



# WESTERN RECORDER

September 14, 1999  
Vol. 173, No. 36

## FOR THE RECORD

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## Baptist prayer guide for Jewish evangelism stirs controversy

By Mark Kelly  
SBC International Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—This week, as Jews around the world observe 10 days of seeking God, Southern Baptists are being asked to pray that Jews find God's Son.

The publication of a Southern Baptist prayer guide for Jewish evangelism is being blasted by some Jewish officials as arrogant and offensive.

At the same time, the guide is being defended by Baptist leaders as a natural outgrowth of a theology that proclaims no one reaches heaven except through Jesus.

The "Days of Awe" prayer guide offers tips on how Southern Baptists might evangelize Jewish acquaintances while they are sensitized to matters of faith.

"Pray each day for Jewish individuals you know by name," it suggests. "Build authentic friendships with Jewish people. Love them as you would an unsaved relative."

The emphasis corresponds with Judaism's High Holy Days. The Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashana, opens the Days of Awe, when Jewish tradition teaches that God opens His Book of Life to inscribe the names of the righteous and remove the names of the wicked. The book remains open for 10 days, during which Jewish people recall the sins of the previous year and pray to God for forgiveness.

The observance, also known as the Days of Repentance, ends with Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. Rosh Hashana was observed at sundown Sept. 10; Yom Kippur falls on Sept. 20.

The booklet has drawn outrage from some Jewish officials.

"We are shocked and deeply offended by the call ... to pray that Jews will convert to Christianity during the High Holy Days," said Abraham Foxman, Anti-Defamation League director. "It is pure arrogance for any one religion to assume that they hold 'the truth,' especially on the eve of the holiest days for the Jewish faith."

In a letter to Paige Patterson, Southern Baptist Convention president, Foxman said the prayer call "projects a message of spiritual narrowness that invites theological hatred."

Rabbi Eric Yoffie, president of Reform Judaism's Union of

□ See Baptist prayer ..., page 10

## Kentucky Baptists help Boston church grow

By Pat Cole  
Staff Writer

BILLERICA, Mass.—New Colony Baptist Church has learned that mission volunteers can help provide the high-touch ministry needed in a high-tech world.

For about 30 years, the church members and leadership have been building relationships with the people of Billerica, Mass., a Boston suburb in the

center of the region's burgeoning computer industry.

Those efforts were enhanced greatly by out-of-state mission volunteers, said Jack Parrott, senior pastor of New Colony. Since 1995, the church has experienced a 70 percent increase in attendance.

These volunteers, many of them from Kentucky, have played major roles in the church's annual summer camp for children, and volunteers provided

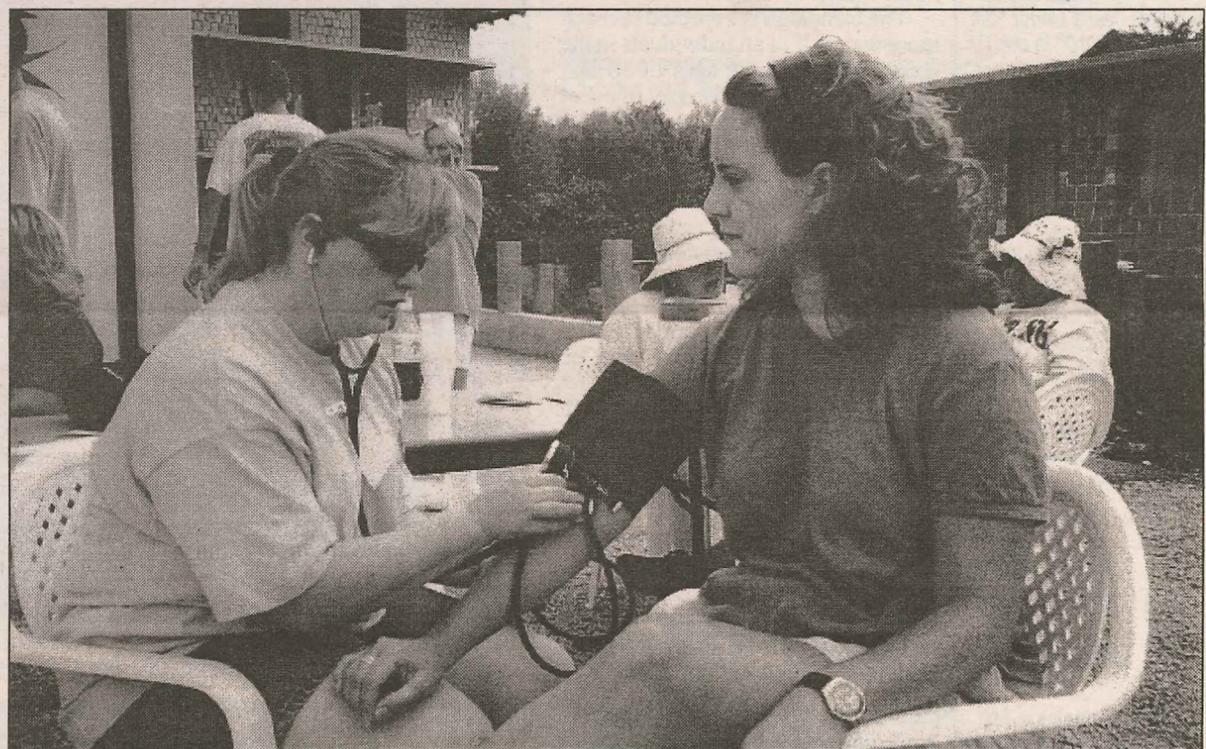
most of the labor for a new sanctuary and educational space completed in 1997.

"The church is known in the community for its summer camp program," Parrott said. "Part of the reason we are known is because of the volunteers. People here can't get over the fact that volunteers will drive several hundred miles to help with our camp and receive no pay."

Such observations give the camp staff an opportunity to talk about their Christian motivation, Parrott said.

That also was the case in the construction of New Colony's sanctuary. During the six-month construction

□ See Boston church ..., page 9



**BOSNIAN MISSIONS** Robin Heltsley, a two-year worker to Bosnia from Greenville, gets a blood pressure check from Debra Scudder, a nurse from Wilson, Wyo. A team of nurses was in Sarajevo, Bosnia, last month as part of a partnership between Woman's Missionary Union and Southern Baptist personnel in Bosnia. Heltsley, a member of Hillvue Heights Baptist Church in Bowling Green, is a Journeyman with the International Mission Board. Related story about the nursing team on page 10. (Photo by Teresa Dickens)

## Eliza Broadus Offering assists Hispanic ministry

By David Winfrey  
News Director

LONE OAK—Like the farms where the migrants they minister to work, missionaries Guillermo and Pilar Rolando are cultivating a crop.

"Instead of waiting until all the Hispanics are here, we're trying to establish the work so that when they start coming there will be a place for them," said Mrs. Rolando.

The couple, who moved this month to Paducah, compare this part of the state to Springdale, Ark., where they previously started churches and ministries for Hispanic migrants.

Four years ago, few Hispanic faces dotted the crowd, Mrs. Rolando said. Now they're everywhere. "They think that this area is going to grow like that."

"Most churches wait until they have the people here and then they say, 'What do we do now?'" said Mrs. Rolando. "Lone Oak First Baptist and the associ-

ation has the vision to do something now because they know they will start coming."

While not in the numbers expected, Hispanic migrants and other residents already are in the area, working on tobacco farms, in Mexican restaurants and at the labor-intensive construction and hotel jobs.

The big harvest might be years away, but the Rolandos already are reaching those present with worship services, English-language classes and outreach events. Although they recently moved, they began working in the area on a trial basis since June.

Their work not only represents the growth of Hispanic work throughout the state, it also is among the ministries funded this year by the Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions.

A special week of prayer emphasis is being observed this week by many Kentucky Baptist churches throughout the state. Statewide, the goal for the of-

fering is \$750,000, with a challenge goal of \$800,000.

Willis Henson, pastor of Lone Oak First Baptist, said that after years of supporting the missions offering for work elsewhere, he's enjoying seeing it support work in his church and association.

Henson said that without support from the missions offering, the church might not have been able to hire workers exclusively for Hispanic ministry work. "We're pleased that the KBC and the local association is helping us financially with this program."

The size and scope of Hispanic ministries continues to grow, according to Grundy Janes, ethnic language consultant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

"Five years ago we had very, very little, and it's just grown as the number of migrants has grown," he said. The Lexington Hispanic Coalition estimates there are at least 35,000 Hispanics in the

□ See Broadus offering ..., page 6

Moving? See page 4 (0914)

# BAPTISTS

## Celebrate Jesus 2000 media spots going national

By James Dotson  
SBC North American Mission Board

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP)—Mary Lou Retton's proud proclamation of "Jesus Christ—the perfect 10" already is familiar to many residents of Salt Lake City, Atlanta and other areas, but now her message is going national. And local churches, associations and state conventions have the opportunity to participate.

The commercial featuring the former Olympic gymnast will be included in a national television and radio advertising campaign scheduled for Oct. 4-24, sponsored by the Southern

Baptist North American Mission Board. It is a key part of NAMB's strategy for Celebrate Jesus 2000, the interdenominational effort to share Christ with and pray for every person in the nation by the end of 2000.

The campaign is expected to reach more than half of all individuals in the country between the ages of 18 and 54, said Toby Frost, manager of event evangelism and chairman of NAMB's Celebrate Jesus 2000 task force.

The media campaign also will offer the opportunity for thousands of churches, associations and state conventions to sponsor related efforts to reach thousands of people with the gospel of Christ.

"Conventional wisdom in media promotion is that a message must be heard or seen at least six times to get through to the audience," Frost said. Explaining that he expects the national campaign to reach viewers at least twice, "we will be depending on our state, association and church partners to provide an average of four exposures to our message."

Using a military analogy, Frost said the national effort can be compared to the "air war" that can only be effective if supplemented by the

"ground forces" in churches and associations.

The national advertising creates a climate that "softens the ground" for evangelism, he said. "But if it is not accompanied by the Christians going in and taking the land, the place of media is highly overestimated."

Local participation can include a variety of Celebrate Jesus 2000 promotional materials offered by NAMB, including broadcast and print advertising. The national spots will be tagged with the line, "A message from Southern Baptists."

The campaign also will be bolstered by evangelistic events such as block parties, crusades and revivals, along with door-to-door efforts already planned as part of Celebrate Jesus 2000.

"Just think of the effect of church-

es putting up Celebrate Jesus 2000 yard signs and banners, as well as distributing bumper stickers for cars to display, and CJ2000 pins for members to wear during the campaign," Frost said.

The national television advertising will be placed primarily on four cable networks. The strategy is to target both men and women. An emphasis on news and sports programming was chosen because these programs generally are more effective for advertising in which a viewer is asked to call and make a response.

The two ads chosen for the national campaign are the Mary Lou Retton spot and a spot based on Christ's promise, "Whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst."

A full set of Celebrate Jesus 2000 radio spots will be placed on nation-

ally syndicated programs such as Rush Limbaugh, Dr. Laura and Daybreak USA.

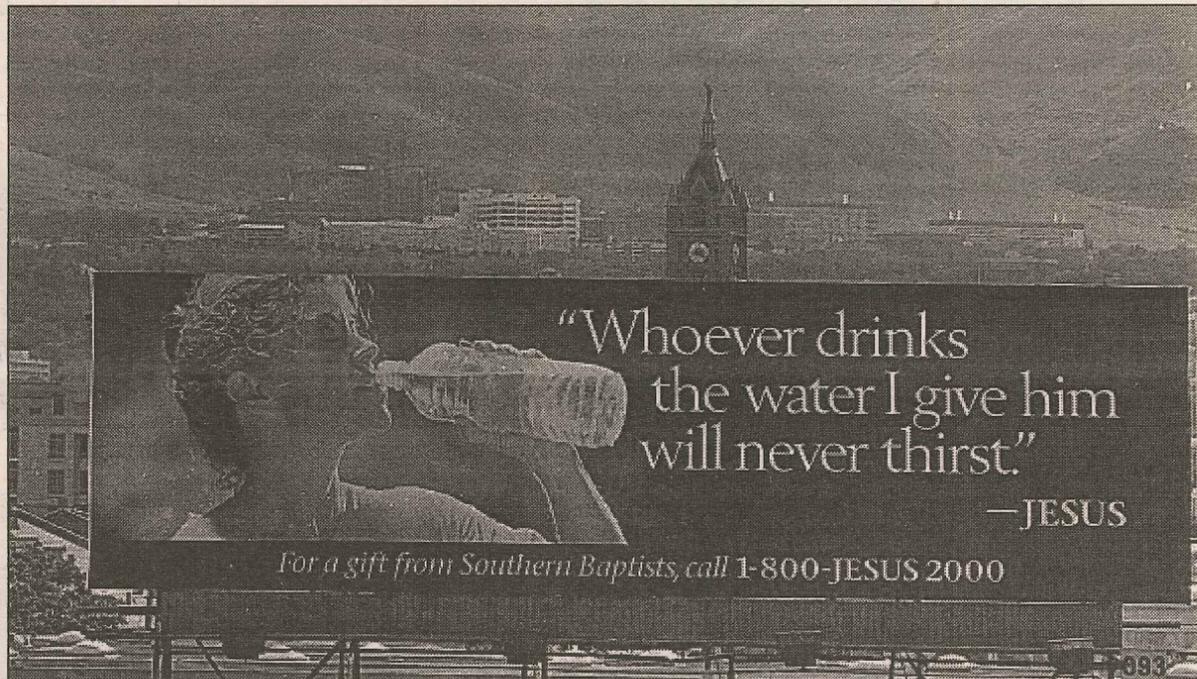
All of the ads will offer a national toll-free number for callers to receive more information about how to receive Jesus. Those calls will be fielded by NAMB's Evangelism Response Center, which allows interested callers to talk with volunteer "telephone encouragers" throughout the country.

Frost said the fall campaign offers churches an opportunity like no other in history. "It's up to the churches," he said. "But we must not lose this moment. After years of promotion of Celebrate Jesus 2000, this is where the rubber meets the road."

Celebrate Jesus 2000 promotional materials are available through LifeWay Christian Services by calling (800) 233-1123.



**GOOD SPORT** Former Olympic gymnast Mary Lou Retton will be featured in Southern Baptists' national Celebrate Jesus 2000 campaign. Retton proclaims Jesus Christ "the perfect 10" in the TV advertising spot.



