

November 30, 1999
 Vol. 173, No. 47

On Mission



Together

See insert

FOR THE RECORD

Baptists

Southern Seminary has been sued by a student who was suspended after being accused of cheating on a quiz. *Page 2.*

"Jesus" film

The Kentucky Baptist Convention's evangelism department is offering the "Jesus" film at low cost to churches and associations. *Page 3.*

Service

James Smith recently was honored by his peers as Director of Missions of the Year. *Page 3.*

Editorial

Completing "The Unfinished Task" will take a renewed commitment by Southern Baptists. *Page 5.*

Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, Dec. 1

Educator: Let children experience pain of wrongdoing

By Terri Lackey
SBC LifeWay Christian Resources

NASHVILLE (BP)—If children are to develop integrity, they must be allowed to feel the pain of their own wrongdoing, an educator and author said.

"We want our children to be responsible, but we don't hold them accountable for anything that would upset them, make them feel bad or lower their self-esteem," Madelyn Swift told children's leaders attending a national conference in Nashville.

Swift, president of Childright, an educational consulting and training firm, said that if children are never held accountable for a wrongful action—"if they never hurt enough over it"—they won't learn to change their behavior.

"We need our children to feel pain, but we don't want to cause it. We want to allow them the pain they earn for themselves."

Swift gave the example of a young man who was expected to give water to the family's elderly dog while his

parents were away. The boy failed to provide water for the dog during a hot, dry summer, and the dog died.

The mother attempted to comfort her son by telling him the dog was old anyway and would have died soon, said Swift, who considered this the wrong method of parenting. The mother should have been there for her son and hugged him, but she should not have tried to make him feel better for his wrong actions, she said.

"Our job is to help a kid live through it, but let him learn his lessons. To deny a child his pain denies him the opportunity to develop character and conscience."

Teaching children integrity and helping them build character requires rethinking some trusted educational paradigms, Swift said.

For example, proximity praise, or publicly praising one child displaying good behavior when the intent is to discipline another child with bad behavior, sends children the wrong message, she said.

"Proximity praise is really terrible even though most of you are taught to

do it. The more directly you communicate, the more healthy it is."

Swift suggested teachers simply ask a child who is not paying attention in class to do so rather than praising another child for exhibiting correct behavior.

"Being direct does not mean you have to be ugly. What you are doing is sending the message to the child it was intended for rather than creating ill will by being indirect."

Another misdirected teaching tool, Swift believes, is exuberant praise for successes while making no comments about failures.

"One of the bill of goods we sell our children is that success is very important," she said. "What we are doing here is hooking self-esteem on success and accomplishments. What happens to self-esteem when our children fail or when they make a mistake?" she asked.

She said she believes parents and teachers who treat successes and failures with equal importance are ultimately allowing children to risk failures safely.

"In a healthy child, 85 percent of his self-esteem comes from someone else besides his successes," she said.

Swift also said parents and teachers shouldn't use the statement, "I like you, but I don't like what you are doing."

"This is a huge integrity conflict," she said.

"First of all, it's simply not true. You cannot separate the deed from the doer."

The key to teaching children accountability is to hold them responsible for what they do, she said.

The intent of teaching children integrity, character and conscience, Swift said, is not to try to make them feel good about themselves, but to help them feel right about themselves.

"If they act wrong, they'll feel wrong. If they act right, they'll feel right."

Swift is author of "Discipline for Life: Getting It Right with Children," a study program on discipline for leaders and teachers of children. More information may be found on her Internet site at www.childright.com.

More stories from LifeWay's children's ministry conference are on page 9

Guide to teach Bible in school both praised and questioned

NASHVILLE (RNS)—A range of religious and secular organizations has endorsed a new guide on teaching about the Bible in public schools.

But a Southern Baptist religious liberties specialist has questioned the new tool.

"The Bible and Public Schools: A First Amendment Guide," announced earlier this month, is published by the First Amendment Center at Vanderbilt University in Nashville and the National Bible Association.

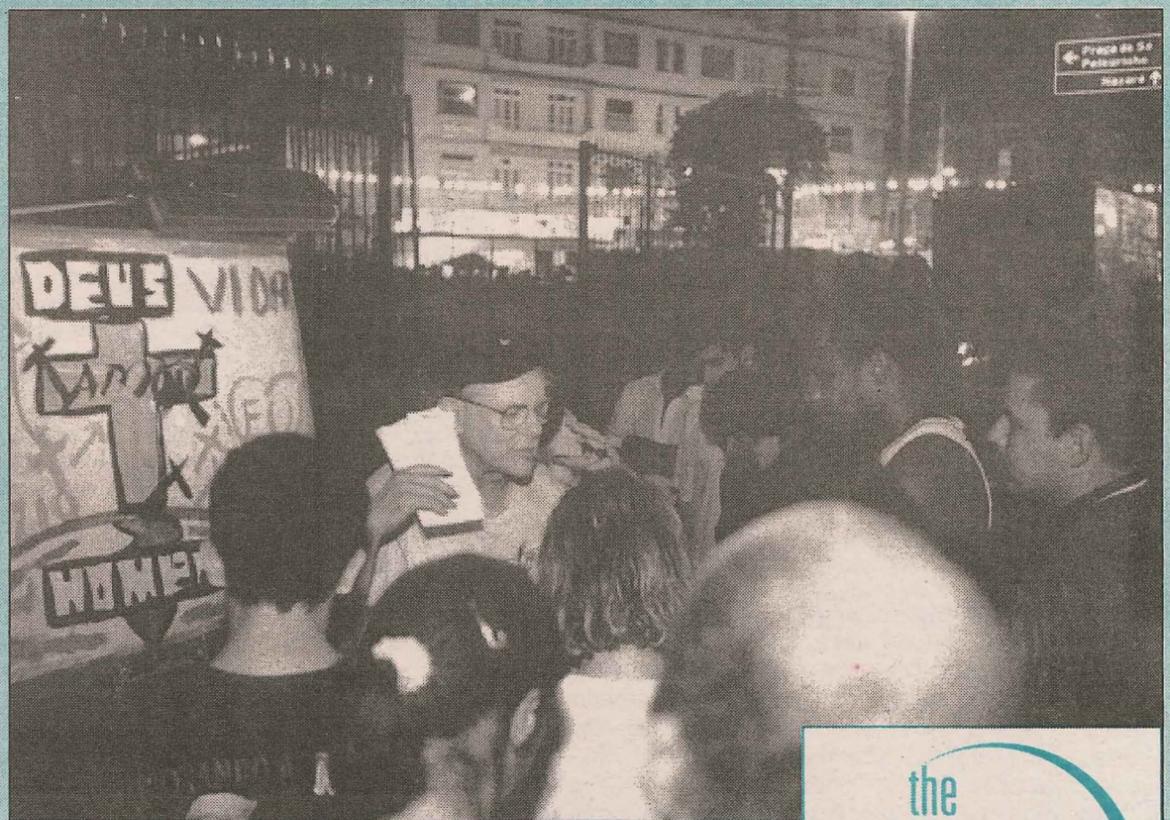
"It is an historic day when we can announce a broad consensus on teaching about the Bible in our public schools," said Chuck Stetson, vice chairman of the New York-based National Bible Association, formerly called the Laymen's National Bible Association.

"The emphasis is on the word 'about' because the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that it is constitutional to teach about the Bible in literature, in history and in social studies. It is, of course, unconstitutional to teach the Bible devotionally in public schools," he said.

The guide urges moving beyond the debate over whether any one religion should be emphasized in public schools, or whether religion should be completely ignored. It suggests a third way, where religious-liberty rights of students of all

See Bible guide ..., page 7

Carnival witness



Southern Baptist Missionary Wade Akins helps spearhead Baptist outreach efforts during "Carnaval," the gigantic annual street party that becomes a drunken orgy of alcohol, drugs and immoral sex in Brazil. Akins says his experiences as a street preacher during Carnaval have given him a new take on lostness in Brazil. While he was preaching at last year's event, a homosexual man approached him on the platform and kissed him on the mouth. "I never flinched," he says. "I continued preaching as if he were not there. The crowd was astounded." During Carnaval 1999, Akins ignored five hecklers who approached him while he was preaching on the streets of Salvador. "They didn't leave, so (during the invitation) I called them up front. Counselors began to share Christ with them. One that was loudest stayed longest" to hear the good news. More than 4,500 people expressed interest in Christ during one Carnaval outreach this past year. Southern Baptists' greatest challenge in Brazil is getting lost Latin Americans "to accept that the Bible is God's Word and authority. Once they see this, one can open the Word of God and show them truth," he says. Akins' work is supported by the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. This year's offering has a goal of \$125 million. More information about the offering is on page 8. (BP photo by Roy Burroughs)

the
Unfinished Task
 1999
 Loving the Lost

Student files lawsuit against Southern Seminary

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

LOUISVILLE—A student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary has filed a lawsuit against the seminary, President Al Mohler and four other administrators and professors, charging breach of contract and denial of due process.

The suit was filed Nov. 16 in Jefferson Circuit Court on behalf of Henry Judy after seminary officials suspended him five weeks before the end of his final semester. He was suspended through December 2000 after a professor accused him of cheating on a quiz.

Circuit Court Judge Steve Merston issued a temporary injunction against the seminary, ordering that Judy be reinstated as a student and allowed "to take the final exams in all classes in which he is currently enrolled." Seminary officials have appealed the injunction, claiming they were denied due process prior to the judge's order.

The appeal also cites First Amendment concerns, noting Southern's right "to determine whether its students meet the spiritual, moral and ethical standards" of the Southern Baptist Convention. It adds that determining "whether a student is qualified to continue his quest for a degree and to go forth into the public ministry and carry out the teachings of Jesus Christ is not a judgment call subject to review by the civil authority."

A hearing on the injunction order is scheduled for this week.

Daniel Akin, the seminary's vice president for academic administration, declined to comment on the suspension and lawsuit. Asked about the status of the injunction against the seminary, he added, "It would be absolutely inappropriate for me to say anything."

Akin is among the defendants named in the suit, along with Mohler; Daniel Hatfield, vice president for student services; and professors Eric Mitchell and Russell Fuller.

Judy, a master of divinity student who said he has maintained an "A" average, was accused by Mitchell of cheating on a quiz last month. He then received a letter from Hatfield stating that he was to be immediately suspended from classes through December 2000 and that Judy and his wife, Darlene, would be evicted from seminary housing at the end of the current semester.

"We commend you and Darlene to the consolation of the Holy Spirit," Hatfield wrote. "We pray that you would submit yourself to the correction of Scripture, such that you might be molded by the Lord's righteousness."

Judy countered that he had not cheated, despite the fact he had faced a similar accusation a year earlier. In response to the charges, he said he took a polygraph test and "overwhelmingly passed" but that seminary leaders declined to consider the polygraph results.

Judy said he discovered all of his grades for the semester were changed

to "F"s on the day he was notified of his suspension. "I proceeded on with the appeal process as outlined in the Seminary Student Handbook," Judy said in a sworn affidavit. "I did not realize that my fate had already been determined without a hearing."

Judy appealed his suspension to the seminary's three-member Discipline Council and then to the 10-member Joint Discipline Committee that included Fuller, the professor who had accused Judy of cheating last year. Judy asked that Fuller be recused from the hearing. His request was denied and the committee voted 9-1 to uphold the suspension.

In a final appeal to Mohler, Judy's suspension was again upheld.

"Dr. Mohler, in one of his sermons, pointed out that we need to nurture and encourage and love the sheep and if one goes out, you bring him back and restore him," Judy said. "Here you have them saying, 'We're going to throw you out of the pen for your own good.'"

IMB trustees approve \$256.6 million budget

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (BP)—Trustees of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board approved a record \$256.6 million budget during their recent meeting in Sacramento, Calif.

Trustees also approved a \$3 million special appropriation from board reserves for special projects—\$4 million less than the amount requested by missionaries.

The budget includes \$226.4 million for operating expenses, \$14.4 million for capital outlays and \$811,885 for special contingencies.

Trustees also terminated missionary

Troy Haas for "failure to maintain a lifestyle in keeping with the expectations of the International Mission Board." Haas' work among the Turkana people group had been widely featured in IMB publications. No additional details about Haas' dismissal were released by IMB officials.

In other action, board members appointed 55 new career and associate missionaries, bringing the total number of appointees in that category for the year to 295.

Board members also approved a \$15 million "challenge" budget which would take effect if Southern Baptist

giving to the 1999 Lottie Christmas Offering reaches its \$125 million goal. Last year's offering raised slightly more than \$101 million.

Trustees approved a change in the IMB's overseas capital fund, allowing 35 percent of the yearly allocation from that fund to be used to rent housing for missionaries. In the past, the fund could only be used for purchasing housing and automobiles. Board officials said the change was necessary because buying housing often is not possible or economically wise in some of the new areas around the world where IMB personnel are working.

LifeWay launches family-friendly Internet service

NASHVILLE (BP)—LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention is offering filtered access to the World Wide Web via "LifeWayonline," effective Dec. 1.

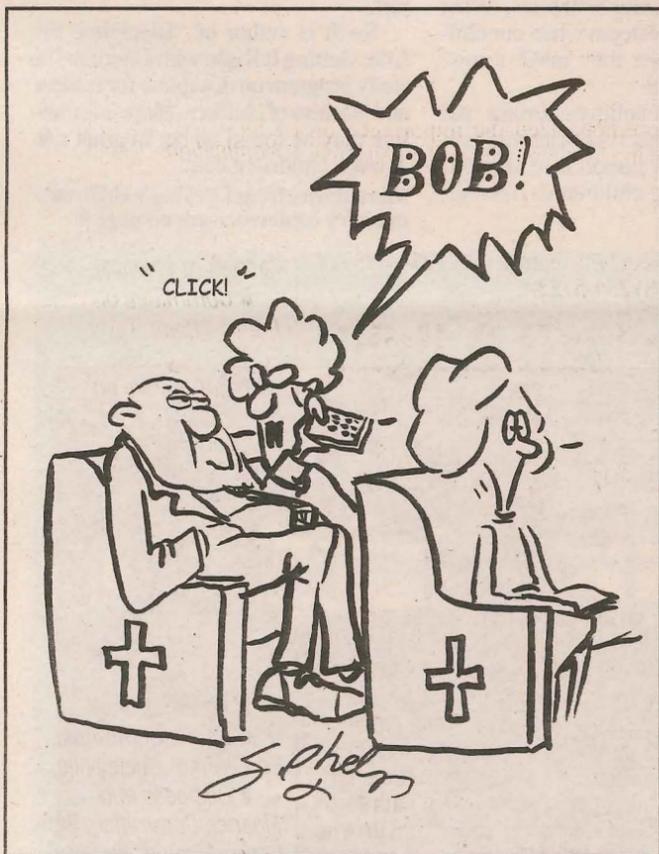
LifeWay is partnering with Rated-G Online, an established Internet service provider, according to Ted Warren, LifeWay executive vice president. Warren said LifeWayonline will fil-

ter out more than 20 categories of offensive material including pornography, alcohol and drug use, gambling, weapons and bomb-making, violence, profanity and selected chat sites.

