



## WESTERN RECORDER

June 15, 1999  
Vol. 173, No. 24

## FOR THE RECORD

## Women

Dayspring Conference speaker Kathy Blume told women how to bloom in life. *Page 3.*

## Editorial

It hasn't always been easy to be a Baptist. *Page 5.*

## Billy Graham

More than 15,000 people responded to the invitations at the Indianapolis crusade June 3-6. *Page 8.*

## Nation

The Christian Coalition drops its effort to be tax-exempt, leading to major changes for the organization. *Page 9.*

## Books

Reviews include "25 Most Treasured Gospel Hymn Stories" and "Generous Saints: Congregations Rethinking Ethics and Money." *Page 13.*

## Television

A recent report states that rating shows hasn't cleaned them up. *Page 13.*

## Group's latest plan for 'gender-accurate' Bible raising eyebrows

By Adelle Banks  
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON—Get ready for the next chapter in the ongoing debate over the Bible and gender.

Two years ago, the International Bible Society was swamped in controversy until it canceled plans to publish a "gender-accurate" version of the popular New International Version of the Bible. Now, the Bible society has more quietly announced it has encouraged a Bible translation committee to work on a "gender-accurate" translation that will not be called the NIV.

The late May decision is disappointing critics but drawing far calmer reaction than the 1997 issue.

"The changes between the 1984 NIV and the text that could be released in a number of years are substantive enough ... it would be much more than a revised NIV," said Steve Johnson, communications director for the society based in Colorado Springs, Colo. "Since we committed to freezing the 1984 text, they're not working on changes that would ever be incorporated into the NIV."

The focus of the continuing work of the Committee on Bible Translation, which originally translated the NIV, is accuracy, not agendas, said Johnson. It will use NIV as a "building block" for the new translation, which is not likely to be considered for publication until 2003 or 2004, he said.

Among the kinds of changes being considered: Where the current NIV renders 1 Corinthians 11:28 as "A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup," a

□ See *American Bible ...*, page 9

## Kentucky team takes gospel to El Salvador

By Pat Cole  
Staff Writer

SAN PEDRO, El Salvador—A Kentucky Baptist mission team visited El Salvador last month, offering relief from the devastation of Hurricane Mitch and resources for a better future.

Thirty college students, two campus ministers and five Kentucky Brotherhood representatives built homes and cleaned wells in San Pedro. While in the Central American nation, team members also shared their faith in Christ and initiated a plan for an agricultural development project.

During the May 15-29 trip, the group installed support posts and rafters for nine homes as daily temperatures soared above the 100 degree mark. Most of the families the group helped had been living in lean-tos cobbled together with scrap metal and wood, said Ed Pavy, campus minister at Campbellsville University.

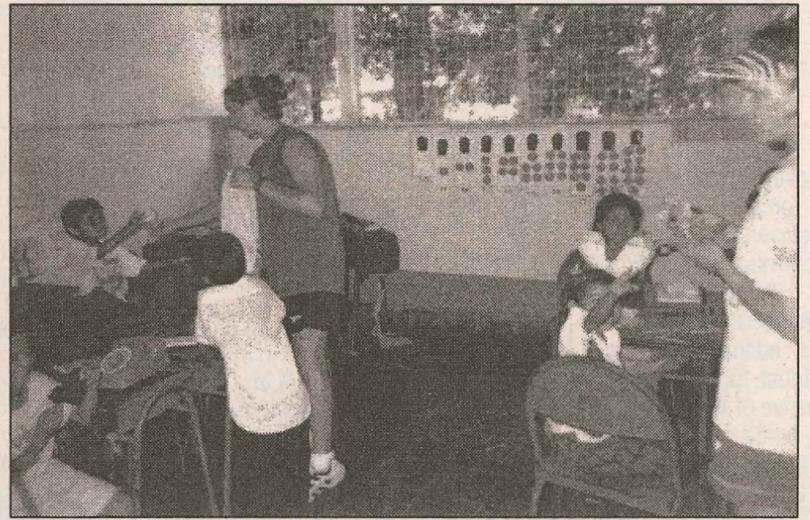
El Salvador was not hit directly by Hurricane Mitch, but the November storm caused heavy flooding and wind gusts in El Salvador that nearly destroyed some communities. Much of the aid donated from relief agencies and governmental sources never made it to remote regions, team members said.

As some members of the Kentucky team pounded nails and dredged debris from wells, others built relationships with people in the community. "At every work site we tried to do something with the kids and their families," Pavy said.

Students played games, made balloon animals and sang songs with the children. They also spoke to children and adults about the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Sharing her faith through an interpreter, Brandy Hall, a senior at Cumberland College, led a 13-year-old girl to faith in Christ. "I'm going to write her," said Hall. "I don't speak Spanish, but she wants to stay in contact."

Hall plans to find an interpreter



MISSIONS Janet Brown (left) of Western Kentucky University and Rachel Pavy of Campbellsville University distribute toys to children during their mission trip to El Salvador. (Photo by Ed Pavy)

who can help with her correspondence.

Another student, Jason Kilby, a senior at Eastern Kentucky University, said the desperate needs in El Salvador made him re-examine his life's priorities.

He said he was impressed with the people's openness to the gospel and the appreciation they showed to the team members. "I personally became aware that I might be called to full-time missions," Kilby said.

In addition to sowing seeds of the gospel, team members also planted an idea that could improve the nutrition of people in San Pedro and surrounding areas.

Kentucky Brotherhood volunteer Morris Norfleet, working with Abundant Life Baptist Church in San Miguel, devised a plan to introduce rabbits as a source of food.

The church decided to begin the rabbit project after Norfleet, retired president of Morehead State University, did an assessment of community needs and resources.

Norfleet, who has expertise in agricultural and economic development, said church members responded en-

thusiastically to his offer of help. The church formed a 23-member church council that will lead the rabbit project and similar initiatives.

Norfleet has requested that Heifers International, an organization that provides breeding stock to developing countries, furnish the rabbits. "There is a possibility of having 300 rabbits in cages producing food within a year," Norfleet said. Congregational leaders, he added, want to move beyond the church and identify community leaders who can teach others how to grow rabbits.

The Kentucky team, working with Southern Baptist missionaries Scotty and Judy Stice, spoke with other Salvadoran churches that are interested in similar projects.

"As churches start reaching out to outlying communities they will discover leadership," said Randy Foster, Kentucky Baptist Brotherhood director. "It gives the churches a tremendous opportunity for missions."

Since his retirement from Morehead in 1984, Norfleet has been involved in several projects aimed at helping people in developing nations □ See *Kentucky team ...*, page 7

## Wealthy Ohioan is behind Mercer County liquor sales petition

By Greg Kocher  
Lexington Herald-Leader

HARRODSBURG—As home to the oldest permanent settlement west of the Allegheny Mountains, the largest restored Shaker community in the United States and a long-running outdoor drama about Daniel Boone, Mercer County provides a wealth of history.

What the county doesn't provide is a drink. Mercer is a dry county that prohibits alcohol sales.

Now, a petition drive led by a Mercer County native and philanthropist seeks to reverse the ban on booze that voters passed 65 years ago.

The issue took many residents by surprise when it popped up a month ago, but it didn't take long for groups to stake positions and formu-

late strategy.

"We're going to do everything we can to keep it off the ballot," said James Harley, pastor of Fellowship Baptist Church. "Mercer County's going to stay dry."

Ralph Anderson, a Mercer native and Ohio resident funding the petition campaign, said he has no interest in bringing a restaurant or bar to Mercer County, but simply wants to improve the economic health of his birthplace.

"I think if they got it wet, it would help and increase tourism," Anderson said. "We are going to carry this thing to a vote."

Anderson, 75, chairs a committee called The Citizens for Alcohol Controlled Sales of Mercer County. The group is collecting signatures to put the issue up for a vote in a special election that probably would take place in September.

By state law, each county and certain cities can decide whether to allow alcohol sales. A petition with names equal to 25 percent of the votes in the last general election can get a wet-dry vote on the ballot.

Anderson doesn't anticipate any problem getting the more than 1,700 signatures. And he predicts that it will pass in a special election, with help from his deep pockets.

He is the founder of Belcan Corp., a Cincinnati engineering company with 5,000 employees and 1998 sales of \$330 million.

He maintains a home and cattle-and-tobacco farm in northern Mercer County and sits on the board of directors of Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill, a restored historic site that draws 200,000 visitors a year.

Although his primary residence is in Ohio, Anderson has given more

than \$5 million in the past decade to the local library, hospital, theater and churches. Anderson-Dean park north of Harrodsburg bears his name because he donated more than 100 acres.

According to a 1995 biography titled Anderson's Way, his largest single gifts were \$2 million to the University of Kentucky for a new mechanical engineering building and \$1 million to Robert Schuller's Crystal Cathedral Ministries in California.

Anderson said he has spent about \$50,000 so far on the wet campaign. That paid for a study on the economic impact of alcohol sales on Mercer County; a telephone poll on Mercer residents' attitudes toward alcohol; a bulk-mailing of the petition to all 9,000 households in the county; and several full-page ads in The Harrodsburg Herald weekly newspaper.

□ See *Wealthy Ohioan ...*, page 3

# BAPTISTS

## BAPTIST BITS

■ **Tim Ellsworth** has been named director of news and information at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Ellsworth replaces Norman Miller who assumed duties as communications coordinator for the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia on June 7. Ellsworth currently is director of communications for the Illinois Baptist State Association and acting editor of the Illinois Baptist. Ellsworth, 25, is a native of Benton, Ill. He holds the bachelor of arts degree from Jackson University in Jackson, Tenn.

■ **Myra Blyth**, a woman known for her work in interdenominational relations, has been named deputy general secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain. Blyth, a former Baptist pastor on the staff of the World Council of Churches, is the first woman to be elected to the position. She will be in charge of day-to-day operations of the union's Didcot, England, offices. She also will be national ecumenical officer, representing British Baptists in several organizations.

## Signs of SBC 'resurgence' seen in some state conventions

By Adelle Banks  
Religion News Service

ATLANTA—Twenty years after the start of the conservative resurgence in the Southern Baptist Convention, the agenda for this week's meeting of the nation's largest Protestant denomination is relatively mild.

The sermons, prayers and reports are all there, but the theological infighting between moderates and conservatives has quieted on the national level. Now the ideological struggle in this 15.7 million-member denomination has shifted to Baptist state conventions.

In three states, Baptists are working out new ways to relate to one another—or not. In Virginia and Texas, there are now two state conventions—one composed of conservatives and the other a moderate-controlled mix of moderates and conservatives.

And in North Carolina, conservatives and moderates are using bridge-building terminology as they consider a plan for shared leadership.

"I think what we're seeing emerge is a whole new structure of relationship between state and national levels of this denomination, and right now there is no one single way to do it," said Nancy Ammerman, a sociologist of religion at Hartford Seminary in Connecticut.

For decades, Ammerman said, Southern Baptists had a fairly simple system of "centralized unity": individual churches associated with one local association; local associations, in turn, linked with one state convention; and the state conventions related to the national denomination.

"It's all very neat and hierarchical, and it's now becoming less neat and much more autonomous," said Ammerman, author of "Baptist Battles," a 1990 analysis of the conservative

resurgence.

Today churches, associations and conventions can choose to work not only with the SBC but also with the moderate national missions agency, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, as well as non-SBC seminaries and publishing ventures.

No conventionwide celebration of conservative control was planned for this week's SBC meeting in Atlanta, June 15-16. Instead, the agenda includes SBC Executive Committee recommendations to maintain the denomination's name and its decision to hold the 2000 annual meeting in Orlando, Fla., home of Walt Disney World, one of the Disney conglomerate's theme parks that is being boycotted by some Southern Baptists.

Paige Patterson, one of the architects of the conservative resurgence, is expected to be elected to a second one-year term as president without opposition.

But on the state level, Baptist divisions remain evident.

Baptists in Virginia were the first to flex their autonomous muscles, with the creation of the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia in 1996. A total of 212 churches have aligned with the new group, many moving from the larger Baptist General Association of Virginia, which now has 1,474 affiliated churches.

Doyle Chauncey, executive director of the Virginia conservative group, said the unity within the individual groups is a benefit that's come from separation.

"You can start talking about the stuff that really matters—how to start new churches, how to win people to Jesus—rather than talking about each other," he said. "After all, the enemy is not us. The enemy is the devil."

Despite their theological differences, leaders of the conventions agree that their division has allowed them to refocus on other issues.

"I think the changes that have been

most apparent have been the sense that people feel they have a home they're happy with," said Bob Dale, assistant executive director of the larger Virginia Baptist group. "One of the positive outcomes has been the attention toward starting more churches because now instead of having one (convention) working on church starts and new ministries, we have two."

David Key, director of the Baptist Studies Program at Emory University's Candler School of Theology, said the unique tension between "the thoughtfulness of the moderates and passion of fundamentalists" has been replaced with some opting for more homogeneous groups.

"It's gotten dysfunctional in the last 20 years," said Key, whose program is based in Atlanta.

Last year, the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention began when some conservatives felt they no longer could remain in the moderate-led Baptist General Convention of Texas, which continues to be the largest state convention with 2.7 million members.

More than 300 churches have aligned with the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, said Miles Seaborn, its president emeritus.

The larger Texas group remains strong with about 4,800 churches, said Ed Schmeltekops, associate executive director. More churches have joined than have departed since the conservative group began, he added.

But Schmeltekops said now that there is a choice of state conventions, some congregations have set up "denominational study committees" to determine their future alignment while others already have split over the issue.

"I don't believe Christ would have us to divide. ... Sometimes it happens," he said. "One result is that both churches will do better if they're not fussing all the time, if they're working together in their smaller groups."

There are, of course, dozens of oth-

er state conventions where similar divisions are not pending immediately.

"There are none poised for that to happen at this particular time," said David Dockery, president of Union University, a Tennessee Baptist school in Jackson, Tenn. "Every state is different."

Some conservative and moderate North Carolinians hope they can move beyond the fighting by sharing the leadership of the Baptist state body. Under the plan, conservatives and moderates would alternate as leaders of both the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and its general board, which does the business of the convention throughout the year. At the moment, conservatives are leading the convention and moderates control the general board.

The general board approved the plan in May, but its final adoption will be determined by a vote at the convention's meeting in November.

Some hope the plan doesn't get the two-thirds majority vote necessary from the convention.

"In Texas and Virginia, each party declared who they were and went their ways," said Gene Puckett, retired editor of the Biblical Recorder, the convention's news journal and a moderate opponent of the plan. "Here in North Carolina, we're making it fuzzy."

But David Hughes, a Winston-Salem pastor and moderate supporter of the plan, is more hopeful. He sees it as a way for churches to continue to share statewide evangelistic work, even if they disagree on ordaining women as deacons or close alignment with the SBC.

"I really believe that this would be a great witness to the Baptist world—and maybe to the world at large—to see two groups building bridges with one another rather than feud with one another," Hughes said. "I feel it would be very pleasing to God and helpful to the kingdom if this could happen."

## YouthLink 2000 leaders organize prayer effort for nation's youth

HOUSTON (BP)—Focused intercessory prayer for America's young people has become an early byproduct of a Southern Baptist youth event scheduled for the end of the year.

An estimated 200,000 youth ages 13-22 will meet for YouthLink 2000 in Anaheim, Atlanta, Denver, Houston, Philadelphia, St. Louis and Tampa.

In anticipation, leaders have set aside the 30th of each month for prayer and fasting related to the event. Global prayer networks are in place through the Southern Baptist International and North American mission boards and Woman's Missionary Union.

"God had been putting on people's hearts the desire to really bathe this whole event in prayer," said Bron Holcomb, YouthLink 2000 global prayer strategy coordinator for the Dec. 29-31 event.

In July, a "prayer room" in the Woman's Missionary Union Inter-

net Web site will join the prayer networks of the International Mission Board and the North American Mission Board with the [www.youthlink2000.org](http://www.youthlink2000.org) Web site to build the global prayer network.

