



WESTERN RECORDER

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FOR THE RECORD

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Abstinence not just biblical but common sense, speaker says

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (ABP)—Abstaining from premarital sex is not only biblical, it also makes good sense, according to a worker at a non-profit educational organization that promotes sexual abstinence.

Even if teenagers don't heed the Bible's command to remain sexually pure, the risks of unwanted pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases and emotional scars should be compelling enough reasons to delay sex, said Eric Tooley, program director of Aim For Success, Inc.

"Abstinence means freedom from the problems associated with teen pregnancy and STDs, freedom to aim for success in life," Tooley told youth ministers at a seminar held in conjunction with a youth evangelism conference in Texas.

Tooley, a former youth minister, said an average of 2,739 teenage girls get pregnant and 8,219 teens contract a sexually transmitted disease each day in the United States.

Youth ministers can encourage sexual abstinence by urging teens to delay dating, enforcing boundaries and being responsible adults.

"Don't say to youth, 'I just want to be your friend.' Teenagers have friends. They need adults who act like adults," Tooley said.

When a teenage girl faces a crisis pregnancy, a youth minister should not try to solve her problems, push her toward a solution or encourage her to make any hasty decisions.

Instead, Tooley offered three suggestions:

- Love her unconditionally.
- Encourage her to go to her parents. "Go with her if you need to, but get the parents involved as quickly as possible."

■ Direct her to a crisis pregnancy center, pregnancy resource center or similar program offering abortion alternatives.

For teens who are not sexually active, Tooley recommended that youth ministers tell them they aren't alone. Both independent research by government agencies and surveys by Aim For Success found the majority of teenagers have not had sex.

"That's not the message most teenagers get," he said. "They think everybody's doing it, except them."

Family Focus



Reports from the homefront

More stories on page 6

Kentuckians tout school prayer ministry

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

LOUISVILLE—While school shootings in Colorado and Georgia shocked the nation recently, a group of Kentucky Baptist churches who prayed for schools since last August report encouraging results.

More than 50 churches in the Louisville-area Long Run Baptist Association responded to a letter from the association's prayer council. It assigned a school to each church and asked members to pray regularly for the school during the fall term.

Roughly a third continued until the end of May. Among them was South Jefferson Baptist Church. The congregation concluded its nine-month effort with a special Sunday evening service recognizing teachers and staff at Medora Elementary School.

Afterwards, a teacher came to then-Pastor Greg Burton to relate how she and her sister committed to pray for their schools each morning when they pulled up into the parking lot.

Not only was it their best year ever,

she said, but often they sensed God's presence when they walked into the building.

"I naively took credit for that," the woman told Burton, who recently accepted a call to be pastor at First Baptist Church of Lawrenceburg. "Until tonight, when you explained the many different ways you were praying for us. Now we know why it was a school year like no other."

"I was stunned at the testimony of sensing the presence of God," Burton said. "That told me we were doing something right. There seems to be a consensus to continue the prayer ministry for schools and expand it. The church is looking at adding two or three others this fall."

Burton said he saw God working through the school assigned to the church. Medora used to be near the church, but in the 1950s a new building opened two miles away. Three-quarters of South Jefferson Baptist's members over age 60 attended the old school, and one prayed each Wednesday night for his or her alma mater.

Members also conducted monthly

prayer walks around Medora. Because Burton was part of the school's site-based decision making council, he learned of specific requests throughout the year, which he relayed to the congregation.

"People joke that as long as there are tests in school there will be prayer," Burton said. "That trivializes prayer. As long as they are teachers who will pray before and after school, and as long as there is salt and light in schools, there will be prayer there."

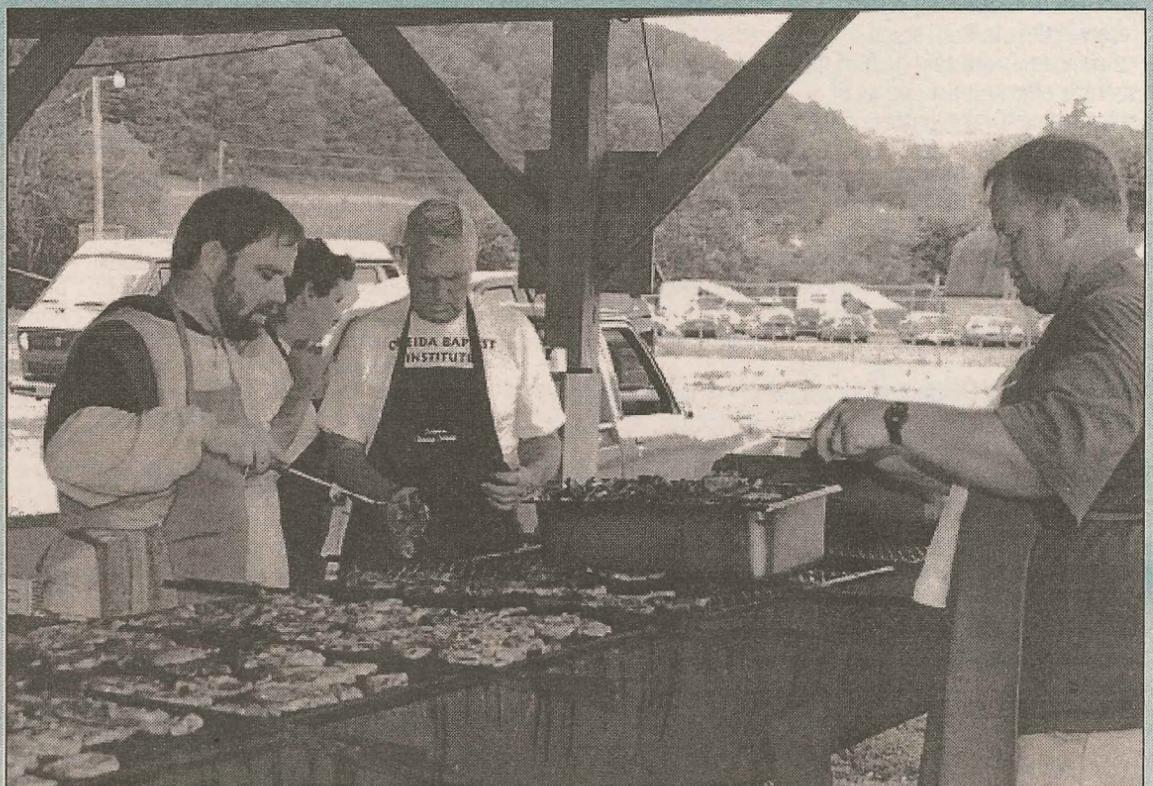
Principal Judy Toomes said the church's support was valuable this year because of a number of crises, such as deaths and serious accidents among the staff's families. She is also cheered by another church's offer to send more than a dozen women to read to students this fall.

Aside from the personal tragedies, "this was one of our best years," she said. "The prayer was wonderful."

Other churches who participated in the effort say it stimulated a greater awareness of the need to intercede for neighboring schools.

□ See Prayer ministry ..., page 3

Century celebration



Oneida Baptist Institute hosted a party June 26 in observance of its 100th anniversary. More than 1,300 alumni and guests attended the celebration. The Eastern Kentucky boarding school, a ministry of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, provides education and guidance to students from Kentucky and around the world. ■ Above: Cooks Tom Echert (left) Dan Midkiff and Glenn Crumpler helped cook approximately 1,500 pounds of pork for the picnic. The pork came from hogs raised on Oneida's farm. ■ Right: Oneida President Bud Underwood prepares for an interview with a reporter from WYMT-TV in Hazard. More photos on page 10. (Oneida photos by Denise Spencer)



BAPTISTS

BAPTIST BITS

■ **SBC seminaries drop out of association.** The six Southern Baptist Convention seminaries have decided to drop out of the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools. That action was reported to the group during its annual meeting June 5-9 in Waco, Texas. "My greatest disappointment this year has been the decision of the seminaries to drop out of the association," said Bob Agee, ASBCS executive director. "The presidents of the seminaries decided that they would act in concert and, since some did not want to be members, all dropped out."

■ **Expert on Russia to head Beeson Center.** A scholar who specializes in the study of evangelical Christians in Russia and Eastern Europe has been named director of the Global Center at Samford University's Beeson Divinity School. Mark Elliott, who since 1986 has been professor of history and director of the Institute for East-West Christian Studies at Wheaton College, was named to the post. Elliott, a lifelong Methodist, will succeed Bill O'Brien, who is retiring. The Global Center, located on Samford's campus in Birmingham, Ala., promotes Christian outreach across cultures by collecting and disseminating information about churches and ministries worldwide.

■ **American Baptist joins Baylor faculty.** A former American Baptist educator who now teaches in Canada has been named chairman of Baylor University's religion department. William Brackney, principal and professor of historical theology at McMaster Divinity School in Hamilton, Ontario, will assume the post vacated a year ago. Brackney moved to Canada 10 years ago after serving as vice president and dean of Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary in St. Davids, Pa.

■ **Drake applies for gun permit.** Citing threats on his life from proponents of abortion and homosexual rights, California pastor Wiley Drake has applied for a permit to carry a concealed gun. Drake, whose efforts to house homeless people on church property once led to a misdemeanor conviction, noted in his permit application that he also receives threats from some of the homeless people he fails to rehabilitate. Drake said he filed his application with the local sheriff's office April 1 and as of July 12 the application was still pending. Drake, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Buena Park, Calif., was the chief advocate of the Southern Baptist Convention's economic boycott of The Disney Co.

■ **Tommy Lea dies.** Tommy Lea, theology dean at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, died July 2 following a four-and-a-half year battle with cancer. Lea, 60, joined the faculty of Southwestern as a New Testament professor in 1979 and was named dean in 1995.

■ **Broadman & Holman book honored.** "What Would Jesus Do?," a book published by Broadman & Holman, has won a Gold Medallion Award from the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association. The honor was announced July 10 at the 1999 meeting of the Christian Booksellers Association in Orlando, Fla. The book, written by Brian Shipman, competed in the youth category. Broadman & Holman is the trade publishing division of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.



Former NASA physician on God's mission

By Heidi Soderstrom
SBC International Mission Board

KAMPALA, Uganda (BP)—Moaning, horrible enough to stand a dog's hair on end, erupts from the ward at the end of the hallway.

White jacket shimmering in the dimly lit corridor, missionary doctor Larry Pepper heads toward the mournful sound.

He pushes open the medical ward's double doors. His gaze sweeps the beds in the room—all occupied—as he walks to a suffering woman's side.

Pepper, a teaching physician at Mbarara University Teaching Hospital in Uganda, is told the woman arrived the night before. Like so many others, she was brought in by her family as a last-ditch effort to save her life. But it's too late to do more than ease her pain.

The missionary gives instructions to an intern and moves on to a patient waiting in another room. Diagnosing the man with ulcers, Pepper hands him a treatment filled with hope.

"As part of the prescription for medicine, I write out Scriptures. When they come back the next week, I ask them if they read it," Pepper explains.

Pepper is not only a physician; he is part of the missions team seeking to share the gospel with the Banyankore/Bakiga people of southwestern Uganda, the country's second-largest people group and the tribe of Uganda's president, Yoweri Museveni.

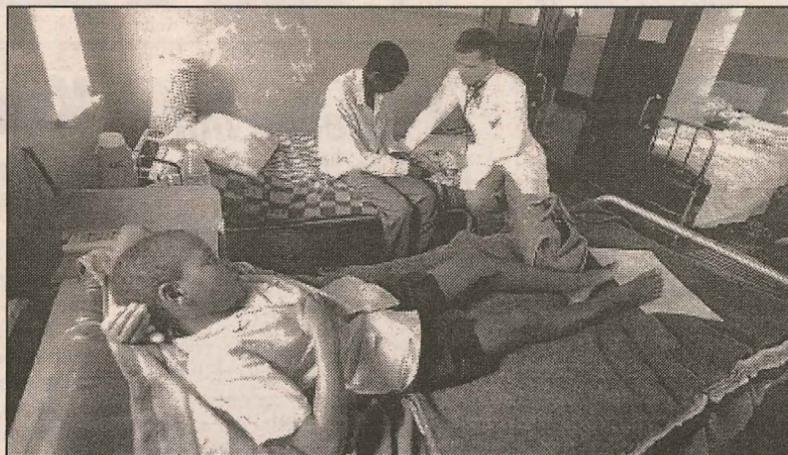
Just last year, the missions team started the first Baptist churches among this people group of approximately 1.5 million. Their desire to share the gospel has launched several ministries with medical students and other faculty at the hospital.

