

September 21, 1999
Vol. 173, No. 37

FOR THE RECORD

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FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Victims of the nation's latest shooting rampage include several students at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Among the seven people killed when Larry Gene Ashbrook opened fire Sept. 15 in Wedgwood Baptist Church were Shawn Brown, 23, who was studying to be a youth minister; Kim Jones, 23, a first-year seminary student; and Sydney Browning, 36, a Fort Worth teacher and children's choir director at Wedgwood who graduate from Southwestern in 1991.

Others killed in the attack were four youth, ages 14 to 17, who were among 200 people attending an area-wide rally being held in conjunction with "See You at the Pole." Ashbrook, 47, also killed himself.

Among seven others who were injured were Jeff Laster, a diploma student at Southwestern who was a custodian at the church, and Kevin Gale, a doctoral student who was minister of counseling at the church.

Southwestern Seminary officials said the church was popular with seminary students. The seminary's Baptist Counseling Service was made available to the community the morning after the shooting.

Witnesses inside the church said they thought the shootings were a joke since a skit was planned later in the evening as part of the activity. The mostly teen audience, listening to a Christian band and singing, was told to shut up by the gunman. When he started firing, churchgoers dived for cover beneath pews as he splattered the sanc-

tuary with bullets. He stopped to reload several times, witnesses said, as he spewed anti-Christian rhetoric.

"It looked like a skit; it looked like something out of a movie," said Bethany Williams, 16, whose purse was splattered with blood. "I thought it was a fake gun making fake noises."

Activities were going on in several parts of the building, including choir practices and mission activities. The church is located in a residential area in the southwest section of Fort Worth.

A youth group from Southwayside Baptist Church, Fort Worth, was sitting near the back when the shooting began.

Adam Hammond, a first-year seminary student and the church's youth minister, yelled, "Get down, this is real" as teens hit the floor to take shelter under the pews.

"I didn't know if my youth were OK and I felt totally helpless," Hammond said. "I just kept praying."

Within minutes, he said, a young girl just behind his youth group was shot in the back and soon a trail of blood covered the floor and then his clothes.

"When the first round was done I heard the clip hit the floor and he reloaded," Hammond recalled. "The next thing I knew one of my youth stood up and said 'Sir, I know what you need, you need Jesus Christ in your life,'" Hammond said, amazed at the bravery of the 19-year-old. Ashbrook responded with a muffled comment about why the boy was standing when the youth continued, "I know where I'm going when I die, what about you?" Then, a pause. The gunman sat down on the

□ See Seminary students ..., page 6

KBC relief teams join hurricane response efforts

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP)—As Hurricane Floyd closed in on the South Carolina coast last week, Southern Baptist disaster relief teams already were responding in force to refugees participating in what has been termed the largest-ever peacetime evacuation in U.S. history.

The evacuation included residents of coastal Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina. The scale of the effort resulted from the large size of the storm and its path parallel to the coast.

A 21-member team of Kentucky Baptist disaster relief volunteers was among the first Southern Baptist disaster relief workers called out to help with relief efforts.

The Kentuckians set up a feeding station Sept. 16 in Wilson, N.C., and later cleaned homes damaged by flooding and helped remove fallen trees.

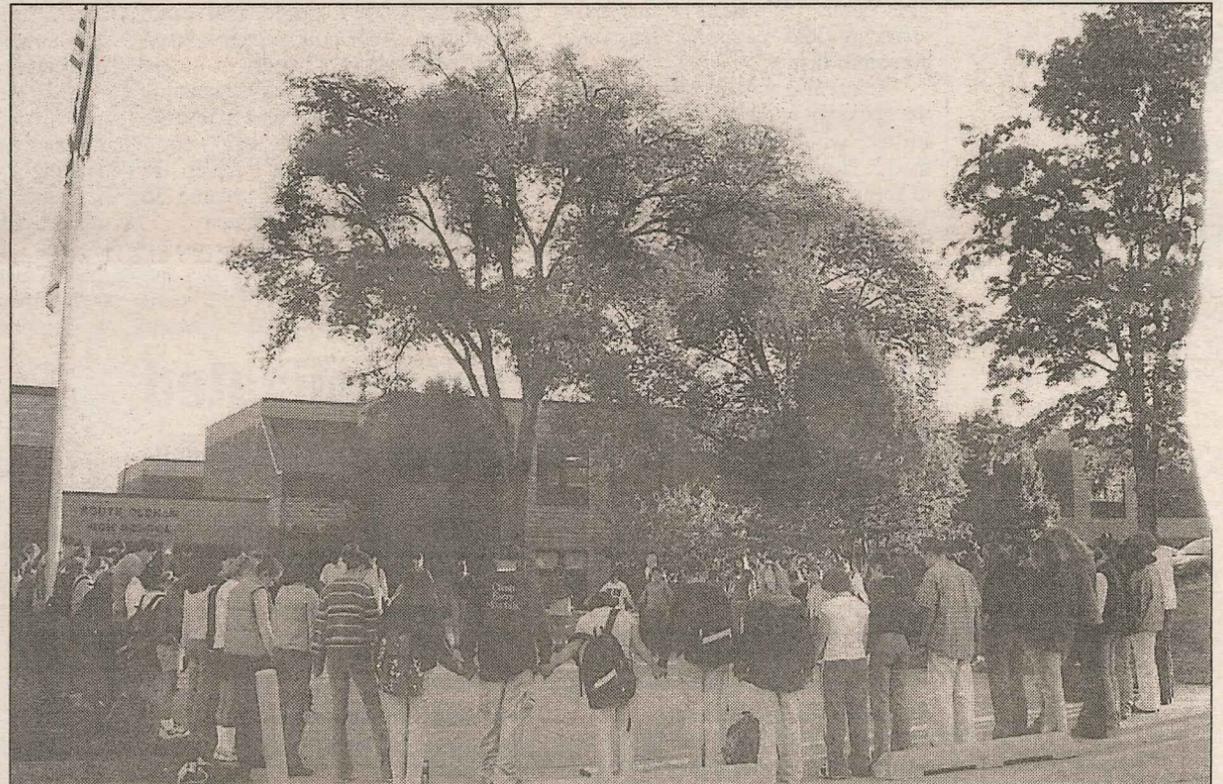
The initial team was joined by about 30 additional Kentucky volunteers the following day.

Baptist disaster relief units from Georgia, Illinois, Missouri, South Carolina and Tennessee also were deployed.

Eighteen shelters in South Carolina were manned by Southern Baptists under the direction of the American Red Cross, and many other shelters in both Georgia and South Carolina were set up in Southern Baptist churches.

"It's to the point where people are knocking on doors of churches and asking, 'Can we stay here?'" said Mickey Caison, national coordinator for Southern Baptist Disaster Relief and an adult volunteer mobilization associate for the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board.

Information is available through www.namb.net/dr or by calling (800) 462-8657.



SCHOOL PRAYER An estimated 150 students gathered Sept. 15 outside South Oldham High School in Crestwood as part of the national "See You at the Pole" prayer emphasis. Millions of students meet each fall to pray for their schools, friends and teachers.

Today's youth affirm call to discipleship

By Pat Cole
Staff Writer

Youth ministry is no longer the sole responsibility of a specialized church staff member, according to youth ministry experts.

Instead, adult volunteers and the youth themselves are investing more time and energy in youth ministry and outreach.

"We seem about ready to rediscover the biblical pattern that church staff leaders primarily serve to equip the saints for the work of ministry," said Richard Ross, youth ministry consultant with LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

In previous decades, youth ministry volunteers simply helped a paid youth minister with youth ministry. "Now we are seeing the youth minister calling out, training, equipping and inspiring volunteers for their ministries," Ross said.

Ross and his colleagues teach a Lead Team Strategy that creates a team of volunteer leaders, parents and youth that is responsible for a congregation's youth

ministry. Randy Record, youth evangelism associate for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, agreed that youth ministers cannot carry the entire burden for ministry with teenagers.

"Youth ministers can't do it all,"

said Record, who until recently was youth minister at Lone Oak Baptist Church in Paducah. "We must have our students be youth ministers on campus. We must multiply ourselves."

Record believes non-Christian students can best be evangelized by their Christian peers. In his role with the state convention, Record is working full-time on instituting First Priority, a youth ministry strategy that focuses on teenagers evangelizing their friends at school.

"It's not a Bible club," he explained. "It's an evangelism strategy that any Christian club can use."

Christian clubs are permissible in public schools as long as the clubs meet the requirements of the federal Equal Access Law that allows extracurricular campus organizations to

□ See Today's youth ..., page 8

**Youth
ministry
in the 21st century**

Moving? See page 4 (0921)

BAPTISTS

Coppenger fired by Midwestern Seminary trustees

"God is in control, and I am looking forward to the next thing. I wish the best for Midwestern, and I will be cheering from the sidelines."

Mark Coppenger, fired president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

By Herb Hollinger
Baptist Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)—A majority of trustees of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary voted to fire embattled President Mark Coppenger Sept. 14, concluding that Coppenger's expressions of anger have "irreparably damaged his ability to lead this seminary." His dismissal was effective immediately.

The announcement by trustee chairman Carl Weiser followed about 13 hours of closed-door sessions Sept. 13-14 by 29 trustees. Following the lengthy executive session, Weiser opened the meeting to the media shortly after noon Sept. 14 and recognized trustee Gary Peek of Mississippi who moved to "dismiss Mark Coppenger immediately." Weiser announced the secret ballot vote was a majority for the motion but declined to publicly disclose the vote count. "We need to move forward," he told reporters. "This was a personnel matter."

Weiser also announced he would be the spokesman on the matter and that trustees would not be available to the media. He said he had instructed them to reply "no comment" when asked. Violations of that policy by trustees would be dealt with "very seriously," he added. Trustees then reconvened their closed-door executive session.

Later that afternoon, trustees again

opened their meeting and Missouri trustee Robert Collins made a motion to name Michael Whitehead the seminary's "acting president." Whitehead currently is Midwestern's vice president for business affairs and assistant professor of church and law.

Weiser, pastor of Hyland Heights Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Va., called for a vote and ruled the motion was approved unanimously. Weiser told Whitehead, "We have confidence in your leadership. You have our support."

Then Kent Cochran, a trustee from Missouri, moved that the trustees' executive committee bring a recommendation for a "severance package" for Coppenger to the regularly-scheduled trustee board meeting in October.

He said Coppenger's present compensation would continue until that meeting. In a second part to his motion, Cochran asked the executive committee to bring a recommendation for a "presidential search committee." Both motions passed unanimously in a show of hands.

In a news conference following the trustee meeting, Weiser said an investigation began in June regarding complaints about Coppenger's anger. He noted that the dismissal created an "enormous hurt" for the seminary.

"After hours of agonizing discussion and interviews with Dr. Coppenger and vice presidents, a majority of the board concluded that the expressions of anger



Coppenger

admitted to by Dr. Coppenger had irreparably damaged his ability to lead the seminary," the trustee chairman said.

Weiser praised Coppenger for "four years of outstanding" creativity and progress at the seminary. Coppenger, 51, was elected in 1995 as the third president of Midwestern. Enrollment has risen from 494 students in 1995 to about 700 students this fall.

Coppenger said through a spokesman that he had no comment on the firing. He did tell the Kansas City Star, in an article published the day after his dismissal, that "God is in control, and I am looking forward to the next thing. I wish the best for Midwestern, and I will be cheering from the sidelines."

A seminary spokesman said Coppenger and his family plan to move to Nashville, Tenn., Sept. 25.

Twenty-nine of the 35 members of the board were in attendance at the special called meeting, just one month before the regularly scheduled Oct. 18-19 meeting.

The special meeting was called for by 15 trustees who wanted to discuss questions surrounding Coppenger's leadership. A previously scheduled Aug. 26-27 executive committee meeting was cancelled while trustee leaders made arrangements for the special meeting.

During the board's closed sessions, trustees talked to a number of staff people and a former trustee board chairman. Trustees also had two sessions with Coppenger.

At a news conference following the

meeting Whitehead said he was "grieved in the loss of a colleague and the death of the vision Mark had for the seminary."

"It's a deep hurt, I'm deeply concerned for Mark," Whitehead said, adding that he hoped the transition will be "smooth and respectful."

He met with seminary faculty in a closed meeting later that afternoon. A special chapel for Midwestern students was held Sept. 15 to allow seminary officials to speak to the students.

Whitehead, an attorney, previously served as general counsel for the SBC Christian Life Commission (now the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission). Asked at the news conference if he would accept the presidential post if offered by the trustees, Whitehead said he was not a typical person for that position since he is not a theologian and has never taken a seminary class but that he would pray about it if asked.

Before assuming Midwestern's presidency, Coppenger had been vice president for convention relations for the SBC Executive Committee since early 1991. He served the previous two years as executive director of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana; six years as a philosophy professor at Wheaton College near Chicago; and earlier was pastor of First Baptist Church in El Dorado, Ark.

He also served 30 years in the Army Reserve and National Guard and had been a lieutenant colonel assigned to the Army's Office of Public Affairs at the Pentagon.

Husband-wife team nominated to lead CBF missions program

ATLANTA (ABP)—Veteran missionaries Gary and Barbara Baldrige will be nominated to lead the global missions program of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

If elected, the couple will serve as co-coordinators of the Fellowship's 125-person missionary force and the Atlanta-based missions staff.

Barbara Baldrige will be the first woman to fill a top administrative posi-

tion in the Fellowship. The couple will share equally in the coordinator's duties, said Sanford Smith of Greensboro, N.C., search committee chairman.

The committee will recommend the couple for election by the Fellowship's Coordinating Council in Atlanta Oct. 14. They would replace Keith Parks, who retired in June. Gary Baldrige has been serving as interim global missions coordinator.

Arizona Baptist Foundation fires 72 employees to help cut costs

PHOENIX (BP)—In the latest move by directors of the troubled Baptist Foundation of Arizona, 72 employees were laid off Sept. 10, helping the agency reduce its "overhead by more than 50 percent in a very short period of time."

In a Sept. 13 letter to 13,000 investors, trustee chairman Berry Norwood said, "One sad, but necessary part of our duty to investors was laying off 72 out of 133 employees."

"We deeply regret the need to let good people go, but know it is important to retain no more than the staff necessary to operate the organization during this time of transition."

Another component of the cost-cutting plan will be closure of BFA's Youngtown and Tucson, Ariz., offices in the near future. The letter sought to assure investors that none of the cutbacks would affect BFA's ability to provide them with critical services in support of their investments.

More than 13,000 investors with more than \$483 million in investment products are affected by an Aug. 10 Arizona Corporation Commission "cease-and-desist" order against the BFA. According to the order, the foundation or its affiliates sold securities from Arizona through misrepresentations, omissions of fact and engaged in business practices in violation of state law.

