

May 18, 1999
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FOR THE RECORD

Southern Baptist Convention

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School prayer

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Baseball

Reds pitcher Scott Sullivan (above) was among the Reds and Braves players who led a Christian sports clinic recently. *Page 8.*

Bible

Broadman & Holman plans to have a new translation available by 2004. *Page 9.*

Moving? See page 4 (0518)

Advocates say Kentucky children need churches' help

kids count	Kentucky	
	Rank: 41	Percent Change 1985-1996
	WORSE	BETTER
Percent low birth-weight babies	13	
Infant mortality rate DEATHS PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS		33
Child death rate DEATHS PER 100,000 CHILDREN AGES 1-14		7
Rate of teen deaths by accident, homicide and suicide DEATHS PER 100,000 TEENS AGES 15-19	9	
Teen birth rate BIRTHS PER 1,000 FEMALES AGES 15-17		8
Percent of teens who are high school dropouts AGES 16-19	8	
Percent of teens not attending school and not working AGES 16-19		20
Percent of children living with parents who do not have full-time, year-round employment		8
Percent of children in poverty	4	
Percent of families with children headed by a single parent	32	

By David Winfrey
News Director

LOUISVILLE—Kentucky's high rate of high-risk children should be a wake-up call for churches to respond with ministries and involvement, according to Baptists who work with children across the state.

A report, released May 18, found that 163,000 of Kentucky's children, or one in every six, face four or more family disadvantages that seriously hinder their chances for life success. That number was higher than the national state average of one high-risk child in every seven.

Kentucky slipped a notch in the 10th annual Kids County report, falling to 41st out of 51 states and the District of Columbia.

The report compares 10 indicators for children from 1985 to 1996, the latest year for which statistics are available.

Among the report's findings:

■ 14 percent of Kentucky teens were high school dropouts in 1996, ranking the state 49th in that category.

■ The child poverty rate increased to 25 percent in Kentucky (42nd nationally) despite the fact that the national child poverty rate has declined.

■ Single parenthood in Kentucky rose from 19 percent to 25 percent.

Kentucky Baptists who work with children said they weren't surprised by the findings.

Cathy Neel, director of the Infant Resource Center in Louisville, said the statistics confirmed a lot of what she

already suspected.

"The church is going to have to begin to minister to the alternative family unit," Neel said. The Infant Resource Center provides baby and children supplies to low-income families.

Churches should begin to look at the issues and ministry opportunities for single-parent families, grandparents who are primary caregivers for children and other non-traditional families, Neel said.

Among the needs, she said, are support groups for children as well as parents, related to grief, divorce and recovery from abuse or neglect.

"What better place to start than a church because we already have the compassion and the forgiveness that Jesus gave us to pass on to someone who is hurting," she said. "We need to begin to train our church people to begin to help meet that emotional and mental need."

Bill Smithwick, president of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, agreed, adding that many of the problems cited in the study are symptomatic of Christians who have retreated from society.

"It's not that there's too much darkness, there's just too little light," Smithwick said.

He said KBHC is developing a plan to partner services with local churches that will serve as physical and spiritual supporters for at-risk families in their communities.

"They just need a community with the right values and the right direction" □ See *Advocates: State's low ...*, page 3

Agency cites missionary safety in changing prayer calendar

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Protecting missionaries is the reason cited for a recent change in Southern Baptists' missionary prayer calendar, according to Southern Baptist International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin.

Generations of mission-minded Southern Baptists have prayed for missionaries on their birthdays, using prayer calendars printed in materials published by Woman's Missionary Union and LifeWay Christian Resources. Those prayer calendars listed missionaries' names and the countries in which they served.

Current calendars, however, list missionaries according to the IMB region in which they serve. Each region covers several countries. The IMB removed references to specific countries to protect missionary security and to reflect dramatic changes in the way missionaries work overseas today, Rankin said.

Taking the gospel to previously unreached people groups made the change necessary, Rankin said. Some prayer supporters, however, aren't happy with the switch.

"Over the years I have stored up knowledge about countries, have become acquainted with missionaries to these countries either personally or through reading, and have practiced praying much wider than just the missionary having a birthday," wrote Nan

Owens of Junction City, Ark.

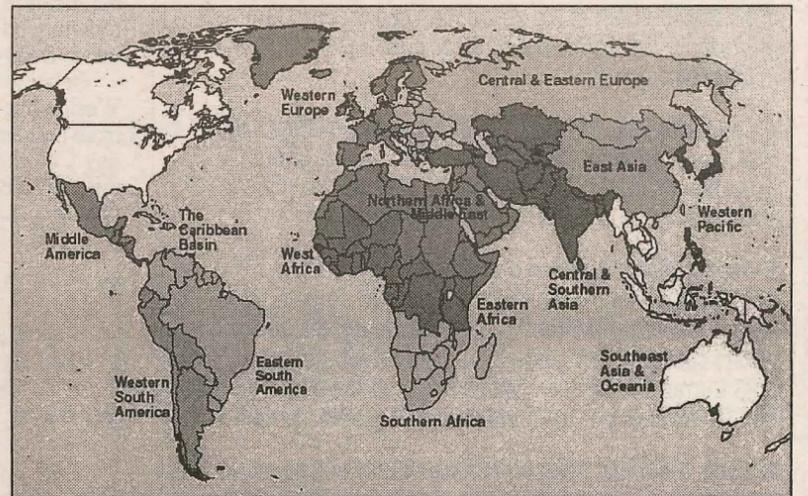
"That's impossible to do with the broad listings," she wrote. "For one thing, I can't use the news sources to zero in on problems a missionary might be facing. I can't intercede for specific political leaders and entities. I don't know with whom else the missionary is interacting."

Rankin said he understands the frustrations but added that two pressing issues forced the IMB to list missionaries only by region.

First, Southern Baptist workers today are sharing the gospel in places hostile to Christian missionaries. Publicly identifying those workers and the places they serve as IMB missionaries would jeopardize their safety and ministry and expose believers in those places to danger. Some IMB workers have assignments that are so sensitive they are not listed at all on the prayer calendar.

Second, the board has shifted its focus from working in countries to working among ethnic people groups. Recognizing that the gospel spreads most readily within a people group—and that tribal relations often cross political borders—Southern Baptist missionaries have begun organizing themselves around the people groups they are trying to reach.

These "people group teams" aren't restricted to working in any one coun-



NEW MISSIONARY MAP A new map by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board shows the 14 regions the agency will use to show where a missionary is working. The agency has moved away from showing specific countries, citing safety concerns for those in areas hostile to Christianity. (BP photo)

try, and the place a missionary lives might have little to do with his or her work, Rankin said. There are 4,570 IMB missionaries living in 126 countries, but they are involved in strategies reaching more than 336 people groups in 184 countries.

For the first time in its 154-year history, the International Mission Board is pursuing a truly global strategy, committed to taking the gospel to every last people group on earth,

regardless of where they live, Rankin said. That shift has required missionaries to make enormous adjustments, and their supporters will have to make adjustments as well, he said.

One way mission supporters can compensate, Rankin said, is by leading their churches to adopt missionary families. By intimately knowing a family, sensitive information can be shared without having to resort to published media, he said.

BAPTISTS

SBC-RELATED EVENTS

■ **Pastors' Conference.** June 13-14 in Georgia Dome. Theme: "You Can Make a Difference." Speakers include: Christian financial adviser Larry Burkett; Bob Reccord, president of the North American Mission Board; Christian leadership adviser John Maxwell; Jimmy Draper, president of LifeWay Christian Resources; Jerry Rankin, president of the International Mission Board; Johnny Hunt, pastor of First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga.; and Charles Colson, founder of Prison Fellowship.

■ **WMU annual meeting.** June 13-14 at Wieuca Road Baptist Church in Atlanta. Theme: "Strength for Today, Bright Hope for Tomorrow." Speakers include: author Calvin Miller and Hawaii pastor Paul Kaneshiro. Cost: \$35 per person before May 21; \$50 per person after May 21.

■ **Southern Baptist Evangelists convention.** Contemporary Christian music concert June 12 at 7 p.m. in Atlanta's Centennial Olympic Park. Worship service June 13 at 9:15 a.m. in Centennial Park. Business meeting June 15 at 7 a.m. in Room W262 on level 2 of the Georgia World Congress Center. For information, call President Jerry Drace, (901) 784-0087.

■ **Associational Directors of Missions conference.** June 13-14 at the Westin Atlanta Airport Hotel. Theme: "Leading Your Association into a New Century." Speakers include Christian leadership speaker John Maxwell; Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Community Church in Lake Forest, Calif.; New directors of missions orientation June 11-12; the retired DOM and wives fellowship at noon June 14.

■ **African-American Fellowship.** Worship June 13, at 5 p.m. at Atlanta's Sandtown Baptist Church. Luncheon noon June 15, in Room 264-265W of the Georgia World Congress Center. Business meeting June 14 at 10 a.m. For information, call Ethel Williams at (800) 999-3113, ext. 1423, or e-mail, ethel.williams@imb.org.

■ **NAMB Vision Center to open during SBC.** The North American Mission Board will host a grand opening for its new vision center June 16. The center is an interactive, multimedia experience to illustrate the past and future challenges of reaching North America with the gospel. The center will be open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Buses from the Georgia Dome will run June 16 from noon to 3:30 p.m. Free tickets will be available at the NAMB booth at the convention center. For more information, call (770) 410-6452 or e-mail lmittchell@namb.net.

■ **Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors convocation.** June 14 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., at White Oak Hills Baptist Church in Stone Mountain, Ga. Theme: "Call to Chaplaincy." For reservations, call (770) 410-6367 by May 27.

■ **Baptist World Alliance breakfast.** June 16 at 7 a.m. in the Westin Peachtree Plaza's Spanish/Georgian Rooms. BWA General Secretary Denton Lotz will be among the speakers. Tickets cost \$12 each and may be purchased from the BWA, 6733 Curran St., McLean, VA 22101 or at the BWA's booth in the SBC exhibit hall. For information, call (703) 790-8980.

■ **North American Messianic Association luncheon.** June 15 at 11:35 a.m. in Room W264 of Atlanta's World Congress Center. Theme: "Jewish Language Congregation Building."

■ **Founders Fellowship breakfast.** June 15 at 7 a.m. in Atlanta's Georgia World Congress Center, Rooms W266-267 on level two. Tickets cost \$5 each and may be ordered through Founders Ministries, Box 150931, Cape Coral, FL 33915.

■ **FAITH awareness luncheon.** June 15 from 11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. in ballrooms III and IV in the Georgia World Conference Center. Tickets cost \$10 and can be purchased at the FAITH exhibit in the Georgia World Congress Center June 14 and the morning of June 15.

Two-day SBC meeting planned for Atlanta

ATLANTA (BP)—An abbreviated two-day session of the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention is set for June 15-16 in Atlanta's Georgia Dome.

For a number of years the annual meeting has been two and a half days, starting Tuesday morning and finishing Thursday at noon. But the latest change, approved by messengers last year, is a continuation of schedule shrinking that has occurred throughout the event's history.

As early as 20 years ago, the convention met three full days, and 50 years ago the annual meeting started Wednesday morning and finished with an evangelistic service Sunday night.

SBC Registration Secretary Lee Porter predicted 14,000 messengers would register for the meeting.