LifeWayonline will feature special sections for families, teens and children. It also will include sections on entertainment, weather, travel, sports, computing, education and business.

"Through LifeWayonline, we want to protect people from harmful material while providing them activities and information to strengthen their spiritual lives, address life issues and provide relaxation and enjoyment," Warren added.

For information or to subscribe, call toll-free at (888) 454-5965 or subscribe on-line at www.lifewayonline.com.



BAPTIST BITS

■ **Tennessee Baptists reject new bylaw.** Tennessee Baptist messengers voted down a proposed bylaw change that would have altered the way trustees are elected at a college and two universities affiliated with the Tennessee Baptist Convention. The bylaw, which called for the state convention to fill trustee vacancies with nominees acceptable both to the state convention and the related institutions, fell 70 votes short of the two-thirds majority it needed to pass. The proposal grew out of a conflict with Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn. The school's trustees voted last year to declare themselves a self-perpetuating board.

■ **Louisiana Baptists affirm inerrancy.** Louisiana Baptist messengers adopted a resolution placing the state convention on

record as affirming the Bible is literally true. The resolution affirmed the "Baptist Faith and Message" statement on Scripture and further described the Bible as the "inspired, infallible, inerrant and sufficient Word of God." The resolution was adopted after an attempt to add similar language to the convention's bylaws fell short of the two-thirds vote required for passage.

■ **Reynolds calls for new organization.** Herbert Reynolds, chancellor of Baylor University in Waco, Texas, renewed his call for a Baptist Convention of the Americas during the annual meeting of Mainstream Oklahoma Baptists. He said he has secured articles of incorporation and filed federal papers to preserve the organization's trademark. Noting that North America and South America are home to 800 million

people, he added, "That is one-seventh to one-eighth of the world's population at our hemispheric doorstep, involving 300 million to 400 million non-adherents to the Christian faith, with an untold need for education and benevolent services."

■ **Texas conservatives detail views.** The new Southern Baptists of Texas Convention continued to define itself in contrast to the Baptist General Convention of Texas during its second annual convention Nov. 17. The conservative convention was formed to walk in closer step with the Southern Baptist Convention, according to its leaders. Action included affirming the SBC's 1998 addition of an article on the family to the denomination's "Baptist Faith and Message" doctrinal statement. Other resolutions opposed

abortion and euthanasia, encouraged election of "honorable and moral individuals" to government office and supported student prayers at school sporting events and posting the Ten Commandments in public buildings.

■ **Alliance to join NCC.** The 125-church Alliance of Baptists has been declared eligible to become the 36th member communion of the National Council of Churches. The vote by the NCC General Assembly sets the stage for a final vote next year. The Alliance of Baptists was established in 1986 to protest the conservative direction of the Southern Baptist Convention. Stan Hastey, Alliance executive director, called the vote "a milestone of significance" for his organization.

Directors of missions honor James Smith

RAVENNA—When James Smith recently was picked by his peers to be Kentucky Baptists' Director of Missions of the Year, no one in the room was more surprised than Smith himself.

Smith, who recently retired from Eastern Kentucky's Enterprise Association, was honored during the state directors of missions fellowship meeting before the annual meeting of the



Smith

Kentucky Baptist Convention in Covington.

"It really caught him by surprise," said Randy Jones, KBC missions director.

"That's the kind of spirit he has. He's a humble person," Jones said. "That, in part, is why they chose him, I think."

Bob Martin, director of Missions for the Cadiz-area Little River Association, agreed. "As one fellow simply put it, 'He's a great guy and loved by all.'"

Smith, 64, recently finished 11 years as director of missions for Enterprise, which includes churches in Floyd, Magoffin, Johnson and Martin counties.

While there he helped start a deaf ministry with Pike County Association. "Now it's expanding," Smith said. "We're beginning a regional ministry in cooperation with Three Forks Baptist Association."

Other highlights of his ministry, he said, include getting two missions started in Martin County where previously there were only two churches that cooperate with the Southern Baptist Convention.

Smith also is pleased with the association's sponsorship of a Cornerstone Counseling office, in cooperation with Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. The Cornerstone office offers three kinds of ministries: Christian counseling, foster care and pregnancy counseling/adoption service.

Smith added that he wants to see the deaf ministry strengthened. That should happen soon. The regional project has hired Richie Noble to be regional deaf missionary responsible for leading Bible studies and worship services and training others to help in the work.

Since retirement, Smith has moved back to Ravenna near where he was a pastor before becoming a director of missions. He said he's still surprised by being named Director of Missions of the Year. "I feel like there's a lot of others across the state who deserved it more than I did, but it's certainly an honor," he said. "The Lord's been good."

'Jesus' film available for mass distribution

By Brenda Smith
Kentucky Baptist Convention

LOUISVILLE—Churches interested in using the "Jesus" film produced by Campus Crusade for Christ will soon be able to order videotapes through the Kentucky Baptist Convention at a reduced rate.

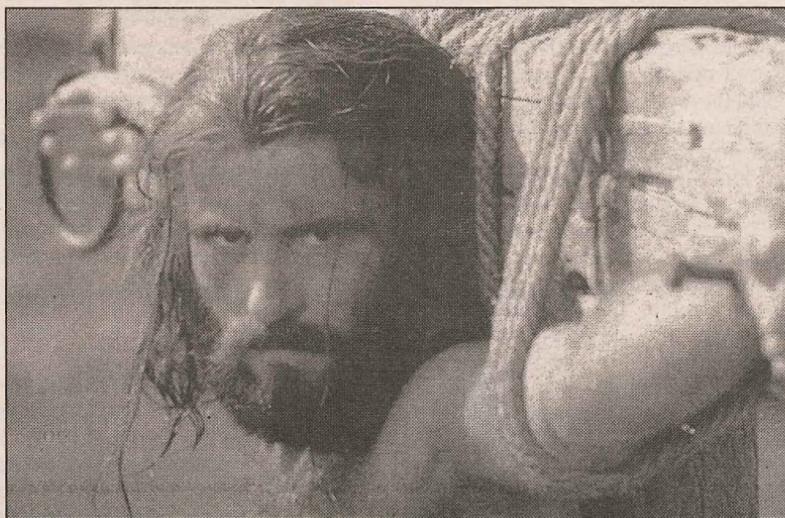
The Kentucky Baptist Convention is partnering with the Indiana and West Virginia state Baptist conventions to offer "Jesus" videos to churches for distribution at a reduced cost of \$3.30 per video, plus shipping.

A total of 5,000 copies will be available through the KBC's evangelism growth team.

"Jesus" is an award-winning 83-minute dramatization of the Gospel of Luke that is followed by an invitation to make a profession of faith in Christ.

More than 90 million people worldwide have indicated decisions to follow Christ as a result of viewing the film, according to materials from the Jesus Film Project, the Campus Crusade for Christ ministry that spearheads distribution.

"More have come to know Christ through the 'Jesus' video than any other man-made evangelism tool," said Dan Garland, KBC evangelism growth team leader. A key to the film's success is its simplicity, he said. "The film is an almost-verbatim presentation of the Gospel of Luke through which the Holy Spirit brings a sense of conviction on



JESUS FILM A total of 5,000 copies of the 'Jesus' film will be available through the KBC's evangelism growth team. More than 90 million people worldwide have indicated decisions to follow Christ as a result of viewing the film, according to promoters of the project.

the viewer," he said.

The goal of the Jesus Film Project is to offer the video to every household in America. Since 1992, the video has been distributed to 6 million homes nationwide.

Garland said Kentucky Baptist churches are encouraged to order copies for distribution in their communities.

Several churches in Kentucky already have distributed copies of the video with positive results. In West Kentucky, 26 people made professions of faith in Christ after New Harmony Baptist Church in Wheatcroft distributed 130 copies of the video earlier this year, Garland said.

Distributing the "Jesus" video is one of the easiest ways for smaller churches, Sunday school classes and individuals to do evangelism, Garland said. He also emphasized the importance of praying for those who will receive the video.

For more information about purchasing videos, call the KBC evangelism growth team at (502) 254-4737 or (888) 254-5722.

Richard Land urges students to be 'salt & light'

By Parker Hill
Campbellsville University

CAMPBELLSVILLE—A worldwide expansion of the gospel is among the reasons the 20th century has seen a growth in the persecution of Christians, a Southern Baptist leader recently told students at Campbellsville University.

Christian persecution was among the topics discussed by Richard Land, executive director of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, during his convocation address at Campbellsville.

The plight of the persecuted church is a "very somber subject," Land said. More Christians have been martyred for their faith in the 20th century than in any other century, he said.

The expansion of Christianity has taken the faith into countries where there never have been Christians, he said. In 1950, most born-again Christians lived in Europe, North America and South America.

Today, he said, the most Christian nation in terms of people who profess Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, is South Korea. South Korea was estimated to have between 8 million and 10 million believers during the 1950s, Land said. Now it is between 40 million and 70 million, he said.

In China, Chinese Christians have persevered and even flourished despite oppression, Land added.

Nowhere are the horrendous scenes of persecution worse than in the nation of Sudan, according to Land. The government has tried to exterminate Christians by starving nearly 1 million people and by an active slave trade of women and children. Christians literally are



PLEDGE CARDS Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, urged students to commit to a lifestyle free from substance abuse during his address at Campbellsville University. Land distributed pledge cards for students, faculty and staff. (Campbellsville photo by Luiz Roza)

being nailed to crosses in Sudan and parts of Ethiopia, Land added.

Nations might have a right to give preference to an established religion, but they do not have a right to rape, enslave, imprison or kill people based on their personal religious convictions, Land said. Many nations are not living up to the agreements they made as part of the United Nations, he added.

"We must speak out against this outrage," Land said. "We, as a nation, are the last superpower in the world.

With great privileges come great responsibilities.

"We have the ability as a nation to impact those nations that are allowing this persecution to take place ... We can force our government to make a difference, if we just will. In the meantime, we need to intercede and pray," he said.

United States citizens are not immune to persecution, Land added. Unless there is a major revival, Christians in America will be affected, he said.

Today's youth are being called to lead a revival across America, Land suggested. More young people are serious about their relationship with Jesus and speaking freely about Him than he has ever seen in his lifetime, Land added.

Using Matthew 5:13-16, Land said Christians are to be the salt and light of the earth. These verses stress that Christians should be a moral preservative in a decaying world.

"In order to be a moral disinfectant, we have to come in contact with the world," he said.

Land said there is a difference between knowing about Jesus and truly knowing Him. It is not until someone knows Jesus and has a personal relationship with Him that he or she is commanded to be the salt, or moral preservative.

"It is blasphemous of Christians to feed the homeless but not tell them of the Bread of Life, to clothe the homeless but not tell them of the whole armor of God and to house and shelter the homeless but not tell them of the many mansions that await them in the Father's house," Land said. "The salt of the law can change actions only, but the light of the gospel can change the heart."

Wilder names KBC chairmen

COVINGTON—Recently elected KBC president Terry Wilder has named his appointments for chairmen to standing committees of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and its Executive Board. Those appointed as chairmen of KBC committees are:

■ **Committee on Arrangements**, Rick Robbins of Erlanger.

■ **Committee on Committees**, Willis Henson of Paduach.

■ **Committee on Constitution and Bylaws**, Steve Hussung of Bowling Green.

■ **Committee on Credentials**, Jim Abernathy of Covington.

■ **Committee on Nominations**, Gerald Sharon of Fort Thomas.

■ **Committee on Order of Business**, Paul Badgett of Pikeville.

■ **Committee on Public Affairs**, Terry Lester of London.

■ **Committee on Resolutions**, Gayle Toole of Nicholasville.

Those appointed chairmen of KBC Executive Board Committees are:

■ **Administrative Committee**, Billy Compton of Elizabethtown.

■ **Agencies and Institutions Committee**, Ed Erwin of Shelbyville.

■ **Business and Finance Committee**, Bob Long of Louisville.

■ **Church Growth Committee**, Craig Loscalzo of Lexington.

■ **Evangelism Growth Committee**, Mike Stacey of Olmstead.

■ **Leadership Development Committee**, Bob Swift of Mayfield.

■ **Missions Growth Committee**, Glenn Armstrong of Beaver Dam.

■ **Nominating Committee**, Bob Baker of Lexington.

Wilder said his goal was "to be as fair as I could be in representing Kentucky Baptists across the state."

WESTERN RECORDER

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

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Where is the vision?

I have never been more broken in my entire life. My wife and I were present for the state convention, much to my dismay. The convention as a whole was a marvelous affair, but the exclusion of some essential elements has provoked this letter.

The time was Tuesday afternoon, Nov. 16 around 3 p.m. What occurred next blew my wife and me away. Two wonderful Christian gentlemen stood to give nominations for the president of the convention. This is no reflection on them; they were simply doing what was

expected and this is where the problem begins. All I heard during the nomination speeches for the presidential candidates was how big their churches are, how they had more degrees than a thermometer, how much money their church gave to the Cooperative Program, their annual budgets, etc. I

was literally sick to my stomach. There was not one mention of whether they loved the Lord, whether God had anointed their ministries and was using them to reach their communities for Him. There was no mention of a vision for Kentucky!