**MEDIA MESSAGE** This billboard posted near downtown Salt Lake City during the 1998 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting is part of the national Celebrate Jesus 2000 media campaign. (BP file photo by Bill Bangham)

### BAPTIST BITS

■ **Texas nominee withdraws name.** Texas pastor Phil Lineberger has withdrawn his name as the nominee to become the next executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas. Lineberger, a former state convention president, had been announced Aug. 30 as the search committee's choice. A called meeting of the BGCT Executive Board set for Sept. 14 was cancelled following Lineberger's announcement. "After agreeing to be nominated, I could get no peace from God about serving in this high position," Lineberger said. He added that he and his family "could not get confirmation in our spirits that God was calling us to this work." Search committee chairman Bill Brian said the committee will continue its work to seek a successor to Bill Pinson, who will retire in January.

■ **Arizona foundation faces lawsuits.** The troubled Baptist Foundation of Arizona, already under investigation for fraud by the state, has been hit by a class action lawsuit and another by a Southern Baptist pastor, BFA officials confirmed. The class action suit was filed Aug. 27 by BFA investor Franklin Kestner Sr., according to the Phoenix New Times. Kestner charged that the BFA and former and current officers and directors bilked investors by funneling their money into projects "to finance BFA's officers and/or direc-

tors' real estate deals which were transacted ... for personal gain and profit." A second suit was filed Aug. 30 by Richard Kimsey and his wife, Ann. Kimsey became pastor of Desert Valley Baptist Church, a Southern Baptist congregation in suburban New River, in March of this year. He reportedly sold his home in Georgia and invested the proceeds of \$100,000 in BFA July 15.

■ **Church sells facilities to casino.** The congregation of First Baptist Church of Biloxi, Miss., has voted to sell its property to neighboring Beau Rivage casino and resort after nearly five years of unsuccessful attempts to market the beachfront property so the church can relocate. "We certainly would have preferred a less controversial purchaser," said pastor Frank Gunn, "but that did not materialize with a single offer from 1994 until the present." The church was land-locked with Beau Rivage already bordering the church on the south and east sides. Current state law prohibits gambling on properties Beau Rivage acquires around the casino. The property likely will be used for parking, hotel accommodations or other activities.

■ **N.C. controversy threatens peace plan.** A flap within the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's Committee on Committees is threatening to derail a proposed plan to share convention leader-

ship between moderates and conservatives. The 15-member committee recently rejected a committee nomination because the individual being considered belongs to a church that does not support the Southern Baptist Convention. Allan Blume, the committee's conservative chairman, told a Greensboro newspaper he doesn't believe such people should be allowed to be in convention leadership positions. "I think that is a minority group that we do not need to elevate or encourage," he said. State convention president Michael Cummings, who describes himself as a conservative who is "uncomfortable with excluding anyone" from participation, said he still supports a shared-leadership plan being proposed at the state convention this fall.

■ **House joins LifeWay staff.** Polly House, a longtime employee of Baptist Press, has been named corporate communications specialist for LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. House, an editorial assistant with the Southern Baptist Convention's national news service, has served on the SBC Executive Committee staff for 17 years. In her new position, she will edit Facts & Trends, the LifeWay journal mailed 10 times per year to more than 60,000 church and denominational leaders. She also will write news and feature articles for LifeWay.

# KENTUCKY

## Record KBC Cooperative Program gifts top \$20 million

By Trennis Henderson  
Editor

Kentucky Baptists' annual gifts through the Cooperative Program have topped \$20 million for the first time in history.

Setting a number of records throughout August—the final month of the state convention's 1998-99 fiscal year—total CP gifts reached \$20,336,910.

Bill Mackey, Kentucky Baptist Convention executive director, credited the strong financial support to "the commitment of Kentucky Baptists to missions and evangelism in Kentucky and beyond."

"Another dimension is God at work among His people and churches," Mackey said. "I hope we begin the millennium on our knees in gratitude to God and seeking His vision for the future."

Affirming that the record gifts are "going to make a difference in mission causes here and around the world," he added, "I think people want to support things that make a difference."

The \$20.3 million CP total exceeded the 1989-99 budget goal of \$19.6 million by 3.7 percent. It topped last year's CP gifts of more than \$19.8

million by 2.2 percent.

CP giving for the year surpassed the annual budget on Aug. 9, noted Lowell Ashby, KBC business manager. Two days later, receipts surpassed the previous year's total gifts. On Aug. 16, CP income topped the \$20 million mark.

Calling the financial totals "very historic," Ashby said, "Cooperative Program is our bread and butter, our mainstay."

This year marks the third consecutive year that state convention receipts have outpaced the budget, he added.

Combining CP receipts with "restricted Kentucky only" funds designated specifically for ministry in the state, Kentucky Baptists gave a total of \$20,754,939 to state, national and international ministry efforts. That total includes \$7,167,541 for Southern Baptist Convention causes, \$13,169,369 in CP funds for Kentucky Baptist ministries and \$418,029 in designated Kentucky only funds.

The 1998-99 CP income also exceeds the 1999-2000 budget goal of \$20,192,239.

Mackey pointed out, however, that "the needs far exceed the budget at any time." Encouraging Kentucky Baptists to continue to strengthen their missions giving, he said, "All that

### Overview of KBC giving

	1998-99	1997-98
Cooperative Program gifts received by KBC	\$20,336,910	\$19,895,196
Thanksgiving Offering (Homes for Children)	\$949,843	\$913,226
Hospital Charity (Mother's Day)	\$9,998	\$9,664
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering	\$3,092,692	\$3,139,247
Annie Armstrong Easter Offering	\$1,424,325	\$1,440,763
Eliza Broadus State Missions Offering	\$745,634	\$802,205
Funds designated for KBC budget	\$418,029	\$468,115
Barkley Moore Offering for Oneida Institute (Father's Day)	\$17,627	\$15,442

comes in is desperately needed. It's just a matter of not getting the budget out of line with the income."

Despite the record pace in Cooperative Program giving, several special offerings experienced decreases during the past year.

Gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for international missions declined 1.5 percent from the previous year to \$3,092,692. Annie Armstrong Easter Offering gifts for North American missions fell 1.1 percent to \$1,424,325 and Eliza Broadus State Missions Offering receipts declined

7.1 percent to \$745,634.

"While our missions offerings are down, it doesn't look like a trend," Mackey said. Citing significant increases in each of those offerings in past years, he said he is "not overly concerned" about a one-year dip in giving.

Other offerings that reported gains during the past year are the Barkley Moore Father's Day Offering, up 14.1 percent; the Children's Home Thanksgiving Offering, up 4 percent; and the Mother's Day Hospital Charity, up 3.5 percent.

## Northern Kentucky pastor Wilder to be KBC presidential candidate

By Trennis Henderson  
Editor

BURLINGTON—Northern Kentucky pastor Terry Wilder has announced his candidacy for the position of Kentucky Baptist Convention president.

Wilder, pastor of Burlington Baptist Church, will be nominated for the one-year term by Billy Compton, pastor of Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown. This year's KBC annual meeting will be held Nov. 16-17 at the Northern Kentucky Convention Center in Covington.

Wilder said he has been "urged by many friends and colleagues to seek the presidency" of the state convention. Citing a desire to "represent the center and the best of who Kentucky Baptists are," Wilder added, "I want to emphasize what we have in common and the best of our missions heritage."

Compton said he believes Wilder would "represent a broad spectrum of Kentucky Baptists, promoting our cooperative efforts in missions and evangelism without any political agenda."

Compton added that the Northern Kentucky area is "a strong base of Kentucky Baptist work and a heavily populated area. Since we're meeting there, I thought it was an appropriate time to nominate someone like Terry Wilder."

No other candidates have publicly indicated plans to seek the KBC presidency this year.

According to Mike Routt, former president of the conservative Southern Baptists of Kentucky organization which disbanded last summer, "I don't

know of anybody from a conservative perspective who is a candidate."

Although "I don't see us organizing at all," Routt did voice concern about "the growing influence of the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship in our convention." Leaders of Southern Baptists of Kentucky had called on the KBF to disband at the same time the SBK did, an option that Fellowship officials declined to consider.

KBF coordinator John Lepper said his organization is "trying to back out of the 'political' aspect" of state convention life. "We're not making any endorsements," he added.

Compton, a former KBC president, said he believes Kentucky Baptists currently are experiencing "a healthy balance" in convention leadership and involvement.

"Typically, Kentucky Baptists are pretty much centrists in their focus," he said. "I think we have a healthy respect for making sure that all Kentucky Baptists who want to work and be on mission together can do so."

Wilder, who has been pastor of Burlington Baptist Church since 1992, previously was pastor of Sand Spring Baptist Church and Cecilia Baptist Church. Burlington Church gives 16 percent of its budget through the Cooperative Program and 4 percent to associational missions.

Wilder currently is a member of the Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Board and moderator of Northern Kentucky Association. He is a graduate of Campbell University in Buies Creek, N.C., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.



Wilder



Doyle

## Recent Journeyman missionary joins Brotherhood staff

Dwayne Doyle, a recent Southern Baptist Journeyman missionary to Bosnia, has been named missions education associate for the Kentucky Baptist Convention Brotherhood department.

Doyle was elected to the post Sept. 9 by the KBC Executive Board's administrative committee. The committee also approved four contract positions in Brotherhood, church extension and church music.

Doyle's responsibilities primarily will focus on missions education for youth and children. He succeeds Mike Markham who will serve as a part-time program assistant in the Brotherhood department.

Larry Martin, director of the KBC Missions Growth Team, said Doyle "will bring a background in missions and a sense of call to work with youth and young adults in missions education." Doyle previously has served as a staff consultant and camp intern with the KBC Brotherhood department.

"The Lord has been good," Doyle said as he shared his personal spiritual pilgrimage. Citing his commitment to "give my life to vocational ministry," he added, "I found out my heartbeat was youth and students."

Doyle is the son of missionary parents who have served in Nigeria and are preparing to go to Slovakia. "The Lord has been faithful and consistent in calling us to be ministers," he noted.

Calling Brotherhood involvement "a big part of missions," Doyle said one of his goals is to "replicate my desire for missions and see young kids and youth come alive to missions."

Doyle is a graduate of Mississippi College in Clinton and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. He has served in youth ministry positions with churches in Kentucky,

Mississippi and Montana, including Westport Baptist Church in Westport and Ridgewood Baptist Church in Louisville.

Martin said Markham's contract position will involve developing materials for Kentucky Changers ministry projects as well as assisting with logistics related to Kentucky Changers and World Changers.

"Mike has very strong skills in producing written and visual materials," Martin said. "He is very gifted in those areas."

Markham had served since early 1998 as Brotherhood missions education associate. He announced his resignation from that position in July, effective upon the election of his successor.

Administrative committee members also approved Don Davidson as a church extension consultant, Brian Crisman as an instrumental music consultant and Roxanne Nanney as a preschool/children's music consultant. Davidson will serve part-time as a church extension consultant for northeastern Kentucky. Crisman and Nanney will work 10 hours per week in their consultant roles.

Davidson retired last year as missions ministry director for the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio. He is a graduate of Georgetown College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Crisman has served as minister of instrumental music for Cottage Hill Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala. A graduate of the University of Mobile, he currently is a doctoral student at Southern Seminary.

Nanney is minister of music and senior adults at First Baptist Church of Brandenburg. She is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg and Southern Seminary.

## WESTERN RECORDER

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

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## What does APA say?

In the Aug. 31 issue of the Western Recorder, a page 11 column appeared titled "Normalizing Incest." The writer referred to a study published by the American Psychological Association's Psychological Bulletin, Vol. 124, pp. 22-53, 1998. That article examined psychological harm to college students from having experienced sexual abuse as children. The article examined psychological adjustment of both young women and young men who had been abused at different ages.

It found, for instance, that young men who had sexual relations with older women during late adolescence suffered much less harm than, say, girls who were abused by older men as young children. The APA article suggested the common notion that all such "sexual abuse" is equally harmful is simply an incorrect view. Knowing the truth about this seems important for therapists and any others who are responsible for young people's welfare.

The author of the column appeared to give credence to the words of a "practicing clinical psychologist in Winchester" to the effect that this is the beginning of a "stealth campaign" by APA to "normalize incest" just as homosexuality was normalized some decades ago.

Material available via the APA homepage since March of this year would have comforted both the Winchester psychologist and the column author. At [www.apa.org/releases/childsexabuse](http://www.apa.org/releases/childsexabuse), APA states: "APA's position is, therefore, very clear: The sexual abuse of children is wrong and harmful to its victims."

They further state: "All abuse is wrong, but all abuse may not be equally harmful." Finally, they endorse a statement by the American Psychiatric Association: "An adult who engages in sexual activity with a child is performing a criminal and immoral act which never can be considered normal or socially acceptable behavior."

The distinctions between "criminal," "immoral" and "harmful" are subtle, but important nonetheless. Care is always important when we attempt to understand complex positions on complex issues. But try we must.

John Birkimer  
Louisville



## Missions foundation

Let me shout a hearty "Amen!" to your editorial of Sept. 7, "A call to go, see & do: Why, how & who?" You were absolutely on target as you challenged Kentucky Baptists to understand that state missions efforts are part of the strong foundation here at home that supports national and international missions efforts.

I would only add that missions education in the local church, for which Kentucky Woman's Mission-

ary Union provides training, is another essential part of the foundation we must lay here at home, and funding for such training is included in the state missions offering.

As you pointed out, there is probably no better way to learn about missions than through personal involvement. Not only will personal involvement give us a better understanding of what our missions gifts and prayers support, but we ourselves will be transformed in the process. As you said so well, the missions ministries supported through the Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions need our personal involvement as well as our dollars.

Thanks also for including an article about the release of the Kentucky WMU resource kit for Project HELP: Violence. In an era of escalating violence, we as Kentucky Baptists must be a part of the solution to this problem. The resource kit will help our churches engage their members in a variety of activities which not only will raise awareness, but help members choose proactive avenues of involvement.

God is in the business of transforming lives. May we be "Transformed to Go, See & Do God's Will in Kentucky."

Joy Bolton  
Kentucky WMU Executive Director  
Louisville

## What are you thinking?

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

## PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

### Western Recorder's impact

I recently have heard several Kentucky Baptist Convention staff members express appreciation for the ministry of the Western Recorder, and I'd like to echo those sentiments. The Western Recorder is the primary communications channel of the ministry of Kentucky Baptists and does an excellent job of keeping Baptists informed.