In addition to hearing preaching, singing and reports from SBC entities, messengers will vote on a number of items, including recommendations not to change the name of the convention and not to move the next year's convention from Orlando, Fla.

The two-day schedule for the annual meeting will mean messengers wanting to introduce resolutions for consideration must do so before the start of the Tuesday afternoon session. Messengers who want to have resolutions considered are urged to send them to the Resolutions Committee before the annual meeting.

Messengers will vote on a recommendation not to change the name of the convention. The SBC's Executive Committee discussed two proposals offered at last year's annual meeting but decided in its February meeting there is "no compelling rationale" for a change and "is not justified when all factors are taken into account."

Also, the Executive Committee, acting on several referred motions from Salt Lake City last year to move the location of the 2000 session, will recommend leaving the annual meeting in 2000 in Orlando, Fla.

Orlando is the home of Disney World, thus the referred motions stem from the so-called boycott of The Disney Co. endorsed by messengers to the 1997 SBC annual meeting in Dal-

Patterson urges attendance

With a focus on the cities, SBC President Paige Patterson has urged all Southern Baptists to consider attending next month's annual meeting in Atlanta.

"As a launching pad to the 21st century, I do not think Southern Baptists will ever have met in a more critically important and strategic convention," Patterson wrote in a letter to all state Baptist newspapers.

Patterson noted that the convention theme "His Tears, Our Task" will be an emphasis on America's cities and the mandate to take the gospel to them.

Patterson also requested that Southern Baptists consider taking part in the Arms Around Atlanta and Crossover Atlanta evangelistic efforts before, during and after the meeting.

"Just about all who have studied the situation believe that we can indeed reach and baptize more than 500,000 people for the first time in our history from October of 1999, to September of 2000," Patterson states. "But if we do so, it will only be because we have diligently sought the face of God and his intervention, unified ourselves around the evangelistic task and prepared ourselves for the demanding task at hand."

las, challenging various "anti-family" and "anti-Christian" directions and specific practices at the entertainment conglomerate.

The Executive Committee's recommendation states messengers to the Orlando meeting will "meet the challenge presented by worldliness that the Southern Baptist Convention has met in other convention cities."

Another referral from the Salt Lake City meeting would add to the Baptist Faith and Message statement of Baptist beliefs, Article I, which includes a reference to Scripture's truth: "in every area of which it speaks." The Executive Committee declined to act on that referral following a recommendation of "no action be taken" from the Council of Seminary Presidents.

The theme of the Atlanta meeting, "His Tears ... Our Task!" is taken from Luke 19:41 in which Jesus "... beheld the city, and wept ..."

The two evenings of the meeting will feature missions presentations by the North American Mission Board and the International Mission Board.

The week prior to the SBC, an evangelistic project coordinated by NAMB, the Georgia Baptist Convention and the Atlanta Baptist Association, called "Crossover," will penetrate metro Atlanta.

Also on the agenda:

■ Reggie White, a recently-retired

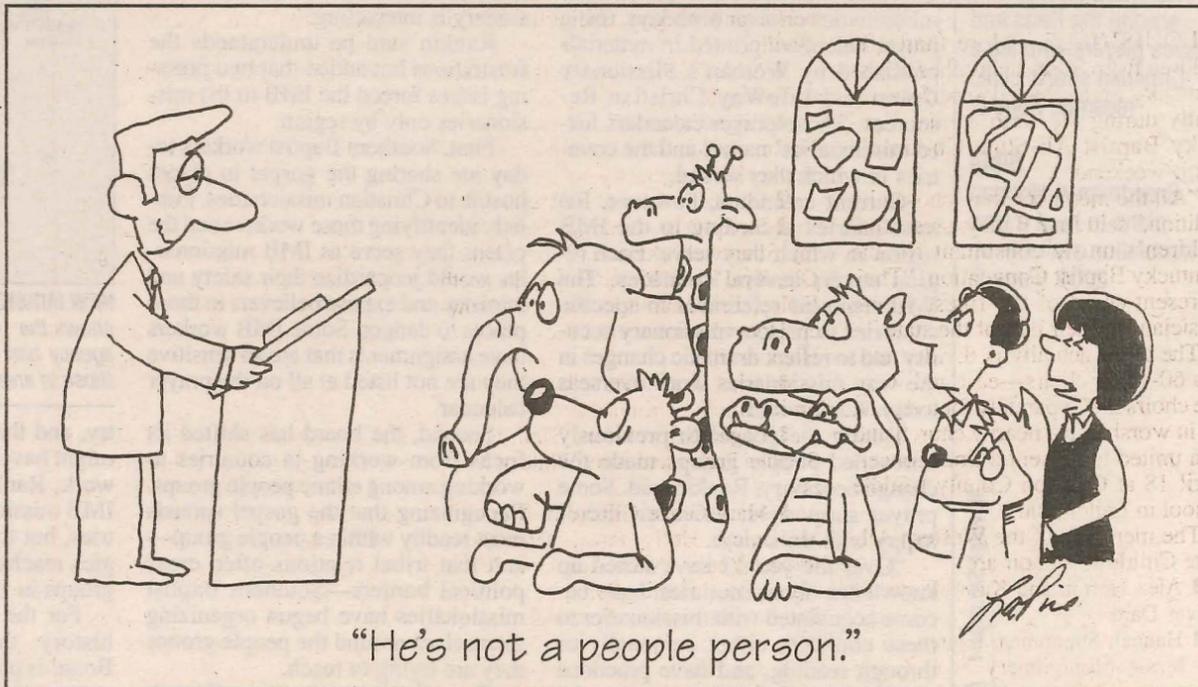
professional football player and Tennessee preacher will share his testimony. White, a future Hall of Famer, raised some controversy last year with public remarks about traditional family values and calling the homosexual lifestyle unbiblical.

■ An election for SBC president will also be held, although tradition holds that a president serving in his first year is given a second one-year term. Paige Patterson, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., was elected last year in Salt Lake City to a one-year term as president. No opposition has surfaced to Patterson's reelection.

■ In addition to Patterson bringing the annual message of the SBC president, the convention sermon will be preached by Ralph Smith, pastor emeritus of Hyde Park Baptist Church, Austin, Texas.

■ Jerry Falwell, pastor of Thomas Avenue Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Va., will deliver a prayer at the meeting.

■ Messengers will be asked to approve a record \$159.6 million Cooperative Program Allocation Budget for SBC entities for 1999-2000. Nearly \$5 million over the current year's budget, the proposed budget will retain the same distribution percentages to 12 SBC entities.



Churches urged to make the most of vacation Bible school

By Brenda Smith
Kentucky Baptist Convention

LOUISVILLE—Vacation Bible school can be the single largest outreach event of the year if Kentucky Baptist churches maximize their opportunities, according to Dan Garland.

Garland, the Kentucky Baptist Convention's evangelism director, said churches should make the most of their opportunities to help both children and their parents become Christians.

"VBS isn't anything new that we're doing," said Garland, who joined the Kentucky Baptist Convention staff in February. "One of the things I hope to do is to help Kentucky Baptists do vacation Bible school better."

Last year, KBC churches reported hosting 765 schools with 89,351 students. Nearly 2,000 children made professions of faith in Jesus Christ and more than 60 said they were accepting a call to church-related vocations.

In addition, 12,990 parents and children either joined Sunday schools or were added to prospect lists as a result of their involvement with vacation Bible school.

Garland said those numbers can be

even larger if churches will truly tune in to the opportunities the popular ministry presents.

His traced his enthusiasm for vacation Bible school to his own experience as a child at First Baptist Church of Burnside.

"It was fun," Garland recalled, "because the teachers made the gospel so real. Vacation Bible school helped plant the seed for me to come to Christ."

"Vacation Bible school for a very long time has been one of the great outreach arms of the church," added Wendy Dever, preschool/children's associate for the Kentucky Baptist Convention Sunday school department.

"Vacation Bible school is a wonderful, fun time—like Sunday school—where we learn about Jesus Christ who loves us," she said.

"Mt. Extreme: The Ultimate Good News Challenge," the 1999 vacation Bible school curriculum produced by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, features a mountain climbing and outdoor adventure theme.

Children will begin their experience at Bible Study Base Camp. Other stops on the "trail up Mt. Extreme"

include Mountain Lodge Worship Rally, Missions Cascades, Crafts Cavern, Recreation and Snacks Clearing, and Music Cove.

"Each stop on the trail is designed to reinforce the Bible story for the day," Dever said.

Making the gospel real for children is one of the strengths of vacation Bible school as an evangelistic tool, she said. Another strength is its intensity, she added. Vacation Bible school packs three months of Sunday school into five days, Dever said.

Garland and Dever are both encouraging churches to capitalize on the strengths of vacation Bible school.

The first step in maximizing evangelistic opportunities, Garland said, is holding vacation Bible school at a time when the most children can attend. As churches in Kentucky minister to single parent and dual income families, many are finding that evenings are the best time to hold vacation Bible school.

In 1998, three out of four vacation Bible schools were held in the evening, according to Dever, and some schools are even held on consecutive Saturdays.

And vacation Bible school isn't limited to the summer months any-

more, Dever noted. Some churches are holding vacation Bible school during other school breaks and holidays.

After choosing the best time, churches should make promotion a priority, Garland said. Sunday morning worship is a prime time for promoting the event to church members and regular visitors, but reaching the unchurched means canvassing neighborhoods, mailing flyers or requesting a public service announcement from a local radio station, he said.

Both Dever and Garland said vacation Bible school workers must be well trained in ministering to children. Training is available through Baptist associations, the KBC Sunday school department and LifeWay.

Workers should understand that conversion to Christianity is the work of the Holy Spirit, Dever said, and they should concentrate on laying a foundation, particularly with very young children.

"If children have that foundation then one day when God does whisper their name, they'll hear and have the courage to follow," she said.

For more information on vacation Bible school, contact the KBC Sunday school department at (888) 254-5709 or (502) 254-4730.

BLUEGRASS BURGOO

■ **Jerry Perry**, pastor of Harris Creek Baptist Church in Stanford, was fatally injured in an automobile accident May 4. Perry, 45, is survived by his wife Linda, three children and four grandchildren. "Jerry will be missed by his family and his church family at Harris Creek Baptist Church," said Robbie Manning, of the Lincoln County Baptist Association. "Pray for the family and the church through this time of mourning."

■ **A recent Mountain Outreach** project provided clothing, furniture and medical assistance to about 175 families, organizers said. Mountain Outreach is a community outreach project for residents in the area surrounding Cumberland College.

■ **Twenty-three Clear Creek Baptist Bible College** students graduated May 7 at ceremonies at Binghamtown Baptist Church in Middlesboro.

■ **Kentucky Baptist homes for Children's Women's Advisory Board** will sponsor a fundraising and awareness walk May 22 in Ashland. For more information, call (606) 325-7062 or (800) 456-1386.

Advocates: State's low ranking shows kids need churches' help

Continued from page 1

to move them from destructive behavior to constructive behavior," he said. "I think that's the biggest way we're going to make a difference."

Smithwick said his goal is to involve all 2,300 Kentucky Baptist churches in some form of involvement with at-risk families.