The BFA's three top executives voluntarily stepped down, on paid

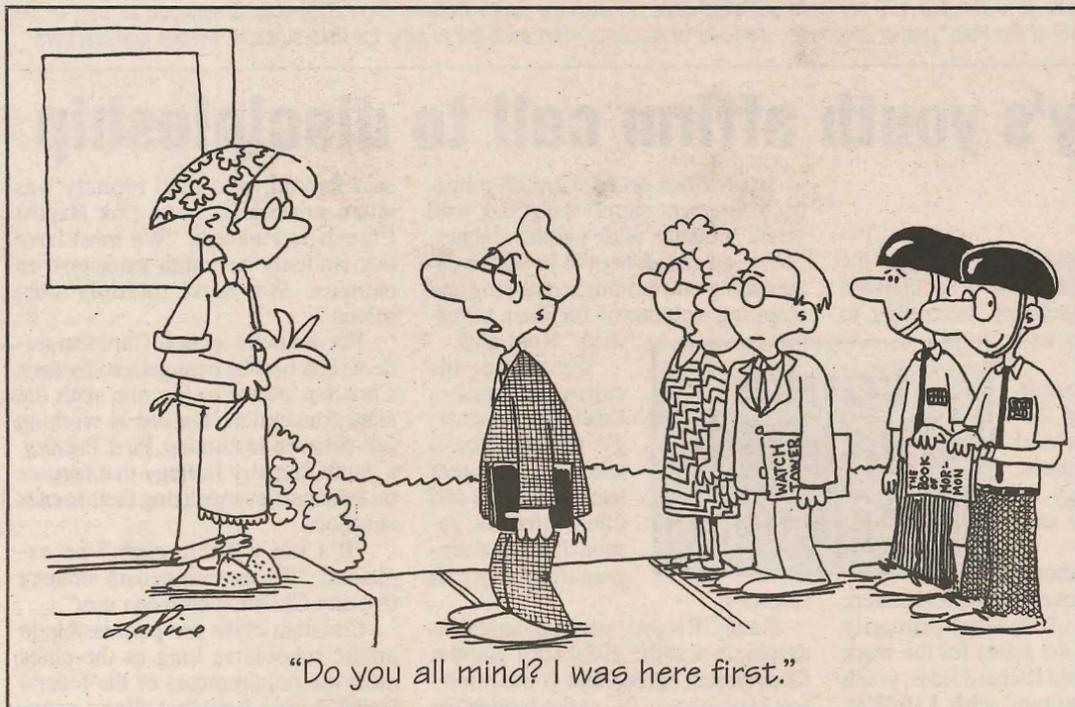
leave of absence, at that time and then on Aug. 26 were fired by the BFA board of directors. The directors instituted a new management team and, in cooperation with the state, told concerned investors a plan of action would be forthcoming in October.

The Arizona Southern Baptist Convention agency was sued in Maricopa County Superior Court in a class action lawsuit filed Aug. 27, and on Aug. 30 another suit was brought by a Phoenix-area Baptist pastor.

In the Sept. 11 letter, Norwood said the directors have designed a "wide-ranging plan that is expected to reduce BFA's annual overhead by more than 50 percent in a very short period of time." However, "none of the cutbacks will affect our ability to provide you with critical services in support of your investments."

BFA also reported it was still on schedule for October completion of a plan to deal fairly with all investors, and it was in the process of creating an advisory group of investors who will provide input directly to the board and management team.

Investors were told the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention had established "The Jerusalem Fund" as a relief effort. "The fund is completely independent of the BFA, created by caring individuals to help those of you facing real hardships as a result of not being able to access your investments," the letter told investors.



Experiencing God Weekends impact churches, prisons

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

MAYFIELD—David Parker reluctantly attended the first "Experiencing God Weekend" in a state prison three years ago. He didn't feel particularly compassionate toward inmates. But when the song leader played "When He Was on the Cross, I Was on His Mind," he felt a nudge.

Looking at a death-row inmate who reminded him of pictures of Charles Manson, he felt the Holy Spirit telling him, "Christ died on the cross for that man just like you."

"I went over to that inmate and put my arms around him," Parker said. "He started crying and I started crying. I felt God calling me to prison ministry the whole weekend. I never thought in a million years I would do this."

Parker, a member of First Baptist

Church of Madisonville, is one of thousands of Kentucky Baptists who have experienced the weekend study of the Experiencing God study course written by Henry Blackaby and Claude King.

Experiencing God encourages Christians to search for signs of God's activity so they can join Him in His work. It emphasizes seven realities about the Lord, such as how He speaks through the Bible, prayer, circumstances and other believers.

The weekend introduces people to the study, explained Lin Harris, co-director of the program for the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Brotherhood department.

It includes testimonies from the lay-led team that presents the material in churches, prisons, Baptist Student Unions and various retreats. They also teach about each of the seven realities and lead small-group sessions.

While the team leaves after the Sunday morning service, churches typically continue the weekend with testimonies that evening.

KBC Brotherhood Director Randy Foster said stories include people being called into missions and healing of marriages that were on the verge of divorce. But he doesn't receive any official reports.

"We know it's happening, we just don't have the documentation," he said. "But I think it's the most dynamic thing happening in the state. People are getting in a personal relationship with God and being moved to make practical application of it. I believe these weekends are going to reap a harvest we can't imagine."

"God laid His hand on the weekend and did more than it started out to be," agreed Mrs. Harris. "Pastors and church members tell us it's the best revival they've ever had."

Mrs. Harris and her husband, Frank, began leading the program after a group of Texas Baptist Men led a weekend at their church, Northside Baptist in Mayfield, in November of 1994.

Since then, volunteers have helped lead more than 120 events in Kentucky as well as several in other states. Two years ago Harris joined a group that led an event on the South American island of Tobago; 275 accepted Christ as Savior as a result, Mrs. Harris said.

"There really is no limit to it," Harris said. "We do our best not to box God in. It does focus people on God, especially churches that have a long history." Noting that people in such settings often say, "We've done it this way for so long," he added, "On the weekend they came face to face with the question, 'Is this the way God wants us to do it?'"

A prime example is a church in Wyoming. Although it helped establish more than 300 churches and missions, Mrs. Harris said, this activity stopped in the early 1970s. Since then, attendance had dwindled and members were frustrated and discouraged.

However, after Experiencing God, the congregation started a truck stop ministry and a mission.

Mrs. Harris said the weekend's key

lesson is a realization of the importance of a love relationship with God.

"If that love relationship is missing, everything else goes by the wayside," she said. "Once that love relationship is where it should be, God can use them. Once they find out what His will is, then they get a direction."

The pastor of a West Kentucky church that has added 100 members the past two years credits Experiencing God with spurring a continuing revival there.

After a weekend last March, more than 60 members dedicated themselves to being better servants of the Lord, said Michael Rust of Buena Vista Baptist Church in Owensboro.

In August, Sunday school attendance averaged more than 200 for the first time, he added. The event has led to a pair of upcoming Experiencing God studies and two weekday women's Bible studies.

"This was a major event in letting people experience God," he said. "I would encourage pastors to consider this emphasis in their church."

Cyndi Hayslett, volunteer program coordinator for Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women at Peewee Valley, said Experiencing God makes a major difference at the prison.

A recent weekend attracted 47 women, Hayslett said, compared to an average of 30 at other spiritual retreats. One reason it works is speakers share honestly about the changes Christ made in their lives without promising all problems will disappear, she said.

It also equips some participants with the power to remain committed to the Lord. A few who were touched on the first weekend a year ago are still strong in their faith, she said, which isn't easy.

"It's hard for people on the outside to understand the difficulty for people on the inside to hold on to a Christian walk," Hayslett said. "When you make a change for the better, everyone else in the yard tries to take it away from you."

According to Parker, one of the most rewarding aspects of the emphasis has been leading men behind bars to Christ.

"I've seen more people come to the Lord in prison than in my church life," he said.

BLUEGRASS BURGEOO

■ **Cumberland breaks ground.** Cumberland College will hold a groundbreaking ceremony Sept. 27 for a new residence hall for men. The ceremonial groundbreaking for Kleist Hall will be held at 10 a.m. during convocation in the Rollins Center. William McFadden, executive director of the Kleist Foundation, will be the featured speaker. The facility, expected to be completed in the fall of 2000, will house approximately 100 students.

■ **Georgetown to host lecture.** Georgetown College's annual Redding Lecture, named in honor of longtime Bible professor George Walker Redding, will be held Sept. 28 at 11 a.m. in John L. Hill Chapel. Guest speaker Molly Marshall, professor of theology and spiritual formation at Central Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Kan., will address the topic of New Testament spirituality.



VIVID REMINDER Crosses constructed in memory of the victims of the school shooting rampage in Littleton, Colo., were displayed during an area evangelistic crusade held recently in London.

Crusade exceeds expectations as 652 people accept Christ

By Pat Cole
Staff Writer

LONDON—A recent evangelistic crusade in southeast Kentucky led by Southern Baptist evangelist Rick Gage resulted in 652 professions of faith in Christ.

The event, which was scheduled for Aug. 29 to Sept. 1, was extended to include services on Sept. 2, 3 and 5. Total attendance for the crusade, held in the football stadium at North Laurel High School in London, was estimated at 20,000.

James Blaylock, pastor of London's Corinth Baptist Church, said his congregation was among 22 area churches involved in the crusade. Ten Southern Baptist churches were among those participating, he noted.

Blaylock called the crusade "the greatest spiritual event to occur in Laurel County in this decade."

The crusade featured testimonies by Hal Mumme, University of Kentucky head football coach, and Darrell Scott, whose daughter Rachel was among those killed in the shooting at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo., last spring.

"I loved my daughter very much, but I am thankful for what God has done through this tragedy to change the lives of many people," Scott said, according to an article in the London-Laurel News Journal. "And Rachel

would not want to be brought back today. She would not want to change any of the effect that her life and her death have had."

Organizers estimated that 5,200 people heard Scott's testimony. The crosses erected at Columbine as monuments to those killed in the shooting were displayed at the crusade the evening Scott spoke.

During the crusade, Gage and another Southern Baptist evangelist, Rick Stanley, spoke in 12 area schools, warning students about the dangers of drug and alcohol.

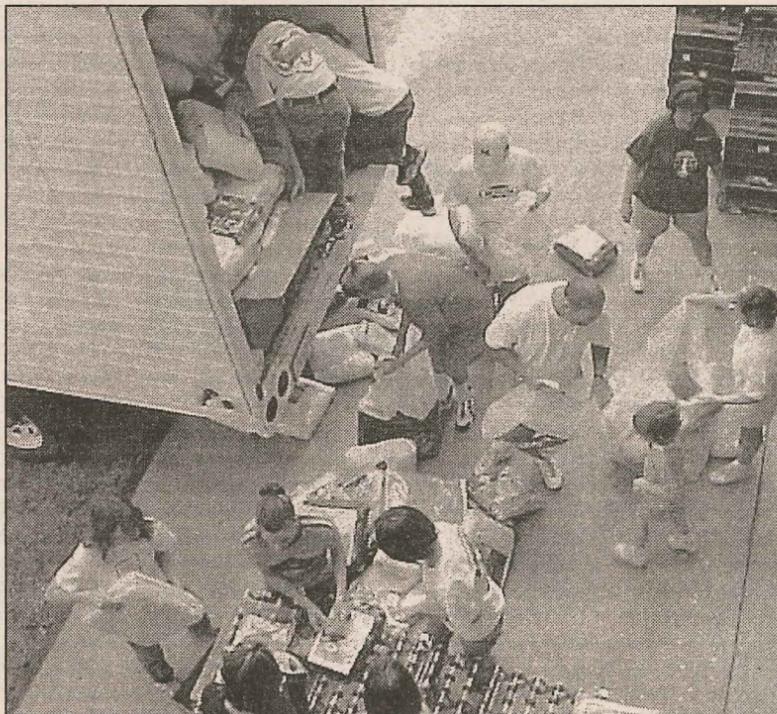
The crusade's effect on the spiritual life of the community continues, Blaylock said. "It had a phenomenal impact that's still being felt and we are reaping the benefits of it."

Blaylock said attendance at his church has been at the highest level since Easter. Area churches are working together to visit the home of every person who made a profession of faith at the crusade, he said.

In addition to those who made professions of faith, more than 400 publicly rededicated their lives to Christ.

While many churches were involved, Blaylock said the organization of the crusade was loose compared to some similar evangelistic efforts.

"God did what He did," Blaylock said. "It was not a man-made thing."



KOSOVO BLANKETS Kentucky Baptist volunteers in Franklin load blankets bound for Albanian refugees returning to Kosovo. Kentucky Baptists took more than 5,000 blankets to regional collection points throughout the state Sept. 8. Baptists in Kentucky participated with other Southern Baptists in the project coordinated by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board.

WESTERN RECORDER

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

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

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

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Internet offers global missions forum

By Erich Bridges

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Southern Baptist missionary Sam Jones is no computer nerd.

What's more, Jones and his wife, Rosalie, serve in Honduras—light years behind the Honduras in technology. They went there with little expectation of getting up to "Web speed" any time soon.

But now, with a little help from their computer-savvy adult children back home, the Joneses have their own Web site (www.onthewire.com/keepup/). It features Honduras missions news, prayer requests, photos and a hot button for creating instant e-mail to them. It's not fancy, but it's user-friendly and—most important—interactive.

Thousands of Web surfers have checked out the site since it came on-line last year. Many are seeking ways to help Jones, the Southern Baptist International Mission Board's volunteer project coordinator there, minister to still-suffering survivors of Hurricane Mitch.

As my kids would say: "Cool!" Were he alive today, the Apostle Paul might say the same thing. And if he were writing his epistles now, I bet he'd post 'em on the Internet.

During his sojourn in Athens, Paul welcomed an invitation from the city's philosophers—some of whom regarded him as an "idle babble"—to preach at the Areopagus. In that forum, "all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas" (Acts 17:21).

Sounds like the World Wide Web, an electronic ocean where waves of babble—and worse—cannot drown out deeper currents of knowledge and truth.

Half a century ago, Arthur C. Clarke—renowned scientist, inven-

tor and science-fiction author—predicted the coming of a sort of global library or "group mind." Anyone in the world, he said, would be able to survey the sum of human knowledge, contribute to it and address humanity.

Reality is overtaking Clarke's forecast.

"Who could have imagined the freedom of communication and access to enormous amounts of information we have now?" he recently observed. "Not even a crazy science fiction

writer like me. The computer revolution ... will continue to change society beyond recognition."

Begun as a crude network patching together a few university research computers, the Internet has become a global forum. The World Wide Web offers millions of sites. An estimated 10 billion e-mails per day shot back and forth last year. Since Internet traffic doubles every 100 days, that number is already badly out of date.

Lack of technology and free communication access still prevent millions of people from getting on-line—particularly in poor nations ruled by oppressive regimes, where people also are among the least-evangelized. But as economies become increasingly dependent on "cyber-commerce," access will soar.

"A network that can carry business contracts and currency transactions surely can carry a more precious cargo," said David Garrison, International Mission Board strate-

gy leader. "Today's communication networks may be the equivalent of the first century's Roman roads, allowing the gospel to stream into places where missionaries are restricted."

Here's a sampling of the many possibilities of "cyber-missions":

■ **Missions research and education:** The Web offers a staggering array of sites with information on unreached people groups, service opportunities, prayer requests, etc. Explore the International Mission Board Web site (www.imb.org).

■ **Mobilization:** Missionaries can contact churches at home—and vice versa—quickly, easily and cheaply. Interactivity is the key. Churches today want regular, direct, personal interchange with missionaries. With the Internet, they can get it. Want to e-mail an IMB missionary or sample missionary Web sites? Click on "Your Missionary Web site" at the IMB Web site.

■ **Direct evangelism:** "Today, in a matter of minutes, Timothy Abraham can share his testimony with devout Muslims in Egypt from his home in Bunn, N.C., simply by logging onto the Internet," wrote Lee Weeks in a recent issue of SBC Life. "Abraham, a former Muslim from Egypt (and student at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary), has led about 20 people to salvation in Christ over the Internet during the past two years."

No intrinsic spiritual power resides in the Web, of course. It is a tool—and only a tool—for good or evil. But what a tool! Harnessing its potential has become one of the key challenges of world missions.

Erich Bridges is a writer for the Southern Baptist International Mission Board

COMMENTARY

What are you thinking?

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

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

New president at Campbellsville

Campbellsville University has a new president, Mike Carter. It was a challenge for the search committee to find the right leader to follow Ken Winters, who led the university in her greatest days of numerical growth, and I believe the committee has done an excellent job.

Carter has several Kentucky family ties and grew up just across the state line in Huntington, W. Va. I had the privilege of being with him and his family recently at Saloma Baptist Church in Campbellsville for homecoming. He has a son in graduate school at Marshall University and a daughter who will remain in Jefferson City, Tenn., to complete her senior year. The youngest son has made a home for himself on the university campus. President Carter's wife, Debra Ann, hopes to utilize her teaching skills parttime in addition to making a home for the family.

