



# WESTERN RECORDER

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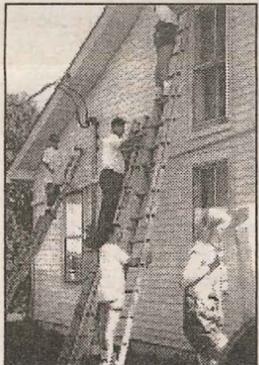
## FOR THE RECORD

**Help wanted**  
The Southern Baptist International Mission Board is looking for more African-American recruits. *Page 2.*

**Kosovo relief**  
With cold weather coming, Southern Baptists want to literally blanket Kosovo with love. *Page 2.*

**Campbellsville & counseling**  
Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children has linked with area churches to place a Cornerstone Counseling office in Campbellsville. *Page 3.*

**Editorial**  
Midwestern trustees model biblical grace. *Page 5.*



**This is camp?**  
Kentucky Baptist youth camp organizers offered a different kind of camp for the last week of their season. Also, attendance and spiritual decisions increased this summer at Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek. *Page 6.*

**Nation**  
Boy Scouts plan to appeal a ruling that forbids them to ban homosexuals. *Page 11.*

## 'What would happen if we all began to pray for our neighbors?'

By Adelle Banks  
*Religion News Service*

PUYALLUP, Wash. (RNS)—Linda Woerman and Carolyn Nelson sat side by side at Woerman's kitchen table, hands folded in prayer, ignoring the ringing telephone.

Every week, they spend an hour together praying for the needs of their neighbors—the guy recovering from heart surgery who must give up pizza and beer, the children who play near a busy street, the man around the corner who uses a wheelchair.

"Father, you know the needs that are in this neighborhood," prayed Woerman. "I pray, Lord, for the hearts of members of the households, Lord, that their hearts will be open and turn toward you."

Woerman, a conservative Lutheran, and Nelson, a Southern Baptist, are part of the "Lighthouse Movement" that has reached pockets of the country and that evangelical Christians predict will sweep the nation with a wide swath of prayer.

In the end, they hope these groups of two or more gathering regularly for prayer will prompt a form of evangelism that turns neighborhoods into mission fields.

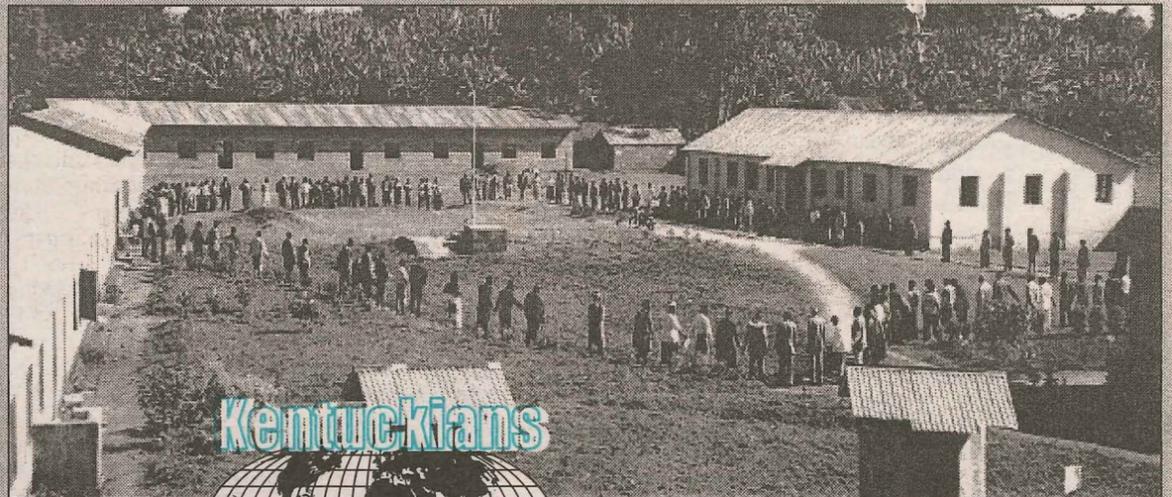
"Many Christians are shy about sharing their faith," said Paul Cedar, chairman of the Lighthouse Movement and of Mission America, a Minneapolis-based consortium of about 400 evangelical groups. "What we're saying is don't worry about that. Just start praying for neighbors. ... As you begin to pray, God will open up authentic opportunities ... to care for them."

Houses of Prayer Everywhere, a Grand Rapids, Mich.-based ministry, sends out "Houses of Prayer Personal Lighthouse Kits" to inquiring Christians interested in participating. The kits, which cost \$69.95 for churches and \$25.95 for individuals, include lighthouse decals with the words "Prayer-Care-Share" on them, pamphlets and devotional guides on how to get started, and a 34-minute introductory video.

"What would happen if we all began to pray for our neighbors and our neighborhoods?" Alvin Vander Griend, the ministry's executive director, asks of his video audience. "We'd have cities in transformation, churches that were revived, streams of people coming to Jesus Christ."

Woerman, 50, a part-time  
□ See *Christians praying ...*, page 12

## Worldwide impact



Kentuckians

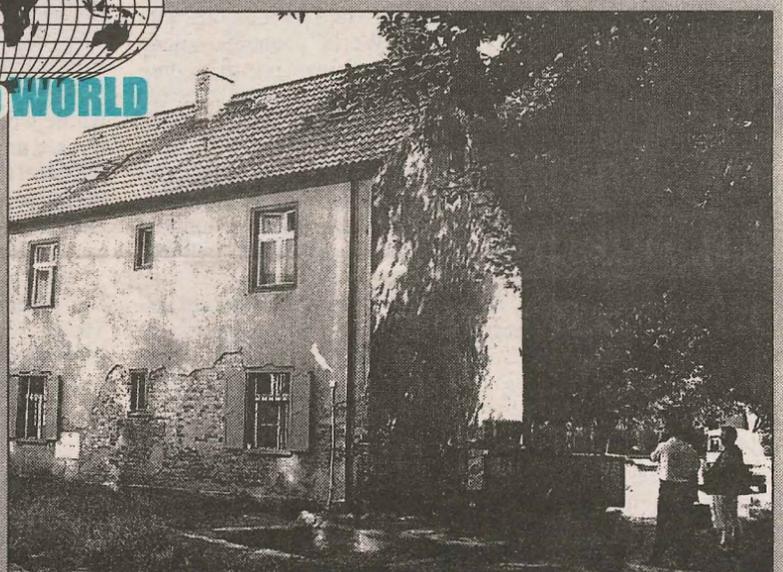


Kentucky Baptists have been busy this summer.

From evangelism training in Tukuyu, Tanzania (above), to renovation work at churches in Olawa, Poland (right), volunteers have traveled the globe to help share the gospel.

And their work hasn't been limited to the two countries where they have three-year partnerships. Three generations of a Stanford family recently served in Honduras and Bosnia.

Meanwhile, several Kentuckians discovered that all work and no play leaves children with nothing to do. In war-torn Sarajevo and in Poland, Kentucky volunteers helped local Baptists make a positive impression on kids by building playground equipment. *Stories on pages 8-10.*



## Does your church leave baby Christians behind?

By James Dotson  
*SBC North American Mission Board*

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)—New Christians need immediate follow up the same way newborn babies need neonatal care, according to an evangelism specialist with the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board.

"Wouldn't it be something if you saw your little baby in the hospital nursery and you simply said, 'We live at 2321 McCoy Avenue, and we'd like you to be there for breakfast every morning around 7:30 a.m.?' That's how we treat new believers," Jack Smith told a recent conference audience. "They need some help."

Smith said the low percentage of new Christians who are assimilated into churches is an indication that such care is lacking. "We know that follow-up is the weakest link in the evangelism chain."

Smith said his informal straw polls found only about 30 percent of baptized believers typically are active in Sunday school a year later. When actual retention rates of new Christians are considered from the time of their decision, the percent-

age often drops to single digits.

But retention rates are higher in churches that implement detailed procedures and create an environment to nurture the new Christians, he added.

The parallels between newborn babies and "babes in Christ" are consistent, Smith said. Delivery room procedures for caring for newborns are detailed and demanding, as should be the systems for nurturing a new Christian during the first minutes and days after spiritual birth, he said.

Preparation of the new church home is just as important as preparation of the home for the arrival of an infant, he added. Churches should design their programs and environment to make it easier for new Christians, even when—as with a new baby—there are sacrifices to be made by other members of the family.

Smith said he knew a pastor who was criticized when a second service was added at 8:30 a.m. on Sundays—but it was started with the knowledge that many non-believers are much more likely to attend church at the earlier hour.

Church "programs are not de-

signed to make us a bunch of whiz kids in the Bible. Those programs are to help us get ready, birth and to take care of the new ones," he said.

Smith noted that NAMB offers materials designed to support new Christians within the first 10 minutes of their spiritual decision. "Let the Celebration Begin" is a counseling guide that reviews such initial issues as assurance of Christian conversion and ensuring that adequate follow-up can continue.

A second booklet, "Let the Celebration Continue," provides a brief study of basic Christian doctrine—useful for people who know nothing about Christianity and might be confused by more complicated studies, Smith said.

Other resources include "Beginning Steps for New Christians"—a slightly more in-depth study, Smith said. After that, new believers might be ready for more comprehensive resources such as "Survival Kit for New Christians" and discipleship programs such as "MasterLife" or "Experiencing God."

Pairing up mentors with new Christians is another important support for new Christians, Smith added.

# BAPTISTS

## BAPTIST BITS

■ The Baptist World Alliance's 18th Baptist World Congress, in Melbourne, Australia, will include a prayer vigil on the steps of Australia's parliament building and a Habitat for Humanity-type housing project. The congress, Jan. 5-9, 2000, is described by BWA General Secretary Denton Lotz as "a world model for where Baptists are going in the next millennium." For more information about the event, call the BWA offices in McLean, Va., at (703) 790-8980.

■ Bolstered by a special fund aiding refugees from Kosovo, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship ended its fiscal year with financial contributions 10 percent above last year. Gifts for the year totaled nearly \$15.1 million, up 10.4 percent over last year. That figure includes more than \$400,000 raised for relief ministries for Kosovar refugees.

■ William Tolar has been named interim dean of the school of theology at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Southwestern President Ken Hemphill is conducting a search to replace former the dean, Thomas Lea, who died July 3.

## Missions leaders highlight global outreach options

By Louis Moore  
SBC International Mission Board

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)—As the world enters the 21st century, Christians face unprecedented opportunities to literally carry the gospel to every person on earth, said speakers at the first-ever Southern Baptist International Missions Week at Glorieta Conference Center in New Mexico.

More than 1,800 people gathered for the July 24-29 sessions to worship God and to learn how to be more personally involved in the global expansion of missions under way today.

Through it all, participants heard that:

■ God, not missionaries, institutions or strategies, is the focus of missions.

■ Missions is not an end in itself but a means to the end. Missions will end someday, but worship of God will continue forever.

■ Doors around the world are opening to the gospel in unparalleled and unprecedented ways.

■ God is mobilizing Christians throughout the world for missions, with "Two-Thirds World" countries moving quickly into a dominant role in sending out missionaries, which used to be the exclusive domain of Christians in the United States and Europe.

■ Southern Baptists will continue to have a role in advancing missions worldwide but only through humble submission to the sovereign will and plan of God.

The week included a Stateside Assignment (formerly known as furlough) Conference for 222 missionaries and 237 missionary kids; appointment activities for 70 new international missionaries; an IMB trustee board meeting; a mini-conference on "Experiencing God on Mission" led by Henry Blackaby and Avery Willis; and an assortment of other international missions-related seminars, symposiums and worship services.

"The main reason you are here is to get to know these missionaries personally," International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin told participants on the first night of the conference.

"As we move toward the 21st century, God is doing something around the

## IMB seeks African-American recruits

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)—Wanted: African-Americans willing to go anywhere overseas as international missionaries.

Southern Baptist International Mission Board officials repeatedly sounded the call for African-American missions workers during the recent International Missions Week at Glorieta Conference Center in New Mexico.

"The Bible doesn't say, 'Go into the world, you white folks,'" said David Cornelius, the IMB's African-American liaison. "The Bible is addressed to all of us who know Christ."

Cornelius spoke to a mostly African-American group of about 50 who attended weekday sessions designed to mobilize more African-American college and university students for overseas missions projects.

He told them the IMB's doors are "wide open" to African-Americans willing to go overseas and do missions.

Disputing stereotypes that African-Americans are only welcome in Afri-

can nations, Cornelius said they can serve anywhere in the world.

Cornelius, a former missionary, called missionaries "the most effective motivators in the African-American community for getting persons to consider cross-cultural missions."

Currently, only 19 of the IMB's 4,600 missionaries are African-American, compared with 50 Hispanic and 137 Asian missionaries. Yet even this number has grown significantly in the past five years, Cornelius said.

He also cited various reasons African-American Southern Baptists don't go overseas as missionaries, including:

■ Ethnocentricity, in which African-Americans focus on only their own people.

■ The IMB's and other white-administered missions agencies' need for more African-American recruiters.

■ A fear of not being able to relate to white missionaries already overseas.

Cornelius urged those attending his seminar to return home and spread the

word that African-Americans are welcome to become international missionaries.

During one of the evening worship services, IMB Executive Vice President Don Kammerdiener interviewed an African-American family serving in Brazil and underscored the growing ethnic diversity of IMB missionaries.

The Jefferson family—Keith and Deborah and their four daughters, Joy, Kebrah, Morgan and Christa, who live in northeast Brazil—said they each have found ways to witness and minister in their area. Jefferson said his family moved from Recife to the more remote area where they now live because as they prayed for missionaries to minister in that area they suddenly realized God was calling them there.

At the conclusion of his interview with the Jeffersons, Kammerdiener said, "I hope you will carry away from this meeting the fact that not all Southern Baptist missionaries are alike ethnically, in their backgrounds, in their ages and in many other ways."

whole world," Rankin said. "God has blessed us (as Southern Baptists), as he did Israel long ago ... and favored us and our churches, but not simply because he chooses to bless us but so that his name may be blessed around the world."

Rankin's message focused on the conference theme, "The Unfinished Task: Loving the Lost," which also will be the theme for this year's International Mission Study and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

"To love the lost means to have a heart broken and filled with sorrow," he said. "To love the lost means to live a life of sacrifice. ... It means giving sacrificially so the gospel can be shared."

"Jesus said, 'No greater love than this (exists), that you lay down your life for a friend.' Do you love the lost enough to do this?"

A mother eagle stirs her nest to force her chicks out and into flight, noted Avery Willis, the board's senior vice president of overseas operations. God is at work in a similar way among

Southern Baptists today, he added.

"God is stirring this whole world," Willis said.

"Look at Cambodia, where the killing fields have become the living fields," he said, describing how in less than a decade the number of Baptists grew from a few hundred to more than 10,000 and the total number of evangelical Christians from 1,000 to more than 60,000.

He said God has opened whole areas of the world that once were considered closed to the gospel and is calling for Southern Baptists to respond.

Willis said the recent unsettling downturn in the number of Southern Baptist Convention baptisms and membership may be yet another way God is trying to get Southern Baptists' attention. "I think God is stirring our nest in this," he said. "He stirs up our nest so we will cry out to him."

"God knows how to stir your nest," he declared. "As God stirs you, respond. As God stirs your church, respond. As

God stirs your nation, respond."

