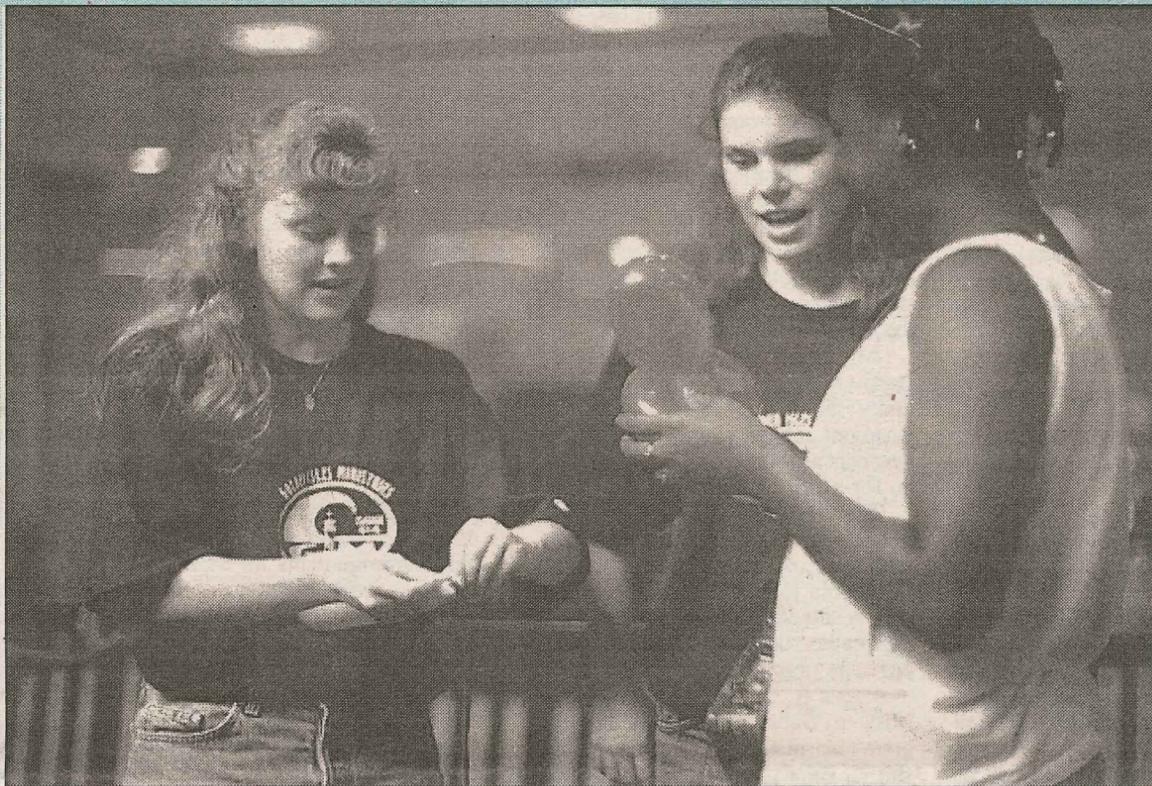


NEWSPAGE
EDITIONAugust 17, 1999
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Rainer's book on closing
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*Page 13.***Summer missions****SON BURST** Carla Amos (left) and Sandra Hamrick make balloon animals for a child as part of their work with Son Burst, a Kentucky Baptist creative ministry team. Kentucky Baptist Student Unions sponsored a record 120 summer missionaries this year. Becky Caswell, another member of Son Burst, said the summer made a difference in her life. "So many things helped prepare me for this, but this helped prepare me for so many things." (Photo by Angela Perkins)**Kentucky students gain wealth of experience****By David Winfrey**
News Director**WILLIAMSBURG**—After 10 weeks in Wales distributing copies of the "Jesus" film, Michael Cabell had just one day at home in Shelbyville before loading up to return to Cumberland College for his junior year.

But don't expect Cabell to complain. He and some of the other Kentucky summer missionaries who served around the state, nation and globe said they gained a wealth of experiences that they'll carry back to school and into life.

This summer Kentucky college Baptist Student Unions supported a record 120 summer missionaries.

Their assignments ranged from helping lead church youth ministries to teaming with fellow singers and artists for creative evangelism.

Emily Shipp, a sophomore at Cumberland, worked with Son Celebration, one of five Son teams that use creative arts to share the message of Jesus Christ.

Although she had been on mission trips before, Shipp said spending 10 weeks with a close-knit team taught her some practical lessons along with the spiritual ones. "You learn a lot about dealing with each other and a lot about character."

Back on campus, she said her sum-

mer taught her to be more intentional about her faith, even in places like a Baptist college where one might expect everyone to be a Christian. "You sometimes live in a bubble of Christianity and forget that people are hurting."

Cabell learned a similar lesson in Wales, where there's no separation of church and state but many churches are nearly deserted.

Cabell and four other Kentucky summer missionaries worked with Baptist churches, planning outreach

activities for kids and visiting people door-to-door with the "Jesus" videos. Many churches are struggling with handfuls of peo-

ple, he said, and most church members are over age 65. "In 15 years, if they don't get something, it's going to be over."

Nevertheless, many congregations have expectations that are encouraging, he added. A church in Cwmdar had recently installed windows in its chapel with the ability to take them out when needed.

Remembering the historic revivals when thousands of people flocked to churches and broke out windows to hear the preacher, members still believe God can work in their churches and country, Cabell said. "All those stories of great revival have just inspired me."

Student missions is considered a

major influence on the future of Kentucky Baptist churches, according to Ralph Hopkins, an associate with the Kentucky Baptist Convention's collegiate ministries department.

"The biggest impact is what a life-changing experience it is for the people who will become future leaders," he said.

"Many students feel the call to full-time Christian ministry as a result of their summer missions experience," he added. "Those students learn to depend upon God and learn that God can use whatever gifts they have—including their weaknesses—to be a blessing in their ministry."

Jessica Margrave agreed. The Union native spent the summer leading discipleship efforts for a youth group at a Louisville church. During her first weekend with the group, they traveled to a youth rally at which four youth became Christians.

"I just came to the realization that it wasn't about anything I could do this summer. It was just me being there available for God to use," she said.

Leanne Qunlan, a Campbellsville student from LaGrange, said she learned about the importance of relying on God. "I really got to see God's faithfulness in every situation, just how he was good to my team and to me and to the youth that we got to work with."

The record 120 Kentucky Baptist student Union summer missionaries was achieved, in part, because of the 42 students who went on two-week

□ See Kentucky Baptist ..., page 9

Eight traits help measure church health**By Ken Walker**
State Correspondent**LOUISVILLE**—Many churches struggle to grow because their structures and systems resemble pushing a cart with square wheels, said Chip Miller, church growth specialist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Ironically, a church's "cart" contains the round wheels—spiritual gifts and biblical principles—that can turn its situation around, Miller said during Super Saturday, a church leadership training event sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

"Some of us are following church programs and calendars that are 100 years old," Miller said Aug. 14 at the conference, held

at Highview Baptist Church in Louisville.

"We've got to begin to understand that the way we did it before may not work in 1999."

Miller and others explained eight characteristics of healthy churches as determined by a worldwide survey of congregations.

Churches in Kentucky, including First Baptist Church of Carrollton, are taking a survey sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention to help the churches gauge their strengths and challenges, said Vernon Cole, church growth team leader for the KBC.

Cole said he hopes to enlist 200 churches throughout Kentucky that will complete the Natural Church Development Survey before the Church Health Summit, to be held at First Baptist Church of Bowling Green in October 2000.

The survey is based on a program designed by Christian Schwarz, founder and director of the Institute for Church Development in Germany. Working with researcher Christoph Schalk, he surveyed more than 34,000 people from nearly 1,200 churches in 32 countries.

The results were compiled into a book, "Natural Church Development," which explains eight common characteristics of healthy churches, regardless of denomination or doctrine.

Chris White, pastor of First Baptist Church of Carrollton, said the survey helped him understand how a strong church must blend spiritual disciplines like prayer and fasting with well-designed procedures.

"I do have to pray, but I also have to prepare my sermons," he said. "Christian Schwarz is on to something. These eight characteristics are what church is all about. This is who we are, not what we'd like to be."

Miller said a primary goal of the survey is to help members focus on church health, not just growing statistics. "Some of us are working hard with a system that isn't biblical but it's tradition. It isn't going to be easy making that change but it's necessary."

□ See Study finds ..., page 6

**Back
To
Campus**

BAPTIST BITS

■ Reflecting a renewed emphasis on intentional evangelism, 918 professions of faith in Christ were recorded during World Changers work projects this summer. The projects involved a record 13,500 participants who rehabilitated dilapidated housing and shared their Christian faith. The volunteers served in 75 communities.

■ James Parker III has been named professor of worldview and culture at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. Parker, 50, will serve as associate dean of the newly created worldview and culture division of the school of theology. He has served since 1991 as founder and director of the Trinity Institute, a study center that equips people to apply the Christian worldview to their lives. He previously was a professor at Criswell College in Dallas.

■ The June expulsion of four American Baptist churches has been put on hold, pending an appeal of the ruling by six regional bodies. The denomination's General Board previously had denied appeals of the four California churches that were removed from their region over their "welcoming and affirming" stance toward homosexuals.

Arizona foundation officials step down amid state probe

PHOENIX, Ariz. (ABP)—Three top officials of the Baptist Foundation of Arizona have stepped down in light of charges that the agency violated state law by inadequately disclosing its financial condition to potential investors.

Trustees of the agency of the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention also placed a temporary freeze on the withdrawal of invested funds, continuing to pay only interest and distribution of individual retirement accounts.

The Arizona Corporation Commission, the state agency that oversees public utilities and securities, issued an order Aug. 10 requiring the foundation and two subsidiary corporations to stop offering or selling investment products in violation of the Arizona Securities Act.

The order said a yearlong investigation by the commission and the Arizona Attorney General's Office found the Baptist agency did not disclose its "true financial condition" to the investing public. The commission concluded the three corporations "offered and sold securities within or from Arizona through material misrepresentations and omissions of material fact."

Trustees of the Baptist Foundation of Arizona consented to the cease-and-desist order without admitting or denying the commission's findings. The state commission said the three Baptist corporations have cooperated fully with the investigation.

President Bill Crotts, General Counsel Tom Grabinski and Controller Don Deardoff voluntarily stepped down from their responsibilities July 22 and are on paid leave of absence. Options still open to state officials include criminal prosecution if warranted by the ongoing investigation.

Trustees set up two committees for oversight of policies and day-to-day administration and retained services of an attorney and an accounting firm, according to the trustee letter.

The foundation has for the time being suspended redemption of all investment products, the trustee letter said. "Please understand that this could change after we have complet-

ed our evaluation of this situation," the letter added.

While emphasizing neither condition is "imminent," the trustees warned that if they are unable to satisfy Arizona officials, the state may pursue a receivership, and the foundation may have to pursue restructuring alternatives, such as bankruptcy, if trustees are unable to protect funds under current conditions.

"I was deeply saddened and concerned upon learning of the situation in Arizona," said Barry Allen, president of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation. "I shall continue to prayerfully think of the staff, board and clients as they work through their challenges."

Allen emphasized that "unlike the Baptist Foundation of Arizona, the Kentucky Baptist Foundation is not an investment company, does not offer investment services to individuals and has no for-profit subsidiaries."

The Kentucky foundation board's investment committee "provides constant and experienced oversight" to investments managed by the foundation, he added. "We operate within the applicable state and federal laws for our type organization."

James R. Smith, president of the Missouri Baptist Foundation and program chairman of an informal fellowship of Baptist state foundation executives, said each state convention foundation is independent of the others. Allegations related to the Arizona situation should have no bearing on any other foundation, he said.

According to state investigators in Arizona, 13,000 people have invested \$483 million in the foundation or its affiliates. Investigators say the investments haven't made money, and in fact there isn't enough money in the foundation's accounts to cover people's investments, according to a news story in the Arizona Republic.

Board members of the foundation and its affiliates and agency employees have more than \$12 million invested with the three corporations, according to trustees. Baptist churches have invested another \$22 million.

Baptist World Alliance and others help 100 refugees return to Kosovo

WASHINGTON (BP)—One hundred refugees have returned to Kosovo from Hungary with the help of Baptist World Aid, the relief and development arm of the Baptist World Alliance.

BWAid officials worked with Hungarian Baptist Aid, the International Organization for Migration and the Hungarian government to fly the refugees directly from Budapest to Pristina, Kosovo, reported Paul Montacute, BWAid director.

Montacute visited some of the refugees during the week of Aug. 2 in a camp in Bicske, Hungary, where Hungarian Baptists had been assisting them. Montacute said Baptist workers accompanied the refugees back to Kosovo and are working with Love in Action, an evangelical Kosovar group, to provide food parcels and other essential goods.

Montacute and Sandor Szency, director of Hungarian Baptist Aid, made arrangements for aiding the refugees with Kosovar Albania Baptist leader Bekim Beka, director of Love in Action.

The group of former refugees is the first to be flown directly to the airport in Pristina, Montacute said. Others were flown to the Skopje airport in the Yugoslavian republic of Macedonia and then faced a difficult three-hour bus journey.

"The returnees' journey will only begin when they get to Pristina," Montacute noted. "Until they get to their village, they will have no idea if their house has been damaged and whether they will be able to live there." Love in Action is ready to provide tents and other equipment to assist those who are returning and will keep in contact with them in the months ahead, Montacute added.

Montacute and Szency saw many damaged villages around Pristina while touring the region with Beka. Stopping in one village to talk with an elderly Muslim man

who was sitting outside his burned-out home, they saw the extensive damage caused by one ethnic group against another.

"Everything in the house had been smashed and then set alight," Montacute recounted. "The heat was so intense that glass had melted, and every piece of wood from the floor to the rafters was now just charcoal. The neighboring houses were the same, and in the garden of one was an unexploded mine and also an abandoned missile launcher."

"It was astounding to see the results of such hatred," Montacute said. "It will take a long time for people to rebuild their homes, but longer to rebuild their lives."

BWAid, the European Baptist Federation and other Baptist groups already have been providing support for Love in Action. With very little harvest this year in Kosovo, Beka anticipates that food supplies probably will be needed throughout the coming winter until the summer of 2000. In addition, much of the infrastructure of Kosovo has been destroyed either by ethnic cleansing or NATO bombing.

"Love in Action only started its work on July 3 and yet has already delivered more than 50 tons of food, clothes and hygienic goods in six villages, hospitals and old people's homes," Montacute said. A large warehouse is being used to receive bulk donations of food and goods that are then being repackaged into individual and family parcels, he said.

In addition to supporting the work of Love in Action in Pristina, Baptists are helping in the cities of Pec and Gjakova.

"We need the support of the worldwide Baptist family" for efforts to assist the refugees and the ministries of Love in Action, Montacute noted.

For more information about BWAid relief efforts, call (703) 790-8980.



International missionaries getting ready for Y2K

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Southern Baptist missionaries must make common-sense preparations for possible disruptions of their lives caused by the Y2K computer software bug, according to a Southern Baptist International Mission Board task force.

And no matter how seriously Y2K disrupts people's lives, God's mission to redeem a lost world will prevail, task force members added.