Later that morning, the moaning in the wards greets third-year medical students as they follow Pepper on rounds. Monday through Friday, they spend half their days learning at the bedside.

But following Pepper on rounds teaches the students more than just medicine. He shows what it means to care—by his gentle touch on a woman's forehead as he questions her, by the way he looks each patient in the eye with respect, by the way his soft voice soothes a severely burned little girl.

"My job is to teach them by example how to be a Christian physician versus just a physician," Pepper says. "Death is in evidence every day, so it's easy for them to say, 'Oh well, it's just another sick person,'"

It's a world away from his last practice. Pepper never faced anything like



DR. PEPPER Southern Baptist missionary Larry Pepper, a teaching physician at Mbarara University Teaching Hospital in Kampala, Uganda, talks about his Christian faith with a patient. A former NASA flight surgeon, Pepper is part of a team seeking to share the gospel with the Banyankore/Bakiga people of southwestern Uganda, the country's second-largest people group and the tribe of President Yoweri Museveni. (BP photo by Matt Jones)

this back home while living out his dream job as a NASA flight surgeon, raising three children with his wife, Sally, in Clear Lake, Texas.

That was before he said God started tugging on the family's hearts. A sermon series at his church got him thinking about his impact on eternity. Reading through "Operation World," a popular mission handbook, got him praying about it.

Then, Pepper says, he got a message from God: "You've committed everything to me—except your job."

"That was the turning point," Pepper says. "I prayed and told God I wanted him to put us where he wanted us to be."

Pepper and his wife, Sally, talked through the decision. While God prepared her heart and gave her peace about taking three children overseas, he went on a volunteer trip to Goma, Zaire, to work with Rwandan refugees.

There he met Southern Baptist missionary Larry Pumpelly, now the International Mission Board's Richmond-based associate for East Africa. Pumpelly told him about a teaching physician position in Uganda at Mbarara University Teaching Hospital.

But obeying God's call and leaving behind everything he had achieved wasn't easy. After their decision to become missionaries, Pepper was selected as a finalist candidate for astronaut duty in space. God was testing the Peppers' integrity, they believe, to see if they were really willing to follow him.

The Peppers landed in Uganda Jan. 2, 1996. Three years later, they have launched several ministries—particu-

larly with medical students.

Thursday nights Pepper leads a "guys only" Bible study focusing on issues Ugandan men face. Friday nights both Peppers offer an alternative to the Mbarara bar scene, giving students a chance to gather, play games, watch movies and discuss biblical concepts.

On Sunday nights it's coed Bible study. "We started with about five and now run between 18 and 20," Pepper says.

The Peppers are praying for the building of a Baptist student center to give students a place for study, worship and Bible studies.

Pepper's fellow faculty members meet in his office Tuesdays for a lunchtime Bible study.

Sunday morning rolls around. Sally Pepper prepares the prenatal clinic at the hospital for church services and leads children in a Bible study. Pepper checks on his patients before leading the service. University Baptist Fellowship congregation listens intently as Pepper expounds on the dangers of compromise.

"Sometimes we compromise by toning down or turning down God's Word," the missionary warns in his sermon.

But toning down God's Word isn't part of the Peppers' approach to life. Neither is compromise. Obedience is.

The team seeking to share the gospel with the Banyankore/Bakiga people group is looking for a second general evangelist. For information, call the initial contacts coordinator at the Southern Baptist International Mission Board toll-free, (888) 422-6461 or send an e-mail to initial.contacts@imb.org.

Texas moderates plan non-geographic association

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (ABP)—Texans affiliated with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship have voted to form an association of churches that would extend beyond the borders of the Lone Star State.

The association would relate to the Baptist General Convention of Texas. But it could also include churches in at least three border states—Louisiana, New Mexico and Oklahoma—according to a report presented by a special committee created to study the endeavor.

Traditional Southern Baptist asso-

ciations are comprised of churches of similar faith and practice within a county or region within a state. They cooperate to provide ministries, do mission work and share fellowship. While they work closely with state conventions, they are autonomous from them and are supported separately by member churches.

The same would be true for the proposed new association, except its borders would encompass a wider area to include several states, said George Mason, chairman of the study committee and pastor of Wilshire

Baptist Church in Dallas.

The new concept is needed, Mason said, because moderate churches say they are being ostracized in some associations. For some churches outside Texas, those feelings extend to their state convention, he said.

"Our state convention is in a positive relationship with our churches. We want to continue our relationship," Mason said. "But for (moderate) churches in Oklahoma and Louisiana—their state conventions aren't as open as ours is in looking for options for relationships."

Committee acts on roles for evangelism, music & media

The Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Board's administrative committee filled two KBC staff positions and promoted a third employee during its meeting last week.

The committee hired a youth evangelism specialist and children's music consultant and upgraded a communications position during the July 15 meeting.

Randy Record was hired as youth evangelism associate. Record, who had been youth minister at Lone Oak First Baptist Church in Paducah, will be responsible for helping students start First Priority Bible Clubs.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention is host to one of five pilot projects for youth evangelism in partnership with the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. NAMB will fund Record's position for the next two years as the KBC pursues a goal of getting First Priority clubs in

every Kentucky high school within five years.

Record said the clubs are an evangelism strategy and not simply Christian clubs. First Priority clubs are designed to train youth to be Great Commission people—those seeking to make Christian disciples—who will affect their churches and communities for years to come, he said.

Record already has worked with the KBC as youth rally coordinator for Celebrate Jesus 2000, an effort to share the Christian faith with every person by the end of the year 2000.

A native of Paducah, Record is a graduate of Union University in Jackson, Tenn. He has a master of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theolog-



Record



Withers

ical Seminary in Louisville.

The committee also voted to upgrade the position of communications specialist, which is filled by Denise Withers.

Withers' responsibilities include planning the KBC annual meeting, planning for events such as the annual State Fair exhibit and Cooperative Program promotion.

KBC employees are divided into two categories: hourly support staff and salaried professional staff. KBC Communications Director Robert Reeves said Withers already has been working on duties more in line with a professional staff position. The upgrade was simply a recognition of what already was

being done, he added.

Withers, a native of Louisville, has a master of divinity degree in Christian education from Southern Seminary. She is a member of St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville.

Greg Brewton, minister of music for Versailles Baptist Church, was hired for one year as a youth music consultant. Brewton will be responsible for evaluating the needs of churches and associations and helping them develop youth music programs.

A native of Georgia and Florida, Brewton currently is working on a doctorate in musical arts at Southern Seminary.

The committee also learned that Mike Markham has submitted his resignation as a missions education associate with KBC Brotherhood. Markham's resignation will be effective after the position is filled, according to KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey.

BLUEGRASS BURGEOO

■ **Baptist Hospital East** was named Best Hospital as part of Louisville Magazine's 14th annual Best of Louisville Awards. The award was presented at the magazine's awards ceremony June 21 at the Kentucky Center for the Arts' Bomhard Theater.

■ **Becky Carnell**, literacy consultant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, will lead an adult reading and writing workshop Aug. 21 and 28 at Clifton Baptist Church in Louisville. The workshop prepares volunteers to work with low-level and nonreaders and to begin a ministry. Registration costs \$30 and the deadline is July 30. For more information, call the church at (502) 897-1771.



■ **Correction:** A story in last week's Western Recorder profiled how volunteers are helping build Gamaliel Baptist Church in Gamaliel. The caption on the front page in For The Record, however, listed the wrong name for the church.

Georgetown camp for KBHC combines evangelism and love

By Dannah Prather

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children

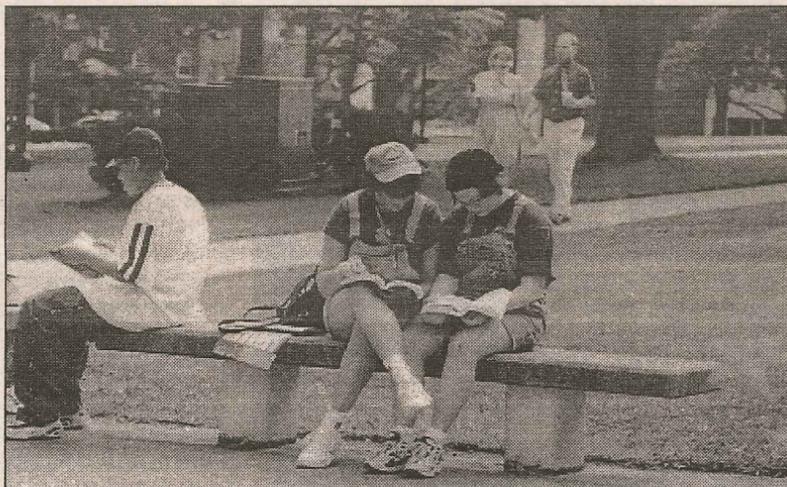
GEORGETOWN—Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's recent camp for children affected by abuse and neglect coincided with the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annual youth evangelism conference, making a powerful spiritual combination, according to KBHC staff.

"The unique aspect of this camp is that we piggybacked it with the conference in Lexington," said Mike Dixon, vice president for religious life at KBHC. "In a way, our worship services at camp were preparing the kids for the conference."

Jeff Fuson, minister to youth at Crestwood Baptist Church in Oldham County, assembled a team to lead Bible study, worship and recreation for the 80 youth and staff from KBHC programs in Bronston, Elizabethtown, Louisville and Mayfield.

"Our No. 1 objective was to love the kids," said Fuson, who has been at Crestwood 10 years and previously worked for the Centrifuge camp ministry. "They respond so well when they know they're cared for."

C.A. Brown, director of the Baptist Youth Ranch in Elizabethtown, said this year's event and the two previous summer camps have been meaningful in many ways for the boys in his care. "It's a lot of fun to hear about their experi-



QUIET TIME Lisa McClain (center) discusses a Bible passage with a KBHC student during the recent summer camp at Georgetown College. The recent event was linked with the KBC youth evangelism convention in Lexington. McClain is the activities director for the Genesis Home in Mayfield.

ences when they come back," he said. "Camp gives our boys a chance to blend with teenagers from the other programs. They find out they are more alike than different."

For the past two summers, KBHC camps took place at Campbellsville University, so the Georgetown campus was a new setting for the event. "These two Baptist colleges have really shown us hospitality and their desire to reach kids with the good news of Jesus Christ," Dixon said.

Brown said it was significant to the teens that camp and the youth evangelism conference coincided on Father's Day weekend. "So many of our boys have had difficulties with their fathers. That weekend they were challenged to forgive their dads," he said. "One of our boys came back saying he had done that and experienced a feeling of release. His outlook is much improved. Several of our boys made public or private professions of faith at the conference."

Brenda Gray, KBHC vice president

for development and communications, said parents know that even sending one or two children to camp can be costly. "Imagine trying to send 50 or more. There is no way our children would have this opportunity without the financial support of individuals and churches. We are so grateful."

Some of this year's camp supporters were First Baptist Church of Franklin, which sponsored 32 children, and Great Crossing Baptist Church in Stamping Ground, whose congregation provided snacks.

Because of the youth evangelism conference, KBHC's camp was shorter this year. "That will allow us financially to do weekend camps at places like Jonathan Creek or Cedarmore on a regional level," Dixon said. "We want to spread the camp experience throughout the year. ... We are developing a discipleship strategy based on LifeWay Christian Resources' DiscipleLife," he said. "The whole idea is to develop a sense of intentionality in everything we do. We want to keep the fire that is kindled during camp going all year long."

Fuson, a "veteran" of youth ministry, said reaching out to kids is hard, but important work. "I believe in the power of one," he said. "If every kid had at least one person in their corner, it could change everything. The KBHC staff are the real heroes. They are with the kids 24-7, walking with them through this painful journey."