Here are a few recent examples:

- Super Saturdays have had record attendance this year. One reason has been the excellent quality and reputation of these events. However, Vernon Cole, our KBC church growth team leader who coordinates Super Saturdays, said he believes the record attendance at Lexington (920) and Owensboro (575) is due in large part to the excellent coverage of the Western Recorder.

- Celebrate Jesus 2000 will be a significant outreach emphasis for Kentucky Baptists with 32 associational crusades and plans to share a gospel witness with every home in

Lexington and Louisville. Dan Garland, evangelism growth team leader, reports that Western Recorder editor Trennis Henderson has been most helpful in planning ways the Western Recorder can assist with Celebrate Jesus 2000.

- The editor of the Western Recorder serves on the KBC Public Affairs Committee. Already, the paper has been most effective in informing Baptists about legislation that will impact the moral climate of the commonwealth and the well being of her citizens.

In personal conversation with Trennis, I have discovered that he has a personal commitment to evangelism and missions. He also has a special interest in partnership missions and plans to make mission trips with teams in order to participate as well as report up-close on missions.

Please pray for the ministry of the Western Recorder and Trennis as he settles into his new role as editor. I



Bill Mackey

understand that Trennis is an excellent speaker who enjoys humor so you might even want to invite him to share in your church.

This also is a good time to consider the Western Recorder church plan or have a subscription emphasis in your church. I believe it is in the best interest of the Kingdom of God for all Kentucky Baptists to know about missions and have opportunities to participate.

I believe the Western Recorder is an excellent way for Kentucky Baptists to:

- Be informed about the ministries of Kentucky Baptists locally and beyond Kentucky.
- Be inspired and encouraged by effective models of ministry.
- Become aware of resources that can inform and strengthen personal and congregational ministries.
- Share that there is great joy and fulfillment in the mission of our Lord.
- Provide a forum for the expression of viewpoints on issues that confront and challenge Baptists.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

## STEWARDSHIP

### Keys to help build families and finances

By Doug Strader

The active membership of most Kentucky Baptist churches is composed of what sociologists refer to as the "builders" generation. That is people who are age 50 or older. The giving patterns of



"builders" is different from the "boomers," "busters," and "generation X'ers." Generally speaking, the older group is the one that gives most of the money to our churches. If churches want to develop stewardship among the younger generations, specific planned steps need to be taken.

Personal money management is one of the most significant steps related to the younger generations. Larry Burkett is one of the money management gurus in America today. I recently had the privilege to sit in a workshop where he shared some very significant statistics related to the average couple in America today.

- The average family has from eight to 10 credit cards.

- Sixty-four percent of families carry a balance on their credit cards monthly.

- The average balance is \$1,900 per card.

- Americans owe \$1 trillion in installment debt.

- An average of \$1.10 is spent for every \$1.00 earned.

- Personal bankruptcies are at a record level (1.4 million in June 1998).

- Ninety percent of bankruptcies are due to credit card abuse.

- The average Southern Baptist family gives 2.5 percent of their income to the church.

- The average Southern Baptist family pays 500 percent more to interest than they give to the church each year.

It is evident that if churches can equip their families with personal money management skills, they will not only be ministering to them, but enabling them to give more money to the church.

Such efforts by churches also can help families save their marriages, because the National Credit Counseling Service lists money as the primary cause of marital conflict.

Therefore, churches that provide personal money management skills to their families (especially the younger families) can help provide a way to keep families together by lowering the stress level related to finances. At the same time, they can help open avenues for increased giving to the church.

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

## Just being the mommy doesn't make her the best caregiver

**Q: Is there any reason that a father should not be the primary caregiver for a young child?**

There doesn't appear to be anything inherent in being a mother that makes a female a better caregiver for a young child. No one, male or female, is born with excellent parenting skills. Rather, we learn from observing our own parents over the years, from observing other models and by experience when we become parents ourselves.

It is true that females are more likely to become the primary caregivers of young children. Typically society's expectation is that girls will grow up to be mothers and will be the ones most responsible for the care of the children. Therefore, females develop a mindset early on that this is a role they probably will fulfill.

Also females, more often than males, are encouraged to take an interest in young children. (They are more likely to be given dolls and encouraged to play with them, more often chosen as babysitters, etc.)

Having developed the mindset of being a caregiver and having more experience doing so, the result seems to be that women are more comfortable in the care giving role, which makes it easier for them to assume this role.

But in answer to your question, there is no reason a father cannot do this job equally well. Being a woman doesn't make an individual a good parent. Experience and a desire to fulfill this role seem to be much more important than gender. Many men are excellent nurturers, and those who are not could become so with some practice and the desire to do so.—  
*Susan Howell*

**Q: What can I do to help my husband cope with increasing physical health problems? He seems very sad and helpless.**

The spiritual needs of medically ill elders are similar to those of healthy older people. However, the stress of physical illness is often chronic and irreversible. If your husband is dealing with this kind of limitation, here are several possibilities that may be worth exploring:

- A need for a new perspective on the meaning, purpose and hope for life (Colossians 1:24).
- A need to see a larger picture of God's love and comfort (2 Corinthians 4:18, 5:7).
- A need for support in dealing with physical loss.
- A need for continuity (Isaiah 46:4).
- A need for renewed commitment to prayer, scripture reading or other such actions.
- A need for respect and dignity (1 Corinthians 3:17).
- A need for agape love and a sense of worth, even amid difficult circumstances.
- A need for appropriate ways to express anger and doubt.
- A need to sense God is on his side.
- A need to love and serve (Proverbs 11:25).
- A need to be thankful (Psalms 103:2-5).
- A need to forgive and be forgiven.
- And the hardest one for many people—a need to prepare for death and dying.

Physically ill people need an opportunity to nurture their relationship with God through prayer, Scripture and worship. Your husband needs to come to terms with his limitations and determine if he can find a way to live out the rest of his life with some sense of value and comfort both spiritually and emotionally.—*Jon Rainbow*

*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.*



## Drawing Jews—and others—to Jesus

Should Southern Baptists seek to share a gospel witness with Jewish friends? Certainly. Should a denominational push for evangelizing Jews be promoted during the Jewish calendar's most holy season of the year? Perhaps not.

Look at it this way: Would you want Jewish friends to target your family for conversion during your Christmas celebration? How about a group of Mormon missionaries using the Easter season as a calculated time to pursue potential Baptist converts?

The Apostle Paul emphasized in 1 Corinthians 9:22 that he had made a personal commitment "to become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some." Explaining that he had become like the weak and even like a slave, he added, "To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law ... so as to win those under the law."

While Paul sought to meet people at their point of need and understanding, he was never willing to compromise the gospel. "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ," he affirmed in Romans 1:16, "for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes; to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile."

The latest flap over Southern Baptists seeking to evangelize Jewish friends began innocently enough with an announcement by Southern Baptist International Mission Board officials that they were releasing a new prayer booklet to coincide with Rosh Hashana, the Jewish New Year. The prayer guide offers suggestions on how to pray for Jewish people as they seek God during the Days of Repentance from Rosh Hashana on Sept. 11 through Yom Kippur on Sept. 20.

"God calls on His children to reflect His deep heart love for His chosen people, the Jews," explained Randy Sprinkle, director of the IMB's prayer strategy office. "Intercessory prayer is an act of love."

Following that announcement, however, Jewish leaders began to respond indignantly and secular me-

dia reports pitted the two faiths against each other. Here in Kentucky, a front-page article in the Sept. 10 issue of The Courier-Journal carried the headline, "Baptists start drive to convert Jews." The issue quickly became a topic of conversation in such diverse settings as talk shows and Sunday school classes.

One problem is that the secular media didn't quite get it right. Southern Baptists weren't launching an all-out effort to convert every Jew in sight. Nor were SBC leaders singling out Jews for special attention at the exclusion of other evangelistic priorities.

The prayer guides specifically suggest that concerned Baptists "pray each day for Jewish individuals you know by name" The booklets also encourage Christians to "build authentic friendships with Jewish people" and "love them as you would an unsaved relative."

As could be expected, Jewish leaders took offense at the emphasis. "We do not welcome a campaign that singles out the Jewish people for conversionary activities," Rabbi Eric Yoffie declared.

But there's more to the story. Perhaps 75 percent of the world's 15 million Jews no longer practice Rabbinic Judaism, according to estimates by missiologist David Bogosian. He said statistics indicate the majority of ethnic Jews are secularists or atheists.

What is a proper Baptist response? Kentucky Baptist pastor Robert Blackburn, who converted from Judaism to Christianity, affirms the Southern Baptist call for "friendship evangelism." That should be accomplished through a lifestyle that reflects "what a Christian truly is," Blackburn told The Courier Journal. By contrast, he added, "Just to say we're going to go out and convert all the Jews in America is not a proper way."

And that may be the key. Christians should provide a faithful witness to Jews and anyone else who has not personally accepted Jesus Christ as the Messiah. But we must be careful that our words, actions—and timing—draw people to Christ, not push them away.

### STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

## Is God unjust?

By Bruce Hardy

*"What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all!" (Romans 9:14)*

I recently read about an act of kindness that went sour. A woman was attempting to put money into expired parking meters along a city street in downtown Cincinnati, thus sparing the owners of the parked cars a ticket. However, her act of kindness was discovered by police and she was promptly given a summons to appear in court. This good Samaritan faced criminal charges and was given a hefty fine.

Needless to say, this woman's plight caught the attention and ire of the community. I can just hear the lamenters cry, "There is no such thing as justice when an act of kindness is punished severely and at the same time hardened criminals are making a mockery of the judicial system." Sometimes the world seems so unfair.

Justice is not meted out fairly.

With all the unfairness and suffering that exists in the world, one could ask the same question of God. Is God unjust?

Is God arbitrary? Does God rescue some of the perishing but not all? Are we merely puppets responding to the hand of some divine puppeteer? The Apostle Paul, in writing to the Roman Christians, poses the question about God's justice. Paul is arguing about the Hebrews' large-scale failure to respond to the gospel.

First, Paul argues from the standpoint of God's very nature of mercy and compassion. Israel was chosen by God not because of any merit on its part but because of God's mercy. Secondly, God responds to us according to His covenant faithfulness. Paul emphatically declares that God is not unjust, but faithful to His covenant promises.

Thirdly, Israel's plight was effected by its own poor choices. While God

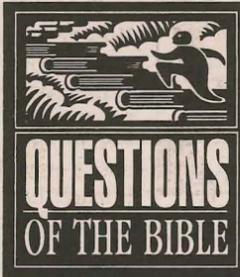
has a purpose for the nation of Israel, the people must be held accountable for their own deeds and misdeeds. God does not excuse us from our own fatal choices. Paul already had shown in Romans 1:18-32 that humanity's own rebellion against its Creator had led to its failings.

When the world seems so unjust, when others do not get what they deserve and I get a double portion of pain, remember that God is not arbitrarily rescuing some and allowing others to endure affliction. God's nature is one of compassion and mercy and love. He does not bring trouble. God brings good gifts to all regardless of their earthly status.

It was Jesus who taught His disciples that God makes His sun to rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous (Matthew 5:45). The heart of the gospel story is that none of us earns God's love and attention. But

God's election in Jesus Christ is offered to all who will respond in faith.

*Bruce Hardy is pastor of Buechel Park Baptist Church in Louisville*



# KENTUCKY

## Broadus offering supports state Hispanic ministries

### 1999-2000 Eliza Broadus allocations

Missionaries and family nurture (International missionaries' gifts, missionary kids' retreat, Western Recorder for international missionaries, etc.)	\$7,050
Scholarships	\$3,452
Ministries/projects (Ministry centers, migrant ministries, etc.)	\$55,125
Missionaries (salaries and student summer missionaries)	\$221,000
Cooperative ministries (including language missions)	\$79,036
Special ministries (Christian social ministries, rural/urban ministries and interfaith witness work)	\$116,300
Student work (International student ministry, campus revivals, etc.)	\$33,000
Special projects (Angel Tree, disaster relief, volunteers on mission)	\$21,000
Activities (Summer camps, annual meeting, Project Help, etc.)	\$175,636
Publications (On Mission Together, Associational Newsletter)	\$12,700
Miscellaneous	\$23,901
<b>Total Budget Goal</b>	<b>\$750,000</b>
Challenge Goal	\$800,000

Continued from page 1  
state, but Janes said the real number won't be known until next year's census.

KBC churches and associations are working with catalytic missionaries, like the Rolandos, in six areas: West Kentucky, Northern Kentucky, Lexington, around Harrodsburg and Danville, the central region including Shelbyville north to Carrollton, and Louisville.

Already there's need for another catalytic missionary in the area between Elizabethtown and Bowling Green, Janes added.

"In the two years I've been here, it's amazing how much it's grown," Janes said. Kentucky Baptists now have 55 Hispanic ministry points in the state, he said.

Janes said he's seeing an openness to the gospel.

"We're having baptisms and commitments, and we're having some men who are feeling led to preach," he said.

Leadership is a common concern for language work, Janes noted. The Rolandos agreed.

"We need to train people," Rolando said. "The problem is they work a lot, and they don't have too much time."

But already they have found two men and two women who want to be disciplined in order to lead Bible studies.

"That is the only way the church can grow, multiplying through the people sharing what they have learned," Mrs. Rolando said.

## Kentucky Baptist churches urged to focus on world hunger next month

By Brenda Smith  
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Every five minutes, an average of 120 people die from hunger—three quarters of them children under age five, according to United Nations statistics.

Many Kentucky Baptists will focus on this statistic and what can be done about it through a special hunger emphasis in churches Oct. 10.

World Hunger Sunday marks a time for Christians in Kentucky to both thank God for their blessings and share them with others.

"I feel very, very keenly that many Kentucky Baptists want to help but don't know how," explained Jim Clontz, discipleship associate for the Kentucky Baptist Convention and chair of the convention's world hunger awareness committee.

One way Baptists are encouraged to help is through the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund, he said. In 1998, the fund helped distribute more than \$10 million in food around the world. All money given goes to supplying food. None of it pays for administration or promotion because Baptists use their existing network of missionaries to handle distribution.

Kentucky Baptists contributed approximately \$400,000 to the fund in the past year through the KBC.

While people want to help, "some won't do anything simply because

they don't know what to do," Clontz said. Giving to the World Hunger Fund is as simple as writing a check with "World Hunger Relief Fund" written on the memo line, he added.