Carter and John Chowning, assis-

tant to the president, also recently visited the Kentucky Baptist Convention building and met with the team leaders. Carter shared how God sovereignly led him each step to Campbellsville. He started with little interest in moving but God has led him in such a manner that he is confident of God's plan.

Carter spent one year in seminary following graduation from Marshall University. That summer a church near Huntington asked him to become their pastor and he did. After completing a master's degree at Marshall, he entered the Ph.D. degree program at Ohio State. He commuted for 18 months from Ohio State to preach each Sunday for the church until they could get a pastor. I am impressed with his high level of commitment to the local church.

In each conversation I have had with him, Carter has expressed appreciation for the outstanding leader-



Bill Mackey

ship and ministry of Winters during his 11-year presidency. He also gave thanks for the knowledge and assistance of Chowning.

The presidents of Campbellsville, Cumberland and Georgetown have an awesome challenge to raise \$6-8 million each year to keep the doors open and the learning experience dynamic and vital for eager students. I am grateful that Kentucky Baptists can help through their gifts through the Cooperative Program and other cooperative gifts. But the colleges and institutions could not survive without special gifts from individuals, grants from foundations and businesses, and planned giving through wills, trusts and estates.

They also need the support of Kentucky Baptists in encouraging students to attend Christian colleges and universities. This is an excellent time for churches and individuals to follow up on their commitments to Partnership 2000. Please pray for the presidents of all Kentucky institutions and especially for Carter as he begins his leadership at Campbellsville.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

FAMILY

Savings plan can produce major impact

By Jeremy White

Economic statistics for the past two months indicate Americans had a negative savings rate. In other words, we spent more than we earned.

The United States already had one of the

lowest savings rates among industrialized nations. Even in the midst of a prosperous economy, we are saving less.

Although the Bible does not advocate hoarding, Solomon wisely taught to watch the ant and how it sets aside food in the summer to use during the winter. Proverbs 21:20 adds, "In the house of the wise are stores of choice food and oil, but a foolish man devours all he has."

What are some advantages of having savings?

■ **When unexpected events happen, you do not go into debt.** You can essentially borrow from yourself, instead of a credit card or the bank.

■ **You earn more through the power of compounding.** You earn interest and then earn more interest on the interest previously earned.

■ **You can shop for best buys by purchasing with cash.** You are not dependent on financing plans offered.

■ **You have more freedom.** Remember the biblical principle that the borrower is slave to the lender.

Most people would agree with the idea of saving more, but the challenge is in the application. How can you save more?

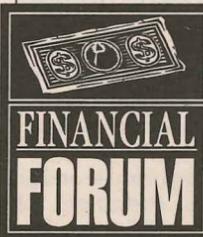
■ **Spend less.** This is the most obvious and the most difficult. It is, however, the quickest way within your control to begin to save.

■ **Save automatically and regularly.** Whatever amount you can, begin saving by automatic deductions from your payroll checks or your checking account. Pay God first through the tithe, then "pay yourself" by setting aside a specific amount in savings.

■ **Sell items and set aside the proceeds in savings.** Have a yard sale, sell the unused camper or sell the extra lot bought long ago.

■ **Give your savings a raise.** Take a portion, such as one-half of your next raise at your job, and put that in savings.

Jeremy White is a certified public accountant in Paducah. See his free weekly financial tip on his Internet Web site at www.consultcpa.com.



How can I encourage a child who doesn't make the team?

Q: How can we help children deal with the disappointment that often accompanies failure to make the team?

■ Don't downplay the intensity of your child's feelings. Getting cut may not be the end of the world, but it may seem like the end of the world to the child right now. Listen with your heart. Share the hurt. Tell about a time when you were disappointed or felt left out or inadequate. Make sure your child knows how proud you are of him or her for trying, and that your love for the child remains unchanged.

■ Focus on the positive. What did you learn? What other activities will you have time for? What else do you have to be thankful for? Emphasize the importance of having a good attitude, even when we're disappointed. Brainstorm ways to support friends who made the team and encourage friends who didn't.

■ Look for other ways to enjoy the sport or activity. A child who didn't make the school team might want to play in a church league. Children may want to attend games or learn how to keep official score. Some teams need managers, mascots and other helpers.

■ Make a plan to get better. Buy or borrow a book or video that teaches skills. (The coach or teacher may be able to suggest specific drills or skills your child can work on.) Set aside special time to practice or play together. Consider asking a coach or friend to give your child individual instruction.

■ Look for casual opportunities to help your child understand that God knows what has happened, and cares. Read 1 Peter 5:7 and Psalm 55:22 together.—*David Garrard*

Q: My mother died six months ago, and I think my father is having thoughts of suicide. This scares me, especially since his regular attendance and involvement at church has fallen off dramatically. How can I help?

Suicide rates are rising among older people in our nation so your concerns may be very realistic. Your father may think that he cannot continue without your mother. You need to seek help to determine if he is dealing with severe grief, depression or suicide. This may require professional assistance. Take this problem seriously as you seek to determine what is happening with your father.

Here are some risk factors to look for concerning suicide-related behavior and disposition:

- More likely for older white males.
- Any history of depression or alcohol dependence.
- Non-compliance with medical care directions.
- Verbalizes that he cannot tolerate life without his spouse.
- Significant change in eating and sleeping habits.
- Negative change in personal hygiene.
- Significantly less church involvement.

Remember and claim this Scripture for your father: "For God knows the plans He has for your father. They are plans for good, not evil or hopelessness, to give your father hope for a future, which God is counting on" (personal paraphrase of Jeremiah 29:11).—*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.



Wedgwood: a reminder to stand firm

My wife, Pam, and I were sitting together on our back deck during a recent morning devotional time. As I read that day's thought from one of our favorite devotional books, "Moments Together for Couples," author Dennis Rainey focused on the growing commitment among Christian teens to take a public stand around their school flagpoles each fall as part of the student-led "See You at the Pole" prayer emphasis.

Noting that he and his family had viewed a video promoting "See You at the Pole," Rainey wrote, "We had been thrilled to watch as 250 teenagers prayed around their flagpole. We applauded the courage of a group of only five students who dared to pray around their school's flagpole while the rest of the student body went their ways." He shared that the next scene in the video "showed one lone girl at another school standing by the pole—praying."

Although I'm not a particularly emotional person, tears immediately welled up in my eyes as the image of that brave, faithful young woman praying all alone overwhelmed me. Perhaps it was the thought of my own two daughters and the challenges they face in living for Jesus in an often cold, uncaring world. Perhaps it was a reminder of my own need to stand boldly for Christ even in the face of adversity.

Certainly, it was an affirmation of the importance of being a consistent Christian witness whether you stand alone or in a crowd of 250 fellow believers.

That lesson was further highlighted during last week's "Rock the Pole" youth rally at Louisville Gardens. The interdenominational pep rally, billed as "Kentuckiana's prelude to See You at the Pole," featured two hours of high-energy music, drama and preaching.

Warning that "we're living in a time when right is called wrong and wrong is called right and everyone has rights except the ones who are right," keynote speaker Andre Barnes challenged the young people, "If you're a Christian, stand up and be counted. ... God can

use you to change the world."

Among the most striking moments of the program was a skit about students planning a "See You at the Pole" event. They were informed by their principal that she had received a death threat targeting the prayer rally. As the teens struggled with whether to cancel the event, one of them asked, "If we hide our faith in the safety of our homes, how are we to be the light for Christ?"

While acknowledging that "death threats aren't harmless," the students determined to go forward with their plans. "It's not about being a martyr," they insisted. "It's about being authentic. By looking through God's eyes, is there any other choice?"

With that, the actors joined hands around a flagpole on stage and bowed in prayer. Their actions were duplicated a few days later as thousands of students in Kentucky and millions throughout the nation started their school day with prayer for their schools, classmates and teachers.

Then tragedy struck—again. Just 12 hours after students had concluded their prayers, a gunman interrupted a post-pole rally at Wedgwood Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas. Within minutes, four teenagers, two seminary students, a seminary graduate and the gunman were dead.

Just a few weeks ago, I editorialized about the 1990s becoming "the age of rage." This wasn't supposed to happen again—not in a church, not at an event related to "See You at the Pole," not anywhere. But it did.

And the same questions come rushing back. And the same fears erupt. And the same futile attempts at answers fall far short.

We continue to live in an age of rage. We long to protect our children. Yet we also pray for them to take authentic stands for Christ.

That leaves only one clear answer for Christians seeking to stand firm amid a world of chaos: "On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand."

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

How can they hear?

By John C' de Baca

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" (Romans 10:14-15)

"Why, it's just a small, plain house," I thought, as our yellow school bus pulled up beside the white picket fence. "How can anyone famous live in such an ordinary house?"

Our third grade class was on a field trip one early New Mexico morning to visit the former home of Ernie Pyle. He was a hometown reporter who had become famous as a news correspondent during World War II. He even had a local school named after him. But I thought important people lived in big houses. The greater the person, the bigger the house. "My house is bigger than his," I thought skeptically.

But in a brochure I found on a table

inside, one sentence leaped out and instantly melted most of my skepticism. Yes, he had seen many sights, and had personally witnessed some of the most momentous events, but Ernie and his wife lived in a small, ordinary white house with a picket fence in the foothills overlooking Albuquerque because "from our front yard we have seen some sunsets here so breathtakingly beautiful." Hey, I could relate to this guy after all. I too had seen some of those same sunsets. Indeed, I lived on Sunset Road. Today, I still pause sometimes to enjoy a sunset. I can imagine it was just such a sunset that evoked God's "That's good!" as He looked down upon His newly-created world.

The Apostle Paul understood. God sends preachers with the good news, but He has already prepared their way. The beauty of the creation reflects the Master Artist; it prepares human hearts to respond to the loveliest and best of all stories, the gospel of Christ.

In breathtaking artistry, God paints the days of our lives too. In awesome torrents of undeserved kindness, He splashes away the filth and ugliness. He

wants all people to have the chance to live in His presence forever, sharing unimaginable joy and splendor. So God sends preachers out with this good news. And whenever God works, there is beauty.

Paul asks, "How can they hear?" He then responds that Christians are sent enveloped with beauty. We must appreciate and tap into the awesome, God-revealing beauty of the gospel. Our voices must sing God's song. We must echo and re-echo the Master's harmonies. Our lives must move to the rhythm of His will, and then they will become beautiful and people will respond to His beauty. Salvation is beautiful.

We may be hometown folks living in small, ordinary white houses, but our lives can be painted fresh daily, in brilliant touches of the Master's hand. We should not scribble on the Master's canvas, but should allow Him to paint. Faith is born as the beauty of the good news and of the reporter harmonize with the appreciation for beauty which God has already placed in the human heart. The world will hear and respond when the gospel is preached by Christians who go in the power—and the beauty—of Christ.

John C' de Baca is pastor of First Baptist Church in Lexington.



Seminary mourns loss, celebrates faith

By Dan Martin
Texas Baptist Communications

FORT WORTH, Texas—Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary mourned its loss, but celebrated its Savior in memorial services on campus Sept. 16.

Students, faculty and friends packed the 1,600-seat auditorium as they remembered the deaths of three of their own and the severe injury to two more by a gunman who opened fire at Wedgwood Baptist Church during a youth rally the night before.

Among the seven murdered by the gunman and seven others who were wounded, five were either current students or graduates of the seminary.

Participants sobbed, hugged, sang, prayed and even cheered as they turned the regular Thursday morning chapel service into both a memorial for the dead and injured and a celebration of faith in Christ.

"This was a regular chapel service; we have such services each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, but today it turned into a wonderful memorial service," said David Porter, the seminary's director of public relations.

Seminary President Ken Hemphill set the tone as he prayed, with his voice breaking, asking God to "be present in our grief, ... suffering and sorrow." He also prayed, thanking God that in His presence is "our hope and our power."

Hemphill, Wedgwood pastor Al Meredith and Little Rock pastor Rex Horne spoke briefly to the students.

The service began with participants

singing a medley of favorite hymns. The songs were reverent and hushed as those present remembered Shawn Brown, 23, who was studying to be a youth minister; Kim Jones, 23, a first-year student; and Sydney Browning, 36, children's choir director at Wedgwood who graduated from the seminary in 1991. They thought, too, of the two injured seminary students, Jeff Laster and Kevin Galey.

Hemphill wept as he called the shooting victims "martyrs," and then he told the students that in the midst of their sorrow and grief, "there are some things that we know.

"We know that God is still on His throne, ... that death and devastation are tactics of the adversary, ... that the resurrection is a sure and certain reality ... and that our fellow students are already present with the Lord.

"We know that our Lord is an ever present help in time of trouble. There are no easy answers, but we know He will bring solace," he added.

Hemphill said the tragedy shows the "need for a spiritual awakening. We need revival to end this senseless violence, so that our children will be free to walk our streets, ... feel safe in church and in school.

"I urge you to pray as you have never prayed and witness as you have never witnessed."

He called the participants to a time of prayer, and for more than 10 minutes, they prayed. Some sat silently, with folded hands in laps. Some knelt at the front of the auditorium, and still others gathered in small clusters to pray.

Meredith told of the three who had died and said he had known all three well.

He told of Kim Jones, who had become a Christian only two and a half years ago, but had "really come to know the Lord" when she was converted.

"On the night before her death, she led a Bible study for her old sorority sisters and begged them to accept Christ as their personal Savior," he reported.

Brown, a graduate of Howard Payne University, was a youth minister and "came to seminary to learn better how to win kids to the Lord," Meredith said. He told how Brown and his wife taught fifth grade Sunday school and recently taught in vacation Bible school.

Meredith called Browning "a special woman. She loved the Lord; she defined commitment." He told how she directed the children's choir at the church, and since she was sitting in the foyer when the gunman arrived, was among the first killed in the rampage.

Horne, who had been scheduled some time ago to be the chapel speaker that day, told participants that for many of those killed or injured in the spray of gunfire, the day had begun with a celebration around the school flagpoles.

"It started with 'See You at the Pole,' and then became 'See you in church,' and finally moved on to 'See you in heaven.'"

He talked of heaven and told the participants that "while we weep, they are laughing; while we miss them, they are having a great reunion; and while we have memorial services, they have a great celebration."

Seminary students among shooting victims in Texas

Continued from page 1

back pew and took his own life.

"We just held the kids," Hammond said. "There was not a lot we could say. These scenes will be etched in our kids' lives."

Authorities searched Ashbrook's home but remain unsure what motivated the shooting. "I don't know that we'll ever know the answer to the question of why it happened," said Robert Garrity, the FBI's special agent in charge of the investigation. "It may be an enigma for a long time."

Wedgwood Pastor Al Meredith described the victims as "Sunday school teachers and one of the favored soloists in the church, the children's choir director, kids, youth members, some active, some just getting active, some just beginning to find God."

The pastor said last week that he hoped to have the church cleared for use by the weekend. "It is my heart's desire that ... we can worship God in this facility Sunday morning," he said. "Our heart's desire is that the king of darkness will not prevail over the kingdom of light."

With additional reporting by Religion News Service and Texas Baptist Standard

Parents can help youngsters cope with emotional trauma

By Marv Knox
Baptist Standard

DALLAS—Although parents can't shield their children from the psychological shrapnel blasted by tragedies such as the massacre in Fort Worth, Texas, last week, they can help youngsters' emotional wounds heal.

Honesty, affirmation and openness provide the balm children need in the aftermath of violence, according to ministers experienced in helping young lives heal.

The beginning is point-blank acknowledgment of evil in the world, they said.

While the shooting at Wedgwood Baptist Church once again stunned the nation, smaller-scale violence and tragedy "happen every day," observed Wade Rowatt, director of St. Matthews Pastoral Counseling Center in Louisville.