Don Kammerdiener, the IMB's executive vice president, told participants God is calling Southern Baptists to participate in missions at an unprecedented pace. "The people of God are getting involved in international missions."

Kammerdiener also noted that with great opportunities come great obstacles. "There are many adversaries" to the movement of God worldwide, he said.

Major adversaries include materialism and "bad theology that says those who have not heard the gospel still will be saved," he said.

"Every one of us is under the influence of a media system in Hollywood and New York that is saying ... one religion is as good as another and that missionary work is imperialism," he said.

Kammerdiener urged participants to be on guard against materialism and those who would say Jesus is not the only way to salvation.

## Baptists collecting blankets to help returning Kosovars cope with cold

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Winter comes early in Kosovo, and Kentucky Baptists are joining other Southern Baptists to help recently returned ethnic Albanian refugees cope with the harsh conditions ahead.

One pressing need for hundreds of thousands of former refugees will be blankets to protect them from the cold, said Jim Brown, human needs consultant for the Southern Baptist International Mission Board.

Under the theme, "Blanket Kosovo with Love," the IMB is mobilizing Southern Baptists to collect new blankets to help relieve suffering this winter. The blankets will be labeled "God bless you" in Albanian and "Southern Baptists in America's Love Gifts to Kosovo" in English.

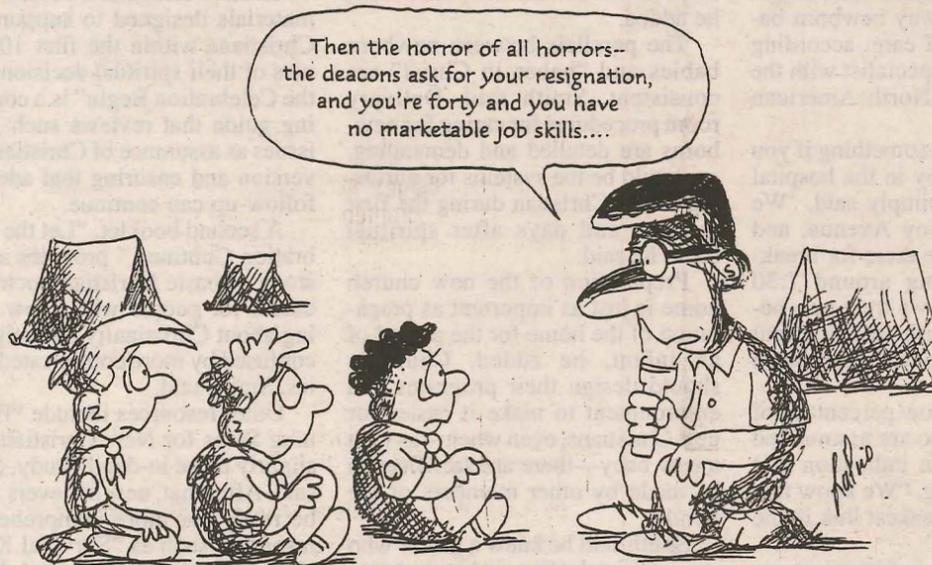
Donating blankets "is a way of sharing God's love," said Larry Koch,

disaster relief associate for Kentucky Baptist Brotherhood. "We're so well off here, we forget that many people don't have the necessities of life. The love of Christ in our hearts ought to prompt us to take action."

Koch said regional collection points will be set up throughout the state to receive blankets with a donation deadline of Sept. 8.

Congregations and individuals who do not have access to regional collection stations may send their blankets directly to: Kosovo Project, c/o Eagle USA, 5762 Charles City Circle, Richmond, VA 23231. Donations must arrive at that address before Sept. 15.

For more information in Kentucky, contact the KBC Brotherhood department at (888) 254-5720 or (502) 244-6489.



When pastors tell scary camp stories ...

## Cornerstone Counseling opens office in Campbellsville

CAMPBELLSVILLE—Community leaders say the timing could not be better for the opening of a new Christian counseling center made possible by partnerships with local Baptist institutions.

"In recent years our community has been devastated by the plant closures at Fruit of the Loom and Batesville Casket," said John Chowning, pastor of Saloma Baptist Church and assistant to the president of Campbellsville University. "People have needs financially and materially, but they also have needs emotionally and spiritually."

Last year Taylor County Baptist Association and Campbellsville University approached Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children to discuss establishing an office of KBHC's Cornerstone Counseling ministry in Campbellsville.

A partnership was formed and an open house for the new office was held July 20 at Campbellsville Baptist Church. The public was invited to learn about the services and meet counselor Paul Markle.

Established in 1991, Cornerstone Counseling provides assistance to single adults, couples and families. All counselors have a master's degree or higher level of education. Financial assistance is available to people who find the \$75-an-hour fee a burden. Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children hires counselors and provides clinical supervision. Office space and scholarships are made possible through contributions from churches, Baptist associations and institutions.

"I believe what Cornerstone stands for," said James Jones, pastor of Camp-

bellsville Baptist Church, whose congregation provides the office space for the counseling center. "I've recommended people to Cornerstone offices in other areas, and I know many people they've helped."

Markle holds a master's degree in marriage and family counseling from Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green. He was adolescent case manager and therapist at LifeSkills, Inc., providing group and individual therapy for adolescents. He also is the former treatment coordinator for the Bowling Green Group Home.

"Churches and Baptist associations across Kentucky have partnered with us to make Christian counseling available to thousands of people," said Bill Sapp, administrator of Cornerstone Counseling.

"Our goal is to make affordable, professional Christian counseling available to as many Kentucky communities as possible," he added. "If the kind of response we have received in Taylor County is repeated, we know that goal is attainable."

Cornerstone Counseling is located in Campbellsville Baptist Church, 424 North Central Ave. For information call (800) 981-7493. Referrals from pastors and other professionals are accepted.

Other Cornerstone Counseling centers are located in Ashland, Berea, Bowling Green, Corbin, Erlanger, Frankfort, Harlan, Harold, Hazard, Henderson, Hopkinsville, LaGrange, London, Louisa, Madisonville, New Castle, Owensboro, Pineville, Somerset and Stanford.

**Last year Taylor County Baptist Association and Campbellsville University approached Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children to discuss establishing a Cornerstone office in Campbellsville.**

## Recorded Western Recorder available to the blind

LOUISVILLE—Like thousands of other Kentucky Baptists, Conley Chism thinks of the Western Recorder as his window to the Baptist world.

Yet Chism does not learn about Baptist life by scanning a printed page. Instead, he listens to an audiotape version of the Recorder made available to people with visual impairments.

"It keeps me up to date about what's going on in the Southern Baptist Convention," noted Chism, a member of Shivley Baptist Church in Louisville. "There are a lot of good articles that I feel I benefit from."

In addition to Baptist news from the state and nation, the 90-minute tapes include articles from every aspect of the Recorder's content.

"The Western Recorder's tape ministry is a clear example of our commitment to seek to serve all Kentucky Baptists," Editor Trennis Henderson said. "It's a privilege to help personalize Kentucky Baptist missions and ministry efforts for the ben-

efit of those who must cope with vision limitations on a daily basis."

About 25 people across the state receive the Western Recorder on tape. The tapes are recorded, duplicated and distributed by the Studio for the Reading Impaired in Anchorage.

Every Tuesday morning a volunteer reads the Recorder onto tape as a second volunteer monitors the reader's accuracy, explained Sandy Koukola, executive director of the studio.

Chism's favorite reader is Kitty Beggs. "She's a good reader and she is very easy to listen to," he said.

Beggs said her work at the studio makes her feel like she's "doing something worthwhile."

"I've been volunteering (at the studio) for 25 years and I just love it," she said.

Koukola began her service as a volunteer 18 years ago and has been executive director for 16 years. She will retire Aug. 18.

"Sandy has been very cooperative over the years," Chism said. "She has been great."

Western Recorder is one of several publications the studio records and mails to people with visual impairments. It also serves others who cannot read because of their inability to hold printed material.

The Western Recorder, Sunday school lessons and Real Life, Western Recorder's quarterly feature magazine, are the publications Chism regularly receives on tape.

He began getting materials from the studio in 1979 when he retired early from his job as a sheet metal worker due to failing eyesight.

The availability of Western Recorder and other materials on tape has "filled a big void in my life," Chism said.

For information about subscribing to the Western Recorder on tape, call the Recorder office at (502) 244-6470 or tollfree at (888) 254-5728.

## BLUEGRASS BURGEOO

■ **Cult training offered.** Conferences on religious cults will be held Aug. 16 and 17. The conferences, sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's evangelism team, are designed to equip Christians to share their faith with various non-Christian groups, including Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, New Age followers and occultists. The meetings will be in Winchester Aug. 16 at Central Baptist Church and Pikeville Aug. 17 at Grace Baptist Church. Both start at 7 p.m. EST. They are free; preregistration isn't required. For information, call (888) 254-5722 or (502) 254-4737.

■ **Training for trainers offered.** Kentucky Baptists interested in training others to witness with other faith groups can attend the interfaith witness associate training Sept. 25, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. CDT, at the Warren Baptist Association office in Bowling Green. The cost of the training is \$15 per person or \$20 per couple. For information, call the Kentucky Baptist Convention evangelism growth team at (888) 254-5722 or (502) 254-4737.

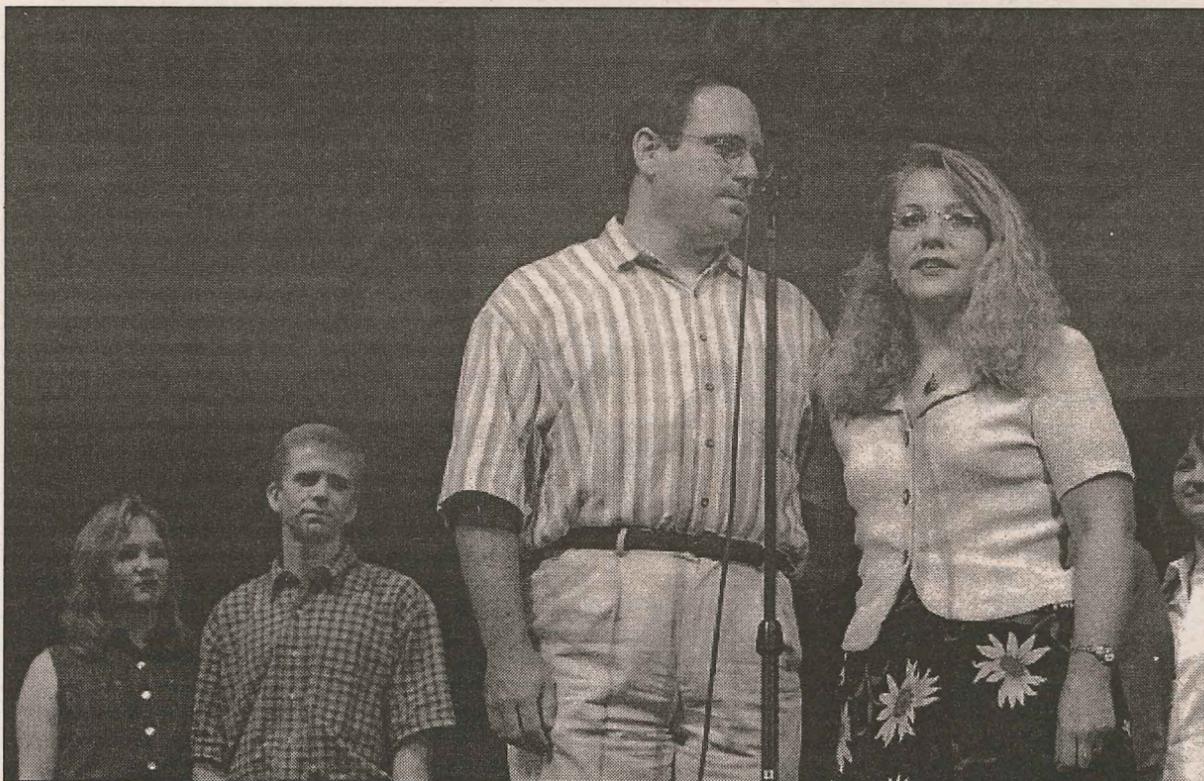
■ **Secretary group picks leaders.** Sherry Kingkade, office administrator at Bellevue Baptist Church in Owensboro, was elected president of the Kentucky Baptist Secretaries Association during their meeting July 15-17. Also elected during the event were: Secretary Jean Bowden of Versailles Baptist Church in Versailles, Treasurer Joyce Morris of Cecelia Baptist Church in Cecelia, Historian Ima Jean Allgood of Crosspointe Baptist Church in Owensboro, Newsletter Editor Jan Mills of Second Baptist Church in Russellville and Pastor Adviser Greg Fauls of Bellevue Baptist Church in Owensboro.

■ **MarriageFest scheduled for September.** Marriage enrichment speakers Lane and Bob Powell are scheduled to lead the MarriageFest '99, Sept. 24-26 in Cave City. Registration is \$70 per couple. For more information, call the Kentucky Baptist Convention's family ministry department at (888) 254-5704 or (502) 244-6469.

■ **'Media Musings' available.** The Kentucky Baptist Convention's communications/media department has produced a newsletter for church media librarians. To subscribe, call (888) 254-5710 or (502) 254-4780.

■ **KBHC expands foster care to Lexington.** Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children is expanding its foster care program to communities in Lexington and Fayette County. The agency is seeking adults, couples and families interested in providing temporary care to children removed from their homes. For more information, call (800) 570-3976.

■ **Georgetown awards education master's degrees.** Georgetown College awarded master of arts degrees in education to 98 graduates Aug. 7. James Applegate, senior fellow of Kentucky's Council on Postsecondary Education, was the keynote speaker.



**NEW MISSIONARIES** Rob and Sandy Davis tell during part of a July 29 commissioning service how God called them to overseas missions service in Uganda. The Davises were one of two couples from Kentucky recently appointed during the service at Glorieta conference center in New Mexico. A total of 56 career and associate missionaries and 14 apprentice missionaries were commissioned at the service. **Story on page 14.** (BP photo by Sandy King)

## 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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## Growing pains

The recent articles on music in church were reminders that growing pains still exist as we try to resolve conflicts over this tool in worship. Sadly, these raging wars often leave churches in deeper divisions than they can handle. The consequences have far too many disappointing stories, as in the neighborhood church in central Florida that split when I was a boy over which side of the sanctuary to put the piano.

In many of the conflicts, it seems as though music may actually be getting in the way of our worship rather than being a facet which leads in worship. The danger mounts quickly when music comes close to being the object of our worship rather than God.

Is a change in music really necessary in many churches as Lee Hinson suggests? Perhaps yes, but maybe not as much in style as in intent. Though music is not an absolute necessity in worship, we as worship leaders may need to re-emphasize the meaning of worship more frequently and remind our congregations that God can speak through whatever music is used, regardless of our personal preferences, if only we come with an open heart and an open mind.

Actual changes in style can be very difficult for musicians, just as it can be for Sunday school teachers and pastors. Our schools and private teachers simply don't have the time to train students to be effective musicians in every style. Tapes and technology may seem to be the simplistic answer to some, but others still prefer to take advantage of God-given talents within their congregation, and to build upon these.

As we search for ways to resolve these conflicts, may God soon grant us the ability to "sing a new song unto the Lord" with all our hearts in Christian fellowship and love.

