



PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

# WESTERN RECORDER

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## FOR THE RECORD

**Southern Seminary**  
Trustees adopt new tenure guidelines for faculty. *Page 2.*

**Kentucky Baptist Convention**  
Messengers to next month's annual meeting will consider a proposal to dissolve the Kentucky Baptist Historical Commission and replace it with an Archives Advisory Board. *Page 3.*

**Editorial**  
Pastor appreciation month is the time to show and tell. *Page 5.*

**Resources**  
The Alban Institute trains leaders for practical church issues. *Page 7.*

**Gambling**  
Pro-gambling forces encounter a setback as voters reject lottery. *Page 8.*

**Nation**  
Should Wedgwood be called a hate crime? *Page 9.*

**Christian Coalition**  
The religious right's premier organization is down but not out, leaders say. *Page 10.*

## Adult literacy ministries underdeveloped, consultant says

By Brenda Smith  
*Kentucky Baptist Convention*

LOUISVILLE—Teaching adults to read and write is a tremendous ministry and evangelistic opportunity, but literacy missions for English-speaking adults is greatly underdeveloped in Kentucky, according to the state's Baptist literacy ministry consultant.

Becky Carnell said only three ministries serving English-speaking adults were organized across the commonwealth in 1998 and only eight students were taught through adult reading and writing ministries. This means Kentucky Baptists are missing a ripe opportunity to lead people to Christ, she said. "Evangelism opportunities are missed because those who can't read are

not often in our churches and won't be until they can read," Carnell said.

Church—filled with bulletins, hymnals, Bibles, Sunday school books and the like—can easily intimidate someone who cannot read, she said. "So, how will they come to know Jesus if we don't go out there and teach them?"

According to a report by Kentucky's Task Force on Adult Education, approximately 1 million of the working age population reads at or below the ninth-grade level. A ninth-grade reading level might sound adequate until Carnell points out that insurance policies are written on a 12th-grade level. Adults with lower literacy skills must rely on others to explain difficult documents, which often places them at greater financial risk.

Likewise, low literacy skills also leave adults spiritually vulnerable. With no ability to read and comprehend Scripture, adults with low literacy skills are especially susceptible to be influenced by cults.

"I want everyone to be able to read the Bible," Carnell said. "If you can't read, you have to depend on someone to tell you what it says."

Literacy ministry also can empower fellow believers, she said, adding that she always begins tutoring sessions by asking to pray with the student. "They know from the start you are there because you love Jesus Christ, not some personal agenda."

One student, a 54-year-old man, was able to unlock his spiritual gifts after reading lessons, she said. He did not

attend adult Sunday school classes for fear that his inability to read would be discovered. Instead, he helped his children with the children's Sunday school class.

"After reading lessons, he had the courage to do the children's sermon during worship," Carnell said. The man, a volunteer firefighter, also for the first time could read emergency alert warnings as they flashed across the television screen.

Establishing a successful adult reading and writing ministry can be challenging. Some adults with low literacy skills may possess enough skill to get by and don't recognize the need to increase their skills, according to Gayle Leininger, national missionary for

□ See *Adult literacy* ..., page 3

## Immigrants are helping change U.S. religious landscape

By Jo Kadlecěk  
*Religion News Service*

NEW YORK (RNS)—More than 8 million immigrants have made new homes in the United States during the 1990s, rivaling the 8.8 million who came in the first decade of the 20th century.

But this wave is different. It is largely non-European and, as a result, it is having far-reaching, even surprising impacts on religion.

"The world of American religion is going through enormous change," said sociologist Stephen Warner. "It will be increasingly difficult to distinguish, say, Christians from Buddhists just because of what they look like."

Warner, a University of Illinois-Chicago professor of the sociology of religion for the past 22 years, recently completed the "New Ethnic and Immigration Congregations Project," a three-year interdisciplinary research, training and support program.

The findings of his broad-ranging project were published as "Gatherings in Diaspora: Religious Communities and the New Immigration."

At a recent lecture in New York, Warner said his study found thousands of new religious communities cropping up across the country, helping immigrants retain ties to their homelands while adjusting to life in a new country.

With more than 1,200 Islamic centers, thousands of Hindu centers, 3,000 Korean congregations, 7,000 Latino churches, growing contemplative Bud-

□ See *Immigrants are* ..., page 7



**MEDICAL MISSIONS** Southern Baptist missionary Melissa Haas (right) doctors the foot of a Turkana baby near his bush home in Kenya. The Haases have seen more than 1,000 Turkana become Christians. (IMB photo by Matt Jones)

## China and others cited for religious persecution

By Tom Strode  
*Baptist Press*

WASHINGTON (BP)—The U.S. State Department has named seven regimes, including China, as "countries of particular concern" in regard to religious freedom, provoking both commendation and criticism from advocates of the campaign to stem religious persecution overseas.

The designated violators of religious liberty, in addition to China, are Burma, Iran, Iraq and Sudan, plus Afghanistan's Taliban, which the United States does not recognize as a government, and Serbia, which is not a country.

Robert Seiple, ambassador at large for religious freedom, announced the list of "particularly severe violators" at a hearing before a subcommittee of the House of Representatives International Relations Committee.

The list is mandated by last year's

International Religious Freedom Act, established to create a framework for monitoring and preventing religious persecution abroad.

Last month, the State Department released a report, also mandated by the act, that detailed the status of religious freedom around the world. But leaders of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom—a 10-member independent commission established under the bill—criticized the report for not listing the countries of particular concern.

The selections are part of a process required by the International Religious Freedom Act, which was adopted by Congress and signed by President Clinton last year.

Under the law, the president is required to announce within 90 days of the designation of "countries of particular concern" what action the administration will take. He has options ranging from diplomatic protest to

economic sanction.

Steven McFarland, executive director of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, said the State Department gave an accurate "diagnosis" last month of the status of religious freedom when it issued its 1,100-page report on roughly 194 countries. However, he said, "The proof in the pudding is the treatment of these countries. What's the curative plan?"

While applauding the inclusion of China in the list of CPCs, McFarland criticized the absence of countries such as Saudi Arabia, North Korea, Vietnam and Cuba.

"All eyes are going to watch the first action," he said. "It's not just who's on the list but what will be done to them so countries won't want to be on the list. The first inaction or wrist slap in the face of documented persecution would make a damnable mock-

□ See *Countries cited* ..., page 9

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Month? See page 4 (10/9)

# BAPTISTS

## BAPTIST BITS

### Students, faculty and staff at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, last week

mourned the deaths of four students in a freak roadside accident Oct. 10. Tricia Lynn Calp, Emily Hollister, Erika Michele Lanham and Dolan Walter Wostal were killed when a driver fell asleep at the wheel and ran over them as they walked along a country road to a party. "Even though Baylor is a campus of over 13,000 students, the entire university community grieves when we experience a loss of life," said Baylor President Robert Sloan. "Each and every student is precious to us, and to lose four at one time is an unspeakable tragedy."

### Trustees of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

authorized administrators to begin a capital campaign to implement the seminary's new master plan. Trustees set long-range goals of \$30-50 million during the next eight to 10 years for phase one of the 20-year plan. A base goal of \$8 million during the next three years also was approved. Phase one plans include renovation of a main classroom facility, construction of 52 student apartment units and construction of new faculty homes.

## Southern trustees adopt tenure plan, oppose gay rights

By Trennis Henderson & David Winfrey  
Editor & News Director

LOUISVILLE—Southern Baptist Theological Seminary professors must agree to teach in accordance with the Baptist Faith and Message and any future revisions in order to qualify for tenure, according to guidelines approved Oct. 11 by Southern trustees.

The new tenure policy and a resolution opposing Louisville-area gay-rights ordinances were among actions taken during Southern trustees' fall meeting Oct. 11-12.

The 11-page policy is the culmination of three years of study by trustees, faculty and administration, officials said. It defines tenure as a covenant relationship between the board of trustees and administration of Southern Seminary with a faculty member "who has demonstrated teaching competence, scholarship in his or her field of expertise, and moral and spiritual leadership in Christian ministry."

A faculty member who enters the covenant "agrees to teach within the Baptist Faith and Message as adopted, and revised, by the Southern Baptist Convention and such confessional statements as may be officially adopted by the Board of Trustees."

The Baptist Faith and Message is a statement of beliefs, adopted by Southern Baptists, on such topics as Scripture, God, the church and evangelism. In 1998, messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting adopted

an amendment on the family.

Professors have long been expected to teach in accordance with the Baptist Faith and Message, according to Southern President Al Mohler. "That is not an innovation in this procedure," he said.

At this year's SBC, messengers voted to instruct the convention president to appoint a committee to review the Baptist Faith and Message. Mohler is a member of that committee, chaired by Memphis, Tenn., pastor Adrian Rogers.

The policy also specifies that faculty members teach in accordance with the Abstract of Principles, the seminary's historic confession of faith, and to serve the seminary "faithfully, constructively and competently."

In return for meeting those and other expectations, the school agrees to maintain employment and development for faculty, the policy states.

Mohler said the tenure policy "reflects our confessional identity and also reflects the professional calling of the seminary professor."

The policy outlines the process for attaining tenure after seven years of employment as a faculty member at Southern. It also outlines procedures and reasons for revoking tenure, which would immediately terminate employment at Southern.

Reasons to revoke tenure can include financial crisis, moral turpitude, incompetence and "failure to relate constructively to the institution," the policy states.

Asking professors to affirm addi-

tional changes to the Baptist Faith and Message caused a conflict at Southwest Baptist Theological Seminary last year. Two professors left the school when the faculty was asked to sign a statement saying they subscribe to the 1998 family amendment.

Also during last week's meeting, Southern trustees adopted a resolution opposing recent gay-rights ordinances adopted by the city of Louisville and Jefferson County.

"The battle lines are being drawn," said Mohler, who called the ordinances "draconian" in their scope, particularly regarding housing and public accommodations. "It will affect the entire culture in the community."

The resolution, adopted the evening before Jefferson County's fiscal court adopted its version of the gay-rights ordinance, states that trustees' opposition to homosexual behavior "is established in the clear teachings of Holy Scripture, the ultimate authority by which we operate as a theological seminary."

The resolution also supports the seminary administration's opposition to the ordinances and protection of "the seminary's exercise of its religious liberties."

A separate resolution was adopted supporting board member James Hyman, a Louisville physician, who has filed a lawsuit against the city of Louisville in federal court seeking to reverse the city ordinance.

During his report to trustees, Mohler affirmed the SBC's "theological recovery" and "doctrinal reform."

## Midwestern course offers conservative, moderate perspectives

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)—Leaders representing both conservative and moderate viewpoints were featured at a one-day course on state convention history and polity sponsored by Midwest Baptist Theological Seminary.

Roger Moran, research director of the conservative Missouri Baptist Laymen's Association, outlined goals for Project 1000, a five-year campaign to elect conservatives as Missouri Baptist Convention officers. Rob Marus, coordinator of the moderate organization, Mainstream Missouri Baptists, said his group's concern is preserving historic Baptist principles.

Moran, a member of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, said he believes "the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and pro-CBF moderates are attempting to take back on the

state level what they lost on the national level—that's what these controversies are ultimately about.

"The state Baptist conventions in Virginia and Texas both have split," he added. "The conservatives in those states, when moderate factions had so locked it up that there was no winning, formed new state conventions."

After winning only a few Missouri convention presidencies in the 1990s, Moran said conservative pastors announced a meeting to begin the process of not supporting the MBC.

That's when Moran said he began Project 1000. "We told the pastors, 'Until we have exhausted the process of correcting those things we perceive as wrong, we do not have the right or freedom to pull out of the MBC.'" Moran said.

With a focus on electing conservative leaders, Moran said Project 1000 hopes to move the MBC "back from a pro-CBF center-left to a pro-SBC center-right majority."

Marus said the reason Mainstream Missouri Baptists exists is because "heresy can come from the right as well as the left." He said the organization cares about specific Baptist principles he believes are "under attack" in Missouri, such as local church autonomy, priesthood of the believer and separation of church and state.

Marus said "extra-scriptural" issues, among which he included the 1998 family amendment to the SBC's Baptist Faith and Message statement, should not be a basis to break fellowship between Christians with differing views.

Missouri Baptist Convention Exec-

"As this decade closes, conservatives are not seeking control and influence within the denomination," he said. "We are now responsible to give an answer for our stewardship of conviction and treasured truth."

Southern "has made clear her determination to stand on the inerrancy and infallibility of the Bible," Mohler said. "We must allow no compromise on that principle. ... The collapse of so many evangelical organizations and schools to moderated views of biblical authority is a dire warning lest the same happen among us, and catch us unaware."

In other business, trustees adopted responses to three motions referred from the Southern Baptist Convention:

Concerning a request for all six Southern Baptist seminaries to fund professional sign language interpreters for all deaf students, trustees noted that Southern seeks to assist students with special needs but that "prohibitive costs" prevent the seminary from providing interpreters for the deaf.

Responding to a request for all SBC entities to use technology to reduce travel time and expenses for employees, trustees said the seminary already "makes extensive use of educational technologies, including video conferencing and the Internet."

Addressing a motion calling for SBC entities to avoid schedule conflicts with Crossover evangelistic events held in conjunction with the SBC annual meeting, trustees said Southern supports Crossover and does not schedule meetings in conflict with the emphasis.

Executive Director Jim Hill declined an invitation to participate in the seminary course, noting that he has "tried to stay out of the political activity of the convention."

Rex Lindsay, executive director of the Kansas-Nebraska convention, spoke as a representative of state convention leadership. "Our vision is to see healthy, indigenous New Testament churches with a global view of missions ministering and witnessing in every people group in Kansas and Nebraska," he said.

By allowing a variety of approaches toward such issues as worship, organization and either deacon or elder leadership, Lindsay said he finds methodology irrelevant as long as it does not violate moral, ethical or biblical restraints. "We are free to be what God wants the local congregation to be," he said.

## Wake Forest to permit same-sex union in chapel

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (RNS)—The chaplain of Wake Forest University has agreed to schedule a same-sex union for two women in the chapel on the Winston-Salem, N.C., campus, capping months of discussion on whether such a ceremony is appropriate.

The union will be a private affair between the two women, Wendy Scott and Susan Parker, and their church, Wake Forest Baptist Church in Winston-Salem. The church has been worshipping at the chapel on campus for nearly 50 years.

Although university trustees decided they would not allow the use of the chapel for homosexual unions, Presi-

dent Thomas Hearn said he will not stand in the way of action by an independent congregation. He said Wake Forest officials "deferred a liturgical, religious question to the appropriate body, the church."