"We've got to begin by addressing the fact tragedy strikes the just and the unjust alike. Accidents and evil are real, and they happen," said Rowatt, author of "How to Talk with Teenagers" and a national lecturer on youth issues.

"We just have to sit down and say to children: 'You know, we have tried to teach you that our world is not as safe as we wish it were. We've told you to be careful about talking to strangers and never get in a car with them or let them in the house,'" added Dick Maples, director of Texas Baptists' minister/

church relations office and a veteran pastor and counselor.

"But we must understand there's really no safe place in the world. Our safety is in the Lord, our faith in Him and in each other."

"Assure them the violence is not their fault," Rowatt urged. "They're not guilty for being survivors. They likely could not have prevented this. And they appropriately can express thankfulness for the well being of the survivors.

"Then talk to them about grief—the normal emotional response to tragedy and loss. It's shock, numbness and a flood of emotions. You date the rest of your life from this event."

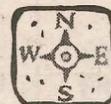
"Talk" is the operative word, Maples emphasized.

"It's awfully important to allow the children to talk about the tragedy and express their feelings, rather than the parents doing all the talking," Maples said.

Honesty also means dealing with anger, Rowatt acknowledged.

"Theologically, we need to give people permission to express anger at God," he explained. "If God is God at all, God can receive our anger as a loving prayer. The honest expression of anger helps us move beyond bitterness."

Teenagers particularly can benefit from the use of rituals "that carry meaning beyond words, such as planting a tree that is a memorial or dedicating or writing a hymn in memory of the lost friends and loved ones," Rowatt said.



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Cassie Bernall's death 'not a waste, but a triumph'

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

LITTLETON, Colo. (BP)—Cassie Bernall's mother believes her daughter's life proclaims it is better to die for what you believe in than to live a lie.

In "She Said Yes: The Unlikely Martyrdom of Cassie Bernall," Misty Bernall writes that she still struggles with the question of why anyone would kill her daughter.

"The pain is no less," Bernall writes in her book, released Sept. 10 by Plough Publishing. "It will always remain deep and raw. Even so, I know that her death was not a waste, but a triumph of honesty and courage."

Cassie Bernall is the 17-year-old student who died at Columbine High School last April 20 when two young men ignited a wave of shootings and bombings. Fifteen died in the violence, including the killers.

Cassie became known worldwide for courageously affirming her faith as she faced death. The book, which incorporates comments from Bernall's husband, Brad, Cassie's friends and others, relays additional details on her final moments, including this account from a student who was hiding under a desk in the library, where most of the victims died:

"I couldn't see anything when those guys came up to Cassie, but I could recognize her voice," he said. "One of them asked her if she believed in God. She

paused, like she didn't know what she was going to answer, and then she said yes.

"She must have been scared, but her voice didn't sound shaky. It was strong. Then they asked her why, though they didn't give her a chance to respond. They just blew her away."

A sheriff's department investigator who attends the Bernalls' church later found Cassie lying under a table. She had been shot in the head at close range, he said, the bullet wound indicating that the muzzle was touching her skin.

"She may have put a hand up to protect herself, because the tip of one finger was blown away," he said, "but she couldn't have had time to do more. That blast took her instantly."

Despite her daughter's sudden fame, her mother writes that people are off-track if they think she was a righteous, holy person who read her Bible all the time. She insists Cassie was as real as anybody else.

Referring to the flood of Internet sites, stories, T-shirts and other paraphernalia celebrating her daughter, Bernall guesses that her daughter would be "flipping out."

"She's probably up there in heaven rolling her eyes at it all and going oh-my-gosh," Bernall writes. "Because she'd want to tell everyone who admires her so much that she wasn't really so different from anybody else."

Bernall candidly spells out those flaws. For example, the last night of her

life Cassie stayed up late to get homework done after playing all weekend. Her mother also remembers sitting with her in the kitchen, nagging her for not doing her chores.

People talk about Cassie's smile, ability to listen, selflessness and caring character, but Bernall also points out her stubborn daughter was equally capable of selfishness.

"Sure, she was long over the worst stage of adolescent rebellion, but I was still waiting for that final emergence every mother waits for, when a daughter reaches true adulthood and becomes a companion and a friend," Bernall writes.

"She Said Yes" includes two chapters about that rebellion. It led the Bernalls to take extraordinary steps to rescue her from the influence of negative friends, including moving to a new neighborhood.

The one activity they permitted during these restrictions was attending youth group meetings at West Bowles Community Church. It took a long time for Cassie to fit in, and she was still adapting at her death, her youth pastor Dave McPherson recounted.

But a key change in her life occurred in March 1997 after a friend from the Christian school she was then attending invited her to a mountain retreat.

Cassie accepted Christ as her personal Savior that weekend. A friend said he immediately could see the change in her face. Even though she was still shy,

her eyes seemed more hopeful and there was something new about her, McPherson said.

Another friend later talked about how much she had changed. Her character was transformed, the girl said, even though Cassie didn't understand religious terms like being saved or born again.

"But she did know that she had found something that was going to fulfill her in a way that nothing else had until then," said the friend. "If I think about it, the thing that showed it most was her smile. She began to smile."

Naturally, her parents are comforted by the thought of her being in heaven. But her mother writes that they don't have many lessons to pass on to others. Instead, Cassie's death has landed them in a never-ending jungle of conflicting emotions. Some days they make headway, and on others they get tangled or fall down, she writes.

"Brad keeps saying that if there is one thing that makes all of this bearable, it's the fact that Cassie is in heaven," Bernall writes. "It's a comforting thought, sure, but it doesn't lessen the pain of missing her. That still cuts me like a fresh wound every time I go and sit on her bed and realize she'll never walk into the room again."

The book is being stocked by bookstores nationwide. A portion of the proceeds from the \$17 hardback will be given to a charitable foundation established in Cassie's name.

Killer's parents send apology to Bernall family

LITTLETON, Colo. (BP)—The parents of Columbine students Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold have been silent since the April 20 attack that claimed 15 lives, including their own. Within weeks of the tragedy, a victim's parents filed a multi-million-dollar lawsuit against them.

But a new book, "She Said Yes: The Unlikely Martyrdom of Cassie Bernall," provides a glimpse into the feelings of Klebold's parents. Cassie's mother, Misty, included a letter from Sue and Tom Klebold in the book.

Addressed to the family, the letter opens with an expression of profound sorrow. The parents noted how Cassie brought joy and love to the world, yet was taken in a moment of madness.

"We will never understand why this tragedy happened, or what we might have done to prevent it," they wrote. "We apologize for the role our son had in your Cassie's death. We never saw anger or hatred in Dylan until the last moments of his life when we watched in helpless horror with the rest of the world."

"The reality that our son shared in the responsibility for this tragedy is still incredibly difficult for us to comprehend. May God comfort you and your loved ones. May He bring peace and understanding to all of our wounded hearts."

Though some may dismiss the letter, Misty Bernall writes, it must have taken great courage to write and send it.

"And even if we could never compare the weight of our separate griefs, we have at least one comfort: the knowledge that our daughter died nobly," Bernall writes. "What balm do they have?"

Bernall's mother counsels parents to 'make time ... for your kids'

LITTLETON, Colo. (BP)—Cassie Bernall began slipping away from her parents' Christian values around age 12. Her mother blames the influence of friends, including one who wrote Cassie letters as a teen, discussing drug use and witchcraft.

Misty Bernall, in her new book, "She Said Yes: The Unlikely Martyrdom of Cassie Bernall," includes two chapters about her daughter's descent into negative behavior and the steps she and her husband, Brad, took to rescue her. The book was released Sept. 10 by Plough Publishing.

Cassie was one of the 13 people killed at Columbine High School last April 20 by two gun-and-bomb-wielding students who then took their own lives. She became known worldwide as a martyr for affirming her faith in God before one of the attackers shot her.

However, the book details how 17-year-old Cassie had been anything but a saint as a younger teen. It includes surprising accounts such as Cassie drinking and smoking marijuana at school.

Cassie also stayed for after-school art sessions that lacked adult supervision. Once when her father went to pick her up, he noticed occult symbols decorating most of the objects the students were making.

Things got so bad the Bernalls withdrew Cassie from that public school. They also contacted the sheriff's office about the letters from her friend, Mona, which included threats against their lives.

However, when they arranged a meeting with Cassie, Mona and her parents, and a juvenile detective, Mona's

parents became hostile, Bernall writes. They remained silent during the meeting, except when Mona's mother complained it was cruel to break up a five-year friendship.

"(She) admitted that the letters were not 'appropriate' and that their contents made her 'unhappy,'" Bernall writes. "But she could not understand why we had felt the need to bring them to the attention of the law, or to involve her husband in the matter."

Despite those objections, the Bernalls sought a restraining order to bar Cassie's friend from further contact with her. The sheriff's deputy backed them, saying the letters were the worst he had seen in more than a decade in juvenile crime.

Besides withdrawing their daughter from that public school, the Bernalls refused to allow her to participate in extra-curricular activities, have visitors or take phone calls. They got a voice-activated recorder to monitor calls she made when they ran errands, and they regularly searched her room.

Finally, after Cassie's friends continually harassed them—including throwing eggs and soft drink cans at their house—they moved to a new neighborhood.

Despite their daughter's intense anger over the crackdown, Bernall is confident they were not too harsh. She mentions two child-on-parent murders in the Denver area in 1997 and a son's attempt to kill his father. In the latter case, satanic carvings and Gothic trappings were discovered in the boy's bedroom.

"In a time when supposedly peaceful middle-class suburbs like ours are breeding children capable of such things, you begin to realize that talk is

Youth pastor affirms parental intervention

LITTLETON, Colo. (BP)—Misty Bernall's book, "She Said Yes: The Unlikely Martyrdom of Cassie Bernall," includes an endorsement of strong parental intervention by Dave McPherson, youth pastor at West Bowles Community Church.

McPherson said strong action typically creates a brand-new relationship. Most kids fight back, but deep inside they are thinking, "I like this," McPherson said.

Taking a child out of school and finding a new one, grounding or doing whatever else is needed to

curtail destructive activities may seem harsh, he said, but in fact, it is giving the child the possibility of a new life.

"I've told that to so many parents," McPherson said. "Many just disconnect. They say, 'Well, she's already had sex five or six times' or 'I know he's in with a bad crowd, but you can't stop a kid from seeing his only friends.'"

"They're worried, but they can't conceive of doing anything that will demand a sacrifice, so they pretend it isn't really bad."

never just talk," Bernall writes.

"In Cassie's case, for example, it was the result of an enormous gulf of miscommunication and hostility between us—a gulf that only time, love and attention would bridge. Even if she had really never intended to do us in, we could hardly ignore her remarks to that effect."

Besides stronger discipline, the Bernalls also worked on their relationship with their daughter. Among the steps they took:

- Holding their tongues when they were tempted to snap back at her.

- Instead of nagging, encouraging her through positive incentives and setting goals.

- Working on building her character, teaching her responsibility, respect and self-respect.

Gradually, they discerned their own failures, Bernall writes. Whenever Cassie had been rebellious, they tried harder to win her friendship. That sim-

ply led to catering to her whims, she recounts.

A close friend helped them correct the error.

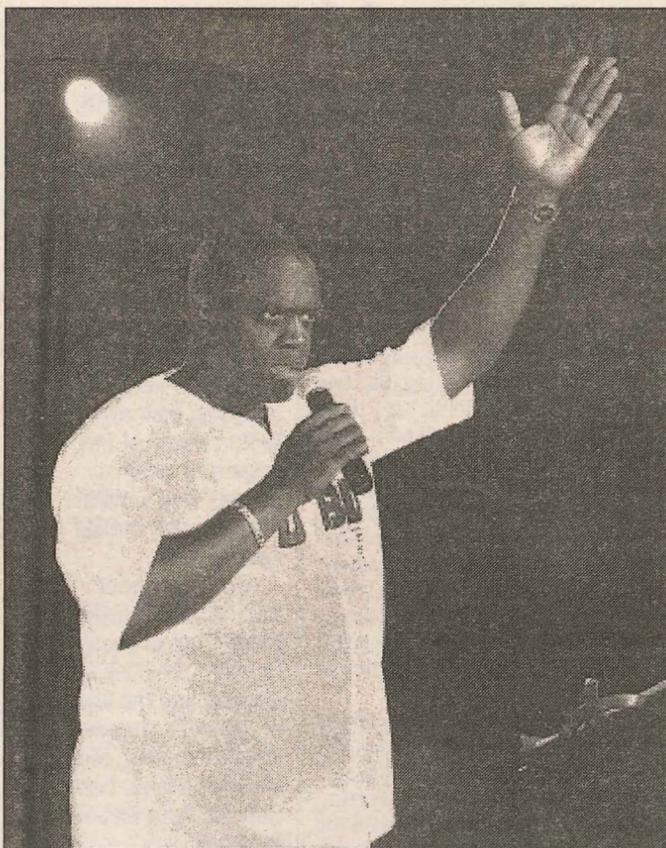
"Stop trying so hard to be Cassie's friend," she told Bernall. "You don't have to have Cassie's approval for everything you do. She'll just end up thinking that the world revolves around her, and that she can do whatever she wants, because you'll still love her."

Still, parental guidance involves more than discipline, Bernall writes. Now that her daughter is gone, the suburban Denver mother realizes the significance of every minute spent with a child. That may be a cliché, but it still has a ring of truth, she writes.

"When the kitchen's a mess, the telephone's ringing and the kids are getting in the way, it's easy to snap or get impatient or get upset," Bernall writes. "Those moments are unavoidable, but you've got to make time in between, just for your kids."

YOUTH

'See You at the Pole' influence growing



Kentucky Baptist students joined millions of other Christian students across the nation in the annual "See You at the Pole" prayer emphasis Sept. 15.

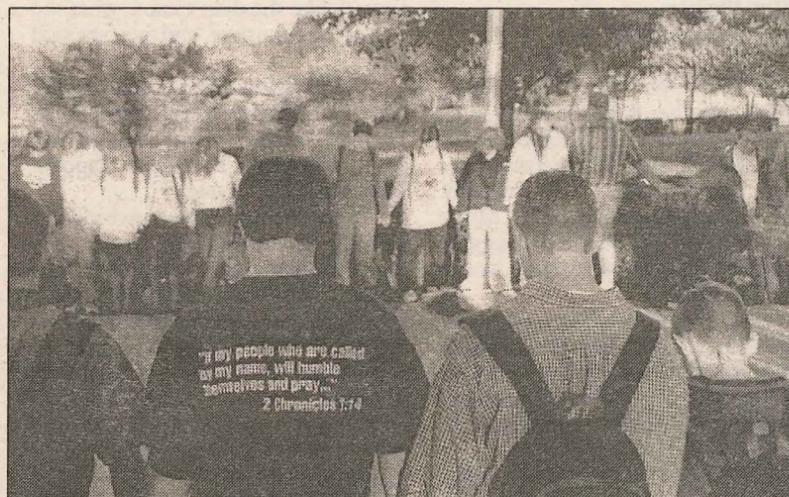
Before classes started that day, students gathered around school flagpoles to pray for their schools and their classmates.

"It brings out students from their respective youth ministries," said Rick Long, youth minister at Crestwood Baptist Church in Frankfort. "It helps them identify with one another."

Long and several members of his youth group prayed at Franklin County High School. He estimated 120 students were present.

"It's a time to pray and fellowship with Christian friends and people I don't go to church with but I go to school with," said Jason Taylor, a sophomore at Franklin County. It helps Christian youth realize they "are not the only Christians on campus," he noted.

Tiffany Bailey, a junior at Franklin County, said the prayer meeting invites the curiosity of other students.



GROWING IMPACT Students praying together around their school flagpoles has become a growing phenomenon among Christian teens in recent years. "See You at the Pole," launched in 1990, now attracts an estimated 3 million participants each fall.