An international prayer network is in place in the IMB's 14 regions with 150 locations. "I think the missionaries have a great concern with what they see happening to American young people," said Sherry Woods who coordinates IMB involvement in YouthLink 2000.

Both Holcomb and WMU's Karen Anderson, who also serves on the Houston prayer committee, anticipate the impact this global prayer effort could have on missions.

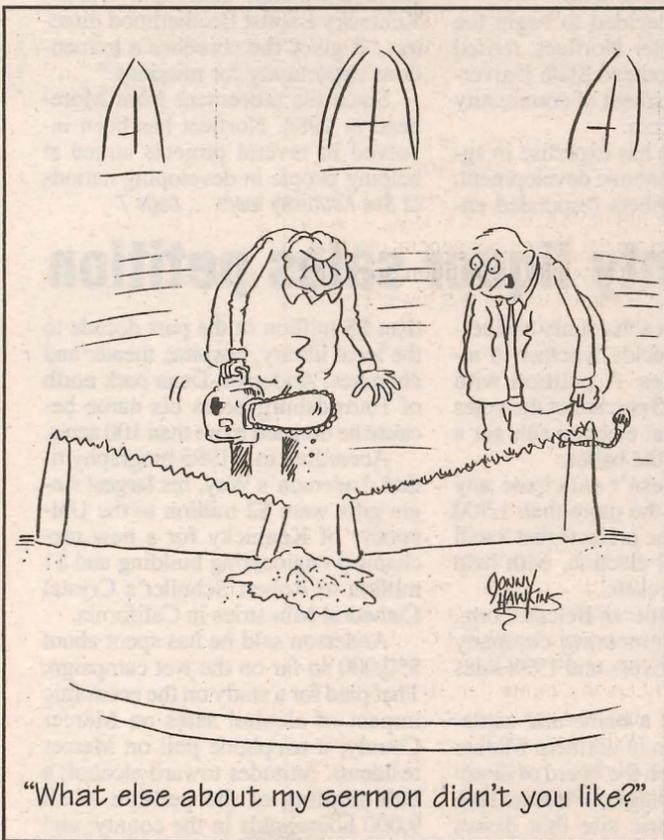
"It is special to think that missionaries in all of these regions will be praying for America and its teenagers," Anderson said. "These students will be the next generation going to the mission field and missionaries are actually praying now for the Lord to send the laborers."

## IMB Lottie Moon offering a record \$101.7 million

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Southern Baptists collected their largest-ever offering for missions during the 1998 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for international missions. When the books closed May 31, total receipts for the offering were \$101,713,066.69, a sixth record year.

The 1998 offering was an increase of more than \$1.6 million compared to 1997. Every dollar received through the offering goes to support the board's mission work overseas.

More than \$102 million of the \$110 million goal had been earmarked for overseas operations in the 1999 budget. The remaining \$8 million budgeted for overseas capital needs will be unfunded. The goal for 1999 is \$125 million.



## Blume encourages blooming at Elizabethtown conference

By Suzanne Darland  
State Correspondent

ELIZABETHTOWN—Kathy Blume told women attending the recent Dayspring conference that Christians can't bloom until they love God completely.

"And we don't love God completely because, in the soil of our lives, there are seeds we don't like," said Blume, keynote speaker for the eighth annual women's conference at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown. About 370 women attended the June 5 event.

Some women don't like the circumstances God has given them, Blume noted. But she challenged attendees to immerse themselves in the truth of Mark 12:30: "Love him with all your heart, soul, mind and strength."

As an older woman, she said, she can look back on the "manure" in her life and thank God. She said it's good to be an older woman who can look back at the valleys and see they were much more lush and green than they

seemed at the time. In fact, "there's not much vegetation on the mountain tops. They're pretty bare."

Blume said her youngest son was born deaf. Her training as a teacher prepared her to teach him. Now 30, he's pastor of a deaf church in West Palm Beach, Fla. All of her three sons and two stepsons are in full-time ministry, a fact she attributes to "prayer and trusting God in the midst of some pretty lousy circumstances."

She said her husband of 27 years left her and their three sons the same week her best friend died of cancer. She later married that friend's widower and parented five teens—two who had lost their mom, and three "who had been hurt by (her ex-husband's) alcoholism."

"I gave the Lord all the pieces of my life and he made a stained glass window," she said. "God restores the years the locusts have eaten."

Blume, a special markets manager of NavPress, a Christian publishing company in Indiana, said women also have trouble with Mark 12:31's admonition to love their neighbor as

themselves. That's because women don't love themselves correctly, she said.

"Read Psalm 139 every day for 30 days," she told the group. "It will change your life. You are knit together by God and fearfully and wonderfully made. You are a daughter of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords."

Women should realize they can only give beauty away when they feel beauty inside their hearts, she added.

Women who long for "the fragrance of God to permeate their lives" first must let God "light a match in your stench." Like the sulfur smell of a match, it won't be pleasant, but it is necessary to open all areas of one's life to God's purification, she said.

Also speaking at Dayspring was Eva Self of Hopkinsville. She urged women to keep praying and having confidence God will answer, recalling an Easter Sunday morning when her 80-year-old father became a Christian.

For the first time, Dayspring participants could attend workshops, ranging from decorating ideas to sessions on prayer and finances.

Debbie Skaggs, minister to single adults at Severns Valley Baptist Church, led a workshop on finding balance. She suggested that some women feel overwhelmed because their environments are too cluttered. "Ask yourself, 'Do I want to dust this anymore?'" she offered.

"What do you own?" she asked. "What owns you?" She told women to get rid of anything that stole time they should be spending on their priorities. "Unnecessary possessions are stealers of divine time," she said. She urged women to learn to be content with what they have, as Paul stated in Phillipians 4:12.

"Happiness is not getting more but wanting less," she said.

She also noted that society and even churches value workaholicism. "Are you doubling your speed but losing your way?" she asked. "Are you trying to be all things to all people all by yourself?" She suggested women spend time alone with God, deliberately relax and go on retreats whether they are annual weekend events or two-minute respites.

**"Read Psalm 139 every day for 30 days. It will change your life."**  
Dayspring conference speaker Kathy Blume

## Churches soon will mail KBC funds to Atlanta

LOUISVILLE—Kentucky Baptist churches and associations will soon notice a change in the address where they send gifts and offerings.

But Kentucky Baptist Convention officials say there will be no change in the speed in which those offerings are put to work in ministry.

Since 1995, the Kentucky Baptist Convention has used a "lock box" service offered by PNC Bank to immediately deposit contributions from churches. All gifts and offerings are mailed directly to PNC Bank in pre-addressed, pre-stamped envelopes provided by the Kentucky Baptist Convention. The bank deposits funds on the day they are received, allowing the convention to draw interest on the funds immediately.

PNC Bank is moving its lock box service from Louisville to Atlanta later this year, however, which means the address on the envelopes churches use will change.

Lowell Ashby, the KBC's business services team leader, said the change won't effect the speed in which gifts are deposited.

New envelopes that reflect the change will be provided to churches. The envelopes also will carry a business reply imprint instead of a metered stamp, resulting in easier preparation and mailing.

For more information, call the KBC business services department's contribution line at (888) 254-5717 or (502) 254-4711.

## Wealthy Ohioan behind Mercer County liquor drive

Continued from page 1

Asked how much he anticipates spending on the effort, Anderson said: "Whatever it takes."

Anderson, who was raised in a Baptist church, recently gave \$100,000 to Harrodsburg Baptist Church for an elevator. He rejected a suggestion that the gift might be seen as an attempt to mute opposition to the petition drive. Rather, he said he donated the money because he wanted to do something for the church.

Besides, he said of the gift, "That's not going to win me a lot of votes."

The UK study said if the county were wet it could see more than \$18.5 million in economic growth annually, and would mean more than 800 new full-time and part-time jobs.

Tourism is Mercer County's biggest industry, drawing in \$38 million last year. Harrodsburg, the county seat founded in 1774, was the first permanent English settlement west of the Allegheny Mountains.

Those in the tourism industry say alcohol would give a needed boost to stagnant occupancy rates and sales. Among the proponents is Chuck Dedman, general manager of Beaumont Inn, an 81-year-old country inn in Harrodsburg known for its heirlooms, fried chicken and corn pudding.

"We lose customers that would be spending money not only here but out in the town because we can't give them a glass of wine. They can't even get a taste of Kentucky bourbon," Dedman said.

Recently, couples from Switzerland and California cut short their stays at Beaumont after learning that drinks couldn't be served with dinner, Dedman said. And he said he could provide better wages and better benefits to his 45 employees if he had the revenue to do so.

Jim Thomas, president and chief executive officer of Shaker Village, said alcohol sales would allow that historic site to compete with Lexing-

ton restaurants. The 37-member board of directors however must vote whether to serve alcohol at Shaker Village, but Thomas said he would like to give visitors the option of purchasing alcohol.

"I would make a recommendation to my board to do so," Thomas said. "If we believe that tourism is vital and that it does bring jobs, that it is an environmentally clean industry, then why would we not allow the community to operate like other communities that show progressive, diversified economies?"

But Kay Trisler, a Harrodsburg resident and former executive director for Kentucky Baptists' Woman's Missionary Union, said the community must look beyond the money to the cost in terms of alcoholism, broken families, injury and death.

"There is no way that the benefits of bringing alcohol to our town would outweigh the negatives," Trisler said.

Hugh Pierce, presiding officer over an association of 19 Mercer County Baptist churches representing 2,000 members, wondered out loud what the Shakers would think if they could see the push for alcohol today.

"Those Shakers, they'd shake sure enough," Pierce said.

Pierce met June 7 with Claude Witt, executive director of the Kentucky Temperance League, to discuss how to combat the "wets."

"I think Mercer County has prospered an enormous amount in 30 years and personally, I don't see that we need it," Pierce said.

Another vocal opponent is Kenneth Kirkland, a former Mercer judge-executive. He predicts that, despite Anderson's confidence, the drive to go wet will be defeated.

"I think we live in a conservative community and the churches are fairly active in Mercer County," Kirkland said.

Dedman said wet forces hope to have the signatures in hand by July 1

## Previous votes

The last time Mercer Countians voted on the wet-dry issue was on Sept. 4, 1934. The question put before them then was: "Are you in favor of the sale, barter or loan of spirituous, vinous or malt liquors in Mercer County, Ky., the same to apply to dispensaries, hotels, restaurants or clubs?"

Voters overwhelmingly rejected the question, 2,669 to 795.

Today, 75 Kentucky counties ban alcohol sales, 30 are wet and 15 are dry counties with cities that have legal sales.

The last county to approve legal sales was Wolfe in April 1991, said Dan Gahafer, a spokesman for the state Alcohol Beverage Control. The last city to go wet was Madisonville in March 1992.

In December, Elizabethtown voters rejected alcohol sales by 222 votes. The margin of defeat was narrower than the 735-vote difference in the previous wet-dry election in October 1995.

because the county clerk must have 60 days to certify them. The special election to decide the alcohol question would have to be held at least 30 days before the November general election.

Meanwhile, the petition drive and the potential to turn wet has everyone talking. It didn't take much prompting for patrons and employees at Harrodsburg Pool Hall to draw sides recently.

Pool hall owner Pam Devine, 46, worries about the social cost that the increased availability of beer, wine and liquor might bring.

"I don't want to see people drink a whole lot," Devine said.

But her daughter, Tracy Foley, 24, said she supports alcohol sales because people wouldn't have to drive to the retail package stores at the Anderson County line 10 miles north of Harrodsburg.

"Why not have it here and let them get it here?" Foley said. "Why not let Mercer County get some of the money?"

Reprinted with permission

# OPINION

## WESTERN RECORDER

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

**MAURI SMITH**  
Interim Executive  
Officer

**DAVID WINFREY**  
News Director

**C.R. DALEY**  
Editor Emeritus

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Media bias is clear

When will those in the media finally admit they are biased toward liberals and liberal causes? That the so-called "objective news media" have a decidedly liberal agenda?

I, for one, am sick and tired of hearing the likes of Dan Rather moan about how "objective" and "fair" he and his fellow reporters are.

This is nonsense, and the media know this is nonsense.

Can you imagine what the media would be doing if Ron and Nancy Reagan had invested in Whitewater? Orchestrated a "Travelgate" scandal? Repeatedly lied to the public about everything under the sun?

Can you imagine what would have happened if Ronald Reagan or George Bush had perjured himself before a grand jury about an illicit affair with an intern?

Both would have been sent packing home—or to jail!

But not Bill Clinton. He gets away with one lie and scandal after another—over and over and over again.

In short, no matter how deep in the mud Clinton goes, the leftist media continue to portray him as a white knight riding his chariot out of Washington to save America and the world.

Worse still, it is clear that the likes of Dan Rather plan on destroying the conservative movement and its leaders in the 106th Congress and on the presidential campaign trail.

But this time we're ready. We conservatives will fight back and expose them. This time I predict the American people will reject this media effort for what it is—a left-wing propaganda campaign.

*Arlene Larkin  
Louisville*

## Pray for all sinners

I am responding to a question that was in the May 25 Western Recorder, 1999, on homosexuals. I thoroughly agree we are to love one another, and according to God's word, we are to try to lead them to salvation of their souls. Point out to them we are all guilty of sin, even Christians, but we are to ask forgiveness of our sins and live our life for the Lord.

If they will not change their life, there is no place in church or eternity for them. Read where God plainly tells us that it is a sin and they will never see eternity with him unless they change their lustful lives—Romans 1:21-32, Leviticus 18:22-30, Leviticus 20:13 and 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 and 19-20.

A distant cousin was very active in church and a Sunday school teacher until he chose to become homosexual. He gave up his wife and children to keep his chosen lifestyle. The church excluded him after confronting him, but he would not change his life for the Lord. He is now active in an out-of-town church and teaching again, but still lives with his male lover. It's an abomination to the Lord.

Through prayer all things are possible, and we need to pray for these people who have chosen this lifestyle. God did not make them this way, it definitely is the work of the devil himself. Pray for all sinners, especially these who are so defiant of the Lord.

*Georgia Moore  
Waynesburg*

## Another response

Concerning the letter "A Jewish Response" in the May 25 issue of the Western Recorder, I would like to say to David Marwil that the two great commandments of "love God with all your soul and mind and your neighbor as thyself" should be a direct action of one who has accepted God's plan of salvation.

Jesus was born a Jew, but he existed as an equal with God in the beginning (John 1:1-4). He was sent to the Jews but they did not receive him (John 1:11-12). He was also sent to be the Lamb of God to take away the sins of the world (John 1:29).

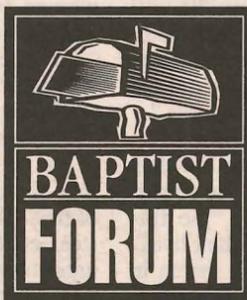
In a statement to the Jews (John 8:21-24) he told the Jews they would die in their sins if they did not believe he was the Christ. He told Nicodemus in John 3:3 he had to be born again. Nicodemus was a Jewish leader. John 14:6 tells us Jesus is God's only plan of salvation.

Romans 3:22-23 tells us "all have sin" and we are put right with God through faith in Jesus.

In Galatians 3:28-29 we find that there is no difference between Jews and gentiles and it is those who have accepted Jesus who are the seed of Abraham. Genesis 12:3 tells of the covenant to bless all families of the earth through Abraham. Jesus' genealogy is traced back to him in Matthew 1 and Luke 3.

Matthew 28:19 commands that we go into all the world and preach the gospel, so shouldn't we have the same missionary zeal for the Jews that we do for the gentiles?

*Rose Jeannette Teems  
Salt Lick*



## STEWARDSHIP

### Is stewardship really just a money problem?

By Doug Strader

People in the United States have more discretionary money today than at any other time in the history of our nation.

Most of the national pollsters say

Americans today are very satisfied with their life simply because most Americans have a job and affluence is widespread.

But is the picture as bright as it seems, or are we seeing a mirage? According to Consumer Reports magazine, the average household has debt totaling \$38,000, not counting home mortgages, and that total consumer debt has tripled since 1980. We are told the average household owns 11 credit cards, and it pays more than \$1,000 of interest per year.