University chaplain Ed Christman said he took his cue from the president. "The university will not interfere with a local, autonomous Baptist church which uses the university facility," Christman said. "It can make decisions for itself."

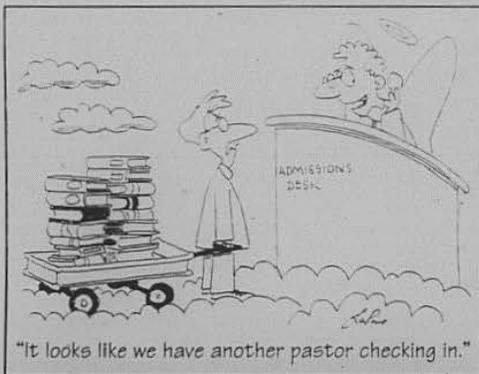
Last November, Wake Forest Baptist Church paved the way for the ceremony in a contentious vote affirming the right of members to make personal

decisions on the basis of their faith. The congregation has long been supportive of the full inclusion of homosexuals in the life of the church.

Christman would not say when the ceremony would take place or whether the church's ministers would preside.

Earlier this year, Wake Forest Baptist Church formally severed its ties to the Southern Baptist Convention and agreed it would drop its membership with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina because of differences on this issue.

The university formerly was affiliated with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.



## Adult literacy missions needs more workers, consultant says

Continued from page 1  
literacy missions at the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board.

"They might say, 'I can read well enough to read road signs,'" Leininger said.

Others who do recognize a need for increasing their literacy skills may be reluctant to try. Adult learners may feel intimidated and shamed by classrooms and learning centers.

"People in a small community especially know why you are going to that learning center," Carnell said. Sitting in a classroom may force learners who struggled through school to revisit the place where they met failure. Literacy volunteers must be flexible and meet with adult learners in places that feel comfortable to the student.

Even after a literacy teacher partners with a student, the volunteer might find it an uphill battle to keep them. Adult learners often have work and family responsibilities that make it difficult for them to study or stay committed.

"Our goals are not the same as theirs," Carnell said. Volunteers want to see students work through an entire curriculum, but adult learners may only desire to reach a certain level. "Sometimes just a little taste of success is enough."

Carnell said her method of reaching adult literacy students is designed to offer success from the first lesson. One woman Carnell taught had quit school in the fifth grade after being labeled "retarded" and enduring constant ridicule. After just a few lessons, she could dictate and read an entire paragraph.

"My greatest joy in teaching someone to read is to first see the light come into his eyes when he realizes after the first lesson... that he is not 'dumb' as he may have been taught all of his life," Carnell said.

She said she also works to keep volunteers feeling connected and supported so that they can one day experience the same joy. She coordinates Kentucky Baptist literacy efforts for conversational English, adult reading and writing and children's tutoring and is available to help churches interested in adding a literacy ministry.

"I understand the struggles to get and keep students interested in learning," Carnell explained. "I am here to let adult reading and writing volunteer teachers know how much they are needed in our state." Carnell also organizes an annual literacy conference for volunteers.

For more information on literacy ministry, contact the Kentucky Baptist Convention's extension ministries department at (502) 244-6461 or toll-free in Kentucky at (888) 254-5725.

## KBC proposals: Archives & ethics groups

By Trennis Henderson  
Editor

LOUISVILLE—A proposal to dissolve the Kentucky Baptist Historical Commission and replace it with an Archives Advisory Board gained the support of the Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Board's administrative committee Oct. 12.

The recommendation will be presented next month to KBC messengers for their consideration.

The plan, initiated by Historical Commission members, is designed to improve the effectiveness for "collecting, preserving and celebrating Kentucky Baptist history," according to the written proposal.

"The Historical Commission has been working to improve interest in its work and in preserving Baptist history," explained KBC executive associate Steve Thompson. One "hampering factor" has been the guideline that prevents Baptist college professors and other employees of KBC entities from serving on a statewide commission, he said.

Thompson said establishing an advisory board would "remove the limitation of who can serve on the board and hopefully get some people with a real heart for preserving our Kentucky Baptist history."

The plan calls for KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey to nominate 12 to

15 people to serve on the advisory board for consideration by the KBC Executive Board. If approved by convention messengers, the change would take effect Nov. 18.

In other actions, committee members discussed proposals concerning an ethics and values education task force and a possible missions partnership with the European Baptist Convention.

The task force was proposed by an ethics and values education study group. It would include staff members from KBC entities who would "consider program materials and methods that would encourage and assist churches and individual church members in teaching Christian values and biblical ethics."

In presenting the proposal, study group member Jim Holladay said the task force's primary assignment would be to "help people be aware of what resources are available."

The intention is "not to tell churches what stance they ought to have on an issue, but provide a model and process for them to address moral and ethical issues," said Holladay, pastor of Clifton Baptist Church in Louisville.

The recommendation was approved unanimously by the administrative committee.

The proposed partnership with the European Baptist Convention was presented to the committee for information and input. It will be presented to the

board's mission growth committee for consideration later this year or early next year.

The EBC is an international convention of more than 65 English-language churches throughout Europe. If approved, the partnership would be in addition to Kentucky Baptists' current partnerships in Poland, Tanzania and New England.

Larry Martin, leader of the state convention's mission growth team, said primary considerations include being sure the partnership "would not take away from existing partnerships" and that Kentucky Baptists could "do a good job in the new partnership."

"We feel like it is feasible to meet those requirements," he added. "We believe we could do this within our basic operating budget for partnerships."

Noting that members of EBC churches come from more than 100 nations, Martin said the partnership would provide Kentucky Baptists "an opportunity to impact the world through one setting."

Committee members also approved a motion by Robert Long, pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville, to consider setting aside funds to help bivocational and small-church pastors participate in partnership mission projects. The proposal will be forwarded to the board's mission growth committee for consideration.

## BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ The Kentucky Baptist Convention's discipleship training department will sponsor a conference on prayer with T. W. Hunt Nov. 5-6 at Highview Baptist Church. The conference is free, but people planning to attend are asked to preregister by calling the discipleship department at (502) 245-4101 or (888) 254-5708.

■ The Kentucky Baptist Foundation reported at its quarterly board of directors meeting that the fiscal year, which ended Aug. 31, had seen record growth. The funds managed by the KBF grew from \$93 million to \$194 million, reported KBF President Barry Allen. Returns on KBF funds were 51.8 percent during the year, compared to the Standard & Poor index of 40.1 percent, he added. Also reported was the growth of 42 new accounts and a new endowment distribution policy, effective March 1, 2000.

■ Correction: A story about Cleveland Indian Travis Fryman in last week's newspaper incorrectly identified his high school. Fryman attended Tates Creek High School in Lexington.

## Campbellsville to offer sports ministry degree

By David Winfrey  
News Director

CAMPBELLSVILLE—Campbellsville University officials recently announced they have established a new degree program for sports ministry.

The new program will be taught through the university's school of theology, according to John Hurtgen, director of baccalaureate Christian studies programs.

"Sports ministry is one of the fastest growing areas of ministry in Southern Baptist circles," Hurtgen said.

The degree will strengthen ties between the school and Sports Reach, an independent program that recruits volunteers for team play and sports-skills clinics who also share Christianity with participants. Sports Reach has been located three years at Campbellsville.

Sports Reach director Robbie Speers agreed that a degree program is a logical extension, given the growth of the field.

"We're having more and more people on the foreign mission field who have sports as their platform in different countries," he said. "People are finally catching on that this is a major viable tool to share the gospel."

Speers will teach the program's introductory course, and Sports Reach will provide opportunities for students to participate in ministry projects.

"We're really going to be there as the practical side, the hands-on side, give them some opportunities to be involved in the things they're trying to learn," Speers said.

Having Sports Reach at the campus also will expose more students to sports ministry both as an activity and as a career, Speers said.

Officials said there currently are



SPORTS MINISTRY Sports Reach teams like the one shown here provide a practical experience to accompany the classes from Campbellsville University's new sports ministry degree program.

only three colleges in the nation that offer a sports ministry degree. "As far as we know, we are the first in this part of the country to have a program like this," Hurtgen said.

The degree will appeal to students pursuing missionary opportunities or ministry careers with groups like Sports Reach, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Athletes in Action, he said.

The program also will help students who plan to work in church recreation ministries or want to be a high school or college coach with a Christian influence, Hurtgen said.

Speers said Sports Reach continues to expand. "This last year we went to two different closed countries doing basketball and slow-pitch softball."

Sports Reach also sponsors a spring-break softball tour of prisons and sends teams to play college exhibition games, he added.

Sports ministry provides "an oppor-

tunity to reach people where they are," Speers said. "The people that you are going to reach are not going to have much interest in church."

Also, sports ministries involve a group of church members who previously haven't been active in outreach, discipleship or evangelism. "That's where a lot of people are," he said.

"A lot of people who get into sports ministry as participants are folks who initially begin by saying, 'I can't teach Sunday school, I can't sing in a choir, but I can play ball.'"

A recent trip to South Carolina reinforced that outlook, he added. A softball program in a prison led to 15 people making professions of faith in Jesus, he said.

"They have an ability and a talent in sports and never know how to use it," he said. "And a lot of churches are just now learning how to tap into these people."

# OPINION

## WESTERN RECORDER

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

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## Confronting dangerous preaching

By Tom Ehrich

My 8-year-old son starts to squirm even before the sermon begins. So as the preacher steps behind the pulpit, I take my son's hand and begin to trace the lines on his palm.

He finds the lines fascinating. Meanwhile, I listen closely to the preacher's words.

I am struck anew by what a dangerous thing

it is to preach. Not just because many adults have an attention span no longer than my son's and squirm visibly unless their hands, as it were, are stroked. Preaching is dangerous because it rouses the Pharisees, those custodians of religion who arise in every age to keep the faithful in line.

If the preacher truly sits with the Word and allows it to touch his life, then the very starting point of proclamation is unease. I don't mean the intellectual unease of trying to analyze the words. I mean the soul unease of knowing full well what they mean.

The gospel is simply hard to hear. It stirs the preacher's own Pharisee. If the preacher starts quoting books about

Scripture or contemporary culture, or analyzing Greek words, or making jokes, or playing with clever images, I figure the internal Pharisee won. The Word never got too close for comfort.

Then there are the Pharisees sitting in the pews. If the overwhelming implications of the gospel set Jesus to sweating blood in Gethsemane; imagine what it does to a hired preacher who has a job to lose.

There is very little in life that is more dangerous than telling people they need to change their lives. That's why many preachers have learned to say as little as possible. Keep it light, keep it safe, keep it short.

If worshipers walk out the door beaming and congratulating the preacher on yet another "good sermon," I figure the preacher said too little, or the listeners didn't listen, or both.

What if Sunday preaching happened this way? The preacher wrestles with the Word, allows it to touch deeply, and then, with more candor and less polish, says as much as he can say. He then goes immediately to a private place and repents of not having said more.

## COMMENTARY

## Campaign support

Mercer County recently went through a "wet-dry" election, and thankfully the dry victory was almost a 2-1 margin. I would like to thank many readers of the Western Recorder for their prayer support during these days.

In this effort, I was personally encouraged by God's grace and strength as well as the unity and participation of the churches across our county. Such an election is no fun to experience, but there are many blessings that often arise out of bad circumstances.

I especially want to mention the tremendous support we received from Claude Witt and the Kentucky Temper-

ance League. We have had Temperance League speakers in our church for years, and I have long respected Witt's wisdom and ability. However, we never had to call on him like we did during the past few months. He was one source of God's "ever present help in time of need" to me and to our work in Mercer County. Baptists and Christians across Kentucky have a treasure in Claude Witt and I encourage faithful support of the efforts of the Temperance League across Kentucky.

Robert DeFoor,  
Harrodsburg



## ACP correction

The quote I gave in the Oct. 12 Western Recorder article "New CP for

The people, meanwhile, simply exit into the world, not wearing the garment of pleasantries which they wore on arrival, but wearing the stark white robe of the convert, moistened perhaps by tears, wrinkled by discomfort, and we ourselves would enter into danger. For the Pharisees outside aren't any more eager to encounter the gospel than the Pharisees inside.

Outside, they threaten to take away tax exemptions on church property and tax deductions for charitable giving. Outside, they treat believers as odd but necessary to the civic order. Outside, they keep impolite preachers off the podium at political prayer breakfasts and reward those who join the America-first chorus. Outside, they snub, they schedule soccer games on Sunday morning, they sneer.

Outside, they treat faith as an alternative lifestyle, which a pluralistic society like ours knows how to embrace.

But Jesus wasn't just odd. He was literally a danger to the established order. Jesus was a savior to the lost, not a cheerleader for the found. He came to redeem sinners, not to entertain or soothe the prickly.

Tom Ehrich is a contributor to Religion News Service. He lives in Durham, N.C.

mula ..." that undesignated church receipts are no longer requested on the Annual Church Profile is not correct. My information was based on the portion printed for associational reports, which includes total receipts only.

The full financial report on the ACP by LifeWay Christian Resources does include the undesignated church receipts as well as special mission offerings. This was not a factor in the Cooperative Program percentage recommendation by the business and finance committee to the Kentucky Baptist Executive Board.

Please refer to the full explanation by the business and finance committee in the Oct. 12 issue of the Western Recorder titled "KBC Executive Board Recommendations ..." on page 6. I apologize for any inconvenience created by this incorrect statement.

Bill Mackey  
KBC Executive Director

## PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

## Outstanding Christian leaders

I wish every Kentucky Baptist could know the outstanding Christian leaders I meet in my travels as executive director. Let me tell you about just a few.

Harold Greenfield has served creatively and faithfully as director of missions in Caldwell-Lyon Baptist Association for 28 years. He has led the association to be involved in local ministries and domestic and international mission partnerships. A fellow director of missions said, "Harold has become the leading DOM among us, and when he speaks people listen."

Greenfield's wife, Barbara, has been a wonderful partner in the ministry. In the recent association meeting she expressed appreciation for the spacious home provided by the association for "all of her children."

The association meeting at New Bethel Baptist Church had a great

crowd with chairs in the aisles. It was a privilege to hear three wonderful messages by local pastors and to enjoy fellowship with Caldwell-Lyon Baptists.

At the 175th annual meeting of Bethel Baptist Association, I heard a message on faith by Jessie Tharpe, pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church. When he came as pastor six years ago there were only six in attendance. Soon they were up to 12 and he recommended a vacation Bible school even though his two children were the only ones in the church. The church went along in faith.