I cannot believe that every campaign issue centered on numbers and status. Woe unto us, Kentucky! Where has the fire gone? Even worse yet, we didn't even take time to pray before we voted. Is this not a travesty? I never dreamed that a bunch of Christian people would conduct business without first asking God.

The Spirit of God fell on me so strongly in that place that tears started to flood and I grabbed my wife by the hand and told her, "Come on, it is time to go. We don't belong here anymore." When prayer and vision cease to exist, the convention will soon follow!

*Davis S. Brown
Iuka*

Editorial evaluation

Your convention issue editorial deserves a bit of examination.

Guidelines for letters to be considered for the opinion page specify "provided they do not make a personal attack on anyone."

"Political ploys in Kentucky?" names Jerry Johnson and Al Mohler. It uses "unfortunately," "manipulate," "impose their political views on unsuspecting churches through some pseudo-Baptist hierarchy," "fiasco," "mobilizes students for political involvement" and "SBC-style politics." And the headline says "No thanks."

The obvious question is, since "Baptist entities on the state and national levels are there to serve the people in the pews," and "the local church stands at the top of the denominational structure" (Amen!), and since both Southern Seminary and the state papers are "Cooperative Program-supported" institutions, how can an editor give his personal views in a paper designed to serve all? Is our First Amendment freedom, to say nothing of our Baptist liberty, limited to editors?

Your Sept. 28 editorial opposing changes in the Baptist Faith and Message statement supported something like the motion presented at Covington, though not mentioning—possibly not even knowing—that such a motion might be made. If it is (as I believe) clearly your right to endorse a political agenda (already in motion in other states before your editorial), on what grounds are employees of Southern Seminary wrong in doing the same thing?

Is it just possible that we would all profit if everyone—including those of us who receive support through the Cooperative Program—would simply "speak the truth in love," and not criticize others?

*Charles Blair
Clinton*

Editorial affirmation

Your editorial in the Nov. 16 issue of the Western Recorder, "Political ploys in Kentucky? No thanks," touched a response in my heart and mind. I have admired your forthrightness and courage from your arrival. Now I agree with this editorial wholeheartedly. I want to affirm you.

My pastoral work in Newport for 10 years, in College Park, Ga., for 11 years and on the faculty at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College for 23 years are my credentials for writing to you.

Stick to your guns, Bro. Henderson, but expect that a specific group will be opposed to you.

*Dudley Thomas Pomeroy
Lexington*

Daley memories

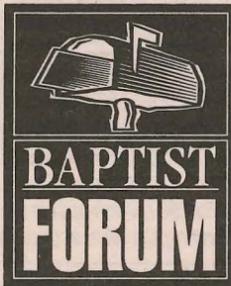
An incredible combination of sadness and gladness swept over me when I heard that Dr. C.R. Daley had died. Sadness, because one of the most influential mentors in my life was gone. Gladness, because he really was ready to go.

I visited with Dr. Daley every time I came back to Kentucky in recent years. Those last years were not easy ones for him, but to the very end, I knew he was my friend and encourager.

He was my Old Testament professor at Georgetown College in the '50s. My wife was his first secretary when he went to the Western Recorder. He led revivals and Bible studies in every church I served as pastor, with the exception of my current pastorate in Mississippi.

His courage, his integrity, his wit and his ability to maintain strong friendships with people across a wide spectrum of opinion on all kinds of issues have been and remain sources of inspiration to me. Thanks be to God for this Christian statesman!

*Dick Allison
Hattiesburg, Miss.*



PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

Reflections on a great convention

Renewing friendships, auxiliary meetings and the convention program made the days in Covington most meaningful. Upon returning I want to share some of my impressions:

First, I want to salute Kentucky Baptists for their generous support of evangelism, missions, benevolent ministries and Christian higher education in Kentucky and beyond. The messengers approved a \$21 million budget for 2000-2001, with \$7,476,000 (35.6 percent) earmarked for world evangelism and missions. This illustrates the characteristic that I treasure most about my fellow Kentucky Baptists—their willingness to get involved in missions. Everywhere I go across the state I meet Kentucky Baptists who have been to Africa, the Far East, South America, Europe, Russia and elsewhere.

I also commend Kentucky Baptists for the way they conduct convention business. Most Kentucky Baptists wear many hats representing family,

career, church, association, state and national conventions. Kentucky Baptists understand that when you come to the Kentucky Baptist Convention, you put on your KBC messenger hat and the mission of the KBC becomes the primary focus of emphases and decisions.

In the fall issue of Leader to Leader, Peter Drucker wrote that the strength of an organization is its ability to maintain focus on a single purpose. There is a delicate balance between maintaining that strength and at the same time developing the common good through creating community. The Great Commission must be our focus, but we build relationships and community on the journey.

I also want to salute our Kentucky Baptist institutions and agencies for the most creative reporting I have ever experienced at a convention. Videos, testimonies and music were all used to report in ways that not only our minds but our hearts.

Hats off as well to the KBC staff

for excellent work in arrangements and planning for the Executive Board and creative reporting on meeting Board staff ministries. Many thanks to the communications department staff members for their leadership and media work. The convention theme "Empowered to Serve" complemented the vision statement of the KBC staff. That statement expressed in music was the theme chorus for the convention. There were many compliments from messengers.

The convention program pace and inspiration were better than I have ever experienced. Jeff Smith's dramatic theme interpretations touched everyone. Messages by Charles Barnes, Mike Caudill, Jim Henry and Ken and Beth Perkins were outstanding. Music was inspirational. Charles Barnes presided with effectiveness and compassion.

Last, but certainly not least, I want to commend Northern Kentucky Baptists for their wonderful hospitality. Director of Missions Rick Robbins and the Northern Kentucky Baptist Association left no stone unturned to make our convention first class all the way!

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention



Bill Mackey

INSURANCE

Is long-term care insurance right option for you?

By Don Spencer

Whether to purchase long-term care insurance is a major decision for many folks as they get older. The decision is made more difficult because of the complexity of the subject. Each person

must make his or her own decision. Here are a few points for and against buying long-term care insurance.

Reasons to buy:
■ Should you ever need long-term care, it is important for you to continue having control over where and how you will receive care, and you want to avoid reliance on family and friends for care.

■ You can afford to purchase an adequate policy. It should have inflation protection, an adequate daily benefit and, probably should provide for a lifetime coverage option in case of Alzheimer's disease.

■ Your income is sufficient and you can afford a policy without a major change to your lifestyle.

■ You are in reasonably good health and still young enough for policy costs to be affordable.

■ You need the peace of mind of knowing such a policy can protect and preserve your financial resources for your heirs.

■ You wish to transfer the risk of incurring long-term care costs rather than assuming that risk.

Reasons not to buy:
■ Your income and assets are relatively low and you will likely qualify for Medicaid.

■ You are willing to assume the financial risks of long-term care costs and your assets are sufficient to do so, realizing those costs will be more than \$100 per day.

■ The cost and availability of the insurance has become prohibitive because of your age.

■ You have poor health with some major illness already diagnosed. Therefore, you cannot get the insurance from a reputable company, or the cost is excessive.

For more information check: "A Shopper's Guide to Long-Term Care Insurance," Kentucky Department of Insurance; (800) 595-6053.

■ "Kentucky Consumer's Guide to Long-Term Care Insurance" on the Internet at www.doi.state.ky.us/consumertips/long-term%20care.htm.

■ "Long-Term Care Planning: A Dollar and Sense Guide," published by United Seniors Health Cooperative; (800) 637-2604. Cost is \$18.50.

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

How can grieving couple cope with tragedy of child's death?

Q: My husband and I know a couple who just lost a child through a terrible accident. We're worried that their marriage may not survive because rather than bringing them together, this tragedy seems to be pulling them apart. How can we help?

What you are describing is not uncommon among couples who have experienced the death of a child. While one might assume that the love they share for their child and the fact that they need each other during such a time would bring the couple closer, this isn't always the case.

Sometimes the stress of a death can put a strain on a marriage that may not be very strong anyway. Problems they already may have in their marriage may seem more pronounced and overwhelming than they would otherwise. Sometimes, spouses simply have different methods of coping with the experience.

Consider the following example. After a child's death, one parent feels the need to talk about the child, the death, the pain and grief. She finds that talking is a relief and helps her deal with her feelings. The husband, however, might need to be alone to sort through his feelings and come to terms with the death in his own way. He is grieving privately, not wanting to talk much at all, even to his wife.

This situation wouldn't necessarily be overwhelming if the couple understands and respects their individual differences and works within those differences to meet each other's needs. But often communication is lacking.

When the individuals do not communicate their needs or meet each other's needs, this can lead to misunderstandings and eventually to a wearing away of the relationship.

If you see this happening with your friends, encourage them to talk to each other about their needs. You also might suggest that they seek professional help to cope with the death individually and as a couple.—*Susan Howell*

Q: My grandmother refuses to comply with the staff at the nursing home where she is staying. They used a Mental Status Examination to determine her ability to make decisions for herself. What is that and is it a fair measure of her thinking and reasoning ability?

The Mental Status Examination is an important, widely used test for determining the capacity of the elderly to make decisions. It is a useful tool for evaluating a wide range of mental functions, from thinking to the emotional status of the person.

However, it is not without its practical limitations. For example, the person who administers it should be objective, experienced in administering the test and have a clear frame of reference for assigning dysfunction.

More than one such test should be used to make such decisions. Another helpful test is the Activities for Daily Living Assessment. The combined information from the two tests generates more exact conclusions.

Some elderly people become uncooperative due to general unhappiness and dissatisfaction with their situation. This can make mental functioning assessment complex.

If you have concerns about the results of the testing, ask for information and a second opinion. The staff may or may not receive the request openly, but your grandmother's best interest is at stake.

If there is a chaplain available, you might wish to ask for his or her impressions of the circumstances. More input from different perspectives is the key to accurate interpretation of the situation.—*Jon Rainbow*

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



'The Unfinished Task'—an urgent priority

"The Unfinished Task," the theme for Southern Baptists' 1999 Week of Prayer for International Missions, is a stark reminder of the incredible challenge of seeking to evangelize the world.

The theme being promoted by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board primarily brings to mind the goal of sharing the gospel with unreached people groups. The needs in that area are tremendous. Nearly one-third of the world's population is made up of more than 2,000 people groups that have had little or no exposure to the gospel of Christ. Thousands of other people groups still have few organized Christian congregations.

For Southern Baptists to help make a difference among such groups, there must be a renewed and growing commitment to prayer, financial support and personal involvement. In addition to expanding the number of short-term volunteers willing to give of their time and resources, an increased number of career missionaries is needed for strategic ministry assignments around the globe.

But the unfinished task extends far beyond the most obvious areas of need. In mission fields where Southern Baptist workers have served for decades, there still are tremendous spiritual needs. That is among the reasons that thousands of Southern Baptist congregations faithfully participate year after year in the week of prayer and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions.

The Nov. 16 issue of the Western Recorder highlighted the ministries of several Kentucky Baptists serving God in such diverse settings as Costa Rica, South Africa and South Korea. Their stories are timely reminders of the importance of all Southern Baptists working together to pursue the unfinished task of sharing the gospel with billions of people in need:

■ In South Korea, missionary Steve Blanchard said many Korean Christians "really have a desire to be a part of God's plan and not only evangelize their own people but accept the Great Commission and go into all the world." By supporting Blanchard's ministry

among South Korean college students, Kentucky Baptists have the opportunity to multiply the impact of their prayers and gifts as the students eventually minister there and in other parts of the world.

■ In South Africa, Kentucky natives Dale and Ann Beigle are involved in a variety of ministry projects ranging from Bible studies to helping organize a church-sponsored preschool. Their congregation has grown steadily from 10 people to 70. "We can't exist over there without prayer support and financial support as well," Beigle said. "We try to enlist as many prayer supporters as possible while we're here."

■ In Costa Rica, Bill and Linda Egbert are working with the Guaymi people group. Describing the Guaymi as "very underevangelized," Egbert said he "began to try to make some inroads into their groups using medical teams and doing some community projects." He and other workers have used the "Jesus" video and other efforts to start seven new preaching points among the Guaymi.

■ Here in Kentucky, there are a variety of opportunities for volunteers to become personally involved in international missions efforts. The Kentucky Baptist Convention is sponsoring a number of partnership missions projects in Poland and Tanzania during the coming year. A growing number of churches and associations also are helping provide overseas ministry opportunities for church members.

Kentucky Baptist Convention President Terry Wilder said one of his goals is "to encourage every Kentucky Baptist to be a part of a missions project in the year 2000, whether locally or overseas."

Affirming his desire for the year 2000 to be "a Great Commission year in Kentucky Baptist life," Wilder added, "The mission fields are white unto harvest here in Kentucky and around the world."

In the words of Jesus, His followers are called to "go and make disciples of all nations." Nearly 2,000 years later, it remains our unfinished—and urgent—task.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

What do you say about yourself?

By David Tucker

Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" (John 1:22)

Billy Graham has had a life in the public eye. He has been interviewed by countless reporters, asked millions of questions and examined by both the secular and religious press. Despite all the fame and lights, however, Billy Graham is still considered a quiet and humble man.

How can someone so powerful and popular not be swept away with visions of greatness? He does it by keeping perspective, the same perspective of Scripture's first New Testament evangelist, John the Baptist.

Although in the middle of a wilderness, John, like Billy Graham, had been preaching, baptizing and creating quite a stir. He had a following, growing publicity, and in John 1:22 we find out he also had skeptics.

The question from the priests is not

surprising. They set it up like Barbara Walters preparing to make Tom Hanks cry. They started with the straightforward questions, "Are you the Christ?" "Are you Ezekiel?" "Are you the prophet?"

John must have been tempted to accept any one of those titles. After all,

people hung on his every word when he preached. He could have been the prophet. Watching his disciples' loyalty and love, he easily could have believed he really was their promised Savior. To each of their questions, however, John humbly and gently said no.

Next they made their move. "Well, if you aren't the Christ, Ezekiel or the prophet, just who do think you are? What do you think about yourself?" John, although humble, was not shy with his answer, "I am a voice of one calling." John knew he wasn't divine; he simply knew the Divine One. John knew he couldn't save, but he could introduce people to the Savior. John understood he wasn't the Victor; he was simply a voice.

