

WESTERN RECORDER

PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

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FOR THE RECORD

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Effort to affirm '63 Baptist Faith & Message fails

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

COVINGTON—An effort to affirm Southern Baptists' 1963 "Baptist Faith and Message" statement was narrowly defeated last week by Kentucky Baptist messengers.

The proposal, introduced by Louisville pastor Bill Shoulta, described the 1963 document as "a non-creedal consensus of clearly defined beliefs among Kentucky Baptists." His motion also called the faith statement "a sufficient confession of faith which enables freedom of thought within biblical and historical Baptist parameters."

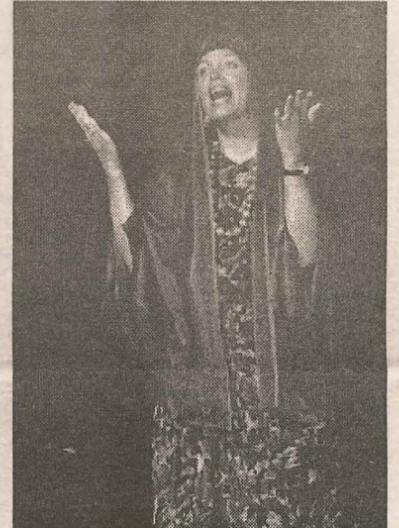
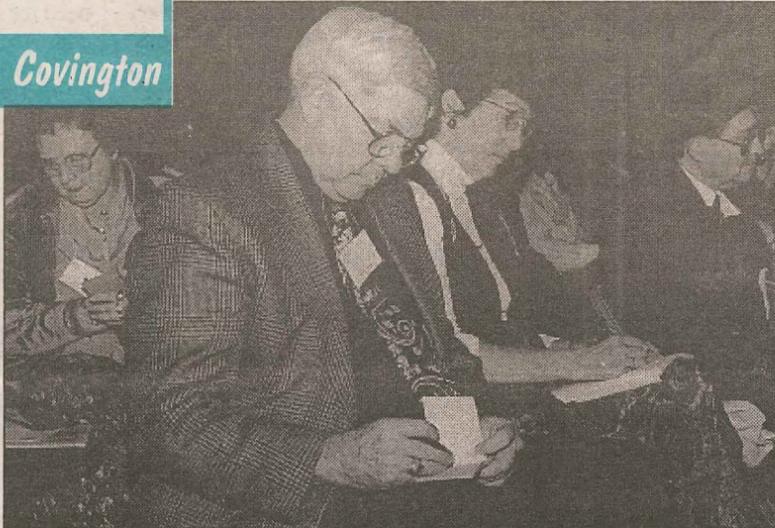
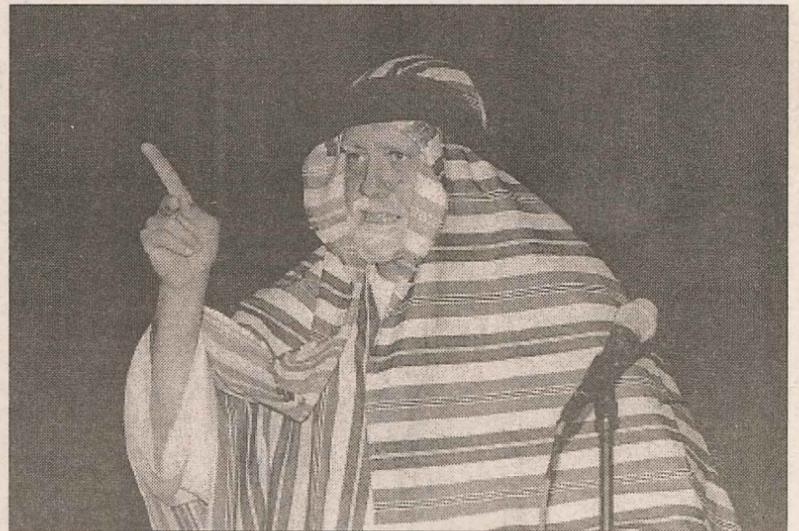
Following a standing vote that was too close for tellers to call, the motion was defeated 408-374 on a ballot vote. The vote came a week after messengers in Texas and Virginia adopted similar measures affirming the unamended 1963 statement.

The BF&M, originally adopted in 1925, was revised in 1963. It is a concise statement of Baptist beliefs on topics ranging from the doctrine of God to religious liberty. The only change to the 1963 statement came last year when Southern Baptist Convention messengers adopted an amendment on the family.

Disagreement in Baptist circles has centered on the amendment's statement that "a wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ." Supporters of the amendment say it is an accurate interpretation of Ephesians 5 while opponents criticize the omission of Ephesians 5:21 which teaches mutual submission.

Additionally, SBC President Paige Patterson recently appointed a 15-member study committee

See Messengers reject ..., page 3



CONVENTION IMAGES More than 1,500 Kentucky Baptists attended the state convention annual meeting in Covington last week. ■ Top left: Charles Blair, director of missions for West Kentucky Baptist Association, proposes an amendment to a resolution. ■ Top right: Jeff Smith, director of Salt and Light Ministries, performs a skit about Noah to interpret the convention theme, "Empowered to Serve." ■ Bottom left: John Walker, director of missions for Severns Valley Baptist Association, votes on a motion concerning the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message statement. ■ Bottom right: Missionary Beth Perkins tells the story of a persecuted Christian.

Terry Wilder elected new KBC president

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

COVINGTON—Terry Wilder, pastor of Burlington Baptist Church, is the new president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. He was elected Nov. 16 by a vote of 687-542 over Paul Badgett, pastor of First Baptist Church of Pikeville.

Wilder was nominated by former KBC President Billy Compton, pastor of Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown. Compton called Wilder a servant leader who demon-

strates "loyalty, integrity and compassion."

Badgett was nominated by Charles Stewart, pastor emeritus of Rose Hill Baptist Church in Ashland, who also is a former KBC president. He described Badgett as a pastor who "loves people, loves Sunday school and loves souls."

Although neither candidate sought political endorsements, Wilder was endorsed in an Oct. 25 letter by Bob DeFoor, pastor of Harrodsburg Baptist Church. DeFoor's letter urged recipients to "be sensitive to issues

affecting moderate Baptists in Kentucky."

Badgett's candidacy was endorsed by Southern Baptist Theological Seminary staff member Jerry Johnson. An Oct. 29 memo from Johnson's office to a group of student pastors stated that "our goal will be to elect a conservative president of the KBC."

Despite the unsolicited politicking, both candidates said they would seek to serve all Kentucky Baptists if elected. "I don't want to be on anybody's side but the Lord's side," Badgett told

See Terry Wilder ..., page 3

Study: Children much less likely to accept Christ after age 14

VENTURA, Calif. (RNS)—The probability of people accepting Jesus Christ as their personal Savior drops dramatically after age 14, a new study has found.

Data from a nationwide representative sampling of more than 4,200 young people and adults indicate that youth from ages 5 through 13 have a 32 percent probability of accepting Christ as their Savior.

Young people from the ages of 14 through 18 have a 4 percent likelihood of making that choice, while adults ages 19 and older have a 6 percent probability of doing so.

The data, collected by the Barna Research Group, challenge the widely-held notion that teenage years are a prime time for evangelistic activity.

"The statistics are eye-opening because they show how little evangelistic impact we are having in America upon teenagers and adults," said George Barna, president of the evangelical Christian firm based in Ventura, Calif. "However, that does not mean that teenagers and adults cannot be reached with the gospel. It simply challenges the approaches currently used to reach those individuals."

Through the years, other Barna studies have shown that a large majority of Christians accept Jesus Christ as their Savior before age 18. This study specifically calculates people's probability of doing so at different stages of life.

Barna also stated that his firm's research "has consistently shown that between the ages of 18 and 24, we lose a very large percentage of young people who had been regulars at church."

The research was based on three separate surveys of adults, which had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points, and two separate

surveys of youths, which had a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

Respondents were asked if they had made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ that remains important in their lives. They were included in the category of those who have accepted Jesus as their Savior if they said they had such a commitment and answered a follow-up question about their deaths by answering with the option "when I die I will go to heaven because I have confessed my sins and have accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior."

Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, Nov. 24

BAPTISTS

'Celebrate Jesus' media campaign makes major impact

By James Dotson
SBC North American Mission Board

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP)—A national "Celebrate Jesus 2000" evangelistic advertising campaign Oct. 4-31 resulted in 46,775 calls to national toll-free response numbers as of Nov. 9.



About 18,000 people had requested a free copy of the "Jesus" video and 230 made immediate professions of faith.

"This campaign allowed Southern Baptists to impact thousands of lives with the gospel," remarked John Yarbrough, vice president for evangelization for the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, which sponsored the effort. "Local churches now have the opportunity to follow up many of those who responded. What a tremendous partnership of technology linked with the personal care and touch of a local church."

The campaign included two television commercials on four national cable networks and six Celebrate Jesus 2000 radio commercials produced by NAMB.

At a cost of approximately \$500,000, this was the first national campaign sponsored by the agency to include a response mechanism for viewers—NAMB's Evangelism Response Center. Through the system, calls are routed to volunteer "telephone encouragers" who log on in their own homes to receive calls from respondents.

The early commercials included a toll-free number for viewers to call to speak with someone directly about a personal relationship with Christ. Beginning Oct. 13, an alternate number was used allowing viewers to receive a free copy of the "Jesus" video.

Toby Frost, manager of event evangelism for NAMB and chairman of NAMB's Celebrate Jesus 2000 task force, said telephone encouragers were excited about the opportunities confronting them as individuals called wanting to know more about a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

"One of our telephone encouragers said this is like fishing in a fish hatchery," Frost said. "In a fish hatchery, the fish are just fighting to get at the food. These are the people that are calling us."

Joy Neal, a decision counseling associate for NAMB's direct evangelism team, said, "Our encouragers expressed a sense of God's using them and felt that they were really able to talk with people. Many of them were able to lead people to the Lord. And approximately 11 percent of the people who talked with an encourager made a salvation decision."

Frost said the campaign revealed a need for more volunteer telephone encouragers to handle the volume in future responses. "Even though we've trained more than 350 telephone encouragers, we were struck with the need of how many more hundreds and hundreds we need to train," Frost said.

Neal said that while many callers will receive later follow-up, the immediate response appeared to be limited only by the number of encouragers available.

"The percentage of salvation decisions seemed to be tied to the number

of people who could talk to an encourager," she said.

Neal said she is continuing to schedule training sessions for telephone encouragers. Those who requested the "Jesus" video also will receive follow-up, Frost said.

While the campaign is the only national advertising purchase planned by the North American Mission Board in association with Celebrate Jesus 2000, many state conventions, associations and churches already are capitalizing on the awareness the October advertising developed.

The most immediate efforts include a billboard campaign in Kentucky, a Crossover Macon campaign associated with the Georgia Baptist Convention annual meeting and a statewide campaign on cable television in Montana.

Churches also are being encouraged to use a wide variety of materials during the final year of the Celebrate Jesus 2000 effort, which has a goal of sharing the gospel with and praying for every person in the United States and Canada by the end of next year.

For information about training opportunities for telephone encouragers, Neal may be contacted at (817) 570-1409. Churches interested in participating in the follow-up network may contact Robertson at (817) 570-1411. Celebrate Jesus 2000 promotional materials are available by calling (800) 448-8032.

BAPTIST BITS

■ **First, Dallas, "loosens" BGCT ties.** First Baptist Church of Dallas voted Nov. 17 to loosen its relationship with the Baptist General Convention of Texas and join the new, conservative Southern Baptists of Texas Convention. In a near-unanimous voice vote among approximately 300 members in a church business session, the church elected to dually align with both conventions while continuing to monitor the activities of BGCT leaders who have been distancing the state convention from the Southern Baptist Convention. The vote followed a presentation by Mac Brunson, First Baptist's senior pastor, in which he shared the findings and recommendations from a year-long study conducted by a six-member deacon committee. Asked if First, Dallas, would completely sever its ties with the BGCT and align solely with the SBTC in the future, Brunson said, "I think that's something the church will revisit in the next year."

■ **N.C. Baptists reject shared leadership.** A proposal to share leadership between conservatives and moderates fell short during the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's Nov. 15-16 annual meeting. The proposal, which would have placed conservatives and moderates in key elected positions in alternating years, received about 55 percent approval from messengers, short of the two-thirds majority needed to change the convention's constitution. Messengers also voted by a margin of about 10-1 to begin a process to sever constitutional ties with Wake Forest University after university officials failed to

prohibit Wake Forest Baptist Church from holding a marriage-like same-sex union in the university's chapel. Messengers also banned any state convention employee, including campus ministers, from performing a same-sex union.

■ **Virginia conservatives partner with Liberty.** Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia's executive board voted unanimously Nov. 15 to accept Liberty University's invitation to submit two names for election to the trustee board of the Lynchburg, Va., institution founded by Jerry Falwell in 1971. While some media reports have claimed the action essentially makes Liberty University a Southern Baptist institution, the agreement does not convey any financial support from the SBCV or the Southern Baptist Convention, said Doyle Chauncey, executive director of the conservative Virginia group. Southern Baptists currently comprise more than half of Liberty's trustee board, which voted unanimously to ask the SBCV for the two additional trustees. About two-thirds of Liberty's professors attend Thomas Road Baptist Church where Falwell is pastor. The church joined the SBCV more than three years ago. In a letter of congratulations to Falwell, Southern Baptist Convention President Paige Patterson wrote: "For the great Liberty University to be a part of our Southern Baptist Zion ... is an answer to prayer for us all."

■ **Georgia convention removes two churches.** Georgia Baptist messengers voted Nov. 16 by nearly 2,000-vote

margins to remove two congregations from convention fellowship over the issue of homosexuality. The votes on Oakhurst Baptist Church in Decatur and Virginia-Highland Baptist Church of Atlanta followed a constitutional amendment approved by messengers last year that states friendly cooperation with the state convention excludes congregations that knowingly take action "to affirm, approve or endorse homosexual behavior." Both Oakhurst and Virginia-Highland churches have ordained openly homosexual people as deacons, according to media accounts. Oakhurst also has a homosexual associate pastor, while Virginia-Highland has allowed its facilities to be used for a marriage-like same-sex blessing. The ballot totals were 2,086-262 for removing Oakhurst from the convention and 2,111-228 for removing Virginia-Highland.

■ **Oklahoma Baptists affirm family amendment.** Oklahoma Baptist messengers adopted a resolution last week affirming the 1998 family amendment to Southern Baptists' "Baptist Faith and Message" doctrinal statement. Southern Baptist messengers added the marriage and family amendment last year that included a call for Christian wives "to submit graciously to the servant leadership" of their husbands. Anthony Jordan, executive director of the Oklahoma convention, was chairman of the committee that proposed the family amendment. Oklahoma Baptists also passed a resolution affirming the statement last fall. The new resolution

endorsed the document as amended and urged Oklahoma Baptists to pray for another SBC committee that is considering other possible changes to the "Baptist Faith and Message." Another resolution affirmed a decision by the Oklahoma State Textbook Committee to require science textbooks to point out that evolution is only a theory and not a proven fact.

