



WESTERN RECORDER

October 5, 1999
Vol. 173, No. 39**FOR THE RECORD****Baptists**A dialogue between Baptists and Catholics highlighted their diversity of views. *Page 3.***Editorial**World hunger relief: Why bother? *Page 5.***Kentucky**More than 1,100 college students attended the annual Kentucky Baptist student convention in Bowling Green. *Page 6.***Brotherhood**New president Gary King said he hopes to help more churches learn about Kentucky Brotherhood. *Page 6.***Nation**Is open-door policy a must for evangelical leaders? *Page 12.***Gambling**Gambling is more destructive than previously believed, according to speakers at the annual meeting of the National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling. *Page 12.***People**Billy Graham charms an unlikely audience at liberal Harvard. *Page 17.*

Tragedies make martyrdom attractive to some teens

By Todd Svano and Greg Warner
Associated Baptist Press

MADISON, Wis. (ABP)—Tina Leonard sat quietly while her English literature classmates talked about the teenagers killed a day earlier in a Fort Worth, Texas, church.

In her heart, she guarded the secret she had carried for months. "God has laid it on my heart that I am going to be martyred," she later confided to a few close friends.

Leonard, 16, thought it would sound crazy to her friends. She was surprised to find them unfazed by the idea. "When I told one of my friends, he said, 'That's awesome. I wish that could happen to me.'"

"If you ask many teens, a bunch would say they'd be willing to die for God," said Leonard's best friend, Joanna Dobbe, 15, also of Madison, Wis.

"Personally, I would like to be a martyr," Dobbe said. "You would be blessed, because Jesus said, 'Blessed are those who are persecuted for

righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.'"

Such thoughts shock parents and even some psychologists. But others say the popularity of martyrdom might be on the rise among Christian teens fervent about their faith and sober to the reality of violence today.

The school shooting last April in Littleton, Colo., was a defining moment for Christian teens, according to Tina Leonard and other youth.

In the wake of the Columbine tragedy and the earlier shooting of students in a prayer group in Heath High School in Paducah, some Christian teens are asking themselves tough questions like "What if it were me?" Some teens are finding the possibility of dying for Christ plausible and even attractive.

Such thoughts are fueled, some observers say, by the media atten-

tion given to the rash of youth violence and the hero treatment afforded its victims. The now-famous words that reportedly cost Columbine student Cassie Bernall her life—"Yes, I do believe in God"—have shown up on T-shirts and coffee mugs.

A book about the murdered teen, written by her mother, quotes a note found in Cassie's room: "I will die for my God. I will die for my faith."

The Christian music industry has taken note of Columbine, which already is cited as a defining event of the millennial generation.

Singer-producer Phil Driscoll has started a record label to highlight young talent energized by the Columbine shooting. DC Talk has published a book about Christian martyrs that is targeted to teens.

Stephen Curtis Chapman, a graduate of Heath High in Paducah, has

made teen violence a personal cause. Meanwhile, the 13 wooden crosses erected near Columbine High School, which became a popular memorial after the massacre, are on tour across the country. Youth rallies in Atlanta, Nashville, London, Ky., and elsewhere have attracted up to 14,000 people anxious to glimpse a tangible symbol of an incomprehensible tragedy.

Dave McPherson, Cassie Bernall's youth pastor in Littleton, said the surge of teen enthusiasm around Cassie's death is genuine.

"They are challenged by her, but they are not worshipping her," he told Religion News Service. "But she's causing them to live closer to what they believe."

Such enthusiasm usually doesn't lead to thoughts of martyrdom. Psychologists and youth workers say that's rare. But to some teens who see a violent world at odds with faith, it makes sense.

"Sacrificing yourself for the glory" See *Martyrdom becoming ...*, page 10

TEEN SCENE

Faith for the next generation

Couples urged to approach conflict with Christian view

By Suzanne Darland
State Correspondent

CAVE CITY—It often doesn't take long after a couple says "I do" for the lofty expectations of marriage to start wearing off, according to the keynote speakers at the Kentucky Baptist Convention's MarriageFest '99.

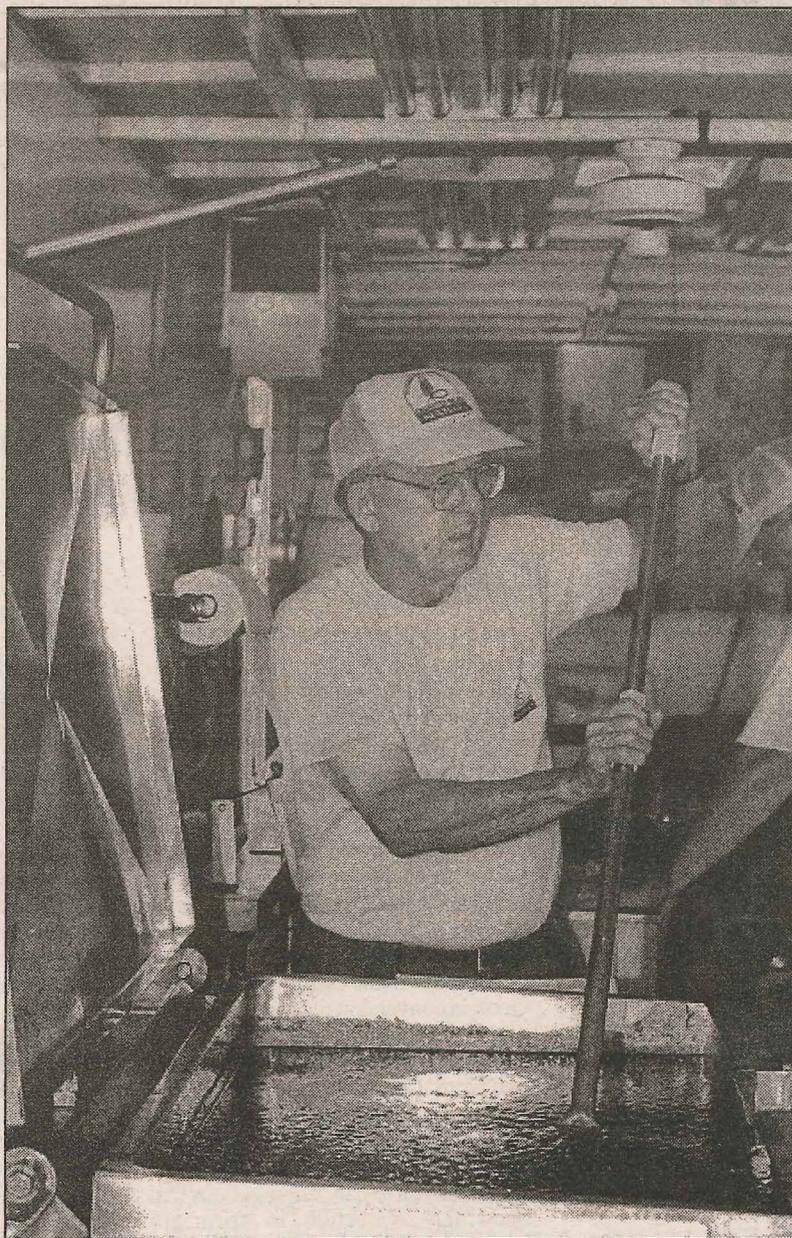
Wedding day magic can quickly fade into the monotony of running a household, warned family therapist Bob Powell.

"In courtship it's, 'Let me bring you the moon and the stars.' But moonlight and roses turn into daylight and dishes," said Powell, a resident of Texas.

He and his wife, Lane, also a certified counselor, were the featured speakers at the marriage retreat Sept. 24-26 in Cave City.

One cause of conflict in marriage, Mrs. Powell said, is when couples don't have enough in common. Another source of conflict is in those areas where personalities are opposite, she added.

Someone who is outgoing often is attracted to someone who is quiet and reserved. Likewise, she said, someone who is compulsively organized may be drawn to someone who is more flexible. Those attractions can become frustrating irritants, she added, such as when a spontaneous spouse criticizes the other as being too rigid.

A third source of conflict, Mrs. Powell said, is when couples are attracted because they subconsciously remind each other of their families of origin. The stage is set for unhappiness when See *Couples urged ...*, page 8**DISASTER RELIEF** O.A. Collins, a member of First Baptist Church of Ashland, stirs a batch of spaghetti sauce at a mobile kitchen. Kentucky disaster relief workers have been in Wilson, N.C., feeding and cleaning up debris after the storms and floods of Hurricane Floyd. The extensive damage could keep Kentucky volunteers in the state for another month, according to coordinators. Work teams will have a crucial need for volunteers in coming weeks, organizers add. **Related story and photos on page 15.**

Gay-rights issues gain momentum across Kentucky

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

HENDERSON—A series of gay-rights initiatives continue to gain momentum throughout Kentucky despite efforts by opponents to block passage of the measures.

Recent actions include passage of a gay-rights "fairness" ordinance in Henderson and on-going discussion of a proposed measure in Bowling Green.

In related developments, the final vote on a similar measure in Jefferson County has been briefly postponed and a lawsuit has been filed challenging a gay-rights ordinance enacted earlier this year in Louisville. Additionally, a bill that would protect homosexuals from discrimination has been prefiled for Kentucky's 2000 General Assembly.

The Henderson ordinance was adopted in the early morning hours of Sept. 29 following a five-hour debate that began the previous evening. The measure, approved by city commissioners on a 3-2 vote, bans discrimination against homosexuals in employment, housing and public accommodations.

Henderson joins Louisville and Lexington as the three Kentucky cities with laws targeting discrimination based on sexual orientation. The Henderson measure carries a fine of up to \$250 for anyone convicted of discrimination in violation of the ordinance.

 See *Gay-rights issues ...*, page 3

BAPTISTS

BAPTIST BITS

■ **Wade to lead Texas Baptists.** Charles Wade, immediate past president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, was elected BGCT executive director Sept. 28. Wade, pastor of First Baptist Church in Arlington for 23 years, was elected by the BGCT's 200-member Executive Board with 12 dissenting votes. He was among the organizers of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and has served since 1983 on the executive committee of Texas Baptists Committed. He will become BGCT executive director-elect Nov. 15 and assume full responsibility following current Executive Director Bill Pinson's retirement Jan. 31.

■ **European Baptists install new leader.** Bulgarian Baptist leader Theodor Angelov has been installed as the eighth general secretary of the European Baptist Federation. Angelov, 60, pledged to preserve Baptist heritage, stand for human rights and seek to build bridges of reconciliation. He has been pastor of Sofia Baptist Church and president of the Baptist Union of Bulgaria since 1991. He will succeed Karl Heinz Walter effective Nov. 1.

■ **Ministry gets new name.** Appalachian Mountain Ministry is being renamed Appalachian Regional Ministry, according to leaders of the multi-state ministry emphasis. The name change became necessary when it was discovered there are several independent ministries already using the name Appalachian Mountain Ministry. The consortium of state conventions involved in the ministry effort include Kentucky and 10 other conventions.

■ **Lawsuits expand against foundation.** A Baptist pastor has added the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention and one of its chief executives to his lawsuits against the troubled Baptist Foundation of Arizona. In an amended suit, Richard A. Kimsey added the state convention and Executive Director Steve Bass to the suit. Kimsey contends the state convention had been assisting the foundation in persuading pastors and others to invest with the foundation. In a related development, James Cook, a member of the foundation board of directors from 1991-97, filed suit against BFA, alleging breach of contract and unjust enrichment.

■ **Southern plans Heritage Week.** Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville will host its inaugural Heritage Week Oct. 12-14. Featured speakers at 10 a.m. chapel services each day include former Southern Baptist Convention President Adrian Rogers (Oct. 12); Alistair Begg, pastor of Parkside Church in Cleveland, Ohio (Oct. 13); and SBC Executive Committee Chairman James Merritt (Oct. 14). The week will conclude with Southern's third annual Pastor Appreciation Day Oct. 14.



Baptist-Catholic dialogue cites diverse views

By Bob Allen
Associated Baptist Press

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Sixteen U.S. Catholic and Southern Baptist officials released a statement Sept. 23 describing where the two faiths agree—and disagree—about the Bible.

The statement, finalized in a meeting two weeks earlier in Washington, is the first report of annual conversations between representatives of the two groups that have been going on without publicity for five years.

The participants, appointed by the Interfaith Witness Evangelism Team of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board and the Catholic Bishops' Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, said the 1,600-word report is not a "confessional statement" either for churches or the participants. Rather, it is an account of topics the group has discussed, processes that have been followed and a clarification of terms used in the discussions.

Southern Baptist and Roman Catholic participants "share a great deal in our Christian faith concerning the authority and truth of the Bible," the statement says, but also have "serious differences."

According to the statement, "Southern Baptists and Roman Catholics believe in the Triune God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and we confess the full deity and perfect humanity of Jesus Christ."

Both groups "find these truths of faith in God's written Word, the sacred Scriptures," but they view the Bible differently, the statement says.

In addition to disagreeing over the canon—Catholic Bibles include a section called the Apocrypha not in most Protestant Bibles—Catholics and Southern Baptists largely disagree over some issues of the nature and interpre-

tation of Scripture.

Both groups define revelation as "God's free self-communication to the world" through nature, the human heart and the books of the Old and New Testaments.

"For Catholics, Jesus is the incarnate Word, is the revelation of God. Scripture contains revelation, while both Scripture and tradition witness to revelation. Southern Baptists prefer to speak simply of Scripture as the revealed, written Word of God, which is inerrant," the report states.

Inerrancy is defined as "the conviction that the Bible is 'without error' in what it affirms," the statement adds. "But there are different interpretations of what this actually means."

"For Southern Baptists, inerrancy means that the original biblical text was composed precisely as God inspired it and intended it to be. ... (N)ot just the thought comes from God, but every word, every inflection, every verse and line, and every tense of the verb, every number of the noun, and every little particle are regarded as coming from God. Scripture is 'God-breathed,' and God does not breathe falsehood, so the text is faithful and true in all it affirms, including the miracle accounts, the attributed authors and the historical narratives.

"For Roman Catholics, inerrancy is understood as a consequence of biblical inspiration; it has more to do with the truth of the Bible as a whole than with any theory of verbal inerrancy."

Catholics and Southern Baptists both hold that "God's revelation takes place in history and develops through the biblical tradition" but differ about what parts of the Gospels can be taken as historical.

"Southern Baptists interpret as historical all biblical events which are clearly intended by the sacred authors to be taken as such.

"Catholics believe that not all biblical narratives should be understood as historical, since the sacred writers also used narratives in a symbolic way to teach religious truths."

The statement also addresses using the term "fundamentalist" to describe groups like Southern Baptists. The word originally referred to an early 20th century movement among Protestants in response to liberalism but later came to be viewed as "strongly separatist," the statement says. "Outsiders came to identify fundamentalism with anti-intellectual literalism and to extend the term to conservative non-Christian groups, such as 'Islamic Fundamentalists.'"

"Because of the pejorative connotations, the Associated Press Stylebook appropriately suggests, 'In general, do not use fundamentalist unless a group applies the word to itself.'"

One Catholic participant said the report would help dispel erroneous perceptions that Southern Baptists and Catholics have of each other.

"We're the two largest Christian denominations in the United States," Jeffrey Gros, associate director of the Secretariat for Ecumenical and Religious Affairs, told Catholic News Service. "To say together how we talk about one another and about our common Bible is important progress."

"It should also lay the common ground for witness together and help those already engaged in Bible study in local situations," he added.

Among Baptist participants in the conversations were SBC President Paige Patterson, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary; Al Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; Mark Copenberger, former president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; and Richard Land, president of the SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

Georgia leaders propose church's ouster over homosexuality

By John Pierce
Georgia Christian Index

ATLANTA (ABP)—Oakhurst Baptist Church in Decatur, Ga., could become the first church removed from fellowship by the Georgia Baptist Convention under a new constitutional provision banning churches that affirm homosexuals.