Among Christians surveyed, 40 percent overspend monthly; 40 percent pay \$2,000 a year in interest (not including home mortgage); 60 percent of couples in marriage counseling identify money as a major problem.

The Wall Street Journal reported that in 1992 personal bankruptcies hit a new record of more than 900,000. In 1996 it hit 1 million.

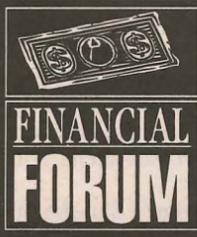
The Christian Stewardship Association Institute found that at the height of the Depression in 1933, the average household gave 3.3 percent of its income to church. That level was maintained until 1955 when it dipped to 3.2 percent. Since 1955 our earned income has increased more than 200 percent, while our church giving per household has dropped below 2.5 percent.

Stewardship is not a matter of money as much as it is a matter of the heart. God gave the greatest gift of all in giving his son, Jesus. And he continues to give to us day by day. With such giving, how can we not gladly, willingly and with thanksgiving give to him? If stewardship is a reflection of one's spiritual health, what is the state of your spiritual health today?

Martin Luther said there was a need for three conversions—the head, the heart and the pocket-book.

May our prayer be, "Lord, help me to understand that the way I use my time, my talents and my possessions speaks volumes about my spiritual health and my growth as a disciple of Jesus who gave his life for me."

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



## What are you thinking?

The Western Recorder considers letters on any subject for publication, provided they don't make a personal attack. The maximum length for a letter is 300 words. Baptist Forum is limited to Western Recorder subscribers, unless someone is responding to a story or editorial of which they are the subject. Submit by mail, Box 43969, Louisville, Ky. 40253; fax, (502) 244-6474; or e-mail, wesrec@ntr.net.

## PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

### Building bridges

On Sunday night, June 6, three of the largest Baptist churches in Louisville conducted a joint worship service. It was an outstanding celebration of worship with choirs, ministers and lay participation from each church followed by a time of fellowship. An offering was received for the Baptist World Alliance, which provides encouragement and support for persecuted and disadvantaged Baptist groups around the world.

It was a privilege to be asked by the three pastors: Kevin Ezell of Highview Baptist Church, Les Hollon of St. Matthews Baptist Church and Bob Long of Walnut Street Baptist Church, to preach for this wonderful celebration. An earlier celebration grew out of a friendship between Kevin and Les. As a friend to both, Bob led Walnut Street to join the celebration.

I want to commend the pastors and members of these three churches for their bold steps in building

bridges of unity. Each church has unique opportunities and challenges as well as unique styles of ministry, but each is convinced of the power of the gospel to transform people into followers of Jesus Christ.

The focus Scripture was John 17:20-23, which is a part of the prayer of Jesus for unity among his followers. Jesus is very explicit in his prayer for his followers to be one with him and the Father as he is one with the Father. Then Jesus makes this awesome statement, "May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me" John 17:23.

So how much does God love people? He loves them as much as God loves Jesus. Clearly there is a strong connection between our unity and a strong, believable witness in the world.

Why should we strive for unity? It isn't optional. Love demands

it (1 John 4).

■ Baptists have a wonderful heritage of working together.

■ The cry of the world for hope and help demands unity in our witness.

■ Future generations deserve the best heritage we can pass on to them.

We can take the first steps toward reconciliation. Here's how:

■ Use endearing terms when addressing or speaking about fellow Christians.

■ Focus on common ground and not that which divides.

■ Refuse to be a part of conflict; focus on reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:19).

■ Act Positively. Focus on strengths (Luké 6:47).

■ Develop a friendship with someone who has a different perspective.

This is a great model to begin the process to fulfill the prayer of Jesus. Let's begin to act as though the prayer of Jesus is being fulfilled each day in our lives, places of ministry and convention.

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



Bill Mackey

## Constant trival fighting might be a signal of deeper conflicts

### Q. Why do couples fight over minor, trivial things?

Some believe that when couples fight over seemingly minor irritations it is due to a bigger problem that has not been resolved and is being expressed in the form of small annoyances.

For instance, spouses who are competing for a position of superiority might argue endlessly over the "right" way to load the dishwasher or set the VCR. A struggle for power might surface as a battle over the appropriate way to do laundry or wash a car.

Spouses trying to get back or punish each other for some perceived wrong, might be less than cooperative when deciding at which restaurant to eat dinner or which movie to rent.

If you find yourself spending a lot of time fighting over things that seem trivial, you might ask yourself whether a deeper issue has gone unresolved, or even unaddressed completely. If so, talk to your spouse about what you think is happening and listen to his or her opinion as well, then work together toward a solution.

When living with another human being, there always will be irritations, but these annoyances shouldn't be allowed to overtake the relationship.—Susan Howell

### Q. How can I help my child develop a good work ethic?

Developing a good work ethic presents a special challenge in today's world where the abundance of stuff children have and the ease with which they often obtain it can weaken work habits. These ideas might help:

■ **Give your children important work to do.** Build in accountability. Let them know you will be inspecting their work. Younger children might need you to work alongside them. Teach children to take pride in their work and encourage them to do more than is asked or expected. Help your children see how their work makes a difference. Teach your children to balance work and fun so important things don't get left undone.

■ **Teach the relationship between effort and reward.** Beyond pay, look for ways to reward children for hard work. Eat at a favorite pizza place to honor a good report card. Take the family swimming after a morning of work together in the yard. Connect household chores and jobs to privileges, like watching television or having friends over. Help your children learn that hard work pays off, and not always in money.

■ **Teach the importance of completion.** Insist that your child complete one job, project or activity before moving on to another. Whether it be a school assignment, a clean room, a leafless lawn or clothes that are folded and put away, help your child experience the satisfaction and freedom that comes from knowing the job has been completed.

■ **Set a good example.** Be faithful to your work responsibilities. Express thanks for your job and for the ability to work. Even when work becomes difficult and demanding, help your children see it as a privilege, not drudgery, and be careful about complaining when young ears are listening. Don't cut corners or take advantage of your employer, and don't glorify those who do.—David Garrard

Family Forum writers are David Garrard, minister to children at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville; James Stillwell, minister to singles at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington; Susan Howell, assistant professor of psychology at Campbellsville University; 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.



## It has not always been easy to be a Baptist

Editor's note: The following editorial originally appeared in the Aug 24, 1974, edition of the Western Recorder. It is one of 75 featured in the book "Daley Observations: The Best of C.R. Daley's Western Recorder editorials."

By C.R. Daley

The success and strength of Baptists in America today tend to make for presumption, apathy and lack of appreciation for the sacrifices and suffering of early Baptists in the new world. We presume Baptists have always been free and influential. Not so! The religious freedom and other advantages we enjoy today did not come easily but were earned at a high price.

Baptists in many communities of America today not only are free to worship as they please but also enjoy prestige and influence. In the Southern United States, or the Bible Belt as it is called, Baptists outnumber any other religious group. The majority of professional and businessmen also are Baptists and so are the local political office holders.

Membership in a Baptist church in such areas has become a status symbol. Ambitious businessmen and public office candidates find it advantageous to be Baptists. Thus Baptists today occupy the kind of favored position enjoyed by Episcopalians in colonial Virginia and Congregationalists in early Massachusetts.

Baptist church membership in such situations tends to lose its true meaning. Generally those things which cost little mean little. It is easier to be a Baptist than not to be in such communities, and the cost is in not being instead of being a Baptist. From the beginning it was not so. Maybe one requirement for Baptist church membership should be a study of early Baptists in England, on the continent and in early America.

The first Baptists in America came from England and were seeking freedom from harassment and harsh treatment. But in those days Baptists were poor and passage across the Atlantic was expensive. The cost of crossing

was equal to about two years wages and very likely the only way some Baptists could finance the trip was to sell themselves to indentured servitude.

Nor did Baptists always find a haven of religious freedom in the new world. They were among the dissenters expelled from the Massachusetts Bay Colony. In Virginia they even fared worse. There the Church of England was the established church and everyone was required to recognize it. A license from the state was required to preach, and licenses were often denied Baptists or Baptist preachers went ahead preaching without seeking licenses. Baptists were harassed for refusing to let their children be baptized as infants and insisting upon immersion for baptism. In many ways these early Virginia Baptists were second-class citizens.

Legal persecution and prosecution were common in Virginia in the 1760s and 1770s. Five Baptist preachers were arrested in 1768 and spent 43 days in jail. In 1771 a magistrate and the official parish clergyman invaded a Baptist worship service, throwing the preacher and five of his fellow Baptist preachers in jail. Some were whipped and all were commanded not to preach any more. They refused to obey and preached through the windows of the jail. The records reveal that more than 30 Baptist preachers in at least nine Virginia counties were jailed during the era.

These obstinate Baptists and their insistence upon complete religious freedom were part of the inspiration of men like Patrick Henry and James Madison in demanding the freedom which was eventually guaranteed by the inclusion of the Bill of Rights in the United States Constitution. In the 200 years since the persecution of Baptists the scene has completely changed. Baptists today in many places occupy the same kind of prominence and power the Episcopalians enjoyed in early Virginia though without legal sanction.

But ease and commitment are not always compatible. Today a Baptist church is one of the easiest things to get into and the hardest to get out of. Maybe just the reverse ought to be so. A Baptist church should be one of the hardest things to get into and easy to get out of.

GUEST EDITORIAL

## If you love those who love you ... what credit is that?

By Lincoln Bingham

"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' love those who love them." (Luke 6:32)

I am truly grateful for the unbreakable "tie that binds our hearts in Christian love." Paul teaches us that of the three great virtues of life—faith, hope and love—the greatest virtue is love. What else other than love's strong cord could draw such a diverse body of people into communion with God and with one another? What else could transform an enemy into a friend?

Jesus is the consummate conversationalist. After 2,000 years, he is fresh in his frankness, sincere and straightforward in what he expects of those who profess to follow him. We tell the Lord how much we love those who have shown us love. In response, Jesus essentially says, "So what, it didn't cost you anything."

We get no credit posted on the divine ledger for loving people who love

us because ... "sinners also love those that love them." There is no reward in reciprocal love. If love does not distinguish the saints from the sinners, then we need to know what does.

Jesus, against all human reasoning, says, "Love your enemies." Wow, what a revolutionary concept! Yet it was more than a concept. It was a command, but not an impossible one. Jesus never commands what cannot be accomplished.

Jesus' love commandment was so revolutionary that he had to, so to speak, "recommend" it. "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you ..." (John 13:34). The requirement is not only that we love one another, but that we love each other as Jesus loved us.

Think about it. While we were yet sinners, enemies of God, Christ died for us. If while we were his enemies, God loved us enough to send his son to die for us, should we not love those who are our enemies? The question is rhetorical.

As I reflect on my life and the min-

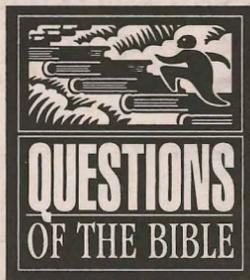
istry of reconciliation that God has entrusted to me, I am thankful for the legacy of love my grandfather left me. He was a slave, separated in childhood from his mother and subjected to unimaginable degradation.

Yet he did a very unnatural thing: he loved and prayed for the "masters." From where did he get the strength to love? He got it supernaturally by linking his human impotence to divine omnipotence. Like Paul, my grandfather could not do in the flesh what he could do through Christ who strengthened him.

Jesus not only commands us to follow in his footsteps, he gives us the power to follow. Thus I have followed in the footsteps of my "forefathers" who followed in the footsteps of Jesus.

Many of our "enemies" will be reconciled to God and then to us if we do as Jesus has done. What a marvelous way to lay up treasures in heaven and have our credits entered on the divine ledger ... secured forever!

Reprinted from WR, May 5, 1998. Lincoln Bingham is pastor of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in Louisville.

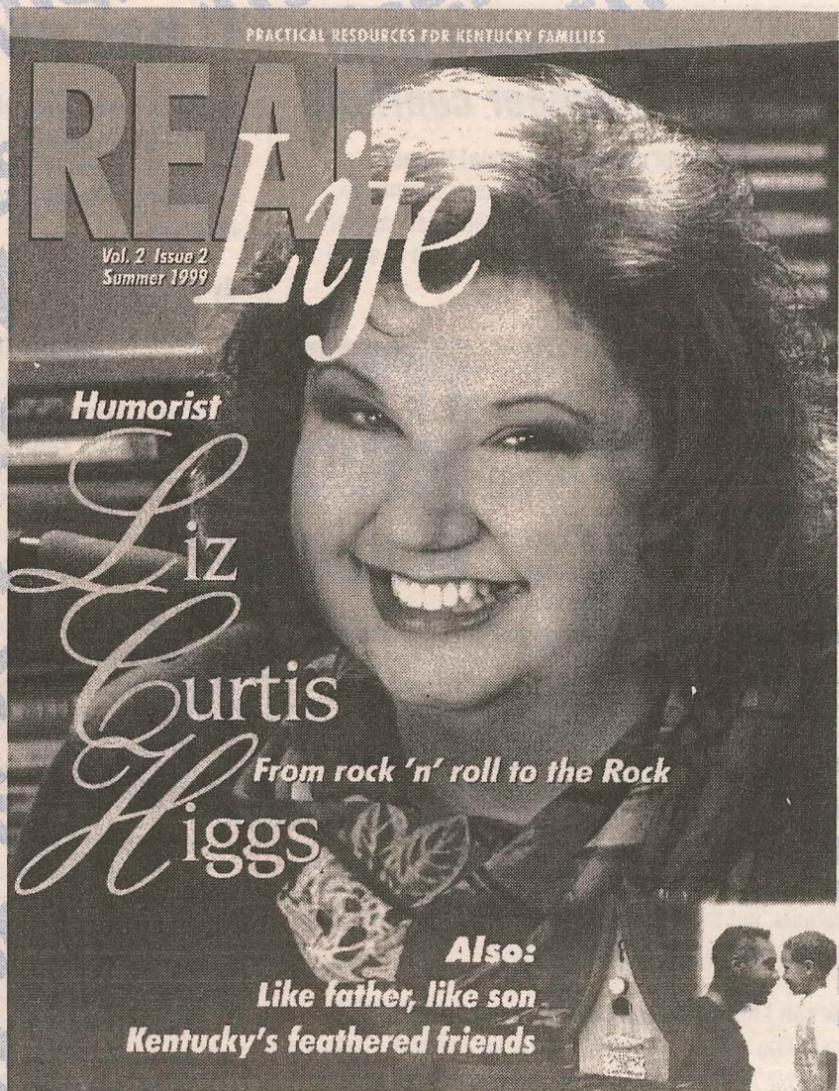


# Who are you trying to reach?

For more than a year, Real Life magazine has helped churches throughout Kentucky reach out to the people in their communities. Offering faith-based resources, and stories about family, finance and fun, Real Life is a powerful tool to help congregations show how Christianity makes a difference in the issues people face every day.

Cover stories feature Kentuckians whose faith makes a difference in their lives. Our back covers feature a full-page ad that introduces Christianity to people who aren't used to "churchy" language.

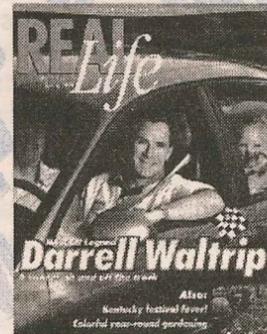
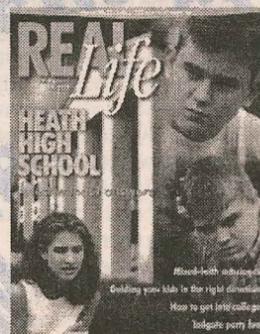
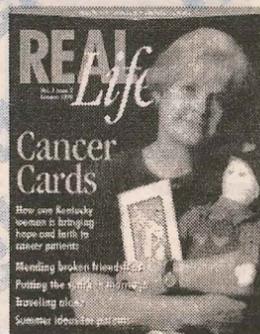
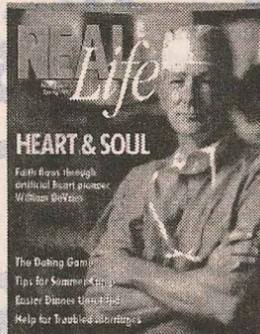
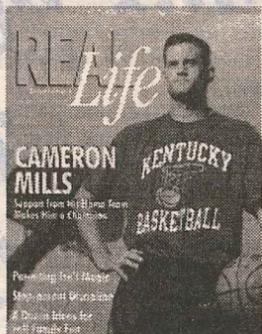
If you're looking for an innovative way to share your church's message give us a toll-free call at (888) 254-5728.