"I'm here to say that in Kentucky nobody can do it better than Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children and local Baptist churches across the state," he said. "If we can partner and permeate the state we can revolutionize this state."

Rebecca Hogg, a two-year South-

ern Baptist missionary with the Freedom Harris Center in Lookout, said she's seeing a cyclical problem between discipline and education.

"Discipline problems lead to not getting the education they need because they're distracted at school and they're not getting the help they need at home," she said.

Churches that host after-school programs can provide tutoring and teach some discipline as well as model God's love.

"At least for that two hours you can show consistent love and also within those programs you can tell them about God, most of all," she said.

Another way Kentucky Baptists can make a difference is through personal involvement in school issues, leaders said.

"We as Christians have got to take a stronger stand in political and social organizations outside of the church," Neel said.

Smithwick agreed, saying Baptists individually should advocate that Kentucky allocate sufficient financial resources for children's programs. "If we as individual Christians will voice our opinions more, we will definitely influence lawmakers in the direction they need to go."

That influence is also important in

personal involvement in school programs, Neel said. She referred to her work as a "band mom" for her daughter who is in high school.

"That's my mission field. I don't have to be churchy, but those kids see something different in Krisin's parents," she said. "They want that positive reinforcement in their lives, and they know they'll get it from us because they see it in our lives."

The Kids Count data was compiled by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, a private charitable organization dedicated to improving the future for disadvantaged children and families in the United States.

More than 100 youth chosen for Kentucky Baptist All-State Children's Choir

By Brenda Smith
Kentucky Baptist Convention

LOUISVILLE—More than 100 children from Baptist churches across Kentucky were selected to perform recently during the sixth annual Kentucky Baptist All-State Children's Choir weekend.

"All the members were chosen by audition," said June Bailey, preschool/children's music consultant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention. "They represent some of the finest young musicians in their part of the state."

The choir actually is divided into two 60-voice choirs—east and west. The choirs met separately for a retreat, led in worship at a nearby church and then united to present a final concert April 18 at Grayson County Middle School in Leitchfield.

The members of the Western All-State Children's Choir are:

■ Alex Horton and Kasey Porter of Beaver Dam.

■ Hannah Shoopman, Lauren Lowe and Jessie Montgomery of Bowling Green.

■ Warren Akers, Devon Aldridge, Kelsea Carney, Lauren Choat, Jill Haerberlin and Megan Haerberlin of Edyville.

■ Ashley Yancey and Adrian Nelson of Fredonia.

■ Paige Cash, Whitley Feese, Brent Huffman, Courtney Jessie and Brittany Rucker of Glasgow.

■ Elizabeth Ayer of Hartford.

■ Emily Doss, Courtney Ferry, Ashley Shemwell, Amanda Moss, Hilary Olp, Kyle Rade, Ryann Boyd, Elizabeth Finley, Eric Hamilton, Bryn Hightower, Bryan Kursave and Lacey Smith of Hopkinsville.

■ Isabel Duarte-Gray, Randy Fraliex, Emily Knoth of Kuttawa.

■ Logan Schwettman, Sarah Hines, Stephen Parker and Amy White of Murray.

■ Mary Grace Gilbreath, Meredith McKinley, Holly Page, Tina Page, Rachel Yeiser, Anna Agisilaou, Maria Agisilaou, Jamie Bennett, Melissa Bruntz and Brittany Porter of Owensboro.

■ Ben Frothingham of Plano.

■ Amber Austin, Sarah Jo Goodaker,

Mari Kate Lewis, Kelsey Scott, Lyndsey Green, Samantha Meeks, Laura Don Oliver, Sara Beth Sherrill and John Wood of Princeton.

■ Adam Vance and Brad Jett of West Paducah.

■ Cayce Grace of Woodlawn.

The members of the Eastern All-State Children's Choir are:

■ Courtney Cameron, Alison Cart and Robey Smith of Brandenburg.

■ Kristin Hornsby of Burlington.

■ Anna Gross of Covington.

■ Bethany Foxx, Megan Koop and Corinne Winkler of Edgewood.

■ Shannon Bishoff of Elizabethtown.

■ Eric Feldpausch of Fisherville.

■ Kayla Poole, Sara Beth Ratliff, Deirdre Bolin, Amanda Jackson and Kristi Pennington of Frankfort.

■ Niki Akin, Beth Montgomery and Karly Pegram of Greensburg.

■ Sarah Parks of Hebron.

■ Sarah Baker and Cassie Humes of Hodgenville.

■ Kayla Wonner of Independence.

■ Briley Todd of Jeffersonville.

■ Rebekah Logsdon of Lawrenceburg.

■ Maranda Brooks, Ross Dicker, Logan Flynn and Gabriel Rieber of Lexington.

■ Kelly Grills of London.

■ Jesse Barfield, Mera Kathryn Corlett, Brandon Davis, Nicole Haworth, Christopher Jones, Joelle Leiferman, Derrick Neese, Libby Scott, Megan Connolly, Megan Green, Kelsey Lee, Seth Maddox, Amber Hall, Courtney Jones, Ellen Kahne, Robert Kahne, Whitney Kelsey, Laura Laffoon, Austin Linton, Emily Mullins, Alicia Nelson, Becky Owens, Clinton Owens, Peter Wu, Elizabeth Jetton and Brittany Jones of Louisville.

■ Raye Morris of Nicholasville.

■ Ben Bess and Kaitlin Johnson of Owenton.

■ Kaitlyn Peace of Shepherdsville.

■ Carmen Drake of Sonora.

■ Caitlin Combs and Allison England of Versailles.

■ Rachel Williams of Villahills.

■ Megan Jones of Williamstown.

For more information about Kentucky Baptist All-State Children's Choir, contact the KBC church music department at (502) 245-4101 or (888) 254-5707.

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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The choice is ours

Why is our country the most violent nation on earth? Why do we worship guns and make them so accessible? Why do the creators of violent TV shows, movies and video games keep on producing products that have no positive benefit to humankind? Why are we as individuals and a corporate body failing to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with our God? Why do our preachers, pundits and politicians refuse to tackle head-on the greed that is destroying us?

If we don't seriously address the problem of greed in all areas of our lives, we will continue to wring our hands forever and ask, "Why?"

Greed, or love of money and controlling power over others, is the mother of violence and the root of all evil. Since love of money and love of God cannot coexist, our hope rests in replacing a love of money with love for our Creator God and our neighbor. As love of God, love of neighbor and love of self increases, violence will decrease proportionately.

Our choice is to continue to wallow in a culture of greed and violence or to work to fulfill God's plan for us of a "beloved community," or kingdom, where heavenly values prevail.

*Paul L. Whiteley Sr.
Louisville*

Bravo to assemblies

I was recently at Cedarmore Baptist Assembly for the Executive Board Meeting and was pleased to see many improvements and works in process on the grounds. This letter is sent as commendation for Rusty Ellison and all of the staff and directors of the Kentucky Baptist Assemblies for taking the bull by the horns and going to

work with their sleeves rolled up to make a difference at our Baptist assembly.

Their positive attitude on the use and potential ministry of the assembly is evident not only in their enthusiastic promotion of the programs but also on the way that the grounds are kept neatly trimmed, new wooden benches, improved walking trails and steps and overall a look of caring about the facilities.

Both Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore have tremendous potential to reach lives for Christ. I am one Kentucky Baptist who would like to say to them that they are doing a good job and encourage them to keep up the good work.

*Tim Langford
Hickman*

Remembering

It was our good fortune to have known Bruce and Dorothy Hartsell when they first came to Kentucky in 1946 as students at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Bruce was in the theology school, and Dorothy started as a student in the then new school of church music.

Her obvious talent at the keyboard soon had her serving as an instructor in piano—a position she held for 18 years (1946-64). In those years Dorothy had the distinction of accompanying the first faculty voice recital and being the organist for the first two music school choir tours (1946-47).

Well-known as an entertainer, Dorothy was often called on to perform for parties and receptions in homes, churches and clubs throughout the Louisville area and elsewhere. She was the only Louisville musician we know of who was a bona fide member of the International Platform Association.

*Ruth and Hugh McElrath
Louisville*

Eloquent response

The response of Dr. Dorothy Patterson to my guest editorial on the SBC approval of the family article last June was a balanced and eloquent summary of the biblical teaching on the family.

Instead of the one-sided emphasis on the "gracious submission" of the wife, Dr. Patterson stressed the mutual submission to Christ and to each other, in the differing ways that voluntary submission is expressed among parents, children, elders, and young people.

If the SBC Article 18, as well as the behavior of the convention, had been as gracious and balanced as Dr. Patterson's response, there would have been no problem in the first place.

*Wayne Ward
Louisville*

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

Associations are vital

Associations have had a significant role in the development of Southern Baptist life. They have grown in number to more than 1,200 in the Southern Baptist Convention, and there are 75 active associations in Kentucky.

During May churches will focus on associations and their ministries. There are about 50 positions for directors of missions who serve one or more associations. Some directors of missions are part-time, but all serve out of a call from God to assist churches and leaders. One of their primary objectives is to assist their churches in becoming Great Commission churches locally and around the world.

Associations are encouraged to conduct World Missions Conferences every 4-5 years. Missionaries are enlisted to speak in all participating churches. It is a great time of fellowship, information and challenge.

Associations also develop strategies to assist churches in development

and in reaching their communities for Christ. Leadership training conferences are conducted as well as evangelism emphases such as simultaneous revivals and crusades. Associational youth rallies allow young people to be inspired and challenged by speakers and musicians that they might not hear otherwise. In short, associations assist churches in doing together what they cannot do separately.

In cooperation with the KBC, associations have also had a vital role in enlisting people to participate in partnership missions. Some associations are developing a partnership with unreached people groups. Also, in cooperation with KBC and the North American Mission Board, associations are involved in Hispanic, multi-housing, inner-city and mountain ministries and missions.

Because associations are closer to the churches, it is easier to customize ministries and training to the church and community needs. The director of missions can be a trusted friend to

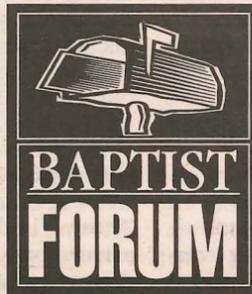
mentor new staff and pastors. The DOM can also be an objective adviser to pastors and church leaders during times of decision and transitions.

Recently I participated in the dedication of the new ministry center facilities for Warren Baptist Association. It is a dream come true for this association to have a spacious ministry facility and more than 25 acres of land in a prime location to develop recreational facilities and ministries.

On a more personal note, I will always be indebted to Bell County and Three Forks Associations for providing encouragement and opportunities for me to develop and serve. It was from these associations that I learned the value of the association. I discovered that what would help my church was probably needed by others. In partnership with KBC, valuable training, customized to the church, was provided at minimal cost to the association and churches.

Our associations are vital parts of our ministry in Kentucky. Let's continue to develop this partnership so we can serve the churches and communities more effectively.

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



CHURCH

Saying 'thanks' to those who give

By Doug Strader

The Bible helps us understand that everyone has some basic needs in life. One of those needs

is affirmation. We need to know that we are appreciated and that what we are doing is making a difference in our world.



Churches are discovering they should say "thanks" to all the people who give of their time, talents, spiritual giftedness and finances. As growing Christians, we know that our Lord expects us to serve him, even if nobody affirms our service. But the church should say "thanks" to those who give, in as many ways as possible.