Wesley Roberts  
Somerset

## Bizarre twist

During the 17th annual Southern Baptist Founders Conference held recently in Birmingham, Ala., and attended by some 600 devotees of the doctrine known as Calvinism, there was produced an interesting twist in a bizarre call for martyrs—people to die for the faith—somewhere besides the United States, of course, since there are few martyrdom opportunities here.

According to Baptist Press, one author/preacher claimed to be on a recruitment mission for martyrs, since, according to Revelation 6:9-11, Christ will not return until the proper number of Christians have been killed. The speaker did not indicate how many that would be; though, being a Calvinist, he believes that God already has foreordained when Christ will return, thus making moot the point he made—or something like that.

This preacher asked: "Why should we live to age 30 when Jesus is on the other side of the sword?" The preacher is in his 50s, however, somehow not yet having appropriated the martyrdom he strongly recommended for his "recruits" by age 30.

By now, since the completion of the fundamentalist capture of the Southern Baptist Convention, many, if not most, top SBC leaders in the denominational hierarchy and SBC seminaries can be expected to be

Calvinists. The Founders clambake smacks of some sort of a cult of the elite—a morbid cult, at that. Thankfully, the rank-and-file members do not buy into the cult.

James L. Clark  
Lexington

## Church role model

Positive role models are needed in all walks of life. Churches are no different. It's common for churches to study other churches with the intent to model their worship style or some part of their programming. I think First Baptist Church of Williamsburg has provided a good model for treating a pastor during an illness.

My husband, Harold Mauney, was diagnosed with colon cancer on Dec. 12, 1998. The myriad ways that love and concern were shown was overwhelming and humbling.

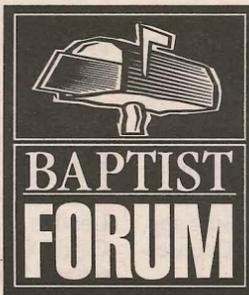
Chemotherapy treatments began in February. Because of complications from the treatments, he was hospitalized in March and again for 12 days in April. During one of his visits to the hospital, the deacon chairman told us that members of the congregation were coming to the deacons and saying, "What can we do for our pastor?"

The decision was made to give him an administrative leave of absence until his treatments were finished. His only responsibility was the Sunday morning sermon. His other responsibilities were willingly and ably handled by staff, deacons and other church members. Harold has rested, played golf, read and studied.

On Aug. 1, 1999, my husband became "full-time" pastor again. Because of the generosity of our family of faith, he returned not only physically refreshed but also mentally and spiritually renewed.

Thank you, First Baptist, Williamsburg, for your good modeling.

Donna Mauney  
Williamsburg



## ANNUITY

### Make retirement decisions both early and wisely

By Don Spencer

From the home office in Wahoo, Neb., here are the Top Ten Reasons for Not Saving for Retirement:



10. Y2K will wipe out all my retirement savings anyway.

9. I'm expecting a call from Publisher's Clearing House any day now.

8. I might not live that long.

7. My employer will take care of me.

6. My spouse can get a fast-food job in retirement.

5. I plan to mooch off my kids like they did me.

4. I'll turn my hobby into a second career.

3. I'm going to inherit a great deal of money.

2. Social Security will more than cover me.

And the No. 1 reason for not saving for retirement: I have plenty of time.

Unfortunately, too many people believe reasons 1 and 2 are true. Social Security will not provide adequate retirement income. It was never meant to do so.

At best, Social Security will replace a little more than 30 percent of your annual earnings at age 65. For most folks, the remaining retirement income must be provided through pensions and savings.

There are two essential ingredients for providing adequate retirement: time and money. The more you have of one, the less you will need of the other.

To illustrate, let's assume your goal is to accumulate \$250,000 by age 65, using an investment that averages 8 percent earnings each year. You can reach that goal starting at age 30 by investing \$108 every month.

If you wait until you are 40, you'll have to save \$261 per month to reach that goal. At age 50, it will require an investment of \$718 per month.

When it comes to making your retirement years comfortable, don't wait. Savings, spending and investment decisions you make at earlier ages have direct bearing on how you live in your 60s and 70s.

Be sure to make your retirement choices early and wisely.

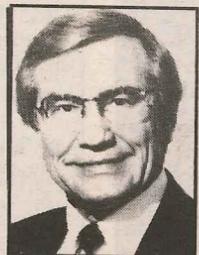
Don Spencer is a certified financial planner and directs the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annuity department.

## PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

### Mountain missions conference

Melissa Anderson, a Christian for only 16 months, recently shared her testimony at the mountain missions conference.

God was not an important part of either her or her husband's life until, after a job transfer from Florida to Kentucky, God placed her in a community where a church member would reach out to her. There were barriers to belief, but God guided her and her husband to a beautiful faith commitment. In sharing her joy, Melissa use a lighted heart to dem-



Bill Mackey

ons rate how God opened her heart to the gospel and allowed her to enter the dark rooms of her heart to experience healing from past hurts.

Melissa's testimony is just one example of how God is transforming lives in the mountains. There were other exciting testimonies at the conference, conducted at Oneida Baptist Institute, as well. Carl Boyd, director of missions from Pike Association, shared how God has opened doors of cooperation with the housing commis-

sion in Pike County. The commission provides the materials and Baptists provide the labor.

Eileen Mullins shared her vision for a hospitality house for families of prisoners. Recently she participated in a prison ministry, and many people came to faith in Jesus Christ.

Bill Nichols, director of missions for the Booneville and Irvine associations, reported on the John Jacobs Power Team crusade in Manchester. Lives were changed during prayer preparation in all denominations. The team shared in

10 area schools. There were 548 professions of faith during the Power Team crusade in late May.

Kenneth Faught, a Bible professor at Cumberland College, also led participants in a study of 1 and 2 Thessalonians, the books selected for the upcoming winter Bible study. His background in Eastern Kentucky, experience as a pastor and scholarship enabled him to relate his study to individuals serving in Eastern Kentucky.

The hospitality of Oneida Director Bud Underwood, his wife, Kay, and the staff at Oneida was outstanding. Learning and music activities were provided for children of participants. All participants were inspired by observing up close the effective ministry of Oneida.

The theme of the conference was "Vision." Messages on vision were shared by Jerry Lowrie, pastor of Main Street Baptist Church in Williamsburg; Bud Underwood; Bill Smithwick, president of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children; and Bill Whittaker, president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College. Tommy Goode, director of Appalachian Mountain Ministries, shared the vision for reaching the mountain communities for Christ.

It was a special privilege for me to share on the program of the conference and to experience personal renewal along with participants. Many thanks to David Aker, the Kentucky Baptist Convention's director of mountain missions, for his work in planning the conference. Note the next conference on your calendar, July 31-Aug. 2, 2000.

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

## Marriage stress probably won't disappear by having children

**Q: My marriage is going through some difficulty right now, and I'm thinking a baby would help. But I've heard that this will only make matters worse. Will it?**

Whether to have a baby in your situation depends on what kind of difficulty your marriage is having and how serious that difficulty is.

Although having a child creates a bond that can bring a couple closer, becoming parents is also one of the most time- and energy-consuming responsibilities anyone can assume and often puts stress on even a good marriage. It is probably accurate to say that having a baby will strengthen a stable marriage but will create even more problems for an unstable one.

Some things to consider:

■ **Is your marriage experiencing more than just the normal adjustments all marriages experience?** Are undue time and energy going toward holding your marriage together? If so, then having a baby might not be advisable right now. Starting a family will take additional energy, time and commitment that you might not be able to muster at this point.

■ **Is divorce a threat?** If so, you should consider the pain and risk posed to a child brought into such a situation. Divorce is one of the most difficult adjustments many children face and is often associated with their developing social, academic and emotional problems. Even children from intact families seem to suffer from having parents who are in constant conflict. So, even if you and your spouse do not divorce but continue struggling with a troubled marriage, your child might suffer a great deal.

As you decide whether or not to have a child right now, think carefully about the time and energy you have for such a major commitment and the likelihood that your marriage will provide the foundation necessary for a happy, stable home.—  
*Susan Howell*

**Q: I recently remarried, and my new wife says I am not to make solo decisions about parenting my two teenagers. Their mother and I still work together to raise them, but my current spouse does not like that. She says I should honor her by including her in the parenting of my son and daughter since they live with us. What do you suggest?**

Your new wife is creating a problem by trying to interfere with your parenting of these teens. They will most likely resent her if she begins to discipline them. Correction of a child depends on a relationship of trust and that takes time to earn. You are wise to not let her get caught in the middle of your parenting of these teenagers.

Her best role is to work to be their friend. Your new partner is not their mother, but can influence their lives as they come to know, respect and care for her. She will earn a place in their hearts over time if she and they share good times together.

Still, you would be wise to keep her informed about the guidelines for your teens and to discuss privately any issues and concerns she expresses. Let her know of any changes and listen to her observations. She can be a valuable observer of your relationship with your teens. Seek her wisdom, but carry out the discipline between you and your children.—  
*Wade Rowatt*

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



## Midwestern trustees model grace

It was troubling to read of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary President Mark Coppenger's struggle with what he terms "misappropriation of anger." Subjecting subordinates to profanity-laced verbal attacks is not the typical picture most Southern Baptists have of their leaders—whether pastors, deacons or seminary presidents.

Equally troubling was the perspective shared by a former Midwestern Seminary staff member who indicated Coppenger's public speaking is a sharp contrast to his hallway language. "The walk and the talk don't match," she explained.

Despite such serious concerns, Midwestern's trustees chose to take the high road in dealing with Coppenger's behavior. Following a two-month investigation by board officers and a four-hour executive session, trustees instructed Coppenger to follow specific steps to aid "repentance and restoration." Those steps reportedly include counseling to help address a chronic problem with anger. Coppenger also promised to seek reconciliation with people he has offended.

In Christian circles, the trustees' action is called grace. It follows Christ's classic example in John 8 when he tells the woman caught in adultery, "Neither do I condemn thee; go, and sin no more."

When confronted with conflict and crisis, Christians have the option of responding with either grace or legalism. Midwestern's trustees are to be commended for putting Christ's clear call for grace into action. Unfortunately, that has not always been the pattern in Southern Baptist life in recent years. Consider the following examples:

■ The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee voted in 1990 to fire Baptist Press editors Al Shackelford and Dan Martin. Following the 45-15 secret-ballot vote conducted in executive session, Executive Committee leaders refused to announce specific reasons for the firings, citing confidentiality concerns. Quite a contrast to Baptists' historic commitment to free and open communication.

■ Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary President Russell Dilday was fired by seminary trustees in 1994. Initially refusing to offer any reason for the firing, trustee chairman Ralph Pulley said details of the firing weren't "pertinent." Two days later, amid grow-

ing outcries from faculty, students and alumni, trustees cited "irreconcilable differences" as the reason for Dilday's dismissal. Dilday, known as a theological conservative, apparently was targeted because of his outspoken opposition to political strategies employed by conservative convention leaders. Was grace an option?

■ Closer to home, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President Al Mohler fired Diana Garland in 1995 as the dean of the former Carver School of Church Social Work after she publicly questioned his faculty hiring guidelines. Two years later, he fired Paul Debusman, the seminary's longtime reference librarian. That action came after Debusman sent a personal letter to Southern Baptist Convention President Tom Elliff that questioned the historical accuracy of statements Elliff had made in a seminary chapel address. Debusman, a 35-year employee of the seminary who was 10 months from retirement, was dismissed with one month's severance pay.

While there may have been extenuating circumstances in each case, the question remains: Was each dispute so irreparable that a caring administrator or trustee board couldn't utilize

biblical grace to salvage the situations? This is not to suggest that automatic, wipe-the-slate-clean grace is the answer to every problem. Obviously, there are moral and ethical choices that demand both accountability and consequences. Romans 6:1-2 clearly warns against the idea of continuing in sin "that grace may abound."

It is to suggest, however, that grace should be the starting point in our personal and professional relationships. To preach grace and then practice legalism is a dangerous double standard.

The fact is that grace is a choice. The Apostle John affirmed that Jesus Christ, our perfect example, was "full of grace and truth." What better goal could be set for Christians today?

Midwestern's trustees have offered a fresh precedent in Baptist life. Hopefully, other denominational leaders will follow their lead in resolving future conflicts, regardless of political or philosophical differences.

As you pray for Coppenger and Midwestern during this difficult time, pray also that all Southern Baptists will truly recapture the enriching joy of practical grace.

### STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

## What if some did not have faith?

By A.D. Proffitt

*"What if some did not have faith? Will their lack of faith nullify God's faithfulness? (Romans 3:3)"*

"What if they jumped off the barn, would you follow?" Our lives are filled with "what ifs." Some are as irrelevant as that ignominious question asked by our parents when we had foolishly followed the dangerous lead of a risk-taking friend.

Some "what ifs," on the other hand, are powerfully and sometimes painfully important. Robert Frost had this in mind when he wrote, "Two roads diverged in a yellow wood and I took the one less traveled by." In that moment of self-analysis, Frost was laying bare the great "what if" of his life: What if he had chosen the other path?

All of us must deal daily with our own "what ifs"—what if I had started earlier? What if I had worked harder?

What if I had spoken sooner? What if I had shown more courage? What if I had kept my mouth shut? What if? They fly up from our sublimated consciousness like doves startled by an unseen enemy.

Most of the "what ifs" of our lives are spoken only in the privacy of our own minds and they reveal the wondering regret of our inward hearts. Out of this continuing stream of "what ifs" emerge some that hold the power to change our lives. One of those is the "what if" raised in Romans 3:3: "What if some did not (or do not) have faith?" The Apostle Paul raises this question in the middle of a lengthy passage dealing with faith and faithfulness. When Paul raises the question, he does so in a presentation of the absolute depravity and undependability of humanity.

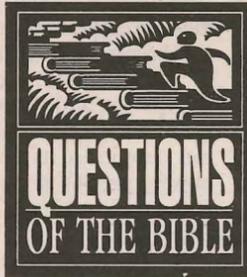
Paul does not hesitate to remind his audience that, in the face of our own faithlessness, God is indeed trustworthy, honorable, just and faithful! In

fact, Paul says, it makes no difference that every man is a liar; God's faithfulness shines as a beacon in the night. God's truth and dependability are unquestionable. Man has exchanged the truth of God for a lie (Romans 1:25) but even that lie cannot extinguish the flame of God's faithfulness.

What then if some do not have faith? The question could just as easily have been: What if *all* do not have faith? What difference would that make? Can we say that man's fickleness implies any shadow of turning with God? Paul's answer is strong and sure: Certainly not! (Romans 3:4)

The question for Paul's audience then becomes the question that faces each of us. It is not a question of "what if" but "what then." If God is true, if God is dependable, if God is undaunted and unblemished by the failure and faithlessness of man, what then? The answer is clear: Our wills must crumble before his goodness. His faithfulness warrants our highest allegiance, lays claim to our lives and moves us to do the impossible—to live according to his example; to live by the faith we cannot have apart from him.

*A.D. Proffitt is pastor of Licking River Church in Royalton*



## Attendance, spiritual decisions grow at summer camps

**"Statistics tell us that nine out of 10 decisions for Christ are made before a person leaves the teenage years."**

*Rusty Ellison, president of Kentucky Baptist Assemblies.*

CEDARMORE—Kentucky Baptist conference centers experienced both numerical and spiritual success during the summer camping season, according to Rusty Ellison, president of Kentucky Baptist Assemblies.