■ **S.C. Baptists address flag issue.** Taking strong stances on three of the state's most controversial issues, South Carolina Baptists messengers urged the state's General Assembly to address the Confederate flag issue; commended state officials and church leaders who worked to eliminate video poker; and expressed opposition to a state-operated lottery. Acknowledging that racial tensions are increasing across the state and that Christians are called to be peacemakers, messengers adopted a resolution that urged the General Assembly to consider relocating the Confederate Battle Flag that flies atop the State House to "a public place of heritage, honor and recognition." Former state convention president Mike Hamlet said South Carolina Baptists "want to be a force to achieve racial harmony." Todd Morris of Pauline countered that it was a matter for the state legislature, not the church. The resolution was adopted on a near-unanimous vote. In other action, a motion to create a committee to ascertain that the state's Baptist colleges not teach evolution as fact was referred to the state convention's Executive Board.

Resolutions address education, gambling, families

By **Trennis Henderson**
Editor

COVINGTON—Kentucky Baptist messengers addressed issues ranging from public education to gambling during last week's state convention annual meeting. Other resolutions adopted by messengers included affirmation of families and religious liberty, as well as appreciation for the life and ministry of Ken Murphy and the traditional resolution of appreciation for those who organized, led and hosted the annual meeting.

The 1999 resolutions committee was chaired by Robert Kruschwitz, a professor at Georgetown College and member of Faith Baptist Church in Georgetown.

The resolution on public education calls on Kentucky Baptists to "nurture within our public schools the free expression of heartfelt personal devotion and the responsible teaching about religion, while avoiding the coercion of hollow religious practice by any student or teacher."

It also urges "all Kentuckians to generously support public education in their communities" and affirms teacher training programs "nourished by a Baptist vision" in Baptist colleges. Specifically citing the efforts of Campbellsville University, Cumberland College and Georgetown, the resolution was amended to include Mid-

Continent College, which recently added a teacher-training program.

Larry Baker, pastor of New Hope Baptist Church in Franklin, questioned the need for the resolution since "so many of our Christians are involved in private schools and home schooling."

Kruschwitz responded that the goal of the resolution was to highlight Christians' responsibility to support public education and to affirm Christian teachers and administrators who serve in public schools.

Kruschwitz said the anti-gambling resolution "recognizes the moral issues involved in land-based casino gambling" and other efforts to expand gambling in Kentucky. The resolution urges Gov. Paul Patton and other state leaders to avoid basing economic decisions "on the false hopes of gambling." It also calls on Kentucky Baptists "to contact the governor and their state legislators to express their individual opinions on this issue."

Approval of the anti-gambling resolution came two days after Attorney General Ben Chandler issued an opinion that the state lottery cannot operate electronic slot machines without a

change to the state constitution. Lawmakers said Chandler's opinion will decrease the chances of expanded gambling proposals being adopted next year.

The resolution on families and religious liberty noted that "various governmental bodies in Kentucky increasingly are being asked to pass legislation in opposition to the biblical moral values cherished by Kentucky Baptists, especially values regarding the family and sexual

expression." It encourages officials "to support legislation that upholds the institution of the family and to work vigorously to protect the religious liberty of all its citizens."

The resolution in memory of Ken Murphy expressed gratitude to God for Murphy's "passion for missions," as well as "his desire to see Kentucky Baptists involved in missions" and "his vision to record the history of the Russian partnership." Murphy, who served as the KBC's partnership missions associate, died July 31 of complications from surgery. Shortly before his death, he completed work on "Russian Harvest," a book about Kentucky Baptists' partnership with Baptists in Russia.

The resolutions committee declined

to take direct action on proposed resolutions introduced concerning homosexuality, posting the Ten Commandments and the involvement of Southern Baptist Convention agencies in KBC elections.

Kruschwitz said the proposal on homosexuality and sexual orientation initiatives was addressed in the resolution affirming families and religious liberty. He added that the convention had addressed "the immorality of homosexual behavior" in a 1992 resolution.

He said substantive content of the Ten Commandments proposal was addressed in the resolution on supporting public education.

The proposal concerning SBC institutions seeking to influence state convention elections came in response to concerns over a staff member at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary enlisting student pastors to help elect conservative convention officers.

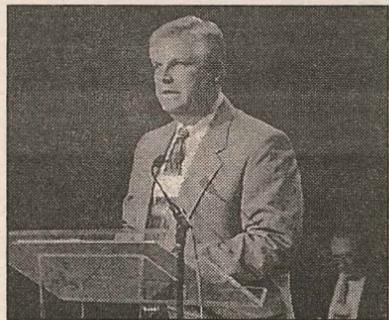
Kruschwitz said in an interview that the proposed resolution claimed the seminary as an institution sought to become involved in the convention elections.

"We did not mean to minimize the seriousness of the events at the seminary," he said, "but we were not sure that it indicated an act of the institution."

He said the resolutions committee declined to address the subject "in the interest of clarity regarding the issue and harmony in the convention."



Messengers reject affirming 1963 Baptist Faith & Message



BILL SHOULTA The pastor of Melbourne Heights Baptist Church in Louisville proposed the motion to affirm the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message statement.

Continued from page 1

to consider other changes to the 1963 statement. The committee, authorized in June by SBC messengers, is expected to bring a report to next year's SBC annual meeting.

During discussion about the motion, Shoulta said the 1963 statement "undergirds our strong heritage of religious freedom, church autonomy and priesthood of the believer."

"By reaching back to 1963, we can emphasize the numerous beliefs which have held us together rather than a few issues which tend to divide us," said Shoulta, pastor of Melbourne Heights Baptist Church. "It would be lamenta-

ble for us to reject this great biblical, historical and theological statement of true Baptist identity."

Russell Howard, pastor of Ashland Avenue Baptist Church in Lexington, countered that the motion was "problematic not so much for what it affirms as for what it opposes."

Alluding to the 1998 amendment, he said the motion "opposes the Baptist Faith and Message as that venerable confession has been embraced by the Southern Baptist Convention."

Russell said the proposal "seeks to place Kentucky on the same quasi-secessionist path being followed by other states who seem intent upon depart-

ing the pro-family Southern Baptist mainstream."

Shoulta and Russell were the only two messengers to address the motion before a vote was approved to cut off debate. That was followed by the ballot vote that defeated the motion.

With the defeat of Shoulta's motion, the state convention's most recent action on record concerning the BF&M is a 1973 resolution on the subject. It encourages Kentucky Baptists to "familiarize themselves with the 17 articles" and calls for personnel of Kentucky Baptist boards, agencies and institutions "to conduct themselves in accordance with this statement."

Terry Wilder: 'I genuinely want to lead all Kentucky Baptists'

Continued from page 1

the Western Recorder. Wilder said his goal is to "emphasize what we have in common and the best of our missions heritage."

"We came to this convention with diversity and as Kentucky Baptists, we must trust God to lead us through this diversity into the future," Wilder said during a post-election interview. "Our unity must be found in what we do together to reach Kentucky for Jesus Christ."

"I genuinely want to lead all Kentucky Baptists," he added. "I want to see us pull together, pray together, grow together and make the year 2000 a Great Commission year in Kentucky Baptist life."

Wilder, 52, has been pastor of Burlington Baptist Church since 1992. He previously was pastor of Sand Spring Baptist Church in Lawrenceburg and Cecilia Baptist Church.

A member of the Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Board, he is a graduate of Campbell University in Buies Creek, N.C., and Southern Seminary in Louisville.

"This is an exciting time," Wilder declared. "The year 2000 will be an opportunity for Kentucky Baptists to talk to people about why the millennium is so important. This is our opportunity to tell people that God invaded time when He sent His Son into the world and to share the story of Jesus across Kentucky."

"I want to encourage every Kentucky Baptist to be a part of a missions project in the year 2000, whether locally or overseas. The mission fields are white unto harvest here in Kentucky and around the world."

In other races for convention office, Dan Ferguson was elected first vice president by a vote of 512-397 over Alice Marshall.

Ferguson, pastor of Second Baptist Church of Hopkinsville, was endorsed by Johnson and nominated by Rick Hadley, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Winchester. Marshall, a member of Broadway Baptist Church in Louisville, is co-director of the Marshall Center for Christian Ministry at Georgetown College. She was endorsed and nominated by DeFoor.

In the race for second vice president, Scott Kilgore, associate pastor of Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green, was elected by a vote of 313-228 over Tim Mathis, pastor of First Baptist Church of Danville.

Kilgore, whose candidacy was not announced prior to the convention, was nominated by Bill Messer, pastor of First Baptist Church of Ashland. Mathis, endorsed by Johnson, was nominated by new Pastors' Conference President Walter Davis, pastor of Stithon Baptist Church of Radcliff.

Secretary Wilma Jean Simmons, a member of Ekron Baptist Church, in Brandenburg, and assistant secretary Joe Priest Williams, a retired pastor from Louisville, were re-elected by acclamation. Both have served in those positions since 1992.



KBC OFFICERS Elected were (from left) Assistant Secretary Joe Priest Williams, of Louisville; First Vice President Dan Ferguson, pastor of Second Baptist Church of Hopkinsville; President Terry Wilder, pastor of Burlington Baptist Church; Second Vice President Scott Kilgore, associate pastor of Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green; and Secretary Wilma Jean Simmons, a member of Ekron Baptist Church in Brandenburg.

Christmas plans?

The Western Recorder is assembling a special listing of Christmas programs throughout Kentucky. Please send information about cantatas, nativity scenes and other happenings to Shirley Wooton by Nov. 29.

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

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The discipline of thankfulness

By Dale Hanson Bourke

In this often cynical world, it is easy to imagine that thankful people are naive. Those who seem perpetually grateful must be living in denial about the world around them. And yet a recent experiment taught me gratefulness is more a discipline than an emotion, more a savvy way to live than a simplistic response.

I was reading a new devotional book that advised spending the first moments of every day in praise and thankfulness. It wasn't a new idea, but it was a habit I had long ago traded for rushing into the day with a "to do" list and a gulp of coffee.

The book challenged me to spend a full five minutes thanking God for the people and circumstances in my life. It seemed simple compared to all the other expectations of my life.

The first morning I rose and found a

quiet corner. As I sipped a cup of coffee I mentally listed all the reasons I should be thankful: family, friends, health, job. . . I looked at the clock and discovered less than a minute had gone

by. I took a deep breath and tried to think bigger: freedom, safety, availability of food and water. Surely I could find a way to fill up another minute or two.

The next morning I pulled out a notebook and tried to linger over each person as I wrote down all my reasons to be thankful. I filled a page, then another. But I still fell short of the five minutes I was determined to fill.

I went back to the book and read more about thankfulness. The author suggested including all the irritations in life, the people who frustrated and the situations that caused one's stomach to knot and churn. He advised finding something to be thankful about in each of these circumstances.

Armed with new material, I tried

COMMENTARY



Dale Hanson Bourke

Political impact

I'm writing in response to the editorial in the Nov. 16 issue of the Western Recorder.

Do individual Kentucky Baptists have the right to encourage others to vote for specific candidates for state convention offices? Absolutely. Was there anything wrong with Dr. Roy Honeycutt back in the early '80s calling for a "holy war" against the leadership of the Southern Baptist Convention? Absolutely.

Is there any difference in what Jerry Johnson did and what the Western Recorder has done for years (which receives \$315,606 from the Kentucky

Baptist Cooperative Program) seeking to mobilize and influence the whole state to vote for moderate candidates? No. What is the difference in a seminary staff person using his influence and the editor of a Kentucky Baptist agency using his influence? Remember, Baptist entities on the state and national levels are there to serve the people in the pews, not to impose their political views.

I would like to know when the Western Recorder received the leak about the meeting at Southern Seminary. It may prove that the Western Recorder waited until the day of the convention to run their article. If so, is not that a political ploy?

Come on, Kentucky Baptists, since

again. It wasn't hard to come up with a nice long list of irritations, from the neighbor who filled his recycling bin under our window after midnight to the woman at school who seemed to drip sweetness as she skewered people with her words.

I could find plenty of situations but the challenge to be thankful was daunting. Finally I simply prayed to see something good about each person and situation. I thanked God that the guy who woke us up dumping his garbage wasn't doing it on purpose and was a decent fellow whose words were always kind. When I saw him later that day, I waved to him with new appreciation.

I moved on to the other issues and tackled them one by one. Surprisingly, I found something to be thankful about in every one of the situations.

I confess I sometimes slip off the wagon and fail to start my day being thankful. But I have learned that I pay the price when I do. I used to think people who were perpetually thankful were naive. Now I know they may be the savviest folks around.

Dale Hanson Bourke is publisher of Religion News Service

the Western Recorder does receive money from us, it is time we stand up and say be fair! The fact is Kentucky Baptists do need SBC-style politics to turn it around. I'll be one pastor to do all he can to turn it around.

Mark Payton
Danville

Editor's Note: The Western Recorder has not and will not seek "to mobilize and influence the whole state to vote for moderate candidates." We have worked to accurately report political developments on both sides as we seek to fulfill our responsibility of keeping Kentucky Baptists informed. The information about Southern Seminary was received just a few days before the state convention and was reported immediately. If we had received the information sooner, we would have reported it sooner.

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

Sharing the joys of Thanksgiving

In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

At this Thanksgiving season, I am most grateful for Jesus Christ and His atoning death for me as well as His patience in teaching me to love and relate to Him. I have been led to discover how very precious the relationship to Jesus can be.

I am grateful for my wife, Kay, who has become my traveling companion and part-time driver across Kentucky. In October there were 23 speaking engagements, plus three for Kay, besides committee meetings and staff conferences. I could not have connected with all of them without her assistance. We are grateful for the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful scenery in Kentucky.

It is a blessing to visit associational events and fellowship with Kentucky Baptists. Usually I have an opportunity to say "thank you" on behalf of all ministries and missionaries

for your support through the Cooperative Program and special gifts. During a recent revival at First Baptist Church of London, I had more time to get acquainted with members. The food and fellowship were wonderful, and the great praise teams were outstanding. The church has new facilities on a beautiful site just south of downtown. Pastor Terry Lester was a wonderful host pastor.



Bill Mackey

The cooperation and effective ministries of the Kentucky Baptist Convention staff have been most gratifying. The secretaries have been a part of the vision implementation process with reading and study assignments like everyone else. The preparation and meetings require more time but no one has complained. We are working as cluster groups on several big objectives we've identified and seeking how we can assist the churches in these areas. The big objectives we're examining are: intergenerational is-

GIVING

Make year-end tax planning time a priority

By Laurie Valentine

With Dec. 31 right around the corner, now is a good time to review tax-saving actions you have already taken this year and determine if there are other things to do before year-end to further reduce your 1999 income taxes.

Will you be in a higher income tax bracket this year than next? Think about deferring some of this year's income until next year and paying deductible items before Dec. 31, 1999, that you normally would pay in early 2000.

Business and professional people who use the cash accounting method can defer the receipt of income by not billing until year-end for services rendered in 1999. The receipt of a bonus that your employer is free to give or not give can be deferred into next year to lower your 1999 compensation income.

Pay real estate taxes and the Jan. 15 installment of state and local income taxes before Dec. 31 to accelerate these deductible items into the 1999 tax year.

If possible, pay all medical bills, if the total will exceed 7.5 percent of your adjusted gross income, before year-end to be able to use that expense as a deduction.

Another income tax deduction that is very easy to accelerate is the charitable deduction. You have total control on when this deduction will be available; all you have to do is complete your charitable gifts before Dec. 31.

Your tithes and offerings are "charitable gifts" that can be deducted on your income tax return. You also can deduct gifts of appreciated securities, mutual fund shares, real estate, business interests, artworks and life insurance policies to your church, Kentucky Baptist and Southern Baptist causes or other qualified charities.

Charitable income tax deductions are available for both outright gifts and life income gifts such as charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts.