Introducing our summer issue: Christian humorist Liz Curtis Higgs

## How could you use Real Life?

- ✓ Door-to-door visitation.
- ✓ Waiting rooms for doctors, mechanics or dentists.
- ✓ Total outreach strategies for blanket mailings in your community.
- ✓ Care packets to introduce your church to Sunday morning visitors.
- ✓ Follow-up mailings to long-lost members.
- ✓ Gifts for neighbors your members want to bring to church.
- ✓ Hand-outs for people who come to special events.



Get Real

Get Real Life

# KENTUCKY

## Ministry welcomes the horse industry to Kentucky

By Pat Cole  
Staff Writer

LOUISVILLE—Bearing snacks for horses and a message for their owners, Kentucky Baptists helped welcome the equestrian world to Louisville last week.

About 50,000 people were expected from every state and several foreign countries for the fourth annual Equitana USA, the largest horse exposition and trade show in North America.

Amid hundreds of horse-related exhibits at the Kentucky Fair & Exposition Center June 10-13, the Baptist group distributed oats packaged in bags with a brief evangelistic appeal printed on them.

The Baptist effort at Equitana USA was part of Equestrian Ministries International, a ministry based in Kentucky that has grown to 21 local chapters since its inception in 1995. Although open to people of all denominations, Baptists form the core of its membership.

Contextualized evangelism is the primary goal of EMI, said Bob Morrison, president of the organization.

"Church evangelism has its place, but contextualized evangelism is how we are going to meet the world with the gospel," said Morrison, director of missions for Little Bethel Baptist Association in Madisonville. "When you meet people in their comfort zone they will listen to you and hear you better."

Recreation venues provide one of the few places where harried Americans relax in today's society, noted

Larry Martin, missions growth team leader for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

"In America, particularly in small towns, the front porch used to be the place that people relaxed and neighbors would come by and talk," said Martin, one of EMI's original organizers. "The question now is, 'Where is the front porch.'"

Martin believes recreation activities fill part of that need, and therefore provide a casual setting where people will be open to a gospel witness.

At Equitana, EMI related to people from every discipline of the horse industry. Attendees included horse owners and breeders, and riders who participate in competitions and those who ride for recreation.

Horse lovers clad in English-style riding gear walked through the exhibition hall alongside those wearing Western hats and snakeskin cowboy boots.

Since every horse likes oats, giving them away was a natural means to establish rapport with those attending Equitana, said Charlie Simmons, president of EMI's Kentucky chapter.

Visitors to the EMI booth generally would ask what was in the small brown bags on the table. "We say 'it's a bag of oats, take it and feed it to your horse,'" said Simmons, a retired director of missions for Graves County Baptist Association in Mayfield.

Some would thank them for the oats and walk away and others would engage EMI members in conversation.

Equitana provided an excellent opportunity for EMI to network with Christians from around the world who are interested in equestrian ministry, Martin said.

In the first day alone at Equitana, EMI members spoke with people from Alabama, Oregon and Zimbabwe who are interested in forming local EMI chapters.

More people than ever own horses, and the popularity of the industry makes it a promising ministry opportunity, Martin said.

"The horse group is a transient group," said Chris Cunningham, a Kentucky EMI member from Independence. "The seminar people and the horse show people are on the road all the time."

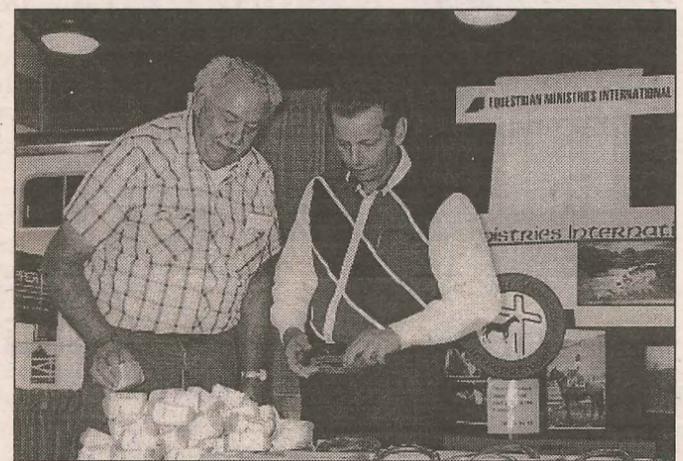
As a result, few of them can attend a local church with regularity, she said, adding that a chapel service at an equestrian event may be their only opportunity for worship.

Cunningham is making her love for equestrian ministry a full-time endeavor. After Equitana, she left Kentucky with six horses to work as a Mission Service Corps volunteer in a horse ministry at Promise Village, a home for troubled and hurting children in Troy, Mich.

During equestrian events throughout the commonwealth, Kentucky EMI members conduct Sunday worship services.

More than 100 attended the EMI chapel service Memorial Day weekend at Land Between the Lakes. The worshipers were among 7,000 riders who converged on the West Kentucky recreational area.

A volunteer EMI chaplain is on



duty every weekend during the riding season at LBL, conducting chapel services and helping people who might experience injuries or other crises while at the campground.

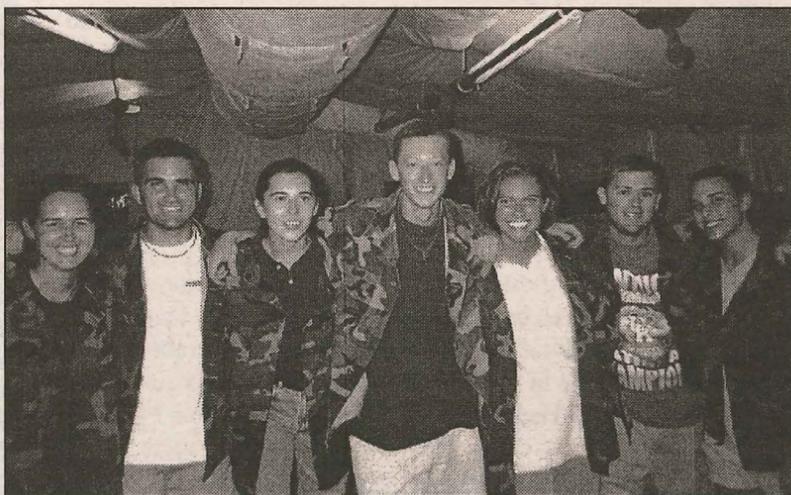
EMI has held backyard Bible clubs for children at the campground and frequently invites a Christian music group to sing for campers on Saturday evenings.

Wilburn Bonta, director of missions for Russell Creek and East Lynn Baptist associations near Greensburg, said his service as an EMI chaplain formalizes what he had been doing on an informal basis for years.

Since his childhood, Bonta has joined friends for Saturday trail rides.

"As we rode, I began to see that (horse riders) have hurts and needs like anybody else," said Bonta, who coordinates EMI activities with Kentucky Brotherhood. "I saw a chance to ride with them and minister to them."

**INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY** Kentucky Baptists Charlie Simmons, president of the state chapter of Equestrian Ministries International (left), and Bob Morrison, international president of EMI, look over bags of oats given to horse owners from around the world who attended Equitana USA in Louisville.



**ACTING UP** Students performed a skit about the military for U.S. Army personnel working on a relief project in El Salvador. The camp commander awarded the Kentucky group a commendation for its efforts in Central America. In the skit are (from left) Lina Chapman of Alice Lloyd College, Shane Garrison of Campbellsville University, Megan Bashan of Campbellsville, Steve Blan of Campbellsville, Janet Brown of Western Kentucky University, Joey DeWees of University of Kentucky, Stacey Hemlepp of Georgetown College. (Photo by Ed Pavy)

## Kentucky team goes to El Salvador

Continued from page 1

become more self-sufficient. One of his goals is to connect technical experts in the United States with those in developing countries and enable them to work together to make a better life for people in poor countries.

Typically, Southern Baptist mission strategy has been directed at the middle and lower classes, Foster noted. "This strategy is to relate to all strata

and to talk with officials, embassies and manufacturers." Foster hopes Kentucky Brotherhood can recruit more mission teams for projects in El Salvador.

For Norfleet, efforts to meet physical needs are a necessary component of missions. "You can't witness to somebody if his belly is growling louder than the words you are trying to speak to him."

## 35 Kentucky students graduate from SBC seminaries

Thirty-five Kentuckians graduated from Southern Baptist seminaries in May.

Below is a listing of the graduates, their degrees and their hometowns.

**Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.** 144 graduates, including 23 Kentuckians:

- Edward Childers, Fairdale, master of divinity.
- Chip Chrisman, Elizabethtown, master of divinity in pastoral counseling.
- Stephanie Corus, Louisville, master of divinity.
- Benjamin Coulter, Bloomfield, master of divinity.
- Brian Curry, Shepherdsville, master of divinity in missions, evangelism and church growth.
- Corey Denzik, Louisville, master of church music.
- Steve Ellis, Williamsburg, master of divinity.
- Charles Frazier, Milburn, master of divinity in missions, evangelism and church growth.
- Donald Guillion Jr., Louisville, advanced master of divinity.
- James Hanson, Owenton, master of divinity in Christian education.
- Marianne Jackson, LaGrange, master of arts in Christian education.
- Barry Johnson, Louisville, master of divinity.
- Randall Morris, Ekron, master of arts in Christian education.
- Clarisa Morrison, Frankfort, master of divinity in Christian education.
- Robert Sexton, Louisville, master of divinity.
- Brian Sirles, Louisville, master of divinity in Christian education.

- Randall Tan, Louisville, master of divinity.
- Bert Walker, Louisville, master of divinity.
- Mark Webb, Lawrenceburg, master of divinity.
- Joseph West, Danville, doctor of ministry.
- Cynthia Winfree, Louisville, master of church music.

■ Gregory Wingate, Petersburg, master of divinity in missions, evangelism and church growth.

**Southern's Boyce College of the Bible.** 34 graduates, including five Kentuckians:

- Loan P. Hoang, Louisville, associate of arts.
- Luc Hoang, Louisville, associate of arts.
- Randall Hurt, Robards, associate of arts.
- Marshall Kellam, Louisville, associate of arts.
- Tommy Taylor, Louisville, associate of arts.

**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.** 200 graduates, including three Kentuckians:

- Lillie Burton, Grayson, certificate in women's ministries.
- Carla Hawkins, Florence, master of divinity.
- Mark Robinson, Elizabethtown, bachelor of arts in pastoral ministries.

**Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.** 327 graduates, including two Kentuckians:

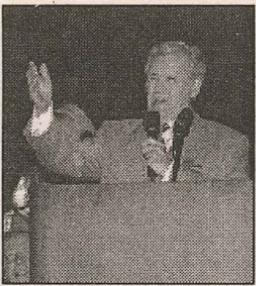
- Jennifer Mesica, Louisville, master of divinity.
- Tonya Williams, Woodburn, master of arts in Christian education.

**Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.** 155 graduates, including two Kentuckians:

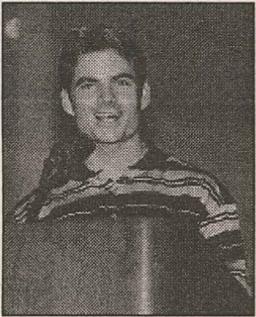
- Donald Roberts, Mayfield, master of divinity.
- Michael Liter, Lexington, master of arts in intercultural studies.

# EVANGELISM

## The frail servant with the simple message still shines



Cliff Barrows



Jeff Gordon



George Beverly Shea

INDIANAPOLIS—For four nights in Indianapolis, Billy Graham's message was as simple as it has ever been during his more than 50 years of ministry.

For four nights he explained that sin separates people from God but God loves the world enough to provide Jesus Christ as the way to bridge that gap.

Each night of June 3-6 Graham invited listeners to accept a simple invitation to accept Jesus into their lives. And for four nights, as has happened in arenas throughout the world, people responded in droves.

In all, more than 15,000 people walked the aisles of the RCA Dome, with 8,425 making first-time professions of faith.

The crusade mixed music, testimonies by well-known people and Graham's messages to repeatedly emphasize the need for a Christian faith.

"The greatest thing that's ever happened to me is my personal relationship with Christ," said NASCAR superstar Jeff Gordon.

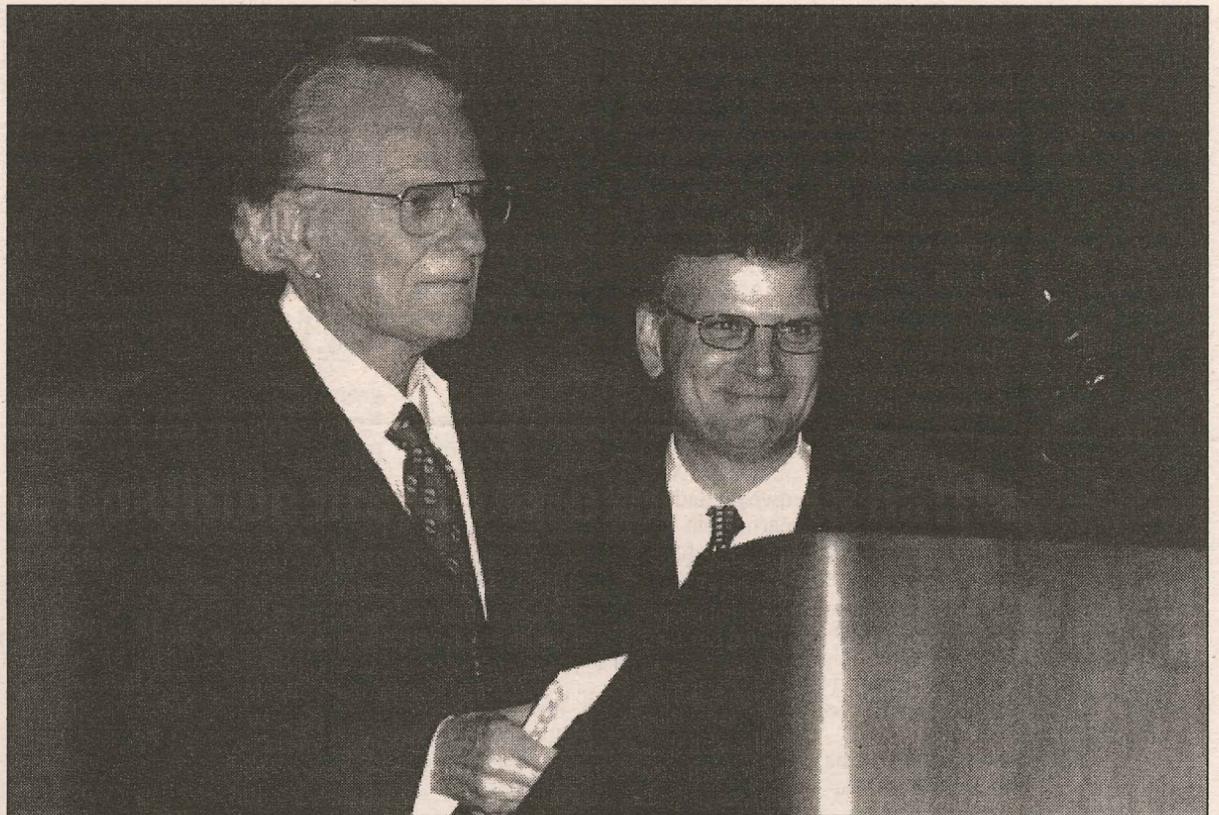
Dallas Cowboys cornerback Deion Sanders related how his quest for more material things left him more empty to the point of contemplating suicide. "The same God who delivered me from power, money and sex can do the same for you."

