday, May 1, 9:30-11:30 a.m.,  
7-9 p.m.  
Sunday, May 2, 9:30 &  
11 a.m. services



Admission: Free (workbooks and other resources will be available for purchase)

For information, call the church office at (502) 737-9282

### SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION 1999 MESSENGER CARDS

#### ATTENTION PASTORS:

**ALL Messenger Cards for voting privileges at the SBC are distributed from the KBC Executive Office. They MUST be signed by your church clerk or moderator BEFORE being presented for registration.**

**Please make your request to:  
Kentucky Baptist Convention  
PO Box 43433**

**Louisville, KY 40253-0433**

**Attention: Marilyn Johnson, Executive Office**

**DEADLINE: JUNE 4, 1999**

## Baptist: Churches growing among North African tribes

ALGIERS, Algeria (BP)—Church groups are sprouting and spreading in Algeria as Berber tribesmen respond to the gospel, despite seven years of civil war that has killed as many as 100,000 people in the North African country.

Southern Baptist observers said the new congregations might be one of the first signs of a church-planting movement that they pray will spread throughout North Africa and the Middle East.

The region is home to many people groups with little or no access to the message of Jesus Christ.

News of the church growth came from a Southern Baptist worker who spent a week visiting churches and leaders in Algeria.

The worker is not identified for security reasons.

The Berber people group numbers 25 million across several North African countries, including Algeria. Christian workers began seeing church growth among Algerian Berbers during the early 1990s, before the nation sank into an ugly civil war in 1992.

Tens of thousands of people, including women and children, have been shot or hacked to death in the conflict. But the new churches have moved forward in outreach, he said, despite living amid the daily horrors of war.

The Southern Baptist worker described one service in 1998 in which gunshots were heard and tear gas, smoke and screams filled the streets

around a church meeting place. "Prayers were sent up to heaven to the Lord, asking him that no one would be either shot or have their throat slit on that day," he said.

Today murders continue to occur weekly, but the pace has abated in recent months as the country prepared for national elections. The worker described risky travel during his visit. He passed through one checkpoint manned by police where two soldiers were killed earlier by Muslim terrorists. "The violence is continuing. It is still a dangerous place," he said.

The worker declined to give details, numbers or locations of the budding churches for security reasons.

He said Southern Baptists have been working closely with Algerian believers and other Christian sending agencies to make the gospel more available to isolated Algerians.

Vast quantities of gospel tracts, copies of the "Jesus" film and Bibles have been distributed to many thousands of Algerians when they travel into Europe each year. And radio programs in the Berber language also have been steadily sharing the gospel for years.

"The radio programs have had a big effect. A lot of people are listening, and the results have been very positive," the worker said. "A big plus is that more people have the New Testament in their language. Not as many copies as we would like, but more than before."

Although Arabic is the official language, there are many non-Arabic

## Volunteers sought for North Africa project

By Mark Kelly  
SBC International Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—In 1943, American soldiers liberated North Africa from fascist domination through "Operation Torch," a military push led by Gen. George Patton.

Fifty-six years later, American Christians are being challenged to enlist for another "Operation Torch."

But this time the warfare is spiritual and the goal is liberating North Africa from the tyranny that keeps people from salvation in Jesus Christ.

Twelve centuries ago, North Africa was a powerful center of Christian missionary and intellectual effort, according to a Southern Baptist International Mission Board missionary whose name is withheld for security reasons.

But internal weakness and the invasion of Islam wiped out Christianity in the region.

Now missionaries focused on taking the gospel to the region's people say God is ready to restore the church in North Africa. They are calling on Southern Baptists to join them in a massive prayer thrust called Operation Torch.

"For five years, Bibles and 'Jesus' film videos have been coming into North Africa. New churches are springing up," the missionary said. "Now it's like the ground is saturated with pitch, and when the flame of God's Spirit hits we're going to see church-planting movements like no one would believe."

Operation Torch seeks to enlist more than 1,000 Southern Baptists to pray diligently for the people groups of North Africa. Hundreds will be needed to participate in prayer journeys to the region during the two-year effort.

Most trips will last 10 days, with six to eight people traveling as a team. Each team links up with a strategy leader, who is the person working as an advocate for a people group in the region.

Trip activities will vary for each team, but most trips will include prayer walking among one or more people groups. Volunteers also may work briefly in a European port city.

People interested in praying for North Africa may contact Gerry Volkart at the IMB at gerry.volkart@imb.org or call (800) 999-3113, ext. 1328. On the Internet, an Operation Torch website is at [www.optorch.com](http://www.optorch.com).

"heart" languages spoken. The Bible still has not been translated for many of these; for others, only partial translations are available. Algeria does not permit Bibles in local languages to be imported. Bible translation continues to be a major need within the country.