Make time for year-end tax planning. It can pay off for you and the charitable causes you wish to support.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation

How can singles overcome loneliness of holiday blues?

Q: Like the cartoon character Ziggy, I find myself aching with loneliness and "the blues" during holidays traditionally associated with mom, dad, the kids, the dog and the house with the white picket fence. How can I cope with holidays as a single?

Single people may find the period from Thanksgiving to New Year's to be an especially easy time to get "the blues." Here are some practical ideas for coping with the holidays:

- **Keep your expectations manageable.** Every year doesn't have to be the "best ever." Be realistic, pace yourself, organize your time, prioritize. Don't spend too much time preparing for just one day.
 - **Remember that holidays don't automatically banish reasons for feeling sad or lonely.** Acknowledge your feelings even if you choose not to express them openly.
 - **Let go of the past: There's no future in it.** Life brings changes. Look forward to the future rather than the idealized "good old days."
 - **Do something for someone else.** Volunteer to help others.
 - **Enjoy free activities** such as looking at Christmas decorations and window shopping without buying anything.
 - **Avoid alcohol:** Remember it is a depressant.
 - **Try something new.** Celebrate the holidays in ways you haven't done before. Start new traditions.
 - **Spend time with people who are supportive and caring.** Make new friends. Contact someone with whom you've lost touch.
 - **Find time for yourself.** Don't spend all your time providing activities for others.
 - **Take advantage of sunny days and go outside.** Late morning/midday breaks can be mini-vacations for you.
- Remember, church and community calendar events often provide unique opportunities for single people to be family to one another. Call and find out more information about things you'd love to do. Take the initiative—reclaim the holidays as Holy Days. Take whatever Sabbath you need for your own spiritual and emotional health.—James Stillwell

Q: How can I teach my child to have a thankful heart?

"What do you say?" seems to come out of parents' mouths automatically as we push reluctant, forgetful or shy children to say "thank you" for a gift, compliment or common courtesy.

Teaching children to "think thankful" may be more difficult than teaching them to give thanks. Read scriptures like Psalm 100:4-5 and Luke 17:11-19 together. Help them make a list of little things for which they are thankful (toothbrushes, Band-Aids, sharp pencils, etc.). Let everyday sights and events stir thankful thoughts, and speak them out loud. Model and teach thankfulness, even in the midst of problems or disappointment. Notice how others do and don't give thanks.

Participating in a special Thanksgiving service at your church can be fun and will make a lasting impression on your child—especially if it means getting up early on a holiday! Beyond a prayer for the food, set aside time during family get-togethers to express thanks for the blessings God has given.

Teach your children to do the "work" of being thankful. Show them how to write a thank you note. Buy a box of notecards or help them make their own special thank you notes using markers, stickers or stamps. Help children know what to say when someone does something special for them.—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.



2000 & beyond: Let's go forward together

Are Kentucky Baptists ready for the ministry challenges of the new millennium?

Gathered last week in Covington for the state convention annual meeting, participants focused on the 1999 theme, "Empowered to Serve." Numerous references were made during the two-day meeting to the year 2000 which now is just a few weeks away.

While Jan. 1, 2000, will be just one more day on the calendar in many ways, symbolically it will be a major milestone in human history. Y2K concerns aside, are Kentucky Baptists prepared to respond effectively to the complex needs, fears and hopes of life in the 21st century?

Last week's state convention annual meeting offers a few clues. Looking to the future, outgoing KBC President Charles Barnes said he believes "God has positioned Kentucky Baptists very well for work in the next century."

Barnes added, however, that "Baptist work in the 21st century will require a new and higher level of service in His name." He said major barriers to overcome include token commitment, changing demographics, materialism and self-will.

KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey emphasized that key ministry objectives identified by Executive Board staff members include intergenerational issues, leadership development, transitions, developing authentic spirituality and reaching young adults.

If Kentucky Baptists are to successfully address such challenges and achieve such goals, we dare not be sidetracked by partisan politics or personal pettiness. It is essential that we work together to accomplish common goals for the sake of God's kingdom.

According to new KBC President Terry Wilder, "Our unity must be found in what we do together to reach Kentucky for Jesus Christ. ... I want to see us pull together, pray together, grow together and make the year 2000 a Great Commission year in Kentucky Baptist life."

Psalms 133:1 puts it this way, "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" That's not to suggest that all Kentucky Baptists will always agree on every issue—of course not! But it

does affirm that Christian unity is a desire of God's heart and a worthy goal as we move toward a new century.

Are we prepared to move forward together? While there always will be differences of opinion over specific issues, the question is whether we can sincerely focus on the greater good.

This year's officer elections indicate Kentucky Baptists are quite capable of choosing representative leadership that will serve our state convention well. Among the top three officers, one was endorsed in a letter written from a moderate perspective, one was endorsed by a seminary staff member seeking to promote conservative candidates and one was an individual whose nomination was not publicized prior to the convention.

Each of the announced candidates noted they did not seek political endorsements and, if elected, would seek to represent all Kentucky Baptists.

What more could Kentucky Baptists ask of their new officers? With incoming leaders who represent both the diversity and unity of state convention life, this is the ideal time for those promoting political perspectives to put their own interests aside.

Rather than scheduling behind-the-scenes strategy sessions and producing statewide mailings, let's trust the vast majority of Kentucky Baptists to select effective leaders in the years ahead.

The Western Recorder is available to help facilitate that effort. Informing Kentucky Baptists about this year's candidates required three articles over a span of two months. We would be glad to invite all candidates to submit biographical and related information for publication a month before the annual meeting so Baptists throughout the state can learn basic information about prospective candidates.

This certainly would not eliminate the option of any messenger nominating a candidate of one's choice on the day of officer elections. Hopefully, however, it would provide timely information about announced candidates and help minimize unnecessary politicking.

We stand on the threshold of unlimited ministry opportunities in 2000 and beyond. The best way to go forward is together.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Do you want to get well?

By Terry Lester

"When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, 'Do you want to get well?'" (John 5:6)

"Do you want to get well?" The question seems superfluous, even a bit flippant. What sick person wouldn't want to get well? Yet Jesus posed this obvious question to a sick man lying beside the pool of Bethesda.

"Do you want to get well?" Surprisingly, we don't always answer this question in the affirmative. When I was a youngster I was scheduled to play the William Tell Overture for the spring piano recital. I felt very unprepared. I had practiced my jump shot more than my recital piece. By recital time I developed a mysterious stomach ailment that prevented me from playing in the recital. I didn't want to get well—until the recital was over!

"Do you want to get well?" For 38 long and painful years, this poor fellow by the pool of Bethesda had suffered

from his debilitating illness. He was unable to walk, even lift himself into the mystical waters of the pool that held the promise of healing. He had been there so long that he had become a part of the landscape. He had blended into the

background of misery that Bethesda drew like a magnet. But Jesus saw him. Our suffering never goes unnoticed by Him. And compassionate Jesus confronted this suffering man with this searching question, "Do you want to get well?"

Why did Jesus ask such a question? Had this man become so accustomed to his misery that he wore it like a familiar old garment? Was he afraid to let go of a condition that was for him a kind of uncomfortable security?

A middle-aged woman suffering from the life-draining effects of alcoholism was offered help. She refused. She didn't want to get well. A couple with a troubled marriage turned their back on the possibility of counseling while their relationship slowly but surely died. They didn't want to get well.

We can choose illness over wellness.

We suffer from constant pain produced by dysfunctional relationships, but we still prefer old patterns of relating over new options. We don't want to get well. We struggle with those sin-diseased parts of our inner selves: prejudices, fears and worries, old grudges, grief and insecurities that leave us practically immobile beside the pool of life. And yet we don't want to get well. For to get well means new responsibility, the possibility of change, perhaps even repentance. It takes courage to be healed.

Jesus' question is an important one for it addresses the matter of our willingness. God refuses to impose His will upon us even if it's what we need most. Our personal freedom is so precious that God will not violate it even for our own good. Therefore, the first step in healing is a willing desire to be well, to be whole again. And this step becomes an act of faith and trust in the One who invites us to "take up our mat and walk." The sick man at the pool of Bethesda dared to take this step and "at once,"

John wrote, "the man was cured."

Do you want to get well?

Terry Lester is pastor of First Baptist Church of London



Barnes: 'God has blessed us as Kentucky Baptists'

By Trennis Henderson
Editor



"God will do His part. What about us?"

KBC President Charles Barnes

COVINGTON—Looking toward the challenges and opportunities of a new millennium, outgoing state convention president Charles Barnes said he believes Kentucky Baptists "want to move forward together."

Delivering his presidential address during last week's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting, Barnes said, "I hope we can use this convention to celebrate the past and commit ourselves to a new era of service for the Lord Jesus Christ."

Barnes, a retired bank executive, is a member of Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville. He was the first layman in more than two decades to serve as KBC president.

Evaluating the state convention's past accomplishments and future needs, Barnes said, "We're in a strong position as we look toward the future. ... I believe God has positioned Kentucky Baptists very well for work in the next century."

Barnes said one key to planning ahead is to "look back at where we've been because our past will be the foundation for our future."

He said areas of significant strength in Kentucky Baptist life in-

clude committed leadership by KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey, a strengthened Executive Board staff, record financial support for Baptist causes, strong leadership in all Kentucky Baptist institutions and agencies and exciting partnership missions opportunities.

"We can look back on the 20th century with pride and thanksgiving," he said. "God has blessed us as Kentucky Baptists."

"It's time to build on this history and heritage as we face the 21st century. The best times are ahead."

Stating that "God has empowered us and called us and will stand by us," Barnes told Kentucky Baptists, "We must be committed to serve. Baptist work in the 21st century will require a new and higher level of service in His name."

"Each decade of the new century will be a greater challenge and require a greater effort," he added. "Our society has changed dramatically since 1900, but think how much faster it has changed in the past 10 years. Under God's leadership, Baptists will be re-

quired to move to new levels of leadership to function effectively" amid today's secular environment.

Barnes cited four barriers that "must be overcome individually and collectively as a convention if we're to attain the level of commitment needed for the 21st century." Those barriers are:

■ **Token commitment.** "A token effort will not do," he insisted. "We must be committed with focus, with intensity and with passion. God's people must not

get comfortable where we are in temporal surroundings. We must remember at all times what God has called us to do. ... God will do His part. What about us?"

■ **Demographics.** Barnes listed a number of current trends, including the aging of America, increased leisure time, more one-person households and a growing ethnic population. "We must know what these major changes are and understand their impact and be prepared to deal with them in our churches," he said.

■ **Materialism.** Sharing the bibli-

cal account of the rich young ruler, Barnes said, "The problem was that his richness stood between him and Jesus. ... Too often what we have stands between us and God."

"What lifestyles and standards are appropriate for Christians?" he asked. "God cannot empower us to serve if our lifestyle becomes a barrier we allow to stand."

■ **Self-will.** "Most of us are used to being in control," Barnes noted. "It is hard for us to be submissive and wait on God. ... Unless we're on God's plan and God's timetable, we will not succeed. We can only do this by developing a close relationship with Him through Bible study, prayer and commitment."

Barnes said he believes "God has placed Kentucky Baptists in this convention at a very unique position. We have the joy of celebrating the past. We have the opportunity to dedicate ourselves to a new era of service in God's name."

"We have a precious Baptist heritage," he said. "Let us use this heritage wisely as we look to the future."

"God has called us. He will help us overcome any barrier to serving Him," Barnes concluded. "He will sustain us and empower us to serve in the 21st century."



Henry: Payne Stewart's death teaches lessons about suffering

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

JIM HENRY The former SBC president said he preached about Christians and suffering after Payne Stewart's death. "When Jesus came to Lazarus' tomb, He wept. ... The first person to weep when that plane hit the ground was Jesus Christ. We are incredibly precious to Him."

COVINGTON—The recent death of pro golfer Payne Stewart was more than a tragic news story for Jim Henry. It was deeply personal.

Henry, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, was Stewart's pastor and friend at First Baptist Church of Orlando, Fla.

When Henry and others received word Oct. 25 that Stewart's plane was flying out of control on a bizarre cross-country trek, "my stomach turned a flip-flop," Henry recalled. "We waited with baited breath and prayed, hoping against hope, until we got the sad news that the plane had gone down" in South Dakota with six passengers aboard.

Recounting "the crucible I've been walking through the past few weeks as a pastor," Henry told Kentucky Baptists, "I had seen Payne recently come to know the Lord Jesus and he was growing in the faith."

Following news of the crash, everything "became a blur," Henry said, as he and other ministers sought to "deal with the press, comfort the families and deal with our own grief."

Henry was one of the first people to arrive at the Stewarts' home following the plane crash. "We were pressed into an international situation we didn't know if we could handle or not," he acknowledged.

"We were praying that through the tragedy God would somehow get the glory," Henry said. "That was our chief desire."

Stewart's funeral service, which was held at First Baptist, Orlando, was broadcast live on ESPN.

Professional golf's "top 30 money winners were in our church for the memorial service and heard the gospel," Henry noted.

With golfers in other tournaments around the globe also pausing to attend services held to remember Stewart, "in 24 hours, basically every professional golfer heard the gospel of Jesus Christ," Henry said. "With those seeds sown, who knows what crop will come up later?"

With Stewart's wife and children attending the worship service the following Sunday, Henry said his sermon topic was, "When We're Wondering about Our Whys."

Explaining that all six passengers aboard the ill-fated plane were strong Christians and that Stewart was "just beginning to blossom as a believer," Henry said, "Out of that context and dealing with my own grief, this is the message I shared with our people and these broken families."

■ **"A troubled faith is better than no faith at all."** Sharing about a family who's athletic teenage daughter lost her leg to cancer, Henry said the father told him, "There are only two choices to make. One is to continue to be angry with God and fall into despair or let God be God. It came down to despair or God—nothing in between—and I chose God."

Citing a father's cry in Mark 9:24, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief," Henry said, "It's better to try to deal with what we don't understand than to come from no context at all."

■ **"God is not obligated to explain the unexplainable."** Henry said some of the greatest people in the Bible were perplexed and God didn't explain Himself.

"When God is silent, the body of Christ becomes His expression of love and compassion," he added. "We become His tongue, His arms, His tears, His embrace, His presence."

■ **"God is not the source of our heartaches."**

"Sometimes you feel like God has betrayed you," Henry said, with such feelings often leading to bitterness, anger, disappointment and disillusionment.

"God isn't the source of our heartaches," he insisted. "Most of the time

we are victimized by the greatest liar in the universe, Satan. The accuser and the slanderer loves to point his finger at God and have people blame God."

■ **"Sometimes God delivers through the fire but not always from the fire,"** Henry said. "We are not exempt from calamity nor should we expect to be. ... When we focus on what is left rather than what is lost, we get through the fire."

■ **"Trouble rightly handled honors God,"** Henry said.

"People watch us," he noted. "I've never been more alerted to that than in these past few weeks." He said God is honored when His followers face crises "but we handle them because we have hope and confidence in Jesus Christ who enables us to go through to the other side."

■ **"We are incredibly precious to God,"** he emphasized.

