



# WESTERN RECORDER

November 16, 1999  
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**CELEBRATE JESUS 2000**  
See insert inside

## FOR THE RECORD

### Southern influence

A staff member at Southern Seminary has conducted meetings on campus to attempt to elect conservative candidates at this week's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting. *Page 3.*

### Commitment

Kentucky Baptist Convention president and layman Charles Barnes reflects on his year of service. *Page 3.*

### Editorial

Political ploys in Kentucky Baptist life? No thanks. *Page 5.*

### International missions

This week's Western Recorder highlights the focus for the 1999 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. *Pages 6-7.*

### Kentucky

A medical missions volunteer died last week working in Tanzania. *Page 12.*

Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, Nov. 24

## Author: Failure to pray results in lack of faith

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

LOUISVILLE—The church's worst shortcoming is its members' failure to pray, according to author and former seminary professor T.W. Hunt.

"They think they don't have time for it," Hunt told a conference on prayer Nov. 5-6 at Highview Baptist Church in Louisville.

Too many Christians don't know the Bible or God's ways, added Hunt, whose seven books include "Mind of Christ" and "Disciple's Prayer Life."

Because they don't understand God's priorities, they fail to appreciate His grandeur, he said.

"When you pray, you're stepping out of time and into eternity," Hunt said. "We are eternal creatures presently confined to time. Our premium is not on eternity but on time. We make time too important."

The Houston-area resident said his teachings on prayer have gained "phenomenal" response. Attendance at his conferences is up, along with more people answering his invitation to enter a deeper relationship with God, he said.

Hunt said he isn't sure what caused an upswing of interest, which began in July.

"The only thing I've come up with is that God is getting the church ready for a great wedding," said Hunt, who taught music and missions for 24 years at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Still, he said America's prayer activity lags behind nations such as South Korea, Guatemala, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

In the latter three East African nations, missiologists are calling their

□ See Author outlines ..., page 14

## Missionaries find joy in overseas work

By David Winfrey  
News Director

LOUISVILLE—Heading to South Korea to be a music and worship missionary, Steve Blanchard and his wife, Cathy, never expected to be working eventually with students.

But Blanchard said that's just one of the pleasant surprises he's encountered as a Southern Baptist missionary for the past 14 years.

The former Owensboro music minister and his wife are among the more than 4,800 missionaries supported by the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions.

Blanchard said South Korea continues to offer exciting missions work.

"There has been a revival that has been going on in Korea, really since World War II, that has greatly caused the church to increase," he said. "It slowed down in some years, but Korea is still one of the harvest fields."

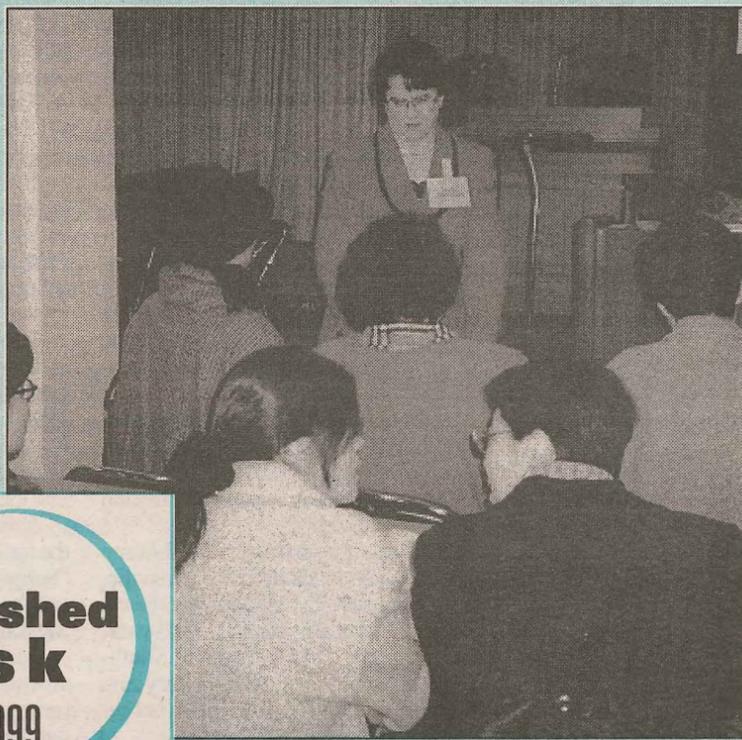
Unlike some countries where Southern Baptists must help local citizens start a network of churches and support ministries, South Korea already has a strong Baptist denomination, Blanchard said.

"We're focusing not so much on instituting new organizations, but really working alongside the existing convention and trying to serve as partners rather than trying to be leaders."

That strong leadership extends to the Baptist seminary in Tajon, where about 400 students graduate each year.

"Many of them go on to plant churches or serve as missionaries," he said. "Koreans really have a desire to be a part of God's plan and not only

□ See Music missionary ..., page 7



the  
**Unfinished Task**  
1999  
Loving the Lost



**KOREAN WORK** Cathy Blanchard (top) leads a Bible study in South Korea. The mission work that she and her husband, Steve, are involved in there is supported by the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. The Blanchards currently are in Louisville for their home assignment.

## Several Christian leaders modify their Y2K doomsday predictions

By Ira Rifkin  
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—As 1998 drew to a close and the nation suddenly became awash in predictions of possible Year 2000 computer meltdowns, doom and gloom scenarios were especially prevalent among conservative Christians.

Radio and television programs, Web sites and book publishers catering to evangelical and Pentecostal Christians warned the faithful to spend 1999 preparing for the widespread societal collapse predicted to follow the crash of millions of time-sensitive computers unable to differentiate between Jan. 1, 2000, and Jan. 1, 1900—the so-called Y2K millennium bug.

Believers were urged to stock up on dried food, water and even weapons to help their families survive. High-profile leaders gave impetus to the fears by voicing their own concerns and linking

them to the apocalyptic scenario recounted in the Book of Revelation.

Books by Christian writers Michael Hyatt, author of "The Millennium Bug," and Shaunti Christine Feldhahn, who wrote "Y2K: The Millennium Bug," sold in the hundreds of thousands. Religious broadcaster James Dobson gave each of his 1,300 full- and part-time employees at Focus on the Family an extra \$500 to help them prepare for Y2K, a \$650,000 expenditure.

Jerry Falwell said "we do not have enough programmers" to fix the problem and pronounced Y2K "God's instrument to shake this nation" and turn stunned unbelievers toward the Christian message. Pastor James Kennedy told his national television audience that because of Y2K "people will be open to hear the gospel as they have never been before."

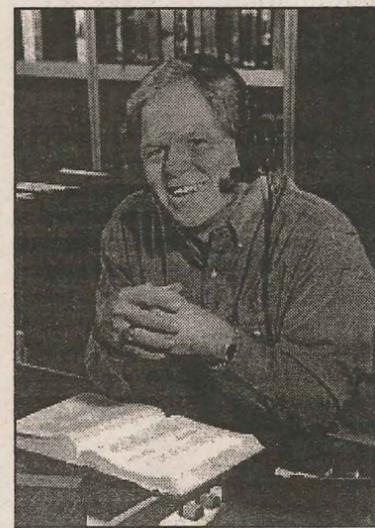
As the appointed hour rapidly approaches, however, many of these same voices now have traded conviction

about the near certainty of global disruption for agnostic equivocation about the millennium bug's real impact. Instead of the Bible, they've taken to quoting government and industry assurances of Y2K readiness.

Moreover, a distinct backlash has emerged within the conservative Christian community against those who issued some of the most dire warnings.

Hank Hanegraaff, host of the popular "Bible Answer Man" radio show, has spent hour after on-air hour debunking Y2K warnings and castigating those he considers responsible. In an interview, he said Falwell, Dobson, Kennedy and other influential conservative Christians had been taken in by "profiteering sensationalists" spreading "alarmist propaganda," even if they have since changed their tune.

Charisma, a monthly charismatic-oriented magazine, ran a recent cover story headlined "Doomsday Madness." □ See Christian groups ..., page 16



**Y2K HYPE?** Christian radio broadcaster Hank Hanegraaff said he fears some people will lose faith in the church if warnings of mass Y2K chaos fail to materialize. (RNS photo)

## Baptists in Texas, Virginia affirm 1963 faith statement

**Texas Baptist messengers voted Nov. 9 to make Southern Baptists' 1963 "Baptist Faith and Message" the "unifying statement of our common faith and practice." Virginia Baptists voted the next day to affirm the 1963 statement as "a sturdy and comprehensive statement of the shared values, convictions and distinctives of Virginia Baptists as we enter the new millennium."**

EL PASO, Texas (ABP)—Baptists messengers in Texas and Virginia have voted to reaffirm Southern Baptists' 1963 "Baptist Faith and Message" statement. A similar proposal is expected to be presented during this week's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting.

Texas Baptist messengers voted Nov. 9 to make the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message the "unifying statement of our common faith and practice."

The action, approved overwhelmingly, distances Texas Baptists from a controversial family amendment added in 1998 to the Southern Baptist Convention's faith statement as well as possible revisions due to be considered by SBC messengers next June.

A resolution adopted Nov. 10 by Virginia Baptist messengers called the 1963 statement "a sturdy and comprehensive statement of the shared values, convictions and distinctives of Virginia Baptists as we enter the new millennium." An effort to include the 1998 family amendment in Virginia's affirmation failed decisively.

Bill Shoulta, pastor of Melbourne Heights Baptist Church in Louisville, has announced his plan to introduce a similar motion affirming the 1963 statement. Shoulta said he believes Southern Baptists "have a rich history and heritage that we should affirm, not rewrite."

The family amendment adopted last year by SBC messengers included a call for Christian wives "to submit graciously to the servant leadership of her husband," who, according to the amend-

ment, is to love his wife as Christ loved the church.

The Texas Baptist action comes at a time when a 15-member committee appointed by SBC President Paige Patterson is studying possible revisions to the historic faith statement.

The study committee, which will report to next year's SBC, is chaired by former SBC president Adrian Rogers. Al Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, is serving on the study committee.

Bob Newell, a messenger from Houston, made the motion for the state convention to affirm the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message statement and to distribute the statement to every BGCT-related church.

Paul Taylor of First Baptist Church in Mauriceville attempted to amend Newell's motion to also include the 1998 family amendment. "I believe it is a scriptural amendment," Taylor said. "I believe the BGCT should also follow the Scriptures."

Newell responded that he opposed the family article on scriptural grounds. "Scripture speaks of mutual submission, and the addition to the 'Baptist Faith and Message' does not," he said.

Messengers voted down Taylor's amendment by an overwhelming majority on a show-of-ballots vote. Without further debate, messengers then approved the original motion to embrace the 1963 statement.

SBC leaders immediately criticized the action.

"I am grateful the BGCT leadership

has made crystal clear for the sake of Texas Baptist churches where they stand on family and church issues," said Patterson. "Now it is up to the churches to decide with whom they agree—with a liberal, culturally acceptable view of family and church or with a Christ-honoring, Bible-believing perspective." Patterson, a native Texan, is president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest N.C.

Mohler called the Texas Baptist action "an intentional rejection of a clear teaching of the Bible."

"This is another lamentable sign of the determination of some Texas Baptist leaders to alienate Texas Baptists" from the SBC, he said.

Mohler, in his statement faxed from Louisville to El Paso, accused newly elected state convention president Clyde Glazener of "denominational grandstanding" for describing the SBC statement as "Neanderthal" in an interview with the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

Richard Land, a former Texan who now heads the SBC's Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville, Tenn., also weighed in with a statement defending the family amendment, which he helped write.

"Let it be clearly understood that Dr. Glazener and those who support him in the intent of the BGCT's motion have a disagreement with the Apostle Paul, not merely with the Southern Baptist Convention," Land said. "As for me and my house, we are going to stick with the Apostle Paul."

Asked by reporters about Land's

statement, Glazener said he didn't want to get into a confrontation with Land. However, he said not all Baptists agree with Land's interpretation of the New Testament.

"The finest Greek scholar Southern Baptists have ever produced, A.T. Robertson, ... believed the early church had women deacons," Glazener said. "He's probably as sharp as Richard."

In other action, Texas Baptists moved toward opening their state convention to churches from other states with approval of the first of two required readings of a proposed constitutional amendment.

The amendment, suggested by Phil Lineberger of Williams Trace Baptist Church in Sugar Land, would change wording in a section that describes how governing boards of BGCT agencies and institutions are elected.

Texas Baptists also will undertake intensive studies in the coming year that could affect how they relate to national denominational entities such as mission boards and seminaries.

One motion approved by messengers called for a committee to study the "financial resources, theological positions and mission strategy and philosophy" of the SBC International Mission Board and North American Mission Board as well as the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, a national moderate group. Another established a committee to study the "financial resources, theological positions and philosophies of Southern Baptist and BGCT-supported seminaries."

### BAPTIST BITS

■ **Arizona Foundation declares bankruptcy.** A restructuring plan for the troubled Baptist Foundation of Arizona includes filing for a Chapter 11 bankruptcy reorganization. Under the plan, more than 13,000 investors can choose options of 20 cents on the dollar of their investments or shares in a soon-to-be-created for-profit company. The embattled BFA, an agency of the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention, held more than \$500 million in investment products. Upon successful completion of the restructuring, BFA will no longer exist. Instead, a new nonprofit Baptist charitable organization will be established.

■ **Virginia Baptists alter ties with university.** Virginia Baptists' 169-year-old relationship with the University of Richmond changed Nov. 9 when messengers approved a plan to phase out financial support for the school and no longer nominate trustees to its board. Instead, Virginia Baptists will support a Center for Baptist Heritage and Studies, to be housed on the Richmond campus. Messengers to the annual meeting of the Baptist General Association of Virginia adopted the measure in response to the university's decision to add sexual orientation to its non-discrimination policy governing student, faculty and staff recruitment and promotion.

■ **Georgia churches face ouster over gays.** Virginia-Highland Baptist Church in Atlanta is expected to join Oakhurst Baptist Church in Decatur, Ga., in being expelled from the Georgia Baptist Convention for violating a new constitutional ban on churches that affirm homosexuals. The state convention's executive committee voted Sept. 14 to recommend removal

of Oakhurst under a year-old definition of a "cooperating" church which excludes congregations that "affirm, approve or endorse homosexual behavior." The committee deferred action on Virginia-Highland, pending the congregation's response to an inquiry about its views on homosexuality. The church completed and submitted a lengthy response in late October, saying, among other things, that affirming church members means affirming their sexuality, whether gay or straight. That means Virginia-Highland and Oakhurst likely will be the first churches in 177 years of history to be thrown out of the state Baptist convention when messengers gather this week for their state convention annual meeting.

■ **Bunch to resign as Colorado executive.** David Bunch, executive director of the Colorado Baptist General Convention, has announced plans to step down from his post to enter volunteer missions. He told convention messengers last week he will conclude his post in March 2000, the month of his sixth anniversary on the job. He said he and his wife, Joann, plan to do volunteer mission work in cooperation with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board.

■ **New name planned for Baptist Men group.** The Southern Baptist North American Mission Board has announced a new name and structure for its mission education organization for men, completing the reorganization of ministry and mission education among men in Southern Baptist churches. The new organization is being called Baptist Men On Mission, with the quarterly curriculum and video package "Missions in Motion" as its primary component.

## Patterson proposes dialogue with 'offended' Jewish leaders

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)—Eight Jewish leaders have been invited by Southern Baptist Convention President Paige Patterson to meet with eight Southern Baptist leaders in response to a letter Patterson received from Jewish leaders charging the SBC with "deception" in evangelistic outreach to Jews.

In a Nov. 9 response to the letter, Patterson said Southern Baptists have been open about efforts to share the gospel with Jews and anyone else needing the gospel, and thus deception "is not even a possibility."

In a Nov. 10 follow-up letter, Patterson said he had given "more extensive reflection" to the Jewish leaders' Nov. 8 letter and was proposing a conference.

The conference, Patterson wrote, would involve "an attempt of Jews and Baptists to enhance understanding and encourage absolute integrity of religious expression as we relate each to the other."

The New York Times reported on the Jewish leaders' initial letter the same day it was dated, noting that its signers reflected "an unusual display of unity between Orthodox and non-Orthodox Jewish leaders."

A Jewish prayer guide issued by the SBC's International Mission Board focusing on the Jewish High Holy Days—Rosh Hashana on Sept. 11 and Yom Kippur on Sept. 20—sparked a new round of anti-evangelism fervor from Jewish leaders.

The Jewish leaders' letter stated in

part, "Our quarrel with the Southern Baptist Convention is not over its right to proselytize. Rather, the Jewish community is deeply offended that the SBC has formally embraced a strategy that attempts to deceive Jews into believing that one can be both a Jew and a Christian."

Patterson responded, "Show me any case of 'deception' and Southern Baptists will quickly distance themselves from that deception and even call it evil."

In a related development, IMB President Jerry Rankin said reaction to the Jewish and Hindu prayer guides demonstrates how the world is spiritually blind to the gospel.

Rankin, speaking Nov. 8 at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, was on campus as part of the school's Global Missions Day. He said the prayer guides were published to aid Christians in praying for Jews and Hindus.

"We have come to realize the blindness of our world as never before in the last few months," Rankin said. "We are told there are 800 million Hindus in the world. We probably heard from half of them. They are absolutely irate, demonstrating before many of our Southern Baptist churches all throughout the nation of India and Nepal—totally offended that somebody would be so arrogant as to claim access to truth and to care enough that the eyes of the world be opened to know the truth that we know in Jesus Christ."

## Southern staffer recruits conservative Kentucky voters

By Trennis Henderson  
Editor

LOUISVILLE—A staff member at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary has acknowledged holding meetings with students in an effort to help elect a slate of conservative officers at this week's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting in Northern Kentucky.

Although a student who attended one of the meetings said Jerry Johnson claimed to be working on behalf of seminary President Al Mohler, both Mohler and Johnson denied Mohler's direct involvement.

"I have not been a part of endorsing any candidate for office in the Kentucky Baptist Convention," Mohler said.

Although "I am hopeful conservative candidates are elected that are supportive of the Southern Baptist Convention and Southern Seminary," he added, "Southern Seminary has not and does not endorse candidates for office."

Questions surfaced recently when Johnson, the seminary's assistant director of development, held a pair of meetings on campus with student pastors. A memo from Johnson's office said the purpose of the meetings was "to discuss electing (a) conservative KBC president."

The interoffice memo was distributed on seminary memo letterhead by a staff member in Johnson's office. Inviting the selected students to "please meet with Jerry" in the seminary cafeteria on Nov. 3 or 4, the memo stated, "Specifically, our goal will be to elect a conservative president of the KBC."