Prayer ministry links Louisville churches with schools for a year of intercession

Continued from page 1

"They're next door, but you can drive in and not pay much attention," said Wilma Owen, administrative coordinator for Bashford Manor Baptist Church. The church prayed for the adjacent Buechel Metropolitan High School.

The prayers led to action. Several times members baked cookies and delivered them to the office with reminders that they were praying for students, teachers and administrators. While no plans are set, it is likely Bashford Manor will resume for the fall term.

"After the Colorado shootings, it intensified our efforts," Owen said. "This is a serious responsibility."

At Jefferstown Baptist Church, lifting up petitions for more than a dozen schools this past year has been part of a widening emphasis on prayer.

Pastor Sanford Hill attributes the success of a Friday night teen gathering at the church to an increased prayer focus.

"This gave us a heightened awareness of the role we play," Hill said. "We've changed to praying for students while they're on break this summer. Praying for

schools is important, but so is praying in general. As we have prayed about what teens are facing today, we have become more interested in the solutions."

Greg Smith, chairman of the association's prayer council and pastor of New Cut Road Baptist Church, said another letter is being mailed this summer. If each church responds, every Jefferson County school will be covered, he said.

New Cut prayed for Lassiter Middle and Auburndale Elementary schools this past year, which had an impact on the church.

"Everything we have done in praying for our community has enlarged our vision," he said, "and reminds us that God tells us to intercede for our community. This is spiritual warfare."

Rolfe Dorsey, director of church development for the association, said he hopes more churches will respond to the upcoming letter.

"I think a lot of people want to do this, but they just don't know how," he said. "I believe more churches will participate as time goes on. There are a host of prayer groups being raised up across the city."

OPINION

WESTERN RECORDER

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

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Meeting a new generation of 'Jesus Freaks'

By Dale Hanson Bourke

For the past several years, Christian messages aimed at teens have been deliberately user-friendly.

Teen Bibles shed the somber black and burgundy covers for splashes of color and names like "The Message" or "Quest."

T-shirts went from depicting the gruesome crucifixion scenes to imitating popular logos, such as one featuring a gray background, red and white stripes and block letters for "Tommy Hellfighter."

But the times they are a changin'. The shootings at Columbine High School galvanized the nation around the issues of teen violence. And the death of Cassie Bernall—who reportedly was asked if she believed in God and then was shot when she answered "Yes"—has emboldened Christian teens to come out of the closet and go public with their faith.

Last week Word Publishing announced plans to distribute "She Said

Yes: The Unlikely Martyrdom of Cassie Bernall," a book written by her mother, Misty Bernall.

Gaining even more attention is the just-released book "Jesus Freaks," a book written by the popular band DC

Talk and based on the nearly forgotten John Foxe's "Book of Martyrs," written by the English cleric in 1559 in praise of Protestant martyrs.

Teaming up with Voice of the Martyrs ministry, DC Talk hopes to remind teens of the "rich history of people giving their lives for their faith," according to Toby McKeehan of the group.

The book begins with the story of Cassie Bernall and continues with stories of well-known figures like William Tyndale, who was imprisoned and strangled for translating the Bible into English. In between are stories of lesser known figures in countries like Bangladesh and Cuba.

The book is not user friendly. The stories are sometimes gruesome and frightening. But, McKeehan says, "Extreme is 'in' with this generation. Teens

face all kinds of extremes in their lives. We can't candy-coat the truth."

The title of the book is the same as DC Talk's popular song that burst onto the Christian music scene a few years ago: "What will people think when they hear that I'm a Jesus Freak? ... I don't really care, what else can I say, There ain't no disguising the truth."

"We were amazed by the reaction to that song," said Michael Tait, another member of the band. "It wasn't like anything we'd ever seen before. It started a movement. This is a new kind of Jesus Freak. We're talking about kids who are willing to be freaks for their faith. It was a negative label in the '60s, but now it's a positive."

Both McKeehan and Tait said they see many teens expressing a new commitment to "stand up and be counted" for their faith.

Cassie Bernall's death may have stirred something in teens that all of the friendly messages missed. Instead of wanting to fit in, Christian teens seem to rally around the idea of being Jesus Freaks. Perhaps they have simply been waiting for a challenge that matched the other extremes in their lives.

Dale Hanson Bourke is publisher of Religion News Service

COMMENTARY



Dale Hanson Bourke

Assembly applause

Never before have I witnessed a sweeter spirit than a few weeks ago at Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly. It is hard to capture with words the experience our youth ministry had in Hardin.

Dave Hill and Rusty Ellison greeted more than 300 campers and chaperones of Hillvue Heights not only with open arms but open hearts as well. Dave and Rusty embodied the word "servant" the entire week. These men and the staff at Jonathan Creek bent over backwards to see that our needs were met. Because of their efforts, 30 young people accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, as well

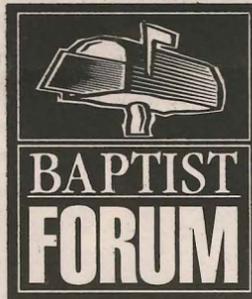
as more than 100 recommitting their life to the Lord.

I have been in the ministry for 11 years and have been to all the Centrifuge Camps, Windy Gap's and numerous others. I can honestly say that the facilities along with the committed staff at Jonathan Creek makes that camp one of the best in America. No war stories on camp food, sleeping arrangements or poor facilities can be told of Jonathan Creek. The high ropes course along with the waterfront of Kentucky Lake truly separate Jonathan Creek from most other camps.

Camps are not about great food or even nice facilities. Camp is about having the opportunity to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with your students. Dave and his crew are committed to see that happen. I pray that our state sees and takes advantage of this ministry. Jonathan Creek can truly be the tool that helps win the lives of our youth to the Lord. Thanks

Dave, Rusty and your staff for your ministry!

Tim Colovos
Bowling Green



PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

Responding to needs in Tanzania

During a recent missions partnership trip to Tanzania, I and several others spent three days in Mbeya, the center of the southern highlands region for Baptist work.

Five hundred of the 1,000 Baptist churches in Tanzania are located in this region. (There a total of five regions, which are referred to as "kandas.")

This region is one of the most beautiful places in Tanzania and maybe anywhere. It has large valleys with rich farmland, high mountains, game parks, lakes and wonderful people.

One day was spent listening to requests from leaders of the 17 associations that make up this kanda. We met some incredible people of faith who are being used mightily by God.

The leaders of each association brought requests of priority needs followed by the kanda requests. The most frequently mentioned needs were for stewardship training and tin roofs for churches. Other frequently mentioned needs were for evangelism, new church

starts, seminars for youth, village-to-village evangelism and open-air crusades. Seminars in discipleship also were requested.

In addition to church construction, other construction projects requested include Bible schools, offices and kindergartens. There are also needs for career skills training, including technology, especially for youth.

Kanda-wide requests were for leader training in discipleship, stewardship and leadership development; training for women in spiritual life and marketable crafts; and construction projects. Kanda youth leaders requested seminars, musical instruments, sports equipment and funds (\$2,000 each) for three youth to attend a Baptist World Alliance meeting.

The requests from Tanzania will be processed by the appropriate leaders and given to the Kentucky Baptist Convention partnership missions department.

Please contact the KBC if you would like to assist with any of these requests.



Bill Mackey

Churches and associational leaders are encouraged to pray about participation in the partnership. Pastors and lay witnesses will be needed to lead witnessing and new-work teams.

Nothing can replace actually going, but financial help definitely is needed as well. What would be considered a small amount of money for us will meet major needs in Tanzania. For example, \$500 might complete an office building, and \$1,000 can complete a Bible school sleeping room for students who currently sleep on the floor during 17-day terms four times per year.

The president of the Tanzanian Baptist Convention shared plans to celebrate 45 years of Southern Baptist work in Tanzania July 2000 through July 2001. The celebration will involve starting 1,000 new churches. Kentucky Baptists can have a significant role in achieving this challenging goal, thanks to your gifts through the Cooperative Program and other gifts.

The prayer of the southern highlands kanda is to become a self-supporting and missionary-sending entity. Let's all join in to see God answer in a mighty way!

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

CHURCHES

Budgets show churches where they're headed

By Doug Strader

Although it is only the middle of summer, in a few short weeks many churches will be in the process of developing their budgets for the new church year.

The first step would be to elect a budget committee. It should be a group of five to seven people who have spiritual gifts in this area of ministry.

The church body can facilitate the budget development process if the church has a church-adopted vision for ministry. The church needs to know where it is going, why it is going and how it plans to get there.

Preparing a church budget is a lot like a family planning a vacation. Family members decide where they want to vacation. They decide how they will travel, where they plan to stay, what they will see and the places they want to eat. If they travel by car, they'll need road maps and periodically they'll need to stop for rest and to refuel the car. They also will need to stop and monitor their progress from time to time. It isn't that difficult if they make proper plans and carry out those plans.

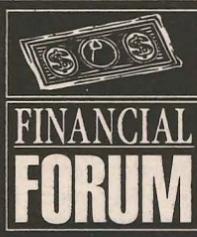
If the church knows these things, members are more likely to have a passion for their ministry because the church has a stewardship responsibility to faithfully administer the resources entrusted by the people. It is not about money as much as it is about believers growing in Christ. It is about ministering to the community, the nation and the world.

When properly understood, the believer has a much greater need to give than the church has need to receive. As Christians, we want to give, and nobody can give for us. David said that he wouldn't give to the Lord anything that did not cost him.

Some church members think of the budget as a static document that does not change, it is just a way to control programs and ministries. But a church budget should be a dynamic tool that is alive with the congregation's vision for ministry and growth. It is an instrument that God can and does use to accomplish his work, and he allows us to participate with him. What a blessing and privilege.

If you have questions, please call me toll-free at (888) 254-5708 or e-mail at douglas_strader@kybaptist.org.

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



Is togetherness always required when it comes to vacations?

Q. Are separate vacations appropriate for married couples?

Couples sometimes find separate vacations attractive for a variety of reasons. Separate vacations provide an opportunity for spouses to pursue separate interests. For instance, if one spouse loves skiing, but the other doesn't want to spend his or her only week of vacation on the slopes, separate vacations would allow each to do what he or she prefers.

Also, some couples report that spending time away from each other periodically is rejuvenating for their relationship. After being apart for a while, spouses come back feeling refreshed and more appreciative of their time together.

But vacationing separately on a regular basis has some disadvantages. Developing a pattern of going separate ways for fun and recreation might prevent spouses from developing mutual interests and building up a store of shared memories that strengthen family relationships. Separate vacations also can be more expensive.

Some couples find ways to balance time together and time alone. For instance, when finances and schedules permit, taking more than one vacation (one together and one separate) might be beneficial. A modified version of this might be to vacation together but to plan a certain amount of time alone in which spouses can go their separate ways.

As in other areas of married life, the key is to find ways to meet the needs of the individuals while continuing to nurture the marriage relationship.—*Susan Howell*

Q. When should my child start school?

Many parents face a difficult decision in deciding when their child should start school. Circumstances will differ from child to child, but here are some basic thoughts to consider.

Teachers and physicians can help evaluate readiness. Participation in other programs (church activities, sports, etc.) can also be a measuring stick to help you know if your child is ready for the structure school demands.

Better to start a bit late than too early seems a good rule of thumb. Psychologist Sheila Schuster, who spent 20 years in private practice evaluating children's readiness for school, says she never had a parent come back and say, "I'm sorry we held them back." She did have parents say, "I wish we had done it."

What's the rush? What benefits are there to starting and finishing early? Make sure you have sound answers to these questions, and make sure the answers reflect what is best for your child, not your own personal agenda.

According to Raymond and Dorothy Moore, trends toward earlier and earlier schooling often ignore readiness factors, including the development of vision, hearing and perception, emotional stability, the ability to focus and the child's ability to exist in structure.

David Elkind points out that schools have become more demanding at earlier ages. Elkind raises concerns about competency. Competency and self-esteem go hand in hand. A child who gets in over his head at school runs the risk of seeing himself as a failure and developing a poor attitude about himself and toward school.