Since Tharpe was bivocational, his wife did the visiting for the VBS. One day she shared that she needed his help with one home because there were three rough-looking bikers out front. When they visited that evening, the mother expressed the desire for her



Bill Mackey

4-year-old daughter to attend VBS.

Some months later the pastor got a call on Sunday morning from the father of the little girl, requesting a visit after church. The pastor went immediately and heard from the man that he was an alcoholic and about to lose everything, including his family. Two hours later he prayed to receive Christ.

That man, Steve Reed, now teaches an adult Sunday school class and directs the VBS. The pastor requested that Steve stand so the association could greet him. We did with rousing applause in praise of God for what He had done!

The pastor shared how awesome it is to preach in the pulpit where so many great men of God have served in the 180-year history of the church—including Squire Boone, brother of Daniel. "Sometimes I just walk around the church building and feel like Isaiah in chapter 6 when he experienced the awesome presence of God," he said.

God is at work all over Kentucky. Let us praise and thank Him together!

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

## FAMILY

## Plan ahead now for 1999 tax savings

By Jeremy White



Although it may seem that you just filed your 1998 income taxes, now is the time to make any final adjustments related to your 1999 income tax planning.

When discussing tax planning with my clients, I remind them that it is hard to reduce income taxes after the year has ended. Similarly, it is hard to lower estate taxes after a person has died. Tax planning and estate-planning in advance, however, reap substantial savings.

Here are a few ideas:

■ Get a sense of timing. Time your income and deductions in such a way to lower your taxes. Bunch your deductions and try to defer income if 1999 is a year with high income for you.

■ Avoid big underpayments or overpayments. If you receive a large refund, you have loaned the government your money without receiving any interest. Review your withholding to see if you need to adjust it by filling out a new Form W-4 with your employer.

■ Participate during the year in pre-tax savings and benefit plans with your employer. Or begin saving now for a contribution to an IRA.

■ Review your giving to see if you have given as much as possible. It's easy to think you tithe, but double-check to ensure you didn't get behind during vacations or missed Sundays.

■ Keep a mileage log handy in your car. Now is the time to keep track of mileage that may be deductible. Note all business mileage (deductible at 31 cents per mile), mileage on behalf of charity (deductible at 14 cents per mile) and mileage for medical purposes (deductible at 10 cents per mile).

■ Keep a receipt of any donations of property to charity, such as clothes or furniture. You can deduct the estimated fair market value of property contributions. List the items and estimate a value when you give them, not six months later at tax time.

Although paying taxes is not pleasant, remember to count your blessings, as the hymn reminds us. Will Rogers implied gratitude when he remarked, "There is no income tax in Russia. But there's no income."

Jeremy White is a certified public accountant in Paducah. See his free weekly financial tip on his Internet Web site at [www.consultcpa.com](http://www.consultcpa.com).

## How can married couples help single friends feel included?

**Q: I am a woman in my 40s who has never married. I find the world (and the church) somewhat biased against single people. How can the couples' world become more sensitive to such concerns?**

Yes, there's definitely a bias of "couples" vs. "singles" out there. Here are some things married friends can do to help:

■ Don't assume a single friend just wants to be with other singles. Single adults are individual people, not categories. The operative word is adult. Adults want adult fellowship. They would love to be included in your Sunday dinners, your trips to the movies and other recreational pursuits.

■ Don't assume your single employees don't have any family. They need vacations, too. To be able to see parents, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews can be just as vital as it is for you to take your spouse and kids away for a week.

■ Don't assume your single relative should carry the load with aging family members. It has very little to do with the marital status of the caregiver; it has everything to do with what's best for the aging parent, grandparent, aunt or uncle. You're never dealing with ideal choices when considering proper placing of aging relatives in others' care. Everyone should work together to make the best available options work.

■ Don't assume single people are any more of a threat to your marriage than your married friends are. If being around other adults is threatening to your relationship, get counseling for yourselves and do so quickly. It is healthy for married people and single people to be friends. It is unhealthy and "single phobic" to always segregate people into categories.

Your single friends would deeply appreciate inclusion in the life of your family. Make your home hospitable so that it would welcome a Mary, Martha, Lazarus, Paul and Jesus as much as it would welcome Mr. and Mrs. Peter.—James Stillwell

**Q: Our 14-year-old son has met a "girlfriend" on the Internet. She says she is 15, but she writes like a much older person. She wants to meet him at the movies, but we said, "No, unless we meet her first." He says we are too old fashioned and do not understand cyberspace romance. What do you think?**

How do you know how she writes? I guess he shared the e-mails with you or you know his password and sneaked a look at his personal files. That may be an issue of trust. She may be legitimate and very nice.

However, you are being responsible to ask to meet her before a first date. If she is "for real" and nice, then she will be OK with meeting you (perhaps not thrilled, but at least understanding).

By meeting in person, they are moving from the realm of a "computer galaxy friendship" into the world of physical realities. If this is not a respectable young lady, you will have helped your son deal with a compromising situation. He may be upset for a while. Let him vent. However, in the long run he may thank you for your care and supervision.

Also, talk with your son about his interest in dating. Are there girls at his school or church he would like to take to the movies? Can he go with groups of friends to activities? Perhaps he needs more of your support in maintaining his current friendships. Keep the lines of communication open by listening to his concerns.—Wade Rowatt

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



## Pastor appreciation: Time to show & tell

October traditionally is Pastor Appreciation Month in many denominations and congregations throughout the nation. Although not an official part of the Southern Baptist Convention calendar, the annual observance is a timely and thoughtful priority for any church to consider.

Hopefully, churches already are honoring their ministers on their birthdays and anniversaries of services to the church. Why add another special recognition?

Think about the many contributions your pastor and other staff members make to the church family throughout the year. Most ministers frequently are called on to conduct weddings and funerals, go on hospital and nursing home visitation, lead counseling sessions, visit prospects and new members and do countless other tasks in addition to preparing sermons, preaching and doing administrative work each week.

Bivocational pastors juggle a career and ministry. Many single-staff ministers are responsible for everything from janitorial chores to leading congregational music. In larger churches, the pastor frequently has extensive supervisory responsibilities in addition to other pastoral duties.

While most ministers gladly accept such assignments as an expected part of their ministerial role, church members should be careful to avoid taking such service for granted.

Of course, a case can be made that pastors and other ministers are financially compensated for their work and that should be sufficient. While that is one essential aspect of caring for a minister, appropriate salary and benefits should be the starting point in honoring a pastor or staff member, not the final action.

Even in that area, many Kentucky Baptist churches need to carefully evaluate whether the financial packages provided for their ministers are adequate. A 1998 study of ministerial compensation among 13 state conventions found that Kentucky Baptist ministers are paid 8 percent less than the 13-state average.

Appropriate compensation involves more than statistical comparisons, but it is important for Kentucky Baptist congregations to make certain that ministers'

salaries and benefits are sufficient to meet their families' needs.

Few ministers ever raise concern about their own salaries, choosing instead to focus on their call to ministry and their commitment to their congregation. That's all the more reason for church leaders to remember that "the laborer is worthy of his hire," especially during this season when most congregations are finalizing their church budgets for the coming year.

Once the compensation issue is reviewed and resolved, churches are ready to consider other ways to express appreciation to their ministers. That's where Pastor Appreciation Month comes in.

There are countless ways church leaders can find to honor the pastor and church staff. Part of the fun is sitting down with a group of interested church members and brainstorming ways to express the church's appreciation.

Here are a few ideas for starters:

■ Present the pastor and his wife with a gift certificate to their favorite restaurant.

■ Volunteer to provide child care for each staff member so they can have an evening alone with their spouse.

■ Host a churchwide reception or program with the minister as the guest of honor.

■ Compile a scrapbook filled with letters of appreciation from church members and present it as a surprise to the pastor during the morning worship service.

■ Provide the minister and his family with tickets to a special concert or sporting event.

■ Invite church members to share words of testimony about the minister's impact on their lives.

■ Give each staff member an extra day off that doesn't count as part of regular vacation.

■ Organize a daily prayer ministry for your pastor, with each participant sending him a note of encouragement after praying for him.

The options are virtually unlimited. Tributes can be as simple as the youth washing the pastor's car or as elaborate as the church providing a trip to the Holy Land.

The key is not how expensive the recognition is, but how sincere. Make a point to honor your church's pastor and staff members sometime soon. They deserve your support and encouragement.

### STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

## What is my reward?

By Alan Witham

*"What then is my reward? Just this: that in preaching the gospel I may offer it free of charge, and so not make use of my rights in preaching it" (1 Corinthians 9:18).*

Michael Hodgkin shared the story of a Cleveland Heights woman who lost her purse in a shopping center. An honest lad found it and returned it to her. "That's funny," commented the woman, "before I lost my purse, there was a twenty dollar bill in it. Now I find two fives and ten one dollar bills." "That's right lady," agreed the honest lad. "The last time I found a lady's purse she didn't have any change for a reward."

Some people expect a reward for their service. Not Paul; he preached the gospel in Corinth free of charge.

While Paul had the right to receive compensation for his preaching, he chose to exercise the freedom to refuse it. In so doing he was able to demonstrate the fact that ministry for him was

not a commercial venture. It was not a bill of goods and services to be sold in return for financial gain. It was not a job to be performed to receive a paycheck.

Paul was not implying that those who serve the Lord must work for nothing in order to be truly spiritual. There are certain obligations that must be fulfilled. Families have to be fed and bills have to be paid. On the other hand, a person's primary concern should not be: "What will I receive from it?" Ministry should not be viewed as a career of accumulation but as an opportunity for service.

Although Paul received no payment, he spoke of receiving a great reward. His reward consisted of being able to offer the gospel free of charge with no strings attached and no expectation of financial compensation. His reward was the enjoyment of ministry offered with pure motives.

Paul came to Corinth motivated not by what he could get from them, but what he could offer them. His outstretched hands were not those of a greedy evangelist but hands stretched forth in compassion, offering the free

gift of God's grace. His desire was to "make himself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible" (v. 19). His ministry was living proof that pure motives impact lives.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus challenged us to make an impact on our world by being salt and light. He taught that there is a direct correlation between our ability to have a positive impact and the purity of our motives. He encouraged us not to give in order to be seen and applauded by others. He instructed us to avoid offering prayers intended to impress others and opt for communicating with the Father. Jesus taught that when our motives are not pure, it adversely affects our ability to influence others.

The next time you are involved in service, stop and evaluate your motives. Ask yourself, "Why am I doing this? Am I concerned mainly about what I am going to receive? Or is my concern what I can offer others in the name of Christ?" Life's greatest rewards come to those who selflessly serve others without thought of what they will receive in return.



Alan Witham is pastor of Hyland Baptist Church in Henderson

# BAPTISTS

## Former university president convicted of tax fraud

**The case has a tie to Kentucky because Magnoli also pleaded guilty to Federal Election Commission charges in connection to illegal campaign donations made to U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell.**

By Anthony Wade  
Alabama Baptist

MOBILE—A former Baptist university president has pleaded guilty to falsifying his 1993 federal income tax returns in connection with money he originally claimed belonged to the school.

Michael A. Magnoli, former president of the University of Mobile, stood motionless in front of federal district chief judge Charles Butler Sept. 20.

"Yes sir," Magnoli said in response to Judge Butler's question if he was pleading guilty to the federal tax falsification charge.

The case has a tie to Kentucky because Magnoli also pleaded guilty to Federal Election Commission charges in connection to illegal campaign donations made to U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell.

Magnoli "is a convicted felon as of today and will be so the rest of his life," said Michel Nicrosi, assistant U.S. attorney and chief of the criminal division, as she talked with the press after the session.

Magnoli and his attorney declined

comment. Sentencing will occur in Mobile Nov. 4.

University of Mobile President Mark Foley said his prayers were with the Magnoli family.

According to the plea agreement, furnished by the U.S. attorney's office, Magnoli faces up to a maximum penalty of three years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.



Magnoli

"The investigation focused on Mike Magnoli's conduct, not the university's, and we didn't find any wrongdoing by anyone (on the main campus) other than Mike Magnoli—that's why he's the one in federal court today," Nicrosi said.

The tax fraud charge was based on Magnoli's 1993 income tax form, which did not account for \$15,000 given to him in cash by Roger Gonzalez, former head of the university's facility in Nicaragua.

Nicrosi said Magnoli brought the cash into the United States Sept. 3, 1993, when returning from Nicaragua.

"At the New Orleans airport, he declared that he had \$15,000 in cash on his person, but he listed that his occupation was the president of the

University of Mobile, and that the money belonged to the university. That money never went to the university or into any accounts of the university. The university was not aware of any of that money. That, in fact, is not how they conduct business," she said.

Magnoli told his wife to deposit \$8,000 of it into their personal bank account, then the rest was deposited the next day, according to the attorney's office and the IRS. Magnoli then used \$5,000 of the money as earnest money to secure a \$245,000 lot on a beach-front community near Gulf Shores, Ala., officials said.

The IRS has received \$4,200—the amount Magnoli should have paid to the agency for the \$15,000 income. The IRS also will assess a civil fraud penalty for fraudulent conduct, plus interest, plus officials can reassess his tax for that year, Nicrosi said.

Ruth Davidson, an IRS spokesperson, said anyone making an underpayment of tax due to fraud can be assessed a penalty of 75 percent of the difference between what they paid in taxes and what they should have paid. Interest also can be assessed on the difference, she added.

Nicrosi said Magnoli admitted

instructing four University of Mobile employees to make contributions to the federal election campaign of Sen. Mitch McConnell. To reimburse them, he directed the university to issue "bonus" checks.

As part of the plea agreement made between the U.S. attorney's office and Magnoli, this charge was dropped, due in part to statutes of limitation and heavy fines potentially coming from the FEC.

But restitution to the university was mandatory, and a check for \$5,420.04 was delivered to the university Sept. 20 by a representative of the U.S. attorney's office.

The Federal Election Commission still could fine Magnoli up to \$10,000 per violation for the five violations, called "conduit campaign contribution," Nicrosi said.

The four employees, whose names were not released, will not be charged, nor will the university, Nicrosi added.

"This closes our investigation. That's good for the university and the community. We saved a long, expensive trial by going through this process—by him pleading guilty," she said. "I think it is good for this community to hear directly from Mr. Magnoli that he is guilty."