The worker asked Southern Bap-

tists to pray for the dire economic situation in Algeria that has left millions in poverty.

Seven years of war have driven a poor country even deeper into poverty. There is a severe housing shortage. Christians suffer from these conditions just like their countrymen.

## Partnership 2000 ministry

By Robert Dunston

During this year's spring break in March, students from Campbellsville University, Cumberland College and Georgetown College journeyed to Dayton, Ky., where they ministered at a shelter called God's Home for Families.

Carol Coe serves as director of the home, and Richard "Butch" Doyen is resident manager. The facility is a shelter for families who are homeless due to a difficult or disastrous situation. Families can stay together, and the gospel is boldly proclaimed to them.

Jane Whitaker, director of the leadership and community service program at Cumberland, served as leader of the mission team. Cumberland students who served with Whitaker were Marques Andrews of Birmingham, Ala.; Karen Armes of Hardinsburg; Brandy Hall of Madison, Ind.; Nathan Kinser of Elizabethton, Tenn.; Crystal Matrau of Indianapolis; Rob McGee of Powell, Tenn.; Brittany Rezek of Harlan; Naomi Rosa of Science Hill; Danny Scalf of Bradford, Ohio; and Ann Strickland of Cairo, Ga.

The students made physical repairs and enhancements to the

home. They cleaned the entire structure, painted the walls, stripped the ceilings and painted them, painted a mural in the children's room and tore down and removed an old tool shed.

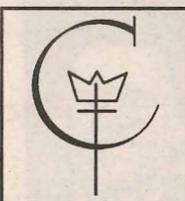
They put in gardens, repaired children's furniture and built and painted cabinets. During the day and evenings they also talked with the residents and cared for the children.

In addition to this work, the group also led the worship service at Crescent Spring Baptist Church in Fort Mitchell. Each evening, the group held a time of prayer and devotions and invited the residents to join with them.

The students took money with them to pay for their lodging and meals, but once they arrived their housing and several meals were provided by gracious donors. Not needing their money for themselves, the group gave \$500 to purchase supplies to build a cabinet and other items for the home. Being able to support the ministry with their own gifts as well as their time made the trip extra special.

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

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



## Rules for raising delinquent kids

Paul Kienel, founder and president emeritus of the Association of Christian Schools International, gives 12 rules for raising delinquent children. Here they are:

■ Give the child everything he wants. In this way, he'll grow up to believe the world owes him a living.

■ When he picks up bad words, laugh at him. It will encourage him to pick up "cuter" phrases later.

■ Never give him any spiritual training. Wait until he is 21, and then let him decide for himself.

■ Avoid using the word "wrong." He might develop a guilt complex. This will condition him to believe later, when he is arrested for stealing a car, that society is against him.

■ Pick up everything he leaves lying around—books, shoes and clothing. Do everything for him so he'll be experienced in throwing all responsibility onto others.

■ Let him read any printed matter he can get his hands on and watch anything he wants on TV.

■ Quarrel frequently in the presence of the child. In this way, he won't be shocked when the home is broken up later.

■ Give the child all the spending

money he wants. Never let him earn his own way.

■ Satisfy his every craving for food, drink and comfort. See that every sensual desire is gratified. Denial might lead to harmful frustrations.

■ Take his side against neighbors, teachers and policemen. They are all prejudiced against your child.

■ When he gets into real trouble, apologize for yourself by saying, "I never could do anything with him."

■ Prepare for a life of grief. You will be apt to have it.

The popular opinion is parenting is a right. Not so. Parenting is a privilege, a privilege that can be revoked. The children placed in our care are almost exclusively wards of the state, which means

the government has suspended the parents' right to parenting. Many homes are out of control because of some, if not most, of the rules listed above. Remember, parenting is a privilege; treat it as such.

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

## WORLD VIEW

■ **Indonesian Christian center burned.** A Christian community center was burned April 20 in eastern Indonesia in retaliation for the bombing of Jakarta's main mosque the previous day. Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation, has been wracked by religious, ethnic and political violence for the past year since the fall of long-time strongman Suharto. At least 450 people have died in the violence this year. According to reports, about 600 Muslims attacked the ornate wooden Wisma Kare Christian Community Center in the city of Ujung Pandang on Sulawesi Island, 875 miles northeast of Jakarta, Indonesia's capital. One man was injured; 21 people were arrested.

■ **More Sudanese Christian slaves freed.** An international Christian defense organization says it has paid \$50 each to purchase the freedom of an additional 1,783 slaves in Sudan, mostly women and children. Since 1995, Christian Solidarity International says it has freed 7,725 Sudanese slaves by paying for their release. The money is paid to so-called "slave retrievers," who in turn pay the slave masters and then escort the former slaves to freedom. The slaves are generally Christians or adherents of tribal faiths who have been captured by forces of Sudan's Muslim government, which is seeking to subdue the nation's southern area and convert it to Islam.