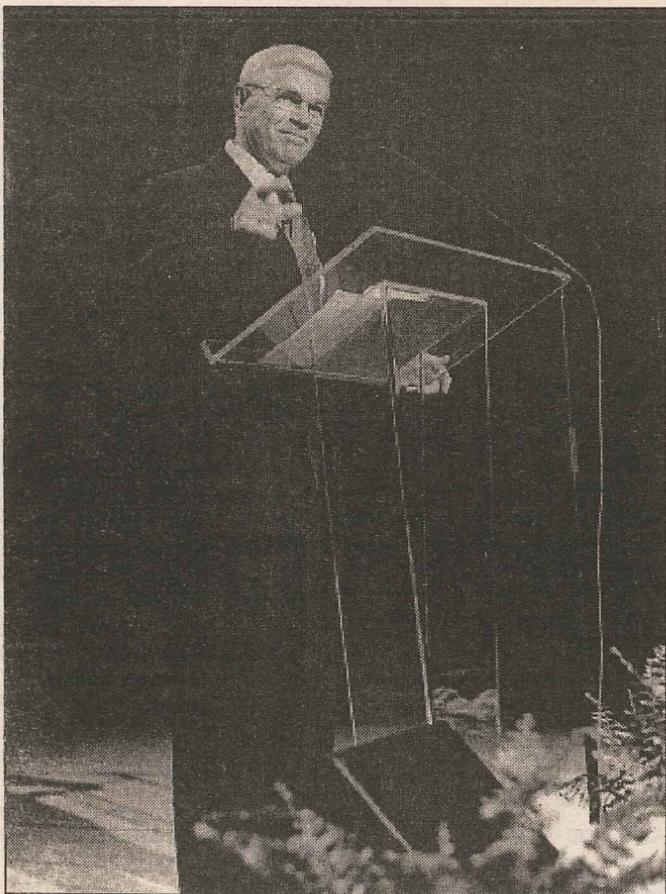
"When Jesus came to Lazarus' tomb, He wept. When He stood over Jerusalem, He wept. The first person to weep when that plane hit the ground was Jesus Christ. We are incredibly precious to Him. ... God loves you so much."

■ **"Faith guides and walks us through to the other side,"** Henry concluded.

"Our griefs, our sorrows, our whys have a purifying effect as God is developing our faith," he said. "It comes down to faith in Him."

"We have a Father who has big arms and He holds them out to us and we can jump," Henry affirmed. "We still may have our question marks and the tears flow and the grief is deep, but He holds us and embraces us."

"It comes down to Who and He's enough," Henry shared. "When we wonder about the whys, the empowerment comes in the Who."



Perkinses: God at work around the world

By David Winfrey
News Director

COVINGTON—God is not waiting on any group in order to reveal Himself to non-Christians around the world, missionary Ken Perkins told messengers in the closing message of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annual meeting Nov. 17.

"God, all over the world, is not waiting for anyone to make Himself known," said Perkins, who with his wife, Beth, described miraculous works around the world that helped people become Christians or start churches. "The God of Abraham and Moses continues to work as He has always worked."

Perkins, missionary-in-residence at Georgetown College, has studied the persecution of Christians in at least 30 countries.

He described incidents in China, Somalia and other countries, detailing persecution, hardships and scant access to the gospel to show God at work.

Perkins cited an incident of a 43-year-old Middle Asian hill farmer who "reflects perfectly how the Bible teaches what God is doing and will do."

The farmer lives among a people group of 37 million people with no church in their midst and less than a half-dozen Christians. For security con-

cerns, Perkins didn't name the country.

The farmer was having problems when his religious leader told him to pray and fast in order to learn the answer to his difficulties, Perkins said.

"On that third night, a voice without a body spoke to me and said to me, 'Find Jesus. Find the gospel,'" Perkins quoted the man as saying. "I didn't know whether Jesus was a plant or a rock or a thing."

Perkins said the man told him the voice sent him to a specific city—eight hours away where he had never been. The voice also gave him the name of a street and description of a door for a house where he would find the man who could tell him about Jesus.

The man traveled and found exactly what the voice had told him, and he became a Christian. "God had led him to the very city, the very street, the very door of one of three believers of a people group of 37 million that was on the face of the earth at that time," Perkins said.

Switching countries, Perkins described having a "crisis of the soul" in 1993 when he was at a Somalian refugee camp and was seeing 20 children buried each morning before breakfast.

He and Mrs. Perkins described how God showed that He still was at work despite the suffering. Mrs. Perkins portrayed a Christian woman in Somalia

to describe a series of miracles that preserved her despite civil war and famine. "Each day has been a miracle," she said. "I can't tell you how many times God delivered me."

In China, Perkins said, the Christian church grew dramatically between 1949 and 1983 despite harsh persecution.

China had about 700,000 Christians in 1949, when communists took over, killing pastors and missionaries and chasing churches underground.

When the church re-emerged in 1983, he said, "we found that under the most severe persecution in the world, those believers had gone from 700,000 to perhaps 20 million."

Why? "The Chinese will tell you that every church, from 1950 to 1970, all of those churches began with miracles of healing. The lame walking, the deaf hearing, the blind seeing, ... even stories of dead rising from the grave.

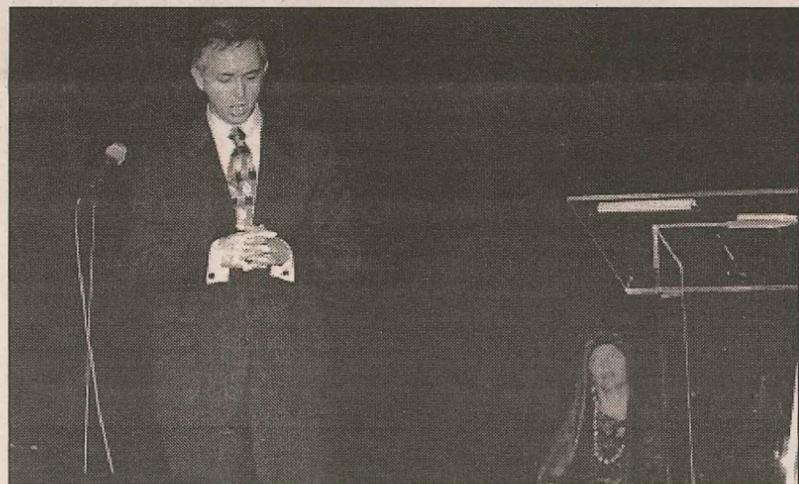
"Miracles were all that God had to use. He had no other option," Perkins said. The Chinese further explained that such miracles ceased around 1970 because, "in the early 1970s, we got the Bible and people who could clearly tell us who Jesus was," Perkins said.

Perkins said Chinese Christians were heartbroken when they learned American Christians have several Bible translations and can attend church any day. They asked, "Dr. Ken, tell us why God loves you so much more than He loves us? Why has He visited these miracles on you and not us?" Perkins said.

Perkins said they taught him to appreciate the miracles of open worship, access to the Bible and pastors who aren't jailed for preaching the gospel.

Many persecuted Christians, he added, are like John the Baptist asking, "Is that Jesus Who we believed in the one, or should we look for someone else?"

Perkins said Western Christians can look at the miracles in their own lives and in the lives of those who are persecuted when they answer, "He is the one."



CONVENTION MESSAGE Missionaries Ken and Beth Perkins shared about persecuted Christians around the world. "They tell you not to pity them because they're persecuted," Perkins said, "because they say never have they felt so close to God as when they are paying a high price for their faith."

Caudill: Empowerment can come despite grief

COVINGTON—God can work, even in grief. Just ask Mike Caudill and the people of Hindman.

From 1996-1998, the town of 900 lost seven teens to car accidents and sudden illnesses. The community walked through a deep valley of loss, and few were plunged deeper into that valley than Caudill, pastor of First Baptist Church whose own 16-year-old son was one of the seven young people who died during that two-year span.

But in the midst of a dark time, God empowered the entire community with a spiritual revival. In just three years, 280 young people made professions of faith in Jesus Christ and five more were called into vocational ministry.

"The miracle is that God, who dwells in our darkness, can show us more light than we on our own have ever seen during the day," said Caudill, referencing 2 Chronicles 6:1.

Caudill shared the story during the 1999 Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting.

He said the spiritual revival began in Hindman after the April 1996 death of 17-year-old Merri Kathryn Prater, a cheerleader and church youth group member.

Caudill and members of First Baptist Church met with grieving teens regularly after Prater's death. Crowds of young people came seeking meaning and purpose to life. Though many prayed together, no declarations of faith came until the Easter Sunday following the girl's funeral, when 24 people made decisions for Christ at the church.

As youth continued to cry out for answers, the members of First Baptist Church embraced them and provided a place where they could ask questions. For 16 weeks, the church turned over the Sunday night service to the youth.

Seven teens, including Caudill's son, Casey, formed the band "Burnt Offerings" to play for the special Sunday night services. "Little did our family know that the word 'offering' would become so significant," Caudill said. Casey suffered an apparent cardiac arrest and collapsed on the field while playing baseball in March 1998.

But through Casey's death others heard the gospel and became Christians, Caudill said. At a school assembly following Casey's death, 16 youth made professions of faith. Caudill later baptized 11 of those who made professions.

Caudill said God continues to give encouragement through His empowerment. "Miracles are not just for the reporting of the power of God, but for speaking to us," he said. "Take the empowering message that comes from the cross and take it to the highways and the hedges."

CONVENTION NOTES

■ **Attendance up slightly.** The Covington convention drew 1,372 messengers, 46 more than last year's meeting in Louisville and 230 fewer than two years ago in Lexington. With 164 church members attending who weren't messengers and 26 visitors, total attendance was 1,562.

■ **Jim Hawkins honored.** Jim Hawkins, former associate to the executive secretary, was honored during the annual meeting for his 14 years of service. Among the gifts given to Hawkins was a framed commendation from Gov. Paul Patton. KBC President Charles Barnes noted the irony because Hawkins is helping lead Baptist opposition to Patton's proposal to expand gambling in the state. Hawkins agreed, saying, "The governor may want this thing back when I get through with him."

■ **Temperance League director happy.** Executive Director Claude Witt reported to messengers that he was especially pleased to have recently received a report from Kentucky's attorney general. The official issued an opinion stating the Kentucky Lottery Corp. could not operate casino-style gambling or video lottery terminals without a public vote to amend the state constitution. Witt urged Kentucky Baptists to write their legislators so that the issue doesn't go to a public vote. Other initiatives for the next General Assembly session include lowering the legal blood alcohol count for driving from .10 to .08 and banning the sale of refrigerated beer at convenience stores that sell gas.

■ **Historical Commission plan approved.** Messengers approved a plan to assign Kentucky Baptist Archives to become equal to a KBC Executive Board department, under the supervision of the executive office. The messengers' vote dissolved the commission and authorized appointment of a 12-member advisory board. Commission Chairman Joe Priest Williams supported changes in the structure for the commission to allow "better evaluation, appreciation and study of Kentucky Baptist heritage."

■ **Religious educators elect officers.** Jeff Hicks was named president during the annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Religious Educators Association. Hicks, minister of education at Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville, previously had been elected president-elect. Two officers were elected during the meeting, Oct. 15 in Covington: President-Elect Jim Fields, minister of education at First Baptist Church of Somerset, and Secretary-Treasurer Jim Dobbins, minister of education at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

■ **Ministries to aging officials elected.** Roger McCurry of Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown was elected president of the Kentucky Baptist Association of Ministries with the Aging. McCurry and other officers were elected during the group's luncheon meeting held Nov. 15 in Newport. Also elected were Vice President Wayne Moore of Faith Baptist Church in Georgetown and Secretary Carla Cook of First Baptist Church in Frankfort.

■ **Kentucky Baptist Music Conference officers named.** Johnnie Dean, minister of music at Calvary Baptist Church in Lexington, was named president of the Kentucky Baptist Music Conference, held last week in connection with the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Elected at this year's meeting were President-Elect Gene Wright, minister of music at Memorial Baptist Church in Frankfort; and Secretary-Treasurer Jimbo Stevens, minister of music at Calvary Baptist Church in Danville.

■ **DOMs elect officers.** Ron Chastain, director of missions for the Williamstown-area Crittenden Baptist Association, was named president of the Kentucky Baptist Directors of Missions Fellowship last week during the group's annual meeting. Also elected: President-Elect Fred Halbrooks, DOM for the Bardstown-area Nelson Baptist Association; Secretary-Treasurer Bob Morrison, DOM for the Madisonville-area Little Bethel Baptist Association; and newsletter editor Truett Cocanougher, DOM for the May's Lick-area Bracken Baptist Association.

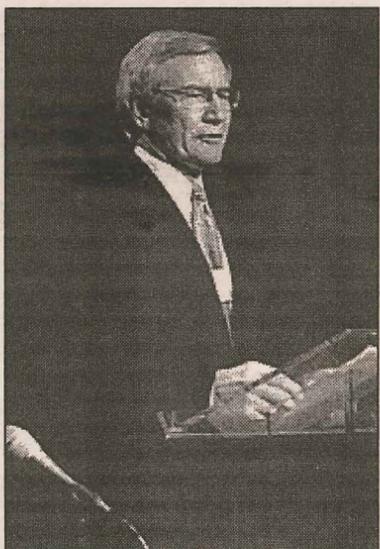
CONVENTION

Executive Board staff pursuing five core objectives

Focus on five

The Kentucky Baptist Convention Board staff is concentrating on helping churches with five key issues:

- Intergenerational issues.
- Leadership development.
- Transitions.
- Developing authentic spirituality.
- Reaching young adults.



MACKEY'S REPORT KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey asked Kentucky Baptists to start the new millennium on their knees. "Focus your prayers on revival in Kentucky and salvation."

By David Winfrey
News Director

COVINGTON—Addressing intergenerational issues and leadership development are among the major objectives for Kentucky Baptist Convention staff, according to KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey.

The KBC Executive Board staff has focused on five major objectives for assisting Kentucky Baptists, Mackey said Nov. 16 during his report to the convention's annual meeting in Covington.

By focusing on these issues, the staff hopes to help Kentucky Baptists and their churches reach people, incorporate them into the church, disciple them and train them to go out and evangelize, Randy Jones, KBC town and country missions director, told messengers during a video about the emphases.

The staff did a lot of soul searching to determine its common values and select the five most important objec-

tives, Mackey said. They are:

■ **Intergenerational issues.** America currently has four active and diverse generations, each having its own shaping influences, perspectives and concerns, according to a video that unveiled the objectives. The intergenerational cluster group will help churches understand each generation so that churches know how best to reach them.

■ **Leadership development.** The KBC offers both testing and training to help develop not only pastors, but also other church leaders.

■ **Transitions.** In addition to intergenerational issues, the staff is seeking to help churches understand the cultural changes happening in America.

■ **Developing authentic spirituality.** The Executive Board staff wants to help churches create an environment for people to experience God both personally and collectively.

■ **Reaching young adults.** Executive Board staff is focusing on helping churches understand young adults'

focus and attitudes in order to reach and integrate young adults into the churches' structure.

The KBC Executive Board staff works in a variety of ways to assist churches and their leaders, Mackey added.

Training events help church leaders strengthen relationships with other church leaders and renews spirits. The events, including Super Saturday classes and the Shepherding the Shepherd pastors' weekend, also provide resources for ministry development and leadership training.

Specialized programs generate support and interest in a variety of issues, such as "Partners in the Harvest" to encourage greater support for the Cooperative Program or the "Celebrate Jesus 2000" evangelism initiative.

Mackey asked Kentucky Baptists to start the new millennium on their knees. "Focus your prayers on revival in Kentucky and salvation," he said. "Pray for a harvest of changed lives."