Mohler said the use of seminary letterhead to enlist students in the effort apparently was "inadvertent" and "will

not happen again." He added that the memo "was intended as an internal document and should be seen as such."

Calling the memo "a mistake," Johnson said, "It was not intended as any official memorandum from a seminary employee to students. I think the person who prepared the memo misunderstood I was asking for this contact on an informal, personal basis."

Johnson, chairman of Southern Seminary's board of trustees prior to enrolling as a PhD student at Southern, is no stranger to denominational politics. He sparked controversy a decade ago as a new, 26-year-old trustee when he accused former Southern President Roy Honeycutt of not believing the Bible.

According to a student who attended one of the recent meetings, participants were "asked to use their influence to boost voter turnout in the upcoming election."

The student, who asked not to be identified, said Johnson told the group he "had been meeting with pastors and leaders all over the state. In fact, he stated that he had met with President Mohler and Dr. Danny Akin ... to discuss their target list of student pastors and leaders who would be sympathetic to their agenda."

Johnson countered that the student had "really bad information." He said the meeting with Mohler and Akin was to "discuss seminary policy on student absences" for those who wanted to attend this week's KBC annual meeting. Akin is Southern's vice president for academic administration.

During the meetings with students, Johnson distributed a list of "announced conservative candidates that support the direction of the Southern Baptist Con-

vention." Those listed include presidential candidate Paul Badgett, pastor of First Baptist Church of Pikeville, and first vice presidential candidate Dan Ferguson, pastor of Second Baptist Church of Hopkinsville. Although the list had a blank beside second vice president, Johnson said in a phone interview that Tim Mathis, pastor of First Baptist Church of Danville, is the conservative candidate for that position.

None of the candidates indicated any knowledge of Johnson's efforts to boost their candidacy.

According to Badgett, "Theologically, I'm going to fall on the conservative side but I don't have an agenda. I don't want to be on anybody's side but the Lord's side."

"I'm not one much for wanting to play back room politics or anything," said Ferguson. "When it comes to lists being sent around, I haven't gotten any information about that. I haven't gone out and politicked for anything. If God's in it, I'm willing to serve."

"No one from Southern has contacted me," Mathis said. "I think it's fine myself if they want to do that. It's sort of the Baptist way—speak your piece."

The information distributed by Johnson also included convention registration and voting information. It said the seminary "will grant excused absences to all students who miss class as a result of being a messenger."

"I think every Southern Baptist, every Kentucky Baptist, has a right to use their influence," Johnson said. "That was the only way in which I was doing this."

"I would emphasize that no denominational institution should be in the business of making political endorsements," Mohler told the Western Recorder. "At the same time, we bear the responsibility of informing our students. There is a distinction between political

### Pastors seek convention offices

Three Kentucky Baptist pastors have confirmed their plans to be nominated this week as officers of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

The candidates are Paul Badgett, pastor of First Baptist Church of Pikeville, president; Dan Ferguson, pastor of Second Baptist Church of Hopkinsville, first vice president; and Tim Mathis pastor of First Baptist Church of Danville, second vice president.

The names surfaced in conjunction with efforts by Jerry Johnson, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's assistant director of development, who has been working to mobilize students to vote for conservative candidates. None of the candidates, however, indicated they were aware of Johnson's actions.

The three join two other announced candidates for convention office: Terry Wilder, pastor of Burlington Baptist Church, president, and Alice Marshall, a member of Broadway Baptist Church in Louisville, first vice president.

Among the latest candidates:

■ Badgett, a member of the KBC Executive Board, is a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond and Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va.

■ Ferguson is a graduate of Cumberland College and Southern Seminary and a former trustee of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He has served churches in Kentucky, Ohio and West Virginia.

■ Mathis is a graduate of Clayton State University in Morrow, Ga.; State University of West Georgia in Carrollton; and Southern Seminary. He has served on the KBC Executive Board and was a member of this year's Southern Baptist Convention Committee on Committees.

endorsement and the educational role of the seminary for our own students and our own advocacy on behalf of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention.

"We certainly want to inform our students with our goal in mind" of electing conservative KBC candidates, he said. "I would make a distinction between that and endorsing a candidate."

## Kentucky Baptist president: 'I don't think a Christian ever retires'

By Trennis Henderson  
Editor

LOUISVILLE—Charles Barnes is the first layman in more than two decades to serve as president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. But he doesn't consider that a particularly significant milestone.

"I don't think it makes a whole lot of difference if you're a pastor or a layperson," he said. "Being a committed Christian is the key."

Christian commitment has been a hallmark of the 63-year-old state convention president. A graduate of Oneida Baptist Institute and Cumberland Junior College as well as the University of Louisville, Barnes said he is "really a product of Christian education in Kentucky."

Since retiring five years ago as executive vice president of National City Bank of Kentucky, he has been interim church administrator at Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville, interim president of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation and interim executive director of Long Run Baptist Association.

"It seemed only a natural progression to respond when I was asked to run for the presidency," he added.

"I had always visualized retiring early to do some things I wanted to do in my church and denomination," he explained. "I've been able to put that time to good use. I feel like the Lord was in it."

Barnes also has been involved in inner-city missions work over the years and recently participated in his first overseas mission trip to Tanzania as part of Kentucky Baptists' missions partnership there.

"I've always felt very strongly that laypeople should be involved in all aspects of church and denominational life," he said. "I don't think a Christian ever retires."

Voicing "a little bit of concern about a lot of our folks retiring early and developing the attitude that 'I've done my part,'" Barnes emphasized, "It's incumbent upon us to stay active and involved."

Barnes, who will preside at this week's KBC annual meeting in Covington, will conclude his presidency at the close of the annual meeting.

Reflecting on his election a year ago, Barnes said it affirms "there is a role for interested laypeople within the life of the convention."

Additionally, he said, messengers indicated that "Kentucky Baptists as a

group are still within the big center. We are not thinking from either extreme from a political view. We're going to do what's best for Kentucky Baptists and even amid differences, we're going to work together."

Barnes is quick to credit KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey and other convention leaders with helping Kentucky Baptists "prepare to move into a new millennium."

"I think there's an air of excitement among the staff," he noted. "That positions us in a very positive way."

Barnes said he has been "real pleased to see what is happening this year with Cooperative Program giving. People speak with their pocketbooks." He said record CP gifts offer "a pretty good barometer of how Kentucky Baptists feel about what we're doing and where we're heading."

Turning his attention to Kentucky Baptist ministries throughout the commonwealth, Barnes said, "I can't think of a period of time when the leadership of our institutions and agencies was any better than now. We're ending the decade on a high note."

As enthusiastic as Barnes is about convention life, he still sees room for improvement. "I think if we're to realize what the Lord has in store for us,

we're going to have to have a greater commitment and develop a passion to get it done.

"Another concern is that we have been so secularized that we run some real dangers of letting those secular things that have crept into our lives stand between us and what we need to accomplish," he remarked. "We've all become more captive to materialism that we're willing to acknowledge."

Barnes said specific areas of concern include financial stewardship and ministry to older adults. Kentucky Baptists "don't have retirement homes, nursing homes or even many programs directed to a group becoming larger all along," he pointed out. He said keys to addressing such issues are "focus and some long-range planning."

As Kentucky Baptists prepare to impact the 21st century, Barnes said, "We shouldn't take our past and our heritage lightly. We've got an obligation to be good stewards of that heritage. That's the challenge for the new millennium.

"If we diligently seek to be a part of what God is doing, He will keep us pretty busy," he concluded. "I hope I will never lose the desire to be diligent in that process and I hope the same for Kentucky Baptists as a whole."



Johnson



**"If we diligently seek to be a part of what God is doing, He will keep us pretty busy."**

KBC President Charles Barnes

## 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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## Seek church unity

I have read over a number of times an article in the Sept. 28 issue of the Western Recorder, "Contemporary worship growing in state." I realize we all have varied concepts of worship today and what reaches people. And yes, I am a senior adult who has been involved in the work of Baptist churches for almost 50 years.

It seems that if we Baptists can't find one thing to divide us, we look for something else that will. One of the things the article mentioned that most distressed me and I quote: "Contemporary worship is marked by praise songs with words projected on a screen, drama that illustrates the worship theme, and sermons that are practical and to the point." Perhaps the writer did not intend to do so but it seems to indicate that to the contrary, traditional worship does not contain praise songs or sermons that are practical and to the point.

The article also indicated churches tend to reach people only in the age range of the current pastor. If that is true, my church is in bad shape since we have called a young pastor and yet have hundreds of senior adults. I can understand a church "zeroing in" on certain age groups if that is what is in the community but I believe churches ought to reach their community no matter what age they might be.

I am not an expert on reaching people but I would like to suggest this. First of all, have a pastor who truly loves his people and his Lord and who works tirelessly to preach the gospel, win the lost and minister to his congregation. I have seen that work regardless of the kind of worship.

I pray we will seek ways in our churches to be united, not divided; and not to consider anyone as expendable because they disagree with us.

*Bob Lawrence  
Hopkinsville*

## Pray for all people

It appears that the leadership of the Southern Baptist Convention has a penchant for insulting and embarrassing people outside the convention as well as many who belong to the convention.

If we are learning anything, I hope we learn to be compassionate, caring and loving to all people. Jesus said it right in Matthew 7:1-5. We need to clean up our own act and then we can see more clearly how to pray and reach others.

As far as prayer guides go, we have the best one that has ever been written. It is called the Bible. It encourages us to pray for all people, not certain groups. It tells us to pray fervently (James 5:16). The Bible records some of the prayers of God's people that help guide us in our own prayers. I could go on listing what the Bible has to say about prayer but there is not enough space in one letter.

Yes, I believe in prayer. I pray and have seen answers to prayer. Our need today is to put in practice what we already know about praying. Let's pray boldly, fervently, compassionately and consistently for all people. As we have our quiet time with God each day, perhaps He will hear us and answer with power.

*Don Cole  
Brandenburg*

## The dangers of sex

I have recently heard Pam Stenzel's lecture, "Sex Has a Price Tag," which has inspired me to inform as many people as I possibly can of the dangers of sex.

As a 16-year-old student, I have been exposed to only a very few number of classes concerning sexually transmitted diseases. The focus has always been on HIV and AIDS. People, teens especially, need to know the dangers of other STDs that they never hear about. Some of these

are trichomoniasis, gonorrhea, syphilis, herpes, chlamydia, vulvodynia, hepatitis B, pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) and cytomegalovirus.

Just because these aren't familiar, doesn't mean they're not harmful. Vaginal herpes is a leading cause of cervical and ovarian cancer, which is killing more women than AIDS. Chlamydia doesn't have any symptoms, but is very serious. If it goes untreated, chlamydia can leave a woman scarred and unable to become pregnant.

Many people think that using a condom is "safe sex." But how safe is it? Condoms have a failure rate, resulting in pregnancy or HIV. The skin-on-skin contact can cause herpes, chlamydia, crabs and other diseases, all of which can be contracted with the use of a condom.

The only safe sex is no sex. Abstinence is foolproof and morally correct.

This topic may embarrass some readers, but it shouldn't. We, as a society, should be able to talk freely about these things. These are topics that need to be taught by parents and teachers.

I feel that if people knew, in detail, about the risks and diseases caused by sex, there would be a much higher level of abstinence among teens (and adults for that matter). All I'm asking is to make people aware. We need to be educated. We, as teens, don't know any of these things unless somebody teaches us. So, tell us; we'll listen!

*Christine Auser  
Louisville*

## Touched by Jesus

I was reading the Oct. 26 article about a recent Christian conference where Martha Williamson, executive producer of "Touched by an Angel," said she agreed to never mention Jesus in the scripts.

As a Christian, I think we can't ever leave the name of Jesus our Lord out of TV shows or our lives because we need Him much.

*Bernard Woods Jr.  
Lawrenceburg*

## PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

### Cooperation unites Kentucky Baptists

Kentucky Baptists have a long history of cooperation. When I served as a young pastor in Kentucky I became aware of a unique spirit of cooperation among Kentucky Baptists. Having returned after 18 years, I have reconnected with the unique "spirit" of Kentucky Baptists. It is an intangible that cannot be easily defined.

Kentucky Baptists always have had to work at overcoming theological, geographical, sociological and methodological barriers and differences. It is my conviction that these efforts have forged a unique relationship.

This means that the larger body of Kentucky Baptists has learned to:

■ Avoid what divides and focus on what unites.

■ Do what is best for all Ken-

tucky Baptists and not just an interest group or one's personal preference.

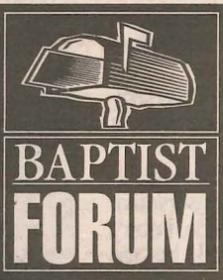
■ Focus on what is essential to the mission of sharing Jesus with all people.

■ Practice understanding and stretching to relate to other believers rather than requiring them to do all the accommodating.

■ Allow the grace of God to work in transforming others into His likeness.

It is my prayer that God will allow Kentucky Baptists to continue to experience this unique relationship for years to come. Fellowship among Baptists can be very fragile and must be protected by mature believers in all entities.

In order to successfully navigate the white water "rapids" of the fu-



## FAMILY

### Stewardship offers variety of benefits

By Jeremy White

People sometimes tell me their reasons (or, more accurately, excuses) for not giving financially to churches and other needs. After a speaking engagement or during a counseling session, I have heard

others dispute my emphasis on giving. They usually say that due to their particular circumstances they cannot and should not give.

Giving is an important discipline of a spiritually mature Christian. The Bible teaches we should be generous, cheerful, proportional, consistent and prayerful when we give to churches, ministries and others.

Certainly, our attitude should not be "to give in order to get." My aim with the following list is to remind us and equip us with the benefits of giving. Excuses are easy for us to find. We need encouragement to keep on the narrow path. Giving results in the following benefits:

■ Obedience to God's Word and instructions on tithing, supporting those in the ministry and providing for the needy.

■ Opportunity for others to practice receiving and seeing God meet their needs through others.

■ Joy from sharing ("It is more blessed to give than receive.")

■ Increase of faith by seeing God meet our needs while giving.

■ Spiritual returns on our investment, either on earth or rewards in heaven.

■ Opportunity to invest in God's kingdom and to strengthen ties to His work.

■ Positive, biblical example and testimony to our children and grandchildren.

■ Enhancement of our communities.

■ Income tax deduction.

■ Stop-gap to our own selfishness and materialism.

Would you want to miss out on any of the above benefits in exchange for a depreciating car or boat, knick-knacks gathering dust or clothes soon to be out of fashion?

Biblical giving is more than a mathematical, mechanical formula. It involves obedience and the pure, cheerful motives of blessing God and others. When these are present, God will transform your life and likely your finances.

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



## Romantic relationship review: full speed, slow down or stop?

**Q: I'm currently involved in a romantic relationship. I'm struggling with whether I should slow down, move ahead or let go. Any suggestions?**

Socrates said, "Know thyself." This includes the "big dream" that God has just for you. You'll want to know that this person can walk alongside you in a calling to marriage that you both share.

■ *Take time to meditate, pray and think things through.* Living "on the surface" can result in settling for what Madison Avenue or Hollywood says is meaningful or important.

■ *Watch your relational logic.* If you're marrying someone just because that person is like Mom or Dad, you may be unconsciously trying to resolve some "stuff" from your past. If you're marrying just because the person is not like Mom or Dad, that may mean the same thing.

■ *What do you have in common?* Similarities are like deposits you make; differences are like withdrawals. Beware of going into a relationship with major differences to be overcome.

■ *Each person must have confidence and motivation within.* You must recognize each person's uniqueness and gifts, and have the maturity to accept responsibility for your own life and choices.

■ *Communication and conflict resolution skills need to be strong.* To strengthen these vital relationship components, seek out someone such as a certified Prepare/Enrich counselor. There are Christian counselors all over the country who are trained in this. A counselor near you can be found by calling (800) 331-1661.

■ *Ask yourself, "What am I refusing to see about this person or this relationship?"* If, after asking the hard questions, the light is still green, you may proceed. Wisdom is important in all of life, especially concerning the decision to marry.—James Stillwell

### Q: How can I teach my child to give?

Learning the basics of biblical giving at an early age propels children down the road to spiritual maturity. Teaching children to be faithful givers involves paying attention to attitude, arithmetic and actions.

■ *Attitude:* A little boy was visiting his grandfather's church. When the offering plate came his way, the boy looked the usher in the eye and said, "We're guests—we don't have to pay!" When it comes to giving, attitude matters more than amount. Teach your children to give because they want to, not because they have to. Read 2 Corinthians 9:7 together and talk about what it means to be a cheerful giver.

■ *Arithmetic:* Teach your child how to figure a tithe. Even young children can understand that if we have 10 pennies, we give God one. When possible, give your child money in increments of 10. For example, give 10 dimes instead of a dollar bill. This makes it easy for a child to figure a tithe. Encourage children to set aside their tithe before spending or setting aside the rest of their money. When the tenth doesn't come out even, encourage your child to give a little extra.

■ *Actions:* Set a good giving example for your children. Let them see you writing your check, preparing your own envelope and placing it in the offering plate. Obtain envelopes for your child, and make preparing an offering part of your weekly routine. Teach children to give on all money received, even gifts. Help children understand giving as an act of worship. Express thanks for the blessings God has given and for the opportunity to give in return.—David Garrard

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



## Political ploys in Kentucky? No thanks

Do individual Kentucky Baptists have the right to encourage others to vote for specific candidates for state convention office? Absolutely. Is there any difference between that and a staff member of a Cooperative Program-supported Southern Baptist institution seeking to mobilize students to influence the outcome of state convention elections? Absolutely.

Unfortunately, that is what has been taking place this month at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. Jerry Johnson, the school's assistant director of development, recently organized a pair of on-campus meetings with student pastors. According to an interoffice memo sent out on official seminary letterhead from Johnson's office, "Our goal will be elect a conservative president of the KBC."

During those meetings, Johnson distributed a list of "announced conservative candidates that support the direction of the Southern Baptist Convention." The printed information also included details about how to register as a convention messenger. It added that the seminary "will grant excused absences to all students who miss class as a result of being a messenger."

What's the big deal? After all, a moderate Baptist pastor recently mailed out 3,000 copies of a letter endorsing candidates he supports. How is that any different from Johnson's actions?

The difference is for a seminary staff member to use his position in an attempt to manipulate the outcome of state convention business turns historic Baptist polity on its head. In Southern Baptist life, the local church stands at the top of the denominational structure. Baptist entities on the state and national levels are there to serve the people in the pews, not to impose their political views on unsuspecting churches through some pseudo-Baptist hierarchy.

If we ever forget that the local church is the starting point in denominational vision and direction, we will wander far afield of our rich Southern Baptist roots.