Attendance at Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek "was at the highest level in years," Ellison said. "Our early indications show that the number of decisions (for Christ) was at the highest level in years, as well."

While optimistic, Ellison noted that final statistics are not yet totaled for the season, which ended last week.

This summer the conference centers hosted youth camps, music camps and camps for three mission organizations, Royal Ambassadors, Girls in Actions and Acteens.

In addition, about a half dozen congregations conducted their own camps at the facilities, Ellison said. For the first time at Cedarmore, the American Lung Association, with help from First Baptist Church of Shelbyville, held a camp for children with asthma.

After two years in his position, Ellison said he remains convinced of the importance of the camping ministry, which he calls crucial for the spiritual lives of youth.

"Statistics tell us that nine out of 10 decisions for Christ are made before a person leaves the teenage years," Ellison explained. The Southern Baptist North American Mission Board "tells us that one half of those decisions are made away from the local church in a camp or retreat setting."

The nine youth camps, or "Discovery Weeks," attracted an estimated 2,300 students, according to Tom Smoot, youth evangelism director for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

"They've gone great this year," he said. "Our youth weeks have probably been as full as they've been in the past few years."

The Discovery Weeks are led by college "Son Team" summer missionaries for youth in grades 7-12. This year they were held twice at Jonathan Creek and seven times at

Cedarmore, he said. If the estimate of 2,300 students proves true, he added, that would be a couple hundred more than in recent years.

Meanwhile, GAs and Acteens attending camp at Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek learned about missions in Tanzania. Baptists there have a missions partnership with Kentucky Baptists.

The campers saw a replica of a typical Tanzanian hut and tasted African foods, said Kim Davis, camp specialist for Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union. They also made toys from scrap material, a common practice for children in Tanzania, she said.

WMU held one week of camp for GAs and Acteens at Jonathan Creek and five weeks of camp for those age groups at Cedarcrest, a campsite on the grounds of Cedarmore.

For younger GAs in grades 1-3, a total of five overnight mother/daughter camps were held at Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore.

At GA and Acteen camps, children and youth meet missionaries, and they establish close bonds with their college-age counselors, Davis said.

"They grow up a lot in the week," she said. "They make new friends, and they grow closer to God." The camps help the girls develop a regular practice of prayer and Bible study, Davis said.

Because WMU furnishes counselors and other leaders for the GA and Acteen camps, girls can go to camp without chaperones from their churches. Davis said that sometimes frees the girls to be a little more adventuresome.

"They'll learn and do things they wouldn't even try if they were around people they knew," she said.

At Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek, campers saw many improvements to the facilities, including more air conditioned buildings, Ellison said.

"After two years, we are far ahead of the expectations of where we thought we should be," he said. "We've come as far in two years as we thought we would be in four."

Yet he said deferred maintenance needs will pose challenges for the foreseeable future. "We are doing well, but we need a decade of this kind of progress," Ellison predicted.

### Youth 'Discover Missions'

CEDARMORE—A headache of an idea has reaped rewards for both missions education and camp attendance, according to Tom Smoot.

Smoot, youth evangelism director for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, said he was looking for a way to stop the trend of sagging attendance during the last week of youth camp at Cedarmore.

Year-round schooling cut into some churches' ability to attend the camp, which this year was last week, Smoot said. So he organized something a little different to be especially appealing for those who could attend.

Enter "Discover Missions Week," an experience that combined traditional camp worship and activities with 22 ministry projects at Cedarmore and surrounding cities.

For three days of camp, the youth performed six hours of ministry, from house renovation and a Habitat for Humanity project to cleaning parks and handing cool water to hot construction workers.

"The kids are absolutely loving it," said Sharon Felton, campus minister at Georgetown and the camp chaplain that week.

"The whole week is revolving around missions and how they're missionaries wherever they are and can do missions as a lifestyle," she said.

Smoot said some churches alternate summers between taking kids to youth camp and going on a mission project. Discover Missions Week allowed them to do both.

The goal of the week is "to allow the young people not just to listen to what they're supposed to do as a Christian, but to go out and do it," he said.

Smoot said he was reluctant to organize the camp because of the logistical headache of getting youth, from grades 7-12, to all the ministry projects outside of Cedarmore's grounds.

Still, it was successful in turning around the low attendance. The week attracted 230 youth, about double the attendance at the last week of camp last year, he said.



**DISCOVER MISSIONS CAMP** An effort to boost attendance at the last youth camp of the summer at Cedarmore turned out to be a winner. Organizers dispatched teens to a variety of mission projects, including construction, as part of their activities. Attendance was double that of the last youth camp the previous summer.

## Partnership supplies New England volunteers for Pike County

**By Brenda Smith**  
*Kentucky Baptist Convention*

LOOKOUT—For three-and-a-half years, hundreds of Kentuckians have traveled to New England to participate in short-term partnership missions projects.

This week, 10 youth and young adults from Massachusetts are in Eastern Kentucky to return the favor.

The volunteers, from New Colony Baptist Church in Billerica, Mass., are scheduled to do light construction work and repairs in Pike County Aug. 7-14.

Crystal Bowles, minister of young adults for New Colony Baptist Church in Billerica, Mass., said the project has two goals—one for members of her church and another for the residents of Lookout.

"I hope that they come back to this church (in Massachusetts) with the sense that missions is here and that they are called to be missionaries," she said before the team left for Kentucky.

But she also said she hopes the volunteers will help Hellier Baptist Church in Pike County reach out to the people in its community. "I'm hoping people we are ministering to will see the love of God through that church."

Martin Hogg said it is special to have people come from 20 hours away to help them perform ministry.

Hogg and his wife, Rebecca, are serving as two-year missionaries at the Freeda Harris Baptist Center in Lookout. Hogg is coordinating the volunteers' project.

New Englander Stephanie Potter, 19, traveled to Eastern Kentucky in

May with another mission team that led sports camps. Potter, a member of New Colony Baptist Church and a student at Gordon College in Beverly, Mass., is eager to return to Pike County and renew friendships established during her first visit. She said she also looks forward to making new friends by doing a totally different type of mission work this time around.

Potter said she enjoyed experiencing the cultural differences between life in Billerica, Mass., just 20 minutes from Boston, and life in rural Pike County. She said the experiences opened her eyes to the need for Christ not only around the world, but also in the United States and even her own community.

"Lots of times I think we forget about home missions," Potter explained. She said that after she re-

turned from her first trip to Kentucky she felt an even greater desire to see others in her church have the same opportunity to serve in partnership missions. "God can take whatever we have and use it to the fullest."

Potter said her first trip was a great conversation starter back home in the Northeast. By sharing stories, she said, she could tell people not only what she did, but why she did it—to share the love of Jesus Christ.

"It's good to show that love throughout the United States," Hogg added. He said he hopes the work of New England Baptists will inspire even more Kentucky Baptists to want to go to New England for partnership missions.

For more information about partnership missions, call the KBC partnership missions office at (888) 254-5724.

**The volunteers, from New Colony Baptist Church in Billerica, Mass., are scheduled to do light construction work and repairs this week in Pike County.**

# ACCOMMODATIONS

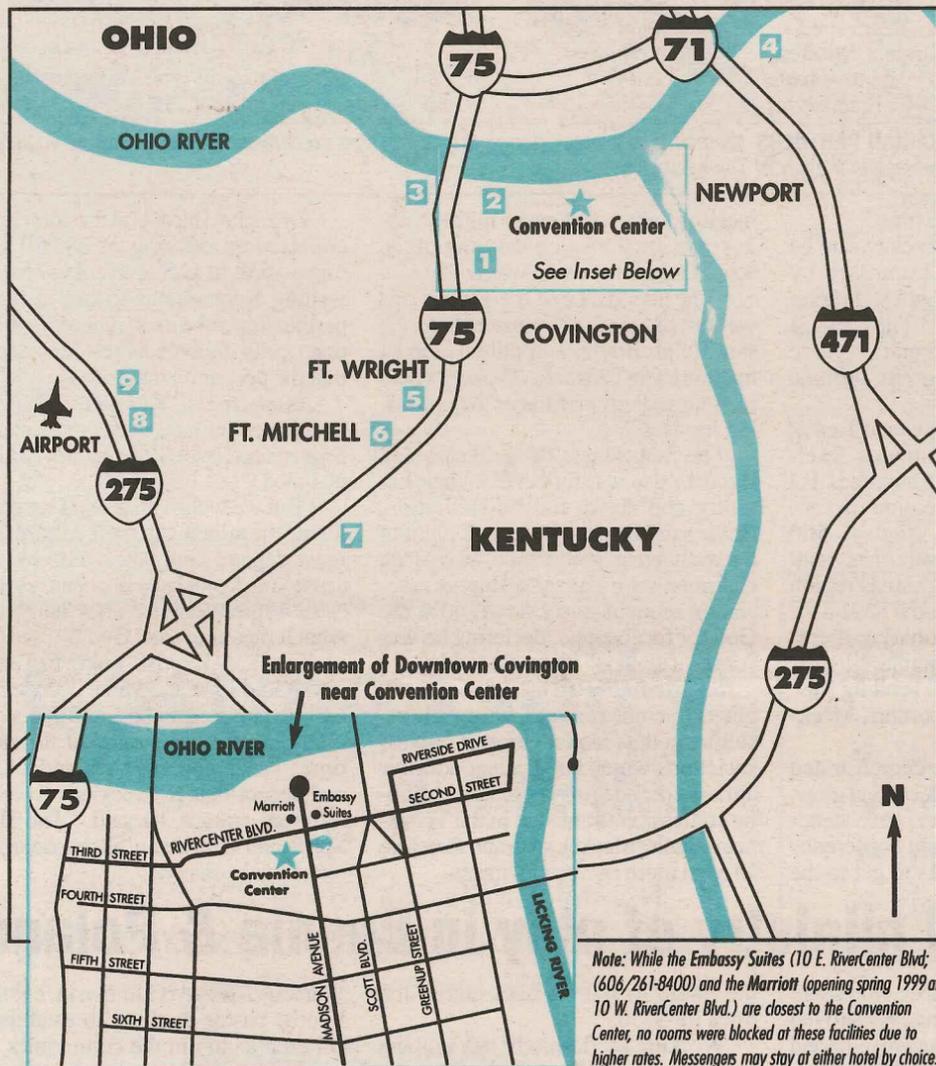
## 1999 KBC Annual Meeting

November 16-17, 1999

Northern Kentucky Regional Convention Center

50 East RiverCenter Boulevard

Covington, Kentucky



### Parking Facilities

- **Kenton County Parking Lot** - Corner of Madison Avenue and RiverCenter Boulevard  
Rates: \$.75 each half hour; \$5 maximum 6 am-3 pm; \$3 maximum 3 pm-6 am; \$5 special events
- **Kenton County Parking Garage** - 220 Madison Avenue  
Rates: \$.6 maximum up to 12 hours; \$10 - 12-24 hours; \$1.50 evenings 6 pm-6 am
- **Embassy Suites** - Corner of Madison Avenue and RiverCenter Boulevard  
Rates: \$.75 each half hour; \$5 maximum per day
- **Marriott** - Corner of Madison Avenue and RiverCenter Boulevard  
Rates: \$.75 each half hour; \$5 maximum per day
- **Southbank Shuttle**  
Rates: \$.25 per trip; pickup every 20 minutes at each location from 10 am-10 pm

### Restaurants within walking distance of Convention Center

- **Covington Landing** (at the Ohio river 1 block from Convention Center):  
Applebee's; TGI Friday's; The Glass Onion; The Swamp
- **Behle Street Cafe** (across street from Convention Center next to Embassy Suites)
- **Marriott and Embassy Suites Restaurants** (across street from Convention Center)
- **Coach & Four** - 214 Scott Blvd. (less than 2 blocks from Convention Center)
- **Skyline Chili** - Near Scott Blvd. and Third Street (2 blocks from Convention Center)
- **Aynie's Deli** - Near Scott Blvd. and Third Street (2 blocks from Convention Center)

### Restaurants within a Mile of Convention Center

Restaurants in the **Quality Hotel Riverview** and **Holiday Inn Riverfront**; McDonald's; Waffle House; Burger King; Gold Star Chili; Taco Bell; White Castle; Hardee's; Frisch's Big Boy

Messengers are responsible for making their own reservations.  
Kentucky Baptist Convention must be mentioned and reservation deadlines met to receive blocked room rates.  
Guest room tax varies slightly between each town listed.  
Non-smoking rooms were blocked whenever possible.

For more information, call Denise Withers, at (502) 245-4101, X212.



### Covington

- 1 **Clarion Hotel Riverview** (formerly Quality Hotel Riverview) - 668 W. Fifth Street - (606) 491-8600  
Reservation Deadline: October 25  
Rate: \$89 (single or double)  
Amenities: restaurant; indoor pool; room service; sauna/jacuzzi; hair dryer; iron/ironing board; coffee maker; close to several fast food restaurants  
Directions: From I-75, Exit 192 (Fifth Street)
- 2 **Holiday Inn Riverfront** - 600 W. Third Street - (606) 291-4300  
Reservation Deadline: October 17  
Rate: \$80 (1-4 persons; king-sofa, king-ottoman and 2 double beds available)  
Amenities: restaurant; complimentary continental breakfast buffet; complimentary USA Today; hair dryer; iron; coffee maker; close to several fast food restaurants  
Directions: From I-75, Exit 192
- 3 **Hampton Inn Riverfront** - 200 Crescent Avenue - (606) 581-7800  
Reservation Deadline: November 1  
Rate: \$79 (1-4 persons)  
Amenities: indoor pool; exercise room; complimentary continental breakfast; close to several fast food restaurants  
Directions: From I-75, Exit 192

### Newport (2.5 miles from Convention Center)

- 4 **Comfort Suites** - 420 Riverboat Row - (606) 291-6700  
Reservation Deadline: October 15  
Rate: \$69 (1-2 persons); \$74 (3 persons); \$79 (4 persons)  
Amenities: beautiful view of Ohio River and downtown Cincinnati; room service (lunch and dinner); complimentary continental breakfast; hair dryer; iron/ironing board; coffee maker; microwave; refrigerator  
Directions: From 471, Exit 5 (next to Chart House Restaurant)

### Ft. Wright (3 miles from Convention Center)

- 5 **Days Inn Ft. Wright** - 1945 Dixie Highway - (606) 341-8801  
Reservation Deadline: October 15  
Rate: \$43 (1-4 persons)  
Amenities: restaurant  
Directions: From I-75, Exit 188-B (next to Ramada)

### Ft. Mitchell (about 4 miles from Convention Center)

- 6 **Holiday Inn Ft. Mitchell** - 2100 Dixie Highway - (606) 331-1500  
Reservation Deadline: October 25  
Rate: \$65 (single or double)  
Amenities: restaurant; indoor pool; room service; sauna/jacuzzi  
Directions: From I-75, Exit 188B

### Drawbridge Estate - 2477 Royal Drive - (606) 341-2800

- Reservation Deadline: October 15  
Rate: \$73 (1-4 persons; main building)  
\$63 (1-4 persons); Garrison Building (detached from main building)  
Amenities: restaurant; indoor pool; room service; sauna/jacuzzi  
Directions: From I-75/71, Exit 186 (Buttermilk Pike)

### Erlanger (near Greater Cincinnati Airport - 12 minute drive from Convention Center)

- 7 **Holiday Inn Cincinnati Airport** - 1717 Airport Exchange Boulevard - (606) 371-2233  
Reservation Deadline: October 25  
Rate: \$85 (1-4 persons; king and double beds available)  
Amenities: restaurant; indoor pool; sauna; whirlpool; fitness center; hair dryer; iron; coffee maker  
Directions: At I-275 and Mineola Pike, Exit 2

### Baymont Inn & Suites - 1805 Airport Exchange Boulevard - (606) 746-0300

- Reservation Deadline: October 16  
Rate: \$59.95 (1-4 persons; double beds); \$61.15 (1-2 persons; king beds)  
Amenities: complimentary deluxe continental breakfast; hair dryer; iron/ironing board; coffee maker  
Directions: From 275, Exit 2 (Mineola Pike)

# MISSIONS

## After 45 years of missionaries, Tanzanians ready to go

The following Kentucky Baptist partnership missions projects in Tanzania are scheduled through the end of the year:

- Sept. 1-14: Evangelism work in Morogoro.
- Sept. 22-Oct. 5: Evangelism work in Morogoro
- Oct. 6-19: Prayer walks and evangelism work in Ifakara.