How can your church say "thanks" to all the people who give financially to the church? I do not have an exhaustive list, but maybe my list will cause you to do some thinking:

- The pastor and/or stewardship committee chairperson could take two or three minutes during Sunday morning worship to say "thanks."

- The pastor and/or stewardship committee chairperson could write a thank-you letter to all those who are giving financially to the church. (Have the financial secretary furnish the church secretary the names of those who are contributing financially to the church.)

- Have special thank-you cards printed and mailed to those who are giving financially to the church.

- Have testimonies from laypeople related to a specific ministry that is made possible because of the faithful contributions of the people. Encourage the speakers to say they are thankful for the financial contributions that make the ministry possible.

- Invite your director of missions to speak during morning worship. A part of his message could include a "thank you" for your financial contribution to the association. He could let members know what the association is able to do because of their financial contributions.

- If possible, have a home missionary and/or an international missionary speak on Sunday morning to thank the church for their financial support that enables them to do their work.

The bottom line is not so much what you say, but the fact that you are saying, "Thanks. We appreciate you and what you are doing."

Reprinted from WR, March 10, 1998

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

When are prewedding jitters something to be concerned about?

Q. I'm engaged to be married in June and am having second thoughts. I know wedding jitters are normal, but what if it's more than that? I've had my doubts for months now and when I tried to bring it up with my fiancé, he wouldn't discuss it. He says I'm worrying for nothing. I don't want to make a mistake, but I hate to make a big deal out of nothing. The date is getting closer, and I'm feeling pressure!

You are right that having some degree of prewedding "jitters" is normal. After all, marriage is a big step requiring new responsibilities, roles and a significant change in lifestyle. Given that most people enter marriage with the hope and belief that it will be permanent, feeling some anxiety or having some second thoughts is normal.

However, some concerns are more than "jitters" and should be given due consideration. For instance, the fact that your doubts have not subsided during the past few months, but seem to be getting worse might indicate that you need to re-evaluate your plans. Your feeling pressured into a big decision such as marriage is also a concern. Being rushed into making important decisions, or not having anyone with whom to share concerns (you said your fiancé wasn't willing to discuss this) makes it less likely that a good decision will result.

It is imperative that you have a serious talk with your fiancé and discuss your concerns with him. Be honest and open and ask him to do the same.

Slow the process down. Realize that you have more than the two options of getting married or not getting married. You also have the option of postponing your plans until your concerns are resolved. If your fiancé cares about you and your future marriage, he won't push you into a marriage for which you are not ready.

Finally, you might wish to seek premarital counseling. Either your pastor, the person who is performing your wedding ceremony or a marriage and family therapist might help you sort out your feelings so that you can make the decision that is right for you.—Susan Howell

Q. What should we teach our 12- and 14-year-old sons about fighting back when someone picks on them?

"Be angry and sin not" sums up the best response. Paul's words in Ephesians 4:26 speak to today's world of teenage violence with clarity and wisdom. First of all, your sons will be angered by the aggression of others. The critical issue centers on how to express the outrage without making the situation worse.

Use words, not weapons. Tell the people that you will take action to see that they are punished. Teach your offspring to recognize emotions in themselves and in others. Give feelings a name. Look for the cause. Tell the proper people. Speak up for yourself, but do not escalate the conflict.

Teach problem solving to your adolescents. Assist them in defining the problems clearly, looking for alternate ways to solve things and agreeing upon one of these alternatives. Teach them to negotiate for solutions.

Stress respect for themselves and others. Perhaps the so-called bullies have been hurt by something. The best guard against violence is strong friendships across the group. Caring about each other reduces the desire to hurt or get even.

Finally, there might be a time to defend themselves or to avoid the situation. Not all people can be negotiated out of their anger. Be certain that your boys know that you will support them in difficult situations, but that you expect them to be responsible with their anger.—Wade Rowatt

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



Two new words for our Christian language

By A.B. Colvin

New words are finding a place in our English vocabulary and in dictionaries with amazing rapidity.

Technology is responsible for many of the additions. New concepts are the cause of many others. New outlooks or understandings of old ideas bring the development of new words.

The application of great biblical truths might lead to the use of two new words. Please, do not consider these suggestions absurd until you have evaluated them carefully.

The first possibility for a new word is "oughto."

The fact that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God means that all men oughto consider their relationship to God.

The words of Jesus' warning that except men repent they shall all likewise perish declares that all men oughto repent.

Jesus' words to Nicodemus that except a man be born from above (again) he cannot see the kingdom of God indicate that all men oughto be born again.

Again, Jesus' declaration that he that believeth on him is not condemned; but he that believeth not is condemned already because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God avows that all men oughto believe on Jesus.

Jesus observed thus (in this manner) it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness, following his immersion by John the Baptist. He herein proclaimed a great truth: all believers oughto be immersed.

In his assuring statement, whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess before my Father who is in heaven, Jesus leaves no doubt that we oughto confess him as Lord and Savior.

In a parable, Jesus spoke to his disciples to this end that men ought always to pray and not to faint. Men oughto pray always.

Recorded in the great "woe" chapters (Matthew 23 and Luke 11), Jesus dealt directly with the New Testament doctrine of stewardship of possessions and tithing. Whether his reference to "these ought ye to have done" referred to tithing or the weightier matters, he emphasized that both acts should have been performed.

Although his target was composed of people who were not Christians, the strongest imagination cannot picture one of them receiving the grace of God in Christ and then feeling that he had been relieved of the necessity of tithing. Rather his response would have led to the true joy of paying the tithe and also doing the weightier matters. God is as willing to be proved under grace as under the law in Malachi's day.

All Christians oughto tithe and go beyond that exercise in expressing their gratitude to God.

When Paul admonished us to be kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven us, he left no doubt that we oughto

be kind and forgiving from good hearts. This admonition should be heard by every participant in the warring parties among Southern Baptists. All of us oughto hear, heed and act accordingly.

There is an overwhelming need for individuals and family members to be guided by the declaration of Joshua, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Manifold maiming and killing in our nation would cease with this attitude. Without exception we oughto serve the Lord.

Now, for a second new word built upon the implications of the first and far more significant in its power is the word "wanto."

The most sincere recognition of the demands of oughto serves no purpose if it does not result in a genuine wanto.

Only a heartfelt, consuming, Spirit-led desire to respond positively to the oughtos listed here and others akin to them will make a significant difference in the individual, the society, the world and the kingdom of God.

Such an experience can result only when the individual gives complete prayerful attention to the claims of Christ on the Christian citizen.

Whether one cares about the suggestion of two new words, oughto and wanto, there can be no escape from the claims of the Spirit realized by them.

You are invited to join me in giving our best spiritual effort to this special call. We oughto, let's wanto, God being our helper.

A.B. Colvin is assistant to the president of Oneida Baptist Institute

'Where are you?'

By Mark Boes

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?" (Genesis 3:8-9)

"Mark! Where are you?" my dad called.

I laid as quietly as I could in my bed. I didn't want him to find me. Maybe the darkness would hide me under the covers of my bed.

"Mark! Are you in here?" he called again.

I kept asking myself, Why did I kick a hole in the door to my sister's room? How could I have been so stupid? Yeah, I was mad because my older sister broke up our football game, then arrogantly walked away. But why did I kick a hole in the door?

"Mark! Are you in here?" my father called patiently.

As a 10-year-old boy it never oc-

curred to me that my father knew exactly where I was. He knew exactly what I had done. He knew why I was hiding. But still he called out for me, "Mark! Where are you?"

The third chapter of Genesis tells of the time Adam and Eve did something God told them not to do. Almost immediately they realized a terrible loneliness, and they ran to hide.

Since the beginning of time people have felt the urge to run and hide when they have done something wrong. What is amazing is that we attempt to hide from the one who can overcome the effects of our wrongdoing, our heavenly Father.

Yes, Adam and Eve might be able to hide from our heavenly Father in the shadows, but they could not escape him; neither can we.

God came looking for the first couple. He could not ignore their disobedience, nor could he leave them quivering in the guilt of their wrongful deed.

They were his own.

Just as Adam and Eve were God's own, so are we. Out of love God comes to find us when we disobey. With his sweet voice he calls, "Where are you?"

Don't misunderstand. God knows where you are. He knows what you have done. He knows how your disobedience affects you. With tenderness and love our heavenly Father is seeking a favorable response from you as he calls, "Where are you?"

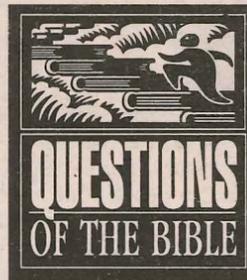
I answered my earthly father's call that night, and our relationship grew stronger and deeper, in spite of my powerful right foot.

Our heavenly Father desires to deepen and strengthen our relationship with him. So when we run and hide because of our disobedience, our heavenly Father lovingly comes calling, "Where are you? Let's make things right."

Is it time for you to step out of the dark shadows and into the light of God's presence? He is calling you. Regardless of the damage you have done, he graciously calls, "Where are you, my child?"

Reprinted from WR, Jan. 13, 1998

Mark Boes is pastor of Cecilia Baptist Church



NAMB: Sponsors urgently needed for Kosovo refugees

By Marty King
SBC North American Mission Board

NAMB. "Our office has been flooded with calls from churches asking for information about sponsorship, but we now need commitments if we're going to minister to these people in Christ's name," he said.

Since March, more than 1 million ethnic Albanian refugees have fled Yugoslavia's Kosovo province or have been deported forcibly. The first 20,000 Kosovars approved for resettlement in the United States are being processed through Fort Dix, N.J.

Robinson said those who have qualified for immigration either have relatives in the United States who will serve as sponsors or they have been classified as "vulnerable cases." Churches are needed to serve as cosponsors for those with family and as full sponsors for vulnerable cases.

Vulnerable cases include Kosovars who are elderly or have medical needs, those who have been brutalized, and mothers with murdered or separated husbands.

In addition to love, friendship and emotional support, sponsoring churches are asked to provide:

- Housing and utilities for three months or until public assistance begins or employment is secured.
- Food for the first two weeks or until food stamps begin.
- Transportation to medical exams, the Social Security office, conversational English classes and to enroll

children in school.

Refugees are eligible for government medical insurance such as Medicare and Medicaid and are authorized for employment in the United States, Robinson said.

"No church will need to shoulder the responsibilities alone," he said. "Two or more churches may join together to sponsor a family. And the North American Mission Board and Church World Service, which helps coordinate resettlement by faith groups, have 45 local affiliate offices nationwide. Refugees are being assigned to sponsors within 100 miles of one of those centers." Robinson said those offices will also help with language translators.

Churches willing to sponsor or cosponsor refugees should contact NAMB's immigration office at (770) 410-6343. E-mail may be sent to rrobinson@namb.net.

Churches also may send donations to assist with the resettlement project. Money may be sent to Refugee Resettlement Account, NAMB, 4200 North Point Parkway, Alpharetta, GA 30022. The fund will be used to provide housing, utilities, clothing, medical needs and other essentials.