If you do decide to hold your child back, your attitude will make a difference in whether your child responds positively or negatively. Make sure your child knows you are proud of him or her and that you have made this decision for his or her own good.—*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.



What does the Lord require?

Where does one begin? In recent weeks, as I have anticipated this new ministry opportunity among Kentucky Baptists, I have pondered what words to share in my opening editorial.

I have numerous questions, hopes and goals—far too many to address in a single article. Among the many faithful readers of the Western Recorder, surely you have questions too: What does the future hold? What will a change in leadership mean for the Recorder? Will the new editor reflect my views and convictions?

For starters, let me share a little bit about myself. I have served in Southern Baptist communications as a Christian journalist for nearly 20 years. That part of my personal and professional pilgrimage began in 1980 as an intern at the Western Recorder during my years as a student at Southern Seminary. I later served as editor of The Towers, Southern's campus newspaper.

From there, I served 10 years on the editorial staff of Word & Way in my home state of Missouri. In 1992, I became editor of the Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine where I served until I sensed God's clear leadership and timing to become editor of the Western Recorder.

As a former Recorder intern and Southern Seminary student, I had the opportunity to interact with such notable Southern Baptist and Kentucky Baptist leaders as C.R. Daley and Roy Honeycutt. I count it a privilege to have crossed paths with both men and look forward to working alongside and learning from many more Kentucky Baptists in the years ahead.

In his inaugural editorial in 1957, Dr. Daley declared, "I can only promise that whatever is said will be honest, sincere and personal convictions. Truth in reporting and sincerity in interpretation of events will be my guiding principle whatever the costs." More than four decades later, as we rush toward a new millennium, those time-tested truths remain wise and worthy goals.

As I strive to fulfill God's call here in Kentucky, I bring a similar ministry philosophy which simply states: For the Western Recorder to effectively serve any Kentucky Baptist, it must fairly serve all Kentucky Baptists. That is my pledge to you. I will seek to accomplish that goal through accurate, balanced, comprehensive news and feature articles which make a difference in the lives of Kentucky Baptists.

Will I always succeed? No. Will I constantly pursue that philosophy as a measuring rod available to advocates and critics alike? Absolutely.

As I told the members of the Kentucky Baptist Executive Board prior to my election as editor, I am committed to such historic Baptist principles as separation of church and state, priesthood of the believer and autonomy of the local church. Those foundational truths have served Southern Baptists well over the years and must not be

sacrificed on the altar of contemporary convenience.

I am equally committed to missions, evangelism and cooperation. When those vital areas suffer, we all suffer. Each of us would do well to examine our ministry priorities and determine whether the things we are majoring on in our lives, our churches and our denomination are making an eternal impact for the sake of God's kingdom.

As we begin this journey together, I am keenly aware of the Recorder's rich heritage. I invite you to pray for your state paper staff as we seek to make the Recorder all it can and should be for the benefit of all Kentucky Baptists. When we succeed, let us know. When we fall short, feel free to offer words of correction in the spirit of Christian love.

What is the bottom line? In the words of the prophet Micah, "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" That is my goal as editor of the Western Recorder—and my prayer for Kentucky Baptists.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Who could stand?

By Terry Wilder

If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand? (Psalm 130:3).

It was a hot summer morning in San Antonio. My son and I sat in the Alamo IMAX theater mesmerized by the sound of whizzing cannon balls that seem to fly over our heads and moved by the story of a handful of frontier defenders facing the large army of General Santa Anna.

When it was over, we sat quietly for a moment. Then he turned to me and said, "They didn't have a chance." He was right. Initially, the Texans took their stand together, but they soon were overwhelmed by a superior force. The final moments were epic struggles as each Texan was forced to take his last helpless stand.

No one likes to feel helpless. All of us have experienced moments when life seemed to be out of control. It is frightening when the consequenc-

es of our poor decisions seem to be crushing the very life out of us. We want help, we cry out for help and there is no answer.

The psalmist felt that kind of despair as he wrote these words. He allows us to hear the pitiful, painful plea of one trapped in the despair and loneliness of sin. The guilt of his sin is like a wall that separates him from God. He cannot get over it or around it. Even worse, he struggles in the knowledge that he brought all of this personal pain upon himself. The question raised by King David is a good one. What if God did keep a permanent inventory of our sins? The answer is simple. We would not have a chance. Who could possibly stand against God? We would all be condemned quickly by his judgment. Not one of us would survive.

Happily, there is hope. The psalmist goes on to remind us that we have a wonderful God who comes to us in our darkest hour with forgiveness, grace and love. It was true for King David and it

is still true for you. Make no mistake about it, the wait might seem to be long, but deliverance from your sin will come and it will be complete. When you ask God to forgive you, your sins are forgiven, and there are no records that they ever existed. That is exactly why God sent Jesus into this world and that is part of the joy of having a personal relationship with him.

Go one step further. When you see someone trapped in the despair and loneliness of sin, remember how you felt when you were there. Go to that person and tell them how Jesus helped you. All of us have been guilty of enjoying the misfortune of others. We need to be more like the prophet Hosea. When deserted by his wife, he chose to respond not with resentment, but with forgiveness for her.

That is God's kind of love. Our schools, homes and workplaces are filled with people who don't think they have a chance. They need to hear from you that they can stand and stand strong with God in this world.



Terry Wilder is pastor of Burlington Baptist Church in Burlington

FAMILY

Report finds Americans more pessimistic about marriage

Group urges churches to talk to teens about sex

NEW ORLEANS (RNS)—Amid falling teen pregnancy rates, a national advocacy group is telling religious organizations to stick with their message on teen sexuality, because against all expectations, teens seem to be listening.

Parents and pastors might feel overwhelmed by the celebration of early or casual sex in youth-oriented music, television and movies.

"I think parents sometimes feel it's a lost cause. Like, 'What influence do I have over my 15-year-old son? He and his friends listen to MTV and their peers, not me,'" said Bill Albert of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.

But a review of 20 years of sexuality studies finds that young people look first to parents and friends or leaders in their churches or synagogues for guidance on moral behavior, including sexual issues, said Tamara Kreinin, another staff member.

"The message to parents is real clear," she said. "When it comes to talking about sex, it's come to the party early and stay late."

The national group co-sponsored a day-long conversation with New Orleans pastors recently, seeking stories about what works and what doesn't.

Some common themes became clear:

- The value of mentors in providing role models for youthful behavior.
- The need by churches to forgive and accept those who fail.
- The need for church leaders to live out the sexual values they preach.
- The need for churches to provide teens with a hopefulness about the future that pregnancy would threaten.

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. (RNS)—Most young people still cherish the idea of a big wedding and a happily-ever-after marriage, but many now feel it might be only a fairy tale, according to a new report on marriage.

Fewer Americans are marrying, those who do get married are not as happy, and nearly half of married Americans decide to call it quits, concluded the report, "The State of Our Unions: The Social Health of Marriage in America," by the National Marriage Project at Rutgers University.

The project, headed by David Popenoe, a Rutgers sociologist, and Barbara Dafoe Whitehead, a family scholar, is dedicated to preserving and promoting one of the world's oldest institutions. The report reviewed marriage statistics and studies from the past four decades.

The studies show married people are healthier, happier and provide the best environment for raising children, the authors maintain. But marriage no longer serves as a rite of passage from adolescence to adulthood. This is because the gap has widened significantly between the time young people become sexually active and when they get married.

The term "premarital sex" itself is becoming outdated, the report stated, because increasingly sex is not connected to marriage. More young people live together outside marriage, and out-of-wedlock births are at historic highs.

"As a measure of social health, it's very disturbing," Popenoe said of young people's attitudes toward marriage, living together and having children without a spouse. "But it's not surprising they've grown increasingly pessimistic about their own chances. They're aware of the very high divorce rate. Many of them have come from broken homes, and you run into kids who today haven't even seen a good marriage."

The report cited 1995 statistics from the Survey Research Center at the University of Michigan, which annually interviews high school seniors nation-

wide. It found that even though among high school seniors, 83 percent of the girls and 72 percent of the boys said having a good marriage and family life is important, only 64 percent of girls and 59 percent of boys said they felt it was very likely they would stay married to the same person for life.

Only 30 percent of girls and 40 percent of boys agreed that people who are legally married are happier than those who stay single or live with someone.

The report did note that some trends, such as the rising ages of first-time brides and grooms, seem to be good for the future of marriage. The higher median age of brides and grooms, now 25 and 27, is responsible for the slight decline in the highest-ever divorce rate of 50 percent during the late 1980s, Popenoe said.

Family Focus



Reports from the homefront

Survey: Kids more positive than parents about growing up in '90s

NEW YORK (ABP)—While parents worry about youth problems like guns, violence and drugs, their children have a brighter view of being a kid in the '90s, according to a recent survey.

Time magazine and the children's TV network Nickelodeon sponsored the survey of children and their parents. Conducting the survey the last two weeks of May—just weeks after the high school shootings in Littleton, Colo.—pollsters interviewed 1,172 kids, ages 6 to 14, at shopping malls in 25 U.S. cities. They also interviewed 397 parents, according to a report in the July 5 issue of Time.

Overall, children reported they were happy to be kids and don't perceive their world to be as dangerous or negative as their parents do, the magazine reported.

Parents listed crime (26 percent), youth violence and guns (13 percent), peer pressure (13 percent) and drugs (5 percent) as bad things about being a kid.

Young people, meanwhile, listed "getting bossed around" (17 percent), school/homework (15 percent), "can't do everything I want" (11 percent),

chores (9 percent) and being grounded (9 percent) as the things they like least about childhood.

Despite widespread concern about highly publicized instances of school violence, only 5 percent of kids surveyed said they feel unsafe in their school. Nearly half (49 percent) said they feel "very safe," while 44 percent said "pretty safe."

About the well-documented breakdown of the family? Four in five kids (79 percent) said their parents were among the top three people they look up to the most. Another 19 percent said grandparents, and 13 percent said athletes.

Faith is important to kids, the survey said. Ninety-five percent of kids said they believe in God. Nearly half said they attend religious services every week and eight out of 10 said they pray.

More than half the kids (53 percent) said it is very important to wait until marriage to have sex. Another 23 percent said it is somewhat important, while a smaller percentage (22 percent) said it is not important to wait.

Asked what age they think premarital

sex is appropriate, kids said 23 years old. Their parents said 18.

Children differed with their parents in their perceptions of how much respect adults have for kids. While 52 percent of parents said "a lot," 42 percent "some," 6 percent "a little" and 0 percent "none," young people's responses were a lot, 31 percent; some, 48 percent; a little, 16 percent; and none, 5 percent.

Asked what are the most important things that kids at their school use to decide who fits in, kids ages 9-11 said "being a good friend" (45 percent), being good at sports (35 percent), popu-

larity (31 percent) and being funny (31 percent.) The picture changed for ages 12-14, however. They said clothes (44 percent), popularity (37 percent), being good looking (34 percent) and being a good friend (33 percent).

Kids and adults share a jaded view of politics. Just 36 percent of kids said they would like to be president of the U.S. and 31 percent of parents said they would want their child to be. The majority of both kids (62 percent) and parents (58 percent) answered no.

The margin-of-error for all kids was reported to be plus-or-minus 3 percent and for parents plus-or-minus 5 percent.

The big gift

One of the false perceptions about using the services of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation relates to the size of one's estate or gift.

Oftentimes a Kentucky Baptist individual or couple will tell me their estate is too small and insignificant to use the services of the foundation. They think they have to be really rich to use our services.

Nothing could be further from the truth. We assist people with modest estates, large estates and everything in between.

It reminds me of the incident in the ministry of Jesus recorded in Mark 12:41-44 and Luke 21: 1-4. We refer to it as the widow's offering. Let me encourage you to read this powerful story. In terms of the coins she used,

this woman made the smallest gift that day. To Jesus, however, she made the most significant gift to God's work that day.