The board's Y2K task force, led by Jerry Burkett, the agency's vice president for global information systems, is developing contingency plans to help missionaries deal with Y2K interruptions.

"The Y2K bug is a man-made problem that can be overcome, and no matter how significant the bug is, our mission will prevail," Burkett wrote in the group's first report to IMB administrators and trustees. "If we are prepared personally and as an organization by

having contingencies in place, we will be better equipped to carry out our mission with greater freedom."

Governments, industry and businesses worldwide are spending billions of dollars to head off problems, Burkett said, but there will be significant overseas consequences due to the software bug. Missionaries must do their best to stay informed and to consider reasonable courses of action for contingencies.

"The potential Y2K fallout could best be compared to a looming hurricane," Burkett said. "There is no need to panic, nor is there any reason not to exercise good judgment in preparation for some unforeseen eventualities."

The task force is reviewing Y2K preparedness in each of the IMB's 14 geographical regions of work and offers specific suggestions to help missionaries prepare for possible disruptions of their ministries. As new information is

received, an electronic version of the report will be updated and provided to missionaries.

Among the ways the task force says missionaries can prepare for Y2K disruptions:

■ Obtain paper copies of all electronically stored personal documents before the year's end.

■ Maintain original copies or photocopies of all vehicle and property registrations.

■ Back up computer records, files and programs.

■ Plan for cash on hand.

■ Store additional heating fuel.

■ Fill fuel tanks before Dec. 31.

■ Store water and nonperishable items to last four to eight weeks.

■ Store appropriate medicines, including early purchase of prescription medicines when possible.

■ Have batteries on hand for flashlights and radios.

Missionary from Kentucky to lead Welsh Baptists

By Mike Creswell
SBC International Mission Board

SWANSEA, Wales—Kentucky native Bill Curl has been elected president of the English-speaking wing of the Baptist Union of Wales.

It is thought to be the first time an American has been elected to the post. Curl and his wife, Lucy Pat, have served as Southern Baptist missionaries in Wales since 1991. Curl was nominated unanimously by an association with 16 churches represented.

The election honors Curl's work in church planting and ministry during his time in Wales, during which Southern Baptists have worked in partnership with Welsh Baptists.

The Curls ministered to Europe's largest housing estate in southern Wales for their first six years. Two and a half years ago they started a new Baptist church, which was the first new church start by Welsh Baptists since 1934. Since then, that church has started another congregation, and the Curls have helped two other churches get started as well.

Born in West Van Lear, Curl considers Louisville to be his hometown. He is the former pastor of First Baptist Church in Mount Sterling and Rosemont Baptist Church in Lexington. Mrs. Curl was born in Louisville and considers Georgetown her hometown.

Curl served on the staff of First Baptist Church in Orlando, Fla., 17 years before he and Mrs. Curl's appointment as missionaries.

Recently the International Mission Board named Curl "cluster coordinator," directing the work of Southern Baptist missionary personnel serving in the United Kingdom, which includes Wales, England, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The new church the Curls started in the Brackla area is one of the few Welsh Baptist churches which has a Sunday school program for all ages; most Welsh Baptists have Sunday school only for children.

Wales is considered one of the most needy mission fields in Europe; fewer than 10 percent of the population is thought to have any significant church ties, and few have a personal relationship with Christ.



Curl

Prayer walks encouraged for schools

By Brenda Smith
Kentucky Baptist Convention

LOUISVILLE—Parents in Kentucky who are concerned about school violence are being encouraged to support students and teachers through simultaneous "campus prayer journeys" next month.

Dan Garland, leader of the Kentucky Baptist Convention evangelism growth team, recently sent letters to Kentucky Baptist churches and associations urging them to lead and coordinate prayer journeys around the schools in their communities.

Christians are being encouraged to walk, skate, bike or jog around a campus and pray for students, teachers and school staff.

The idea was initiated by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention in response to the Jonesboro, Ark., school shootings in March 1998. The North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention plans to become a resource point for churches outside Arkansas wishing to host similar activities in 1999. The event already has spread to Tennessee, North Carolina, Mississippi, Missouri, Texas and Oklahoma.

"Schools are no longer safe havens where parents entrust their children to the care and instruction of teachers," Garland said. "My generation feared the teachers while today's teachers fear the students."

Campus prayer journeys are a companion event to See You at the Pole, youth-led prayer meetings

around schoolyard flagpoles held before school on the third Wednesday of September each year.

This year, See You at the Pole is Sept. 15, and the campus prayer journeys have been planned for the Tuesday evening before so that parents and friends can offer prayer support for students.

In addition to participating in the prayer efforts, Garland is encouraging churches to hold a special service on Sunday, Sept. 12, commissioning students, school teachers and workers to be missionaries in their schools.

Churches or individuals that want more information about campus prayer journeys or commissioning services can contact the evangelism growth team at (888) 254-5722 or (502) 254-4737.

Woman's Missionary Union's Jones, Davis resign

Two Kentucky Women's Missionary Union staff—camp specialist Kim Davis and associate Denise Jones—have announced their resignations, effective later this month.

Jones said she will resign Aug. 20 because her husband has been relocated to El Paso, Texas. "He's already there," said Jones, whose husband works with American Airlines. "In the airline industry, they don't mess around."

Jones has served 2 1/2 years as adults on missions specialist. She said that among the highlights of her job has been working with Mission Jobs Corps, a national WMU program that helps mentor unemployed and low-income women to become self-sufficient.

"When I came, it was right before we had the first training in Birmingham," she recalled. "It's just been so exciting to see it go from an idea and a concept here in Kentucky to having five sites and many more in the works."

Another highlight, she said has

been starting a new prayer newsletter. "It started out about a year ago whenever I would get the newsletters from the International Mission Board," she said.

Originally, those were repackaged and sent to Kentucky WMU board members and staff, she said. Her mailing list grew to include others, and the content has expanded to include North American missions and state missions.

Jones also said she has enjoyed developing "Missions in a Box," a missions education project that can be taken to summer camps and other areas to teach about the Kentucky Baptist partnership with Tanzanian Baptists. "Since most people couldn't go to a partnership country, we brought a partnership country to them."

The boxes include native foods and crafts as well as information about the missions work being done, she said. The package also includes a videotape of a Tanzanian worship service and safari

Davis said such projects are impor-

tant to give Generation X, young adults and teenagers, a feel for Tanzania because people in that age group typically support only what they see.

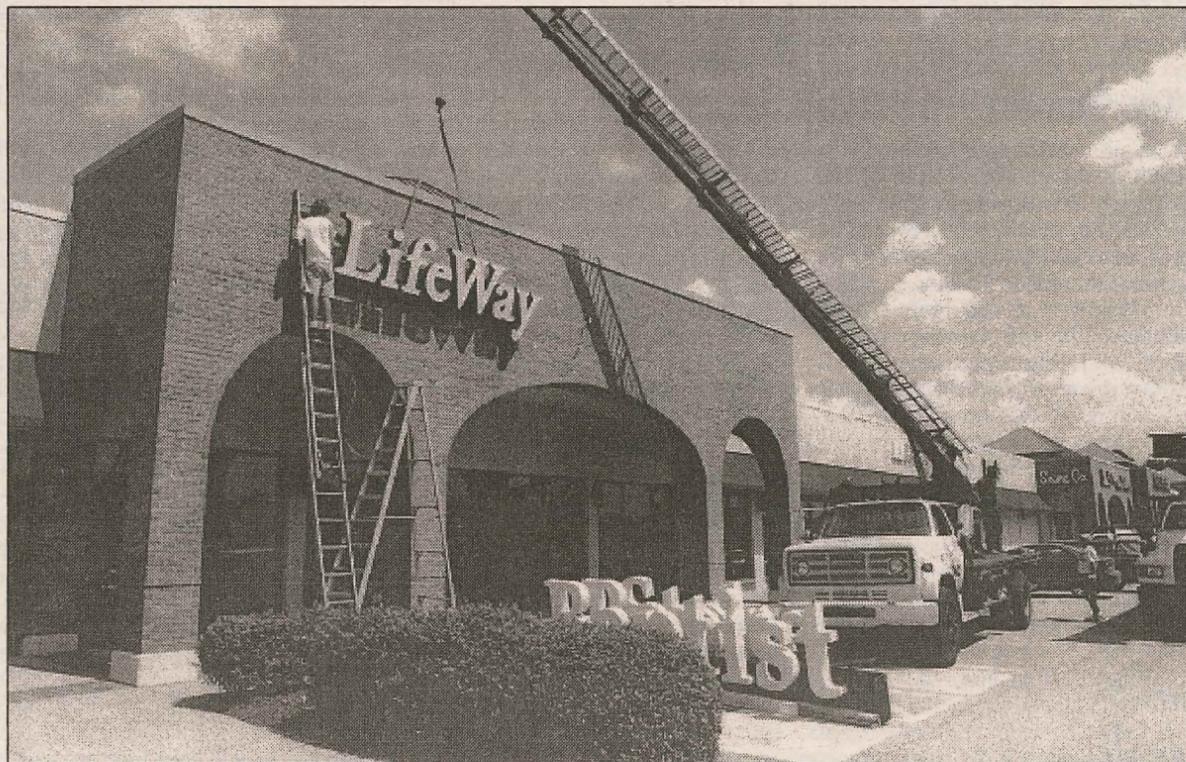
Davis said she will resign Aug. 31 because she and her husband are interested in pursuing missions opportunities together.

She has been camps specialist since May 1996, directing camps at both Jonathan Creek and Cedarcrest.

"The fun part about having been here for 4 years is being here long enough to watch people grow," she said. "Campers become staff and staff become missionaries."

Davis said it's impossible to replace the experience people have at camp. "There's something that happens out there," she said.

"You try things that you won't try anywhere else. And you ask questions that you wouldn't ask anywhere else and you get to see people have tremendous faith. You catch that from them," she explained. "There's no way to quantify how that can change you."



NAME CHANGE Workers replace the sign at the former Baptist Book Store in Louisville with the new name LifeWay Book Store. The sign change completes the name change that LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention has been undergoing for more than a year.

Christians are being encouraged to walk, skate, bike or jog around a campus and pray for students, teachers and school staff.

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

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Christian education requires commitment

By Roger Ward

Focusing on the future of church-related education, 70 faculty members from Christian colleges across the country met recently to report findings from their respective campuses.

These conversations were the main feature of the Rhodes Consultation, sponsored by the Lilly Foundation. The consultation encourages Christian colleges and universities to strengthen their attention to their Christian mission and reverse the trend in higher education away from denominational identity. I participated as a representative of Georgetown College.

The trend in the past 50 years is away from denominations. The consultation was an effort to help college leaders think about strengthening their Christian mission and identity.

Christian education has changed in the past 50 years. New financial conditions and new technology mean adjustments have to be made in the way education happens. Career pressures on faculty members often lead them to compromise and lose touch with their Christian principles.

Christian colleges must find new

ways to spiritually nurture their faculty and connect with their constituents. Our consultation reached several broad conclusions:

■ **Christian colleges cannot recover what has been lost.** The Christian colleges of the last century are gone. The question is how to respond to the new educational environment in order to provide a competitive and distinctively Christian education.

■ **Staying Christian means staying denominational.** Efforts to create a "mere Christian" college have not worked. The institutions that retain a vital connection with their denomination have had the most success at remaining Christian institutions.

■ **Institutions can take advantage of their distinctive education and campus environment in competing with non-church related institutions.** Many of the best academic students are looking for an education with an emphasis on Christian values and character.

■ **Academic excellence and Christian/denominational identity are compatible, but not easy.** How Christian character shows up in the classroom and in the institution requires constant attention and delicate

adjustment.

■ **Hiring Christian faculties is essential to maintaining Christian identity.** Christian schools should be welcoming environments, but they must also retain their identity.

In light of these challenges and possibilities, the prospects for Baptist higher education are good. Baptists have a vibrant denomination from which to draw. Our churches are our strength as they develop men and women who become our students.

The Rhodes Consultation is a hopeful sign for Christian higher education in America. It is a call to help colleges become better and stronger.

This can be done by promoting connections with the colleges—using the college as a resource for your business or church, or simply by visiting the campus. You can influence and strengthen the colleges by sending your students. The character of a college largely depends on its students. Finally, financial resources are more important now than ever.

One benefit of this consultation was realizing that there are many committed Christian educators. We also realized that we are working for a goal that will require our best thinking and strategic vision.

Roger Ward is assistant professor of philosophy at Georgetown College.

COMMENTARY

Vulnerable citizens

Mike Dixon's article in the July 27 issue about "Sam's Kisses" was excellent! He well expressed the energy it takes to raise a handicapped child—and the tremendous blessing!

Raising any child is a challenge in today's world. But we also need to consider what happens when a handicapped child becomes an adult.

Normally we can assume children will "leave the nest" and finally will see to our well-being as we become older. This is not so with our handicapped children and, sadly, there are hundreds of handicapped people whose parents are aging and

who are no longer able to care for their offspring adequately.

Some are able to obtain services, but too many individuals have sought help only to be put on a "waiting list." Some have been on the "list"—waiting for years. Kentucky's most vulnerable citizens are often waiting their lives away!

Please join me in praying for this segment of our society. For more information, call the Counsel for Retarded Citizens at (502) 584-1239.

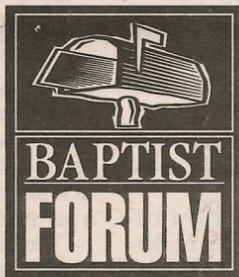
*Dona Jarvis
Louisville*

Profound perspective

In the simplest way possible, this is to express my deepest appreciation to Henlee Barnette for his commentary of Aug. 3, "Living life at the level of love."

Perhaps one reason that I am impressed to show my gratitude for this profound but simple article is because I have not always agreed with him (in minor matters). Love is eternally the winner! And I am always finding out how unlovely I am. Grace forgives and lets me try one more time!

*Edmon Burgher
Clay City*



PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

Ken Murphy—a servant leader

It was shocking news July 31 to learn of the untimely death of Ken Murphy, an associate in the KBC's partnership missions department. He had passed away following surgery to remove a tumor on his lung.

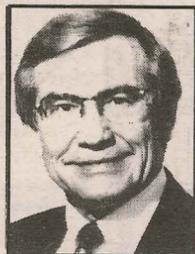
My wife, Kay, and I got to know Ken and his wife, Robbie, during a partnership missions trip to Tanzania in June. We will treasure those very special days in mission service. I know that many Kentucky Baptists have precious memories of mission partnership service with Ken, especially from the Kentucky/Russia partnership that Ken loved with great passion.

When Tanzanian missionary Ralph Boyle shared the news of Ken's passing with pastors and students who had participated in the Tukuyu Evangelism Conference in June, they responded in a beautiful manner. Ralph wrote: "They felt so privileged to be

the group of people that Ken ministered to before going home. The Tukuyu Revival, and that is what people are calling it, was so much a part of Ken's heart that Ken and the revival will be synonymous. Again they were reminded of the fleeting time while here and are happy they are putting their energy in that which lasts forever."