■ **Spanish NIV Bible to be published.** The Nueva Version Internacional (NVI), a Spanish version of the popular New International Version of the Bible, has been published recently by the International Bible Society. The new volume is the result of 10 years of translation work by Latin American Bible scholars. The IBS intends to complete a Castilian, or European Spanish, version of the NVI within two years. An NVI New Testament was released in 1995.

## 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.

## 1999 Spring revival, part 1

Many of our faculty and staff have a special appreciation for two events that take place on our campus each year. Our fall and spring revivals always help to put things in perspective. As in any other ministry, each of our faculty and staff have their assigned daily responsibilities. Often we get so involved with the daily physical, emotional and academic needs of our students, it is easy to presume that someone else is meeting other needs.

Yes, it is true that each of us has many opportunities each day to share our relationship with Christ with our students. It is also true that frequently we can tell the Holy Spirit is working in the life of a boy or girl. On the other hand, there are times when the Holy Spirit is working with our students, and we might be relatively unaware that they are under conviction.

Our students attend chapel every school day, and church on Sunday morning and evening. Nearly every week students come forward, either because they are dealing with a spiritual or family issue, or they are concerned about a classmate's well-being.

Our Baptist Student Union is active and offers many opportunities for Christian students to grow in the Lord and to share their faith with their peers. BSU also has been instrumental in leading many students to a personal relationship with the Lord. It has helped others have a closer walk with God.

Still, our spring and fall revivals are special opportunities to consider the spiritual needs of our students and ourselves. About 200 students attended the revival each night. Students are required to attend one service during the week. Some chose to come only once, but the vast majority attended several services. Others were there every night.

Service after service, students went forward. Sometimes as many as 25 or 30 stepped out from their pews. I personally struggle with the reality of what Jesus taught his disciples in the eighth chapter of Luke. The truths of the parable of the sower are painfully true. Our responsibility is to sow the seed. Jesus said that only some of the seed would fall on "good ground." Night after night we watched as students were moved by the Holy Spirit.

I knew some of these students had been on our campus only a few weeks or months. Being of little faith at times, I often wonder if students who have had little or any spiritual training and may never have gone to church before coming to Oneida have been here long enough to really understand. On the other hand, several students who responded grew up in Christian homes. They had been taken to church and were being taught spiritual truths. It appears that God chose to use Oneida to gather in the harvest.

Of those who made professions of faith in Jesus, seven were relatively new on our campus. Six were in middle school and one was in high school. Of the seven, five came from broken homes. When we interviewed these students, we asked them what they wanted to achieve while attending Oneida. Here are some of their goals: "to control my anger," "to learn respect for others," "to make better grades and have a better attitude," "to gain self-esteem and be honest with myself and others."

(To be continued next week.)

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

### THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

## Report from the board

During their semi-annual meeting April 20, Clear Creek College's board of trustees:

■ Approved the 1999-2000 budget of \$3.1 million representing a 10 percent increase. The budget provides a 2 percent salary raise for employees and allows for a new assistant professor, a full-time development worker and director of student activities.

■ Set tuition at \$1,710 per semester for a full-time student, with a \$300 scholarship granted to each Southern Baptist student.

■ Approved the appointment of three faculty members: Fred Cummings, assistant professor of Bible; James Ditty Sr., distinguished professor of missions; Roy Lucas, associate professor of Bible.

■ Established a Center for Church Planting, a cooperative effort with the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board to equip church planters.

■ Established the Clear Creek Center for Evangelism. The center will involve the campus family in evangelism experiences, encourage graduates and others committed to the ministry of evangelism, provide students

mentor opportunities with vocational evangelists and extend public awareness of the training opportunity that exists at Clear Creek.

■ Received an extensive development program internal survey completed by Richard Carlton Associates and approved policies for the college development program.

■ Revised the faculty/staff handbook as part of a three-year scheduled review. The process involved a faculty/staff committee, discussion by the full faculty and staff and review by the trustee executive committee.

■ Approved construction of a Harmony Heights duplex.

■ Authorized expenditure for two vehicles and air conditioners as funds are available.

■ Authorized a letter to the Bell County Board of Education regarding acquisition of the Harmony Elementary School property.

### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

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

## Latest discoveries rekindle science-religion debate

By Karen Long  
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Those two long adversaries, science and religion, are playing high-profile footsie again.

Prominent theologians and physicists converged on the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History April 14-16 to argue whether the newest cosmology—fresh off the Hubble Telescope—adds heft to the arguments that God exists.

"We have a world shot through with signs of a divine mind and purpose," said John Polkinghorne, a renowned particle physicist. "Science itself is possible because the physical world is so beautifully designed."