When questioned about the meetings with students, Johnson said the memo on official letterhead was "a mistake." He said it was intended to be an "informal"

personal request for students to meet with him. "I was not doing this in an official capacity but as a concerned Kentucky Baptist and I did not want the seminary to be implicated," Johnson added.

Let's review for a moment. Johnson, a Cooperative Program-supported seminary administrator, invited students to a strategy meeting on campus. His secretary sent out the memo on his behalf. During the meeting, he distributed a list of candidates to support. It sounds like an incredibly fine line between the actions of "a concerned Kentucky Baptist" and the appearance of "official" seminary endorsement.

Seminary president Al Mohler's response is that the original memo "was not an appropriate use of the seminary letterhead" and such misuse "will not happen again."

Although he emphasized that "no denominational institution should be in the business of making political endorsements," Mohler claimed there is a "distinction between political endorsement and the educational role of the seminary for our own students."

In other words, a seminary staff member encouraging students to vote for specific candidates does not imply any level of seminary endorsement. Frankly, that's not an argument I can buy.

During the Carver School fiasco a few years ago, Mohler insisted it was "entirely inappropriate for students to address the constituencies of the seminary in an effort to bring pressure against the administration and trustees."

"You cannot hold us accountable. That is not your role," he told disgruntled students. "Your responsibility as a student is to study."

Apparently that applies only when the students' views differ from those of the administration. When a staff member mobilizes students for political involvement in Kentucky Baptist life, that appears to become an acceptable "educational" activity.

The fact is Kentucky Baptists don't need SBC-style politics imposed on state convention proceedings. Messengers are quite capable of making their own decisions about such issues. It's the Baptist way.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

## Where can you get this living water?

By Keith Inman

"Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?" (John 4:11)

Perhaps nothing has quite touched the spiritual passion of my friends at First Baptist Church of Murray as much as our long and personal involvement with the mission adventure in the Amazon Valley of Brazil. One trip down there is all it takes. The memories of the midnight sky, the jungle, the water, the people—all leave a mark that forever remains stored in our memory banks.

As in many cultures around the world, pure water can bring a quality of life that has a dramatic effect upon the health of the people. The innate desire to have one's thirst quenched drives many to drink unseen parasites that wreak havoc on the body. The efforts of my doctor friends serve as a temporary relief in the battle for health.

For those in pain, relief given in the

name of Christ opens up many other avenues of thirst. Indeed, it is impossible to rub up against humanity and not be moved by the overwhelming "thirst" that begs for "water."

Like the woman at the well in John 4, the people of Brazil long for an answer in life that gives hope in the midst of the pain. Jesus knew the issue was much deeper than clean well water. He was not content to simply have a surface chat about the weather and how thirsty one gets taking a walk.

Jesus was the master at taking the ordinary chat and turning it into something extraordinary.

There's a lot of unclean water in our world. Somalia, India, Brazil and our university campuses all have thirsty people and dirty water. That's why you find Jesus showing up where thirsty people go.

Realizing His time on earth was short, He invested heavily in the education of well-diggers and canteen dispensers. Sensing the unease of His original water boys, He seemed to make a

point that those who really need the water might never show up at our synagogue or campfire Bible study.

I cannot help but be moved by the stories of Ken and Beth Perkins as they share living water in the midst of suffering humanity in Africa, a place where drought has claimed the lives of thousands and spiritual drought even more so. I am moved by the stories of Richard Walker and his decades of missionary endeavors, serving in the heart of the Amazon Valley, dispensing the pure and living water.

However, what really moves my heart is the mass of humanity I find on our university campuses. Here lies one of the largest congregating places to drink in our country.

The drink of choice? Deception. The ingredients? Pain. Disillusionment. Self. Emptiness. Our campus ministers are joining these precious students at the well. They bring a new drink. It's not "lite." It's not less filling. One drink and you never thirst again. And it's parasite-free. Will you join us at the well?



Keith Inman is director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's collegiate ministry department

# MISSIONS

## Missionaries to Costa Rica pursue 'The Unfinished Task'

By Trennis Henderson  
Editor

CAMPBELLSVILLE—"The Unfinished Task," Southern Baptists' 1999 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering theme, is more than a phrase for Bill and Linda Egbert. It's a way of life.

The Egberts, appointed in 1994 as Southern Baptist international missionaries, recently completed their first term of service in Costa Rica. Currently on furlough, the Kentucky natives are serving as missionaries-in-residence at their alma mater, Campbellsville University.

Following Spanish language study in Costa Rica, the Egberts' first missions assignment involved helping establish new ministry sites in the nation's south zone. They spent a year and a half working to strengthen existing churches and using those congregations as resources to help start new works.

In the midst of that effort, they discovered the Guaymi people group, an indigenous tribe of people living in Costa Rica and Panama.

"I began to notice these people begging alongside the road," Egbert said. "I began to ask: Who are these people? Who is ministering to them?"

Describing the people group as "very underevangelized," Egbert said he "began to try to make some inroads into their groups using medical teams and doing some community projects."

Egbert soon met Don Luciano, a Guaymi missionary from Panama who also was seeking to make a spiritual impact.

Recalling their first meeting, Egbert said Luciano's eyes filled with

tears as he told Egbert, "I've been waiting for two years on somebody to come help me."

"I took a kinship with him immediately," Egbert added. "We formed an alliance and began to go into different villages, taking a generator and a movie projector and a VCR and showing the Jesus film. For about three or four months, we were going to a different village every week."

Egbert said Wycliff personnel had translated the Jesus film into the Guaymi language. He used Lottie Moon funds to help set up a small production studio to make copies of the film.

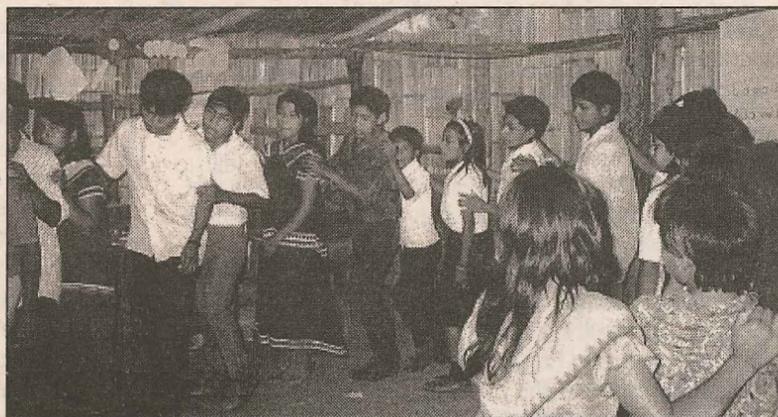
"We ended up having seven new preaching points" as a result of the effort, he said. "We hope those new works are going to be our springboard when we go back" next summer.

That's where the Egberts' unfinished task comes in. He said an estimated 170,000 Guaymi, including 30,000 in Costa Rica, "have not heard the gospel in their mother tongue sufficiently."

"Even though I can never be a Guaymi, I can be God's person to share His love," he noted. "We need that personal witness there."

The Egberts feel a close kinship to Southern Baptists' annual Lottie Moon emphasis. In addition to helping fund their Jesus film efforts, Egbert said Lottie Moon gifts help fund a variety of other needs. "Without housing and schooling and four-wheel-drives and support equipment, there's no way to be there," he pointed out.

Mrs. Egbert said her call to international missions came through her involvement in Woman's Missionary



**GUAYMI DANCE** Costa Rican children who are members of the Guaymi people group perform a dance that tells part of their people's history. Missionary Bill Egbert, a Kentucky native, said the Guaymi people are an underevangelized segment of Costa Rica.

Union. "Mine was a gradual process, but it was largely through WMU's influence in my life," she said. "Without the prayer support of WMU, I wouldn't want to be there in Costa Rica."

"During our first term, I grew a lot in dependence on the Lord and the prayers of God's people," she said. "It means a lot to know people are praying for you each day."

During their time back in Kentucky, the Egberts are enjoying the opportunity to interact with students at Campbellsville.

"It's been an opportunity to feel the excitement that students have in their personal walk with Christ," Egbert said. "There's a genuine spontaneity among the students here concerning missions. That's exciting to be a part of."

During their first few years on the mission field with their children, Matthew, 10, and Jessica, 9, the Egberts

acknowledge there have been significant adjustments.

"Moving to another culture from Kentucky was the biggest adjustment," Egbert said. After serving as pastor of several rural Kentucky churches, he said it was challenging to "try to adapt to living in a city in a different culture in an apartment setting rather than a rural setting."

Mrs. Egbert said Costa Rica's hot, humid climate added to the challenge.

Despite such concerns, Egbert said, "I have this oughtness inside of me. It's my invitation to join with God in doing something in His kingdom."

"It's the obedience factor of being willing to say yes," he added. "That has taken me far beyond a lot of boundaries that we would want to set as men—to be whole with God."

With that commitment in mind, the Egberts look forward to ongoing ministry among the Guaymi people as they faithfully pursue their unfinished task.

## Kentucky missionaries say they see God at work in South Africa

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

WILLIAMSTOWN—After 24 years on the mission field, Kentucky natives Dale and Ann Beighle are still thrilled to see God at work.

Most recently, they have rejoiced over the growth of their church, Calvary Baptist in Mmabatho, South Africa. Located in the country's north-west corner, it has steadily expanded from about 10 people to 70.

Starting with no building in 1988, the congregation has since built a sanctuary, education building and a house for the pastor.

"We've seen people catch on to the idea of tithing," said Mrs. Beighle, a native of Elkhorn City. "That has been exciting. You wouldn't think a small group could do what they have done."

Although they live in South Africa, the Beighles work primarily with the people of Botswana. Many Botswanans are in South Africa because of how boundaries were drawn during English colonization, Beighle said.

Beighle, who grew up in Pendleton County near Falmouth, teaches animal health at the University of North West, a state university. His students will become animal technicians, helping provide care in remote areas not served by veterinarians.

He also teaches a weekly Bible study during lunch and disciples students throughout the week. At home in the evenings, he leads various discipleship studies, with "Master Life" and "Experiencing God" the most popular.

Mrs. Beighle also teaches courses at home. Earlier this year she completed "Experiencing God" with a young woman from the university: "One thing I enjoy doing is one-on-one discipleship."

She does most of her mission activity through the church, going on weekly visitation and leading women's meetings on Saturdays. Held in members' homes, the host invites neighbors to join them for Bible study, prayer and tea. These sessions have attracted many newcomers to church.

Eighteen months ago Mrs. Beighle started teaching Bible stories to youth, ages 13 to 16, after realizing many of them didn't know basic Scripture stories and parables. On the last Sunday of the month, the students teach this story to younger children in the church.

"That's exciting because it's going to carry on whether we're there or not," Mrs. Beighle said.

She also played a key role in organizing a church-sponsored preschool, which has 100-enrolled. Calvary plans to add first grade next year as it moves

toward establishing a Christian school.

The preschool draws from a wide range of backgrounds, among them Indians, Muslims and atheists. Parents send their children despite the Christian-based curriculum because it is taught in English, the language of higher education.

"They want their kids to start in English because kids who know English get to go to university," Beighle said. "And, it's a good school. We have supported and advised the church on it, but it's their program, not ours."

The couple, who have been in Kentucky since July, will return to South Africa in January.

Their two oldest sons, Vaughn and Aaron, and their wives live in Williamstown, where the Beighles are staying. Their youngest son, Daniel, is a junior at Murray State University and their only daughter, Kari Ann, is a freshman at Campbellsville University.

Much of their time, particularly as the Lottie Moon offering emphasis draws near, is spent speaking in churches and asking for intercessors.

"We can't exist over there without prayer support and financial support as well," Beighle said. "We try to enlist as many prayer supporters as possible while we're here."

They also thank Kentucky Baptists

for their support of the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon offering. Gifts to the Cooperative Program pay administrative expenses, which means all of the latter goes to missions, he said.

"People used to know that but I think they've forgotten," Beighle added. "A lot of missions organizations ask for people's money, but 30 percent of that may go to asking for more money. One hundred percent (of the Lottie Moon offering) is used by the IMB for overseas operations."

They have a personal reason for their gratitude. Their 1995 Volkswagen Jetta was purchased with Lottie Moon funds. They plan to drive it at least four more years.

The international missions emphasis also keeps the gospel alive in a dangerous place. The crime rate in South Africa has risen dramatically in recent years. Two missionaries had their cars hijacked recently and last year three burglars broke into the home of the Beighles' pastor while he was eating lunch with his family.

"This just causes us to be more cautious," Beighle said. "Anywhere you go people will resist the gospel, won't listen or there will be a criminal element. You can't dwell on that; you dwell on more positive aspects—the gospel and those who are responding."

the  
**Unfinished  
Task**  
1999

Loving the Lost

Week of Prayer  
for International  
Missions:  
Nov. 28 - Dec. 5

Lottie Moon  
Christmas Offering  
national goal:  
\$125 million



Dale and Ann Beighle

# MISSIONS

## Music missionary found God had other plans in South Korea

Continued from page 1

evangelize their own people but accept the Great Commission and go into all the world."

Blanchard said he continues to remain interested in helping Korean churches develop their own worship styles. But he added that his transition to student work occurred with the help of "Experiencing God," the popular Bible study. Among other lessons, the study counsels Christians to look for where God is at work and to join Him in that activity.

"There was a need for a missionary to relate to an already-existing student work in Pusan, South Korea," he said. "That's what opened up for me, working with students."

Missionaries are working in teams, and Blanchard currently heads what's called the MASTERS team, an acronym for Missionaries Assisting Students To Eternal Radical Salvation.

American teams often visit South Korea to participate in local church crusades.

"A team from the U.S. comes over and helps an individual church," he explained. Often a pastor, layman and missionary work with a church, making visits to prospects offered by the church.

Blanchard said a recent series of cru-

sades in 22 Korean Baptist churches resulted in 607 people becoming Christians.

The Blanchards, who are natives of Ohio, have strong ties to Kentucky. He was minister of music and youth from 1975-1979 at what now is Walnut Memorial Baptist Church in Owensboro.

They continue to return to Louisville for their home assignments (formerly called furloughs) to take advantage of churches' missionary residences and education opportunities at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Mrs. Blanchard currently is studying there for a master's degree in divinity.

The Blanchards say their biggest challenge in South Korea is identifying and working with groups of people or segments of society that are not being affected by the message of Christianity.

"One of those groups are the fishermen and farmers, who are often resistant to the gospel. They are steeped in shamanism, or animistic type faith," he added. "They do not readily change."

Targeting the overlooked and usually less responsive people groups often requires spending more time and resources to see a difference.

Blanchard requested prayer especially for this work and an upcoming emphasis on fishermen. An evangelism campaign intends to focus on fishermen in the eastern coast of the nation. The campaign will note Jesus' first followers were fishermen and Jesus' love for them.

Among the things that excite him is the ability to make a difference in people's lives, he said.

"I think the blessings of serving God in Korea are seeing people's lives being changed by the gospel, seeing young people realize a call to discipleship and to leadership in Christian ministry," he said. "And to realize that you've had a small part in that is really exciting."

Blanchard said the annual missions offering and support from the Cooperative Program frees them to concentrate on their most important work.

"It's a tremendous help, really. We are able to concentrate on using the



**STUDENTS Missionaries** Steve and Cathy Blanchard originally went to South Korea to provide music and worship leadership. Blanchard said he later felt God call him to become involved with college students.

fruits of that offering in creative and effective ways rather than having to worry about raising the money," he said.

"Southern Baptists are very generous in their supporting this offering and because of the way it is done, it allows us to focus on what is important, and that is how you're going to devise effective ministries."

This year's Lottie Moon offering theme is "The Unfinished Task: Loving the Lost." The goal for this year's offering is \$125 million. The International Mission Board draws 35 percent of its income from the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists' unified budget. The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering provides 48 percent.

the  
**Unfinished  
Task**  
1999

*Loving the Lost*

## A relationship you can believe in.

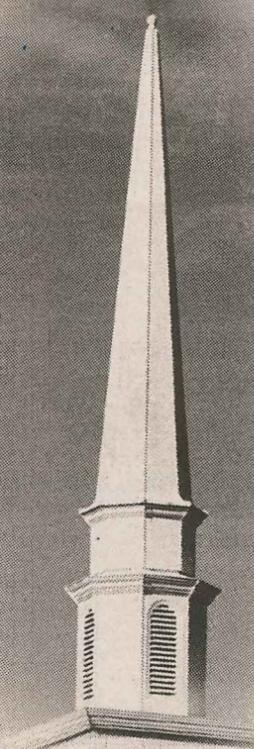
When organizations work together for a common goal, anything is possible. Since 1991, the Annuity Board has endorsed GuideOne Insurance as the property and casualty insurance provider for Southern Baptists. In just eight years, more than 8,600 Southern Baptist churches have put their faith in GuideOne, the leading niche insurer for houses of worship.

When the Annuity Board and GuideOne work together, you can believe good things are going to happen.

The success of the Annuity Board and GuideOne relationship also benefits hundreds of retired ministers, missionaries and their widows in financial need. The Annuity Board's *Adopt An Annuitant* ministry has been the beneficiary of \$1.8 million directed to this ministry over the past seven years.

To find out how the relationship between the Annuity Board and GuideOne can benefit your congregation, visit the Annuity Board's booth during the Kentucky Baptist Convention, or call GuideOne at 1-888-218-8561.

The Annuity Board and GuideOne Insurance are working together to benefit Southern Baptist churches and institutions.



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## Woman pleads guilty to some church arsons with boyfriend

ATHENS, Ga. (RNS)—The former girlfriend of an Indiana man charged with burning more than 30 churches across the country, including in Kentucky, has pleaded guilty to involvement in some of the arsons.

Angela Wood, 24, of Athens, Ga., reached a plea agreement Nov. 9 with investigators involved in the National Church Arson Task Force.

She pleaded guilty to arson and conspiracy to burn seven churches in southern Indiana. She will not be charged in her role in burning churches in other states in exchange for her testimony against Jay Scott Ballinger, 37, of Yorktown, Ind., according to the agreement entered in U.S. District Court in Indianapolis.

Ballinger is scheduled to stand trial in February. In addition to Indiana fires, he has been indicted in connection with fires in Kentucky, California, South Carolina and Georgia, the Washington Post reported.

Wood faces a minimum of 10 years and a maximum of 105 years in prison and \$1.75 million in fines.

Prosecutors said in court filings that Wood and Ballinger were Satanists whose actions were motivated by their beliefs about "a new world order."

The task force, which is led by the Justice and Treasury departments, has investigated 834 arsons, bombings and attempted bombings of houses of worship since 1995. A total of 372 suspects have been arrested in connection with 300 of the incidents.