The state convention's executive committee has voted to recommend expulsion of the 86-year-old congregation long known for extensive social ministries in a racially and economically diverse community.

It would mark the first time for the Georgia convention to remove a church over homosexuality. The Southern Baptist Convention took such action against two North Carolina churches in 1992.

Messengers to the Georgia convention voted last fall to change the GBC constitution's definition of a "cooperating" church to bar congregations that knowingly take action "to affirm, approve or endorse homosexual behavior."

The Oakhurst congregation amended its church covenant in 1997 to "re-

ject any status in this fellowship" over sexual orientation.

Gerald Harris, president of the state convention, said he admired the church's ministries but its position on homosexuality is "clearly outside the parameters established by our convention."

Executive Director Robert White said most Georgia Baptists would disagree with the church's position. "We cannot accept homosexuality as normative," he said.

Oakhurst pastor Lanny Peters said he was not surprised by the recommendation but is disappointed to see the church's long relationship with the state convention come to an end. "We have been a Georgia Baptist Convention church since 1913," he said.

Peters said his church members "are not as one" on the issue of homosexuality but that the congregation disagrees with the state convention's position.

A second congregation under investigation by Georgia Baptist leaders, Virginia-Highland Baptist Church in Atlanta, has not yet responded to a written inquiry about its stance on the issue, White said.

Skip Disney trip, ERLC leaders say

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—"Just don't go." That's the recommendation to Baptists attending the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting next year in Orlando who may be considering a visit to a Disney theme park.

Trustees of the SBC's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission urged messengers "to support our convention's boycott of the Disney corporation's theme parks."

Trustees acknowledged the proximity of the 2000 convention site might make it tempting for some convention-goers and their families to make the short drive down the interstate to the Magic Kingdom and other Disney attractions.

They noted that the non-binding 1997 SBC resolution calling for a boycott of the entertainment giant remains in effect. Messengers to the 1997 SBC called for a boycott of The Disney Company and its subsidiaries in a resolution on moral stewardship.

Brotherhood seeks to link more men with ministries

By David Winfrey
News Director

LONDON—New Kentucky Brotherhood President Gary King said he hopes to help more churches learn about and become involved in the men's ministries organization.

King, pastor of Fairview Baptist Church in Waynesburg, was elected president of Brotherhood Oct. 1 during the group's annual meeting at Swiss Colony Baptist Church in London.

King praised the work of Randy Foster, Brotherhood director for the Kentucky Baptist Convention. "I think Randy's got us going in the right direction."

King added that some churches have an outdated view of the group and are unaware of the many ministries offered. "I think there's an old stigma that it's a men's ministry that meets once a month, and that's not the case anymore," he said.

Foster said his goal is for Brotherhood to provide "adequate channels for every person to be obedient in their response to God, expressed in missions."

Kentucky Brotherhood provides leadership for at least 15 ministry fields, ranging from disaster relief and campers on mission to equestrian ministries and "Experiencing God" week-

ends.

King and Foster said the KBC Brotherhood department plans to produce a promotional video for distribution among Kentucky Baptist churches. "If that excites them, then we'll send more information," King said.

At the annual meeting, KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey stressed the need for a variety of urgent and passionate witnesses for Christ.

Mackey noted that Paul said he was willing to become all things to all men so that he might reach some for Christ.

"What do we need to become in order that they might know Jesus?" Mackey asked.

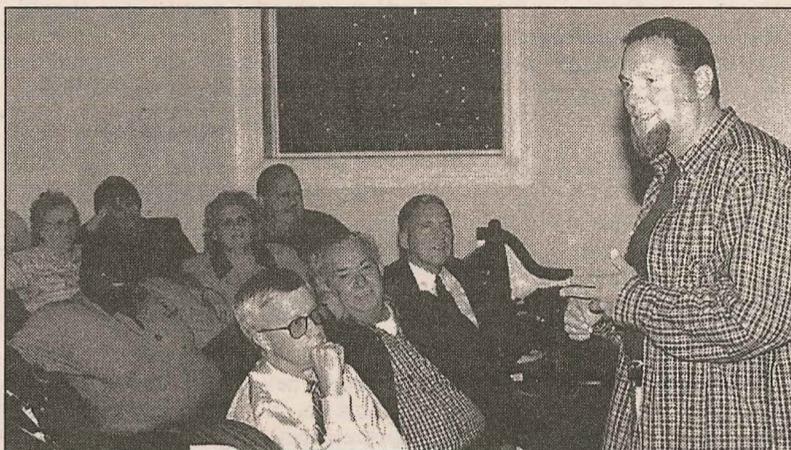
Mackey added that Paul felt a divine obligation to share his faith and valued all people.

"Don't write people off, write people on," he said. "The power of the gospel is that every person can be changed."

This annual meeting was the first to feature a speaker from Promise Keepers, the parachurch men's group that sponsors stadium rallies.

Johnny Baker, the Promise Keepers' coordinator for Kentucky, said the organization is designed to help Christian men become better fathers, husbands and church members.

"Promise Keepers is not something



TELLING STORIES Songwriter and story teller Layton Howerton talks about fishing to illustrate the need to try new methods of introducing people to Jesus. "We've fished out all the shallow water," he said. "Launch out into the deep where the relationships are."

you join. It's something you become," he said.

Foster said he hopes to see a stronger link between Promise Keepers and a similar emphasis among Brotherhood called Legacy Builders.

"The Promise Keepers and Legacy Builders grew out of the same soil about eight years ago," Foster said. Some churches stressed one program or the other, but Foster said the two can compliment each other. Promise Keepers can build excitement among men through stadium rallies and Legacy Builders can continue that excite-

ment through group meetings.

"Whatever they set as their framework of a men's program, I want to help them develop it into a dynamic men's ministry," Foster said.

Also during the meeting, Micah Gastineau, a member of Lancaster Baptist Church in Lancaster, was named recipient of the first annual Young Statesmen Award. Gastineau, a student at Morehead University, received a \$1,000 scholarship for up to four years, if he remains active in Baptist Student Union or other missions work.

Kentucky Brotherhood provides leadership for at least 15 ministry fields, ranging from disaster relief and campers on mission to equestrian ministries and "Experiencing God" weekends.

Gay-rights issues gaining momentum throughout Kentucky

Continued from page 1

Proponents of the measure describe it as a civil rights issue. Opponents have voiced concern about the law infringing on religious views and free speech.

Henderson City Commissioner Russell Sights, a deacon at First Baptist Church of Henderson, was one of the two commissioners who voted against the measure.

"I oppose the measure in four areas in terms of the moral issue, religious issue, political and administrative," he said. "I don't think it is morally right to have this in a conservative community. ... It is certainly contrary to the teachings of the Bible."

Sights said he believes "a majority of our citizens are concerned enough about this issue to make it an election issue next year."

"Many will vote only for candidates who will support repealing the ordinance," he added. "I think that's probably the best strategy."

Henderson Mayor Joan Hoffman, who voted for the measure, said she believes the action "sends the message that we are tolerant and give rights to everyone without judging people."

"In my heart and in my mind, I tru-

ly believe this was an issue simply about civil rights," she added.

Insisting that "I didn't do this to promote homosexuality," Hoffman said, "Our intention is to give those basic human rights to everyone. ... I'm sure it will help the cause and if it does, good."

Responding to the civil rights argument, Sights said, "I believe we already have equal rights for everybody regardless of their sexual preference. I think this is special rights for a small number of people."

Citing his biblical interpretation of the issue, Sights added, "We know that God considers homosexuality an abomination. ... I don't want our families to see an increase in the acceptance of homosexuality in the community."

In Jefferson County, a final vote on the same issue was scheduled for Sept. 28. It was delayed two weeks in a parliamentary move by County Judge Executive Rebecca Jackson who opposes the measure.

Jackson spokesman Troy Riggs said Jackson believes "this is a bad law and may open up the county to further litigation." Riggs noted that county officials already have received a

letter of intent indicating a lawsuit would be filed if the ordinance is passed.

A related ordinance in Louisville already faces a legal challenge from Barrett Hyman filed by the American Center for Law and Justice.

Hyman, a Louisville physician, said that as a Christian he considers homosexuality "sinful and grievously offensive to God." The suit adds that individuals involved in such acts reflect "a serious lack of moral character which renders them unfit for employment in a medical practice."

Riggs indicated another reason to delay the vote in Jefferson County is to allow citizens additional time to share their views with the three commissioners who have said they will vote in favor of the proposed ordinance. The three are Joe Corradino, Russ Maple and Darryl Owens.

"If just one commissioner has a change of mind, that would be significant," Riggs said. He voiced concern, however, that "there hasn't been that outcry from the religious community that I would expect."

Commissioner Corradino said he is "waiting for the opportunity to vote" on the measure Oct. 12.

Speaking in favor of the ordinance, he added, "My vote hasn't changed and it doesn't look like it will. ... If we don't do our job simply because someone's going to threaten a lawsuit, we're going to be deaf-mutes sitting up there."

Maple, who also favors the measure, countered media reports that an employment exemption for religious organizations may be too narrowly defined.

"The legislative intent is that religious organizations are exempt in the area of carrying out their religious activities," he said. Although "any jobs that do not relate to carrying out religious activities are not exempt," he said he believes the measure is broad enough to permit church-related organizations to decline to hire homosexuals due to religious beliefs.

In Bowling Green, the city's Human Rights Commission has announced plans to hold a public hearing to determine if the city also should adopt a "fairness" ordinance. The meeting is expected to be held some time during October or November.

The proposal in Bowling Green is being promoted by the Lambda Society, a pro-homosexual student organization at Western Kentucky University.

Pat Cole takes marketing position with University of Louisville

Pat Cole, staff writer for the Western Recorder, has accepted a position as assistant director of marketing publications for the University of Louisville.

Cole served as partnership editions editor and special projects coordinator for the Recorder from 1996-98. He then served for a year as associate director of the Baptist Center for Ethics in Nash-

ville. Cole returned to the Recorder staff this summer as a part-time staff writer during the Recorder's interim period without an editor.

"Pat has made a tremendous contribution to the Recorder during this time of transition," said Recorder editor Trennis Henderson. "His Christian commitment, journalism skills and knowledge of Kentucky Baptists have

been extremely beneficial to the Recorder. We wish him the very best as he pursues new career opportunities."

In his new position, Cole will serve as the primary copy writer for the university's communications and marketing department. He also will lead the process of developing new marketing and recruitment materials.

Prior to his work with the Recorder,

Cole served for nine years as director of news and information at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. He is a graduate of East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, Webster University in St. Louis and Southern Seminary. He and his wife, Janet, have one daughter, Hilary. They are members of Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville.

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

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How to be a real winner

By Marvin Farmer

It is my prayer, and hopefully the prayer of all Christians, that every person will be a winner. I do not speak of being a winner in terms of lottery, sweepstakes, bingo, casino gambling, off-track betting, raffle of an item or even an office check pool.

My prayer is that there be winners who resist the temptation to imbibe in the serious wrong of gambling and who avoid moving in the direction of becoming compulsive, addictive failures.

Our nation is so filled with such failures that some states are beginning to recognize that the numbers are reaching epidemic proportions.

We now are reading and hearing renewed discussions about the problem of gambling. The renewed concern in our state came about as a result of Gov. Paul Patton testing the waters of legislative and public opinion regarding casino gambling.

When we listen to "street talk," the message is mixed. Take note of some expressions of opinion:

■ Is it a sin to gamble? If so, what is the sin?

■ What is the problem? Life itself is a daily gamble anyway.

■ What is wrong with raffles? They are almost always for a good cause.

■ What about the many thousands of dollars that gambling interests give to charity?

On the surface, the above views are interesting and somewhat convincing. However, there are hurdles that such views cannot jump.

Proverbs 14:12 tells us to be careful because "there is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death" or separation from God.

When state governments, even in our own state, legalize and establish

gambling as a source of revenue, there are many factors that should be considered.

Those in authority should be careful how they use their powers. James 4:17 tells us, "There, to one who knows the right thing to do, and does not do it, to him it is sin."

After the governor's sampling of attitudes regarding casino gambling, there seemed to be a view of "wait and see" floating out of legislative circles.

Those holding such a view have, perhaps, never read, do not understand or choose to disregard the powerful example from the message of the great General Joshua.

Joshua did not wait to see what public opinion brought or what would be "politically correct." He declared, "Choose for yourself today whom you will serve. As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15).

Gambling for gain, with its foundation of covetousness, is a sin. Coupled with its compulsive, addictive impact, it leads those who participate in the direction of violation of many of God's laws and commandments as well as valid laws of man.

We can dress the covetous sin of gambling in the cloak of good cause, support of charity or a serious need for revenue, but that changes nothing. When a person gambles for

gain, he or she covets the proverbial carrot that is dangled before them. This clearly violates God's 10th commandment in Exodus 20: "You shall not covet."

Be it known that there is no cause so good, no charity so worthy and no need for revenue so great as to justify the direct violation of God's law and commandment.

Such sinful actions may flourish for a while, but as Moses told the people in the book of Numbers, "Behold, you have sinned against the Lord, and be sure your sin will find you out."

Many blindly and compulsively continue to contribute to the lucrative and sinful business of gambling—and the number is growing. But those who disobey the will of God in this area will never, by so doing, become winners in the true sense.

Gambling has been presented as the solution to many financial problems. I believe this has never been, is not now and will never be a solution to anything other than its contribution to the destruction of our nation through moral, ethical and spiritual decay.

I appeal to all citizens to become winners by following the guidance that the Apostle Paul gave to the Thessalonians when he said, "Abstain from every form of evil."

Marvin Farmer is a member of Berea Baptist Church and a guest columnist for the Berea Citizen newspaper.

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

Eliza Broadus supports world missions too!

In my role as executive director, I have become increasingly aware of the blurring of the lines between international, North American and state missions. The Southern Baptist North American Mission Board has responsibility for Canada and Puerto Rico and works with many internationals. As I reviewed the ministry allocations in the Eliza Broadus Offering, I became aware of how much state missions also lends support to international missions.

The Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions provides gifts for international missionaries, a retreat for missionary children and scholarships. WMU sponsors an annual luncheon for furloughing and retired missionaries and parents of missionaries. More than 50 participants were present for the September luncheon to renew friendships and learn the latest international mission plans from Jerry and Bobbie Rankin of the Southern Baptist Inter-

national Mission Board.

In addition, language missions and migrant ministries have been the fastest growing works in Kentucky. Some have estimated that 75,000 Hispanics may be working or living in Kentucky. This is a significant work funded by the Eliza Broadus Offering. It supports international missions when migrant workers return home to share their newly discovered faith with families and friends.

International students are studying at colleges and universities all over Kentucky. As many as 800 international students are enrolled at the University of Louisville alone. These students will return to their countries to become national leaders. As we strengthen our collegiate ministry and witness to international students, many students will have the opportunity to return to their countries with the joy and challenge of their new faith in Jesus Christ. Pray for the fall international student retreat sponsored

by the Eliza Broadus Offering.

The Eliza Broadus Offering also supports special projects including disaster relief and Volunteers on Missions, which extend to international and North American needs. Special state missions activities such as summer camps and the WMU annual meeting as well as the associational newsletter, "On Mission Together," promote international and North American missions. A significant portion of the Eliza Broadus Offering supports missionaries serving in Kentucky who are advocates for missions beyond Kentucky. There is a strong interdependence in missions support and involvement as we seek to carry out the Great Commission.