## Breakfast



In support of Kentucky Baptist higher education, Campbellsville University, Cumberland College and Georgetown College cordially invite alumni and friends to attend the Partnership 2000 Breakfast, Tuesday, Nov. 16 at 7:30 a.m. at the Northern Kentucky Convention Center. The breakfast is free, but reservations are required by calling (270) 789-5216 or via e-mail at whittm@campbellsvil.edu.

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# RESOURCES

## Alban Institute trains leaders for practical church issues

By Adelle Banks  
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Carol Johnston stood before a small group of religious leaders in a church conference room and addressed one of the taboo topics of faith: money.

Going beyond the overt challenge of filling offering baskets to the underlying financial thoughts of church members, she discussed her studies of how houses of worship have mastered the tricky mixture of faith and funds.

Johnston shared what she calls "the theology of sport utility vehicles" at a recent conference sponsored by the Alban Institute.

"I am convinced that the primary reason people buy those things ... is because people feel insecure in their daily lives and this is one way to feel more secure," said Johnston, director of the project on Faith, Wealth and Community Leadership at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis.

"The answer is not money," she added. "The answer is healthy relationships with family, community and God."

The workshop for 20 pastors, lay leaders and others interested in challenges facing congregations is just

one example of the ways the Alban Institute has worked to support congregational life for the last 25 years.

Founder Loren Mead started the institute after discovering through research for his denomination, the Episcopal Church, that practical assistance for congregations was sorely lacking.

"There wasn't much help for people who lead congregations," he said. "There were lots of practical things we needed help with and we didn't know where to get that help. We felt very alone and the people, largely in my experience, in the denominational offices were focused on trying to produce programs that would help churches but often they weren't in touch with what was actually going on in churches."

Since that time, the institute has continued to expand its reach through publications and consultations. Mead at one time was the sole consultant and now the institute has a range of specialists across the country who can visit local congregations and lead workshops.

"In the early days, we published a few little, almost mimeographed monographs," said Mead, who served as Alban's executive director for 20 years and is now an independent consultant. "And now, this

year, Alban is publishing 15 books."

The Bethesda, Md.-based institute has addressed issues faced by congregations from clergy transitions to worship conflicts to updating computer operations.

James Wind, Alban's president, said the institute has tried for 25 years to determine "the most difficult, pressing issues facing the congregations of this country."

Consultants have helped individual congregations deal with conflicts, transitions and ways to revitalize congregations.

Practical issues are addressed in a variety of courses as well, held nationwide.

"This can be everything from how do you manage multiple-staff congregations, how do you survive and thrive as an associate pastor, how do you serve as the senior pastor, how do you learn how to manage conflict in your congregation," said Wind. "I think we have contributed new knowledge about a variety of realities in congregational life."

While helping reshape congregations, Alban more recently has also worked to reshape itself.

Its leaders are beginning to explore relationships outside the traditional, predominantly white mainline Protes-

tant churches making up the bulk of its membership. More than 9,000 individuals, congregations and institutions are Alban members.

Clarence Newsome, dean of the Howard University School of Divinity, joined Alban's board last year and hopes to serve as a liaison between African-American churches and the institute, which has been "a well-kept secret" to many black congregations.

Efforts to further broaden the institute's reach include a first-ever national and interfaith conference on "The Public Significance of America's Congregations." It will be held in Alexandria, Va., on Oct 21-22.

The institute also has started a new venture to reach particular local congregations. The Indianapolis Center for Congregations holds workshops and provides resources for houses of worship. So far the center has addressed such issues as fund raising, passing the faith to the next generation, leadership development and conflict management.

Seventy-five percent of those attending the center's workshops at local churches and synagogues are lay people, said John Wimmer, center director.

For more information about the Alban Institute, call (800) 486-1318 or visit its Web site, [www.alban.org](http://www.alban.org).

**Founder Loren Mead started the institute after discovering that practical assistance for congregations was sorely lacking.**

## Immigrants are changing the religious landscape of America

Continued from page 1

dhist gatherings as well as home altars and meetings, he said he found immigrants often take comfort in old forms of religious expression while experiencing the demands of a new culture.

But the migration process also has brought about transformation for many of the new immigrants. He said he found, for example, many immigrants have "become born-again Christians" as a result of their relocation.

But "migration is not random with respect to religion; it's a filtering process," he said, meaning many immigrants are coming from diverse communities in their countries and bringing with them unique cultural attributes.

For example, one-fourth of Korea's population is Christian, and yet 50 percent of Koreans who come to the United States are evangelical Christians who are likely to congregate in affluent suburban neighborhoods.

Although only 2 percent of India's population are Christian, 10 percent of Indians who come to the United States are Christians.

From Iranian Jews to Mexican conservatives, the new immigrants are challenging old religious stereotypes.

"What's happening is that the great majority of new immigrants are at least nominally Christian, bringing a de-Europeanization of Christianity," Warner said. "Now those handing out religious tracts on college campuses are likely to be Asian. And we're seeing more Eu-

ropeans becoming Buddhists, while Muslims are often merging cultures from African-American and immigrant communities."

The results have not always brought about spiritual harmony. Many first-generation immigrants believe retaining their Old World religious ties is a way to reproduce cultural attributes in their children. But children are quick to assimilate to U.S. culture and often find their parents' religion "boring or irrelevant," he said.

The challenge in each new religious community is for families to promote adjustment to their new host country while preserving cultural and religious ties to their homeland, Warner said.

"It is common for a family to drive long distances here to worship with others from their culture, whereas in their homelands, worship was primarily experienced at a regional or local level," Warner observed.

Even non-Western religions have begun adopting American structures. For example, the Buddhist Church of America has begun to look a lot like Christian congregations in forming men's and women's groups, choirs and local service projects, Warner said.

Intra-ethnic cohesion can put additional strains on religious communities, he said. Older immigrants from China, for example, who have assimilated to some degree may find they are in a culture clash with new Chinese immigrants coming from different regions of their home country.

## Joyce Rogers shares insights from life with Adrian

By Macon Fritsch  
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

LOUISVILLE (BP)—She met her future husband in the fourth grade. But he jokingly says they did not get serious until the sixth grade. She still has the love notes to prove it.

Joyce Rogers shared wisdom she has gleaned from 48 years of marriage to Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in suburban Memphis, Tenn., at a luncheon at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. The Oct. 12 event was part of the seminary's inaugural Heritage Week.

"I have always loved being a minister's wife," Rogers said, recalling that she felt called early in life to be the wife of a pastor. However, she said her role as a pastor's wife has not always been what she expected.

"There is only one thing I can remember ever telling Adrian that I did not want to do as far as being a minister's wife. I said to him on several occasions that I do not ever want to go to a big church," said Rogers, who now belongs to a church with 20,000 members.

Rogers said a big church was the last place she ever thought she would end up. In seminary, her husband led a church with only 25 members, she said. One Sunday, she said, only eight people attended the service and four belonged to her family.

"But the Lord has stretched me and grown me," Rogers said, sharing how God prepared her for a "monster" church. "The only way to victory, is death to self," she said. "I don't know what I would have done without my Jesus to lean on and without His wonderful Word to dig into."

Rogers exhorted the women to discover who they are in Christ.

"You can have role models, but remember that there is no cookie cutter, no design for what a

minister's wife, or any wife, should be. We come in all different sizes, shapes and forms," she said.

She challenged women at the luncheon to ask God to reveal their gifts and talents, then be willing to accept themselves. Quoting Romans 6:13, she told the women to yield their unique person to the Holy Spirit and to let God use them in the ministry.

She also encouraged the women to enjoy and appreciate every day, whether it be the newlywed years or the "empty nest" years. She said to especially prize child-bearing years and child-rearing years as well.

"Do not sacrifice your children on the altar of busyness," she said. "Never let it be said of you that you were a better teacher of the Bible to other women or to other people's children than you were to your own."

In addition to raising children, Rogers said "keeping a home" and building the relationship with one's husband should be top priorities for a wife, based on Titus 2:4-5. Some suggestions she shared for improving marriage included not putting children before one's husband, learning how to have fun and spending time alone with one's husband.

Rogers encouraged the women to meet their husbands' needs. "It has been said, and the Bible verifies it, that the greatest need of a man is admiration," she said. Admire him physically, admire his abilities and admire him spiritually, she advised.

Rogers also told women to take time to be holy. "Take time every day to spend time in God's wonderful Word," she said, never allowing "doing things" in the ministry to take the place of that time.

Rogers said her life's goal has been "God Himself—not peace, nor joy, nor even blessing, but God Himself."

## Churches get credit for voters rejecting state lottery

### Methodists stop sending funds to ailing NCC

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (RNS)—The United Methodist Church, the largest member denomination of the National Council of Churches, has suspended its basic financial support of the ecumenical agency because of concern over the NCC's debt and fiscal practices.

The United Methodist Church, with about 8.2 million members, is one of the largest contributors to the NCC. In 1999, the NCC was expected to receive \$670,000 from the United Methodist Church. So far, the council has been given \$327,081.

The denomination's Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns is concerned about the size of the NCC debt, the lack of funds to cover the debt, the absence of a budget based on realistic income from member communions and the lack of data to address those issues.

Bruce Robbins, the commission's top executive, said the commission's major concern is "whether the NCC is viable fiscally into the future, even with the plans put in place by the executive board."

Last month the NCC's board, looking at a \$4 million deficit, adopted a financial recovery plan.

The Methodist commission said it found the plan insufficient.

Joan Brown Campbell, general secretary of the National Council of Churches, said the council's executive board "has already taken steps to address many of the concerns expressed in the United Methodist memo. . . . We fully expect that the NCC will be able to respond to the United Methodist concerns in a timely manner."

MONTGOMERY Ala. (RNS)—Churches and religious leaders were credited with influencing Alabama voters to reject last week a proposed state lottery.

Gov. Don Siegelman, a Democrat who focused on the lottery as a means to improve the state's schools, found most Alabama voters did not agree with him.

The lottery lost Oct. 12 by a vote of 54 percent to 46 percent, Associated Press reported.

"The reason we won is the churches," said Jim Cooper of Citizens Against Legalized Lottery.

Cooper, who emerged late in the anti-lottery campaign, led opposition efforts through television advertising as well as through the churches.

But in late August, polls indicated the lottery had a 20-point lead.

Pastors influenced the vote by telling church members gambling is wrong and would exploit the poor and break up families, according to University of Alabama political analyst William Stewart. "It shows the church still does have quite a bit of power," he said.

Republican Lt. Gov. Steve Windom, a lottery opponent, called the lottery vote a "David and Goliath scenario," with lottery foes being outspent four to one but still winning by more than 100,000 votes.

"The ministers have made this happen, . . . encouraging their congregations to come together and vote against the lottery," he said.

"The prayer vigils and days of fasting also gave a sense of strength and clarity," Windom added. And the 400-plus ministers who gathered at the statehouse a few days before the vote to voice their opposition to the lottery "came with the same message and the same sense of purpose."

Gov. Siegelman had predicted a lottery would raise \$150 million annually for college scholarships, pre-kindergarten classes and school technology.

But opponents claimed the \$150 million would cost Alabama's economy \$450 million in other areas.

Cooper said the vote was an issue for Alabama and its families. "This is a great state, but there is never a right way to do wrong," he

said. "Gambling destroys lives, businesses, and turns good people inside out."

Siegelman was expected to announce a new plan to improve education Oct. 13, even though he campaigned intensely on the fact that there was no other way except a lottery.

Joe Bob Mizzell, director of Christian ethics for the Alabama Baptist Convention, said no issue had united so many ministers from different denominations. "Even the abortion issue—the sanctity of human life—has not come as close to bringing denominations together."

The churches also encouraged the record voter turnout, said Dan Ireland, executive director of Alabama Citizens Action Program.

"We sent a sincere, strong message," said Ireland, who took a lead role in the lottery opposition. "People across denominational lines came together and stood shoulder to shoulder for the Lord and for morality," he said.

"This can also serve as additional encouragement for South Carolina to vote out slot machines" in the

upcoming Nov. 2 referendum in a state with more than 30,000 video poker machines, Ireland said, adding that Alabama's move will affect the nation.

Alabama was the first state to vote on gambling after the National Gambling Impact Study Commission's June 18 report, he noted. "And the state has expressed a concurrence with what the study commission came out with."

The nine-member commission, which was created by Congress in August 1996 and approved by President Bill Clinton, consisted of three members each appointed by the president, the speaker of the House and the majority leader of the Senate. The group was diversified with strong gambling proponents and opponents serving on the commission.

After studying the issue, the commission called on states to put a moratorium on the expansion of gambling.

"Alabama has said to the nation, stop and think about what the commission said," Ireland said.

With additional reporting by Jennifer Davis Rash of the Alabama Baptist

## U.S. Supreme Court refuses to hear five cases involving religion

WASHINGTON (RNS)—On the first weeks of its new term, the U.S. Supreme Court rejected five appeals concerning religion.

In one case, justices refused to allow Newark, N.J., authorities to prevent two Muslim policemen from wearing beards.

Acting without comment, the court rejected the city's appeal and left rulings intact that said such a prohibition would violate the officers' freedom of religion.

In the second case, the high court rejected arguments of a New York public school teacher who said he is wrongly prevented from honoring students' requests to join them in prayer outside the classroom.

Dan Marchi, a teacher of emotionally disturbed and mentally disabled children in Albany-area schools, also claimed he was wrongly barred from referring to God in letters to parents.

The court, without comment, chose not to hear his arguments that his freedoms of religion and speech are being violated by the Board of Cooperative Educational Services of Albany, Schoharie, Schenectady and Saratoga counties, Associated Press reported.

In the third case, the court refused to let New York officials argue on behalf of a Hasidic Jewish community's effort to create a special public school district for its disabled children.

On a 6-3 vote, the court decided not to hear the state's argument that its third attempt at creating the district did not breach the constitutionally mandated separation of religion and state. Four votes were required for the court to hear the arguments.

Since 1989, New York lawmakers have sought to create a special school district to serve disabled children in Kiryas Joel, a Hasidic community northwest of New York City. Kiryas Joel is a highly insular community

inhabited solely by members of the ultra-Orthodox Satmar Hasidic group.

The special district would provide public-funded services to the disabled children similar to those received by other disabled children.

The state has argued that forcing the town's disabled children to attend public schools with non-Satmar youngsters is highly traumatizing. Kiryas Joel's children who are not disabled attend private schools in the community.

Three separate state efforts to create the special district have now been rejected in the courts.