It is the danger of every Christian leader, every Christian voice in this

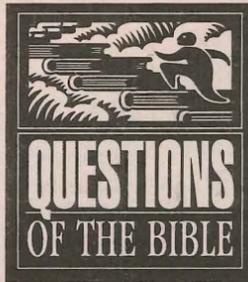
world that he or she may begin to believe their own press clippings. Whether you are a Sunday school teacher, preacher or church bus driver, if you do your job well, people will notice and they will praise you. Although it is tempting to let your head swell with pride, remember you are only a part of God's plan; you are a voice.

Where would John's prophecy be without the obedience of Mary and the loyalty of Joseph? Where is a preacher without a faithful and active congregation? Where is the teacher without the loyal and listening student?

The church and the plan of God involve the drawing together of many voices into a chorus of salvation. Even in evangelism when you see some soul accept Jesus as Savior, you are seeing only the harvest. Someone had to work the soil. Someone had to plant the seed. Someone had to water the ground. The apostle Paul tells us it is God who has brought forth the fruit.

So whether your place of ministry is as primitive as John the Baptist's or as high-profile as Billy Graham's, remember to keep your perspective in the midst of praise. God doesn't need another victor, he has that in Jesus Christ; God is simply looking for a voice.

David Tucker is pastor of Sherman Baptist Church in Dry Ridge



NATIONAL NOTES

■ **U.S. House gets new chaplain.** Charles Wright has been selected by the leadership of the House of Representatives as the new House chaplain, succeeding Ames Ford, who is retiring. Wright is a minister of the Presbyterian Church (USA) who has served pastorates in Maryland, Georgia, Pennsylvania and Washington. The chaplain oversees the opening of each legislative session with prayer and performs other duties such as providing counseling, leading prayer groups and officiating at weddings.

■ **Get "Veggies" with chicken.** Tommy Nelson, the children's division of Thomas Nelson Publishing, has entered an agreement with Chick-fil-A restaurants to give away 3.8 million "Veggie Tales" books through the end of 1999. The books are related to the popular "Veggie Tales" Christian video series for children. In a separate matter, Thomas Nelson has announced plans to purchase 60 percent of New Life Treatment Centers, a group known most for its popular Christian women's conferences. New Life sponsors Women of Faith conferences, which were held at 25 sites this year and attracted more than 375,000 participants.

■ **Video of Stewart's memorial available.** Copies of the video of pro golfer Payne Stewart's memorial service are available from First Baptist Church of Orlando. Jim Henry told the recent Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting that many people have contacted the church to learn more about Christianity as a result of the service. To order, send \$15 to Tape Ministries, Stewart Memorial, First Baptist Church, 3000 S. John Young Parkway, Orlando, FL 32805-6691.

■ **Atheist still gets \$1.** The U.S. Supreme Court has declined to disturb a symbolic \$1 damage award to an atheist who claimed he was forced to participate in religious exercises at Alcoholics Anonymous meetings as part of his probation sentence. The 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals called the symbolic \$1 damage award levied by a district court "just about right." While agreeing that the plaintiff shouldn't have been required to go to AA, the appeals court stated it is "far less clear" that he was entitled to damages from county officials who "were seeking not to impose obligatory religion but to require an alcoholic to deal with his addiction."

■ **Court won't review lesbian case.** The U.S. Supreme Court has declined to intervene in a dispute over child-visitation rights between former lesbian partners. By declining to review the case, the court left standing a ruling by a Massachusetts court temporarily allowing a woman to visit a 4-year-old child born to her former lover, pending a trial. The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court called the plaintiff a "de facto" parent of the child, who was conceived by artificial insemination and born during the couple's 13-year monogamous relationship.

■ **Religious toll collector fired.** A Florida toll collector who had been warned he could lose his job for distributing religious fliers to drivers has been fired for passing out the literature while on the job. The toll worker, whose name was not released, was fired Nov. 15 after telling his bosses he needed to give out the material "because he was doing the Lord's work," said Sal Secondo, state transportation department spokesman.

■ **Presbyterian decisions back gays.** A Presbyterian Church (USA) tribunal ruled Nov. 22 that a group of South Jersey

churches did not violate church laws by accepting a gay man as a candidate for ordination. Conservatives within the West Jersey Presbytery brought an action earlier this year after church leaders approved Graham Van Keuren, a graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary, as a candidate for ordination. Van Keuren told officials he was gay and did not plan on living a celibate life. Lawyers for the presbytery argued that because they had not ordained Van Keuren—in fact, had advised him he could not be ordained under current church law—they had not broken the law, known as Amendment B. Conservatives promised to appeal the ruling.

■ **Hayford named seminary president.** Jack Hayford, a prominent California-based Pentecostal minister, has made the transition from senior pastor to seminary president. Hayford has been named founding pastor of The Church on the Way, a Los Angeles church he began in 1969. At the same time, he has gained the new title of president of The King's Seminary, a graduate school of theology he founded in January on the church's west campus.

I'm a partner.

I'm a deacon and Sunday school teacher. I've seen Christian education first hand, both as a student, then as a college trustee. I'm also a former state Brotherhood president, a former KBC Executive Board member and a participant in several mission trips. I'm thankful that a portion of my offering helps so many ministries at home, across our country and throughout the world.

Join me...and be a partner, too!

Be a partner in the Cooperative Program --
born in Kentucky and celebrating 75 years
of helping people find the Lord!

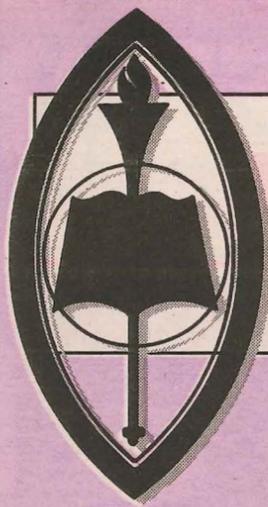


**PARTNERS
IN THE HARVEST**

*Forest Shely, M.D.
Campbellsville Baptist Church
Campbellsville*

Be a partner in what could become the greatest missions effort in Southern Baptist history. Call the Kentucky Baptist Convention today at 502-254-4731 or 1-888-254-5713 for more information about how you can become involved in Partners in the Harvest.





KENTUCKY NOTES

A quarterly publication of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union
P.O. Box 436569, Louisville, KY 40253-6569 • (502) 244-6485 • Toll-free: (888) 254-5726
Supplement to Western Recorder

Eliza Broadus Offering
1999-2000

Goal: \$750,000
Challenge Goal: \$800,000

Gifts will be received for the 1999-2000 offering through Aug. 31, 2000. Please continue to promote this offering for Kentucky state missions, missions education and special ministries throughout the year.

Winter 1999/2000

Funding Missions Work—Cooperatively

Missions offerings are vital to the ongoing support of our missions work. Whether it is Eliza, Annie or Lottie, each offering represents our cooperative efforts to spread the good news of Christ across our state, nation and around the world.

But there is also a missions funding channel that works for us week in and week out, generally with little fanfare. In 2000, however, we will have some fanfare as we celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Cooperative Program. The idea for CP was born here in Kentucky, and Kentucky WMU played a key role by promoting CP, and in its early years by setting a goal for a 10 percent increase each year.

The Cooperative Program is the financial lifeline of all we do together as Kentucky Baptists and Southern Baptists. Through CP we work together to do missions, train leaders, provide resources and do a myriad of kingdom tasks none of us could do alone.

This is an important time to review your church budget and learn what percentage of undesignated receipts your church gives through the CP. Our state office now can provide you with a report of the CP giving of your church and tell you exactly how your church's gifts were used here in Kentucky and how your gifts were divided among SBC causes.

Every percentage that your church increases to CP, increases support for all of our ministries. Collectively, even though total CP gifts are rising due to a strong economy, the percentage of undesignated gifts given by our churches is declining. Maintaining or even raising the percentage given will increase dramatically the funds available for missions and ministry.

Thank you for your gifts to the Eliza Broadus Offering for state missions, missions education and special ministries. Gifts for the 1999-2000 offering will be received through Aug. 31, 2000, so it's not too late to give to this year's state offering. Through EBO you are supporting Kentucky state missions, providing funds for a variety of special ministries and providing for missions education training. Thank you, Kentucky Baptists!



Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting
First Baptist Church, Bowling Green
April 14-15, 2000

Sessions: Friday: 9 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 7 p.m.; Saturday: 8:50 a.m.

Speakers: International missions: Porter & Rose Benson, Last Frontier Steven & Denise Musen, Philippines
North American missions: Susan Pugh, NAMB, World Changers
Theme interpretation/Bible study: Jim Slack, IMB Evangelism & Church Growth Consultant

Special features:

- **Heritage Fund Dinner**, Thursday, April 13, 6:30 p.m., University Plaza Hotel; advance ticket purchase required
- **Reception** for Kentucky WMU's new executive director-treasurer, Joy Bolton, and out-going president, Peggy Hicks, Friday afternoon, April 14
- **Baptist Nursing Fellowship Dinner**, Friday, April 14, 5 p.m.; advance reservation required
- **Girls in Action/Children in Action Missions Event**, gym, Saturday, April 15, 9 a.m.-12 noon



For Such a Time as This
State Acteens Conference 2000
April 7-8
Cumberland College

- **Featured speakers:**
Beth Ann Williams, Salt Lake City Olympic Outreach Director
Martha Lytle, Missionary to Israel and Russia
- **Music with Michael and Terri Higdon**
- **Special interest small group sessions**
- **Participate in ministry projects through Cumberland's Mountain Outreach and Appalachian Ministry**
- **Hawaiian Luau**
- **Missions Fair with Cumberland's summer missionaries**
- **Testimonies from Cumberland students and Acteens Activators**
- **Discover why you were created "For Such a Time as This"**
- **\$15 registration fee per person includes T-shirt and all conference materials**

Bring an Acteen! Bring a friend! Acteens and leaders, girls and leaders from Youth on Mission, and/or any young ladies in grades 7-12 are invited to participate. Advance registration required. See form, page 4.

Joy's Jottings

My first three months with you have flown by. These weeks have been busy and productive. Thank you for such a wonderful staff to work with. They have welcomed me and helped me get off to a good start.



Joy Bolton
Executive Director-Treasurer

Thanks to those who participated in one of our four Women on Mission/Adults on Mission retreats at either Jonathan Creek or Cedarmore. We had wonderful speakers and conference leaders, many who serve on our state resource team. Thanks to all of you who came to one of the retreats and participated with such enthusiasm. Thanks to our Executive Board who came for four days of meetings in October. We have a true working Board, and they came together in a wonderful spirit of worship, cooperation and excitement about the future.

The Board approved new job descriptions for our staff and a realignment of some staff duties. **Brenda Price** will serve as associate executive director in addition to her duties as preschool/children's consultant. **Anna Mary Byrdwell** will continue as our general WMU consultant with a focus on WMU growth and associational work. She is also going to assist us with our WMU archives. **LaRaine Dail** will continue as our youth/college consultant and will add to her duties publications manager for *Kentucky Notes* and other publications from our state WMU office. The personnel committee will be meeting with candidates for the adult consultant position and we hope to add a staff member soon. **Donna Dye** continues as our financial coordinator, **Doris Riddle** as secretary/receptionist and **Denise Gardner** as administrative assistant. The male voice you may hear when you call our office is **Todd Randolph**, a seminary student working with us on a part-time basis as office assistant. The Kentucky WMU staff is a wonderful team and I am grateful for each one of them and the vital part they have in our work together.

But my biggest thanks goes to each of you, faithful leaders and members of Kentucky WMU organizations. Because of your faithfulness, people across our state are growing spiritually and living out a missions lifestyle of praying, giving and doing missions.



Information for WMU Directors

Holidays, holy days

Thanksgiving has come and gone and we have been reminded of the blessings God has given us. For most of us, our launch into the Christmas season brings joy and happiness, and yet for some it brings stress and loneliness. As a "missions people" let's make it our mission to find those people who need joy and need our care and help them experience the true meaning of Christmas. Few things could bring us more joy than knowing we helped someone experience the warmth of God's love for the first time this Christmas.

KY WMU annual meeting

Make your hotel reservations NOW for the Kentucky WMU annual meeting, April 14-15 in Bowling Green. Come on Thursday, April 13, and attend the Kentucky WMU heritage fund dinner. Hotel and dinner reservation information can be found on page 4 of this *Kentucky Notes*.

North American Missions

How Shall They Hear? BY ALL MEANS! March 5-12, 2000, has been designated for our North American Missions emphasis. In early January, WMU directors will receive a sample package, including the prayer guide, poster, offering envelope, program cover and order card. Mail or fax your order to our office EARLY. Only the program cover is a priced item (100 for \$9.99) and it can be purchased by calling (800) 968-7301.

Mission study materials should be ordered immediately. Call (800) 448-8032 or fax (615) 251-5983. The complete planning kit (three videos, promotional packet, books and training guides for all age levels, 10 workbooks for children) is \$44.99. Individual pieces also can be purchased.

Kentucky Notes

Church WMU leadership teams receive *Kentucky Notes* four times a year. If you have a team member who does not get it, perhaps we do not have her name. It is important EACH year to provide an updated list from your church to your associational WMU director. She, in turn, shares it with the state office. You also may send the information directly to the state WMU office.

Focus on WMU

What does your church know about your missions organizations?

Do they see you as

- People who 'read parts'?
- Small groups of women who never ever receive new members?
- A group for older women?

Can you give them a new impression?

In my church, our past WMU director, Mary Lou, has mentored Gerry as a Women on Mission facilitator and coordinator. Now Gerry is our new WMU director, and God has worked through her to reach younger women. Two introductory meetings have involved 56 younger women not involved in our four Women on Mission groups. What a wonderful opportunity for God to work through these women as they become radically involved in the mission of God! This is a great way to focus on WMU!

Women on Mission

2000 fall retreats

Mark your calendars NOW for our 2000 Fall Retreats.