Even as Polkinghorne squared off Thursday to debate Nobel laureate Steven Weinberg, who looks at the same physics and sees a cold and impersonal universe, astronomers in California were announcing a trio of planets orbiting the star Upsilon Andromedae, 44 light years from Earth and visible with the naked eye.

The discovery "implies that planets can form more easily than we ever imagined, and that our Milky Way is teeming with planetary systems," said astronomer Debra Fis-

cher, of San Francisco State University. This and other findings, like last year's revelation that the moons of Jupiter probably hold liquid water, are ushering in a golden era of cosmology with profound implications for the place of both God and humanity in the universe.

"Today data is flowing in so fast from new telescopes and other scientific instruments that the question is whether a single one of the current (cosmology) theories can survive," said Joel Primack, a physicist at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and one of the conveners of the conference at the Smithsonian.

"Does this have broader implications? Does this matter to people as people? Most of us cosmologists talk about this amongst ourselves, but not publicly," Primack said. "This conference is an attempt to start."

Asked if they believe in God, many astronomers become shy. Primack joked that he is Jewish, so if God exists, he knows there is just one.

Polkinghorne, however, was so moved by the religious implications of his life's work that he resigned his professorship in mathematical physics in late middle age and be-

came an Anglican priest.

One reason is the importance of abstract mathematics in describing physical reality, a coincidence that even Weinberg concedes is spooky. For example pi, the circumference of a circle divided by its diameter first calculated by the ancient Greeks, turns out to be important in equations describing light and subatomic particles that have no obvious connections to circles.

"This is a very deep metaphysical question," Polkinghorne said. The fact that mathematics, which springs from the minds of human beings, is so exquisitely fitted to the physical facts of the universe tells him human consciousness seems fine-tuned for the mysteries of creation.

Of course, many scientists find these discussions appalling. Harvard paleobiologist Stephen Jay Gould has just written a book arguing that science and religion should keep to their separate corners—science seeking truth through doubt and its experimental method, religion from a core of faith.

But those mixing up the two are gaining ground. Gould is president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, which spent \$175,000 to host the Smithso-

nian conference and where Robert John Russell, a Ph.D in physics at the Graduate Theological Union-Berkeley, dismissed Gould's position as silly.

"Science is one of the most important ways to rid religion of superstition," Russell said, paraphrasing Pope John Paul II. "And science needs religion to rid itself of idolatry. And humanity needs both."

From Boston to Berkeley, theologians intrigued with science and scientists unwilling to leave their metaphysical questions at the laboratory door have put their heads together. Johns Hopkins University-trained chemist Barbara Smith-Moran co-founded the Center for Faith and Science Exchange in Boston, where she gives religious leaders a two-week immersion experience in the laboratory to get over their "exaggerated esteem" for white lab coats.

Likewise, she said, too many scientists treat religion as if theology has stood still since the Middle Ages, mocking God from an unannounced Sunday school perspective.

Cosmologist Stephen Hawking isn't one of them. He argues that even the beautiful equations in physics can't explain, after all, why there is something instead of nothing.

**Chemist Barbara Smith-Moran co-founded the Center for Faith and Science Exchange, where she gives religious leaders a two-week immersion experience in the laboratory to get over their "exaggerated esteem" for white lab coats.**

## 'Awakening' leads to 600 professions of faith

By Russell Dilday  
Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

HOT SPRINGS, Ark. (BP)—An "awakening" revival at Second Baptist Church of Hot Springs, Ark., has resulted in 600 professions of faith in Christ—including 406 baptisms.

Pastor Chuck McAlister called the revival "a powerful move of God" in the church and community.

He said the purpose of the revival is "to bring something new to the city of Hot Springs. The awakening is a powerful move of God that we believe will change this city. We are committed to continuing the awakening for as long as people respond in such a tremendous way."

McAlister added that he doesn't see the results of the long-running revival ending anytime soon. "The nightly services may end, but the awakening will continue. We have started awakening groups, which are lifestyle evangelism groups, that are meeting throughout the city."

The church also now has two around-the-clock prayer groups with two people praying every hour of every day, he said.

Sunday and Tuesday-through-Friday services from Feb. 7 through April 9 drew thousands of people. The revival emphasis now is continuing in the church's three Sunday morning services and evening service, with weeknight services slated to restart in September, McAlister said.

"We have seen marriages restored, people delivered from alcohol and drugs and many have responded to the need to make Jesus Christ the Lord of their lives," McAlister said.

The change in people's lives is evident in the testimonies given by those who have accepted Christ. During his baptism ceremony, one man noted that when evangelist William Blackburn "started preaching about hell, I felt it in my body that I was getting close."

Another man said he accepted Jesus as his personal Savior after attending a service. His profession of faith led him not only to Christ, but also to reject his 20-year "hatred" for his ex-wife and ask her forgiveness.