## House Jubilee debt-relief effort falls short

By Kenny Byrd  
Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (ABP)—House lawmakers failed to fund an agreement made by leading industrial countries to reduce debt facing the poorest economic nations, despite a last-minute plea from religious leaders and a prominent pop-rock singer.

President Clinton had asked Congress for nearly \$1 billion—about \$320 million this fiscal year—to contribute to the U.S. portion of a debt-relief package for 36 countries. Leaders from the top industrialized countries, known as the G7, reached an agreement in Cologne, Germany, earlier this year.

But in approving the foreign-operations spending bill, House lawmakers provided only \$110 million for the relief of debt owed to the United States.

Supporters of debt relief argue that even that amount will be useless because House lawmakers failed to approve U.S. involvement in the broader, multilateral effort, which requires changes in the policies of the International Monetary Fund.

Leaders in the international Jubilee 2000 movement criticized the



**DEBT RELIEF**  
Christian Coalition President Pat Robertson is among those supporting the Jubilee 2000 campaign to relieve debt in poor countries.

House decision. The movement is inspired by the Old Testament's call to free slaves, cancel debts and return land to its original owners every 50 years—the "Jubilee" year.

"This decision is an insult to decency," said Jo Marie Griesgraber, chairman of Jubilee 2000/USA. "Impoverished countries—and the hundreds of millions of people living in them—need just a pittance from the U.S. government to make a real start at addressing the crushing debt burden."

Bread for the World President David Beckmann said debt relief is needed in poor nations "so that they can provide much-needed health care and education to their children. ... The lives of millions of children depend on it."

Many religious and human rights leaders have called for debt relief, including Christian Coalition President

Pat Robertson. "We should give these people a second chance in the new millennium by relieving their governments of debt they are simply unable to repay," he said in a press release. "The benefit to millions of people suffering worldwide would significantly outweigh the cost to the United States."

Negotiations between lawmakers and Clinton over the foreign-operations bill took place Nov. 4. Earlier that day, religious leaders were joined by two House sponsors of the debt-relief legislation and by Bono, lead singer of rock group U2.

Rep. Spencer Bachus, R-Ala, said the cost of the debt-relief initiative to each citizen is equal to "the cost of a Baskin Robbins milk shake." He reminded colleagues that the United States spends \$280 billion a year in arms to make America and the world safe. He also pointed out that provisions in the agreement require that debt relief money be spent on education and health care instead of aid to "dictators."

Bachus said this issue would determine this Congress' legacy. "I do not want it said of us what T.S. Eliot said of others some years ago: 'Here were decent godless people, their only monument the asphalt road, And a thousand lost golf balls.' What will our legacy be? What will be our monument?"

## Shepherding the Shepherd

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### DAVE BULLOCK & THE NETWORK BAND



Dave Bullock serves as leader of The Network Conference Band and as Pastor of Fine Arts at Elmbrook Church, Brookfield, WI. The praise band is

composed of gifted musicians and soloists from several different states. On special occasions, they lead worship through music at conferences that build God's Kingdom.

### CHARLES LOWERY

Charles Lowery is a renowned communicator, pastor and Christian psychologist who brings a special blend of humor to an understanding of the couple relationship in ministry.



### ARCHIBALD HART

Archibald Hart is a well-known author and Professor of Psychology at Fuller Theological Seminary. Dr. Hart shares with many church groups and ministers on the personal life of the minister, marriage, stress and emotions by focusing on the personal life of the pastor and spouse. He also maintains a counseling practice, continues a publishing career, and writes for numerous journals and magazines.



### KATHLEEN HART

Kathleen Hart presently is Chaplain to student wives at Fuller Theological Seminary leading weekly classes and providing counseling to many. She conducts many seminars, retreats and workshops alone as well as with her husband, Dr. Archibald Hart.

### DANIEL WEBSTER

Daniel Webster has a varied background working with leaders across America. He has served two large churches — Willow Creek Community Church and the Crystal Cathedral — and has planted a new church in western Michigan. Dan has launched a new ministry in Authentic Leadership, Inc. ALI's focus is to train and inspire leaders to live authentic lives of great impact.



### JAY WOLF

Jay Wolf is currently pastor of First Baptist Church, Montgomery, Alabama. He is a dynamic speaker who has a genuine love for pastors and their spouses. Jay knows the challenge of maintaining joy in ministry while leading a modern, traditional church through transition in becoming a post-modern church.



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# 1999 Report of the KBC Committee on Nominations

## SPRING REPORT

### BOARDS OF AGENCIES & INSTITUTIONS:

**Cumberland College (trustees):** 2001 unexpired term (in-state) - William Meade Adcock (Somerset); 2002 unexpired term (in-state) - A. Doyle Baker (Lexington)

**Kentucky Baptist Historical Commission (commissioners):** 2000 unexpired term (in-state) - Sue Lynn Stone (Bowling Green)

### KBC EXECUTIVE BOARD:

**Casey County (SC):** 2001 unexpired term - Mark D. Jones (Campbellsville)

**Muhlenberg (W):** 2001 unexpired term - Donnie Wilkins (Greenville)

**Salem (C):** 2000 unexpired term - Gary Kasey (Rineyville)

**South Union/Mt. Zion (SE):** 2000 unexpired term - Rodney Hale (Corbin)

**Sulphur Fork (C):** 2001 unexpired term - Tommy Purvis (Crestwood)

## FALL REPORT

### BOARDS OF AGENCIES & INSTITUTIONS:

**Campbellsville University (trustees):** 2000 unexpired term (in-state) - Mike Eastridge (Danville); 2002 unexpired term (in-state) - O.C. Jones (Radcliff); 2000 unexpired term (out-of-state) - Jim Fugate (Saint Albans, W. VA.); 2001 unexpired term (out-of-state) - Leon Wilson (Norman, OK); 2002 unexpired term (out-of-state) - Alan Medders (Trussville, AL); 2003 terms (in-state)[9] - Fred Clem (Elizabethtown); Billy Compton (Elizabethtown); David Morris (Warsaw); Forrest Shely (Campbellsville); Joe Walters (Campbellsville); Johnnie Clark (Louisville); Pat Burkhardt (Edgewood); Pat Sullivan (Louisville); Steve Garrett (Edmonton); 2003 terms (out-of-state) [2] - Jay Conner (Brentwood, TN); Henry Huff (Mars Hill, NC).

**Clear Creek Baptist Bible College (trustees):** 2003 terms (in-state)[6] - Estill Lee Carter (Prestonsburg); Frank E. Cripps (Owensboro); Charles Evans (Pineville); Jack Fox (Louisville); Richard Neal (Lexington); Ron Morgan (Frankfort); 2003 term (out-of-state) - Don R. Mathis (White House, TN); nominees weren't submitted for the second position.

**Cumberland College (trustees):** 2003 terms (in-state) [5] - Donnie Rains (Williamsburg); Oscar Hornsby (Somerset); David Gardner (Hopkinsville); Paul Estes (Williamsburg); Don Estep (Corbin); 2003 terms (out-of-state) [2] - Jo Cochran (Knoxville, TN); Orville Griffin (Reynoldsburg, OH).

**Georgetown College (trustees):** 2001 unexpired term (in-state) - Karen Kay King (Mt. Vernon); 2001 unexpired term (out-of-state) - Terrance B. Ellis (Mobile, AL); 2002 unexpired term (out-of-state) - Kenneth Chafin (Bellaire, TX); 2003 terms (in-state) [7] - Clyde Franklin Ensor, Jr. (Shelbyville); Robert Long (Louisville); T. Vaughn Walker (Louisville); William Kuegel (Owensboro); Mark Mulloy (Louisville); Edwin Nighbert (Lexington); John "Jack" Reed (Georgetown); nominees weren't submitted for the other two positions; 2003 term (out-of-state) - Ernest Weston Florence (Greer, SC); nominees weren't submitted for the second position.

**Kentucky Baptist Assemblies, Inc. (trustees):** 2003 terms [2] - Barry Marsten (Shelbyville); John Rice (Elizabethtown).

**Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children (directors):** 2000 unexpired term - Kenneth Clawson (Richmond); 2001 unexpired term - Michael Lyons (Salyersville); 2003 terms [6] - Herbert Booth (Burlington); Claude C. Costigan (Frankfort); Jane Cross (Louisville); A. Bailey Taylor (Mt. Washington); W. Jerry Hurt (Louisville); Vincent E. James, Sr. (Goshen).

**Kentucky Baptist Foundation (directors):** 2003 terms [4] - Arnold Caddell (Burlington); John Searcy (Franklin); Ron Sholar (Hazard); Peggy Snowden (Winchester).

**Oneida Baptist Institute (trustees):** 2002 unexpired term - Allen Roberts (Manchester); 2003 terms [6] - Wayne Roberts (Manchester); Patricia W. Walter (Lexington); George T. Waddle (Berea); Kenneth B. Bolin, Jr. (Manchester); Martha Fay Smith (Aaron); Harold Rose (Cadiz).

**Temperance League (trustees):** 2000 unexpired term - Wilbur Powell (Russellville); 2002 terms [5] - Don Cole (Brandenburg); Kenneth Curry (Brandenburg); James Holladay (Louisville); Jerry Tracey (Pineville); Carl Gray (Cadiz).

**Western Recorder (directors):** 2003 terms [3] - Laura Beville (Bowling Green); William P. Thurman (Lexington); David Harmon-Vaught (Louisville).

### KBC EXECUTIVE BOARD:

**At Large - South Central:** 2002 term - Jay Hatfield (Willisburg)

**At Large - Southern:** 2002 term - Dudley Moseley (Auburn)

**At Large - Western Region:** 2002 term - Dennis McFadden (Owensboro)

**Bell (SE):** 2002 term - Tim Mills (Pineville)

**Blood River (SW):** 2002 term - James Clayton (Benton)

**Bracken (NC):** 2002 term - David Cheek (Mayslick)

**Caldwell Lyon (SW):** 2000 unexpired term - Ted Yates (Kuttawa)

**Christian County (SW):** 2002 term - Arlene Miller (Crofton)

**Crittenden (NC):** 2001 unexpired term - Mitchell Ash (DeMossville)

**Daviess/McLean (W):** 2000 unexpired term - Grace Bristow (Owensboro); 2002 terms - Odell Beauchamp (Owensboro); Farrell Isenberg (Owensboro)

**East Lynn (SC):** 2002 term - Robert Batcher (Campbellsville)

**Elkhorn (NC):** 2002 terms - Don Henry (Winchester); Ernie Trosper (Paris); Frankie Johnson (Georgetown)

**Enterprise (NE):** 2002 term - David Proffitt (Salyersville)

**Franklin (NC):** 2000 unexpired term - Ruth Ann Shaw (Frankfort); 2002 term - Gary Forman (Frankfort)

**Freedom (S):** 2002 term - Curtis Eidson (Albany)

**Gasper River (S):** 2002 term - Roger Taylor (Morgantown)

**Goshen (S):** 2002 term - Darrell White (Leitchfield)

**Graves County (SW):** 2002 term - Randal Pollock (Mayfield)

**Green Valley (W):** 2001 unexpired term - Eric Allen (Henderson); 2002 term - Larry Huntley (Henderson)

**Greenup (NE):** 2001 unexpired term - Mike Blankenship (Olive Hill); 2002 term - Dan Russell (Catlettsburg)

**Henry County (C):** 2002 term - Irene Smith (Smithfield)

**Knox (SE):** 2002 term - James Vandy (Barbourville)

**Laurel River (SE):** 2002 term - Calvin Hibbard (Corbin)

**Liberty (S):** 2002 term - Jeff Coursey (Glasgow)

**Lincoln County (SC):** 2002 term - Tim Boschen (Stanford)

**Little Bethel (W):** 2000 unexpired term - Doug Anderson (Madisonville); 2002 term - Randall Rogers (Dawson Springs)

**Long Run (C):** 2000 unexpired term - Carol Taylor (Louisville); 2001 unexpired terms - Claude "Skip" Alexander (Louisville); Roberta Hibbard (Louisville); 2002 terms - Harry Mills (Louisville); Harvey Richardson (Louisville); Robert Long (Louisville); Diane Goode (Prospect); Mary Sells (Louisville); Gene Price (Louisville)

**Mercer (SC):** 2002 term - Ray Coates (Salvisa)

**Muhlenberg (WE):** 2000 unexpired term - Ronald Wingo (Graham)

**Nelson (C):** 2001 unexpired term - Kimbrough Simmons (Lebanon Junction); 2002 term - Travis Collins (Mt. Washington)

**Northern Kentucky (NC):** 2002 terms - Charles Owens (Wilder); Bill Class (Covington)

**Ohio County (W):** 2001 unexpired term - Mason Beville (Hawesville); 2002 term - Glenn Armstrong (Beaver Dam)

**Pike (NE):** 2002 term - Sam Crawford (Pikeville)

**Pulaski (SC):** 2002 term - Richard Christian (Burnside)

**Rockcastle (SC):** 2000 unexpired term - Roland Mullins (Mt. Vernon)

**Severns Valley (C):** 2002 term - Walter Davis (Radcliff)

**South District (SC):** 2002 term - Tim Mathis (Danville)

**South Union/Mt. Zion (SE):** 2002 term - Robert White (Corbin)

**Tates Creek (SC):** 2001 unexpired term - Brian Malcom (Richmond); 2002 term - Rick Brown (Richmond)

**Taylor County (SC):** 2002 term - J. Gene Hall (Campbellsville)

**Three Forks (SE):** 2002 term - David Robinson (Whitesburg)

**Union (NC):** 2000 unexpired term - Wayne Spivey (Cynthiana)

**Upper Cumberland (SE):** 2002 term - Luke Day (Cumberland)

**Warren (S):** 2001 unexpired term - Scott Kilgore (Bowling Green); 2002 term - Jim Krutza (Bowling Green)

**West Kentucky (SW):** 2002 term - Thomas Bugg (Clinton)

**West Union (SW):** 2002 terms - Rodney Cude (Kevil); Thomas C. Williams (Paducah)

**Preacher of 2000 Annual Sermon:** Harold Greenfield (Princeton)

**Alternate:** Willis Henson (Paducah)

### Recommended by Committee on Nominations:

Committee Members: Mike Watts (Chairperson), Billy Compton, Pat Reaves, Tom Mahanes, Truett Cocanougher, Gerald Sharon, Lynn Parrish, Tommy Valentine, Mike Blankenship, Gayle Horn, Joan Stansbury, Bill Adcock, Andy Reese, David Banks, Rick Parrent, Ronnie Forrest, George Smith, Geraldine Montgomery, Ricky Cunningham, Eric Allen, Jerrell White, and Greg Faulls; Ex Officio Members: Executive Director - Bill Mackey and Convention President - Charles Barnes

# 1999 Report of the KBC Committee on Committees

■ **Committee on Arrangements -** 2002 terms: Rick Robbins (Erlanger) and Jay Robison (Lexington)

■ **Committee on Constitution & Bylaws -** 2002 terms: Pete Royle (Nicholasville), Jamie Broome (Paducah), and Barry Bertram (Campbellsville)

■ **Committee on Credentials -** 2001 terms: Dan Russell (Ashland), Ross Bauscher (Owensboro), and Kevin McCallon (Paducah); 2002 terms: Chuck Darland (Elizabethtown), Jim Abernathy (Covington), and Don Wilson (Benton)

■ **Committee on Order of Business -** 2002 terms: Paul Badgett (Pikeville) and Mark Boes (Cecelia)

■ **Committee on Public Affairs -** 2000 unexpired term: Jim Hawkins (Louisville); 2001 terms: Cathy Toole (Independence), Matthew Gullion (Salyersville) and Terry Lester (London); 2002 terms: John Chowning (Campbellsville), Henry Smalling (Bowling Green) and Bill Patterson (Henderson)

■ **Committee on Nominations -** 2001 terms unless noted otherwise:

**Central Region:** Travis Collins (Mt. Washington)

**North Central Region:** Don Mantooth (Morehead) and Jim Craigmyle (Williamstown)

**North Eastern Region:** 2000 unexpired term - Doug Lewis (Stanton); 2001 term - Stephen Rice (Belfry)

**South Central:** John Dean (Kings Mountain) and John Chapman (Berea)

**South Eastern Region:** 2000 unexpired term - Bennie Bush (Corbin), 2001 term - Jerry Tracy (Pineville)

**Southern Region:** Ken Goforth (Scottsville) and James Doyel (Bowling Green)

**South Western Region:** C.C. Brasher (Benton) and Tommy Tucker (Paducah)

**Western:** Mark Galloway (Morganfield)

■ **Committee on Resolutions -** 2001 terms: Gayle Toole (Nicholasville) and Osa Hollon (Independence)

■ **Persons to Report -** 2000:

**Cooperative Program:** James Jones (Campbellsville); Alternate: J.K. Pierce (Lexington)

**International Mission Board:** Charles Hedrick (Rineyville); Alternate: Jim McKinley (Louisville)

**North American Mission Board:** Jim Pinkley (Louisville); Alternate: Wally Miller (Burlington)

**Obituaries:** Allen West (Louisville); Alternate: A.B. Colvin (Louisville)

### Recommended by Committee on Committees:

Committee Members: Al Hardy (Chairperson), Brad Johnson, Drew Martin, Quentin Lockwood, Jerry Lowrie, Jim McKenzie, Willis Henson, Todd Toole, and Floyd Price; Ex Officio Members: Executive Director - Bill Mackey and Convention President - Charles Barnes

## NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Unwed births jump fivefold.** The percentage of babies born to unwed parents has increased fivefold since the 1930s, a new U.S. Census report reveals. The report examined first births to women between the ages of 15 and 29. In the period from 1990 to 1994, 41 percent of these births were out-of-wedlock, compared to just 8 percent in the period from 1930 to 1934. The report also studied how many couples marry after learning they have conceived a child—but before it is born. Until the 1960s, about 50 percent to 60 percent of couples married after discovering a pregnancy. That figure dropped to 29 percent in the early 1980s, Associated Press reported.

■ **Refusal to post Commandments upheld.** A federal appeals court has ruled that a California school district's refusal to display the Ten Commandments on a baseball field can be justified. "We find that the district's decision to exclude ads on certain subjects, including religion, was reasonable, given the district's concerns regarding disruption and controversy," the three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled Nov. 8. The panel's unanimous decision

allows the Downey Unified School District to refuse to sell billboard space to a private party seeking to post the Ten Commandments.

■ **Religious groups back sex bill.** A House of Representatives committee has backed proposed legislation that would stiffen prison terms for international sex traffickers in women and children. The House International Relations Committee approved the measure, which has support from many of the same religious groups that previously banded together to help pass the Internal Religious Freedom Act of 1998. The proposed Freedom From Sexual Trafficking Act of 1999 would increase penalties to up to life in prison for people convicted in the United States of engaging in sexual trafficking. Sponsors estimate 50,000 individuals, mostly women and girls, are brought into the United States annually by sex traffickers.