Former Indiana Senator Dan Coates contrasted the difference between Christ and government. "Government can feed the body, house the body and clothe the body," he said. "But it can't touch the soul. Only God can touch the soul."

Also present were long-time accompanists Cliff Barrows and George Beverly Shea. But it was the frail 80-year-old evangelist who drew the greatest response. "Jesus is knocking tonight at your life's door," said Graham, who stood during his sermons but sat during the invitations. "Christ is standing at the crossroads, and you've got to make a choice."

Among those serving as counselors for the invitation were more than 100 students from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The students trained under a co-



**FATHER & SON** Billy Graham approaches the podium at the RCA Dome in Indianapolis after being introduced by his son, Franklin. More than 15,000 people responded to Graham's invitations during the crusade June 3-6. (Photos by David Winfrey)

ordinator for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. They learned how to lead someone through the crusade's counseling materials, and they got an up-front view of how the group's events work.

"For our students, it was beneficial to be involved with the ministry of the pre-eminent evangelist of the 20th century and the most widely heard evangelist in the history of the church," said Don Cox, an assistant professor at the seminary's school of missions, evangelism and church growth, which bears Graham's name.

The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, which recruited more than 20,000 volunteers in Indianapolis and prayer warriors from throughout the world, places a dual emphasis on organizational preparation and God's power.

Southern students expressed awe at the simplicity and power of Graham's message.

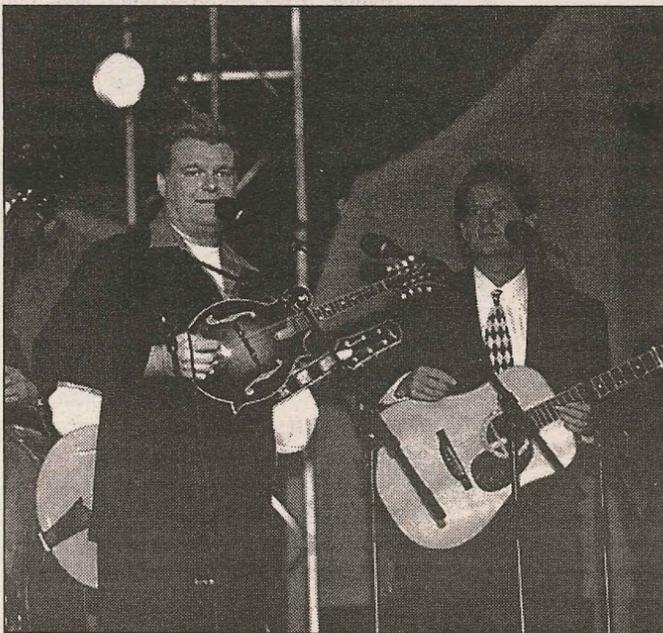
"Dr. Graham just preached Christ," said John Girdey, "I've heard better sermons. But the way he puts it, saying, 'You need to come to Christ.' And people do. I've never seen people come forward like that."

Before his bluegrass performance one night, Kentucky native Ricky Skaggs said the amazing thing isn't so much what happens when Graham speaks as the potential that is available to other Christians if they'll just respond.

"I think there's a lot of Billy Grams out there that didn't heed the call," Skaggs said. "He's so steadfast, and I want to be like him when I grow up."

Compiled from reports by News Director David Winfrey, the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, Bryan Cribb of Southern Seminary and Chip Bayer, editor of the Indiana Baptist

**RICKY SKAGGS** The Kentuckian performed bluegrass gospel songs before one of Graham's sermons. "I want to be like him when I grow up," Skaggs said.



**KBC Brotherhood Mission Camp at Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek**

- ◆ Emphasizing Missions & "On Mission" life;
- ◆ Team building and communication skills;
- ◆ Instruction in swimming, archery, water safety, and camping at both locations;
- ◆ Instruction in horseback riding, ropes course and climbing wall at Cedarmore;
- ◆ Waterfront activities, challenge wall and canoeing at Jonathan Creek.

Randy Foster, State Brotherhood Director and Mission Camp Director, leads a staff of Baptist Student Union Summer Missionaries in an exciting camp program designed for boys in 1st through 12th grades. Choose from overnight Lad/Dad camps or 3 day Lad camps for 1 - 3 graders, or 5 day camps for older boys and teenagers. Some scholarships are available. Activities and instruction levels are age appropriate, yet challenging. As campers gain confidence, the counselors demonstrate how God can use both their successes and failures to produce growth.

The facilities at both RABRO (at Cedarmore) and Jonathan Creek are being renovated with air conditioning, new lighting and the new ropes course at RABRO, and new climbing tower and boat dock at Jonathan Creek.

**Still Time to Make Reservations**

**Camps run from June 14th - August 6th**  
**Contact the Brotherhood Office for Details**  
 (502)244-6489 or Toll Free in Ky: (888)254-5720  
 or e-mail Mike\_Markham@kybaptist.org

## Court decision lets graduates pray, for now

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (RNS)—An appellate court has set aside a ruling that declared a Florida school system's policy permitting students to include prayers in graduation messages was unconstitutional.

The decision, made by the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals June 3, means the full court will rehear the case. Seventeen Duval County high schools had the option of allowing prayers during graduation ceremonies that week, Associated Press reported.

"It looks like God has parted the Red Sea and we are going to get graduation messages for our seniors," said Linda Sparks, Duval County School

Board president.

The policy permitted seniors to vote on a graduation message that would be delivered by a student. The messages, which often include prayers, cannot be censored by school officials.

A three-judge panel of the 11th Circuit ruled 2-1 in May that the school system's graduation policy violated freedom of religion, which is protected by the Constitution.

The school board appealed, requesting that the entire court hear the matter. The majority of judges voted without comment for the rehearing, which sets aside the previous decision.

"This decision is a victory for free speech," said Mathew Staver, president and general counsel of the Orlando, Fla.-based Liberty Counsel, who represented students who wished to give graduation messages. "We are optimistic about the future outcome of the case."

Staver said the decision signifies the court probably disagreed with the panel's previous ruling banning prayer. But Gray Thomas, a lawyer whose firm filed the suit against the Duval County School Board, said it was "nothing more than speculation how the members of the court view the case."

## Christian Coalition drops tax-exempt IRS battle

By Ira Rifkin & Adelle Banks  
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Abandoning its decade-long attempt to gain tax-exempt status, the Christian Coalition June 10 recast itself as a partisan political entity that will openly fund and endorse candidates.

Along with recent staff shuffles and a reported growing financial deficit, those developments could portend a significant change in the status and influence of what has been the Religious Right's marquee political organization.

The Chesapeake, Va.-based organization said it has changed its name to Christian Coalition International and will seek to organize chapters overseas.

Meanwhile, the organization's Texas affiliate—which has the tax-exempt status that the national office had sought—has been renamed Christian Coalition of America.

Chuck Anderson, the Texas Christian Coalition executive director, said Christian Coalition of America will op-

erate out of the Virginia office, despite its Texas charter. A new Texas affiliate will be organized, he added.

Christian Coalition International will form a political action committee which will allow it to funnel money to candidates.

Molly Clatworthy, a national coalition spokeswoman, said Christian Coalition of America will function much as the old Christian Coalition operated. Clatworthy said that will include distribution of the group's controversial voter guides that list candidates' positions on issues of coalition concern.

The guides reportedly figured prominently in the Internal Revenue Service's reasoning for not granting the Coalition tax-exempt status.

Critics call the voter guides partisan electioneering for favored candidates, virtually all of them anti-abortion, conservative Republicans. The coalition maintains the guides are non-partisan and educational.

The announced changes were touted by coalition founder and religious broadcaster Pat Robertson as enhancing the organization's ability to push its

political agenda.

"Christian Coalition of America will continue to be a force in American politics and it will remain a prominent fixture on the political landscape as the nation's No. 1 pro-family, pro-life organization," he said.

The coalition also downplayed the importance of the tax-exempt issue, despite having spent 10 years pursuing its case with the IRS.

Critics and others said abandoning the quest for tax-exempt status as a "social welfare organization" and engaging in open partisanship is likely to hurt the coalition by undercutting its relationships with the individual churches which form the bulwark of its grassroots strength.

Since the 1997 departure of former executive director Ralph Reed, whose media acuity brought the organization to the peak of its influence, the coalition has struggled to maintain itself. Only a handful of state affiliates are said to remain strong, although Clatworthy said the coalition still has 2.1 million "members and supporters," about as many as it has ever claimed.

### NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Floridians can "Choose Life" for license plates.** Florida drivers will be able to proclaim "Choose Life"—a stand in the abortion debate—on their license plates, according to a bill signed by Republican Gov. Jeb Bush. Profits from sales of the \$20 specialty plate will support groups that serve pregnant women who intend to put their babies up for adoption. The idea was vetoed last year by the late Gov. Lawton Chiles, a Democrat. Bush, however, had promised to sign it into law.

■ **House votes against abortion-inducing drugs.** For the second consecutive year, the House of Representatives has voted to ban the government from approving abortion-inducing drugs like the French RU-486 pill. Despite the 217-214 vote June 8 for the ban, the chances for the bill to become law this year are slim. When the House voted on the same prohibition last year, the Senate did not approve it, Associated Press reported.

■ **Atheist can't be forced to go to AA meetings.** An atheist cannot be forced to attend meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous, a federal appeals court has ruled. The ruling by the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a lower court ruling. But it also declared that the atheist's award of \$1 for damages by the lower court was "just about right." Robert Warner had argued that the Orange County Department of Probation in New York ignored his constitutional rights when it required him to attend AA meetings. The requirement was part of his probation after he was convicted of driving while impaired.

■ **Bible society offers AIDS resource.** In observance of AIDS Compassion Day, June 25, the American Bible Society is offering free of charge a Scripture portion titled "Nothing Can Separate Us from the Love of God." For information, call (800) 322-4253.

■ **Subcommittee OKs bill on minors & abortion.** A congressional subcommittee has approved legislation related to transporting teenagers across state lines for abortion. The Constitution Subcommittee of the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee voted June 8 in favor of the Child Custody Protection Act. The bill, H.R. 1218, would make it illegal for an adult to transport a minor to another state for an abortion without the parents' involvement when the state in which the girl lives requires either parental notification or consent before such a procedure.

## American Bible Society unveils a new plan for 'gender-accurate' Bible translation

Continued from page 1

possible new translation could begin something like "A believer ought to examine him or herself before" eating the bread or drinking the cup, Johnson said.

But the IBS' Web site, on which the change in approach regarding gender language was announced, notes there will be no change in describing God or Jesus Christ in male terminology.

The NIV, a translation particularly popular in evangelical circles, was "frozen" after an agreement was hammered out in 1997 by the society, which holds the copyright to the NIV; Zondervan Publishing House, the publisher of the NIV; and vocal critics such as James Dobson, president of Focus on the Family, and executives of the Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood.

The agreement ended a controversy that began when World magazine, an evangelical newsweekly, published an article harshly criticizing the IBS for what the magazine said were plans for a "unisexual" replacement version of the NIV.

But World magazine is not pleased with

IBS' recent decision, according to an article in its June 5 edition. "It's sad that what appeared to be an agreement is now effectively shredded," the article states.

Al Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, told Religion News Service he felt "a sense of betrayal" because the 1997 agreement seems to now have "no effect."

"It does appear that they're going to revise the text but they will not call it the NIV, which was not at all what the understanding was in 1997," said Mohler, a chief supporter of the 1997 decision. "It appears in this case that we have a translation problem of the document two years old much less one of 2,000 years."

But Johnson said the IBS has not changed its plans. "In 1997, IBS said that we would not produce an inclusive edition of the NIV, that the 1984 NIV would stand forever," he said. "We haven't wavered from that one iota."

Changes in gender language are only one of the ways the new translation will differ from the 1984 NIV edition, Johnson added. For example, verses about Jews

plotting against Jesus would be changed to specify Jewish leaders, "referring back to Pharisees, not the entire Jewish population," he said. "It's attempting to increase the accuracy in the English interpretation."

But it is the proposed changes in language referring to gender that are provoking reaction.

Members of the Minneapolis-based Christians for Biblical Equality are rejoicing.

"We're turning cartwheels," said Catherine Clark Kroeger, president emerita.

Since the 1997 decision, new scholarship has added to the debate. Two evangelical scholars, D.A. Carson and Mark Strauss, have written books discussing changes in gender language as a linguistic necessity rather than a response to feminist pressure.

"The committee recognizes the desperate need for gender accuracy, that really the English language has changed significantly enough that the NIV is becoming rapidly out-of-date," said Strauss, associate professor of New Testament at Bethel Seminary San Diego in

California.

"Most every translation that's been done in the last 10 to 15 years has been gender-inclusive, just as a matter of course," he said. "The NIV is atypical."

Mohler, while acknowledging "legitimate linguistic issues," said changes in gender language could prompt confusion. He said a new translation could "remove what is in many cases a clear gender reference in the original text."

Mohler cited the example of Psalm 34:20, which reads in the 1984 NIV: "He protects all his bones; not one of them will be broken."

But the British version of the NIV—the one the IBS rejected for U.S. publication in 1997—reads, "He protects all their bones; not one of them will be broken."

Mohler, who views the verse as a reference to Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection, said: "In removing the masculine reference, they just obscured, if not obliterated, the messianic reference in the text. Israel was not looking for a plural messiah but a singular one ... and a rather gender-specific one."

# CHURCHES

## Grief-stricken layman teaches church how to comfort

Immediately after the funeral, the phone calls and visits stopped.

By Lonnie Wilkey  
*Tennessee Baptist and Reflector*

McMINNVILLE, Tenn.—When Frank Stacy's wife, Inez, was diagnosed with an incurable liver cancer, church friends surrounded the Stacys with love and concern.

When Mrs. Stacy died, her husband received comfort leading up to and dur-

ing the funeral.

But immediately after the funeral, the phone calls and visits stopped.

Stacy, a deacon at Gath Baptist Church in McMinnville, Tenn., said he now realizes the lack of contact wasn't intentional. Nonetheless, it left him hurt and angered, he said.

Stacy began reading books on death and the grieving process. In addition to

learning where he was in the process, he got a better understanding of what other people could be doing "but were afraid to do."

Unlike others who might have let their anger silently drive them from the church, Stacey addressed the deacons three weeks after his wife's death and relayed both his concerns and how he felt about their recent silence.

"They were upset they had not done anything," Stacy recalled.

Stacy said he also realized he might have "gone too far" with the deacons and he later apologized.

He said additional reading showed him he could have called friends and told them he just needed someone to talk to. "The main thing I found I needed was just the presence of someone—someone you can talk to, share feelings with and not feel uncomfortable with."

Stacy also discovered that what happened with him wasn't unique to his church, but is symptomatic of churches of all denominations in general. "People just don't know what to do or say," he said.

Pastor Ray Gilder agreed, "It was not that the members did not care, but it was they didn't know what to say."

"People want to be involved, but they are afraid they will say the wrong thing," Gilder said. "We're a stronger church because Frank confronted us with our failure."

The deacons discussed what they could do to minister to others who would face crises.

Stacy was willing to step in and do his part to see that no one else in the

church would have to go through a similar experience. Out of those discussions a grief and crisis ministry team has evolved at Gath Church. It is chaired by Stacy and has 10 other members.

The church has held a training event and more are planned, according to Stacy and Gilder.

Team members are learning what to say and what not to say during this training, they said. "By reading and studying, we can help people more," Stacy said.

In addition to death and bereavement, the team ministers to those who experience divorce, terminal illness, drug and alcohol dependency, unemployment, natural disaster or other tragedies.

"There is a lot of hurt in people's lives," Gilder said. "Unless we make an attempt to get involved with them in their grief, there's a good possibility they will fall by the wayside and we won't know why we lost them."