POLE PRELUDE
Thousands of youth gathered Sept. 12 at Louisville Gardens for a pre-pole rally. ■ **Above:** "Before we go to the pole to pray for someone else, we need to get with God and repent," featured speaker Andre Barnes told the crowd of teens. ■ **Right:** Youth from several denominations came together for the high-energy "Rock the Pole" event.



"They will come over to see what we are doing," she said. That inquiry gives participants an opportunity to tell others they are Christians, she said.

In Pikeville, Charlie Higgins, youth minister at Meta Baptist Church, joined eight students who prayed at Pike County Central High School.

He said students came because of concern for other students. "The prayers were for fellow students who are lost," Higgins said. "There were a lot of prayers for protection, a lot of concern for school violence."

Begun in Texas in 1990, "See You at the Pole" drew an estimated 3 million participants last year.

Many churches and communities are building other youth ministry events around "See You at the Pole."

In Frankfort, a citywide youth revival was held in the civic auditorium last week with evangelist Rob Turner. Long estimated attendance averaged 600 each night.

"Students' hearts, I believe, are being opened and softened toward their classmates," Long said. "Students are realizing they're the influence on their classmates."

In Louisville, youth from various denominations gathered Sept. 12 at Louisville Gardens to "Rock the Pole" for Jesus.

"If you're a Christian, stand up and be counted," urged keynote speaker Andre Barnes, youth minister at Louisville's Bates Memorial Baptist Church. "There's no way you can be in God's presence and not be changed. The devil doesn't care if we have pep rallies. He just doesn't want us to do anything with it."

At some schools, parents and other adults assembled on campus for "Campus Prayer Journey '99" the evening prior to "See You at the Pole." The Southern Baptist North American Mission Board launched the prayer event as a national emphasis for the first time this year.

Today's youth seek ways to be involved in significant ministry

Continued from page 1
have a religious purpose, Record noted.

First Priority involves students and churches of various denominations. While it remains true to its multi-denominational origins, the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board has become a major promoter of the strategy.

Parents, pastors, youth ministers and teachers can provide key support for First Priority. But an effective implementation of First Priority must come from students, Record emphasized.

"If we can lead our students to be Great Commission people, do you realize how much impact that will have?" Record asked. "We believe that a generation that will bring people to Christ is imperative."

Record said the First Priority strategy is being implemented in 30 high schools across Kentucky this fall. He wants to see First Priority in all the state's high schools.

Record noted the emphasis on youth evangelism is driven in part by

the rising number of adolescents in the commonwealth.

Projections show that the population of Kentuckians between ages 12 and 17 will rise to 500,000 in 2006, up from 387,000 in 1997, Record said.

In addition to a shift in the focus of youth ministry leadership, Ross identified two other emerging trends. They include a more poignant call to discipleship for youth and an increase in mission volunteerism among youth.

Another trend, Record said, is an expanded role for technology in youth ministry.

Among the ways those trends are taking shape are:

■ **Focused discipleship.** School shootings have "dramatically communicated to our students that faith is a life-or-death issue," Ross said. While Southern Baptist youth min-

istry in past decades has focused on entertaining youth and keeping them busy, that tendency is disappearing, Ross said. "A growing segment of our youth groups are coming to church expecting to be disciplined and challenged to be radical in their commitment to Jesus Christ."

He predicted churches that remain content to simply entertain youth will see their youth go to churches that call them to become serious disciples.

■ **Increased mission involvement.** Ross believes Southern Baptists should challenge every college and older high school student to spend a summer, semester or year in full-time mission service. "Whenever I mention such a challenge I am amazed at how many (youth) so eagerly agree to make such a commitment," Ross said.

"I am finding a large number of pastors, youth leaders and even par-

ents who believe it is time for Southern Baptists to make such a commitment."

That missions experience could have a dramatic impact on future congregational lay leaders, Ross added.

He said both Southern Baptist mission boards are anticipating an increase in student missionaries and are hoping for a ten-fold increase over the present number.

■ **Cyber ministry.** Today's youth are computer savvy and the computer can be a helpful tool in youth ministry, Record said.

"If the Apostle Paul were alive today and were a youth minister, I believe he'd be on a computer using e-mail," Record said.

He noted that youth group Web sites are another way for youth groups to share information about a church's youth ministry.

Youth ministers can point their youth to Christian resources on the Internet, Record added. He also stressed, however, that youth ministers should instruct the youth on the responsible use of the Internet.

**Youth
ministry
in the 21st century**

YOUTH

Congregation hosts Christian nightclub to reach teens

By David Winfrey
News Director

JEFFERSONTOWN—Developing authentic relationships is the key to reaching today's young people, according to a youth minister who directs a successful Christian nightclub for teens.

"I've seen just about every creative idea you can imagine, but it always goes back to developing relationships with kids," said Darryl Glass, youth minister for Jeffersontown Baptist Church in metropolitan Louisville.

Glass, a youth minister for 13 years, has led the church to develop and host the Uptown nightclub in its basement every Friday night. The club is based on a model he used at a Methodist church in Radcliff where he previously worked.

About a year ago the church transformed 6,000 square feet of its basement into "Uptown," painting walls and installing sound equipment, amusement games and creative lighting.

This summer it shut down for six weeks for a "facelift." Additions included a larger dance floor, professional lighting, fog machine and 60-inch television.

The result has been attracting more than 200 youth each Friday night since reopening two months ago, said Glass and Pastor Sanford Hill. Uptown attracts more than 60 new faces each week, they added.

"This has given more life to our church than anything," Hill said during a recent Friday night. Decked out in an orange shirt with the word "STAFF" in large letters on the back, he's one of the

many volunteers who keep the adult to teen ratio at about 1-to-15.

"I never would have dreamed five years ago that we would be doing something like this," he added. "This was the first step of faith this church has taken in years."

Hill met Glass when they both participated in a trip to the Holy Land and were assigned a room together.

Jeffersontown was without a youth minister for about a year before Glass was brought to the church. Glass said he came only with the condition that he could organize a similar experience to what he already had done in Radcliff.

"It scares me to think about doing ministry without doing something like this," he said.

Hill acknowledged that some members were cautious about hosting a Christian nightclub. He added, however, that the results have been hard to argue with. "We've baptized more in the first six months of this year than we did all of last year, and it's all attributable to Uptown."

Hill and Glass call the nightclub a form of "passive evangelism."

"If we were aggressive, I'd have 20 kids here," Glass said.

Hill agreed. "We just want to build relationships in the hope that we can share the gospel," he said. "The kids get to know us and say, 'This isn't what I thought church was.'"

Hill said he was impressed by a statistic that most Christians make a profession of faith in Jesus by age 14. "If that's when they're most receptive, that's when we need to go after them,"

he said. "What this church has done is say, 'We're going to do what it takes to create an atmosphere that will attract the kids.'"

Glass said he realizes there are churches that oppose dancing. "I have a healthy respect for people who are

more conservative than I am," he said.

"If someone says they don't believe in dancing, I respect that. I just don't go along with that."

Hill points to the baptisms to answer potential criticism. "I like our way of doing it better than their way of not doing it."

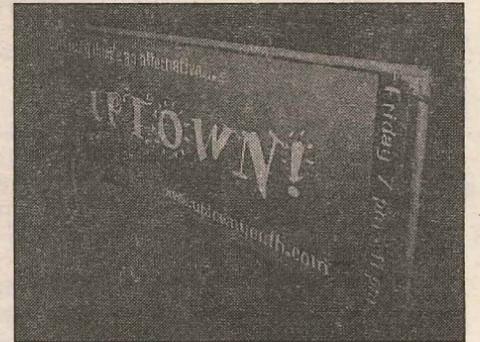
Volunteers for Uptown, who get on-the-job training, are encouraged to show a large dose of love, Glass said.

"If you have to yell at a kid here, chances are you're just one of many adults who has yelled at them," he said.

"I tell them, 'Remember, these kids are yelled at all day, try something different,'" Glass added. "You can give a consequence to a kid and smile and love."

Hill points out that the success of the event has not been dependent on a large church. Jeffersontown Baptist averages 130 people in Sunday school and 150 people in worship. The youth group has about 40 people on the roll with an average attendance of 20, he added.

"You don't have to be in a megachurch to do something like this."



UPTOWN ATMOSPHERE More than 200 teens gather each Friday evening in the inviting atmosphere of Uptown Christian nightclub in Jeffersontown. The low-key ministry effort focuses on building personal relationships with young people.

YOUTH ZONE A sign outside Jeffersontown Baptist Church welcomes youth to discover the congregation's Uptown Christian nightclub.

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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

STUDY
PRACTICE
TEACH

Religious Freedom Amendment reintroduced in U.S. House

BWA leaders call for intervention in East Timor

WASHINGTON (BP)—The Baptist World Alliance has condemned the bloodshed in East Timor, much of which is now being directed at religious leaders. BWA leaders have appealed to the governments of Australia and the United States as well as the United Nations to help.

Violence and killings have swept East Timor since an overwhelming majority of Timorese voted for independence from Indonesia after more than two decades of occupation.

The East Timor statement said the BWA is concerned for human rights and is responding to a strong appeal for help from the Baptist Union of New South Wales, Australia.

In a Sept. 10 letter to President Clinton and Kofi Annan, U.N. general secretary, Denton Lotz, general secretary of the BWA, said, "We are shocked and horrified at the tragic repression and indiscriminate killing of civilians by the Indonesian militia in East Timor."

"All initiatives to restrain the militia and the Indonesian army from indiscriminate acts of looting, killing and repression are necessary," he wrote.

Already Baptists are involved in helping the East Timorese refugees who have fled to other parts of Asia.

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Rep. Ernest Istook, R-Okla., reintroduced his proposed Religious Freedom Amendment Sept. 15, telling a rally of supporters at a Washington church it would prevent the trampling of religious expression.

The proposed amendment, which failed to get the required two-thirds majority vote in the House in June 1998, was reintroduced with the same language Istook proposed last year.

The amendment would allow but not require school prayer and other religious expression on public property.

Istook said during the rally at Bible Way Temple that the amendment would counter court decisions that have prevented school prayers and the posting of the Ten Commandments in public settings.

"Nobody is compelled to do anything, but the people's right to pray and express their religious beliefs ... cannot be infringed anymore," said Istook.

House Majority Leader Dick Armey, R-Texas, and Majority Whip Tom DeLay, R-Texas, appeared at the rally in support of Istook's proposal.

"The outbreak of godless education threatens to debase our society for generations," said DeLay. "There is one thing that is not allowed in school under any circumstances and that is prayer."

DeLay was applauded by the more than 200 people at the rally.

Barry Lynn, executive director of

Americans United for the Separation of Church and State, observed the rally and called DeLay's comment about school prayer "an outright lie."

He and other opponents noted that Istook announced his reintroduction on the day hundreds of thousands of school children observed "See You at the Pole" by praying on their campuses for their school communities.

In a press conference held a couple of hours before the rally, opponents of the amendment reiterated their stance that the measure was unnecessary.

"The proposed amendment ... would do great damage to religion as we know it," said Oliver Thomas, special counsel for religious liberty for the National Council of Churches.

Thomas said the amendment could prompt disagreements in schools about which religions should be acknowledged.

"The last thing America needs is local-option religion," he said.

Rep. Chet Edwards, D-Texas, joined the critics of the proposed measure.

"He has to know there's no chance of passage," Edwards said of Istook's proposal.

Istook acknowledged the process for passage of the amendment might be a "multi-year" effort, but he urged rally participants to call members of Congress and encourage their support.

In one aisle of the church, there were dozens of boxes of petitions requesting Congress to reconsider Istook's amendment.

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KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

Furthermore, all contributions, investment transactions and beneficiary distributions are recorded and handled by still another professional firm that serves as the master custodian of the funds. The Foundation is audited annually by an independent certified public accounting firm which reports to the Foundation board of directors through its audit committee. The Foundation's audit is reviewed further by an audit committee of the KBC Executive Board. Members of the Foundation's board are knowledgeable men and women who are members of Kentucky Baptist churches and who are elected to the board by KBC messengers. So you can see we are truly and fully accountable to the constituency we serve.

It also is worthy to note a growing number of Baptist individuals, churches, associations, institutions and agencies are utilizing the various services of the Foundation. In the past 10 years, the funds managed by the Foundation have grown from \$21 million to \$194 million. Please give us the opportunity to assist you by calling toll-free (888) 254-5701.

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

California school rejects Christian textbooks after ACLU files lawsuit

BELBRIDGE, Calif. (RNS)—A public elementary school in Belridge, Calif., has decided not to use Christian textbooks that describe other religions as cults after receiving pressure from the American Civil Liberties Union.

Steven Wentland, principal of Belridge Elementary School, said Sept. 15 that "every last flashcard" would be returned to A Beka Books Inc., a Pensacola, Fla.-based Christian publishing company.

"We'll pull them out. It's OK," said Wentland, who also serves as superintendent of the one-school, 60-student district. "We don't hold any grudges."

He said he didn't want to generate negative publicity or get into a courtroom battle, Associated Press reported. Wentland had approved the use of the A Beka curriculum for the school, located amid oil fields northwest of Bakersfield.

The school board also approved it. Parents signed consent forms after reviewing samples and were reassured that some material would be edited to avoid problems.

State education officials did not need to approve the books because an anonymous donor had offered to pay for them.

A Beka describes itself as "unashamedly Christian and traditional in its approach."

Some of the company's books say God helped Columbus discover America.

History books tell students that although American Indians "attained a degree of civilization," they "had no knowledge of the true God, and without this knowledge all other attainments are worthless."

Another volume states that non-Christians will be denied a spot in heaven, and that Jehovah's Witnesses, Christian Scientists and Mormons belong to cults.

The ACLU filed suit Aug. 24, a day after students returned from summer vacation.

Michael Small, chief counsel for the ACLU's Southern California office, said the Constitution permits schools to integrate the Bible and religion objectively, but that the school had crossed the line.

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RESOURCES

Women can utilize daily conversation as witnessing tool

By James Dotson
SBC North American Mission Board

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (BP)—Having an understanding of the gospel and being willing to share it lies at the heart of living an on-mission lifestyle, but one of the first hurdles in witnessing to strangers often is just being able to strike up a conversation. And there is perhaps no better model for how to do that than Jesus Christ, said Jaye Martin, women's evangelism specialist for the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board.

As part of a series of "HeartCall" evangelism seminars for women, Martin led a workshop on "Conversations that Count" during the recent REACH '99 evangelism and church-planting conference in Scottsdale, Ariz. The material was part of a wide range of HeartCall materials developed by Martin over the past two years designed to help women become more

evangelistic and teach others to be likewise.

Martin cited Jesus' encounter with the woman at the well as a key example of conversation starting as a means for evangelism. And with women, she said, such conversations are often among the best ways of communicating the gospel.

"Most women tend to be more relational, and it's easy for them to be able to do that," she said. "With guys, they usually have to do things to get to know each other. ... You don't see them having a retreat for the weekend."

Martin illustrated "Seven Cs" of successful evangelistic witness through conversation that Jesus modeled during the encounter with the woman at the well in John 4:4-32:

■ **Common ground.** With Jesus, it was as simple as the fact that they shared a need and understanding of water. With women in a grocery store, a quick glance at the items in a fellow shopper's

cart is likely to reveal something they have in common. "Look over and see what they have in their cart, and say, 'Boy, that looks good!' It doesn't matter what you talk about; you just have to start talking. And then you can insert Jesus into the conversation."

■ **Curiosity.** Jesus left the woman curious for further explanation, with his references to "living water" that would make her "never thirst again."

■ **Concern.** "Jesus cared enough about her to help her see that she had a need that only He could fill," Martin said. "We have to show concern for other people by sharing with them how God can help them through whatever they are going through—how He can bring peace in their life."

■ **Change "religion" to "relationship."** When Jesus was asked about the differences in where the Samaritans and the Jews worshipped, Jesus shifted to the more important issue. "It's not how you worship. ... It's the importance of worshipping in spirit and in truth," Martin said. Debates over peripheral issues should be avoided.