Ken tried to live his life with eternal values in clear perspective. Ken wrote in 1990 that he didn't want to be remembered for his degrees, for the size of the churches where he was pastor or for the great book he hoped to write, but for the difference he was able to make in the lives that crossed paths with his. How we want to be remembered is a challenging question for all of us.

Ken was a loving father of two sons and five grandchildren. He also was a faithful and effective pastor who



Bill Mackey

STEWARDSHIP

Church pledge cards: A matter of stewardship

By Doug Strader

Why are so many Baptists reluctant to sign a pledge card indicating their willingness to support God's work through their church?



The most common reason I have heard relates to Jesus' statement in Matthew 6:3, "But when you give to the needy, do

not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. . . ." Note this statement is in relation to giving to the needy, not necessarily giving to the church.

One could just as easily remember when Jesus was at the temple watching as the people entered to worship. He observed that the widow who gave all she had, gave more than all the others combined. Even though they gave much more actual money, they had money left after they gave and she gave all she had.

It is very common for most Baptists to sign pledge cards or intention cards for houses, cars, utilities and a host of other things. So why are we so reluctant to sign an intention card for our church? Could it be that we do not wish to be accountable for how we use the resources God gives us? Is it unusual that we would be readily accountable to banks, utility companies and others, but not be willing to be accountable to our loving Heavenly Father and his church?

Eugene Grimm says in his book, "Generous People":

■ Churches that asked for an estimate of their members' giving had a 30.2 percent higher average giving level than churches that did not ask for written estimates.

■ Churches that conducted an annual stewardship emphasis had a 23.3 percent higher giving level than churches that had no annual giving emphasis.

■ Churches that challenged members to tithe (give 10 percent of their income) reported a 19.6 percent higher giving level than those that did not mention tithing.

■ Churches that practiced all three of the above had a 38.5 percent higher giving level than those churches that did none of the above.

Maybe we need to give some serious thought through Bible study and prayer concerning our theology of stewardship and accountability.

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

Now that my wife has forgiven me, how long until she trusts?

Q: After having confessed to my spouse that I had been unfaithful, she forgave me. But now she says she has trouble trusting me, and that I should give her time. If she truly forgave me, shouldn't she trust me?

Her learning to trust you again (and, not incidentally, your proving completely trustworthy) is essential if your marriage is to survive. However, her not being quick to trust again is quite understandable and does not necessarily indicate a lack of forgiveness on her part.

Forgiveness doesn't require our being blind to human weakness. Though she has chosen to forgive, it would be unrealistic to expect her to deny at least the possibility of you betraying her again. After all, God forgives us completely, yet is quite aware of our weaknesses.

Although reestablishing trust in your marriage is crucial, her request is reasonable. It will take time. For her to regain trust will call for your complete faithfulness from here on, her willingness to give you the chance to prove yourself and your patience with the time this may take.—*Susan Howell*

Q: What can I do about sibling rivalry?

Sibling rivalry can begin the moment a second child arrives in the family. Firstborn children often resent new babies who suddenly receive care and attention that once belonged exclusively to them. Although the youngest child holds down a permanent place in the birth order standings and enjoys the benefits of having more experienced parents, he or she may still find reasons to resent older brothers and sisters, or may become the object of their resentment and jealousy. Middle children feel the squeeze from the top and the bottom.

Competition for parental attention and acceptance drives sibling rivalry. Children love being the center of attention and instinctively strike out at anything or anyone who pushes them out of the spotlight. Sibling rivalry intensifies when children feel their share of parental attention and approval being infringed upon or threatened.

- Be careful with comparisons, especially when it comes to beauty, intelligence or athletic ability. As Christian family adviser James Dobson points out, children are particularly fragile in these three areas.

- Affirm and celebrate the uniqueness of each child. Compliment and praise the characteristics that make each child special, and do so in front of your other children.

- Strive for fairness and equal treatment. As you plan parties, give gifts, recognize achievements and present opportunities, remember that children are consumed with the concept of fairness. Punishment and criticism, when necessary, should be fair and equal.

- Teach children to share the spotlight. Your example and evenhandedness can help children learn to be proud of the successes and achievements of siblings without feeling threatened or inferior.

(Psychologist David Elkind joins Dobson in recommending two years between children as optimal for sibling relationships.)—*David Garrard*

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



Coping with chaos in the age of rage

Oklahoma City. Paducah. Jonesboro. Littleton. Every time the details of another senseless attack monopolize the nation's headlines and TV screens, I tend to think, "Surely this is the last one."

But the epidemic continues to careen out of control. An irate stock trader murders 12 people in Atlanta and then commits suicide. A white supremacist shoots five people, including three young children, in a Jewish community center in Los Angeles. He then kills a Filipino-American letter carrier because he was a non-white "target of opportunity."

As the tragic list expands, one haunting question stands out: Why?

Why would school students carefully plan and carry out the execution of fellow students and teachers? Why would grown men randomly attack innocent victims? Why does our violence-saturated society continue to glamorize bloodshed in movies, TV shows and video games?

The problem with such questions is there are no easy answers. Trite answers don't help much, and substantive solutions are elusive.

At the same time, it seems that many Americans have moved from shock to resignation. Anxiety mounts as we increasingly realize there are no safe havens. Schools, offices and community centers all become easy targets for troubled individuals who lack regard for the sanctity of human life.

While murderous rampages remain the exception in our society, they are symptomatic of our culture's gradual descent into disorder. Domestic violence, road rage, "shock" radio and trash-filled TV talk shows are other examples of our nation's misplaced values.

Recent generations have given us the communications age, the technology age and other lofty legacies. As we count down the days to a new decade, century and millennium, it appears the 1990s will be remembered as the age of rage. In the midst of such upheaval, where do we turn for answers?

The obvious starting point from a Christian perspec-

ive is sincere prayer. One such effort being planned here in Kentucky is Campus Prayer Journey '99. The Kentucky Baptist evangelism department is inviting concerned parents, grandparents and other adults to pray for every student in their area. Prayerwalks will be held on campuses throughout the state on the evening of Sept. 14. The event provides an opportunity for adults to set a clear example of truly putting feet to our prayers as we pray for students, teachers and administrators during the coming school year.

Along with prayer, God calls us to back up our words with actions. One major need is to implement preventive measures to help curb violence in schools and other settings. Following last year's school shootings in Jonesboro, one counselor called on local congregations to "be creative in their resolve to target violence as an issue that can be dealt with in the context of the church." He suggested tackling such timely topics as coping with stress and effective conflict resolution.

Woman's Missionary Union is addressing the issue of violence through its 1998-2000

"Project HELP" emphasis. Seeking to "educate and involve Christians in reducing violence and promoting peace," the goal of the effort is to encourage local, state and national ministry projects that are proactive in reducing violence.

The key for individual Christians is to realize there are ways to make a positive impact amid the chaos of life. Whether praying, offering seminars on the local church level or participating in hands-on ministry, Christians can and must be part of the solution.

While there may never be clear answers to the "whys" of cultural violence, Christians have the confidence of turning to the One who can make a difference. "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you," Jesus assured his followers in John 14:27. "Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

Christ's words offer hope and comfort—even in an age of rage.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Is God a God of the Jews only?

By Gerard Howell

What shall we conclude then? Are we any better? Not at all! We have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under sin (Romans 3:9).

Abraham and Sarah were promised that their offspring would be a blessing to the nations. The Scriptures upon which Jesus and Paul relied were the Hebrew Scriptures (our Old Testament). God chose the Jewish people to reveal God's eternal purpose. To be chosen was a source of great pride. In this context Paul asked, "Is God the God of the Jews only?"

Two-thirds of the Christian Bible includes the Hebrew Bible. Most of the New Testament has a distinctive Jewish origin. The Ten Commandments, a major expression of Christian morality, come from the Hebrew Bible. Jesus was born, reared and died a Jew. The best Jewish teachers trained Paul, a major contributor to the New Testament (which we think of as distinctively Christian). Yet today, the "Gentiles"

(non-Jews) of America claim to be the people of destiny—a source of great pride. The non-Jew said, "God doesn't hear the prayer of a Jew." Hear Paul's second question, "Is God the God of the Gentiles only?"

Paul answered both questions with a resounding "No."

If we limit the gospel to certain people, then the rest are not bound by God's will. Yet we still have difficulty grasping the fact that it is we who set those boundaries, not God. Modern church growth methods aim at reaching "our kind" of people. Can a homogenous group of worshippers adequately reflect the kingdom? Does God prefer English to Spanish? Is my skin

color preferable to yours? Does God speak through only one theological perspective? Is God a fundamentalist, a modernist or a liberal, or is God greater than any one or all three combined? Does God prefer poverty to wealth? Our categories could be sources of pride and exclusiveness.

Paul reasoned that the one God could not be exclusive. The one God is the God of all. Luke graphically depicted

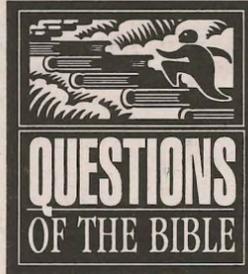
the church at Pentecost. Many people from many locations heard the gospel in their native tongues. God is God for the Jews and non-Jews.

Paul also observed that our humanity was another reason for inclusiveness. Human beings are incapable of perfectly keeping any law or rule. No one can "make themselves right" with God. Only God can do that and God has set things right. By shifting the focus from what we do to what God does, the door for faith was opened. Faith excludes all boasting and dependence on one's skills.

Paul noted that the call of Abraham and Sarah preceded the giving of the law at Mt. Sinai. Therefore, faith, not the law, was first and foremost in the Hebrew Scriptures. They trusted God to set them right instead of trying to be right on their own (Romans 4). In them was the making of a new people, the marking of a new era. Paul marked the beginning of another era in Christ. He understood that true religion still depended on faith, not our skills. Paul knew that, in Christ, God did what was

necessary for anyone to be made right. Let all of us trust God and not build barriers.

Gerard Howell is pastor of Central Baptist Church in Lexington.



RESOURCES

Study finds eight characteristics of healthy churches

Continued from page 1

The eight characteristics must be balanced, and none ranks higher than another, he added.

The eight characteristics are:

■ **Empowered leadership.** Most leaders are recruited to serve an organization and see that the work gets done, Miller said. But a healthy church develops teamwork, with leaders training others to follow in their footsteps.

"Many churches think they have good leadership because Debbie gets the job done," he said. "But Debbie is out floundering without any support and isn't encouraging anyone else to follow her in ministry. It's not just a matter of structure on paper, but how are we working as a team."

He said leaders empower others by investing time in them and equipping, motivating and mentoring them.

■ **Gift-oriented ministry.** Church tasks must be assigned according to individuals' spiritual gifts, said White, who added that he previously made the mistake of trying to do everything in the church himself.

People are most content where they are connected to what is going on because they are using their gifts, the pastor explained.

"None of the eight will affect church life like an orientation to spiritual gifts," White said. "If people aren't oriented and coming, pretty soon they're missing."

■ **Passionate spirituality.** Churches should ask themselves whether members' spiritual lives are characterized by prayer, enthusiasm and boldness, Cole said.

People should feel that what they do is God-centered, God-driven and for his purposes, he said.

"Where is life in passionate spirituality?" he asked. "It grows from the root of one's relationship to God in Christ Jesus. A relationship with the Lord is reflected through the life of the church. I'm not putting down the institution of the church, but many people are loyal to the institution instead of Christ."

■ **Functional structures.** The way a church makes decisions and does ministry should be flexible, relevant and help multiply its outreach, Miller said.

Among examples he cited are adding a second service to reach the unchurched or sponsoring such events as concerts, block parties, a "Parents' Day Out" or small groups that meet in homes.

Not all traditions are bad, he said, but many are built on form instead of function.

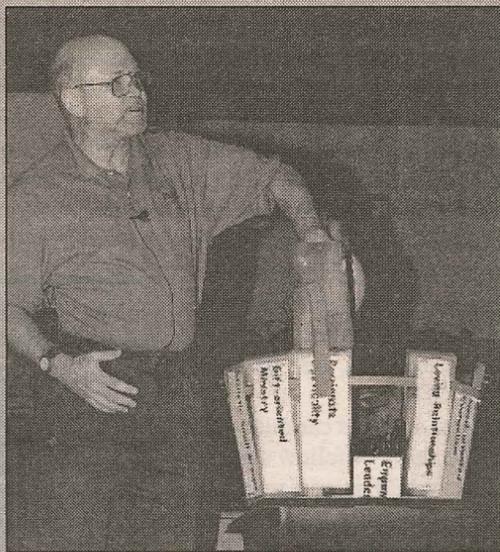
"A healthier church knows how to cut through that and follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit for what works today," he said. "We could have a concert on Sunday night to reach 1,000 people. What are you going to do when people want to stay in the comfort of their air-conditioned sanctuary and there's only 50 there?"

■ **Inspiring worship.** While visiting relatives in Texas, White said, he attended a church where the music was so exciting he wanted to bring the drummer back to Kentucky.

"The simple word is: Is church fun?" he said. "If children think it is, they'll keep coming. If adults think it's fun, they'll keep coming."

Inspiring worship is "the real McCoy," he noted. He said First Baptist reaches a wide range of tastes by blending Steven Curtis Chapman songs, praise music with guitars, old-time gospel and the doxology.

■ **Holistic small groups.** Such groups zero



LOW PLANK Vernon Cole demonstrates the importance of all eight characteristics of healthy churches. The lowest plank determines how much water the bucket will hold, said Cole, church growth team leader for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

in on members' needs, Miller said. They are more concerned with what's happening to someone than whether they covered all the verses for that day or the points in a lesson book, he said.

For example, he recalled a woman who showed up halfway through a class he taught. She explained she had just taken her husband to the airport to see their son whose wife had tried to commit suicide. "We spent the rest of the hour talking and praying with her."

■ **Need-oriented evangelism.** The key question churches must ask themselves is whether their evangelistic activities are related to the needs of the people they are trying to reach, Cole said.

He recalled how a woman from the neighborhood became a Christian at his church through the influence of a Christian-based weight loss group.

"If a big revival is the way to do it, do it," he said. "If a mothers' day out is the way to do it, do it."

■ **Loving relationships.** White said he sometimes worries about the Christian church's future. Many people don't know about church buildings or programs and don't care, he said.

But despite the bad news, a lot going on in church is good, he added. White said he laments the one-hour drive to visit Carrollton residents in Louisville hospitals. Still, when church members visit Carrollton residents in the hospital it makes a lasting impression, he said.

"Love is good," White said. "No one loves like the church, and it's a powerful testimony."

Cole compared the eight characteristics to an oak bucket; the lowest plank determines how much water the bucket can hold.

Often churches think correcting one aspect will increase Sunday school attendance, so they crank up a promotion—only to invariably see a decline, he said.

"The root system hasn't been addressed that will bring permanent growth," he said.

The Super Saturday in Louisville was the first of five being conducted throughout Kentucky. The others will be in Lexington Aug. 21, Corbin and Owensboro Aug. 28, and Ashland and Paducah Sept. 11. For more information, call the Kentucky Baptist Convention at (502) 245-4101, ext. 227 or toll-free (888) 254-5710.

Teacher: Ask questions to unlock adult Bible studies

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

LOUISVILLE—Asking questions can get adults more involved in Bible study while unlocking the secrets of what keeps some people away from God, according to Mayfield pastor Phil Bradley.