Stacy readily admits he almost fell by the wayside. "I was on the verge of dropping out."

Gilder said the whole experience has made the church more sensitive. "We can't keep people from having crises and problems, but we can be there to help them through it."

The team will try to match members with someone who is experiencing what they have already gone through. "We want to put people together so they can share and interact," Gilder said. "There is no quick solution to grief. This is an effort for long-term involvement and support."

### Call to action

Presence and help are two key topics for the grief and crisis ministry team at Gath Baptist Church in McMinnville, Tenn.

One of the team's primary tasks will be to visit and when possible provide a resource.

The church has a pamphlet on "How to Grieve," that team members personally deliver. The church also is building its library with resources related to grief and crisis.

Team members have developed a plan of action for a variety of incidents. Among them:

- **Divorce.**
- Assign person a team member with similar experience.
- Assure love, acceptance and support by church.
- Develop resource library.
- Get person involved in a recovery group.
- Discuss the importance of forgiveness.
- **Death of a loved one.**
- Contact person to share information.
- Ministry team member assigned to follow-up.
- Booklet of stages of grief provided.

- Contact on holidays, birthday and anniversary of death.
  - Make books available.
  - Help them get out, go to lunch or attend church functions.
  - Frequent telephone calls.
  - Stay with person until adjusted to loss.
  - **Terminal illness.**
  - Provide physical support for individual and family.
  - Help person talk about death, heaven and those left behind.
  - Help person celebrate each day.
  - Help person maintain quality of life.
  - Provide support for survivors.
  - **Family with drug and alcohol abuse.**
  - Get involved in common-bond prayer group.
  - Provide materials and classes on co-dependency.
  - Provide resource library.
- "We have a lot to learn, but there are so many folks who have to struggle alone," Pastor Ray Gilder said. "We want to make a difference and be there for them."

### 100 years of ministry

What a thrill it is for me to congratulate Oneida Baptist Institute for a century of ministry. OBI was founded in 1899 by the late James Anderson Burns. He is given credit for bringing an end to the mountain feuds by providing education to the children. Today, 100 years later, students from all over the world attend our fully accredited Christian boarding school for grades six through 12.

The fourfold ministry of OBI today, academics, worship, work program and cocurricular, can be traced to its founder. Burns stated in 1943, two years prior to his death, "this school exists for the purpose of training young people to work with their hands, understand with their minds, love with their hearts, and worship with their souls. In these four departments of service, God must be first."

President Bud Underwood and those who serve with him at OBI are doing an excellent job in fulfilling this fourfold ministry. Approximately 60 percent of OBI graduates move on to higher education. Every student is involved daily in chapel and other campus ministry activities. Every student works in some job for part of each day, and OBI is known for its variety and

excellence in sports, academics and fine arts activities. It is truly a one-of-a-kind place. Lives are being touched for the sake of Christ.

You can be involved in this exciting and successful ministry. Perhaps you will be contributing through your church to the Barkley Moore Offering on Father's Day. Perhaps you would be interested in

#### KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

including OBI in your estate plan. Others of you may want to go ahead and establish during your lifetimes a permanent endowment or trust fund for the perpetual benefit of OBI. Some of you need a plan whereby you can receive the income for your and your spouse's lifetimes and then provide OBI the benefit. Some of you younger Kentucky Baptists could benefit OBI through a life insurance plan. Whatever your situation is, OBI deserves your consideration.

Please call toll free (888) 254-5701 Laurie Valentine, our trust counsel, or me to discover how you can be a part of the future of this wonderful ministry.

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

### Here's a D.Min. in Evangelism and Church Growth that fits your ministry schedule!



Dr. Thom Rainer, Dean  
Billy Graham School

The Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth now offers a Doctor of Ministry in Evangelism and Church Growth that is...

**Practical:** Seminars and study focus on "real-life" church and leadership issues.

**Convenient:** Each seminar meets for one week. Only four-and-one-half weeks of on-campus time are expected over the three-year degree program.

**Balanced:** The disciplines of evangelism and church growth are each examined biblically, theologically, historically and methodologically throughout the program.

**Relevant:** Faculty members, including Dean Thom Rainer and Timothy Beougher, have served as leaders in growing churches.

**Affordable:** The cost is reasonable, and a convenient monthly payment plan is also available.

"The instruction is excellent and practical, and the camaraderie I've developed with both cohorts and professors will last a lifetime. I strongly recommend the Graham School program at Southern Seminary to all who are considering a doctor of ministry degree."

Joseph Vest - Burgin Baptist Church, Burgin, Kentucky

Join us in this challenging program. Applicants are now being accepted for the June 1999 class.



The Southern Baptist  
Theological Seminary

2825 Lexington Road • Louisville, Kentucky 40280  
1 800 728-7044 • Visit us on the web: www.sbsts.edu

## SUPER SATURDAY '99

### Conference Areas

Sunday School  
Discipleship Training  
Church Music  
Church Media  
Family Ministry  
Health Ministry & Parish Nursing  
Stewardship

**BOLDLY  
CONQUERING  
the NEW MILLENNIUM**



**August 14**  
Louisville  
Highview Baptist Church

**August 21**  
Lexington  
Porter Memorial Baptist Church

**August 28**  
Corbin  
Central Baptist Church

Owensboro  
First Baptist Church

**September 11**  
Ashland  
Unity Baptist Church

Paducah  
First Baptist Church

Sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention. For information, call 1-888-254-5710 or (502)245-4101 ext. 227

## Canadian Baptists' goal: Start 1,000 churches in 20 years

WINNIPEG, Manitoba, Canada (BP)—Canadian Southern Baptists embraced a goal to plant 1,000 new churches throughout Canada by the year 2020 during their annual meeting May 25-27 in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

To have such a large goal when the Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists now has only 146 churches requires more than "dreaming," said Gerry Taillon, the convention's new national ministry leader. "If God gives us a dream, he will help us see that day when it is accomplished."

Other goals presented by Taillon were to multiply the convention's international missionary force tenfold, from three to 30 couples, and to increasingly promote partnerships with U.S. states and other countries.

During a convention-wide forum concerning the proposed goals, messengers expressed concern for existing churches, some of which are plateaued or declining.

"We will not forget these churches," Taillon said. "We are committed to helping all our churches become all that God wants them to be."

In his first annual meeting as national ministry leader, Taillon, who took office last August, said, "I am so glad I work with an organization that works with churches ... that transform lives."

Taillon pointed to record baptisms in the past year—648—and a record percentage increase in the churches' Cooperative Program giving as indications of the convention's health.

He noted, "We have barriers in our country, but we cannot afford to let those barriers hinder the impact of the gospel across Canada."

One of the barriers, he said, is a division between eastern and western Canada. Two-thirds of Canadian Southern Baptist churches are in western Canada, although more new eastern Canada churches have joined in recent years.

## Real Funny

Meet Christian humorist Liz Curtis Higgs in this summer's Real Life magazine

## Martha Johnson

By Robert Dunston

The recipient of the 1999 Excellence in Teaching Award at Cumberland College is Martha Johnson, professor of education and chairperson of the department of education. Johnson received her bachelor's degree from Emory and Henry College, her master's degree from Radford University and her Ed.D. from Auburn University. Johnson came to Cumberland in 1992.

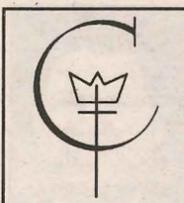
As chairperson of the department of education, Johnson has tremendous responsibility. She oversees both Cumberland's undergraduate and graduate programs in education, makes sure all education students are on track for graduation and certification and personally advises more than 100 students in their academic planning and scheduling.

Johnson also must remain current on changing requirements within the education community and provide current information to faculty and students in the program. Her excellence in the field of education has been recognized in her being asked to serve on several committees at the Kentucky Department of Education.

In her classes, Johnson employs the best in teaching methods and

strategies. She challenges students to move beyond what they know to analyze, synthesize and evaluate. Using artistic visual aids, diaries, books, interactive games, a Polaroid camera and other items, she creates active learning opportunities that prepare students to excel in elementary, middle and high school classrooms. She models for her students how a teacher can promote learning.

### CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



In addition to her many academic responsibilities, Johnson serves as co-director of the Cumberland College/Whitley County Mentor Program in which Cumberland students build relationships with and encourage local students. She is involved in her local

church as a Sunday school teacher and member and officer of her WMU group. She is active in the Cumberland College Women's Club and is co-sponsor of the National Education Association Student Program at Cumberland.

Johnson's colleagues describe her "as a lifestyle missionary with a strong work ethic who positively impacts and blesses the lives of all those around her."

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

## What is abuse?

Every ministry has a vocabulary and history of its own. Our ministry to children and families is part of the child welfare services of this state and country.

The following is borrowed from the Child Welfare League of America, of which Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children is a member. I hope you find it educational:

"The terms 'child abuse and neglect' mean, any act or failure to act by a parent or caretaker which results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation. The terms also refer to an act or failure to act which presents imminent risk of serious harm.

"It was not until 1962, with the publication of 'The Battered Child Syndrome' by C. Henry Kempe and his colleagues that the general public became aware of child abuse and neglect as a significant social problem. It was 1974, however, before Congress passed the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, which authorizes funding for, among other things, the collection of national statistics.

"In 1996, 3 million children were officially reported abused and neglected. Nearly 1 million children were confirmed victims of maltreat-

ment. It should be noted that some children might be victims of more than one incident of maltreatment.

"All states have laws regarding the reporting and investigation of suspected child abuse and neglect. All states require the professionals who work directly with children to report suspicions of child abuse and neglect.

"When necessary, the police and, in most states, child protective services workers, are authorized to remove a child from his or her home if the child is in imminent danger. Parents whose children have been removed have the right to a court hearing and only the courts are empowered to remove children from their homes for extended periods of time."

This is the environment in which Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children ministers to children and families. It is a sobering reminder that parenting is a privilege and not a right.

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

## Tragedy strikes twice for missionary couple to Lesotho

**Gene and Jean Phillips were traveling from Morija to Maseru the night of June 2 when a man suddenly walked into the middle of the road.**

MORIJA, Lesotho (BP)—A Southern Baptist missionary couple has been charged in a fatal car accident in the southern Africa nation of Lesotho.

Gene and Jean Phillips, emeritus Southern Baptist missionaries serving a volunteer term in Morija, Lesotho, were traveling from Morija to Maseru the night of June 2 when a man suddenly walked into the middle of the road. Although Phillips swerved to miss him, the driver's side mirror on the car hit the pedestrian.

Phillips stopped his car immediately after the accident, but a hostile crowd gathered and began banging on the vehicle. Sensing danger, the Phillipses drove to the police station to report the accident. They returned to the scene with police only to find that the man had been taken from the road to a hospital. The pedestrian eventually died.

The incident resembles a false e-

mail rumor that a West Africa missionary was in danger over an April 20 accident in which a pedestrian was killed. While that missionary, Mike Hutchinson, is not in peril like the e-mail claimed, more serious charges have been filed against Phillips.

Phillips was charged with culpable homicide by the magistrate's office and released on bond. A June 15 trial date was set. Negotiations were under way to try to settle the case without a trial, according to Lesotho missionary Charles Middleton.

This is the second time tragedy has struck the Phillipses in less than six months. On Jan. 31, the couple was robbed and kidnapped at gunpoint. The thieves drove the couple into an isolated area in the mountains and repeatedly threatened to kill them. Eventually, the couple was left on the roadside, alive and unharmed.

The four thieves were caught but recently released on bail. Rumors that

the kidnapers were boasting about their crime caused the couple to leave their home in Morija and drive to the capital city of Maseru to seek a more secured area. They were on their way to Maseru when the accident occurred.

The Phillipses were appointed as missionaries to Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) in 1956 and served through a period of strife and revolution that resulted in the country's independence

from the United Kingdom in 1980. They retired in 1996 and began the Lesotho assignment in December.

Officials at the Southern Baptist International Mission Board in Richmond, Va., requested prayer "that God will sustain them and assure them of his unfailing arms around them," asked Clyde Berkley, who helps direct the board's work in southern Africa.



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

### Church Buses Rental Buses

(New & Used)

Carpenter Bus Sales Inc.

Brentwood, Tenn.

(800) 370-6180

(615) 376-2287

We Buy Used Buses

Since 1953

### What does a 'Century of Ministry' mean?

This is our centennial year: 100 years of ministry to boys and girls! What would the founder of our school think if he could take a walk across our campus today? Did he ever imagine our school being the size it is today and ministering the way we do?

Though 100 years have passed since the summer of 1899 when James Anderson Burns envisioned his mountain school, most of what Oneida does best has changed very little. We still minister to more than 100 mountain boys and girls right here in Clay County and many others from 22 states and 11 foreign countries. This little mountain school is state, home and international missions. Last month a young man from Togo, West Africa, graduated in the class of '99. He has enrolled in Clear Creek Baptist Bible College to better prepare to meet the spiritual needs of his native countrymen. He hopes to attend seminary someday and return to Togo.

Like many students who come to our campus, this young man could not afford to pay the modest room and board fees we request, so he was given a full scholarship. During this past school year, 34 percent of our students paid \$1.50 per day or less to attend our school. That \$1.50 will pay for their breakfasts and leave approximately 27 cents to pay for the other services we provide.

During the past year, we have provided more than scholarships for these students. Some also have been given eyeglasses, clothing, spending money, medical care and much more. When we accepted those students, we did not expect to have to provide so much for them, but we could not ignore the additional needs they had from time to time.

Nearly 50 percent of our students come to us with

very low or failing grades. Some are put into our tutoring lab, where each receives the individual attention he or she needs. During this past school year, many students who had never been on the honor roll earned a place on the "B" or "A" honor roll. Others who had not been on the honor roll for many years were delighted to be there again. A typical class at Oneida Baptist Institute has fewer than 15 students per teacher. This fact alone makes it possible for students to get the individual help they need to improve academically.

#### THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Yes, it is true that some students come to OBI because of discipline problems. While having students 24 hours a day, seven days a week can be very demanding, it also makes it much easier to meet their needs. Setting clear boundaries and consistently enforcing the rules make it easier to deal with those who challenge authority.

Another area in which we are able to help young people is the area of cocurricular activities. We encourage every student to become involved in the many activities we have to offer. We never have tryouts to see who is going to make the team and who will not. No student is denied the opportunity to be on the team. As long as they attend practice, do their best and have good attitudes, they are part of the team.

Finally, we are able to lead boys and girls to Christ. About 65 percent of our students are not Christians when they come. Each year about 100-125 students accept Christ as their Lord while on our campus.

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

### Have faith and find God's way

About 1936, founder L.C. Kelly wrote and distributed a small leaflet titled, "History of Clear Creek Mountain Springs." His account reveals lessons learned about faith.

"One day when it seemed that the school would have to stop in mid-session, a day was spent in prayer and fasting. Next morning's mail brought a check for \$500. Through the years, the camps, daily vacation Bible schools, encampments (and) Mountain Preachers' School have all been provided by friends whom the Lord has 'touched.'

"Broadway Baptist Church, Louisville, furnished \$200 for three years, which was used to pay for a special train daily for two weeks, to transport the children to Clear Creek for their daily vacation Bible school. The Depression broke up the schedule and cut the gift in half. This drove the teachers out to the rural churches where eight schools were had instead of one, and a thousand children reached instead of 200. They have found that there is "no depression" with God, when his Spirit leads.

"At the close of the 1930 session a committee was appointed

to recommend ways and means for establishing the school as a permanent missionary activity for the mountains. When this committee brought in its recommendation ... seldom, if ever, has such a meeting been held. Men spoke with tears of joy and gratitude flowing down their cheeks. The power of God was manifest. The

speaking and praising of God had to be stopped for lack of time. Dr. R.P. Mahon who had been with the school from the first session was elected president, Dr. E.F. Haight, dean. Thirteen dollars and 75 cents were taken up as a 'nest egg.'