It is interesting to note Jesus watched how the people gave. His conclusion was the rich gave much, but the woman, a poor widow, gave more. Several universal lessons can be learned from this teaching of Jesus:

■ No person is excluded from making a worthy gift for the cause of Christ.

■ It's not the size of the gift but the size of the sacrifice that really matters.

■ It's not how much we give but how much we have left.

■ It's the cost of the gift that really counts.

■ It's the depth of our love and commitment that really matters to God.

Every adult Christian should have a Christian estate plan regardless of his or her financial station in life. Many Kentucky Baptists are being faithful in Christian financial stewardship during their lives, but they have not put in place a plan for continuing that faithfulness beyond their lifetimes.

Laurie Valentine, our trust counsel, and I are eager to assist you in developing such an estate stewardship plan. Our toll-free telephone number is (888) 254-5701. There is no cost for this consultation for members of Kentucky Baptist churches. The service is provided to you by your church's gifts to the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen



KENTUCKY BAPTIST HOMES FOR CHILDREN

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, a statewide, multi-service agency that serves over 3,300 children and adults, has an immediate job opportunity in the Louisville area. The right candidate will provide administrative support to the Human Resources department, will perform tasks involving word processing of letters, memos and reports, assist with payroll processing, maintain office files, make copies and send faxes as needed, use various computer software including ADP, ABRA, Corel Wordperfect and Excel. Good oral and basic written communication ability and the ability to communicate effectively with the public and with co-workers. High school diploma or equivalent and two to five years related experience required.

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Vice President of Human Resources and Training
Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children
10801 Shelbyville Road
Louisville, KY 40243
Fax 502-244-3249

EOE

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Court overturns decision restricting student prayer

ATLANTA (RNS)—An appeals court has overturned a judge's ruling that restricted the right of students to pray and lead prayers in the public schools of DeKalb County, Ala.

In a 3-0 ruling, the U.S. 11th Circuit Court of Appeals ordered U.S. District Judge Ira DeMent to rewrite a portion of his 1997 ruling. "Permitting students to speak religiously signifies neither state approval or disapproval of that speech," the appeals court said.

But the Atlanta-based court did not throw out DeMent's restrictions against school officials leading religious activities, including prayers.

In the lawsuit, Michael Chandler, a former vice principal at the county's Valley Head High School, asked the court to end teacher-led devotionals, pre-game prayers at

sports events and distribution of Bibles at school by Gideons International.

Pamela Summers, an attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union which represented Chandler, said an appeal is likely. She said much of the ACLU's position was vindicated by the ruling, Associated Press reported.

"Schoolteachers still can't grab students and ask them to pray in a class, which is what they were doing in DeKalb County," she said.

But Attorney General Bill Pryor believes the decision was a sweeping triumph for the state. "This is a victory for all the schoolchildren in the public schools of our state, that they do not surrender their constitutional rights when they attend a public school in Alabama," Pryor said. "They do not surrender their religious faith and their religious beliefs."



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Busy summer

By Robert Dunston

The summer is half over now, but Cumberland College has not been a quiet place. Various activities have kept the campus hopping all summer.

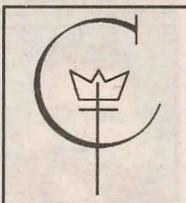
Sports camps are always popular during the summer as young people seek training to improve their skills. During the month of June, Cumberland coaches offered three camps for women's basketball (individual, team and one-day) and three camps for men's basketball (team, day camp and big man guard). July brought a focus on women's and men's soccer with a week-long camp for each. The first week in August brings a football camp.

The first major event of Cumberland College's summer was hosting Girls State, June 4-11. This has become an annual tradition at Cumberland, and we enjoy having this fine group on campus. July brought an Elderhostel to our campus with older adults attending classes taught by three of our faculty members. Two orientation sessions also were held to help new students acclimate themselves to the Cumberland campus.

While every event on Cumberland's campus provides an opportunity for a Christian witness, most of our summer events specifically focus

on celebrating and maturing in our Christian faith. Shortly after graduation, Cumberland hosted a Senior Adult Celebration, which drew people from around southeastern Kentucky. In late June, the Kentucky Baptist Convention All-State Choir and Orchestra assembled at Cumberland to practice and perform. Champions for Christ, sponsored by Binghamtown Baptist Church, used our facilities in mid-July, bringing and teaching the gospel to many young people. Our annual pastor, staff and family conference brought ministers and their families to campus for rest and reflection. July will end with Cumberland hosting Crosspoint II and August will begin with the Kentucky

CUMBERLAND
COLLEGE



WMU training conference. In the midst of all these events, Mountain Outreach and Appalachian Ministries worked all summer long, enriching the lives of many people in both physical and spiritual ways. Eight churches sent groups to work with Mountain Outreach in providing homes for families, and three churches sent groups to help Appalachian Ministries provide vacation Bible school to children in our area.

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

NATIONAL NOTES

■ Boston domestic partners law struck down. The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court has struck down Boston's domestic partnership law, saying it is prohibited by state law. The decision overturns an executive order issued by Mayor Thomas Menino last August that granted health benefits to unmarried partners of city employees and their dependents. The court based its decision on a 1955 state law that permits cities and towns to grant health insurance to municipal employees and their dependents. That law defines "dependents" as spouses and children.

■ Christian symbol "unconstitutional." A federal judge has ruled that the use of a Christian fish symbol on the city seal of Republic, Mo., is unconstitutional. Jean Webb, a former resident of the city, sued Republic in 1998 claiming that the symbol—known as an ichthus—created an uncomfortable environment for non-Christians and violated the separation of church and state. "While the purpose of placing the fish symbol on the city seal may not have been to endorse Christianity, the effect of the seal is to do so," ruled U.S. District Judge Russell Clark.

■ Conservative group links music & violence. Hard rock music is a "virus" in American culture that contributes to youth violence, charges a report released by Paul Weyrich's conservative think tank, the Free Congress Foundation. Eighteen religious leaders endorsed the report, including Southern Baptist Convention president Paige Patterson. The report does not endorse any specific action strategies, but "will provide a solid, factual basis for whatever approach concerned

parents and citizens wish to pursue to help America's youth," said its author, Thomas Jipping, director of the Free Congress Foundation's Center for Law and Democracy.

■ Disney workers to be disciplined. An onstage "Gay Day" performance by two Walt Disney World employees simulating homosexual sex acts will result in disciplinary action against the two men, according to a Disney spokesman quoted in the Orlando Sentinel. The two unnamed employees were videotaped with a night-vision camera by the president of the Christian Action Network, Martin Mawyer, who played the videotape during a news conference in Washington July 8. The performance occurred during the ninth annual gathering of homosexuals and lesbians at Disney World, June 4-5, which drew an estimated 100,000 participants.

■ Methodist decline continues to slow. The United Methodist Church's decades-long decline in membership continued to slow in 1998. The church lost 38,477 U.S. members for the year. The church's U.S. membership stands at 8.4 million. Membership figures have been sliding since the creation of the United Methodist Church in 1968, when the Methodists and Evangelical United Brethren merged. At that point, membership was 11 million. Despite the U.S. trend, the church rolls are growing elsewhere in the world. "We're clearly reaping the benefits of evangelism efforts and church growth work in the annual conferences that are reflecting growth," said Steve Zekoff, of the denomination's office in Evanston, Ill.

Quivers full of blessings

The psalmist tells us that children are valuable and "blessed is the man whose quiver is full" of such treasures. This truth was brought home to me at our recent foster care banquet in Louisville.

The foster parent who acted as emcee for the evening held up a crisp \$20 bill, gave it a snap and asked who wanted it. Naturally, we all raised our hands. She then took the bill and wadded it up. "Now who wants it?" Again, all hands raised. Then she dropped it on the floor and stomped on it repeatedly. When she picked it up she asked again who was interested. Of course, we all were.

"I knew I was among people who recognize the value of something beyond its appearance," she said with a smile.

I can't think of a better illustration for Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's ministry. Many of our kids come into care with bad grades, inappropriate language, poor personal hygiene and tendencies to hurt themselves and others. Neglect has made mysteries of such basic things as table manners, and abuse has created fearful, angry hearts.

Jesus saw value in prostitutes,

thieves, swindlers and a madman running naked in a cemetery. He saw beyond what they were to what they could be. God wouldn't have sacrificed his precious, perfect son for creatures without potential!

It is our job and our hope that through love, consistent discipline and creative therapy, the children in our care will uncover peace of mind and talents given to them by God. It is always exciting to see kids do new, positive things. It could be walking away from a fight at school; it might be writing an essay on the computer for the first time; it might be that first "A" on their report cards. All of these things are what you'd want for your own kids, and that's part of my point.

Our kids aren't much different from your kids. We all come to God empty-handed. As you pray for the kids under your roof, do the same for ours. That way all of us will have quivers full of blessings.

HOMES FOR
CHILDREN



Bill Smithwick

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

NATION

U.S. representatives vote 3-1 in favor of religious liberty act

WASHINGTON (RNS)—The Religious Liberty Protection Act passed by a 3-1 margin in the House of Representatives last week, with the support of a large coalition of religious leaders.

After two hours of debate, the measure passed by a vote of 306 to 118.

The bill, which was introduced by Rep. Charles Canady, R-Fla., aims to reinstate religious protections that were included in the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993.

That act was struck down in 1997 by the U.S. Supreme Court, which ruled that the act caused Congress to overstep its authority regarding states' rights.

The measure requires state and local governments to show a compelling reason—such as health or safety—and act in the least restrictive manner to legally infringe upon religious practices or beliefs. For example, land use regulations would have to treat religious institutions and assemblies on "equal terms" with nonreligious institutions or assemblies.

House members cited numerous examples of potential protections under the law, from Jewish children wearing yarmulkes in public schools to elderly Christian landlords choosing not to rent to unmarried couples.

More than 70 religious and civil rights groups—including the U.S. Catholic Conference, the National Council of Churches, the Christian Legal Society and the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism—had urged passage of the bill.

Groups often on opposite sides of political debates, such as the Christian Coalition and People for the American Way, agreed in supporting the measure.

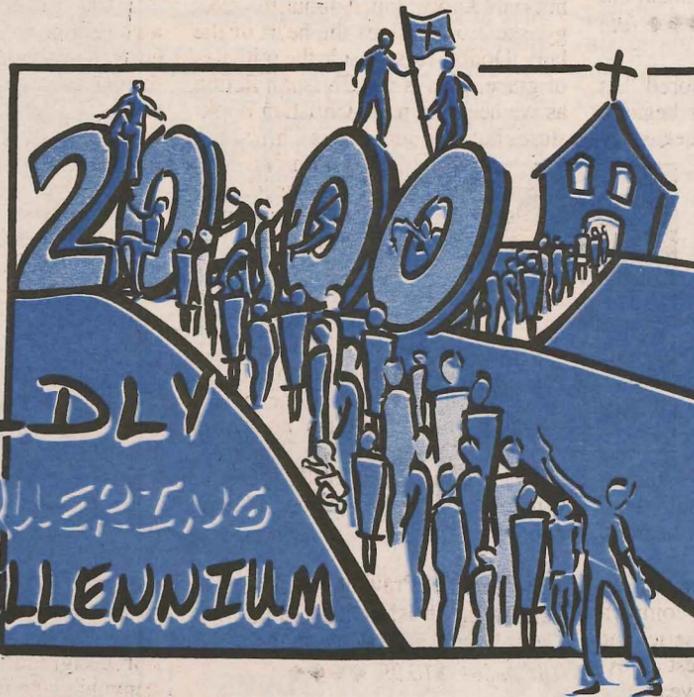
The U.S. Senate has yet to consider the bill, however President Bill Clinton has strongly supported the measure.

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.

Brochures have been mailed! Phone 1-888-254-5710 or (502) 245-4101 x227 if you have not received one.

Real funny

Meet humorist Liz Curtis Higgs in the summer issue of Real Life magazine

Thanks again, Kentucky Baptists

The annual Barkley Moore Father's Day Offering has come and gone. Each year several staff and I work for months preparing the materials to be mailed to all Kentucky Baptist churches.