Kentucky Baptist church treasurers have been instructed how to send gifts designated for hunger relief to the KBC. The convention will in turn forward the funds to the Southern Baptist International Mission Board for the World Hunger Relief Fund.

Clontz's hunger awareness committee is helping Baptist churches raise awareness about the 450 million people in the world suffering from malnutrition. The committee is sending a packet of information to pastors, directors of missions and other church leaders to help prepare them for World Hunger Sunday.

The information packets include a sermon prepared by Steven Nelson, director of hunger concerns for the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission; a list of missionaries, directors of missions and Kentucky Baptist Convention staff members who have volunteered to serve as hunger awareness speakers; and a Sunday school lesson written by Jenna McIntire, a missionary to Bangladesh now on furlough in Kentucky. Other items include a world hunger fact sheet, an offering guide and other promotional materials.

For more information, call (888) 254-5721 or (502) 245-4101.

The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary presents

## The Inaugural Heritage Week

and Third Annual Pastor Appreciation Day

October 12-14, 1999

The inaugural Heritage Week at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary will celebrate the legacy of Southern Baptists' first seminary while offering a special time of worship and consecration. Pastor Appreciation Day is an opportunity for Southern Seminary to say, "thank you," to ministers who are serving the Lord faithfully across our land. You are invited to be a part of Heritage Week and Pastor Appreciation Day.

All of the events are open to the public and are free of charge.

Seating is limited for the Christian Women's Luncheon and Pastor Appreciation Luncheon.

For Luncheon reservations please call the Office of the President at 1 800 626-5525.



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STUDY  
PRACTICE  
TEACH

### Tuesday, October 12

Adrian Rogers, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, Tennessee, Seminary Worship

Dedication of John A. Broadus Chapel

Christian Women's Luncheon

Speaker: Mrs. Adrian (Joyce) Rogers

Hostess: Mrs. Albert (Mary) Mohler



Dr. Adrian Rogers



Dr. James Merritt

### Wednesday, October 13

Alistair Begg, Parkside Church, Cleveland, Ohio, Seminary Worship

### Thursday, October 14 Pastor Appreciation Day

James Merritt, First Baptist Church, Snellville, Georgia, Seminary Worship

Pastor Appreciation Luncheon  
R. Albert Mohler, Jr.



Dr. Alistair Begg



Dr. R. Albert Mohler

## Prayer hot line ads aim to unseat psychic market

By Mary Warner  
Religion News Service

MECHANICSBURG, Pa. (RNS)—Ads offering people psychic direction about their love life or financial future via toll calls have become staples on television, especially late at night. Now there's an evangelical Christian alternative.

During breaks in "The Jerry Springer Show" or "Judge Judy," 30-second TV ads tout the Mechanicsburg, Pa.-based National Prayer Hot Line as a "better alternative to the psychic hot lines."

As a stream flows through a serene landscape on the screen, a voice says, "The power of prayer: When you get down to it, nothing is stronger." A woman talks about the time she called the hot line. "I got a very, very nice lady on the phone. I felt a sense of peace come over me," she says. "What this woman did was put my faith and trust in God."

The prayer hot line is aimed directly at viewers who might take their troubles to a psychic on the phone.

"I cannot tell you your boyfriend is coming back," said Linda Morrison, co-founder, president and full-time volunteer for the 2-year-old toll-free prayer hot line. "I can tell you Who won't leave you."

The hot line has been offering an evangelical Christian brand of comfort and guidance for about 300 callers a month who typically are worried about money, poor health or ailing relationships.

"People don't know where to turn today," said Morrison, who attends Harvest Church in Silver Spring Township, Pa. "People aren't thinking about God for their hope."

Ads for the hot line run on cable or Fox network stations serving Harrisburg, Pittsburgh and, recently, Washington, D.C. Ninety volunteers from 35 churches in those markets make sure the hot line is staffed around the clock.



**PRAYER HOT LINE** Ads for the National Prayer Hot Line run on TV stations in Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C. Ninety volunteers from 35 area churches make sure the hot line is staffed around the clock. (RNS photo)

The effort is yet another example of the increasing use of popular media—and its rhetoric and style—for religious messages. Evangelical Christians, who place particular emphasis on reaching people outside the church, have been quick to use mass media for that purpose.

The hot line volunteers, who are recommended by their pastors, are trained to recognize a crisis and to refer any caller who appears suicidal to another hot line staffed by counselors, Morrison says.

What the volunteers do is pray, using language based on Bible passages and selected to fit the caller's problem, she said.

"Our whole purpose, if we don't do anything else, is to love our caller," Morrison said. "Many people view Christians as unforgiving and judgmental."

"Many of the people that we would like to reach see our churches as barriers. ... The telephone reduces the

barrier," said Paul Veney of Abundant Life Community Church in Harrisburg, a co-founder and vice president of the hot line.

Veney, who occasionally fills in as a volunteer, said "just listening" is a crucial part of his role. Often, he said, the callers "start out talking surface talk" and only slowly reveal the painful reason for the calls.

A booklet mailed free to the callers contains topical prayers Morrison said are typical of ones the volunteers pray with callers.

For people who need jobs, for example, one prayer asks they "be diligent and fully satisfied" and their "storehouse would be full to overflowing."

There's also a dose of evangelism along with the prayer.

"We talk to them about salvation and a relationship with Jesus Christ," Morrison said. "We tell them they need to get to a church where people can put their arms around them and

love them."

If a caller already goes to church regularly, "we don't sheep-steal," she added, but a list of participating churches is mailed free to those who have no regular church.

Morrison does not identify the regular volunteers or the places where they take calls. One volunteer — who attends Christ Community Church in Lower Allentown — talked about her experience on condition she be identified only by her first name, Lynn.

Lynn said she makes a point of finding out if her callers are Christians and whether they are going to a "good Bible-preaching, salvation-teaching church." She said many of them are lonely, or worried about their marriages, or their own or a loved one's illness.

"I believe God heals," Lynn said, and she shares that belief with her callers. "God says if we have faith as small as a mustard seed, we can move mountains. All the answers are right there in the Bible."

Many people who call her are living in "sexual immorality," Lynn said — and she has learned to keep passages about that issue marked in her Bible so she can turn to them quickly during a call.

People aren't upset when she addresses that issue, she said, because she is "giving them truth."

Lynn said she has gotten as many as eight calls in a six-hour shift, though lately, with more volunteers working, it has dropped to about three. They're limited to about 10 minutes apiece, but they are very engrossing for her, she said.

Veney said he hopes more churches will commit some of their mission budget to the effort, which is funded by donations. Each call costs the hot line about \$2.50 and each airing of a hot line ad costs about \$100, said Morrison.

Plans call for the hot line to begin a new series of TV ads this fall in cooperation with several area churches.

## Christian women's magazine to cease publication

CAROL STREAM, Ill. (RNS)—Christianity Today, Inc. will discontinue publishing Virtue magazine after its December/January 2000 issue.

CTI president Harold Myra said the decision will allow the Carol Stream, Ill.-based company to focus on its other evangelical Christian publications, including Christianity Today, Books & Culture, Campus Life and Today's Christian Woman.

In April 1998, CTI acquired Virtue and Christian Parenting Today from Cook Communications Ministries of Colorado Springs, Colo.

"Virtue had a magnificent ministry for many years," Myra said in a statement.

"However, we discovered that Virtue's readership was simply not large enough to sustain the economics needed to remain viable."

The women's magazine included inspirational stories, Bible studies and profiles of "women of faith."

## Newly elected National Baptist president seen as a reformer

By Adelle Banks  
Religion News Service

TAMPA, Fla. (RNS)—William Shaw, new president-elect of the National Baptist Convention, USA, has pledged to enact internal reforms in the scandal-scarred church and said God would create a "new day" for the prominent African-American denomination.

"The convention has come to a point where we've been wrestling in the night," said Shaw, who has been pastor at White Rock Baptist Church in Philadelphia for the past 43 years. "Our wrestling in the night has been an effort to come to grips with our past. ... I'm convicted that God can give us a new day."

Shaw, who will be inaugurated in January, will serve a five-year term. He succeeds Henry Lyons, who resigned and went to prison in March on charges of grand theft and racketeering.

Lyons was found guilty of stealing money intended for burned black

churches and of swindling millions from corporations wanting to market products to NBCUSA members.

By a margin of about 200 votes, Shaw came out on top of a field of 11 candidates, most of whom campaigned on their readiness to move one of the nation's largest black church groups beyond the Lyons scandal.

After days of aggressive campaigning with delegates wearing T-shirts and buttons declaring their candidates of choice, Baptists gathered in the Ice Palace Arena and rose to their feet to cheer on Shaw as he preached his first sermon as their leader.

Stewart Cureton, who acted as president for the six months since Lyons' resignation, said all of the candidates now support Shaw.

"I'm grateful for the spirit that prevails here now amongst all of us," Shaw said. "We don't have any enemy camps as we leave Tampa."

The denomination concluded its weeklong meeting Sept. 10.

Shaw has called for a period of

fasting and prayer by church members during the transition period and said he plans to have an audit conducted to determine the state of the denomination's financial affairs.

Shaw preached his first sermon at age 11 and was ordained at age 17. At his Philadelphia church, he has established community outreach programs, including an after-school program teaching children math and science, and a substance abuse ministry.

He was the only candidate who stood before delegates with his corps of vice presidents already decided.

The Philadelphian humorously demonstrated his confidence about winning on the night before the election. When E.V. Hill, another front-runner, was introduced to speak at a late-night service as "the next president of the National Baptist Convention, USA," Shaw stood up momentarily.

On Sept. 9, about 700 of Shaw's supporters celebrated at a hotel outside Tampa.

"He's like a pool shark," said La-

Baron McAdoo Sr., pastor of Union Baptist Church in Wilmington, Del. "When you're teaching pool, you don't just react off the first ball. He's very calculative, and he's going to make very informed decisions."

Lawrence Hood Jr., an associate minister at St. Paul Baptist Church in West Chester, Pa., said Shaw, the former president of the Pennsylvania Baptist State Convention, helped turn around the financial problems of that organization.

"He's a very compassionate person," said Hood. "He wants to put Christ back at the center of the convention."

During a candidates' forum earlier in the week, Shaw had pointed to a convention banner and noted it included the president and general secretary's names but did not include the name of Jesus.

"If we gather in His name, we ought not be ashamed to gather under His name and his name ought to be bigger than our names," he said, drawing cheers.



Shaw

# MISSIONS

## Cape Cod church reaches out with lemonade & gospel

**Editor's note:** Like egrets diving into the ocean for dinner, tourists flock to the windswept beaches of Cape Cod each summer in search of the ultimate in relaxation. A sleepy village can be transformed overnight into a bustling town of pleasure seekers.

With all the attention placed on self-satisfaction, what's a Southern Baptist church on Cape Cod to do?

Through the years, church planters have tried to establish new works on the shifting sands of New England's summer paradise. Southern Baptist congregations have existed for a time in several Cape Cod communities but closed for reasons that have included lack of finances, the shifting interest of members and the lack of spiritual giftedness of the pastors for church planting.

On this 21st anniversary year of Southern Baptists' presence on Cape Cod, Dan Nicholas of the New England Baptist newspaper explores the struggles of the only two Southern Baptist congregations now open on the Cape: Chatham Baptist Church and Hope Baptist Church in Dennis.

**SOUTH DENNIS, Mass.**—Many of the 55,000 year-round Cape Cod residents who live near Hope Baptist Church in South Dennis have moved to the land of endless beaches and fresh seafood to escape the pressures of urban life.

Mike Beckner, who planted Hope Baptist in September 1996 and continues to serve as pastor, said about half of his neighbors are retirees who "picked Cape Cod, generally speaking, to be left alone."

Residents are "intellectual, high-powered people who have made up their minds about how life is" and, therefore, usually aren't open to evangelistic outreach, he said.

"When people are in transition they're more receptive" to the gospel, he said, comparing the Cape Cod ministry to his previous ministry as pastor of Atlantic Shore Baptist Church in Virginia Beach, Va., where Navy families move in and out with great frequency.

By contrast, Beckner said, when residents of Cape Cod are confronted with a biblical message of salvation, "they have to decide that their life was misspent" by not being committed to Christ. Many of the residents of Dennis, Harwich and Yarmouth where Hope Baptist ministers "do not want to intellectually contend with the truth" as taught by the Bible, he said.

Many Cape Codders whom Beckner has met are reluctant to travel a few miles to worship, but they will drive "off Cape" to shop in Boston, he said.

His church meets for Sunday morning worship in the lower level of the Dennis Senior Center and currently has 40 attendees. The senior center is rented for \$625 a year. Half of those attending are retired, and the others are either young families or singles. New Colony Baptist Church in Billerica, Mass., is the sponsoring congregation.

Operating out of a rented facility one day a week has such disadvantages as low visibility in the community. To combat that, Beckner and church members are looking for a storefront in which to conduct weekday ministries for mid-Cape youth who currently have nowhere to hang out.

Attesting to the need for such a youth ministry, Beckner said there have been a dozen alcohol-related

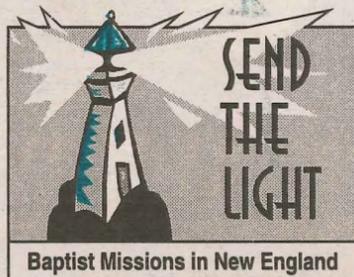
traffic deaths of teens on the Cape since he moved back to the area in 1996. Beckner is praying for a semester missionary or volunteer staff member who can establish relationships with teens at basketball courts, beaches and other public places.

Beckner and his wife, Sue, are experienced Cape Codders. She was born and reared on the Cape, where her parents were among the earliest members of Chatham Baptist Church. Today her parents assist with music and prayer at Hope Baptist.

Beckner, who was born in New London, Conn., graduated in 1973 from Dennis-Yarmouth High School. Reared as the son of a Roman Catholic mother and a Southern Baptist father, Beckner said he found a personal faith in Christ in 1971, while a high school junior attending a youth retreat on Cape Cod at Craigville Beach.

The Cape Cod ministry has been "rigorous and challenging ... everything we imagined it to be and more," said Beckner, who holds master's degrees from both George Washington University in Washington, D.C., and Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va.

The Beckners decided not to pursue bivocational careers that would draw their attention away from vocational ministry. Instead, they are supported entirely by contributions from 40 friends who give \$50 a month. "Even with all of the challenge, we haven't given up on the fact that we know Jesus can reach these people," Beckner said.