For others who already were Christians, their awakening has been a recommitment to Christian discipleship.

"For years, I have been a closet Christian," said church member Charlie Broadbent. "The awakening has meant that the Holy Spirit has grown in me and has given me a passion for Christ I've never had before."

While many attend for personal renewal, 15-year-old Jeni Kaylo said the revival also has helped the church. "It has changed the way people interact with each other. We don't have many more cliques."

Such fellowship was a prayer of staff members as they planned for the event, said Mike Smith, Second Baptist's director of evangelism.

"The awakening was really birthed in our hearts over a year ago. Our church went through tremendous problems a few years ago," he said. "However, that adversity gave us a new determination to regroup and become the church that God wanted us to be. The awakening is the harvest we have been praying to receive."

While the revival has resulted in mass numbers of decisions, its format is surprisingly conventional. Services featured praise music, testimonies and a gospel message from Blackburn, a Fort Smith, Ark.,-area evangelist.

During a similar long-running revival last year in Laurel, Miss., nearly 1,300 people professed faith in Christ during services led by Blackburn.

A keynote of his messages, many say, is a straightforward presentation of the gospel.

During one service, he described in easy-to-understand terms theological concepts such as what it means to be a non-Christian, eternal life, heaven and hell, condemnation, redemption and becoming a Christian.

His call to accept the gospel was just as straightforward. "The Bible says, 'Choose you today whom you will serve,'" he said. "Who are you going to give your life to?"

That gospel message has resulted in a high number of professions of faith, said McAlister, who said a rural church near Jacksonville, Ark., baptized 18 people as a result of the revival and a family "saw more than 20 family members come to Christ and impacted three churches."

He said other results include Christians deepening their faith, a more pronounced commitment by Christians to talk about their faith and "to do those basic things that we have long held as being primary in our relationship with Jesus Christ."

"That's the thing that excites me," he added. "This is not about hype or show; it's about the basics and doing those right."

## At least 3 teens may have been shot for their Christian faith

LITTLETON, Colo. (RNS)—At least three of the Littleton, Colo., students murdered by two fellow-students April 20 appear to have been singled out for killing because of their strong and openly held Christian beliefs.

Cassie Bernall, 17, who carried a Bible to school daily and wore a "What Would Jesus Do?" bracelet; Rachel Scott, 17, who often spoke about becoming a missionary in Africa; and John Tomlin, 16, who had participated in a church home-building mission in Mexico. All were active in churches.

Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, the two Columbine High School students who allegedly killed themselves and 13 others in the shooting rampage, were known for harboring intense anger toward athletes, minority students and devout Christians, according to reports.

Bernall, who was shot to death in the school library, reportedly was asked if she believed in God by one of the killers. She was killed after saying "yes."

"The gunman shot her because she is a Christian," Kevin Koeniger, another Columbine student, told the Washington Post. Other reports said Bernall had become a Christian two years ago after a period of being attracted to witches and the idea of suicide—subjects dwelled upon by her suspected killers.

Scott belonged to Orchard Road Christian Center in Englewood, Colo., an independent charismatic congregation where she led a weekly prayer and Bible study session for teen-agers. She was known as a budding playwright whose productions included Christian music she choreographed.

Tomlin provoked his killer's wrath on two accounts: Not only was he a devout Christian, but he also loved sports and excelled at weightlifting. He attended Littleton's Foothills Bible Church, an independent evangelical congregation, with his family. Last year, Tomlin and his father went to Juarez, Mexico, with a church mission team to construct a new home for a poor family.

Tomlin also was active in the youth ministry at Riverside Baptist Church South, a Southern Baptist congregation in nearby Parker, Colo., because that was the church attended by his girlfriend, Michelle Oetter.

# 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 Kentucky Baptist Convention partnership office for information: (502) 244-6462 or (888) 254-5724.

■ **Missionaries John and Nancy Laramore** as they begin work among the Kagura people of Tanzania.

■ **Kentucky team in Tanzania** this month assessing needs and determining ways Kentucky Baptists can be involved.

■ **Missionary Linda Sacco** in Warsaw, Poland, as she ministers to expectant mothers through child birth and after-care programs.

■ **Melody Ragains**, missionary journeyman in Gliwice, Poland, asks prayer for wisdom and direction from God as she teaches missionary kids.

■ **The international students in Boston** who recently received copies of the 'Jesus' video, and Michael Dean, Greater Boston Baptist Association's international ministries coordinator, who distributed 150 of the videos.

■ **Three new church starts** underway in Greater Boston Baptist Association—Korean Church of the Shepherd in Brockton, a Bible study in East Boston with Korean college students and a Bible study with Brazilian families in Stoughton.

## Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Shirley Wooton

■ **CENTERTOWN**—Russ Wallace was named pastor of Centertown Church. Wallace will graduate in May from Clear Creek Baptist Bible College in Pineville.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Valley Creek Church will host a prayer seminar led by T.W. Hunt April 30-May 2. For information, call (502) 737-

9282. Steve Hill is pastor.

■ **HOPKINSVILLE**—First Church will host the African Children's Choir in concert May 2, 10:45 a.m. For information, call (502) 886-1216. Jim McKenzie is pastor.

■ **LAWRENCEBURG**—Sand Spring Church will host Common Call in concert April 29, 7 p.m. Mike

## Berea pastor preached what he practiced: Open heart & wallet

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

**BEREA**—Harvey Pensol was the kind of pastor who emptied his wallet—or his heart—for someone in need. And he expected no accolades in return.

Just before Pensol died, a mother of three whom he had befriended showed up at the hospital with coffee and comfort for his wife, Emily.

"He did more for me when I needed help than my mother, father or anybody," she said of the 67-year-old pastor.

That surprised Deacon John Gilliam of Fairview Baptist Church in Berea. "I had no idea he had any

contact with the girl. But that's the way he was. When somebody confided in him, they knew he kept it private. He had a genuine love for people, and they felt that."

Tributes flowed at the pastor's funeral at Fairview Baptist April 20.

"He was a typical east-Kentucky-type fellow who loved his work, loved the church and loved people," said A.B. Colvin, who preached the funeral sermon. "We hear that you should practice what you preach. Here was a man who preached what he practiced."

Pensol spent 21 years at Fairview, starting after former pastor Ray Dean moved to a nursing home. The church continued paying

Hamrick is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Davis Memorial choir recently presented the Easter cantata, "Written in Red" at Norton Hospital, Ebenezer Church in Aurora, Ind., and the Eastern Star Home in Louisville. Wes Brockway is pastor.

New Beginning Church will host an evening of gospel singing May 8, 6 p.m. Heart Hand and Voice, the McNutt Family and Debbie Van Meter will be featured. For information, call (502) 366-8406. Mike Baker is pastor.

■ **MT. WASHINGTON**—The senior adults of First Church will present "The Gospel Never Changes," May 2, 6 p.m. For information, call (502) 538-7361. Travis Collins is pastor.

■ **MURRAY**—Bill Miller retired as pastor at Sugar Creek Church. He is available for supply. For information, call (502) 753-2307.

■ **RICHMOND**—Neal Prather resigned as pastor at Stoney Run Church. He is available for ministry services. For information, call (606) 623-1835.

Dean's salary for several years, and Pensol joked that he was just an interim, said a former high school classmate.

"The thing that impressed me was the way he could smooth off the rough parts," said Doris Gabbard. "If any (disputes) came up in the church, he would talk to people, and it would be forgotten."

Although he was born in Cincinnati, Pensol's parents grew up in the Mount Vernon area, and he graduated from high school there. During a 20-year military career, he surrendered to preach and was ordained in 1960 in San Antonio, Texas.

"It's amazing what effect he's had on people," Gilliam said, recalling one

woman who greeted Pensol's missions appeals with, "Charity begins at home." But last year when Pensol suggested giving \$3,000 for hurricane relief in Guatemala, she said, "We need to send \$5,000."

Also during his tenure the church built three additions. Sunday school attendance grew from 90 in 1986 to 163 this year.

A healthy percentage of that growth was young people, said Kevin Mullins, an elementary school teacher.

"Not only was he a pastor, he was like a second father," Mullins said. "When you had a problem he was always praying for you and let you know it."

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**SEEKING:** Associate pastor/students, missions & seniors. Highland Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky., a Christ-centered, theologically moderate, innovative and cutting edge CBF church, is seeking a full-time associate pastor whose primary ministry will be to students from middle school to college age, but will also empower missions ministry and minister to senior adults. Mail resumé to Phil Collier, chair, Search Committee, 323 Jarvis Lane, Louisville, KY 40207.

**SEEKING:** Minister to students. Full-time staff position in growing county seat town church (contributes to SBC and CBF). Responsibilities with large youth and children's groups, grades 1-12. Salary package commensurate with education and experience. Send resumé to: Mike Godbey, Personnel Committee, Stanford Baptist Church, 204 Church St., Stanford, KY 40484.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of music/associate to the pastor. Please send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Valley Station Baptist Church, 5415 Valley Station Road, Louisville, KY 40272.

**SEEKING:** Praying for youth minister. FBC, West Plains, Mo., growing church in the heart of the Ozarks (south-central Missouri). SS: 700; youth: 75-100. Should possess a BA degree. Music a plus. We offer a competitive salary and benefits package commensurate with qualifications and experience. Interested candidates should send resumé to: First Baptist Church, 202 Walnut St., West Plains, MO 65775. www.fbcwp@townsq.com. Dan Singletary.