In the fourth case, the court refused to let Pennsylvania exempt religious publications and items from sales taxes. Acting without comment, the court's action set no legal precedent, Associated Press stated, but does leave other states with similar tax laws vulnerable to legal action.

The Pennsylvania law had been

challenged by the Pittsburgh chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union. Pennsylvania courts had upheld the state's tax exemption.

In the fifth case, the court, also without comment, allowed Maine to continue to subsidize the private—but not religious—school education of children living in rural areas where public education is not available.

The high court's decision was in line with earlier decisions by Maine's top court and the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. The case had been appealed to the Supreme Court by a group of parents who want public aid for their children who attend parochial schools.

Among the other cases the court will consider this term is one to determine the constitutionality of Colorado's limitations on abortion protesters, which force demonstrators to stay at least eight feet from anyone approaching an abortion facility.

## Speakers highlight discrimination of Messianic Jews in America & Israel

By Keith Hinson  
Baptist Press

NEW YORK (BP)—Jewish believers in Jesus face discrimination and persecution from larger Jewish communities in the United States and Israel, according to speakers at a Jewish evangelism conference in Manhattan.

"Messianic Jews face distinct difficulties not encountered by others who believe in Yeshua," or Jesus, said Jay Sekulow, chief legal counsel for the American Center for Law and Justice.

Sekulow, himself a Messianic Jew, said Jewish believers in Jesus are "living in a culture that is 'ABC'—anything but Christianity. Anything goes except our faith."

Paul Feinberg, a professor at

Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Ill., agreed. "It is incredible that one can believe almost anything they want about God—or nothing at all—and still (be considered) a Jew," he said. But "Christianity is unmistakably Jewish, and that must be clear."

Sponsored by Chosen People Ministries of Charlotte, N.C. (formerly the American Board of Missions to the Jews), the conference was held at Calvary Baptist Church in Manhattan.

Jews in the United States who persecute Messianic Jews are practicing a form of the same discrimination they once experienced, Sekulow pointed out.

"Forty years ago, Jews still had to form their own golf clubs and social organizations because of prevailing

anti-Semitism," Sekulow said. "They feel little compunction to perpetrate the same atrocities on their own brethren now, simply because they believe that Yeshua is the Messiah."

But Sekulow warned that Jewish discrimination against Messianic Jews is not limited to the United States.

"There is increasing societal and governmental hostility to Christian religious expression in both America and in Israel," Sekulow said. "Messianic Jewish religious expression . . . suffers unique disabilities in both countries."

One particularly troubling development came a decade ago, Sekulow said, when Israel's Supreme Court decided in 1989 that "Messianic Jews are not Jews eligible to become citizens within the Law of Return" which was formulated by modern Israel's

founders to grant "every Jew the right to become a citizen of Israel."

More recently, immigration for Messianic Jews has become even more difficult, Sekulow said. "Recent changes in some immigration forms leave little hope for Messianic Jews attempting to immigrate under the Law of Return," he said. "The forms contain direct questions about a belief in Yeshua as Messiah."

Citing legal and criminal attacks against Messianic Jews in Israel, Sekulow said his organization is establishing the International Center for Law and Justice.

The new organization will "work with attorneys in Israel to ensure that when the inevitable persecution comes against Messianic Jews, they will be afforded some form of legal due process."

## Should Wedgwood be called a hate crime?

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—In the weeks since the murders at Wedgwood Baptist Church, some observers are questioning whether the failure of news media and national leaders to label the shootings a "hate crime" represents a double standard.

One of the sharpest criticisms came from New York Post columnist Rod Dreher. He noted the outcry that greeted previous attacks at a Los Angeles Jewish center and the murders of a homosexual student, Matthew Shepherd, in Wyoming and an African-American man, James Byrd, in Texas.

When gunman John Ashbrook targeted Christians in the Fort Worth church's sanctuary, it was a hate crime, Dreher wrote.

"The number of Christians killed this year alone by fanatic gunmen greatly exceeds the number of abortion providers or gays murdered by right-wing haters," Dreher stated.

"To so many media figures, Christians—specifically evangelicals, orthodox Catholics and others who believe in traditional Judeo-Christian moral teaching—are not victims, but victimizers," he added. "They are so

used to casting Southern Baptists and fellow travelers as buffoons and bigots that they find it hard to imagine them as anything but."

Robert Knight of the Family Research Council in Washington, D.C., questioned why Attorney General Janet Reno didn't take forceful action after the Sept. 15 slayings.

"She dispatched a civil-rights team of investigators to Texas in the James Byrd case, as well she should have," he told the New York Post. "But has she dispatched a team of investigators to find out what happened in Fort Worth?"

In a report issued nearly two weeks after the shootings, Time magazine also raised the question of whether evangelicals are a new hate-crime target.

Time said some Christians suspect they are a minority in a secularized America where evangelical Christians are being martyred for their beliefs.

Toby McKeehan, a member of the popular band, dc Talk, told the magazine that he and fellow band members recently released "Jesus Freaks," a history of martyrs aimed at teenage readers.

"I think that people are gonna have to count the cost of pursuing their faith in God," McKeehan told Time.

"Something we thought was (just) history—people being killed because they had faith, people being martyred—is suddenly happening before our very eyes."

Robert Reccord, president of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, told the magazine that when Christians stand for absolute truth as found in Scripture, it creates tension with a society that wants to get rid of absolutes.

While that usually has meant legal battles, Reccord said "you can see where somebody with emotional problems could express it as anger."

Prison Fellowship founder Charles Colson noted that Ashbrook shouted profane epithets and mocked Christian beliefs when he entered the sanctuary. Yet, most reporters insisted on calling his motives a mystery, he said.

Colson questioned whether the crime would have been explained away as the actions of a madman if Ashbrook had shot up a gay bar or abortion clinic.

"Part of the answer is that our elites view Christians as oppressors—of gays, of women, of anyone who rejects Judeo-Christian morality," he said. "The idea that Christians themselves are oppressed seems to be of no real concern."

## Gays crash Falwell's lecture on homosexuality

SAN FRANCISCO (RNS)—Two weeks before he's scheduled to host an anti-violence summit with gay leaders, Jerry Falwell was booed by activists when he lectured conservative Christians about urging people to give up homosexuality.

"Christian bigots out of our city!" cried Josh Trenter, who was taken away by police after allegedly tossing a blueberry pie during the "Come Out of Homosexuality" event Oct. 11 in San Francisco. Trenter and another member of a gay rights group were cited for battery and released.

Falwell appeared via satellite to speak to an audience of about 60

people at the event sponsored by the American Family Association, a conservative Christian group, and Falwell.

"God loves you and so do I," said Falwell, the former leader of the now-defunct Moral Majority. "Just as people can come out of the closet, so can people choose to come out against a sinful lifestyle."

Allen Wildmon, a spokesman for the American Family Association and brother of its founder, Donald Wildmon, said the presentation aimed "to reach out to the homosexual community in a spirit of love."

The lecture was timed to counter publicity from National Coming Out

Day, an annual event celebrating gay life, Associated Press reported.

Falwell has announced plans to meet Oct. 23 with Mel White, a gay minister and author of "Stranger at the Gate: To Be Gay and Christian in America."

Falwell and 200 guests of his ministries are scheduled to meet with 200 of White's guests at a forum at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va., where Falwell is chancellor.

White has ghost-written several books, including an autobiography of Falwell. He is now a leader of Soulforce Inc., an organization that seeks justice for lesbians and gays through nonviolent means.

### NATIONAL NOTES

■ **School district sued over cross necklace ban.** An Alabama school district has been sued for preventing a student from displaying a cross necklace. Kandice Smith, 11, a sixth-grader at Curry Middle School in Jasper, Ala., is being represented by the American Center for Law and Justice. The suit alleges that the girl was told repeatedly by school officials to hide the necklace inside her clothing because any necklace displayed outside clothing would violate a new mandatory dress code of the school district.

■ **Regent University to build Washington-area campus.** Regent University, a Christian graduate school based in Virginia Beach, Va., has announced plans to build a campus in the Washington metropolitan area. Ground will be broken Oct. 25 for a five-story facility in Alexandria, Va. It will include classroom and office space for the University College of Communication and the Arts as well as the business, counseling, divinity, education and government schools. The facility also will include an auditorium and lecture hall.

■ **Committee: Cults not a concern for colleges.** A Maryland panel has recommended warning college students to watch out for potentially harmful groups, while concluding that such groups, commonly called cults, are not a major concern on the state's campuses. The panel was created by the state legislature in response to complaints from some parents that their children had suffered by joining cults while at college. In its recently issued final report, the task force also recommended that Maryland schools create an educational program to help incoming students make more informed choices about what groups they join.

■ **New president named for People for the American Way.** Civil liberties advocate Ralph Neas has been named the new president of People for the American Way. Neas, who was executive director of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights for 14 years, will succeed Carole Shields, who served as president since 1996. On Jan. 3, Neas will become the chief executive officer of the liberal Washington-based advocacy group on religious and civil-rights issues.

■ **Judge OKs church bulletin baseball game discount.** A judge has ruled that a Hagerstown, Md., minor-league baseball team may continue offering discounts to fans who bring church bulletins to special promotion games—as long as it offers the same discount to those who don't. Administrative Law Judge Georgia Brady ruled that the Hagerstown Suns did not discriminate against self-described atheist Carl Silverman of Waynesboro, Pa., because he was offered the same \$2-per-ticket discount, even though he brought no bulletin to a game.

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### Countries cited for religious persecution

Continued from page 1

ery of the new law and our nation's renewed commitment to international religious liberty."

At the Senate subcommittee hearing, Seiple told lawmakers the State Department report details religious-freedom abuses in other countries not listed as CPCs.

"In some instances, like Saudi Arabia, those countries are beginning to take steps to address the problem," Seiple said in a written statement. "In some countries such as North Korea, religious freedom may be suppressed, but we lack the data to make an informed assessment. We will continue to look at these cases and collect information so that, if a country merits being designated under the act, we will designate it."

Nina Shea, a member of the Commission on International Religious Freedom, told the congress-

sional hearing that the commission is especially pleased with the designations of China and Sudan. China has more religious prisoners than any other country, and Sudan is conducting military campaigns, including enslavement, against its religious minorities, she said.

The commission has decided to study only China and Sudan during its first year of work, Shea said.

"I believe there is no better way to help the persecuted religious believers in Vietnam, Pakistan, Egypt, North Korea, Saudi Arabia and elsewhere than to see China and Sudan become first cases on a short list of countries where the U.S. is prepared to spend political capital to end the scourge of religious genocide and persecution," she said in her written testimony.

With additional reporting by Kenny Byrd of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs

## Christian Coalition down but not out, supporters say

By Ira Rifkin  
Religion News Service

**"The Christian Coalition is still the 800-pound gorilla that sits in the room called the religious right."**  
Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Larry Miller is a true-blue supporter of the Christian Coalition who co-chairs its Polk County, Iowa, chapter. He makes no effort to hide his concern over what's happened to the religious right's premier political powerhouse.

"I'd say the coalition has plateaued, hopefully no worse," the 36-year-old data processing worker said. "We've been hurt by what's happened, no doubt about it."

His own chapter of "a couple of dozen" activists has not been meeting regularly and "we're not getting younger people in," he said. "It's a real lull for us."

Miller's appraisal of the coalition's current condition reflects the 10-year-old group's widely publicized recent problems: the loss of its long legal fight to gain tax-exempt status, high-level staff turnovers and dismissals, allegations of falsified membership figures and mounting financial difficulties, including a sharp drop in donations received and a reported deficit that tops \$2 million.

Taken together, they would seem to paint a picture of an organization in terminal decline. On that point, however, Miller takes exception.

"The Christian Coalition still merits the attention it gets. It's still the biggest Christian conservative group around. Don't count us out just yet," he said during the group's annual two-day "Road to Victory" convention, held earlier this month in Washington.

Miller might well have been reciting the convention's official mantra. From rank-and-fileers such as Miller on up to coalition founder and president Pat Robertson, the standard refrain was that no matter how bloodied the coalition may be, it will revive—big time, they insisted.

"There's a rejuvenation of the coalition all over the nation," Robertson said. Without the support of Christian conservatives, he added, Republicans cannot win in 2000.

Coalition staff turnovers—including the loss in January of former president Don Hodel—were part of the "normal cycle" affecting "any organization that has to do with politics," Robertson insisted. Fund-raising might be off, but "we'll have the money to do the job," he said, including circulation in 2000 of millions of the coalition's trademark voter guides.

This year's convention attendance of about 3,500 may have been down from last year, "but it's a record for an off-year (no presidential or major congressional election)," added Randy Tate, Washington lobbying chief for the coalition, headquartered in Chesapeake, Va.

Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, and an unrelenting coalition critic, conceded that in the short run, at least, the organization's survival seems assured.

"The Christian Coalition is still the 800-pound gorilla that's in the room called the religious right," he said. "The success of the religious right is

still measured by the success of the Christian Coalition."

One measure of this continued success is the coalition's ability to attract top-tier Republican officeholders and wannabes to its Road to Victory conventions, as was the case this year.

Other than Pat Buchanan, who has threatened to leave the GOP for the Reform Party, and Arizona Sen. John McCain, who declined to appear, every Republican hopeful was on hand.

Robertson, however, made no bones about his choice for the Republican party's nomination, leaving the other candidates in the uncomfortable position of having been dismissed by the coalition's top gun before even making their pitch.

Texas Gov. George W. Bush, Robertson said, "would be a very acceptable candidate." Despite that, Robertson said he would not officially endorse any one candidate during the Republican primary season.

Coalition critics say Robertson's coying up to Bush now could well cause even more problems for the group because of the candidate's stand on abortion, which is perceived as more moderate than that of most coalition members.

The coalition gained much of its prominence on the strength of its staunch opposition to abortion. But Lynn said Robertson is willing to overlook Bush's stated unwillingness to make opposition to abortion a litmus test for appointing federal judges because the coalition leader is more concerned with backing a winner.

At the convention, Robertson responded to his critics by saying it is important to get a Republican elected president because a Republican is more likely than a Democrat to appoint federal judges who do oppose abortion. The next president is likely to have the opportunity to appoint at least three Supreme Court justices because of expected retirements.

Pushing Bush on the abortion issue now, said Robertson, would force him to the right and cause him to lose the votes of some moderate Republicans.

One convention speaker who did not share the enthusiasm for Bush was former professional football star Reggie White, an ordained minister. White said he supports Gary Bauer because of his "defense of the family" and "consistent ... commitment to the sanctity of life."