■ **Christian Coalition moving offices.** Christian Coalition officials have announced plans to relocate to the Washington, D.C., area. The organization said relocation would be completed "in the

coming weeks" and would help the religious right's leading political organization work more effectively. "This is a case of simple logistics and the necessity of this organization to be near our elected leaders," said Pat Robertson, the coalition's founder and president.

■ **House calls for fetal tissue hearings.** Religious groups have hailed the U.S. House of Representatives' vote urging hearings into allegations concerning the trafficking in fetal tissue and organs. On a unanimous vote, the House last week urged the convening of hearings to investigate reports that private firms are selling fetal body parts for medical research. Selling fetal tissue or organs was made illegal in 1993.

■ **Christian leaders backing Bush.** Prominent conservative leaders, evangelical Christians and the National Right to Life Committee are working behind the scenes to persuade their backers to support Texas Gov. George W. Bush as the Republican most likely to win the White House next year, according to a story in the New York Times. Conservative

leaders and many evangelicals are telling their supporters to put aside misgivings that Bush is not sufficiently pro-life, the Times reported. The article quotes Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, as saying, "My impression among evangelicals and Southern Baptists is that they are at this point satisfied that Gov. Bush is strongly pro-life."

■ **Evolution "controversial theory."** An Oklahoma committee has voted to require a disclaimer in new biology textbooks that says evolution is a "controversial theory." The Oklahoma state textbook committee's Nov. 5 decision makes Oklahoma the latest state to make an official challenge to the way evolution is taught. John Dickmann, a member of the committee who introduced the disclaimer, said it was added because biology books do not give enough attention to alternate explanations of how life developed. Associated Press reported. "Some of us on the committee wanted to send a strong statement to the publishers that we are fed up with textbooks that only present one side of the story," Dickmann said.

## Tell Us Where It Hurts

- ◆ Depression
- ◆ Anxiety
- ◆ High Stress
- ◆ Hopelessness
- ◆ Anorexia
- ◆ Bulimia
- ◆ Drug & Alcohol Addictions
- ◆ Thoughts of Suicide

Some problems are too big to handle alone ... problems that leave God's people in pain, feeling helpless and hopeless. It doesn't have to be this way. Rapha's Christ-centered professional counseling can help Christians struggling with emotional and substance-abuse problems turn life's most difficult situations into opportunities for personal growth, restoring God's peace and joy in their lives. Help is a phone call away 24 hours a day.

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# Rapha

Where the healing begins

## The ministries of WESTERN RECORDER

C.R. Daley's death last month cannot diminish his impact on Kentucky Baptists. In pulpits, at Georgetown College and in the Western Recorder, Daley not only reminded us of our duties as Christians and Baptists, but he also taught us the importance of staying true to God and our convictions despite popular opinion.

The Western Recorder has two projects dedicated to preserve the memory of its former editor:

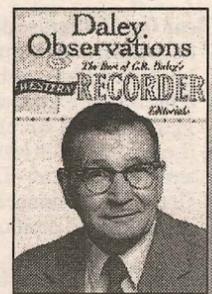
**Daley Observations** This book contains 75 of the best and most influential writings by the "Dean of State Baptist Newspaper Editors."

Daley's columns span significant moments in American life and the Baptist world. Topics range from the Civil Rights movement to living in Kentucky. Daley's insights are an important addition to any library.

**The C.R. & Christine Daley Endowment** This fund, administered by the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, supports the goal of providing the Western Recorder to every Kentucky Baptist senior pastor.

Book orders (\$15 each), or endowment donations can be sent to the Western Recorder office at Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253.

If you're attending the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting, come by the Western Recorder booth. Copies of the book will be on sale there.



**Daley Observations: Churches:** "Today a Baptist church is one of the easiest things to get into and the hardest to get out of. Maybe just the reverse ought to be so."

**Devotion:** "Where were you last Sunday? In Sunday school? Good, then cut this out and slip it under the door of your neighbor who went to the lake. I'll give him one later to slip under yours."

**Kentucky:** "Heaven is not earth's happiest experiences as some poets say; but, if it were, Kentucky's October colors and Cumberland's dawn would be just inside the pearly gates."

# ADVANCE

Information and Upcoming Events from the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Evangelism Growth Team

**T H E P U R P O S E . . .** of Celebrate Jesus 2000 is to give every person in every city, town and neighborhood in Kentucky an opportunity to say "YES" to Christ.

## **T H E P L A N . . .**

### **P R A Y E R**

The Celebration can't get off the ground until we get on our knees. Celebrate Jesus 2000 will rise or fall on the simplest ingredient of all - an activity anyone can do, from the smallest child to the most elderly adult. Everything will depend on prayer.

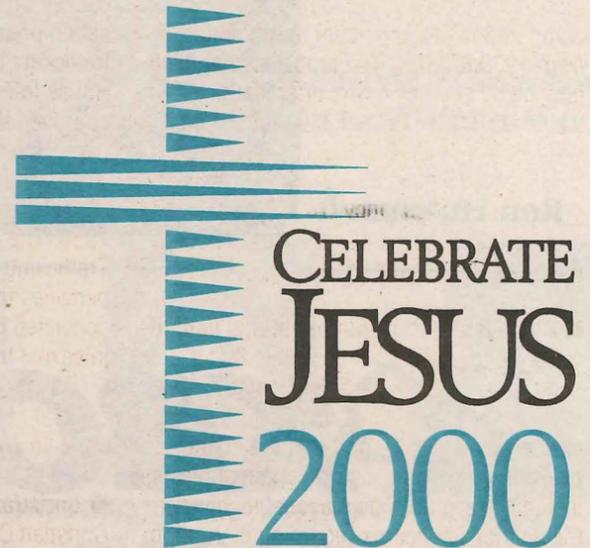
#### **Resources\***

#### ***Praying Your Friends to Christ***

This pocket guide is designed to be used by church members in effectively praying for lost and unchurched acquaintances and friends. (\$9.95 per package of 100)

#### ***A Lighthouse of Prayer***

This brochure describes Lighthouses of Prayer, which are Christian homes that will accept the challenge to pray for, care for, and share Christ with individuals in their neighborhood or community. Lighthouses of Prayer are evangelistic prayer cells that are an extension of a local church's evangelistic prayer ministry. (Free)



### **P E R S O N A L**

### **W I T N E S S I N G**

The most important part of the Celebration is to bring someone with you.

#### **Resources\***

***Split Time Tract*** (\$5.00 per package of 100)

***Celebrate Jesus 2000 New Testaments*** (\$1.00 each)

#### ***Jesus Video***

This video tells how to share Christ in a simple, non-threatening way. Taken entirely from the gospel of Luke, it is available in English, Spanish, closed caption and many other languages. (\$5.00 each)

### **P R O C L A M A T I O N**

If we will all do our part, the celebration will light the whole world. Over 30 associations of Kentucky Baptist Churches are planning area-wide crusades or revivals in the year 2000. It's not too late for your church or association to join the celebration!

#### **Resources\***

***Celebrate Jesus 2000 Revival Preparation Manual***

***Celebrate Jesus 2000 - Sunday***

One way your church can participate is to have a Celebrate Jesus 2000 Sunday.

### **P R E S E R V A T I O N**

When a person comes to Christ, the celebration is just beginning. New believers need a Christian support system. Every effort must be made to assure that every convert is baptized, disciplined, and made part of a local New Testament Church.

#### **Resources\***

***Let the Celebration Continue!***

A 10-page follow-up Bible study pamphlet designed to strengthen new believers during the first week of the new life in Christ. (\$5.00 per package of 25)

***Beginning Steps***

This 30-page booklet is designed as an immediate follow-up tool for persons who have recently accepted Christ. It includes chapters on assurance, public profession, witnessing, Bible study, prayer, church membership and lordship. (\$.95 each)

\*Resources available from the Evangelism Growth Team office  
1-888-254-5722

This publication is a supplement to the Western Recorder.

# KENTUCKY BAPTIST EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

February 28-29, 2000 ■ Highview Baptist Church ■ Louisville



Ron Hutchcraft

Ron Hutchcraft has been reaching teenagers for Christ for nearly thirty years. Through his daily radio program "ALIVE! With Ron Hutchcraft", he discusses top issues teenagers are facing and much more. He is the author of several books including "The Battle for a Generation" in which he says, "there is a battle raging for a generation of teenagers and the winner owns the future. Many churches are living next door to the battlefield and have no idea that the future of a generation is at stake...It is the strategy of Satan to spiritually neutralize one generation of teenagers. He wants one generation to call his own, because if he has one, he has all the ones to follow...One generation where the lost teenagers know nothing about Jesus and the saved teenagers don't live for Him."

Come and hear Ron Hutchcraft and many other great speakers who will challenge us to reach this generation for Christ.



**Evangelism on the Go!**  
**Evangelism on the Go!**  
**Evangelism on the Go!**  
**Evangelism on the Go!**

The Evangelism Growth Team has purchased a new 50' x 80' tent to be used by Kentucky Baptist churches for evangelistic purposes. The tent is stored in a new 6' x 10' trailer that is housed at the Green Valley Associational Office in Henderson. Reverend Orbley Ramsey, Pastor of the Lawndale Baptist church in Henderson, helps coordinate the usage of the tent and trailer.

Towing, pick-up, setup and take-down are the responsibility of the church or association using the tent. There is no fee for the tent and trailer, but those

using it must supply a certificate of insurance to the Evangelism Growth Team office before the tent and trailer can be released.

For more information or to reserve the tent and trailer, call 1-888-254-5722.



## Gospel Presentation On-line for Children

For computer-savvy children, their opportunity to learn about Jesus is just a "click" away. "Meet Max's Friend" is a newly-developed online animated gospel presentation for children. Released in December 1998, it centers around Max, a child who learns the story of Jesus and accepts Him as Savior in the final scene.

"We recognized there was a web site with a gospel presentation for adults, but that such a site was missing for children," says Skip Arnhart, Family Evangelism Associate for the North American Mission Board. "We saw this as a great opportunity to put a gospel presentation for children" on the Internet, he says.



Here's Max, the main character in "Meet Max's Friend."

the letter, parents are invited to view the material on-line and also read through an enclosed brochure entitled, "The World's Greatest Adventure." A copy of the letter is forwarded to the state convention office, which forwards the information to a local church for follow-up.

"The potential is here for a lot of children to be saved," says Arnhart.

*If you know a child who needs to meet Max's friend, consider inviting him/her to visit [www.kidzplace.org](http://www.kidzplace.org) with you. Discover for yourself what a powerful evangelistic tool the internet can be!*

## Good News on the INTERNET

Check out these sites for some online gospel presentation:

[www.thegoodnews.org](http://www.thegoodnews.org)

[www.ccci.org](http://www.ccci.org)

[www.needhim.org](http://www.needhim.org)

[www.christianityonline.com](http://www.christianityonline.com)

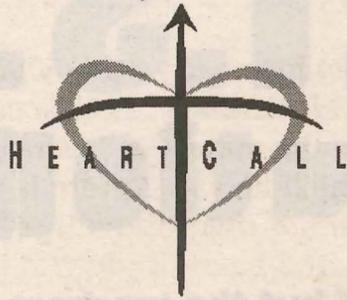
[www.sbc.net/godseternal.cfm](http://www.sbc.net/godseternal.cfm)

## YouthLink 2000

YouthLink 2000 is a once-in-a-thousand-years event for teenagers and students to gather in seven of the country's most exciting cities to welcome in the new millennium with hope. From December 29, 1999 to January 1, 2000, Southern Baptist young people will gather in Anaheim, Atlanta, Denver, Houston, Philadelphia, St. Louis and Tampa to view via satellite one thrilling picture of the potential they have to transform the world!

For more information, call 1-888-YouthLK.

## GREETINGS!



I am excited about the work God is doing - especially in women's evangelism. It is vital that we prayerfully maintain our spiritual health and equip ourselves to reach the lost in our world. We must begin with prayer - for ourselves as well as for those who do not know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. HeartCall is one tool specifically designed to help us meet this challenge.

HeartCall is a four-week study which focuses on Colossians 4:2-6. It teaches women how to pray, live Godly lives, study the word of God so they will know how to answer all people, and look for opportunities to share Christ.

Available products include *HeartTalk*, the evangelism witnessing booklet for women; *HeartTalk Leader*, a leader's guide to *HeartTalk*; *HeartCall: the Call to Prayer*, the women's devotional book; and *HeartCall: Women Sharing God's Heart*, a training book on prayer and lifestyle witnessing.

Another exciting opportunity of which you can be a part is the Women's Lifestyle Evangelism Conference 2000. At a cost of only \$10 per person, this is an opportunity you can't afford to miss!

### Dates/Times/Locations of Women's Lifestyle Evangelism Conference

May 22, 2000  
8:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (EDT)  
First Baptist Church,  
Cold Spring

May 22, 2000  
6:45 p.m.-9:00 p.m. (EDT)  
St. Stephen Baptist Church,  
Louisville

May 23, 2000  
8:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (CDT)  
Bellevue Baptist Church,  
Owensboro



Becky Freeman  
Author, Humorist and Speaker



Dottie Williamson  
Multihousing Ministry Consultant,  
South Carolina Baptist Convention



Alicia  
Singer and Songwriter

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Shelly Johns Hill, Women's Evangelism Associate  
Phone (502) 245-4101 • E-mail [Shelly\\_Hill@kybaptist.org](mailto:Shelly_Hill@kybaptist.org)

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### Hopkinsville Area

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North Drive Middle  
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Hopkinsville Middle  
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Lyon Co. High  
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Caldwell Co. High  
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### Lexington Area

(Eight Schools)

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Bell County Middle

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## BLUEGRASS BURGEOO

■ **Cumberland College** will host its Quest '99 weekend Nov. 19-20 at the school's Rolins Center. This year's event is co-sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention and serves as one of the "Celebrate Jesus 2000" rallies throughout the state. Registration costs \$12 per person. For more information, call Rick Fleener at (800) 343-1609.

■ **About 40 people** recently attended Campbellsville University's Kentucky Youth Ministers' Conference earlier this month. Campbellsville President Mike Carter, a former youth minister, noted that with the difficult issues facing youth today it is easy sometimes to focus on kids who are being good while ignoring those on the periphery. "You gotta love them too."

■ **Georgetown College** received \$7.1 million in donations for the 1998-99 fiscal year, which ended June 30. It is the second highest total in the school's history for actual donations received. In addition, the college received planned gifts, including wills, trusts and other funds, with a value of approximately \$2 million.

■ **Christian Women's Job Corps**, a ministry of national Woman's Missionary Union, will begin mentoring women in poverty in January next year in the Louisville area. The group, which held an introductory meeting Nov. 13 to recruit volunteers, will start in January for a 12-week program with women who meet criteria. The program is designed to help women become self-sufficient by providing a Christian context in which they are equipped for life challenges and employment. For more information, call Melanie Hammer at (502) 282-4206.

## Author's widow hopes to see Russian volunteers at KBC

LOUISVILLE—She had seen the book's chapters, having helped edit them. She had seen the afterword, having helped write it. She had even seen the pictures, having helped select them.

What she hadn't seen was the book's dedication, "For Robbie," and on seeing that her heart went to her throat.

The dedication appears in "Russian Harvest," a book Ken Murphy completed just days before the former Kentucky Baptist Convention Partnership Missions associate died in July, and is directed to his wife, Robbie, who was active in helping put the book together.

Mrs. Murphy is to be presented with the author's copy of the book, published by Woman's Missionary Union, during this week's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting in Covington.

The book chronicles a five-year partnership between Baptists in Kentucky and Russia that ended last year.

Murphy began "Russian Harvest" in September of 1998, just a few months before the partnership's close.

"He had such a beautiful way with expressing himself," Mrs. Murphy said. Murphy wanted to do more than simply chronicle partnership events, she

added. He wanted to give readers a full understanding of the magnitude of what God had done through the partnership. "Russian Harvest" is believed to be unique in its perspective on partnership missions.

Unlike previous partnerships where Kentucky Baptists plugged into the ministries of long-term or career missionaries already serving in the area, Kentucky Baptists went into Russia alongside career missionaries.

During the course of five years, more than 1,500 Kentuckians representing 67 associations traveled to Russia on short-term missions projects. Russians and Kentuckians partnered to build or renovate more than 40 churches and ministered in prisons, health-care facilities, social service institutions and other places across the vast country.

Murphy completed work on the book shortly before his death. He made final selections of photos for the book while in the hospital the Monday before his death on Saturday.

"Russian Harvest" is available at LifeWay Christian stores and the WMU Web site, [www.wmu.com](http://www.wmu.com). The book also can be ordered from WMU's customer service line, (800) 968-7301.

## Kentucky medical missions volunteer dies working in Tanzania hospital

KIGOMA, Tanzania—A medical missions volunteer from Kentucky died last week while serving in a Tanzania hospital.

Dr. Orson Arvin, 72, of Lexington, was found dead Oct. 12 from an apparent heart attack, according to Ed Giddens, missions chairman for Southern Baptist work in Tanzania.

Arvin had been working at Kigoma Baptist Hospital since October as a four-month volunteer, according to Carla Purvis of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's partnership missions office.

Arvin might have suspected his health was in danger, Purvis said. According to Giddens' correspondence, Arvin was found sitting in a chair with his Bible open to Psalm 23.

"On the volunteer's computer was an e-mail to his wife, Betty,

who was planning to join him in December, saying that he had been having heavy chest pains last evening and would stop writing to go take some aspirin," according to an e-mail from Giddens.

"He ended his e-mail with a note saying, 'If I never see you again, remember that I love you.' He must have experienced a massive heart attack sometime later," Giddens wrote.

Kentucky Baptists are in the first year of a three-year missions partnership with Baptists in Tanzania, but Arvin's work was organized directly through the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, Purvis said.

Arvin, a member of Immanuel Baptist Church in Louisville, has been involved with volunteer missions for some time, Purvis said.

## The ministries of WESTERN RECORDER Some gifts don't fit under a tree

Just ask the families of Kentuckians who've benefited from organ donations. The cover story for the holiday issue of Real Life offers a different view of the season for giving, showing the significance organ donations make in the lives of three recipients and their relatives. Participants also share how their Christian faith gave them hope during transplant and recovery.