For the above reasons as well as the fulfillment of state needs, I pray that all Kentucky Baptists will do their best to support Kentucky missions and ministries with their prayers and gifts. The Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions currently is being promoted in Kentucky Baptist churches and you may contribute at any time.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

LIABILITY

Help! Someone has robbed me of my identity

By Don Spencer

That title might not sound like it belongs in a financial column.



Unfortunately it does. Theft of your identity occurs when thieves steal and use your Social Security number, driver's license number,

date of birth and address to access your bank accounts and open credit accounts in your name. In 1997, more than 500,000 people experienced identity theft.

How does it happen? Sometimes through trash bins for unshredded credit card offers and loan applications. Sometimes mail is stolen from one's mailbox in order to find newly issued credit cards, bank and credit card statements, pre-approved credit card offers or similar information. Identity thieves may even pose as a landlord or employer to order a copy of your credit report. Once they get this information, they use it to impersonate their victims by accessing their credit and bank account. Generally the thieves will spend as much money as possible very quickly.

How can you prevent identity theft? Be sure to review your bills and bank statements. Your liability is limited if you report any illegal use immediately. You also should check your credit report periodically.

Shred papers you discard that include such things as your Social Security number or account numbers. Shred pre-approved credit card offers or pre-approved loans. (Or, as one financial advisor encourages, mark them with a big 'No' and return them to the senders in their postage-paid envelope.)

Be careful about disclosing your Social Security numbers. Only those who must report your income or expenses to the IRS have legitimate needs for this number. Your Social Security number is the key to your credit and banking accounts.

If you are a victim of identify theft, report the crime immediately to the police, your bank, issuers of your credit cards, mortgage lender, broker and any other services where you might incur financial liability. New credit cards should be requested. Also report to the three major credit reporting companies: Experian (888) 397-3742, Equifax (800) 525-6285, and Trans Union (800) 680-7289.

Victims of credit and bank fraud usually have a limited liability as long as the illegal use is reported immediately.

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

How long is too long to wait for boyfriend to 'pop the question?'

Q: I have dated my boyfriend for several years and I wonder if he will ever ask me to marry him. How long is too long to wait for someone to "pop the question?"

Honesty is an important factor in relationships, and the sooner the better. There are lots of people today who are in fantasy relationships. One person may have a fantasy that he or she hopes will come true.

Fantasies have more in common with Disney story books and movies than with real love. They often are based on unrealistic expectations of what a relationship or a marriage should be. When real life doesn't live up to the fantasy, it is then played out as a tragedy, and nobody wants to live a tragedy. This cycle can produce the fantasy/tragedy of marriage and divorce.

Physical chemistry may be one of the least important factors in successful long-term relationships. Still, if there is no chemistry after a couple of years, it would be a good idea to recognize the fantasy for what it is. Many single people stay in unhappy relationships because they are afraid of being alone. Remember, loneliness does not depend on one's marital status. It is better to be alone outside of marriage than to step into the married world as one who feels "married alone."

Be realistic with signs that may be obvious to everyone but yourself that this relationship may not be working. Some men and women are truly commitment-phobic. When dating this type of person, we tell ourselves, "It will be different for me."

Have some friends in your life who will be honest with you and give you a loving, objective read on your relationship. It doesn't take a long time in a relationship for one person to want the relationship to be something more than the other person does. Be honest with one another. Be honest with yourself. Your time invested in the relationship world will then more likely be time well spent.—James Stillwell

Q: Not all marriage problems are the result of poor communication, but it seems that so many people today make such a big deal about communication. Why is that?

Communication does seem to be one of the most important characteristics for having a healthy marriage. Without good communication skills it is difficult, sometimes impossible, to work through differences, make decisions together or even feel capable of adequately sharing your feelings and knowing you've been heard.

It is true, however, that having good communication skills doesn't guarantee a good marriage. Some problems are not the result of faulty communication at all, but the result of individuals growing apart, spouses working toward conflicting goals or holding different values that do not seem reconcilable. However, even in these instances, good communication decreases the chances that misunderstandings will occur, thus preventing a problem from going from bad to worse.

Even when communication is not the issue, it seems that talking directly and clearly to each other helps couples feel closer, and helps the individuals feel respected and understood. Such feelings often can soften the differences and conflicts that are threatening the marriage and prompt the couple to make the effort necessary to work toward a solution.

While good communication isn't everything, it is foundational for a relationship. It can make the difference in whether or not the couple will find a workable solution to their problems.—Susan Howell

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.



World hunger relief: Why bother?

Oct. 10 is World Hunger Sunday on the Southern Baptist calendar. Many congregations in Kentucky and throughout the nation will hear stark statistics about the millions of people around the world who suffer malnutrition and starvation each year. In response, Southern Baptists will contribute an average of 50 cents each to help reduce world hunger.

One haunting question amid the annual emphasis is: Why bother? Do we really believe a few million dollars a year will make an impact when 450 million people are suffering malnutrition? Will our pocket change help curb the annual death toll of nearly 12 million children under age 5 in developing countries?

Why bother? The answer is as clear as the question. Jesus said in Matthew 25:35, "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. ..." What greater motivation do we need?

While there are those who would say our financial gifts would be better spent funding evangelistic efforts, the fact is that meeting physical needs often is a vital step in having an opportunity to meet spiritual needs.

Whether responding to devastating drought in North Korea or war-induced poverty in Bosnia, world hunger funds help open doors to the gospel that may be inaccessible any other way. Closer to home, homeless people in Louisville, Lexington and other cities as well as impoverished families in the Appalachian region of Eastern Kentucky have increased opportunities to see God's love in action through domestic hunger relief efforts.

"If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity for him, how can the love of God be in him?" asks 1 John 3:17. "Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth."

God's Word is clear that followers of Christ are to reach out to those in need. Whether it's world hunger relief at home and around the world, disaster relief efforts in the wake of Hurricane Floyd or a local food pantry ministry here in the state, Kentucky Baptists

have countless opportunities to share a caring Christian witness "with actions and in truth."

Southern Baptists' world hunger relief emphasis has been described as "a passion for compassion." How can Kentucky Baptists be personally involved in this worldwide ministry effort on a practical level?

According to a world hunger offering guide prepared by the Kentucky Baptist world hunger awareness committee, there are a variety of creative ways Kentucky Baptist families can collect world hunger funds throughout the month of October. The daily calendar offers 31 specific suggestions for highlighting hunger needs. A sampling of those ideas includes:

■ Oct. 8: "Thank God for the availability of food. Give 5 percent of your grocery bill to world hunger."

■ Oct. 9: "Offer your time. Volunteer to work in a soup kitchen."

■ Oct. 13: "Pray for the needs of the world. Give the price of a loaf of bread."

■ Oct. 16: "Give a dime for every birthday you have celebrated."

■ Oct. 18: "Give a quarter for every cookbook you have in your house."

■ Oct. 20: "Give an amount equal to what you spend on pet food each week."

■ Oct. 28: "Fast one meal today. Give the money you save to world hunger."

■ Oct. 29: "Give 25 cents for each time you open your refrigerator today."

■ Oct. 31: "Give to world hunger an amount equal to the amount you spend of Halloween candy."

You get the idea. With cookbooks, pet food, Halloween candy, even refrigerators, most of us take for granted luxuries that millions of needy people cannot even imagine.

Amid our abundance, perhaps this will be the year Southern Baptists move beyond giving token pocket change to aid a world in need. Why bother? "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren," Christ declares, "ye have done it unto me."

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Is Christ divided?

By Robert Blackburn

"Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized into the name of Paul?" (1 Corinthians 1:13)

The Apostle Paul asks a very important question. It is a question that we need to ask ourselves: "Is Christ divided?"

It is tragic when God's people are fragmented into different groups or get caught in quarrels that infect the Body of Christ. When that happens, I believe God is saddened by the division of His body.

The Corinthian church believed a lie. They thought these great apostles were to be followed and served like gods. Even Jesus had His own little group of followers.

The church developed turf wars. Many inner-city gangs will fight over turf. If you live in an area of the inner city and wear the wrong color clothing or if you're in the wrong neighborhood at the wrong time, you might

be taking your life into your own hands.

The church in Corinth was split over its own turf war. Paul warned the division was tearing apart the Body of Christ. It is this turf pride that has caused people to kill each other for some turf in a neighborhood. It has caused the death of many soldiers just to take more turf. But this turf war happens in the church as well.

Our world today isn't very different from the Corinthian church. Lost people are just as far from Christ as ever before. We have more means of rescuing the perishing than ever before. But our spiritual firefighters are fighting over turf. We are so concerned about our own pet projects, our denomination, our budget or our doctrinal distinctives, and then about getting credit so we can get the praise.

We tend to give loyalty to human leaders rather than to Jesus Christ who raises up leaders. Meanwhile, a lost world is falling deeper and deeper into darkness.

Instead of fighting over our spiritual turf, we need to come together and reconcile. That is what Paul was trying to teach the Corinthian believers. As Kentucky Baptists, we need to learn this great lesson as well. Satan tries his best to divide and conquer. He started here with the Corinthians and it still goes on almost 2,000 years later. Satan does not give up. Give him an inch and he will take a mile.

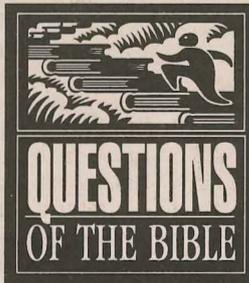
There's probably 90 percent of Bible doctrine that Christians agree on and maybe about 10 percent where we disagree. Why do we spend 90 percent of our energy on the 10 percent where we differ?

Church, it is time to unite our resources to defeat Satan and his host. There is no stopping God's army when it is united. There is no place in the kingdom of God for a divided army. The turf is burning up! We need to unite to build the kingdom of God.

Is Christ divided? No! Remember: "United we stand, divided we fall." May it be said that we stand unified as the Body of Christ.



Robert Blackburn is pastor of Beechwood Baptist Church in Louisville.



Students from across Kentucky assemble for Focus '99

"I think this generation is ready for the challenge. They're ready to buy into a cause."

Keith Inman, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention collegiate ministry department

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

BOWLING GREEN—Challenging an estimated 1,100 college students to be "doctrinally pure," Voddie Baucham shared a series of messages from 2 Timothy during the 1999 Kentucky Baptist Student Convention.

Highlighting the theme, "Focus '99," Baucham urged the students to "maintain purity as it relates to our interpretation of the Scripture—holding on to what is true, right and factual and not associating ourselves with error."

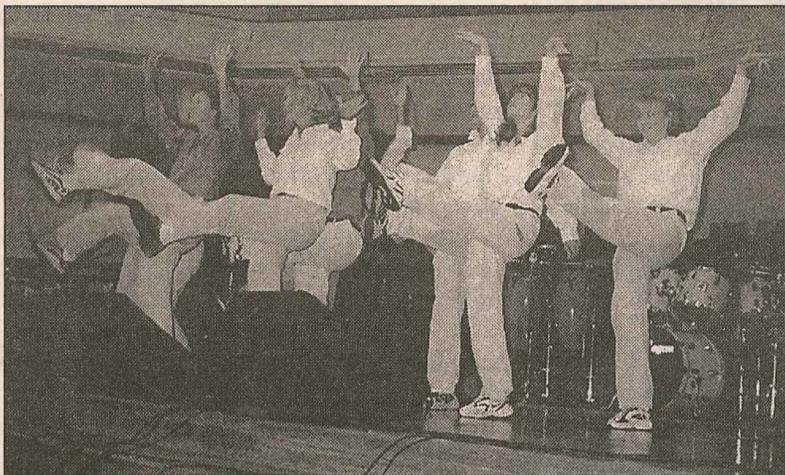
The convention, held Oct. 1-3 at First Baptist Church of Bowling Green, featured praise bands, mission challenges and a series of break-out sessions. The annual gathering attracted students from college campuses throughout the state.

The weekend event "is basically a time to encourage and motivate students to be active believers on their campuses," explained Keith Inman, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention collegiate ministry department. "It's one of the main times when we cast a vision of them being followers of Christ and what that means concerning their personal witness and involvement in missions."

Baucham, teaching pastor at Sagemont Baptist Church in Houston, said his goal is to encourage young people to "sense and respond to God's call with their lives and be willing to go anywhere, any time, at any cost."

Citing the Apostle Paul's call to avoid "the impurity of false doctrine," Baucham noted that Paul "was trying to get Timothy to have a passion for the word of truth."

"We must be a people who hold onto that which is true," Baucham emphasized. "We must be a people who are serious about discipleship, serious about being rooted and



HIGH ENERGY Members of Cumberland College's creative ministries team exude energy as they perform a dance routine to the pop Christian recording, "The Devil Is Bad," during the state student convention. An estimated 1,100 students attended the annual meeting, held this year at First Baptist Church of Bowling Green.

grounded in the Word of God."

Urging participants to "stick to the Book," he added, "There are a lot of people who want to have useless quarrels over useless words. ... You're not to be quarrelsome, but kind and able to teach and patient when wronged."

Affirming Paul's call to be gentle, Baucham said, "Gentleness is not about being weak. Gentleness is strength under control. ... My goal is through being kind, gentle and patient toward people, God may do a work in them and draw them to Himself."

"I believe if I just preach the Word, God will take care of the rest," he said. "God has given us something powerful. We need to make sure that we're careful about the way we handle it."

Among the mission testimonies shared during the event, Danette Woods told about her ministry opportunities at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

Woods, a student at Murray State University, is studying this year as an exchange student in Massachusetts. She also is working with the South-

ern Baptist North American Mission Board to help start student ministry work there.

"It's just amazing what God is doing and how He's allowed us to affect the campus," Woods said.

Noting that she has been able to help start campus Bible studies and discipleship groups, she added, "When God says go, ask Him where and when. ... Whether you go overseas or stay in your hometown, God can use you in amazing ways."

Break-out sessions addressed issues ranging from "Being a Contagious Christian" to "Creative Worship for Our Generation." A Saturday morning session on "How to Experience God's Will for Your Life" attracted nearly 100 young people.

Todd Cravens, single adult leader at Little Flock Baptist Church in Shepherdsville, told workshop participants, "God's ultimate will for your life is to have an intimate relationship with Him." He said the primary key in accomplishing that goal is to "encounter Jesus in your life."

Cravens said ways to discover God's specific will for one's life are through prayer, Scripture, godly counsel, providential circumstances and waiting on God.

"God will never ask you to do anything that contradicts Scripture," he noted. "When He tells you do something, obey."

Warning students to "never put circumstances above the Word of God," he added, "It's got to line up with Scripture."

"Get rid of everything that weighs you down spiritually," Cravens urged. "Focus your life on the Lord. Give up struggling to find your own way. He will lead you—He's a shepherd."

Jeff and Mary Beth Carlisle led a break-out session on "The 10 Commandments of Dating," based on a book by the same title by Samuel Adams and Ben Young. The Carlises, youth ministers at Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green, led the workshop twice during the weekend, both times to overflow crowds of students.

The dating commandments ranged from "thou shalt use your brain" to "thou shalt save sex for later."

"If you marry the wrong person, it affects your whole life forever," Mrs. Carlisle warned. She said a potential mate should be faithful, honest, committed, forgiving and giving.

"Don't lower your standards," she said. "If you're a Christian, they need to be a Christian."

Jennifer Rice, a senior at Cumberland College, said the student convention is "kind of like a revival for us to start off the semester."

"The worship is very renewing for us as students," she said. "It provides a freshness I can share with other people at school."

Reflecting on the impact of Focus '99, Inman said, "I think this generation is ready for the challenge. They're ready to buy into a cause."

Killinger talks to Kentucky pastors about preaching, spirituality

By David Winfrey
News Director

LOUISVILLE—Preaching, like poetry, is an art of self discovery, Kentucky native John Killinger told a group of pastors in Louisville last week.