Cedarmore: Sep. 29-30 & October 6-7; **Jonathan Creek:** Oct. 13-14 & Oct. 20-21

Speakers confirmed: **Rhonda Kelley**, author of *A Woman's Guide to Spiritual Wellness* and *A Woman's Guide to Personal Holiness* (to be released August 2000): Sept. 29-30. **Sarah Groves**, co-author of *A Seeking Heart: Rediscovering True Worship* (to be released April 2000): Oct. 13-14 & Oct. 20-21

A New Look for Missions Mosaic

Starting January 2000, *Missions Mosaic* will have a new look with more color, feature stories and leadership helps in every issue. Look for the **In Your World** sections which will provide ministry and witnessing ideas. **In Your Church** sections will help with small group plans. **How to Use This Issue** will suggest ideas for using the magazine.

Adults on Mission

Find meeting ideas, information and more for Adults on Mission by visiting the WMU web page: www.wmu.com. Simply click on WMU organizations, then go to Adults on Mission.

Adults on Mission is a great way to get men involved in missions. Couples, singles groups and others who prefer a coed missions experience will enjoy Adults on Mission. Look for ministries that would be best done by men and women working together. The new book *I Can Do That!* has great ministry ideas.



Youth

The first Youth on Mission Night was held at Georgetown College Sept. 10-11

Youth from across the state were challenged by Ken and Beth Perkins as well as by returning summer missionaries. Mark and Ryan, of the Baptist Student Union praise band, lead music. The missions fair on Friday evening was the highlight of the event. Summer missionaries lined the basement of the chapel with displays representative of their experiences. Make plans to attend next year.

Acteens and Youth on Mission groups, we need your help! Kentucky WMU is seeking groups to become "Instigators." Instigators will travel to instigate that want to start Acteens or Youth on Mission groups and help them get started. If your group wants to be part of the few, the proud, the Instigators, call LaRaine, Dail. We will have a training session at both the Creative Ministries Festival and the State Acteens Conference.

The **Creative Ministries Festival** will be held at Southern Seminary in Louisville March 3-4, 2000. This is an excellent opportunity for youth groups to receive training for missions. Attend the youth missions workshops on Friday evening and develop your

creative ministry skills on Saturday. Plans for the **State Acteens Conference** are coming together. Young ladies from across the commonwealth will be challenged to discover why God created them "For Such a Time as This." You can't imagine the excitement for God and missions that will be generated when nearly 1,000 tenderhearted young women get together.

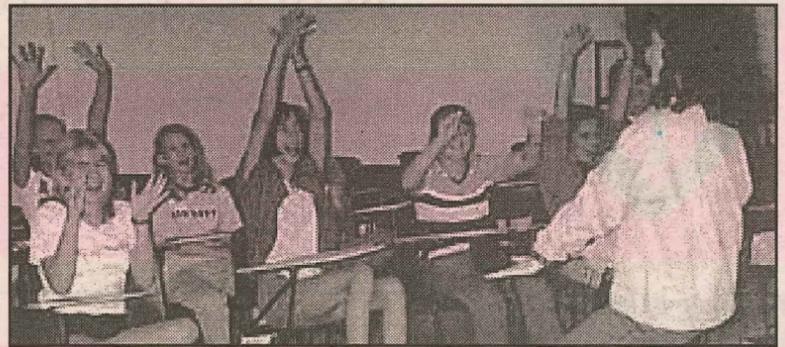
Mission Friends

As the new millennium begins, are the people in your church aware of missions education for preschoolers? Focus on WMU, Feb. 14-20, will be an opportunity for teachers to help the church recognize Mission Friends as a part of

WMU. Plan with the church director for Focus on WMU. Ideas for this emphasis are in the winter issue (December-January-February) of *Start* and the *1999-2000 WMU Year Book*, pages 28-29.

It's not too early to begin preparing for the **North American Mission Study** coming up in March. The mission study features Chaplain Irvin Banta in Huntsville, Ala. The study for all ages of preschoolers builds upon the February unit in the winter issue of *Start*. The teaching guide for this special study is available from WMU, SBC at (800) 968-7301. It is designed to take place during the churchwide study. If your church does not have a churchwide study, use the study material during any regular Mission Friends class.

Did you know the Middle Mission Friends class at the Middle



The thrill of victory during the "Fun Games to Use in Missions" seminar at Georgetown

Baptist Church, Louisville, and their teacher, Pat Reaves, are pictured in the winter issue of *Start*? Thank you, Pat and preschoolers, for sharing what is happening in Mission Friends in your church.

in Action Missions Event on Saturday, April 15, during the WMU annual meeting at First Baptist Church, Bowling Green. This will be a special time for GAs and leaders to meet missionaries, make new friends, sing and have lots of fun. The cost is \$2 per person attending. No pre-registration for the event is required. Further information will be in the March issue of *Kentucky Notes*.

Ready, Set, Go! Boys and girls in Children in Action are invited to join GAs at the **GA and Children in Action Missions Event** on Saturday, April 15, from 9 a.m. to noon at First Baptist Church in Bowling Green. The event is held each year in conjunction with the WMU annual meeting. There will be missionaries to meet, singing and lots of fun. The cost is \$2 per person attending. No pre-registration for the event is required. Look for more information in the next *Kentucky Notes*.

Girls in Action

Exciting missions experiences await GAs in 2000 as the Great GA Get-Away continues...

Though winter is just getting underway, it is time to begin planning for the **North American Mission Study and Week of Prayer**. The study material, *New Ways for a New Day*, will lead children to learn how



Southern Baptists are using various media to share the good news of Jesus Christ. A reproducible prayer guide for children is available in the winter issue of the *WMU Leadership Team Resource Kit*. Contact your church WMU director for a copy. If she does not subscribe to the resource kit, check with your associational GA consultant or state WMU children's consultant for a camera-ready copy to use. Use this special time in March as an enlistment time for GA prospects.

Put on your traveling shoes and bring GAs to the **GA and Children**

mit your suggestions. The Kentucky Acteens Advisory Panel will examine the entries and select a new name. The group that suggests the new name will receive a prize at SAC.

Kentucky WMU is pleased to announce the 1999-2000 Kentucky Acteens Advisory Panel:

- **Lauren Gover**
First Baptist, Somerset
- **Sarah Harris**
Fairview Baptist, Ashland
- **Amber McDuffee**
Bellview Baptist, Paducah
- **Melissa Milliken**
Middleton Baptist, Franklin
- **Suzie Ledford**
First Baptist, Somerset
- **Shannon Riggs**
Rough River Baptist, McDaniels

Children in Action



Put on your traveling shoes and bring GAs to the **GA and Children**



President's Perspective

What is the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal for your church? We are in the middle of our first week of emphasis and I pray that our giving will be high. There are many requests from the mission fields that are dependent on our gifts. Challenge each other to match what is spent on



Peggy Hicks
Kentucky
WMU
president

Christmas giving with a gift to world missions. One church is sponsoring a **Lottie Moon Tour of Homes by Candlelight**. This will introduce wo-men to activities done through Wo-men on Mission and invite the women to become active in a missions group. Instead of paying for the tour everyone will be encouraged to make a generous gift to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

Another idea is **Christmas Happening**. The idea is to involve Women on Mission and the ladies of the church, along with others in the community, in a day of making Christmas crafts. But more importantly, the women will focus on the "reason for the season," our Savior Jesus Christ.

Christmas Happening begins with a hands-on craft workshop and seminars on a wide variety of Christmas topics. The second part of the event is a brunch with a guest speaker, music, drama and maybe a fashion show. The gospel is presented in a non-threatening way to help those who are unfamiliar with the Christ of Christmas. The ultimate goal of Christmas is to touch the lives of women in the community with the true light of Christmas and to give to foreign missions. Our gifts and our prayers are like a lifeline for our missionaries.

Many of us have continued to call our WMU publication in Western Recorder "Kentucky Notes" and not the new name, *On Mission Together*. The Kentucky WMU Executive Board voted to return to the name, **Kentucky Notes**. Did you notice the change?

We are just a few months away from **Annual Meeting**, and things are in process to make this one "special." But every time we are together is a special opportunity to affirm our commitment to world missions. Mark your calendar. Our theme will be **Changing World ... Transforming Missions**. Two of our speakers work with people groups in different parts of the world. They will give us insights into "Last Frontier Missionaries." There will be others coming to help make our time together meaningful.

Come to Bowling Green on Thursday night, April 13, the night before annual meeting, for a **Heritage Fund Dinner** for an exciting evening. Friday afternoon we will have a reception honoring our new Kentucky WMU executive director-treasurer and visiting with the missionaries. Mark your calendar!

Love in Christ,
Peggy Hicks

Kentucky WMU welcomes new camp specialists

With a combined 22 years of camp experience, Beth Dunn and Evie Cash are returning to leadership in the Kentucky WMU camping program. Each will serve in a new capacity as a part-time camp specialist in a shared position. Their principal function will be to organize, coordinate, administer and evaluate the camping program of Kentucky WMU.

Beth, who resides in Louisville, holds a bachelor's degree from Eastern Kentucky University and a master of religious education degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. She taught public school in Jefferson County for 12 years prior to her present position as middle school mathematics teacher for the Shelby County Board of Education, where she has been employed since 1992. Beth was named Kentucky Teacher of

the Year in 1996. Prior to 1994, she served at Cedar Crest as director of GA and Acteens camp for eight years and as assistant director for two years.

Evie holds a bachelor of science degree and a bachelor of arts degree from Georgetown College and a master of arts in art education from the University of Kentucky. Since 1988, she has taught art in grades K-6 in Woodford County.

Evie, who resides in Versailles, is also a free-lance artist. For 12 years, she served on the Cedar Crest staff, 10 of them as assistant camp director.

Beth and Evie bring not only years of experience in the WMU camping program, but commitment to missions education for children and youth. Through their leadership, lives of campers and staff at Cedar Crest and Jonathan Creek will be greatly enriched.



Camp 2000

Cedar Crest

June 12-18 Camp Staff Training
June 19-23 GA Camp
June 26-30 GA/Acteens Camp
July 10-14 GA/Acteens Camp
July 17-21 GA Camp



Mother/Daughter Overnights

June 23-24
July 6-7
July 7-8
July 14-15

Jonathan Creek

June 16-17 Mother/Daughter Overnight
June 16-17 Acteens Splash (Overnight)



Girls in Action (GA) camp is for girls in grades 4-6. Acteens camp is for girls in grades 7-12. Mother/Daughter Overnights are for girls in grades 1-3 and their mothers or mother substitutes.

Acteens Splash is an overnight for girls in grades 7-12.

Girls do not have to be a member of Girls in Action or Acteens to attend camp.

COST: \$110 for week-long camp (includes meals, lodging, program fee); \$27 for Mother/Daughter Overnights and Acteens Splash (includes meals, lodging, program fee)

Be part of something beyond yourself this summer Be a Cedar Crest camp staffer

Positions	Length of Service	Qualifications	Application Deadline
Unit Leader Lifeguard Counselor Kitchen Coordinator	6 weeks	College age	Feb. 15
Assistant Counselor	5-6 weeks	High School Junior or Senior	Feb. 15
Volunteer Nurse	1 or more weeks		May 1

For applications and more information about camp positions, contact Kentucky WMU office at (888) 254-5726, P.O. 436569, Louisville, KY 40253-6569.



Camp video

The **Kentucky WMU Camp Promotional Video** is available through your associational director of missions and associational GA and Acteens consultants as well as from the state WMU office or the Kentucky Baptist Convention video library. The video has three parts: a segment promoting GA and Acteens week-long camps and Mother/Daughter Overnights, a 40-second commercial that can be shown as an announcement during a church service and a segment about serving on camp staff.

Be on the lookout!

The 2000 camp information, including poster and registration form, will be available in early January and will be mailed to church GA leaders and Acteens advisors. For further information contact the Kentucky WMU office (888) 254-5726.

Project HELP: Violence Kit order form

It's not too late to order your kit full of ideas on how to reflect, recognize and reduce violence in your church and community.

Name _____

Church _____ Association _____

Address _____

Daytime Phone Number _____

Number of Copies _____ x \$5 per packet = \$ _____ Total enclosed



Make checks payable to Kentucky WMU. Send form and check to Kentucky WMU Resource Kit, PO Box 436569, Louisville, KY 40253.



Scholarships

Are you eligible for a KY WMU scholarship? Categories are:

- ✓ Kentucky Senior Acteens who have completed Stuidact/MissionsQuest levels or have participated in Activators missions trips.
- ✓ Kentucky women in college/seminary who are preparing for a church-related vocation.
- ✓ Kentucky women/men in seminary preparing for missions or WMU work.

Call the WMU office toll free, (888) 254-5726, for a scholarship brochure and the appropriate applications. Completed applications must be in the Kentucky WMU office by Feb. 1, 2000.

State Acteens Conference Hotels

Cumberland Inn by Marriott
649 South 10th Street
Williamsburg, KY 40769
(800) 315-0286
\$64 (+ tax)
Reservation made through sales office as "Kentucky Acteens"
Cutoff date: 3/24/2000

Holiday Inn Express
30 W. Hwy. 92
Williamsburg, KY 40769
(606) 549-3450
\$57 (tax included)
Use code: Acteens
Cutoff date: 4/1/2000

Days Inn
I-75 & Hwy. 92 Jct.
Williamsburg, KY 40769
(606) 549-1500

Best Western Corbin Inn
2630 Cumberland Falls Highway
Corbin, KY 40701
(888) 528-2100
\$44.95 (+ tax)
Use code: Kentucky Acteens
Cutoff date: 3/24/2000

Country Inns & Suites
1888 Cumberland Falls Highway
Corbin, KY 40701
(606) 526-1400
\$63 (+ tax)
Use code: Acteens
Cutoff date: 3/7/2000

Calendar

December

- 11/28 -
- 12/5 Season of International Missions
- 1 Acteens Activator applications due in Kentucky WMU office
- 25 Christmas

January

- 5-9 Baptist World Alliance Congress, Melbourne, Australia

February

- 14-20 Focus on WMU
- 15 Camp staff applications due
- 27 Volunteers in Missions Day

March

- 3-4 Creative Ministries Festival, Louisville
- 5-12 Season of North American Missions
North American Mission Study, Week of Prayer and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.
Theme: *By All Means*

April

- 7-8 Kentucky State Acteens Conference, Cumberland College, Williamsburg
- 9 Cooperative Program Day
- 13 Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund Dinner, FBC, Bowling Green
- 14-15 Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting, FBC, Bowling Green
- 14 Missionary/Missionary Parents Luncheon
DOM's & Spouse; Associational WMU Directors Luncheon
Baptist Nursing Fellowship Dinner
- 15 GA and Children in Action Missions Event, FBC, Bowling Green
- 23 Easter
- 30 Life Commitment Sunday

State Acteens Conference registration form

The conference cost is \$15 per person and includes a T-shirt, all conference materials and other gifts. A confirmation letter will be sent after your registration is received.