Cooperative Program budget raised 4 percent, altered slightly

COVINGTON—Messengers to last week's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting voted to increase the Cooperative Program budget 4 percent for the 2000-2001 fiscal year while slightly changing the percentages for Kentucky Baptist and Southern Baptist work.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention Cooperative Program budget was increased to \$21 million, a 4 percent increase compared to the 1999-2000 budget. The vote came during the report of the KBC's Executive Board, a group of 161 members from 74 associations.

The board conducts the convention's business between annual meetings.

Messengers also supported a proposal to change how CP funds will be divided between KBC and Southern Baptist Convention work.

Recent percentages were determined based on the change each year in the total churches' CP gifts as a percentage of undesignated cash receipts. That has led to percentages being computed to thousandths of a percent.

KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey said the new plan will be easier to communicate while showing a slight increase for SBC work during a time when Kentucky Baptists are being encouraged to increase giving to the Cooperative Program. Southern Baptists

currently are celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Cooperative Program, which can trace its roots to Murray, according to Kentucky Baptist leaders.

The new percentage will be 35.6 percent of undesignated 2000-2001 funds going to SBC work. The percentage will increase 0.2 percent for two more years until it reaches 36 percent. "Thirty-six percent is the average given by state conventions to the Cooperative Program," Mackey said.

Officials added that the plan will be reviewed every three years. Also, if CP receipts fail to reach the budget, a work group of the Executive Board's budget and finance committees will review the

distribution percentages.

Approval of the plan was not unanimous. Joe Phelps, pastor of Highland Baptist Church in Louisville, spoke against the proposal, opposing taking a greater percentage of money from Kentucky Baptist work. He also said the plan threatened to disrupt the cooperative spirit of the convention because it will force churches to give more money to the SBC.

Churches are considered to be in cooperation with the Kentucky Baptist Convention based on their undesignated giving to the Cooperative Program.

Following discussion, the plan passed by an overwhelming margin.

KBC AGENCY REPORTS

■ **Baptist Healthcare System.** President Tommy Smith reported that one in every seven people admitted for inpatient services in Kentucky is treated at one of the six Kentucky Baptist hospitals. Also, 20 percent of all births in Kentucky hospitals occur at Kentucky Baptist hospitals.

■ **Campbellsville University.** Campbellsville's President Mike Carter said the theme for this academic year, "Celebrating the joy of serving and learning," promotes the goal for each Campbellsville student to be a servant leader. Enrollment is approximately 1,600 students.

■ **Clear Creek Baptist Bible College.** President Bill Whitaker said highlights for the school include achieving accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, launching a center for church planting with the help of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board and beginning a weekend college plan for bivocational students. The school recently finished its fundraising campaign with pledges totaling \$3.8 million, exceeding the \$3.5 million goal.

■ **Cumberland College.** The school highlighted the work of its Mountain Outreach volunteer missions program. Organizer Jami Benning said last summer's projects taught her how many people in the region lacked basic necessities. "We are able to minister to their spiritual as well as physical needs."

■ **Georgetown College.** President Bill Crouch noted that the school is committed not only to educating students but also training them in smarts, or the ability to think. Total registration for the 1998-99 academic year was 1,665, including a record 405 first-time freshmen.

■ **Kentucky Baptist Assemblies.** President Rusty Ellison said Cedarmore recently completed its strongest season in 15 years. By year end the assemblies will have catered to more than 37,000 guests. "We are so thankful that you have come back to us in record numbers." Ellison urged support for "Crossings at the Creek," the new summer program at Jonathan Creek Assembly.

■ **Kentucky Baptist Foundation.** The foundation broke all statistical records in its 54th year in operation, according to foundation President Barry Allen. Total funds managed more than doubled from \$93.2 million to \$194.8 million. There were 42 new accounts established, and foundation staff presented its work to 216 churches, associations, individuals and agencies.

■ **Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.** President Bill Smithwick said the agency assisted more than 3,800 children and families and recorded more than 250 professions of faith. "We want to be as closely aligned with Kentucky Baptist churches as possible," he added. "Our vision is to have a foster family or adoptive family in every Kentucky Baptist church." Smithwick added that it is important that Baptists provide child care. "There aren't any others who will share Jesus with these kids like you will."

■ **Oneida Baptist Institute.** The school is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year, and Kentucky Baptists have been supporting it since the beginning, said

President Bud Underwood. "Thank you for helping Oneida provide an education, not just for time but for eternity." Of the 39 seniors graduating in 1999, 36 had made professions of faith in Jesus as their personal Savior.

■ **Western Recorder.** Editor Trennis Henderson said the goal of any state Baptist newspaper should be to inform, inspire and involve its readers. "For the Western Recorder to effectively serve any Kentucky Baptist, we must fairly serve all Kentucky Baptists." Henderson highlighted the work of the Western Recorder, Real Life magazine and the partnership with five monthly newspapers for other state Baptist conventions.

■ **Woman's Missionary Union.** The agency's focus for the year 2000 continues to be violence prevention. New Executive Director Joy Bolton said the goal of Kentucky WMU is, like author Henry Blackaby says, to "find out where God is at work and join Him." Highlights for the year include work on a church violence prevention education kit.

Compiled from oral and written reports.

Pastors' Conference encouraged to get 'noisy' for Christ

COVINGTON—People will come to church when they know they can experience the presence of Christ, Oklahoma evangelist Bobby Boyles told last week's Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference.

Preaching from Mark 1-3, Boyles noted that crowds gathered when it was "noised" that Jesus was in a specific house. He said the presence, preaching, power and proclamation of Jesus will attract people to the doors of the church.

"Is the city coming to the doors of your church?" Boyles asked. "Jesus is still in the house, and the people will come to the doors of the church if we'll just get noisy."

Boyles spoke twice at the meeting, held the day before the annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. In the conference's closing message, he urged Kentucky Baptists "to be attempting some great things for God."

"Get a vision," he urged. "If it can be explained, it may not be of God."

Demonstrating his skill on the guitar as he spoke, Boyles said he and his Uncle Joe began taking guitar lessons together years ago from Boyles' grandfather. While his uncle quit taking lessons after learning only one chord, Boyles continued to learn, practice and sharpen his skills.

"There are a lot of one-chord Christians out there," he said. "They're saved. They go to church and carry their Bibles but they don't ever study the Bible or witness."

"Are you a one-chord Christian or are you somebody God can use mightily to reach out and touch your generation?" Boyles asked. "I'm not talking about playing an instrument. I'm talking about being an instrument. Go out there and live for Jesus."

Lincoln Bingham, also preaching from Mark 2, said churches must be willing to sacrifice in order to reach

people with the gospel of Christ.

That sacrifice includes compassion, commitment and creativity, he added. "Love of people will move us to do things differently," said Bingham, pastor of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in Louisville.

Evangelist Joe Mobley of London said churches in America are like Jonah in the Bible. The church has fallen and failed our country and God has given us a second chance, he said.

Pastors must be willing to take stands against sin, he added. "The love of God is great. ... But on the other side of that coin of love is judgment. The world needs to hear that," he said. "If the grace of God is spurned, the judgment of God is certain."

Pastor Richard Oldham of Bowling Green urged pastors to sound the "voice of warning."

"Every time we get up to preach, we're looking at grass. ... Here today, gone tomorrow," said Oldham, pastor of Glendale Baptist Church. "Let's do our best to get the message of Jesus to every person we can possibly find."

In addition to conversion, however, pastors must train new Christians to reach others for Jesus, he added. "The work is not complete until the evangelized become evangelists."

Citing keys to happiness as a Christian, Ronnie Stinson said a servant's heart and a sanctified life lead to a sure reward. "God is worthy of all the worship we could ever give Him," said Stinson, pastor of Trace Creek Baptist Church in Mayfield. "The greatest worship we can ever give is an



obedient life.

"The devil can stand anything more than he can stand the people of God praising Him," he added.

Preaching from John 13, Stinson highlighted Jesus' example of washing His disciples' feet. "We are to have a servant's attitude because He has called us to serve a lost and dying world," he explained. "Jesus said, 'If you ever get the understanding of what I've done and do what I've done, happy are you.'"

William Boyd Bingham III, co-pastor of Binghamtown Baptist Church in Middlesboro, said Christians should be single-minded in their dedication to Christ. That can be accomplished by having a mind that is satisfied, secure and submissive, he added.

"We all have to be on guard," he warned, "because we fight a battle in the mind even though we know we have the message and we believe the gospel is the power of God unto salvation."

OFFICERS Pastors'
Conference officers for the coming year were elected without opposition. The new officers are President Walter Davis (right), pastor of Stithton Baptist Church in Radcliff; Vice President Tim Alexander (not pictured), pastor of Florence Baptist Church; and Secretary-Treasurer Greg Nimmo (left), pastor of Hustonville Baptist Church.



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Empowering leadership key, religious educators told

By David Winfrey
News Director

COVINGTON—God will direct one's work but only when he or she is in a proper relationship to God, Bill Mackey recently told a group of Kentucky Baptist religious educators.

Authentic spirituality was one of the characteristics Mackey described for church leaders to practice "empowering leadership."

His comments came during a session of the Kentucky Baptist Religious Education Association, held in conjunction with last week's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting.

Empowering leadership is one of the eight characteristics of a healthy church as described by Christian Schwarz in his book "Natural Church Development." The church health department of the Kentucky Baptist Convention has sought to educate churches about these characteristics and help them apply them to congregations.

Mackey drew examples of empowering leadership from the account in Exodus when Moses' father-in-law counseled him to teach other people to handle some of the disputes among the Israelites.

Counsel from other people is important, Mackey noted, "but we also need the counsel of God."

Other characteristics of empowering leadership, Mackey said, include:

■ **Communicating with the people.** Empowering leaders create a teaching atmosphere that helps others have a willingness to understand.

"How many of you know that people don't get it the first time you say it?" Mackey asked. Leaders should create a learning environment that will help people learn and incorporate lessons into their lives and reinforce their journeys through life.

■ **Show them the way.** This involves communicating the vision so people understand what they are trying to accomplish.

"Communicate the vision by showing them," he said, adding that leaders must also demonstrate their teachings in their own lives. "You must be experiencing what you're talking about."

■ **Enlisting and training leaders.** This requires leaders to be willing to delegate assignments and give others enough freedom to perform the job, Mackey said.

"A lot of folks have better ideas than I do," he added. "You can't effectively delegate unless you're willing to trust people to work it out."

■ **Give it to God.** "Have you ever felt like the weight of the world was on your shoulders?" Mackey asked.

Church leaders must acknowledge that God is at work, he said. Then they can trust in God while still leaving room for honest and critical evaluation.

■ **Do only what no one else can do.** Many leaders have a tendency to try to do everything and only delegate out of a sense of exhaustion, Mackey noted.

"There are a lot of people out there who are waiting for an opportunity to blossom," he said. "You're going to have to discover them and prepare them. Many of them will be your most faithful and loyal supporters."

14 churches added to KBC

COVINGTON—Kentucky Baptists added 14 churches to their convention during the 1999 annual meeting in Covington.

T.A. Prickett, chairman of the KBC credentials committee, introduced the churches during the opening session. Another four churches were admitted under watchcare status.

Among the 14 added, 10 are predominately Anglo churches, while three are predominately African-American and one is Hispanic.

Those added are:

■ Charleston Second Baptist Praise and Worship Center.

■ Community Baptist Church in Somerset.

■ Cornerstone Baptist Church in Hebron.

■ First Missionary Baptist Church in Greenville.

■ Friendship Baptist Church in Paducah.

■ Hope Community Church in Lawrenceburg.

■ Iglesia Bautisia Nueva Jerusalem in Louisville.

■ Imani Baptist Church in Lexington.

■ Living Faith Baptist Church in Utica.

■ Living Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Slaughters.

■ North Oldham Baptist Church in Goshen.

■ Pine Grove Church in Jeffersonville.

■ River of Life Community Church in Springfield.

■ Victory Baptist Cathedral in Louisville.

Those added for watchcare status:

■ Family Baptist Church in Bagdad.

■ Friendship Valley Baptist Church in Berea.

■ Solid Rock Baptist Church in Hopkinsville.

■ The People of The Way Community Church in Fairdale.

Kentucky Baptists urged to get active in national & international missions

COVINGTON—Missions is a lifestyle, not just an activity, Sandra Williams told messengers to the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annual meeting last week in Covington.

"Missions is a lifestyle that Christ calls each one of us to," said Williams, church and community ministries director for Elkhorn Baptist Association in Lexington.

Williams delivered the Southern Baptist North American Missions Board report, noting that Southern Baptists now have more than 4,800 missionaries in Canada, the United States and its territories.

NAMB has five priorities, she added: impacting major cities, growing ethnic congregations, evangelizing students, mobilizing volunteers for missions and evangelizing Canada.

gelizing Canada.

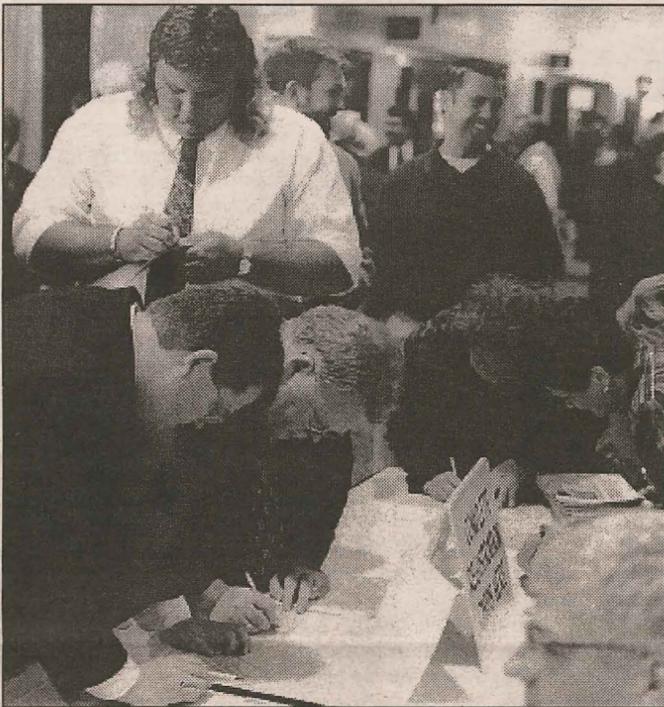
The organization estimates that 200 million people in Canada and the United States do not claim to have a personal relationship with God through Jesus.

Ray England, associate pastor of Campbellsville Baptist Church, delivered the Southern Baptist International Mission Board report, stating that Southern Baptists have 4,762 missionaries in 124 countries.

England, a former missionary to the Philippines, encouraged messengers to pray for missions, give money to missions and consider going on a missions trip or being involved in full-time international missions service.

This year's goal for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions is \$125 million. In addition to giving to the offering, England encouraged pastors to lead their churches to study "The Unfinished Task," this year's international missions study. "Ordinary people can be a part of an extraordinary task."

NEW MESSENGERS
Messengers from new KBC churches sign registration cards shortly after their congregations were voted into the convention. Fourteen new churches were added to the convention's approximately 2,400 congregations.



Crossings at the Creek video available

I have just returned from our annual meeting of Kentucky Baptists in Covington. I had a great time!

It is always a great time, but this was my third meeting representing our Kentucky Baptist Assemblies, Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore.

Each year I meet and recognize more and more of you as you come by our booth. Sometimes I grab you and want to talk, sometimes you grab me, and sometimes we just end up in conversation inadvertently.

Regardless, each year I am reminded of the wonderful diversity and fellowship we enjoy as brothers and sisters in Christ who make up Kentucky Baptists.