Bradley, a bivocational youth minister who also is a locksmith, compared probing questions in Bible study to the simplicity of a key opening a lock by lining up four minuscule pins.

"The most valuable thing about questions is you find out where people are by asking them," he said during a workshop at Super Saturday, a church leader training event sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

"There's no need to be answering questions that people aren't asking," Bradley added. "Everyone has that thing in life that's eating at them and sometimes we won't find out what it is until we ask the right questions."

Among the issues that keep people away from God are past relationships, religious misconceptions or faulty images of God, he said. Sunday school teachers and small group leaders can discover these obstacles by asking questions.

Teachers also can use questions to show they don't have all the answers, he said. "If learning in class is based solely on what I know, there may not be a lot of learning," said Bradley. "I love the Bible, but I value application of Scripture. You can memorize all 66 books of the Bible and still live like the devil."

Such application can come through questions that might seem rather simple, he added. For example, a Baptist church in California studies the Bible in home groups by selecting a passage and asking six questions about it:

- What did you like best?
- What did you like least?
- What did you not understand?
- What did you learn about God?

■ What do you personally need to do after reading it?

■ Which phrase or verse will you take with you?

"I'm not saying we need to do away with curriculum, but we can use these questions with any lesson," Bradley said. "If a lesson is far-fetched or no good, try using these questions."

"This appeals to Christians and seekers. They appreciate (Scripture) as they struggle together and try to discern what God is saying."

Other questions that he said can provoke discussion are asking what the text says, what it means, what God instructed someone to do and why, and what it was like for characters in different Bible settings.

"One thing that has never changed is feelings," he said. "What was the Prodigal Son thinking as he approached his father? What was his father thinking? How did the older brother feel? Get them to think."

Other questions that can enhance learning include:

■ "Jump balls," or answers that can go either way. Examples include asking whether being a Christian is easy or hard, or if it is more important for a teacher to be accurate or fervent.

■ Asking class members where they are in their spiritual life.

■ Application, or asking what steps students can take to make Scripture teaching a reality. When someone reveals how a lesson led them to apologize to another person, that is significant, he said.

■ Accountability, determining whether those who promised to take action have followed through.

Question-based lesson plans are available on computer, he said, listing a Web site that follows LifeWay's "Life & Work" studies, www.joshhunt.com.

"Be open to how God can use you to show others truths of the Bible," he said. "If you're motivated, it's more likely others will be motivated too. Expect God to excite people as we study His word."

Super Saturday



SPACED-OUT Janelle Frazee (left), a children's specialist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, talks about the use of children's classroom space with Jimmy and Tammy Allen of Kento-Boo Baptist Church in Florence. Frazee noted that creativity is the key to working with less-than-ideal classroom space. "There are ways to work around the equipment and rooms we have," she said. "But what we teach is much more important than the rooms we're in."

SCHOOLS

Christians divided over public school involvement

Movements are growing to leave public education

NASHVILLE (BP)—When Glen Schultz speaks to groups about alternatives to public education, parents not only listen, but also line up to ask questions afterwards.

School violence, discipline and academics are the reasons parents are considering other alternatives, according to Schultz, director of Christian school resources for LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"There's no question that things like Columbine, Heritage and Paducah are helping parents realize there are some lines drawn in the sand," he said of school shootings in Colorado, Georgia and Kentucky.

Does Schultz see a potential exodus from public schools? "I think so. The public school system has abandoned Scripture as the standard of truth. When you do that, all you have left is human opinion."

Schultz talks about alternatives as part of his job with LifeWay, but these days whole organizations exist to advocate that Christians pull their kids out of public schools. Among them:

■ **Rescue 2010**, formed last year by the Citizens for Excellence in Education. The name refers to a goal of removing 20 million children from public schools by the year 2010. Based in Costa Mesa, Calif., Bob Simonds founded Citizens for Excellence in Education in 1983 to take a stand in public schools. But he lists such factors as "anti-Christian world views," inferior academics and the teaching of evolution for shifting the organization to advocate the pullout.

■ **Exodus 2000**, which uses the battle cry, "Let my children go." Leader E. Ray Moore Jr. organized the group in 1997 to respond to what he calls the "education crisis." He has drawn heavy media attention and endorsements from such figures as Southern Baptist pastor-author Tim LaHaye and high-profile Presbyterian pastor D. James Kennedy.

■ **The Exodus Project**, spearheaded by the Minnesota-based American Family Institute. Its president, Brannon Howse, co-authored a 1997 statement for the group claiming parents must withdraw their children from the federal bureaucracy's domination to overcome an education "crisis."

■ **The Separation of School and State Alliance in Fresno, Calif.**, headed by Marshall Fritz. Founded in 1994, it claims its mission is to inform people about how eliminating government involvement in kindergarten through 12th grade education can improve it. The group boasts involvement by Protes-

tants, Catholics, Jews, Muslims, atheists, business leaders and others.

Schultz, a former high school teacher and administrator, is particularly impressed with Simonds' work. "After 15 years he said, 'I've got to change. I've been in this battle to reform and we're losing our kids.'"

Enrollment figures for the new school year are not available yet, but Schultz said he believes Christian schools are on the rise.

Before coming to LifeWay in October 1996, Schultz was a regional director for the Association of Christian Schools International.

During his seven years there, that group's Southeast region grew from 240 to 600 schools and from 50,000 to 120,000 students. Individual school enrollments rose an average of 11 percent a year from 1991-96. Home schooling is expanding at a similar rate, he added.

Still, Schultz said he fears the effort to remove Christian children from this public arena could spark debates that will polarize various groups.

The point is not simply shifting students from one school setting to another, he said, but grasping the reason for emphasizing the Bible as the basis of learning.

Scripture gives parents the responsibility for educating and training their children, he said. Because of that, the only viable options he sees are Christian schools or teaching one's children at home.

"I don't tell all parents what to do," Schultz said. "They have to search the Scriptures; it's up to them. We'll give them the resources to help. But we're fooling ourselves to think we can overcome what's done in six hours a day, five days a week, in one Sunday school class."

Of the arguments in favor of Christians remaining in public schools, the one that Schultz doesn't buy is that children should stay to be salt and light.

It isn't a question of "abandoning" the system, he said, but whether young Christians can be expected to fight spiritual battles before they are adults.

"I think it's out of context to keep our kids in a system where they'll develop a secular mindset and tell them they're salt and light. You've got to train them," he said. "Just because a 5-year-old is saved, it doesn't mean you send him into spiritual battle."

Others resist idea of giving up on mission field

BRENTWOOD, Tenn. (BP)—The leader of a ministry that has helped spread student-led Bible clubs to nearly 300 communities insists Christians should remain in public schools as a positive influence.

Benny Proffitt, president of First Priority, said last April's violence at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo., confirmed they are headed in the right direction.

"The best place to be light is in a dark place," said Proffitt, a Southern Baptist who heads the four-year-old organization. "Our approach is to get more active than ever. Parents fear their children will be overcome by the world, but Scripture tells us, 'Greater is he who is in us than he who is in the world.'"

Proffitt was reluctant to be critical of parents who place children in private school, saying he understands the safety concerns. "But

the majority of parents can't afford private school. When we pull kids out of public school, we're saying, 'Let's pull out what salt and light is left.' That's scary."

Dating back to 1982 as a local outreach in suburban Dallas, First Priority later expanded to Birmingham, Ala. Increased requests for assistance led to forming the nationwide organization, which now has a partnership with the North American

Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The ministry fields approximately 200 calls a month and hopes to reach 100 new communities in the coming school year. If successful, that would result in about 2,000 student-led Bible clubs.

First Priority emphasizes working with churches to help train students, educate them about their rights and then guide them in forming campus clubs, Proffitt said.

Instead of withdrawing from public schools, Christians should capitalize on opportunities, he said. Among administrators there is a greater awareness of students' inward needs and an openness to working with the church, he added.

There also is more determination among Christian students to make a difference in this mission field, said Proffitt, a former youth pastor. Rather than fearing losing key student leaders to a post-Columbine exodus, he said, the exact opposite is taking place.

"In one city recently a pastor said, 'My wife and I have prayed about putting our kids

in private school. But we have to trust God that we've raised our kids to be missionaries in the world,'" Proffitt recalled.

"I don't think Columbine affected the initiative of the students. They were already aware of what was going on. A lot of kids said, 'That could have happened at my school.' Columbine (increased) adult awareness. What we're hoping is more pastors, youth pastors and communities will get involved."

Based in Brentwood, Tenn., a suburb of Nashville, First Priority is in the midst of a nationwide fact-gathering tour.

Staff members and several dozen high school and college students already have interviewed 5,000 young people, ages 12 to 18, in 27 states. The group will visit all 50 states by mid-December and publish its findings in book form next spring.

One of their stops was in Littleton, just two days after the violence at Columbine in which two students shot and killed 12 classmates and a teacher before taking their own lives. Proffitt said that event and others like it in the past two years is energizing young believers.

"Instead of scaring them, it's exciting them," he said. "The Columbine experience just added fuel to the fire. You'd think Satan would learn his lesson. Every time the church is oppressed it grows stronger."

One student spearheading a drive to spread prayer groups across Denver said he sees a new day for Christians in school systems.

"There's an incredible opening for the gospel," said Josh Weidmann, the leader of Revival Generation. "We get tons of calls a day from kids wanting to start prayer groups. Before Columbine we got five a week. Now we get 18 to 22 a day."

Weidmann estimated his group helped more than 150 prayer groups form by last May.

Similar enthusiasm is driving the movement nationwide, said Proffitt. Such events as See You At The Pole and ministries like the National Network for Youth Ministries, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Youth for Christ Awareness have spread Christian awareness among students, he said.

But now that many have received the information and acted on it, Proffitt said, adult leadership is lacking. "We're trying to let churches know they need to take a greater role."

"In the midst of all the tragedy and darkness in this country, this next generation could be more reachable than any we've had," he said. "This is an incredible generation coming up. As the church, we've got to reach them."

Are You IN or OUT of Public Schools?

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Groups endorse guidelines for religious groups' involvement in public schools

WASHINGTON (ABP)—While the Constitution requires the separation of church and state, that doesn't mean local churches and public schools can't work together in a variety of ways.

That's the message from recently released guidelines endorsed by a number of religious and educational groups.

The guidelines state that partnerships between public schools and religious organizations can provide students with crisis counseling, mentoring programs, safe shelters and released-time religious education—all without violating the First Amendment.

Titled "Public Schools and Religious

Communities: A First Amendment Guide," the document was drafted and published by the Freedom Forum First Amendment Center, the American Jewish Congress and the Christian Legal Society.

The guidelines state that the First Amendment requires public schools to be neutral concerning religion and that cooperative activities between public schools and religious organizations must be "wholly secular."

While acknowledging that public schools and religious institutions have different missions, the guidelines suggest that "by working together in ways that are permissible under the First Amendment, as

interpreted by the U.S. Supreme Court, schools and religious communities can do much to enhance the mission of public education."

In many school districts, "the church is the only institution left intact," said Steven McFarland, director of the Christian Legal Society's Center for Law and Religious Freedom. "Yet schools have mistakenly thought the First Amendment requires them to ignore and shun any help from this invaluable resource."

The guidelines say schools may call on a wide range of qualified counselors—including religious leaders—to help students deal with a sudden crisis, such as

the accidental or violent death of a student or teacher. The stipulation is that religious leaders cannot be the only grief counselors invited on campus during a crisis and that clergy may not otherwise be given routine access to students during the school day.

The guidelines also spell out that religious institutions, along with other community institutions, may serve as "safe shelter" from threatening situations and provide mentoring programs.

A wide range of educational and religious groups endorsed the guidelines, including the National PTA, the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and the National Association of Evangelicals.

Kentucky BSU members return for ministry & outreach

By Pat Cole
Staff Writer

On campuses across Kentucky, Baptist Student Unions roll out welcome wagons for new students. The efforts are powered by gracious hospitality and strong backs.

When freshman move-in day arrives, BSU members go from car to car and politely offer to carry luggage and boxes into dormitory rooms.

"Nobody turns us down because it is usually 95 degrees," said H.K. Kingkade, campus minister at the University of Kentucky. After their good deed, BSU members give freshmen a simple handout describing the campus ministry.

At UK and other Kentucky campuses, move-in assistance is just one way students are invited to participate in the ministry of BSU. As the school year begins, outdoor worship services, Christian concerts, ice cream socials and other events serve as open doors to the organization.

Kentucky Baptists support campus

ministry at 42 schools in the commonwealth. Twelve full-time Baptist campus ministers serve on the larger campuses, but many others work on a part-time basis. Some part-timers serve without pay.

When asked about the strategic importance of campus ministry, veteran campus ministers noted that BSU reaches students at a critical time in their spiritual, social and intellectual development.

They point to story after story of people who sensed a call to a Christian vocation while participating in BSU. They also noted that mission projects and leadership opportunities develop lay leaders for churches.

"It's a great place for students to grow in their relationship to God," said Keith Inman, collegiate ministry leader for the Kentucky Baptist Convention. "It's a great place for people to learn what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ."

Last year, more than 24,000 students participated in some aspect of BSU in Kentucky, and about 600 Kentucky students served in summer missions. Hundreds of others volunteered for short-term mission projects during the year.

Campus ministry leaders agree that mission trips can be life-changing experiences for students.

"It helps them see the kingdom of God in a way they haven't seen it before," said Sharon Felton, campus minister at Georgetown College. For many, the mission trip can be a cross-cultural experience that helps students develop "a bigger picture of the world and a bigger picture of God," she said.

As students adjust to life away from home, campus ministers serve as confi-

College ministry meeting

The Kentucky Baptist Convention's annual state student convention has a new name and a broader focus.

The meeting for college students this year will be called Focus '99. Rather than concentrating solely on collegiate ministry on campuses, an invitation will be extended to Baptist students active in local churches but not in campus ministry.

It also will include church leaders who are involved in college student ministry.

Focus '99 will be Oct. 1-3 in Bowling Green at First Baptist Church.

Because of schedules or commuting distances, many students lack

the time to participate in campus ministries, Keith Inman said. However, they are able to attend church on Sunday.

"The main focus of our ministry has expressed itself on campus," said Inman, the KBC's collegiate ministry leader. "We are trying to enhance the contact with church-based ministries."

Inman said KBC collegiate ministries always has helped churches with student ministry, but he would like to see that effort expanded.

Many churches, he said, are trying to find ways to reach students.

"We want the churches to know we are a resource," Inman said. "We want to use this department, our collegiate ministers, to enhance ministry in local churches."



dants and spiritual advisers, guiding students through

the crises that come with young adulthood.

"BSU is designed to be an extension of the local church on campus," observed Kingkade. "We are an immediate presence."

Students, he said, often come to his office seeking help with theological questions or other life struggles.

At Cumberland College, campus minister Dean Whitaker helps students serve as counselors to each other. He organized a Bible study and a support group for students who had experienced the death of a parent.

BSU takes seriously its role as an extension of local churches, and churches are well served when they tap the talents of today's college students, said Mark Whitt, a first-year campus minis-

ter at Murray State University.