**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.

**FOR SALE:** Rodgers 725E electronic church organ; two manuals, full AGO pedalboard, great condition. \$3,500 OBO. Church upgraded to a pipe organ. Call (502) 426-5668 or 288-2702 for an appointment.

**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:** 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) 832-6385; fax (505) 832-0213.

**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:** 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:** 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.

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

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

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

# PEOPLE

## Minister's handicap serves as springboard for ministry

By Dave Person  
Religion News Service

PORTAGE, Mich. (RNS)—According to Charles Hulbert, losing the use of his legs more than 40 years ago may have worked to his advantage.

"Because of my own problems, I could minister in a way no one else could," he said.

It certainly didn't seem like a blessing at the time, though, and Hulbert, who was young and loved participating in sports, will be the first to tell you those days when he began having to rely on crutches and a wheelchair were among the darkest in his life.

It took those who knew firsthand of life's difficulties to bring him out of his depression, he said, like the hospitalized woman who looked forward to his regular hospital rounds.

"She could hear the sound of my wheelchair (coming down the hall), and she could hardly wait for me to come," he said.

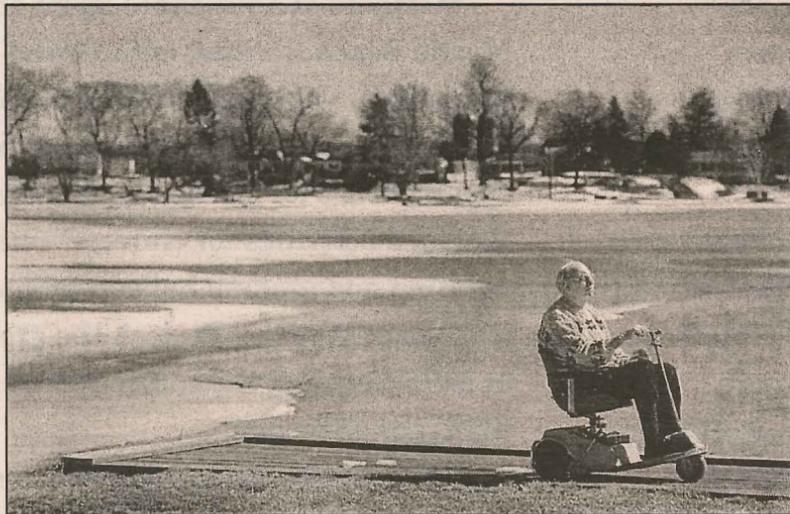
When she told him that, the cloud over his head suddenly lifted, he said.

Others, too, seemed particularly blessed by his presence.

He realized that those who were hurting could identify with him. People look at him, he said, and they think, "He knows what it is to hurt so he'll understand my problem, my need."

"I feel that my physical problem has been a blessing. ... The wheelchair somehow has been a blessing," said Hulbert, 77.

Although he retired from the active ministry in 1986 after 40 years as pastor of Kalamazoo's Bethlehem Baptist Church, Hulbert has continued to conduct weddings and funerals at



**ROLL WITH THE PUNCHES** According to retired Michigan pastor Charles Hulbert, losing the use of his legs more than 40 years ago has helped him better minister to other hurting people. "The wheelchair somehow has been a blessing," said Hulbert, 77. (RNS photo)

an incredible pace, and he and his wheelchair are a familiar sight at ceremonies and services all over the community.

"I've married and buried 11,487 people," he said. Over the years, that's 3,914 weddings—as many as six a day—and 3,659 funerals, five of which occurred in one day. Some people he has both married and buried.

Often, Hulbert is requested by name to conduct a funeral or a wedding. Other times, people ask for the preacher in the wheelchair.

"Pastor Hulbert is known all around this area," said Robert Johnson of Vicksburg, Mich., a longtime friend of Hulbert who assisted him at Bethlehem Baptist for many years. "He's built quite a legacy."

Hulbert says one of the reasons the number of ceremonies he has conducted is so high is that he never refused

to marry or bury someone who wasn't a member of his church.

Eventually, he said, that practice resulted in a larger congregation. "More people came into my church through weddings and funerals than any other way."

Another reason, especially for the large number of funerals, he said, is that he finds it easy to share about God's great compassion. "God is a God of grace and love, and he's there to wrap his arms around you."

Hulbert, who has lived alone since the death of his wife, Mary, in 1987, was destined for the ministry long before he was born, he said. His mother had prayed him into that role.

"That had been a prayer of hers before she got married, that God would give her a child for the ministry," he said.