■ **Confession.** Jesus makes the confession that "I who speak to you am He (God)." Christians also should proudly proclaim their spiritual lineage. "You just have to tell them at some point why you're this wonderful, peaceful person that they're seeing, and that it's through the Lord's intervention."

■ **Conversion.** The woman at the well was changed. Witnesses should stress "conversion is only because of the Holy Spirit, not because of you," Martin said.

■ **Challenge.** After His encounter resulted in the entire town coming to repentance, Jesus challenged His disciples to anticipate the harvest. Likewise, Christians should be aware of the receptivity to the gospel all around them. "The challenge He gives us is just to open our eyes," Martin said.

At the most basic level, Martin also offered an acrostic of simple ideas based on the word "NICE" for getting conversations started that can lead to opportunities to share Christ.

■ **Nature.** Comment on the beauty of particular flowers or other parts of nature as a lead-in to a discussion of God's creation.

■ **Interests.** Like the water at the well or sharing shopping-cart favorites, common interests spark conversation.

■ **Compliments.** Genuine compliments about even simple things create good will. She said kind words go far in building bridges to openness to expressions of God's love.

■ **Everything.** Find new ways to express what God has done through simple illustrations. Faith in a chair's ability to not break when sat upon, for example, can be used to depict faith in God. With a little creativity, other illustrations are out there. "Begin to look for different ways to start conversations with the gospel," Martin said.

HeartCall materials—including a devotional book, a prayer guide, a four-week study and a tract providing a unified plan for sharing the gospel based on the HeartCall logo—are available through LifeWay Christian Resources by calling (800) 448-8032.

"Begin to look for different ways to start conversations with the gospel."

Jaye Martin, women's evangelist specialist for the SBC North American Mission Board



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Jeremy Lynch's summer ministry

By Robert Dunston

Jeremy Lynch, son of Bill and Diane Lynch of Williamsburg, spent his summer with Grand Strand Ministries. Waccamaw Baptist Association in South Carolina sponsors the program which engages in ministry from North Myrtle Beach to Garden City.

Lynch served on a team of 11 people, with team members working at different locations. Lynch and a partner coordinated mission work at Sandy Gate Apartment Complex.

Each week a youth group came to lead a day camp or sports camp in the apartment complex. Lynch and his partner supervised the groups and provided a constant presence and witness to the children who live in the complex.

Team members led in worship and performed skits for each youth group on the night the group arrived to work with Grand Strand Ministries. On Thursdays, as each week drew to a close, the youth groups that had served during the week met together for a celebration service.

Team members worked constantly. On Sunday mornings they helped provide a worship service for those staying in a local campground. On Mondays they befriended and minis-

tered to lifeguards. Each Tuesday evening the team held a dinner for the lifeguards, with area churches supplying the meal. On Wednesdays the team engaged in street drama, performing at a shopping center near the beach. Team members also worked planning times into their schedule.

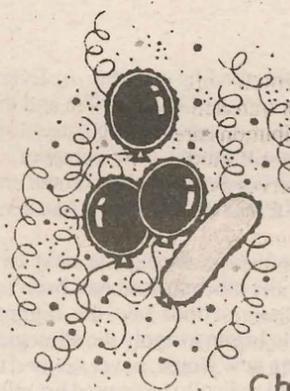
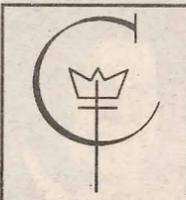
Twelve children accepted Christ through the day camps in the apartment complex. Lynch was amazed at the poverty he saw there. In the midst of the wealth some enjoy in Myrtle Beach, he discovered some people barely getting by financially. Lynch, the other team members and the youth groups that came served as living representatives of God, letting the children know that real people loved them and were concerned about them.

Lynch loved working with his fellow team members and with the children. He has indicated he would enjoy working with Grand Strand Ministries again.

Cumberland College encourages all of its students to become involved in serving Christ and ministering to others. We thank Lynch for using his gifts and time for God.

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

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Panel commends first report on global religious freedom

By Tom Strode
SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty
Commission

WASHINGTON (BP)—The congressionally established Commission on International Religious Freedom commended the State Department's initial report on worldwide religious liberty, saying the world-wide process for the report already has resulted in changes in some countries.

The report could have been stronger in describing the conditions in China, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Sudan, however, according to an organization headed by one of the commission's members.

The State Department's report,

which is more than 1,000 pages in length, provides information on the degree of religious freedom in 194 countries. In addition to a section on each country, the report includes an executive summary that divides problem governments into four categories of restrictive practices: Totalitarian attempts to control religion; hostility toward minority or unapproved religions; neglect of discrimination against or persecution of religious groups; and discriminatory policies toward some religions.

In the totalitarian section, the report includes Afghanistan, Burma, China, Cuba, Iran, Iraq, Laos, North Korea and Vietnam. Governments practicing hostility toward minority religions in-

clude Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Serbia and Sudan, according to the report. The document names Bulgaria, Egypt, India and Indonesia among the states failing to act to prevent discrimination or persecution by nongovernmental groups. Governments with discriminatory policies include Russia and Turkey, according to the report.

Robert Seiple, ambassador at large for international religious freedom, said in a written statement coinciding with the release of the report that "there are no good reasons for any government to violate religious freedom or to tolerate those within its warrant who do. There are, however, many good reasons to promote religious freedom. It bears repeating that the United States seeks to promote religious freedom, not simply to criticize."

The report, Seiple's position and the commission were brought into existence by the International Religious Freedom Act, which gained passage last October.

The commission's chairman, David Saperstein, said the data-gathering process of the report, which covers 18 months from the first of 1998 through June of this year, brought about changes in problem countries such as Uzbekistan. "Clearly, in taking the (International Religious Freedom Act) process seriously, the U.S. can wield significant moral suasion and influence internationally on this issue," Saperstein said in a written release.

The nine-member panel, which was appointed by President Clinton and congressional leaders, will study

the report.

Nina Shea, director of Freedom House's Center for Religious Freedom and a member of the commission, called the report "important as the opening salvo of an important national debate on who persecutes religious believers and what America's relationship with them should be. With the publication of this report, it is official—international religious freedom is a front-burner, foreign policy issue."

Some of the country profiles are not satisfactory, tending to give U.S. trading partners the benefit of the doubt and failing to conclude whether some governments are guilty of persecution, Freedom House charged.

The Washington-based organization described the section on Sudan as the "most egregious example" of a weak report. It fails to say the Khartoum regime supports a militant Islamic genocide of Christian and tribal religious groups in the southern part of the country, even though the practice has been observed by a special United Nations rapporteur and members of the U.S. House of Representatives, Freedom House said.

The commission will pay close attention to the report's findings on Sudan and China and will issue detailed assessments of it, the panel said.

The law establishing the commission calls for it to report annually on countries guilty of committing or permitting violations of religious liberty. The president is required to respond to the report.

Zimbabwe leaders seek to block missionaries' release

HARARE, Zimbabwe (RNS)—The Zimbabwe government has responded angrily to a judge's handling of a weapons case that involves three American missionaries.

The government said it would seek to block the early release of the three men and would appeal the relatively light sentences they received from Judge Ismael Adams. The appeal could take years, forcing the men to remain in prison, Associated Press reported.

The men—Gary George Blanchard, Joseph Wendell Pettijohn and John Lamonte Dixon, all in their 30s—were each sentenced to 27 months in prison for possessing "weapons of war," including more than 40 rifles and handguns and

9,000 rounds of assorted ammunition. The weapons and ammunition were discovered as the men sought to board a plane out of Zimbabwe's capital, Harare.

The men, who were missionaries in war-torn Congo for Harvestfield Ministries, a Pentecostal group based in Indianapolis, said the weapons were kept for protection, hunting and sport.

The judge suspended nine months of the sentences, and with credit for time already served and time off for good behavior the men could have been out of prison by November. Adams said he imposed the light sentences because the men had been tortured during the six months they were kept in prison prior to their trial.

'How do you feel about yourself?'

This past summer Charmaine Nichols, our tutoring lab director, gave me a copy of a note she had written about one of our Tutoring Lab students we will call "Andy."

Andy came to Oneida for the fall term of 1997 from Winchester. His mother told us that Andy "was not doing well in public school" and that he had been "socially promoted," which was not helping him academically. Andy's mother did not put all the blame on the school, explaining that he "did not turn in his homework," he was the "class clown" and he "plays around a lot."

Like about 75 percent of our students, Andy was from a broken home. And, like about 40 percent of our students, he was from a low-income family and could not afford to pay any room or board.

Andy's mother told us he had low self-esteem and had normal problems at home. During the interview, I gave Andy several examples of high and low self-esteem. When I asked him how he felt about himself, he said he was a "two" on a scale of one to 10, one being the lowest. He also admitted to "not trying hard" in school and that he "guffed off" a lot.

We could tell from his test scores that Andy was a very weak student, and we were not sure we would be able to help him, especially if he did not apply himself more than he had in the past. I would like to share the report Nichols gave about Andy's progress.

"Andy came ... as a seventh grader reading on a third grade level. He was placed in what was then called special help, as an all-day student, working ... in the Language Arts and Math.

"The first two quarters, his performance was very poor. He resisted the strategies needed to improve his reading skills, because in the beginning, using

them slows down the reading process. ... Every morning he came in tired and irritable. He and the other student in his reading group were frustrating as they played off one another's poor behavior. ... Although half a book had been covered by the end of that period, very little progress, if any, had been made.

"Andy progressed some during the next two quarters, more after the other student had been removed, ... but summer school saw the biggest change. He began to apply the strategies for learning new words, never seemed to be tired and radically improved his relationship with his tutor who was fully committed to strengthening very precise skills that Andy needed. In fact, he worked so hard that by fall, even though he was just finishing the fourth grade reader, we felt he had established work habits which would insure his success in regular classes for half a day, in turn both rewarding his efforts and motivating further gains. Being in regular classes also gave him the opportunity to join the farm crew the last period of the school day—and that added to his chapter responsibility. He became

active in the FFA chapter, and every where on campus his good behavior, strong academic effort and responsibility were being spoken of. ...

"The high point was reached on May 5 when he was presented the Yearbook Award for Most Studious 8th Grade Boy, an award voted on by the faculty and staff in January. His surprised grin (lighted) up the whole chapel as his peers and teachers applauded him."

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Forty-three new students!

The freshmen class enrollment reached a 10-year high when 43 students began classes in August.

A special thanks goes to director of admissions Jay Barnett. Thirty-eight of these new students are pursuing the bachelor of arts in ministry degree. Eleven of the freshmen will commute to class. Kelly Hall is full this semester as well as most of married housing.

Students came from six states: Kentucky, 26; Tennessee, eight; Ohio, four; South Carolina, two; and one student each from Missouri and Indiana. A Korean student transferred from a Tennessee college.

Twenty-one of the new students are married. They have a total of 32 children, ranging in age from 7 months to 26 years.

Former employment for the class members include: machine operator, cashier, sales, UPS loader, carpet cleaner, security, manufacturing supervisor, truck driver, pastor, mining land agent, computer technician, nurse, heating business, roofing contractor, preschool teacher, state worker, lawn maintenance, highway department and child tutor.

Reflecting the educational level of America, each of the new stu-

dents is a high school graduate and 20 of the group have previous college work.

The oldest freshman is 53. Eight students are in their 40s, six are in their 30s, 18 are in their 20s and nine students are 18-19 years old.

Clear Creek alumni recommended 70 percent of the new class. The class includes a 25-year-old son

of a 1992 graduate, two sisters and the daughter of a second-year student.

Jennifer Carmicle, 19, from Lincoln County, has long nurtured a call to work with the deaf.

Larry R. Johns already has 24 years experience as a pastor.

Ku Kyoseong plans to return to Korea as a bivocational church worker with computer skills to financially support his family.

Dustin Benge, 18, has remarkable experience in evangelism with Laurel County evangelist Joe Mobley.

The new class has much diversity but shares two characteristics. Each class member has a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and a clear call to ministry. Pray for these students.

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

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

Mother-son teams minister together on trip to Bosnia

By Teresa Dickens
SBC Woman's Missionary Union

SARAJEVO, Bosnia (BP)—Events sponsored by Woman's Missionary Union seldom bring together a mother and son to work on a common project, but a recent medical missions trip to Sarajevo did just that—twice.

National WMU President Wanda Lee led a team of 12 nurses from seven states to work in Sarajevo Aug. 17-31 under the auspices of WMU's Volunteer Connection. The trip was part of WMU's partnership with Southern Baptist personnel in Bosnia through its Project HELP: Violence emphasis.

Lee and Hawaii WMU state president Deanna Aoki have been friends for a long time. Lee, a registered nurse, and Aoki, a dental hygienist, became prayer partners in 1994 when Lee was state president from Georgia and Aoki joined WMU's executive board as the new president from Hawaii.

When Lee began to put together a team nearly a year ago to fill a request from Bosnia for a medical team, she mentioned the need to Aoki who made the commitment to participate.

In those initial months of planning, Lee's son Matt told her he would like to go and experience medical missions. He is a senior pre-med student at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., and wants to become a doctor and donate several weeks each year to missions work. He thought the Sarajevo trip would be a good way to get his "foot in the door."

Lee would not consent to let Matt go because she felt that his being the only male on the trip would be awkward. However, earlier this summer she changed her mind when a male nurse made contact with WMU's Volunteer Connection about going on the trip. "When James (Davis) signed up to go, I went back to Matt. He said he had felt all along that he was supposed to go."

Matt began to work on his finances for the trip by working extra hours at

his job as an emergency room technician at a Columbus, Ga., hospital. He also petitioned the missions committee at First Baptist Church of Columbus, and members agreed to provide most of the money he needed for the trip.

In the meantime, Lee told Aoki that Matt was going on the trip which prompted her to think of her son, Joseph, a third-year biology major at University of Washington in Seattle. She approached him about going and after praying about it several days, the family agreed it was the right thing for him to do. His family and church helped pay his way too.

"I think Matt has benefited greatly from this avenue of service," said his mother. "And both he and Joseph were great and eager helpers on the trip. They were the muscle when we needed it, and the typists and whizzes on the computer when we needed it. And they certainly made an inroad into the community where we stayed because they had the energy in the afternoon after our clinics to play ball with the children."

"It was beyond my belief to have Joseph on the trip with me," his mother noted. "It was very special for him to be able to help me with the dental care presentations about brushing and flossing, especially with the kids. They really responded to him."

"It also was wonderful that His love compelled both of us to go to Sarajevo," she continued. "We saw the decay on their teeth and in their lives without knowing Christ. It was so important to teach them not only how to have good dental health, but also how to know Christ and life abundant."

The mothers also spoke of the new dimension the trip added to their relationship with their sons.

"One of my prayers when both of my children left home was that I would somehow as a mother, make that transition from being a mom to having an adult relationship," Lee shared. "I think this trip is another step in that development of a relationship. To see Matt ex-

Ministry opportunities in Bosnia

SARAJEVO, Bosnia (BP)—Southern Baptist work in Bosnia is about three-and-a-half years old. While there are currently six career missionary families serving in Bosnia, half of them have been serving six months or less. A large bulk of the work is done by a team of 11 Journeymen and International Service Corps volunteers.

Career missionary Bill Steele serves as the team leader for the missionary personnel in Bosnia. He also works as the humanitarian aide coordinator for south Eastern Europe, including Kosovo.

In recent months, Steele has spent a large portion of his time traveling in and out of Kosovo, coordinating volunteers and ministry efforts there. Several members of the Bosnia team have worked with him in relief efforts in Kosovo and Albania.

"We are thrilled to be in partnership with Woman's Missionary Union," Steele said. "The war in Yugoslavia and Kosovo had a negative impact on the partnership this past summer, but we hope to see 300 or more volunteers come to Bosnia next year."