For more information, contact the Kentucky Baptist Convention partnership missions office at (888) 254-5724.

By Brenda Smith  
Kentucky Baptist Convention

LOUISVILLE—After nearly 45 years of Southern Baptist missionary work in Tanzania, native Baptists in that country are poised to begin sending out their own missionaries.

Development of missionary work there is a success story for Baptists' Cooperative Program, according to Bill Mackey, executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Mackey and his wife, Kay, recently returned from a two-week mission trip to the African nation where Kentucky Baptists have entered into a three-year partnership with Tanzanian Baptists.

That same trip was the last one led by Ken Murphy, KBC partnership missions associate, who died July 31 as a result of complications of surgery. His death came three days before he was scheduled to leave for another partnership trip to Poland. The Mackeys, Murphy and his wife, Robbie, and Tony Brown, pastor of First Baptist Church of Whitesburg, were in Tanzania to lead worship and workshop sessions at a five-day evangelism conference in the city of Tukuyu.

KBC partnership missions director Calvin Wilkins said e-mails from missionaries reported that the evangelism conference has been a revival for pastors in the area.

"It just seemed like God was in control of it and everything just blended in together," Wilkins said. "It was something that will be referred back to for



**TANZANIAN PARTNERS** Women take a break during the evangelism conference Kentucky Baptist volunteers helped lead in the city of Tukuyu in July.



some time." Mackey said he was impressed by the enthusiasm and evangelistic vision of Tanzanian Baptists. "They sing a song about how 'missionaries came across the hills to us. ... Now it is our time to share the gospel.'"

Southern Baptists arrived in Tanzania in 1956 with the intention of developing indigenous Baptist churches. By 1971, the Baptist Convention of Tanzania was organized. Today, 500 churches are organized into 17 associations in the southern highlands region alone. The Tanzanians now have a vision to become missionaries themselves, planting more churches in their own nation and perhaps sending missionaries beyond their borders, Mackey said.

The Tanzanians also demonstrated remarkable eagerness to learn and grow, Mackey said. Many Tanzanians attending the recent evangelism conference walked 10 or more miles to get to the

meetings and spent every night sleeping on mats strewn on the floor of the school where the event was held.

"The attendance of the Tanzanians was not like we had ever seen before," said Ralph Boyle, a Southern Baptist missionary in Tanzania. "No one would miss a small group time or the preaching services."

The faithfulness of the Tanzanian Baptists also was reflected in their humility and desire for reconciliation, Boyle said. During the second night of the evangelism conference, he said the chairman for a Tanzania Baptist association spontaneously stood and asked God for forgiveness, declaring he was "chief of sinners" in the assembly.

Such humility led the way for many others to come forward, ultimately resulting in the reconciliation of two associations which had been at odds for almost a decade, Boyle said. Such public confession is unusual in the Tanzanian culture, Mackey said, and therefore an even more powerful witness.

Tanzanian Baptists at the conference collected an offering of 28,000 shillings—\$38 in U.S. currency—for the visiting Kentuckians to use in future partnership missions. The offering is practically unprecedented considering that the per capita income is just \$700.

As partners, Kentucky Baptists could meet many needs of Tanzanian Baptists just by sending money, Mackey noted.

"But we would miss what we could learn," he added. "In their culture, you must depend completely on God because you do not have financial resources or trained leaders. They taught me what it means to trust God."

Kentucky Baptists going to Tanzania should love and value Tanzanians in their culture and be careful to avoid offending them, he said. At the same time, Tanzanian Baptists understand and accept that Kentuckians live in a different culture, he said. "The Holy Spirit can overcome all barriers and make our hearts one."

## Kentucky Baptists install ministry of play in Bosnia & Poland

By Brenda Smith  
Kentucky Baptist Convention

STANFORD—If you know an affordable way to get playground equipment from Kentucky to Bosnia, there's a man in Stanford and a lot of kids in Sarajevo who would like to know about it.

Recently, Parley Davis "P.D." Roller helped build playground equipment for Bosnian children as part of a Kentucky Baptist mission trip to the war-torn country.

His country is one of two recent projects involving Kentucky Baptists, missions work and the bridges that were built by giving kids somewhere to play.

Roller was among those who spent two weeks rebuilding houses destroyed during the country's recently-ended war.

He, David Hahn and Claude Owen, both from Taylorsville, noticed children playing in the streets as they traveled between construction sites. "I said, 'Hey, we've got to do something,'" Roller explained. "Adults needed homes, and the children needed a playground."

The trio won support from the Southern Baptist International Mission Board to build a playground during their spare time in the evenings.

No manufactured playground equipment was available; all of the equipment had to be improvised from whatever the Kentuckians could beg, borrow or buy.

The IMB provided three-inch steel tubing to make a frame for a swing set. The entire group pooled money to buy swings, chain and lumber. Roller estimates they spent \$400.

Owen, who builds trailers in his spare time, decided the most logical way to build a merry-go-round would be to use the axle housing, bearing and rim from a truck. They would sink the housing into the ground, leaving the bearing and rim free to spin.

Angie Britton of Frankfort and Jeff Davidson of Stanford stumbled across a truck in a ditch in a man's back yard. Through an interpreter, they convinced

the owner to sell the back end of the truck for \$150.

Working by flashlight late into the evening, they set the axle in concrete. They welded the crossbeams in place using reinforcing bars. They then fastened boards to the crossbeams for seats.

As a final touch, Owen traced an ichthys, the Christian fish symbol, in each swing seat and on the merry-go-round seats. The men used a grinder to carve the shape into the seats.

"The children somehow figured out what we were doing, and sat and waited on a ledge" for the playground to be completed, Owen said.

"Once we got the playground finished, it was literally 'Get out of my way,'" Roller recalled with a laugh, describing how the children swarmed the playground.

"Someone counted 46 children on that merry-go-round," Hahn added.

Back home in Stanford, Roller recently purchased \$500 worth of swings, chain and other equipment with plans to ship it to Bosnia. Unfortunately, shipping costs are almost as expensive as the equipment itself, he said.

In Poland, sponsored group of Kentucky Baptists, announced a project similar to the one in Bosnia.

The group led by Ken Abbott, director of missions for Muhlenberg County Association, built a playground near a low-income apartment complex in

Warsaw. Ryszard Gutkowski, a Polish Baptist pastor working to establish a children's club in the community, requested help building the playground.

As they began to dig in a grassy area that was being used as a parking lot, residents approached them with tongues and fingers wagging in anger. The residents were upset because the Kentuckians were Baptist. Baptists often are viewed as a cult in Poland, which is predominantly Roman Catholic.

The Kentuckians were unable to understand a word of the tirades but the interpreters of the tirades that they were building a playground for the children, said Abbott. Older residents remained somewhat reserved, but younger residents soon pitched in to help.

"Once we put up swings, a slide and a glider, they were very, very pleased," Abbot said. "We helped establish a relationship so (Gutkowski) can work in the community."

Indeed, Gutkowski has since reported that many of the people in the apartment block have approached him and thanked him for the playground.

"One of (Gutkowski's) comments was 'This team did far more evangelism in five days of work on the playground than could have ever been done in five nights of evangelistic preaching,'" reported Joy and Larry Lindsay, Baptist missionaries serving in Poland.

**BOSNIAN PLAYGROUND**  
Children play on a merry-go-round built by Kentucky Baptists who saw a need for children to have somewhere to play.



# MISSIONS

## Three generations participate in missions

By Brenda Smith  
Kentucky Baptist Convention

STANFORD—Earlier this spring, three generations of a Stanford family—son, father and grandfather—used strong backs and loving spirits to rebuild homes and lives on two continents as part of Kentucky Baptist Convention mission trips.

Cody Davidson, 20, served in El Salvador to assist with Hurricane Mitch relief while Jeff Davidson, 42, and Junior Davidson, 74, helped families in Bosnia recover from war.

Cody said he always has had a passion for international missions and a desire to "show the love of Christ in a way that is real." His enthusiasm influenced his father and grandfather to do the same.

Cody encouraged his father Jeff to go on the Bosnia trip, organized by Kentucky Brotherhood. Cody said he knew his father had long wanted to go on a mission trip, but never was able to take the time. With several weeks of vacation time saved up, Jeff said it seemed that if he ever was going to go, now was the time. "Something was just telling me," Jeff said. "I reckon it was God talking to me."

When Jeff announced his decision to go to Bosnia, his father, a retired

plumber, was not far behind.

"Just because Jeff went, I thought I'd go because I'd like it," Junior explained. With the exception of the two-week separation from Lois, his wife of 56 years, "I did."

Jeff admitted he initially worried about the effects of such a long trip on his father. He never really worried, however, about his father's ability to handle the work.

"Junior hauled buckets and buckets of mortar for two weeks," said Dwayne Doyle, who recently completed two years in Bosnia as a Southern Baptist International Mission Board journeyman. "The man is a workhorse, and he always had a smile on his face."

Junior was assigned to a team working on a house for a Bosnian man named Shevko. Junior's "consistent smiles, pats on the back and servant attitude visibly impacted Shevko," Doyle said. By the end of the trip, the Bosnian was embracing Junior and the other members of his team.

When the Kentuckians prepared to return home, Shevko kissed Junior on both cheeks, a custom reserved for showing close affection for a friend or loved one.

"I got to see Shevko kiss Junior on the cheek, and it spoke volumes to me," Doyle reflected. "I realized that though

not much verbal communication was shared, the incarnation of Christ's love was lived out through Junior."

Jeff also found many opportunities to share his beliefs as he worked alongside Bosnians.

"Nobody jumped up and said, 'I want to believe,' but through the week they got closer and closer," Jeff said.

During prayer times, Bosnian contractors began joining the group. On the last night, the interpreter who worked with Jeff's crew even prayed aloud spontaneously, an uncommon gesture in his own Orthodox church. In his prayer, he thanked God for the Kentucky volunteers.

"I grew a lot closer to God," Jeff said. "It put a lot of things in perspective for me."

Junior said he now feels different about missions. He encourages others, no matter what age, to go on a mission trip if they are in good health.

As for Cody, his commitment to missions remains strong. Immediately after his return from El Salvador, he departed for Boston to serve as a summer missionary.

## Murphy's death leaves void in KBC partnership missions efforts

Kentucky Baptist Partnerships Associate Ken Murphy is being remembered for his love of missions after his sudden death July 31. Murphy, 60, died as a result of complications from surgery.

Murphy's promotion of and recruiting for partnership missions are among the things he is being remembered for, Partnership Director Calvin Wilkins said. "He enjoyed getting out and speaking in churches and associations to promote the partnerships."

With associational meetings coming up later this year, Murphy's work in that area will be especially missed, Wilkins added.

Kentucky Baptists currently are involved in three partnerships with Baptists in New England, Tanzania and Poland. The long-term impact of the loss of Murphy has yet to be

seen because it is too early to know when a successor might be hired, Wilkins said.

Missionaries and others expressed shock about Murphy's death. E-mails and other correspondence to Wilkins and Murphy's family both praised his work in missions and the personal friendships he made.

"There was shock and crying from your Tanzanian friends," wrote Ralph Boyle, a missionary to Tanzania, where Murphy and his wife had recently served for two weeks. "They were so privileged to be the group of people that Ken ministered to before going home."



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# MISSIONS

## Visitor finds Poland to be a land of needs and potential

### Volunteers needed for final trip to Poland this year

The Kentucky Baptist partnership missions office recently had to cancel three trips to Poland due to a lack of volunteers, according to director Calvin Wilkins.

The trips, all in September, were for construction or renovation at the Baptist seminary in Warsaw and two churches, he said.

"Somehow we've just run into a dry spell," he said, noting that he appealed to directors of missions and had notices in the Western Recorder.

"It's not that the projects will be completely dropped, but we'll have to rescheduled them for another time," he said.

Volunteers are especially needed for the last trip scheduled for Kentucky Baptists in Poland this year—an evangelism project in several cities Oct. 5-18.

For more information, call the Kentucky Baptist Convention partnership missions office at (888) 254-5724.



**HELP WANTED** First Baptist Church of Poznan needs a volunteer team next year to help with evangelism and building renovation. The church is offering English classes that attract several visitors, according to Calvin Wilkins, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's partnership missions office.

Dr. M.A. Winchester was among a group of Kentucky Baptists who made a trip to Poland to assess needs and opportunities Kentucky Baptists work on in their partnership with Polish Baptists. This is an abbreviated report of his findings.

Poland was a pleasure to visit. A land of past sorrows, it now has a bright future with clean, well-maintained cities and towns. Although full of energy, it is a country in need of the Light of the World.

The year 1848 marked the first Baptist work in Poland. In 1939, there were 20,000 Baptists in the country. In 1999 there are 65 Baptist churches with 4,000 members. Twenty of these churches are without pastors.

Our journey had a two-fold purpose. A construction team of nine members, (Dwight and Donna Buckles and Susan Byers of Elizabethtown; Bob and Maxine Jones and Irv and Joyce Shanie of Louisville; and Ronald Rose and Ron Tinch of Grayhawk) worked at the Baptist Theological Seminary at Radosci near Warsaw. They completed jobs started by an earlier team.

The other team consisted of Calvin Wilkins, Mel Doughty, Larry Lindsey and myself. Doughty, campus minister and lay leader from Mayfield, evaluated the potential for youth and student ministries. I evaluated the potential for health-care ministries in Poland.

#### The seminary

We began and ended our visit to Poland at the seminary at Radosci (translated "joy"), located in the suburbs of Warsaw. It was a joy for us to see the facility, constructed mostly by North Carolina Baptists in a former partnership but not fully completed, and to see a team of Kentucky and Polish Baptists laboring to help finish the project.

There are 22 full-time, 25 part-time and more than 200 correspondence students studying at the seminary in preparation for sharing the gospel.

Seminary President Gustaw Cieslar and Administrator Henryk Podsiadly talked about their dreams for the seminary. Among the dreams is the desire to complete the campus, enlarge the enrollment and improve the faculty and extension program. They also wish to use the campus for study groups and conferences and to grow the church on the campus.