REFUGEES IN AMERICA
A U.S. Air Force serviceman aids a Kosovo refugee as she deplanes at McGuire Air Force Base May 5 after a flight from Macedonia. The Southern Baptist North American Mission Board is seeking churches to sponsor refugees. (RNS/Reuters photo)



Want to help?

Agencies still are collecting money for refugee relief. Ways to help include:

■ 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.

■ Churches can send money designated for "Kosovo relief" to the Kentucky Baptist Convention office, and it will be forwarded to the International Mission Board.

■ 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, (770) 220-1631.

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

High tech/high touch

In his book "Megatrends," John Naisbitt popularized the phrase "high tech/high touch." He said "high tech/high touch" is a formula used to describe the way we respond to technology. Whenever a new technology is introduced into society, Naisbitt's formula suggests there must be a counter-balancing human response—a high touch—or the technology is rejected. The more high tech, the more high touch.

The great lesson we must learn from this principle of high tech/high touch is balance. We must learn to balance the material wonders of technology with the spiritual demands of our human nature.

Christian financial stewardship is one of those spiritual demands that requires a sense of balance in our lives. By giving through your church and through church-related organizations, you are touching people's lives in this high tech age with a high touch. In fact, you are touching people's lives with the highest touch because it's the touch of the Master using each of you as his high touch instruments.

We Kentucky Baptists are fortunate to have church-related organizations that are touching people's lives every day with the high touch

of the Master's hands. The organizations deserve your prayerful and financial support. There are ways through careful planning you can touch people's lives through one or more of these organizations as well as provide for your family. Laurie Valentine and I would consider it a privilege to assist you in putting in place a plan that would honor God

and your family and would continue to give to touch people's lives during and/or beyond your lifetime. Our toll-free number is (888) 254-5701.

Most Kentucky Baptists want to give through more than one organization. The foundation is able to simplify the giving process because you can establish one account for the benefit of multiple causes. For example, one may want to benefit one's church, one of our Christian education institutions and international missions. Another may want to benefit our homes for children and the chaplain ministry at our hospitals. Still others may want to benefit our assemblies, the WMU, state missions and the state paper. Please call.

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

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Parr's Rest is a great place to work. "First in line" positions mean priority eligibility for full-time positions as they become available.

Appeals court: Graduation prayer 'unconstitutional'

ATLANTA (RNS)—A Florida school system's policy allowing student-approved prayers during graduation ceremonies was declared unconstitutional March 11 by a federal appeals court.

"We hold that the Duval County school system's policy coerces objecting students to participate in prayer," Chief Judge Joseph Hatchett wrote in the majority opinion.

The school system's graduation policy permitted high school students to select their graduation message to be delivered by a student by a majority vote.

Often those messages included prayers and could not be censored by school officials.

But the American Jewish Congress, American Civil Liberties Union and other groups said the policy discriminated against minority students who lost their voice to majority rule. They also maintained that the policy amounted to state sanctioning of one particular religion, Associated Press reported.

"Making access (to the graduates) dependent on majority rule makes it unlikely that controversial speakers, or those representing minority view-

points, will be heard," the American Jewish Congress said in a brief filed with the court.

In ruling that graduation ceremonies continue to be controlled by the schools, and graduating students who object to the prayers have no alternative but to attend, the 2-1 decision by a panel of the 11th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals in Atlanta overturned an earlier ruling that students have a First Amendment right to pray at graduation.

In a dissenting opinion, Judge Stanley Marcus, however, said "by somehow transforming a private

speaker into a state actor and a student's message into the state establishment of religion," the majority had wrongly interpreted the Supreme Court's ban on school prayer.

Liberty Counsel, a conservative civil liberty organization based in Orlando, Fla., which defended the Duval policy in court, also criticized the decision.

Liberty Counsel President Mathew Staver said, "It's no wonder why we have tragedy and chaos in our public schools when our courts try to boot out God and require students to carry their faith in a brown paper bag."

The 11th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals overturned an earlier ruling that students have a First Amendment right to pray at graduation.

Lone voting evangelical leaves persecution panel

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Former Republican Sen. Bill Armstrong of Colorado abruptly resigned from the newly formed U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom and has been replaced by George Washington University law school dean Michael Young.

Armstrong's resignation came before the commission—created last year by passage of the International Religious Freedom Act—even held its first meeting. Just this week, the White House announced its three appointees to the commission to complete the nine-member body.

Armstrong, who is believed to have resigned for personal reasons, was the commission's lone evangelical Protestant voting member. Young is a Mormon.

Evangelical Robert Seiple also sits on the panel because he is the State Department's ambassador-at-large for international religious freedom, but he has no vote.

Richard Cizik, Washington director of the National Association of Evangelicals, said he is disappointed. "It's very upsetting that someone from the traditional evangelical community is not a voting member of the commission as it is now constructed."

"Considering that evangelicals are the most represented victims of religious persecution around the world, it's ironic that we're not represented on the commission," he said. "We were the ones who initiated the campaign to get religious persecution on the national agenda to begin with."

Cizik added that his organization

would continue supporting government efforts to diminish religious persecution abroad.

The International Religious Freedom Act made religious persecution abroad an official U.S. foreign policy concern. The commission, which plays an advisory role only, is responsible for evaluating nations' performances in this area and for recommending a U.S. response.

Young, a specialist in international law, was appointed to the panel by Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott of Mississippi, and was one of four commission panel appointees selected by congressional Republicans. Congressional Democrats also selected two members. Other panel members are Jewish, Catholic, Muslim, Baha'i and mainline Protestant.

NATIONAL NOTES

■ **March for Jesus to be May 22.** Organizers in Austin, Texas, are predicting more than a half-million Christians will march May 22 in their streets as part of the eighth annual Global March for Jesus. The event is scheduled to be observed in more than 525 U.S. cities and 100 nations. Officials also are coordinating a Jesus Day on June 10, 2000, when Christians will feed the hungry and care for the orphaned and those with AIDS.

■ **24 groups launch covenant marriage movement.** A coalition of 24 groups, including LifeWay Christian Resources, announced a movement to challenge couples across the country to sign a "Covenant Marriage Statement" that reads: "Believing that marriage is a covenant, intended by God to be a lifelong relationship between a man and a woman, we vow to God, each other, our families and our communities to remain steadfast in unconditional love, reconciliation and sexual purity while purposefully growing in our covenant marriage relationship."

Honored juniors

By Robert Dunston

Each year at Cumberland College's honors convocation, we honor a male and female student from the junior class who manifest the best qualities of potential service to society.

This year the recipient of the A.T. Siler Award is Elizabeth Iles, the daughter of Sharon Iles and the late Raymond Iles of Alexandria. She has a double major in mathematics and secondary education.

Iles has been active in the Baptist Student Union, particularly serving as leader of a Bible study and support group for students who have lost a parent or loved one.

She also serves as a Cumberland Ambassador in our admissions office, giving prospective students tours and answers to their questions.

This year Iles was named to Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges. She is a member of Sigma Delta Pi (the Spanish honor society) and Kappa Mu Epsilon (the mathematics honor society) and plans to earn certification as a guidance counselor.

The recipient of the T.E. Mahan Award is Casey Patrick, son of Norma Patrick of Williamsburg and

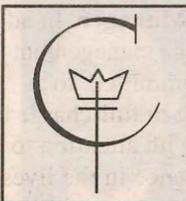
Kenneth Patrick of St. Cloud, Fla. Patrick is a biology major.

Patrick has played on the varsity football team, served in the freshmen orientation program and tutored in Cumberland's academic resource center. He is vice president of both Beta Beta Beta (the biology honor society) and Kappa Mu Epsilon (the mathematics honor society). This year he was inducted into the J.T. Vallinghnam Honor Society, Cumberland's highest academic recognition. Patrick plans to attend medical school upon graduation.

The two awards are named after individuals who played important roles in the founding and developing of Cumberland College. A.T. Siler was a banker, lawyer, trustee of Cumberland College for 52 years and twice president of the General Association of Kentucky Baptists. T.E. Mahan was a son-in-law of Ancil Gatliff, whose generosity made Williamsburg Institute (now Cumberland College) a reality. Mahan served as a trustee for 20 years.

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

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



Positively outrageous

We have a column in our staff newsletter called "Positively Outrageous." In it, staff nominate co-workers who have gone the extra mile in serving children and families.

When I read this column I am reminded that Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children is full of missionaries "disguised" as employees. Since May is Foster Care Month, I have been hearing many stories recently from foster parents who have looked to foster care directors, specialists and administrative assistants for support, advice and training.

Over and over, I hear remarks such as: "I know I can call them no matter what time it is or what the problem is, and they'll be there for me." "The staff will do whatever they can to help the kids and support me."

One foster parent who has been with us about four years—I'll call her Teri—recalled that excited-yet-anxious time when she welcomed her first foster child. A situation came up, and Teri needed advice from her foster care specialist. She left a message for the worker who promptly called her back, from a hospital bed!

Teri said, "I can see, now that I've been a foster parent for a while,

that the problem I had wasn't really a problem. But my foster care worker called me and talked me through it, even though she was sick in the hospital."

Our foster care staff spends hours traveling their regions to make weekly home visits. They are rarely out of earshot of a pager or cell phone. They take kids into their own homes to give respite to foster parents. They talk about their faith in Jesus. They make late-night trips to Wal-Mart for that emergency placement who has no clean clothes.

They remember every birthday and become a child's best pen pal. These staff members are with foster parents in the crowd at ball games, graduations and baptisms, being a consistent presence in the lives of foster children. They do it because these kids are their kids, too.

I'm privileged to be associated with such missionaries who are prepared to partner with you to help kids.

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

Reds & Braves baseball players talk more than sports

By James Dotson
SBC North American Mission Board

ROSWELL, Ga. (BP)—The Cincinnati Reds and Atlanta Braves had done battle on the field the night before and were scheduled to square off again that evening in Atlanta's Turner Field.

But on that Saturday morning, players from both teams joined forces on a high school baseball field in suburban Atlanta for a united stand for Christ.

After coaching several hundred young fans in the finer points of baseball, the players also offered far more important instruction in the skills of life.

"I just challenge everybody to find out the reason why you're here, find out a purpose and direction for your life," said Braves shortstop Walt Weiss. "Once you find out your life means something, and there's a reason for you being here, and that God has a plan for you ... it makes all the

difference in the world. That's where true self-esteem comes from."

The evangelistic sports clinic was sponsored by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board and Fellowship Bible Church in Roswell, Ga., as part of the Arms Around Atlanta evangelism and church-planting initiative, which began in April and extends through August. It was coordinated by the national ministry Unlimited Potential Inc., which conducts similar clinics around the country using pro athletes who also are strong Christians.

Instructors included Weiss and teammate Rudy Seanez from the Braves, as well as Braves assistant coach Allen Butts. Players from the Reds included Eddie Taubensee and Scott Sullivan. Also on hand were Jeff Hearron, formerly of the Toronto Blue Jays; Skip Shipp, formerly of the Pittsburgh Pirates; and former Green Bay Packers quarterback Don Majkowski.

Shipp, who became a Christian at age 16, said he enjoys participating in the clinics because they allow him to bring together baseball and his faith in Christ.

"When you can blend the two most important parts of your life together in one setting and share both at the same time, that's what makes the dream," he said.

He noted that usually the only time he gets to speak in public is about baseball. "Yeah, I've got a good arm, but it's kind of like you're leaving the best part of it out."