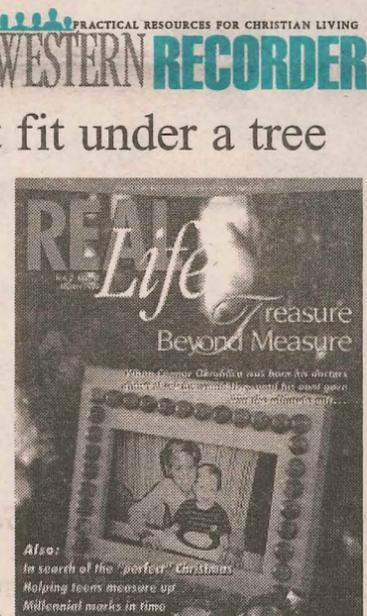
Real Life magazine is an ideal resource for churches or individuals. Loaded with helpful stories about families, finance and fun, it shows how Christianity makes a difference in the issues we all face.

For churches, Real Life is the perfect outreach tool. As a gift to visitors, Real Life shows that your congregation cares about the challenges they face.

Whether for yourself or for someone else, Real Life is the ideal gift. For more information, call Mauri Smith toll-free at (888) 254-5728.

If you're attending the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting visit our booth and let us show how we can help your church reach out to its community.

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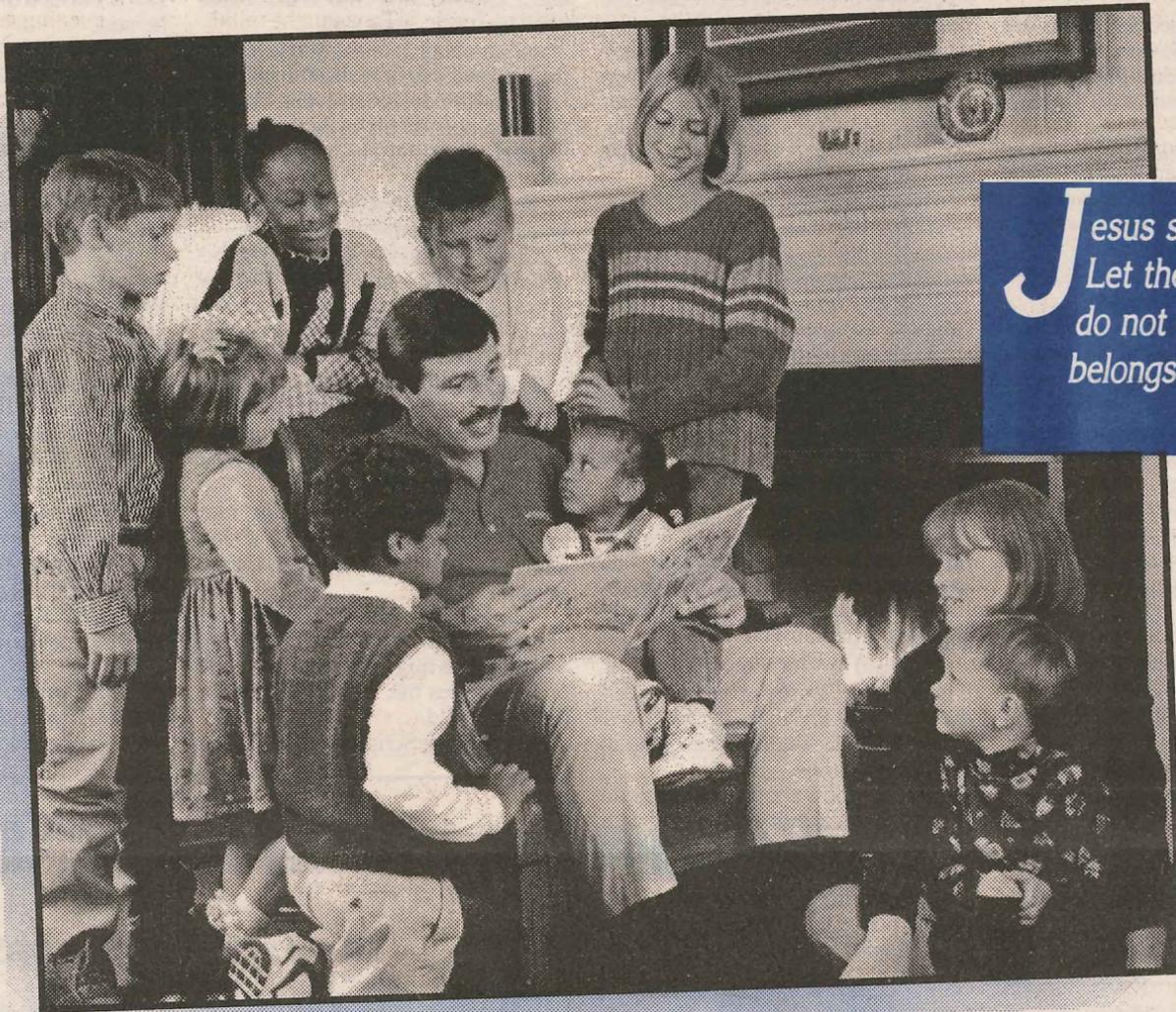
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# God Has Given Us Another Child To Hold



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belongs the kingdom of God."

-Based on Luke 18:15-16

## Will You Embrace God's Children?

Jesus welcomed *all* the children to come to Him. Even when it seemed He would be overwhelmed by the children, there was always room for one more. Many times Jesus is pictured with His arm outstretched to beckon another child to come to Him. He was always ready for Another Child to Hold.

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children strives to be Christ-like every day. We know Jesus wants us to take care of His children. And He wants us to welcome every one of them with open arms.

*Every day God gives us Another Child to Hold.* And every day, we embrace those children with the love, healing, and care that Christ commanded us to show one another. He gives us these children because He knows we're committed to caring for them. He knows we'll hold them and give them a safe place to heal from the pain they've suffered in their short lives. And He knows that you're there for them, too; praying for them, supporting them, loving them. Please remember Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children with your generous gift this Thanksgiving.



## KENTUCKY BAPTIST HOMES FOR CHILDREN

1999 THANKSGIVING OFFERING

Statewide Goal: \$1,100,000

# PRAYER

## Author outlines 2 types of prayer for Kentucky audience

### Coordinator: Prayer efforts growing in Kentucky

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

LOUISVILLE—Prayer movements are definitely expanding throughout the commonwealth, according to the Kentucky Baptist Convention's prayer coordinator.

While the state convention still is compiling statistics on the number of groups and participants, more churches are getting serious about prayer than at any time since World War II, said Nell Bruce. This effort is crossing denominational lines, she added.

Kentucky Baptists have divided the state into nine districts and appointed coordinators for seven. Bruce said the two openings should be filled by Dec. 31.

"Another thing I see that is so exciting is pastors are coming together for prayer," said Bruce, a member of Highview Baptist Church in Louisville. "When pastors are doing that, something exciting is happening."

Still, she said too many churches are still on the sidelines.

"No church can go any further than its Bible and its prayer life," she said. "We're on a keg of dynamite if we don't turn back to prayer. We have turned away from God. You can have the biggest church in the world and if it's not Spirit-filled, forget it."

Continued from page 1

experiences the largest people movements in the history of Christianity, he said.

Entire tribes or people groups are accepting Christ as Savior, such as the Kikuya tribe, 60 percent of the Masai tribe and large numbers of the Turkana tribe, he said.

One reason Americans fail to pray is because they have grown too comfortable, Hunt said. He recommends Christians spend a minimum of 30 minutes a day in quiet with God.

"We have learned to pamper ourselves, and most people are unwilling to pay the cost of giving God a large share of our time," he said. "I want churches to give time and attention to God, not to man."

Failing to communicate with God results in a lack of faith, he said, adding that God has shown him that many Baptists lack faith. A strong faith in God is characterized by five conditions he said:

- Being caught up in prayer.
- Seeing life from a spiritual perspective instead of a material perspective.

■ Having Christ as one's source of joy.

■ Focusing on God during prayer, not on specific requests.

■ Sensing the presence of Jesus in the present, not just the past or future.

To illustrate the last characteristic, Hunt told of a 10-year-old girl who was healed of Reyes Syndrome. When surprised doctors examined her, she said, "Jesus healed me."

During the two-day conference,

Hunt outlined two types of prayer: responding prayers that focus on God's greatness and asking prayers in which a person asks God's to meet a specific need.

Hunt said the first responding prayer is confession. Many equate that with confessing wrongdoing; it also means agreeing with God's activity and believing God will accomplish His work through His followers' lives.

"Humanism teaches we're a product of the past," Hunt said. "Christianity teaches that we are in the process of becoming something. The truth is we don't know what glorious, splendid creatures we're going to be."

A second responding prayer is for worship, meaning one acknowledges God's glory. Hunt noted that if people could enter heaven and stand before God's throne, they would talk about God's greatness, not theirs.

In worship people magnify God, he added. Steps in true worship include fearing God and acknowledging His provisions. "The problem is we want the credit for attendance, witnessing and Bible reading."

The third form of responding prayer is praise. Few Christians know how rich they are, Hunt said, because they think of prosperity in worldly terms instead of heavenly riches.

Praising God allows people to do such things as search God's mind with the help of the Holy Spirit, dwell with God and know His holiness, Hunt said.

A hymn book and Bible can help people praise God during prayer and reach a higher level of closeness to God,

he said.

The fourth responding prayer is thanksgiving, recognizing God's work and acknowledging Him as the source of all blessings, Hunt said.

After setting aside a day to give God thanks, Hunt said he realized thanksgiving is an attitude, not an event. The experience opened his eyes to the vast number of blessings he took for granted.

Petition and intercession are the two kinds of asking prayers, Hunt said.

Some Christians might think of intercession as something to be done for others, but Hunt said Christians shouldn't be afraid to ask God to meet their own needs.

Hunt said he used to think personal intercession was selfish until he studied biblical prayer. Such people as Abraham, Hannah and Hezekiah asked God to meet their needs, he noted.

The two secrets of entering into prayer are knowing who God is and knowing one's own identity in Christ, he said.

The first comes from knowing the name of God, such as El Shaddai, which means mighty God; El Roi, the God who sees me; and El Maginnah, God our shield.

In exploring Scripture, Hunt said he

saw that each prayer warrior had a unique identity and way of praying.

"I found out I couldn't pray like David but God didn't mean for me to," he said.

Sponsored by the discipleship training department of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, about 160 people attended the conference. It was one of four dozen Hunt will lead during 1999.

He will return to the commonwealth next April for a meeting at First Baptist Church of Danville.

Jim Clontz, director of the discipleship training department, said he hopes this month's seminar will lead to more prayer ministries among Kentucky Baptists.

"I think there's a real emphasis coming on prayer," said Clontz, who is part of a statewide task force on authentic spirituality. "A lot of it started with 'Experiencing God.' There's much more emphasis on God and trying to see where He is at work."

Nell Bruce, prayer coordinator for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, said the conference should add fuel to a growing movement across the state.

"I think people were awed by the depth of the man," said Bruce. "He lives with the Lord and digs deeper than anyone I've ever known."

### Intergenerational equity

Your foundation serves in a fiduciary capacity for the endowment funds given to it for the benefit of Kentucky Baptist churches, associations, institutions and agencies. We take very seriously that responsibility. As a fiduciary of perpetual endowment funds, the foundation must seek to attain equity for every generation of "givers" and "receivers." That is not been increasing to the same extent. As a result, the foundation board of directors adopted a new distribution plan, which will provide a stable, growing and more predictable cash distribution to the beneficiaries, while still preserving for future generations an inflation-adjusted value of the principal of the endowment assets. This policy will be implemented March 1, 2000, on all endowment funds, except those where a donor has stated otherwise. This plan recognizes that total return, not just dividends and interest, is what an endowment fund earns, and it separates investment and asset allocation decisions from the cash flow needs of the beneficiaries. It also allows the foundation to notify the beneficiaries, in advance, of the distribution amounts for the subsequent year.

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#### KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

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

### The ministries of



### Our best-kept secret

A while back at the Western Recorder we got a call asking if we knew another state Baptist newspaper was copying our design format.

It struck us anew that one of the Western Recorder's best kept secrets has been its publishing relationship with newspapers in five state conventions where Southern Baptist work is not as widespread.

For seven years now, the Western Recorder has worked with these conventions to help them publish their monthly newspapers.

In most of these conventions the responsibility for producing the state paper previously fell on the executive director of a staff person whose primary focus was another ministry field. Now, with the help of the Western Recorder, they no longer have to handle the production of their paper.

The process works like this:

Editors or their assistants in the Baptist state conventions of New England, Pennsylvania-South Jersey, Minnesota-Wisconsin, Utah-Idaho and Hawaii Pacific assemble their local news stories, photos, advertisements and editorials and transmit them electronically to our office.

Here, Partnerships Editor Joyce Martin edits and prepares layouts, adding national and international news, missions and feature stories from the Western Recorder.

And, yes, she uses the same design format as the Western Recorder.

The result is a win-win situation. Staff in these partnership conventions are freed up to focus on their primary responsibilities and readers get a paper chock full of local, national and international news. And it looks good, too.

# CHURCHES

## Pastor: Churches must adapt to reach others

By Bob Allen and Sarah Griffith  
Associated Baptist Press

ATLANTA (ABP)—Churches must adapt their methods and styles to be effective in increasingly multicultural settings, according to a South Florida pastor who should know.

In 1997, Money magazine chose Hollywood, Fla., as "the city multicultural America will be most like in 20 years." White's church, University Baptist Church in Coral Gables, is 15 miles away.

Pastor Bill White said his community is 57 percent Hispanic. It is also 20 percent black, which includes residents of both African-American and Caribbean descent. Fewer than one in four residents is white, including one of the nation's largest Jewish populations. Of Anglo-Saxons, not all are Protestant. "I don't think we could comprise 10 percent," White said.

More diverse and increasingly non-white populations are saying to Baptist churches, "Ready or not, here we come," White said at a leadership conference last month in Atlanta, sponsored by the Nashville-based Baptist Center for Ethics.

Members of University Baptist Church come from 50 nations and speak 19 languages, White said. They represent 45 religious backgrounds, including all major denominations and world religions. "Xenophobia is out," White said. "Diversity is in. It is celebrated."

Attendance averages 2,000 people each weekend, with worshippers choosing among three services. White said an

estimated one-third of those who attend are nonmembers.

About 500 people attend a Saturday-night service featuring Caribbean-jazz style music. Sermons are translated into Spanish and Portuguese. About 150 people are on a waiting list to be baptized.

"All of this is happening on 2.3 acres of land," White said. The church has 100 parking spots. People park illegally and walk to a building that does not have room for them to sit down.

"Some walk three blocks for standing-room only and get ticketed by police for parking illegally," said White. "Yet traditional mainline churches are bemoaning the fact no one goes to church anymore."

White suggested churches can reach people if they respect and embrace their culture. It's "just as I am," not "just as you are," he said.

He said University Baptist was a traditional, but declining, white, suburban, church until members reclaimed a seven-decade-old founding vision.

"God wants to transform Miami, and He wants to do it through a transformational community we used to call the church," White said. White added that God can build the church "any way He wants to."

White outlined six "essentials" University Baptist discovered in seeking to adapt to a multicultural community:

■ *Know a church's purpose, vision and values.* "You've got to rediscover our God and His faithful nature; the gospel truth and not merely the form in which it is communicated," he said.

"We've discovered that the church doesn't exist for us. The church doesn't exist for its members."

■ *Study and understand the process of change and transition.* White said he has been reading Exodus and Nehemiah. "I've just been rediscovering how inclusive the gospel is."

■ *Interpret, the community.* "Who are those people? Where you serve, who are the people in your neighborhood? Who are they two miles out? Five miles out? Where are they from? What are their stories? Don't assume everybody out there is just like you. Do you care about them?" he asked.

■ *Evaluate the church's culture.* "Do you know what the founding vision was? Who makes the decisions in your church?" White asked. "Do the people on your staff look anything like your community?"

■ *Brush up on "grief-management" skills.* "Change and transition always involve loss, real or perceived," White said. People in transitional churches "get mad," he said. "They get sad. They get depressed. If they don't talk it out, it goes underground."

■ *Learn to rewrite the church's theology "incarnationally."* "The call of the church is to be the body of Christ ... to incarnate the faith and love and hope of Christ ... and create the kind of environment that promotes and expects life change to happen," White said.

"Jesus talked about change as a social value," White said. "Change is scary. Change is threatening. Change is hard. But change can be good if we'll open our eyes and let God deliver us."

## Church's community focus led it to minister, evangelize, grow

MANDARIN, Fla. (BP)—A Florida Baptist church is crediting intentional evangelism and outreach for its growth from 70 members to more than 1,600 in 10 years.

First Baptist Church of Mandarin, Fla., a predominantly African-American congregation in south Jacksonville, was willing to change to meet the needs of its community, according to pastor Gary Williams.

When Williams first went to the church in 1990, the congregation met in a small building. With the rapid growth of new neighborhoods and businesses in Jacksonville's Mandarin suburb, the church became landlocked. In 1994, it relocated to 13 acres in an affluent suburb.

The new sanctuary drew the neighborhood's attention, Williams recalled. Building on that interest, First Baptist became active in getting to know its neighbors.

Finding many families in the area with nursery-age children, First Baptist formed Promise Land Preschool.

Wanting to learn more about community needs, church members knocked on 6,000 doors in 1998, handing out evangelistic tracts and conducting surveys.

Some of the ministries the church has formed include a youth worship service, women's and men's health education and career planning seminars, a prison ministry and a radio and television broadcast of worship services.

The ministries stem from a belief that "the church must be on the cutting edge," Williams said. "We do not just want to be a church in a community. We want to be a church working with and within the community."

"The church must show it is relevant to today. That doesn't mean you lose doctrinal integrity," he added. "I don't believe in using the devil's stuff to turn people to the Lord. But we do have to be accessible, be real and evaluate which methods are working and which aren't and not just do something because of habit."

## The Bennings on mission

By Robert Dunston

Cumberland College junior Jami Benning, daughter of Jimmy and Linda Craiger of Partridge, and Cumberland senior Brent Benning, son of William and Janice Benning of Aurora, Ind., had a busy and memorable summer.

For 10 weeks the Bennings worked as summer missionaries with Cumberland's Mountain Outreach program. With the assistance of 15 churches, an Elderhostel group and their other team members, they built three new homes and renovated two others.

A week after the summer program ended, they got married. They had met at church in the fall of 1998.

Both thoroughly enjoyed their summer of ministry and cherish the memories. A church from Georgia led a day camp that started with 25 children and ended the week with 100 in attendance and 14 children becoming Christians.

Two older ladies from Wisconsin made a great impact on the Bennings. One woman was recuperating from a heart attack and the other was in the fourth stage of terminal cancer. Both came, however, because they wanted to

be of service and make their lives count.

A particularly precious memory involved a recipient of one of the new homes. On his new roof the man came to know Christ as his personal Savior. The Bennings realized they could do mission work in their own backyard.