A great deal of time is spent each year choosing the offering theme. Last year our theme was "New Beginnings." The idea we wanted to get across to all our friends was that Oneida is a place of new beginnings, where students can start over and put the past behind them. This year, our theme was "A Century of Ministry" in honor of our 100th birthday.

Our main goal each year is to inform Kentucky Baptists of the opportunities available at Oneida. In most churches across the state there is someone who knows of a boy or girl who could benefit from the ministry Oneida provides. Often it is a student right in the church family. I was introduced to Oneida Baptist Institute through my Sunday school teacher and some deacons in my church. As a young person, I certainly did not see the needs in my life as those caring and concerned adults did.

There are such young people in your community who may or may not attend your church. A teenager may need the structure and discipline Oneida offers or the opportunity to be in a more caring and nurturing environment. There might be a friend at work who has a child or grandchild who is experiencing some difficulty. The most common reason young people come to Oneida is because of academic problems. Our smaller classes and tutoring lab are often the keys to helping a student who is struggling with grades.

We also want to reach grandparents. Often a grandparent has a grandchild who is experiencing personal challenges. An informed grandparent can

be the catalyst to link that child with Oneida.

As you can see, our primary goal is to keep Kentucky Baptists informed of Oneida and her ministry. It is our sincere desire to reach young people who could benefit from the opportunities and structure Oneida provides.

There is, of course, a second reason for the annual offering: operating funds. Kentucky Baptists have always been very generous to OBI. Without the support of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, individual Kentucky Baptists and others, Sunday school classes, Brotherhoods, Women On Mission and a host of churches, Oneida would not have celebrated "A Century of Ministry." One of the most humbling experiences I have nearly every day is to be aware of the financial and prayer support of Kentucky Baptists.

Each year some churches participate in the Father's Day Offering for the first time. It's gratifying to know that additional churches become interested in the offering and believe Oneida is worthy of their support. It is also encouraging to see the offering from the individual churches grow each year.

A portion of the offering is used to provide scholarships for students who cannot afford the modest fees we charge. It also provides money to purchase materials for the hundreds of volunteers who come to help each year. The volunteer projects range from preventive maintenance and improvements in existing facilities to the building of new structures. Thank you, Kentucky Baptists for making this ministry possible.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Clear Creek colporteur in Russia

Many of our grandparents knew the ministry of a colporteur who sold and distributed books in the age before television. Mobility, catalogs and huge bookstores virtually eliminated the colporteur.

Professor Bill Pfoff didn't sell anything, but he fulfilled that job during his recent sabbatical in Russia, thanks to the gifts of American Christians and the personal generosity of him and his wife Loretta. Friends contributed to purchase 4,496 Bibles for distribution in the Russian state of Novgorod; four other states received 5,000 copies. Pfoff gave Bibles to believers in many churches and to a military preparedness class at the University of Novgorod. On Jan. 27, he gave Bibles to taxi drivers, postal workers and gift shop workers he encountered in the city. While with the Novgorod church teaching in the pastor/church planter school, he gave Bibles to individuals shoveling snow around the apartment where he lived.

Student pastors received Bible charts, chronological charts of the Bible and three booklets related to creation. Pastor Anatomy Korabel of the Novgorod Christian Evangelical (Baptist) Church oversees a growing number of pastors in his state and is leading the church to establish 40

new churches. A 13-volume pastor/teacher library was presented to 31 pastors, deacons and teachers from the region at a May 10 celebration. The library set included a Bible dictionary, a concordance, a study Bible with commentary, Bible atlas, a book on Christian theology and other materials.

The Children's Hospital of St. Petersburg has 900 resident children in 22 different specialty clinics. The Pfoffs took a small gift of much-needed non-prescription drugs and medical supplies. They were permitted to visit the neurological clinic and gave 36 children's books and a power bracelet for each child. "The director of nursing asked if we would like to put a children's Christian library in each clinic of the hospital; our

response was that we would furnish them," Pfoff stated. The first week of April the Pfoffs personally installed three of the libraries in the kidney, heart and primary triage clinics. Each set contained 11 books including Bibles for kindergarten, young children and adults. Fifty of these libraries also went to Novgorod for the orphanage and children's hospital.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

BOOKS

At Home in Mitford (and four other books in "The Mitford Years" series). Jan Karon. Penguin Books, 1994-1999. Approximately 350-450 pages. Priced from \$11.95 (paperback) to \$24.95 (hardback). Also available in cassette and large print. ♦♦♦♦♦ (out of five)

In 1994 Jan Karon authored "At Home in Mitford," and thus began a delightfully entertaining series of books about small town America. The stories in all five books revolve around Episcopal priest Father Tim, who resides in Mitford, N.C., and is surrounded by memorable hometown characters.

These books have taken the publishing world by storm and have developed a very devoted readership, especially among women. Yet, the author's name is not a household word and many people have never heard of the author or her books.

But these book jewels are not just women's books. I have now completed the first two books of the series and rate them as some of the best enjoyment reading I have had in years.

Father Tim is portrayed as a real human being, with a clear calling to ministry. Over and over again I see myself, or situations I've been involved in or witnessed, portrayed in the pages of the novels. It is all here: the parishioners you love and the ones who challenge your faith in God.

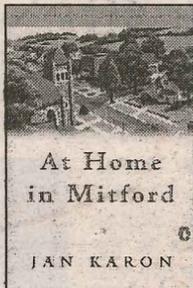
After reading the first book I felt as if I knew Mitford as my own hometown. The stories are warm, fully developed and full of humor and drama. I could not wait to read the second

book and now anxiously await my wife completing the third book so I can read it.

Active Christian faith plays a huge role in these books and is portrayed with respect and reality. The author not only knows much about the clergy, she also captures the heart of the laity. Doubts exist beside the miracles of grace. This is not Christian fiction as we see it in most Christian bookstores but literature that is Christian. I heartily recommend you get started on your journey to Mitford with this masterful Christian storyteller.

These books would be a welcome durable addition to any church library, as the hardcover edition of each book is still available. In addition to "At Home in Mitford," the other books are "A Light in the Window,"

"These High, Green Hills," "Out to Canann" and "A New Song." Wayne Hager



The Power of Praying Together: Experiencing Christ Actively in Charge. Oliver Price. Kregel Publications, 1999. 187 pages. \$10.99. ♦♦♦♦♦

Oliver Price is concerned that for many church members, their faith commitment to Jesus Christ is superficial. This lack of depth leads to the spiritual lethargy of most churches. His antidote to this condition is not another program but the development of communal prayer.

Price acknowledges that polls show a majority of church members admit to praying regularly. At the same time, he contends that while "private prayer is necessary ... we also

need to pray with others, striving to unite under the headship of Christ and his shepherd care. Praying with others in his presence under his active leadership is also necessary."

Indeed Price carries his argument one step further. Prayer is not one among many activities that should occupy the church's attention. Prayer is the central activity of the church. He writes, "The church began not as a preaching service with a small prayer meeting (Acts 1:14); rather the church was a prayer meeting."

Using Matthew 18:19-20 as his base, Price challenges churches and church leaders to build a common life of prayer centered around agreement to what he calls four basic truths: the need to claim the presence of Christ; the need to "trust Christ to take charge of us;" praying means we are willing for Christ to change each of us; and in praying we are willing for God to bring us into harmony with God and each other.

I found the book a serious challenge to the practice of praying in most of our congregations and a convincing argument for building our churches on the foundation of prayer. Jim Holladay

What Happens When Husbands and Wives Pray Together. Carey Moore and Pamela Rosewell Moore. Spire Books, 1999. 205 pages. \$5.99. ♦♦♦♦♦

In a "he writes/she writes" format, Carey and Pam Moore tell their story of how they developed a couple's prayer life and why they believe doing so is important for every marriage.

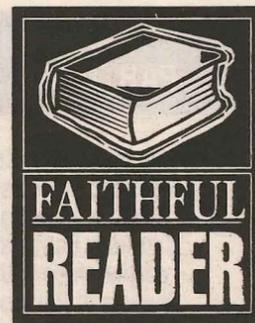


Previously published under the title "If Two Shall Agree: Praying Together as a Couple," this book attempts not only to convince married couples of the need to develop a regular pattern of praying together, but to offer help in how to get started and how to construct the prayer time.

The Moores admit that their book is not a complete theology of prayer, nor does it deal in depth with every aspect of prayer. At the same time they do manage to touch on most of the major issues related to prayer, especially praying with another person. They define prayer as "... knowing about God and coming into his presence."

In an interesting twist, before jumping into a discussion of why couples should pray together, the Moores discuss the various reasons why couples do not pray together. In that chapter, they tackle not only the safe excuses ("We don't have time"), but the difficult ones as well. They contend couples should not let a lack of intimacy nor a realization that the two are not at the same place spiritually stop them from developing a couple's prayer life. In fact they state that prayer will lead to a strengthening of communication and a deepening of intimacy.

After addressing the hindrances to praying together, they move on to offer eight reasons why couples should develop a common prayer time, as well as practical suggestions out of their experience for structuring prayer as a couple. Pastors might find this a useful tool in their pre-marital and marital counseling work. 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

West Kentucky pastor publishes book on Y2K

By Pat Cole
Staff Writer

MAYFIELD—A West Kentucky pastor has written a book aimed at explaining the Y2K computer bug to people unfamiliar with technical jargon.

"A lot of books I saw were for the computer person," said Rick Reeder, author of "The Year 2000: Trouble Ahead?"

"It explains what the problem is and how it can affect you," he said.

Reeder, interim pastor of East Hickman Baptist Church in Hickman, is a private school science teacher with a longstanding interest in technology issues.

He had the book self-published in late 1998 and has been making the rounds speaking about Y2K among churches, civic clubs and business groups.

In the book, Reeder explains the basic cause of the problem—date-sensitive computer programs that include just two digits to identify the year. If left unadjusted, these programs will experience major glitches when the calendar changes from 12-31-99 to 1-1-00. Many specialists have predicted worldwide problems with utilities, communications, transportation and financial services.

Reeder quotes political and corporate leaders who describe the seriousness of the Y2K situation.

In an interview, he acknowledged that since gathering information for the book, many leaders from crucial industries have given assurances their companies are prepared to face Y2K. But while the level of preparedness might be improving, Reeder said people should evaluate statements about Y2K readiness carefully.

If a company claims to be "Y2K compliant" the company is saying system updates have been tested and implemented, Reeder said. But a claim of "Y2K ready" is a way to avoid the term "compliant" and might mean the company simply has a contingency plan should its systems fail, he noted.

"I am absolutely not an alarmist or doomsayer, but I am a realist," Reeder said. "I like to verify my information with two or more sources, make calls about questionable claims and find practical information people can use."

People should check the Y2K readiness of utilities, banks, fire departments, police departments and other essential service providers, Reeder advised.

If an organization states it is Y2K compliant, he suggested customers ask whether personnel working on Y2K have been reassigned or let go and whether the entity's Y2K budget had been completely spent. "If they are going to spend more money, they still have work to do," Reeder recommended

families prepare for Y2K by:

- Securing copies of important documents such as Social Security records, pension fund statements and bank statements.
- Storing bottled water, food and medicine.
- Arranging for alternative sources for heat and lights.
- Keeping adequate cash on hand.
- Informing themselves about Y2K.

Reeder is reluctant to specify how many days worth of food, water, medicine and cash families should stockpile. Recommendations, he said, usually range from three days to several weeks.

For those who have made no provisions for Y2K, Reeder advised they begin with three days of supplies and then stay informed about Y2K. Y2K preparations should begin well before the end of the year to avoid long lines and shortages created by a last-minute scramble to get ready, he said.

In contrast to some ministers who speak and write about Y2K, Reeder does not connect Y2K to end-time issues. Nevertheless, he included an evangelistic appeal at the end of his book.

Y2K "is a real-life object lesson in that it is in our nature to put off what we ought to do, and the most important thing we ought to do is to know Christ as Savior," Reeder said.

Reeder's book, which sells for \$9.95, can be obtained on-line from Amazon.com, by calling Reeder at (502) 247-9683 or by e-mailing him at freedomw@apex.com.