Born in Paw Paw, Mich., in 1921,

Hulbert grew up in Niles and worked in an upholstery shop there for a minister who converted the shop into a Church of God on Sunday mornings. Hulbert began preaching there at the age of 17. His own father, at the first service at which the teen-ager preached, was his first convert, he said.

After student pastorates, he filled in at Portage Street Baptist Church while it searched for a new pastor. Instead, the Portage Street church, which later became Bethlehem Baptist, asked Hulbert to stay on. He was ordained in 1948 and stayed at that church until his 40th anniversary there in 1986, when he retired.

During the early years of his ministry, Hulbert was known for his energy, his athletic prowess and his ability to relate to young people.

But in 1951, Hulbert began to have physical difficulties caused by adhesions that were squeezing his spinal cord. He began wearing braces and using crutches, then a wheelchair. By 1958, the wheelchair became his regular mode of transportation.

"It was a traumatic time for him because there was a question as to whether he could handle the ministry there under those conditions," said George Craven Jr., a member of Portage Street Baptist at the time. "But he had great determination and he stayed with the church."

Johnson said Hulbert adjusted his style according to what he could do. It wasn't easy for him to call on parishioners personally, for example, so he did his calling by telephone.

And in person, few people would walk away from him depressed, Johnson added. "He always had a big grin and a big smile and a good, big handshake, real enthusiastic. That's the way he greeted people."



**"God is a God of grace and love, and he's there to wrap his arms around you."**

Retired pastor Charles Hulbert

### Meet NASCAR legend

# Darrell Waltrip

in the current issue of *Real Life* magazine

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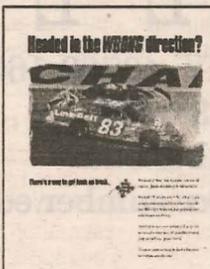
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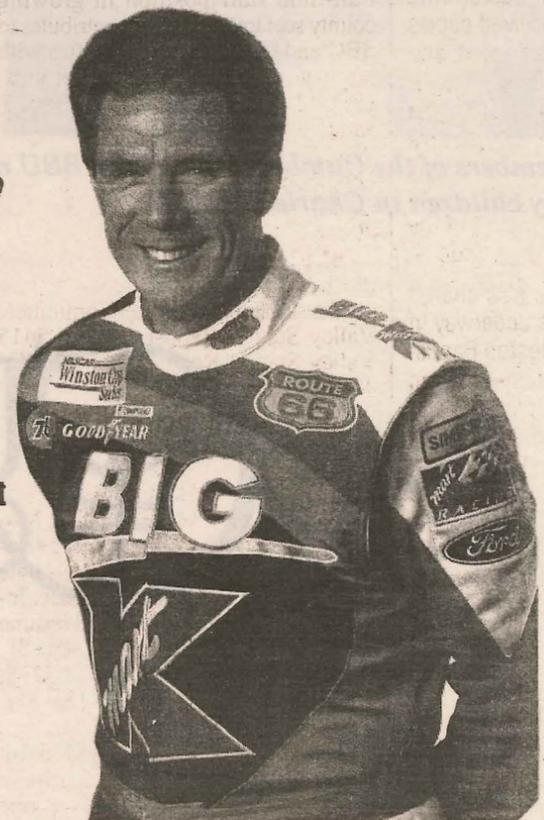
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# Spring Break Service

*Cumberland College students spend Spring Break '99 in service to others*

Instead of spending Spring Break '99 catching up on sleep or hanging out with friends, two groups of Cumberland College students spent their break in service to others in South Carolina.

Students from the Cumberland College Baptist Student Union traveled to Charleston to work with a ministry program called Charleston Outreach. And Abundance, Cumberland's contemporary Christian music group, worked in conjunction with Grand Strand Ministries in Myrtle Beach.

The BSU students spent their mornings and early afternoons assisting in the renovation of homes throughout the inner city of Charleston. In the past five years Charleston Outreach has renovated over 300 homes. The students spent their evenings conducting sports camps, coordinating backyard Bible clubs, and providing ministry through creative arts.



*Members of the Cumberland College BSU minister to inner-city children in Charleston, SC.*

Members of Abundance spent the week in Myrtle Beach working with Grand Strand Ministries. The group worked during the Canadian-American Festival and had numerous opportunities for personal evangelism. Students provided activities for children such as face painting and making balloon animals. Through the Beach Ministry Project, the group also aided in activities with the International KiteFest and the Little Olympics.

Additionally, the group performed free concerts in the Myrtle Beach area, served lunch at a local community kitchen and sorted clothes at a community thrift store.

Since 1992, Abundance has traveled nearly 53,000 miles and performed more than 300 concerts to more than 50,000 people.

These mission trips are just two examples of how Cumberland College students are reaching out in service to others.



*Abundance assist with the Opening Ceremonies of Canadian-American Festival Days in Myrtle Beach.*



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