"They are a 'doing generation,'" Whitt said. "I think our churches need to understand these are some people who can be dynamic additions to churches."

As a former youth minister, Whitt said he has observed an upswing in the evangelistic interest of students. He wants to help students find ways to put that zeal into practice on campus.

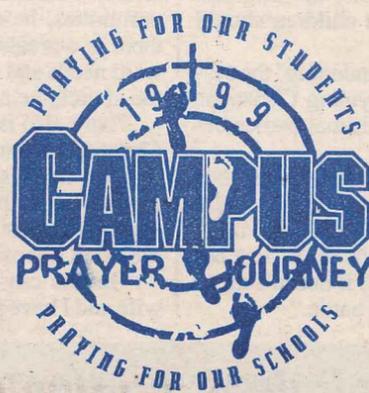
"We've got a generation of students coming up that are a lot more bold (in sharing their faith) than I have ever seen before," he said.

BSU is a place for the committed and the curious when it comes to the Christian faith, Whitaker said.

Christianity is the central message, but BSU welcomes those who are simply seeking answers, he noted. "We are an inclusive place with an exclusive message."

Kentucky BSUs & directors

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- Ashland Community College/Tony Curnutte
- Bellarmino College/Tony Smith
- Berea College/Wyndee Holbrook
- Brescia College/Owensboro Community College/Kentucky Wesleyan/Cindy Pelphrey
- Campbellsville University/Ed Pavy
- Centre College/David Garrett
- Clear Creek Baptist Bible College/Jay Barnett
- Cumberland College/Dean Whitaker
- Eastern Kentucky University/Rick Trexler
- Elizabethtown Community College/Ray Hayes
- Georgetown College/Sharon Felton
- Hazard Community College/Nancy Cooper
- Hazard Community College at Jackson/vacant
- Henderson Community College/Kristin Gaddis
- Hopkinsville Community College/Keith Stillwell and Mel Doughty
- Jefferson Community College/University of Louisville Health Sciences/Tommy Johnson
- Jefferson Community College Southwest/vacant
- Kentucky State University/Mikel Robinson
- Lexington Community College/Vacant
- Lindsey Wilson College/Somerset Community College/Gager Thompson
- Madisonville Community College/Kristin Gaddis
- Mid Continent Bible College/Paducah Community College/Mel Doughty
- Midway College/vacant
- Morehead State University/Gene Parr
- Murray State University/Mark Whitt
- Northern Kentucky University/Bill Ellis
- Pikeville College/Prestonsburg Community College/French Harmon
- Somerset Community College Laurel County/Robin Prichard
- Spalding University/Brian Combs
- Sullivan College/vacant
- Southeast Community College at Bell County/Astor Simpson
- Southeast Community College at Cumberland/vacant
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Campus Prayer Journey '99

The Goal: Mobilize concerned parents, grandparents and other adults to pray for every elementary, middle and high school in their area.

The Plan: Sunday, Sept 12, morning worship: Commission every student and school teacher/worker to be missionaries in their schools with the mission of praying for and sharing the gospel with their friends at school.

Tuesday, Sept. 14, 7 p.m.: Pray on the school campuses—Participants walk, skate, ride bicycles, jog (journey) around the school campuses and pray for the protection and salvation of all students and school teachers/workers.

Sponsored by the Evangelism Department of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. For more information, call (888) 254-5722 or (502) 254-4737. www.kybaptist.org



COLLEGE

New leader among Campbellsville's top news

By Joan McKinney
Campbellsville University

CAMPBELLSVILLE—Campbellsville University has a variety of changes awaiting students this fall, including a new president.

Mike Carter, who comes to Campbellsville after 14 years at Carson-Newman College in Tennessee, is the university's 10th president. He previously was the provost and vice president for academic affairs at Carson-Newman.

Carter has pledged to keep students first in every decision that is made for Campbellsville University. "I truly believe it is important for my family and me to get to know the students as much and as soon as possible," he said.

"Their wishes and desires for Campbellsville University are important as we continue to grow and to become even more what God has charged us as an institution to be," he added.

Campbellsville's science building

has been remodeled with an addition of 9,985 square feet. The new space houses two new chemistry labs. The expanded facilities also include a new organic lab and a new greenhouse.

Students also will see an addition to the John M. Carter Hall, including lobbies, stairwells, restrooms and other support facilities. This is the second phase of the project; the first stage renovated the building to include faculty offices and classrooms for mathematics, physics, communications, English, literature, foreign languages and education.

Female students will be able to take advantage of a new 90-bed apartment-style Residence Village.

Campbellsville's school of theology is beginning this fall with Walter Jackson as the dean. New professors have been added, and a new master of arts in Christian studies will be offered.

The university also offers four other master's programs including the fields of education, social science, music education and church music. A master of business administration is in progress.

Campbellsville students also will enjoy an enhanced dining facility including an outdoor courtyard.

The university will offer a "Family Weekend" Sept. 24 and 25 when parents and other family members can visit campus. "The Biggest Pep Rally Campbellsville University has ever seen" is one of the attractions of the weekend. There also will be a tailgate party, band family lunch and the Campbellsville-Austin Peay football game.

Homecoming will be Oct. 15-16 with numerous activities each day. Reunions will be held for the 1949 and 1951 classes, student missionaries, Golden Heritage members (those who graduated 50 years ago and earlier) and others.

Campbellsville has grown 150 percent during the past 10 years to an enrollment of 1,660, making it one of the fastest-growing educational institutions in the southeast United States.

Back
To
Campus

Georgetown lists successes, plans for productive new year

Georgetown College celebrated the success of many of its students at the end of the 1999 spring semester. Ben Crace, from Glasgow, received a J. William Fulbright Grant to study in Doha, Qatar; Jenny Chasteen, from Cynthiana, accepted an internship with the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in Washington, D.C.; both varsity and junior varsity academic teams were crowned state champions again; and the school's student investment team nearly doubled its investment this year.

As the campus moves toward a new semester, several new programs also are in place. For example, an inaugural group of students will leave this fall to study at Regents Park College at Oxford University in

England. On-campus events for students include lectures by theologians from seminaries around the country, concerts featuring the Glenn Miller Orchestra and lectures that range from the politics of Northern Ireland to the role of the "underground railroad" in Kentucky. The campus also will welcome 10 new faculty members this fall.

"The new academic year at Georgetown College will be one of our most exciting ever," said Georgetown College President Bill Crouch. "With record enrollment, record retention and an entering student body that averages a 3.5 grade point average and 25 ACT score, we will become an even stronger nationally ranked liberal arts college.

"In addition, 10 new faculty members with terminal degrees from places like Princeton University, Florida State University, the University of Tennessee and Virginia Commonwealth University will guarantee the continued stretching of Christian minds," Crouch said.

Georgetown students also have a newly renovated cafeteria awaiting them this fall. Other recent building projects include:

■ In 1996 the Anne Wright Wilson Fine Arts Building was completed, housing one of the largest galleries in central Kentucky.

■ In 1997 the east campus complex was opened. It features the 5,000-seat Rawlings Stadium, a large conference and training center and apartment-style dormitories for 200 students.

■ In October 1998, the doors of the Anna Ashcraft Ensor Learning Resource Center were opened. The new learning center is the academic centerpiece of the campus.

Located 12 miles from Lexington, in the heart of bluegrass country, Georgetown College is a four-year, private liberal arts institution affiliated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention. The college has been named by U.S. News & World Report as one of the top national liberal arts colleges for five consecutive years.

Founded in 1829, the college is dedicated to its role as an innovative community of scholars developing ethical scholars committed to its heritage of Christian discernment.

Cumberland makes plans for new fine arts center

WILLIAMSBURG—Affirming Cumberland College's commitment to the mission of Christian higher education, Cumberland President James Taylor explained, "If we fail in our Christian commitment, we fail in everything."

Taylor doesn't plan for Cumberland to fail. As president of the southeastern Kentucky institution for the past two decades, he has directed the steady growth of campus facilities and programs.

Among the latest additions to the Williamsburg campus is the Grace Crum Rollins Fine Arts Center that currently is under construction. Plans also are under way to begin construction of a new men's dormitory this fall and an additional women's dorm in the near future.

The fine arts center, a \$6 million project, will feature a 260-seat theater. It also will house classrooms and offices for the communication arts department as well as radio and television production facilities.

In addition to the fine arts center, the two dorms are expected to cost an estimated \$3 million each.

Taylor emphasized, however, that

the projects will not produce a financial burden for the school. "Our philosophy is not to build until we have funds and pledges in hand."

Taylor said the primary reason for campus expansion is to "more adequately accommodate the students we have." The school currently has an annual enrollment of 1,650 to 1,700 students, he added.

Along with the physical growth, Cumberland continues to expand academically. New majors in accounting, business and marketing education; theater arts; and philosophy/religion will be offered this fall.

Noting that the school already has a religion major and philosophy minor, Taylor said the philosophy/religion major and other new academic options primarily are "enhancements of what we have."

"We're going to the next level all the time, academically," he said. "We continue to refine our emphasis on academics in a Christian setting."

Along with academics, Cumberland consistently emphasizes ministry and service. Student volunteers have built four houses this year for economically disadvantaged families in the

region, bringing the total number of such projects in recent years to 90 houses.

"To be a service to the Appalachian area is part of our mission," Taylor explained. "We feel we have a mission to meet basic human needs in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ."

That ministry focus carries over into campus life with required chapel attendance and academic requirements in Old Testament and New Testament.

"We believe we have a responsibility as a Baptist institution," Taylor noted. "We feel comfortable with our Kentucky Baptist constituency. That's who we are. That's to whom we go for friends, funds and freshmen."

Affirming that Cumberland's Baptist heritage "permeates the institution," Taylor added, "We are Baptists. We're glad that we are. We make no apologies about it."

As Cumberland moves toward the new millennium, Taylor said the school will continue its mission of providing a liberal arts education in a Christian context. In order to maintain that focus, he concluded, "We try to emphasize the education of the whole person—keen minds, warm hearts and helping hands."

Kentucky Baptist Student Union summer missionaries gain a wealth of experiences



SUMMER MISSIONS Students serve at Jekyll Island in Georgia.

Continued from page 1

trips to El Salvador and Taiwan. (Most other summer missionaries served 10 weeks.) Interest in missions shows no sign of waning.

"It's exploding," Hopkins said, adding that he hopes the number of missionaries sent out will continue to grow.

But 150 students might be the maximum number that the Baptist Student Unions can support financially, he noted. (BSUs support summer missionaries through fundraising, including love offerings for choir concerts.)

"There was a time when we said money is no object," he said. "But the number of students has surpassed ... the amount of money we're comfortable raising."

Also growing is the number of opportunities for summer service. Until recently, the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention offered fewer

opportunities. Now their book of requests for summer missionaries rivals the 2,000 requests sent to Hopkins and others from the SBC North American Mission Board.

Interest and assignments also are expected to grow as a result of the Summer Olympics in Australia and the 2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake City.

Kentucky students are expected to serve in both cities. This year a team worked with a church in Perth, Australia, and the director for the Southern Baptist ministry in Salt Lake City, Beth Ann Williams, is a former Kentucky summer missionary.

Meanwhile students already must consider if they want to serve next summer. Applications are due in October.

"I'm just waiting for God to tell me what to do," Shipp said. "I'd love to do it again, but I'm open to other options, too."

Technology helps reveal secrets of Dead Sea Scrolls

By Margie Wylie
Religion News Service

TEANECK, N.J. (RNS)—Inscribed near the time of Jesus, stored in caves for two millennia and uncovered in 1947, a wrinkled scrap of leather stored in Teaneck, N.J., hid the key to an ancient psalm.

The Dead Sea Scrolls fragment was almost more holy relic than historical artifact before archaeologist Robert Johnston and his fellow researchers came along. Using a digital camera and computer-driven analysis, Johnston's team did what is becoming increasingly commonplace. They made the ancient document speak.

Out of a blackened patch emerged several lines, among them: "Blessed is the Lord who causes us to rejoice, for that is why You created us."

"The characters popped right out; to be able to see writing that had not been seen for over 2,000 years was very exciting," said John Peter Meno of St. Mark's Cathedral in Teaneck.

Meno is general secretary of the Eastern United States archdiocese of the Syrian Orthodox Church, which owns the fragment.

The find eventually yielded what is being called a harvest hymn, a never-before-seen Jewish psalm.

Johnston and his colleagues have been pioneering ways to use imaging technologies once reserved for spies and astronomers to mine the secrets of ancient texts blackened or faded by time.

The team, sponsored by Eastman Kodak Co. and Xerox Corp., has been experimenting with multispectral imaging at the Rochester (N.Y.) Institute of Technology's Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Sciences, of which Johnston is dean.

The imaging techniques were developed to help spy satellites identify, for example, an army tank hidden by fog or a jungle canopy. In the case of ancient texts, it helps researchers distinguish between ink and background by detecting minute differences in the light waves—or spectra—they reflect.

Light visible to the naked eye has wavelengths in the range of 400 to 700 nanometers, or billionths of a meter. Using a digital camera sensitive to light ranging from 200 nanometers (ultraviolet) to 1,100 nanometers (infrared), the researchers photograph documents in light of several different wavelengths until they find the ones that offer the most detail. Ink may reflect light at, say, 900 nanometers, while the blackened leather in the background might reflect at 910 na-

nometers. A computer, analyzing the differences, can identify hidden characters.

Typically, Johnston's team extracts only tiny, though crucial, nuggets.

Looking at a rare red-ink scroll of the Old Testament book of Samuel yielded only one previously unknown character. Still, "the scholar involved was so thrilled that he went out and wrote whole papers on it," recalled Keith Knox, a member of Johnston's team and a principal scientist at Xerox's Digital Imaging Technology Center in Webster, N.Y.

Among the thoroughly mined texts of the Dead Sea Scrolls, they found only 18 new characters in their examination of color photos of the Temple Scroll—which at 28 feet is the longest mostly intact scroll.

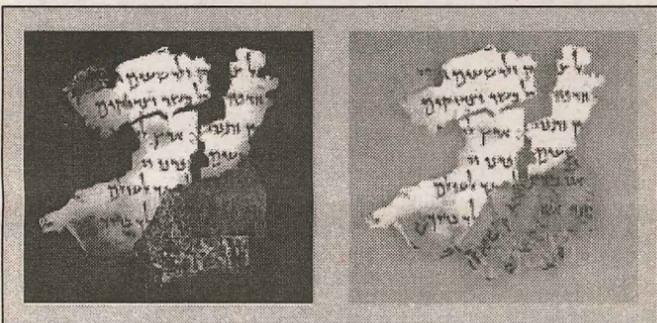
So the harvest hymn find, on a scrap of liturgical scroll, was a virtual mother lode. When combined with other scroll fragments and translated by professor George Brooke of the

University of Manchester in England, it read: "The Festival of our Peace. The fruit became plump due to the Heavens and the produce of the Earth of living things, so we give thanks to your name, forever. Blessed is the Lord who causes us to rejoice, for that is why You created us."

The Dead Sea Scrolls were written in the Semitic language of Aramaic between 68 B.C. and A.D. 250 and hidden in caves near Qumran, which some scholars think was an ancient Jewish settlement. The writings shed light on aspects of early Jewish religious and secular life during the era when Romans sacked Jerusalem, around A.D. 70, and as Christianity was dawning.