Regardless of who Robertson endorses for president, Cal Thomas, one-time spokesman for Jerry Falwell's defunct Moral Majority, the religious right's first major political action group, said most religious conservatives will make their own decision about who to support for president in 2000.

Thomas, who co-authored a recent book claiming that political involvement inevitably leads to religious compromise, said the influence of the Christian Coalition and other groups on the religious right is overstated.

"We make a mistake in the press thinking the ones with the megaphones are the real leaders," he said.



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### Autumn speaks

God speaks to us in a variety of ways. At times, He speaks through the holy Scriptures; at other times He speaks through the medium of another person. Sometimes He speaks to us through nature, His creation. For me, more than any other season, autumn in Kentucky speaks a word from God.

Our God, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, created out of nothing the world and everything in it. He created the natural order to be beautiful and to reflect the beauty of His holiness. However, we humans, the ones created in His own image, have sinned against God and His creation. As we look

at our stewardship of God's creation, we are reminded of the glory of God and of our sinfulness in relation to Him. Furthermore, our need of forgiveness and redemption is confirmed in nature, and the autumn season whispers to us God's grace.

How inspiring are the autumn colors! They remind us of the harmony that exists among the contrasting colors. If all the leaves were the same color, autumn would not be as beautiful. What a

lesson for us to learn! Did not God intend for us to live in fellowship with one another without being exactly alike? How can that be possible? It is possible because God intended us to be one in Christ Jesus. Through Christ there can be harmony without sameness.

Autumn is also that season which best depicts the natural cycle of dying and being born again. Not only is autumn the season that heralds the coming of winter, but it is also the season that promises spring. A seed falls to the ground and dies in order to be born and bear fruit. Jesus used this analogy in John 12:23-25 to explain the meaning of His own death and the es-

sence of the redemptive experience. We must die to self in order to be saved. Autumn must come in order for spring to follow. To the Christian there is always the promise of spring. Autumn is the prelude.

May God speak to you during this autumn season.

### KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

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

## Castro permits nearly 400 Jews to move to Israel

JERUSALEM (RNS)—Cuban dictator Fidel Castro, long known as a fervent anti-Zionist, has allowed hundreds of Cuban Jews to move to Israel.

About 400 mostly young Cuban Jews—members of the island nation's 1,500-member Jewish community—secretly emigrated to Israel during the past two years, according to reports.

In Israel, the presence of the Cubans was kept under wraps to avoid jeopardizing the chances of additional Jews leaving Cuba.

Israel Radio said Margarita Zapata, the Jewish granddaughter of the Mexican revolutionary hero Emilio Zapata, used her personal relationship with Castro to facilitate the effort.

When Castro came to power, about 15,000 Jews lived in Cuba. Most soon left for the United States and elsewhere because they did not support Castro's communist policies.

Cuba severed ties with Israel in 1973 and became a strong supporter of the Palestinian cause. The Jewish Telegraphic Agency news service said Castro allowed the emigration to Israel in an apparent effort to gain the Jewish state's aid in ending the American economic boycott of Cuba.

## Nazareth Christians view mosque as threat

By Elaine Ruth Fletcher  
Religion News Service

NAZARETH, Israel (RNS)—From the Anglican church compound on a hillside above Nazareth, the black spire of the Basilica of the Annunciation rises like a compass needle directing pilgrims to one of the Holy Land's most revered sites.

For centuries, the site has beckoned Christians who regard it as the place where the Angel Gabriel announced the birth of Jesus to Mary.

But a crisis now looms over the basilica, threatening both the city's upcoming millennial celebrations and its ancient Christian legacy, Anglican Bishop Riah Abd El-Assal said.

The crisis has been triggered by a Muslim demand to build a mosque alongside the basilica, damaging an age-old religious status quo in which areas around the sensitive church site were regarded as a predominantly Christian domain.

"As a Christian Arab, Palestinian and Israeli, I have happily contributed to the construction of many mosques. But I am against the construction of a mosque on this site, in front of the Basilica of the Annunciation," El-Assal said bluntly.

"For 1,400 years, since the rise of Islam, we Christians have lived here with Muslims in good relations. We never imagined such a time would come when fanatics would ruin our good relations," he added. "This (mosque) may be aimed, in one way or another, at our presence—at the

Arab Christian presence here after 2,000 years."

Displaying a rare unity of feeling, top Arab church leaders of all denominational stripes and colors have dramatically escalated their opposition to a government-brokered proposal to permit the construction of a mosque on vacant land in front of the basilica—land that originally had been earmarked by Nazareth's municipality for a millennial pilgrims' plaza.

Israel's government decided last week that the mosque and the pilgrims' plaza are to be constructed side-by-side on the plot. Under the plan, construction of both structures would begin Nov. 8.

A local Muslim group has been occupying a portion of the strategic site for two years, demanding control of the entire 2,000-square-meter plot. The dispute has kindled Christian-Muslim tensions in this mixed city—tensions that erupted in riots last Easter.

"Muslims today are 70 percent of the city's residents, and we want to be able to give our population the basic services, schools, hospitals ... and mosques that they deserve," said Muslim leader Ahmed Zuabi.

"Look at what the Christians in this city can claim," added Zuabi, a city council member, gesturing toward the basilica. "They have dozens of institutions and some 750 acres of land. We, in comparison, have almost nothing."

"There are no problems between Muslims and Christians in Nazareth,"

Zuabi insisted. "We originally wanted a much larger mosque, but we settled for the government offer of 700 square meters because we wanted to solve the problem."

Yet in a region where every stone overturned for construction is rife with political and religious symbolism, Christians clearly see the Muslim demand to construct a mosque on the site as a powerful challenge to Nazareth's image as a Christian city.

Many privately fear the construction of the mosque in the strategic site would be interpreted as a successful power play by Muslim fundamentalists, gaining them even more political clout in the future.

Once a majority of Nazareth's population, Christians today represent only about 30 percent of the city's 65,000 citizens. Their numbers have been eroded by decades of emigration to the West.

Religion is playing an increasing role in the lives of both Muslim and Christian Arabs in the Nazareth community, according to Salim Jubran, a noted secular academic.

Yet the religious resurgence too often has been marked by a lack of sensitivity to other faiths, and a disregard for values like pluralism, said Jubran. That is the hidden issue he perceives in the Muslim demand to build a mosque alongside a sensitive Christian landmark.

"The struggle in a sense is not between Christians and Muslims," declared Jubran. "It is between fundamentalism and modernism, multiculturalism and tolerance."

The crisis has been triggered by a Muslim demand to build a mosque alongside Nazareth's Basilica of the Annunciation, damaging an age-old religious status quo in which areas around the sensitive church site were regarded as a predominantly Christian domain.

## Hall serves in El Salvador

By Robert Dunston

Cumberland College senior Brandy Hall, daughter of Fern and Jerry Hall of Madison, Ind., served on the Kentucky Baptist Student Union team that journeyed to El Salvador in May. She worked mainly with the children of the area.

Hall and her team members did many activities to entertain, get to know and share the gospel with the children. On the first day they delighted the children by blowing bubbles for them for two and a half hours.

During their time in El Salvador, team members also made balloon animals, writing "Jesus loves you" on each animal. Coloring books were a big favorite, and team members and children both spent much time coloring with crayons and colored pencils. They played "Duck, Duck, Goose" and "Red Light, Green Light" with the children and had a lot of fun despite the language barrier.

Team members told and acted out Bible stories when a translator was available. One day they had a child climb into a tree and pretend to be Zacchaeus. That story was a big hit. They also taught the children how to sing "Jesus Loves Me"

in Spanish.

One special girl to whom Hall became attached was a 13-year-old named Iveth. Iveth said she wished Hall was her real sister. During the first week Iveth accepted Jesus as her personal Savior. She was so delighted that Hall is now her sister in Christ.

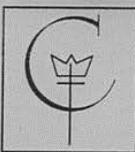
Even though Iveth was 13, she was only in the fourth grade. One day she took Hall to her school to meet her teachers and friends.

When Hall got ready to leave, Iveth was heartbroken. Hall sat down with her and some of the others and showed them Bible verses that let them know that even though she and the team members were leaving, God would be with them forever.

Seven other children accepted Christ during the team's time in El Salvador. "The harvest is ready. We were able to see some of that harvest," said Hall. She is now considering the Southern Baptist International Mission Board's Journeyman program so she can continue working in the harvest.

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

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



## Hard good-byes

There are plenty of things to draw me back to my home state of North Carolina, including family and an exciting ministry at Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina, yet the decision to leave Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children was far from easy. I can thank many of you for making this move a difficult one.

Eight years ago I began traveling the state, sharing news of your ministry to children and families. I've had hundreds of speaking engagements from Viper to Kevil and everywhere in between. Southern Baptists have been so gracious that I think I'm qualified to write a book on Kentucky hospitality. I've been treated to great meals and have heard hours of funny stories and touching testimonies about God's blessings.

What I have appreciated most are the open minds and hearts you have demonstrated as I've shared stories of our state's discarded children. I've watched many of you shed tears and pray sincerely for God's intervention in these lives. To communicate those expressions of concern to our staff and children has been a privilege.

Another blessing has been to

watch individuals, groups and entire churches invest themselves in KBHC. To subtract your involvement in our programs would erase entire ministries, buildings, staff positions and changed lives. God working through Kentucky Baptists is the beginning and ending point of this ministry. It always has been that way, and I'm confident it will continue.

I encourage all of you to explore new ways to support KBHC. There are so many children who need foster and adoptive parents. To provide counseling that can prevent abuse and neglect, Cornerstone Counseling needs your dollars. Our kids need Bible study leaders and tutors. For the agency to flourish, we need your "Miles of Pennies" and Thanksgiving offerings.

Thank you for welcoming me into your hearts and homes, for all you have done for the kids and for all you will continue to do in the name of Christ. It truly has been a blessing to serve God through this special ministry.

Brenda Gray is vice president for development and communications of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, 10801 Shelbyville Road, Middletown, KY 40243. Call (800) 456-1386.

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Brenda Gray

## Israeli official: Artifact thefts rise as millennium approaches

JERUSALEM (RNS)—The millennium has prompted a sharp increase in the illegal trade of biblical-era artifacts in Israel, according to an official of the Israel Antiquities Authority.

"We are now seeing a trend of antiquity dealers wanting to stock up on as many objects as possible because they feel that in the year 2000 there will be a bigger demand by pilgrims for these objects," said Amir Ganor, who heads the Israeli agency's theft prevention division.

Ganor told *Biblical Archaeology Review* magazine that "the hottest items" are oil lamps and coins from the first century A.D. and Byzantine-era bronze crosses.

"What more important souvenir can a pilgrim coming here for the year 2000 take back with him than an oil lamp from the time of Jesus? For \$15 or \$25 he can have a good souvenir," Ganor said.

Arrests in Israel for antiquities theft have more than quadrupled since 1996, when only four such arrests were made. Last year 18 people were arrested for antiquities theft. Four more were arrested during the first half of 1999.

Under Israeli law, 70 licensed antiquities dealers are allowed to buy and sell the artifacts. However, Ganor said about 90 percent of the items the legal dealers handle is stolen merchandise taken from plundered archaeological sites—although legally proving the items are stolen is often impossible.

Many of the thieves are Israelis working with Palestinians who hide the stolen items in areas controlled by the Palestinian Authority before smuggling them back into Israel, Ganor said.

The Palestinian Authority has created a fledgling antiquities agency. However, so far the Israeli and Palestinian counterparts do not cooperate, making it easier for thieves to escape arrest.

## Post-hurricane work in Honduras sees results

By Wally Poor  
SBC International Mission Board

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (BP)—Southern Baptist missionaries in Honduras are reporting increased conversions and baptisms as a result of the past year of post-hurricane ministry.

"In 32 years of missionary service, this is the most unprecedented thing I have ever seen," said Max Furr, a missionary and field strategy coordinator in Honduras for the Southern Baptist International Mission Board.

"We have people coming not asking for food or a building but asking us to bring the Word of God to them," he said.

He and his fellow Southern Baptist missionaries, along with Honduran Baptist partners, have worked tirelessly to witness and minister in the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch, which struck Honduras on Halloween night 1998.

Scores of Southern Baptist volunteers have traveled to Honduras to help by distributing food and rebuilding houses.

As a result, Honduran Baptist churches are reporting decisions for Christ, baptisms and new mission points in larger numbers than ever before. Many also are reporting numbers of church members getting their lives straightened out.

Mitch killed more than 5,600 people, and 40 percent of the population lost homes, jobs or family

members. Furr said 70 percent of the nation's infrastructure was destroyed.

Mitch wiped out most of the nation's banana crop, a major source of employment in Honduras. There will be no bananas produced for 30 months.

"I think people got scared and realized you don't mess with Mother Nature and you cannot predict what will happen," Furr said.

Hondurans heard the gospel during relief efforts in the country, and as people began to accept Christ, Honduran Baptists and Southern Baptist missionaries set a goal of establishing 100 churches in 1999. Already, 60 congregations have been started and about 1,250 people await baptism.

In Choluteca, near the Pacific Ocean on Honduras' southern coast, one of the hardest-hit areas, pastors reported not only conversions but said members who had left the churches are returning.

Unmarried couples have sought to straighten out their lives by being legally married. One pastor reported performing a ceremony for six couples at once.

Messiah Baptist Church in Tierra Blanca—a 60-member congregation before Mitch—has seen 80 people make professions of faith in Jesus, 15 people baptized, five weddings and 30 people reconciled, said pastor Francisco Martinez.

Furr has asked the Spanish Baptist Publishing House in El Paso, Texas,

to send 25,000 versions of a New Testament that has Bible lessons printed in the back. The version is widely used in Baptist work in Latin America for church starts.

Relief work and workers will be needed in Honduras for years to come, Furr said. Baptists have undertaken, with the help of volunteers from North Carolina, Texas, Mississippi and other states, to build 595 houses for families whose homes were destroyed in the hurricane. Normally a crew can build a house in one week.

"That means about 595 teams. Divided by three states, that's about 200 weeks, which is nearly three years," he noted.

As a new home is built, the nearest Baptist church is responsible for starting a Bible study there, he added.

"Thankfully we have Honduran Baptists trained to help us in this. It's not all on the shoulders of missionaries," Furr said.

Still, more missionaries have been requested, he said.

"We have some people nibbling at our requests," he said. "We hope they'll take a good bite and come on down and work with us."

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## Harvesting corn and souls

We normally associate the fall of the year as a time of harvesting crops we planted back in the spring or early summer. Any farmer or serious gardener can tell you how rewarding it is to gather in the crops.