After graduation from Cumberland, Brent plans to attend graduate school in chemistry. Jami plans to teach elementary school, although she also has a deep interest in religious journalism and gospel radio. Both are committed to being mission-minded laypeople no matter where they are.

Throughout its 110-year history, Cumberland College has produced many full-time Christian ministers. But we also have produced thousands of laypeople who made and are making a difference for Christ in Kentucky Baptist churches. We are proud to be a Kentucky Baptist institution.

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

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## Christian groups modifying Y2K doomsday scenarios

**"To say 'I'm really worried' now is being judged akin to yelling 'Fire!' in a crowded theater."**

Richard Landes, director of the Center for Millennial Studies at Boston University

Continued from page 1

Inside, editor Lee Grady dismissed Y2K warnings as "nonsense."

"Don't be gullible enough to believe them," Grady said of the "preachers and publishers" peddling "doomsday hysteria" and "outlandish claims" linked to Christian prophesies about the collapse of secular society and Jesus' return to Earth.

Richard Landes, director of the Center for Millennial Studies at Boston University and a leading expert on religious and public reaction to Y2K, said the change in Y2K attitudes stems from concern that earlier predictions were leading to public panic.

"There has been heavy pressure on everybody to back off," he said. "It's coming from a consensus that has emerged that says the real problem here is not from technology but the possibility of panic. ... To say 'I'm really worried' now is being judged akin to yelling 'Fire!' in a crowded theater."

Authors Hyatt and Feldhahn are among those who have modified their public pronouncements.

In "The Y2K Personal Survival Guide," Hyatt said it was "downright impossible in my view" for Y2K to result in anything less than major disruption. Now, he calls himself "a Y2K agnostic."

"In many ways I feel I know less today than I did a year ago," said Hyatt, whose Web site sells "Y2K Prep Food" packages, including his top-of-the-line "one-year, four-person supply of nutritious, good tasting" canned foods for \$3,395.



**Y2K VOICES** James Dobson, James Kennedy and Jerry Falwell are among those who have backed off earlier predictions of dire conditions as a result of the "Y2K bug." (RNS/Reuters stock photos)

While Y2K still is likely to "be more than a bump in the road," it is not likely to be "the end of the world as we know it," said Hyatt, a senior vice president at the Christian publishing firm Thomas Nelson in Nashville.

Feldhahn, who lives in Atlanta and is president of Joseph Project 2000, a nonprofit Y2K preparedness organization, said that because the "bar is being raised on Y2K readiness, we don't have to worry as much about some things. ... I tend to think we've made enough progress so we won't see a meltdown."

Most American companies in such critical fields as banking, telecommunications, health care, transportation, power and energy say the hundreds of billions of dollars they've put into correcting potential Y2K problems has done the trick. Any disruptions that do occur, they insist, will be minimal and spread over a period of months, rather than all happening on Jan. 1.

Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan and other government offi-

cials also have said widespread Y2K disruptions are less a threat than is potential public panic. However, they do caution that actual Y2K computer failures in some other nations—including Russia and China—could be severe and negatively impact the United States.

Because Y2K doomsday scenarios can be fit into a theological belief in Jesus' Second Coming, a belief that's taken on extra meaning as Christianity's second millennium draws to a close, Hanegraaff, for one, is worried some in the church will lose faith when warnings of mass Y2K chaos fail to materialize.

"Many people who made life decisions based on Y2K predictions will fall out the back door of the church saying, 'If you guys were so wrong on a current event, how can you be correct on something [Jesus' resurrection] that happened 2000 years ago?'" he said.

"Christianity should not be based on hype and sensationalism."

Despite such criticism, religious broadcaster Pat Robertson, host of "The 700 Club" on Christian Broadcasting Network, still says "it seems reasonable to expect the possibility of some serious dislocations" because of Y2K.

Robertson likened his suggestions for stockpiling emergency supplies to

purchasing fire insurance that is never needed. Dobson, in a late September broadcast, used the same analogy in defending his earlier airing of Y2K disaster warnings on his radio programs.

Falwell, Dobson, Kennedy and Robertson all either declined through representatives to be interviewed on the subject of Y2K, or did not respond to such a request.

Others who issued warnings say even if 2000 results in no Y2K problems, they still will have acted appropriately.

Feldhahn, for example, maintained the attention she and others brought to the situation was in large part responsible for the urgency with which government and business leaders addressed Y2K.

"Our role as Christians is to provide an example and an answer to the world during any time of crisis—including Y2K," she said, quoting her own book.

Hyatt cited the biblical Book of Proverbs' advice about "prudent" people planning for potential disaster.

For critics such as Hanegraaff, however, relying on Scripture to justify Y2K warnings amounts to "scriptorture" compounded by "sloppy" research and "sophistry."

Steve Hewitt, the editor of Christian Computing Magazine, agreed.

"The fact is there's always problems with technology; it's always buggy and of course somebody's computer will crash. But the facts even a year ago did not warrant the level of crisis predicted," he said. "People created scenarios, but scenarios are not fact."

### Important things happen in October

October is not normally one of our busiest months, but it is a month in which several significant things happen. The most important thing, according to the students, is the fall break. This is one of four required breaks on our school calendar. For many of our students, it is their first chance to go home since they came to Oneida in August.

A second, and less anticipated event, is final exams for the first grading period.

Normally, about half of the students who come to Oneida Baptist Institute are making failing grades when they enroll. There are many reasons for this, but the exciting thing is to see the vast majority of those students begin to make average grades or earn honor roll status.

Recently one of our newer students stopped to ask me some questions. He was being rather trivial, so I suspected he had some other motive. Finally, he got to the point. "It is true that if you are on the honor roll you don't have to go to evening study hall?" he asked. I am sure this young man knew very well that he was excused from study hall by virtue of his honor roll status. What he really was trying to do was make sure that I knew he was on the honor roll.

Normally, I am in chapel when the honor roll is called and we recognize those students. That week, however, when the honor roll was called, I had been late getting to chapel due to a phone call. I smiled as I told him that he had better be excused from study hall, since it was time for study hall then, and he was not there.

Another big event in October is the reality that the time for volunteers to be here is coming to an end. I am amazed every time I think of how many volunteers visit our campus each year. When I came

to Oneida in the spring of 1984, we had only about 100-125 volunteers the entire year. For the past several years we have had 600-700. Frankly, we have come to a point where we cannot accept additional volunteers. We literally have run out of beds and housing to accommodate the tremendous number of faithful helpers who come each year. We are especially crowded during the summer.

Groups from California, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, Alabama, Michigan, Tennessee and, of course, Kentucky have volunteered on our campus this year. These dedicated friends bring a wealth of professional and skilled labor to our campus. A host of projects never would get started, much less completed, without their help.

We also have several full-time volunteers. These special people are basically retired people who are giving most of their retirement years to full-time service here at Oneida. The ministry they provide day in and day out to our school and students is incalculable. Some serve in the classroom. Others work in food service,

accounting, the library, craft shop, transportation, farm, tutoring lab, as house parents and in maintenance.

We would welcome the chance to give our friends the opportunity to serve as full-time volunteers. If the Lord should lay that on your heart, feel free to contact me. We will provide your housing, utilities and meals free of charge. You also will benefit from the experience of investing some of your very best years in the lives of many young people.

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

### Where love is felt, the message is heard

"Clear Creek has been one of the most wonderful experiences of life. The continuing relationship with students probably means the most. Former students call for advice, or I read my slogan in their church bulletin, and I feel a part of what the Lord is doing with them," associate professor Charles Rice reflected on his more than 16 years of service at Clear Creek.

Rice's ministry slogan hangs on the office wall, "Where love is felt, the message is heard." Charles especially remembers the students who came with academic weaknesses but secured a GED and became excellent pastors and soul-winners.

"When I came to Clear Creek in 1983, there were two phones, one at Kelly Hall and one

at the Aldridge Building and they did not connect. We put out 35,000 newsletters on a 1947 addressograph machine," Rice remembers.

Rice has worn several hats: director of public relations, dean of students, acting academic dean, assistant academic dean. His current responsibilities include accreditation liaison, director of Christian service and associate professor of pastoral ministries.

Since 1994, he also has served

as pastor of East Jellico Baptist Church, six miles from Pineville.

God's good work in two tragedies reminds Rice of Clear Creek's heart. In 1987, elementary student Adam Hoover collapsed while riding his bike at Harmony school. Rice administered CPR, but the boy could not be revived.

"The response of the campus was marvelous and the chapel funeral service was God-honoring," he said. "In 1989, a carload of Young Disciples went into the creek. I was walking at the mall and a sales lady found me. The Lord worked in unusual ways and again the campus rallied with concern."

I find myself frequently saying, "Dean Rice," and like the students, always will remember him at student orientations leading the chorus, "It's amazing what praising can do!"

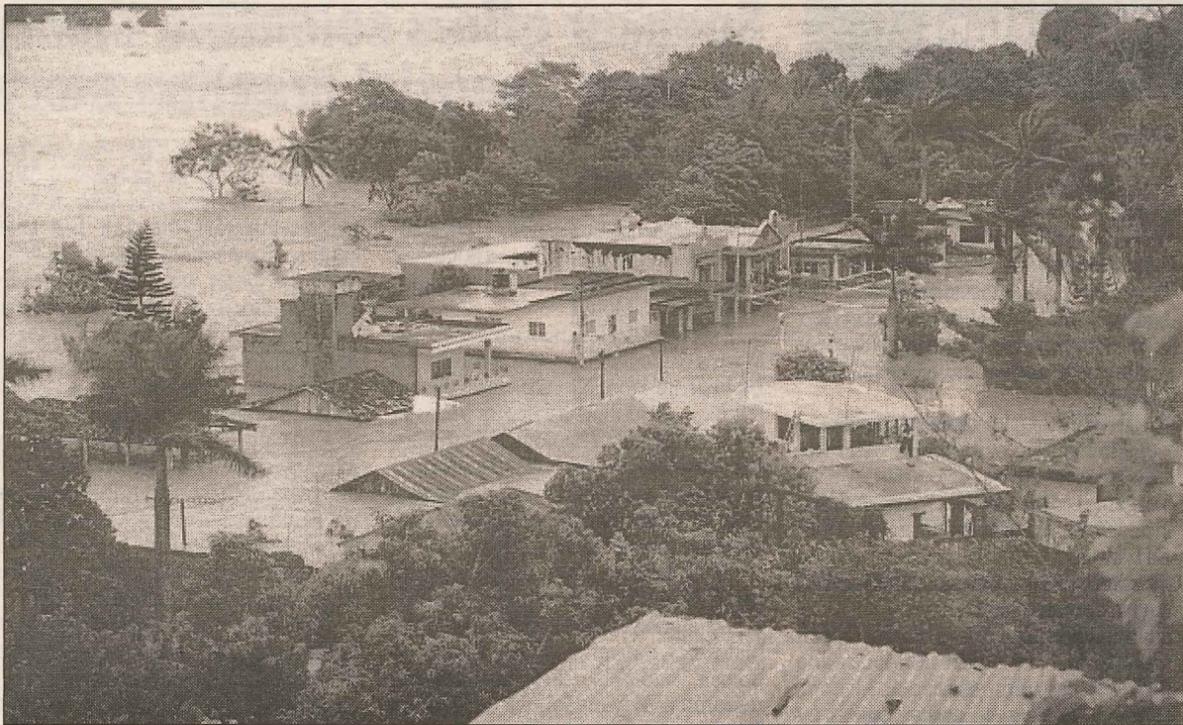
The Clear Creek family praises God for the faithful service of Charles Rice. The folks in Okeechobee, Fla., will soon have much for which they can praise the Lord.

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

**CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE**



Bill Whittaker



**INUNDATED** Weeks of heavy rains sent the Cazonas River in Mexico's Veracruz state surging 70 feet above flood stage. Hundreds of thousands of people were left homeless in the region. "The storm has given us a huge, wide-open door for ministry" in three towns in the flood-ravaged area, said Jim Brown, human needs consultant for the Southern Baptist International Mission Board. Southern Baptist missionaries and volunteers and their Mexican Baptist counterparts have launched ministry evangelism projects in the area. (BP photo)

## Mexico flood offers ministry opportunity

By Mark Kelly  
SBC International Mission Board

POZA RICA, Mexico (BP)—Southern Baptist missionaries and volunteers and their Mexican Baptist partners have launched ministry evangelism projects in an area of eastern Mexico devastated by massive flooding in late October.

Twenty inches of rain fell in two days, capping weeks of heavy rains that sent the Cazonas River in Veracruz state surging 70 feet above flood stage, said Jim Brown, human needs consultant for the Southern Baptist International Mission Board.

Brown was part of a four-man assessment team that traveled into the area to identify ways Southern Baptists could share God's love in the disaster's aftermath.

"Normally that river is about 100 yards wide," Brown said. "After the storm, it was running almost five miles wide. The result was a mud flood that wiped out many homes. In many places, the entire first floor of buildings was under water."

Hundreds of thousands of people

were left homeless by the storm, which overwhelmed the coastal plain east of the Sierra Madre Oriental mountains. At least 400 people died.

"The Mexican government has been extremely helpful to the people," Brown said. "They have worked hard to provide water, shelter and feeding programs for the people affected by the floods. But there still are many ways we can present the hope of the gospel by meeting the needs of people who are suffering there."

The IMB immediately allocated \$50,000 to help purchase food, blankets and bedding mats, Brown said.

Immediate efforts are being focused in the towns of Cazonas, Papantla and Teziutlan. Relief work in the area will touch members of the Totonaco people group, among which there has been no Baptist work.

Work in Cazonas focuses on cleaning out more than 40 mud-filled water wells, rebuilding homes and food to families, Brown said. Texas Baptist volunteers are assisting missionaries in this project.

In Papantla, Baptists will provide bulk food for feeding stations set up in

emergency shelters and deliver food parcels to families as they return to their homes.

Shelter feeding efforts in Teziutlan are being spearheaded by Baptists in the Puebla Association.

"We've got both logistics and spiritual leaders in each place, to make sure not only that we're meeting people's needs but also that everything we do is spiritually focused as well," Brown explained. "We're recruiting Mexican Baptists to serve as local, indigenous facilitators in each place as well."

"We've met with mayors in these towns and they have warmly welcomed our efforts," he added. "The mayor of Cazonas even made a house available to us for our local facilitator to use there."

"The storm has given us a huge, wide-open door for ministry in these towns. We believe a loving Christian witness in this situation could lead to the same kind of spiritual harvest we're seeing in Honduras because of the hurricane relief efforts there this past year."

Contributions for this project can be sent to the IMB's Hunger and Relief Fund, Mexico Flood Relief, Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230.

## Volunteers report 15,000 conversions in Kenya

NASHVILLE (BP)—Volunteers reported 15,082 conversions and 46 churches started as a result of a mission trip sponsored by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention

This was the third annual mission trip and included 86 LifeWay employees, spouses, teenagers and retirees as well as 26 additional volunteers from 10 churches

For the third consecutive year, LifeWay missionaries shared their faith in the Busia region of western Kenya near Lake Victoria, an area that had been largely unevangelized before 1997.

Scott Jordan, pastor of First Baptist Church in Gunter, Texas, went on the trip after a couple from his church par-

ticipated in 1998. Jordan, who personally led 125 people to faith in Christ, said the highlight of the trip was "to see the joy and boldness of the Kenyan Christians."

Jim Shull, director of LifeWay's corporate services department, said he realized "I waited too long to take my first mission trip." He said he saw firsthand that "the Kenyan Baptists are doing so much with so little and we are doing so little with so much."

Sharon Roberts, of the Sunday school department, said she benefited in her first international mission trip by "being stretched, and for God to do the stretching. The trip was not easy but it was extremely rewarding."

She said she gained confidence to

share her faith in Kenya and now recognizes "the challenge is to do the same with people I will see again and who may be less responsive than the Kenyans."

In the three years of LifeWay mission trips to Kenya, 22,319 people have made professions of faith and 77 churches have been started. Plans are now in process to start a Bible school in the Busia area to train pastors.

Jim Carter, a LifeWay vice president and coordinator of the project, said one purpose of the mission trips, in addition to leading people to accept Christ as their personal Savior, is to increase employee awareness of mission needs and opportunities. "You can't go on a mission trip and come back the same."

### WORLD VIEW

■ **Hundreds reported converted in Uganda.** About 1,200 Ugandans accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior during a volunteer missions project, according to Shalom Outreach Inc., a short-term missions agency working in partnership with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board. Shalom, known for its efforts to mobilize African-American evangelicals for missions, has been sending volunteers on short-term missions projects to Africa since 1996. During the recent project in Uganda, 23 volunteers split into small groups to span the cities of Mbale, Soroti and Lira, according to Julian Dangerfield, Shalom's executive director who led the team. "Just to see people stand out there crying and coming forward to accept Christ was very moving. We saw thousands of people attend the crusades in each city."

■ **Catholics & Lutherans agree on salvation.** Top Roman Catholic and Lutheran officials said in a joint statement that the two faith bodies now hold similar views on salvation—a key dispute that led to the 16th century Reformation and the split of the Lutheran reformers from the Roman Catholic Church. The Reformation Day ceremonies in Augsburg, Germany, marked the signing of the "Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification," a significant breakthrough in Roman Catholic and Lutheran relations in which the two sides said they had reached a consensus on how the doctrine of salvation works and had overcome simplistic stereotypes fostered by the 482-year-old dispute.

■ **Vietnamese reportedly persecuted.** Vietnamese police reportedly have raided a number of Christian gatherings in recent months and have detained and harassed scores of worshippers. Religious sources in Vietnam told Reuters news agency that the Hanoi government apparently is seeking to increase pressure on Christian groups that operate without official sanction. As many as five prayer or informal church gatherings have been raided across Vietnam since May, the news agency reported. The Vietnamese government's treatment of religious believers, both Buddhist and Christian, has long been criticized by religious activists and the U.S. State Department.

■ **Nazareth's mosque dispute continues.** Nazareth Muslims have removed a tent that served as a temporary mosque from an open lot next to the Basilica of the Annunciation, where they hope to construct a permanent facility. The Muslims removed the tent Nov. 7 as part of an agreement with the Israeli government, which has sought to walk a fine line between Nazareth's majority Muslim community and Christian leaders who are against the mosque. The basilica is built over the site where the Virgin Mary is said to have been told by an angel that she would give birth to Jesus.

■ **Update: Missionaries released in Zimbabwe.** Three American missionaries convicted on weapons charges have been released in Zimbabwe and allowed to return home to Indianapolis. The men—all of whom are connected with the Pentecostal Harvestfield Ministries in Indianapolis—were released Nov. 6. The men were arrested in March on various weapons charges. They admitted during their trial trying to secretly take guns from their base in the Congo to the United States, by way of Zimbabwe. They said they used the 39 guns they were found with for sport, hunting and self-defense.