"These things are so fragile, they can just crumble at a touch," Meno said. "The amazing thing about this technology is it allows us to literally see through it to other layers of writing without ever touching these very fragile artifacts."

ELECTRONIC ARCHAEOLOGY
Technologies once reserved for spies and astronomers are being used to mine the secrets of ancient texts blackened or faded by time. Using digital infrared enhancement, this tiny Dead Sea Scrolls fragment supplied the key to reconstructing a previously unknown hymn praising God for a successful harvest. (RNS photo)



A value-based mission

By now every Kentucky Baptist church has been given the opportunity to participate in Partnership 2000. My prayer is many churches will respond positively to this unified effort of Campbellsville, Cumberland and Georgetown to ensure the future of Kentucky Baptist Christian higher education as we approach the 21st century.

The primary thrust is to provide a maximum number of deserving students with scholarships, grants and other financial aid. Churches have been asked to consider giving for three years. For each \$5,000 given, a church receives a \$1,000 scholarship certificate for students to attend any one of the three institutions.

Churches are utilizing different participation methods. Some have incorporated Partnership 2000 into their budgets. Some have made it a part of their building program, with a percentage of each building program gift going to Partnership 2000. Others have taken an informal approach and asked specific members to give directly and privately to Partnership 2000. Still others have received a special offering.

We believe Christian values

transform personal lives, permeate society and prepare a future toward which we travel with confidence and anticipation. Those values rest on a tripod consisting of home, church and school. Remove or diminish any one of the three and Christian values will be less effective, if they continue to exist at all. If you believe in the

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

value-based mission of these three institutions, the integrity of their leadership and the continuing contribution of their students as they live out the values of Christian higher education, let me urge you as an individual to support this partnership.

Perhaps you would consider a gift of appreciated stock or real estate. Others of you might prefer to include a bequest in your will or revocable living trust, or a life insurance policy or retirement plan beneficiary designation. If you need a life income in return, a charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder trust is worth considering. Please call Laurie Valentine or me toll-free for assistance at (888) 254-5701.

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



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- Erin from Atlanta, GA

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Patricia Ashley
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Carol Kent
a gifted public speaker, writer & former radio show co-host, Carol is the founder of "Speak Up With Confidence" seminars



Julie Baker
executive producer & president of *TimeOut for Women!*, has worked in media & 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

NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Bank won't do business with Focus on the Family.** James Dobson, president of Focus on the Family, said Aug. 11 Mellon Bank has refused to do business with the nonprofit organization because of its stand opposing homosexuality. Dobson, speaking on the group's widely listened-to radio program, shared the latest chapter in a saga that began last spring when Focus asked Mellon Bank to help manage its growing gift annuity program. But, Dobson said on his radio broadcast, the bank had refused to do business with the ministry, terming it "family unfriendly." He asked listeners to respond to Mellon Bank directly.

■ **Hallmark Cards buys DaySpring Cards.** Hallmark Cards has purchased DaySpring Cards, a Christian company that was the only for-profit division of Cook Communications Ministries. DaySpring has about 400 employees and has its headquarters in Siloam Springs, Ark. It will operate as a wholly owned subsidiary of Hallmark. "DaySpring will continue to focus its efforts on creating products that mirror consumer preferences in the Christian interest marketplace," said James Barnett, who remains as president of DaySpring.

■ **Robertson: Assassination "practical."** Christian Coalition President Pat Robertson said it might be "practical" foreign policy to assassinate some international leaders. He was quoted Aug. 9 on "The 700 Club," a program airing nationally on his Christian Broadcasting Network. "I know it sounds somewhat Machiavellian and evil, to think that you could send a squad in to take out somebody like (terrorist) Osama bin Laden or to take out the head of North Korea," he said. "But isn't it better to do something like that, to take out (Serbian President Slobodan) Milosevic, to take out (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein, rather than to spend billions and billions of dollars on a war that harms innocent civilians and destroys the infrastructure of a country?"

Real Friendly

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

Summer children's ministry

By Robert Dunston

Cumberland College's Appalachian Ministries stayed busy this summer providing ministry to children in communities throughout our area. As a result of its work, more than 20 children accepted Christ as their personal Savior.

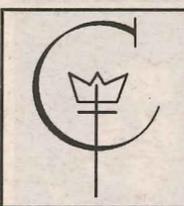
April Vermillion, a May 1999 Cumberland graduate from Louisville, led the Appalachian Ministries summer team. This year's team included students from all three Kentucky Baptist liberal arts colleges. Vermillion; Eric Wren, a Cumberland sophomore from Berea; and Carrie Keener, a Cumberland junior from Lake City, Tenn.; were joined by Dawn Yates, a Campbellsville junior from Lebanon; Chris Thornsberry, a Campbellsville sophomore from Louisville; and Keely Kyle, a Georgetown senior from Frankfort.

Youth groups from 10 churches came and worked. The churches sending youth groups were Central Baptist in Loudon, Tenn.; Mossy Gap in Williamsburg; Pendleton Street in Greenville, S.C.; Altamont in East Bernstadt; Dunning Park Bible Chapel in Redford, Mich.; Pleasant View in Williamsburg; Open Door Bible Church in Hudson, Mich.; Perdido Bay in Pensacola, Fla.; Redbird in

Williamsburg; and Sander's Creek in Williamsburg. Each church was paired with a local congregation in ministry to children.

The team led five vacation Bible schools and two backyard Bible clubs. Other projects included painting two churches, taking eight young people to church camp, holding nightly youth rallies at Cumberland

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



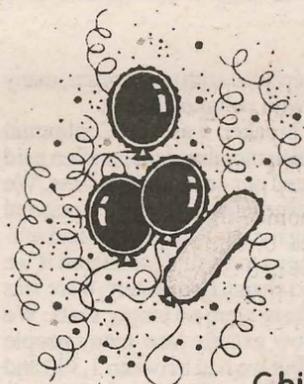
College for a week and leading a day camp at Central Baptist in Corbin.

Vermillion said building relationships was the best part of the summer. Strong bonds formed among team members and between the team members and all of the youth. Appalachian Ministries is looking forward to working even more with local

churches in reaching our area.

Cumberland College's Appalachian Ministries program provided a wonderful partnership for students from our three Kentucky Baptist liberal arts colleges to work together and make a difference for Christ in the lives of children. Cumberland remains committed to working with all Kentucky Baptists as we lead people to Christ and help them become faithful disciples.

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



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WORLD VIEW

■ **Sudan missionaries report attacks.** Islamic fundamentalists have staged systematic attacks on Catholics celebrating Sunday Mass in Khartoum, Sudan, and authorities have done nothing to stop them, missionaries reported Aug. 9. The report came from the Missionary Service News Agency, operated by the Comboni Missionary Fathers of Verona, who have been active in Sudan for more than a century. The agency also reported that on July 30, authorities expelled without explanation a Canadian missionary, Gilles Poirier, 57, who had worked in Sudan since 1992 and was known for "his missionary zeal in behalf of the poor of his parish."

■ **New Christian-Muslim violence kills 25 in Indonesia.** Muslims and Christians have clashed anew in eastern Indonesia, leaving at least 25 people dead. Police and soldiers Wednesday opened fire on the rioters, adding to the toll. More than 300 have died since January in Indonesia's eastern Maluku province in the inter-religious fighting. The unrest is just one example of the widespread ethnic and religious violence that has erupted across Indonesia for more than a year, fed by the nation's economic and political uncertainties.

■ **Union workers resist Christian "lifestyle" clause.** The Salvation Army is following the lead of the Canadian Roman Catholic Church and threatening to shut down one of its operations unless its unionized staff agrees to a "Christian lifestyle" code requiring them to shun pornography, refuse to gamble and avoid sex outside marriage. The British Columbia Government Employees Union, which is trying to negotiate a first contract for employees at the Salvation Army's outreach program to Vancouver's poor, however, is condemning the religious organization for demanding the lifestyle clause.

Bishop's baptism fuels revival in Uganda

By Sue Sprenkle
SBC International Mission Board

JINJA, Uganda (BP)—Hidden by the darkness of the night, the men slipped across the street to Samuel Lubogo's home. The silence was shattered as the intruders beat down the door.

The night of terror began for the Lubogo family when they recognized the intruders as police officers and members of their parish.

Lubogo's wife, Norah, cried as she watched her personal possessions carted off. One police officer grabbed Lubogo and another handcuffed his eldest son. The two men were carried to jail while the rest of the family was thrown out on the street.

A photograph published in that day's newspaper had shown Lubogo—a high-ranking Church of Uganda official—being baptized at the local Baptist church.

The intruders were sent to teach him a lesson. The lesson backfired, though. Lubogo clung even closer to his newfound faith.

"That night, all of the people stared at us. They persecuted us just because I was now following the truth," he said. "As I watched what was happening, I worried about my family but I still praised the Lord for considering me worthy."

Lubogo is not the only official from the Church of Uganda to make a public decision for Christ. Since April, more than 50 priests also have professed faith in Jesus Christ, said Southern Baptist

missionary Bill Waddle. A spiritual awakening for Uganda is starting in one of the most unlikely places—the Church of Uganda.

The Church of Uganda is an offshoot of the Church of England and was founded in 1875. While the church believes in Jesus Christ and the resurrection, it also adheres to a rigid hierarchy of authority.

"Their stance on the Bible is that you don't need one," Lubogo said. "You don't need one because the bishop will tell you what to believe and how to act."

Lubogo was bishop-elect—next in line to become archbishop—with charge over 3 million parishioners and priests in his diocese when he left the Church of Uganda. He was not only the second in command in the Church of Uganda, but also a prince in the royal family of Uganda.

One Baptist preacher in Lubogo's diocese, Godfrey Mayimba, was praying for a spiritual awakening in the Church of Uganda. Mayimba grew up in the Church of Uganda and knew its teachings. He was one of the first people impacted by Baptist work in his area more than 20 years ago.

"When I was 14, I felt God telling me to go and lead my people to him," Mayimba said. "I started praying for the Church of Uganda then."

Mayimba met Lubogo through a local humanitarian program. The two began meeting and talking about the Bible. Lubogo began to ask questions and search out the truth about Christianity.

"Finally I came to the point where I asked myself, 'How long am I going to

sit on this truth?'" Lubogo said. "The truth haunted me. I had to act on it and acknowledge it—even if the church was against it."

Until Lubogo's baptism, his conversion had been hidden from the community and church. After police stormed Lubogo's home, he spent four days in jail and then was asked to reconsider his decision.

Lubogo recalled persecuting evangelicals on behalf of the Church of Uganda.

"I apologize to those that I persecuted before I knew the truth," he said. "Now, I want to live so that people can see the change in my life. I want to show people that Jesus Christ has control over me."

Community members are curious about the changes they are seeing in Lubogo and the other priests. Lubogo said many have approached him and asked him to start a new church.

"The people want to hear about Jesus Christ. They want to know the truth," Lubogo said. "The problem is that these priests cannot come before their congregations and preach salvation without being fired or their lives threatened."

Efforts are being made to find ways to disciple the 50 priests and support them in their decision, Waddle said. The priests will be important players in spreading the gospel, he added.

"They are the leaders of the community. People recognize and follow them," he said. "If these priests are serious, the people are going to respond to the message they bring."

Record-breaking summer

This summer began like most others. Summer school started in June with the normal number of students enrolling for the first time. The number of returning students who either needed or elected to attend the summer session was about normal. But there "normal" ended.

I knew we were due for a record-breaking number of volunteers this summer. Many groups had scheduled their trips a year ago. Other groups called much later, but we were usually able to find a week that would fit their schedule and ours. However, I had to turn away more volunteer groups this year than ever before. Nearly every week this summer, between 75 and 100 volunteers were due to be here. I cannot tell you what preparations must be made to keep 75-100 volunteers busy every day of the week for 10 weeks each summer.

One group made a lasting improvement in Russell Hall, known as the chapel building. The wood trim around the building was in constant need of painting. Two years ago some Alabama volunteers, who had been asked to do the painting on the two-story building, suggested we install vinyl siding. We agreed, and this summer the same group installed the vinyl, which made a beautiful improvement.

Four years ago I decided to make substantial improvements in the housing the school provides for our faculty and staff, especially our 24 mobile homes. During the past four years, two or three dozen groups have helped with this project. New vinyl siding and windows, additional insulation and new hip-type roofs were added. Each of these improvements made the homes more attractive and greatly reduced maintenance and energy costs. The last of these homes was completed this summer. Seven

mobile homes were replaced with new houses, many of which were built with volunteer labor.

Another record breaker was our Centennial Homecoming. Eighteen months of preparation paid off when we celebrated our centennial in June. We normally have four large tents to serve the noon and evening homecoming meals. This year we had seven. When the line began to form, I wondered if we had enough tables and chairs. Fortunately, there was never a time when there were no empty seats. We do not know exactly how many people attended, but we had between 1,300 and 1,500 visitors here. This was undoubtedly the largest group ever gathered for an Oneida homecoming.

Another record-breaking event was the heat and drought. I am so grateful we installed central air conditioning in our three largest dormitories. It was a giant step financially, and the electric bills will go up substantially. But the comfort it gives our boys and girls during summer school and the summer work program makes it worthwhile.

We previously had one air-conditioned dormitory, but it historically volunteered dormitories. Many of those folks are older and could not have worked during the day if they had not been able to get a good night's sleep. During the hottest weeks this summer, we scurried around to find indoor jobs for our volunteers.

Many farm chores had to be done whether it was hot or not, so work went on with few changes. The students who mow our campus had to alter their hours because of the extreme heat. Yes, this has been a record-breaking summer in many ways.

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

An interim ministry at West Corbin

During my 11 years at Clear Creek, the Lord has blessed me with the opportunity to serve as an interim pastor with five churches. On July 25, I concluded a 10-month interim with West Corbin Baptist Church. The church called Jim Stanhope, a former Lexington pastor and international missionary.

The title of interim preacher is more accurate, but West Corbin loved me as much as any church could, and they became part of my spiritual family. Several scenes describe the church and have become spiritual markers for what church ought to be.

The church full festival filled the gymnasium as members staffed exhibits and play booths for nearly 200 children and parents. The good, clean fun with a Christian witness provided a needed alternative to the excesses of Halloween. I didn't win the pineapple upside-down cake at the cakewalk, but a few Sundays later a member brought us one fresh from the oven. On Thanksgiving Day, Rebecca and I worked with members to prepare and deliver a turkey and trimmings dinner to 96 people, many of them homebound. The children's Christmas play and musical demonstrated member cooperation and

encouraged every family.

Each week two vans bring neighborhood children to mission groups, youth activities and children's church. On the last Sunday of the month, these children attend the worship services. Through the years, many have come to know Christ. West Corbin showed its mission heart last December when the

Lottie Moon International Mission Offering tripled the previous year's response. This spring the church helped send a Russia mission trip, and in August several members journeyed to Vermont for vacation Bible school work. A significant portion of weekly offerings goes to the Cooperative Program.