## Chatham church started with a surprising knock at the door

**CHATHAM, Mass.**—Growing up in Hartford, Conn., David Otis visited Cape Cod for weeklong family vacations

From those gatherings in Wellfleet and Eastham, Otis gained a love for the easy pace of life and beautiful scenery on the Cape.

In 1987, he accepted the challenge of his first full-time pastorate at Chatham Baptist Church on the Cape.

Chatham Baptist was started 21 years ago by then-church planter Ray Allen, who now serves as evangelism leader for the Baptist Convention of New England.

The church began when Allen

knocked on the door of Bob and Eunice Griffin. The Griffins are the parents of Sue Beckner, whose husband, Mike, is pastor of Hope Baptist Church in Dennis.

To his surprise, Allen was ushered in to the Griffins' home and grilled at length by a group of women who had been praying for 10 years that a Bible-believing church would be started in Chatham.

The church, first known as Lighthouse Baptist Chapel, was started from that cell group and was sponsored by First Baptist Church of Sudbury, Mass. Jim Wood followed Allen as pastor. In the late 1980s, the church consistently reached 300 in weekly Sunday morning attendance. Otis is the church's third pastor.

Reared a "non-believing Episcopalian," Otis became a Christian through the ministry of Calvary Chapel in Costa Mesa, Calif., where the Jesus movement started.

After returning from Southern California to Massachusetts and graduating from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in South Hamilton, Mass., Otis said he felt God's call to pastoral ministry in New England. He had not selected a denomination while in seminary, but he had attended some meetings sponsored by Greater Bos-

ton Baptist Association.

Otis was introduced to Chatham Baptist through a friend who was invited to speak at the church, which had been without a pastor for two years. After more visits by Otis and his wife, Judy, the church invited Otis to become its pastor. Now he is the longest-serving Southern Baptist leader on Cape Cod.

For most of the year Chatham is a tranquil village by the sea with a quaint shop-lined Main Street and a much-photographed lighthouse. During summer, however, life speeds up considerably for Otis as Chatham mushrooms from a town of 5,000 residents to a small city.

Otis calls Chatham "the epitome of a small New England town with all of its positives and negatives." He said he sees "a pervasive attitude of independence in New England that is more focused on Cape Cod" than in other locations.

The independence and self-reliance of residents and tourists alike yield special challenges for evangelism and church growth, he said.

Evangelism takes place when people on the Cape "are in deep trouble" or cannot cope with life's difficulties. Even then, he pointed out, most people he meets "do not want to be de-

In addition to preparing sermons, visiting church prospects and doing the long list of tasks that any pastor faces, Beckner, 44, has been encouraging the innovative ministry of two active church members.

Ron and Melinda Powers conducted a "lemonade ministry" this summer at West Dennis Beach.

Powers distributed free, ice-cold lemonade to sunbathers on hot Saturdays and used the inevitable conversations to point people to Jesus Christ. Before his thirsty guests departed, he gave them a Gospel of John tract and information about the church.

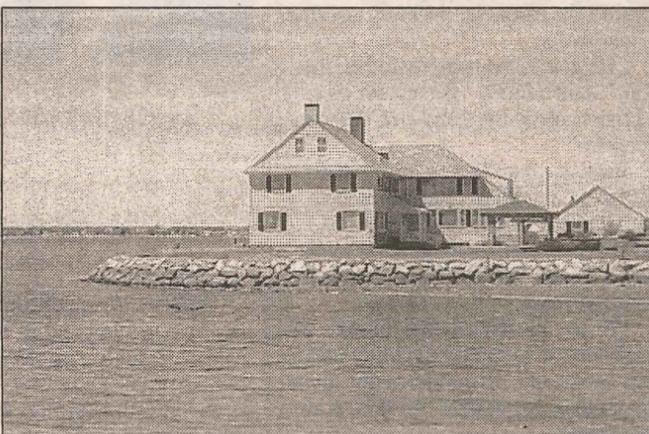
Initially, Powers faced opposition to the ministry by the Dennis Beach and Recreation Department when the department decided he would be violating their concession and solicitation laws. At a conference seminar, however, Powers said he learned otherwise. As long as the lemonade stand does not have a sign on the public property and he does not charge for the beverages, he is operating within parameters established by the First Amendment.

The Powerses moved to Cape Cod in January 1997 from Georgia and consider themselves "tentmaker missionaries" who support their ministry through full-time, paying jobs. He is an electrical engineer, and she works for the mortgage department of a bank.

Last winter, the Powerses and the Beckners tested their lemonade ministry on a snowy Cape Cod golf course. A young, wild-haired snowboarder who was given a drink proclaimed, "Whoa! I'm in heaven, man!"

Powers handed the guest a Gospel of John booklet and said, "No, but this will tell you how to get there."

**PEACE & TRANQUILITY**  
Scenes like the one below depict the Cape Cod image.  
(Photo by Dan Nicholas)



# MISSIONS

## Boston church links growth to Kentucky Baptist help

Continued from page 1

period, a sign pointed out that volunteers from various states were building the structure.

"Our ability to (complete the structure) within the short building season in New England was possible because of the outpouring of volunteers," said Parrott, a native of Barbourville who grew up in metro-Detroit.

Of the 160 volunteers who worked on the building, 120 came from Kentucky as part of Kentucky Baptists' mission partnership with the Baptist Convention of New England.

New Colony has been both a recipient and provider of volunteers in the partnership. The church's most recent contribution came in August when 10 members came to Eastern Kentucky to work at the Freeda Harris Center in Lookout.

On Sundays at New Colony, an average attendance of between 180-190 nearly fills the 225-seat sanctuary.

Yet Parrott noted that relationship building is a slow, tedious process in New England and that it took several years to earn the trust of community residents.

The church's summer camp has been regarded as top-notch, but campers and their parents didn't flock immediately to the congregation for Sunday services, Parrott said. "For the first five years, we didn't see fruit in the form of church growth."

Yet the people in the community admired the church's faithfulness in providing the camps, he said. "We gained credibility because they knew we would do this whether we got anything out of it or not."

This summer, approximately 140 children enrolled for at least one week of the four-week summer camp. The camp features a different emphasis each week, including sports, creative arts, music and vacation Bible school.

Mission volunteers help the camp maintain a 1-to-5 student-teacher ratio. Many volunteers serve for multiple years, Parrott said. Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green has supplied camp leaders on four

different occasions, he noted.

In addition, St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville has an ongoing partnership with New Colony.

Young couples with children account for much of the growth at New Colony. Parrott said a desire among unchurched parents to nurture their children spiritually has drawn many families to the congregation.

About half of New Colony's visitors locate the church via the congregation's Web site, Parrott said. "It's a natural thing for people brought to this community" by the computer industry, he explained.

Recently, Parrott has accepted a three-year assignment as coordinator of Strategic Focus City Boston. The effort is part of a plan by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board to step-up evangelistic efforts in the nation's largest cities.

Parrott will remain as senior pastor at New Colony but with many of

his pastoral responsibilities assigned to other staff members.

In his role as strategic focus coordinator, he will attempt to build a trans-denominational coalition of evangelical Christians who will focus resources and energy on evangelizing Boston.

"It is a monumental opportunity for Southern Baptists," Parrott said. "From what I'm discovering as I talk to other evangelicals, God is up to something big by calling a large variety of evangelicals together."

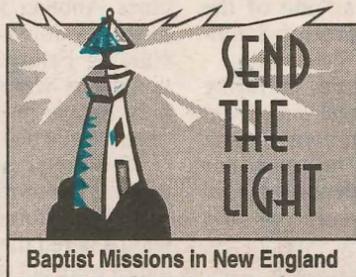
Strategic Focus will include prayer efforts for Boston, program resources for churches and opportunities for congregations to partner with churches outside Boston.

He hopes 20,000-30,000 mission volunteers will come to Boston to help with Strategic Focus. He looks for New England Baptists' mission partners in Kentucky to provide a key segment of the volunteer force.

"If Kentucky Baptists want to come to New England, we can say, 'Here are the projects that are planned; which one do you feel God leading you to do?'" he said.

Dan Nicholas of the New England Baptist contributed to this report.

**Of the 160 volunteers who worked on the building, 120 came from Kentucky as part of Kentucky Baptists' mission partnership with the Baptist Convention of New England.**



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## Baptist nurses carry compassion and hope into Bosnia

**WMU president Wanda Lee called nurses "one of the most overlooked resources in Southern Baptist life."**

By Teresa Dickens  
Woman's Missionary Union

SARAJEVO, BOSNIA—In a country torn by civil war destruction, Baptist nurses from America said they were surprised to find warm smiles and welcome amid both physical and spiritual needs.

Woman's Missionary Union is sending volunteers into Bosnia as part of its partnership with Southern Baptist personnel in the country.

The partnership is the overseas expression of Project HELP: Violence, WMU's social emphasis for October 1998-September 2000.

The medical team of 12 nurses, led by national WMU president Wanda Lee, was in Sarajevo, Bosnia, Aug. 17-31. Five other volunteers worked in a children's camp July 26-Aug. 11.

"I've never been in a country devastated by war," said Wynyard McDonald, a registered nurse from Live Oak, Fla. "I somehow felt that

the people would not be receptive, but was pleasantly surprised by the graciousness and gratefulness of the people.

"Most of all my heart was burdened for their souls," she added. "They have so little and need so much. I know God sent me to touch their lives ... and to show them His love."

Lee called nurses "one of the most overlooked resources in Southern Baptist life."

"They are, by nature, nurturing and compassionate," she said. "Add to that their Christian commitment and you have a powerful source for dispensing just what people in places like Bosnia need—someone who can provide healing physically, emotionally and spiritually."

Providing that healing touch for Bosnians, as well as Kosovo refugees living in Sarajevo, was the top priority of the team of nurses. Divided into six teams, they conducted multiple health clinics, made

home visits and led nutritional and health-related workshops. In addition, they led Bible classes with adults and children, and shared testimonies and musical/dramatic talents in worship services. The team saw eight professions of faith through their ministry.

The team also distributed \$5,000 worth of over-the-counter medicines. Another \$1,000 was given in monetary donations by state Baptist Nursing Fellowship chapters. The donations were used to purchase prescription medicines for patients on an as-needed basis.

The major problem during the trip was the confiscation of the medicine by customs officials when the team entered the country. The medicines were not released for six days. The team operated during the first three days of clinics with the medicines and supplies they had packed in their suitcases and others were purchased locally.

Despite the handicap, team mem-

bers were able to meet the needs of dozens of patients.

"It was amazing to see the work we did without them," said Matthew Lee, son of Wanda Lee, and a senior pre-med student at Samford University in Birmingham. "God used the time to strengthen us and to teach us that He is always in control. If we can learn to rely on Him for everything then it will all work out for His glory and according to His plans."

Debra Scudder, a registered nurse from Wilson, Wyo., noted that the lack of common medicines and high-tech equipment helped the nurses get back to the "basics" of nursing and ministry.

"Jesus didn't need high-tech to bring God's love to the people almost 2,000 years ago," she commented. "He used whatever was at hand and turned it into an opportunity to teach God's love. I too had to use whatever was on hand and turned it into an opportunity to share God's love."

## Baptist prayer guide for Jewish evangelism creates stir

Continued from page 1

said that while "we respect the right of Southern Baptists to hold beliefs that are different from our own ... we do not welcome a campaign that singles out the Jewish people for conversionary activities."

But Randy Sprinkle, director of the SBC International Mission Board's prayer strategy office, insisted the booklet is based in love, not hostility or intolerance.

"Christian intercessors are people of love," he said. "What we're doing is not going to change the general Jewish perception of Christians, but the fact is that Christians will continue, out of love, to go before God on behalf of His chosen people, because that's His heart."

A resolution adopted by messengers to the 1996 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting called on Southern Baptists to pray for Jewish people to become Christians. The resolution also directed resources toward proclaiming to Jewish people the message that Jesus is the Messiah.

That resolution drew national attention and was denounced as intolerant by critics, some of whom said efforts to evangelize Jews amounted to "spiritual genocide."

Christians, however, have little choice when it comes to sharing their faith with Jews, said Don Kammerdiener, executive vice president of the International Mission Board.

"The Bible is clear regarding the necessity of sharing the gospel with Jews," he said. "Jesus and the apostles were Jews. Jesus stated clearly that His followers were to begin their witness to Him in Jerusalem, the heartland of the Jews. Jesus is the Messiah of all who believe in Him. He is the fulfillment of the Old Covenant promises."

"The Bible is explicit in saying, in Romans 1:16, that Jews are not

only included in the gospel invitation, but that the gospel is to go to the Jew first and also to the Gentile," Kammerdiener added. "Obedient Christians have no choice except to invite Jews and all other peoples to come to faith in Christ."

An estimated 132,000 Jews worldwide follow Jesus as the Messiah, according to 1998 statistics from David Bogosian of the U.S. Center for World Mission in Pasadena, Calif. He puts the number of Messianic Jews in Israel at 5,000, with 110,000 in the United States.

The prayer guide contains 10 vignettes of Jewish life during the Days of Awe, along with brief sketches of Jewish populations around the world and suggestions about how to pray for Jewish people as they seek God.

It isn't the first guide to recom-

mend prayer by Southern Baptists for another religious group.

The board previously published a prayer guide for Southern Baptists to pray for Muslims to accept Jesus as the Messiah. Such prayers for Ramadan were recommended for Ramadan, the start of Islam's holy period.

Guides also are being planned for Hindus and Buddhists, IMB officials said.

For information about the guide, call (800) 866-3621 or e-mail the IMB resource center at resource\_center@imb.org.

With additional reporting by Religion News Service



## Campers on Missions & Gracemore

From time to time, groups grace us with their presence at Jonathan Creek or Cedarmore and leave having made a huge impact on us.

One of those groups is one I have mentioned before, Kentucky Campers on Mission. Campers on Mission is a group of men and women who travel the country, particularly across Kentucky, doing worthwhile mission projects.

One of the group's recent projects was our Gracemore Cabin at Cedarmore. Many of you have seen or stayed in this old cabin at the end of a shady lane at Cedarmore. While long on charm and character, Gracemore had run down and was in great need of repair. Along came our Campers on Mission. They took a look at the place, fell in love with it and said, "We want this to be our project."

So a dedicated, loving, serving group of men and women have taken it on themselves to make a difference in the place. They also gave us a significant financial gift that helped defray the cost of the improvements.