Killinger, an author and pastor, shared insights from his book "Preaching the New Millennium" during a conference sponsored by Georgetown College's Marshall Center for Ministry.

While some pastors view preaching as a drudgery, many find that their own discoveries about themselves and God energizes their work on their sermons, said Killinger, who now is a resort pastor in Mackinac Island, Mich. "When you've written a sermon, at the end there's often a moment of epiphany."

Killinger, 65, encouraged pastors to continue working on developing their theology throughout life. "Pastors shouldn't come out of seminary with a list of categories of truth and expect the Bible and life to fit into that," he said.

"Life is a muddle, and it's difficult to follow," he said. "Pastors must acknowledge they are also on a journey and struggling."

As a result, pastors should not speak as demagogues with all the answers, but as fellow travelers, he added. "People who come to our church meetings should feel they understand the reality of our lives," he said.

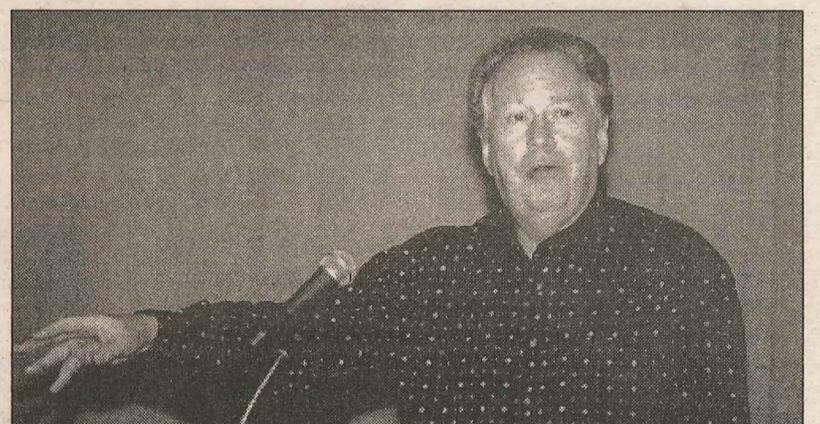
"They ought to understand that life is a struggle," he added. "But, by the grace of God, Christ comes, there's freedom, there's celebration ... and there's hope."

To relate to their congregations, Killinger noted, pastors must remain sensitive and aware of the culture around them.

"It doesn't mean we have to accept it, but we ought to be aware of it," he said. "The language and the metaphor of preaching are constantly changing according to the world in which we live."

Killinger said pastors must continually work on their spirituality, calling it the "most difficult aspect to maintain because it easily can become static. 'What was sufficient for us 20 years ago must not be sufficient for us today.'"

One key to that is to continually be studying the Bible, he said. "It's very important for us to keep rediscovering



JOHN KILLINGER The native of Somerset spoke to Kentucky Baptist pastors attending a conference sponsored by Georgetown College's Marshall Center for Christian Ministry.

Scripture."

Spirituality doesn't result from activity, but it does often move people to action, he added.

Prayer is another key, in that regard, he said. "The people who pray the most are often the ones who are the busiest," he said. "They become committed to so many things."

Killinger encouraged pastors to stay connected to the power of God, saying

that much of modern-day religion is isolated from God's power.

"In the end, religion that is too tepid to change our lives is too powerless to save us," he said.

"I hope we will not lose from our midst the sense of what is fueling revival in Korea and Africa today," he said. "Maybe it's time to go over there and see what's happening and hope that it comes over here."

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FAMILIES

Couples urged to handle conflict with Christian perspective

The Powells suggested that couples address the present rather than the past, deal with issues and not with personalities, and listen fully without being defensive.

Continued from page 1

couples play the roles they're familiar with and try to work out problems from their childhood such as dealing with an alcoholic father or an abusive mother, Mrs. Powell said.

Despite the potential for conflict, Powell added that couples can turn such issues into "stepping stones instead of stumbling blocks."

His wife said the word translated "helpmeet" in Genesis 2:18 is better understood as "answerer." "God intended for us to be in dialogue with one another," she said.

In their second address, the Powells urged couples to live by Paul's admonition in Ephesians 4:26, "Be angry and sin not."

"We can't let our feelings control our actions," Mrs. Powell said. "There are ways to manage them." One way is for individuals to not put off talking about issues that are bothering them.

"If you take a little fertilizer and put it on a plant, it does well," Bob Powell explained. "But if you shovel on a big pile, it smells bad and kills the plant."

The Powells also suggested that couples address the present rather than the past, deal with issues and not with personalities, and listen fully without being defensive.

"Learn to talk to each other and

Couple: Christian families must set boundaries

CAVE CITY—Did you ever think Christians could love too much? Eddie Fields said that might be a possibility.

"They can take on far too much, trying to help others and make everything better," said Fields, who with her husband, Bob, operates cleftRock, a retreat center in Mt. Vernon.

"When people say 'my ministry,' what they really mean is 'my control area,'" echoed her husband. Fields said Jesus' ministry involved love and compassion, but He set boundaries on His relationships, never allowing His concern for individuals to interfere with His prayer life, for instance.

Basing their MarriageFest workshop on the "Boundaries" books by Henry Cloud and John Townsend, Bob and Eddie Fields urged couples to set clear boundaries.

They urged participants to establish "personal property lines marking those things you're responsible for—things like attitudes, time, vocation, relationship with God."

The couple, who are former missionaries to the Middle East, noted that neither of them acknowledged important boundaries between them early in their marriage. "I withdrew from you," Fields told his wife, "because I hadn't defined my boundary and you felt free to invade my space."

"Then the more you pulled away, the stronger I pushed," she replied.

They said clear boundaries come when God is invited into the marriage, allowing Him to both define and surround it.

Ephesians 4:16 speaks of different parts of the body of Christ fitting together under God's control. "I take

responsibility for my own choices and attitudes," Mrs. Fields said. "I avoid taking responsibility for my mate's life."

One poor way to deal with different boundaries in marriage is with domination, where one spouse wins and the other loses, said Fields. "The marriage always loses," he added.

But he said he's not so sure that typical arrangements among many young couples are any better. "Alienation is the new way," he said. "His and her bank accounts, his and her car, his and her work; they're just two single people living in the same house."

Neither pattern will bring intimacy to a marriage, the workshop leaders said. They encouraged couples to intentionally work at setting clear boundaries for each spouse and for the marriage so it can thrive.

listen," Powell urged.

Couples ended the evening with a candlelight recommitment service, where they vowed to continue working in their marriage relationships.

This was the second year for the marriage retreat, sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's family min-

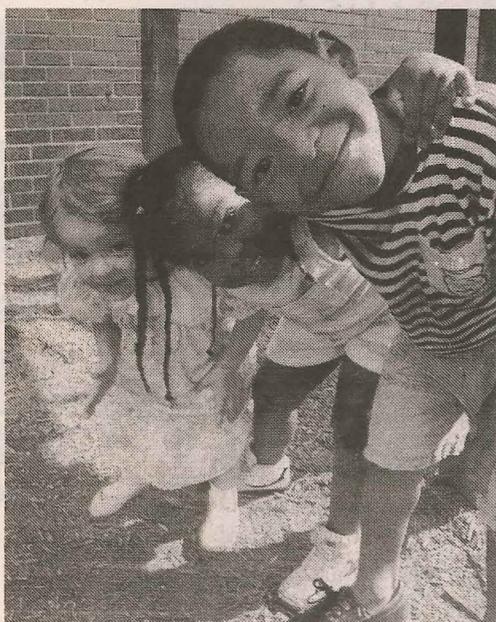
istries department. More than 115 couples, married from five weeks to 43 years, attended workshops on such topics as money, spiritual growth and keeping their marriages strong during different stages of their children's lives.

Amy Arnett of Frankfort, married for 17 years to her husband, Bob, said

they attended the event because "we want to reignite the flames and improve what we already have."

Wayne and Debbie Skaggs of Elizabethtown, who have been married for two years, said they have attended a marriage retreat each year as an anniversary gift to each other.

children



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John Westerhoff, one of the nation's most important figures in Christian education, is theologian-in-residence and director of the Institute for Pastoral Studies at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Atlanta. His publications include: *Will Our Children Have Faith?*, *The Spiritual Life: Foundation for Teaching and Preaching* and co-written *Sensing Beauty: Aesthetics, the Human Spirit and Christian Community* with John Eusden.

Prathia L. Hall, pastor and educator, has ministered at Philadelphia's Mt. Sharon Baptist Church since 1978. From 1989-1998, she served the United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, as Dean of Spiritual and Community Life and later as Dean of African American Ministries. She is widely considered one of the greatest preachers in the country.

Katherine Paterson, is the author of more than 25 books, including 12 novels for young people. She has received international acclaim for her books, including two National Book Awards for *The Master Puppeteer* (1977) and *The Great Gilly Hopkins* (1979); two Newberry Medals for *Bridge to Terabithia* (1978) and *Jacob Have I Loved* (1981); the Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction for *Jip, His Story* (1997) and recognition for *Lyddie* which was the U. S. contribution to the Honors List of the International Board of Books for Young People.



Westerhoff



Hall



Paterson

ACCOMMODATIONS

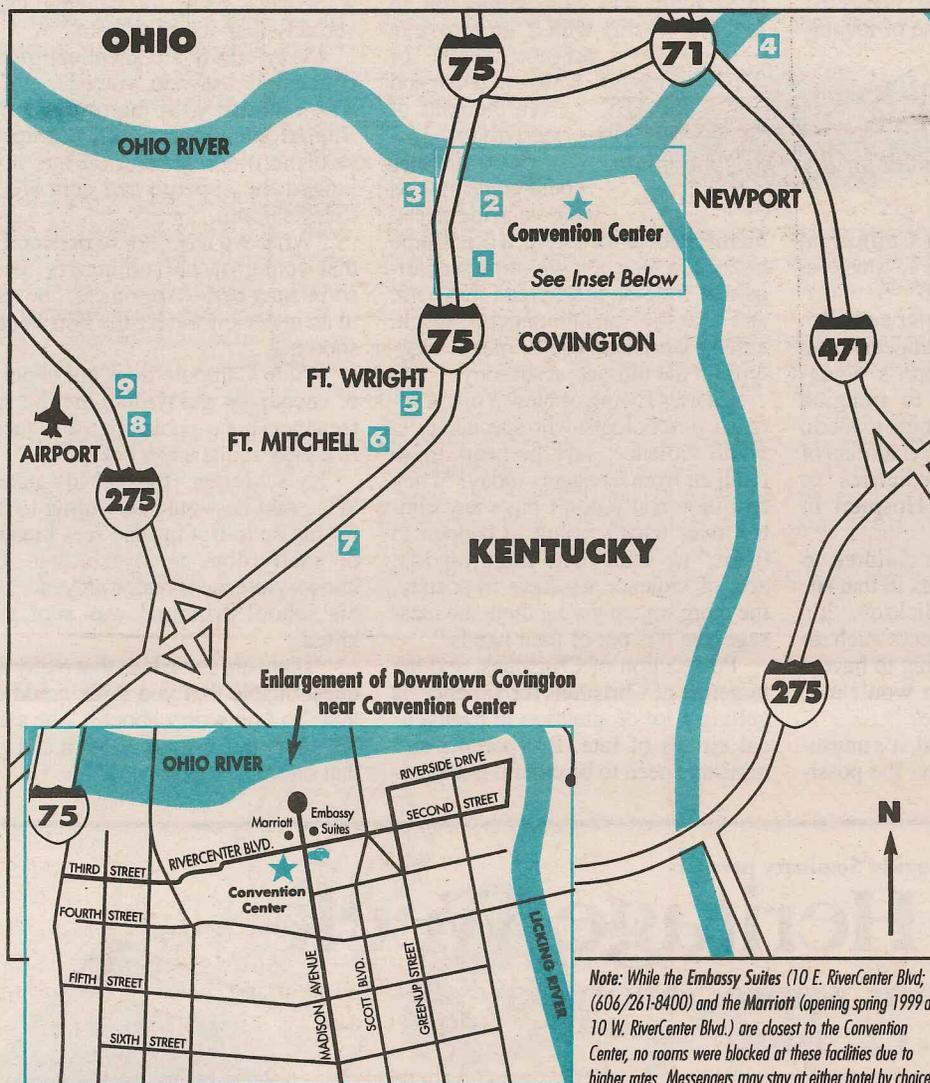
1999 KBC Annual Meeting

November 16-17, 1999

Northern Kentucky Regional Convention Center

50 East RiverCenter Boulevard

Covington, Kentucky



Parking Facilities

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

Restaurants within walking distance of Convention Center

- **Covington Landing** (at the Ohio river 1 block from Convention Center):
Applebee's; TGI Friday's; The Glass Onion; The Swamp
- **Behle Street Cafe** (across street from Convention Center next to Embassy Suites)
- **Marriott and Embassy Suites Restaurants** (across street from Convention Center)
- **Coach & Four** - 214 Scott Blvd. (less than 2 blocks from Convention Center)
- **Skyline Chili** - Near Scott Blvd. and Third Street (2 blocks from Convention Center)
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Restaurants in the **Quality Hotel Riverview** and **Holiday Inn Riverfront**; **McDonald's**; **Waffle House**; **Burger King**; **Gold Star Chili**; **Taco Bell**; **White Castle**; **Hardee's**; **Frisch's Big Boy**

Messengers are responsible for making their own reservations.

Kentucky Baptist Convention must be mentioned and reservation deadlines met to receive blocked room rates.

Guest room tax varies slightly between each town listed.

Non-smoking rooms were blocked whenever possible.

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



Covington

1 **Clarion Hotel Riverview** (formerly Quality Hotel Riverview) - 668 W. Fifth Street - (606) 491-8600

Reservation Deadline: October 25

Rate: \$89 (single or double)

Amenities: restaurant; indoor pool; room service; sauna/jacuzzi; hair dryer; iron/ironing board; coffee maker; close to several fast food restaurants

Directions: From I-75, Exit 192 (Fifth Street)

2 **Holiday Inn Riverfront** - 600 W. Third Street - (606) 291-4300

Reservation Deadline: October 17

Rate: \$80 (1-4 persons; king-sofa, king-ottoman and 2 double beds available)

Amenities: restaurant; complimentary continental breakfast buffet; complimentary USA Today; hair dryer; iron; coffee maker; close to several fast food restaurants

Directions: From I-75, Exit 192

3 **Hampton Inn Riverfront** - 200 Crescent Avenue - (606) 581-7800

Reservation Deadline: November 1

Rate: \$79 (1-4 persons)

Amenities: indoor pool; exercise room; complimentary continental breakfast; close to several fast food restaurants

Directions: From I-75, Exit 192

Newport (2.5 miles from Convention Center)

4 **Comfort Suites** - 420 Riverboat Row - (606) 291-6700

Reservation Deadline: October 15

Rate: \$69 (1-2 persons); \$74 (3 persons); \$79 (4 persons)

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Ft. Wright (3 miles from Convention Center)

5 **Days Inn Ft. Wright** - 1945 Dixie Highway - (606) 341-8801

Reservation Deadline: October 15

Rate: \$43 (1-4 persons)

Amenities: restaurant

Directions: From I-75, Exit 188-B (next to Ramada)

Ft. Mitchell (about 4 miles from Convention Center)

6 **Holiday Inn Ft. Mitchell** - 2100 Dixie Highway - (606) 331-1500

Reservation Deadline: October 25

Rate: \$65 (single or double)

Amenities: restaurant; indoor pool; room service; sauna/jacuzzi

Directions: From I-75, Exit 188B

7 **Drawbridge Estate** - 2477 Royal Drive - (606) 341-2800

Reservation Deadline: October 15

Rate: \$73 (1-4 persons; main building)

\$63 (1-4 persons); Garrison Building (detached from main building)

Amenities: restaurant; indoor pool; room service; sauna/jacuzzi

Directions: From I-75/71, Exit 186 (Buttermilk Pike)

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

8 **Holiday Inn Cincinnati Airport** - 1717 Airport Exchange Boulevard - (606) 371-2233

Reservation Deadline: October 25

Rate: \$85 (1-4 persons; king and double beds available)

Amenities: restaurant; indoor pool; sauna; whirlpool; fitness center; hair dryer; iron; coffee maker

Directions: At I-275 and Mineola Pike, Exit 2

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

Reservation Deadline: October 16

Rate: \$59.95 (1-4 persons; double beds); \$61.15 (1-2 persons; king beds)

Amenities: complimentary deluxe continental breakfast; hair dryer; iron/ironing board; coffee maker

Directions: From 275, Exit 2 (Mineola Pike)

YOUTH

Tragedies make martyrdom attractive to some teens

Report questions Cassie's 'Yes'

DENVER (RNS)—Cassie Bernall, the Columbine High School shooting victim held up as a martyr, might not have been the student who said "Yes" when asked by one of the gunmen if she believed in God.