Name of Church _____ Association _____

Name of Advisor _____ Daytime Phone No. _____

Complete Mailing Address _____

Please check here if you would like to participate in an off-site ministry project _____

A minimum of one (1) chaperone is required for every seven (7) youth.

Number of youth _____ + Number of chaperones _____ = _____ Total attending

Number attending _____ x \$15 per participant = \$ _____ Total enclosed _____

Make checks payable to Kentucky WMU. Send form with payment to: State Acteens Conference, Kentucky WMU, P.O. Box 436569, Louisville, KY 40253-6569.

Questions? Call (502) 244-6485 or (888) 254-5726.

Heritage fund

The Heritage Fund is a permanent endowed fund of Kentucky WMU. The stated purpose of the fund is for developing, strengthening and sustaining the work of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union. Since 1996, grants have been given annually from the interest earned to provide funding for missions education work in our state.

The development committee recently examined the long term goal of sustaining WMU work in Kentucky. Kentucky WMU is funded primarily through two sources, the Cooperative Program and the Eliza Broadus Offering. To increase the amount available for state missions, we desire to fund the work of our state WMU in other ways. If gifts to the Heritage Fund were to increase dramatically, it would be possible for us to use the interest income to provide funding for state WMU work, and thus reduce the need for Eliza Broadus Offering funds for missions education training and events.

Would you give a gift in honor of someone who gave you a missions heritage? Would you name Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund in your will? Would you give generously to sustain missions education in our state and increase funds available for state missions?

On Thursday, April 13, we will have a Heritage Fund dinner at the University Plaza Hotel in Bowling Green. This dinner will be one of the special features of our 2000 Kentucky WMU annual meeting. It will be an evening you won't want to miss with entertainment, a great meal and fellowship with folks who care deeply about Kentucky WMU.

We will announce the charter members of the Heritage Society that night. Anyone who puts WMU in his or her will can be a member of the Heritage Society. If you already have written your will and named Kentucky WMU in it, you already are eligible to be a charter member. Simply notify the Kentucky WMU state office to let us know you have named Kentucky WMU in your will. If you write a will before April 13, 1999, and notify Kentucky WMU that you have named Kentucky WMU in your will, you will become a charter member of the Heritage Society. We will continue to seek Heritage Society members, but this is your opportunity to become a charter member!

We have a heritage worth passing on. Your gift to the Heritage Fund will help sustain the missions education work of Kentucky WMU for years to come.

Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund Dinner April 13, 2000, University Plaza Hotel Bowling Green, 6:30 p.m.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Number of tickets @ \$20 each: _____

Total enclosed: _____
(Make check payable to Kentucky WMU)

_____ Include me as a charter member of the Heritage Society. I have placed Kentucky WMU in my will. (You may register for the Heritage Society even if you cannot attend the dinner.)

_____ A gift for the Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund is enclosed:
\$ _____

Please mail this form to:
Kentucky WMU, PO Box 436569, Louisville, KY 40253-6569

2000 Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting Hotels

Heritage Dinner: April 13
Annual Meeting: April 14-15

Hampton Inn (headquarters hotel)
233 Three Springs Road
Bowling Green, KY 42104
(270) 842-4100
\$59 + tax

Baymont Inn & Suites
165 Three Springs Road
Bowling Green, KY 42104
(270) 782-6699
\$54.95 + tax

Best Western Motor Inn
1 65 South Exit # 22 & Hwy. 231
(800) 343-2937 or (270) 782-3800
\$45 + tax; cutoff date: 4/7/2000
Special rate for jacuzzi suite \$79 + tax

Holiday Inn
3240 Scottsville Road
Bowling Green, KY 42104
(270) 781-1500
Use code: 2-KMU
\$69.95 + tax; cutoff date: 3/30/2000

Ramada Inn
4767 Scottsville Road
Bowling Green, KY 42104
(270) 781-3000
\$49+ tax; cutoff date: 4/1/2000

Fairfield Inn
1940 Mel Browning Street
Bowling Green, KY 42104
(270) 782-6933
Use code: Gardner
\$ 44.95 + tax; cutoff date: 3/17/2000

Microtel Inn
1980 Mel Browning Road
Bowling Green, KY 42104
(270) 745-9922
Use code: Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union
\$ 39.95 + tax; cutoff date: 4/14/2000

Comfort Inn
4646 Scottsville Road
Bowling Green, KY 42104
(270) 843-1163
Use code: Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union
\$ 59.88 + tax; cutoff date: 3/31/2000

Bible guide both praised and questioned

Continued from page 1

faiths—or no faith—are protected, and curricula include study about religion as part of a full education.

"This is a vision of public education that is both consistent with First Amendment principles and broadly supported by many educational and religious organizations," the guide says.

Guidelines in the 11-page document include the following statements about study about the Bible in public school curricula: it must be educational and not devotional; classes should be taught in an academic and objective manner; teach-

ers should be chosen based on their academic qualifications, not their beliefs or nonbeliefs about religion; the Bible can be a primary text, but generally should not be the only text in a course; and divine action and supernatural occurrences in the Bible cannot be taught as historical fact.

The guidelines also suggest that students should be informed about the various translations and interpretations of the Bible.

The guide has been endorsed by 18 groups, including the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, the National Association of Evan-

gelicals and People for the American Way Foundation.

But Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, called the document a "mixed blessing."

Specifically, he questioned the guide's idea of teaching about the Bible that is "objective, nonjudgmental, academic, neutral, fair and balanced."

Teachers might teach the Bible as just another book, albeit a historically important one, and explain away the miraculous and supernatural aspects it contains, Land said. "I fear many Baptists, evangelicals and others of serious religious faith are going to be very disturbed by the way many public schools will interpret the words 'objective, nonjudgmental, academic, neutral, balanced and fair.'"

With additional reporting by Baptist Press

Mormon dispute gets city sued

SALT LAKE CITY (RNS)—The American Civil Liberties Union has sued Salt Lake City over its sale of Main Street property to the Mormon Church that could lead to the banning of public demonstrations at the location.

In April, the city sold a block of Main Street to the church for \$8.2 million. The former public property ran through the center of historic Temple Square, an area that includes the Salt Lake Temple and other Mormon buildings.

Terms of the sale state that the church must permit 24-hour public access to the square but can ban almost any other activity—including smoking, begging, sunbathing, inappropriate dress, partying and lewd or vulgar behavior. But civil libertarians are most alarmed that the church is allowed to prohibit assembling, picketing and demonstrating, USA Today reported.

The church also can bar outside music and speakers but is allowed to broadcast its own church messages and the Mormon Tabernacle Choir.

"It's an important case in terms of whose city this is, whose voice is going to be heard and respected," said ACLU attorney Stephen Clark. "Is it just a way to further entrench the dominant church and the most powerful corporation in the city?"

The suit, filed Nov. 16, claims the city violated the First Amendment rights to free speech and assembly of the public and the constitutional principle against favoring any religion.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, as the Mormon Church is officially named, is not a defendant in the suit, but could be brought in later. The ACLU is joined in the suit by the city's Unitarian church, the Utah chapter of the National Organization of Women and a group called Utahans for Fairness.

The Mormon Church plans to fight for its right to regulate the block in the way it wishes. "The church has property rights here, and it will strongly defend those rights," said Von Keetch, an attorney representing the church.

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Hope

By Lisa Cox

"Show me Your ways, O Lord, teach me Your paths; guide me in Your truth and teach me, for You are God my Savior and my hope is in You all day long" Psalm 25:4-5.

In Psalm 25:4-5, The Psalmist's hope is in God and because of this hope, he will wait on God. As we look at these words, there are several ways to interpret them. We can sit quietly in a corner, praying and telling God, "Here I sit, Lord, looking at my watch and waiting for You to make a move. Your Word says I should wait on You, so here I am."

Or we can truly wait on the Lord and give a testimony of hope to others. For example, when we go to a restaurant, a waiter will come along and ask for our order. During our visit, the waiter will do all in his power to please us. His ambition is to make certain we are happy with the evening and so very much so that we will show our appreciation by leaving a very nice tip.

How much more should we be willing to wait on the Lord? After all we have already received our

tip of unending grace.

Through our kindness to others—our words of comfort and of love, our smiles as we pass others on the street, a tray of cookies or a pan of candy to a neighbor, a warm coat to someone in need, a listening ear for someone who is hurting—we can wait on the Lord and by doing so we give a living testimony of our hope in God.

CUMBERLAND
COLLEGE



This holiday season, so that He may be glorified, let us wait on the Lord by showing others the hope that abounds within us because of a Savior who came to earth as a babe and lived His life waiting on us.

Lisa Cox is secretary to President Jim Taylor at Cumberland College. For the past 20 years she has served faithfully and well as part of the Cumberland College staff and as an active member of her church. Cumberland College, 6000 College Station Dr., Williamsburg, KY 40769

Kentucky Baptists!

Thanks for Giving
so we'll be ready for
'Another Child to Hold.'



Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children
10801 Shelbyville Road
Louisville KY 40243

MISSIONS

Offering helps fund missions work in Cambodia

By Kay Moore
SBC International Mission Board

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia—More than two decades have passed since daily headlines detailed news of American bombings in Cambodia.

But when Phil Wardell (not his real name) confronts Cambodians whose lives were forever changed by the Vietnam War, the hatred among many is raw and fresh.

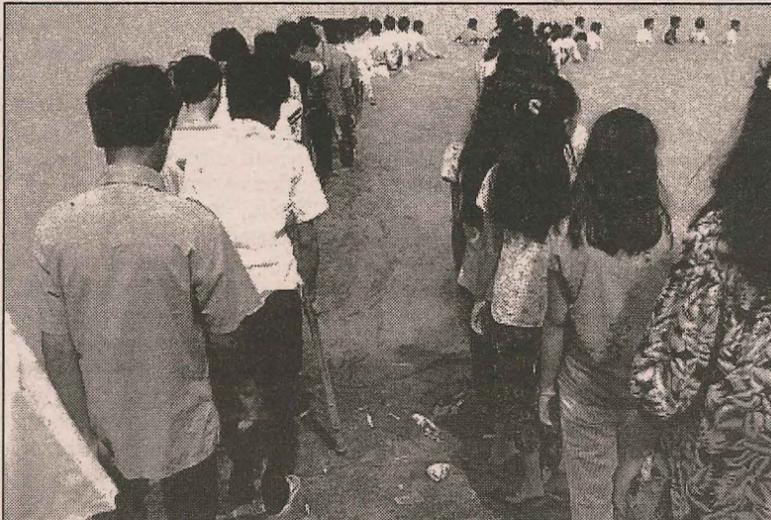
Wardell, a Southern Baptist living in Southeast Asia, said he finds it challenging to tell Cambodians about Christ when his hearers hurl back, "Your people bombed our villages!"

For Cambodians, 94 percent of whom are Buddhist, "forgiving a transgressor or forgetting how they have been transgressed" is a thoroughly alien concept, explained Wardell. Fewer than 1 percent of the Cambodian people are Christian.

When Cambodians do confess faith in Christ, they often query Wardell and other Christians, "Why has it taken you so long to get here with the gospel?"

Wardell, who lives and works among the Central Khmer people group, said a major stumbling block for residents is separating Buddhism from their cultural identity. Central Khmer make up 90 percent of the country's total population.

"To be Khmer is to be Buddhist," he said. "It is difficult to persuade the Cambodian people that they can be Khmer and Christian at the same time." Forsaking their religion to embrace the



DECLARATION OF FAITH Though many will be shunned by family and friends as a result, scores of Cambodians publicly declare their faith in Christ by being baptized. The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions supports the work of Southern Baptist missionaries among the Cambodian people. (BP photo by Charles Ledford)

Christian faith portends swift, permanent rejection by loved ones.

Once, after Wardell talked about Christianity for two hours to a Cambodian village leader, the man said, "We will consider becoming Christian, but first we must talk with our families and the other village members."

When someone accepts Jesus as his or her personal Savior, a local body of believers becomes that new Christian's "adoptive family" because other family members often shun him or her.

Wardell sees such situations as he directs a registered, non-governmental

organization that seeks to minister to the needs of the Cambodian people. Such needs include AIDS education and awareness, digging clean water wells or restoring others, developing water purification systems, teaching people to grow their own food and constructing toilets for local villages and schools.

Other activities include conducting rural medical clinics and distributing medicines.

"Most Cambodians do not have access to medical care," Wardell explained. "Further, they would not necessarily seek medical treatment, as

many would fear they had displeased a local spirit in the area. In their belief system, the offended spirit will have inflicted the person with the disease."

As he demonstrates Christ's love, Wardell often encounters direct questions, which he then can answer.

For example, during one AIDS awareness training program in a village previously controlled by the Khmer Rouge (Communist rebels), the project director told participants the program sought to instill principles of morality, marital faithfulness and abstinence in their lives. The village leader stood up, walked directly toward Wardell, and asked, "Are you a Christian?" Wardell was able to respond affirmatively and elaborate on his faith.

Southern Baptist goals for the Cambodian people revolve in part around literacy—training volunteer teachers who teach students to read and write the Khmer language. More than half of the 4,000 students in the program have come to faith in Jesus Christ because of the Bible-based curriculum or outreach efforts. Wardell and other representatives like him want to expand this project into more provinces and into the largest military hospital.

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions has provided funds to construct an office building, house and guest rooms for Wardell and other personnel who work alongside him. It also funded vehicles for four new families who have arrived within the past 18 months to minister there, as well as helped provide their salaries.

the
**Unfinished
Task**
1999
Loving the Lost

More than half of the 4,000 students in a literacy program have come to faith in Jesus Christ because of the Bible-based curriculum or outreach efforts.