You wouldn't believe the difference. I couldn't. Gracemore doesn't even look like the same

place! A log construction, for the first time in years the logs were beautiful rather than black. New screens were installed and windows were repaired. The entire interior is being updated: new countertops in the kitchen, new bath fixtures, new carpet. I could go on and on, but you get the idea. This group saw a need and tackled a huge project that will benefit us and all our guests in the years ahead.

It is our plan to offer Gracemore as we always do to our weekend guests, but also to make it available to ministers needing a few days away during the week to retreat, relax or study. Gracemore's perfect for that, and we'll offer it at a nominal charge for those who are in need of a "ministerial retreat."

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to Kentucky Campers on Mission. I know some of you have felt the impact of their service. I have grown to genuinely love these men and women, and I praise the Lord for bringing us together as we serve in the name of Jesus.

Rusty Ellison is president of Kentucky Baptist Assemblies, Box 37, Bagdad, KY 40003. Call (502) 747-8911

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# CHURCHES

## Milestones define timeline for church starts, specialist says

By James Dotson  
SBC North American Mission Board

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (BP)—The weeks after Labor Day are a common time for launching new churches, but milestones—not calendars—should define the timeline for new churches, according to a church starting specialist.

David Putman said a simple observation by church-growth expert Lyle Schaller revolutionized the way he looked at starting churches.

"Dave, you Baptists are driven too much by the calendar," recalled Putman, a recruitment development associate for the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board's church-planting group. "Instead of being driven by the calendar, you need to be driven by milestones."

Putman said that insight led him from the pressure of self-imposed deadlines to a process that proceeds

only after the preceding "milestone" has been achieved.

Although the details might vary with individual circumstances, Putman identified 10 primary milestones that should be a part of any strategy for a new church plant.

■ **Determine leadership readiness.** This includes assessing whether the planter has the unique gifts for the demanding role; whether the planter's family is on board with the effort; whether appropriate training is in place; whether personal support issues have been settled; and whether partnerships with churches and denominational agencies are in place.

■ **Build a prayer team.** Individuals should be enlisted who are committed to the effort spiritually, often from among people with deep personal relationships. Team members should be able to pass the "3 a.m. test"—someone who would be hon-

ored for the planter to call them at 3 a.m. and ask them to pray for him or her.

■ **Understand the church-planting location and people group.** "The more you can align the startup group with the community itself and who you are, the more likely you are to move along at a faster pace," Putman said.

■ **Raise financial support.** The cost of starting a church depends on such factors as the size of the vision, the model for the new church and the method for launching the church, he said.

■ **Develop the planting team and core group.** Core groups can be enlisted through partnering churches, the community or networking through others. The group can further develop and coalesce through small-group meetings, special informational sessions and fellowship events. Putman also suggested that church planters not always think they have to go it alone, possibly enlisting laymen they know to move with them to the new-work area to be a leadership partner. "Any time you can fortify yourself relationally to accomplish your vision, do it," he said.

■ **Develop a strategy.** "I do not believe we come up with a vision," Putman said. "I believe we discover it. ... I believe we need to get God's heart, and sense His revelation for what He wants us to do."

■ **Establish a community presence and evangelistic penetration.** This in-

volves determining what it takes to reach people in the chosen community with the gospel, building a positive image and credibility, penetrating social and relational networks, developing a system that facilitates evangelism and involving others in building disciples. "Design your church so it all leads to the same point—where people are having opportunities to receive Christ," Putman added.

■ **Preview and launch weekly worship celebration.** Because of the stresses of planning weekly worship services early on, Putman suggested a monthly "preview" service that allows the church to grow while allowing leadership time to fine-tune the process and not neglect follow-up efforts.

■ **Develop and implement an assimilation process.** Fellowship events, small groups, assigned tasks and responsibilities, participation in ministry and newcomer orientation are all ways of drawing individuals into the church family.

■ **Mobilize and multiply the body.** At every level, an emphasis should be made on the principle of multiplication. Pastors should train others to do ministry; Sunday school teachers can birth new teachers and new classes; and individuals should disciple new Christians who, in turn, will later disciple others. Ultimately, the church should be founded on the principle of reproducing itself through new church plants as quickly as possible. "Develop structures that naturally multiply," Putman said.

## LifeWay to offer concentrated pastor resources

NASHVILLE (BP)—LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention has established a new area to offer consultative and product resources directed specifically to pastors.

The "pastor section" will include consultants for pastors and deacons and editorial personnel to produce resources to meet their needs, according to Henry Webb, director of LifeWay's pastor-staff leadership department.

"This new organization will allow for greater focus on these key leaders," Webb said. "The skills and competencies required for effective pastors are unique to that critical leadership role. The pastor section will give concentrated effort to assisting and standing alongside those serving in pastoral ministry."



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## Monica Haydon on mission

By Robert Dunston

Monica Haydon, daughter of Jessie and Betty Haydon of Springfield, spent two weeks in El Salvador in May. She joined Kentucky Baptist students from Cumberland College and other Kentucky colleges in creating a ministry team to help rebuild homes destroyed by Hurricane Mitch in fall 1998.

Haydon and the others arose at 5 each morning, dressed, went to breakfast at the local missionary hospitality house and then drove half an hour from San Miguel to the work site in San Pedro.

Most of the students worked on the construction effort. During their first week they poured concrete and framed. During the second week they roofed. When the two weeks were completed, the team had framed eight houses, roofed four houses and partially finished a fifth home.

Some team members worked primarily with the local children. Haydon worked construction but was befriended by a little girl named Jennifer. Each day Jennifer arrived with pictures she had drawn for Haydon to see. Haydon thoroughly enjoyed her friendship with Jennifer and said it meant a great deal to

see the children for whom they were building the houses.

Work ceased at 2 p.m. each day when the heat became unbearable. Team members returned to San Miguel for lunch, showers and rest. Each evening they held a worship service for encouragement and spiritual refueling.

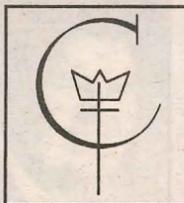
Haydon said she has a "new appreciation for the blessings God has given me. I went there and saw those who had nowhere near what I have, but they were happy. Instead of wanting more and more and more, I need to use what I have for the glory of God. It was really neat."

Haydon further stated, "I had never considered foreign missions before. Now it is a consideration. I am considering the Journeyman program."

Haydon discovered that while she was busy helping to change the lives of people in El Salvador, God was at work changing and challenging her life too. We know God will continue to use her in His service.

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

CUMBERLAND  
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## Kentucky Baptists



## You Take The Cake!

### September is Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children Food Roundup

Every year Kentucky Baptists take the cake, the spaghetti sauce, the peanut butter, the toothpaste and more and give them to kids and families in need through KBHC's Food Roundup. Thanks to all the churches and associations who give so freely!

For a list of especially-needed items or to find out where the pick-up point nearest you is located call



1-800-456-1386

## Kids' lesson book teaches about Jesus and the 'big boo-boo'

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)—It talks about the "big boo-boo," the life of Jesus, becoming a Christian and how sin causes sadness.

"Answers for New Christians" is a textbook, a coloring book and a workbook designed for children ages 4-12.

Robin Khoury said she developed the book when she began teaching children who were asking to be baptized at her church. "I began looking for curriculum, but wasn't happy with the choices."

With encouragement from the church children's director, Khoury started writing her own curriculum.

"The kids loved these lessons, so I kept doing them even though I was embarrassed by the drawings," she said.

They were well received by adults as well as children, she added. "Parents began to stop me in the hallways at church and thank me for the in-depth understanding their children had after only a few weeks in class."

"Answers for New Christians," written in language children understand, explains some of the abstract parts of the Christian faith that are often ignored in traditional Sunday school curricula for children, Khoury said.

The book covers original sin, the concept of sacrifice, the substitutionary death of Christ, the meaning of repentance, baptism and the Lord's Supper. Also in the book are chapters on how the world began, who Jesus is and why He died, how to become a Christian, how to grow as a Christian and reasons to believe the Bible and go to church.

The 64 pages contain 25 short explanations of each topic, with 34 pages to color. For more information about "Answers for New Christians," call (405) 946-3413.

## Car dealer touts new kind of owner's manual

By Jeff Huett  
Associated Baptist Press

DENISON, Texas (ABP)—When Ray Ridings appraised autos as a dealer, he often noticed the car owner had a Bible sitting on the dash.

"I would always say to the car owners, 'I like your owner's manual there,'" Ridings recalled.

Now, if Ridings and his nonprofit organization have anything to do with it, car buyers looking into their glove boxes for the owner's manual also will retrieve an "Owner's Manual for Life"—the Bible—in addition to the handbook they expect to find.

An owner of several auto dealerships during his 35 years in the industry, Ridings knows the impact this ministry could have. And with 70 million new and used cars and trucks sold in America every year, he knew he could make an impact on an "unlimited" number of people if he could just get the Bibles in the vehicles.

To do that, he would need the support of car dealers. "It's hard to reach auto dealers through the mail or on the phone," Ridings said. "You need to eye-ball them."

So that's what he did.

Since their original printing in 1997, Owner's Manual for Life, Inc., has placed its Bibles in 60 dealerships in Texas, two in Colorado and one dealership each in Oklahoma and Missouri. "I basically do this

by myself," Ridings said, "so it's a slow process." He estimates he has sold 68,000 Bibles to dealers since 1997. "That's not many, compared to what's available," he said.

Dealerships are asked to purchase the Bibles at \$1.50 each and place them in the glove box of each car they sell. To Ridings, "if it makes a difference in one out of every 10,000 people, I'm committed because that's what God wants me to do right now."

Bobby Price began placing the New International Version New Testaments in automobiles at his Sulfur Springs, Texas, Ford dealership when the program began in 1997. He estimates he has given away 7,200 Bibles in his new, used and fleet vehicles.

"I've had very positive responses from customers," Price said. "In fact, a lady sat in the lobby yesterday studying her Sunday school lesson, and she commented what the program had meant to her."

The Bibles also have had an effect on the dealership's employees. Price said his employees are proud to mention the "Owner's Manual" to buyers. "We don't make a lot of fanfare about it, though. We just put the Bible in the glove compartment as soon as we get the car ready," he said.

Price and Ridings, who have been friends since before each got into the car business, share their enthusiasm for the program.

Ridings' excitement stems from 12 years as a member of the Gideons. He said he's seen firsthand the difference

just having a copy of the Bible can have on spreading the message about Jesus Christ.

"The Gideons put Bibles in hotels, hospitals and nursing homes worldwide," he said. "I have heard the testimonies from people around the world who have read Gideon Bibles, so I figured, if they'll read it, so will car buyers."

In addition to the New Testament text, the owner's manuals feature sections on general Bible information, instructions and self-help guidelines and study guides to aid readers. The Bibles are printed by the International Bible Society and are bound in a red, white and blue cover. The only sticking point so far is organization. Currently, the organization consists of Ridings himself and a board of directors that adds an additional two or three sets of hands to the ministry.

"I need to get organized and get other people interested in the ministry to get it put across the country," Ridings said. To succeed in this, he said, he needs to get young people involved and set up a large network of dealers in Texas and across the country.

Financial support from a dealer network not only would provide for the printing cost of each Bible, but also help provide copies of the manual to churches, youth groups and other special groups without charge.

For more information about the program, contact Owner's Manual for Life, Box 96, Sherman, TX 75091 or call (903) 892-9293.

## 'Thank you' for Oneida

I would like to share part of a letter I received last week. I wish all the mail was this complimentary, but it isn't. We are painfully aware that we are not successful with every student. In most situations I can honestly say we have done all we could do. There are times when we could have done more, but we didn't. When we fail, it is usually because we are human, and therefore, subject to making human errors.

"My wife and I ... are the grandparents of Michael. ... We know that you receive countless success stories, and we would like to add our own to that list.

"As you know, raising a child in a Christian environment doesn't always guarantee that (he) will not go astray. Such was the case with Michael. During 1997 Michael's life came to a crisis point. He was way down the wrong road of life, and we were all beside ourselves with worry, frustration ... anxiety.

"God intervened, and we were introduced to Oneida Baptist Institute. ... Michael was enrolled as a junior and began classes ... in August of '97.

"We all went up to the orientation and sat and listened to you describe the mission of OBI and how that is accomplished in the lives of boys and girls there. You explained all the good points and bad points and the typical sequence of events that children and parents can expect. We found all of that information to be very accurate as the school year progressed.

"We're writing all of this to let you know that a wonderful change, a miracle took place in his life that school year. He became a totally different person—for the good! When he came home for the summer, gone were the old bad attitude

and intolerable bad behavior ways. By his own testimony he had grown to love Oneida, the faculty and the friends he had made there.

"During that summer he agonized over the decision ... he was going to have to make before the fall term began—whether or not to return to OBI for his senior year, or to go to ... County High School and graduate with his friends that he had been in school with all of his life. He chose the latter. I want you to know that after the school

year ended, and he had graduated, he said he wished that he had returned to Oneida for his senior year.

"So now, Michael has enrolled in college and will be taking classes at ... Community College while also working part-time.

"So this is our success story, one that continues in Michael's life and ours because of the wonderful work that is done at Oneida.

"Enclosed is our gift ... with a sincere, 'Thank you' for what you do. Our desire is that in some small way this will help and enable some child in trouble to attend OBI who might otherwise not have that opportunity."

We are grateful for this encouraging letter. We are not normally happy to find out that a student is not returning. While we want every student to graduate from Oneida, we know that won't happen. We also know that many times when a student has gotten himself together he will decide to finish school back home. It is very similar to a child growing up and leaving home. You know it is going to happen, but it is not always easy.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

## Beginning the new school year with prayer

The first chapel service of Clear Creek's 1999-2000 academic year featured praise and prayer. Student body president Stan Lewis prayed for the adjustment and Christian growth of 48 new students.

After the campus family read the New Hampshire Statement of Faith article on Scripture, three new faculty members signed the confession of faith.

The Lord called us to holiness as we read the statement of faith article on sanctification. Individuals openly confessed wrong attitudes and struggles. A faculty member and a student stood with them and prayed for Christ's overcoming power.

Approximately 150 people participated in an evening campus prayer walk organized by faculty member Charles Rice. The group laid hands on the administration building and prayed for the staff.

We circled the classroom building and prayed for students and faculty.

We sang and walked to each location in the valley. Moore Hall was surrounded in prayer while some people turned toward the surrounding hills, the location of Hemlock Heights housing.