"I know that when people hear 'Bosnia' they

think of danger," Steele added. "The truth is, someone is in the same danger here as she or he would be in Atlanta. Bosnia is a safe country with great spiritual and physical needs. We need help responding to the open door we have to share the gospel."

The primary goal of WMU's partnership with Bosnia is to send in volunteers to help with construction, medical ministries and ministries with women and children. The partnership goes through 2000.

In addition to volunteers, WMU also has invested in the reconstruction of a home that was severely damaged during the war in Bosnia between 1992-95. The house, known as the WMU House, is a three-story home with each floor dedicated to a different purpose. The first floor is a ministry/worship center; the second floor is an apartment for personnel; and the third floor is a dormitory that is used to house up to 20 volunteers. Diane and Norman Crisp of Texas currently live in the apartment and serve as the coordinators for the WMU partnership.

Three other ministry centers are used for Southern Baptists' work in Sarajevo.

perience what I do and what I have been a part of all these years in missions and overseas trips through WMU means so much to me."

Matt and Joseph also were greatly impacted by sharing the medical missions experience with their mothers.

"It was a great opportunity to go some place I've never been before and help meet medical needs," said Matt. "It was also very overwhelming to see all the needs that the people had."

As for working with his mother, Matt said, "I grew up knowing my mom as a nurse and going to the floor at the hospital to visit her, but it was never to see her at her work. To be able to see her actually use her nursing skills has been wonderful."

"I learned to appreciate the fact that

she has put her whole life into nursing," he said. "It was great working with her and to be able to watch her and learn from her."

Joseph said the trip taught him a lot about yielding his life to God and living by faith.

"I thought I needed to have that safety net of being in the United States—to be where I am comfortable," he said. "I think God challenged me to make this trip as a step of faith and to trust in Him."

"This trip was such a blessing," he added. "I got to know my mother so much more and to appreciate the gifts God has given her. I would watch her with the patients, and she was always so loving and patient with each one of them. I've really gotten to appreciate that so much more about her."

Religious leaders debate motives for Moscow explosion

By Frank Brown
Religion News Service

MOSCOW (RNS)—In the first hazy moments after a massive midnight bomb recently destroyed her nine-story apartment building, Yelena Obukhova jolted up in bed, certain that Armageddon had arrived. She called for help.

"I cried out, 'O Jehovah, save us!'" said Obukhova, a 35-year-old Jehovah's Witness. "In the Bible it is written that those who confess the name of Jehovah will be saved."

As Obukhova heard her neighbors' cries for help, breathed in a mixture of acrid smoke and dust and took note of her husband next to her in bed, she realized the world was not ending. But she knew, all the same, that something quite terrible had happened.

When explosives at the base of her building blew up Sept. 9, the ninth floor down collapsed in a pile of rubble, killing at least 94 people. Half of the two-bedroom, fifth-floor apartment Obukhova shared with her husband and daughter was destroyed. The rest—including both bedrooms—remained in-

tact, allowing the family to escape by way of the balcony.

Safely on the ground, gazing at the jagged gap left by the explosion and listening to the moans of those trapped beneath the rubble, Obukhova said she began to see the disaster as a clear message from God.

"If He allowed me to live, it means I must work harder and harder for Him," said Obukhova. "I am so grateful."

On Sept. 13, a similar explosion in another Moscow apartment complex claimed the lives of at least 118 people. It brought to four the number of bomb attacks on Russian territory in a span of two weeks.

A car bomb outside a housing complex for officers and their families in the southern Russian province of Dagestan killed 64 people earlier this month. And on Aug. 31, in an underground shopping mall just outside the Moscow Kremlin walls, a bomb planted in a video arcade killed one person and injured 41.

No one has made a credible claim of responsibility for the attacks. Nor have Russian officials announced any

definitive progress in their investigations. Speculation in the press and among politicians runs rampant.

Most often, though, people blame the ongoing conflict between Russian military forces and thousands of Islamic militants based in the breakaway Russian Muslim republic of Chechnya. In the last month, fighters seized several villages in neighboring Dagestan, a predominantly Muslim province that the rebels pledge to turn into an Islamic state like Chechnya.

One of the Chechen leaders of the attack on Dagestan, Shamil Basayev, has denied any connection with the Moscow bomb attacks.

Three men have been detained in connection with the bombings, but police have produced no evidence linking them with an Islamic terror campaign.

Media commentators and some politicians frequently blame Islamic terrorists for the bombings, calling it a religious-based campaign of terror. About 10 million of Russia's 146 million citizens are nominally Muslims. The dominant Russian Orthodox Church claims 80 million adherents.

Especially in the war-torn and impoverished north Caucasus region that includes Chechnya, Russia's top leaders are extremely wary of fanning existing religious and ethnic tensions. President Boris Yeltsin, for example, declared in a nationally televised address that "this enemy has no conscience, mercy or honor. No face, nationality or religion. I repeat, no nationality or religion."

Religious leaders, including Russian Orthodoxy's powerful Patriarch Alexii II, have called repeatedly for calm and peace while denouncing the attacks.

In an address to a group of defense ministers from the Commonwealth of Independent States, Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin said, "We are not fighting Muslims; we are fighting terrorists."

Father Dmitry Medvedev, a Russian Orthodox priest who buried four victims from the Sept. 9 blast, said he was reluctant to link the bombings with the fighting in Dagestan and refused to make a connection with Islam.

"A real Muslim would never do this," said Medvedev, 54.

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Missionary Pam Johnson as she trains two Tanzanian women to lead a weekly children's class. Pray also for Priska, a Tanzanian woman whom Pam is mentoring.

■ Missionaries Ed and Nancy Gibbons as they move from Moshi, Tanzania, to Dar Es Salaam in October.

■ Robert Brindle, missions-evangelism team leader for the Baptist Convention of New England, who will retire in December. He and his wife, Susan, have served in New England for 33 years.

■ Volunteers needed for construction of the office and training center of the Baptist Convention of New England in Northborough, Mass.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Shirley Wooton

■ **BEREA**—White Lick Church will ordain **Randy Ash** and **Dexter Turner** as deacons Sept. 26 at 2 p.m. **Edward Hubbard** is pastor.

■ **BRODHEAD**—Brodhead Church called **Tony Shelton** as youth minister. Shelton is a student at Clear Creek Bible College. **Mark Whicker** is pastor.

■ **CARROLLTON**—First Church will celebrate 150 years of ministry Sept. 25-26. All former pastors, staff members and former members are invited. For information, call (502) 732-4396. **Chris White** is pastor.

■ **EASTWOOD**—Long Run Church will host a September Fest at the ball field in Eastwood Sept. 25 at 8 a.m. **Jackie Black**, a music evangelist from Alabama, will provide music in addition to music groups from local churches. For information, call (502) 241-1519. **Barry Harkness** is pastor.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Immanuel Church will host a series of divorce recovery workshops each Monday evening at 7 p.m. Sept. 20-Oct. 25. **James Stillwell**, minister with single adults, will

lead the sessions. For information, call (606) 269-5715.

■ **B.B. "Ben" Steele**, retired Southern Baptist pastor and minister of education, died Aug. 3. He was 77 years old. Steele, a native of Arkansas, served several Kentucky churches. He is survived by his wife, **Myrtle**, and daughters, **Nanette** and **Sarah**.

■ **NICHOLASVILLE**—Edgewood Church recently honored its retiring pastor, **Gayle Toole** and his wife, **JoAnn**, with a dinner recognizing their 26 years of ministry at Edgewood. The Tooles were presented with a new car.

■ **PADUCAH**—**Andrew Lampkins**, youth minister at Twelfth Street Church, resigned to accept a position with First Missionary Church of Benton. **Jim Holloway** is pastor of Twelfth Street.

■ **WILLIAMSTOWN**—Williamstown Church will host revival services Oct. 3-6. **Keith Blair** will be the evangelist and **Dick Hamm** will be the music evangelist. **Jim Craigmyle** is senior pastor.

Wives' retreat scheduled

Kentucky Baptist ministers' wives are invited to rest and recharge at an Oct. 15-16 retreat hosted by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's minister/church support department.

Highlighting the theme, "In Search of Sabbath," the retreat will be held at Cedarmore Baptist Assembly in Bagdad. Leigh Anne Alexander, consultant in the minister/church support department, said the theme addresses "the busyness of so many women, but

especially ministers' wives." Ministers' wives need to make time to rest and restore themselves, she added.

Kay Mackey will be the keynote speaker. She is the wife of KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey.

Participants also can attend workshops. The cost is \$45 per person, which includes lodging and three meals.

For information, call (502) 254-4733 or toll-free in Kentucky at (888) 254-5702.



OPEN HOUSE Bill Smithwick, president of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, addressed about 150 people who attended "Family Day" Sept. 11 at the agency's Spring Meadows Children's Home in Louisville. A similar event is planned for Oct. 2 at Glen Dale Children's Home in Hardin County.

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Minister of worship for Glasgow Baptist Church—400 worship attendance in two services. \$40,000-\$45,000 package range, depending on qualifications. The successful candidate has strong musical skills, broad experience in worship and is currently part of a vital ministry. Send resumé to: Worship Search Committee, Glasgow Baptist Church, PO Box 489, Glasgow, KY 42142. Our Web site is: www.glasgowbaptist.com.

SEEKING: Valley Station Baptist is seeking a part-time minister of youth. Please call Karen Henderson, (502) 937-4360.

SEEKING: Associate minister/youth and young adults. Marlow Heights Baptist Church, Front Royal, Va., an established moderate Baptist church, seeks a full-time associate minister. The candidate should be a seminary graduate, possess a mature Christian faith, exhibit a genuine caring Christian attitude toward others and relate well to youth and young adults. Please send confidential resumé to: Marlow Heights Baptist Church, 517 Braxton Road, Front Royal, VA 22630, Attn: Search Committee.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Leitchfield, Ky., is prayerfully seeking a full-time minister of youth/activities. The minister must be spiritually minded, genuinely called by God with a sincere dedication to minister to the youth of our church and community. The minister should be a leader, self-motivated and capable of developing programs for our youth and activities center under construction. If you feel led to work where God is working, please reply to: Brad Travis, chairman, Personnel Committee, First Baptist Church, 106 East Walnut St., Leitchfield, KY 42754.

SEEKING: Manager for Linden Baptist Conference Center. Exciting ministry opportunity in conference center and camping environment in Linden, Tenn. New manager will build on 50 years of tradition with new conference

center facilities. Strong, personal relationship skills desired with demonstrated experience and ability in general, financial and facilities management. Applicants must contact HR Office, Tennessee Baptist Convention, Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024, (800) 558-2090, ext. 2013, or e-mail ghogan@tmbaptist.org.

SEEKING: Mexico Baptist Church is seeking a part-time minister of youth. Good potential for growth in youth department. Send resumé or contact: Rodney Groff, 175 Mexico Road, Marion, KY 42064. (270) 965-9026.

SEEKING: Part-time youth minister. New Harvest Baptist Church, 815 N Main St., Caneyville, KY. Please send resumé to PO Box 118, Caneyville, KY 40701, or call (270) 897-4020.

SEEKING: Florida Baptist Children's Homes in Miami, Fla., is seeking an individual to be responsible for management of residential program in South Florida. Master's degree in related field and experience in residential child care required. Excellent salary and benefits. Call Charlie Cox at (305) 271-4121.

SEEKING: Pastor—student and/or bivocational. Bethlehem Baptist Church, Bethlehem, Henry County, Ky. Please send resumé to: Elaine Rankin, 3844 Bethlehem Road, Pleasureville, KY 40057. Resumés accepted until Oct. 18, 1999.

SEEKING: Little Flock Baptist Church is now receiving resumés for a full-time women's minister. Please send resumé to: Pastor Ronald Shaver, Little Flock Baptist Church, 160 Zoneton Road, Shepherdsville, KY 40165.

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

SEEKING: New Salem Baptist Church near Bardstown is seeking a part-time minister to students with primary focus on ministering in an estab-

lished youth program. Send resumé to: New Salem Baptist Church, 2775 Deatsville Road, Cox's Creek, KY 40013.

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: 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 Bernheim Forest. Contact Greg Crenshaw collect, (502) 543-8477.

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: 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: 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. Bry-

an, 530 Alfa Drive, Frankfort, KY 40601.

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: Fern Creek Baptist Church is seeking a part-time minister of youth and children, and a part-time bookkeeper. Send resumés 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: Fern Creek Baptist Child Development Center is looking for a teacher for the three-year-old 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 SALE: Attention youth groups: We have 30 tickets for Youth-Link 2000 meeting in St. Louis, Mo. Each ticket will cost \$60. Please call New Salem Baptist Church ASAP: (502) 348-8260.

NBA star Malone aims to please Christ

By Dana Williamson
Oklahoma Baptist Messenger

BROKEN ARROW, Okla. (BP)—Karl Malone says when he's on the basketball court in a confrontation with an opposing player, he isn't thinking, "What would Jesus do?"

"Maybe I should be," said the two-time National Basketball Association Most Valuable Player. "But when I step on the court, I look at everyone like they're my enemies. That's the competitive spirit coming out."

When the Utah Jazz power forward is off the court, however, he says he is a "pretty laid-back guy."

The 6-foot 9-inch, 256-pound NBA veteran, who wears a size 16 shoe, spoke to a youth-packed family life center at First Baptist Church of Broken Arrow, Okla., about his life and his commitment to God and to his family.

"Two things are sacred to me—my family and my religion," Malone said. "I am never embarrassed by Jesus Christ. Without Him I wouldn't be in the position I am today. You don't just all of a sudden grow up and get to where I am today."

Malone, 36, who has played with the Jazz for 14 years, said it has taken a lot of hard work, dedication and belief.

He grew up as one of six children in a single-parent home in Louisiana.

As a Southern Baptist, he made a profession of faith in Christ at age 15.

"It seems like we went to church at least four or five times every Sunday," he quipped. "If we were good, we got half a piece of chewing gum. If we were bad, Mom would pinch us and we'd eventually fall asleep."

Malone said a crossroad in his life came when he was 5.

"I was sitting in my kindergarten class looking out the window when I saw my mother coming," he recalled. "She never came to school unless she wanted to see how we were doing or we'd done something bad and she was there to whip our behinds."

Malone said he knew he hadn't done anything bad that day, but when his mother gathered his sisters and brothers in the car and headed toward home, he knew something was wrong. He said she told them their father had committed suicide.

"That was a crossroad in my life," he shared. "I didn't forgive my father until six years ago."

When something bad happens, he added, "you can either feel sorry for yourself, or do something about it."

"If I could spend 10 minutes with my dad right now, and as a result all my earthly possessions would be taken away, I'd say OK," noted Malone, who will make \$14 million a year on a just-negotiated contract. "That's how unimportant material things are."

The first player in NBA history to be named to 11 All-NBA first teams, Malone said basketball is only a bump in his road of life.

"I wasn't put on this Earth to play basketball, although I love to play and I love to compete. And it's a great avenue for me to experience special moments when I can help people," he said.

He told the youth he wanted to be a fighter pilot as he was growing up. But the problem was he kept growing up.

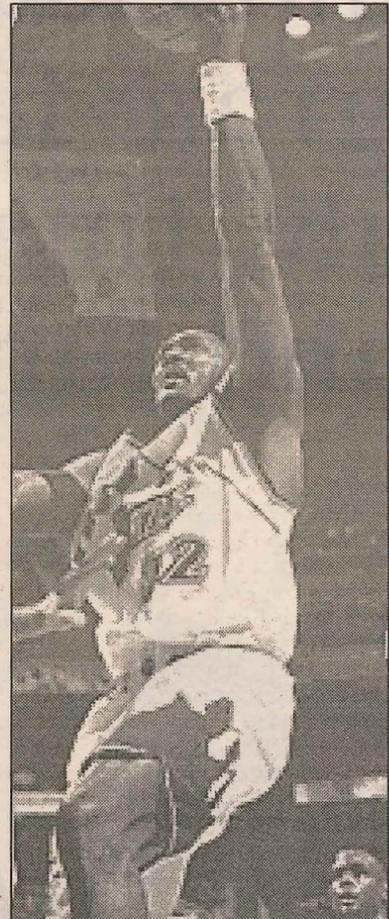
"When I was a senior in high school, I was 6 feet, 4 inches tall," he said. "By the next year, I had grown to 6 feet, 8. I had passed the height limits for pilots."