The annual meeting is always refreshing to me because of you who come by and offer us encouragement as we seek to lead our camp and conference centers into a new millennium.

To be sure, by Wednesday morning we are all weary from three days of set-up and meeting. But it is a good weariness that is a result of three hard days that are as worthwhile as any we have.

During my report on Wednesday, we showed our brief seven-

minute video that promotes Crossings at the Creek, our summer camp at Jonathan Creek that will run for nine weeks next June through early August. The early response to this exciting new camp is tremendous.

Many of you already have said your youth groups want to be there next summer. If you want a copy of the video and our color brochure that's hot off the press, call Jonathan Creek at (270) 354-8355 and we'll have them to you in a couple of days.

We need your support on this new youth camp. We have invested a great deal of money and put together a fabulous leadership team in preparation and anticipation of a great summer.

Crossings at the Creek is not just another youth camp. You'll just have to see the video to see what I mean.

So thank you, Kentucky Baptists, for another great annual meeting. This is truly an exciting time in our convention, and I am proud and thankful for our rich heritage but so excited about the days and years ahead as we seek to reach the world for Jesus Christ.

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

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Smith demonstrates 'Empowered' message

By Brenda Smith
Kentucky Baptist Convention

COVINGTON—Christian creative artist Jeff Smith brought a repertoire of characters and a willing heart before the 1,500 Kentucky Baptists gathered in Covington last week for the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting.

Smith, director of Virginia-based Salt and Light Ministries, said many of the dramatic and musical pieces he has honed over the years contained elements that illustrated the convention's theme, "Empowered to Serve."

"We are empowered to serve through the gifts and talents that He (God) gives us," Smith explained. "In our weakness, He works and is glorified. In our weaknesses, we are empowered by His Spirit. We can't take any of the glory."

Messengers saw Smith present a host of characters empowered to serve God, including a Forrest Gump-like beggar at the gate called Beautiful, a severely handicapped wheelchair-bound man and Noah.

Portraying Noah, Smith said he sought to show that despite occasional doubts ("Maybe God said build a park. That would explain all these animals."), obeying God and trusting Him still brings about results.

Messengers come to the convention to do hard work and address difficult issues, Smith noted. Through Noah, Smith said he sought to encourage Kentucky Baptists and send them home with a sense that God is in control even when we do not see or understand what He is



ACTION Jeff Smith, director of Salt and Light Ministries, performs during the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting in Covington last week. Smith's drama and musical presentations were designed to demonstrate the meeting's theme, "Empowered to Serve."

doing. "At the end of it, I think God just wanted to say, 'Press on,'" Smith said.

Smith said he hopes the characters he shared help Kentucky Baptists cast a vision for the possibilities for drama in spreading the gospel.

Smith established Salt and Light Ministries in 1988 after eight years as an officer in the U.S. Army. Jeff and

his wife, Debbie, have written and produced a variety of creative projects, including albums, dramatic plays, musicals, children's videos and instructional videos.

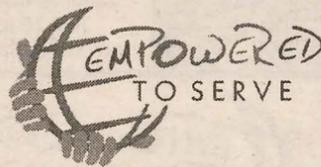
Smith is a clinic leader and performer at international, national and state conferences and festivals, including this year's Kentucky Baptist Creative Ministries Festival.

Smith said he originally had no intention of sharing what he considers his edgiest character—a wheelchair-bound, severely handicapped man praising God with halting, contorted sign language. In fact, he said he planned to perform his more humorous Lazarus monologue but God impressed upon him to do the wheelchair piece.

"Oh, Lord, I can't do that," Smith recalled thinking, and he began listing for God reasons why the performance would not be possible.

But, trusting God to bless the presentation, Smith took a few moments to prepare the crowd for his realistic portrayal, which is based on his cousin. "Unless you do this very well, and with a heart that is absolutely right before God" the piece can be misunderstood.

The piece illustrates "let all that is within me bless the Lord," he said. The wheelchair also challenges Christians to let the Holy Spirit empower their praise and release them from spiritual handicaps.



KBC 1999, Covington



CONVENTION SCENES

■ **Top:** Joy Bolton, executive director of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, presented Robbie Murphy with the author's copy of "Russian Harvest," the book written by Murphy's husband, Ken, about Kentucky Baptists' partnership with Russian Baptists. Murphy, former associate director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention partnership missions department, finished the book shortly before he died earlier this year. Also pictured are Bill Marshall (left), who was KBC executive secretary-treasurer when the partnership was begun, and Calvin Wilkins, director of the KBC partnership missions department.

■ **Bottom:** Kay Underwood, wife of Oneida Baptist Institute President Bud Underwood, shares a piece of birthday cake with a messenger. Oneida is celebrating its 100th birthday this year.

McKee serves in Russia

By Robert Dunston

Cumberland College senior Matt McKee, son of Eddie and Sandy McKee of Richmond, spent four and a half weeks in St. Petersburg, Russia, this summer working with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

The Billy Graham organization held tryouts all over the country and selected 32 students. McKee was the only student selected from Kentucky.

Training began the second week of June in Minneapolis and lasted two weeks. Their primary task was to learn the play, "The Puzzle." Since the play the teams would perform involved singing, dancing and acting, they all had much to practice.

The group of students split into four teams with four different destinations. Each team consisted of four men and four women. McKee served as leader of his team dealing with travel arrangements, handling the money and keeping peace within the team as well as performing in the play.

Local congregations in the St. Petersburg area sponsored the team, but only one local church served as a venue for the play. Typically the team performed the

play at church camps, kid camps and children's hospitals. Often they had to travel three hours to the performance site.

After performing the play, they played soccer, basketball or volleyball with the children. The language barrier made direct witnessing difficult, but through the performances and personal contact with the children, they shared the gospel in a powerful way.

McKee met many interesting people. Their translator Anatoly stands out in his mind. Throughout the communist years Anatoly had maintained his faith in Christ. He continues to live in total dependence upon God.

McKee plans to be a full-time Christian minister. His hope is to be a chaplain for a professional sports team, and he would love to speak at high schools and colleges. We know God has great plans for McKee. Pray for him as he continues his ministry for Christ.

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

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



At-home advocates

I've talked about advocacy several times in this column. Many references I've made relate to matters of legislation on the local, state and national levels, and that is certainly very important. There are people who can make a career keeping tabs on current laws and regulations and proposed measures that have a profound impact on the way agencies like Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children serve children and families.

But there's another kind of advocate equally important to KBHC. This advocate doesn't need to know the difference between a "cabinet" and a "department" and a "division" in the maze of bureaucracy in Frankfort or Washington. This advocate doesn't need to know what "TPR," "SPM" or "DJJ" mean. The advocate I'm speaking of can be you.

When I get road-weary and miss my family, I think of these people. When I get tired of sitting in meetings, hearing about impending deadlines and facing obstacles, I remember KBHC's at-home advocates. These are the men and women who pray faithfully for our kids, families and staff. They believe with all their

hearts that a bad childhood shouldn't ruin a life. They put feet to their faith by giving food, clothing, time and money to this ministry. They offer encouragement to our direct care counselors, administrators and other staff—staff like me.

These advocates do some traveling and attend meetings, too. They want to educate themselves on the needs and the way the ministry has changed over the years so they can share the word with their community, family and church. As large as this army is, we need more advocates. We'd like to have one in every Southern Baptist church in the state.

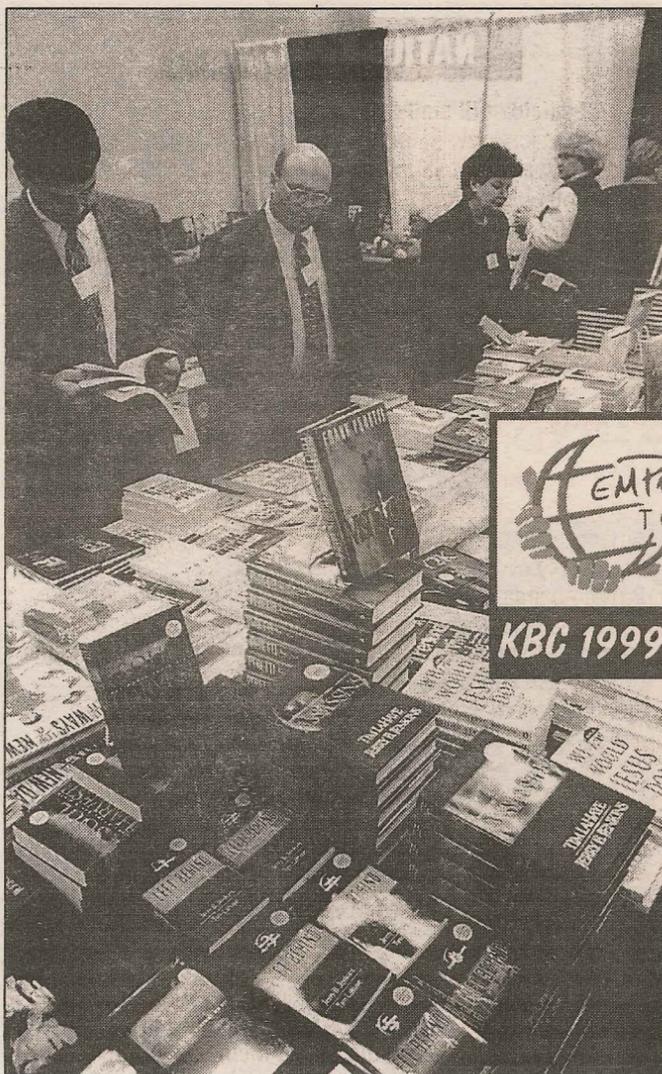
Find out if your church has a child care representative to KBHC. If it doesn't, talk to your pastor and ask him to consider approving the position. Call us if you have questions. And, to those at-home advocates already at work, thank you. My life is richer because you are a part of it.

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

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Bill Smithwick



BOOK STORE Messengers look over the titles offered at the book store during the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting. The store is among the popular places to visit between sessions.

Trend-setting blood drive has low turnout

By Brenda Smith
Kentucky Baptist Convention

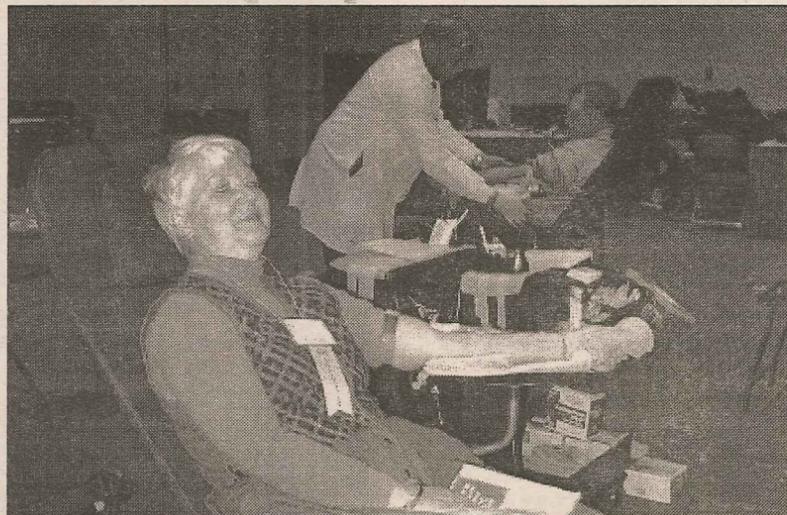
COVINGTON—Although participation was low at the first blood drive held in conjunction with a Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting, officials said they are encouraged by the effort and are planning to promote a major statewide blood drive next year.

Just 16 units of blood were collected during the five-hour drive held during the Pastors' Conference.

The Pastors' Conference is held the day before the two-day Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting. This year's conference and KBC meeting were held at the Northern Kentucky Convention Center, Nov. 15-17.

"We were hoping for about twice that much but we're not discouraged at all by this first learning experience," said KBC Communications Director Robert Reeves. "The blood services folks told us that it is typical in any given population group to expect about 4 percent to be able and willing to donate. When you consider that approximately 400 were in attendance for the Pastors' Conference, we were right on that expectation."

Reeves said space limitations at the convention center forced the blood drive to be held during the Pastors' Conference only. Space used for the blood drive Monday was opened up as part of



BLOOD DRIVE Elaine Koch donates blood last week in Covington the day before the KBC annual meeting. Only 16 units of blood were collected, but officials say this will help start a trend for future meetings and events.

the main convention hall on Tuesday.

Hoxworth Blood Center representatives appreciated the effort. "Keeping the blood supply up is a continual challenge," said Janet Schneider, who managed the blood drive collection. Advances in medical technology make transplants and surgeries more common, and an ample blood supply is needed to support the increased demands.

Donor Elaine Koch said she witnesses the critical need for blood every day as an emergency room nurse at Baptist Hospital East in Louisville. Last Monday, however, she said she felt a personal need to donate blood because a

friend was having a mastectomy that same day. Koch, a resident of Taylorsville, is a member of Green Hills Baptist Church in Fishersville.

"I hope the community hears that we care about the whole person—spiritually and physically—and that God cares for them," said donor Ken Felty, pastor of First Baptist Church of East Bernstadt. Baptists are about giving life to folks, said Felty, and the blood drive demonstrated that desire.

Reeves added that Kentucky Baptists will have another chance to donate blood as a group next September as part of the celebration of the Cooperative Program's 75th anniversary.

A sea of blue jackets

By Ken Martin

The highlight of any Future Farmers of America chapter is the annual trip to the national convention.

Twenty-eight students and six adults from Oneida Baptist Institute recently attended the first national FFA convention ever held in Louisville. The students on the trip will treasure their memories of the convention all their lives. To all of you who support our school, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and share the highlights of our trip with you:

■ Carlisle Avenue Baptist Church, which is only a few minutes from the convention center, offered us the use of its recreation center. Our students at Oneida stay extremely busy with their schoolwork and jobs. To watch them relax and play all evening was really special. There were basketball, volleyball, pool, roller skates, card games and kids just running around. Even Dr. Underwood got in on the action as the girls pushed him around the gym on a cart. By 11:30 p.m., everyone was exhausted and went to sleep on the mats we brought with us.

■ Friday morning began with a group photo with hundreds of other FFA members from all over Kentucky. The Oneida chapter is new, so this will be a special picture in the history of our school. There were many different workshops and seminars during the day. Several of our students got to hear Dave Rover, one of the keynote speakers, encourage and motivate the young people. Other students participated in personal growth and leadership workshops. These kinds of programs, offered through the FFA at the local, state and national levels, are going to be a tremendous resource to help us accomplish our goals at Oneida.

■ One of the blessings of working at Oneida is discovering how much support there is for our ministry. Lunch was provided by the Kentucky Pork Producers. One of the workers at the food booth was really excited to serve us. He complimented our students and our school. He was really happy to find out the pork producers were supporting us because he contributes to our school every year.

■ There was a gigantic career show with more than 350 booths for the students to explore. Major agricultural colleges from all over the country were represented. This was especially important, since we have students at Oneida from all over the U.S. Many of our students spent time getting information and visiting with representatives of the colleges. There were lots of vocational and agricultural companies represented.

■ We finished the day at a Sawyer Brown concert. This was just a whole bunch of fun. We had seats right on the floor in front of the band. For most of our students and staff, this was their first concert. It was just really cool watching our kids enjoy themselves at the concert.

■ For many of our students, the highlight of the trip was seeing kids from all over the United States. We had a contest to see who could get the most signatures of young people from other states. One student had names representing all 50 states.