'Purified' Bible: Jesus turned water into juice, not wine

GLENSIDE, Pa. (ABP)—Jesus' first miracle was turning water into grape juice—not wine—according to a new translation of the Gospel of John.

Most translations of the second chapter of John report that Jesus miraculously turned water into wine at the wedding feast in Cana. But "The Holy Bible, A Purified Translation, The Gospel According to John" states in John 2:9 that the master of the wedding feast "tasted the water that had become grape juice."

Footnotes to the translation state the Greek word usually translated "wine" in John 2 is "neutral as to alcoholic content." They also state that Proverbs 23:31 forbids the consumption of alcohol, and Jesus therefore could not have created alcoholic wine.

Andrew Wakefield, professor of New Testament at Campbell University Divinity School in North Carolina, examined the translation's introduction and its rendering of John 2. He said it is, overall, not a bad translation, but he took issue with a few parts.

Wakefield said he is uncomfortable with translating Scripture after deciding what it means, as he said the translation seems to do with its stance on alcohol.

Wakefield said he is not against promoting the abstinence of alcohol, but that he believes there are more responsible ways to present that message. "I just disagree with the methodology."

He disagreed that the Greek word translated as "wine" in John 2 is neutral. He said the word usually—but not always—means fermented wine. A different word in Greek, meanwhile, specifically denotes unfermented wine, he said. Wakefield also said the focus of Proverbs 23 is overindulgence, not abstinence.

PEOPLE

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Give thanks for the successful "Life Challenge Africa Seminar" sponsored by the Fellowship of Great Commission Christians in Tanzania in late May. Missionaries report they met the goal of helping participants learn how to share the gospel with Muslims.

■ Dan and Peggy Rorabaugh as they work with the Babati people group in Tanzania.

■ Missionary journeyman Melody Regains as she completes her term in Poland and moves back to the States.

■ The Thursday night Bible studies led by missionaries Doug and Marcy Shaw in Rzeszow, Poland.

■ Church planter Mike Beckner and Hope Baptist Church on Cape Cod in South Dennis, Mass.

■ Ignatius Meimaris, director of missions for Greater Boston Baptist Association.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Shirley Wooton

■ **CALIFORNIA**—Keith Blair resigned June 1 from First Twelve Mile Church to become chaplain for Baptist Life Services.

■ **JAMESTOWN**—Patrick Butcher resigned as youth minister from Welfare Church, effective July 25. John Routh is pastor.

■ **LACENTER**—Ohio Valley Church called Don Pippin as pastor. He has served as interim since January.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Parkway Church called Steve Ellis as pastor. He was pastor of Mt. Moriah Church in Boston and recently completed his master of divinity degree from Southern Seminary.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Kelly Stanley resigned as pastor of Deer Park Church effective July 24. Stanley has accepted the pastorate of Southside Church in Wilmington, N.C.

Highland Church called Michael Harper as pastor of students, missions and seniors, beginning Aug. 1. Harper is a native of Houston and has a master of theology degree from Princeton Theological Seminary. Joe Phelps is pastor.

John Mitchell accepted the administrative coordinator position with Passport Inc., a youth mission camping ministry. Mitchell, a graduate of Southern Seminary and Carson-Newman College, previously served as minister of

youth and children at First Church, Shelbyville.

Third Avenue Church will host David Livingston in concert July 25, during its 10:50 a.m. service.

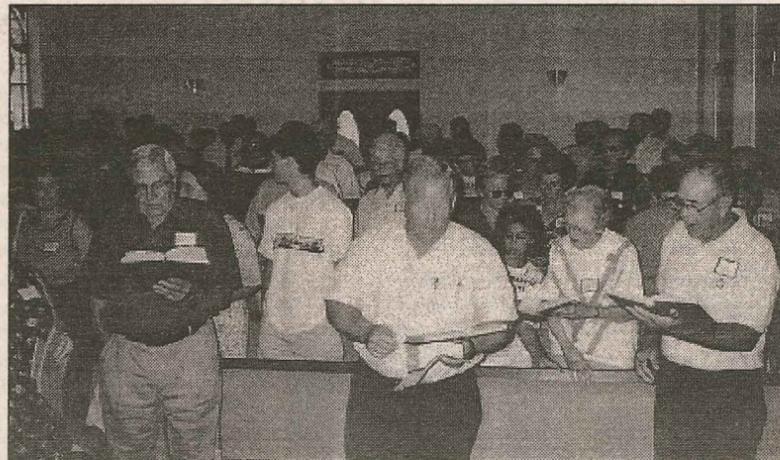
Alec Cort resigned as minister of youth at Valley Station Church to accept a position with Tulip Grove Church in Nashville. Don Zuberer is pastor at Valley Station.

■ **MORNING VIEW**—Troy Willis, a music performance major at Cumberland College, has a solo music ministry and is available for meetings or services. For information, call (606) 356-8882.

■ **PADUCAH**—Paducah First Church called Ross Robinson of West Columbia, S.C., as minister of education. Kevin McCallon is pastor.

Trinity Church celebrated its 65th anniversary June 27. Former pastor Fred Richardson delivered the message. Several people who have been members for more than 50 years were present. Kenneth Brown is pastor.

Ronnie Adams, former pastor of Twelfth Street Church, and his wife, Freida, have returned to Venezuela as church planters. They are seeking 3,000 prayer partners. For information, call West Union Association, (502) 554-5717, or Twelfth Street Church, (502) 442-2764.



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

■ **Above:** As Oneida Baptist Institute celebrated its 100th anniversary, Oneida Baptist Church celebrated 50 years in its current building. A worship service was held at the church during the dual celebration. On the front row are three pastors of the church, (from left) Eugene Hamilton (1957-60), Steve Crumpler (1997-present) and Clyde Shackleford (1970-1974). ■ **Middle:** Oneida Institute alumna and Kentucky Baptist Convention President Charles Barnes spoke at the school's celebration. "Oneida is still true to its purpose, true to its calling, ... 'Education for time and eternity,'" he said. ■ **Below:** Hannah Klinger sits patiently while Laura Palmieri paints her face during the celebration. (Oneida photos by Denise Spencer)



CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Full-time minister of music who has experience as a minister, planning and leading congregational singing, choirs, orchestra and handbells; supervise music leaders as well as music library and equipment. We have a more traditional worship style with additional praise/worship style services throughout the year. Pray, then if you feel God may be leading you to us, please send resumé (including references, letters of recommendation and a personal statement) to: First Baptist Church, 1516 Midland Trail, Shelbyville, KY 40065, Attn: Minister of Music Search Committee.

FOR SALE: Kurzweil PC88MX keyboard. 88 keys; General MIDI; expanded VGM board; 64-note polyphony; \$1,600. Also, Crate amplifier; three channels; reverb; four inputs; balanced line out; equalizer; \$300. Both like new. (270) 886-0291.

SEEKING: Part-time minister to college students. Rich Pond Baptist Church. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, 200 Brad Ave., Bowling Green, KY 42104.

SEEKING: Full-time minister to youth and children in a large Baptist church. Please mail resumé to: Lisa Yancey, 1516 Midland Trail, Shelbyville, KY 40065, or call (502) 633-0671.

FOR SALE: New PA system; used one month for church backup. \$300. Call: (606) 464-2000.

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: Bayless Baptist Church, St. Louis, is accepting resumé for a senior pastor. An experienced pastor skilled in preaching, evangelism and church growth is required. Resumé to: Pastor Search, 8512 Morganford, St. Louis, MO 63123; <http://www.geocities.com/~bayless/>.

FOR SALE: 26 solid oak pews, nine chairs, communion table and pulpit. Very good condition. Asking \$4,500. Please call (502) 737-6645.

SEEKING: Full-time worship leader to guide the overall music program and lead worship services—both contemporary and traditional styles. Send resumé to: Lake Shore Baptist Church, 4613 Mountain Road, Pasadena, MD 21122, Attn: Boyd Frank. Fax: (410) 255-3645; e-mail: Lake.Shore@cwix.com.

SEEKING: Pastor. We will be accepting resumé until Aug. 15, 1999. Any interested pastor may send a resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church, PO Box 220, Loyall, KY 40854. If there should be any questions, call Chairman Jay Whitaker at (606) 573-5238.

SEEKING: Resumé are now being accepted for a full-time position as pastor's secretary. Please send resumé to Shively Baptist, 1599 Sadie Lane, Louisville, KY 40216, Attn: Pastor.

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: Part-time youth minister. Work with grades 6-12. Contact or send resumé to: Youth Minister Search Committee, Bethel Baptist Church, 8200 Owenton Road, Frankfort, KY 40601. Leave message: (502) 227-7278.

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

SEEKING: 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: Full-time pastor for Frenchburg Baptist Church, Frenchburg, Ky. Please send resumé to: James Ligon, HCR 66, PO Box 90, Wellington, KY 40387.

FOR SALE: Beautiful, one-owner church bus. 1976 GMC motorcoach, low mileage, 8V-71 Detroit Diesel, Allison automatic, 39-passenger, excellent AC, large luggage capacity, reclining seats and restroom. The bus is inexpensive to maintain and ready for travel. Asking \$49,500. Also have other GMC, MCI and Eagle coaches available. Can be seen at Northside RVs (North Broadway) in Lexington. For more information, call (606) 299-8386 or (606) 278-7224.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for First Twelve Mile Baptist Church, California, Ky. (eight miles south of Alexandria). Send resumé to Linda Winkler, 8 Raintree Drive, Melbourne, KY 41059-9612.

SEEKING: Part-time music minister (Sunday only). Salary plus housing. Send resumé to: New Bethel Baptist Church, Rt. 2, Box 155A, Hardinsburg, KY 40143, or call (502) 756-5980.

SEEKING: Full-time youth/recreation minister. Seminary graduate. First Baptist Church, 106 West Oak, West Frankfort, IL 62896. (618) 932-2105.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Brandenburg, Ky., is seeking a bivocational or part-time minister of children and youth. Send resumé with photo and references to: First Baptist Church, PO Box 488, Brandenburg, KY 40108, Attn: Katherine Smith. For more information, call (270) 422-3355.

FREE: Weber upright piano (re-finished and reconditioned about 20 years ago). We need to get rid of it and will give it free of charge to a church if it is picked up (Murray, Ky.) by July 20 if possible. (270) 753-0126.

SEEKING: Part-time receptionist for a counseling center; hourly rate of \$9 for a 25-hour work week. Start date is Aug. 15. Please send resumé to: Dr. E.R. Milazzotto, SMPCC, 3515 Grandview Ave., Louisville, KY 40207.

SEEKING: Director of corporate marketing and sales. Ground-level opportunity for exciting sports ministry. Responsible for developing, implementing and maintaining sponsorship packages. Must have a love for spreading the gospel and for sports. Related education or experience required. Commission-based. Work out of own home. Send resumé: Sports Reach, PO Box 4002, Campbellsville, KY 42719.

PEOPLE

Ministry to homeless helps revitalize congregation

BALTIMORE (BP)—A line of 100 men winds around Riverside Baptist Church in Baltimore every Sunday morning, long before members begin filing in for morning worship.

The men arrive seeking food, fellowship and, in the winter, warmth. They're homeless and on Sunday mornings the church is their haven.

William Kopp, pastor of the church, began the homeless ministry on Thanksgiving in 1996. Kopp said he noticed the homeless gathering in a park across the street. He, his wife, Carol, and other members began taking doughnuts and juice out to the park on Sundays.

At first no one would take the food, but then a few people started showing up.

When the weather turned colder, the ministry moved into the church.

"My wife decided that perhaps we could pack a bag lunch. We got about 10 or 12, then it started growing, and it kept growing and growing," Kopp said.

"Now we're running approximately 100 men every Sunday morning for breakfast, and we still provide the bag lunch."

For three Sundays the men get muffins, cakes, breads, toast, boiled eggs, grits, oatmeal and coffee. Once a month, they get scrambled eggs and sausage.

"The Lord has done some wonderful things," Kopp said. "It has really been amazing. We started out with about eight to 10 men. When 20 came, we didn't think we could handle it—then 40 came. Every time we thought we had more people than we could handle, we always had enough food. We've never run out—just like the loaves and fishes.