Students were divided by age level into four groups, which rotated

through 15- to 20-minute sessions with pro players at stations for hitting, pitching, catching and fielding.

Finally they all were called together to hear Tim Cash, North American director of Unlimited Potential, talk with Weiss about his life and career—including the process by which he became a Christian.

Weiss said he grew up in a New York City suburb in a good family, but one that never went to church. It was only after he fulfilled his lifelong dream of playing in the major leagues in 1987 that he realized there had to be more in life.

"When you finally get there and you finally achieve some of the things you set out to do, you realize that's not the ultimate," he said. "At that point I just had a lot of questions about life and what it means, and where we're headed."

He said those questions led him to an intellectual search in which he ultimately became convinced that the Bible must be true.

"I asked a lot of questions, and I came to the point where I became a Christian really through the apologetics angle," he said. "Once I found out that the Bible was the true word of God and Jesus was exactly who he said he was ... there was no reason for me not to live my life for him. I would be a fool of all fools to disregard that truth that I discovered."

An evangelistic invitation followed his testimony, and about 40 students filled out commitment cards for later follow-up.

Thomas Hammond, director of NAMB's direct evangelism team, said sports clinics are effective because of the influence athletes have on their fans.

"People enjoy sports. They look up to the athletes and are interested in the lives of the athletes," he said. "And if an athlete says, 'This is important to me,' then people will listen."

For information on Arms Around Atlanta and volunteer opportunities available for Southern Baptists from across the county, contact coordinator Jane Barnes at (770) 936-5322 or e-mail jbarnes@gabaptist.org, or visit the web site www.armsaroundatlanta.org.

TESTIMONY Atlanta Braves shortstop Walt Weiss (right) talks with Tim Cash of Unlimited Potential Inc. about his walk with Christ during an evangelistic sports clinic in Roswell, Ga. The clinic, part of the five-month Arms Around Atlanta evangelism and church-starting initiative, was sponsored by Georgia Baptist Convention and the North American Mission Board. (BP photo by Stanley Leary.)



wounded heroes

LUNCHEON
JUNE 14, 1999

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FEATURED SPEAKER: JAMES MERRITT

A MINISTRY OF
LEADER CARE

'To everything there is a season'

God's word says there is a "season and a time for every purpose." Nine months ago, a new season began. Several hundred students arrived on our campus for another school year. Most had been here last year, but more than a hundred were here for the first time.

It is always such a challenge to get our students settled in. Homesickness, resentment, lack of trust, indifference, hatred and broken hearts and spirits are just a few of the difficulties we face.

During the past nine months most eventually got over their homesickness and settled in; unfortunately a few didn't make it. Some came with an attitude of resentment. They resented nearly everything we had to offer and all that we stood for. Day by day we patiently tried to show them God's love. Others came with a lack of trust for adults in general and authority figures in particular. We often had to ignore hateful attitudes and harsh words to gain their trust.

Many of the students who enrolled last August came with little or no knowledge of Jesus. They did not understand that he was God's Son, and that he died on Calvary to redeem them from the pain of sin in their lives. They did not know how to worship or pray, and they thought the songs we sang were definitely ancient. During the past year we have seen many students who never knew about the saving power of Jesus invite him into their lives. We have watched them stumble and fall, and we have seen them grow through these experiences.

Last Friday was our final praise and worship day for this school year. Several years ago we set aside Fridays as special times of praise and worship in chapel. It's the favorite day of the week

for our students and many of our staff. We sing choruses some of our students already know, and we have taught them many others during the year.

Chapel started off like any other Friday service. No one mentioned that this would be our last praise and worship service for this school year. As we sang the first song, one or two students stood up as a testimony to the Lord. Five or six others stood, then 15 or 20 more. Soon more than 100 students were standing to make a statement

of their devotion to God. It takes a special commitment to stand before your entire student body knowing many have not accepted Christ. While I don't think our non-believing students will necessarily make fun of those who take a stand for Christ, it is still a challenge.

As I looked at the far side of our chapel, I noticed that every senior was standing with the others. I have never seen that happen before. For those students it was not only the last praise and worship for this school year, but their last one forever as Oneida students. During the last song I had a lump in my throat and had to hold back the tears.

At the close of the service most of the seniors were either crying or trying hard to hold back tears. They were hugging each other and sharing special last thoughts and words with one another.

To everything there is a season, and for these seniors, this season of their lives had come to an end. Even though we have a much smaller senior class this year than we normally have, I am happy to say that 36 out of the 38 seniors in the class of 1999 have invited Christ into their lives.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Campus team on mission in Ohio

"We're here for us as well as them," Stewart Skaggs said, describing the evangelism project that involved 30 students and three faculty-staff members in Ohio's West Central Association of Southern Baptist Churches, May 8-14.

The team conducted simultaneous revivals and community outreach in 10 congregations. Piqua, Ohio, pastor, Clear Creek alumnus and association evangelism director Allen Sanders issued the invitation last year. May graduate Steve McGaughey recruited the team and coordinated plans from the Kentucky side. The group traveled to Piqua for a Saturday afternoon rally and then disbursed to the host churches, with lodging in church member homes.

Each team conducted door-to-door visitation, locating hundreds of prospects. During home visits, team members encountered some slammed doors and an "I'm not interested" attitude, but found encouragement in many positive responses. Senior student Todd Salts related the embrace of a lonely elderly woman suffering with emphysema. The church plans to have a service in her house. Gary Ball told of presenting the gospel to a mother while a church member

washed the home windows and cared for a baby. A dog chased Joe Booher around a house, but Joe found the owner and witnessed to him.

At the Wapakoneta church, the team met at 6:30 p.m. to pray for a 64-year-old man who later came to Christ during that night's invitation. On the sidewalk in Sidney, a youth

rejected Christ, but his best friend prayed to receive the Lord. In Lewisburg, the team met several people who had prayed to receive Christ after watching the Jesus video. They were also glad to eat in the home "of a lady who knew how to cook Kentucky food."

Association missionary strategist Garland Wilkerson noted, "There are more unsaved people in Ohio than two-thirds of the countries where we send missionaries; almost 50 percent of Ohio residents have no personal relationship with Christ."

This association project offers an example of the evangelism projects that will be offered through the recently approved Clear Creek Center of Evangelism.

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

BOOKS

Moving off the Map: A Field Guide to Changing the Congregation. Thomas Bandy. Abingdon Press, 1998. 278 pages. \$18. ♦♦♦♦ (out of five)

Using the extinct passenger pigeon as a parable of the church in a post-Christendom context, Bandy bluntly describes the challenges and opportunities facing local congregations. The challenges will require far more than programmatic changes and response. If the church is to fulfill its mission, nothing less than systemic change in the life of the congregation will be necessary.

"Moving off the Map" is truly a "field guide." After a brief introduction to his assessment of the contemporary context for ministry, the bulk of the book is dedicated to a process of discernment. Bandy contends that moving through this process, while holding the potential for congregational renewal, also holds the potential for intense conflict.

Bandy's process begins with a "Congregational Mission Assessment." This rather safe sounding process actually intends to lead a congregation to discover its areas of dysfunction. A disturbing assertion of this process is that most characteristics of which churches are most proud are actually indicators of a "declining congregational system."

Later the process leads the church through an examination of congregation values, bedrock beliefs, vision and mission. At the end of the process, the congregation should be able to develop a new ministry map. I was impressed with Bandy's approach to discerning values, beliefs and vision.

On the level of reading through the

process, I believe Bandy is on to something. I might like to revisit this review after leading a congregation through his process. *Jim Holladay*

Our Father in Heaven: Christian Faith and Inclusive Language for God. John Cooper. Baker Book House, 1998. 301 pages. \$19.99. ♦♦♦♦

The crucial question addressed by John Cooper is: Can gender-inclusive language for God be reconciled with historical Christian faith?

So that no reader will be misled, he offers his conclusion in the introduction: "I can find no successful way to combine a high view of Scripture, sound exegesis, standard linguistics, doctrinal orthodoxy and good logic to justify inclusive language for God."

Cooper's inquiry into the appropriateness of gender-inclusive language for God begins with a review of the theological arguments for inclusive language. While allowing the proponents of a variety of viewpoints to speak for themselves, he also raises questions and counter-arguments related to each.

Next, Cooper begins a more thorough and scrupulous argument against gender-inclusivity/neutrality in relation to God and the Christian faith. He goes to great lengths to demonstrate how gender-inclusive/neutral language not only is unwarranted, but threatens the very character of Christian faith. (At this point, his understanding of the power of language is in complete agreement with the proponents of gender-inclusivity.)

Although he dismisses the need for and appropriateness of gender inclu-

sive language, Cooper does argue that many conservative Christians have been too quick to dismiss the feminine images of God found in Scripture. In the last chapter he attempts to make positive suggestions on the use of feminine imagery in worship, evangelism and personal devotions.

I found his arguments engaging and worth pondering, but I doubt he will convince many hard-core inclusive language proponents. *Jim Holladay*

Planning Blended Worship: The Creative Mixture of Old and New. Robert Webber. Abingdon Press, 1998. 209 pages. \$15. ♦♦♦♦

Worship style continues to be the element of church life that gets the most attention from church leadership. Clergy and laity together are seeking to discover what works for a particular congregation.

Much of what has been written assumes that change to complete contemporary worship is the answer. When this is the answer, most traditional or liturgical churches find the leap too radical. Robert Webber contributes a helpful book in which tradition meets new in a blended worship style.

Webber bases his approach on the traditional four-fold pattern of worship he has identified: gathering, word, table and dismissal. While Webber adopts this as a set liturgical pattern, he does so with the idea of showing how one can be creative with it. In an engaging and thorough way, Webber discusses each of these elements by suggesting ways of bringing new thoughts about worship and music into the old pattern. Tradition, then, holds the possibility for being

creative.

Even those who will not choose to hold to Webber's four-fold pattern will benefit from his discussion and the resources he includes. The book concludes with a helpful appendix to guide ministers and church leaders through the steps of worship renewal in a church. *Wayne Hager*

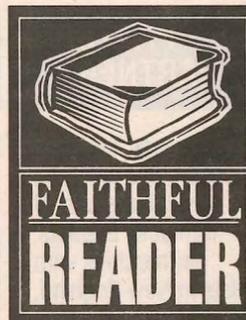
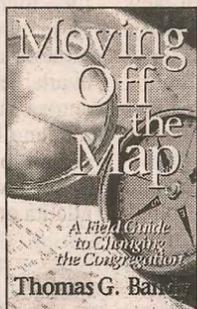
Honoring the Ministry: Honoring the Leaders God Gives Your Church. Michael Miller. Lifeway Press, 1998. 101 pages. ♦♦

Miller laments that honor of church leaders is not easily found today. The purpose of his book is to lay out biblical principles of honor so that appropriate honor will be given to all ministers and leaders in the church.

Miller begins by exploring the concept of honor of God in the Old Testament and the New Testament. Despite the fact this is a "biblical" study, many of the biblical concepts are simply stated without supportive Scripture. One gets the feeling that the concept of honor Miller presents was arrived at first, with proof texts added later. Miller presents

many other situations of honor besides church leadership situations, such as marriage and government, and this diverts the book from the stated purpose.