Recycling peach pits

By Denise Spencer

Where do soda bottles transform into butterflies? Where can you find angels made of peach pits? The Oneida Baptist Institute Craft House, of course. At the Craft House, creativity abounds, and the most unusual items are recycled into works of art.

Oneida's craft program was started in 1984 by Donna Atto, who still manages the Craft House. She came to OBI with her husband, William "Pal" Atto, as a full-time volunteer. "I came to Oneida on my 70th birthday," Mrs. Atto recalled.

Barkley Moore was the school's president at the time, and he wanted a craft shop on campus. The Attos had volunteered at OBI in the past, and Mrs. Atto once had owned three craft stores. She was happy to bring her skills to a place of ministry.

Oneida's crafts primarily are hand-made items, constructed from donated materials. Mrs. Atto explained, "About three-fourths of what we sell is made here, and that makes our expenses much lower."

In addition to materials, visitors bring patterns for new projects. This fall the shop sold pumpkins made of dryer vents. They made 86 pumpkins with a donated pattern, and sold all but two.

Mrs. Atto is assisted in the Craft House by two part-time volunteers: Imogene Vick and Marla Burns. Visiting volunteers often help with our craft program, too, including Campers on Mission from a number of states. Students also get involved from time to time. Mrs. Atto currently is supervising one of our seniors in the field placement program. Russell works in the craft shop two class

periods per day. He also is an art student and enjoys the craft projects. Russell does such tasks as painting, decoupage and woodworking.

Students are the ones who ultimately benefit from our craft program. At the end of each month, Mrs. Atto pays sales tax and reimburses the school for the books she has sold. The rest of the profit—usually 80 percent of the total earnings—is donated to the student aid fund. This fund is used to supplement room and board for students who

cannot afford the full rate. "The reason we're able to do that is that so much is donated," Mrs. Atto explained.

Our craft program's primary customers are visitors and parents of students. Visiting groups take campus tours, which include a stop at the Craft House. Sometimes guests who do craft projects themselves will see an idea they like. They'll purchase one item from our Craft House to use as a pattern to make their own.

School breaks mean good business, too. When parents come to campus to pick up or drop off their children, a trip to the Craft House is a special treat. As

Christmas break approaches, more students will frequent the shop themselves, choosing unique gifts to take home to their families. People from the local community also shop at our Craft House, especially at Christmas time.

So if you can't find a unique gift for that special someone, stop by the Craft House the next time you come our way. A peach-pit angel might just do the trick.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

From Clear Creek to international missions

During the Christmas season, most Southern Baptists focus on missions and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for international missions. My prayers and giving are motivated by former students and faculty now serving on the mission field.

Charles and Carolyn Dixon (1993) work in Morogoro, Tanza-

nia. Next June eight students and I plan to help them as a project of the Kentucky-Tanzania partnership. We will show the Jesus film in three locations, do door-to-door visitation, teach leadership and discipleship seminars and preach in three churches. Dixon also hopes we will pour the cement floor for the first building of the new Baptist Christian elementary school.

Wayne and Gayle Gullion (1997) serve in Niger. They rejoice in a new pastor for the church in Say. Adamou Zounari, his wife, Hamsatou, and their two children moved to the village in August. Zounari asks for prayer that his mother will become a Christian.

The Gullions praise God for more than 60 people baptized in June in the surrounding villages

where they work. Mrs. Gullion recently wrote, "One thing I enjoy most here is the beautiful sunsets God gives. I enjoy the new picture He brings to my kitchen window each evening and they are never the same."

Charles and Julie Quarles and their children, Rachael, Hannah, and Joshua, arrived in Romania in

August. Quarles taught New Testament at Clear Creek from 1996 to 1999. They are in language training anticipating a teaching assignment at the University of Bucharest and the Baptist seminary.

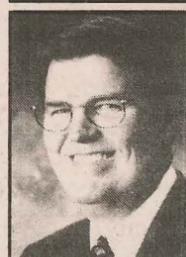
Romanian Baptists and other evangelicals will face days that are more difficult if the government passes proposed legislation. Pray for freedom to share the

Christian faith and that many Romanians will find freedom in Christ.

Be sure your Christmas giving includes a generous gift for international missions to help reach the Southern Baptist Convention's goal of \$125 million.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

CHILDREN

Director: Churches missing out on after-school ministry

By Polly House
SBC LifeWay Christian Resources

NASHVILLE (BP)—Christian after-school care programs represent an opportunity for reaching receptive children that churches can't afford to miss, according to the director of such a program.

"There is no better way to make an impact on these wonderful children than in a Christian after-school care program," said Anne Moor, director of the School Age Care Program of Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church in Knoxville, Tenn.

"When else do we ever have so much time with the children?" she asked. "In Sunday school, you will have the children for one hour, one day a week. In an after-school care program, you have the children for up to four hours a day, five days a week. In the summer, you have them for up to 11 hours a day."

Church-based after-school pro-

grams provide a loving, safe, Christian atmosphere in which churches can meet some of the children's spiritual, physical and social needs, she said.

Also, after-school care programs can be an inroad for outreach to the families being served, Moor said. Parents will have pre-established a level of trust in the after-school care program and its supporting church, she said.

Churches already lead the way for preschool programs, Moor said. "Many, many churches have excellent preschool ministries, but we have not done a very good job providing care for our older children."

Dot Blevins, children's minister at Salem Baptist Church in McDonough, Ga., and a participant in the workshop, agreed. "I'm very interested in this type of program for my own church. Two new elementary schools are being built near our church. That will put four elementary schools within six miles of us."

Moor said the hardest job she has as a director is finding staff members she considers suitable. Her first requirement is the applicant must be a Christian with biblical and theological beliefs that match those of the church.

Moor, who employs several college students, said they are "wonderfully creative" in teaching the children and leading devotionals.

"One day we may have a Bible story. Another day we might go to the sanctuary and sing hymns," Moor said, adding that the children often are awed at how their voices sound in the large sanctuary. "Do you remember when you were small, how big the room felt and how the echo sounded when you sang? Children still love that."

Churches that sponsor after-school care programs should offer decent teachers' salaries, Moor added. "Providing care and nurturing for these children is worth a lot more than flipping a hamburger."

Having the support of the church staff is essential to a successful after-school program, Moor said, advocating that the director of the program be considered ministerial staff.

"This is as much a ministry as a sports ministry, a women's ministry, anything," she said. Weekly meetings with the senior pastor, even for 15 minutes, Moor said, are important for the pastor to know what is going on in the program.

Quality after-school care is a real need for children and their parents, Moor said.

Things to consider

Is your church thinking of launching an after-school care program? Anne Moor has some things the congregation might consider:

■ **Church location.** What schools are in the area? Are they rural, suburban, inner-city? Programs set in rural and inner-city churches probably will need to charge lower tuition than programs in churches in more affluent suburban areas.

■ **Local schools.** How many schools in the area can the church expect to serve?

■ **Church physical resources.** How many children can be accommodated? What size are the church classrooms? What size are the playgrounds? What size is the kitchen? How many doors would need to be secured?

■ **State licensing.** Generally, these regulations relate more to safety than programming. Check on the state requirements from time to time, since changes are made regularly.

■ **Transportation.** Some school districts allow school buses to drop children off at the church, but most do not. Moor noted that safety issues, as well as state and federal regulations, will determine when and if a church can use its own vans to transport children from the school to the church. She suggested checking with local transportation authorities to learn whether a church's vans are considered suitable.

"This is a ministry. It is more than just a service of child care," she stressed. "We do more than just play outside and do homework."

For many children, such a program will be the first time they or their parents have contact with a church. It is a way to introduce them to the gospel, she said. "We can reach and teach these children."

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Specialist: Societal forces changing kids ministries

By Linda Lawson
SBC LifeWay Christian Resources

NASHVILLE (BP)—The disintegration of the traditional family structure and other societal changes are forcing churches to rethink the ways they minister to preschoolers and children, according to a youth ministry specialist.

But the needs of the children remain the same, Bill Young told a conference of preschool children leaders earlier this fall.

"Children need to be reached and taught because they are created in God's image and are precious in His sight," said Bill Young, retired manager of children's discipleship ministry at LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Young, who also is a member of the board of directors of the International Network of Children's Ministry, cited changes that have occurred in preschool-children's ministry in the last 40 years.

"We are seeing more attention given to preschool-children's ministry in churches," he said, noting that more churches are seeking people to fill professional ministry positions than are graduating from Southern Baptist seminaries.

As a result, "churches are looking to teachers and others working in the field of childhood education for staff positions."

Even staff titles are changing, Young said, noting that more churches are hiring what they call a "minister of family life and children."

In a positive development, more men are involved these days in preschool-children's ministry, Young said. But fears about child abuse

sometimes raise suspicions about the involvement of men, he added.

"Societal changes are impacting the way we do church," Young said. As a children's discipleship training department director, he said he now makes home visits only when accompanied by his wife or another teacher.

The growing trend of year-round schools also impacts church ministries. Camps and other time-intensive activities must now be planned for non-traditional times when school is out, Young said.

"We need to think beyond the traditional church program organizations of Sunday school, discipleship training, music and missions education," Young said. He advocated an integrated approach to meet life needs.

In other ministry areas, he said preschool-children's leaders must know what activities and studies are appropriate for each age. He urged church leaders to develop written standards for what they expect children to know and articulate at each age.

While such technology as computers traditionally have not been part of church ministries with preschoolers and children, it is a must for the future, he said.

Preschool-children's workers should be willing to address changes in society, Young said, but they also must not lose sight of the reasons children must be taught about God.

"Jesus challenged us to reach them," he said. "Childhood is a critical time of learning. Many children are in homes with little or no Christian nurture, and parents and children can be reached through these ministries."

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 Polish students in English language classes taught by missionaries Marcy and Doug Shaw in Warsaw.

■ A 17-year-old Polish man who has indicated an interest in becoming a Christian, and missionaries Monte and Janet Erwin as they minister to him.

■ Opportunities for Christians in Poland and Tanzania to share the good news of Jesus Christ during the holiday season.

■ Jae Suh who works with international ministries in Greater Boston Baptist Association. He teaches English and Bible as part of the association's ministry at Harvard University.

■ Victor Martinez, new language catalytic missionary for the Baptist Convention of New England. A native of Puerto Rico, he has served as a church planter there and in Texas.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Shirley Wooton

■ **EMINENCE**—Eminence Church ordained Jeffrey Wells as a deacon. The church celebrated Michael Duncan's 20th anniversary as pastor on Oct. 31.

■ **FAIRDALE**—First Church ordained Bryan Crady, John Callihan and Doug Miller to the gospel ministry. John Mark Toby is pastor.

■ **GREENVILLE**—Second Church called Ray England as pastor beginning Dec. 12. England was associate pastor of Campbellsville Church.

■ **RUSSELLVILLE**—Art Rogers resigned as associate pastor and minister of youth of First Church. He accepted a call from Cornerstone Church in Charlotte, N.C., to be minister to students.

Christmas programs

North Central Region

■ **COLD SPRING**—First Church, musical, "Come, Let Us Worship the King," Dec. 17-18 at 7 p.m., Dec. 19 at 6 p.m. (admission free, tickets required).

■ **COVINGTON**—Latonia Church, "Hanging of the Greens," Dec. 5 at 6 p.m.; sanctuary choir, "Because of Bethlehem," Dec. 19 at 6 p.m.; communion service, Dec. 31 at 5 p.m.

■ **DRY RIDGE**—Dry Ridge Church, a live, outdoor drama, "A Walk Through Bethlehem," Dec. 10 at 7-9 p.m., Dec. 11 and 12 at 6-8 p.m.

Western Region

■ **BEULAH**—Beulah Church, watch night service, Dec. 31 at 8 p.m. Sponsored by West Kentucky Association.

■ **EKRON**—Ekron Church, "Hanging of the Greens," Dec. 5 at 5 p.m.

Central Region

■ **BOWLING GREEN**—Living Hope Church, cantata, "Our God Is with Us," Dec. 10 and 11 at 7 p.m., Dec. 12 at 6 p.m. (admission free, tickets required); Christmas Eve service at 6 p.m.

■ **CRESTWOOD**—Crestwood Church, Living Christmas Tree, Dec. 3-5 and 10-11 at 7 p.m. Dec. 5 and 12 also will have 4 p.m. performances.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Severns Valley Church, Living Christmas Tree, Dec. 10 and 17 at 7:30 p.m., Dec. 11-12 and 18-19 at 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. (tickets needed). Deaf interpretation provided Dec. 11 at 5 p.m. and 8 p.m.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Beechmont Church, youth and children's choirs, "The Believers' Millennium Day Parade," Dec. 5 at 6:30 p.m.; dinner theater musical, "'Twas the Last Mailing Day Before Christmas," Dec. 11 and 12 at 6 p.m. (reservations needed); sanctuary choir presents "A Light Still Shines," Dec. 19 at 6:30 p.m.; Christmas Eve communion service at 5:30 p.m.

■ **Buechel Park Church**, adult choir Christmas cantata, "Christmas for All Time," Dec. 12 at 6 p.m.; youth choir cantata, "For Unto Y'all," Dec. 19 at 6 p.m.

■ **Cedar Creek Church**, worship choir, "The Song," Dec. 19 at 6 p.m.

■ **St. Matthews Church**, live nativity in the courtyard, Dec. 4 at 6-9 p.m.; "Hanging of the Greens," Dec. 5 at 6 p.m.; choir and churchestra, "Journey of Hope," Dec. 19 at 10:45 a.m.; Christmas Eve candlelight communion ser-

vice at 5 p.m.; millennial eve service at 11:15 p.m.

■ **Shively Church**, 1999 Walk Thru Bethlehem, Dec. 3 at 6-9:30 p.m., Dec. 4 at 2-9 p.m. and Dec. 5 at 1-8 p.m.

Southeastern Region

■ **SOMERSET**—First Church, Living Christmas Tree, Dec. 11 at 7:30 p.m., Dec. 12 at 5 and 7 p.m.; youth choir musical, "Lessons in Carols," Dec. 19 at 7 p.m.