As Malone was "growing up," he led Summerfield High School to three consecutive Louisiana state championships. While continuing his basketball prowess at Louisiana Tech, a sports writer dubbed him "The Mailman," because he always delivered. That nickname has stuck with him through his pro career.

Malone told the young crowd they have an opportunity to make a difference in life.

"Think about doing something so big that it is even beyond your imagination," he challenged. "Don't sell yourself short. Think big. Make your mom and dad proud of you."

Malone said with the help of God and his family, "I made it. I haven't forgotten where I came from, but I know where I'm going."



FOCUSED GOALS Utah Jazz basketball star Karl Malone, a two-time NBA Most Valuable Player, said the most important priorities in his life are his family and his faith in Jesus Christ.

Pentecostal evangelist's book on abuse transformed into play

By Bruce Nolan
Religion News Service

NEW ORLEANS (RNS)—Terrell Green, a 29-year-old mother of seven children and a victim of childhood abuse, said she saw much of her own story on stage: occasionally funny; sometimes almost too painful.

Others saw the stories of damaged friends or cousins, of women making bad choices and indolent or violent men taking advantage.

So at the close of a recent performance of the gospel play, "Woman, Thou Art Loosed," when director Tyler Perry asked hurting men and women to stand to receive the fervent prayers of everyone else in the audience, dozens of people rose to their feet in the darkness of the Orpheum Theater in New Orleans.

"Let us pray for God's angels" to soothe those souls, said Perry, who directed and wrote the adaptation of Dallas-based evangelist Bishop T.D. Jakes' best-selling book.

The play, which premiered in Chicago in July and has been performed in cities across the country, is one example of how Jakes' Pentecostal ministry continues to morph into new media and new products.

Jakes has a special emphasis on consoling women who feel abused, trapped or shamed by manipulative bosses or boyfriends and their own self-destructive choices.

Part comedy, part drama, part musical, "Woman, Thou Art Loosed" is the tale of the damage a desperately lonely mother allows an abusive boy-

friend to inflict on her daughter. It preaches a message of healthy self-esteem and Christian redemption, even from the horror of some households.

"Very touching, very real," said Green, of New Orleans, who talked about it on the way home with her mother and aunt, who accompanied her to the theater. "There's a lot of that out there."

The title comes from Jesus' declaration in the miraculous cure of a woman sick for 18 years, recorded in Luke 13. The stage play is derived from Jakes' best-selling book of the same name, which in turn is derived from his experiences counseling women, beginning when Jakes was hardly more than a storefront preacher in 1980, freshly laid off from his job as a chemical plant worker in Charleston, W.Va.

"He's so strong conveying to people that no matter where you've been, God loves you no less than anybody else," said Carla Expose, a physical therapist assistant who attended the play with her husband, Hayward, and 14-year-old stepdaughter, Ashley.

In August, the play was performed in Atlanta in conjunction with Jakes' personal appearance at a three-day "Woman, Thou Art Loosed" conference. Jakes drew 81,000 people to the Georgia Dome on July 31, surpassing the previous single event stadium record held by evangelist Billy Graham.

The play continues to tour across the country, with upcoming performances in Raleigh, N.C.; Greensboro, N.C.; Baltimore; and Dallas.

Unexpected revival stirs Arkansas congregation

By Rachel Raines
Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

JONESBORO, Ark. (BP)—What began as a typical Sunday worship service at North Main Baptist Church in Jonesboro, Ark., ended with 21 church members making profession of faiths in Christ.

"It was like the top came off the church and God came in," said Shelia Woznick, who was among those who committed their lives to Christ during the service.

The recent Sunday morning service was not centered on a special emphasis, nor did it feature a guest speaker. According to Tommy Stacey, pastor of the church, the revival experience was simply an "outpouring of the Holy Spirit."

"The flood gates of heaven opened," said Stacey. "There was never a dull moment. There was no begging or pleading. People just came."

The people who came, however, were not unchurched people. They were the sound technician, the organist, nursery workers and Sunday school teachers.

Many of the more than 30 people who have made professions of faith during the past few Sundays were longstanding church members.

Stacey noted that the congregation had seen "showers of blessings" before as a few church members were saved.

On this Sunday, however, "the whole rain" came on the congregation.

The revival among church members began with a profession of faith by Dorothy Hinson.

Hinson, a former church secretary and now a nursery worker, accepted Christ in her home one week prior to the unexpected revival service.

Hinson, a senior adult in the church, explained

she had grown up in church and had always thought she was saved at a young age. For the past three months, however, Hinson said she had serious doubts about her relationship with God, but now those doubts are gone.

When Hinson shared her salvation experience with Stacey, he asked that she give her testimony during Sunday's worship service. That testimony combined with a simple salvation message prompted others who had doubts about their salvation.

Among the salvation experiences was Ida Dacus, the church organist. Dacus explained that she had known for quite some time that she did not have a genuine personal relationship with God, but she did not share that fear with anyone.

"What difference will it make if I am not saved—no one knows and no one cares," Dacus said as she described how she wrestled with the decision to acknowledge her need for salvation. Now, as a new Christian, Dacus said she realizes that salvation makes a tremendous difference.

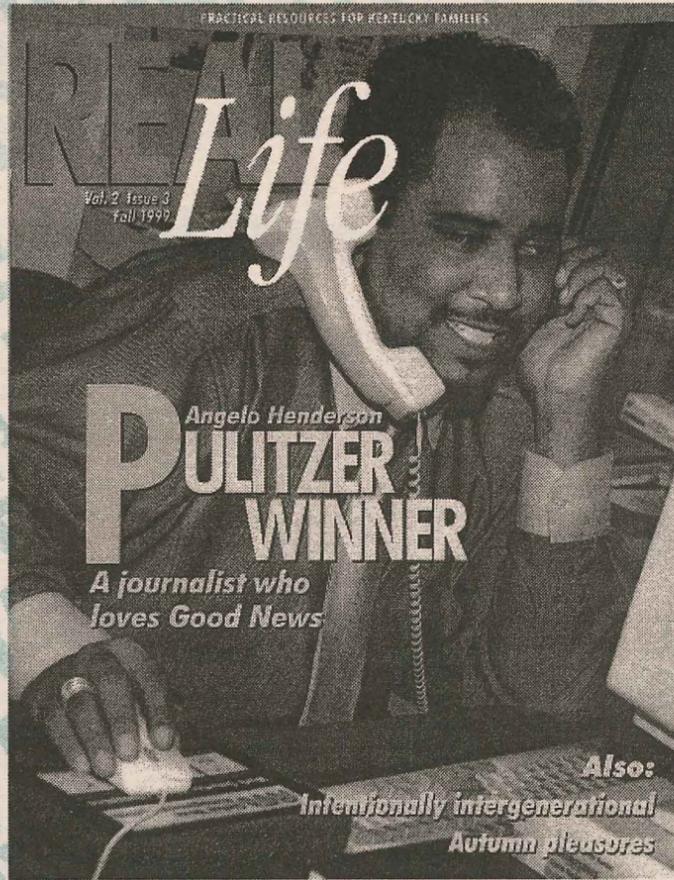
Stacey and the congregation see their God-given ministry as a community outreach. As Stacey explains it, North Main Church is on the "other side of the railroad tracks" from many of the other churches in town. This location gives them the opportunity to reach a large unchurched area.

Just one day prior to the spontaneous revival, the church had completed the construction of a new home for Marvie Dunlap, an elderly lady in the area.

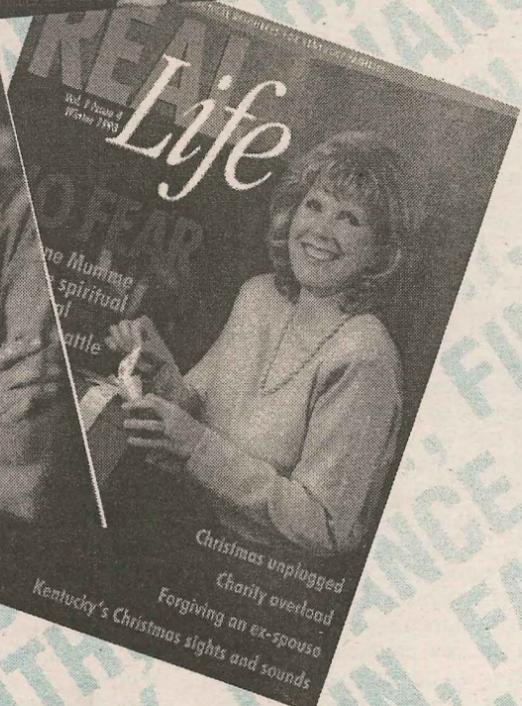
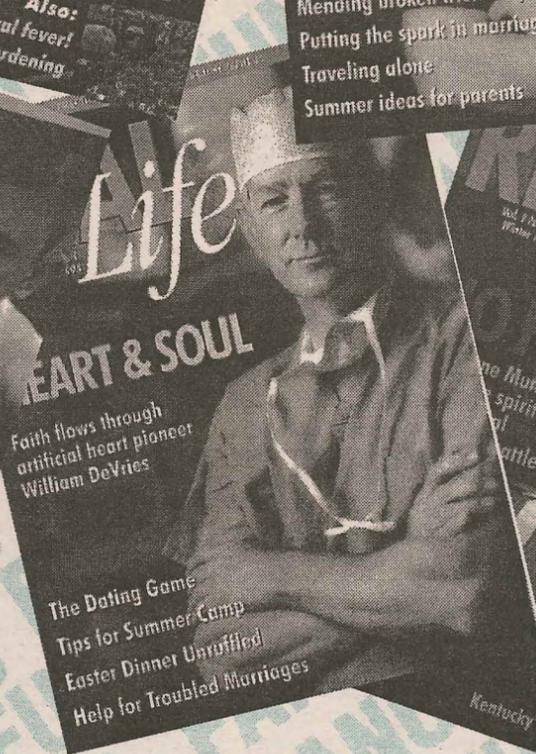
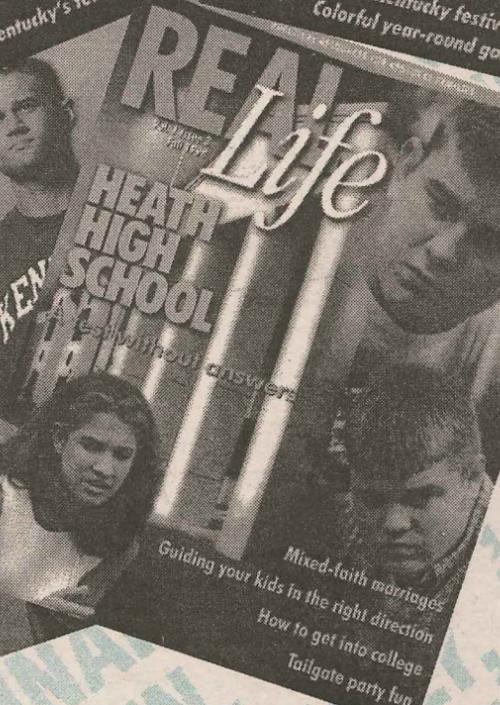
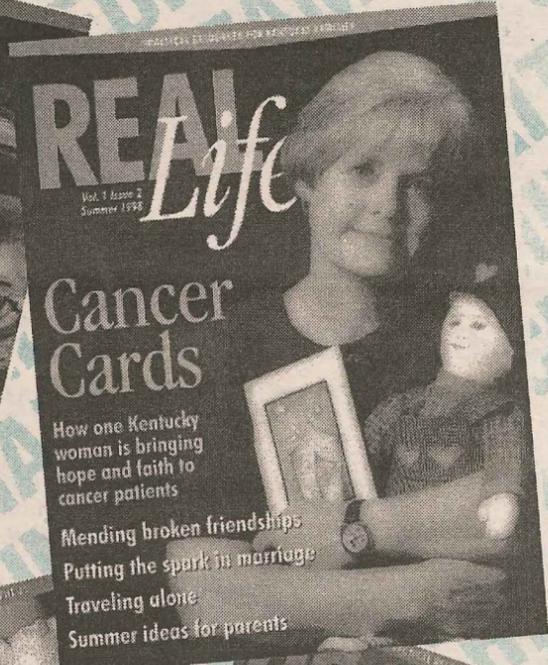
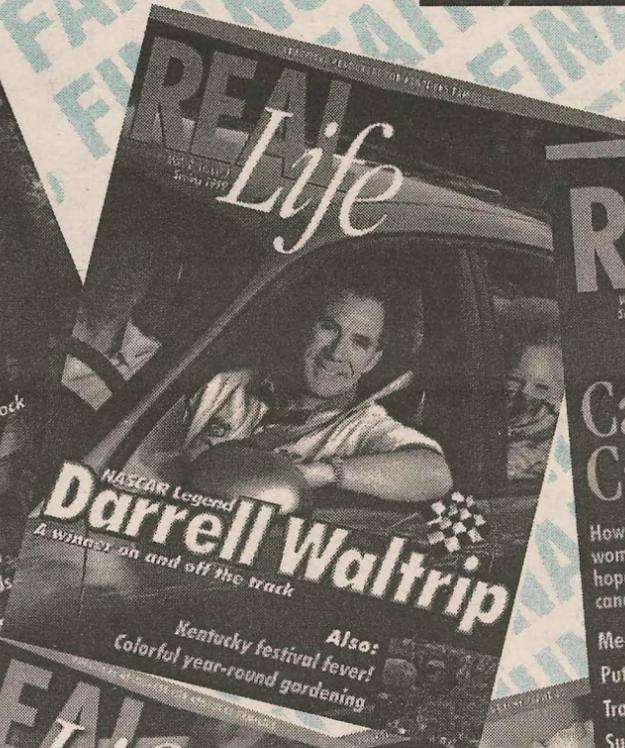
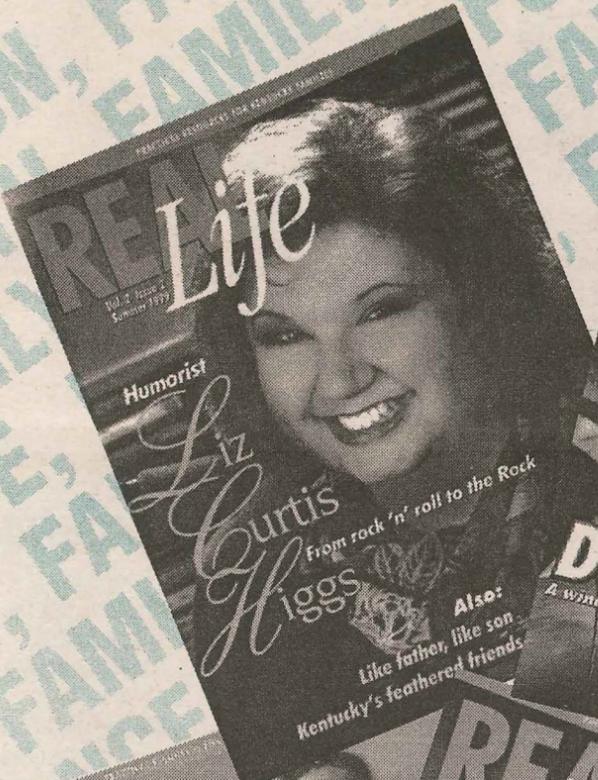
Dunlap's house had become too run down to live in so the church had a house they owned moved to her land.

"We're trying not only to preach the gospel but to live the gospel," Stacey explained.

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