Val Schnurr, 19, said in the Sept. 28 edition of the Denver Post that she made that response after a shotgun blast knocked her out from under a library table where she had been hiding during the April attack.

Schnurr said that she pleaded "Oh my God, oh my God, don't let me die" as she bled from her wounds. That, she said, prompted one of the student shooters to ask her if she believed in God and she replied yes.

Schnurr, who suffered nearly 36 shotgun wounds, said she crawled away as the gunman reloaded, Associated Press reported.

Police said a student who helped authorities retrace the events in the library got sick when he realized it was Schnurr's table, not Bernall's, that he was pointing out in describing the exchange between victim and gunman.

Schnurr, who now attends college, said she does not know whether Bernall was asked the same question. "I don't want to be famous or deemed anything," she said. "I said I believed in God out of respect for myself and respect for God. That's it."

Bernall, whose story has received much publicity, has been held up as a role model for her stand for God. Her mother, Misty Bernall, recently wrote a book titled "She Said Yes: The Unlikely Martyrdom of Cassie Bernall."

Baptist Press quoted a press release from the book's publisher stating: "Misty Bernall's description as printed in 'She Said Yes' is based on interviews with numerous survivors of the library and takes into account their varying recollections."

Continued from page 1

of God is a very, very mesmerizing and very attractive thing, especially when life on earth ... is not giving one much positive feedback," said Herman Feifel, a Los Angeles psychologist who specializes in thanatology—the study of death, dying and bereavement.

Some teen talk about martyrdom might be bravado, Feifel suggested. "Because their own sense of identity and security is not well developed, they are at risk" to such thoughts, said Feifel, an emeritus professor of psychology at the University of Southern California. "Most, if they manage to survive, manage to grow out of it."

It's normal for children and adolescents who hear about tragedies like the shooting in Fort Worth's Wedgwood Baptist Church to imagine something similar happening to them, said Gerald Hickson, vice chairman of the department of pediatrics at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital in Nashville.

"It's not unusual for children to mentally place themselves in that situation somehow," said Hickson. "It's one of the ways we process such an event. ... You are not going to have a church-going child who won't ask, 'Might this happen to me?'"

However, Hickson said, it's unusual for adolescents to view the possi-

bility of a martyr's death as attractive. "That's not something I find often."

For Tina Leonard and her Wisconsin classmates, the Fort Worth Columbine because of where it happened.

The Texas shootings "hit closest to home, because we realized it could happen even in our own church youth group," she said. Psychologists agree most youth feel more vulnerable in today's world, which in turn can

prompt fears of a violent death and even thoughts of martyrdom.

Other factors could contribute as well—a widespread

fatalism about the future, a drive to be noticed, a focus on end-time scenarios that foresee widespread mayhem, and a desire for authenticity which, among Christian youth, makes martyrdom the ultimate testimony.

Charles Ewing of New York, a forensic psychologist who specializes in youth violence, says he hears more fatalism from teenagers today. "They feel they really don't have any control over what's going to happen to them," he said. "The more randomness of violence we have in society, the more we are giving them the message that it is out of their hands."

Persecution of Christians, and the targeting of Christians for violence, is getting a lot of attention in evangelical circles of late. But parents and ministers need to be careful not to ex-

aggerate the prospects of persecution, said John Thielepape, pastor of Meadow Lane Baptist in Arlington, Texas, which sent 20 youth to the tragic prayer rally in Fort Worth.

"We're not teaching them to pursue persecution," he said. "We want to emphasize the faithfulness. If they're faithful, persecution may come ... (but) it's more likely that someone is going to challenge them verbally than to shoot them."

Many adults are skeptical of the courage, or bravado, voiced by teens who identify with martyrdom. But Baptist sociologist Tony Campolo said the older generation has misjudged the appetite and courage of today's youth.

"What we have not understood is that young people are hungry, is doing something heroic for others," he said in an interview before the Fort Worth shooting.

While Campolo does not endorse or encourage martyrdom, he did say teenagers are capable of greater sacrifice than adults expect of them.

Kyle Merten, 16, of Milwaukee, Wis., said he would be willing to die for his faith. But he also sees the talk of martyrdom as overblown. He knows violence is real; four years ago his school principal was shot and killed.

"There are some kids that really are questionable that you think could do that. So I do worry about it," he said. "But I try not to think about it and get that bad vibe in my head."

TEEN SCENE

Faith for the next generation

The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary presents

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and Third Annual Pastor Appreciation Day

October 12-14, 1999

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Dedication of John A. Broadus Chapel

Christian Women's Luncheon

Speaker: Mrs. Adrian (Joyce) Rogers

Hostess: Mrs. Albert (Mary) Mohler

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. Adrian Rogers



Dr. Alistair Begg



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YOUTH

Rainer: Churches must decide they want to reach teens

By Greg Carpenter
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)—Churches must decide now whether they are willing to reach one of the largest generations of teenagers ever, according to a Kentucky seminary dean and author on modern youth culture.

"You're about to get the greatest numerical wave of teenagers—and I was about to say in your church, but that may really depend on what your church is doing," Thom Rainer told a recent youth ministry conference audience.

Unless the church changes its course in youth ministry now, "we might as well look them straight in the face and say, 'Go to hell, we don't need you, we don't want you,'" said Rainer, dean of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth.

"We have failed them because we have done everything but evangelize them," Rainer said. "After all, the young people don't pay their way do they? And they come in and mess up the walls and scuff the floors, that's

what they do. ... Many times we care more about preserving the way our churches are than the eternal soul of a young person."

In research for his book, "The Bridger Generation: America's Second Largest Generation, What They Believe, How to Reach Them," published in 1997, Rainer said a survey of nearly 5,000 individuals revealed that of those ages 16 to 18, less than 4 percent claimed to be a Christian.

The "Bridger Generation," so named because this generation bridges the 20th and 21st centuries, consists of 72 million people born between 1977 and 1994. Only the "Boomer Generation," those born between 1946 and 1964, number more at 76 million.

Rainer said his interaction with his three teenagers, as well as their friends, prompted him to spend two years doing focus groups and conducting surveys, resulting in his book.

By opening his home to his sons' friends and providing a "haven" for the teenage boys, Rainer said he gets the opportunity to put into practice what he preaches about meeting the

needs of young people on a day-to-day basis.

The concerns and fears of Bridgers, Rainer said, include getting a good education, becoming victims of violence, losing parents to divorce and dealing with daily stress. Add to this the failure of the church to reach out to Bridgers, and you have a generation in crisis, he said.

Cultural influences shaping the lives of today's youth, Rainer said, are high-tech multimedia, disappearance of moral boundaries, escalating violence, gender confusion, the issue of personal rights, devaluation of life, commercialism and the disappearance of community and familial relationships.

"This is a generation that is begging to hear that there are absolutes, that there is truth," Rainer said. "And there does not need to be compromise or confusion whether in the teaching or in the pulpit."

Rainer said the key for churches to reach out to Bridgers is through personal evangelism.

"We can talk a lot about methodologies, and we can talk about the lat-

est way to confront the culture, and there are a lot of good things out there. But there's one simple little thing that we need to remember—just share Jesus," he said. "They are ready to hear about Jesus Christ."

As proof, Rainer said, "in the course of the survey, nearly 300 people of the 5,000 we telephoned accepted Jesus."

Stressing the need for personal evangelism directed at teenagers, Rainer said his research revealed that 83 percent of those who profess to be Christians in this century made their decision by the age of 20, and 75 percent made their decision by the age of 14.

"We've got to reach these kids while they're still kids," Rainer said. "God has given us the message that the time to reach them is now. Our churches have to get off their pews and say, 'We're going to do everything it takes to reach this generation for Jesus Christ.'"

Some practical steps for churches to reach Bridgers cited by Rainer include showing unconditional love, setting clear boundaries and high expectations, developing a cultural awareness, having adults mentor youth and being willing to get confrontational on current issues.

"Many times we care more about preserving the way our churches are than the eternal soul of a young person."

Thom Rainer, dean of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth

TEEN SCENE Faith for the next generation



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BAPTIST BITS

■ **Another Southern Baptist** seminary student was shot and killed inside a church last week. Virgil Turner, 44, died Sept. 29 of multiple gunshot wounds he suffered in the kitchen of First Baptist Church of Fresno, Calif. Turner was a student at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary. Another church member who had been in an ongoing dispute with Turner was arrested in connection with the shooting. On Sept. 15, two students at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary were killed during a Fort Worth, Texas, church's prayer rally for youth.

■ **The Interfaith Alliance**, a 5-year-old organization of politically liberal and moderate religious activists, says it will push candidates to sign a 'civility code' for the upcoming campaign. The code calls on politicians to "talk honestly" about their beliefs, motivations and purpose in running for office and "refrain from using deception, half-truths, falsifications or innuendo in describing your opponents." But at the heart of the civility code is a call to respect the dignity of others and the diversity of religious voices in the public arena.

■ **Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura** has riled a variety of religious and political leaders with a Playboy magazine interview in which he states, "Organized religion is a sham and a crutch for weak-minded people who need strength in numbers." Ventura also said prostitution and drugs should not be "imprisoning crimes" because the government has more important things to do, the Minneapolis Star Tribune reported. In a news conference, Ventura said he expects the controversy to subside. "I think all the religious leaders will forgive me because I think that's what religion's about—forgiving."

Is open-door policy a must for evangelical leaders?

By Adelle Banks & Ira Rifkin
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—It happens every day in offices across the nation: men and women meeting—alone.

But what's acceptable in corporate America often runs counter to what's regarded as proper in religious circles, particularly conservative ones. Private one-on-one business meetings between men and women—no matter how professional they may be—is one area of divergence.

The hubbub surrounding Republican presidential hopeful Gary Bauer, a conservative evangelical Christian, attests to the issue's importance.

Former members of Bauer's campaign staff maintain his meetings with a younger female staff member were inappropriate because they created the appearance of sexual impropriety.

Bauer told a Washington news conference last week he had done nothing wrong and he saw nothing improper in the meetings. In a television interview, his wife agreed.

But religious leaders—evangelical and otherwise, conservative and liberal—said they tend to go the extra mile to prevent questions of impropriety with members of the opposite sex. That includes avoiding one-on-one private meetings or taking steps to minimize the chance of inadvertently sending out a wrong signal.

"It's not a written rule, but everybody out there has heard of the 'Billy Graham rule,' which is never alone without the door open," said Michael Cromartie, director of the Evangelical Studies Project at Washington's Ethics and Public Policy Center.

Graham said he tried to be so careful about his dealings with women that

he never rode alone in a car or had a meal alone with his secretary. He once told a TV interviewer that when Hillary Rodham Clinton invited him for lunch, he chose to dine in a hotel restaurant where they could be seen.

Religious leaders said theological and moral concerns—as well as concern over sexual-harassment lawsuits—influence their dealing with members of the opposite gender.

"Never once would I or can I remember closing the door to have a conversation with my office manager who is a young woman in her 20s," said Richard Cizik, Washington director of the National Association of Evangelicals.

"It's the rule, not just for clerics but for professionals, and I would hope men and women in all professions. ... We're instructed in Scripture you don't create the appearance of evil. You avoid the appearance of evil at all cost."

Joan Brown Campbell, general secretary of the National Council of Churches, said she heard the Billy Gra-

ham rule from the evangelist himself when the two met for a private meeting in her office a few years back.

Campbell said Graham talked of once having been advised that one way to avoid trouble was to never be alone with a woman in a closed-door meeting. Graham looked up and said, "Well, unless it's the general secretary," Campbell said. "I just laughed. It was a very funny moment."

But Campbell said meeting alone with a person of the opposite sex does present serious problems for some clergy, especially male ones.

"When people go to share with a minister, ... they really want to believe that it's going to stay in that room," she said. "That sometimes comes in conflict with not wanting to have an appearance that something improper might be going on."

"It's not just an evangelical thing," said Cromartie. "In this age of flying lawsuits and all ... everybody ought to be careful."



Bauer

Gambling more destructive than previously believed, foes say

By Orville Scott & Jim Newton
Baptist Press

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)—Recent studies—some by the gambling industry itself—reveal that gambling is even more destructive than previously known, speakers said at a national anti-gambling organization's annual meeting.

Psychologists and university professors, speaking at the meeting of the National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling, outlined the negative impact gambling has on communities and individuals.

Keynote speaker Kay Coles James, who chaired the National Gambling Impact Study Commission, told about 200 conference participants she was not prepared for the venom, prejudice and stereotyping she experienced in leading the congressional study commission on the social and economic impact of gambling in America.

James, a senior fellow of Heritage Foundation in Norfolk, Va., said she had endured more bigotry and intolerance as a religious conservative leading the congressional study on gambling than she had as a black woman in corporate America.

James said she never took on the mantle as an opponent of legalized gambling until she completed her responsibilities as chair of the nine-member House Speaker Newt Gingrich of Georgia, Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott of Mississippi and President Bill Clinton.

She challenged churches, anti-gambling advocates and religious leaders to study and challenge the moral impact of legalized gambling on America, pointing out that the congressional committee she chaired dealt only with the social and economic impact of gambling.

Robert Goodman, a professor at Hampshire College in Massachusetts, reviewed the final report of the National Gambling Impact Study Commis-

sion, which was released in August.

Goodman said studies show that having a gambling facility within 50 miles roughly doubles problem gambling.

"Government is engaged in activity which depends on people with behavioral problems," Goodman said, noting that a third of the revenue from casino gambling comes from people with behavioral problems.

University of Illinois professor John Kindt said the crime costs of 1.5 million new pathological gamblers, which governments created from 1994-97, are at least \$15 billion to \$34 billion.

"For every \$1 of benefits, gambling costs \$3," he said, noting that most conservative combined regulatory and crime costs are between \$9,000 and \$11,000 per pathological gambler per year.

Another speaker, Earl Grinols, economics professor at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, said his studies suggest that casino gambling costs about \$150 per adult for every \$39 in social benefits.

Violent crime rates in casino counties begin to rise dramatically about three years after a casino opens in the county, and overall are 8 percent higher than they would be without casinos, Grinols said.

Nevada, where Las Vegas is located, had double the national average in suicides, ranked first in the United States in child death by abuse and had the highest dropout rate in public schools, he added.

Welcoming conference participants to Mississippi, James Futral, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, said Mississippi—known as the hospitality state—has welcomed both kudzu (a rapidly growing vine which can be used to prevent soil erosion) and casino gambling to Mississippi, and both have pretty much taken over the state.

"We would be a lot better off without either," he added.



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Court kills late-term abortion ban in 3 states

ST. LOUIS (RNS)—A federal appeals court panel in St. Louis ruled Sept. 24 that three states' laws banning late-term abortions are unconstitutional.