South Central Region

■ **BEREA**—Berea Church, music and drama, "Dawn of Redemption," Dec. 12 at 10:45 a.m. Special guests Michael Hunt and Karol Pelfrey.

■ **RICHMOND**—Red House Church, musical and drama, "The Gospel According to Scrooge," Dec. 18 and 19.

Southwestern Region

■ **FRANKLIN**—Franklin Church, children's choirs, "The Birth Day" and "Love Has Come," Dec. 5 at 7 p.m.; adult choir and drama, "Mary, Did You Know?" Dec. 12 at 7 p.m.; youth choir, "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High," Dec. 19 at 7 p.m.



MUD OUT Alicia Brummett (left) and Tara Taylor of Campbellsville College remove furnishings damaged by Hurricane Floyd from a house in Wilson, N.C. A group of 25 students made a second school-organized trip to Wilson to help people with clean-up efforts. Campbellsville students also are scheduled to be involved in mission trips to Ohio, South Carolina and Mexico this semester. (Campbellsville photo by Jeff Todd)

Russia won't strike down law that requires religious groups to register

MOSCOW (RNS)—In its first review of a controversial law on religion, Russia's Constitutional Court refused to strike down a clause that requires religious groups seeking registration to prove they have existed for more than 15 years.

However, the court did ease the requirement for larger groups and those registered before the new law took effect in 1997.

The Nov. 23 ruling was in response to a challenge to the controversial 1997 legislation brought by Jehovah's Witnesses and Pentecostal congregations.

In practice, the ruling will help those minority faiths in Russia that are large and politically well-connected. Small groupings with a handful of parishes, or those that operated underground 15 or

more years ago during the Soviet era, still may be denied registration under Russia's religion law.

The Jesuits, for example, have been active in Russia for at least 200 years—sometimes underground—but recently were denied registration as a religious organization.

Registration is required to publish religious literature, hire employees or rent property. The deadline for registration is the end of this year.

In commenting on the decision, the Constitutional Court's Judge Valery Zorkin defended the need for legislation to protect citizens against what he called dangerous religious movements. At the same time, he told reporters, Russia must maintain its commitment to religious freedom.

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Full-time music minister. Please send resumé to: First Baptist Church, PO Box 137, Mt. Zion, IL 62549, Attn: Scott Doughty.

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 approx. 400 in worship on Sundays. Please send resumé to: FBC Troy, 800 Cap Au Gris, Troy, MO 63379.

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

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. Aca-

demical 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: ccbcc@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. Please send resumé to: Meta Baptist Church, 8807 Meta Highway, Pikeville, KY 41501, Attn: Pastor Search Committee.

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

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

HELP WANTED: Summer youth and college mission teams needed for public housing and beach ministry in Pensacola, Fla. Contact: Eric Sheaffer, Pensacola Bay Baptist Association, (850) 433-4393.

FOR SALE: Six hardwood pews approximately 17 feet long. Beautiful condition. \$300 for all or \$75 each. Summit Academy, 11508 Main St., Middletown, KY 40243. Call: (502) 244-7090.

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

Advertising campaign markets Christianity with an edge

By Kristen Campbell
Religion News Service

MOBILE, Ala. (RNS)—In a drive to reach unchurched residents, some churches have taken to the local TV stations to get people to think about God and eternity—and the possible temperatures in hell.

Nationwide, congregations eager to reach unchurched Americans are turning to media savvy parachurch organizations for help.

"The message hasn't changed. Jesus is still the answer to all people's needs," said Kyle Thompson, a man who markets God for a living. "What is it about us that's keeping them from seeing it?"

That question and its myriad answers are what keep Thompson in business.

General manager of media outreach at Impact Productions in Tulsa, Okla., Thompson works with others to create Christian commercials, films and TV programs.

Among Impact's clients is Belforest Baptist Church in Baldwin County, Ala. About a month ago, Impact's ads, simultaneously stark in their simplicity and trendy with their jerky, MTV-esque production, started showing up on that community's cable stations between programs on the A&E, USA, TNT, ESPN and Lifetime networks.

The commercials portray unchurched people asking questions about the realities of hell, salvation and the world's end.

The "What if it's true?" campaign ads were purchased for about \$3,000 by the church. According to Belforest's associate pastor, Mike Parker, the congregation raised an additional \$5,000 to pay for the air time.

"Our target is people who are out-

side of church," Parker said. "All these commercials are definitely from the opposite point of view."

Take the "hell lady," as Parker describes one commercial's narrator. A young woman stands alone in an empty yellow room and sarcastically says: "And it's really hot. And there's, like, torture going on. And you can't bear the heat. And you can't ever leave. Because you're in hell. All alone in this hot, humid, scorching, hot, burning, hot fire."

"I don't think so," she sneers.

The commercial's signature question, "What if it's true?" then flashes across the screen, followed by Belforest's name, address and phone number.

The ads, as far as Belforest member Tom Farmer of Fairhope is concerned, are "must-do" evangelism. "It reaches out to a community at a time when church just seems to be the same old thing," said Farmer. "This seemed like a way to reach people and say, 'God is real, He's not asleep, He never has been, and He cares.'"

Parker concurs: "We want to go where people are at. We know that we have to relate to them. ... They already have these negative impressions of church anyway. We go right up front and address them."

Still, in congregations' efforts to reach the unchurched, some churchgoers find the methods somewhat off-putting. "Most church people don't like 'What if it's true?' It doesn't speak to them, which is fantastic," Thompson said. "It's so not-churchy."

The ad campaign, launched a year ago, is running in more than 400 markets nationwide, Thompson said. Congregations purchase rights to run at least five of the eight commercials in the campaign and retain market-exclusive privileges to "What if it's true?" for two years.

During its first several months on the air, Thompson said, the "edgy" campaign, based on a series of sermons delivered by a Tulsa, Okla., pastor, "has really caught the eye." One Oklahoma City congregation noted a more than 20 percent increase in the number of visitors during the first few weeks of the campaign, he said.

Scotty Jernigan, pastor of Belforest Baptist, said he only knows of a few visitors who've been spurred by the ads to attend his congregation but says it's still early to gauge the commercials' long-term effect.

Religious commercials, of course, are nothing new.

But the style of such messages, as well as the medium used to transmit them, mark changes from evangelistic methods used decades ago, according to Lyle Schaller, author of "Innovations in Ministry: Models for the Twenty-First Century."

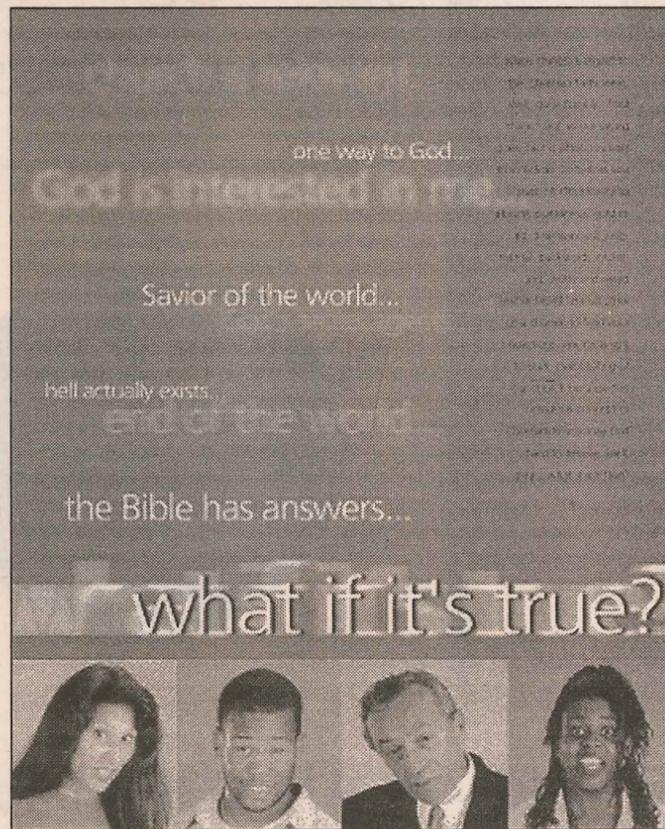
"There was a day," said Schaller of Naperville, Ill., "when denominational systems produced a variety of ads ... typically for print, later for radio and then later for television."

In today's image-driven generation, however, the rules have changed.

Many contemporary advertisements are produced by parachurch organizations and are broadcast on television and radio. Some ads, Schaller said, "tend to focus on ... the viewer's questions rather than 'Shut up and listen and watch and we'll tell you what we have to offer.'"

Now, he said, ads begin with "Where do you hurt?" and "We believe we have an answer to the questions you're raising." In other words, "You begin with the consumer's agenda; you don't begin with the product you're pushing."

The method has its critics, who believe the job of the church is to proclaim



the gospel, not ask people how they feel, he added. But Schaller said Jesus used both methods in His ministry.

"The printed word ain't working as well as it used to," he said. "It's increasingly a visual communication world."

Still, he acknowledged, something can be lost on the airwaves where the subtleties and complexities of Christianity can be more difficult to communicate.

Jernigan, too, said there's more to Christianity than the "What if it's true?" ads convey. "What we want to do is use the commercials as a connector" by getting seekers "to the door."

WHAT IF IT'S TRUE?

An Oklahoma ad company is using attitude to help churches reach unchurched neighbors. "Most church people don't like 'What if it's true?' It doesn't speak to them, which is fantastic," said Kyle Thompson of Impact Productions. "It's so not-churchy."

From Creed to Nine Inch Nails, musicians explore spiritual issues

By Steve Rabey
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—As the millennium is winding down, a number of popular recording artists are getting serious about the meaning of life, and this fall there's been a bumper crop of best-selling albums brimming with spiritual and philosophical themes.

In late September, Nine Inch Nails released "The Fragile," an angst-filled sonic wail of nihilistic industrial rock. The two-CD album debuted atop Billboard's national sales chart in October before being replaced by Creed's "Human Clay," a collection of muscular hard rock that runneth over with religious themes.

Next it was Latin rock guitar virtuoso Carlos Santana's "Supernatural" album dominating the charts with its music that "touches each listener directly in the heart and stirs the soul."

In addition, albums like Live's "The Distance to Here," Paula Cole Band's "Amen," Sting's "Brand New Day," and Little Steven Van Zandt's "Born Again Savage" have prominently featured spiritual themes.

There's still plenty of music glorifying sex, drugs and violence, but the profusion of otherworldly odes is noteworthy.

worthy.

"Even now, with (sex) and cash ruling the scene, divine hunger still motivates some rockers," wrote a Rolling Stone reviewer who said spiritual songs "appeal to young people who grew up swabbed by catechism, Bible study or Hebrew school." Earlier this year, a SPIN magazine writer commented on the metaphysical musings of artists like Madonna, Alanis Morissette and Jewel, saying, "The dividing line between the spirit and the entertainment industry is becoming increasingly tough to draw."

Bill Romanowski, who teaches pop culture classes at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Mich., said today's mystical music reminds him of the late '60s and early '70s, when people couldn't get enough of songs like "Spirit in the Sky," "Oh Happy Day," "My Sweet Lord," "Turn, Turn, Turn" and "Put Your Hand in the Hand."

"There was a spiritual quest among alienated youth who were actively seeking alternative ways of life and reacting against the perceived bankruptcy of America's material-oriented values," said Romanowski, author of the 1996 book, "Pop Culture Wars."

"Of course, materialism won," he added. "Now, both aging baby boomers

and younger people are asking, 'What's really important to me? What happens when I die?' Perhaps this is one reason for the appearance of this trend today."

Issues of meaning—and meaninglessness—are at the heart of Nine Inch Nails' "The Fragile," an album The New York Times called "a desperate identity crisis rendered in symphonic scale."

Reznor sings of his descent from grace and how he has "lost my faith in everything." Only romantic love occasionally breaks pessimism's death grip. "We will make it through somehow," he sings in the song "We're in This Together."

On the opposite side of pop music's philosophical divide is Creed, whose music affirms the existence of God and the possibility of human transformation. The band's debut album, "My Own Prison," has sold nearly 4 million copies, and "Human Clay," their hard-rocking sophomore outing, already has sold a million copies.

Opening with the song, "Are You Ready," singer Scott Stapp belts out lines that point to the words of Jesus: "Hey, Mr. Seeker/ Hold on to this advice/ If you keep seeking you will find." In "Higher," the album's popular first single, Stapp sings, "Can you take me

higher/ To the place where blind men see/ Can you take me higher/ To the place with golden streets?"

Stapp, a preacher's kid who says he still hasn't found what he's looking for, rarely comments on his own beliefs.

"When the secular media asks me questions, 90 percent of them have no background in religion so they don't even understand," he said during one recent interview, adding, "I know that I believe in God." (A text of the interview can be found at www.youngleader.org.)

While some critics are uncomfortable with rock's religiosity, many fans are embracing meatier, more meaningful music.

"Pop music is a central part of adolescent culture, and culture makes a difference in all our lives," said Donald Roberts, a professor at Stanford University and co-author of the 1998 book, "It's Not Only Rock & Roll," which evaluates decades worth of social science research on music.

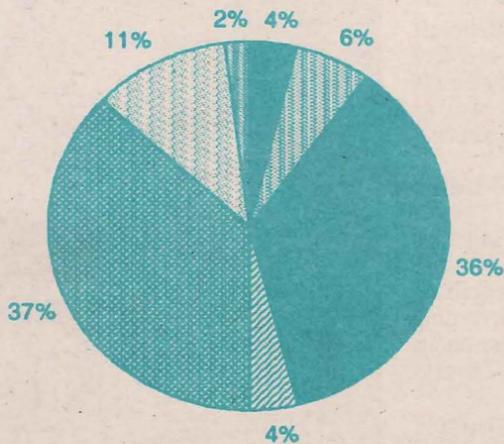
"There are kids who will look you in the eye and say, 'I'm not paying any attention to lyrics,' but after a few weeks of listening, they can recite the lyrics to you," he said. "Music and pop culture in general are dynamic things: kids change the culture, and the culture changes them, too."

"When the secular media asks me questions, 90 percent of them have no background in religion so they don't even understand."

Scott Stapp, lead singer for Creed

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