At the child development center

we prayed for the vital ministry to children and families. Individuals lined the front of the facility to pray for the workers.

We walked to the courtyard behind the Aldridge Building and prayed for the work of the library and business affairs. Someone prayed for discussions in Foxes Den student lounge.

The group proceeded to the softball field and prayed for effective use of our recreational facilities, especially as a witness to campus visitors.

Intercession was made for the nearby medical clinic and adjacent housing areas.

We crossed the creek bridge and gathered on Kelly Hall lawn with familiar constellations overhead and a background concert of crickets.

Student leaders and staff offered prayer for residents of Kelly Hall, Holly Hill and Bear Trail.

With hands joined in a circle, we concluded with a time of personal surrender, desiring to be a holy people and asking God to use us during this year.

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

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

## New filtering device attempts to offer curse-free TV

By David Briggs  
Religion News Service

NEW ORLEANS (RNS)—Roll over, Arnold. Put a sock in it, Bruce.

There's a new video sheriff in town to clean up offensive language in popular action films and television shows.

Meet Curse Free TV, a product that hit the market a couple of months ago and aims to let viewers take God out of the profane world of Hollywood and leave the divine references in the Billy Graham special.

The little black box that separates the sacred from the profane and seeks to apply electronic soap to popular videos and TV shows was one of the hottest new products at the Christian Booksellers Association convention this summer. It joins a host of other entrepreneurial products aimed at the evangelical market and parents seeking to sanitize media from computers to movies.

Retailers huddled around demonstration tapes as Schwarzenegger's voice was muted out and the unprofane phrase "Oh man" appeared on the screen to express his character's surprise.

The product, still untested by independent research, promises to put language appropriate for 5-year-olds back into "Kindergarten Cop," allow children to listen to "Home Alone" alone and remove all 58 instances of offensive language in the movie "Volcano."

The product reads the closed captioning for the hearing impaired required by the FCC of nearly all new shows and films, and intercepts more than 100 objectionable phrases as selected by a panel of clergy before they hit the screen, according to Randy Gorman, spokesman for the New Orleans-based Curse Free TV company.

Viewers can either have the objectionable language muted out, or allow the computer to print alternative phrases on the screen. The product

also has a setting to allow references to God to come through unfiltered for a Veggie Tales video or religious broadcast.

The product is not foolproof. It does not work with live programming and what you see—from nudity to gunplay—is still what you get.

The company's own promotional materials claim its tests show about a 95 percent accuracy rate in filtering out offensive language. Gorman said that should improve as closed captioning becomes more sophisticated, and there are fewer spelling errors that can cause words to pass by unfiltered.

What the product offers, company president Jonas Robertson said, is a way for Christian families to watch PG and PG-13 videos without worrying about the profanity Hollywood adds in to avoid a commercially dreaded G rating.

Robertson, pastor of the Church of Abundant Life in New Orleans, said he, like other religious parents, has kicked the television out of his home in frustration.

"I've been through it, brother," he said. "Now, God has given us an alternative."

Curse Free TV went on the market in June. Gorman would not release any sales figures, but said the company is distributing it in Christian bookstores and on the Internet. The suggested retail price is \$199.95.

There are times when watching Curse Free TV can seem a bit disorienting. Because they do not want to use words like dumb or jerk or stupid and avoid even neutral references to the posterior, the alternative language doesn't always make sense.

So a dog preparing for a painful part of a physical exam tells Eddie Murphy in "Dr. Doolittle" to pass along to the vet that "my toe is great."

For the most part, however, what is striking in watching a demonstration of Curse Free TV is how gratuitous most profane and obscene refer-

## Study: TV programming getting worse

By Debbie Moore  
Baptist Press

HOLLYWOOD, Calif. (BP)—Network television's prime-time "family hour" is hardly that, according to new research from a Hollywood-based media watchdog group.

"The Family Hour: Worse Than Ever and Headed for New Lows," an 11-page report released Aug. 31 by the Parents Television Council, shows in detail objectionable elements aired during the networks' 8-9 p.m. Eastern time slot.

The study shows not only the networks' trend in their use of objectionable elements, but also an acceleration in that trend during a recent 18-month time span.

From November 1997 to May 1999, objectionable material in family-hour programming on the broadcast networks rose 75 percent, according to the report. The study defined objectionable material as "lewd references to sexual activity, foul language and violent incidents."

Broken down by type:

- Coarse language in prime-time shows increased 58 percent.
- Violence increased 86 percent.
- Suggestive sexual content increased 77 percent.

The study states that Fox network is the worst offender, using an average 11 offensive instances per hour. The council's report found "not a single series on Fox during the 'family hour' is appropriate for families."

CBS was the "least offensive network," with 3.62 objectionable instances per hour, the report states.

So far Fox has refused to comment on the study, said Parents Television Council senior analyst Tom Johnson, one of the authors of the study. A CBS spokesman called the report "ludicrous and completely misguided," he added.

Mark Honig, the council's executive director, said the broadcast networks' measurable increase in the use of objectionable elements during the classic family hour means "there's no effort on the part of the industry to clean up the content of prime time."

The importance of the council's study of family hour programming lies in its analysis of "the impact of popular culture on the nation's morals," Johnson added.

The full report on the family hour, prefaced with a warning that it contains language that may be found offensive, is posted on the council's Internet site, [www.parentstv.org](http://www.parentstv.org).

The council is a subsidiary of the Media Research Center, headed by nationally syndicated columnist Brent Bozell II.

The networks once operated with a "civic duty to behave in a responsible manner. You can forget all that today," Bozell wrote in a recent column.

Earlier this summer, former U.S. Presidents Carter and Ford were part of a group of about 60 Americans who appealed to the entertainment industry "to institute a new code of conduct that will reduce violent and sexual content" in network programming.

ences are in feature films. An action film without a profanity is more often like a CD without a record player.

For example, substituting the words "go away" for "up yours" in the movie "Independence Day" does not distort the meaning, Robertson said. However, Robertson said, the device's most important feature is in protect-

ing religious ears from hearing God's name taken in vain.

If it only removed blasphemous references to the name Jesus Christ, Robertson said, Curse Free TV "would be worth its money in gold."

For more information, call (877) 662-8773 or visit the Web site, [www.cursefree.com](http://www.cursefree.com).

## Christian fiction continues to grow in popularity among readers and authors

By Judy Woodward Bates  
Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)—The growing popularity of Christian fiction, especially spiritually based romance novels, has led many secular bookstores to carve out space to include Christian genres.

This is due to an increase of Christian book sales through secular book stores within the past year, according to a Baptist writer of romance novels.

"We are seeing tremendous growth in the market," said Catherine Palmer, an established secular author who said she, like many other writers, has found renewed success in the Christian market.

"Many Christians who have been writing in the secular realm are moving over to the Christian market," she said. The influx also has resulted in a dramatic increase in the quality of writing, she added.

Palmer praised Christian publishers for recognizing the value of publishing Christian fiction, including Tyndale House, Zondervan, Bethany and Word.

Palmer has written the "Prairie anthology" of fiction books, the latest of which is "Prairie Storm."

Set in Kansas shortly after the Civil War, "Prairie Storm" typifies the powerful message of today's Christian romances, Palmer said. The main female character is a bitter woman whose abusive upbringing in a supposedly Christian home embitters her against God.

In contrast, Palmer said, the main male character is a young cowboy who knows nothing about the Christian faith until he attends a tent revival service and comes to a personal relationship with Christ. The book details the Holy Spirit's work in bringing these differing lives into a relationship with each other and with God.

"This series is primarily about God's healing transforming people's lives," Palmer said. "Christian romance is basically the story of the Christian marriage foundation. ... They're written with the element of faith."

Terri Blackstock is another writer who spent many years as a popular secular author before writing Christian fiction. She credits a "spiritual awakening" for her move into the genre. "When I was in the secular market, I was not walking with the Lord. I think God just tapped some of us on the shoulder and said, 'Come over here.'"

Blackstock's books have sold more than 3.5 million copies worldwide. She became a Christian at age 14, but only in recent years has she dedicated her talents specifically to writing in the Christian market.

"I now see my role in the fiction arena as that of challenging other Christians to

strive to be more like Him and continue the work that He started," Blackstock said. "At the same time, I hope to write powerful enough stories that unbelievers will be drawn to them, as well, and find their way to Jesus Christ."

Zondervan Publishers recently released her latest book, "Seasons Under Heaven," the first of two books Blackstock has co-authored with popular Christian speaker Beverly LaHaye. The book details the lives of four women and how their love, faith and friendship take them through various situations in life.

Palmer said she feels rejuvenated since she started writing books with spiritual substance.

"It's been so fantastic to see the way the Lord has worked in my life. I get mail from young women, even 13-year-olds," Palmer added. "They're reading Christian books, books that teach values. They aren't just reading—they're learning."



## PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Missionary Leora Russo as she waits in Kenya to receive a work permit to enter Tanzania to teach biblical languages at the international seminary there.

■ Volunteer construction teams to work on the Farmington Conference Center in Farmington, Maine. Current needs include shingling the roof, clearing a nearby forest to make room for a ball field and repainting a house on the property.

■ Huduma House, a ministry to women in Tanzania in which women learn to quilt.

■ Church planter William Galloway as he begins a church in Waterville, Maine.

## Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Shirley Wooton

■ ALLEGRE—Mt. Tabor Church called Loyd Nash as pastor.

■ AUBURN—Auburn Church called Steve Sansom as music minister and Robbie McLellan as youth minister. Gary Hughes is pastor.

Mt. Tabor Church called Kenny Paster as pastor.

■ BARDSTOWN—New Salem Church called Chris Holmes, a student at Southern Seminary, as music minister. Bruce Treon is pastor.

■ BELFRY—Belfry Church will celebrate its 60th anniversary Sept. 25-26. A homecoming concert with Gold City and The Copleys will be Sept. 25, 7:30 p.m. Homecoming worship services on Sept. 26 will be at Belfry High School. Bob Norman will speak, with special music by Lois Jane Huddleston. For information or tickets, call (606) 353-4645. Steve Rice is pastor.

■ CADIZ—Rock Front Church will host revival services Sept. 17-21. Harold Greenfield will speak. Billy Hart is pastor.

■ FORT MITCHELL—Fort Mitchell Church will host Gen. Vyacheslav Borisov, deputy chief commander of the Soviet Union's troops in its war with Afghanistan, Sept. 22, 7 p.m. For information, call (606) 331-2160. French Harmon is pastor.

■ JEFFERSONTOWN—First Church will celebrate Town and Women's Day Sept. 19. Services will be at 8 a.m., with speaker Lizzie Miller of New Zion Church; 10:45 a.m. Johnnie Clark,

pastor of Burnette Avenue Church; 4 p.m., Bruce Shaw, pastor of Pleasant View Church. Thurmond Coleman is pastor.

■ JENKINS—First Church will host revival services Sept. 19-22. Sunday services at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., week night services at 7 p.m. The evangelist will be Tony Brown of First Church Whitesburg. Steven Mayle is pastor.

■ LEXINGTON—Leon Greer, recently retired pastor of Parkway Church, is available for interims, revivals or supply. Call (606) 744-2890.

■ MURRAY—Terry Ellis, pastor at First Church, resigned to accept the pastorate of Spring Hill Church, Mobile, Ala.

■ OWENSBORO—Bellevue Church will host "Marriage Makers" Sept. 24-25. For information, call (502) 685-5103. Greg Faulls is pastor.

■ PADUCAH—First Church called Tony Price as music minister. Kevin McCallon is pastor.

■ SOMERSET—First Church called Paul Chitwood as pastor. Chitwood was pastor of First Church, Owenton and is a student at Southern Seminary.

■ RUSSELLVILLE—Grace Church called Bobby Forshee as pastor.

■ SCHOCHOH—Whippoorwill Church called John Wise as pastor and Butch Marshall as music minister.

■ TINY TOWN—Tiny Town Church called Scott Hughes as pastor.

■ TRENTON—Trenton Church called Dean Anderson as pastor.

## Christiansburg Baptist Church plans bicentennial celebration

BAGDAD—Christiansburg Baptist Church in Bagdad will celebrate its bicentennial with a three-day celebration Oct. 15-17.

Doug Sturgeon, pastor since January, said he's been learning the church's history both from minutes of meetings and doctrinal statements from the congregation.

Sturgeon said he discovered that African-Americans were welcomed in the early 19th century in what now is a predominant Anglo church. "Evidently many of them were slaves."

The building currently in use by the church was built in three phases, the pastor said. The main building was constructed in 1856. A second phase was built in the 1940s and the latest section was finished in 1994—built with the help of members and Baptist Builders teams.

"The original building has two front entrances—one for the men and one for the women—and a side entrance was used by the African-American members, so obviously there's been a lot of changes," he said.

The church maintains its connection with African-American Christians by holding joint worship services annually with nearby Centennial Baptist Church, Sturgeon said.

"In more recent times, the church has been a typical country church, with its ups and downs in attendance," Sturgeon said. Attendance has been growing recently, he added, with an average attendance of 85 people on Sunday morning. The church has 185 resident active members and 237 non-resident members, he said.

For more information, call Sturgeon at (502) 239-0889.

## Power Team gets response in Greensburg

GREENSBURG—A total of 200 people professed faith in Christ during an evangelistic emphasis in Greensburg last month that featured the Power Team.

The Power Team is a Dallas-based group that combines strength exhibitions with testimonies of their faith in Christ.

An average of 800 people attended each evening of the Aug. 25-29 event, which was held in a tent near the sponsoring church, Bethlehem Baptist. In

addition to the 200 professions of faith, another 186 people expressed other types of spiritual decisions.

"It was tremendous," said Bethlehem Pastor Gary Ervin. "I've seen a lot of evangelistic outreach, but I've never seen anything that gets the attention of young people like this does."

Founded 20 years ago by John Jacobs, Power Team members perform feats such as bending steel bars, lifting tree trunks over their heads and breaking blocks of concrete with their fists.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**SEEKING:** Part-time worship leader for Allen First Baptist Church to lead the choir and congregation in active praise and worship. Send resumé to: Worship Leader, First Baptist Church, PO Box 541, Allen, KY 41601.

**SEEKING:** WMU associate for adults. Position requires knowledge of WMU; commitment to missions education; master's degree. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. In order to be given full consideration, applications should be received by Oct. 15. Send resumé with references to: Personnel Committee, Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, PO Box 436569, Louisville, KY 40253.