A three-judge panel of the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld U.S. District Judge Richard Kopf's decision last year that said Nebraska's law is so vague that it potentially bans all abortions, Associated Press reported.

The court issued similar rulings for cases from Arkansas and Iowa.

Appeals Court Clerk Michael Gans said the court dealt with all three cases at once because they were so similar.

On the Nebraska case, Chief Judge Richard Arnold wrote: "The difficulty is that the statute covers a great deal more. It would also prohibit, in many circumstances, the most common method of second-trimester abortion. ... Such a prohibition places an undue burden on the right of women to choose whether to have an abortion."

Nebraska's law is similar to the 1997 federal bill that President Clinton vetoed. The case marks the first appeal in which the merits of the federal language are considered.

Fetus bill is new battleground

WASHINGTON (RNS)—A proposed federal law to impose additional penalties on those who injure or kill a pregnant woman's fetus during commission of another crime has become the latest battlefield between abortion advocates and opponents in Washington.

The measure—the Unborn Victims of Violence Act—was approved, 254-172, last week by the U.S. House of Representatives.

Abortion supporters claim the bill is an attempt to weaken the 1973 Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion by raising the status of a fetus to that of the mother.

While deploring violence against women, Planned Parenthood President Gloria Feldt said

"the intent of the law is clear—separate the fetus from the woman, and attach rights of personhood on the fetus."

But bill co-sponsor Rep. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., told the Washington Post that the bill is designed to recognize the additional pain and loss involved when a fetus is hurt or killed during the commission of a federal crime, such as bank robbery, kidnapping or terrorism.

The National Right to Life Committee hailed the measure as a "major new right-to-life-bill."

Eleven states have passed measures similar to the proposed federal law. In Arkansas, four men recently were charged with murder for killing a fetus during an assault on a pregnant woman.

Twenty-eight states have adopted similar laws since 1995, although the courts have blocked or limited enforcement in 19 of those states.

The late-term abortion procedure—often called "partial-birth" abortion by opponents—involves

partially extracting a fetus, legs first, through the birth canal, cutting the skull and draining the contents.

Nebraska Attorney General Don Stenberg said his office will appeal the decision to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Supreme Court to review law against 'sidewalk counseling'

WASHINGTON (RNS)—The U.S. Supreme Court agreed last week to consider whether Colorado went too far in limiting "sidewalk counseling" by demonstrators against abortion.

The justices said they will review an appeal in which three sidewalk counselors say the state law—an effort to protect the privacy rights of abortion clinic patients—violated their free-speech rights.

A decision is expected sometime in 2000.

The 1993 Colorado law prohibits people from distributing leaflets, displaying signs or counseling within eight feet of others without their consent whenever they are within 100 feet of an entrance to a health clinic.

Colorado Attorney General Ken Salazar has argued that the law is necessary. "Protesters constructively blockaded clinics by surrounding, crowding, yelling at, grabbing, pushing, shoving, hitting and spitting on those seeking access, triggering dangerous physiological responses in medical patients," he said.

The American Center for Law and Justice represents the three sidewalk counselors and asked the U.S. Supreme Court to consider the case. "Sidewalk counselors who oppose abortion should not have to surrender their constitutionally protected First Amendment rights because some people disagree with their message," said Jay Sekulow, chief counsel for the law firm, in a statement.

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Dr. Johnny Hunt, Pastor
First Baptist Church
Woodstock, Georgia

Senators introduce workplace accommodation bill for religion

WASHINGTON (RNS)—A bipartisan group of senators has introduced legislation that would strengthen laws calling on employers to accommodate workers' religious practices.

"No worker should have to choose between their job and their most fundamental religious beliefs," said Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., who is cosponsoring the bill with Sens. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., Tim Hutchinson, R-Ark., Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., and Barbara Mikulski, D-Md.

The legislation would require employers to accommodate workers' religious observances as long as doing so would not impose an "undue hardship" on the employer. Supporters said, for example, an observant Jew who doesn't want to work after the Sabbath begins at sundown Friday could elect to work more hours during other days of the week.

In addition, employers could not prohibit workers from wearing faith-related clothing such as turbans or head coverings based on their religious beliefs.

The bill clarifies a provision of the 1972 amendments to the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which require employers to "reasonably accommodate" a worker's religious practice. It would apply to businesses with more than 15 workers.

Richard Foltin, a lawyer with the American Jewish Committee, said roughly 200 complaints against business are filed each year with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the federal agency charged with enforcing the law, Associated Press reported.

Kerry said the problem with the 1972 statute is that courts have interpreted the law so broadly that virtually accommodation can now be considered an undue hardship.

Religious liberty bill losing supporters

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Some key liberal and religious groups have withdrawn support for the proposed Religious Liberty Protection Act.

The groups contend they still support the bill's goal of restoring religious liberties they believe Americans have lost, but it has become mired in political debate.

That political debate has focused on whether religious rights might be given a higher priority than gay rights and other civil rights in certain cases.

"Until very recently the idea of affording the highest level of constitutional protection for religious liberty was a consensus issue on Capitol Hill," said Mark Pelavin, associate director of the Reform Judaism. "It's becoming an increasingly divisive one, an increasingly partisan one."

The House of Representatives passed the bill in July by a vote of 306 to 118. It would require a state or local government to demonstrate that it has a compelling reason—such as safety or health concerns—and is operating in the least restrictive manner before it could legally infringe upon religious beliefs or practices.

The measure, which awaits Senate action, aims to reinstate protections included in the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993. The Supreme Court struck down RFRA in 1997, ruling Congress overstepped its au-

thority and infringed on states' rights when it passed the legislation.

Pelavin, who has co-chaired the legislative task force of the Coalition for the Free Exercise of Religion, said the coalition has had 70 to 80 members. Coalition members estimate at least a dozen have withdrawn their support.

Among those removing their endorsement are the National Council of Churches, People for the American Way, Americans United for Separation of Church and State, the United Church of Christ and the Anti-Defamation League.

Oliver "Buzz" Thomas, special counsel for religious liberty to the National Council of Churches, said the high court made a trio of rulings shortly before the House vote on RLPA that reduced the federal government's power to regulate state and local governments.

Those decisions placed in further doubt whether RLPA would be upheld by the court if it became law, he said.

Representatives of groups no longer backing RLPA often cite these changes in the law as well as an evolving political climate for their decision.

Although many RLPA supporters

argue that it is not the case, critics had argued that it would cause religious rights to trump other civil rights. In addition to gay rights groups, coalition members said organizations with interests ranging from abortion rights to domestic violence also voiced concerns.

Despite the reduction in support, other coalition members say they will continue to push for RLPA.

"There's still strong support for the bill," said Crystal Roberts, legal policy analyst for the Family Research Council. Other groups still backing RLPA include the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, the Mormon Church, and the American Jewish Congress.

The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs has not withdrawn support for RLPA but does not intend to be an active advocate. "We would be happy were RLPA to pass," said Brent Walker, general counsel of the Baptist committee. "It's just that we don't think that there's much of a chance for that to happen."

Some RLPA supporters say they may now work on proposed legislation dealing with limited issues of religious liberty such as cases involving land use and prisoners' religious rights.

Corporate matching gifts

Many corporations and businesses encourage their employees to make gifts to charitable organizations. Those businesses put their money where their mouths are by offering to match dollar-for-dollar the employees' gifts. It occurred to me many of our Baptist people employed by such employers have not considered making gifts to one or more Baptist causes and thus doubling the amount of their gifts.

I am urging every Kentucky Baptist to confirm whether or not your employer has a matching gifts program. If there is one, obtain the details about the program and what types of organizations qualify for a matching gift. It has been my experience church-related organizations like educational institutions and hospitals are more likely to qualify than individual churches, but you should confirm that with your employer. Furthermore, let me urge you to incorporate a matching gifts strategy into your Christian stewardship giving plan for the benefit or one of more of your favorite Baptist causes. You might prefer to give it directly to the institution for its current use, or you may prefer to direct it to the Kentucky Baptist Foundation to establish or give to a perpetual endowment fund for the perpetual benefit

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Campbellsville University, Cedarmore Baptist Assembly, Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Cumberland College, Georgetown College, Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly, Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, Kentucky WMU, Mid-Continent College, Oneida Baptist Institute, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and Western Recorder. If you need help in contacting

any of these, or if you need information about how to use the matching gifts program for an endowment gift, please call Laurie Valentine or me at our toll-free number: (888) 254-5701. Imagine the impact of thousands of Kentucky Baptists channeling this largely untapped resource of corporate matching gifts into changing peoples' lives in the name of Christ.

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

KENTUCKY
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Barry Allen

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MINISTRY

Volunteers needed as post-Floyd relief work continues

By David Winfrey,
News Director

WILSON, N.C.—The extensive damage caused by Hurricane Floyd could keep Kentucky Baptist disaster relief workers in North Carolina for another month, according to the work teams' coordinator.

The teams will have a crucial need for volunteers as current workers get tired or have to go home and back to work, said Larry Koch.

"We don't need them all to come at once, but we do need them to make plans to come as time goes along," said Koch, an associate for the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Brotherhood department. "It's going to be a continuing need for the foreseeable future right now."

Koch could recall only two previous times when Kentucky volunteers were needed for so long: two years ago, when the Red River flooded in North Dakota, and 1992, when Hurricane Andrew struck South Florida.

Kentucky workers currently are involved in all three aspects of traditional Southern Baptist disaster relief: feeding flood victims, removing mud and water from flooded homes where water has receded and clearing debris and fallen trees.

As of late last week, Kentucky workers already had removed trees and mud from 20 yards and homes.

Kentucky food crews are cooking more than 7,000 meals a day, Koch said. The total number of meals served



was expected to surpass 90,000 this past weekend, he added.

In addition to serving food to local residents, volunteers work in cooperation with the American Red Cross. Red Cross workers deliver the food to shelters and victims outside the immediate area, Koch said. "We cook it and they carry it out."

The demand for meals could double or triple if some of the smaller kitchen crews are sent home or asked to work on house clean-up, Koch added.

Kentucky workers have their headquarters at First Baptist Church of Wilson, 45 minutes east of Raleigh and 125 miles from the coast.

Damage surrounds the group in towns such as Greenville, Rocky Mountain, Princeville and Pine Tops, Koch said.

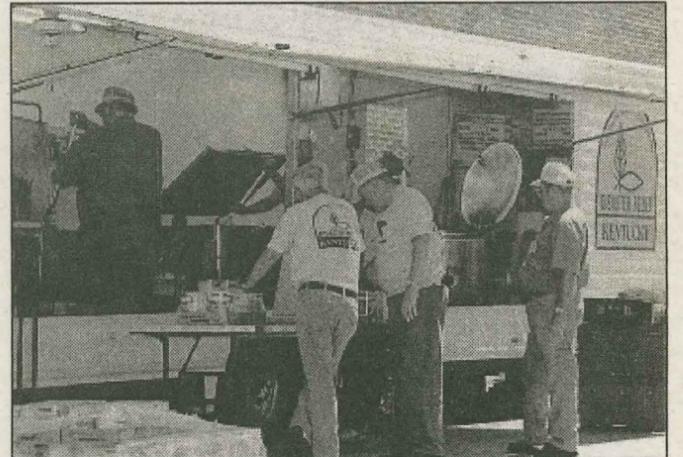
So far, 121 volunteers have responded from Kentucky, he said. Even those who can stay for more than a week will have to be relieved, he added.

"People hang in here for a while and then they get tired," he said. "Stress gets to you after a while."

Those planning to come will need to bring rain gear, and prepare for sleeping in the church, he added.

"People just need to come with a servant's heart, willing to be used in whatever way the Lord wants to use them," he said. "Flexible is one thing, but here, you've got to be fluid."

For information about volunteering, call the KBC Brotherhood department at (502) 244-6489 or toll-free (888) 254-5720. Contributions for disaster relief can be sent to the Kentucky Baptist Convention.



CLEANUP & FEEDING
More than 120 volunteers from Kentucky have traveled to help with disaster relief work in North Carolina after Hurricane Floyd. ■ Far left: Gary Hutchinson (left), of Knoxville Baptist Church in Dry Ridge, and Terry Shinkle, of Belleview Baptist Church in Burlington, cut up and remove a pecan tree from a yard. ■ Above: Workers prepare for their next meal. Teams prepare more than 7,000 meals each day and serve about 700 people on site each day. ■ Left: Earl Lett (from left), of New Hope Baptist Church in Franklin; Harold Moore, of First Baptist Church of Ashland; and Bob Kerr, of Rose Hill Baptist Church in Ashland, prepare a food canister to be carried by Red Cross to a shelter.

McGee in South Africa

By Robert Dunston

Rob McGee, son of Steve and Diane Shipley of Knoxville, Tenn., spent his summer on mission in Capetown, South Africa.

His church, First Baptist of Powell, Tenn., is developing a new ministry of worldwide outreach. This summer members sent teams to Brazil, Portugal, India and South Africa.

The original intent of McGee's mission was to minister through basketball camps, but those plans changed before his team of two left for South Africa. McGee and his partner did lead two basketball camps. One camp was held in a Muslim community where they were strictly forbidden to talk about Jesus.

Much of McGee's time was spent in local schools, which were in session, and with local church youth groups. They talked to the students about life in America and closed each presentation by sharing their personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ. McGee's favorite topic was God's love, which he describes as "everlasting, unconditional, won't change no matter what you do."

One day McGee and his partner worked at a feeding community.

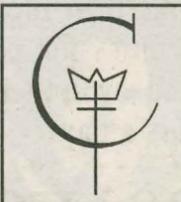
They sang songs to, played soccer with and witnessed to about 60 children. When meal time came, they helped serve the children. Leftovers from local restaurants had been gathered and made into a soup, which McGee and his partner ladled into bowls. Both thought the food looked awful but were overwhelmed at how grateful the children were for the soup and a crust of bread. They realized how much they had compared to these impoverished children.

McGee remembers a 15-year-old girl who came to a youth camp one Sunday morning. She did not want to be there, but McGee had an opportunity to talk with her about her abusive family, her addiction to alcohol and drugs and her need to change through Jesus Christ. She recognized her need to change, and McGee hoped his words would take root and bear fruit through Christ's love.

McGee returned thankful for God's blessings in his life and ready to go back to South Africa. We thank him for his willingness to go and share his faith with others.

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

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



Stomping on 'whatever'

Kentucky Baptists gave us some good news recently. We got word that last year's \$1.025 million Thanksgiving offering goal was met.

One of the things I constantly struggle with is finding new ways to say "thank you" in this column. I expect every Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children leader before me had similar problems. It's a great problem to have.

There's a lot of apathy in the world. "Whatever," we hear people say when a matter of conviction is brought up. "Whatever" really means "I don't care" or "It doesn't matter." So many of our kids have suffered under such apathy. We call it neglect or verbal and emotional abuse.

Through your churches' annual offerings and generous donations, you are telling these kids: "I care. You matter." When the trucks pull onto our campuses this week delivering thousands of pounds of macaroni and cheese, peanut butter and spaghetti sauce, you stomp on that "whatever" attitude and remind us that doing the right thing is not out of style.

I wish I could adequately convey to you the difference you are making in the lives of children and

teenagers who are so close to giving up hope when they come to us. Suicide attempts, battery, prostitution, drug use—there are so many scars and most of them are hidden. Creating a secure, loving environment to peel back the layers of rebellion, anger and pain is so important. And don't forget that our religious life activities would not be possible without your money.

Another Thanksgiving offering season is upon us. We want so much to be in your churches, telling you about the kids. I hope you will extend that invitation. Call (800) 456-1386 to schedule a speaker. Whether its an entire congregation, a Sunday school class, missions group or Lions Club, we'll be there. There's no

charge to your church or group. It is our privilege to be able to say "thank you."