A helpful part of the book is that Miller directly addresses church staff relations. He does provide some helpful guidelines for fair treatment of church staff. Getting to this part of the book, however, is a journey through a wide range of discussions that are too brief and cursory to make much of an impact on the church. *Wayne Hager*



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

Broadman & Holman to publish new translation of the Bible

By John Perry & Linda Lawson
SBC LifeWay Christian Resources

NASHVILLE (BP)—Broadman & Holman Publishers is producing a new Bible translation expected to be on bookshelves by 2004.

Named the Holman Christian Standard Bible, the translation will combine commitment to accuracy in communicating the original text and modern-day readability, said Kenneth Stephens, president of Broadman & Holman, the trade publishing arm of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Up until now, every English translation of the Bible has been a tradeoff between accuracy and readability," Stephens said. "The more accurate it was, the harder it was to read, and the more reader-friendly it was, the more it drifted from a precise translation of the original text. With our Bible, we've eliminated the tradeoff."

The Holman Christian Standard Bible will be a translation of the Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek of the Old and New Testaments, using the latest research in textual criticism along with sophisticated computer technology to check the accuracy of meaning in each word, B&H officials stated.

General editor Edwin Blum of Dallas is working with a 78-person team of translators, lexicologists, stylists and other scholars around the

world. A smaller six-person team is based in Dallas. Team members represent 20 denominations, including Southern Baptists, Plymouth Brethren, Presbyterians (PCA), Congregationalists, Church of England, Church of God, Evangelical Free Church, Methodists, Evangelical Mennonites and Episcopalians.

Work on the new translation began in 1984 as an independent project of Arthur Farstad, who served as general editor for the New King James Version. Broadman & Holman joined forces with Farstad in 1998. Only months after beginning his collaboration with B&H, Farstad died. Leadership of the editorial team then passed to Blum, a graduate of Dallas Theological Seminary who had been an integral part of the team.

To reach people effectively, Blum said, a Bible translation should be accurate to the original text, but conversational.

"A conscientious translator has to render the meaning exactly, but present it in a form his readers find inviting and naturally expressive. We work using a word-for-word translation philosophy, but we always keep our contemporary American English reader in mind."

The new translation will maintain use of traditional, theologically significant words such as "grace" and "justification," and it will offer word stud-

10-step process used in LifeWay Bible translation

NASHVILLE (BP)—Developing the Holman Christian Standard Bible at the highest levels of accuracy and readability is a complex process, according to the general editor, Ed Blum.

While the translation process for Old and New Testament books differs slightly, Blum outlined 10 steps from creation to completion for each book:

- A base translation of a book is developed from the original Hebrew, Greek or Aramaic text.
- The translation receives a first review from a New or Old Testament editor.
- The Dallas editorial team reviews the translation on a word-by-word basis against the original language and makes needed changes.
- The edited translation is sent to an English stylist who suggests changes to enhance readability.

- The stylist returns the manuscript to the general editorial team, which then considers the style recommendations and integrates accepted style changes into the translation.

- The translation goes to LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville where it receives technical and theological reviews by Broadman & Holman editors and others.

- While the translation is undergoing review in Nashville, an external review for style and accuracy is taking place.

- Changes proposed by B&H and by the external reviewer are sent to general editors for consideration and integration into the translation.

- The manuscript is returned to Nashville where it receives another review.

- A final English style review is conducted.

ies to help readers grasp their full meaning, Blum said. Additionally, it will provide footnotes to show alternate translations and alternate textual readings, cross-references and explanatory material.

LifeWay President Jimmy Draper said he sees a "serious need for a 21st-century Bible translation in American English that combines accuracy and readability."

Broadman & Holman Publishers is the trade publishing division of LifeWay Christian Resources based in

Nashville, Tenn. Holman, America's oldest Bible publisher, is B&H's Bible imprint.

The Gospel of John has been completed, with all four gospels and the Book of Revelation set to be finished by the end of 1999. The New Testament is targeted for completion by the end of 2000, with the entire Bible to be released by 2004. Messengers attending the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta in June will be able to get a free copy of the Book of John at the LifeWay exhibit.

PEOPLE

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

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

■ The president of the Baptist seminary in Warsaw, Poland, asks for prayer that a landscaper from Kentucky would help the school develop a landscaping plan. Call the KBC partnership office for information.

■ Students from Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda, who attend the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Arusha, Kenya.

■ Melody Ragains who completes her two-year term as a missionary journeyman in Gliwice, Poland, this month. She plans to return to Poland as a career missionary to develop student ministries at Polytechnical University in Gliwice.

■ Efforts to begin a Portuguese-speaking church for Brazilians living in Lowell and Billerica, Mass., and church planter Rogerio Garcia.

■ New Harvest Community Church in Rockland, Maine. The church recently held its first public worship service with 75 people in attendance.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Shirley Wooton

■ **BASKETT**—Harry Hunter resigned as pastor of Advance Church to become director of missions for Lincoln and Casey Associations.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Day-Spring, an annual women's event by Severns Valley Church, will be June 5, 8 a.m. at Severns Valley Church. Featured speakers will be Kathy Blume and Eva Self. Special music by Mary Beth McCandless and For His Sake. For information, call (502) 765-7822. Billy Compton is pastor.

■ **LAGRANGE**—David Livingston will present a gospel concert at Buckner Church May 23, in the 11 a.m. service. For information, call (502) 222-1735. Bob Hanses is pastor.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Franklin Owen, senior pastor emeritus at Calvary

Church, was selected by the alumni association of Southeast Missouri State University to receive the university's Alumni Merit Award.

Ashland Avenue Church collected commitments totaling \$1.8 million toward its new campus and buildings. An offering received on Easter Sunday totaled \$146,444. Russell Howard is pastor.

James K. Pierce is retiring after 25 years as pastor of Porter Memorial Church. A reception in his honor will be May 22, 2-5 p.m. in the Christian life center. Also, homecoming with dinner on the grounds will be celebrated May 23. Pierce will continue to live in Lexington and will be available for revival, pulpit supply and interim ministry.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Bethany Church

will celebrate its annual Friend Day May 23. Worship will be followed by a potluck luncheon. "The Days," led by Greg Day, will be in concert at 1 p.m. For information, call (502) 452-2681. Todd Robertson is pastor.

Janet Paschal and Won By One will be in concert June 4, 7:30 p.m. at Memorial Auditorium. Tickets are available at local Christian bookstores. For information, call (502) 584-7777 or (800) 775-7777.

West Broadway Church honored administrative assistant Nancy Dobbs for 34 years of service. Dobbs also received the Secretary Plus Award from Long Run Association. Skip Alexander is pastor.

■ **POOLE**—Poole Church called Eddie Harpole as pastor. He will begin his ministry on May 30.

■ **PRINCETON**—Northside Church called Tim Perdue as minister of music/youth. Perdue previously served in Virginia, as minister of fam-

ily life. Thomas Tackett is pastor.

■ **RICHMOND**—Red House Church's spring crusade in April began with a Sunday school high attendance of 403. Eight people made professions of faith, five people came by statement and one person by letter and several re-dedications. J. Kie Bowman, of Austin, Texas, was evangelist. Steve Evans, of Macedonia Church, Owensboro was music evangelist. Larry Sizemore is pastor.

Rosedale Church called George "Tiger" Pennington as pastor. Pennington previously was at Millville Church. Malcolm Lunceford served as interim pastor for five years.

■ **TAYLORSVILLE**—Cal McIntire resigned as minister of music/youth at Plum Creek Church. McIntire and his wife, Patty, accepted an assignment through the International Service Corps of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board to serve in Senegal as missionaries.

Colombian Baptists and missionaries minister after deadly quake

By Jenny Rogers
SBC International Mission Board

ARMENIA, Colombia (BP)—In the aftermath of an earthquake that shook the Armenia area of Colombia in January, Colombian Baptists are mobilizing to meet physical and spiritual needs of thousands of quake victims.

Local Baptists have trucked food, water, plastic and hygiene supplies into the city with help from the International Mission Board's hunger and disaster relief funds, according to Southern Baptist missionary Sharon Coleman.

And as Baptist workers have min-

istered to human needs, earthquake victims have responded by professing faith in Christ and joining new Bible studies and churches.

The IMB sent about \$50,000 to help with relief efforts. International aid that flooded into the city after the Jan. 25 earthquake was quickly exhausted. The earthquake killed at least 940 people and injured 3,690 people across Colombia's western coffee-growing region.

Cleanup teams, which include Baptist seminary students, travel weekly from Cali to Armenia to help tear down damaged buildings.

"The students share their faith with non-believers, lead worship services

in the churches and missions, do crisis counseling in the tent cities and helped start another tent church in Armenia," Coleman said. "New ministry and witness are presently being maintained with about 1,500 people each week."

She and her husband, Rodney, have served as church planters in Cali since 1990.

Missionaries Jamie Ruede and Peggy Wallace headed up a ministry to injured children in Bogota hospitals, many of whom were orphaned or lost family members in the earthquake.

Even though the children's plight was highlighted in local newspaper

and television news, two Bogota hospital staff members said no one else offered to help, according to missionary Karl Wallace.

The women purchased a sweat suit, personal hygiene kit and toy for each of the 19 children, some of whom were in critical condition, as well as gifts for two mothers.

When the Colemans visited one of the children at home after her release, eight members of her family prayed to accept Jesus as their personal Savior.

Armenian Baptists' next task is to rebuild several damaged churches, missions and parsonages that were damaged in the earthquake.

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Northside Baptist Church is seeking a full-time associate pastor of youth and family ministries—seminary graduate with experience preferred. Primary responsibilities include providing leadership and assisting church organizations in planning, conducting and evaluating educational programs with an emphasis on youth and their families, as well as providing leadership in administrative and pastoral duties as the church and pastor may require. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Northside Baptist Church, 7600 Studley Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23116, or fax to (804) 746-7287.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for First Baptist Church, Junction City, Ky. Send resumé c/o Pete Kendrick, 175 Robin Drive, Stanford, KY 40484.

SEEKING: Calvary Baptist Church, Idaho Falls, Idaho, is seeking a full-time minister of music and youth—a mission-minded person for established work in a new-work area. Seminary preferred. Send resumé to: Calvary Baptist Church, 785 First St., Idaho Falls, ID 83401, or calvary@srv.net.

SEEKING: Part-time church secretary. Send resumé Gethsemane Baptist Church, 10400 Blue Lick Road, Louisville, KY 40229, Attn: Personnel.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Walton is seeking applicants for the position of full-time pastor. Send resumé and current photo to: Search Committee, 47 South Main St., Walton, KY 41094.

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

SEEKING: Bivocational pastor for 100-plus-member north Hardin County Baptist church. Call (502) 234-9311.

SEEKING: Full-time director for child care center. Send resumé to: Burlington Baptist Church, P.O. Box 48, Burlington, KY 41005, Attn: Anetha King.

SEEKING: Minister of activities for church with Christian life center. Experience and/or seminary degree in recreation preferred. Send resumé to: Minister of Activities Search Committee, Campbellsville Baptist Church, P.O. Box 530, Campbellsville, KY 42719-0530; (270) 789-2092.

SEEKING: Utica Baptist Church is seeking a full-time pastor and bivocational minister of music. Send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee or Music Director Search Committee, Utica Baptist Church, P.O. Box 8, Utica, KY 42376.