**SEEKING:** Bagdad Baptist Church has an opening for a youth minister. Qualifications would include: energetic, creative and disciplined person; experienced in creative ministry. Seminary and college students welcome to apply. Send resumé to: Bagdad Baptist Church, c/o Carol Cox, PO Box 8, Bagdad, KY 40003.

**SEEKING:** Florida Baptist Children's Home is looking for Christian couples who have a God-given desire to join our ministries in Jacksonville, Tallahassee, Miami, Fort Myers and Lakeland to offer love and guidance to children and youth who are in our care. These couples would live in a cottage and supervise the young people in everyday living with support from a team of other staff. For application, call Carl Willis, program administrator, (941) 687-8811. You also may e-mail to fbch400@aol.com. Why not follow God's leading to a rewarded ministry?

**SEEKING:** Alton Baptist Church is receiving resumé for the position of part-time minister of music. Send resumé: Attn: Pastor, 1321 Bypass N, Lawrenceburg, KY 40342.

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

**SEEKING:** Piano musician. We are a growing church with adult and children's choirs. Our worship includes contemporary and traditional music. Approximately five hours per week; pay is negotiable. Located in Bullitt County, 30 miles south of Louisville and 14 miles west of Bardstown directly across from Bernh Forest. Contact Greg Crenshaw collect, (502) 543-8477.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of music/youth for First Baptist Church, Earlington, Ky. Send resumé to: Search Committee, First Baptist Church, PO Box 155, Earlington, KY 42410.

**SEEKING:** Dry Ridge Baptist Church is seeking a part-time minister of music. This position would consist of 10 to 15 hours per week. Dry Ridge is a growing church in a growing area. If interested you may send your resumé to: Rev. Willie Ailstock, Dry Ridge Baptist Church, PO Box 14, Dry Ridge, KY 41035.

**SEEKING:** Part-time youth minister for Graefenburg Baptist Church (Shelby County, Ky.). Resumé should be sent to: Personnel Committee, Graefenburg Baptist Church, 11288 Frankfort Road, Waddy, KY 40076.

**SEEKING:** Blackjack Baptist Church, Franklin, Ky., a rural church with approximately 100 in Sunday school, is prayerfully seeking a full-time pastor. Please contact: Weston Smith, 220 Turnertown Road, Franklin, KY 42134; (270) 586-7466.

**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) 426-2444 for further information or application.

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

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

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of music and senior adults. Send resumé to: Minister of Music Search Committee, Burlington Baptist Church, PO Box 48, Burlington, KY 41005. (606) 586-6529.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of youth and children. Minimum education and experience required. Send resumé to: Calhoun Baptist Church, PO Box 283, Calhoun, KY 42327. Deadline is Sept. 30.

**SEEKING:** Fern Creek Baptist Child Development Center is looking for a teacher for the three-year preschool program. Hours are 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Requirements: College degree preferred; high school diploma required; experience working with preschool children a plus; love for children; ability to be flexible. Benefits: Competitive hourly wage; paid holidays; free tuition for children; state-certified training provided; pleasant, positive work environment; possibility of additional hours, if desired. It is the goal of this child development center to provide the community of Fern Creek with a quality program at a reasonable cost to families. The center is certified by the Kentucky Cabinet of Human Resources. Interested people should contact Debbie Grobandt, (502) 239-0316, or send resumé to: Fern Creek Baptist Child Development Center, PO Box 91146, Louisville, KY 40291.

**FOR RENT:** One- or two-bedroom apartment; adult community (Louisville); quiet complex; bus line; laundry facility; newly renovated. Call (502) 449-2522.

**FOR SALE:** 36 solid oak padded pews, eight feet long. \$100 each. Will sell all or separate. Contact Liberty Baptist Church, Princeton, Ky., (270) 388-7398 or 388-7878.

# PEOPLE

## Dunn wraps up 20 years defending church-state wall

By Adelle Banks  
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—James Dunn, a religious liberty advocate who has worked the corridors of Washington power for two decades, says he doesn't get fired up about "In God We Trust" on coins or "Under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Instead, he says, he's carefully picked his battles on Capitol Hill and around the country as the executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

Vouchers, school prayer and "invincible ignorance" about church-state separation are the kinds of issues that get his attention.

"There are still people who think that when we say we want separation of church and state ... we mean we don't want God in public life," Dunn said. "What we mean by it, on the other hand, is that the institutions of religion and the institutions of government are separate."

Sitting in his office not far from the U.S. Capitol and the Supreme Court, Dunn recently reflected on his role representing Baptist groups that currently include four African-American Baptist denominations as well as German, Swedish and Seventh Day Baptists.

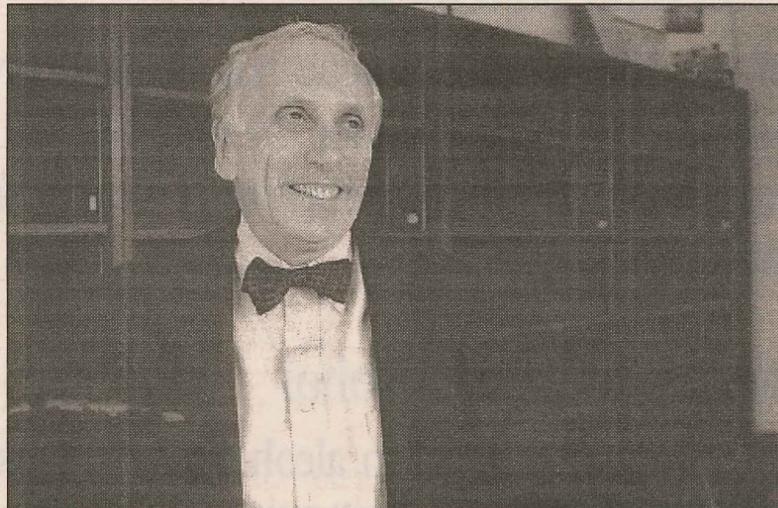
On Sept. 1, Dunn, 67, moved from the role of executive director of the committee to being its chief fund-raiser as president of the Baptist Joint Committee Foundation. He also will serve as a visiting professor of Christianity and public policy at Wake Forest Divinity School in Winston-Salem, N.C.

In his emptying office, but still adorned with his favorite portrait of the crucified Jesus, Dunn said the spark of his passion for religious freedom came in his native Fort Worth, Texas, where he grew up the son of a milkman.

A seminary professor teaching a class at his Southern Baptist church helped him as a teenager to grasp the Baptist notion of "soul freedom," and Dunn never let go.

"Religion is a transaction between you and God," Dunn said in his Texas drawl. "It's personal and voluntary and if it's not personal and voluntary, it's not worth anything."

Dunn believes some of the successes he's helped the committee achieve include legislation upholding those kinds of religious freedoms. He points to the Equal Access Amendment of 1984, which allows students to gather



**OVER & DUNN** James Dunn stands in front of the empty bookshelves in the office of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs he is vacating after 20 years of lobbying in Washington on behalf of religious liberty. Dunn has been an ardent advocate of a high wall of separation between church and state. (RNS photo by Carl Bower)

for prayer before and after the school day and was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1990.

"That proves that the school is not required to rule out all religions, that public schools are not religion-free zones," he said.

One of Dunn's most visible battles was with the Southern Baptist Convention, which was once represented by the committee but chose to defund the group in 1991.

His friends marvel at how Dunn managed to handle what turned into a major controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention, which was in the midst of ideological battles between moderates and conservatives.

"I think he handled it in a remarkably mature way," said Grady Cothen, retired president of the SBC Sunday School Board. "Attempts at defunding had been under way for a number of years, principally because he refused to take instructions from the fundamentalists who had taken over the SBC."

One of the issues at the time was the desire on the part of conservatives to ascertain the Baptist Joint Committee's stance on abortion.

Richard Land, the Southern Baptist leader who now has the responsibilities Dunn once had, said Dunn never responded to requests from SBC leaders to detail the group's stand.

"He refused to answer it, which is one reason why I have his assignment and his money allocation and he doesn't," said Land, president of the

SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

Jimmy Allen, former SBC president and chaplain in Big Canoe, Ga., said control, not abortion, was the bottom-line issue in the dispute.

"I think the losing of the funding from the SBC was an inevitable direction for the Southern Baptist leadership," said Allen, who was president of the largest Protestant denomination in the late 1970s before more conservative leadership took over. "They were looking for any occasion and an unsent letter is as good an occasion as they could find."

The committee lost 51 percent of its budget, Dunn said, preventing some staff members from cashing paychecks for a time.

Dunn, who no longer describes himself as a Southern Baptist, said that since that time, the committee has been supported by individual Southern Baptist churches and state Baptist conventions in addition to other Baptist groups.

"We really haven't skipped a beat," said Aidsand Wright-Riggins, chairman of the board of the committee. "Through his leadership we've been able to recoup the losses that were made from the withdrawal of the Southern Baptist Convention and moved even farther along the journey."

Despite his troubles with Southern Baptist leaders, Dunn is credited with success in building bridges with a variety of groups, Baptist and otherwise.

Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, called Dunn "as skilled a practitioner as anybody in town" at bringing together disparate religious groups for a particular cause.

Dunn's favorite example of "single-issue coalitions" is the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, known as RFRA, which sought to restrict governments from interfering with religious practice.

"There's no one beyond the pale," he said. "On the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, we had Tim and Beverly LaHaye and we had the Christian Coalition and we had the Mormon Church."

Now, he and a variegated coalition are working to enact the Religious Liberty Protection Act because the U.S. Supreme Court struck down RFRA and ruled Congress overstepped its powers

### Vintage 'Dunn-isms'

WASHINGTON (RNS)—James Dunn is called the "cowboy poet of religious liberty" by his colleague Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for the Separation of Church and State.

Here are some examples of what Dunn has said about church-state issues:

■ The notion of a "naked public square" with no religion. "We don't have a naked public square. All the politicians talk more about God than they ever have. ... If anything the public square is overdressed. We've got more religion. I mean, they got on a fur coat in Houston in August. We've got more religion than we've ever had in the public square."

■ School prayer. "It'll brew from now on because it's a political issue. It's a leap-year issue. Every presidential election year, it'll come up because politicians, cynical mortals that they be, will use religion to try to trump their opponents. They always try to say, 'I'm the most godly. I'm the most religious.'"

■ Ambassador to the Vatican. "I think it's a wrong-headed unconstitutional misappropriation of funds. Other than that, it's probably OK."

■ Religious Freedom Restoration Act. "If we're going to have free exercise. ... there has to be some trip wire, some trigger, some legal mechanism that guarantees it and the Religious Freedom Restoration Act was an attempt to explicitly spell that out."

■ Pending threats to church-state separation. "The biggest one is the massive, massive pool of invincible ignorance and greed and selfishness and institutional advancement and racism that fuels the push for vouchers."

"I have yet to meet a Yankee who understands the degree to which fundamentalist churches trying to get their children out of the public school system because they have to go to school with all races is behind this voucher push. I have yet to meet a religious leader—including my best friends in the separatist community—who's willing to say that a lot of the push for vouchers is a greedy grab by the Roman Catholic school systems and by their bishops."

■ The notion of a "melting pot." "I don't like the language about melting pot. Nobody got melted. Their identity wasn't destroyed. ... 'Tossed salad' is better than melting pot."

■ Choosing his battles. "We don't get terribly bent out of shape about some things that are probably in the most, most technical sense church-state violations—a chaplain in the Senate and the House, 'In God We Trust' on the coin, 'Under God' in the Pledge of Allegiance, a creche on the courthouse lawn. ... I think they're minor. ... They have very little to do with vital faith. 'In God We Trust' on the coin never sent anybody to hell or made anybody a Christian. ... I just don't get all bent out of shape over those things."

■ President Bill Clinton. "He's been the best president in American history—unless you want to include, say, Mr. Madison—on church-state issues. ... He understands what's wrong with vouchers. He has understood what's wrong with using religion to accomplish government goals or using government to accomplish religious goals."

in enacting it.

"Those coalitions change like those doodads in a kaleidoscope," he said. "The way to be politically effective is to muster the master list of everybody who agrees on that particular issue."

After 20 years, Dunn said the controversy that's come with his position became a fact of life.

"I speak to Baptists about the Baptist role internally and externally and because I do that, it is controversial," he said. "Controversy is an inevitable corollary or by-product of taking any kind of clear and firm position in our pluralistic culture."

### Dunn earns ABP recognition

NEW YORK (ABP)—James Dunn received the Religious Liberty Award from Associated Baptist Press Sept. 2.

ABP directors have given the award each year since 1994 to an individual whose achievements advance the principles and practices of religious freedom.

In ceremonies at the Freedom Forum's Maxwell Media Studies Center in New York City, Dunn was introduced by broadcast journalist Bill Moyers, who described Dunn as "one of my closest friends; a brother."

Moyers said the Baptist insistence on religious freedom for all might be the denomination's greatest contribution to American life. "Baptists like James Dunn have put us and kept us on the right side of history," he said.

Moyers said it is fitting that a news organization like ABP should honor a religious liberty champion like Dunn.

"If religious liberty rises from the ground of a free conscience, so does a free press," he said. "People will make the right decision if they are informed and free."

# TEMPERANCE LEAGUE OF KENTUCKY

## Mission Statement

From its inception, the purpose of the Temperance League has been to provide a spiritual ministry by extending the work of the church in concern for the total welfare of mankind, and by urging Christian action on moral issues, with special emphasis on correcting the problems caused by the use of alcohol as a beverage.

## The Truth about Alcohol

- ◆ In 1998, there were 15,936 people killed in alcohol-related crashes.
- ◆ In 1998, 38.4 percent of the total traffic fatalities were alcohol-related.
- ◆ In 1997, there were 16,189 people killed in alcohol-related crashes.
- ◆ In 1997, 38.6 percent of the total traffic fatalities were alcohol-related. (National Highway Transportation Safety Administration Fatal Analysis Reporting System, 1999)
- ◆ In the past decade, four times as many Americans died in drunk-driving crashes as were killed in the Vietnam War. (NHTSA, 1995)

## The Truth about Gambling

*Myth: Gambling is a painless source of new revenue.*

**Fact:** Gambling is regressive; the poor are the hardest hit.

*Myth: Gambling will stimulate business growth.*

**Fact:** Gambling revenue is generated at the expense of other businesses.

## *What can one person do?*

- ◆ Get the facts.
- ◆ Share the facts.
- ◆ Contact your legislators.
- ◆ Register and vote.

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