So, for the \$1.025 million, the peanut butter, toothpaste and the hope, thanks again.

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

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Bill Smithwick

Volunteer mission leader killed in Oldham County plane crash

LOUISVILLE—Morris Nacke, a leader in Kentucky Baptist volunteer mission efforts, died Sept. 25 in a plane crash in Oldham County.

Nacke, 52, an ophthalmologist and surgeon, was a member of Parkland Baptist Church in Louisville. He had returned from his latest medical mission trip to the Ukraine five days before the crash of his single-engine plane.

Also killed in the crash was Steven Pautz, 41, of Nicholasville. Pautz, a certified flight instructor, was flying with Nacke as part of a plane safety conference at Bowman Field in Louisville.

Nacke had participated in mission trips to Brazil, Kenya, Russia and Venezuela as well as the Ukraine. He and his wife, Susann, also led efforts to provide meals to homeless people at Jefferson Street Baptist Mission in Louisville.

On his latest trip to the Ukraine, Nacke provided eye care to approximately 60 people a day. He and other team members served more than 950 patients and led 165 people to faith in Christ during the 10-day trip.

"He has been very active and a very strong supporter of partnership work," said Calvin Wilkins, director of the state convention's partnership missions department. "He's certainly going to be missed."

Nacke "recruited more people to do volunteer mission work than anyone else I know," said Tom Curry, pastor of Parkland Baptist Church. "He had a multiplication effect on laypeople getting involved in volunteer mission work."

Describing Nacke as "humble and low-key," Curry added, "He didn't call attention to himself. He really set the example for service."

In addition to his widow, Nacke is survived by two sons, Gary and Ricky Nacke; a daughter, Mary Nell Nacke; and one granddaughter.



Dale and Jennifer Smith

Church planters named by NAMB

LOUISVILLE—Dale and Jennifer Smith have been appointed by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board to serve in Louisville.

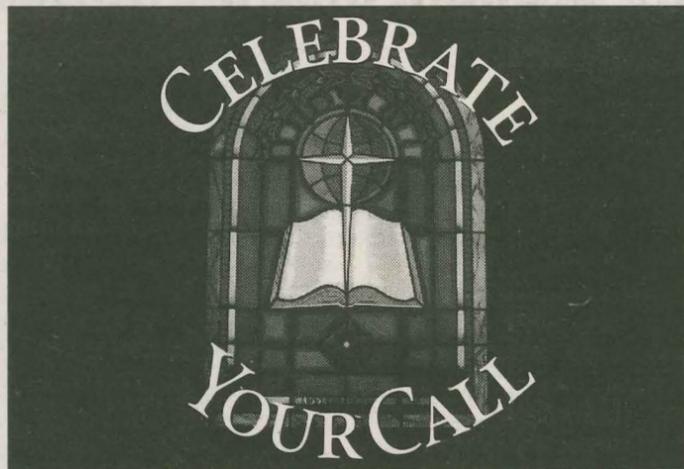
Smith, a native of Texas, is serving as a church planter in east Louisville. He and his wife have started two home Bible studies and plan to launch River Oaks Community Church next Easter.

The new congregation will be a mission of Little Flock Baptist Church in Shepherdsville. Other partners in the church-starting effort are the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Long Run Baptist Association, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville and Saddleback Valley Community Church in California.

Smith most recently has served as pastor of First Baptist Church of Gilmer, Texas. He is a graduate of East Texas Baptist University in Marshall and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Mrs. Smith has served as a teacher in various schools in Texas.

The Smiths have two children, Christen and Caitlyn.



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'Do we have to milk these?'

By Michael Spencer

Every new high school student coming to Oneida Baptist Institute during the regular school year will take a short orientation course. While rules and "how-to" information are important, the real purpose of this time is to move each student successfully into the adjustment process.

Coming to boarding school is a sudden change from the familiar to the unfamiliar, the known to the unknown. Students adjust differently, but most go through a period of being homesick and many experience some "culture shock." Differing accents, new roommates and the inevitable feeling of being different from everyone else can make a new student feel intimidated and hopelessly out of place. Orientation is meant to ease this adjustment and also help us learn about the new students.

Part of the orientation class involves a trip to the farm to hear about agriculture education opportunities (and just enjoy a good walk). To get to the farm, we must walk across one of Oneida's landmarks, a swinging suspension bridge over Goose Creek. Once you've crossed a couple of times it's routine, but the first couple of trips are an adventure.

Most of our students have never seen a swinging bridge before. They check it out and head across tentatively, asking questions like, "What holds this thing up?" and "Has anyone ever fallen off this bridge?" Some of our city kids find it really frightening. Like the entire experience of coming to a new boarding school, there is a process of learning to trust and risk. Once the students learn that the good work of others has produced a safe way across the creek, they enjoy the view and the journey. So the majori-

ty of our students make it through adjustment time successfully. After a few tearful letters and phone calls, they learn they can trust God and the many caring people at Oneida.

One girl from Washington, D.C., made it across the bridge with fear and trembling. As we walked toward the farm, the unfamiliar smells made an obvious impression. "Will this get in my hair?" she asked. Then we visited the swine facility and viewed several litters of sows and pigs. After taking a walk around one nursing sow, she looked at me with amazement and asked, "Do we have to milk these?" Believe it or not, we get students every month who have never seen a pig!

New experiences bring new growth. Human beings tend to stay in the safe and predictable and often go into the unknown only under the allure and temptation of sin. Oneida ministers to students by providing many experiences that are new to young people: making friends from other cultures, working and worshipping every school day, living with other students, taking responsibility for themselves, living without drugs or alcohol, resolving conflicts peacefully, spending free time constructively. It is wonderful to watch the growth that comes as these "Oneida values" begin to shape and affect the students God sends us.

Pray for our students as they adjust, grow and discover God's wonderful and loving plan for life in Him.

Michael Spencer is campus minister at Oneida Baptist Institute.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Graduate 'able to fulfill God's call'

Ruth Ann Foster, a 1978 graduate of Clear Creek, started her Christian service in a church where the men read the Woman's Missionary Union report.

Foster is now professor of New Testament at Baylor University's George W. Truett Seminary in Waco, Texas.

"Many people assume all women in ministry are feminists, but we just want to be obedient to God's call," Foster stated. She was the seminary's first faculty member and helped design the curriculum. "We're real proud of the baby," she declared.

During the 1998-99 school year, the new seminary enrolled 152 students. One of those students got his start in an Ashland youth group here in Kentucky.

Ruth Ann's mother moved from Eastern Kentucky to Waco in 1995. The two of them enjoy the ministry of First Baptist Church there. My wife and I attended the church this summer when Baylor hosted a meeting of Southern Baptist college officials. I was very surprised that Pastor Scott Walker remembered me as we greeted him at the close of service. We first met in 1964 at a Missionary Kids' camp in Baguio,

Philippines, the summer I served as a Baptist Student Union missionary.

Ruth Ann's Clear Creek diploma hangs near her doctorate from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. She was our first woman graduate. She remembers washing her car in the creek and working with a campus youth group.

"Many of the things I teach, I first learned from Dr. Clark at Clear Creek," she noted. "I shall always be grateful for the encouragement he and others gave for me to follow God's calling."

"Clear Creek served to enhance the good stuff and lessen the bad," she added. "I couldn't dream of a better place to be than where I am now."

She said opportunities for speaking engagements have included "three children's ministry rallies for the state convention, five women's retreats, church Bible conferences on women of the Bible, and some pulpit supply. The seminary is scholastically rigorous, ministry-minded and community-oriented. I'm able to do what I was called to do in a place that affirms my calling."

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

PEOPLE

Billy Graham charms unlikely audience at liberal Harvard

By Peter Smith
Religion News Service

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (RNS)—For some, perhaps it seemed like Daniel entering the lions' den when Billy Graham, the icon of American evangelicalism, visited Harvard, the quintessential symbol of religious liberalism.

But Graham, before a packed house of more than 300 at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government, easily won over an appreciative audience with his traditional evangelical message—that God will be as relevant as ever in the 21st century—salted with quotations from philosophers and scientists.

"Technology is not able to solve all of our problems," the legendary evangelist told the audience Sept. 27. But, he warned, without moral reform, "the 21st century will become the bloodiest in history."

Graham, who turns 81 next month, also spoke poignantly of his friendship with John F. Kennedy Jr., son of the school's namesake, who died in a July plane crash along with his wife and her sister. Graham said Kennedy wanted to spend time talking with him at the evangelist's North Carolina home, but busy schedules delayed the meeting.

"He said, 'I really want to talk to you,'" Graham recalled. "We never got to do it, and that's been one of the greatest regrets of my life, because I loved that young man."

Graham, who has battled Parkinson's disease and other health problems in recent years, looked energetic and cheerful as he delivered a half-hour speech standing at the podium and then sat to field students' questions.

Graham opened several sentences with his trademark phrase, "The Bible says" But he evidently was mindful of the Harvard crowd as he drew on other sources as well. He cited non-believing philosopher Bertrand Russell, novelist Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, rocket pioneer Wernher von Braun, physicist Albert Einstein and mathematician Blaise Pascal, all to demonstrate that technological advances have failed to solve the fundamental human problems of evil, suffering and death.

"Our problem is we are separated from God and we need to have our souls restored, something only God can do," he said.

Several of the students asked Graham for advice on balancing their Chris-

tian faith with a career in government. "People are looking for someone who lives in integrity," Graham said. "It's the way you live and how people perceive you as being different."

Graham, who generally avoids public political stands and who has counseled and befriended Republican and Democratic presidents alike, readily acknowledged the criticism he's taken from conservatives active in organizations like the Christian Coalition.

"I believe a great deal of the same theology, but I certainly don't agree with them much politically and socially," he said. "Many of them have nothing to do with me when I visit their city" for evangelistic crusades.

While maintaining his stance that the way to God is through Jesus Christ, Graham expressed tolerance for other religions. He lauded the Buddhist Dalai Lama for his peace efforts and emphasized the similarities between the Christian and Islamic scriptures.

While on that topic, Graham said the Iraqi government has just invited him to visit, but he said his health problems would likely prevent him from accepting. Graham served as spiritual counselor to President George Bush during the Desert Storm conflict in 1991.

Several in the Harvard audience said they were impressed by Graham's presentation.

"People talk about what are the best programs and what are the best policies, but the core is faith," pointed out Kamal Latham, a Kennedy School student. "He's talking about what is at the core."

Mike Oh, a Harvard graduate and a consultant, said Graham "surprised me at how centrist and diplomatic he was. At the same time, he conveys a lot of conviction and passion for what he believes."

Graham last spoke at Harvard in 1982. He was forced to cancel a scheduled appearance last year due to illness, and he said this year's trip had been questionable as well because his wife, Ruth, has been hospitalized for several weeks.

Graham also preached Sunday at Harvard's Memorial Church to a standing-room-only crowd.

Jason Mann Jr. was one of six Harvard undergraduates who camped out all Saturday night to make sure they got in.

"It was a once-in-a-lifetime chance," Mann said. "We live in a dark world, and he's been a light."

Graham was mindful of the Harvard crowd, citing a philosopher, novelist, rocket pioneer, physicist and mathematician to demonstrate that technological advances have failed to solve the fundamental human problems of evil, suffering and death.

President Clinton calls scandal-ridden year a period of 'grace'

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—President Clinton, speaking Sept. 28 at his annual White House breakfast for religious leaders, said he had been moved by "grace" during the recent scandal-ridden 12 months.

Expressing appreciation for the spiritual advisers who guided him amid a year of sexual scandal and impeachment, Clinton said, "I have been profoundly moved, as few people have, by the pure power of grace, unmerited for-

givenness through grace."

Clinton also said he was grateful "most of all to my wife and daughter" but also to the people with whom he works, the American people and "the God in whom I believe."

The president went on to urge the religious community to reduce incidents of violence, especially those against children.

But his remarks, for the second year in a row at this gathering of more than 100 clergy from across the country, addressed his personal concerns as well as national issues.

At the breakfast last September, Clinton told the clergy gathered, "I don't think there is a fancy way to say that I have sinned."

Since that time, Clinton said, he has met regularly with three spiritual advisers—Tony Campolo, an evangelical leader based in St. Davids, Pa.; J. Philip Wogaman, senior minister at Foundry United Methodist Church in Washington; and Gordon MacDonald, a writer and speaker based in Canterbury, N.H.

"I have kept my word to meet with them and to work with them," Clinton said. "I also want you to know that we

are continuing our work. It is interesting and not always comfortable, but always rewarding. And I hope you will pray for us as we do."

In his almost half-hour speech, Clinton devoted most of his attention to the need for religious leaders to help address violence in American society.

He cited numerous incidents of high-profile and deadly attacks, including the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995 and this year's shootings at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo., the Jewish Community Center in Los Angeles and Wedgwood Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas.

He urged more to be done to keep guns away from children and criminals, to educate children about nonviolence and to intervene "before it's too late" with those who are disturbed or mentally ill.

Clinton said religious leaders, whose houses of worship often offer counseling services, should consider new ways to connect with law enforcement and mental health workers to help reach those who might hesitate to seek assistance.

"I think there are a lot of people who would maybe be less reluctant to ask for help from someone like you than to show up at the social service office of the government, or walk right through the front door of a psychiatrist's or a psychologist's office," he said.

Byung Chill Hahn, pastor of the Korean United Methodist Church in Greensboro, N.C., gave the invocation. He previously had served as pastor of the Korean United Methodist Church in Bloomington, Ind. On July 4, Asian university student Won-Joon Yoon was killed outside the Indiana church by a member of a white supremacist group.

"Give us wisdom and power and strength to overcome any evildoing like hate crimes," Hahn prayed. "Make us more critical of ourselves and more tolerant of others."

"I have been profoundly moved, as few people have, by the pure power of grace, unmerited forgiveness through grace."
President Bill Clinton

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PEOPLE

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Missionary Paul Hamline asks prayer for a potential new church to begin in downtown Mwanza, Tanzania. He reports that several professionals who are Christians are interested in helping begin the church.

■ Connecticut River Baptist Church in Claremont, N.H., which recently started through a partnership between New Hampshire Baptist Association and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in North Carolina. About 100 people attend the new church.

■ South Carolina native Justin Cathey, who is serving as a semester missionary in the office of the Maine Baptist Association.

■ The six Muslim children in Kigoma, Tanzania, to whom missionary Pam Miles teaches English. "The Muslims in this area will do almost anything to have their children learn English," Miles wrote.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Shirley Wooton

■ **ASHLAND**—Rose Hill Church called **Jim Nichols** as minister of administration/church growth. **Mike Routh** is pastor.

■ **BAGDAD**—Bagdad Church will host revival services Oct. 17-20, 7 p.m. **Dale Niswonger** will be the evangelist, and **Dave Stahl** will be the music evangelist. **Burney Manning** is pastor.

■ **BUFFALO**—Buffalo Church called **Billy Day** as minister of music. Day is a student at Campbellsville University. **James Smith** is pastor.

■ **CENTRAL CITY**—Nelson Creek Church will host revival services Oct. 17-20 with **Jeff Noffsinger** as evangelist. **Tony McCall** is pastor.

■ **DANVILLE**—Lexington Avenue Church called **Tommy Valentine** as pastor, starting Oct. 10. Valentine was pastor at Prestonsburg First Church.

■ **DENVER**—Liberty Church celebrated its 130th anniversary by dedicating a new sanctuary Sept. 19. Also,

Liberty Church called **Merle Little** as its first full-time pastor.