NEEDED: Used wheelchair with removable arms, elevated footrests, leg supports, to take to amputee in Ecuador June 11. Contact Garnett Jones, (606) 428-2819, 1900 Elliston-Mt. Zion Road, Dry Ridge, KY 41035.

SERVICES: Need training, seminar, retreat—parent-teen relationship, family meditation, leadership for men, conflict resolution, couples relationship? Call (502) 351-8855.

NEEDED: Ecuador mission team (July 15-27) needs nurses, dentists, dental assistants, optometrist/ophthalmologist. Also, children's worker who speaks some Spanish. Contact Tim Scott, M.D., (606) 223-7441, Clay Parks, D.M.D., or Irma Parks, (606) 823-8101. All arrangements made—just go.

SERVICES: Bob's Pressure Washing and Deck Restoration—uses Thompson's Water Seal. (502) 448-6990.

SEEKING: A mature, Spirit-filled Christian desiring to serve the Lord in the capacity of full-time minister of music and youth at Springfield Baptist Church (located in central Kentucky). Please send resumé to: Search Committee for Music/Youth Minister, P.O. Box 286, Springfield, KY 40069.

SEEKING: Youth minister. Growing church. Send resumé to: First Baptist Church, Idlewild & Hanson Street, Easton, MD 21601.

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: 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: 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: Progressive congregation seeks full-time minister of education and youth. The man or woman called to this position will lead the church in a quality program of Christian education, provide opportunities for youth to develop spiritually, and assist the pastor in the care of the membership and administration of church business. Send cover letter and resumé to: Central Baptist Church, 1644 Nicholasville Road, Lexington, KY 40503. No phone calls please.

SEEKING: Full-time associate minister with primary responsibilities that include educational ministry, occasional pulpit supply and pastoral care ministry. Berea Baptist Church is a progressive congregation seeking a sensitive, compassionate minister with good communication skills. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Berea Baptist Church, 310 Chestnut St., Berea, KY 40403. E-mail: apike@mis.net.

PEOPLE

Southern students take up challenge of prison ministry

By Bryan Cribb
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

LOUISVILLE (BP)—Moldy, moss-covered towers stand starkly like centurions against the sky. Foreboding music designed to frighten pigeons plays as a dirge to new arrivals.

The men's medium-security Kentucky State Reformatory in LaGrange is hardly welcoming.

"It's an ominous thing" riding down that last half-mile of road before the prison, said Mark Overstreet, a master of divinity student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. "The first day we drove in, someone said, 'Can you imagine this being the last time you would really see the outside world?'"

In this despairing detention, six students from Southern Seminary are showing prisoners how to be free through the love of Jesus Christ. They are members of the same Sunday school class at DeHaven Memorial Baptist Church in LaGrange.

Overstreet, Eric Graf, Rob Lister, Russ Moore, Jeff Rhymer and Juan Sanchez take turns as teams of

three teaching a weekly Bible study for the inmates in the prison's most desperate section—the geriatric ward.

Alan Watts, recreational supervisor for the prison ward, is also a member of the Sunday school class. He proposed the ministry last December.

"You seminarians have a good opportunity here if you'll just take it," Overstreet said, recalling Watts' challenge. By February, the six students were on the job.

During the hour-long service, students lead the prisoners in hymns. "They have no reservations about how poorly they sound, or how poorly we sound," Overstreet said.

The service also includes prayer and a Bible lesson. Overstreet said it's a challenge "to know that you're going to be teaching to a largely unconverted people who are in prison for the rest of their lives."

"The biggest surprise to me was the Bible knowledge several of the men have," said Sanchez. "I expected an evangelistic environment where the gospel was presented at an elementary level. What I found was about two or three men who understood their sin-

fulness, embraced God's grace and looked forward to growing in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ."

Questions are often pointed, Lister said. "A few of the other men, who would not claim to be converted, have asked some very probing questions about Christianity and of their own lives," he said.

"Alan, who is there on a daily basis, has recounted some profound changes in the lives of a couple of the men," Lister said. Such changes have included daily Bible reading and prayer, he said.

"Some of the best times are going to the rooms after the service," said Moore. After each Bible study the inmates return to their rooms for the evening count. During that time, the students visit and pray with inmates too ill to attend.

"What I cherish the most is the opportunity to encourage and pray with the men individually," added Sanchez. "At our last meeting we collected prayer requests and were humbled by the inmates' desire to be with their children."

The father of three, Sanchez said

he identifies with the men's concerns. "Yet at the end of the evening, I was able to return to my family. They were not."

Since the beginning of the ministry, the students have built relationships and trust with the core group of inmates. "Some of them seemed very skeptical and suspicious at first," Overstreet said. "That's starting to wear down. Just in the fact that we're here every week, they're starting to get used to us. Some of them who would leave immediately after (the service) now sit around and talk."

"It has been a wonderful environment in which to minister," Lister added.

The students report on the Thursday ministry each week in their Sunday school class, and the class prays for the inmates' specific needs.

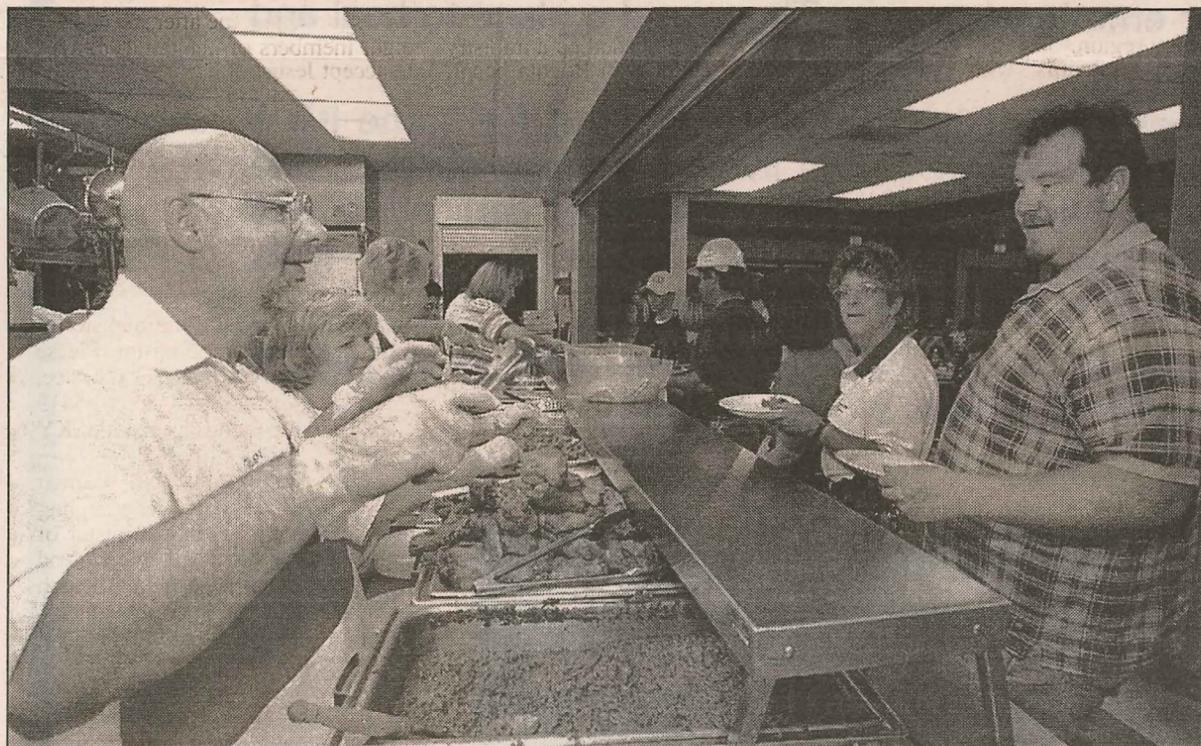
"Usually, by Thursday night, I'm pretty gutted emotionally and physically from the week of school," Overstreet said.

"But it's like a fresh spring when I go (to the prison) on Thursday nights. I go exhausted," he said. "But I come back thankful that there are ears open to hearing the gospel."

"It has been a wonderful environment in which to minister."

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary student Rob Lister

Tornado ministry



RELIEF WORK ■ Above: John Thompson of First Baptist Church of Moore, Okla., serves a hot meal to victims of the deadly tornado that struck that area May 3. ■ Left: Two boys sort donated items that have poured into Dover Baptist Church as it serves as a distribution point for relief supplies in that area. The Southern Baptist North American Mission Board released \$150,000 in disaster assistance funds to help victims of the Oklahoma tornadoes. The money will be used primarily for \$500 grants to individual families through local churches, said Jim Burton, director of volunteer mobilization for NAMB. The NAMB funds are in addition to another \$150,000 in disaster assistance funds released by the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma. (BP photos by Morris Abernathy & Rob Marus.)

NAMB inner-city team offers on-the-job evangelism training

MIAMI (BP)—The North American Mission Board's inner-city evangelism team saw 1,040 men, women and young make public professions of faith during a mid-April training conference in Miami.

During the conference, 18 members of the NAMB-sponsored inner-city evangelism team, or "ICE team," worked closely with five African-American churches in inner-city Miami.

"This is the greatest on-the-job training I've ever had—and I've worked in Miami for years," said Clyde Judson, pastor of Good News Little River Church. "The members of the ICE team are completely yielded to Christ. They eat, sleep and talk Jesus. He is their lives."

ICE conferences, held periodically in different major cities since 1997, provide a three-track approach with training in street witnessing, personal evangelism and the SAFE (Setting Addicts Free Eternally) substance-abuse rehabilitation program. A heavy emphasis is placed on immediate application, as leaders and conference participants share Christ on inner-city streets.

More than 6,000 people have made public profession of faith in Jesus through the ICE team and its conferences in the past two years.

Charles Sullivan of Miami's Friends Are Us Mission praised the ICE team's work. "It really is no secret what God can do. Never have I seen such boldness in witnesses and such hunger for Jesus in response."

Sullivan said the training he received in SAFE "will help me deal with alcohol, drug and spiritual problems in my ministry."

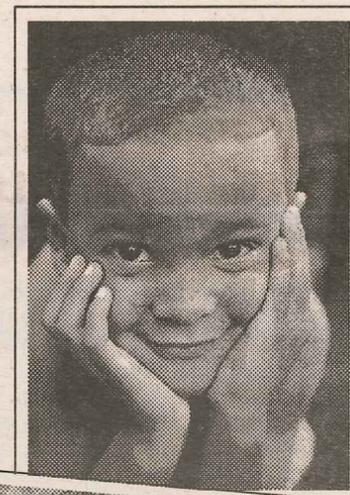
Harold Hancock, missions minister at First Baptist Church of Montgomery, Ala., said he found "an unbelievable hunger for hope" in the city. "Almost every person who received a witness responded positively."

Jerry Passmore, director of the Florida Baptist Convention evangelism department, said the ICE ministry exemplifies the convention's "Through Every Door" evangelism emphasis.

In urging every church to move outside the doors of the church to the doors and sidewalks where people live, he said, "We must no longer simply talk evangelism. We must do it."

The ICE teams will be among the key participants in Crossover Atlanta, June 6-19.

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