■ There were 50,000 FFA members, all wearing their blue FFA jackets, at the national convention this year. Twenty-eight of them were from Oneida Baptist Institute.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Marita Rice leaves Clear Creek a better place

When Marita Rice became Clear Creek's business manager on Aug. 13, 1983, the school had two electric typewriters, no computers and no telephone system.

"I'll never forget those days of doing everything by hand; re-adding columns that were 10 cents off. It really makes me appreciate today," Marita reflected.

"A significant part of my experience involves the magnificent help from students and spouses," she added. "The Lord sent those with skills we needed, and the office was fortunate to have them several years at a time. The continuing contact with these workers is very encouraging."

Although Marita graduated from Cumberland College with a degree in business education, she had not worked with balance sheets. Her second week on the job, two men came to the office with the greeting, "We're here to audit the books." The convention asked that our audit conform to other agencies, and the process involved a three-year review of the books. The auditors stayed on campus for four weeks.

Accreditation soon followed, and that review brought 18 finan-

cial recommendations to meet criteria; all of them reached within a year. Our recent regional accreditation included no recommendations related to business affairs.

In 1998, Marita completed a master of arts degree in business with an emphasis on non-profit institutions at Regent University.

"This has been a journey of growth in professional skills and my walk with the Lord," Marita acknowledged. "In every area, He prepares us for the next step."

"It was a shock when Charlie said the Lord was leading us to a ministry in Florida, but all God desires is our willing obedience. My prayer when I came was that I will leave Clear Creek a better place. I'm thankful for a gracious

God and loving and forgiving people."

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

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

Court reviews prayer, vouchers, nudity

WASHINGTON (RNS)—The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to decide whether a school district can give students the right to hold prayers over the public address system at high school football games.

Their decision to hear the case, one of three recent actions regarding religious, moral or church-state issues, was welcomed by both supporters and opponents of prayer at public school events.

Both sides said the court ruling would clarify the murky church-state line over the issue of religious expression even as they hoped the justices would uphold their point of view.

"People who attend school football games are a captive audience for what is presented on the public address system," said Elliot Minberg, legal director of People for the American Way, a group that opposes such prayers.

But Jay Sekulow, chief counsel of the American Center for Law and Justice, called the case "a critical free speech case that has national implications in every school district in America."

The Supreme Court will review a lower court decision striking down a Galveston County, Texas, school board's policy allowing students to deliver any "message" or "invocation" over its public address at home football games and to lead prayers at graduation ceremonies. The policy was challenged in 1995 by four students

and their parents.

In the same ruling, however, the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals said public school graduation ceremonies may include prayer to "solemnize" them. The justices said they would deal only with the football game issue.

On the issue of vouchers, the court ruled that students who attend religiously affiliated schools can participate—at least temporarily—in a Cleveland tuition voucher program for private schools.

In granting an emergency request from Ohio Attorney General Betty Montgomery, the court overrode a federal judge's order temporarily prohibiting new students from taking part in the program.

The judge's order also had raised the possibility that students currently participating in the state-sponsored program would no longer be entitled to receive tuition aid after the current school semester.

The Supreme Court's action, though a victory for voucher supporters, does not do much to clarify the law concerning the provision of tuition aid to families with children attending schools with a religious affiliation, Associated Press reported.

U.S. District Judge Solomon Oliver Jr. in Cleveland is overseeing a lawsuit in which taxpayers and civil liberties groups have argued that the program violates the constitutional separation of church and state because most of the money pays for religious-

school tuitions.

Oliver ruled in August that only previous recipients of tuition vouchers could get state financial aid until he determines the legitimacy of the program.

The Supreme Court order, based on a 5-4 vote, postponed the effects of Oliver's ruling until the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals makes a determination.

The court also heard arguments last week over whether a local government's ban on public nudity is constitutional when its target actually appears to be nude dancing.

The justices will determine whether the Pennsylvania Supreme Court was correct in refusing to apply any of the opinions of the majority in a 1991 high court ruling upholding an Indiana law that was a general prohibition of public nudity.

In 1994, the Erie, Pa., city council adopted a public indecency ordinance banning nudity. Though the text of the measure is a general prohibition of nudity, the preamble cites nude dancing in nightclubs. City council members who supported the ban said they were targeting nude dancing.

The owner of a nude-dancing club challenged the ordinance. The state supreme court rejected the majority's opinions in the high court's 1991 Indiana case and struck down the Erie measure as an unconstitutional suppression of a form of expression protected by the First Amendment.

Bill lets churches use tax money to help dads

By Kenny Byrd

Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The U.S. House of Representatives has approved a new grant initiative that would allow federal tax dollars to flow directly to thoroughly religious organizations, such as churches, synagogues and other houses of worship.

On a 328 to 93 vote, House lawmakers approved the Fathers Count Act Nov. 10. The measure, which now awaits Senate action, would in part make religious groups eligible to receive tax dollars to provide secular social services to fathers and families.

Lawmakers rejected an amendment that would have required houses of worship to set up a separate organization for secular social services in order to qualify for federal funds.

"There is nothing wrong, given some basic safeguards, with faith-based organizations such as the Salvation Army or Catholic Charities receiving federal money to run social programs," said Chet Edwards, D-Texas. "There is something terribly

wrong about federal tax dollars going directly to churches, synagogues and houses of worship."

Edwards offered the amendment to add restrictions to what type of religious organizations could receive funds. The amendment failed 184 to 238.

Because houses of worship are allowed to hire people from their own religion, the law would allow federal dollars to be used to discriminate against citizens in job hiring and firing based on their religious faith, Edwards said.

A leading proponent of "charitable choice" during the House floor debate acknowledged that churches receiving federal aid would be subject to government regulations.

"Yes, there will be red tape," said Rep. Nancy Johnson, R-Conn. "The churches who choose to receive federal money will be regulated. If they don't like it, I can't help it. If it's federal dollars, you are accountable."

Johnson said faith-based agencies have been effective in providing social services because "they believe that their goal is not just to help tem-

porarily but to change lives."

The 1996 welfare-reform package included a provision for charitable choice, but lawmakers say not many houses of worship have applied for funds because they fear strings would follow. Both houses of Congress have passed charitable-choice language in a bill on juvenile justice, but it is stalled, awaiting a Senate-House conference.

Leading presidential candidates, including Texas Gov. George Bush and Vice President Al Gore, have voiced support for such initiatives.

But advocates for the separation of church and state contend that charitable-choice plans are unconstitutional.

Melissa Rogers, general counsel of the Baptist Joint Committee, called charitable choice "the wrong way to do right." Such funding "will inevitably lead to government control and oversight of religion," she added.

"How is the government going to define 'sectarian worship' or 'proselytization,' much less ensure a church isn't going to use public funds to do it?" Rogers asked in a written statement.

1 percent to 4 percent of all sales, said Mark Rice, Zondervan's marketing director for Bibles.

Tom Mockabee, vice president of Zondervan's Bible division, said more retailers are seeking assistance from his company on how best to promote Bible sales. "I think some retailers were not aware of the seriousness and frequency of the Bible shopper," he told Publishers Weekly.

Average American has more than half dozen Bibles, wants more

NASHVILLE (RNS)—A survey of Bible shoppers has found that American book buyers own an average of seven to nine Bibles—and they may buy more.

Most of the 1,807 bookstore customers surveyed this year by Zondervan Publishing House said they expected to purchase another copy of the holy book in the next year, Publishers Weekly reported.

The survey on Bible purchasing was conducted in both the markets of the American Bookseller Association and the CBA, a Christian retailing organization.

Zondervan officials also have found that Christian bookstores still sell the most Bibles. In Christian stores, Bibles account for 10 percent to 14 percent of all sales. In the general trade market, Bibles account for

NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Anti-suicide bill stalls.** Oregon's landmark physician-assisted suicide law got a reprieve last week when the Senate's second most powerful member said there will not be an anti-suicide vote this year. Sen. Don Nickles, R-Okla., told the Portland Oregonian he will not attach his anti-suicide bill to other end-of-the-year legislation, as he had threatened. The decision avoids a floor showdown with Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., who vowed to filibuster if Nickles brought the bill directly to the floor, bypassing the normal process. It also puts the Pain Relief Promotion Act, as the anti-suicide bill is called, on a potentially long and jagged road through the Senate Health, Education and Pensions Committee.

■ **Survey: Americans know little about vouchers.** Vouchers and charter schools might be hot election topics, but average Americans know very little about them, a survey has found. The survey of 1,200 adults by the nonpartisan organization Public Agenda found that even in areas of the country where such innovations are in place, most parents know nothing or hardly anything about them. The study found that 63 percent of American adults said they know nothing or very little about vouchers. Eighty-one percent said the same thing about charter schools.

■ **Methodists strip Creech of credentials.** A jury of 13 United Methodists stripped one of the denomination's most outspoken ministers of his clergy credentials Nov. 17 after finding him guilty of disobeying church law by presiding at a ceremony of a gay couple in Chapel Hill, N.C., last April. Jimmy Creech, who made headlines when he was acquitted of a similar charge last year, will now become a layperson in the harshest penalty the denomination has yet meted out for the blessing of a gay union. The verdict sends a clear signal to the 44,000 ministers in the United Methodist Church that the denomination will not tolerate gay unions and will, in effect, fire those who perform them.

■ **Christian programming grows again.** The number of Christian radio and television stations programs has increased for the third year in a row. Radio stations carrying Christian programming increased from 1,616 in 1998 to a record 1,731 in 1999, according to the recently released National Religious Broadcasters' Directory of Religious Media. The number of TV stations airing Christian programs increased from 242 in 1998 to 285 in 1999.

■ **"Blessed day" employee charges discrimination.** A woman who traditionally says "have a blessed day" at her office has filed a federal complaint against her employer who ordered her to stop using the phrase. Liz Anderson, an office coordinator at USF Logistics in Indianapolis, filed the charge of discrimination Nov. 9 with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in an effort, she said, to protect her religious freedom. A three-year employee and former worker of the year, Anderson had told people to have blessed days since she began her work, but was ordered to halt the practice in June, Associated Press reported.

■ **United Methodists membership down, attendance up.** While the membership of the United Methodist Church has continued to decline, attendance at Sunday worship services has seen a slight increase. Statistics recently released by the denomination's General Council of Finance and Administration show that average Sunday attendance in 1998 was 3,495,641 in United Methodist churches. That marks an increase of 1,300 or 0.37 percent. Lay membership in the denomination decreased 40,727 to 8.36 million. That total marks a decrease of 0.48 percent.

■ **Group emphasizes Bible reading.** Encouraging people to read the Bible is this week's focus for the annual celebration of National Bible Week. "The Bible has had an undeniable influence on our culture's art, music, literature, laws and even our sense of charity. For that reason alone, people would want to be familiar with this book," said Stewart Furlong, chairman of the sponsoring National Bible Association.

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:

■ The 3,600 Tanzanians who viewed the "Jesus" film shown in October by Kentucky Baptist missions teams.

■ Missionary Deborah Reece in Poland as she has begun a new venture homeschooling her children.

■ Missionary kids in Poland: Trey and Trent Erwin; Preston and Peyton Magalhaes; Wendy, Timmy and Gabriela Paden; Eric, Rachael and Hannah Byrd; Stephen, Celeste and Meredith Edworthy; and Rebecca and John Reece. Pray for their adjustment to the culture and the language.

■ Dale Morell, newly elected president of the Baptist Convention of New England. Morell is pastor of Mainè Street Baptist Church in Brunswick, Maine.

■ Ron Huffman, director of missions for Western Connecticut Baptist Association. Huffman and his wife, Pam, are Kentucky natives.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Shirley Wooton

■ **BOAZ**—Hardmoney Church called Gary Pate as pastor.

Mt. Pisgah Church called Scott McDuffie as pastor.

■ **BOWLING GREEN**—Living Hope Church's Hanging of the Greens service will be Nov. 28, 6 p.m. Brad Johnson is pastor.

■ **CADIZ**—Canton Church will host a Celebrate Jesus 2000 rally Nov. 29, 7 p.m. Harold Hunter will be the evangelist. For information call Little River Association, (270) 522-7066.

■ **CECILIA**—Cecilia Church's Hanging of the Greens service will be Nov. 28, 7 p.m. Mark Boes is pastor.

■ **CUSTER**—Harvest Church was constituted Oct. 31. Speakers were Ron Davis, pastor of the mother church, Franklin Crossroads, and John Walker, director of missions for Severns Valley Association. Earl Harper is pastor.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Chester Igleheart died Nov. 17. Igleheart's ministry included serving as Severns Valley

Association director of missions, as a Kentucky Baptist Convention Sunday school associate and as a pastor. He was buried in Owensboro.

■ **LIBERTY**—The Judgement House of First Church reports had 1,345 visitors with 138 becoming Christians and 79 people rededicating their lives to Christ. Larry Davis is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Deer Park Church called Bob Johnson, former dean of Boyce Bible School, as interim pastor.

Rockford Lane Church's Hanging of the Greens service will be Nov. 28, 6:30 p.m. Ron Abrams is pastor.

Shively Church will host Paige Patterson, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, Nov. 28 at the 8:30

and 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. services. Mark Howell is pastor.

Valley Station Church called Dave Thomas as minister of youth. Don Zuberer is pastor.

■ **MADISONVILLE**—First Church's Hanging of the Greens service will be Nov. 28, 6 p.m. Harold Meers is pastor.

■ **MAYFIELD**—Cuba Church called Glen Copeland as pastor.

■ **VERSAILLES**—Versailles Church's Hanging of the Greens service will be Nov. 28, 7 p.m. The church also will host an International Missions Celebration Dec. 3, 7 p.m. Missionaries Ken and Beth Perkins will speak. John Brandon is pastor.

Kentuckians say Russia partnership helped confirm missions call

SOMERSET—Kentucky natives Tom and Ann Patterson trace their call to international missions, in part, to their participation in a partnership missions trip to Russia two years ago.

The Pattersons were appointed last week by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board to be missionaries in Malawi.

Patterson, a native of Knox County, currently is pastor of Woodstock Baptist Church in Somerset. He also has been pastor of First Baptist Church of Booneville, Robinson Creek Baptist Church in London and churches in Michigan. Mrs. Patterson has worked with her husband in ministry.

She said she and her husband sensed a call by God to serve together in international missions.

"Two years ago, Tom and I went to Russia on a volunteer mission



Tom and Ann Patterson

trip. It was very exciting, but I felt that God wanted something more. God was dealing with me to go to Africa some day," she recalled. "The more we prayed about it, the more we realized that now is the time that God wanted us to make a commitment to international missions."

Personally, she added, she has felt called to overseas work even longer. "The call on my life to international

missions is so significant that I can hardly remember it not being there, especially my call to Africa," she said. "Even as a child, I could hardly wait for Dad to receive his National Geographic each month."

In 1968 Patterson served in the Vietnam War. "My experience there was the worst and best at the same time," he said. "On one occasion, while under an attack, I took cover behind a tombstone. During the attack, I prayed for God to preserve me."

"I have pictures of Vietnamese children and a bombed-out church house. These children looked at me as the enemy. I was crushed by their impressions about me," he said. "I sensed then that I could make a difference in the world I lived in. I was either part of the problem or part of the solution."

He said he's found that for him being a part of the solution is to serve in international missions.

Patterson earned the bachelor of science degree at Cumberland College and the master of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

The Pattersons will work on a church planting team seeking to evangelize Blantyre, Malawi, a city of more than a million people.