All partnership projects are important but, in my opinion, seminary projects stand at the forefront. Following are projects and their projected costs. Some of these have been approved; others are pending.

- Finish the chapel and grounds and install new electrical and water filtering systems for the complex. \$200,000.

- Money for professors' support. \$500 per month.

- Student scholarships. The cost to the seminary for each full-time student is \$3,000 per year with the student paying \$900.

- English language books for teaching English and English language theology books.

- Grants to sponsor conferences.

\$1,000 will provide room and board for up to 100 people.

#### The churches

We visited 11 churches and eight other ministry sites. Some made many requests while others made none. Among them:

- The church in Krakow, Poland's cultural center, is experiencing growth. Its present property is now inadequate for its congregation. The vision of the church is to eventually purchase property on the outskirts of the city for a new facility.

- North to the Baltic Sea, the church at Gydnia has 60 members with 75 or more people in attendance on a recent Sunday. It is housed in a 4-story apartment building, half of which is owned by the church. The church needs a new roof and outside insulation. Estimated cost: \$8,000.

- The church at Elblag has an adequate facility but needs funds for minor repairs and to expand a ministry to an orphanage.

- Czestochowa, the religious center of Poland, has a church that meets in the pastor's home. He said the greatest need of Polish Baptists is to modernize the methods of presenting the old, old story of Jesus and his love. Out of his vision, a conference is being held in the mountains of southern Poland this summer to discuss these ideas.

- Covenant Baptist Church in Warsaw has no building. Members meet in a rented building and spend all their funds on ministry. They believe in reaching people through servant ministry.

- The church at Bialstok is probably the largest in Poland with approximately 350 members. Next to it is the Polish Baptist nursing home. It has a long list of needs including building repairs, kitchen equipment, cleaning supplies, medical equipment and medicines.

- In the ski resort area of southern Poland, a large facility has been started. This is probably the most challenging project we encountered. This center wishes to minister to the tourist population and the church as well as to serve as a place for retreats and conferences. Although unfinished, the facility houses the church which continues construction as funds become available. The estimated cost to finish this facility is \$200,000.

- Second Baptist Church in Warsaw needs funds to buy land and build a building.

- Bielsco Church, whose pastor is president of the Polish Baptist Convention, meets in a school building and needs assistance in buying land and constructing a building.

#### Conclusion

Polish Baptists have many needs and limited financial resources. Despite their difficulties, however, many of these churches are involved in exciting ministries.

Let us resolve together to seek God's will regarding our individual, church and associational involvement, and grasp this opportunity to assist our fellow believers in Poland.



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Next summer we're launching our all-new youth camps, "Crossings at the Creek." We're excited about these camps and want to share our enthusiasm about this new camp opportunity.

There are lots of exciting changes taking place at Jonathan Creek. Our board and I have felt that the development of the waterfront was critical to our long-term ministry. Toward this end, in the last couple of months we have completed a fabulous new boat dock. We've got Sea-Doos, canoes and kayaks, already in place, with more on the way.

We've got a new Aqua-Jump, which has proven to be immensely popular for all ages. This bright, colorful giant water trampoline

will wear an older person out, but youth have enjoyed it. By next summer we will further expand our waterfront activities, with sailing, water skiing and more.

In addition to the waterfront development, we have built a new alpine tower. The tower is a giant 50-foot climbing tower that already has proven to be a big hit

with those who have used it. Come try it out, you'll love it. The giant swing is a real thrill.

Please understand that all of this is not simply for the purpose of recreation. We're not building a "water park." Anyone who knows my heart knows how I feel about youth ministry and the need to reach this generation for Christ. But it is our intent to build a camp that unchurched youth will see and say, "Wow! I want to go there!" So that's what we're doing, and we want youth ministers to come and see what we've done so far. It will be a fun, informative time and best of all, it's all on us. Call Jonathan Creek at (270) 354-8355 to make reservations today.

### KENTUCKY BAPTIST ASSEMBLIES



Rusty Ellison

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executive producer & president of *TimeOut for Women!*, has worked in media & pi, authored a textbook, wrote music for & produced 5 recordings



**Judy Schreur**  
nationally known motivational speaker & humorist, co-authored "When Prince Charming Falls Off His Horse" with her husband

## Real Friendly

Real Life magazine can help your church make a great first impression

## Blessing each other

By Robert Dunston

In 1994, the Knight Mentoring Program began at Cumberland College. Earlier Cumberland had submitted a proposal to the Knight Foundation to support a program that would link Cumberland College and Whitley County Middle School and minister to middle school students before, during and after their transition to high school.

Much of the credit for the program's success goes to Cumberland education professors Norma Patrick and Garnet Christman, who served as co-directors in the early years. They assembled a steering committee of Cumberland professors and personnel from Whitley County Middle School, who established guidelines and got the program off to a wonderful start. Currently Debbie Harp, director of counseling and career development at Cumberland; Jane Whitaker, coordinator of the leadership program at Cumberland; and Lans Lay, director of the youth service center at Whitley County Middle School, direct the program.

The program matches 25 Cumberland students one-on-one with 25 Whitley County Middle School students. The object is to help middle school students who have academic potential but need additional encour-

agement.

Each week a Cumberland mentor meets with his or her middle school partner. One focus of the program is academic work so mentors help with homework. The most important focus of the program is forming a relationship which nurtures the potential of the middle school student. Thus the weekly meetings involve fellowship and fun as well as academics. Often, participants attend college events such as plays and art exhibitions to sample the college experience.

**CUMBERLAND COLLEGE**



The close and long-term contact forms strong bonds and lasting relationships. When one of the Cumberland mentors married several years ago, she asked her middle school partner to be a bridesmaid. Through the program, middle school students find a big brother or sister and Cumberland students find a friend and sometimes a second family.

As in every program in which someone seeks to minister to another, both end up being blessed. Cumberland students discover the joy of service and middle schoolers discover their abilities and begin to realize their potential.

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

## Free on the inside

"We might not feel like we're free because of where we are," said Terry, a young man in one of our residential programs. "But we need to remember that with God we can be free on the inside."

There's no getting around the fact that most of the kids in residential care, no matter the program, don't want to be there.

We've never touted shelters and cottages as replacement homes. We consider them stops along the way to a better life.

We try to make the stop as loving and comfortable as we can, but we cannot, and will not, set ourselves up to replace parents. When Terry says he and his peers don't feel free, it's because many of them came from homes with

**HOMES FOR CHILDREN**



Bill Smithwick

no boundaries and no discipline, except perhaps physical abuse.

Terry is a Christian, but the truth about freedom in Christ had been dormant as he struggled with the problems that brought him into care. That insight was reignited in him through the exuberant witness of five college students known this summer as Son Celebration.

Son Celebration is one of five Son Teams organized by the Ken-

tucky Baptist Convention's collegiate ministries department. We've been blessed to have two Son Teams work with youth from two of our programs. The enthusiasm these students have for God has been demonstrated through drama, sign language, recreation, praise and their personal testimonies.

The Son Teams' ministry to our kids came just a few weeks after our third camp. About 80 kids and staff gathered at Georgetown College for Bible study, recreation and great worship experiences.

Like the Son Teams, the staff of this camp were also young Christians on fire for God. The impact the Son Teams and camp had on our kids can't be measured by a number of spiritual decisions. I think it goes much deeper than that. Kids who never have had a healthy perception of a heavenly Father have seen a relationship in progress through these people. I'm so grateful they shared part of their summer with us.

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

## Boy Scouts to appeal ruling that it can't ban homosexuals

TRENTON, N.J. (RNS)—The Boy Scouts of America says it will ask the U.S. Supreme Court to uphold its ban on homosexuals, claiming its constitutional rights of free association and speech include the right to bar gays.

"We'll argue the First Amendment," attorney George Davidson said in the wake of a ruling Aug. 4 by New Jersey's Supreme Court that the Scouts' ban on gays violated the state's anti-bias laws.

The ruling was the first time a state high court has invalidated the Scouts' ban. The group also bars atheists and agnostics from membership and leadership positions.

New Jersey is one of 11 states and the District of Columbia that bar discrimination based on sexual orientation.

The decision was a victory for James Dale, an assistant scoutmaster who was kicked out of the Scouts nine years ago when leaders found out he was gay. He sued, seeking reinstatement.

In its ruling, the court held that the Boy Scouts "is a place of public accommodation" and therefore subject to the state's anti-bias law. It rejected the youth group's argument that the words "morally straight" and "clean" in the Scouts' Oath and Law "explicitly or implicitly stand for the proposition that homosexuality is immoral."

"The words 'morally straight' and 'clean' do not, on their face, express anything about sexuality, much less that homosexuality, in particular, is immoral," the court stated.

Davidson, the Scouts' lawyer, said the ruling, because it conflicts with other rulings, will allow the Boy Scouts to "go to the U.S. Supreme Court and get a definitive ruling to put an end to these lawsuits."

In 1998, the California Supreme Court upheld the Scouts' right to exclude gays, atheists and agnostics.

## Christians praying for their neighbors to see the Light

Continued from page 1

staffer at a physical therapy practice, and Nelson, 64, a retired teacher, have gone beyond praying to caring for their neighbors by organizing emergency preparedness sessions for whatever might arise in their community south of Seattle, from earthquakes to ice storms to floods.

On the lined paper they pull out before their prayer session, they jot down their requests to God for the next preparedness meeting—to be held during a block party—and note the illnesses and other concerns they've learned about in the houses that surround them.

"Linda and I had the thought of getting the neighbors to know each other, to try and work together," said Nelson. "Ultimately, we pray that they'll come to know the Lord, but we're going a step at a time."

At this point, some neighbors know they're praying for the neighborhood, but not specifically for particular conditions in each household.

Thus, the women have not yet moved to the sharing portion of the plan, which could include placing bright orange door hangers on their neighbors' doorknobs announcing that they're being prayed for and offering a few lines on the back to jot down prayer requests.

Houses of Prayer Everywhere suggests people begin by praying five minutes a day for five neighbors five days a week for five weeks; other ministries involved in the movement recommend praying for five neighbors to the left and right and 10 across the street.

All of this might sound fairly programmatic, but organizers insist it is a flexible strategy that is simply getting Christians to do what they're called to do—pray for their neighbors, care for their community and share their faith.

"Prayer evangelism is talking to God about your neighbors before you talk to your neighbors about God," said Patrick Clowes, vice president of Promise Keepers' Vision 2000 division, which is working to encourage men in the evangelical movement to turn their homes into "lighthouses."

In the end, evangelical Christian leaders say they hope their particular effort will get people to do two things they might not have done before—get involved with their neighbors and with evangelism.

"It's moving people out of their comfort zone," said Clowes.

Pastors in the Seattle area—in a state

the Gallup Organization reported last year had the lowest percentage of regular churchgoers in the nation—report that they and members of their churches have seen positive results from their new prayer regimens.

Lewie Schultz of Mountain View Baptist Church in Tacoma, Wash., said that after his family started praying for his neighbors, one woman who lived nearby and had been the subject of their prayers ran into his wife in a Kmart and asked to follow them to church. The woman and her husband were later baptized by Schultz.

"It was fun to see God, in answer to prayer, begin to reach our neighbors," he said.

Cedar calls the Lighthouse Movement "out of human control, in the Holy Spirit's control" and acknowledges it's hard to figure out exactly how many people are participating. Paul Dozeman, associate director of Houses of Prayer Everywhere, estimates that "tens of thousands" already are involved in

the Lighthouse Movement. Both predict there will be at least 3 million "lighthouses" by sometime next year.

While some Lighthouse participants are telling their neighbors they are praying for them—some even have baskets near their front doors for people to drop off prayer requests—Cedar is among those who think keeping the prayers private is a good idea.

"I'm sure that there would be non-Christians who would prefer that they not be prayed for," he said. "The key, really, is authentically loving, not manipulating, not squeezing people into a program, not making them into a target, but just praying."

As Nelson and Woerman keep up their weekly prayer time, they say their work reflects their response to a question asked by Cain of God in the book of Genesis—"Am I my brother's keeper?"

"If you answer that question in the affirmative, then this is a natural step," Woerman said.

**PRAYER MEETING** Linda Woerman and Carolyn Nelson pray for their neighbors as part of the Lighthouse Movement. "Many Christians are shy about sharing their faith," said Paul Cedar, chairman of the Lighthouse Movement. "What we're saying is don't worry about that. Just start praying for neighbors. ... As you begin to pray, God will open up authentic opportunities ... to care for them."



### Call for Resolutions

The Kentucky Baptist Convention's Committee on Resolutions will meet Aug. 24 to begin preparing for the 1999 Kentucky Baptist Convention meeting in Covington Nov. 16-17. Individuals wishing to submit resolutions for the committee's review can do so by mailing the resolution to:

Committee on Resolutions  
Kentucky Baptist Convention  
P.O. Box 43433  
Louisville, KY 40253-0433



### 'Here's a \$50 gift because of Jesus'

Like most of you, I look forward to getting the mail each day. There are generally some letters I would rather not receive, but most of the time I enjoy the correspondence.

Some letters start out like this one: "Dear Mr. Underwood, I am 95 years old, and I am not getting around as well as I used to." Often the letter will continue something like this: "This gift is not much, but our little group gets smaller and smaller. The Lord has called several of us home. I hope this small gift will help with the work at Oneida."

Or like this letter from Lexington: "My husband died in 1983, and I've been sending \$500 every three months since then. I hope to continue doing this. The staff and students are in my prayers. Years ago when I heard Barkley tell about the school and how many students had made professions of faith, I resolved to try to help in some way. It is a wonderful school. ... I'm 82 years of age and not able to do all I'd like to, so I encourage others."

And encourage us she does! I can't express how wonderful it is to get these letters, many with just a few lines saying the writers are praying for us and supporting us.

The number of friends who have told me they are praying for me, the staff, students and the ministry is nearly overwhelming.

Then there are the letters that come from former students. Each one is different, but they are similar in many ways. Here is part of one such letter:

"I was a student at your school off and on from 1974-78. I graduated in May 1978. I want to start by saying I am very grateful to the late President Moore for allowing me the opportunity for a fine education. I was allowed to attend the school on a reduced fee, without which I would have been un-

able to attend.

"After I had been there a while, he also allowed my brother to do the same. I believe this made a tremendous difference in our lives. We were children of divorced parents in our mother's custody. She worked several jobs at once in order to support us. As a result, we had little supervision.

"At age 13 I began to get into a lot of trouble such as skipping school, drinking, etc., and Oneida afforded me a period of time to try and get my act together. I know today that I never would have graduated from high school had I not been given the opportunity to attend Oneida.

"When I was at Oneida, I had a very bad attitude. I did not have any gratitude at all for the opportunity presented to me there. I also did not even try to participate in a positive way until my senior year. I broke a lot of rules. I can look back on my life today and know he was watching over me always or I would be dead today. I believe part of his watching over me was to send me to Oneida. ... What it did for me was show me about love and caring. For the first time in my life, I felt like I belonged somewhere, and I have always remembered that."

When I get letters like this, it brightens my day. The devil would have us believe we are all alone and not accomplishing much. But these letters remind us of the value of our work.

I received another letter last week which simply stated, "Here's a \$50 gift because of Jesus," signed, Charlie. That says it all!

Reprinted from WR Nov. 1, 1994

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

### Coping with ALS

This story about 1995 graduate Mark Barnett was written by Mary Catherine Brooks and appeared in the Wyoming County Report in Pineville, W.Va.