"From the first it was a set purpose by all concerned not to make a program and ask God to adopt it, but to have faith and find his way. Necessity became the mother of prayer and trust. They have proved God, and he supplied not only needs, but plans and leadership. Any success attained is due to his love and leadership. This work now is open at the top to grow as God will lead."

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

#### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

# BOOKS/TV

**Living Like Jesus: Eleven Essentials for Growing a Genuine Faith, Solid Answers to WWJD?** Ronald Sider. Baker Book House, 1999. 192 pages. \$9.99 ◆◆◆◆

This is a new edition of Sider's previous book, "Genuine Christianity." Since the publication of "Genuine Christianity," the phrase WWJD? (What would Jesus do?) has come into great popularity. Many of the answers to this question that have been published take the easy way out and provide only weak pabulum instead of real spiritual food. Sider has always provided solid ethical discussions from a conservative evangelical perspective, and he does no less in this reissue.

Sider's goal is to activate just a small fraction of Christians to truly live as Sider thinks Jesus would live in our society. Sider is convinced that just a small fraction of committed Christians would change the world for the better.

After stating the 11 characteristics of a genuine Christian, he explores the practical implications for marriage, church relations, politics, personal spirituality, ecology, servanthood, etc.

Each chapter is well presented, with ample personal experiences. Of particular interest to me are Sider's seven short principles for political philosophy. The philosophy does not fall neatly into a conservative or liberal category and if practiced would transform politics as we know it.

This book would be good for discussion groups as well as individual study. *Wayne Hager*

**The Soul of Ministry: Forming Leaders for God's People.** Ray Anderson. Westminster/John Knox Press, 1997. 269 pages. \$22. ◆◆◆◆

Don't read this book unless you're ready to struggle with everything you have assumed to be true about Christian ministry.

Ray Anderson, professor of theology and ministry at Fuller Theological Seminary, argues ministry doesn't begin with us. Rather, God has a ministry he allows us to share. In fact, God's ministry in and to the world reveals who God is and what God is about. Every act of ministry in which individuals or the church as a whole engages, consequently, reveals something about the nature and purpose of God.

That presupposition might not sound very earth-shaking, but Anderson challenges his readers with such assertions as: ministry always precedes theology, God's grace is not a response to human sin, the church should not base its ministry on "finding a need and meeting it" and a central aspect of God's ministry is to humanize humanity.

Anderson carefully develops his theses about ministry by a thorough re-examination of key scriptural passages. His discussion of Pentecost as central to understanding the nature of the church will challenge those of us ministering in the Baptist tradition.

Perhaps the most intriguing aspect of Anderson's argument is "that the community does not live from the being and will of a past Christ, but from the existence of the present Christ."

Reading this book began as a strug-

gle. Some of his approaches to the biblical text were unique, but faithful. As I moved through it, the struggle remained, but alongside excitement began to grow. Anderson challenged me to move beyond method in ministry to its very soul. *Jim Holladay*

**25 Most Treasured Gospel Hymn Stories.** Kenneth Osbeck. Kregel Publications, 1999. 112 pages. \$6.99. ◆◆◆◆

Kenneth Osbeck has offered books for years which have helped readers understand and appreciate hymns and their stories. This latest book continues Osbeck's concern to celebrate the place of the hymn in church music. In this book, Osbeck turns to a particular type of hymn: the gospel hymn.

Osbeck's format is simple: a much-abbreviated story of the gospel hymn, a reflection on the story, a scripture passage and the full score of the hymn. One of Osbeck's purposes for writing the book is to awaken the church to the spiritual impact of gospel hymn standards such as "His Eye is on the Sparrow," "It is Well with My Soul" and "Since Jesus Came into My Heart."

In a day when the church is turning increasingly to the singing of the latest "praise hits" (Osbeck's words), Osbeck's book is a welcome reminder not to abandon a major part of our musical heritage—the gospel hymn. In fact, Osbeck contends that the gospel hymn still can lend itself to "meaningful and enthusiastic group singing."

In addition to being a book of information about hymns, it lends itself to personal or group devotions. *Wayne Hager*

**Generous Saints: Congregations Re-thinking Ethics and Money.** James Hudnut-Beumler. The Alban Institute, 1999. 117 pages. \$12.25 ◆◆◆◆

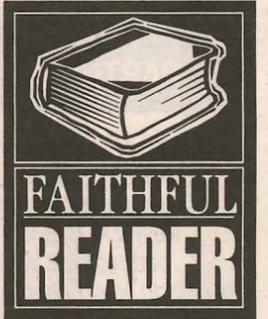
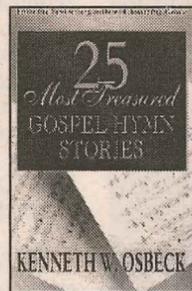
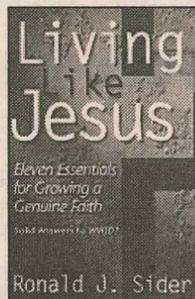
James Hudnut-Beumler contends that the issues surrounding money and Christian discipleship go much deeper than just talk of stewardship and fund raising.

"Our understanding of how to live as spiritual beings in a material world has broken down," he states. "We know deep down that wealth will not make us happy, but not knowing how to be happy otherwise, we strive to become rich."

In his short, but powerful book about stewardship, congregations and spirituality, Hudnut-Beumler challenges many, if not most of the assumptions that drive congregations, pastors and individual Christians regarding wealth and our use of it. The key issue in developing "generous saints" is the spiritual task of birthing and nurturing authentic disciples of Jesus Christ. More than prodding people to give more, we should be more intentional in lifting up the stories of those who demonstrate generous attitudes and behaviors.

Hudnut-Beumler also addresses the practical application of an authentic concept of stewardship in the life of a congregation. Using the image of the church as a "commonwealth," he challenges most every assumption we hold about church finances. For example, he argues that a pastor should know the financial stewardship commitment levels of members.

Without a doubt this is one of the best, most challenging books on stewardship I have read. *Jim Holladay*



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

## Report: Ratings system didn't lower TV sex, violence or profanity

By Tom Strode & Art Toalston  
Baptist Press

WASHINGTON (BP)—The television ratings system adopted in 1997 has done nothing to reverse the tide of sex, violence and offensive language in prime time, according to a family advocacy group's recently released study.

In fact, program content on broadcast networks has grown significantly worse, according to the Parents Television Council.

A comparison of the two-week November sweeps periods from 1996—just before the ratings system was instituted—to 1998 found the combined content of sex, violence and foul language increased by more than 30 percent, the group reported.

Sexual content rose by more than 42 percent. Offensive language increased by more than 30 percent. Violence, after peaking in 1997, showed only a slight increase from 1996 to '98.

The council's study covered six networks: ABC, CBS, NBC, Fox, UPN and WB.

The group's report scored ABC's content as the most offensive overall, with Fox a close second, based on a three-year average. ABC led all networks in sexual content. NBC led in foul language. CBS was first in violence but still was the least offensive network overall.

"Plainly put, television is the raun-

chiest it has ever been in spite of, or perhaps because of, the unintended consequences of the ratings system and those who abuse it," Parent Television Council Chairman Brent Bozell said at a Capital Hill news conference.

But Bozell said the solution is not to discontinue the ratings, because that would communicate Hollywood had surrendered on efforts to control offensive content.

It is "time to challenge the industry, which spoke so loudly about responsibility during the ratings debate," he said. "Does it, or doesn't it, intend to voluntarily clean up its act?"

The television industry implemented an age-based ratings system in January 1997 but added content symbols in October under pressure from Congress.

Last year, the PTC released a report showing the ratings system was failing to live up to its purpose. The study of programs during the family hour on prime time showed 65 percent of shows containing foul language failed to carry an L for language and 76 percent with sexual innuendo did not receive a D for dialogue.

Sen. Joseph Lieberman, D.-Conn., criticized the TV industry for "growing ruder, cruder and lewder," even after Congress adopted legislation requiring the V-chip be installed in all new televisions. The V-chip will let parents block viewing of programs based on the ratings system. All television models 13

inches and larger must include the V-chip by Jan. 1, 2000, according to rules approved by the Federal Communications Commission in 1998.

Lieberman said no one wants to practice censorship but it might be time for the FCC to consider program content before granting licenses to broadcast stations.

Sen. Sam Brownback, R.-Kan., said at the news conference that a label should not be confused with a solution.

"There is a difference between taking out the trash and giving it a label," he said. "It may be worthwhile to stick labels on trash TV, but it would be even better to just take the trash out."

He also said the defense that "TV sleaze" has no impact is indefensible and television is "less a mirror than a mirage."

"The world of TV character is, thank goodness, far more violent, conflicted and perverse than the life of most average Americans," Brownback said. "For example, there are far more Amish people in the United States than there are serial murderers. There are more pastors than there are prostitutes. But you'd never know that from watching TV."

Lieberman and Brownback serve on the Parents Television Council advisory board. The PTC is the Hollywood project of the Media Research Center, a Northern Virginia-based organization that analyzes media content.

Longtime TV personality Steve

### TV ratings

At the start of programs, the cable and broadcast networks, with the exception of NBC, use letters to denote content. The symbols are:

S for sexual depictions.  
V for violence.  
L for foul language.  
D for suggestive dialogue.

The system also uses TV-G, TV-PG, TV-14 and TV-M, much like the motion-picture industry uses G, PG, PG-13 and R in its ratings.

Allen is spokesman for a PTC campaign to urge advertisers to steer away from "TV filth, vulgarity, coarse humor, premarital sex situations, violence, killings and all the rest into American living rooms and children's bedrooms."

"TV is leading children down a moral sewer," Allen said in a full-page ad in the New York Times May 23.

A focus on TV advertisers can have results, Allen wrote, noting, "Recently viewers critical of just one TV program let the sponsors know of their anger, and over 35 sponsors canceled their ads!"

Letters of support for the campaign can be mailed to Steve Allen, Parents Television Council, Dept. 6RAC24, 600 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 7000, Los Angeles, CA 90017.

**"Television is the raunchiest it has ever been in spite of, or perhaps because of, the unintended consequences of the ratings system and those who abuse it."**

Parent Television Council Chairman Brent Bozell

# 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:

■ Missionaries in Poland ask prayer for "patience with ourselves and others."

■ Students from Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and the Congo who attend the International Baptist Theological Seminary of East Africa in Tanzania.

■ Missionaries Charles and Carolyn Dixon as they begin new work in the Morogoro and Luguru villages in Tanzania.

■ Follow-up to the late-May evangelistic crusade in Kiroma, Tanzania.

■ The 73 students serving as summer missionaries throughout New England.

■ Volunteers needed for construction of an office and ministry training center for the Baptist Convention of New England in Northborough, Mass. Work on the project will continue through the summer and fall.

## Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Shirley Wooton

■ **FISHERVILLE**—Orion Bell, pastor at First Church, announced his retirement effective July 4, 1999. A special service is planned in his honor. For information, call (502) 267-5605.

■ **FRANKLIN**—Sulphur Spring Church called Chris Laster as youth

minister. Laster formerly served at Calvary Church, Franklin. **Matthew Sickling** is pastor.

■ **GREENVILLE**—First Church will celebrate its 130th anniversary with homecoming June 27. Guest speakers will be **Bill Marshall** and **Denzel**

## International Mission Board appoints 3 Kentucky-linked couples

**RICHMOND, Va.**—Three couples with ties to Kentucky recently were appointed by the International Mission Board to service positions.

■ **Troy and Tina Bush** of Shepherdsville were appointed to be missionaries in Russia.

Bush recently was president and co-founder of International Church Planters in Louisville. Both are members of Cedar Grove Baptist Church in Shepherdsville.

Bush, a former pastor in Arkansas and Tennessee, will coordinate theological education in Russia. He received the bachelor of arts degree from the University of West Florida in Pensacola and the master of divinity degree from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Germantown, Tenn. He expects to

receive the doctor of philosophy degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville in December.

Mrs. Bush, a native of Crawfordsville, Ark., will be involved in a variety of home and outreach ministries. She attended Arkansas State University in Jonesboro.

The Bushes have three children: John Daniel, born in 1992; Caleb Michael, 1993; and Sarah Elizabeth, 1995.

■ **Todd and Kim Golden** will serve in Bosnia. Golden will start and develop churches and Mrs. Golden will be involved in outreach ministries.

Born in Detroit, Golden is the son of Clayton and Betty Golden of Pineville. While growing up he lived in Pineville.

Recently the Goldenes served in Bosnia through the IMB's International Service Corps option—a four to 24-month as-

**Dukes.** Morning services will begin at 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch and a hymn sing, led by the sanctuary choir. **Charles Midkiff** is pastor.

■ **LEBANON**—Lebanon Church called **Tara Cannon** as minister to children and preschoolers. Cannon is from Boiling Springs, S.C. **Wesley Noss** is pastor.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Trinity Church will host a God and country service July 4 at 8 p.m. at the courthouse on Main

Street to celebrate the birthday of America and faith in Jesus Christ. **Jay Robison** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Southside Church called **Daniel Dorr** as pastor of music and worship. Dorr previously served at Alton Church, Lawrenceburg. **Mike Roy** is pastor.

■ **PRESTONSBURG**—First Church will host a reception to honor **Jim Smith**, retiring director of missions, Enterprise Association, June 27, 2 p.m.



The Bushes



The Goldenes



The Williamses

Tenn. He received a bachelor of science degree from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg and a master of divinity degree from Southern Seminary.

Mrs. Williams is a native of Lancaster, Ohio. She attended Ohio State University in Columbus. Recently she was a kindergarten teacher at Dorothy Sayers Cottage School in Louisville. She also was a missionary with her husband in Brazil.

The three couples were among 76 people appointed by the IMB May 25 during a service at Spotswood Baptist Church in Fredericksburg, Va. The Williamses have three children: Isaac Douglas, born in 1985; Andrew David, 1987; and Rebekah Helena, 1988.

signment to meet priority needs. They are members of First Baptist Church in Woodstock, Ga.

Golden received the bachelor's degree from Cumberland College in Williamsburg and a master of divinity degree from Mid-America Seminary.

Mrs. Golden is a native of Georgia. She received a bachelor of arts in education degree from North Georgia College in Dahlonega, Ga.

The Goldenes have one child, Abbey Elizabeth, born in 1993.

■ **David and Laurie Williams** will serve in Brazil.

Williams, who recently was education secretary for Little Flock Baptist Church in Shepherdsville, will start and develop churches. Mrs. Williams will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries. They are members of Trinity Baptist Church in Louisville.

Williams is a native of Kingsport,

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**SEEKING:** Fern Creek Baptist Church is seeking a part-time minister of youth and children. Send resumé by July 15 to: Search Committee, Fern Creek Baptist Church, PO Box 91146, Louisville, KY 40291.

**WANTED:** Accounting supervisor of general ledger and payroll. Bachelor's degree and 2-5 years accounting experience required—CPA a plus. Positive work environment, excellent benefits. Send resumé to: The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, KY 40280, Attn: Personnel Services, or fax to (502) 897-4202.

**FOR SALE:** 1996 15-passenger Dodge van. Loaded, SLT package, 5.2 V-8 engine. 127,000 miles. \$10,500. Leave message: (502) 692-2110.

**SERVICE:** Christian person will do weekly mowing. Low rates, dependable service. Mike's Complete Mowing: (502) 254-9313.

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

**SEEKING:** Full-time associate pastor/worship leader. Fairview Baptist Church is experiencing revival, revitalization and growth. We have a contemporary-blended worship style and use a video projection system. We are innovative in our methodology. A seminary degree preferred but not required. Send resumé with photo and references to: Search Task Force, 310 Coles Ferry Pike, Lebanon, TN 37087.

**SEEKING:** Rocky Hock Baptist Church, a rural congregation in northeast North Carolina with 300+ in attendance, seeks a full-time associate pastor with primary ministry to youth and children. Seminary degree and some experience is preferred. Send resumé and references to: Jack Evans, RHBC, 113 Rocky Hock Church Road, Edenton, NC 27932.