■ **JEFFERSONTOWN**—Jefferson-town Church will celebrate its 154th anniversary Oct. 10. Activities will include a fellowship lunch, a dedication service of its youth night club and a **PennyLoafers** concert. For information, call (502) 267-1123. **Sanford Hill** is pastor.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Immanuel Church launched a \$5.5 million capital campaign. The money will be used for debt retirement as well as on-campus and off-campus ministries. **Craig Loscalzo** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Walnut Street Church recognized **Shelby Bailey** for her 25th anniversary as church records secretary. **Robert Long** is pastor.

■ **MAY'S LICK**—May's Lick Church celebrated its 210th anniversary with the dedication of a new 450-seat sanctuary and cornerstone laying service Sept. 26. **David Cheek** is pastor.

■ **McDOWELL**—McDowell First Church hosted a dedication service for its community life center Sept. 26. **Harry Hargis** is pastor.

■ **NICHOLASVILLE**—Edgewood Church called **Kevin Lee** as pastor. Lee is former pastor of First Church of Arkadelphia, Ark. His first day was Oct. 3.

■ **OWENSBORO**—Lewis Lane Church recently honored **Sidney Probus** for his 25 years as custodian. **Chip Pendleton** is pastor.

■ **SOMERSET**—Hopeful Church called **Alan Boils** of Russell Springs as pastor.

Sinking Valley Church called **Kevin Bullock** as pastor.

■ **SUMMERSVILLE**—Brush Creek Church celebrated its 208th anniversary Sept. 26. **Otis Skaggs** was the speaker. **The Grimes Family** provided the music. **Danny Nelson** is pastor.

■ **UNION**—East Bend Church celebrated its 180th anniversary with homecoming and dinner on the grounds Sept. 26. **Mitch Ash** was the afternoon speaker. **Cohen Copley** is pastor.

■ **UTICA**—Utica Church called **Everett Berry** as pastor. Berry is a student at Southern Seminary.

Utica Church will ordain **Eric Grimes** as a deacon Oct. 17.

■ **VERSAILLES**—Glen's Creek Church recently ordained **David Currie** to the gospel ministry. **Cole Evans** was ordained as a deacon Aug. 29. **Mickey Hyder** is pastor.

Versailles Church will host a senior adult-led revival Oct. 10-13. Speakers will include **Chip Miller**, **Henry and Elvener Johns**, **John Kruschwitz**, **Evelyn Brandon**, and **Jim McKinley**. Choir directors will be **Tom Drury**, **Johnny Dean**, **Steve Gray** and **Tim Lester**. **John Brandon** is pastor.

What's going on?

Send your happenings to Shirley Wooton for Mountains to the Mississippi. Mail: Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253. Fax: (502) 244-6474. E-mail: shirley_wooton@kybaptist.org.

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Allen is seeking a minister to serve as associate pastor in a full-time position with gifts to develop and implement a strategy to evangelize and disciple youth and young adults. Regular preaching opportunities will be given, as well as responsibilities in overall church administration and ministry. Any person desiring to know more may contact Bro. Arnold Turner directly at (606) 886-0415, or send a resumé to: Search Committee, PO Box 541, Allen, KY 41601.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of youth/education. Send resumé to: First Baptist Church, PO Box 395, Vandalia, IL 62471.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Caneyville Baptist Church. Please send resumé to: Eddie A. Majors, 210 Rabbit Flat Road, Caneyville, KY 42721.

SEEKING: Naperville Baptist Church, a growing congregation in the western suburbs of Chicago (Naperville is considered the No. 1 city in America in which to raise a family), seeks a minister of worship to provide leadership for growing and exciting worship ministry. Strong management skills with two to three years of ministry experience are required. Must have strong interpersonal skills and be comfortable with all worship styles. Send resumé to Rick Ezell, senior pastor, Naperville Baptist Church, 29W771 79th St., Naperville, IL 60564.

SEEKING: The School of Christian Studies at Ouachita Baptist University announces an opening for a tenure-track faculty position available fall of 2000 in the department of Christian ministries. Must have an Ed.D or Ph.D. with an emphasis on Christian education. Related teaching fields in survey of the Bible, interpreting the Bible, evangelism, youth ministry or Christian counseling preferred. Practical experience in a Baptist church necessary. Required commitment to both scholarship and teaching/discipling undergraduates. Rank open. Send letter of application and curriculum vita to Dr. Terry Carter, chair of the department of Christian ministries, Ouachita Baptist University, PO Box 3683, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001.

SEEKING: Part-time youth minister. Send resumé to: Stamping Ground Baptist Church, PO Box 67, Stamping Ground, KY 40379.

SEEKING: Staff leadership for the areas of music, youth and education. Those interested in one area or a combination should send resumé by Nov. 1 to: Search Team, Central Baptist Church, PO Box 66, Eureka, MO 63025.

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

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: Naperville Baptist Church, a growing congregation in the western suburbs of Chicago (Naperville is considered the No. 1 city in America in which to raise a family), seeks a minister of worship to provide leadership for growing and exciting worship ministry. Strong management skills with two to three years of ministry experience are required. Must have strong interpersonal skills and be comfortable with all worship styles. Send resumé to Rick Ezell, senior pastor, Naperville Baptist Church, 29W771 79th St., Naperville, IL 60564.

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SEEKING: Part-time music director and pianist for Southside Baptist Church, Bowling Green, Ky. Please submit resumé to: Southside Baptist Church, c/o J.T. Haynes, 221 Sugar Mill Drive, Bowling Green, KY 42104.

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

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

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

SEEKING: 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: 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: Part-time minister to children. Primary responsibility to grades 1-6. Send resumé to: Search Committee, Glen's Creek Baptist Church, PO Box 543, Versailles, KY 40383. (606) 873-4097.

SEEKING: Part-time minister to youth and children. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Yorktown Baptist Church, 7300 National Turnpike, Louisville, KY 40214.

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

SEEKING: Part-time 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.

Town's diverse churches 'Experiencing God' together

By Ken Camp
Baptist General Convention of Texas

McCAMEY, Texas (BP)—When it comes to discipleship, Christians in one town all are on the same page, literally.

After a community-wide "Experiencing God Weekend" last month in McCamey, Texas, 20 small groups, representing believers from several denominations, now are conducting a simultaneous study of the "Experiencing God" discipleship workbook by Henry Blackaby and Claude King.

The groups, including at least one conducted in Spanish, began working through the 13-week curriculum Sept. 12. Some are home-based groups, while others hold classes at church facilities.

"It's exciting to think of the entire community of believers studying the same thing each week for three months," said Duane Gryder, pastor of

First Assembly of God in McCamey. About 65 people are attending the classes connected to his church, which has 48 active members.

The pastors also were slated to meet and work through the study together in a small group of their own, Gryder added. "We're not trying to convince each other to change any doctrine. We just want to see one another get closer to the Lord."

The support of pastors in McCamey's Ministerial Alliance was crucial to the success of the simultaneous study and the weekend event that preceded it, said Bryan Crittendon, who was called last year as pastor of First Baptist Church.

Crittendon was one of several new pastors who arrived in the community at about the same time.

Though they represented various denominations, the pastors immediate-

ly formed a close kinship.

"We not only get along. We actually like each other," Crittendon said. "It's a fresh feeling in the community."

When Don Gibson of Texas Baptist Men visited First Baptist Church last year to speak, he raised the possibility of a community-wide "Experiencing God" weekend. The weekend events provide an overview of the "seven realities of Experiencing God" that are explored more fully in the 13-week study.

Crittendon presented the idea to members of the ministerial alliance, and they supported it. The "Experiencing God" weekend involved more than 250 people from at least 10 congregations, including the community's Baptist, United Methodist, Christian, Assembly of God and independent churches.

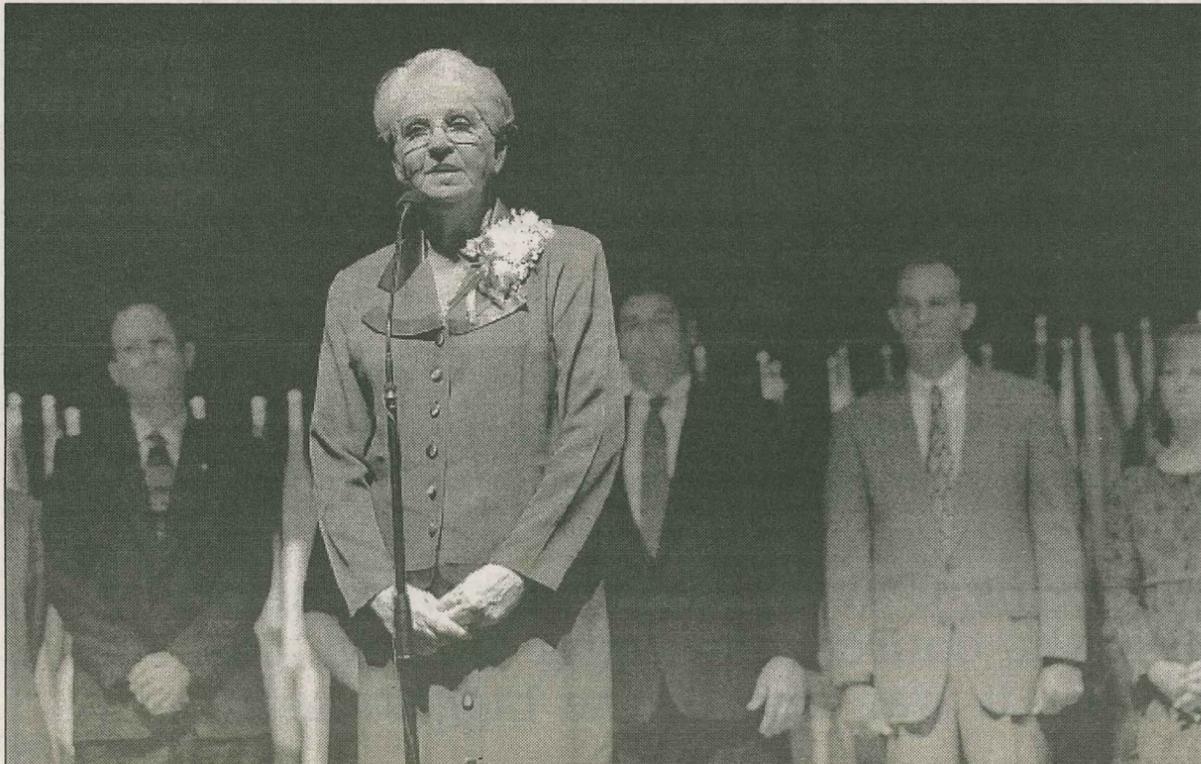
The weekend event was held in the high school auditorium, and meals were served from the Permian Baptist Asso-

ciation disaster relief unit. The school's first Friday night football scrimmage of the season was rescheduled for Thursday so that it would not conflict.

"The Experiencing God weekend program has given many of our students in McCamey—regardless of denomination—an opportunity to experience the love of God and to gain focus and direction in our own individual lives," said Jerry Stinson, high school principal and deacon at First Baptist.

Crittendon said he is convinced God is preparing McCamey for something special.

"This is breaking down a lot of the traditional barriers between the churches," he said. "There's a greater openness to the gospel within our community. We've certainly removed the argument, 'I don't want anything to do with Christianity because you guys can't get along with each other.'"



TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS Shirley Whittington of Crystal Springs, Miss., said that after her husband died in 1990 she heard God calling her to full-time missionary service. Whittington said she asked God to let her wait because her daughter was seriously ill. "God revealed to me that He would take care of my business if I would take care of His," said Whittington. "Just hours after I notified the International Mission Board of my willingness to serve, my daughter called, saying she was getting a new miracle drug for her condition. God confirmed His promise in such an awesome way." Whittington was among 54 new Southern Baptist missionaries appointed by the International Mission Board Sept. 19 in Wichita, Kan. (BP photo by Sandy King)

Christian golfer seeking to recruit other swingers

By Polly Haines
Baptist Press

HOWIE-IN-THE-HILLS, Fla. (BP)—For those who question whether it's possible to play a game as frustrating as golf and retain one's Christianity, meet Billy Hutchinson.

Hutchinson, executive director of Christian Golfers Ministry Inc., insists Christian golfers not only can retain their faith but also attract others to God in the process of playing golf.

Speaking at a recent dinner after a Florida Baptist men's golf tournament, Hutchinson described how finding a tiny message of God's love on a golf tee introduced a teenager to Christ.

Hutchinson had left a golf tee with the message, "Christian Golfers God offers love, forgiveness, eternal re-

demption," at a tee box during a round of golf in North Carolina. "This grown man, about 16, came up to me and said, 'Hey, Mister, are you the one who left this tee? For six months, I've been trying to find out how to ask Jesus to come into my heart.'"

"I shared with him," said Hutchinson, of Oak Island, N.C. "Today that man's bound for heaven."

Using golf as a ministry has become a passion that Hutchinson shares with others in the Southeast. He encouraged Baptist men to lead their churches into specific ministries for golfers, such as holding an Easter sunrise service on the course or leading a morning devotional and prayer at the first hole.

"Country clubs and golf courses are always looking for events," Hutchinson added.

Other ways a church can minister to

those who frequent the golf course is by putting a prayer request box in the lobby. One pastor did that and picked up 300 requests during a three-week period, he said.

Another way a church can minister on the course is by asking to use unused space in the pro shop for meetings of divorce recovery, Alcoholics Anonymous or Bible study groups. A group of people involved in such a meeting can become a "satellite" of a church, Hutchinson noted.

Hutchinson said people sometimes don't realize that those who have enough money to frequent the golf course don't necessarily have everything they need in life. "Every time you play the game, make a conscious effort to live a Christlike life on the golf course and share Him," he said. "Whatever we do, it's got to make a difference."

'Touched by an Angel' episode highlights Sudan slavery issue

WASHINGTON (RNS)—A Muslim-American watchdog group said it fears the recent season-opening episode of the popular CBS-TV show "Touched by an Angel" amounts to thinly disguised anti-Muslim propaganda and political partisanship.

The one-hour show depicted a fictional senator who must choose between confronting allegations of slavery in Sudan or pleasing campaign contributors who want her to concentrate on domestic economic issues.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations called the episode an example of Hollywood's insensitivity toward Muslims. A CAIR spokesman claimed the episode is based on biased information provided by groups aligned with Sudan's minority Christians and intent on opening the predominantly Muslim nation to increased Christian missionary efforts.

Such groups have long said the National Islamic Front, which controls Sudan's government, seeks to forcibly convert Sudanese Christians and tribal animists to Islam. The recently released State Department global survey of religious freedom agreed, saying Sudan's government follows "an unwritten policy of Islamization of public institutions" and that "children from Christian and other non-Muslim families" are often "captured and sold into slavery."

CBS screened the show for senators. The screening was hosted by Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., a leader among those in Congress who hold the Sudanese government responsible for genocide and slavery directed against the nation's non-Muslims. An estimated 1.9 million citizens have died and 4.3 million have been made homeless by the conflict, according to opponents of the government.

Brownback is also a co-sponsor of proposed legislation that seeks to pressure the Sudanese government into peace talks with the outnumbered rebels through increased economic sanctions and U.S.-sponsored condemnations of Sudan in United Nations forums.

CBS Senior Vice President Martin Franks said at the Capitol Hill screening that the network was not endorsing the Sudan bill. He also called the episode nonpolitical.

Brownback spokesman Eric Hotmire denied the proposed Sudan Peace Act or the "Touched by an Angel" episode—which the senator's office consulted on—were anti-Muslim. "Slavery does exist in the Sudan and that's what the show is about. CAIR's criticism is misdirected."

Hotmire agreed, though, that Sunday's episode is a public relations coup for those supporting the bill and Sudan's minority Christians. "Touched by an Angel" Web sites about the episode have been linked to those of Christian groups who have long pushed for U.S. pressure on Sudan, and to congressional sites detailing what Congress has done on the issue.

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