A senior adult group meets monthly. In May they toured Clear Creek. Twenty-five members also came for a Saturday visit, lunch at Pine Mountain Lodge and dessert at our home. This good church represents so many others across our convention—a people who desire to honor Christ, win the lost and build a fellowship that makes a difference in our world.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

BOOKS

High Expectations: The Remarkable Secret for Keeping People in Your Church. Thom Rainer. Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1999. 219 pages. \$13.99. ◆◆◆◆ (out of five)

"Less is expected of church members today than civic organizations expect of their members. We have dumbed down church membership to the point that it means almost nothing!"

With this blunt and shocking observation, Thom Rainer summarizes the essence of the problem of and solution to retaining church members. The key to keeping people in the church is to raise significantly the level of what we expect from members.

Rainer's argument is more than his personal bias. He and a research team studied 287 Southern Baptist churches in 33 states. These churches were located in rural communities and small towns, as well as metropolitan areas. In attempting to discern the key elements to member retention, Rainer divided the churches into two survey groups: those with high retention rates and those with low rates. Retention was defined by the number of members who were active attenders versus those who remained on the church roll.

From his research, Rainer discovered 14 factors that lead to a church's ability not only to reach people, but to keep them as active, growing members. The overarching theme running through the 14 factors is that churches must communicate and expect high levels of commitment from members. This should begin, not after a person joins, but while attracting a person.

"High Expectations" is a solid presentation of social research. The research challenges many assumptions about reaching and keeping members, as well as offering several blinding flashes of the obvious. *Jim Holladay*

We Baptists. Edited by James Leo Garrett. Providence House Publishers, 1999. 88 pages. \$11.95. ◆◆◆◆

Who are Baptists? Have you tried to answer that question lately? If so, then you know the task is harder than it seems at first blush. The task is even more complicated for those of us related to the Southern Baptist version of the tradition, where competing visions vie for our attention and loyalty.

Into this amorphous, sometimes contentious discussion, the Baptist World Alliance's study and research division has dared to wade by sponsoring the publication of "We Baptists." Made up of Baptists from all over the world, the Baptist World Alliance brings a broad perspective to describing Baptist identity. As a world body, it can distance itself from the inter-Nicene battles of any particular group of Baptists.

"We Baptists" is an excellent, succinct portrait of what it means to be Baptist. Beginning with a brief summary of Baptist history, the book describes the unique Baptist perspective on moral decision-making, worship, leadership, Christian theology and human rights. Throughout the survey, one is reminded that Baptists are a group of people who have been consumed with what it means to be authentic disciples of Jesus Christ.

This would be an excellent book to use in a new members' class, or as a study guide for a discipleship class. It presents the Baptist story and perspective clearly, concisely and without bias. *Jim Holladay*

The Family: A Christian Perspective on the Contemporary Home (second edition). Jack and Judith Balswick. Baker Book House, 1999. 386 pages. \$17.99. ◆◆◆◆

The Balswicks, married to each other and both professors at Fuller Theological Seminary, have written and revised a wonderful resource for ministers and laypeople alike. The book undoubtedly lends itself to a college or seminary text on family, but its readability and sound argument commend itself to a wider audience as well.

Central to the Balswicks' presentation is their theology of family relationships which involves four sequential, but not linear, stages: covenant, grace, empowering and intimacy. In order for there to be growth in a relationship the relationship must spiral to deeper levels of each of these elements. If deepening does not happen, the relationship stagnates in covenant, law, possessive power and distance.

The authors present family research from psychological and sociological perspectives, whether Christian or not, which is then integrated with biblical texts relating to the stages of family life. The book moves systematically from marriage to parenting to sexuality to communication to the dynamics of family life. It ends with a discussion of family life in modern society.

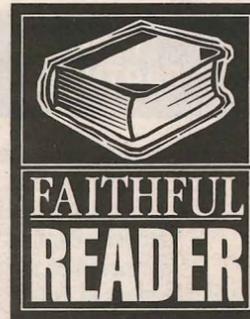
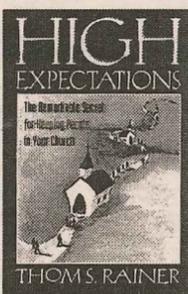
Much of what one would want to consider about family life is included in this sound resource for ministers and laypeople alike. *Wayne Hager*

Touring C.S. Lewis' Ireland and England: A travel guide to C.S. Lewis' favorite places to walk and visit. Perry Bramlett and Ronald Higdon. Maps by Claudia Wells. Smyth & Helwys, 1998. 120 pages. \$12. ◆◆◆◆

Who would have suspected that a travel guide to Ireland and England could have such a wealth of information about C.S. Lewis, and not just the countryside? The uniqueness of this book among the hundreds available about C.S. Lewis is obvious. That it is such a gem of a book is not readily obvious until you pick it up.

The authors share their considerable knowledge of C.S. Lewis in the midst of bringing to the reader, and prospective traveler, a guided tour of the buildings, homes, colleges, churches, pubs, restaurants and countryside that were a part of Lewis' life. From places only mentioned in Lewis' books to his longtime home church, it is hard to imagine that the authors have overlooked any place of importance to Lewis and many of his friends. The book is a delight waiting for the next time you say, "I didn't know that."

After you finish the book you will have a greater understanding of Lewis by sharing with him some of his favorite places. In addition, it is a great guide for those who will make the journey to Ireland and England and wish to walk where C.S. Lewis walked. *Wayne Hager*



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

Recordings help preserve the Psalms as songs

JERUSALEM (RNS)—The Book of Psalms is the one book of the Bible that Jews and Christians alike have turned to over the ages as a source of inspiration for liturgical song.

Now, Gershon Ha Cohen Tzipris is hoping it also can offer a spiritual meeting ground for people of both faiths at the onset of the new millennium.

Tzipris, a Baroque musician and observant Jew, recently completed an ambitious recording of all 150 psalms, as they are sung in the musical traditions of Jerusalem's major Christian denominations and Jewish synagogues.

The psalms are to be published just before Christmas as the "Jerusalem Psalter" in a set of five or six compact discs.

"Most of the books of the Bible represent messages that God gave to his

people, either via Moses or the prophets," Tzipris said. "The Psalms of David are the only book which comes from the heart of man straight to God."

"Musically, it's also the only book that both Christians and Jews sing. All of the other books of the Bible are read," Tzipris noted.

The recording project was co-sponsored by Tzipris' grassroots organization, known as Hallelujah Jerusalem, and the German Association for the Holy Land.

Nearly a dozen church and synagogue choirs took part in the recordings. They ranged from the Benedictine monks of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher to a Syrian Orthodox lay choir and six different Jewish communities.

Catholics, Protestants and Orthodox communities sang the first three major sections of Psalms (1-89). The Jewish

denominations completed the set with Psalms 90-150.

For some churches, the recordings will help preserve an oral tradition of song that is slowly slipping away, Tzipris said. "Leaders of some of the Orthodox churches told me that 50 years ago they knew how to sing all 150 psalms, but today many of the original melodies have been lost to them."

The musical styles on the recording range from the classical and Western tones of the Protestants like the Dutch Reformed Church, to the minor-key dirges of the Orthodox Churches.

All are what Tzipris describes as "authentic music" that has been part of church and synagogue traditions for centuries. And all are sung by choirs based in Jerusalem's Old City, the nexus of the holy city disputed by Jews, Muslims and Christians.

Bible study urges family to live out faith for children

ATLANTA (BP)—It was about 14 years ago when Jerry Pipes first began to see a need for something like "Family to Family," a four-week Bible study he co-wrote with Victor Lee.

Pipes said it was in his work with students that he noticed a distressing disconnect between what students were learning and what they were seeing at home.

"They would walk up and say, 'You've taught that if I'm going to walk with God I need a daily quiet time. Why don't I see my mom doing it?'" said

Pipes, director of ministry evangelism team for the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Another student called him "a liar and a jerk" when he heard Pipes describe Jesus as the only way to God but never saw his dad, a deacon, talk about his faith to his neighbors.

"It concerned me that we are teaching kids to do basic stuff that they never see their parents do," Pipes said. "And that's one reason why 88 percent of our kids walk out of church after the

age of 18 and they never come back." Pipes said the 88 percent figure comes from youth evangelist Jay Strack's experience.

"Family to Family" is designed to be taught in small groups. Suggested actions include a family mission trip, and the development of a family mission statement.

Among other topics addressed in the book are how to deal with modern pressures on family life, leading children to Christ and disciplining them, and making evangelism a priority in the home.

Editor Calvin Miller mixes love, literature for 'Millennium Bible'

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)—Calvin Miller spent a year and a half gathering facts, portraits and little-known quotes about Jesus for a millennium tribute.

The result—"The Celebrate Jesus! Millennium Bible"—gives readers a literary tribute as well as a loving one, according to Miller, professor of preaching at Beeson Divinity School at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.

Miller said the 366 quotes he selected from 2,000 years of various writings about Jesus and the fact the Bible text is the King James Version helps give it its literary feel. The 366 sayings about Jesus accompany a devotional section that provides a leap year's worth of Bible study.

Short sayings about "what people thought about Jesus" are included from such historical and contemporary figures as: Thomas Aquinas, Philip Yancey, John Wesley, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Teresa of Avila, Martin Luther, Dwight L. Moody, John Calvin, Charles Spurgeon and C.S. Lewis.

The Millennium Bible project was a fairly massive one, but its concept is simple, said Wendell Overstreet, marketing specialist for Broadman & Holman Bibles.

"The main purpose we've forgotten during the media hype about Y2K is that the year 2000 is a celebration of the Christian faith. We want this Bible to take the focus away from Y2K and bring it back to Jesus," he said.

The 1,600-page Millennium Bible offers a 16-page family record section for memories during 2000. A host of charts cover such topics as biblical titles for Jesus as well as Jesus' parables, sermons, disciples and miracles.

Also, a time-line fold-out of the life of Jesus and the historical events leading to his birth is included, along with full-color maps and an explanation of how to become a Christian.

PEOPLE

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

- The family of Ken Murphy, Kentucky Baptist Convention partnership missions associate director, who died Aug. 1.
- Urgent: Kentucky volunteers for projects in Tanzania: Sept. 1-14 and Sept. 22-Oct. 5, evangelism work in Morogoro; Oct. 6-19, prayer walks and evangelism work in Ifakara.
- Urgent: Kentucky volunteers for evangelism projects in Poland Oct. 5-18.
- The Thursday night Bible studies led by missionaries Doug and Marcy Shaw in Rzeszow, Poland.
- Slavic Baptist Church of Manchester, N.H., which serves Russians and Ukrainians.
- A Brazilian Baptist congregation in Nashua, N.H., which serves about 80 people.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Shirley Wooton

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Northside Church will host International Mission Board president **Jerry Rankin** Aug. 28, 1 p.m. **Ronny Raines** is pastor.

■ **ERLANGER**—Anchor Church recently ordained minister of youth **Jack Fugate** to the ministry. **Darryl Crenshaw** is pastor.

■ **HENDERSON**—Zion Church will host **Jerry Rankin**, president of the

International Mission Board, Aug. 29, 6:30 p.m. For information, call (270) 826-4952. **David Hankins** is interim pastor.

■ **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.

Think you can stay out of the water on the Noah's Ark hole?

By Linda Sickler
The Southern Illinoisan

DU QUOIN, Ill. (ABP)—The Road of Life is uphill and bumpy, and that's just the way the developers of the Man-Ark miniature golf course at Du Quoin, Ill., intended it to be.

Situated at Hole 16, "The Road of Life" is just one of 18 holes at this recreation complex with a biblical theme. The course was created by two Christian couples, Henry and Fay Clark and Dave and Jeannie Ullman, who wanted to offer area residents some wholesome entertainment.

"We didn't think about having a biblical theme at first," Mrs. Ullman said. "But what better way could we talk about our best friend?"

The name of the course comes from the last three letters of the couples' last names. While it is still under construction, the course is playable

and has been open since May.

At the first hole, appropriately titled "In the Beginning," players putt through the Garden of Eden. No. 3 is "Samson's Revenge," while No. 5 is the "Tower of Babel."

At No. 7, players must decide whether to putt through the narrow or wide gates. "Noah's Ark," complete with animals and Noah himself, is at No. 8.

One of the favorites is the serpent at No. 9. "If you make it through the mouth of the serpent, you can make a hole-in-one," Clark said.

The hole at No. 11 doesn't have a biblical theme, and in fact portrays three skunks. "This hole is a little stinker," Clark said. "It is a complete S-curve. It is a little tricky, but it can be done in two strokes."

The Clarks consider "Jacob's Ladder" at No. 12 to be one of the most difficult holes on the course. At No. 14 is "The Lighthouse."

■ **JENKINS**—**Bud Underwood** will be the guest speaker at First Church, Sept. 12, 11 a.m. **Steve Mayle** is pastor.

■ **LONDON**—The **Southeast Kentucky Rick Gage Crusade** will be Aug. 29-Sept. 1, 7 p.m. at the North Laurel High School Stadium.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Beechwood Church will host "One Voice" in concert Aug. 28, 4:30 p.m. at a community-wide picnic. For information, call (502) 895-3439. **Robert Blackburn** is pastor.

Cloverleaf Church will host the

Sons of Liberty from Stanton in a gospel concert, Aug. 28, 7 p.m. For information, call (502) 367-0218. **Geoffrey Lacefield** is pastor.

Gethsemane Church will host "Let Your Light Shine" concert with **David Livingston** Aug. 21, 7 p.m. **HUGS Creative Ministry Team** also will be featured. An ice cream social will follow. For information, call (502) 969-3191. **Robert Wright** is pastor.

Brian Shoemaker resigned as pastor of Lyndon Church. A reception in honor of the Shoemakers was held Aug. 8.

"As the sign says, 'Jesus is the Light,'" Clark said.

A church that will sit at No. 18 is under construction. Players who go through the church will ring the bell, signaling the end of the game. "Once you go through the door of the church, your worries are over," Clark said.

That is, unless you decide to go again. The cost is \$3 for the first game and \$1.50 for every game thereafter.

The couples designed and built the course themselves, including a fountain with Moses on top, striking the rock to bring forth water.

Construction of the course began last October. "We went to play miniature golf and stood around under a tree and said, 'We ought to build one,' so we did," Mrs. Ullman said.

The first consideration was the amount of space available for the project. Then Clark and Ullman sat down with graph paper and spent two

weeks designing the course.

"We had so many layouts until we finally came up with this one," Clark said. "All four of us liked it."

Although it has a biblical theme, the course is designed to appeal to all miniature golf fans, regardless of faith.

After the design work was completed, Clark and Ullman started on the construction. "The weather didn't always cooperate," Mrs. Clark said.

Even after the church is in place, the course won't be finished. "We are going to add more to it," Mrs. Ullman said. "We are going to put in more signs so people can read all the signs as they go through."

Despite the work involved in building the course, the Ullmans and Clarks still enjoy playing it. "It's been a lot of fun to think of new obstacles, then put them in and shoot through. So far, all the comments have been positive," Clark said.