At the age of 40, Pastor Mark Barnett has become one of "Jerry's Kids." Barnett was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease. Barnett's problems began in January 1997 when he and others noticed his walk had become strained.

Until this problem, Barnett rarely saw a doctor. The only blood test he'd had was when he married, and, he jokingly adds, he passed out during the test. Barnett faced myriad tests, including extensive blood tests. Because there is no definitive

test for ALS, doctors must perform other tests to rule out other possibilities. God, however, was working to alleviate Barnett's distress. His blood work was done by a woman who told Barnett she'd been given a gift by God; she could draw blood from a patient without pain.

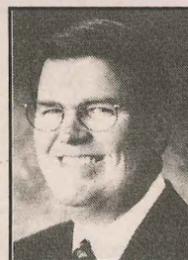
Barnett's insurance refused to pay for a major test because the doctor had not secured prior approval. The doctor offered to absorb half the \$500 cost.

On a preacher's salary, Barnett didn't know where the money would come from. He hung up the phone and went to the post office. As he left the post office, a man whom Barnett had never met previously, walked up to him, asked if he was Rev. Barnett and said, "I don't know what you need this for, but God told me to give it to you." Barnett opened the envelope to find \$250. Barnett went back into the post office and purchased a money order to pay his half of the spinal tap fee. God wasn't through yet. His medications cost about \$800 a month and insurance covers only \$1,200 a year. Churches helped for two months, and then a foundation was located that now pays the full cost.

Although he is still able to walk with a cane and still drive, Barnett had to resign his position as pastor of Pineville Southern Baptist Church. "Some days, I get real down," Barnett said. "But the easiest thing in the world would be to just give up." He takes comfort in the knowledge that God is using him and his illness to touch other people's lives, as well as his own.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

## Pollen might prove Shroud of Turin older than thought

By Adelle Banks  
Religion News Service

ST. LOUIS, Mo. (RNS)—A Jerusalem-based botanist, working with a team of colleagues, has determined that the Shroud of Turin probably dates to before the eighth century and was located in the Jerusalem area.

Avinoam Danin, a member of the department of evolution, systematics and ecology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, announced the findings Aug. 2 in St. Louis, where he was attending the XVI International Botanical Congress. The findings will be published by the Missouri Botanical Garden Press in a paper titled "Flora of the Shroud of Turin."

The findings conflict with other studies of the shroud, which some believe was the burial cloth of Jesus. In 1988, a team of scientists used carbon-14 dating tests and concluded the

shroud dates to the Middle Ages.

But Danin said he believes the shroud is much older because of links made between pollen grains and blood stains on both the shroud and the Sudarium of Oviedo, which some believe is the burial face cloth of Jesus. That cloth has been in the Cathedral of Oviedo in Spain since the eighth century.

"There's no possibility that this cloth in Oviedo and the shroud would have both the same blood stains and these pollen grains unless they were covering the same body," Danin said. "And being resident of that church in Oviedo since at least 760, there's no way that it could be a fake of the 14th century."

Danin said pollen grains of the thistle *Gundelia tournefortii* were found on both the shroud and the cloth housed in Oviedo. He called them "very hard evidence."

"This plant is growing only in the near East," he said. "It is not growing in Spain. It is not growing in Europe. It is from Middle Eastern origin."

The plant, which continues to bloom to this day, blossoms at a certain time of year.

"The time of the formulation of the image and the position of pollen on the shroud due to the indicator plants is March/April," he said. "This is a physical and biological indicator, not biblical."

A New Port Richey, Fla., writer who has studied the shroud said the two specific months named in Davin's research are "very significant."

John Iannone, author of "The Mystery of the Shroud of Turin: New Scientific Evidence," said the finding makes the shroud "consistent with the time of the Passover and the Crucifixion."

He added that "those flowers

would be fresh in the fields around Jerusalem" and "readily available for a burial."

Iannone also is president of the St. Louis-based Holy Shroud Task Force, a group of doctors, scientists, writers and historians interested in furthering research on the shroud. Danin is a member of the group's advisory board.

"It moves the date back considerably," Iannone said of Danin's findings. "What it does is it substantially increases the case for authenticity, or certainly antiquity. It gives us one more instrument to debate the carbon-14 dating."

Despite the difference in the findings, Davin voiced his respect for the experts who used the carbon-14 dating method.

"The carbon-14 dating was wonderful, but true for one corner of the shroud," he said. "We are not questioning their accuracy."

## 'Want a squad car decal to go with that coffee mug?'

REPUBLIC, Mo. (RNS)—Officials in a southern Missouri city hope the Christian fish symbol that landed them in controversy will now snag some much-needed funds.

A federal judge declared the fish symbol on the city seal unconstitutional last month, giving city officials in Republic 30 days to replace signs, flags and even stationery bearing the fish image.

The town's Board of Aldermen met July 26 to discuss a sale—hoping the abundance of lapel pins, buttons, patches, business cards, clocks and T-shirts might defray the \$15,000 to \$20,000 the effort is expected to cost.

"We'll most likely have an auction," City Administrator Dean Thompson told the *Washington Times*. "We don't know what form that will take, whether local or on the Internet. We've had a lot of nationwide attention, so if an Internet auction could be arranged, that would be a good option, especially if tied in to a local auction."

Town officials have received numerous calls from collectors across the country wondering how to obtain business cards, flags and other items the town accumulated in nine years of using the seal.

## Hate crimes up against Hispanics & their churches

HOUSTON (RNS)—Hate crimes directed against Hispanics and their houses of worship are rising, according to a report released July 26 by a prominent Hispanic advocacy group.

The National Council of La Raza report documented cases of church burnings, alleged abuses by law enforcement and violence toward Hispanics.

NCLR President Raul Yzaguirre released the report, "The Mainstreaming of Hate," at a Houston news conference during the group's annual meeting.

"At issue is a simple question," said Yzaguirre. "Do Hispanic Americans have the right to drive the streets, attend places of worship and otherwise live their lives free from hate, violence, harassment and law enforcement abuse? For the countless Latinos, this report suggests that these rights are very much in question in America today."

The report stated that hate crimes against Latinos are rising. It also identified an "emerging pattern of hate-related activity in Hispanic places of worship."

The study noted that "24 Hispanic places of worship throughout the country are on the list of church arson sites to be investigated" by authorities.

The report gave the La Luz del Mundo Church in Walhalla, S.C., as an example. After a 1995 fire, a 14-year-old white boy admitted to torching the structure, saying he "dislikes Mexicans."

The National Church Arson Task Force, the National Coalition for Burned Churches and the NCLR currently are looking into confirmed church arsons that might be hate-related, according to the report.

## Zoning limits on prayer meetings draw lawsuit

DENVER (RNS)—A Denver couple filed suit against the city after it ordered them to limit the number of prayer meetings they hold at their home to one a month.

The American Center for Law and Justice, a public interest law firm, filed the suit Aug. 3 on behalf of David and Diane Reiter. The ACLJ contends that the cease-and-desist order issued by the city zoning office is unconstitutional.

"The city has trampled on the First Amendment rights of our clients and has enacted an order that is not only unconstitutional but absurd," said Jay

Sekulow, chief counsel of the ACLJ.

In March 1998, the Reiters began holding weekly prayer meetings in their home. In a letter to the zoning board, Sekulow wrote that between eight and 12 women would attend the meetings to study Christian literature.

Kent Strapko, administrator of the city's zoning department, predicted that the city would win the suit, *Associated Press* reported.

"The ordinance gives the city the authority to protect residential neighborhoods from anything beyond reasonably expected activity that is not uncommon or disruptive," Strapko

said. "It includes football parties, yard sales and religious meetings. We don't distinguish, ever."

The city filed the zoning order in October after receiving numerous complaints from neighbors.

"The order was filed not because it was a religious group, not because it was a Bible study group, but because of the meetings' impacts on adjacent properties," Strapko said. "Complaints were made because of parking issues."

Sekulow's letter to the zoning board said the order did not mention any parking or noise ordinance violations.

## Students suing college over Christian literature

MIAMI (RNS)—Five Florida students filed suit against Miami-Dade Community College after school security threatened them with arrest for handing out religious literature.

The students were handing out business cards imprinted with a telephone number and the words, "The call you will never forget." Callers hear a recorded message on God and Christianity.

The students, ranging in age from 19 to 30, are all Christians who attend a nondenominational church. They charge that school authorities stopped them and asked them to leave on two

different occasions.

The lawsuit charges that the school's literature-distribution policy violates freedom of speech because it requires students to clear the documents with school officials, the *Washington Times* reported. The suit also contends that the policy violates the U.S. Constitution's ban on excessive government entanglement with religion.

All of the students said they fear the incident will damage their academic record, according to their attorney, Mathew Staver. The lawsuit demands the school drop its literature-distribution

policy that grants school officials "unfettered discretion" to carry out "a licensing scheme on free speech."

One college administrator said this is the first complaint she has received about the policy in her nine and a half years at the college.

"The college has no desire to violate any rights of students, and we're committed to fostering an academic atmosphere that encourages the free exchange of ideas," said Carol Zeiner, Miami-Dade's associate vice president for legal affairs. "These are rights we take very seriously."

## Judge validates Christian Coalition's voter guides

WASHINGTON (RNS)—A federal judge ruled Aug. 2 that the Christian Coalition had the right to distribute voter guides in recent presidential and congressional elections.

U.S. District Judge Joyce Green rejected the claims in a 1996 lawsuit by the Federal Election Commission that the coalition's voter guides and get-out-the-vote initiatives were partisan activities aiming to help Republican candidates.

"With this ruling, Christian Coalition will be free to carry out a primary mission, to educate millions of pro-family voters and encourage them to go to the polls with our material in their hands," said Pat Robertson, president and founder of the Christian Coalition. "We will continue to release millions

of voter guides through houses of worship, over the Internet and in the public square."

Green ruled in favor of the FEC on two matters. She said the coalition in 1994 improperly aided then-Rep. Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., and Iran-Contra figure Oliver North, who was then the Republican Senate nominee in Virginia. The coalition will have to pay a fine, but the amount will be determined later, *Associated Press* reported.

"Pat Robertson and his Christian Coalition have slipped through a legal loophole," said Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State. "The decision still provides plenty of evidence that the Christian Coalition is a hard-ball partisan political operation."

## No bonds for Regent

RICHMOND, Va. (RNS)—Regent University, a Christian graduate school founded by religious broadcaster Pat Robertson, does not qualify for tax-exempt construction bonds because its "primary purpose is religious training," a Virginia judge ruled July 30.

Calling the school "pervasively sectarian," Richmond Circuit Court Judge Randy Johnson thwarted the school's efforts to use \$55 million in bond proceeds to pay for construction on its Virginia Beach main campus and to develop a site in Alexandria.

In the ruling, Johnson cited the university's admission and employment policies, which he called clearly religious in nature.

In court, Regent chief academic officer George Selig said Regent University does not require students to be Christian.

# PEOPLE

## PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ The family of Ken Murphy, Kentucky Baptist Convention partnership missions associate director, who died Aug. 1.

■ Kentucky volunteers needed for evangelism projects in Poland Oct. 5-18.

■ Children of missionaries to Tanzania as they prepare to begin a new school year at Rosslyn Academy in Nairobi, Kenya.

■ Gene Cole of Claremore, Okla., who broke his neck June 30 while serving as volunteer coordinator on the construction site at Farmington Baptist Church in Farmington, Maine. He is in stable condition in an Oklahoma hospital.

■ Walter Lee, pastor of Rice Korean Baptist Church in Northborough, Mass.

■ Tim Hooker, a native of Paducah, who recently began a one-year assignment in international collegiate ministries in Boston. Previously, he served two years as a missionary in Thailand.

## Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Shirley Wooton

■ COVINGTON—Latoria Church called **Ben Sturgis** as minister of youth and children. Sturgis came from Rocky Knoll Church, Walhalla, S.C. **James Abernathy** is pastor.

■ CRESTWOOD—**Steve Hadden**, senior minister of Crestwood Church, resigned, effective Aug. 15, to accept a call as pastor of First Church, Conway, S.C.

■ CYNTHIANA—A benefit concert for **Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children** will be held Aug. 14, 6 p.m. at the Harrison County Fairgrounds on U.S. Hwy. 27 south. Gospel groups to appear include **Redemption, The King's Strings, Solid Ground, New Found Four, New Revival and Dawn Arnold**. A love offering will be collected. For information, call (502) 245-2101.

■ HODGENVILLE—Parkway Church called **Gary Hendrickson** as pastor. Hendrickson, a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, has been pastor of churches in Alabama, California, Illinois and Kentucky.

■ HOPKINSVILLE—**Jim McKenzie** resigned as pastor of First Church to accept a call as pastor of Chevy Chase Church, Lexington. McKenzie served as pastor of First Church 12 years.

■ JEFFERSONTOWN—Jefferson-town Church will host southern gospel artist **Stephen Hill** in concert Aug. 21, 7 p.m. For information, call (502)

267-1123. **Sanford Hill** is pastor.

■ LANCASTER—Lancaster Church called **Barry Jeffries** as pastor. Jeffries is former pastor of Immanuel Church, Danville.

■ LOUISVILLE—**Bill Tiemann** resigned as minister of music of Melbourne Heights Church, effective Aug. 8. The church recently hosted a farewell reception in his honor. Tiemann is moving to Florida to be closer to his family. **Bill Shoulta** is pastor.

■ MANCHESTER—Horse Creek Church will host a Bible jubilee Aug. 23-25. Special speakers will include **Mike Caudill, W.B. Bingham Jr. and Cameron Mills**. The music leader will be **David Peters**. **Scottie Sumner** is pastor.

■ MAYSVILLE—First Church recently ordained **Roy Boone** to the deacon ministry. **Paul Fields** is interim pastor.

■ SHEPHERDSVILLE—Bullitt Lick Church called **Deborah Anne Murrell** as interim minister of music.

■ WHITESBURG—North Fork Church ordained **Dock Frazier** to the deacon ministry. **David Robinson** is pastor.

■ CHARLOTTE, N.C.—**Stephen Shoemaker**, former pastor of Crescent Hill Church, Louisville, was named pastor of Myers Park Church in Charlotte, N.C. He was pastor of Broadway Church, Fort Worth, Texas, for the past seven years.

## Kentuckians going to Ukraine and Uganda as missionaries

GLORIETA, N.M.—Two Kentucky couples were appointed recently by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board to serve as missionaries to the Ukraine and Uganda.

Monty and Leigh Ann Self will serve in the Ukraine, a country with a population of more than 50 million people and the strongest and largest Baptist union in Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Self will train Ukrainian Baptists to be pastors, currently a critical need because more than 300 Baptist churches in the Ukraine are without pastors.

Self is pastor of Central Baptist Church in Lebanon and associate director of the after-school program at Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville. Mrs. Self is a first grade teacher at St. Paul Catholic School in Louisville.

Rob and Sandy Davis will do evangelism, church planting and discipleship training in the Kamuli, Uganda, area.

Davis, who considers Cadiz his hometown, is a former member of Fruit Hill Baptist Church in Fruit Hill. Davis said he considers Van Buren Baptist Church in Louisville to be his home church but said Stephensport Baptist Church also was influential in his Christian growth.

Davis met and married his wife,



Monty and Leigh Ann Self



Rob and Sandy Davis

Sandy, at Murray State University in Murray. They married at Corinth Baptist Church in McQuady.