Fall is typically a harvest time for another crop at Oneida: souls. We have a fall revival each September. Many of our students never have attended a revival before. Just when they were getting used to going to chapel every school day and Sunday morning and evening worship, we threw something new at them. Many students have no idea what a revival is all about, and they often attend just so they can sit with a special friend.

We know our job is to sow the seed. We also know we cannot make a person accept the gift of salvation. We understand that the Holy Spirit will work in the heart of a person if he or she will just allow Him to move.

I would like to tell you about several students who made professions of faith during our fall revival. Some have just enrolled this school year, while others have been here longer. Seeing a student who has been here for only a few weeks accept Jesus as Savior is a special blessing. It is a reminder that the "fields are white already to harvest." I wonder if they ever would have met Jesus if they had not found their way to Oneida.

The first student is "Alex," (not his real name.) Alex is from Kentucky and is in high school. He is adopted, and just lost his father. Alex has been struggling with the many unanswered questions adopted children often have. Being angry with biological parents they might never have met is a common problem. The sense of abandonment and not knowing one's real identity can cause a lot of

emotional stress. Often that anger and frustration flow over into the relationships a child has with his adoptive parents. Alex was struggling with many of these issues. We were told he had an "attitude, temper, lies a lot and steals." We also were told his grades ranged from A's to F's. He was having some problems at school, mostly because the other students were "teasing him."

On the positive side, Alex told us that he normally was not a fighter and that he thought he could do better in school if he did not have to contend with the teasing. When I asked him what were the two most important things he wanted to accomplish while at Oneida he said, "To make better grades and to mature." The quarter is not over yet, so I don't know how well he is doing academically, but when I got his mid-term grades he was not failing any classes. Accepting Christ should help him accomplish both goals. I'll call the next student "Gayle." She came to Oneida from another state and is also in high school. Gayle's mother travels a lot, and wanted the security of a boarding school for her daughter. Her

mother also was concerned about the peer pressure Gayle was facing at school. There were no problems at home, and her mother said Gayle "follows the rules." There was no history of any drug use, and she was a good student, though her grades were not consistently good. Gayle told us she wanted to be "more responsible and make better grades." She also said she really wanted to come to Oneida. I predict she will be an honor student by Christmas.

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

## A Kelly Hall memory

We are waiting for architectural drawings of the total renovation of historic Kelly Hall.

The imposing stone structure was completed in 1942 and made it possible for the preacher's school to have a winter session.

For many years Kelly Hall provided housing, cafeteria, classrooms, chapel and offices. What stories could be told if the walls could talk.

I received a memory recently from the children of one of the first couples to live in Kelly Hall.

Doris Manning was born in the mountains of Kentucky on Aug. 11, 1926. She never had the benefit of formal education.

At age 14 she began to cook and clean for her older brothers and her father. In 1947 while attending Wallins Creek Baptist Church she met Burney Manning, a student at Clear Creek Mountain Preachers School.

The school sent him to Wallins to supply preach. After taking an immediate interest in Doris, Manning asked if he could call on her, and she agreed. That week he traveled to the coal-mining town of Creeches to meet her family.

Manning returned to Clear

Creek after a night of courting and after praying he decided to ask Doris to marry.

He proposed by sending her a post card that read, "I have given my life to serve God. God will always come first in my life. Even though I have no worldly possessions, if you want to be second, I would like to ask you to be my wife." She mailed an answer of yes.

They were soon married and had a honeymoon in Kelly Hall. The couple later moved to a duplex of GI housing for World War II Veterans.

Burney Manning graduated in 1949 and went on to Cumberland College. Burney and Doris shared ministry for more than 50 years, most of it in southern Kentucky. They had nine children. A son, Burney Jr., graduated from Clear Creek in 1991. Doris passed away Sept. 24, 1999; Burney resides in Lexington.

**CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE**



Bill Whittaker

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

# ISSUES

## Stress pushing more people to spirituality, journalist says

By Bob Allen  
Associated Baptist Press

ATLANTA (ABP)—A longing for "the well-lived life" is prompting millions of Americans to explore a variety of spiritual paths, according to veteran broadcast journalist Bob Abernethy.

That longing tops Abernethy's personal list of significant trends in religion and ethics, the host of the PBS television program "Religion and Ethics Newsweekly" told participants in a Christian leadership conference last week.

"So many of us are so busy, stretched so thin and in so many directions," Abernethy said at the Oct. 11-12 conference sponsored by the Baptist Center for Ethics.

That stress causes people to crave significance and meaning beyond everyday concerns, he explained. Many people are turning to spirituality, though not necessarily to organized religion.

"Go into any large book store," he said. "You'll find a few shelves on religion and a whole wall, probably, on the subject of spirituality."

As his program, which is seen by an average of 500,000 viewers each week, begins its third year, Abernethy said he sometimes feels "envious" for the rich spiritual traditions represented by guests he interviews on the show.

"We take religion seriously enough to cover as many different religions as we can, and what's most interesting that's going on with them, for a general audience," Abernethy said. "We're journalists, not televangelists, but we also know good journalism means getting at the heart of what people are talking about."

While many Americans are interested in religion, most are uninformed about faiths other than their own, he said.

"We in this country are so isolated religiously that we know a lot about what happens in our own church but not much, I think, about what goes on in another church down the street or another religion's place down the street," Abernethy said.

"The audience generally is very interested how somebody else worships," he said.

Second to America's growing quest for spirituality, Abernethy ranked the increasing diversity of religious expression in the United States as a significant trend.

Such diversity implies "great dangers," Abernethy said, "unless we are careful."

The recent controversy over a booklet by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board aimed at converting Jews during Judaism's High Holy Days illustrated the tension between respecting other faiths and carrying out what Christians believe "Christ called us to do," Abernethy said. "I think we need a lot of help with that," he added.

"Are there many paths up the mountain (to truth), or is mine the only one that reaches the top?" he asked.

While some might fear that dialogue among different faiths could cause people to "water down" their religious beliefs in order to reach consensus, Abernethy said the opposite has been true for him.

"In my own experience, the more I learn about the faith and practice of other faith traditions, the more I want to explore the faith and practice of my

own," said Abernethy, who said he grew up as a Baptist and now belongs to the United Church of Christ.

Abernethy said he is frankly surprised America has handled its religious diversity as well as it has.

"The potential for antagonism is all around us in this increasingly diverse land," he said. "I wish I had a better sense of a theology of diversity that would somehow permit us to be respectful of the truths of other faiths and at the same time seriously, deeply committed to the truths of our own."

Another fast-moving field is genetic engineering, Abernethy said. "What do Christians have to say about recreating themselves as human beings? I don't mean in a spiritual sense, I mean in replacing parts. Should the rich be able to enhance their offspring genetically?" he asked, as they already are able to enhance them intellectually by sending them to superior schools.

Another trend is "the great battle of world views" between materialism and spirituality, he said. He quoted one guest who observed "the spirituality side is clearly winning" in America. "There is no doubt about us being a still religious country," Abernethy observed.

People of religious faith have complained for years that national television paid inadequate attention to news of religion, Abernethy said. Five years ago, as he was finishing up his assignment as a correspondent to Russia for NBC News, he decided to address the problem. The public television station in New York, Thirteen/WNET, agreed. So did the Lilly Endowment, which funds the program.

Abernethy said fellow journalists have been supportive of the program in

## Writer rips fundamentalism

ATLANTA (ABP)—Fundamentalism is giving Christianity a bad name in America, according to newspaper columnist Cynthia Tucker.

Tucker, a writer for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, was among the speakers at the Oct. 11-12 "Leadership Edge for the 21st Century" sponsored by the Baptist Center for Ethics. Tucker said America should hear from people whose idea of Christianity is broader and more inclusive than the view represented by the Religious Right.

"I am tired of hearing the word 'Christian' from the public stage in newscasts and having it only mean one very, very narrow theology," she said. "So those of us who have a broader, more expansive view of Christianity have an obligation to take back the public stage."

Tucker, a former Baptist who now attends First Congregational Church in downtown Atlanta, said she sometimes intentionally shocks readers by reminding them she is a Christian, qualifying that she is "a member in good standing of the Christian left."

She criticized Southern Baptists for their recent emphasis to convert Jews to Christianity between Yom Kippur and Rosh Hashana, Judaism's holiest time of the year.

"From all I can see this campaign was a headline-grabbing public campaign," she said. "It did not seem to be a quiet person-to-person campaign. It seemed intended to offend."

their comments. He said he hopes the program will influence how other news organizations cover religion.

"I hope that we will find enough good stories and tell them well enough that people looking at the stories in the news business will say, 'Why didn't we have them?' and the result will be more mainstreaming of religion," he said. "We've got our work cut out for us, but if we do it right, that is what will happen."

## Researcher who tracks revival movements turns attention to Texas & Oklahoma

By Mark Wingfield  
Texas Baptist Standard

HOUSTON (ABP)—Some people gauge the spiritual condition of a city by how many people attend church. George Otis Jr. asks how many people don't go to church and why.

A self-described "investigative researcher," Otis stands at the forefront of an emerging movement among evangelical Christians that seeks to map the world's cultural terrain as a precursor to revival.

Not only can individuals and churches be transformed by God's power, he contends, but so can entire communities and cities. He says he has found evidence of community transformations in places like Cali, Colombia; Kiambu, Kenya; Almolongo, Guatemala; and Hemet, Calif.

His research is documented in a video and two books published by the ministry he heads, the Sentinel Group.

Very few of the newly discovered "transformed" cities are found in the industrialized West, Otis said during a September conference in Houston. But he added that a broad area stretching from Houston to Oklahoma City could be on the brink of such a revival.

"This is a real hot spot," he said. "This is where I think something's going to happen."

So does Jim Herrington. He believes it so much that last November he resigned his position as director of missions for Houston's Union Baptist Association to launch a new interdenominational effort called Mission Houston.

Mission Houston's goal is to facilitate the kind of community transformation Otis says is happening in other places around the world. It seeks to draw together pastors and lay leaders from a wide range of evangelical churches in focused prayer and preparation.

"Houston is pregnant," Herrington told the 200 people gathered at the conference on community transformation. "We're praying this pregnancy will go full term."

One sign of Houston's expectant state is a growing focus on united prayer, Herrington said. Through Mission Houston, seven full-time "catalysts" are working in different sections of metropolitan Houston to facilitate pastors' prayer meetings.

"Pastors are being very responsive to pray," he said. "Pastors' prayer gatherings are being held all across the city."

Not only are pastors praying, but a growing movement of lay intercessors is emerging in Houston as well. On Aug. 26, 500 people from various churches across Houston gathered for united prayer on behalf of community transformation.

"God is speaking," said Mary Ann Bridgwater, a community leader and lay leader at First Baptist Church of Houston who helped organize the prayer vigil.

Like several others, she has been praying for community transformation in Houston for years. It all began in 1991, when she determined to pray regularly for every pastor in Union Baptist Association. She quickly realized she couldn't limit her prayers only to Baptist pastors, so began to pray specifically for all pastors.

"God at that time gave me a heart for the city," she explained.

Like Otis and Herrington, Bridgwater said Houston's emerging prayer movement could be the front line of a future spiritual renewal in the city. United prayer meetings will be held every two weeks this fall.

While many are praying, a few others are beginning the detailed task of what is called "spiritual mapping" in order to provide intercessors more specific data to bring before God in prayer.

Spiritual mapping is a new concept that involves interviews, historical research and block-by-block observation to discern what events in the past or present might be blocking revival in a community. In other cities where spiritual mapping has been done, Christians have discovered influences like the occult, cults and ancient

tribal religions that they believe continue to hold sway over their communities.

When these specific issues—along with problems such as drug abuse, gangs, domestic violence and civic corruption—have been targeted in focused prayer, Otis said, transformation has resulted.

"No generation and no community has ever popped out of a vacuum," Otis said. "A road has been paved before we came on the scene. Unless that road is changed, we will follow that road."

"Our worldview does not end at the boundaries of the material world," Otis said. "There are realities that cannot be measured with tools you can pick up in university laboratories."

However, spiritual mapping follows essentially the same concept as cultural geography, which is taught in many universities today, Otis said. It is an attempt to "trace disease back to its source."

Spiritual mapping is just getting under way in parts of Houston.

Through those well-researched prayers, Herrington and Otis anticipate an extraordinary transformation that everyone around will attribute to God.

"When the kingdom of God comes into a community, it arrives like a river of molten lava," Otis said. "It burns through the church and breaks through the walls. It transforms everything."

# 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:

■ Joy and Larry Lindsay, Kentucky partnership coordinators in Poland, as they will be in the States from November through February. To schedule them to speak, call the Kentucky Baptist partnership office at 245-4101.

■ Missionaries Marc and Annie Byrd as they begin an English club in Poland.

■ Praise God that missionaries Steve and Deborah Reece have found a meeting place to begin a Bible study in a key apartment complex in Poland.

■ A Kentucky partnership team in Tanzania this week.

■ Associational meetings throughout New England this month.

## Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Shirley Wooton

■ **BURLINGTON**—Burlington Church called **Jeff Perry** as minister to students. Perry was formerly at Main Street Church, Alexandria. **Terry Wilder** is pastor.

■ **CADIZ**—Canton Church will host revival services Oct. 24-27. **Darryl Jones** will be the evangelist. **Marshall Byford** will lead the music. **Paul Cannon** is pastor.

■ **CALHOUN**—Bethel Church called **Chris Duke** as pastor. Duke formerly was minister of youth at Glenville Church.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Beech Grove will host a 100th anniversary celebration and dedicate its new building Oct. 24, 10:30 a.m. EST. Former pastor **Ray Vinson** will be the guest speaker. **William Reed** is pastor.

■ **EAST BERNSTADT**—Red Hill Church called **Dale Walters** as pastor.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Severns Valley Association will host a centennial celebration Oct. 24, 2 p.m. at Severns Valley Church. Participants will include the **New Horizons Quartet**, **Bill Mackey** and Congressman **Ron Lewis**. For information, call (270) 765-4023. **John Walker** is director of missions.

■ **FRANKFORT**—Memorial Church called **Chuck Beigle** as pastor beginning Oct. 24. Beigle was previously pastor of Coss Creek Church. **D.M. Aldridge** served as interim pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Bashford Manor Church will host the award-winning **Daybreak Quartet** Oct. 29, 7 p.m. For information, call (502) 459-3232. **Eric Garvey** is pastor.