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: A recently birthed, contemporary-style, purpose-driven church is looking for a full-time youth and children's pastor. Individual will be responsible for establishing and developing a new youth and children's ministry. They must be gifted in teaching, have management skills, be self-motivated, creative and have the ability to function in a portable church situation. Interested people desiring a challenge please send resumé to: Search Committee, River of Life Community Church, PO Box 192, Springfield, KY 40069. Phone (606) 336-7604. Resumés must be received by Sept. 27, 1999. River of Life is affiliated with the SBC.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of youth and children. Please send resumé to: Personnel Committee, First Baptist Church, PO Box 239, LaCenter, KY 42056.

SEEKING: Full-time administrative secretary; start Aug. 23. Contact Jim Holladay, Clifton Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky., (502) 897-1771 for information and application.

SEEKING: Historic Fee Fee Baptist Church is seeking God's person to serve as minister of education with the additional responsibility of developing ministries to singles in this suburban St. Louis, Mo., community. Prior singles ministry considered a plus. Fee Fee is a strong traditional Southern Baptist church averaging over 500 in Sunday school. Forward resumé or referrals to: Minister of Education and Singles Search Committee, Fee Fee Baptist Church, 11330 St. Charles Rock Road, Bridgeton, MO 63044. Fax: (314) 739-1302.

SEEKING: Minister of music and education to lead all phases of church music. Average attendance: 250-300. Related degrees/experience. Paid medical insurance and vacation. Call Fairmount Baptist at (804) 329-5420, or fax resumé: (804) 329-2549.

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

SEEKING: Associate pastor, music/education. Responsibilities include: worship planning and leadership, guiding the Christian education ministry and assisting with outreach to youth and their families. Send resumé to: Clifton Baptist Church, 1947 Frankfort Ave., Louisville, KY 40206, Attn: Jim Holladay. For information call (502) 897-1771. Deadline for resumés: Aug. 27.

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: 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.

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: Certified high school history teacher. (606) 272-1217 or (606) 273-8658.

SEEKING: Part-time youth minister. Accepting resumés 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.

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: 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: 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: 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. 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 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: 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.

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 Frenchburg Baptist Church, Frenchburg, Ky. Please send resumé to: James Ligon, HCR 66, PO Box 90, Wellington, KY 40387.

MINISTRY

Baptists take Christianity to Moscow's meager truck stops

By Frank Brown
Religion News Service

MOSCOW (RNS)—If there were a special place in hell for wicked truckers, it might well look like the wretched Rostov truck stop located on the 8-lane highway that encircles Moscow.

Calling it a truck stop is generous. There is no restaurant, no snack bar, no store, no toilet and no shower. In these conditions, the long-distance truckers from Russia's provinces wait days and sometimes weeks for a load out of Moscow, paying a daily fee for the parking spot.

While waiting, the out-of-town truckers rarely leave the truck stop because of the likelihood of getting fined by police for violation of Moscow's strict residence permit rules. Instead, the truckers are visited by vendors hawking foodstuffs by day and Ukrainian prostitutes by night.

If all that is not enough, the Rostov truck stop is located on top of a dump filled with radioactive waste measured at levels several times higher than is considered safe. Even in Russia, it doesn't get much worse than this.

The promise of salvation, however, is not far away.

On the edge of the truck stop near the rubber water hose used for showers and inside a white tractor-trailer rig emblazoned in Russian with "Mobile Christian Group," two clean-cut men

in button-down shirts preach redemption and eternal life.

"The drivers need us more than anyone else needs us," said Pyotr Ryazanov, 38, a Baptist and former trucker. "If we didn't come to them, they would have no contact with the church at all."

Funded by the Pennsylvania-based Transport for Christ, the mobile chapel has made the rounds of Moscow's truck stops since 1994. Weekdays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., truckers are welcome to come in, sit on the chapel's simple benches, drink tea, eat cookies and talk about God. Sometimes Ryazanov or his partner, Alexander Voprov, show American-made videos about Jesus or Darwin's theory of evolution or the lives of early Christians.

On a typical day, three or four truckers will visit the chapel to talk and pray, most often for a load to haul home. As day after day of waiting for a load passes, drivers grow more and more anxious as their profit margins are eroded by the truck stop's \$2-a-day parking fee.

One hot summer afternoon, Andrei Bondarenko, 30, had been waiting for 25 days for a cargo for his modest-sized, 38-year-old GAZ truck. With a wife and two children waiting for him in his hometown 18 hours south of Moscow, Bondarenko said he was getting tired of sleeping on the truck's cramped front seat, of cooking his meals on a small propane stove in the

truck's rear and of using a nearby field as a toilet.

Bondarenko said he was indifferent toward the mobile chapel.

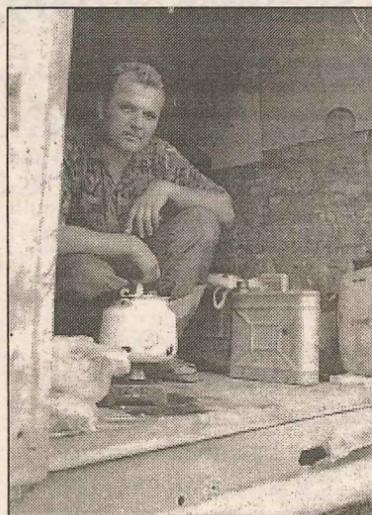
"It is of no kind of help to me," said Bondarenko, a quiet man who flashed a solitary gold tooth when he smiled. "We are worried about bread, not God."

Vladimir Shapranov, a driver waiting four days for a load, chimed in, "What is this needed for? We went through all this in childhood. Your parents told you there was no God. Your grandmother told you there was."

With such attitudes, Ryazanov said it has been heavy going on the conversion front. About 30 drivers have become Christians since the operation started nearly five years ago. Ryazanov, a burly man with a friendly manner, added, "But there may be many we don't know about. Ones who came to God after leaving us."

In spiritual terms, the mobile chapel has little competition on the circular highway, one of Russia's busiest. At one nearby truck stop, however, an Orthodox priest blesses trucks—for a fee.

"Truckers are always getting asked for something: 'Gimme, gimme, gimme.' From the traffic cops and from bandits but mostly from the traffic police. They are the biggest racket," said Ryazanov. "So, sometimes, they are afraid to come here because they think we will want something,



too."

Most truckers are nominally Muslims, Buddhists or, most frequently, Russian Orthodox. If a trucker decides to start attending church, Ryazanov and Voprov direct him to a Baptist church in his hometown, "so they can get baptized like in the Bible," Ryazanov said.

For the Orthodox, the practice of re-baptism is highly offensive because it questions the legitimacy of the rites of the 1,000-year-old Russian Orthodox Church.

"90 percent of them are baptized" from the Orthodox church, Ryazanov explained. "But how many of them understand what that means or have read the Bible? Practically none."



LONG HAUL WAIT ■ Left: Russian truck drivers like Andrei Bondarenko, 30, must wait in desolate patches waiting for jobs.

■ Above: Pyotr Ryazanov (left) and partner Alexander Voprov operate the Mobile Christian Group, a truck stop ministry that caters to the waiting truckers. (RNS photos)

Church cultivates coast-to-coast reputation by feeding and clothing transients

By Janet Little Cooper
Baptist Press

PENSACOLA, Fla. (BP)—Most churches have reputations, but few churches get theirs by word of mouth from the homeless and transients.

Situated on the corner of one of Pensacola's busiest highways, a mile from Interstate 10, Olive Baptist Church has been frequented by transients for years.

When Jean Rae began serving as Olive's director of social ministries, she realized the need for a ministry designed specifically for interstate transients.

Rae was especially impressed by the Bible passage of Hebrews 13:1-2, "Let the love of the brethren continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it."

With that in mind, Rae helped Olive Baptist begin "Interstate Angels."

After several months of operation, an average of 20 transients each month exit Interstate 10 onto Davis Highway and head to the doors of Rae's office.

"I told our pastor, Dr. (Ted) Traylor, that I was known from California to Miami," Rae said.

"Mrs. Jean," as the transients call her, has earned a reputation for demonstrating a nonjudgmental and loving attitude of acceptance.

"Everybody deserves a chance," she said. "I can't turn my back on anyone."

Because information about Olive Baptist's ministry has traveled by word of mouth down miles of interstate, the church never has to advertise it.

As transients enter Rae's office they are asked to fill out an application, which asks for information in order to assess their needs. After reviewing the form, Rae meets with each applicant personally and listens attentively. "I generally ask them why they are on the road and (if) they understand that there is a better way to live," Rae said.

Most of the men are alcoholics and some are mentally ill, she said.

"This opens a door for me to say, 'I just want you to know that God loves you and we love you too, no matter what you do,'" Rae explained.

After the assessment, the transient is offered a hot shower in the church's family life facilities. Olive Baptist provides each visitor with a personal hygiene bag and a food bag containing Vienna sausages, pork and beans, crackers, canned fruit, oatmeal cookies, raisins, fruit, juices, eating utensils and a pamphlet about Christianity.

Rae relies on volunteers to restock supplies for Interstate Angels and to make hygiene and food bags in advance. They also prepare family bags that supply enough food for a week, Rae said. Depending on the need, transients also might be given a voucher to be redeemed at a grocery store, she said.

Various groups in Olive Baptist's

children's ministry have taken an active role in Interstate Angels by decorating canned goods with handmade labels and phrases of encouragement.

Olive Baptist also has a clothes closet filled with donated items which are given to the transients.

"This ministry doesn't cost anything," Rae pointed out. "The food and clothing are donated by request, and I have volunteers that help put it all together."

A Bible is included in the bag of any transient who doesn't already have one. But a lot of them have a Bible, Rae said, and many have read theirs a lot.

Bus tickets with the city transit system are given in some cases. In some situations, Olive Baptist will buy a one-way bus ticket if the person is willing to go home and if Rae can contact a family member who will be responsible for caring for them once they get there.

"We don't have a lot of requests for being sent home. But as a mother of three boys, I typically recommend going home," Rae said.

Not all the transients who enter Rae's office take advantage of what Interstate Angels has to offer.

"I send most of them back on the street," Rae said. "They have the ability to survive. This is a chosen lifestyle. ... For those who want to change their lives, we refer them to a drug and alcohol treatment program and find them a place to stay."

Whenever possible Rae follows up with the ministry's clients. "I read the obituary column and felony arrest (column) every morning without fail," she noted. "Sometimes that's the only follow-up I can do."

One recent visitor came to Olive Baptist for help after eight days of hitchhiking from another state. He had slept the night before on the grassy slopes of I-10's Davis Highway exit and had not eaten in two days. He had only the clothes on his back. He related he was an electrician who had been laid off and had come to Pensacola after hearing jobs were easy to get in Florida.

He also was an alcoholic and drug addict. He wanted food, shelter and clothing, but he also agreed to go into an alcohol and drug rehabilitation program.

"It is time that I get my life straight and settle down," he said. Rae called and arranged for the man to bunk at a rescue mission and registered him in a rehab program it offers.

As he and Rae waited for the taxi to pick him up, Rae looked at him and asked, "Are you ready to die?"

"No," he replied.

"Then you need to change your life," she responded.

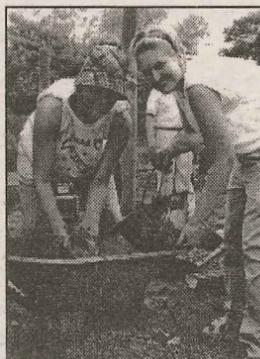
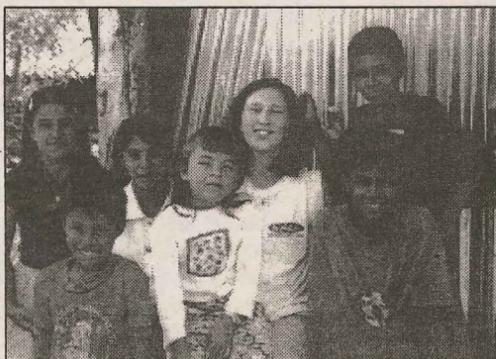
The transient is one of the few who actually has taken a step toward change. But Rae sends each client back into the world with the knowledge of a better way.

"Every transient," she said, "is a soul loved by God and worth saving."

Cumberland College Students Travel the World to Spread the Gospel

During the Summer of 1999, 59 Cumberland College students traveled around the world to spread the Gospel. Cumberland students served with large organizations, like the Billy Graham Crusade, and with smaller organizations and local churches. Below, is a list of every Cumberland College student who served as a summer missionary, and the location of their service.

Brent Benning	Mountain Outreach	Laura Jacobs	Summer Impact Mission Team
Amanda Cain	Mountain Outreach	Jessica Margrave	Summer Impact Mission Team
Jami Benning	Mountain Outreach	Melissa Chrisman	Greater Boston Ministries Team
Lena Hayes	Mountain Outreach	Tony Pursley	Greater Boston Ministries Team
Terry Lewis	Mountain Outreach	Archie Jackson	Son Praise Revival Team
LeeAnn Ruff	Mountain Outreach	Emily Shipp	Son Celebration Team
Tracy Welsh	Mountain Outreach	Sarah Shoemaker	Summer Camp Staff
April Vermillion	Appalachian Ministies & El Salvador	Ann Strickland	Camp Crestridge
Carrie Keenor	Appalachian Ministries	Matt Joyce	Camp All-American, Atlanta, GA
Eric Wren	Appalachian Ministries	Lori Grigsby	Camp All-American, Atlanta, GA & S.E. Asia
Andrew Cooper	Interfaith Samaritan Counseling	Jamey Short	Camp All-American, Atlanta, GA & El Salvador
Cassie Croley	Calvary Baptist Church, Glasgow, KY	Amy Ford	Crosspoint
Jennifer Dyer	Branson Missouri Mt. Community Ministries	Kelly Hughes	Crosspoint
Kris Gilliam	Blue Lick Baptist Church, Jellico, TN	Jamie Johnson	Crosspoint
Johnny Lewis	First Baptist Church, Jellico, TN	Tony Merida	Crosspoint
Jeremy Lynch	Grand Strand Ministries	Nathan Riner	Crosspoint
Marcello Negro	New Carlise Baptist Church, New Carlise, OH	Matthew Walton	Crosspoint
Brittany Rezek	Yocum Creek Baptist Church, Evarts, KY	Alber "Chip" Earle	Centrifuge
Johanna Tomlinson	Highlands Baptist Church	Bethany Andes	Recife, Brazil
Jammie Woodyard	Annvile Baptist Church, Annville, KY	Michael Cabell	Wales
Cristy Hall	Camp Nathaniel	Robert McGee	South Africa
Johnny hill	Alabama RA Camp	Matthew McKee	Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, Russia
Andrea Honeycutt	Myrtle Beach Ministries	Sarah Andrew	S.E. Asia
Amanda Long	New Carlise Baptist Church, New Carlise, OH	Melody Maxson	S.E. Asia
Ryan McElfresh	Camp Hugh Taylor, Birch, OH	Krissy Filiatreau	El Slavador
Crystal Matrau	Wheeler Mission Camp, Hunt IN	Brandy Hall	El Salvador
Roni Beth Minix	Caring Ministries, Tuscon, AZ	Monica Haydon	El Salvador
Jennifer Van Camp	Cedarmore Baptist Youth Camp	Brad Parham	El Salvador
Dannette Kelly	North American Mission Board, Ft. Myers, FL	Travis Wills	El Salvador
Maria Mousie	North American Mission Board, Ft. Myers, FL		



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