■ **Christians disrupt planned nude exhibit.** An Israeli museum exhibit in which a nude woman was to have been tied to a cross has been canceled after a group of protesting Israeli Christian young people snatched the wooden cross and set it on fire. The exhibit was meant to show women as this millennium's victim, according to the museum's director. The youth said the exhibition was an insult to Christianity and could have triggered massive unrest among Israel's Christian Arab population. Museum officials did not try to oppose the group's ad hoc act, saying the exhibit apparently was offensive to many Christians, and also possibly to Orthodox Jews.

# 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:

■ Missionaries Rodney and Kelly White and their sons as they settle into a new home in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

■ Missionary Janeelle Wonders as she settles into her duties as a teacher at Haven of Peace Academy in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

■ Baptist representatives Mark and Susie Edworthy ask prayer for inspiration from God for people ways to reach the people of Radosc, Poland, where they recently started a church.

■ Short-term and long-term workers needed for ministry in Poland.

■ Rafael Hernandez, the newly-appointed missions and evangelism team leader for the Baptist Convention of New England.

■ Southeastern Baptist Association and Massachusetts Baptist Association as each searches for a director of missions.

## Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Shirley Wooton

■ **BARDSTOWN**—First Cedar Creek Church hosted Nelson Association's recent Brotherhood lay-led revival. Lay speakers were **Don Hall**, Pleasant Grove Church; **Frank Hicks**, Victory Church; **Jerry Shepherd**, Mt. Eden Church; **Jim Enlow**, Pleasant Grove Church, and **Billy Judd**, Bloomfield Church. **Fred Halbrooks** is director of missions.

■ **BUCKNER**—Buckner Church called Kentucky native **Andy Gowins** as youth minister. **Robert Hanses** is pastor.

■ **FORDSVILLE**—Fordsville Church called **David Voyles** as pastor.

■ **HARTFORD**—Fairview Church called **Jewel LaGrand** as pastor.

■ **IRVINE**—Beech Grove Church ordained its pastor, **Stephen Creech**, to the gospel ministry Oct. 30.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Audubon Church ordained **Chris Bechtler** and **Steve Cline** as deacons. **Kevin Head** is pastor.

■ **MILTON**—Milton Church called **Corliss McCoy** as minister of music. **Ferrill Davis** is pastor.

■ **MT. WASHINGTON**—Mt. Washington Church will host a chili supper and **Journeymen Quartet** concert Nov. 20 at Bullitt East High School. The supper will be 5-7 p.m.; the concert at 7 p.m. Admission is \$5 and will support community ministries. **Travis Collins** is pastor.

■ **ONEIDA**—The **Oneida Players** of Oneida Institute will present "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten" Nov. 18-20, 7 p.m. Admission is free. For information, call (606) 847-4111.

■ **SANDERS**—Jordan Church called **Kyle May** as pastor.

■ **VERSAILLES**—Glen's Creek Church will celebrate homecoming Nov. 21. Worship service at 11 a.m., lunch at 12:15 p.m. and a concert by **Covenant** at 1:15 p.m. **Mickey Hyder** is pastor.

## Small Bible commands a large price tag

**LONDON (RNS)**—Most Bibles don't sell for \$29,500, but when one is small enough to fit inside a dollhouse, it can.

The tiny holy book known as the Thumb Bible was sold at an auction in London Nov. 3, said auctioneer Dominic Winter. It may be the smallest Bible in the world, measuring 1.75 inches by 1.25 inches.

Simon Finch Rare Books of London bought the Bible with a bid \$3,280 below the figure predicted by auctioneers, Associated Press reported.

"To get anything like it for such a high price was a very good achievement," said Winter. "There are just a small handful of people bidding for it, which wasn't surprising because of the price." The miniature Bible was written in verse by poet John Taylor in 1614. It was discovered recently by an English woman who collects dollhouses.

There are two other copies of the Thumb Bible. One was sold by Christie's in New York for \$22,000 in 1989. The other is at Aberdeen University in Scotland.

## Speaker offers scientific theory to back Genesis' creation story

By Bryan Cribb  
Southern Seminary

**LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)**—He graduated from Harvard. He has a doctorate in geology. He studied under evolutionist Stephen J. Gould.

One would expect a man of Kurt Wise's credentials to argue strongly for biblical creation. Nevertheless, during the Nov. 2-3 Gheens Lecture series at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Wise debunked his former professor's viewpoint—presenting theories of fossil records and the flood to sustain a young earth creation.

"I do believe that based upon the nature of God that the testimony in Genesis is a perspicuous account—a clear historical narrative of the origin of things," said Wise, director of origins research at Bryan College in Dayton, Tenn.

Despite claims by conventional science to the contrary, Wise said, issues of creation and biblical accounts are far from settled.

In fact, Wise contended, when comparing the "crazy idea" of biblical creation with evolutionary and old earth theories, a young earth often seems more probable.

Much of Wise's reasoning for a young earth proposal is based on his belief in the validity of the biblical flood accounts in the book of Genesis.

He theorizes that an ocean catastrophe of tremendous proportions initiated the flood, a cataclysm that resulted in several simultaneous occurrences.

The ocean crust, being denser than

the mantle below it, subducted, or literally dove into the strata below it, Wise suggested. As massive slabs of rocks plunged lower into the earth, they pulled continents with them. Such force, moving at a meter per second, created enough velocity to move the continents to where they are today and to create mountains where they collided, such as Himalayan mountains between India and the neighboring region of Asia.

Covered with water, the earth, in a manner similar to tides, would have turned beneath the water, Wise said, and the resulting massive swishing would have moved debris and buried the fossils. Thus, many rock patterns and fossil accounts are explained, he said.

This fossil record perhaps presents the best proof of creation and disproof of old earth theories, Wise said.

With an evolutionary model, one would expect to find characteristics of the fossils in the rock layers such as a gradual evolving of species up the layers, Wise said. On the contrary, scientists have discovered little variation, he added, and the fossil records in the layers are missing the so-called "missing link" species.

This speciation of species throughout the layers, Wise said, fits more with a theory of a flood burying the various species randomly.

In considering the many different theories, Wise said, some scholars argue strongly for a young earth, while others argue strongly for an ancient earth. "Ultimately," Wise explained, "it comes down to a question of which of those you wish to believe."

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor. Please send resumé to: Meta Baptist Church, 8807 Meta Highway, Pikeville, KY 41501, Attn: Pastor Search Committee.

**SEEKING:** Part-time nursery worker. Wednesdays: 5:15-8:45 p.m.; Sundays: 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Send resumé and references to: Personnel Committee, Deer Park Baptist Church, 1733 Bardstown Road, Louisville, KY 40205. (502) 451-7220.

**SEEKING:** Part-time church secretary (18-24 hours per week). Send resumé or call Hunsinger Lane Baptist Church, (502) 491-4356.

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

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of youth and music to guide the youth ministry and overall music ministry. Send cover letter and resumé to: FBC of St. Charles, 136 Stoddert Ave., Waldorf, MD 20602, Attn: MYM Search.

**SEEKING:** Minister of praise and family life. Trinity Baptist (CBF/SBC) is a multi-racial church with ministries to handicapped, foster families and internationals. We seek an associate to provide musical leadership in a multifaceted approach to worship. Responsibilities also include developing a small-group ministry and some pastoral care. Possible preaching opportunities. Send resumé by Nov. 30 to 1675 Strader Drive, Lexington, KY 40505.

**SEEKING:** Church secretary. Part-time (25 hours/week, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., M-F). \$7-9/hour based on experience, plus paid vacation. Send resumé and references to: Personnel Committee, Deer Park Baptist Church, 1733 Bardstown Road, Louisville, KY 40205.

**SEEKING:** Minister of music for First Baptist Church of Joelton, Tenn., located 15 miles north of Nashville. Position needs skills in the following areas: contemporary praise and worship; traditional worship; drama; graded choirs; handbells. Education requirements: college degree required, seminary degree preferred. Our church has a new sanctuary which seats 1,000 with a 100-seat choir. In addition, the new building includes a new choir rehearsal suite. Salary range: \$45,000 to 47,000. Please send resumé and a video or audio tape to: First Baptist Church of Joelton, PO Box 86, Joelton, TN 37080, Attn: Personnel Committee.

**SEEKING:** Youth minister. Seminary degree and two years professional experience. Please mail resumé to: Youth Minister Search Committee, Central Baptist Church, 300 N Roan St., Johnson City, TN 37601.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of youth. Please send resumé to: Pastor Bob Swift, First Baptist Church, 118 W South, Mayfield, KY 42066.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for Piney Grove Baptist Church, Corbin, Ky. Contact person: Marlon Sams, PO Box 1563, Corbin, KY 40701.

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

**SEEKING:** Business manager for Clear Creek Baptist Bible College. Responsible for college business affairs, including receipt and disbursement of funds according to NACUBO standards. Supervise bookstore, mail services, computer services, food services and financial aid. Accounting and/or business administration experience required. Send resumé to: President Bill Whittaker, 300 Clear Creek Road, Pineville, KY 40977.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of music/youth. For more information, contact Fairview Baptist Church at 6426 Kentucky Hwy 1247, Waynesburg, KY 40489, or fbchurch@sear.net.com. Please reply by Nov. 27, 1999.

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

**FOR SALE:** 1986 Dodge Ram 350 15-passenger van. Sealed bid by Dec. 15. Highlander Baptist Church, 1101 Cherokee Road, Louisville, KY 40204, (502) 451-3735.

**FOR SALE:** Lodge at Ridgecrest—17 rooms each with private baths. Capacity: 68. Fully-equipped kitchen; 90-seat dining room. (828) 437-6804.

**FOR SALE:** Nineteen 10-foot and four 7-foot solid oak pews—available about the 1st of February. Please call Lyle Cooper at (270) 866-6615.

**FOR SALE:** Two cemetery plots at Bethany Memorial Cemetery, "Garden of the Cross" section. \$1,200. Call (502) 935-4242.

## Amy Grant says God 'released' her from failed marriage

NASHVILLE (ABP)—Gospel recording artist Amy Grant told a music magazine she felt like a failure for getting a divorce in March but believes God "released" her from her 16-year marriage to Gary Chapman.

She acknowledged that she now is dating country music star Vince Gill but denied tabloid rumors that they were having an affair while she was married.

Grant, 39, spoke at length on her divorce for a cover story in the November Christian music magazine CCM. The exclusive interview with the magazine's managing editor, Gregory Rumburg, contains her first comments on the topic in a national media setting.

Grant said people who knew the couple personally were not surprised by the divorce. They had been in counseling for years, she said.

Grant refused to discuss specifics of her and Chapman's marriage but discussed her views on divorce at length.

Grant said she grew up in a religious home and was taught divorce is wrong. She never expected to become a divorcee and said she felt like a failure for not keeping her wedding vows.

"I stood up in front of a packed-out church and made a vow before God about—as best I could—how I would lead my life. And I failed in that," she said. "Failure's incredibly humbling."

Grant said she has learned failed marriages often are "not so much about good and bad people, but about good and bad combinations." She said she worked hard at making her marriage work but that her personal life "kept spiraling downward." She declined to elaborate, saying it was too private to discuss.

In August of 1998, after years of counseling, Grant said she went to pastors with whom she had been meeting

and to Chapman. "I said, 'I believe and trust that I've been released from this'" marriage.

Grant acknowledged she might have been deceived in that conclusion but afterward she had a "settled, unshakable feeling about the path I was going to follow."

"We all met together and just said, 'You know, if the mercy of Jesus doesn't extend to a situation like this, then it doesn't go very far, does it?'" After that, she, Chapman and counselors began to pray for personal healing and to "pursue the most respectful path possible toward divorce."

Grant said she believes God hates divorce but not the people involved.

"I know why God hates divorce," she said, "because it rips you from stem to stem, and children are the total innocent recipients of a torn and shattered life."

"There's not a week that doesn't go by that I don't really cry out from the soles of my feet and just say, 'God, let me go back. How could this have worked out differently?'" she said.

Yet, "as a functioning, somewhat intelligent woman," Grant said she also got to the point of asking how many times she must "duct-tape" herself and pretend everything was OK.

"At some point you see the path ahead of you, and you say, 'I have to walk this path because I believe it's the path that I have to walk,' regardless of anybody's opinion."

Grant said the divorce has been "unbelievably humbling" but also has been healing. "It makes me incredibly thankful that God is a God of second chances."

She recalled the advice of a counselor who said: "Amy, God made marriage for people. He didn't create this institution so He could just plug people into it. He provided this so that people could enjoy each other to the fullest. ... I say, if you have two people that are not thriving healthily in a situation, I say remove the marriage. Let them heal."

Grant said Chapman had a different perspective. "His feeling was that this is our life, this is our commitment, and being true to this standard and keeping this vow is the most important thing

for us, for our children, for our spiritual wellness."

That illustrated a difference between them, Grant said. She said Chapman possesses a "valor toward ideals" while if she has a spiritual gift, it is compassion. "And at some point those things are different," she said. "They're really different. That's kind of a positive way at looking at some dynamics that have a negative side as well."

Grant denied rumors that she was having an affair with country singer Vince Gill and that their longtime friendship broke up the marriage.

"I didn't get a divorce because I had a great marriage and then along came Vince Gill. Gary and I had a rocky road from day one. I think what was so hard—and this is (what) one of our counselors said—sometimes an innocent party can come into a situation, and they're like a big spotlight. What they do is reveal, by comparison, the painful dynamics that are already in existence."

She said Gill was a friend to her through her tough times. The relation-

ship was "not adulterous" but was "messy" because Gill and Chapman were already friends.

Grant acknowledged she now is dating Gill but said he was not her boyfriend while she was married. She said she was not a confidant to Gill when he went through a divorce in 1997.

In the past, Christian music fans and retailers have pulled support from divorced artists. Grant, who is releasing a new Christmas album and preparing for a 21-city tour, understands that may happen to her. She said she has no argument against such decisions because her music is a product she is offering for sale. But she warned against being too judgmental.

"I guess I would say, judgment is usually exercised from a distance, but in more than one instance the thing that has brought about change (in people) is compassion," she said. "Jesus led by compassion. No one is ever changed because of judgment. No one's ever healed through judgment."

Grant said Christian people have a responsibility to confront sin but shouldn't look down on others.

"It doesn't make one person more holy to point out the sin of another person," she said. She said there is a stigma attached to things like divorce and homosexuality that the Bible says God hates, and Christians often say, "I'm gonna side with God and be mad at all these people."

"But rather than stand back and judge, God made the ultimate sacrifice by saying, 'In spite of the sinfulness of the world, I'm gonna send my Son down there to rescue everybody in the midst of their sin.'" she continued. "How that differs from judgment is that God removed the distance. God closed the gap."



Grant

## Baptist author helps FBI by urging suspect to surrender

NASHVILLE (BP)—Bill Fay was once president and CEO of a multi-million-dollar corporation and owned one of the larger houses of prostitution in the United States.

He had ties to the mob and was involved in racketeering, bookmaking and gambling. But that's not why he recently appeared on Fox Television's program "America's Most Wanted."

Fay said he had a dramatic turnaround, and he thinks others—one woman in particular—can do the same.

"God chose to take my life and flip it over," said Fay, author of "Share Jesus Without Fear."

Fay teaches a fearless soul-winning approach. He also practices what he preaches. He has shared his faith personally with more than 25,000 people on a one-to-one basis.

One of those thousands with whom Fay has shared the gospel is Nova Guthrie, a young woman on the FBI's Most Wanted list. Fay met her six months ago. Guthrie's sister, a Christian, worked with Fay to set up a series of phone conversations that culminated in a face-to-face meeting in which Fay told Guthrie about Jesus Christ.

"It appeared to me that Nova was involved in something illegal and dangerous," Fay said. "I asked her if she wanted to go through this alone or if she wanted Christ as her Savior. I assured her that once she accepted Him into her life, He and I would walk with her every step of the way."

Guthrie revealed that her boyfriend, who'd already served a 10-year prison term, was involved in a string of bank robberies. Fay persuaded Guthrie to turn herself in to the FBI. She did and gave them information about the thefts.

Though she subsequently was released on her own recognizance, recent videotape surveillance appears to show Guthrie and her boyfriend committing a series of multiple robberies, totaling as much as \$600,000.

America's Most Wanted has enlisted Fay's help to locate Guthrie and her boyfriend to put an end to the pattern of bank robberies.

"I'm issuing a televised plea to Nova to turn herself in to the authorities," Fay said. Concerned for her spiritual and physical welfare, Fay said he hopes to persuade Guthrie to return to her faith and commitment to Christ and to meet with the FBI for questioning.

## Quarterback: Christ provides a winning focus

By Victor Lee  
Crosswalk.com

STARKVILLE, Miss. (BP)—Matt Wyatt is a living lesson on comebacks and character.

Mississippi State's 6-foot-5, 231-pound senior quarterback started the first three games of last season before being benched. He could have sulked. He could have complained. He could have felt sorry for himself.

"But he stood there on the sidelines, cheering on the guy who took his place, not showing an ounce of resentment," said Lloyd Humphrey, the Bulldogs' team chaplain and Wyatt's pastor at First Baptist Church in Starkville, Miss. "His attitude was just to be ready when they needed him."

The Bulldogs needed him Oct. 9 against Auburn. Wyatt came off the bench to lead the team to score in the final minutes and an 18-16 victory.

They needed Wyatt again Nov. 4, leading his team into field goal position as the Bulldogs preserved their perfect record.

Wyatt's five years at Mississippi State coincide with the resurgence of the program. It is an athletic and spiritual resurgence, Humphrey said.

"Five years ago, we didn't have much character on our football team," Humphrey said. "But over the last four years we've been able to get a lot of kids who have character, and we've

got a lot of kids involved in Bible studies who have then developed character."

Humphrey and Wyatt say that translates to success.

"I think it has everything to do with success on the field," Wyatt said. Neither Wyatt nor Humphrey are claiming God favors the Bulldogs over another team because they have a lot of Christians, but they contend that the players perform better because their priorities are right.

"When you enter that relationship with Him (Jesus Christ), He teaches you things that are going to make you successful wherever you go," Wyatt said. "There are so many guys on the team that are just starting to realize that living the life God wants us to live should come before football."

Part of that spiritual revival was sparked by tragedy. Two years ago, star running back Keefer McGee drowned. The shaken team was forced to consider life in terms of eternity.

It was a sobering reminder of priorities, Wyatt said. A personal relationship with God puts all things in perspective, he added.

"Football, school, it takes its proper place. When I have tough times and I'm not doing well, what helps me is that I've never doubted whether God has control of my life and whether I'm letting Him lead, because I've made that decision. It's settled. So when bad things happen, I just remember that God is in control."

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