Malawi, an African country slightly smaller than Mississippi, has churches among the eight major language and people groups making up more than 80 percent of its 11 million people.

The Pattersons have four children. Trona Ann, Thomas Anthony and Jeremy Robert are adults. Natasha Amanda was born in 1987.

The Pattersons were among 55 people appointed by the International Mission Board Nov. 17 during a service at the Sacramento Convention Center in Sacramento, Calif.

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Clear Creek Baptist Bible College announces two positions on the faculty. First is a full-time position to teach pastoral care and ministry courses. This individual also leads the Christian service activities of the college and serves as director of testing. Academic credentials to teach courses in counseling and psychology are required. The second position is a full-time position to teach Christian education courses. This individual must have an earned doctorate in Christian education or have finished course work toward the terminal degree and complete the degree within a one-year time frame. Five years full-time ministry experience in a Southern Baptist related ministry is required. Publishing record and/or college level teaching experience would be helpful. Experience and educational background will determine rank and salary. Send credentials by Dec. 10, including a statement of faith and educational philosophy to the Academic Dean, Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, 300 Clear Creek Road, Pineville, KY 40977. E-mail may be sent to: cbbbc@tcnet.net. Clear Creek Baptist Bible College is an agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention with a mission to provide theological training to adults called into Christian service.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor. Send resumè to: Meta Baptist Church, 8807 Meta Highway, Pikeville, KY 41501, Attn: Pastor Search Committee.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church, Troy, Mo., is seeking a music minister/associate pastor and minister of students/education. We are a fast-growing church with approximately 400 in worship on Sundays. Please send resumè to: FBC Troy, 800 Cap Au Gris, Troy, MO 63379.

SEEKING: Organist for morning worship, evening worship and choir rehearsal. Interested candidates should send resumè to: Personnel, First Baptist Church, 47 South Main St., Walton, KY 41094, or fax to (606) 485-4191.

SEEKING: Part-time church secretary (18-24 hours per week). Send resumè 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 resumè 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: 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: Full-time minister of youth and music to guide the youth ministry and overall music ministry. Send cover letter and resumè to: FBC of St. Charles, 136 Stoddert Ave., Waldorf, MD 20602, Attn: MYM Search.

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

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 resumè and references to: Personnel Committee, Deer Park Baptist Church, 1733 Bardstown Road, Louisville, KY 40205.

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

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 resumè and a video or audio tape to: First Baptist Church of Joelton, PO Box 86, Joelton, TN 37080, Attn: Personnel Committee.

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

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

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

FOR SALE: Twenty-two 12-foot, three 14-foot and two 4-foot solid oak padded pews with pulpit furniture: \$5,000. Call: (270) 924-5227.

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

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.

PEOPLE

Missionary looks back on 49 years of inner-city work

By James Dotson
SBC North American Mission Board

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP)—When Louise Adamson arrived at her new missionary assignment in East St. Louis, she was quickly struck by the contrasts.

From her room in the newly constructed Baptist Goodwill Center, she could see two taverns across the street—and the upstairs rooms where prostitutes lived.

"I looked around and I thought, 'Oh, Lord, this beautiful building looks like a rose in the midst of a rubbish heap. ... How do we begin?'" Adamson recounted.

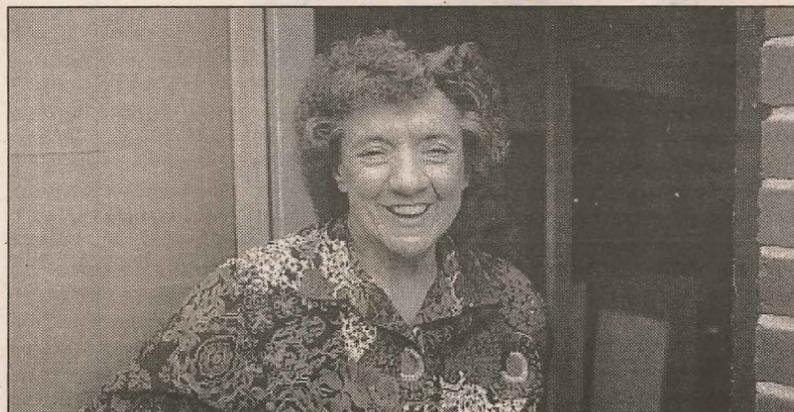
"And Jesus said to my heart clearly, 'My child, it's not you. You are not the good news. I am. I will be with you. The burden is not yours, it's mine. And if I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto myself.'"

That was in November 1950, the beginning of the ministry career of the North American Mission Board's longest-term missionary. For 49 years Adamson has ministered to thousands mired in the poverty of the inner city, first in East St. Louis and since 1957 in central Atlanta.

Adamson—whose story of persistence and selfless commitment to Christ has been featured in Christianity Today magazine and elsewhere—discussed her ministry during a chapel service at the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board.

She also was honored as one winner of the agency's Clovis Brantley Award for Outstanding Missionary Service.

While attending evening college classes in Atlanta during the 1940s and working as an office manager at a pharmaceutical laboratory by day, Adamson had her first exposure to the poverty of the inner city and its residents' desperate need for the gospel. She left her well-paying job to attend Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, where she received her master's degree in social work.



MISSIONARY For 49 years, Louise Adamson has ministered to thousands in the inner-city as a home missionary. She began in East St. Louis in 1950, and since 1957 she has impacted thousands of lives with the good news of Jesus Christ in Atlanta. (BP photo by Paul Obregon)

Adamson said she originally believed God wanted her overseas, but later learned God had other plans. In East St. Louis, she quickly heeded a seminary professor's advice to "begin with the children." She started a kindergarten at the center that soon was reaching 100 children for three and a half hours each morning.

"Those hungry-hearted children would memorize whole chapters of the Bible, and they would go home and they would share the good news," she said.

The work also became a fulfillment of a call she had experienced during seminary to foreign missions, she said. In the tough area of packing houses and animal stockyards where she ministered in East St. Louis, there were 13 different nationalities. "God said, 'I've called you to foreign missions ... and put you here at their doorsteps,'" she said.

Within a few years, she married Fred Propst, superintendent of missions for East St. Louis Baptist Association. Their ministry eventually took them to the inner-city slums of Atlanta, which at the time led the nation statistically in crime.

Through Capitol Avenue Baptist Church, where her husband was pas-

tor, she began a comprehensive program of ministries to children and families in the inner city.

"When we moved in, our tires were slashed. ... We were threatened, we were shot at, because the (criminals) who were prospering didn't need any missionaries in that community to help bring these people to a new way of life," she said.

But home by home, family by family, they began to reach people with the gospel through broad-based ministry. The church also began to deal with the inevitable changes that come when a prosperous and influential church begins to seriously minister to the poor in its community. Capitol Avenue, she said, made the transition well.

"The first Sunday that the doors of the church were open and the dirty little children came in, there was a little girl that came in at 11 o'clock. Her hair was straggling. Her clothes were wrong-side out, because the night before there had been fighting and cursing and abuse in her family," Adamson said.

"And when she came in, one of the precious old women of that beautiful, old, sedate church reached out her arms and said, 'Honey, come sit with

me.'"

One Wednesday night, she said, a milestone was reached as a former prostitute was approved by the congregation for membership. Later, Capitol Avenue continued its willingness to reach out by becoming one of the first churches to openly accept all races into its family.

Meanwhile, the ministry drew volunteers from throughout the city, including the more-affluent northern suburbs. Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church, which started Capitol Avenue in 1880, was an early supporter and today continues as Adamson's strongest ministry partner.

"Women, men and young people of wealth came to work in the inner city, and glorious, glorious, glorious has been the result," she said. "There became a heart-to-heart, hand-to-hand sharing of the agape love of God."

On that foundation began a ministry that Adamson said is still basically the same today in overall purpose as when she began, although the location has changed several times. Propst died in 1970, and she married educator Joseph Adamson in 1972.

What is now known as Grant Park Baptist Mission has become more of a mobile ministry. Adamson visits many of the former residents of public housing who now have relocated throughout the metropolitan area. She still lives in the Grant Park area, allowing the homeless to leave their belongings on the porch of her small home, ministering to many of them personally on a daily basis.

"There's some kind of ministry going on all the time, but it's all Jesus-centered and intended to help the spiritual need," she said.

The 74-year-old missionary lives not far from the train station in Atlanta where she said goodbye to her parents on Nov. 13, 1950, to begin her ministry. A few days ago she returned on the anniversary of her departure.

"I went back down to those railroad tracks," she said. "I wept. And I thanked God for the 49 years that He has sustained me."

"There's some kind of ministry going on all the time, but it's all Jesus-centered."

Missionary Louise Adamson

E-charity growing as donors log onto Internet

WASHINGTON (RNS)—With everything from toys to medicine available on the Internet, it was only a matter of time until philanthropy also took to cyberspace.

And it has, taking to the Web with the same enthusiasm and variety as has commerce and news.

The number of Web sites connecting donors to charities is staggering, allowing everyone with a computer and Internet access to donate to their favorite cause, choose a charity from among a vast array or raise money for a favorite cause without leaving his or her living room.

So far, noted Daniel Langan, spokesman for the National Charities Information Bureau, "e-philanthropy" accounts for only a tiny percentage of all charitable contributions. But it's a percentage that is increasing steadily.

An increasing number of sites aim to go beyond merely connecting donors to charities. These sites

use the unique character of the Internet to foster easier and broader means of philanthropy.

One case in point is the Hunger Site, www.hungersite.com, which offers statistics about world hunger and information on donating, but also adds a new element:

Whenever a user clicks a button on the site, advertisers will donate rice, wheat or other food staples to the United Nations World Food Program. Even with only a handful of sponsors, the site directs more than 50 tons of food each week to the needy. In October, the U.N. agency received 6.3 million cups of food from 4.8 million Hunger Site donations.

Users are asked neither for money nor personal information. Advertisers get their names attached to a good cause while paying based on how many people see their ads. The site takes no cut from the donations, and users get to help a worthy cause while feeling no dent in either their

bank account or time.

America Online launched its Helping.org site in late October, guiding members to 620,000 philanthropies and 20,000 volunteer opportunities. Users can search by location or topic to find a cause they wish to support.

Unlike AOL's site, other Web clearinghouses are connected to for-profit companies and either take a cut of every donation received, or offer some related service for a fee. Langan compared these sites to professional fund-raisers or event planners who make a living off such activities.

Charitygift.com is trying to convince companies to make donations to charity instead of giving small gifts to clients and employees.

Users of the site can buy a "charity gift card," which they send instead of a gift. The cards allow the receiver to log onto the charity gift site and choose a nonprofit to which the giver's money will be sent.

A stitch in time saves turkey for missionaries' Thanksgiving

BARANQUILLA, Colombia (BP)—The traditional Thanksgiving turkey is not always easy to come by on the mission field.

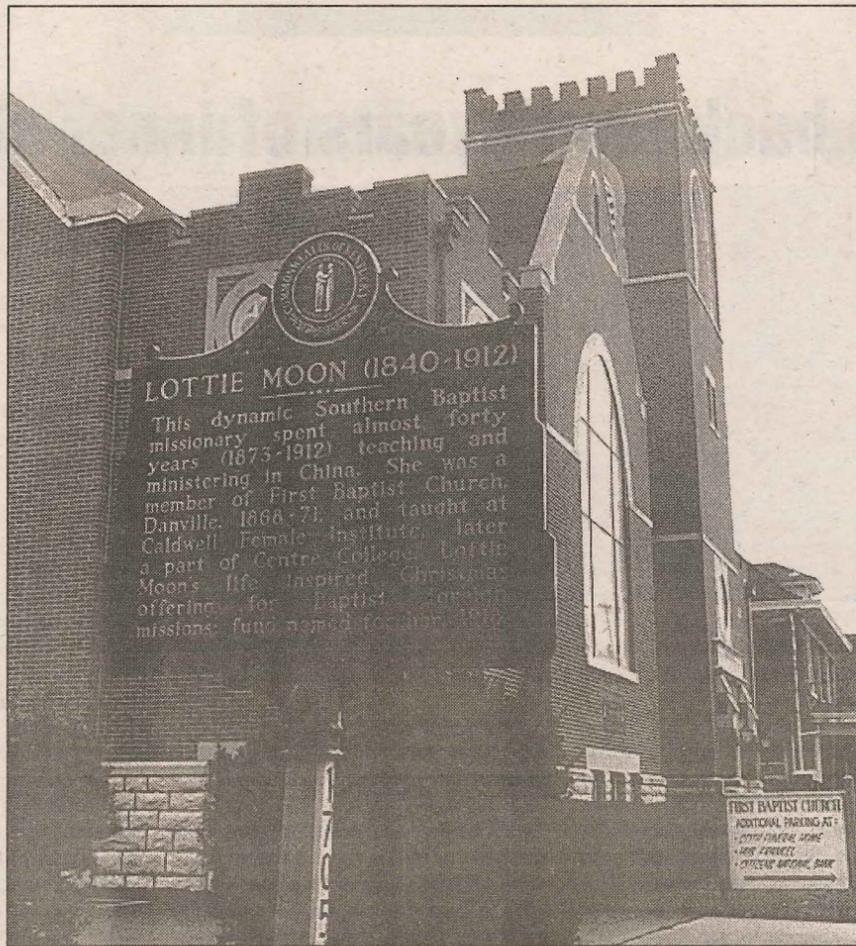
When Robert and Dolores Edwards first arrived in Baranquilla in 1974, medical missionary George Kollmar and his wife, Rosemary, wanted to be sure the new medical missionary couple's first Thanksgiving in Baranquilla was a happy one.

Rosemary Kollmar had scoured the city to find a turkey for the feast. Finally she found one and had it in the refrigerator ready for cooking, or so she thought.

When she looked for the bird, it was gone. "What happened to the turkey I brought home yesterday?" she asked her helper. "It's there. I've already cut it up," was the reply.

Rosemary presented her dilemma to her husband and the Edwardses. How could they have a traditional roast turkey dinner if the bird was already dismembered?

As Dolores Edwards recalls it: "Robert looked at George and George looked at Robert and they nodded in agreement. They were, after all, both surgeons. So they got out their sutures and put the bird back together."



KENTUCKY BAPTISTS & LOTTIE MOON

Each year Kentucky Baptists contribute to international missions in honor of the life of Lottie Moon. But did you know that Kentucky Baptists contributed directly to the life of Lottie Moon?

Lottie Moon was a teacher in Danville, Kentucky, at the Caldwell Female Institute, later a part of Centre College, from 1866-71. John A. Broadus, father of Eliza Broadus, was one of her references. She taught history, grammar, rhetoric and literature.

Lottie was an active member of First Baptist Church in Danville from 1868-71. She has been referred to as the pastor's assistant. Lottie taught a Sunday school class of young teenage girls. She was a popular teacher, often giving lessons from the 23rd Psalm.

Lottie first "fell under China's spell" through a missionary who came to Danville at the beginning of the Civil War and through A.B. Cabiness, former missionary and secretary of Kentucky Baptists.

Lottie began struggling with her call to missions and Christian service in Kentucky. At the time, there were no single women missionaries.

When Lottie left to open a girls' school in war-impooverished Georgia, John A. Broadus and C.H. Toy of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and A.S. Worrell, editor of the Western Recorder, were her references.

Kentucky Baptists have a rich heritage of supporting international missions through training, giving and sending. What will you contribute to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering this year? Reaching the lost for Christ around the world is our "Unfinished Task."

the
**Unfinished
 Task**
 1999
Loving the Lost

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering Goal:
\$125,000,000