**SEEKING:** Fern Creek Baptist Church Child Development Center is seeking a preschool teacher for fall. Send resumé to: Debbie Gorbandt, Fern Creek Baptist Church, PO Box 91146, Louisville, KY 40291.

**SEEKING:** Rapidly growing Baptist Church is seeking a youth minister full-time or part-time. Send resumé to: Mt. Elmira Baptist Church, 3644 Mt. Elmira Road, Shepherdsville, KY 40165, Attn: Pastor.

**SEEKING:** First Baptist Church of South Boston, Va., is seeking to fill a full-time position with primary responsibilities in youth ministry and additional emphasis in strengthening church families with children in the home. We are an innovative and inclusive fellowship averaging 240 in Sunday worship. FBC is affiliated with the Virginia Baptist Mission Board and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Resumés should be received no later than June 30. Please direct all correspondence to Vivian Anderson, c/o FBC, 815 N Main St., South Boston, VA 24592.

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

**NEEDED:** Office assistant for the Executive Office of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. This part-time position offers an attractive salary. Word processing skills and secretarial experience necessary. Contact Administrative Services Department in Louisville at (502) 244-6468.

**SEEKING:** Minister of music, 10-12 hours weekly. Finchville Baptist Church, Shelby County, Ky. Send resumé or information to: PO Box 1, Finchville, KY 40022, Attn: minister of music.

**SEEKING:** Part-time secretary/bookkeeper. Experience in spreadsheet and word processing required. Flexible hours. Contact West Broadway Baptist Church, 8420 Six Mile Lane, Louisville, KY 40220; (502) 491-1920.

**SEEKING:** Middletown United Methodist Child Development Center seeks teachers for four-year-old class. Hours: 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday. Low student/teacher ratio, great work environment, benefits, ECE, CDA or at least three years experience in child care preferred. Call Debbie Lochridge at (502) 245-5082 to schedule an interview.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of music and media who has experience leading choirs, orchestras and congregational singing. Must prefer blended style of worship. Please send resumé to First Baptist Church, PO Box 1140, Fulton, KY 42041, Attn: Pastor.

**SEEKING:** Parents' Day Out teachers to work with preschoolers. Call Julia, (502) 452-9541, Buechel Park Baptist Church.

**NEEDED:** Office secretary for the Leadership Development Department of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. This full-time position offers competitive compensation package. Word processing skills and extensive secretarial experience necessary. Contact Administrative Services Department in Louisville at (502) 244-6468.

**FOR SALE:** New church storm windows, tinted for blocking out sunlight. Ten 49"x105" with bell tops, and four 41"x51-1/4". Will sell for half price: \$4,000. Lancaster Baptist Church, Lancaster, KY 40444. (606) 792-2781.

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

**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.

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

## Pastor seeks prayer support for missing kids

By Dan Martin  
Baptist General Convention of Texas

AUBREY, Texas (BP)—A Texas pastor concerned about the disappearance of several children in recent months wants Christians to activate an "Angel Alert."

Preston Harrison, pastor of Antioch Baptist Church in Aubrey, Texas, noted that Dallas/Fort Worth law enforcement agencies and broadcast outlets undertake an "Amber Alert" when a child is reported missing.

"So why not an Angel Alert?" said Harrison. "I am suggesting that all believers, when they hear a report of a missing or abducted child to consider the Scriptures and call for the protection of God's angels upon these children."

The Amber Alert is named in the memory of Amber Hagerman who was kidnapped from her home in Arlington, Texas, in January 1996. She later was found murdered. Her abductor has not been found. But after her abduction, police and broadcast media designed the Amber Alert to alert people to the name and description of a missing child, as well as any pertinent details.

In recent days, the distinctive-sounding Amber Alert has been sounded with the abduction of 6-year-old Opal Jo Jennings from her Saginaw, Texas, home March 26. It was activated April 17 when 3-year-old Christy Ryno was missing from her mother's Irving apartment. Police found her body in the Trinity River near Irving April 21 and it was identified as Christy's the next day.

Harrison said the Amber Alert has helped in the rescue of many kidnapped children, but added "the law really can't protect these children. I wondered what kind of protection we can call on, and God led me to Psalm 34:7: 'The angel of the Lord encamps all around them who hear him, and delivers them ...'"

"Then I read Psalm 91:9-15 which says, 'God shall give his angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways. In their hands, they shall bear you up.'"

Harrison went on to 2 Kings 6:15-17 which mentions a ring of fire around the prophet Elisha, and then to Matthew 18, where it states that angels "see the face of God."

He said that as he watched the news reports about the abduction of Opal Jennings, he "looked at the people's faces, and as I looked at them I remembered that this could have been my own family." He recalled an incident in which his middle son had become lost while riding his bicycle.

"We looked for several hours, and when we finally found him, he had fallen off and his hands were bloody and there were tears down his face. He told me that he was lost and he thought we would never find him," Harrison said.

The pastor said he felt overwhelmed for the families and knew that "many of the families who have lost children are not in church. We (Christians) are not praying for them because it is not our children who are missing."

"But it could have been our own children, and the Lord just put it on my heart to pray for them."

Harrison said he at first thought he

might seek to start a prayer chain, maybe to work through the state's Baptist Building, but decided that would take too long when an emergency occurs.

"So I decided I needed to try to educate people, to get the word out, to help them know that when they heard an Amber Alert that they would immediately activate their own Angel Alert," he said.

He encouraged people, when they hear a report of a missing child they begin to pray, right then.

"You don't even have to close your eyes. You can pray with your eyes open as you drive down the road," he said. "I believe God is waiting for believers to begin to seriously pray for these children and their needs. He is waiting on us to get serious and to claim the power of Christ."

Harrison encouraged believers to pray for seven specific things when they hear a report of a missing or abducted child:

- The physical health of the child.
  - Protection from all kinds of abuse—sexual, mental and physical.
  - For angels to put a "ring of fire" around the child.
  - The family.
  - For law officers.
  - That the kidnapper—if kidnapping is involved—will have a "confused mind" and won't be able to think about abusing the child or what direction to travel.
  - For the child's quick deliverance.
- "Then," Harrison said, "call from one to three other persons to notify them and to alert them to the need of prayer."

## In booming economy, giving to churches and charity is rising

WASHINGTON (RNS)—The point is pretty obvious: When Americans have more money, they give more money to charity. An impressive \$175 billion last year.

Giving by individuals, encouraged by the buoyant economy, is up 10 percent, and it's up for the third consecutive year, according to "Giving USA 1999," an annual report on American charitable practices.

The beneficiaries are the nation's million or so nonprofit groups—including churches, soup kitchens, youth groups, disaster relief organizations, museums and universities.

As in every past year, the biggest slice of the pie—43 percent, or \$76 billion—went to religious organizations. Contributions to churches, synagogues, mosques and religious charities rose by only 5 percent, but that was 5 percent of a very large amount. What looks like a modest increase amounts to more than \$3 billion in new contributions.

Behind religion in dollars received come, in order, education, health, human services, arts, public benefit, environment and international affairs.

Though they each have a much smaller slice than religion, three categories of nonprofit groups saw much bigger increases. Human services organizations, environmental groups and the catch-all category of public benefit, which includes organizations like the United Way, all saw increases of 25 percent or better. The only losers were arts groups, whose gifts shrank from \$10.62 billion to \$10.53 billion.

Nancy Raybin, chair of the American Association of Fundraising Counsel Trust for Philanthropy, which does the research for the annual report, said it amazes her that people still talk of individual giving—75 percent of the giving pie—as a new idea. "They persist in thinking it's foundations and corporations that give the most money," she said. "No, it's individual people."

## No doubt the Hallelujah Diet is healthy, but skeptics doubt it can help cure cancer

By Yonat Shimron  
Religion News Service

RALEIGH, N.C. (RNS)—Scott Strong is a ball of energy—whether he's conducting his church's 35-piece orchestra, giving piano lessons in his home or playing Big Band jazz with a group of fellow musicians.

No one would guess he's got a tumor the size of a golf ball growing in his skull.

Yet he says he has never felt better. Since last May, when an MRI scan found the tumor and three smaller ones, Strong, the instrumental music director at Raleigh's Providence Baptist Church, has taken a radical approach to healing. Instead of surgery, he has opted for an all-natural vegetarian diet he is convinced is God's will for everyone.

Throughout the South, evangelicals are juicing carrots and eating raw fruits and vegetables as God's way to prevent or treat heart attacks, cancer, diabetes and a host of other illnesses. They call it the Hallelujah Diet.

George Malkmus, the western North Carolina minister who created the Hallelujah Diet, says the Bible contains more than spiritual truths. "It has physical answers we've never been taught to look to," he said.

Malkmus claims it's his mission to bring the diet to the church, and he has found plenty of converts.

Doctors say that while plant-based diets are nutritious and may help prevent some

disease, it would be foolish to abandon conventional medicine or traditional therapies. No study has shown that diet can single-handedly cure cancer, for example.

But for Strong, 40, who underwent brain surgery 10 years ago for a benign, life-threatening tumor, Malkmus' message is particularly appealing. "I've come to the conclusion that God has given us the tools to fight off disease," Strong said.

"The church has been deceived by the devil," he said. "It has been led into a way of being inept physically. If we sit down and feel tired and overwhelmed, we can't go out and do evangelistic crusades."

The Hallelujah Diet suggests that when God created Adam and Eve, he gave them a fruit and vegetable diet that would allow them to live forever. Humanity thrived on it until the time of the Flood—often living to be 900 years old, according to the Bible. Illness was introduced, the diet's proponents say, only when meat became a staple in the human diet.

There's no doubt the diet is healthy: one to two quarts of carrot juice each day mixed with barley green powder, lunch and dinner of raw salads with an occasional baked potato or brown rice. No meat. No dairy. No coffee. No sugar. And absolutely no processed food.

Doctors say the Hallelujah Diet, like other low-fat, high-fiber diets, may be good preventative medicine, but it won't kill cancer cells.

"I've seen no data whatsoever that eating fruits and vegetables will cure cancer," said Joel Tepper, the chairman of the department of radiation oncology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

George Malkmus was converted twice in his life: first in a 1957 Billy Graham crusade in New York City, and again through the influence of a Texas preacher, who introduced him to a radically natural diet in 1976. The first conversion made him a church pastor. The second has turned him into a health-food fundamentalist.

Malkmus said he was pastor at a Baptist church in upstate New York in 1976 when a chiropractor told him he had developed a cancerous tumor in his colon. Having watched his mother die of colon cancer after repeated rounds of chemotherapy and radiation, Malkmus, then 42, avoided the medical route. Instead, he sought out a Texas evangelist named Lester Roloff who had a reputation as a "health nut."

Roloff recommended a strict raw fruit and vegetable diet, including one to two quarts of fresh carrot juice each day.

He resigned from his church and devoted himself to health and healing. Within a year, Malkmus claims, his tumor was gone—and so were his allergies, his hemorrhoids and his dandruff. He began a journey into the counterculture world of alternative health, becoming an organic gardener for the Shangri-La Health Resort

in Bonita Springs, Fla., and a few years later bought 50 acres of mountain land in Tennessee, where he lived as self-sufficiently as he could.

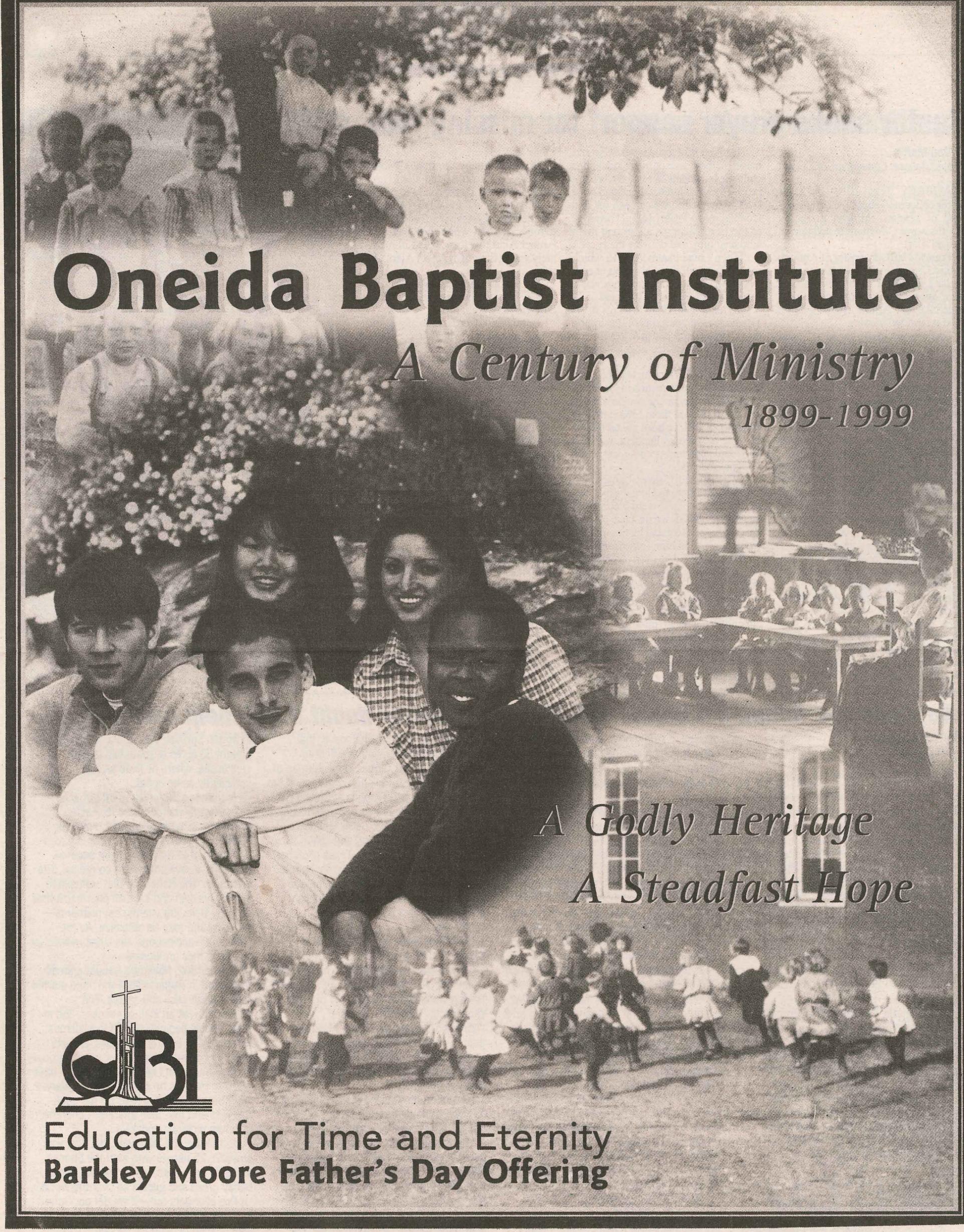
Malkmus said he felt great but was discouraged when he tried to reach Christians with his newfound recipe for health.

In part, that may have been because Malkmus' convictions were so radical. The author of "The Hallelujah Diet" refuses to see a physician and says all pharmaceutical drugs—including vitamin supplements—are toxic and may be addictive. As for childhood vaccinations, his latest newsletter suggests they are unsafe.

But in 1992, Malkmus bought a small restaurant in Rogersville, Tenn., and started selling fresh juice and salads. The restaurant was an instant success, and in time, people began listening to Malkmus' message and buying his books, and his ministry began growing.

Malkmus won't say just how much he is making. He says he doesn't earn a salary from the ministry and lives off his book royalties and the "love offerings" churches give him when he speaks.

But clearly, the diet sells. His business employs 25 people who staff the phones and ship his books, tapes, videos, jars of barley green and juicers all over the world. "If this ever gets out—if we get on 'Oprah' or 'Larry King Live'—we wouldn't even be able to keep up with it," he said. "This is literally going to change the world."



# Oneida Baptist Institute

*A Century of Ministry*

1899-1999

*A Godly Heritage*

*A Steadfast Hope*



Education for Time and Eternity  
**Barkley Moore Father's Day Offering**