"If I had told my people two years ago we would be spending about \$6,000 a quarter to feed a bunch of homeless guys, they would have thought I was nuts."

Kopp said the downtown church in South Baltimore has had a homeless population for a long time. "When we

started, everyone thought it would last a couple weeks ... but it's something that has literally transformed the entire church."

Ironically, the church previously had difficulty making its budget before getting involved in the ministry, Kopp said. "We weren't making it, and we had to cut it. Now we're spending money on the program and more than meeting our budget," he said. "The mission breakfast is over and above the budget. We've also broken our Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong mission goals. It's made a major difference in the life of the church."

The ministry didn't stop at breakfast and lunch, he said. Kopp leads a Bible study for the men on Sunday mornings. About 40 show up and the class had to move out of the biggest classroom and into the sanctuary.

"Our original concept was we were going to feed, not preach to, them. We started at the park, giving them muffins and coffee and talking about everything—but Jesus. They got to trust us.

Then they'd come to us with a struggle they were going through and we would share with them. After six or seven months we gave them the opportunity to study Scripture. I told them, 'We're going to have a Bible study. Anyone who wants to stay can stay.'"

Kopp said that as a result of the program so far, they've had six professions of faith and four have joined the church.

"That may not sound like a whole lot, but it's something," Kopp said. "We had one gentleman who was divorced and estranged from his wife. After a year and a half he was baptized. He went back and reconciled with his wife and moved to another state with her.

"Quite a few have gone into drug rehab programs and turned their life around," Kopp added. "It's one thing to go into a 30-day program for a couple months, but you don't know what the long-term process is. A couple of men have been going nine to 14 months drug-free or sober. That's substantial."

"If I had told my people two years ago we would be spending about \$6,000 a quarter to feed a bunch of homeless guys, they would have thought I was nuts."

William Kopp, pastor of Riverside Baptist Church in Baltimore

Scarce land forces Amish from farming to tourism

By Marcia Pledger
Religion News Service

WILMOT, Ohio (RNS)—For more than four decades Abe Keim raised his family and ran a 91-acre farm and woodworking shop following the tradition of his Amish ancestors in this agricultural community in the northeastern part of the state.

Now the 73-year-old Old Order Amish man manages the Wooden Toy Shop in Amish Door Village, a sprawling complex of shops, a 50-room hotel, a restaurant and a banquet room.

Keim said he never dreamed he'd operate a retail store, or that so many Amish people would work alongside non-Amish people in such developments.

Tourism is driving the economy in Wilmot and nearby towns in what is commonly known as Amish Country. The area's 50,000 Amish people make up the world's largest Amish community.

The influx of restaurants, bed-and-breakfast inns and antique, craft and furniture shops is changing the way many Amish make a living.

Keim and others are uneasily watching their rural agricultural world shift from a farming community to a commercial setting that even includes a few fast-food restaurants. Although farming is still the biggest industry in Amish Country, tourism is rising.

"We used to stress trying to keep our people on farms, but it's just not enough land unless some of them move out," said Keim, standing behind a cash register surrounded by wooden toys.

Amish families are turning to tourism to generate money to feed and shelter large families, primarily because undeveloped land for farming is scarce and expensive. Keim, for example, has 11 children and "81 or 82 grandchildren."

More land than ever is being used for new homes, small businesses and major tourism projects. Large retail developments throughout Amish Country are generally operated by non-Amish people who have Amish roots.



AMISH WARES Tourists inspect a quilt at an Ohio Amish crafts store. The influx of restaurants, bed-and-breakfast inns and antique, craft and furniture shops is changing the way many Amish make a living. (RNS photo)

In the last 15 years, at least 200 shops have opened in Holmes, Tuscarawas and Wayne counties. The businesses include small woodworking shops throughout the countryside.

The business owners must perform a delicate balancing act. They are trying to attract business by advertising all things Amish while seeking to respect the culture and customs of the Amish people.

"You'll never see a place owned by an Amish person that says the word Amish out front," said Red Lichteberger, owner of Alpenstock gift shop and embroidery in Wilmot. "It's not permitted. Amish people benefit from tourism too, but it can be overkill."

Most of the Amish forefathers come from Germany and Switzerland. Religious persecution drove many people from their homes, and hundreds immigrated to the United States around 1730. Amish people believe the Bible teaches a life of simplicity and a distinct separation between the church and the world. They've chosen to refrain from technology and other cultural changes in an effort to maintain cohesive family structures and stay true to their faith.

That simple lifestyle is an attraction for the increasing numbers of tourists who drive throughout scenic open farmland and green rolling hills while gawking at Amish people riding alongside in horse-drawn buggies. A lot of tourists come to the quiet area to relax, shop and eat the large portions of Amish-style meals.

But a growing number of tourists are heading to the Mennonite Information Center to learn more about the Amish and Mennonites, who have the same religious origins. Housed in the center is a 265-foot-long mural of Amish and Mennonite history by Heinz Gaugel. The information center got about 25,000 visitors last year, up from 16,000 when it opened in 1990.

One thing tourists learn at the center is that Amish people are serious about their desire to live their lives according to their strict biblical interpretation. That's one reason it's difficult to find a restaurant or shop to visit on Sunday, when about 95 percent of Amish Country is closed. On Sundays, Amish people worship and rest, so the few restaurants that remain open are staffed by non-Amish or "English" people.

Every painting is a new chance to share Christ for street artist

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (BP)—In New York City and other places where street eccentricity is common, Bob Adams likely wouldn't rate a raised eyebrow.

But when he sets up his easel on a busy corner in downtown Montgomery, Ala., the 46-year-old street artist becomes a magnet of intrigue and fascination. And that, said Adams, is precisely the plan.

"Just because I like to paint doesn't mean that others will want to see my work," he said. "However, when I work right under their noses, they have to see it. I don't give them a choice."

Actually, Adams, a member of Montgomery's First Baptist Church since 1991, is a bit unusual even for a street artist—he's a gospel artist. Although he produces an occasional secular work for pay, the great majority of Adams' renderings are Bible-related. His painting, he explained matter-of-factly, is the ministry God has given him.

"The Lord has blessed me with a talent which he is allowing me to use for his glory," Adams said. "Painting on the street has given me the opportunity to present the gospel in a non-intimidating, non-threatening way."

Adams said strangers approach him, not vice versa. "People are naturally curious about what I'm doing. They stop, take a look, ask about the painting I'm working on and, next thing you know, I've put my brush down and we're talking about Jesus' desire to save them."

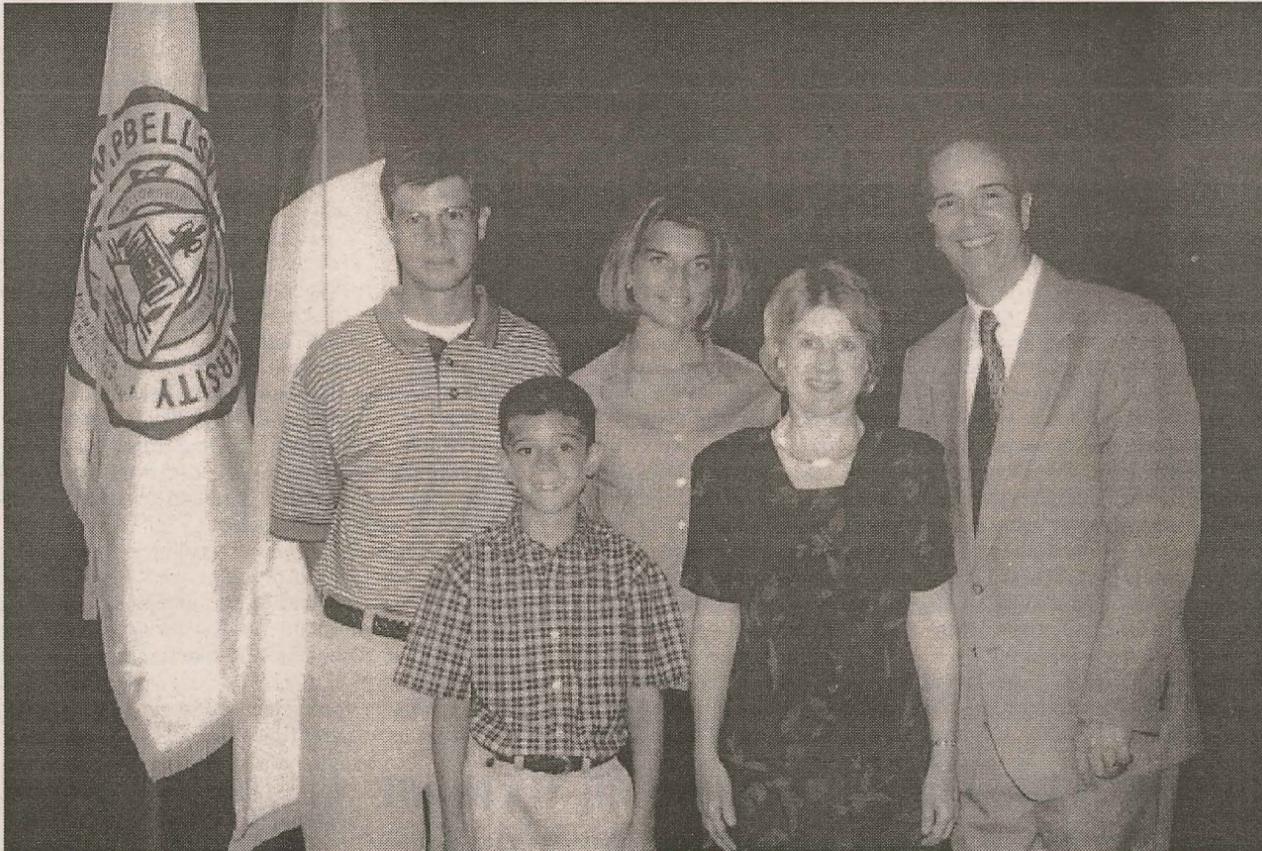
Fellow Christians often stop by, and "that's always a tremendous lift," he noted.

"For the most part, reaction to my work has been extremely favorable," Adams said. "There has been very little negative (reaction). No one has ever told me to pack up and move on or anything like that—just the opposite, in fact. When I've been at a certain location for a while, I start to see a lot of familiar faces. There are a lot of waves and smiles. It's a really good feeling."

In addition to his street art, Adams lends his talent to various First Baptist ministries, including mission trips to Kenya and Ecuador in recent years. To enhance communication, Adams painted Bible characters and scenes in accordance with local customs.

During one trip, natives waited under an acacia tree to be treated by a doctor, who worked in the shade of a second acacia tree. Adams seized the opportunity to share—through his paintings—the Christian faith with those in the waiting area. He recalled with humility that the art was used to help reach hundreds with the message about Jesus Christ, and a number of them baptized in the local river.

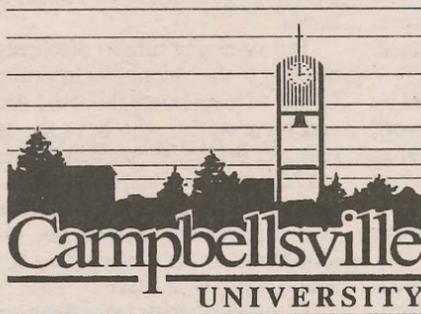
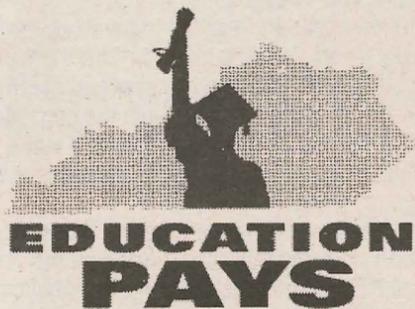
A new president is aboard ...



Campbellsville University's faculty, staff, alumni and friends welcome Dr. Michael V. Carter as the university's 10th president.

Dr. Carter comes to Campbellsville from Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn., where he served as academic vice president and provost.

We're glad to have him, First Lady Debbie, and children, Eric, Alicia and Wesley, in Campbellsville.



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