Born in Hardinsburg, Mrs. Davis considers McQuady her hometown and Van Buren Baptist Church her home church.

The Davises have two children: Ethan Taul, born in 1994; and Seth Miller, born in 1997.

The Selfs and Davises were among more than 50 people appointed by the International Mission Board July 29 during a service at Glorieta conference center in New Mexico.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**SEEKING:** Office assistant for Christian social service agency. Have a real heart for ministry? Part-time Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Skills needed: typing, data entry, some knowledge of Windows 95, Microsoft Office, great phone skills, and ability to deal with clients and the public. Interested? Call Infant Resource Project at (502) 584-0774 and ask for Cathy Neel.

**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:** After-school care in our Anchorage home for two boys, 10 and 14. Hours: 3-6 p.m., M-F. Must have car. Pay: \$8 per hour. Call (502) 245-7376 after 6 p.m. or on weekends.

**SEEKING:** Part-time youth minister. Accepting resumé through Sept. 15. Send to: Youth Search Committee, First Baptist Church, PO Box 26, Shepherdsville, KY 40165.

**FOR SALE:** 1988 Ford Falcon 30-passenger bus. 65,000 miles; \$8,000. Call (270) 237-3451 for details.

**SEEKING:** Full-time music administrative assistant. Skills required: typing, computer skills, basic music reading skills, good organization qualities, able to handle budget accounts, communicate well with people. Directing skills not required; keyboard skills would be helpful. Contact: Dennis Goskie, associate pastor of music and worship, Highview Baptist Church, Louisville, (502) 239-7711.

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

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for Maple Grove Baptist Church. Please send resumé to: Search Committee, Maple Grove Baptist Church, 5911 E. Manslick Road, Louisville, KY 40219.

**SEEKING:** Bloomfield Baptist Church, Bloomfield, Ky., is prayerfully seeking a pastor. Bloomfield Baptist is a growth-oriented church with an average attendance of 250 in morning worship. MDiv. is minimal requirement. Send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, Bloomfield Baptist Church, PO Box 217, Bloomfield, KY 40008.

**SEEKING:** People with secretarial experience and computer application skills to accept temporary work assignments. Contact: Administrative Services Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Louisville, Ky. Phone: (502) 244-6468.

**SEEKING:** Panther Creek Baptist Church of Owensboro, Ky., is seeking applicants for the position of full-time pastor. Located in a rural-suburban high-growth area, our church has a strong fellowship. Seminary degree preferred. Send resumé and references to: Pastor Selection Committee, c/o Donald Harris, Accounting, 2009 B Frederica Street, Owensboro, KY 42301.

**SEEKING:** Church secretary/receptionist needed for Hurstbourne Baptist Church, Louisville. Full benefits, 37.5-hour work week, vacation. Experience with Microsoft Word and PageMaker preferred. Call the church office at (502) 243-9517 for further information or application.

**FOR SALE:** 28 golden oak church pews with white ends, 13 feet long, recently refinished. Also, matching pulpit and choir pews. \$5,000 (negotiable). (502) 454-4681.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for Harmony Baptist Church. Send resumé: Pastor Search Committee, c/o Harmony Baptist Church, 9215 Ogden Landing Road, West Paducah, KY 42086.

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music and part-time minister of youth/children. Send resumé to: Search Committee, Youngers Creek Baptist Church, 251 Youngers Creek Road, Elizabethtown, KY 42701.

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

**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:** Part-time minister of music. Requires direction of chancel choir, handbell choir and planning worship music. Send complete resumé/references to: Personnel Committee, Deer Park Baptist Church, 1733 Bardstown Road, Louisville, KY 40205.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of music. Some experience required. Please send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Central Baptist Church, 201 W 4th St., Corbin, KY 40701.

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

**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

## Lepers not unclean but still find haven in colony

By Peter Smith  
Religion News Service

TICHILESTI, Romania (RNS)—When he worships in the Orthodox chapel in this small, isolated village in eastern Romania, Cristache Tatulea finds special significance in certain Scriptures.

"I can't read the Bible because I don't see well," said Tatulea, 67. "But I heard in church about how Jesus Christ helped the lepers, and this gives me hope that God will spiritually help us."

Tatulea and about 30 people live in a relic of history—one of Europe's few remaining leper colonies. The inhabitants no longer have the leprosy bacteria that ravages the skin and the nervous system, said Barbu Iganatescu, the colony's resident doctor.

But most are missing legs, fingers or eyes because their deadened nerves failed to sense injuries until it was too late to treat them.

Iganatescu and a small nursing staff care for the patients daily, both for their lingering deformities and for the typical ailments of old age. Residents are supported by modest state subsidies as well as gifts from churches and other charities. They live in small homes, many heated by wood stoves and lacking running water.

The elderly residents have spent much of their adult lives here as farmers in poor but stable conditions, often marrying each other, raising children and indulging in the typical gossip and petty quarrels of neighbors living in close quarters.

"I can't say I like living here," said Tichilesti's raspy-voiced mayor, 68-year-old Vasile Tarata. "I'd rather be healthy, but because I've lost part of my body, what can I do?"

Tarata, who is missing a leg and whose truncated fingers are blackened from the unfelt burns of cigarettes, notes that residents' "standard of living is very good compared with our physical problems. I could be a retired



**LEPER COLONY** Stephan Topalov, 80, and his wife, Eustina, chat outside their home in the leper colony in Tichilesti, Romania, one of a dwindling number of such colonies in Europe. Doctors say that leprosy, which can be easily diagnosed and treated, never required the strict quarantine previously believed necessary. (RNS photos)

pensioner in Bucharest, always afraid that I won't have enough money to buy food."

Leprosy, a declining but still potent menace in South Asia, Africa and Latin America, has been virtually eradicated in Europe. But progress came too late for these last survivors of Tichilesti. The colony, which numbered 200 at its height, was founded in the 1930s under a policy of strictly quarantining lepers, a tradition since biblical times that has made "leper" a byword for outcast. Doctors now say fears of contagion were highly exaggerated.

Cristache Tatulea's ordeal began when he was a schoolboy. His teacher expelled him from class, horrified that his skin lesions might infect others. He spent several years as a shepherd boy before a doctor diagnosed his leprosy and sent him here in 1949.

In Tichilesti, Tatulea met his wife, and they raised two sons in the small, four-room home he built himself.

Tatulea keeps busy growing vegetables, and he serves as caretaker for the

community's small Orthodox chapel.

A small Baptist congregation also meets regularly, a curiosity in this overwhelmingly Orthodox nation. The church was founded by a missionary decades ago.

A Baptist group from the United States brings medical aid every year, and the visitors are unfazed by the residents' deformities, said Vera Climov, 65. "They kiss us and say, 'It's no problem. God loves us all.'"

Climov is the only current resident who was born in Tichilesti. Like other children of lepers, she grew up healthy and moved away, but as an adult she contracted leprosy and returned here, where she married and had two children.

Barring an unlikely resurgence of leprosy, attrition will eventually close down Tichilesti, Iganatescu said. Five to six residents are dying per year. Though it's safe to live elsewhere, residents have made Tichilesti their home for decades, and often their families have forgotten them. Said Iganatescu: "They have no place to go now."

### What is leprosy?

You've probably heard of lepers in your Sunday school lesson or during sermons, but do you really understand what leprosy is?

Leprosy, or Hansen's Disease, infects about half a million people annually, according to the World Health Organization.

About 1 million people suffer permanent disabilities from having had the disease.

Researcher G.A. Hansen identified leprosy's cause in 1873 as the mycobacterium leprae. Victims suffer skin lesions and nerve damage. Because they cannot feel pain from burns or injuries, they often fail to seek medical treatment until parts of their bodies are permanently maimed.

The World Health Organization expects leprosy cases will drop to less than 1 per 10,000 people worldwide by the year



**NO FEELING** Vasile Mos, 68, grips his cigarette between fingers reduced to stumps by leprosy.

2000 due to the use of a multi-drug therapy, which already has decreased the caseload by 85 percent since 1985. But rates will remain higher for some time in endemic countries like India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Brazil and Nigeria, according to Vigay Pannikar, acting team coordinator of WHO's Leprosy Elimination Project in Geneva.

Only about 50 to 60 leprosy cases arise in Europe each year, and most patients were actually infected in endemic countries, Pannikar said. About 300 leprosy cases are recorded annually in the United States, according to the

U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

Leprosy is believed to be transmitted person-to-person via respiratory droplets, but "leprosy is the least contagious of all communicable diseases," and many people are completely immune, Pannikar said.

A handful of leper colonies remain in scattered locations across Europe, mainly for people maimed from past infections, but Pannikar said the strict quarantines of lepers were never justified.

"We would like lepers to be treated in a general hospital," he said. "Leprosy is very easy to diagnose and it's very easy to treat."

## Hospice chaplain calls it a 'privilege' to accompany dying along their last steps

By Bryan McAnally  
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Margie Atkinson is surrounded by death and despair.

Each day, she joins hands with people with Alzheimer's disease, terminal cancer and numerous other fatal conditions, often accompanying them along the final steps of their lives.

Atkinson is chaplain and director of spiritual care for Community Hospice in Fort Worth, Texas.

"Helping the bereaved through a terrifically traumatic event and working with the dying is a privilege, but it is also a calling," she said.

Hospice is most commonly associated with cancer patients and the elderly, she noted, but that isn't the extent of her clients.

"Most here are cancer patients, but we also serve stroke victims, Alzheimer

patients and any other terminal persons," she explained.

Atkinson said one of her most difficult cases was helping a young mother who was grieving over her child who was dying from a form of encephalitis, a swelling of the brain. "The baby bled to death in her arms," Atkinson recounted. "The mother struggled greatly with her grief. She had no hope because she didn't have a relationship with Jesus Christ. She couldn't understand why it happened. Soon after the baby's death, she attempted to take her own life as well."

The continual tide of loss of life can erode the shores of the hospice workers' spirits. "It is easy to get close to the patients, especially when they stay at the hospice as live-in patients," Atkinson said.

The staff has banded together, constructing a spiritual dam against the eroding effects of death. Atkinson, who has become a minister to the staff as well as the patients, leads a weekly service for

staff members to cope with traumas of the previous week.

"Our staff has become a little parish," Atkinson said. "We've learned to trust one another. Working with the dying sounds so depressing, but it isn't. God often reveals himself during these times."

Hospice care is not where Atkinson thought she would minister, simply because she never knew it existed before enrolling at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

Her studies there included involvement in the chaplaincy program during her last semester.

"Ministry has been an evolution," she said. "I started from a very evangelistic perspective. While I'm still deeply committed to sharing the gospel, I approach ministry differently. My ministry has moved more toward pastoral care, meeting them where they are and ministering to their needs."

Atkinson said her ministry has offered

valuable life and death lessons.

"Often you die like you live," she said. "I've seen people die bitter, angry and alone because they have no hope. I've also seen people thank God for all they have and not complaining even though they are amidst terrible suffering. No matter what, death is certain for everyone. The things we do every day do matter."

She recalled the last moments of one woman's life journey.

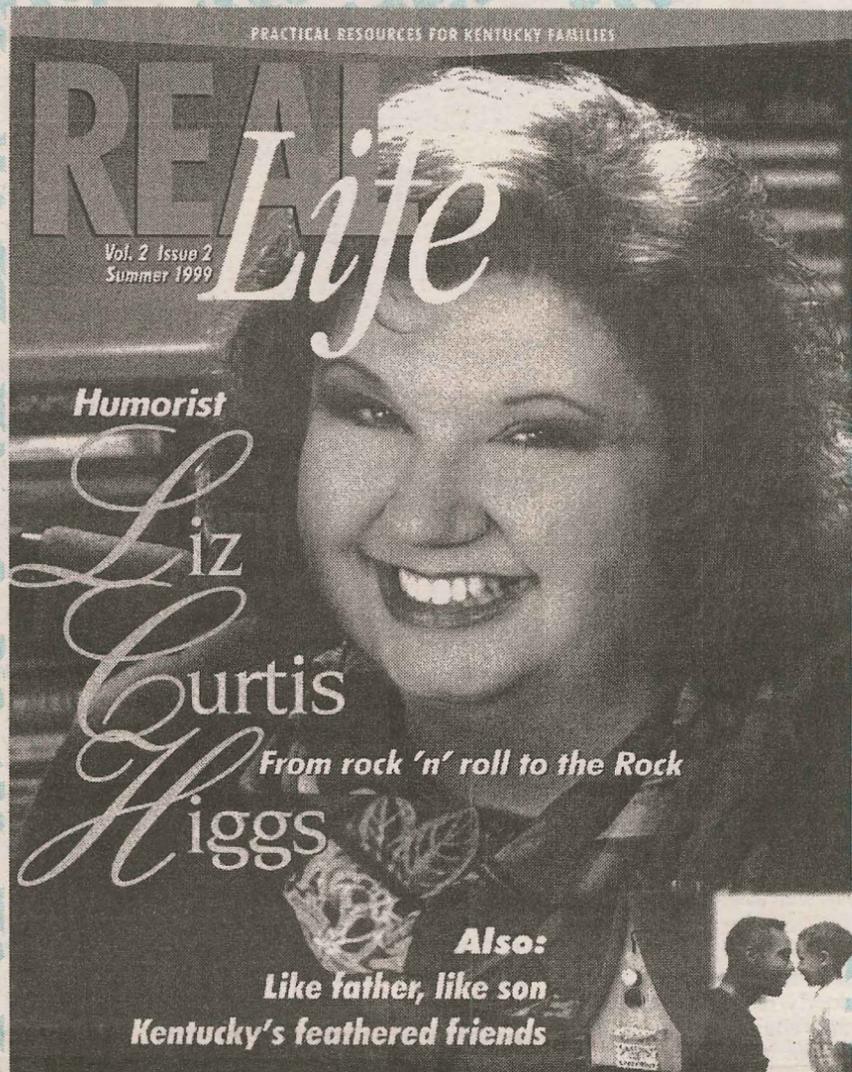
"I recently developed a close relationship with an elderly woman," Atkinson said. "When I received notice she was actively dying, I went to her and held her hand. We began praying the Lord's Prayer together because she loved that prayer. We reached the words, 'forgive us our trespasses.' She barely whispered the words. Once she said them, she quit breathing. It felt like electricity when she died, like she was waiting for that one part of the prayer. God's forgiveness was her first and last concern."

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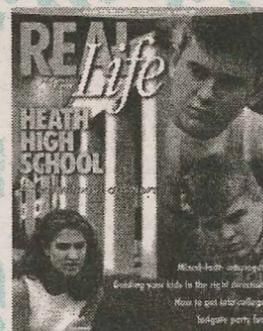
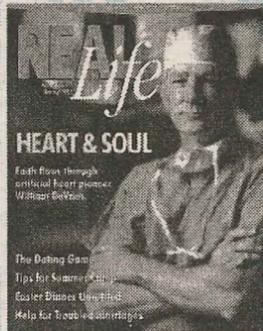
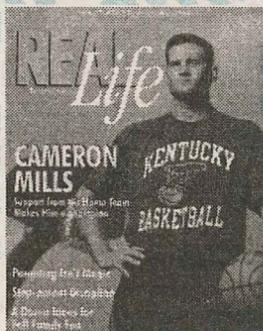
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