Gethsemane Church will host a pumpkin patch praise party and harvest festival Oct. 31, 5 p.m. For information, call (502) 969-3191. **Robert Wright** is pastor.

Valley View Church will have a debt-free celebration worship service Oct. 31, 10:30 a.m. **Kevin Hamm** is pastor.

■ **PARKSVILLE**—Parksville Church will host revival services Oct.

24-29, 6:30 p.m. on Sunday and 7 p.m. weekdays. **Fred Miller**, pastor of Friendship Church in Campbellsville, will be the evangelist. The church also will celebrate its 75th anniversary with homecoming Oct. 31. For information, call (606) 238-7004.

**William Boldt** is pastor. ■ **PRINCETON**—Liberty Church will host revival services Oct. 24-29, 7 p.m. The speaker will be **Robert Wilmore**, pastor of First Church in Weaver, Ala. For information, call (270) 388-0854. **Johnny Davis** is pastor.

## Kentucky native appointed to Brazil

**RICHMOND, Va.**—Kentucky native **Cherise Ayers Wenger** and her husband, **Bruce**, were appointed by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board to serve in Brazil.

The Wengers will be involved in youth evangelism. The two recently lived in Jefferson City, Mo., where he was a public school teacher and she was a nurse.

Mrs. Wenger was born in Elizabethtown to parents **Kenneth** and the late **Beverly Ayers**. She has a bachelor of science in nursing from Mississippi College in Clinton, Miss.

Mr. Wenger, a native of Columbia, Mo., is a graduate of the University of Missouri in Columbia with a bachelor of science degree in educa-



The Wengers

tion and a master of arts in education degree.

From 1991 to 1993, the Wengers served in Malawi, Africa, as youth evangelists with International Service Corps., a short-term missions program through the IMB.

The Wengers have two children.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music for worship services and choir, Providence Baptist Church, Frankfort, Ky. Please send responses and resumes to: Hugh Bowman, Music Search Committee Chairman, 40 Forly Court, Frankfort, KY 40601. (502) 695-2968.

**SEEKING:** Part-time, bivocational pastor needed for small, rural church near Whitesville, Ky. Three services per week. Call Ed Hemmersbach for details: (270) 264-1478.

**SEEKING:** Crestwood Baptist Church in Crestwood, Ky., invites applications for the position of children-preschool minister. This full-time position will have primary responsibility for all preschool and children's ministries from birth to grade 5. Crestwood Baptist Church is a rapidly growing congregation averaging 760 in weekly worship. Qualified applicants shall have training and experience in preschool and children's ministry. Submit resume to: Associate Pastor Sam Newman, Crestwood Baptist Church, PO Box 70, Crestwood, KY 40014.

**SEEKING:** Full-time youth minister in church averaging 40-plus youth with potential for 150-plus. Exciting opportunity! Send resume to: FBC, 212 South High St., Jackson, MO 63755.

**SEEKING:** Organist and pianist. Services: Sundays, 8:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Wednesdays: 6:45 p.m. Wednesday choir practice (pianist only): 7:30 p.m. Please send resume to: Personnel Committee, Kings Baptist Church, 989 Kings Church Road, Taylorsville, KY 40071.

**SEEKING:** Small rural church in central Kentucky is seeking a full-time pastor. If you feel directed by the Lord to reply, please send resume with references and personal statement to: Pastor Search Committee, New Clover Creek Baptist Church, Route 3 Box 65, Hardinsburg, KY 40143.

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

**SEEKING:** Pastor for Sparta Baptist Church, Sparta, Ky. Initial part-time position with full-time potential. Send resume to Denise Humphries, Rt. 1, Box 201A, Glencoe, KY 41046. (606) 643-5331 or Pat Fuson, (606) 643-3616.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of students (K-12). Send resume to: Westside Baptist Church, 207 Robertson Road South, Murray, KY 42071, Attn: Martin Severns.

**SEEKING:** Calvary Baptist Church of Tuscaloosa, Ala., is currently seeking a minister of preschool/children to lead a fully developed children's ministry. Calvary is located adjacent to the University of Alabama. Seminary degree is preferred. Experience is preferred. Please send resume to: Preschool/Children Search Committee, Calvary Baptist Church, 1121 Paul W. Bryant Drive, Tuscaloosa, AL 35401. (205) 758-0495 for more information.

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

**SEEKING:** Deer Park Baptist, a member of the Southern Baptist Convention and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, is seeking a full-time pastor. Send resumes to 1733 Bardstown Road, Louisville, KY 40205.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for Calvary Baptist Church of Clinton, Iowa. Send resume to: PSC, Calvary Baptist Church, 1619 2nd Ave. S, Clinton, IA 52732.

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music for Pleasureville Baptist Church (40 miles east of Louisville). Keyboard skills; gifted in leading blended/contemporary-style worship. Lead praise band/team in evening worship; have oversight of other ministry needs in church averaging 110. Salary/benefits negotiable. Music degree not required. Call Rev. Jim Lowe at (502) 878-4127 for interview.

**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 resume to: Search Committee, PO Box 541, Allen, KY 41601.

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

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

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

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

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

**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 and church growth, pastoral ministry, 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 music director and pianist for Southside Baptist Church, Bowling Green, Ky. Please submit resume 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 resume to: Rev. Willie Ailstock, Dry Ridge Baptist Church, PO Box 14, Dry Ridge, KY 41035.

**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 resume to: Ms. Bryan, 530 Alfa Drive, Frankfort, KY 40601.

**FOR LEASE:** Brand-new 15-passenger van, \$300/month, Oct.-May. Call David at (502) 899-9313.

**FOR SALE:** Two cemetery plots, Highland Memory Gardens, Mt. Washington, \$1,000. (812) 375-5449.

**FOR SALE:** 20 solid oak padded pews eight feet long; \$100 each. Contact Liberty Baptist Church in Princeton, Ky., (270) 388-7398 or 388-7878.

# PEOPLE

## Baptist couple finds faith helps in adoption of 10 siblings

By Laura Langley  
Baptist Press

MESA, Ariz. (BP)—Shirley Hughes never imagined her family would be featured on the front page of USA Today's Life section. But then she never thought she and her husband, Van, would adopt 10 siblings.

Instead of planning for retirement—a cabin in the woods on a lake and dinners out—they are tucking children into bed at night, helping with homework and counseling teens on dating.

"I can't compare the blessings I receive from these children to any type of retirement I could have had," Mrs. Hughes told USA Today.

Retired from the Navy, Hughes works as a security officer for the city of Phoenix. "I love it," he told the paper of adopting 10 children, ages 4 to 17. "Think of all the grandkids I'm going to have."

Members of Calvary Southern Baptist Church in Mesa, Ariz., the Hugheses said they hope their story will encourage others to adopt some of the thousands of children waiting for permanent homes.

It all began with a heart-breaking news story Mrs. Hughes heard six years ago about a group of hungry children police found in a filthy house in Phoenix. As foster parents, the Hugheses took in some of the children, and in July they adopted all 10 children in what USA Today reported to be the largest group adoption of siblings.

The Hugheses already have two grown sons and four grandchildren, but

their family mushroomed to include Doni, 4; Veronica, 6; Stephanie, 8; Jose, 9; Juan, 10; Agustina, 12; Steven, 13; Asucena, 15; Teresa, 16; and Frank, 17.

The children, with Hispanic and Native American heritage, have four fathers. They moved from house to house in Phoenix, their birth mother disappearing for days at a time. Teresa often acted as mother, and Frank, the oldest, would sometimes steal food to feed his siblings.

The siblings were discovered by police in a house in Phoenix in April 1995. The children had lice, and Doni, only a baby, was dehydrated, and he was running a fever. They were shipped off to different shelters, foster homes and group homes.

About that same time, the Hugheses began to take in foster children. They had two children from a different family when, in June 1995, they were asked to take in Stephanie, one of the girls from the large family. Only 3 when the Hugheses took her in, Stephanie was quiet and scared. "Her eyes were like saucers," Mrs. Hughes told USA Today. "She'd go every place we told her to. When we told her to sit down, she would, and she wouldn't move until we told her to."

In July, they took in two of her brothers, Jose and Juan. The Hugheses began working with other foster families so the kids could get together each month to celebrate birthdays and have picnics. On some weekends, the Hugheses would take all 10 kids. "It was a zoo," Hughes told USA Today.

In December 1996, they were asked

to take in the two youngest children from the family, Doni and Veronica. As a result of his birth mother's drinking during her pregnancy, Doni suffered from fetal alcohol syndrome. "Doni was immature. He was just like an infant," Mrs. Hughes said. "I'd wrap him in a blanket and sing and rock him to sleep. He'd just stare at me until he fell asleep. Every morning, he'd just sit in his bed until I came to get him."

At that time, caseworkers asked the Hugheses if they would be willing to adopt all 10 children. At 50, they were ready for retirement, so they said no.

In March 1997, caseworkers said they had families in Michigan and in the East willing to adopt all 10 children. "That's when it hit me that they were going to take my kids," Mrs. Hughes said. "The mother instinct had kicked in."

After praying about what to do, the Hugheses decided to adopt the children. They hosted a pizza party for the kids and asked them to vote on whether they wanted to be adopted. "What's adoption?" Juan asked.

Four of the last five children came to live with the Hugheses in May 1997. Frank moved in with them in August. Mrs. Hughes said that at 15, he had the most difficulty with the transition. "He was Mr. Macho," she told USA Today. "He wore baggy pants, pulled his hat down over his eyes." Hughes said Frank was the one he worried about. "He was not used to taking orders. He was wild, very wild, and had a couple of incidents with law enforcement."

Because a psychological evaluation

suggested that Frank could not bond with a family, the Hugheses were told, "Treat him as a business venture." They refuse to do that, though it hasn't been easy.

The family attends church regularly. Frank joins them on occasion. "I know we've touched him," Mrs. Hughes told USA Today. "My belief is that you can't push your faith. It's in God's timing."

Several of the older children have become Christians and been baptized since they began attending church with the Hugheses. When behavioral issues come up, Mrs. Hughes asks the children what Jesus would do in that situation and finds Bible verses that relate to it.

All of the children get allowances, and all of them are responsible for chores. Each of them has a bicycle, and eight of them have braces. The Hugheses recently bought an RV so they can take the kids on vacations.

"I want these kids to be normal," Mrs. Hughes said. "Just because there are 10 of them doesn't mean they should have any less than if there were two of them."

The Hugheses drove a 1991 Dodge van with 403,000 miles on it until it was replaced with help from the "Rosie O'Donnell Show" and a car rental company. Hughes gets a pension from the Navy in addition to his salary as a security officer. The state gives them \$6,000 a month to help with the children. Each month they spend about \$1,500 on groceries.

"All our needs are met," Mrs. Hughes said. "Sometimes our wants are met."

"Think of all the grandkids I'm going to have."

Van Hughes

## NAMB makes documentary on World War II heroes

By James Dotson  
SBC North American Mission Board

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP)—Sgt. Mitchell Paige and the machine gunners he led during World War II found little resistance the day they stormed the beaches at Guadalcanal.

Only days later, however, Paige and the 32 men in his platoon faced an enemy attack led by almost 3,000 Japanese troops. When the fighting ended, Paige was the only one in his platoon still standing.

He had continued the barrage even as soldiers around him fell. A soldier

found him the next morning with a small Bible open to Proverbs 3:5, remembering his mother's guidance six years earlier: "Son, all I want you to do is trust in God. Don't try to figure everything out and God will show you the way."

Paige is one of about a dozen Medal of Honor recipients profiled in a new documentary produced by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board.

Titled "Valor," the program began airing Oct. 17 on ABC affiliates.

"I know that the Congressional Medal of Honor is the highest award that can be bestowed on any American

fighting man," Paige says in the documentary. "But the greatest honor of all is to know in your heart that you have talked to God and asked God to take over the throne of your life. And that's what I've done."

Producer Bernie Hargis said he developed the idea for highlighting the faith of war heroes because of the popularity of movies like "Saving Private Ryan" and Tom Brokaw's book, "The Greatest Generation."

The special opens with Walter Ehlers—the only living Medal of Honor winner from the D-Day invasion—walking along the beach in Normandy.

His act of heroism began 23 miles inland, when after eliminating a German patrol he scattered an enemy mortar section, destroyed two machine gun nests and later provided cover for his troops to withdraw. He also carried a wounded member of his squad to safety after being shot in the side himself, and chose to continue to lead his squad rather than be evacuated for treatment.

Similar stories are repeated throughout the special, ending with each person acknowledging the profound role his faith played—either during their war experiences or because of them.

"They all describe themselves as ordinary soldiers, sailors, pilots or whatever, who had one moment in which they were called upon to do something extraordinary," Hargis said. "And they attribute that of course to God and to their faith in Christ."

Information on broadcast dates and times is available from local ABC stations.

## Toy-making duo invites people to church through handiwork

SALEM, Ore. (BP)—At age 83, Charles Foland and wife, Pat, 78, have given away more than 500 personally handcrafted toys in nearly three years as a ministry to children and families in the Salem, Ore., area.

Foland spends most of his days inside his modest wood shop crafting trains, planes, trucks, cradles and much more, producing an average of 20 toys a week.

"All my time is spent making toys unless I have to mow the lawn or something," Foland said, chuckling.

The couple eat out two or three times each week and turn each meal into an opportunity to share their faith with children and families they meet in the restaurant.

When they see a child, they ask permission from the parents to give the child a toy, Mrs. Foland explained.

"Some people are suspicious and wonder what we're up to when we say we want to give them something," she said, "but then they're pleased when they find out that we really do give these toys away."

The Folands then ask the family if they attend church. "If not, we invite them to ours, give them a church brochure and ask them if it would be all right for our pastor to visit them," Mrs. Foland continued. "If they say yes, then I take down their name, phone number and address."

During the summer months the Folands spend about six hours each Saturday knocking on doors in neighborhoods surrounding their church, giving away toys and inviting families to church.

"A lot of people dread knocking on doors," Mrs. Foland said, "but because we have something to give them, we really enjoy it."

Although the lumber to make the toys usually is donated or purchased at a largely discounted price, the Folands still incur many out-of-pocket expenses. "We do this for the Lord, whatever the cost, and that's OK," Mrs. Foland said.



WORLD WAR II HERO Charles Coolidge and his wife visit the park named in his honor in Chattanooga, Tenn. The former U.S. Army sergeant received the Medal of Honor for his service in World War II. He is among a dozen Medal of Honor recipients profiled in a new documentary by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board. (NAMB photo)



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